

Eye on the World

Sept. 9, 2017

This compilation of material for "Eye on the World" is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of Sept. 9, 2017.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man" (Weymouth New Testament).



An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Reports: Israel Bombs Assad Regime Chemical Weapons Facility" was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 7, 2017. Following is the article.

Ten years to the day after Israeli warplanes bombed a nuclear reactor in the desert of eastern Syria, the Jewish state on Wednesday night reportedly targeted another Syrian site, this time a facility in Hama province believed to be linked to the Assad regime's chemical and biological weapons programs.

The alleged bombing—reports by Arab media were not immediately confirmed—came hours after a U.N. commission of inquiry released a report accusing the regime of responsibility for last April's deadly sarin gas attack in Khan Sheikhun that prompted President Trump to order a cruise missile strike on a Syrian airbase.

According to the reports, the target of the Israeli bombing was a facility of the Scientific Studies and Research Center (SSRC, aka CERS, the acronym for its French name) near the town of Masyaf.

U.S. intelligence has linked the SSRC to Assad's non-conventional weapons programs. The George W. Bush administration in 2005 designated the SSRC under executive order 13382, which deals with support for weapons of mass destruction proliferation.

The U.S. Treasury Department, when designating SSRC subsidiaries two years later, described the SSRC as “the Syrian government agency responsible for developing and producing non-conventional weapons and the missiles to deliver them.”

It said that while the center has an overt civilian research function, “its activities focus substantively on the development of biological and chemical weapons.”

Three weeks after the Khan Sheikhun chemical attack last April, the Trump administration in response designated 271 SSRC employees, in what was called “one of the largest sanctions actions” in the history of the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

“The United States is sending a strong message with this action that we will hold the entire Assad regime accountable for these blatant human rights violations in order to deter the spread of these types of barbaric chemical weapons,” Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said at the time.

Up to now, rare Israeli military actions in Syria since the civil war began have mostly targeted shipments of weapons from Iran to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s terrorist ally, Hezbollah, whose arms buildup in southern Lebanon are seen to pose a direct threat to Israel.

But it has also suspected to have struck regime targets on occasion, including air bases near Damascus last February, a pro-regime militia camp near the Golan Heights in March, and the area near the Damascus airport in April.

Ten years ago, on September 6, 2007, Israel warplanes bombed a remote site in Deir al-Zour, northeastern Syria, where North Korea was suspected to have been helping the Assad regime build a reactor modeled on North Korea’s own facility at Yongbyon.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) investigators later found unexplained traces of uranium at the site, and concluded in 2011 that the destroyed complex was indeed a nuclear reactor that Assad should have—but had not—declared.

Syria and North Korea both denied the claims.

The Assad regime insists that it surrendered all of its chemical weapons to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), under a deal brokered by Russia in the fall of 2013.

That agreement was struck in an attempt to stave off U.S. airstrikes which had been threatened by President Obama after a sarin attack near Damascus killed more than 1,000 people.

The OPCW later certified that all “declared” chemical weapons had been handed over for destruction, but a U.N.-appointed independent commission investigating the Syrian conflict said in the report Wednesday that it had documented 25 chemical weapons attacks in Syria between March 2013 and March this year, “of which 20 were perpetrated by government forces and used primarily against civilians.”



An article by James Carstensen titled "Merkel Wants to Apply Brakes to Turkey's EU Aspirations As Relationship Sours" was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 6, 2017. Following is the article.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan responded coolly Wednesday to calls by German Chancellor Angela Merkel for the European Union to end drawn-out accession talks, amid a growing conviction that Erdogan-ruled Turkey is not a suitable candidate for E.U. membership.

Addressing officials of his Justice and Development Party (AKP) in Ankara, Erdogan insisted Turkey "has complied with all its commitment," and has not moved away from a "strategic goal of E.U. membership."

"You've kept Turkey waiting," he said in comments directed at the 28-member bloc. Any end to the accession process would amount to "hypocrisy and political immorality."

The call for a halt after 12 years of on again-off again talks comes from arguably the most influential leader in Europe.

Although Germany alone does not have the power to end Turkey's bid to join the E.U., Merkel told lawmakers Tuesday she would discuss with colleagues at an upcoming leaders' summit whether to "suspend or end" the talks. The summit is scheduled for late October.

She said she wishes to "re-organize" relations between Germany and Turkey, NATO partners whose ties have become strained largely as a result of Erdogan's crackdown on civil liberties in the aftermath of last year's failed coup attempt.

Last week the president of the E.U.'s executive Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, warned that Turkey has taken "giant strides" away from Europe, with Erdogan's post-coup behavior making membership impossible.

Juncker also remarked that he suspected Turkey wants Brussels to break off the talks, so that it could "blame" the E.U. for their failure.

Germany holds federal elections on September 24, and during a debate Sunday Merkel seemed keen to outdo her rival for the chancellorship, center-left leader Martin Schulz, who has pledged to push for an end to Turkey's E.U. accession talks.

Merkel had previously been hesitant to endanger ties with Turkey at a time when German citizens are imprisoned there, but conceded that given the deteriorating relations, "it is clear that Turkey should not become a member of the European Union."

"There cannot be a Turkish accession to the E.U.," she declared, pledging to raise the issue with other E.U. leaders "so that we can end these accession talks."

Much has changed since last year, when the E.U. promised to proceed at an “accelerated pace,” and to grant Turks visa-free travel, as part of a deal with Ankara designed to stem migrant flows.

Negotiations between Turkey and the E.U. have been underway since 2005, amid hopes in Europe that the process would anchor Turkey to democratic Western values.

But the talks, already struggling in several areas, became further strained after Erdogan’s crackdown on opponents following the failed July 15, 2016 coup bid. More than 50,000 people have been arrested, including a dozen German citizens.

Erdogan narrowly won a referendum last April granting the presidency sweeping executive powers, moving Turkey even further away from the democratic values espoused by the E.U.

The Germany-Turkey spat could extend to trade as well, as Merkel on Sunday suggested blocking talks on expanding Turkey’s existing customs union agreement with the bloc.

Turkey has been a member of the customs union since 2005, and the E.U. is today Turkey’s largest trading partner, accounting for 40 percent of the country’s trade.

Should Merkel succeed at the E.U. summit in ending accession talks and/or ending or limiting the customs union relationship, the steps could be risky for Germany, which counts more than three million residents of Turkish descent among its population.

A falling out between the two countries could also impact the refugee treaty between the E.U. and Turkey, which Merkel was instrumental in setting up. Ankara agreed to take back any migrants intercepted between Greece and Turkey, in a one-for-one exchange for Syrian refugees sheltering in Turkey who would be admitted to the E.U.

Erdogan has in the past threatened to “open the floodgates” if Brussels does not hold up its end of the deal, allowing migrants to flow into Europe unchecked. However, migration routes to Europe have shifted markedly this year from the Aegean Sea to the coast of North Africa, which may mitigate the risk.

Potential damage could also extend to Turkey’s membership in NATO, which Erdogan has threatened in the past to “review.”

Turkey has been a member of the defense alliance since 1952 and is participating in the U.S.-led coalition’s fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

Its relationships with several NATO partners have become prickly. Germany last July decided to move its military aircraft and roughly 250 troops involved in the anti-ISIS campaign from Turkey’s Incirlik airbase to Jordan after disagreements over visits by German lawmakers.

Ties with the U.S. have also cooled, both over Erdogan’s repression at home and Washington’s support for a Syrian Kurdish militia which Ankara considers a terror group.

Turkey also recently indicated a move towards a closer military alliance with Russia, working on a yet-to-be-finalized deal for the purchase of a S400 missile defense system from Moscow.

Closer Turkey-Russian ties would be troubling for NATO, whose relationship with Russia has soured since its military intervention in Ukraine and annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Dmitry Shugayev, the head of Russia's military-technical cooperation agency, told the *Kommersant* daily the S400 deal was almost done, dismissing U.S. concerns and saying that "Turkey is an independent state and can decide for itself."



An article by Thomas Lifson titled "Hurricane Harvey and the 'Texas Way' of Helping" was posted at americanthinker.com on Sept. 4, 2017. Following is the article.

Few Americans are indifferent to Texas, with admirers (like me) probably outnumbering the haters, found in particularly large numbers in states like California that have been losing jobs and residents to Texas.

But even the haughtiest critics of the Lone Star State have to be impressed that Texas is demonstrating stunning leadership in countering the impact of Hurricane Harvey.

The countless inspiring volunteers already have demonstrated qualities of altruism, bravery, and gutsy persistence that even the most effete coastal elites have to admire in their hearts. Disaster of this magnitude speaks to parts of the mind and the soul that operate in the unconscious as well as conscious parts of cognition. The imaginary rugged, macho, swaggering Texan of coastal prejudice turns out to be exactly the kind of guy or gal you can rely on when it counts.

But there is another level to the story that is equally heroic and potentially mind-changing when it comes to understanding the Texas Way.

Progressives, a group that I'd wager tends to have more unfavorable attitudes toward Texas than the general population, regard corporations as inherently selfish. To them, the overt pursuit of profit taints the institution itself.

That being the case, progressives have no way at all of understanding why the largest grocery chain in Texas mobilized, improvised, organized, and pulled out all the stops in getting vital supplies to people who needed them, even during the floods.

Chip Cutter, managing editor of Linkedin.com, has written an inspiring account of the way H.E.B. responded to Harvey.

■ At a time when retail watchers question the future of brick-and-mortar stores due to Amazon's continued ascendance, the 112-year-old retailer is drawing widespread praise after managing to open 60 of its 83 stores in Houston last Sunday, hours after Hurricane Harvey slammed into Texas as a Category 4 storm. (Now, 79 of the 83 stores are open.)

■ When employees couldn't get to work, some stores still operated with as few as five people: one stationed at the door as crowd control and four working the registers, trying to get people out as quickly as possible.

■ I spoke with Scott McClelland, a 27-year H-E-B veteran who is president of the chain's Houston division. For much of the week, he had worked from 5 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., with days blurring together.

■ The behind-the-scenes operation, as he told me, is a complicated dance involving multiple command centers, a helicopter, private planes, military style vehicles and frequent calls to suppliers, urging them to send toilet paper—and to skip the Funyuns.

There is a lot of interesting detail on how the company made a logistical miracle happen. Everyone did everything he could, in essence. But the details are what matter.

H.E.B. is headquartered in San Antonio, which was not impacted, an advantage in coordinating the response. It also partakes in the uniquely intense identity as Texan that permeates the state and its people. I love visiting different parts of Texas and observing the many visible symbols of that devotion.

The state flag is everywhere. The Lone Star motif is everywhere. The pride in the identity of Texan is palpable. For a Texas company, one that organically grew from Texas roots instead of moving in from California or New York, abandoning fellow Texans in need is unthinkable.

That is a level of mutual commitment that outsiders underestimate at their peril—and ought to study for their own benefit.

When a private organization decides to suspend ordinary rules, and when members are united in a clear vision of the goal, they can accomplish near miracles. Government bureaucracies are restrained by law in many ways and can't be flexible in the same way.

H.E.B. deserves, and will receive, a reward from its customers who are unlikely to forget the importance of bricks and mortar. And its fame ought to spread well beyond Texas, and maybe help a few more people understand a political culture based on opportunity, self-reliance, and openness, not victimhood, dependence, and government control.



An article by Charlie Daniels titled "Doom and Gloom Media Wrong on Texas; Harvey Cleanup Shows America at Its Best" was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 5, 2017. Following is the article.

I got a text from a friend last Thursday [Aug. 31] morning about guys he knows who are loading pickup trucks with water and other basics and heading out for Texas to help in the rescue and clean-up efforts. It's not that they know anybody there or that they've been called to come help out, it's just that they see a great need and they want to lend a hand.

If we were able to look at all the license plates on all the boat trailers of the people helping rescue those stranded by water in the Houston area, we would

find that they are from all over the country, people, who for no other reason than they were moved by families on porches and roof tops threatened by rising water with no escape unless somebody in a boat shows up.

The effort in the Houston/Beaumont/Port Arthur area is massive, but the job is getting done as helicopters from several different government agencies perform search and rescue operations and civilians by the hundreds bring everything from ski boats to bass rigs to ferry people to safety.

While the media tries to place blame, desperately trying to turn this tragedy into a political football, proving just how shallow and superficial they are, real Americans are on the scene actually doing something about it. And as always, Christian relief organizations, usually rigorously ignored by main stream media, are on site, supplying food and solace to people who have lost everything they have.

I have no doubt that Texans will reclaim, rebuild, and will begin the clean-up process just as soon as the waters recede, that's just the kind of people who live in the Lone Star State: proud, capable and with the faith and willpower to restore their homes and businesses and get on with their lives.

Sometimes we get the opinion that perhaps the days of good neighbors, good Samaritans and good patriots have come and gone, but those traits lie just below the surface in the majority of Americans and it only takes something like the events in Texas to activate them.

I saw it happen in the days after 9/11, the thousand-year flood Middle Tennessee suffered a few years ago and when Katrina hit New Orleans. You see it when a community finds there is a family in need or a baby that needs an operation, when a fireman goes into a burning building to rescue an elderly person, every time a cop delivers a baby, every time a young man or woman enlists in the military.

When we get our opinions from the doom and gloom the media brings into our homes every day, we could well get the idea that the majority of Americans are apathetic, lazy, greedy and insensitive.

But that is not the America I know. There is still an America out here that is rarely glimpsed on network news, an America of hard working patriots who can still get a mist in their eyes when The Star-Spangled Banner is played and have no patience with athletes who don't respect the nation that made them millionaires enough to stand up for it.

And Obama was right about at least one thing, they do cling to their God. The guns are not clung to, but you can bet they're around.

It's an America where people from Tennessee are willing to go to Texas and help out their brothers and sisters, and if the situation was reversed, the people in Texas would gladly drive to Tennessee and do the same thing.

In the last few days we have seen nature at its worst, but we've seen America at its best.



An article by Robert Trancinski titled “Charlottesville’s Statue Burqas are a Sign of Liberals’ Panic Over What They’ve Unleashed” was posted at thefederalist.com on Aug. 28, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Charlottesville’s novel solution to the conflict over its monuments to Confederate heroes is to drape them in statue burqas meant to shield viewers from the temptation to either worship or become enraged by the images of men who lost a war 150 years ago.

Up until a year ago, of course, no such measures were necessary because nobody reacted that way. But sure, it’s the statues that are the problem, so they need to be covered.

My sense of this is that the Charlottesville city council thought their campaign to remove Confederate monuments was going to be an easy layup. They thought it would be a cheap way to score some moral authority points and get fawning media coverage for themselves and the city, and that nobody would complain very much except a few stodgy country club types who look like generic Southern gentry sent over from Central Casting.

They never had any idea that they were going to put themselves at the center of a giant firestorm of racial politics, or that somebody would turn the town into a war zone and a national watchword for racial conflict. They certainly had no idea they would be unleashing a political radicalism that would target them, too. But target them it has.

Here was the scene from a recent city council meeting:

- A protest erupted inside Charlottesville city council chambers August 21 as councilors held their first meeting since deadly violence played out in city streets on August 12. The crowd screamed at councilors and eventually took over the meeting, which caused the police that were present to intervene.
- The emotional crowd vows to see the statue taken down, even if it is by their own hands. At one point, councilors and city staff fled the room as protesters jumped up where the council sits. Two protesters held a banner saying ‘Blood on your Hands.’

The city council is now meeting behind closed doors because they dare not face the public.

Hence the really amazingly stupid stuff like these Confederacy burqas, which was voted on unanimously at that last public meeting—after the city council got screamed at by protesters for three hours. It’s a sign that they have no idea how they got themselves into this and no idea how to get out.

What has been happening in Charlottesville and elsewhere shows the failure of leadership based on superficial virtue-signaling. They didn’t have a plan for dealing with serious consequences because they never gave the issue serious thought in the first place. But the moral panic that they started is now get-

ting out of control, threatening to become a full-scale Cultural Revolution-style purge of the past.

It's no longer enough to target Confederate generals. The Red Guards have moved on to vandalizing statues of Thomas Jefferson and beheading the statue of a Revolutionary War hero, agitating to tear down a statue of Christopher Columbus in New York City, and actually defacing a monument to Columbus in Baltimore.

The issue now is less about the fate of Confederate monuments than it is about empowering lawless action by mobs of radicals. The Red Guards comparison is not far off.

Remember the mob in Durham, North Carolina, that tore down a statue of a Confederate soldier?

The leader of the mob was a far-left agitator with a Marxist-Leninist group that defends North Korea. When you give these people free rein, how is that going to end well for any of us?

Seeking to score easy political points, moderate center-left "liberals"—what's left of them—have unleashed the far left, which is enjoying a new sense of power and a twisted kind of moral authority.

Maybe the "liberals" hope these crocodiles will eat them last, but judging from events in Charlottesville, the mobs are going to eat them first.



An editorial by Walter Williams titled "Libs in a Tizzy" was posted at jewish-worldreview.com on Sept. 6, 2017. Following is the article.

Many blacks and their white liberal allies demand the removal of statues of Confederate generals and the Confederate battle flag, and they are working up steam to destroy the images of Gens. Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee and President Jefferson Davis from Stone Mountain in Georgia. Allow me to speculate as to the whys of this statue removal craze, which we might call statucide.

To understand it, we need a review of the promises black and white liberals have been making for decades.

In 1940, the black poverty rate was 87 percent. By 1960, it had fallen to 47 percent. During that interval, blacks were politically impotent.

There were no anti-poverty programs or affirmative action programs. Nonetheless, this poverty reduction exceeded that in any other 20-year interval. But the black leadership argued that more was necessary. They said that broad advancement could not be made unless blacks gained political power.

Fifty years ago, there were fewer than 1,000 black elected officials nationwide. According to the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, by 2011 there were roughly 10,500 black elected officials, not to mention a black president. But what were the fruits of greater political power?

The greatest black poverty, poorest education, highest crime rates and greatest family instability are in cities such as Detroit, St. Louis, Oakland, Memphis, Birmingham, Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, Philadelphia and Buffalo.

The most common characteristic of these predominantly black cities is that for decades, all of them have been run by Democratic and presumably liberal politicians. Plus, in most cases, blacks have been mayors, chiefs of police, school superintendents and principals and have dominated city councils.

During the 1960s, black and white liberals called for more money to be spent on anti-poverty programs. Since the Lyndon Johnson administration's War on Poverty programs, U.S. taxpayers have forked over \$22 trillion for anti-poverty programs. Adjusted for inflation, that's three times the cost of all U.S. military wars since the American Revolution. Despite that spending, the socio-economic condition for many blacks has worsened.

In 1940, 86 percent of black children were born inside marriage, and the black illegitimacy rate was about 15 percent. Today, only 35 percent of black children are born inside marriage, and the illegitimacy rate hovers around 75 percent.

The visions of black civil rights leaders and their white liberal allies didn't quite pan out.

Greater political power and massive anti-poverty spending produced little. The failure of political power and the failure of massive welfare spending to produce nirvana led to the expectation that if only there were a black president, everything would become better for blacks.

I cannot think of a single black socio-economic statistic that improved during the two terms of the Barack Obama administration. Some have become tragically worse, such as the black homicide victimization rate. For example, on average in Chicago, one person is shot every two hours, 15 minutes, and a person is murdered every 12 1/2 hours.

So more political power hasn't worked. Massive poverty spending hasn't worked. Electing a black president hasn't worked. What should black leaders and their white liberal allies now turn their attention to in order to improve the socio-economic condition for blacks?

It appears to be nearly unanimous that attention should be turned to the removal of Confederate statues. It's not only Confederate statue removal but Confederate names of schools and streets.

Even the Council on American-Islamic Relations agrees. It just passed a resolution calling for the removal of all Confederate memorials, flags, street names and symbols from public spaces and property.

By the way, does the statue of Union Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman qualify for removal? He once explained his reluctance to enlist former slaves, writing, "I am honest in my belief that it is not fair to our men to count negroes as equals ... (but) is not a negro as good as a white man to stop a bullet?"

It's difficult to determine where this purging of the nation's history should end.



An article by Nicholas Fondacaro titled "Nets Ignore Opponents With 99 Percent Pro-DACA Coverage" was posted at newsbusters.org on Sept. 5, 2017. Following is the article.

Liberal journalists were out in force on Tuesday in the wake of President Trump's decision to rescind Obama-era executive action on immigration known as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

In fact, after decrying Trump's decision to put Congress in charge of codifying Obama's order during their morning broadcasts, the Big Three Networks (ABC, CBS, and NBC) spent 99 percent of their evening broadcasts railing against it with scant coverage of those who supported the move.

In all, the networks spent 17 minutes and 44 seconds of airtime lambasting Trump and his decision while only giving 11 seconds to those who supported him or thought he didn't go far enough. The time totals don't include commercials or network teasers for the stories.

■ CBS Evening News spent the most airtime reporting on DACA's rescindment with nine minutes and nine seconds dedicated to the pro-DACA side. That time was spread over four stories and none of their coverage shared the opinion of Trump's supporters or any other opponents to DACA. They led the evening off with it and pushed back their coverage of Hurricane Irma, which was approaching Florida.

When teasing the story, CBS anchor Anthony Mason described the situation as "shattered dreams," playing off the term "Dreamers" the phrase used to describe those who receive DACA protections. "A promise kept by President Trump is a dream lost for thousands of undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children," he bemoaned.

CBS reporter John Blackstone touted the nationwide protests by citing those which occurred in large cities. He also hyped an interview with a rather defiant Dreamer who told him that "I know I'm vulnerable. That's valid. I know I can be deported tomorrow. But I'm not going to go down and give this Trump, or Sessions, the luxury of seeing me defeated."

■ ABC's World News Tonight came in second with four minutes and 48 seconds of pro-DACA bias and only two seconds for those who opposed it. In leading off the bias, White House Correspondent Cecilia Vega seemed to relish the intense backlash against the President. "Tonight protests from the White House to Trump Tower to Denver, Colorado. Students marching out of class," she began her report.

As with all the networks, Vega and Anchor David Muir championed the condemnation of Trump from former President Barack Obama. "David, he said he would only weigh in on this administration when he felt like our core values are as a country are at stake," she praised. "Well today, he said the move to rescind DACA is cruel, wrong, and self-defeating. David. He said ultimately this is about basic decency."

ABC's Mary Bruce was the only one reporter for the network to find any time to mention those who opposed DACA. But all she could muster was a literal two-seconds-long blurb, nothing that "but many conservatives disagree."

■ NBC *Nightly News* dedicated three minutes and 47 seconds to pro-DACA coverage while giving the DACA opposition a staggering nine seconds. "Tonight the President is taking heat from the left and right. Immigration advocates say his move to end DACA is cold hearted but his base is accusing Mr. Trump of punting on a core campaign promise," reported Kristen Welker.

"The President's own party is deeply divided. Members of his base say DACA should end now but more moderate Republicans believe Dreamers should be protected," she added.

It's only natural that the liberal networks would defend DACA, especially considering they pushed for it to begin with.



An article by Craig Bannister titled "Steve Harvey: I Wanted to Work With Ben Carson to Help Inner City Youth—And Trump Made It Happen" was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 5, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Entertainer Steve Harvey recalls how he came to work with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson to develop educational programs for inner city youth, thanks to the help of then-President-Elect Donald Trump.

Harvey accepted an invitation from Trump and met with the president-elect back in January. In an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter*, Harvey recalls the meeting—and how he told Trump that, even though he campaigned for Hillary Clinton, he wanted to help President Trump.

■ We talked about golf for 20 minutes. And then I told him, "Mr. President, I'm going to be honest with you, I didn't vote for you. I campaigned very hard for Hillary Clinton. But now that you're here, you're the 45th president and I'm going to help you."

Harvey told Trump he wanted to help Carson obtain first-hand accounts of the "real needs" of inner city youth.

■ "You've appointed Ben Carson as the head of Housing and Urban Development, and I've got keys to a lot of cities around this country from the years of performing that I've done. I can get an ear to them really quick and find out what their real needs are."

■ "Y'all keep closing schools in the cities. Why don't we take those schools that are closing, put some HUD money in them, and reopen them as vision centers and teach STEM and computers and coding? If you connect me with Ben Carson, I can help him with that."

A few minutes later, he had Ben Carson on the phone.

As a result of Trump's introduction, Harvey says he and Carson have worked together to create educational centers for inner-city youth, the first of which will be introduced by year's end.



An article by Monica Showalter titled "Communistcare? Bernie Sanders's New Health Scheme Would Make Mao Blush" was posted at americanthinker.com on Sept. 1, 2017. Following is the article.

When Bernie Sanders introduces his "Medicare for all" plan this month, there will be plenty of talk about how Democrats are increasingly embracing single-payer health care and how it's becoming more popular with the public.

What a fawning press won't say, however, is that what Sanders is proposing is more left-wing than even what socialist states have attempted. Sanders would have the government pay 100% of all health costs, with no deductibles or co-pays for anything—just pure pork.

- Even in Sanders's beloved Denmark, people have to pay a chunk of health costs out of pocket.
- In China, 32% of health care is paid by the Chinese out of their own pockets.
- And, unlike Sanders's plan, most countries leave some room for private insurance.
- Not Sanders. He takes it to the full Mao in his worker-ant vision. Like Hugo Chávez, he's promising "heaven."

Sanders is a radical so out of the mainstream that no industrialized nation would touch such a plan as his. Yet mainstream Democrats are now falling in line behind it, promising miracles. Which party, again, has become captive to its fringe?



An article by Monica Showalter titled "CNN Throws in the Towel on Fake Russian News" was posted at americanthinker.com on Sept. 6, 2017. Following is the article.

CNN has dismantled its vaunted Trump-colluded-with-the-Russians investigative unit in a wretched concession to reality. The only thing the unit found was an empty well for stories, surrounded by a crust of fake news. The whole caper damaged the network's credibility, and the public just wasn't buying it anymore. So the whole unit had to go.

What a shabby end to what the network had put so much stock in in the heady days of trying to oust President Trump just as he had taken office.

The *New York Times* attributes the unit's sorry end to confusion in the fact-checking process—which is baloney for anyone who has ever worked in a newsroom—claiming that on one bad story, a lawyer's concerns were ignored.

That's not the way it works in most newsrooms—normally, the lawyer has the loudest voice about what goes to press, given the potential for lawsuits, much to the resentment of the reporters. Well, the CNN editors ignored it and paid for it with their jobs when it came back to bite them.

Another problem the *Times* mentions but doesn't dwell on is the issue of single-source reporting—from political partisans. Of course a single-source report from a political partisan is going to yield a bad result. This is why reporters are supposed to add value and put out something different from press releases. Well, CNN opted to go for single sources, which is testimony in the *Times'* mind to the pressure the network was under to produce something.

The only reason the people at CNN were unable to produce is that there was no there there. And that's the real reason for the unit's ignominious end.

■ The news project was not premised on finding the truth, as real journalism is supposed to, but on confirming the left's deepest rage, resentment, and fear—that the election was stolen from them by the hated Russians. That was the root of all the fake news that came of the unit, such as claims that certain Trump administration officials were under investigation when they were not and errant reporting about James Comey.

Setting up a unit to confirm an ideological bias from an embittered losing party is no way to get bang for the news buck, which is the cash and resources that go into investigative reporting. There has to be a there there, and there wasn't any there there on the Russia story. There wasn't even an audience.

Maybe if CNN can learn to curb its ideological biases and refocus on reporting the news without fear or favor, it might just return to what it used to be. As it is now, its reputation lies in ruins.



Isaiah 55:6-11—"Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."