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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

European army is inevitable’ – German defense commissioner

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www.rt.com

Germany’s parliamentary defense commissioner, Hans-Peter Bartels, has renewed calls for a joint EU army amid concerns about the reliability of the NATO alliance and disorganization and fragmentation of national defense structures.

Speaking to the German Press Agency on Monday, Hans-Peter Bartels, the Germany Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces, called on the 28-nation bloc’s militaries to unite into a single armed force.

“We are currently disorganized, technically fragmented and duplicate structures unnecessarily,” Bartels said, as quoted by the Telegraph. “We do not want to go down the solitary national path anymore. Not in Germany, not in the Netherlands, not in the Czech Republic and not in Italy.”

“In the end, there will be a European army,” he stated.

Since around 2013, Germany has been overseeing efforts towards closer EU defense integration through the Framework Nations Concept, through which it plans to share troops and capabilities with other European countries. Two Dutch brigades have already been integrated into the Bundeswehr’s Rapid Response Forces Division and 1st Armored Division, and there are also plans for Czech and Romanian forces to do the same.

In March, the European Union also announced the opening of a “joint military headquarters.” However, the center employs a mere 30 staff and its remit only extends to training missions in Mali, Somalia and the Central African Republic. EU Foreign Affairs Minister Federica Mogherini said that the joint military headquarters was “not a European army,” and that NATO would remain Europe’s go-to organization for defense and security.

Aside from Bartels, the concept of a European army has also been put forward by other figures in the EU establishment including the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, who told the newspaper Die Welt in 2015 that “a common European army would convey a clear message to Russia that we are serious about defending our European values.”

There has been more talk of greater Europe defense integration, repeatedly opposed by Britain but supported by Germany and France, in the wake of Donald Trump’s remarks about NATO being “obsolete.” The US president had complained that some of America’s allies are not paying enough

money towards their own defense. In May, German Chancellor Angela Merkel proclaimed that Europe can no longer depend on its allies in Britain and the United States and that “we Europeans truly have to take our fate into our own hands.”

The Europeans are currently debating which form of military integration the EU states would choose to proceed with, after last November the EU Parliament passed a resolution paving the way for the creation of a defense union. The resolution envisions dedicating 2 percent of member nations’ GDP to defense, as well as establishing EU multinational forces to allow the bloc to act in any situation in which “NATO is unwilling to.”

Merkel wants Germany military budget boosted to counter ‘external threats’.

Currently, the EU is considering three scenarios of integration.

The "Security and Defence Cooperation" scenario would see member states voluntarily contribute to the rising challenges on a case-by-case basis.

The "Shared Security and Defence" scenario entails member states solidifying their defenses by contributing to a pool of financial and operational assets.

The last option, the "Common Defence and Security" scenario, would see the creation a common EU defense policy based on Article 42 of the EU Treaty.

In the meantime, the European Commission is stepping up the financing of the defense sector. Earlier this month, Brussels launched the European Defence Fund, which seeks to generate over €5 billion per year after 2020 to develop and procure new military technologies.

The next phase of on that global ID that will be in place by 2030 for every person on earth is here:

Microsoft and Accenture Unveil Global ID System for Refugees

Jun 19, 2017

Americans can show all sorts of documents, such as Social Security cards and diplomas, to show who they are. But for those from countries torn apart by war or political chaos, it's much harder to prove their identities.

That's why a new software tool, unveiled on Monday at the United Nations, is a big deal. It will let millions of refugees and other without documents whip out a phone to quickly show who they are and where they came from.

The tool, developed in part by Microsoft and Accenture, combines biometric data (like a fingerprint or an iris scan) and a new form of record-keeping technology, known as the blockchain, to create a permanent identity.

In practice, this means someone arriving at a border crossing could prove he or she had come from a refugee camp and qualify for aid. Or a displaced person in a new country could use the ID system to call up his or her school records. The tool doesn't have a name yet since it's at the prototype stage but will get one soon.

"Approximately one-sixth of the world's population cannot participate in cultural, political, economic and social life because they lack the most basic information: documented proof of their existence. Establishing identity is critical to accessing a wide range of activities, including education, healthcare, voting, banking, mobile communications, housing, and family and childcare benefits," Accenture explained in a news release.

The companies have been working on the new system since last year, and unveiled the prototype at a summit in New York called United Nations ID2020. Here is a picture that shows how the system looks on the phone of a user:

"Digital ID is a basic human right," David Treat, a managing director at Accenture, tells Fortune. He likens the new ID technology to the Internet-naming system, which gives a unique address to any given website.

The new ID system is especially promising because of the blockchain technology, which provides crucial privacy features—and allays obvious concerns about the system being abused by all-knowing global governments.

Blockchain is a tamper-proof ledger system run across multiple computer systems. Once a certain number of computers confirm a given piece of information—such as a financial transaction or, in this case, a piece of biometric data—the fact is recorded as a permanent record on the chain. In the case of the new global ID system, it works by storing personal information in such a way that the person who owns it is the only one who grants access to it. Other entities—such as an organization or a school—can share relevant records tied to that person, and write it to the blockchain, but the person controls who else can see it.

Treat explained that cryptography helps ensure that organizations who access a person's ID record can only do so for purposes of authentication—confirming they are who they say they are—and not for tracking them, or getting access to all their data.

Microsoft's main contribution to the project is supplying computing infrastructure through its Azure cloud service. The company also works closely with the Enterprise Ethereum Alliance, an open-source software group that develops blockchain standards. According to Accenture, which caused waves last year by proposing a system to edit blockchains, the ID system is expected to support more than 7 million refugees from 75 countries by 2020.

LGBT Groups: Conservative Christians 'Have No Place in Government'

www.christianpost.com

BY SAMUEL SMITH , CP REPORTER

Jun 19, 2017

LGBT activist groups are outraged that the Trump administration's Department of Education invited speakers from two prominent conservative Christian family organizations to participate in a panel discussion on fatherhood held in advance of Father's Day last week.

Politico reports that experts from the Family Research Council and Focus on the Family were invited to speak at a day-long conference hosted by the Education Department that addressed how fathers can be engaged in their children's lives.

Both FRC, headed by Tony Perkins, and Focus on the Family, led by Jim Daly and founded by James Dobson, are known for advocating in accordance with biblical beliefs on sexuality and the belief that marriage is only a union between one man and one woman.

However, the pro-LGBT advocacy group Human Rights Campaign believes that the organization's beliefs in traditional marriage and opposition to same-sex marriage should make their employees disqualified from being given a government-funded platform to voice their views on marriage and family.

"To provide a taxpayer-funded platform for these organizations is outrageous," Human Rights Campaign said in a statement provided to Politico. "Families in this country are increasingly diverse, and include those with same-sex parents, and those led by single parents."

GLAAD, another LGBT advocacy group, asserted in a statement shared with Politico that FRC and Focus on the Family's inclusion in last week's Education Department conference shows where Education Secretary Betsy DeVos really lies on LGBT issues.

"Secretary DeVos's actions speak louder than her words," the statement said.

Before her confirmation hearing in January, Mother Jones produced an article explaining that Education Sec. Betsy DeVos' family, through its nonprofit organizations, had donated millions to social conservative Christian organizations.

The article stated that the Edgar and Elsa Prince Foundation, her parents' organization which she served as vice president of, donated a total of \$6.1 million to FRC and Focus on the Family.

In a confirmation hearing, DeVos was explicitly questioned on her ties to the organizations by Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn, who stated that DeVos' family has "a long history of supporting anti-LGBT causes including donating millions of dollars to groups that push conversion therapy."

DeVos tried to distance herself from those organizations by stating in response to Franken's questioning that "your characterization of our contributions I don't think accurately reflects those of my family."

In a press release, GLAAD labeled FRC and Focus on the Family "anti-LGBTQ hate groups" and criticized DeVos for inviting them to government events.

"Anti-LGBTQ organizations have no place in government business and school-based discrimination against LGBTQ students must never be ignored or silenced," GLAAD President Sarah Kate Ellis said in a statement. "Our children deserve to learn in a place that's inclusive and open to their needs, and that's at risk should an unqualified person run the Department of Education. Today, Betsy DeVos showed Americans who she really is – an anti-LGBTQ activist."

The group also criticized DeVos over a guidance letter issued by her and Attorney Gen. Jeff Sessions that rolled back an Obama-era guidance instructing schools to allow transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity.

Although DeVos signed the guidance in February that effectively rolled back the Obama policy on transgender bathroom and locker room use, it was reported that she initially butted heads with Sessions over the memo and was pressured by Trump to sign it.

However, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer shot down those claims by saying that there was

"no daylight between anybody — between the president, between any of the secretaries."

In March, DeVos met with transgender students and their families at the Education Department, who criticized her for signing the February guidance.

Last week, it was reported that the Education Department's Office of Civil Rights had issued an internal memo outlining that department investigators should treat each transgender students' complaints of discrimination on a case-by-case basis.

Although the memo seemed to shoot down the idea that schools could be investigated for not allowing transgender individuals into bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with the gender identity, it left open the door for schools and teachers to be investigated if they do not use the students preferred pronoun or name.

Politico also reports that the National Parent Teacher Association was scheduled to speak at last week's panel but dropped out after learning that the Family Research Council and Focus on the Family would also be involved.

The Silent Church in the Day of Apostasy

June 15th, 2017 | By Warren Smith

Traditional Christian believers frequently mention the analogy of the frog that is so slowly and gradually boiled in a kettle of water that it dies before ever realizing what is going on. Yet many believers fail to realize that the very same thing is happening to them as they tell that story. How else do you explain the rapid rise of the "new gospel" movement with hardly a word of concern within the church about what's been happening? As "new gospel" advocates continue to publish bestselling books and flock to the airwaves in ever-increasing numbers to advance their cause, there is a strange silence in the church. Does the church have any idea what is going on?

So often we have heard the impassioned refrain, "We can never let what happened in Germany ever happen again." And with all of the Holocaust memorials, survivor testimonies, and multitudinous books on the subject, we have done a pretty good job of convincing ourselves that we will never make the same mistakes the German people did in allowing someone like Hitler to rise in their midst. We think that Americans would never stand by and allow something like that to happen here in our country. Our democratic processes and old-fashioned common sense would never allow it.

In the introduction to a 1999 publication (Sixth Pressing) of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, Konrad Heiden describes how everything that Hitler was about to do was telegraphed in his early writings: For years *Mein Kampf* stood as proof of the blindness and complacency of the world. For in its pages Hitler announced – long before he came to power – a program of blood and terror in a self-revelation of such overwhelming frankness that few among its readers had the courage to believe it. Once again it was demonstrated that there was no more effective method of concealment than the broadest publicity.²

Somehow, Christians don't seem to grasp Jesus' warnings about the tremendous deception that characterizes the time of the end. Perhaps deceived into thinking that we can't be deceived, we don't take seriously enough His warnings that a Hitler-like antichrist figure will one day rise to rule the world – and that many people calling themselves "Christians" will support this spiritual counterfeit who will actually come in the name of Christ. Our adversary wants us to believe that these warnings are for another people at another time. Yet through Scripture, and in our heart of hearts, the Spirit of God tells us that they are not. As we study the Bible, and as we watch and pray and observe the events all

around us, we come to understand that these future times described by Jesus are now suddenly and undeniably upon us.

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul warns of their vulnerability and susceptibility to false teaching in the name of Jesus. He suggests that if someone approached them with “another gospel,” “another Jesus” and “another spirit” they might very well go along with it (2 Corinthians 11:3-4). Earlier in that same letter Paul had indirectly encouraged the Corinthians not to be ignorant of their adversary’s schemes and devices, lest they be taken advantage of (2 Corinthians 2:11). Paul told the Ephesians that it is a shame that we even have to talk about the things of darkness, but when we expose them they are brought into the light (Ephesians 5:12-13). He also told them that he had not ceased to warn them night and day for three years that men who were “grievous wolves” would “arise” in the Church “speaking perverse things” as they attempted to lead men away from their faith and into the enemy’s camp (Acts 20:29-31). Let us beware of these same warnings today.

And it is, indeed, very disturbing to see many Christian leaders today using many of the same words and expressions commonly used by their “new gospel” counterparts. “New revelation” describing how a great “move of God” is going to take believers “pregnant with destiny” to “a new spiritual level” and into a “new dimension” sounds a lot more like the “new gospel” than the traditional Gospel of Jesus Christ. Are Christian leaders leading the church ever closer to the cross, or ever closer to the “Planetary Pentecost”? Why is there almost no call for spiritual discernment within the Church (except to warn believers not to be deceived into doubting their appointed Christian leaders)? Why is spiritual experience taking precedence over spiritual discernment? Why are there so few warnings about a counterfeit “new gospel” movement that maligns the person of Jesus Christ and threatens the lives of His followers? Why is “new revelation” in many ministries starting to supersede God’s written Word? Why are Christians only being prepared for blessings and not for persecution? What in the world is going on?

Expecting only revival, will the church be deceived by one who will come in the name of Christ and pretend to be Christ? Caught unawares, will the church mistake the counterfeit Christ’s “Planetary Pentecost” for the great “move of God” they had been told to expect? Are we getting set up for the great delusion described in the Bible? Is there any good reason not at least to consider that possibility? The prophet Daniel makes mention of the God of “forces” in conjunction with antichrist (Daniel 11:38). The “God” of the “new gospel” asks [New Ager] Neale Donald Walsch, “What if I am not a ‘man’ at all, but rather, a Force?”³ The “Christ” of A Course in Miracles states that there is an “irresistible Force” within each person.⁴ Marianne Williamson explains that this “universal force” can be “activated” within each person and has “the power to make all things right.”⁵ The “new gospel Christ” tells Barbara Marx Hubbard that on the day of “Planetary Pentecost” a “planetary smile” will flash across the face of all mankind; that an “uncontrollable joy” that he describes as the “joy of the force” will “ripple” through the one body of humanity.⁶ Benjamin Creme describes the event “as a Pentecostal experience for all.”⁷ The “Christ” of A Course in Miracles tells how the world ends in “peace” and “laughter.”⁸

Has anyone wondered whether this same “Force” may be counterfeiting the Holy Spirit in churches and may be producing “revivals” and “moves of God” that are not really “revivals” or “moves of God” at all? Is the “God of forces” in the process of preparing the Church for the “Planetary Pentecost”? Should we not be doing a more thorough job of testing the spirits? Have we put our faith and trust in Christian “leaders” rather than in God? Have we all talked ourselves out of the end times? Have we all agreed that persecution is not something we need to be concerned about? Have we prayed to God that we would not be deluded or deceived?

Several years ago in my book, *The Light That Was Dark*, I wrote the following: “Clearly many who said they were of ‘the faith’ would soon become a part of the deception too, if they weren’t already.”

Were we already witnessing the great “falling away” predicted in the Bible? Was the “mystery of iniquity” talked about in the Scriptures already doing its deceptive work with “all power and signs and lying wonders” . . . ? Would people calling themselves Christians abandon their faith in the Bible and the Bible’s Christ? Would they join an ecumenical movement that in the name of love and God and unity would sacrifice the truth of the Bible and perhaps one day merge with the new age itself? Jesus warned that such a faith would lead not to life but to ultimate destruction: “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).⁹

Could it be that the reason the church is so unaware of the “new gospel” movement is because it is being led by that same spirit and heading down that same broad way? Is it happening now, right in front of our very own eyes?

Notes:

1. NBC News “Special Report: America on Alert,” Tom Brokaw hosting Marianne Williamson as guest, September 16, 2001 broadcast transcript (Livingston, New Jersey: Burrelle’s Information Services).
2. Adolph Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (Sixth Pressing), translated by Ralph Manheim (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.: Mariner Books, 1999), p.xv.
3. Neale Donald Walsch, *Conversations with God: Book 3*, p. 325.
4. *A Course in Miracles: Combined Volume*, (Text) p. 479.
5. Marianne Williamson, *Healing the Soul of America*, p. 13.
6. Barbara Marx Hubbard, *The Revelation*, p. 243.
7. Benjamin Creme, *Maitreya’s Mission: Volume Two* (Los Angeles: Share International Foundation, 1993), p. 239.
8. *A Course in Miracles: Combined Volume*, (Manual for Teachers) p. 37.
9. Warren B. Smith, *The Light That Was Dark*, p. 150.