

Newsbytes

The First Watch

October 23, 2019

No. 944

Since 2001

Newzbytes is a ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

www.ccapleton.org

“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

Real-Time National Driver Surveillance Program Coming Soon?

Prophecy News Watch

A new Senate bill would create a real-time national driver surveillance program that would allow law enforcement to know anything and everything about a driver at the click of a button.

A recent article in WCVB Channel 5 revealed that the "Safe Drivers Act" is designed for one purpose and that is to share everything a motorist has ever done with law enforcement nationwide.

Outside the Danvers branch of the Registry of Motor Vehicles on Tuesday, Congressman Seth Moulton publicly announced legislation he's filed in hopes of making it easier for traffic safety officials to share information about drivers across state lines.

How Moulton plans to make it easier to share drivers' personal information with law enforcement across the country is frightening.

The ultimate goal of the bill is to help lead to the creation of a national, real-time data sharing program, Moulton's office said.

Apparently, knowing a driver's Social Security Number, address, date of birth, checking their driving record and running their name against a national criminal database is not enough.

There are few places in America that do not use Automatic License Plate Readers to track our every movement and even that does not appear to be enough for Big Brother's insatiable desire to know everything about everyone.

The Salem News revealed that the bill would "incentivize states" into creating a national real-time driver sharing program.

Moulton said, "the goal is to incentivize states to modernize their systems and work together to make sure their databases are compatible to improve communication on dangerous drivers."

WCVB Channel 5 explains how the U.S. DOT would offer states more than \$50 million to help create a national real-time data sharing program.

Moulton's bill would also create a \$50 million competitive grant program that would allow states to bid for additional grant money and would enable the U.S. Department of Transportation to connect states that have similar modernization needs.

One has to ask, why would states need bribes as grant money to help create a national driver surveillance program?

According to The Salem News, this bill would also give law enforcement, real-time alerts of every driver.

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker has also called for the creation of a nationwide system to alert states when one of their drivers incurs a violation that could trigger a suspension in another jurisdiction.

Will Amber Alerts become a thing of the past? Because this bill would give law enforcement real-time alerts about every driver.

I wonder if they will be called Bad Driver alerts?

The Safe Drivers Act is a privacy nightmare

H.R. 4531 would also give law enforcement access to videos of accidents a driver was involved in and much more.

Developing or acquiring programs to identify, collect, and report data to State and local government agencies, and enter data, including crash, citation or adjudication, driver, emergency medical services or injury surveillance system, roadway, and vehicle, into the core highway safety databases of a State.

Collecting and storing court judgements of any auto accident a motorist has been involved in will give law enforcement unprecedented access to a motorist's driving records.

It would link core highway safety databases of a State with such databases of other States or with other data systems within the State, including systems that contain medical, roadway, and economic data.

Calling this a national, real-time data sharing program really doesn't do it justice. It should be renamed and called a real-time national driver surveillance program.

You can bet that this bill will be modified to monitor motorists in ways that we haven't dreamed of yet, making the "Safe Drivers Act" even more of a privacy nightmare.

By storing and tracking everything a motorist has ever been involved in, we are turning every driver into a suspected criminal.

Americans do not need or want another national surveillance program. We already have a national ID program called Real-ID, which gives law enforcement an unprecedented look into everyone's personal lives.

China's War On The Bible: If You Can't Ban It, Alter It breakpoint.org

A recent article at WORLD Magazine reported how the Chinese-language app called "WeDevote" recently surpassed 10 million downloads.

That number, as well as the overall success of "WeDevote," is even more remarkable given the back story, one that illustrates Beijing's ongoing war on the Bible.

"WeDevote" is a Bible-reading and devotional app known for its "aesthetically-pleasing" design and respect for copyright laws, a rarity in China. The month after its launch, China's biggest app store listed WeDevote as a "Recommended App" right on its homepage.

The Communist Party's crackdown on Christianity in recent years meant that both the app and its developers faced increasing government scrutiny. Eventually, they were given a choice: shut down the app or face jail time.

Well, a third option, transferring ownership of the app to a Hong Kong-based company, provided a temporary respite from the ultimatum, but the government has now banned "WeDevote" from Chinese app stores. Though the developers are actively seeking some kind of work-around, it's a struggle to get the app in the hands of users on the mainland.

The government's shut down of "WeDevote" is part of a disturbing trend. Last year, China banned online Bible sales. Of course, that doesn't mean Bibles are unavailable in China. Chinese publishers continue to print Chinese-language Bibles. Some are exported, of course, but plenty remain in China.

That's good news. The bad news is that soon, at least spiritually speaking, Chinese-language copies of the Bible may not be worth the paper they're printed on. According to the Guardian, the Communist Party has plans "for 'retranslating and annotating' the Bible," in order to "establish a 'correct understanding' of the text."

Is there any doubt this "correct understanding" will include reinforcing the primacy of the Communist Party? As one pastor told the Guardian, "The Chinese Communist party . . . wants to be the God of China and the Chinese people. But according to the Bible only God is God." The reality on the ground is that "The government is scared of the churches," and is cracking down on them.

Any attempt to control and re-write the Bible is a tacit admission by the Communist Party that it's failing to eradicate Christianity. It's way too late for that, of course. Depending on who you ask, there are between 60 and 100-plus million Christians in China.

Since they cannot eliminate Christianity, the Party's goal is to pervert it, creating a version of Christianity that doesn't threaten the Party's claim of ultimate authority. Anyone who believes that "only God is God" is a threat to the Communist Party and its leader Xi Jinping.

Such repression also reflects that the Party is concerned about its rule. As many experts have pointed out, China's stability rests on an implicit bargain: The Party promises economic growth and broad-based prosperity in exchange for the Chinese people giving up the kinds of political freedoms taken for granted in the West.

With the Chinese economy slowing down, the demographic legacy of China's "one-child" policy, the pervasive corruption and the ever-widening chasm between urban "haves" and rural "have nots," it's not clear the Party will be able to hold up its end of the bargain. More and more the Party is looking like yet another would-be "god" that has failed its worshipers.

We know, given China's tumultuous history, the sort of bloodshed and chaos that comes from disappointed worshipers there. We also know, given the inherently religious nature of human beings, that such dissatisfaction will only catalyze the growth of the Church and the spread of the Gospel.

That means we should pray that God's Word will prosper in China . . . and that God will protect all those who preach it.

Pathway To The Beast? Macron Pushes 10-Nation European Army

France's Emmanuel Macron has called for a "real European army" to reduce dependence on the United States and suggested such a coalition of European nations could help deter the growing surge of nationalism in some countries.

The coalition of 10 European nations ready to react to crises near the continent's borders was launched last week with Germany, Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal and Finland joining the French-led initiative.

"In an environment where threats and upheavals of a geopolitical or climatic nature are multiplying, the initiative must send the message that Europe is ready, that Europe is capable," a French Defense Ministry official said.

President Trump has already criticized the plan on Twitter saying, "President Macron of France has just suggested that Europe build its own military in order to protect itself from the U.S., China and Russia. Very insulting, but perhaps Europe should first pay its fair share of NATO, which the U.S. subsidizes greatly!".

Macron's push for European military independence; however, is not new. The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, has previously cited President Trump's pledge to demand other NATO allies to pay their fair share and his isolationist policies as a reason to rebuild Europe's defensive capabilities.

The EU's top diplomat has even suggested Europe transform itself into what he called a "superpower" that could act as a "global security power". He went on to say, "the Americans, to whom we owe much ... will not ensure the security of the Europeans in the long term. We have to do this ourselves....a joint EU army would show the world that there would never again be a war between EU countries"

German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen has also previously presented a plan to build a EU army. Last year she published a piece in the German media in which she laid out her arguments for forming a European army in response to the new course that she believes both Brexit and the US election have set.

With such a plan come more questions than answers at this time. How can the EU hope to speak with one voice due to different approaches, priorities and security interests, which include the fear of a diminished NATO role, among other reasons. The top concern seems to remain the loss of national sovereignty as currently exercised by each EU country over its respective armies.

Past suggestions for a EU army have indicated all member states would have to reach an agreement by unanimity, or a decision would have to be made by a qualified majority vote; a long decision process could end up weakening a common EU force and limiting its effectiveness. It remains unclear what final form this army will take and just how integrated such an army would be - although most politicians have indicated they have no desire to see it supersede NATO.

The idea of an EU army idea has been around since the days of Churchill and seems to be revived every decade. While most attempts have failed there are some followers of Bible Prophecy who see the potential for a future 10 nation alliance out of Europe to fulfill the prophecies of the Book of Daniel & Revelation in which a 10 nation alliance from Europe becomes the seat of power for the Antichrist on his way to global domination.

Some have speculated about whether these prophecies refer to 10 nations, 10 world regions, or simply 10 leaders. When the European Union first emerged and eventually grew to 10 member nations, prophecy students were sitting up and taking notice, until the EU grew past 10 nations (current EU members total 28 nations). Then the excitement died down considerably.

Now with talk of a charismatic European leader uniting 10-nations in military co-operation, people are starting to pay attention again. Especially as it coincides with so many other important prophetic events happening such as Israel's 70th anniversary, the players for Ezekiel 38 all in alignment, the advancement of microchipping and other end times technology and the potential for Trumps "deal of the century" peace plan to transform the region. Is it possible this new EU army will act as an enforcer of the Trump plan to be a neutral party guarantor to the agreement?

There are more questions and speculation than anything else at this point regarding the future of this new force but with so many prophetic events converging at this time it is time to be paying attention more now than ever before.

Civil Unrest Spreads Across The World - Will The US Be Next?

By Michael Snyder/Economic Collapse Blog October 22, 2019

All over the globe, the mood is turning sour. Anger and frustration are bubbling over, and protests are becoming violent in major cities all across the planet. In some cases economic pain is driving the protests and in other cases political matters are motivating the protesters, and it has been a very long time since we have seen so many angry protests happening all over the world simultaneously.

Unfortunately, many believe that what we have seen so far is just the beginning. Global economic conditions are rapidly deteriorating, and as economic pain intensifies that is only going to make everyone more frustrated. And here in the United States, the drama surrounding the potential impeachment of Donald Trump is going to greatly escalate the political tensions that are already deeply dividing this country.

No matter how things turn out, a large percentage of the population is likely to be deeply frustrated with the result, and that could very easily lead to tremendous civil unrest.

But before we get to Trump, let's take a look at what has been going on around the rest of the world first. In Chile, we are witnessing violent protests unlike anything that we have seen in decades...

Three people died in a fire in a supermarket being ransacked in the Chilean capital early Sunday, as protests sparked by anger over social and economic conditions rocked one of Latin America's most stable countries.

Santiago's Mayor Karla Rubilar told reporters two people burned to death in the blaze and another later died in hospital, after the huge store controlled by US retail chain Walmart was looted.

Economic conditions are tough in Chile and rapidly getting tougher, and it is very unusual to hear of "looting" in a country that is normally so stable.

Meanwhile, political corruption appears to be the main motivation for the violent protests in Lebanon...

Thousands of demonstrators poured into downtown Beirut for a third day on Saturday, hours after overnight clashes erupted between security forces and protesters leading to large-scale arrests and

several injuries.

Demonstrations have engulfed various parts of Lebanon for three days. Many protesters called for the resignation of the government and demanded the "downfall" of a political class that has ruled the country since the start of its 15-year civil war in 1975.

When people lose hope that things are ever going to get any better, they tend to take to the streets.

Unfortunately, corruption appears to be a way of life over in Lebanon at this point, and there seems to be little hope of major reforms any time soon.

In the UK, the drama surrounding the Brexit saga drew "hundreds of thousands of people" into the streets of London this weekend...

Hundreds of thousands of people have marched in central London to demand a new referendum on whether Britain should remain in the European Union, as parliament voted to delay a decision on whether to back Prime Minister Boris Johnson's revised Brexit withdrawal deal.

The march organised by the People's Vote campaign is thought to be the largest yet, drawing anti-Brexit supporters from across the country as parliament sat on a Saturday for the first time since the Falklands conflict in the 1980s.

Yet another Brexit agreement appears to have failed, and many are wondering if it will ever be possible to get one through Parliament.

Many of those favoring Brexit are hoping for a "no deal" exit from the European Union at this point, and meanwhile many of the "remainers" are holding out hope that there will somehow be a second referendum.

Over in Spain, violent protests have erupted night after night in the aftermath of the arrest of nine key pro-independence leaders in Catalonia...

Barcelona saw its fifth consecutive night of violence on Friday, in the wake of Monday's Supreme Court ruling that jailed nine pro-independence leaders for their role in the 2017 secessionist drive. The disturbances last night were particularly virulent, in terms of their duration, intensity and use of violence on the part of protestors, who were very aggressive toward the police.

Violent groups surrounded the central headquarters of the National Police in the Catalan capital, throwing objects, putting up barricades and setting fire to trash containers. As the sun set, the protests moved to the center of the city, where the regional police force, the Mossos d'Esquadra, used an armored vehicle with a water cannon. At least three police officers were injured in the rioting.

These protests may fade after a while, but they are not going away. Those involved in the pro-independence movement in Catalonia are very passionate, and it has widespread public support.

Of course the protests that have made the biggest splash on the global stage have been the relentless pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. Despite the brutality of the police, the protesters just keep coming back again and again, and "tens of thousands" of protesters were in the streets once again on Sunday...

Tens of thousands of pro-democracy protesters took to Hong Kong's streets on Sunday, once again defying a police ban on the assembly and undeterred by a brutal attack against a leader of the

organization that called for the march.

The huge turnout, which included families, children and the elderly, demonstrated how the movement now in its fifth month continues to have widespread support, despite the increasingly violent tactics used by protesters and escalating use of force by police.

Here in the United States, we don't have protests like this going on right now.

But we could very soon.

The impeachment process is bringing a focal point to the deep anger that has been building on both sides of the political spectrum for many years. Now that this process has begun, there is no going back, and both sides believe that there is only one result that will bring justice.

For the left, any result that does remove Donald Trump from office will be a bitter disappointment. The Democrats in the House of Representatives are going to draft articles of impeachment, and they believe that they already have the votes they need to send those articles of impeachment to the U.S. Senate.

If the Republican-controlled Senate does not vote to convict Trump and remove him from office, this will greatly upset the left, and could result in an explosion of anger in our city streets.

On the other hand, if the Republican-controlled Senate does vote to convict Trump and remove him from office, tens of millions of hardcore Trump supporters are going to be absolutely livid. There would be an explosion of righteous anger on the right, and it would almost certainly spill into our city streets.

Of course it is likely that both sides will start protesting well before there is a final result, but once the final vote in the Senate happens that is when things are likely to get very interesting.

One way or another this process is going to tear us apart.

If our founders could see us today they would be rolling over in their graves, because this is not what they intended.