

# Eye on the World

## Oct. 28, 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 October 28, 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 Callum Paton titled "Israel: Biblical Roman Stables Discovered in Area Where Jesus Lived and Preached" was posted at newsweek.com on Oct. 19, 2017. Following is the article.

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A family digging in their garden in the Israeli village of Eilabun have unwittingly uncovered a complex of underground stables, hewn into the soft rock in Roman times 2,000 years ago.

The entrance to the stables, which had remained hidden some 9 feet below the ground, would previously have been at surface level. However, years of accumulated silt and dirt slowly covered the entrance of the system of caves, concealing them from view for centuries.

Archaeologists, led by Nir Distelfeld, told Haaretz that the man-made caves would also have been used for storage, given some of the remnants found there. But the strongest indicators that the carved rooms were used to house livestock are illustrated by holes chiseled into the cave walls.

The animals would have been tied to the carved holes that formed a handle, with a stone trough laid below them for food and water.

Experts, once they were alerted to the discovery of the site, were able to discern the period the caves were in use by analyzing pottery shards left strewn

across the ground. They dated the site to the first century A.D., around the time Jesus is believed to have lived in the area.

Eilabun is the site of an ancient Jewish village and currently a recognized Israeli Arab local council in Galilee. It lies some 11 miles from Nazareth, where the New Testament claims the Christian messiah grew up. The Christian faith also holds that it was in Galilee, in modern-day northern Israel, that Jesus began his ministry.

The caves would have been in use in the time of the Second Temple, which the Romans destroyed along with the rest of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Important local families from the town at the time would have spent two weeks each year serving at the temple.

Excavators have also uncovered a local synagogue in the small rural village that today remains much the same size as it did thousands of years ago.

Unfortunately the opportunity for further discovery in the caves has been lost because of robbery and pilfering at the site. Israel's archaeology inspectors have said the stables were thoroughly pillaged before they arrived, with vandals gouging out certain sections of the rock in the hopes of finding more artifacts.

"The looters weren't archaeology experts," Distelfeld said. "When they saw a chamber, they started to deepen it, breaking the rock itself, thinking they would find other interesting stuff."

What has been recovered from the rooms—one central chamber with a series of smaller rooms branching off—includes pieces of Roman-era ceramic storage jars and flour-grinding apparatus dug into the rock. Two arrests have been made in connection with the thefts.

"The thieves may have found other things, but they won't tell us," Distelfeld added.



An article by James Titcomb titled "Warning Over iPhone Apps That Can Silently Turn on Cameras at Any Time" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Oct. 26, 2017. Following is the article.

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Apple has been urged to change the way in which iPhone apps are granted access to the phone's camera after a security researcher demonstrated how apps can secretly record photos and videos without the user knowing.

Felix Krause, an Austrian developer who works for Google, built an app that was able to take pictures of its user every second and upload them, without notifying the user. He called it a "privacy loophole that can be abused by iOS apps."

When an app wants to access the camera, for example to scan a credit card or take a profile picture during the set-up process, the iPhone user must give the app permission, in the same way that apps must ask to access the cam-

era roll, location and contacts and to send notifications. Once allowed, it has to be turned off via the settings menu.

The system is similar to the permissions required by apps on Android. Google has recently deleted several apps that surreptitiously recorded users and masqueraded as legitimate apps.

But Krause said that once an app has been granted initial access, it can take photos and videos whenever it is opened up. Unlike on Mac computers, which have a small green light next to the camera when it is being used, there is no indication that an app is recording videos or taking photos, or when it sends them elsewhere.

The iPhone's camera app permissions do not differentiate between the phone's front and back camera. Allowing camera permissions can grant extra access in the latest version of iOS, which has a facial recognition engine that could allow apps to detect emotions.

The permissions system is not a bug or a flaw - it works in exactly the way Apple has designed it - but Krause said malicious apps could take advantage of it to surreptitiously record users.

He demonstrated this by building an app that took a photo of the person using it every second, and which also ran a facial recognition program to detect the person using it.

He warned that other apps could monitor users' emotions as they scroll through a social network news feed, record what they are saying, or live stream video of them in the bathroom as they tap away at a smartphone game.

Krause said Apple should introduce a system of temporary permissions - one that allows apps to take a picture during the set-up process, but revokes it after a period of time - or to introduce a warning light or notification to the iPhone that tells people when they are being recorded.

There are few examples of apps being found to secretly record users - apart from those specifically designed for this such as Stealth Cam. The practice is banned by Apple's App Store guidelines, which state that a "reasonably conspicuous audio, visual or other indicator must be displayed to the user as part of the Application to indicate that a Recording is taking place."

Krause claimed it would be easy to hide the behaviour, allowing it to make it through Apple's approval process.

Facebook users have often claimed that the social network is secretly listening to their conversations in an attempt to better target adverts, something that Facebook itself has denied.

Some privacy conscious users have taken to covering up the cameras on their computers in an attempt to prevent being spied on, including Facebook's founder Mark Zuckerberg.

Krause recently demonstrated how malicious apps could steal a user's iCloud password by appearing to be an official command. The developer works at Google but says his work on security is a hobby, in no way affiliated with his employer.

Apple did not comment.



An article by Meera Senthilingam titled "124 Dead, Nearly 1,200 Infected With Plague in Madagascar" was posted at [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) on Oct. 25, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

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A plague outbreak in Madagascar has infected 1,192 people since August, with 124 deaths, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Madagascar's National Bureau of Risk Management and Disaster reported on Monday.

The majority of cases, 67%, were the pneumonic form of the disease, which can spread from person to person.

Plague is caused by infection with the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* and is typically spread through the bite of infected fleas, frequently carried by rats, causing bubonic plague. Symptoms include painful, swollen lymph nodes, called bubos, as well as fever, chills and coughing.

Pneumonic plague is more virulent or damaging and is an advanced form characterized by a severe lung infection that can be transmitted from person to person via airborne droplets such as through coughing or sneezing, for example. The incubation period is short, and an infected person may die within 12 to 24 hours.

Both forms can be treated with antibiotics, making early detection a priority.

Of Madagascar's 114 districts, 40 have reported cases of pneumonic plague and less than 30% of people who have had contact with cases can be traced, according to the UN office. Those who've been in contact might need treatment themselves and may pose further risk of spreading the infection.

Cases have been reported in at least 10 cities, including the the larger, more populated, cities of Antananarivo and Toamasina.

People stand back as a council worker sprays disinfectant during the clean-up of the market of Anosibe in the Anosibe district, one of the most unsalubrious districts of Antananarivo.

But 780 individuals have been cured of their infection since August 1 and six of the affected districts have not reported new cases for 15 days, the UN report states.

Despite the increase in numbers, the trend has been relatively stable, a World Health Organization representative told CNN.

Dr. Charlotte Ndiaye, WHO representative in Madagascar, added that about half the deaths are occurring in the community, not health centers, according to government figures, which demonstrates that more work needs to be done to help people understand that treatment is available, and they need to go to health services as quickly as possible.

Plague is endemic to Madagascar, with an estimated 400 cases reported there every year, mostly the bubonic variety, but the current outbreak has affected more areas and started earlier than usual.

It's also unusual for large urban areas to be affected, as they have been this year, the WHO previously told CNN.

The current outbreak began after the death of a man in the central highlands of the country—a plague-endemic area—after which the Ministry of Public Health began investigating and tracing his contacts, according to the WHO.

The epidemic has garnered national and international control efforts.

Eight health centers have been designated by WHO to manage plague cases and alleviate the burden on hospitals and health clinics. Last week the International Federation of Red Cross also announced the deployment of a treatment center in the country.

The federation's Secretary General Elhadj As Sy called for global support and launched an emergency appeal for around \$5.5 million last week.

WHO has also provided the medications to treat up to 5,000 people and protect 100,000 people who may have been in contact with infected individuals. Both organizations have trained and mobilized thousands of volunteers.

Protocols are also being proposed for safe burial practices to ensure maximum safety and protection from infection.

Public schools are closed and the government has forbidden public gatherings, according to the Red Cross.

The risk of further spread nationally remains very high, WHO stated in its most recent situation report, and risk of regional spread is moderate due to neighboring islands and southern and east African countries.

Samples from patients in Seychelles suspected to be ill with pneumonic plague tested negative, the WHO reported Tuesday.

"The risk of international spread is low, because generally, people with plague are too sick to travel," Ndiaye told CNN in a previous report.

She explained WHO is working closely with Madagascar's airport authorities to ensure control measures—such as temperature checks and medical teams—are in place at airports and ports to prevent the spread of infection outside the country.



An article by Lena H. Sun titled "World Leaders Rehearse for a Pandemic That Will Come 'Sooner Than We Expect' " was posted at [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com) on Oct. 24, 2017. Following is the article.

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The government ministers were facing a new infectious disease outbreak. The mysterious virus was sickening and killing people with alarming speed. Some patients had to be placed on ventilators to help them breathe. The new virus seemed resistant to antiviral medicine.

Within a week, officials had closed a major hospital and schools and quarantined thousands of people. Fear and panic spread quickly as people in neighboring countries became infected and died.

That scenario was part of a pandemic simulation held during the World Bank's annual meeting in Washington this month. It's not the kind of event that people would typically associate with the World Bank.

But it's the fourth such exercise the bank has helped organize in the past year, reflecting what experts say is the growing awareness outside the traditional global health sector of the increasing threat and economic disruption posed by a global pandemic.

The chaotic and "horrendously inefficient" early response to the 2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa that killed more than 11,000 people was the catalyst for the simulations, said Tim Evans, senior director for health, nutrition and population at the World Bank.

"We realized that people were just making it up as they were going along, including us," Evans said, referring to the Ebola response. The bank wanted to "move from a history of panic and neglect to one where we're going to start to prepare much more systematically to be ready for the 100 percent probability we will be dealing with this again," he said. "Probably sooner than we expect."

Outbreaks of life-threatening infectious diseases are spreading faster and with more unpredictability than ever.

An unusually large plague outbreak in Madagascar has killed 106 people since August. About 70 percent of the cases are the more virulent form of pneumonic plague that spreads by coughing, sneezing or spitting and is almost always fatal if untreated with antibiotics.

In Uganda, officials are on high alert because of a recently reported outbreak of the deadly Marburg virus that has killed one person and may have exposed hundreds more at health facilities and during traditional burial ceremonies. Marburg is a highly infectious hemorrhagic fever similar to Ebola and is among the most virulent pathogens known to infect humans.

For the World Bank simulation, organizers looked at the impact on travel and tourism of an outbreak of a mysterious respiratory virus in a hypothetical country. Participants included finance, health and tourism ministers from



about a dozen countries, and officials from organizations including the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the International Air Transport Association.

Discussions during the 90-minute session were off the record. But in interviews after the event, organizers said the step-by-step scenario made the theoretical possibility seem very real for participants. In particular, it drove home the need for speedy, accurate information-sharing and strong coordination within and across governments and institutions.

In today's fast-paced world, information flows through unofficial channels much faster than through official ones, said Ron Klain, who was the United States' Ebola czar during the epidemic and served as the moderator for the simulation.

"Government officials need to be more in sync with that and adjust to that," Klain said. Officials who rely on once-a-day updates in outbreak situations need to understand the importance of releasing accurate information in real time, he said.

"I think the exercise clearly flagged that, and the ministers and others really focused on that," he said.

Participants in the simulation were shown hypothetical social media posts. One news story about a cruise ship passenger who worked in a lab researching the virus was seen by thousands of people within minutes of being posted on Instagram.

That part of the simulation was similar to what happened during the Ebola epidemic. A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter and plane were dispatched to a cruise ship off the coast of Mexico to obtain blood samples from a passenger on vacation. She had, 19 days earlier, been working in a lab at a Dallas hospital and possibly had come in contact with a sealed vial of blood belonging to Thomas Eric Duncan, a Liberian who died in October 2014, the first person to die of Ebola in the United States.

She had no symptoms, and blood tests later confirmed what doctors already knew: She did not have Ebola. (The only two people who caught Ebola in the United States were nurses caring for Duncan.)

The World Bank conducted its first pandemic simulation for finance ministers at its annual meeting last year. In January, the bank and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation hosted another simulation for chief executives of major companies at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, in January.

In July, they worked with German Chancellor Angela Merkel to conduct a pandemic simulation for health ministers at the G-20 governments meeting, which traditionally focus on finance and economics.

In the past, some countries have been reluctant to publicize outbreaks or delayed reporting them because of politics or worries about tourism and trade. In countries dependent on tourism, there is also political and economic pressure to take action that may turn out to be counterproductive for their

economies, said Ryan Morhard, project lead for global health security at the World Economic Forum, which helped organize the World Bank simulation.

Imposing quarantines or closing borders may be seen as aggressive action, but those measures wouldn't necessarily be effective against a disease that spreads without symptoms, and could be "equally devastating to that economy," Morhard said.



An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "11 Countries of Concern Accounted for 23,357 Refugee Admissions Last Year; 36,952 in FY 2016" was posted at [cnsnews.com](http://cnsnews.com) on Oct. 25, 2017. Following is the article.

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The Trump administration said Tuesday it will resume admitting refugees after a now-expired 120-day ban, but with tighter vetting procedures—and that applications of nationals from 11 countries of concern will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

In an executive order, President Trump said the secretary of state, secretary of homeland security and director of national security have advised that refugee admissions may now resume, since enhanced vetting improvements put in place are adequate to ensure the security and welfare of the U.S.

At the same time, he said, the secretary of state and secretary of homeland security "will apply special measures to certain categories of refugees whose entry continues to pose potential threats to the security and welfare of the United States."

The executive order did not elaborate, but the State Department referred in a fact sheet to "refugees of 11 nationalities previously identified as potentially posing a higher risk to the United States."

"Admissions for applicants of those 11 potentially higher-risk nationalities will resume on a case-by-case basis during a new 90-day review period," it said.

The 11 countries were not named, but they are thought to be the 11 countries whose nationals as of last year were subject during the refugee application process to an additional clearance requirement known as a "security advisory opinion" (SAO).

The 11 were Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Mali, North Korea, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

If those are the 11 countries referred to by the State Department on Tuesday, together they accounted for 23,357 refugees admitted to the U.S. during fiscal year 2017, which ended on September 30.



Ninety-nine percent of those 23,357 refugees originated from just five of the 11 countries—Iraq (6,886 refugees), Syria (6,557), Somalia (6,130), Iran (2,577) and Sudan (980).

Smaller contingents came from South Sudan (176), Yemen (21), North Korea (12), Egypt (9), Mali (6) and Libya (3).

One year earlier, 36,952 refugees from the 11 countries were resettled in the U.S., with the same five countries accounting again for 99 percent of the total.

Reflecting President Obama's goal of admitting 10,000 refugees from Syria that year, Syria took the lead in FY 2016, with 12,587 refugees, followed by Iraq (9,880), Somalia (9,020), Iran (3,750) and Sudan (1,458).

The other countries of concern again provided smaller numbers in FY 2016—South Sudan (189), Yemen (26), Egypt (21), North Korea (14), Mali (6) and Libya (1).

Since Trump's inauguration in January, 8,545 refugees from the 11 countries have been admitted to the U.S.—2,437 from Somalia, 2,302 from Iraq, 1,972 from Syria, 1,122 from Iran, 591 from Sudan, 100 from South Sudan, 16 from Yemen, four from Mali and one from Egypt. None have been admitted from the remaining two countries, Libya and North Korea.

### **Risk factors**

Trump's executive order made clear that the new vetting requirements are distinct from last month's proclamation singling out nationals of eight countries for varying levels of restrictions on travel to the U.S.

Those restrictions were based on criteria including the degree to which the governments cooperate with U.S. officials' efforts to determine whether their nationals pose a security risk. They applied to foreign nationals seeking entry into the U.S. with immigrant or non-immigrant visas—not to refugees.

"Those restrictions and limitations do not apply to those who seek to enter the United States through the USRAP [U.S. Refugee Admissions Program]," the executive order explained.

"For a variety of reasons, including substantive differences in the risk factors presented by the refugee population and in the quality of information available to screen and vet refugees, the refugee screening and vetting process is different from the process that applies to most visa applicants," it added.

Still, there is some overlap between those eight countries and the 11 believed to be the ones referred to by the State Department in Tuesday's announcement. Six countries are on both lists: Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria and Yemen.

The new policy adds one more restriction, temporarily suspending the admission of family members of refugees—of all nationalities—who are already resettled in the U.S.

Admission of those family members would resume, the State Department said, once additional and enhanced screening measures have been put in place.



An article by Terrence P. Jeffrey titled "Census Bureau: 44.6% in California Don't Speak English at Home; 35.6% in Texas; 34.5% in NM; 31.7% in NJ; 31.0% in NY" was posted at cnsnews.com on Oct. 24, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

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In California—which with a July 2016 population of 39,250,017 is the nation's most populous state—44.6 percent of the people five years of age and older do not speak English at home, according to data released this week by the Census Bureau.

Nationwide, 21.6 percent speak a language other than English at home and 8.6 percent speak English less than very well.

### **No English at home**

- California ranked No.1 among the states for the percentage of residents five and older who do not speak English at home (44.6%).
- Texas ranked second (35.6 percent).
- New Mexico ranked third (34.5 percent);.
- New Jersey ranked fourth (31.7 percent).
- New York ranked fifth (31.0 percent).

Notice the smallest percentages.

- West Virginia had the smallest percentage of residents (2.5 percent).
- Montana had the second smallest (3.7 percent).
- Mississippi had the third smallest (3.8 percent).
- Alabama, the fourth smallest (5.1 percent).
- North Dakota the fifth smallest(5.2 percent).

### **Do not speak English well**

In addition to leading the nation with the percentage of residents 5 or older who speak a language other than English at home, California also led the nation for the percentage of people who, as the Census Bureau puts it, "speak English less than 'very well.' "

- In 2016, 18.6 percent of the people 5 or older in California spoke English less than very well.
- Texas ranked second in this category (14.0 percent).
- New York was third (13.7 percent).
- New Jersey was fourth (12.6 percent).

- Hawaii was fifth (12.2 percent).

Notice the smallest percentages.

- Montana was the state with the smallest percentage of residents who could not speak English very well (0.7 percent).
- West Virginia had the second smallest (0.8 percent).
- Vermont was third smallest (1.3 percent)
- Mississippi was fourth smallest (1.4 percent).
- Maine was fifth smallest (1.7 percent).

### **Foreign born**

Notice the percentag of residents who are foreign born.

- California also led the nation for the percentage of residents (27.2 percent) who are foreign born.
- New York was second (23.0 percent).
- New Jersey was third (22.5 percent)
- Florida was fourth (20.6 percent).
- Nevada was fifth (20.0 percent).

Notice the smallest percentages of foreign-born residents.

- West Virginia (1.7 percent).
- Mississippi (2.0 percent).
- Montana (2.1 percent).
- Wyoming (3.2 percent).
- North Dakota (3.2 percent).

Nationwide, according to the Census Bureau, 13.5 percent of the people are foreign born.



An article by Katherine Rodriguez titled "Nearly 1.5 Million Fewer Americans on Food Stamps Under Trump" was posted at [breitbart.com](http://breitbart.com) on Oct. 23, 2017. Following is the article.

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Nearly 1.5 million Americans dropped off the food stamp rolls since President Trump's inauguration in January 2017, according to the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) statistics on food stamp enrollment.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participation dropped to 41,203,721 as of July 2017, the most recent data available from the USDA, from 42,691,363 in January 2017 when Trump took office.

According to the latest data, SNAP enrollment decreased by 3.48 percent, or 1,487,642, since Donald Trump began his presidency.

From May to July alone, nearly 400,000 Americans got off of food stamps, and the trend shows that enrollment has been consistently falling every month of Trump's presidency.

Here is the breakdown of how many people dropped off the food stamp rolls each month of 2017:

- January to February—408,956
- February to March—95,152
- March to April—521,295
- April to May—176,527
- May to June—178,648
- June to July—236,417

Enrollment continues to be at its lowest level in seven years, thanks to policies Trump implemented at the federal level and ongoing efforts from state legislatures to get people off welfare and back to work.

Trump's 2018 budget proposal proposed cuts to SNAP and suggested that states match up to 20 percent of federal money allotted for the food stamp program.

The president also called for states to expand work requirements for able-bodied adults receiving food stamps if they have not already done so. Some federal lawmakers are crafting legislation to implement this policy nationwide, along with time limits on how long food stamp recipients can receive benefits.

Efforts by state lawmakers had also contributed to the decline in enrollment months before Trump took office, and the numbers show at the federal and state levels.

The number of people participating in the food stamp program declined by 4.9 percent from July 2016 to July 2017, and the amount of federal money the USDA spends on providing benefits to food stamp recipients also went down by five percent over the same period.

At the state level, food stamp enrollment is down in 42 out of 50 states, according to the USDA data showing the change in enrollment by state.

The nationwide decline can be attributed to efforts by individual states beginning in 2014, a year after the Obama administration made slight cuts to the food stamp program as House Republicans urged the administration to push for cuts to the program after enrollment swelled to record highs in 2013.

Maine led efforts to implement or reinstate work requirements to participate in the food stamp program that many states delayed putting in place because of the recession in 2014.

Other states, such as Alabama and Georgia, caught on to these reforms in 2016-2017.

The one thing this continuing trend does not fully take into account is the effect the recent natural disasters in Florida and Texas had on enrollment. The USDA eased restrictions on what items victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma could purchase, allowing those who received food stamps to purchase hot food items, which cannot usually be purchased with benefits.

The agency also allowed Texans who may have been affected by the storm to receive temporary benefits, which may cause an increase in food stamp enrollment in the state.

Although the USDA has not released their August or September data yet, the agency included a disclaimer at the bottom of their most recent data saying that it "may include disaster assistance" as a way to forecast a potential spike in enrollment.



An editorial by Bruce Bialosky titled "Think You Know How Slanted the Media Is? Read This" was posted at townhall.com on Oct. 15, 2017. Following is the article.

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Every Conservative can spend hours pontificating about how the Mainstream Media (MSM) does not come close to presenting the facts fairly; it is grossly biased. That has grown exponentially since Donald Trump became president. Read this and you will not doubt the veracity of this scenario.

This tale started when Jane Eisner, editor-in-chief of the *Forward* ("News that matters to American Jews"), sent out an email asking for help. The *Forward* was founded in 1897 (formerly known as The Jewish Daily Forward). She expressed her concern as to what her publication "had done to contribute to the coarsening of our public discourse and the fracturing of civic comity." She asked for help by "sending your thoughts."

As a leader in the Jewish Community who has spent more than 25 years trying to enlighten what I believe are misguided Jews, I saw this as an opportunity. I wrote her to comply with her request.

I started by saying "Relentlessly and viciously attacking Republicans and a sitting president, your publication has added to the coarseness of the public discourse. As a fellow journalist, I can tell you among the center/right of center, your relentless attacks on Republicans and the President makes you irrelevant. Not creditable. Dismissed out of hand."

I added some other comments, then ended with "You said you wanted feedback, well there you have it. Maybe if you had more voices like mine or Dennis Prager's you would seem a little more balanced."

A couple of days later Ms. Eisner responded "Thank you for writing. I am interested in publishing more voices like yours. Would you like to pitch some ideas to [our opinion editor]?" I thanked her and obliged.

I thought this was a great opportunity. Certainly, I would be lambasted or ridiculed by most of the readers, but I can handle that. That comes with the territory of being a Jewish Republican. That is old hat to me. The thought is if we don't express differing views in their venues, they will never experience anything other than the echo chamber of thoughts they read every day. I was truly excited. This is a well-read publication by the active Jewish community.

I corresponded with the opinion editor and we agreed I would write a column on DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). The *Forward* had published typically pro-DACA columns highlighted by a Columbia University professor viciously attacking President Trump for everything except beating babies. It was a perfect issue to start with defining a difference.

I went to work. This column had to be above reproach. I knew I would be attacked. Even though I was well versed on the subject, I read everything I could, particularly the statements by the Jewish leaders.

I also knew I had to kill them with kindness; no sarcastic comments (I do that sometimes) and virtually no negative terminology. There was no endorsement of President Trump nor a statement against DACA—just a rationale for taking a legal path if you want DACA to exist and supporting immigration reform.

Most of the people who read my weekly column are familiar with my style and thankfully many of you have grown to appreciate what I write each week. The idea was to make the *Forward* readers like what I am communicating even if they do not agree with everything I write.

I submitted the column and then waited for the editor's response. She initially said she liked it and would get back to me. When she responded it was nothing short of stunning. A Jew had not seen this much red since Moses parted the Red Sea.

■ She had rewritten my entire column. It did not resemble my column in fact or tone.

For example, she had completely cut a brilliant quote from Andrew McCarthy about how inappropriate and wrong Obama's comment on Trump's action had been. Gone.

I let her know what she had done to my column was wrong and unacceptable. Her response was if I did not like it we could kill the column. She stated that the changes were for language flow and fact-checking. When I asked what facts were in question because I had everything sourced, her response was: "Ok, so just kill it?"

Not to leave something like this alone, I called her and as you can guess that went well. She made some comment that led me to remind her I have been writing columns longer than she has been alive and had never had a column completely altered like this.



After some more back and forth in which she made clear she was pro-DACA (I couldn't tell from her butchering of my column), I told her that she was not abiding by Ms. Eisner's desire to have different voices in the *Forward*.

That is when she objected and told me "I have run three right-wing columnists recently. I ran Ben Shapiro; you agree he is right-wing."

When Ben ran the column on the *Daily Wire* it was titled Everybody's Lying About Charlottesville. The title of the column she ran of Ben's was "Trump Isn't the Only One Lying About What Happened in Charlottesville."

No wonder they ran the column. They will always run a column by the other side when they can use it to advance their own arguments. Then they will brand the writer a "high-minded" individual until they go back to deriding him.

I had high hopes for writing for the *Forward*. I would get their readers out of their echo chamber. Maybe even some would like what I was writing and read my columns in [Townhall.com](http://Townhall.com) or elsewhere.

The liberal press doesn't really want its readers to consume divergent opinions because they might wise up to how they have been misled.

But we must try because otherwise those poor people will live with their misguided thoughts for the rest of their lives. That is a fate worse than death.



Looking back to 2016, here is an editorial by Dennis Prager titled "Yes, Men View Women As Sex Objects" that was posted at [nationalreview.com](http://nationalreview.com) on Dec. 13, 2016.

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My last column was titled "On Donald Trump's Supposed Misogyny." After reading reactions on the Internet, I realize how important it is to elaborate on the subject of how men view women.

One of the proofs that "higher" education makes people more foolish, more naïve, and often even more ignorant about life than those who never attended college is the widespread belief among the well-educated that when men sexually objectify women, it means that they are misogynists, haters of women.

So, here is a list of eight truths about males and sexual objectification for those who have a degree in any of the "social sciences."

1. It is completely normal for heterosexual men to see women to whom they are sexually attracted as sex objects.
2. That such sexual objectification is normal and has nothing to do with misogyny is proved by, among other things, the fact that homosexual men see men to whom they are sexually attracted as sex objects. If heterosexual men are misogynists, homosexual men are man-haters.

3. One reason for this is the almost unique power of the visual to sexually arouse men. Men are aroused just by glancing at a female arm, ankle, calf, thigh, stomach—even without ever seeing the woman's face. Those legs, calves, arms, etc. are sexual objects. That's why there are innumerable websites featuring them. There is nothing analogous for women. Of course, a woman can be aroused seeing a particularly handsome and masculine man. But there are no websites for women to stare at men's legs or other male body parts.

4. Every normal heterosexual man who sees a woman as a sexual object can also completely respect her mind, her character, and everything else non-sexual about her. Men do this all the time.

5. Most heterosexual women also see sexy women as sex objects—and they are hardly misogynists. Ask your wife or girlfriend which would turn her on more: watching a male strip show in front of a female audience or a female strip show in front of a male audience.

6. Lucky is the couple in which the man can sexually objectify his partner. The longer a husband can at least occasionally regard his wife as a sex object, the better their marriage. It is not always easy to perceive the woman you see every day, the mother of your children, as a sexual object.

7. The whole purpose of lingerie and other sexual attire is to render the woman a sex object in her partner's eyes. Are all the women who wear lingerie, bikinis, cheerleader outfits, or whatever else turns their partner on—and hopefully them as well, one might add—haters of women?

8. If your husband denies these assertions, he is lying to you because he is afraid you will react angrily or because he is afraid of hurting your feelings. He may also be lying to himself—after all, he, too, may have gone to college or reads liberal opinion pieces on misogyny, and he wants to be an "enlightened" male.

It is a sign of the times that these eight points need to be spelled out. The question is, Why? Why are any of these points—known to just about every woman and man who ever lived prior to the 1960s—controversial to so many well-educated people today?

The answer is leftism and its offshoot, feminism. Leftism is first and foremost a denial of reality.

Avoidance of pain is the central psychological impetus of leftism. This explains the infantilizing 'safe rooms' at the institutions the Left most controls—the universities.

Leftists deny reality for two reasons.

- One is that leftism is a religion (a secular one), and therefore it has dogmas that supersede truth.
- The other reason is that reality is filled with disappointment and pain, and avoidance of pain is the central psychological impetus of leftism.

This explains the infantilizing “safe rooms” at the institutions the Left most controls—the universities. These rooms—replete with stuffed animals, balloons, and Play-Doh—exist to protect students from hearing an idea with which they differ.

(Recall the first reason leftists deny reality: It is a religion allows that no heretical ideas.)

Safe zone are also meant to keep students from hearing an idea that causes them pain.

(Recall reason two: avoiding pain.)

Name the left-wing position, and in almost every case, you will see how it exemplifies either or both of these reasons.

It is reality that human nature is not basically good. But since the French Enlightenment, the Left has affirmed that people are basically good. That’s why leftists blame violent crime on poverty and racism, not on the violent criminal.

It is reality that the higher the minimum wage, the fewer new workers will be hired. But the Left, because of dogma, denies it. (In 1987, when the New York Times editorial page was not as pure Left as it is today, it editorialized: “The Right Minimum Wage: \$0.00.”) More P.C. Culture Professor: ‘Mathematics Itself Operates as Whiteness’ Go Ahead, Let Your Girl Dress as Moana South Park, in Video-Game Form.

It is reality that “Islam” means “submit,” but this meaning conflicts with left-wing wishful thinking that all cultures are morally equal. Thus, virtually every left-wing professor and publication says that “Islam” means “peace.” (To the extent that it has any connection to the word for “peace”—salaam—it is the peace that ensues after all of humanity has submitted to Islam.) The amount of left-wing reality-denial concerning the Islamic world is about equal to the number of assertions leftists make about it. (Thus, the Obama administration labeled the Fort Hood massacre of 13 soldiers by a radical Muslim as “workplace violence.”)

It is also reality, not an expression of misogyny, that men see the objects of their sexual desire as . . . sexual objects. But this is too painful for feminists and other leftists. And it violates feminist theory, which insists that seeing a woman as a sexual object makes one a misogynist, and that men and women are essentially the same. Therefore, leftists reject the reality.



An article by Ken Stern titled “Former NPR CEO Opens Up About Liberal Media Bias” was posted at nypost.com on Oct. 21, 2017. Following is the article.

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Most reporters and editors are liberal—a now-dated Pew Research Center poll found that liberals outnumber conservatives in the media by some 5 to 1, and that comports with my own anecdotal experience at National Public Radio [NPR].

When you are liberal, and everyone else around you is as well, it is easy to fall into groupthink on what stories are important, what sources are legitimate and what the narrative of the day will be.

This may seem like an unusual admission from someone who once ran NPR, but it is borne of recent experience. Spurred by a fear that red and blue America were drifting irrevocably apart, I decided to venture out from my overwhelmingly Democratic neighborhood and engage Republicans where they live, work and pray.

For an entire year, I embedded myself with the other side, standing in pit row at a NASCAR race, hanging out at Tea Party meetings and sitting in on Steve Bannon's radio show. I found an America far different from the one depicted in the press and imagined by presidents ("cling to guns or religion") and presidential candidates ("basket of deplorables") alike.

I spent many Sundays in evangelical churches and hung out with 15,000 evangelical youth at the Urbana conference. I wasn't sure what to expect among thousands of college-age evangelicals, but I certainly didn't expect the intense discussion of racial equity and refugee issues—how to help them, not how to keep them out—but that is what I got.

At Urbana, I met dozens of people who were dedicating their lives to the mission, spreading the good news of Jesus, of course, but doing so through a life of charity and compassion for others: staffing remote hospitals, building homes for the homeless and, in one case, flying a "powered parachute" over miles of uninhabited jungle in the western Congo to bring a little bit of entertainment, education and relief to some of the remotest villages you could imagine.

It was all inspiring—and a little foolhardy, if you ask me about the safety of a powered parachute—but it left me with a very different impression of a community that was previously known to me only through Jerry Falwell and the movie "Footloose."

Early this year, I drove west from Houston to Gonzales, Texas, to try my hand at pig hunting. It was my first time with a gun, and the noticeably concerned owner of the ranch at first banished me to a solitary spot on the grounds. Here, he said, the pigs would come to me and I could not pose a danger to anyone else. It was a nice spot indeed but did not make for much of a story, so I wandered off into the woods, hopefully protected by my Day-Glo hunting vest.

I eventually joined up with a family from Georgia. The group included the grandfather, Paps, and the father, CJ, but it was young Isaac, all of 8 years old, who took on the task of tutoring me in the ways of the hunt. He did a fine job, but we encountered few pigs (and killed none) in our morning walkabout.

In the afternoon, with the Georgians heading home, I linked up with a group of friends from Houston who belied the demographic stereotyping of the hunt; collectively we were the equivalent of a bad bar joke: a Hispanic ex-soldier, a young black family man, a Serbian immigrant and a Jew from DC.

None of my new hunting partners fit the lazy caricature of the angry NRA member. Rather, they saw guns as both a shared sport and as a necessary means to protect their families during uncertain times. In truth, the only one who was even modestly angry was me, and that only had to do with my terrible ineptness as a hunter. In the end, though, I did bag a pig, or at least my new friends were willing to award me a kill, so that we could all glory together in the fraternity of the hunt.

I also spent time in depressed areas of Kentucky and Ohio with workers who felt that their concerns had long fallen on deaf ears and were looking for every opportunity to protest a government and political and media establishment that had left them behind. I drank late into the night at the Royal Oaks Bar in Youngstown and met workers who had been out of the mills for almost two decades and had suffered the interlocking plagues of unemployment, opioid addiction and declining health.

They mourned the passing of the old days, when factory jobs were plentiful, lucrative and honored and lamented the destruction and decay of their communities, their livelihoods and their families. To a man (and sometimes a woman), they looked at media and saw stories that did not reflect the world that they knew or the fears that they had.

Over the course of this past year, I have tried to consume media as they do and understand it as a partisan player. It is not so hard to do. Take guns. Gun control and gun rights is one of our most divisive issues, and there are legitimate points on both sides. But media is obsessed with the gun-control side and gives only scant, mostly negative, recognition to the gun-rights sides.

Take, for instance, the issue of legitimate defensive gun use (DGU), which is often dismissed by the media as myth. But DGUs happen all the time—200 times a day, according to the Department of Justice, or 5,000 times a day, according to an overly exuberant Florida State University study. But whichever study you choose to believe, DGUs happen frequently and give credence to my hunting friends who see their guns as the last line of defense for themselves and their families.

At one point during my research, I discovered a video of a would-be robber entering a Houston smoke shop, his purpose conveyed by the pistol that he leveled at the store clerk. But the robber was not the only armed person in the store.

The security cameras show Raleigh, the store clerk, walking out from behind the counter, calmly raising his own gun and firing an accurate stream of bullets at the hapless robber. The wounded robber stumbles out, falls over the curb and eventually ends up under arrest.

It is not just defensive gun use that makes the video remarkable—it is Raleigh himself, who evidences such a nonchalance that he never bothers to put down the cigarette that he is smoking. At the end, Raleigh, having protected his store, enthuses, “Castle Doctrine, baby”—citing a law that allows a person to use force to defend a legally occupied place.

It is an amazing story, though far from unique, but you simply won’t find many like it in mainstream media (I found it on Reddit).

It's not that media is suppressing stories intentionally. It's that these stories don't reflect their interests and beliefs.

It's why my new friends in Youngstown, Ohio, and Pikeville, Ky., see media as hopelessly disconnected from their lives, and it is how the media has opened the door to charges of bias.

The mainstream media is constantly under attack by the president. They are "frankly disgusting," "tremendously dishonest," "failing," "they make up the stories" and are now threatened with loss of broadcast licenses if they continue to author "fake news." And that is just a random Wednesday's worth of words from Donald Trump.

Some may take pleasure in the discomfort of the media, but it is not a good situation for the country to have the media in disrepute and under constant attack. Virtually every significant leader of this nation, from Jefferson on down, has recognized the critical role of an independent press to the orderly functioning of democracy.

We should all be worried that more than 65 percent of voters think there is a lot of fake news in the mainstream media and that our major media institutions are seen as creating, not combating, our growing partisan divide.

Some of this loss of reputation stems from effective demagoguery from the right and the left, as well as from our demagogue-in-chief, but the attacks wouldn't be so successful if our media institutions hadn't failed us as well.

None of this justifies the attacks from President Trump, which are terribly inappropriate coming from the head of government. At the same time, the media should acknowledge its own failings in reflecting only their part of America. You can't cover America from the Acela corridor, and the media need to get out and be part of the conversations that take place in churches and community centers and town halls.

I did that, and loved it, though I regret waiting until well after I left NPR to do so. I am skeptical that many will do so, since the current situation in an odd way works for Trump, who gets to rile his base, and for the media, which has grown an audience on the back of Washington dysfunction. In the end, they are both short-term winners. It is the public that is the long-term loser.



An editorial by Walter Williams titled "Undermining America" was posted at [jewishworldreview.com](http://jewishworldreview.com) on Oct. 25, 2017. Following is the article.

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Our nation's leftist progressives have long sought to undermine the American values expressed in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. Though typical Democrats and Republicans do not have this leftist hate for



our nation, they have been willing accomplices in undermining the most basic value the Founding Fathers sought to promote—limited government.

Leftists have had their greatest successes in undermining American values on the nation's college campuses. Derelict and dishonest college administrators, professors and boards of trustees have given them carte blanche. Let's look at some of it.

Students at the University of Virginia desecrated the statue of Thomas Jefferson, the university's founder. Students at the University of Missouri want Jefferson's statue gone.

Why? He was a slave owner.

Many in the college community supported Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential bid. They welcomed Sanders' belief that the United States was founded on "racist principles."

- There have also been calls for the removal of George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's statues. Some have called for the renaming of schools that honor Washington, Jefferson and 11 other slave-owning presidents.

- Leftists have called for the renaming of streets named after slave-owning presidents.

- There have been many leftist calls for the elimination of Columbus Day. Their success at getting Confederate statues taken down has emboldened them.

What goes unappreciated is just why America's leftists' movement attacks the Founders. If they can delegitimize the Founders themselves, it goes a long way toward their agenda of delegitimizing the founding principles of our nation. If the leftists can convince the nation that men such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were good-for-nothing slave-owning racists, then their ideas can be more easily trashed. We find the greatest assaults on our founding documents on the nation's college campuses.

The average parent, taxpayer and donor has absolutely no idea of the bizarre lessons that college professors are teaching students.

Professor Adam Kotsko of Shimer College teaches, "Whether or not your individual ancestors owned slaves, you as a white person have benefitted from slavery and are complicit in it."

Dr. Micah Johnson, a research assistant and graduate student instructor in the University of Florida's department of sociology and criminology and law, teaches that the American notion of patriotism is "drenched in whiteness" and that patriotism implies that black people are "un-American."

These types of attacks on American values have reached one of our most prestigious institutions of higher learning—the U.S. Military Academy. The administration at West Point knew of 2nd Lt. Spenser Rapone's disqualifying insubordination at the academy, extremist political views and regulation-breaking online activity. Proof has surfaced that West Point leadership knew

as early as 2015 that Rapone was an avowed communist and held Marxist anti-American beliefs (<http://tinyurl.com/ybnppvm6>).

One of his Facebook posts read, “F—— this country and its false freedom.” Despite Rapone’s conduct and demonstrated hatred of our nation, the U.S. Military Academy’s administration saw fit to allow Rapone to graduate in 2016.

But the rot at our premier military academy goes beyond the traitorous ideas of Rapone’s. That was revealed in an open letter written by retired Army Lt. Col. Robert Heffington, once a professor of history at West Point.

Heffington’s letter exposed widespread corruption, cheating and falling standards at the academy to which the administration has turned a blind, politically correct eye.

In response to Heffington’s widely circulated letter, the superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen Jr., released a standard bureaucratic letter saying the administration will address the concerns raised in Heffington’s letter about falling standards. It will also investigate the revelations that it not only managed to graduate Rapone but also sent him on to Army battlefield units, thus enabling him to spread his anti-American ideas.

The American people need to stop being sheeple and put a halt to the undermining of our nation taking place in our institutions of higher learning.



An article by Susan Duclos titled “Media Calls Antifa November 4 Plans for Civil War a Right-Wing ‘Conspiracy Theory’ ” was posted at [thedailycoin.org](http://thedailycoin.org) on Oct. 14, 2017. Following is the article.

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On August 20, 2017 ANP [All News Pipeline] reported on two Antifa groups, Refuse Fascism and The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA, and their stated plans to hold nationwide “protests” to force the removal of President Trump and Vice President Pence, where we directly quoted their website which stated the following:

- We will gather in the streets and public squares of cities and towns across this country, at first many thousands declaring that this whole regime is illegitimate and that we will not stop until our single demand is met: This Nightmare Must End: the Trump/Pence Regime Must Go!
- Our protest must grow day after day and night after night—thousands becoming hundreds of thousands, and then millions—determined to act to put a stop to the grave danger that the Trump/Pence Regime poses to the world by demanding that this whole regime be removed from power.

On August 22, 2017, Paul Joseph Watson over at Infowars, also reported on the planned actions by the two groups listed above, stating “Alt-left agitators are planning to stage mass riots in major cities on November 4 during which

they hope to instigate a "civil war" that will lead to the "regime change" of the Trump administration."

All one has to do is look to the timeline of Antifa groups violent uprisings from January 2017 to August 2017 to see rioting, arrests, physical attacks, property destruction and more, all instigated by black clad and masked individuals who are part of the "umbrella" Antifa groups, those calling themselves "anti-fascists," yet use fascist methods to silence anyone that disagrees with them.

Before getting into the latest attempts by the media to whitewash the violent methods and tactics used by Antifa groups and their plans for November 4, 2017, a quick reminder of the definition of a civil war, via Merriam Webster: "a war between opposing groups of citizens of the same country."

It is absolutely no stretch of the imagination to call what we have been witnessing or what these Antifa groups are planning for November, a "civil war," as visual evidence by way of video after video is all over the internet of these violent thugs attacking free speech rallies, conservatives speakers at colleges, rioting on campuses and causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in property damages just to prevent someone from speaking because they don't like what the person has to say.

Yet according to Newsweek, PBS and others, any claim that Antifa is planning a civil war or a revolution to overthrow our duly elected government, is "false news," and a "right wing conspiracy," despite the little pesky fact that it is in their stated goals and on their websites, and fliers.

The Newsweek article came out on October 11, 2017, where they claim "This story, which can be found across social media, sometimes attached to the hashtag "#CivilWar2017," is not only utterly fake, it's also potentially dangerous, according to half a dozen left wing activists who spoke to Newsweek, expressing concerns that it could inspire senseless violence from people who believe it to be true."

Later on in the article they attempt to whitewash the publicly published goals for November 4th:

■ What is actually happening on November 4? A protest is being launched by the activist group Refuse Fascism, which is intended to stir a non-violent mass movement to remove Trump from office, according to Perry Hoberman, a professor at the University of Southern California who is a member of the group's steering committee. The idea is to mobilize people to hit the streets in a peaceful demonstration against Trump's administration, Hoberman says, stressing that it has absolutely nothing to do with starting another American civil war.

Non-violent? Can anyone name off the top of their head, a protest which involved any Antifa group that was not violent?

Coincidentally, when I noticed that nowhere in the Newsweek article did the writer bother to actually quote what was written on the Refuse Fascism site itself about the nationwide planned "protests," I went to my original article to find the exact quote that is shown at the top of this article, clicked over to

the Refuse Fascism page where I first obtained it, and whoaaaa, got a page 404 error, the content was no longer there, but that is the beauty of archiving sites, because the original content of that age, is still online.

According to the Newsweek writer, who appears to be an Antifa supporter or sympathizer, one of the members of Refuse Fascism was “concerned about how the conspiracy theory could inspire people to commit acts of violence against protesters.”



An article by Matthew Cullinan Hoffman titled “Vatican II’s Lost Condemnations of Communism Revealed to Public for First Time” was posted at life-sitenews.com on Oct. 25, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

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*Editor’s note: The lost condemnations of communism prepared for the Second Vatican Council but later discarded and forgotten are now being made available to the public in an English translation for the first time by LifeSiteNews.*

*The translations, by LifeSite’s Matthew Cullinan Hoffman, are based on the drafts of documents contained in the official acts of the council’s preparatory commissions.*

*The documents contain an extensive plan for a coordinated and global effort to counteract the influence of Marxism and communism worldwide and “shatter its audacity.” However, following the takeover of the council’s commissions by the ultra-liberal “Rhine group” bishops, the condemnations were discarded and all attempts to explicitly condemn communism and Marxism were rejected.*

*Following the close of the council, the condemnations were confined to the volumes of the official acts of the council’s preparatory commissions, which are written almost entirely in Latin and have gathered dust on the shelves of research libraries for decades—until now.*

*In the following report, Hoffman explains the texts and their significance.*

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In 1962, as millions of Catholics languished behind the iron curtain and the Soviet Union worked to spread atheistic communism throughout the world, the Second Vatican Council was preparing to deliver an historic condemnation of Marxist and communist ideology, one that would involve a global strategy for its defeat.

Vatican II’s preparatory commissions had created three different statements that would condemn Marxism as an “exceedingly grave and universal danger” and communism as “a false religion without God” that seeks to “to subvert the foundations of Christian civilization.” They also envisioned a massive and highly-coordinated campaign to liberate mankind from communism and “shatter its audacity.”

It would be a full-scale counterattack against what Fatima visionary Lúcia dos Santos called “the greatest heresy to appear at any time in the world,” which was “carrying its errors to the ends of the earth.”

However, the documents were discarded in the early months of the Council when the liberal German, French, and Dutch-speaking bishops of the “Rhine group” out-maneuvered the conservative majority and took control of the commissions overseeing the council’s documents.

They then rejected most of the preparatory schemas that had been issued to the council fathers, replacing them with schemas that generally avoided condemning the errors of the age.

The schemas condemning communism and Marxism were never considered. What remained was only a timid critique of atheism in the document *Gaudium et Spes*, with an oblique reference in a footnote to previous condemnations to communism by the popes.

The council’s plans to combat Marxism were almost entirely forgotten, filed away and ultimately published in their original Latin form in the official acts of the council, where they can be found gathering dust in research libraries throughout the world.

In the years following the council, Marxism-inspired forms of “liberation theology” took hold among many Catholic clergy and theologians, particularly in Latin America. One such priest, the Argentinean Jesuit Jorge Bergoglio, initially resisted such influences, but began to ally himself with Marxism-inspired liberation theologians before being elected to the papacy in 2013.

In a recent interview with Pope Francis, the leftist atheist journalist Eugenio Scalfari reports that he asked the pontiff: “So you yearn for a society where equality dominates. This, as you know, is the programme of Marxist socialism and then of communism. Are you therefore thinking of a Marxist type of society?”

To which he says Francis replied, “It has been said many times and my response has always been that, if anything, it is the communists who think like Christians.”

Francis has never denied nor repudiated the statement.

Francis has also engaged in other gestures expressing sympathy for Marxism, including the acceptance of a hammer-sickle crucifix from Bolivia’s Marxist president, Evo Morales, a gesture that caused much consternation in Latin America.

He reportedly has requested help from Marxism-inspired liberation theologians such as Leonardo Boff in the composition of his encyclical letter *Laudato Si’*. Recently the Jesuit order elected a new Superior General, the Venezuelan Arturo Sosa Abascal, who has openly sought to reconcile Christianity with Marxism.

On other occasions, however, Francis has expressed disagreement with Marxism, while at the same time expressing respect for Marxists. “Marxist ideology is wrong. But in my life I have known many Marxists who are good peo-

ple, so I don't feel offended," he told reporters in 2013 after he was accused of promoting Marxism in his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*.

Now, LifeSite is presenting full translations of Vatican II's discarded condemnations of communism and Marxism. We believe that this is the first time that the documents have been translated into any vernacular language.

There are three documents in all: two complete schemas with their own independent systems of footnotes, and a third text that comprised part of a larger schema.

Together the translations cover twenty pages of text.



***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."