Digital Persecution Against the Christian Faith

Increased Persecution in the West:

Pastor Tim Stephens:
- **6/14/21:** Jailed for 18 days in Canada for having Christian service during COVID two weeks in a row.
  - https://caldronpool.com/goodbye-daddy-children-cry-as-pastor-arrested-on-new-charges-for-holding-worship-service/

Pastor Artur Pawlowski:
- **5/8/21:** Jailed for 2 days for "organizing an illegal in-person gathering" in Calgary.
  - https://www.newsweek.com/preacher-artur-pawlowski-who-hurled-nazi-insults-cops-arrested-flouting-covid-rules-1589893

- **9/27/21:** Jailed for 1 day by the Canadian Boarder Services Agency (CBSA) for disobeying a court order and failing to wear a mask.
  - https://globalnews.ca/news/8225866/calgary-artur-pawlowski-arrested/

- **2/7/22:** Jailed for 52 days after he spoke to members of the trucker blockade in Coutts, Alberta, on Feb. 3 for an alleged "overt threat to violence," despite repeatedly telling the truckers not to resort to violence during their protests.
  - https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/pawlowski-arrest-coutts-rcmp-charges-bail-1.6345808

Finnish Lawmaker Päivi Räsänen:
- **6/17/19:** Päivi Räsänen investigated for incitement after tweeting a criticism of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland's official participation in LGBT Pride events.
  - https://evangelicalfocus.com/europe/4715/Finnish-Christian-MP-under-incitement-investigation-for-quoting-the-New-Testament

- **4/29/21:** Päivi Räsänen charged with three separate accounts of incitement against a minority group.
  - One for Räsänen's writings on the websites, and two for her publications and statements on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and on a radio program.
  - https://yle.fi/news/3-11907573

- **3/30/22:** Acquitted on all charges
  - https://thebridgehead.ca/2022/03/30/victory-paivi-rasanen-acquitted-of-all-charges/

Big Tech Overreach and Suppression:

Apple
- **8/6/21:** Apple proposes scanning all content on phone to look for CSAM
  - https://dailycaller.com/2021/08/06/apple-national-center-for-missing-and-exploited-children-iphone-edward-snowden/

- **8/23/21:** Apple admits to scanning iCloud e-mail
  - https://9to5mac.com/2021/08/23/apple-scans-icloud-mail-for-csam/

- **9/18/21:** Telegram, Apple, and Google block Russian political opponents
  - https://www.engadget.com/telegram-blocks-russia-navalny-chat-bot-during-vote-211544623.html

- **9/22/21:** New Apple program will scan your texts to determine your mood
  - https://www.theblaze.com/news/apple-detect-depression-anxiety-cognitive-decline

- **10/15/21:** Apple takes down Quran app in china
  - https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-58921230

Facebook
- **8/29/21:** Facebook trackers are in 61 of the top 100 apps and 25% of all websites
  - https://slashdot.org/story/21/08/29/1758218/facebook-has-trackers-in-25-of-websites-and-61-of-the-most-popular-apps

- **9/7/21:** Whatsapp gains access to chats using 'report' button
  - https://www.propublica.org/article/how-facebook-undermines-privacy-protections-for-its-2-billion-whatsapp-users

- **11/4/21:** Facebook drops facial recognition; Meta picks it up
  - https://tech.slashdot.org/story/21/11/04/0019247/facebook-is-backing-away-from-facial-recognition-meta-isnt

- **11/9/21:** Facebook blocks all posts on Kyle Rittenhouse
  - https://notthebee.com/article/narrative-control-facebook-wont-allow-you-to-search-for-kyle-rittenhouse-try-it-now

- **4/26/22:** Facebook doesn't know what happens to your data or where it goes
  - https://www.vice.com/en/article/akvmke/facebook-doesnt-know-what-it-does-with-your-data-or-where-it-goes

Others Companies

- **6/25/21:** Wickr purchased by Amazon
  - https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/security/aws-welcomes-wickr-to-the-team/

- **7/21/21:** PayPal starts researching transactions that fund "hate groups"
  - https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/paypal-research-blocking-transactions-that-fund-hate-groups-extremists-2021-07-26/

- **8/17/21:** Twitter creates ability to report "misleading" tweets
  - https://twitter.com/TwitterSafety/status/1427706890113495046

- **8/17/21:** Study reveals 3 in 10 execs admit to "unethical data-collection methods"
  - https://www.fastcompany.com/90666500/kpmg-privacy-study

- **8/31/21:** Amazon shuts down ISIS propaganda website
  - https://digitalcatacombs.com/f/isis-amazon-and-incitement-a-cautionary-tale

- **9/4/21:** GoDaddy shuts down Pro-life website
  - https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/sep/4/godaddy-dumps-abortion-whistleblower-site-launched/

- **2/8/22:** TikTok and YouTube track more data than any other platform
  - https://www.cnbc.com/2022/02/08/tiktok-shares-your-data-more-than-any-other-social-media-app-study.html

- **2/9/22:** Twitter fires two-factor provider, Mitto, for geolocating users for governments Clients included Google, WhatsApp, LinkedIn, Telegram, TikTok, Tencent and Alibaba
  - Mitto's clients include Google, WhatsApp, LinkedIn, Telegram, TikTok, Tencent and Alibaba
  - https://www.engadget.com/twitter-parts-ways-two-factor-provider-claims-of-secret-surveillance-080536054.html

- **5/24/22:** DuckDuckGo sells out to Microsoft
  - https://www.techradar.com/au/news/duckduckgo-in-hot-water-over-hidden-tracking-agreement-with-microsoft

Governments

- **8/10/21:** Canada proposes speech police (Speech Czar)
  - https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2021/08/o-no-canada-fast-moving-proposal-creates-filtering-blocking-and-reporting-rules-1

- **8/19/21:** Illinois govt bought location data from banned app, Safegraph for 40% of population (5 million users)
  - IDOT paid $49,500 for access to two years' worth of raw location data. The dataset consisted of over 50 million "pings" per day from over 5 million monthly-active users.
  - https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2021/08/illinois-bought-invasive-phone-location-data-banned-broker-safegraph

- **8/31/21:** China 'unpersons' billionaire actress Zhao Wei
  - https://www.news.com.au/technology/online/internet/china-erases-billionaire-actress-zhao-wei-from-history/news-story/94100f6569377078cfeee411f5fc3538

- **9/15/21:** Taliban uses Afghan biometrics to target Christians
  - https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2021/09/lessons-history-afghanistan-and-dangerous-afterlives-identifying-data

- **9/16/21:** Police seize data based on geofence warrant
  - https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/sep/16/geofence-warrants-reverse-search-warrants-police-google

- **9/25/21:** FBI seized Facebook data on user w/o notifying for 2+ years
  - Last 6 months of 2020, Facebook received 61,262 US govt requests — 69% with secrecy orders
  - Google U.S. law enforcement made 39,536 requests for information about 84,662 accounts
  - Apple received 11,363 (wouldn't say how many were secret)
  - Microsoft received 2,400 - 3,500 secrecy orders each year since 2016 - or 7 to 10 per day
  - https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/when-the-fbi-seizes-your-messages-from-big-tech-you-may-not-know-it-for-years/

- **4/28/22:** DHS created "misinformation" governance board
  - https://americanmilitarynews.com/2022/04/new-biden-dept-will-police-disinformation-speech-on-elections-minorities-and-russia/

- **5/3/22:** CDC purchased access to **Safegraph** tracking your phone
  - Collected tens of millions of phones in the United States to determine compliance with curfews, track patterns of people visiting K-12 schools, places of worship, and monitor the effectiveness of policy.
  - Used COVID to expedite purchase of data set

- CDC paid $420,000 for access to one year of data
- Peter Thiel, former head of Saudi intelligence, is among Safegraph's investors
- SafeGraph offers visitor data at the Census Block Group level that allows for extremely accurate insights related to age, gender, race, citizenship status, income, and more," one of the CDC documents reads.
- https://www.vice.com/en/article/m7vymn/cdc-tracked-phones-location-data-curfews

- **5/11/22:** EU proposes chat scans in all encrypted apps
  - https://www.theverge.com/2022/5/11/23066683/eu-child-abuse-grooming-scanning-messaging-apps-break-encryption-fears

- **5/11/22:** Australia investigates police officer over gender tweet
  - https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/christian-policeman-faces-disciplinary-action-after-posting-there-are-2-genders-20220509-p5ajn5.html

Personal Cyber Security Reference

Terminology:

Security: Can people see what you're doing?

Privacy: Do people know who you are?

Anonymization: Nope, people can't tell who you are.

Open Source: Anyone can look at the inner workings of the software.

Closed Source: No one can see what the program is doing on the inside.

Rules of Thumb:

1. **If you aren't paying for it, YOU are the product**
2. **Avoid big tech** (GAFAM = Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, Microsoft)
3. **Use End-to-End Encryption (E2EE) everywhere**
4. **Exercise digital minimalism:** Reduce the number of apps, software, etc that you use.
5. **"The Cloud" is someone else's computer.** They own *everything* that gets stored there.
6. **Boycott countries you don't trust.** If you don't trust the country, don't trust the product.

Personal Cyber Security Zones:

Zone 1: Avoid Mass Surveillance

Goal: Avoid the interest of powerful organizations and blend in with the population.

Technologies: Switch to or implement the following

☐ From Google to <u>Brave Search</u>

☐ From SMS to the <u>Signal</u> app

☐ From Chrome to the <u>Brave</u> browser

☐ From Gmail to <u>Protonmail</u>

☐ From Google Drive or OneDrive to <u>Icedrive.net</u>

☐ From Zoom to <u>Brave</u> or <u>Signal</u>

☐ From Android to iPhone

☐ From Windows to Apple Mac

☐ Remove or disable Alexa, Siri, and Google Home

☐ Obtain a VPN—<u>ProtonVPN</u>

Zone 2: Avoid Cyber Targeting

Goal: Avoid having your computing systems (computers, phones) compromised by powerful organizations that seek to do you harm.

Technologies: Switch to or implement the following

☐ Use a password manager (<u>Bitwarden</u> or another password manager)

☐ Enable two-factor authentication (<u>authy</u>, <u>Yubikey</u>)

☐ Enable automatic updates for all devices/software

☐ Enable Windows Defender

☐ Don't click links in e-mails, browse to websites directly

☐ Don't pirate materials

Password Strategy: Memorize 5 Passwords

1. Computer Login Password
2. Password Manger Password
3. E-mail Password
4. Banking Password
5. Throw Away Password

   *This allows you to *always* reset a password if you don't have your password manager*

Additional Resources:

Web:
- https://haveibeenpwned.com/
- https://haveibeenpwned.com/Passwords
- https://www.howstrongismypasswords.com/
- https://www.mailinator.com
- https://privacytools.io/
- https://alternativeto.net

Reading:
- Live Not by Lies: A Manual for Christian Dissidents by Rod Dreher

Video:
- "The Social Dilemma" - Documentary on Netflix
- "Nosedive" - Black Mirror, Season 3, Episode 1 on Netflix
- "Inside the massive (and unregulated) world of surveillance tech" - by Sharon Weinberger