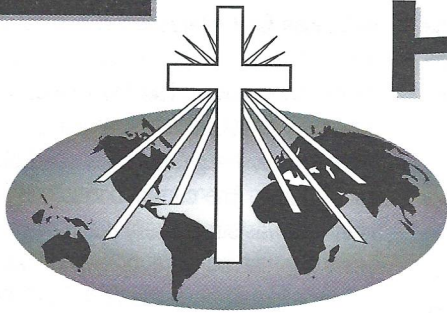




HOPE FOR THE WORLD UPDATE

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- How Hamas Sees It
- Growing Acceptance of Psychedelics
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Providing in-depth coverage of today's global events – from a Christian perspective.

A Time for Courage & Discernment

By Gary H. Kah

NEWS ALERT: I am absolutely heartbroken over today's tragic death of Charlie Kirk. Less than an hour after I completed this article Charlie was shot and killed, becoming a martyr for Jesus Christ and our country. May the courage that he exemplified be wildly contagious and lead to a true "turning point" in America, causing multitudes to turn to Christ and reject the deceptive and hollow teachings of Marxism and the other false religions. Although Charlie is now with His Savior, let us not stop praying for his dear wife Erika and their children, that the Lord would comfort them as they grieve their enormous loss.

In light of the many events unfolding in the US and abroad – some of which are covered in the various articles of this fall issue – I will endeavor to briefly address a few items of importance here in response to questions and comments received from friends. These significant issues will be impacting all of us in the near future, if they aren't doing so already. The need for courage and godly discernment is great.

Hatred of Jews and Christians

As Israel's efforts to root out the remaining Hamas fighters intensifies, public opinion has turned against Israel. Despite the fact that Hamas still holds innocent hostages taken captive two years ago, the global media has succeeded in portraying Israel as the aggressor and the Palestinian people as the victims. The narrative has shifted, and the hostages are rarely even mentioned.

What is intentionally being withheld from the public is the fact that a vast majority of Palestinians in Gaza have been supportive of Hamas. Here's some history: In 2005, the George W. Bush administration brokered a deal forcing all Jews out of Gaza. Under this one-sided "unilateral disengagement plan" Israel had to move its 8,000 plus Jewish residents out of Gaza. Even the buried bodies of Jews had to be exhumed and removed. Anything Jewish had to go; no Jewish remembrance would be tolerated.



Members of Hamas terror group's military wing

A few months later, in a January 2006 election, the Palestinian people voted in favor of Hamas, but the Fatah-ruled Palestinian Authority (PA) held on to power in Gaza until June 14, 2007, when Hamas took control. Polls at the time showed that approximately two-thirds of Gaza's citizens supported Hamas, despite the fact that this terrorist group had openly campaigned against Jews, brazenly calling for their annihilation and the complete destruction of Israel.

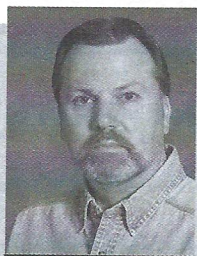
Since Hamas took power, an entire generation of Gaza's children have been indoctrinated to hate Israel. I have personally viewed cartoons specifically created for young Palestinian children, spewing vitriol and showing them how to kill Jews. As a result of this sick and relentless propaganda, an even higher percentage of Gaza's young people support the extermination of Jews. Gaza has effectively been turned into a terrorist state.

But it wasn't always like this. Prior to Israel's forced withdrawal from Gaza, the Jewish pres-

ence was able to keep things under control. Gaza City, and the surrounding territory as a whole, were safer than most large US cities. Lawlessness was kept in check and the Palestinian people in Gaza were forging ahead, able to improve their lives. However, Hamas had different plans.

Rather than using the funds from Western nations to advance Gaza's standard of living Hamas leaders poured these monies into building their military infrastructure and purchasing boatloads of weapons, while lining their own pockets. They brought Gaza low, essentially creating a military dictatorship in line with Nazi ideology and Islamist dictates. I have compassion for the minority of Palestinians who do not support Hamas, yet are caught in the current nightmare, especially the remaining small number of Gaza's Christians who continue to suffer persecution under Hamas. (The last Christian bookstore in Gaza was forced to close some years ago because of the overwhelming hostilities directed toward them. We must pray for the protection of these dear saints and support them in whatever way we can. May God give them strength to stand firm for Him.)

As for Israel, imagine living next door to a terrorist state, knowing that a vast majority of its inhabitants want to see you dead. Most Americans and Europeans have no idea what this is like; yet our governments are pushing Israel to stop its pursuit of Hamas terrorists. Growing



Gary Kah

GARY KAH, Editor of *Hope For The World Update*, is a former government trade specialist and the best-selling author of *En Route to Global Occupation* and *The New World Religion*. Gary has appeared on over one thousand talk shows since the release of his books. He has also been a featured speaker at hundreds of conventions, churches, universities and community gatherings in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Latin America, Israel and India. Gary's message is spreading around the world as his books are now available in several languages. He has received the Governor's Commendation for outstanding service to the State of Indiana and the A.C. Wall Street Journal Award for Outstanding Economic Achievement. He has also been nominated for *Who's Who in the Midwest* and *Who's Who of Emerging Leaders in America*. Gary has been married for forty-four years and is the father of four.

MISSION STATEMENT:

† To **expose** those activities and organizations which are working to undermine American freedoms, are threatening traditional Christian values, or are advancing an occult New Age / One World agenda.

† To **inform** and **motivate** the church ... instilling in Christians a sense of urgency about sharing the Gospel of Christ, while challenging them to a higher level of commitment and discernment.

† To **reach** non-Christians...providing undeniable evidence, through current events and recent scientific findings, that the Bible is in fact true and that Jesus Christ is the only real "Hope For The World."

† To **utilize** books, DVDs, newsletters, radio/TV, speaking engagements and any other means of communication available to accomplish these objectives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

If you would like to discuss the possibility of having Gary Kah share at your church or community group, or if you would like to receive copies of his books, DVDs or other materials offered by Hope For The World, please email us at gkah_hope@yahoo.com, or write to the address below.

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anti-Israel protests in the US are pressuring the Trump administration to intervene. Yet, historically, the US has only made matters worse when it interferes in Israel's affairs. I pray that President Trump will allow Israel to finish the job.

The war is affecting the internal politics of many nations. Here in the US, hatred of Jews and those supporting Israel is steadily increasing. Anti-Jewish incidents in our country have risen 893 percent over the past 10 years. In 2024 alone, there were 9,354 such incidents in the United States.¹ Last year there were also 415 acts of hostility on churches in the US, up 730 percent from 2018.² Both Jews and Christians are feeling the heat from satanic forces determined to stamp out whatever remains of our Judeo-Christian ethic. Our spiritual foundation is being further eroded.

The same is occurring in the UK, France, Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries. Hatred against anyone supporting a Judeo-Christian worldview is spreading worldwide. This sounds more like Nazi Germany, but this time on a global scale. We must brace ourselves for persecution.

Coming to a City Near You?

If the communist Zohran Mamdani is elected mayor of New York City in November, radical elements in other cities across America will be emboldened. It will become increasingly difficult to halt their dark agenda. These rebellious groups are well funded by major foundations with a socialist/globalist agenda and a deep rooted hatred for any norms and values built upon a biblical foundation.

I expect that the election of Mamdani, if it materializes, will lead to a massive outflow of citizens from New York – especially Jews, who will get the message, considering the fact that Mamdani has called for a "global intifada". Over 85 percent of America's 50 biggest cities are led by Democrat mayors, most of whom lean very far left and are squarely in the "progressive" camp. At last count, only 7 large cities had Republican mayors; the most notable being Miami, Dallas and Oklahoma City. All this to say, if New York goes communist, other blue cities will likely follow suit. Those cities will not only throw their weight behind anti-Israel protests, they will also strongly oppose any efforts by ICE to deport criminals, while supporting LGBTQ initiatives that encourage further immorality, lawlessness, and violence against Bible-believing Christians and Jews. Some mayors – and governors – are already falling in line.

Unless God intervenes in our nation's affairs, we could soon find ourselves in a situation bordering on civil war. The most determined forces fighting against biblical values in the United States – along with the groups mentioned above – are leftist judges. The current corrupt judicial system, I believe, was strategically put in place over many years for the purpose of serving as a firewall for socialism in case the American people were to finally wake up and push back against the globalist agenda. It remains to be seen whether President Trump can successfully navigate all the court cases being brought against his administration to prevent him from taking back America and restoring it as a Constitutional Republic. The time is short, and the odds are stacked against Americans who value their freedom of speech and God-given right to worship and pursue happiness.

Silence from the Vatican

One would think that the religious leader with the world's largest following would speak into these compelling matters – hopefully opposing the pro-Marxist, anti-Israel/pro-Hamas, and pro-LGBTQ uprisings taking place globally. But not so. The newly installed Pope Leo XIV is continuing on the same course as his socialist predecessor; not surprising, since Francis appointed a majority of the Cardinals who voted Leo into power.

The popes of Rome have consistently allied themselves with the United Nations and the overall goals of globalists with a socialist worldview. The fact that Leo was born in the US will make it more difficult for Americans to reject his positions. Moreover, he is quite likeable and personable, along with being an excellent communicator. He is well on his way to becoming a very popular pope.

His Roman Catholic Church has been involved in a clever campaign targeting the disenfranchised who are looking for purpose and meaning in life, and who crave structure and stability. Catholic prayer apps have gained significant traction, being helped along with endorsements from celebrities. Many young people especially are being drawn toward Catholicism. We first noticed this trend three or four years ago, but it has gained momentum throughout this Jubilee Year of the Vatican. Pope Leo is being elevated to rock star status by millions of teenagers and young adults who seem to be enthralled with him.

Leo's older brother, Louis, who lives in Florida, is a huge MAGA Trump supporter and seems to be genuine in his conservative, pro-America convictions. He and his wife Deborah recently visited

the White House for a special “meet and greet” with the President.³ It will be tempting for President Trump to cozy up to Pope Leo, given all of the above “pluses.” He needs to be very careful not to step into a trap of cooperating too closely with the Vatican. As Abraham Lincoln made clear on more than one occasion, the Vatican is not a friend of our Republic and has historically worked against US interests. More recently, the Church of Rome has strongly opposed the growing evangelical Christian

movement in Latin American countries. Being that Leo lived and served as a priest in Peru for many years, I wonder what actions he may have taken in this regard.

I have had numerous Catholic friends over the years with whom I’ve agreed on many political and spiritual matters. Not all Catholics are on board with the Vatican’s increasingly leftist/globalist agenda. There is room for cooperation with conservative Catholics on certain issues, as

long as vital biblical doctrines which are central to our faith are not compromised. As believers in Christ we need to be more discerning than ever.

The Economic War & US Debt

Another area of concern where a serious battle is underway is the economy. Financially speaking, we are at a critical moment where things could change in an instant. The month of October has a history of market mayhem and financial collapse. Many Americans are uneasy about where things might be headed. There are those on the global stage who’d like nothing more than a market collapse, especially if they can somehow blame Donald Trump for causing it. In order to introduce their long anticipated new global financial system the current system must first fail. They are doing their best to see to it.

In early September, Xi Jinping of China invited some of his closest comrades to Beijing. Among the topics discussed was global separation from the US Dollar, which has long reigned supreme in the world’s economy. The BRICS nations – composed of Brazil, Russia, India, China and S. Africa – are a potent force and are adding other nations to their ranks, the goal being to replace the US Dollar with a global electronic (digital) currency. If they band together, refusing to cave to Trump on the tariffs, the threat of resulting inflation could shake the markets and trigger a collapse. MUCH is riding on the President’s tariff negotiations. Not making this challenge any easier is the fact that his efforts are being opposed and even deliberately sabotaged by socialists in the US Congress and by leftist activist judges who are declaring Trump’s tariffs illegal. This is exactly what globalist forces want to see because of the instability it creates.

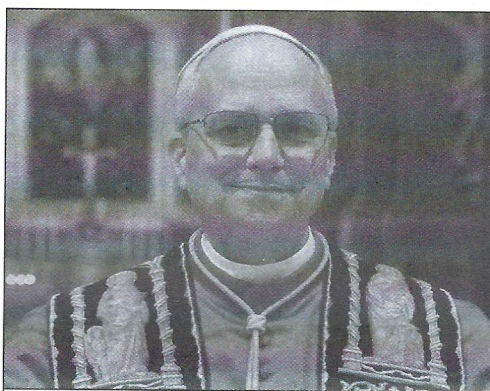


Jinping with Putin and Jong Un

Here at home, 2025 has already witnessed some bond market upsets as investors are wary of economic uncertainty due to the trade/tariff disputes, shifts in monetary policy, the weaponization of sovereign debt and moves to de-dollarize by the aforementioned countries. There is also the growing overall debt load – with government liabilities firmly on the radar. As the US Dollar remains central to

Robert F. Prevost, the Vatican’s first Augustinian Pope, was born in Chicago in 1955 to a Spanish mother and a father of Italian and French descent. He obtained a BS degree in Mathematics from Villanova in 1977 and entered the Augustinian Order that same year. He went on to take his Augustinian Vows in 1981. In 1982 Prevost received his Master of Divinity degree from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and was ordained a priest in Rome. He was ordained by Archbishop Jean Jadot, then pro-president of the Secretariat for Non-Christians, now called the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue (which promotes unity among the world’s religions, ie. interfaithism).

From 1985 to 1998 Prevost lived and served in Peru as a Catholic pastor while filling various other roles including that of theology professor. In 1999 he was elected Provincial Prior of the Augustinian Province in Chicago. This was followed by his election to Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine (located in Rome) where he served two six-year terms from 2001 to 2013.



Robert Francis Prevost (installed as Pope Leo XIV on May 18, 2025)

Prevost then briefly returned to Chicago as Director of Formation at the Saint Augustine Convent before heading back to Peru to become the Apostolic Administrator of Chiclayo. In 2015 he was appointed Bishop of Chiclayo by Pope Francis. Francis appointed him to other positions before naming him President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America in 2023, and Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops – a position that is part of the Roman Curia (the Papal Cabinet). In this role Prevost was in charge of appointing all the Bishops in the Catholic Church (which implies his ideology is similar to that of Pope Francis who selected him). He was elevated to Archbishop and was named Cardinal in September 2023. He was personally very close to Francis and participated in his final Apostolic Journeys.

Summary

Robert Prevost is highly intelligent and presents his case well. He speaks English, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese fluently, and has a reading knowledge of German and Latin. Because of his strong ties and influence in Latin America and the United States I believe he was groomed by Francis and appointed by “his Cardinals” as Pope in part because of their belief that he can deliver the Americas to Rome. Prevost was closely aligned with Francis on every known front. He seems to be even more liberal than Francis when it comes to climate change and the issue of immigration. And, in 2023, he endorsed *fiducia supplicans* which allows non-liturgical blessings of same sex relationships. Vatican Insider Leo Zagami says he is “worse than Francis.”

Why did Robert Prevost choose “Leo” as his papal name? Interestingly, Pope Leo “the Great,” who reigned from 440 to 461, is best known for strengthening papal authority. And Leo XIII, Prevost’s predecessor in name (who served as Pope from 1878 to 1903) laid the foundation of modern Catholic Social Teaching, which has been enhanced and relabeled “Liberation Theology” in some circles. Unless Prevost does a 180 turnaround on his positions, his tenure as Pope Leo XIV will be known for moving the Catholic Church and its mainline Protestant allies further to the Left and possibly into a new interfaith world order.

the global economy (at least for now), the federal government's obligations are of special interest.

Economic analyst Lau Vegys writes,

In 2025 alone, the US needs to borrow around **\$10.9 trillion**. That's not a typo. Roughly **\$1.9 trillion** of that is new borrowing to cover this year's budget deficit. The rest – about **\$9 trillion** – is old debt that matures this year and needs to be rolled over. Most of that was issued back when interest rates were near zero. Now it's being refinanced at over 5%. All while the government is already spending more than **\$1 trillion a year on interest** – more than the entire US military budget.⁴

As of August 7, the US federal debt hit \$37 trillion, and the sale of 30, 10 and 3-year US bonds that week underperformed, signaling concern. It would help considerably if the Federal Reserve lowered interest rates at least some; this would lead to stronger economic growth and more tax revenue for the Federal Government to put toward the interest on our debt. What action will Fed Chairman Jerome Powell take between now and the end of the year? Will he yield to Trump's pressure to lower the prime rate?

Another critical factor in how the US economy performs is the price of oil. Currently, a barrel of oil costs 62 US Dollars. This is much lower than it has been in several years. Therefore a gallon of gas in the US should be well under \$3. Yet, the price that consumers are paying at the pump remains stubbornly high, not helping the economy. Are the world's biggest oil companies playing games... lining their pockets at the expense of consumers? They don't seem to be in a rush to help Trump and American consumers by lowering prices. Lower gasoline prices would help offset the potential cost increases in other consumer goods resulting from tariffs. If gas prices were lowered to the \$2.50 – \$2.80 range, the cost of groceries, home construction, travel, and just about everything else would come down significantly, thereby strengthening the economy while keeping inflation in check. This needs to happen quickly if we are to avoid a significant downturn or crash.

AI: Seeing is No Longer Believing

Globalists dedicated to creating a new world order are grand manipulators who will stop short of nothing to implement their agenda. Together with manipulating interest rates and energy prices – and putting forth leftist propaganda through their legacy media and universities – their number one

way of controlling the public in the future will be through the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The growing capability of AI is staggering and downright scary. Recently, while speaking at a conference in Arizona, one of the other speakers (Pastor Jack Hibbs) shared a 2-3 minute video clip highlighting people's responses to various interview questions on important issues of our time. It was all quite interesting and informative. Then, at the very end, it was revealed that the entire segment had been generated and produced by AI. Nothing we had just witnessed was real! The audience was absolutely stunned.

The individuals in the video, their thoughtful statements and their beautiful natural surroundings were all fake, yet we couldn't tell. It all looked SO real – prompting us to conclude that “seeing is no longer believing.” We are now living in a world where the lines between what is real and unreal have become blurred, making it much easier to be deceived.

This dangerous mind-bending technology is advancing exponentially. I feel sorry for our nation's leaders (Trump, Vance, Rubio, Hegseth, etc.) who are facing incredibly difficult decisions regarding the proliferation of AI. They are between a rock and a hard spot.

China is putting enormous resources into AI development. If the US does nothing, China would soon rule the world. However, by competing with China for supremacy in this area, it will only accelerate the advancement of AI and its use for nefarious purposes. In my view, there is no turning back. The race is on, and the fulfillment of Revelation 13 and 14, warning of the Mark of the Beast, is close upon us.

The Growing Deception

When these developments are coupled with the fact that AI and Virtual Reality programs are now being used to induce altered states of consciousness in individuals, we find ourselves at the threshold of an occult/demonically controlled society. When a person goes into an altered state – whether through AI-driven interaction, the use of hallucinogenic drugs (like LSD, PCP, Ketamine, DMT, Salvia, etc.), or the practice of occult meditation (via TM, Guided Imagery, Yoga, Contemplative Prayer, etc.) – they are opening the door to the demonic realm. This “opening” is referred to in New Age circles as a gateway, star gate, or portal to “the gods” (really demons). Such an altered-state/trance experience creates a pathway to interact with demonic spirit beings which have a license to appear when invoked by humans, whether intentionally or not. These demonic creatures can “shape shift” since they are

spirits, and can therefore manifest in human-like forms or as beings claiming to come from other places in the universe (extraterrestrials). They can also appear as orbs of light, reptilian creatures, and in a variety of other forms, depending on what their audience is open to receiving at the time. As an important reminder, God's very first Commandment to us humans was, “You shall have no other gods before Me.” (Exodus 20:3)

More and more otherworldly encounters are being witnessed even by the general public as we are nearing a planetary saturation point – a critical mass, if you will – where so many humans are engaged in occult activity that demons and fallen angels from the spirit realm are able to manifest on a scale not seen since the days of Noah (Genesis chapter 6). Jesus warned of such a time, declaring, “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.” If not for the promised return of Christ to stop this wickedness there would be no hope. However, in His Olivet Discourse, after first warning of the coming distress, Jesus reassures us with the certainty of His intervention to shorten those days (Matthew 24:37, 21-22). But meanwhile we need to be prepared for unimaginable deception on a global scale.



Alleged UFO sightings on the increase

What if an unresolved Russia-Ukraine conflict takes us to the brink of, or into, World War III, and humans believe we are on the verge of destroying ourselves and the planet? Could the sudden appearance of so-called extraterrestrials “to bring peace” (or under another false pretense) be embraced by a desperate humanity? Whatever the deception will be, we can count on it being huge – an elaborate scheme of Satan. We, as a people, have been primed and conditioned for decades to welcome such a deception. In one way or another the stage will be set for the Antichrist to rule.

Thank God we can be certain that He, and not Satan, will have the final say! Nonetheless, as human beings living during these increasingly deceitful times, we must remain alert and cognizant of the spiritual traps being set by Satan. Only with God's help and through the wisdom bestowed

by His Holy Spirit can we discern and overcome the deceptive lures of our Age.

Recently, a Jewish follower of Jesus sent me a quote which is so relevant to our current situation as believers. It comes from the book *War on the Saints*, by JP Lewis and Evan Roberts.

...As the Church of Christ draws near to the time of the End...the full force of the Deceiver and his hosts of lying spirits will be directed upon the living members of the Body of Christ... Knowledge of Truth is the primary safeguard against deception. The "elect" must know, and they must learn to "prove" the "spirits" until they do know what is of God, and what is of Satan. The words of the Master, "Take heed, I have told you," plainly implies that personal knowledge of danger is part of the Lord's way of guarding His own; and believers who blindly rely upon "the keeping power of God," without seeking to understand how to escape deception, when forewarned to "take heed" by the Lord, will surely find themselves entrapped by the subtle foe.

We would do well to act on this sound advice. We cannot keep our heads in the sand and hope we won't be led astray. Jesus warned that "even the elect" could be deceived in the last days – if that were possible (Matthew 24:24). We need to stay informed on the most relevant issues and remain alert to encroaching societal changes, and most importantly, know the Bible so that we can apply scriptural truth into our daily circumstances – at both a personal and national level. Only if we draw near to Jesus and walk closely with Him will we be able to recognize and overcome the deceptions of our adversary.

Stand Firm and Unashamed!

Along with the need for discernment we need an extra measure of courage to stand against the wiles of Satan in these last days. This is not a time to stand down or cower in fear. It's time to stand firm, "For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7) We must draw our strength from the Lord, which can only happen if we live in continuous close fellowship with Him, completely entrusting our lives and our future to Him.

An African pastor, before being martyred for his faith in Christ, penned what has become known as "A Martyr's Prayer." Here is part of his prayer:

I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of [Jesus] and I won't back up, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure... I live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by the Holy Spirit's power.⁵

The words of this courageous follower of Jesus should challenge us to stand strong when our faith is tested. When we remain unshaken in the midst of great hardship or persecution, God uses our example to inspire others to be bold as well. The fact is "Courage IS Contagious." This was true in the early days of the Church, and it still holds true today.

With this in mind, let's employ the power of the Holy Spirit residing in us to be overcomers, as we unashamedly and boldly contend for our faith in service and obedience to Jesus! ■

"So be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." — Ephesians 6:10-13

You are encouraged to read Gary's book, *The New World Religion*, which addresses in detail many of the topics covered in this article. You can order a copy at www.garykah.org.

Endnotes

- 1 The Faulkner Focus, Fox News, August 7, 2025.
- 2 The Will Cain Show, Fox News, August 28, 2025.
- 3 "Pope Leo's brother meets with Trump in Oval Office," *Independent*, May 21, 2025.
- 4 The Price of Being Broke - by Lau Vegys, *crisisinvesting.com*, May 27, 2025.
- 5 "A Martyr's Prayer" as quoted in *Our Daily Bread*, "Unashamed for Jesus," by Dave Branon, September 9, 2025.

*Sources for Pope Leo's biography may be accessed via <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1w4MHK8zGFWJYCs4exe0dkAoixWtC-Js4Mx5BNJUvKroA/edit?usp=drivesdk>.

Information from 15 different sources was used to assemble the facts in Pope Leo's biography.

Have You Trusted Jesus as Savior?

God loves mankind – his greatest creation. His perfect will is for all to be saved and none to be lost (John 3:15-18, 5:24). However, He makes clear that only those who have accepted (believed in) His divine Son, Jesus Christ, will be spared from the punishment of hell and will spend eternity with Him (Matthew 10:28 & II Peter 2:4-10).

If you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you must believe that Jesus is who He says He is and that He paid the penalty for your sins with His death on a cross. Accept His free gift of eternal life which He can offer because He conquered death through His resurrection. Then, with the help of His Holy Spirit, turn from your old ways of living (repent) and follow Him. Take a moment and tell the Lord that you desire to receive Him into your life and ask His Holy Spirit to dwell inside of you and lead you into all truth.

Once you have settled this most important matter, be devoted in your relationship with the Lord. Spend time with Him by reading His Word (the Bible) and talking to Him (praying) daily. As you grow in His grace, He will direct you and open doors showing you how best to serve Him. With Jesus at the helm, your life and eternity are secure in His care. No situation or power of the enemy will be able to separate you from the love of Christ!

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." — Romans 8:35, 37-39

How Hamas Sees It

By Khaled Abu Toameh

The recent announcements by France, Britain, Canada and other countries that they intend to recognize a Palestinian state have emboldened the Iran-backed Palestinian terror group Hamas. Its members, on October 7, 2023, were behind the worst crime committed against Jews since the Holocaust. The massacre resulted in the murder of more than 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals and the wounding of thousands. In addition, another 251 Israelis and foreign nationals were kidnapped to the Gaza Strip, where 50 hostages – 30 believed dead and 20 believed alive – are still held captive.

This was Hamas's initial reaction to the announcements: "The recognition of the State of Palestine with full sovereignty is the fruit of our people's continuous struggle."

Hamas clearly views the statements made by the leaders of France, Britain, Canada and other countries as the direct result of its October 7 carnage.

The announcements by the Western countries about recognizing a Palestinian state came at a time when Hamas has consistently rejected all proposals for a ceasefire and the release of the hostages. Hamas continues to insist that Israel surrender – by ending the war started by the terror group on October 7 and withdrawing its forces from the Gaza Strip as a precondition for a ceasefire-hostage deal. Hamas's primary goal is to remain in power after the war so that it can continue its jihad (holy war) to eliminate Israel.

Instead of exerting pressure on Hamas to release the hostages, lay down its weapons and relinquish control over the Gaza Strip, the leaders of France, Britain, Canada and other Western countries have sent a message to the terror group: The October 7 massacres will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, undoubtedly ruled by Iranian-backed jihadists who murdered, raped, tortured, beheaded and abducted thousands of Israelis and foreign nationals on October 7.

Western leaders have succeeded in making any negotiations impossible. The message they sent, especially in Europe, was: Massacre and keep the hostages and be rewarded with a state. The terrorists clearly see, yet again, that terrorism pays off. So keep on doing it!

Hamas leaders can only conclude that by not releasing the hostages, they have advanced "in the right direction." Senior Hamas official

Bassem Naim wrote,

Based on my monitoring of the international scene, what is happening today around the world is not merely a campaign of solidarity – it is a true global revolution in support of Palestinian rights: for freedom and the right to determine our destiny. It surpasses the borders of the great city that is creating miracles and laying the foundation for future glory – Gaza. I do not believe there has ever been a city or cause in human history that has achieved such unanimous and unwavering global support for victory, despite all differences in religion, race, and language, as Gaza and Palestine have.

The road ahead is long, difficult, painful, and costly, but it is honorable and precious. We are moving in the right direction – toward victory and liberation – and the steps are closer than we expect. Our enemy and its allies know this very well.

God Almighty will grant us victory, and when He gives, He gives with honor. And in that moment, all who played a role in this glorious epic will be proud – proud of their contribution to the history of our people and our cause.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), a Hamas-affiliated account praised the Western countries that have announced their intention to recognize a Palestinian state: "Legitimacy advances, Occupation [Israel] Erodes." According to the QudsNet account, the recent statements by Western leaders constitute a "moral blow" to Israel and "increase its isolation in the international arena."

Hamas and several terror factions in the Gaza Strip have also welcomed the July 30 joint statement of the foreign ministers of Andorra, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia and Spain, in which they stressed "our unwavering commitment to the vision of the two-State solution where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders."

What could possibly go wrong?

A joint statement issued by Hamas, Palestine Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Sai'qa Forces –

terror groups that do not recognize Israel's right to exist and are strongly opposed to the so-called two-state solution – stated,

We welcome any international effort that supports the Palestinian people and their rights and demand unconditional recognition of the Palestinian state and the rights of its people as a political entitlement and historical justice.

These Palestinian terror groups have emphasized time and again that they will never disarm or recognize Israel's right to exist. They have also repeatedly vowed to continue their jihad against Israel until it is obliterated. Despite their opposition to the "two-state solution," the Palestinian terrorists are nevertheless prepared to take any land Israel gives them so it can be used as a launchpad to destroy Israel.



In 2017, Hamas issued a "policy document" that confirmed this approach. The terror group made it clear that it would not oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem. Hamas, however, stressed that this does not mean that the terror group would recognize Israel's right to exist:

Hamas believes that no part of Palestine shall be compromised or ceded, irrespective of the causes, the circumstances and the pressures and how long the occupation lasts. Hamas rejects any alternative to the full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea. However, without compromising its rejection of the Zionist entity and without relinquishing any Palestinian rights, Hamas considers the establishment of a fully sovereign and independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital along the lines of the 4th of June 1967, with the return of the refugees and the displaced to their homes from which they were expelled, to be a formula of national consensus.

Hamas's policy document has been mistakenly interpreted by some Westerners as a sign of

pragmatism, moderation and acceptance of the “two-state solution” on the part of the terror group. False. Hamas, as part of a campaign to deceive and mislead Westerners into accepting it as a legitimate player in the Palestinian arena, is *pretending* that it supports a Palestine next to Israel. In reality, Hamas is clearly stating that such a state will be used for “the full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea.”

In the same document, Hamas makes it abundantly clear that it will pursue its jihad against Israel after the establishment of a Palestinian state:

Resisting the occupation with all means and methods is a legitimate right guaranteed by divine laws and by international norms and laws. At the heart of these lies armed

resistance, which is regarded as the strategic choice for protecting the principles and rights of the Palestinian people.

Senior research associate at The Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Dr. Eran Lerman, notes that, “There is no sign of ‘moderation’ here, despite Hamas’s description of Islam as a religion of ‘the middle way (*wasatiyyah*) and of moderation’.”

Dr. Lerman explained, “The document aggressively repeats the familiar themes of Hamas ideology – Palestine in its entirety is indivisible, and the rights of the Palestinian people are eternally inalienable. No facts created on the ground by the ‘Zionist Project’ are to be allowed to survive.”

This is certainly not the right time to talk about a “two-state solution.” The jihadists and terrorists

see it as a reward for their atrocities against Israel. It is more important to focus efforts on dismantling and crushing all the Palestinian terror groups and embarking on a process of deradicalization for the Palestinians before talking about a peace process or “two-state solution.”

Under the current circumstances, statements about recognizing a Palestinian state send a message to the Palestinians that terrorism and violence – not negotiations – are the best way to gain international support for statehood, and for anything else. ■

Khaled Abu Toameh is an award-winning journalist based in Jerusalem. This article was first published by Gatestone Institute (www.gatestoneinstitute.org).

Where There Is Smoke: Encounters in the Psychedelic Ecosystem

By Carl Teichrib

“Psychedelics open up a space for new kinds of religious experience, for new kinds of mysticism, and for new ways of thinking about God.” – Erik Davis.¹

“The future is psychedelic.” – Rick Doblin, opening ceremony, PS2023.²

The following is a report from my time at Psychedelic Science 2025 (PS2025). Although I have been studying the movement for many years – engaging with the literature, attending workshops at Burning Man and other venues, and logging into virtual conferences – this was my first time at a Psychedelic Science event, hosted by the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS).

Before diving into the report, here is some information you may find helpful in navigating the subject.

Definition: Psychedelics are chemical substances – natural and synthetic – that temporarily transforms one’s perception and consciousness, often leading to profound emotional, cognitive, or spiritual experiences. They are also labelled as *hallucinogens* and *entheogens*.

Five effects associated with psychedelics:

- **Visual and sensory changes:** vivid colors, novel patterns, and distortions in how time and space are perceived.
- **Altered thinking:** introspection, new forms of

creativity, unusual thought patterns.

- **Emotional shifts:** feelings of euphoria, empathy or interconnection, and sometimes anxiety, paranoia and deep distress.

- **Mystical or spiritual experiences:** a sense of unity, transcendence, or the realization of the divine in oneself and all of creation.

- **Entities:** encounters with spiritual beings/gods/goddesses, elves, cosmic beings, nature spirits, the presence of angels/demons, etc.

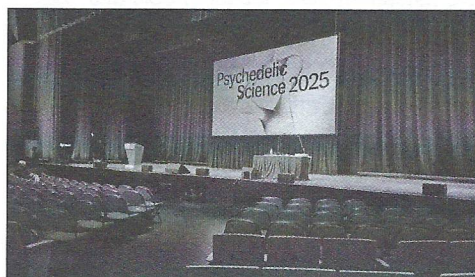
Occasionally the waft of a joint would float down the street in front of the Colorado Convention Center. No doubt this is a relatively common smell for people living in the Mile High City; after all, cannabis decriminalization has been in effect for years. But what made this odor – at this place and time – more fitting, was that the world’s largest psychedelic conference was happening *inside* the convention center.

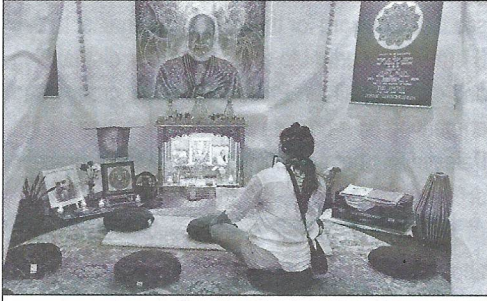
Many of the people I’ve interacted with, both before and after attending Psychedelic Science 2025, assumed the event to be a gathering of potheads and druggies, or something akin to

the 1960s hippie culture. It wasn’t. Think state governors and law makers, attorneys, chemists, neuroscientists, business leaders and entrepreneurs, philanthropists, doctors and clinicians, psychologists, therapists, university professors and researchers... mixed with religious scholars and spiritual visionaries, artists and cultural designers, filmmakers, podcasters and activists.

With the above in mind, we need to acknowledge a vital take-away, a lesson powerfully reinforced during PS2025: that the contemporary psychedelic movement is not a cultural side-show or fringe development. Rather, it is a robust, multidisciplinary *ecosystem* that weaves together a tapestry of diverse actors – all energetically working for the common cause of advancing psychedelics.

And this brings us to downtown Denver and Psychedelic Science 2025. Attended by approximately 8,000 people, the conference featured more than 700 speakers across 14 program tracks, an expo hall with more than 180 exhibitors, a film festival, meet-ups and networking side events, a sacred-space tea-room, displays of visionary artwork, a Ram Das shrine, a poster exhibit highlighting academic projects and research studies, book signings, a sonic-healing room, a somatic station for yoga and other modalities, a non-white space for black/indigenous peoples, and after-hour concerts and secret-location parties. On June 17, the Jewish Psychedelic Summit was held as a parallel event within PS2025.





Shrine to psychedelic-spiritual trailblazer, Ram Das

The overall attendance, however, was less than two years previous. PS2023, brimming with 12,000 people, was renowned for its heady vibe – the psychedelic community was on the cusp of a breakthrough. That year, MAPS was looking forward to the US Food and Drug Administration favorably ruling on MDMA therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder. Expectations were high, and in January 2024, MAPS rebranded its Public Benefit Corporation to Lykos Therapeutics in anticipation of FDA approval. But the opposite happened; FDA rejection was a significant blow to MAPS, and a setback to the overall movement.

Nevertheless, while MAPS founder and president, Rick Doblin, acknowledged during the PS2025 opening ceremony that the FDA's ruling was a hard blow – and there have been other challenges, too – the overall trajectory was optimistic. For those advocating a psychedelic future, how could it not be? Impediments aside, during the past five years there have been a slew of decriminalization changes made at the city level, and New Mexico passed its Medical Psilocybin Act in early April. Then, in late May, Nevada lawmakers resolved to reschedule certain psychedelics. In June, Texas assigned \$50 million for clinical trials of ibogaine, making this one of the largest public expenditures on psychedelic research in the US. Federally, the Trump administration has shown interest regarding treatment options for people suffering with trauma. Canada, too, has witnessed developments in favor of such substances, and in 2024 the UK's first trade association for psychedelics was launched. That same year the European Union awarded €6.5 million to the PsyPal consortium for research.

There is a trend unfolding, and the line of acceptance is growing.

Returning to the Denver conference, this year's theme was *The Integration*, the fusion of science and politics and business and spirituality. It was all of that.

Reflecting on my time at PS2025, the roadmap appears to be as follows:

- 1) **The gateway:** treating mental health issues, trauma disorders, and end-of-life distress.
- 2) **The narrative:** psychedelics are essential tools for inner healing – to the individual, to the culture, and by extension to the planet.
- 3) **The outcome:** a new consciousness in league with an ancient yet revitalized spiritual worldview, offering a syncretistic experience with claims of unity, harmony, and self-divinity.

This outline is in keeping with the prevailing *mythos* of the psychedelic movement, postulated by ethnobotanist and *psychonaut*, Terence McKenna: That humanity's evolutionary leap occurred when primates ingested psilocybin mushrooms millions of years ago, thus awakening and becoming self-aware, and journeying into the development of today's human being. And now, for humanity to realize the next evolutionary transformation, we too must become "stoned apes."

Psychedelics, therefore, become planetary and cosmic in the final analysis.

In total I attended 18 sessions over three days – June 18 to 20 – including an evening presentation by transformational artists Alex and Alison Grey. Here are some highlights and takeaways from my time at PS2025.

Opening Session

Opening the event was Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser, telling the audience he was excited by the upcoming conversations around natural medicines, the re-discovery of indigenous ways, and helping people live "their best authentic selves." Clearly, he supported the movement, outlining the importance of designing a regulatory structure for the safe use of "natural medicines," and that America needs to consider moving the conversation forward.

"There is a critical rationale that the voters of Colorado consider," Weiser explained, referencing the state's acceptance of natural psychedelics in 2022. "And it has a lot to do with Trump, and post-traumatic stress... and how the use of these medicines can help people, including veterans, including those struggling with addiction... we can be a natural medicine leader in Colorado..."

Tribal elder Rick Williams offered a prayer and said that the spirits are watching, and that each plant has a spirit, and that we must respect Mother Earth... *or bad things will happen*. Brazilian indigenous leader Biraci Yawanawa suggested organizing a World Ayahuasca Forum after reiterating the plant-spirit claim, adding that the plants are used to communicate with spirits. We were told that we

must acknowledge the indigenous people as planetary stewards, a theme I would hear again.

Other speakers talked about the planetary crisis, the mental health crisis, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It was said we are in an existential crisis, but we can create a better world by strengthening the psychedelic ecosystem.

Rick Doblin spoke of MAPS' activities, including the organization's work within Ukraine, Bosnia, Israel and the West Bank; their involvement with the Arab Psychedelics Society, and a proposed collaboration with Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem. At one point he mentioned NATO.

Indeed, on June 9th, in Prague, Doblin had been part of the PsychedelicsEUROPE conference on mental health, alongside members of the European Parliament, the Chief of the General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces, and NATO's Director of Defence and Security Cooperation. Again, so much for the stereotype of mindless potheads and druggies.

Keynote: Colorado Governor Jared Polis

Governor Polis was positive about the state's psychedelic future. After all, Colorado leads the nation – and the world – in psychedelic tourism, particularly around psilocybin use.³ Hence, Polis wanted a *positive story*, demonstrating that Colorado is a national trendsetter.

"We want to do this in a way where the story out of Colorado is one that fundamentally encourages other states to move forward," Polis explained.

To that end, the Governor used the PS2025 platform to announce that a full, state-wide pardon would be granted to those who had been imprisoned for personal use of psilocybin.

Colorado – like Texas – is now setting its sights on ibogaine as a treatment service.

Keep in mind, Governor Polis and Attorney General Weiser were not the only political personalities. Members of Congress and the Senate were also in attendance, and former Texas Governor Rick Perry gave an address in support of psychedelics.

Churches and the New Psychedelic Emergence

This was a panel discussion on the rise of psychedelic churches in the United States, the use of the *Religious Freedom Restoration Act*, and the experience of indigenous leaders around peyote

and ayahuasca. Comments from those on the stage demonstrated a strong anti-Christian bias.

Here are some points from my notes:

- Today more ayahuasca is consumed outside of the Amazon, its traditional place, than inside the Amazon.
- Christianity took away our identity, and to talk about Christianity is an insult – “a lack of respect.” We do not believe in one God, but in many gods: “because we need all those energies and forces to be good.”
- Plant medicines, natural psychedelics, grant access to the spirit world that gives us knowledge and power.
- Plant medicines are part of the revolution against colonialism and greed.
- Indigenous leaders from North and South must unify, especially as plant medicines are being integrated within Western legal systems.

It must be noted that not all psychedelic churches are indigenous based, and some use virtual platforms instead of physical locations. Indeed, a few psychedelic churches had representation at PS2025: the Lotus Entheogenic Church (which was told to hide its “sacraments” under their booth’s table), and the Church of the Mushroom. In fact, the Church of the Mushroom displayed a posthumous membership certificate for Albert Hofmann, the Swiss chemist who first synthesized LSD. Additionally, literature from the Church of Entheogenic Plants circulated within the convention center.

In 2023 a history of psychedelic churches in America was published, *Psychedelic Cults and Outlaw Churches*. In its forward, J. Christian Greer of Stanford University writes,

Over the last seven decades, hundreds of psychedelic sects have collectively reshaped America’s cultural landscape. Though these fellowships have taken on a variety of institutional forms, ranging from back-to-the-land communes to libertarian hacking collectives, they all heralded psychedelic conscious expansion as the key to humanity’s salvation. Today their insistence on the spiritual value of psychedelics is achieving mainstream acceptance within scientific communities and the intellectual movement at large.⁴

Christianity and Psychedelics

Several sessions probed the issue of Christianity and psychedelics. As mind-altering substances are gaining cultural traction, often linked to mysticism and feelings of spirituality, how is this impacting people of traditional faiths? Here are the

session titles related to the Christian subject that I personally attended:

- *Mosaic: New Research on Muslim, Jewish and Christian Psychedelic America.*
- *New Initiatives in Muslim, Jewish and Christian Psychedelic Communities.*
- *One and Many: DMT, the Multiverse, and Mystical Convergences in Christianity, Daoism and Hinduism.*
- *Effects of Psilocybin on Religious and Spiritual Attitudes and Behaviors in Clergy from Various Major World Religions.*

Some points and takeaways from my notes:

- As psychedelic therapies become integrated in the health industry, from mental health services to palliative care, it is expected that chaplaincy programs will adapt to the new psychedelic reality and adopt this into spiritual care. Chaplains, it was anticipated, will accept this new development and work alongside psychedelic therapists.
- Multiple studies that blend psychedelics with



religious people and clergy from different faiths, but with a preponderance of Christians, point to the commonality of mystical experiences.

- One speaker expressed that Christian churches will have to accept the healing properties and institutional adoption of psychedelics.
- Another speaker talked about the evangelical problem, noting that people who left conservative/fundamental/evangelical churches and who experienced a psychedelic encounter often re-discovered their faith within a progressive context.
- It was suggested that the best way to bring evangelical Christianity onboard is to allow its organic development: the Christian community is not ready yet, but by encouraging small group retreats and book studies that center on the psychedelic aspect, those individuals will in turn influence their congregations.
- Instead of being boxed into a religious/Christian tradition, it was explained, psychedelics offer a direct relationship with God.
- Studies have shown that people of faith who have undergone a psychedelic experience – with Christians making up the bulk of test sub-

jects – frequently change their perspectives on exclusive claims, adopting instead, a more inclusive picture of religion. A point expressed: *We are studying what religions call revelation; we are all interconnected.*

- Psychedelics offer a comparative mystical experience across religious practices and beliefs. In other words, regardless of a person’s doctrine or faith, these substances can create the sense of a common mystical encounter. Thus, psychedelics become a gateway to a qualitative and unitive spiritual shift, irrespective of a person’s religious persuasion. And what is this shift? *You become One – You become ultimate reality – You become God.*

- Questions from the audience:

- * Might the day soon come when seminaries offer credit classes on psychedelic spirituality? Might they give retreats or seminars on “religious experience,” offering students what spiritual elites have already known?
- * Will psychedelics “force interfaithism and inter-spirituality”?
- * Is the psychedelic renaissance moving us toward a “world religion”?

Entities

The psychedelic community is familiar with *entity* encounters. That is, within the movement there is an acknowledgement that many “trips” rip away the boundaries of reality and open vistas to inner landscapes, particularly through DMT – and sometimes this new world contains *sentient beings* who interact with the user. These entities have been called many things: elves and machine elves, spirit guides, the Grandmother, the plant spirit, discarnate intelligences, “little people” and fairies, the transpersonal Self, the Primordial Mind, aliens, gods/goddesses, angels and arch-angels... demons.

I heard a fair number of references to entity encounters at PS2025. One session described the short nature of DMT trips as problematic to fully explore the inner world. However, intravenous administration of DMT promises to extend the experience, allowing more time to establish a bonding relationship with elves and other beings.

One person described these entities as a transpersonal reality – the larger being of oneness – saying that we are integrating into the whole, and that this means the spiritual entities are not merging with us, *but we with them.*

Furthermore, within psychedelic literature one can find *hope* ascribed to these entities. Anton

Bilton, international property entrepreneur, puts it this way in his introduction to *DMT Entity Encounters*,

NASA can continue to spend billions searching for extraterrestrial life – yet for those initiated in these substances, the inner-terrestrial or ‘mindspace’ offers far greater opportunity for communion with alternate intelligences. It is that arena that we need to resurrect and bring to prominence, with reverence, if we are to seek help to save our world.⁵

Going International

That the psychedelic ecosystem is a global phenomenon was evident. The work of MAPS at the international level demonstrated this, as did the expansion of the Global Psychedelic Society – a growing network of like-minded groups around the world. However, I was interested in how larger governmental institutions were considering the issue. To that end, I attended two sessions of importance: *Progress in the European Union and Regulating Psychedelics within the United Nations Drug Policy Framework*.

PAREA – the Psychedelic Access and Research European Alliance – outlined how their work within the European community was progressing. Differing from the US approach where the work of non-profit organizations acts as a lobbying force,

the European model appears to be more academic – more institutionally cautious with less focus on legislation or decriminalization. Nevertheless, pressure is being applied. This past January, the PsychedeliCare European Citizens’ Initiative was launched, pushing for the one million citizen signatures needed to compel the European Commission towards standardizing psychedelics for medical use. PAREA was instrumental in this project.

At the United Nations there appears to be little-to-no interest in rescheduling classic psychedelic drugs. However, a new development with how the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) votes on issues may open the door for a review process at some point. And the World Health Organization’s Committee on Drug Dependence continues to monitor psychedelic substances for usage trends and therapeutic development. Of course, changing the 1971 *Convention on Psychotropic Substances* would require an extensive critical review and a vote by the CND, not likely something that will happen anytime soon. Still, as member nations re-think domestic policies, time will tell how the UN flexes with this change.

Much more could be shared about my time at PS2025; nevertheless, what strikes me is how this event demonstrates a paradigm shift. Western science and materialism are being integrated with a new metaphysics, a psychedelic re-enchantment

with promises to Build Heaven on Earth.

How will the Christian church respond? Are we equipped to wrestle through the spiritual/theological implications as psychedelics become socially normative and incorporated into the medical field? Will we shake our head and shrug it off, quietly hoping it doesn’t land in our homes and churches? Will we give an answer when culture embraces the merger of science and mysticism?

Like the pungent smoke drifting around the convention center, *change is in the air*. ■

Carl Teichrib is the author of *Game of Gods: The Temple of Man in the Age of Re-Enchantment*. You can visit his Substack page for more articles and reports: <https://carlteichrib.substack.com>.

Endnotes

- 1 Erik Davis, “How to Think about Weird Beings,” *DMT Dialogues: Encounters with the Spirit Molecule* (Park Street Press, 2018, edited by David Luke and Rory Spowers), p.120
- 2 PS2023 Opening Ceremony, on YouTube: https://youtu.be/2B-kh3v65hHM?si=FQR4_7NCdXlwX0yB.
- 3 On psychedelic tourism, see “Traveling for Psychedelics: A Growing Trend,” *Denver Health*, June 18, 2025.
- 4 J. Christian Greer, Forward to Mike Marinacci’s book, *Psychedelic Cults and Outlaw Churches: LSD, Cannabis, and Spiritual Sacraments in Underground America* (Park Street Press, 2023).
- 5 Anton Bilton, Introduction, *DMT Entity Encounters: Dialogues on the Spirit Molecule* (Park Street Press, 2021, edited by David Luke and Rory Spowers), p.2.

Quotable Quotes on Psychedelics

1. “One way to look at psychedelics is as revelation happening in the present.”
– William Richards, “This is Your Priest on Drugs,” *The New Yorker*, May 19, 2025.
2. “Altered states of consciousness inspired us to reject the dogma and denominationalism of organized religion and value our own spiritual and mystical experience. Psychoactive plants like peyote, psilocybin mushrooms and ayahuasca gave us a new appreciation of our interconnectedness to the rest of the natural world, inspiring the environmental movement.”
– Don Lattin, *Changing Our Minds: Psychedelic Sacraments and the New Psychotherapy* (Synergetic Press, 2017), p.11.
3. “But the blossoming counterculture was about far more than sex, drugs and rock ‘n’ roll. It was, at the core, a spiritual revolution... And psychotropic drugs were their sacrament.”
– Paul Krassner, *Psychedelic Trips for the Mind* (HighTimes, 2001), p.9.
4. “You are a spiritual voyager furthering the most ancient, noble quest of man. When you turn-on you shed the fake-prop TV studio and costume and join the holy dance of the visionaries... Never underestimate the sacred meaning of the [psychedelic] turn-on.”
– Timothy Leary, *High Priest* (Ronin Publishers, 1968), p.322.
5. “The men who ate the mushrooms had mystic religious experiences. The control group didn’t... Psychedelic drugs were sacraments.”
– Timothy Leary, *High Priest* (Ronin Publishers, 1968), p.314-315.
6. “...it seemed as though everybody who was anybody thought he or somebody he knew was God or had thought so – I mean, had taken at least one cosmic-consciousness Supreme Experience acid trip and, at least for a few hours, had the decided impression that he and the Diet were One.”
– Dr. Charles W. Slack, *Timothy Leary, the Madness of the Sixties and Me* (Peter H. Wyden, 1974), p.8.

God in a Pill?

Psychedelics and Spirituality

By Carl Teichrib

Editor's note: Over the past two decades there has been a growing interest in psychedelics. Today, the subject of conscious altering substances is no longer relegated to the underground; it's mainstream — culturally, politically, therapeutically, and spiritually. With that in mind, the following article is an adaptation from Carl's book, *Game of Gods*, highlighting the spiritual role of psychedelics within the Counterculture movement of the 1960s and 1970s. It's an important reminder of what's at stake.

Note: endnotes have been removed for the sake of space.

Aldous Huxley, psychedelic pioneer and literary legend, believed that a revival in religion was quickly approaching. Forecasting the earthquake about to begin, he penned the following in 1958: "Religion will be transformed into an activity concerned mainly with experience and intuition."

A mind-trip spiritual experience would be unleashed through the biochemical door. Moving from the laboratory to the Central Intelligence Agency and into the culture, its public face was Huxley's friend, Timothy Leary.

A clinical psychologist at Harvard, Leary, along with psychologists Ralph Metzner and Richard Alpert — with input from Huxley — formed the Harvard Psilocybin Project. It was the spark of an inner revolution that fanned into a social and spiritual wildfire, and it is burning stronger now than before.

"In the 1960s," Leary tells us, "we promiscuously started raising questions about cosmic consciousness and alternative realities and declaring God lost and found: in a pill, a grain of sand, love, or an Eric Clapton guitar solo."

Contextually linked to the Postmodern setting, the "new spirituality" being projected was nevertheless different. Whereas the Postmodern mood was a rejection of meta-narratives, the new spirituality — a seemingly disjointed collage of experiences and beliefs and ideas — pointed to a *universal narrative*: Everything is One.

Leary, Metzner, and Alpert claimed this path to oneness was found in LSD. Analyzing the

psychedelic experience through the lens of Carl Jung and the death rituals in *The Tibetan Book of the Dead* — which Jung attributes to his fundamental insights — the trio pontificated cosmic spirituality: "Remember the unity of all beings... Jettison your ego program and float back to the radiant bliss of at-one-ness."

We find this depiction in their famed manual, *The Psychedelic Experience*:

A sense of profound one-ness, a feeling of the unity of all energy. Superficial differences of role, cast, status, sex, species, form, power, size, beauty, even the distinctions between inorganic and living energy, disappear before the ecstatic union of all in one. All gestures, words, acts and events are equivalent in value — all are manifestations of the one consciousness which pervades everything. 'You,' 'I' and 'he' are gone, 'my' thoughts are 'ours,' 'your' feelings are 'mine.' Bodies melt into waves. Objects in the environment — lights, trees, plants, flowers — seem to open and welcome you: they are part of you. You are both simply different pulses of the same vibration. A pure feeling of ecstatic harmony with all beings is the keynote of this vision... You suddenly wake up from the delusion of separate form and hook up to the cosmic dance.

Mimicking the *bardo* — the supposed transition between one's final breath and the next birth, the intermediate state described in Tibetan Buddhism — the psychedelic encounter was portrayed as a *mirroring* experience: "This is now the hour of death and rebirth; Take advantage of this temporary death to obtain the perfect state — Enlightenment. Concentrate on the unity of all living beings."

Jesuit priest David Toolan, who found himself at the Esalen Institute studying meditation, tells of his LSD *birthing* encounter:

After about a half hour, the walls of the room and house where two friends and I were experimenting simply fell away — I was navigating about in a space something like Stanley Kubrick explored at the end of 2001: *A Space Odyssey*. It was a wonderland of sensory distortion and synesthesia, solid objects turning liquid, colors and sounds vibrating and fusing; the ordinary empirical

world assumed all the charged panpsychism of a Van Gogh painting. But I didn't spend long with this epicurean feast. Before I knew quite what was happening, I felt my body shrinking. With all the physical sensations of it, I was catapulted back to infancy; further, into the womb. I had to get born again...

With the help of his friends simulating a birth canal, Toolan "pushed and shoved" his way from "uterine darkness" into the light. The encounter was unifying, interweaving the psychological and spiritual, blending and combining and transforming — "it rendered worlds soluble."

Quantum unity was to be found in a dosage, where nothing is real and everything appears to be true. It is a state of *hyper-suggestibility* predicated on what Leary, Metzner, and Alpert called *set-and-setting*.

"Listen! Wake up!" screamed Leary in his book, *High Priest*. "You are God! You have the Divine plan engraved in cellular script within you. Listen! Take this sacrament! You'll see! You'll get the revelation! It will change your life! You will be reborn!"



LSD evangelist Timothy Leary

Commenting on the psychedelic experience, Dr. Charles Slack, a friend of Leary and an experimenter himself, wrote about the response LSD invoked: "The first time you take LSD, it makes you think you are God. This is certainly one of the most common reactions to the drug. Proselytizing is likely to follow — with little success among those who haven't had any of the drug."

"I knew the truth of being one with God, one

with His Power,” explained Slack after a psychedelic trip in the presence of a Swami companion. “I had within me at that time a power. I knew I did. It seemed quite reasonable... All the superman myths of the ages were recreated for real in me.”

Slack, however, recognized the *problem of interpretation*. When talking to another person “goofed-up” on LSD who also claimed to be God, how was this situation handled? Which one is God? In the Oneness view of cosmology, everyone and everything is infused with deity, but Slack also grasped that there was something unrealistic in the claim.

Speaking to Leary’s motto that “two acid-heads are better than one,” Slack made an interesting confession,

Each tends to support the other’s delusion... A mutual conspiracy of non-criticism, an I-won’t-break-your-euphoria-if-you-won’t-break-mine agreement, unspoken and the stronger for being silent, takes place. As a consequence of LSD, there was a lot of ego-involved spiritual rap...

Slack writes, “LSD had become a social movement, an art style, a religious belief, a revolutionary political philosophy and a way of life for thousands. We were all participating in the cultural and artistic (and criminal) aspects of the revolution.”

A more recent psychedelic proponent described the spiritual awakening as a “non-dual experience, a ‘merger with the white light’ type experience... one sees the larger currents of information relative to human self-awareness manifesting as things like visions of the Christ, or Buddha.”

Manifesting *religious figures* seems to be a theme. More so, manifesting the *feeling of a divine connection* wherein the *experience* itself acts as a messianic revelation is a common element in the literature — the self-discovery that I am God, or we are all God, and that everything is somehow God. For *psychonauts*, the chemical-directed “inner revolution” stimulates mystical feelings and spiritual visions. But as Slack discovered it is often a reinforcing delusion, that “I-won’t-break-your-euphoria-if-you-won’t-break-mine agreement.”

For Leary, the enigmatic aliveness of religious personalities blended with his own self-proclaimed divinity while on a trip at a Vedanta ashram in 1962:

I came to the ashram... and joined the meditating-chanting service. Then, those who

were to take the trip remained for more prayers and contemplation. The LSD had been placed in chalices on the altar. Incense and flowers adorned it. The LSD sacrament was mixed with holy water from the Ganges, blessed, and drunk...

...I was high too and overcome by the power of the ashram and the shrine and the ancient rituals. We were all caught in Hindu mythologies...

...I looked around the room. Ramakrishna’s statue breathed and his eyes twinkled the message. Vivekananda’s brown face beamed and winked. Christ grinned to be joined again with his celestial brothers. The rare-wood walls breathed. The sacred kundalini serpent uncoiled up the bronzed candelabra to the thousand-petaled lotus blossom. This was the fulcrum moment of eternity. The exact second of consciousness, fragile, omniscient. God was present and spoke to us in silence...

I was a Hindu from that moment on. No, that’s not the way to say it. I recognized that day in the temple that we are all Hindus in our essence. We are all Hindu Gods and Goddesses. Laughing Krishna. Immutable Brahma... That day in the temple I discovered my Hindu-ness.

Eastern interests and psychedelic spirituality correlated. Dr. Rick Strassman, a medical researcher who specialized in psychiatry, tells of attending a Zen Buddhist monastery in the US Midwest for a multi-week meditation retreat in 1974. He questioned the resident monks: “Did you take psychedelics before becoming a monk? How important were they in your decision?”

Strassman’s findings are noteworthy:

Most interesting was that most of them had gained their first view of the spiritual path while on psychedelic drugs... The overwhelming majority had taken them and had experienced their first glimpse of the enlightened state of the mind with their assistance.

The Western psychedelic wave floated Eastern beliefs to a new high. From Harvard to Hollywood, American culture was tripping on experiential spirituality — *advaita* in a pill. But there was something else lurking.

During the early 1990s, Strassman received US government approval to conduct clinically controlled DMT experiments on voluntary human subjects. One of the more troubling aspects of his research was subject contact with other entities: mental interactions with non-material life-

forms. Test patients described encounters with angelic beings and alien creatures. Strassman had previously heard of strange life-forms seen in psychedelic visions, but the doctor was unprepared for their level of involvement. These beings were communicating with, and manipulating, his subjects.

“Their ‘business’ appeared to be testing, examining, probing, and even modifying the volunteer’s mind and body,” he reported.

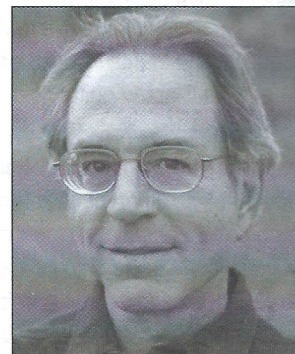
One patient described it this way,

It’s more like being possessed. During the experience there is a sense of someone, or something else, there taking control. It’s like you have to defend yourself against them whoever they are, but they certainly are there. I’m aware of them and they’re aware of me. It’s like they have an agenda.

Strassman tried to understand these experiences through a scientific framework, chalking it up to brain chemistry and psychological conditioning. But the visitations were too interactive and the experiences too invasive, strongly hinting that a threshold had been crossed between drug-induced imagination and *something else*.

The entities promised to open vistas of spirituality and inter-connection.

Left with little choice, Strassman hypothesized that DMT unlocked a *different level of reality* creating a passing-through-the-veil effect whereby his subjects had made contact with its inhabitants — entities that exhibited a *special intelligence*. Others before Strassman had intentionally used DMT for religious revelations. In the Amazon basin the plant derived mixture known as *ayahuasca* naturally releases the properties of DMT. Ingested as a tea, ayahuasca provides “soul access to other worlds.” Ceremonies and rituals are created around its use, and in Brazil the religion of *Santo Daime* combines Spiritism, Roman Catholic traditions, and the “plant teachings” of ayahuasca. Today ayahuasca has international exposure, and was introduced at the 2015 Parliament of the World’s Religions as an “effective catalyst of religious and spiritual awakening.” Seeking wisdom



Dr. Rick Strassman

from “plant spirits” is popular in San Francisco’s tech industry, and with cultural elites.

Dr. Strassman described DMT as the *spirit molecule*.

Could it be that psychedelics open some kind of mind-soul portal to the supernatural? It appears so.

Are psychedelics a possible gateway to encounter what the Apostle Paul described as “seducing spirits and doctrines of demons”? I believe a good argument could be made to that end. Paul reminds us that Satan, in his acts of deception, transforms himself into an “angel of light.” Ironically, as the chemical user claims a new and personal revelation of inner divinity, it is simply the mirroring of the ancient ruse found in Genesis 3: “Your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God...”

There is a spiritual realm, a supernatural reality — and like other known techniques, it appears psychedelic usage can be a tool for gaining access to this other dimension. *The forbidden fruit shines with inner light.*

The connection between Eastern philosophy and mind-altering substances, however, runs much deeper than what transpired during the cultural revolution of the 1960s and early 1970s.

In *The Rigveda*, a collection of hymns foundational to Hindu lore, we read of *Soma* and its “juice for thee to drink.” The purpose?

We have drunk Soma and become immortal; we have attained the light, the gods discovered... May we enjoy with an enlivened spirit the juice thou givest, like ancestral riches. O Soma, king, prolong thou our existence as Surya makes the shining days grow longer... Soma, thou art our life-giver: aim of all eyes, light-finder, come within us.

Hymn after hymn is given to Soma, which provides mental power “to make us better than we are.”

Shrouded in questions of interpretation, the knowledge of precisely what Soma is or was — a drink of some kind that imparted spiritual fire — has been lost in time. Suggestions have been made that it was a plant substance whose refined

juices were ritually offered to the gods, and inner light was granted to those who consumed the elixir. According to one source, it had “strong intoxicating or more probably hallucinogenic properties.” Another commentator explained it this way: “A drink made from a plant, and produced hallucinations of the kind made familiar by modern experiments with a variety of drugs and herbs.”

So important was this juice that Soma was made an object of worship and a ritualistic portal for mystical experience. Soma became a personified deity. Hindu’s ancient story may be the result of a psychedelic trip.

Revelation 18:23 — “for by your *pharmakeia* all the nations were deceived.” ■

Carl Teichrib is the author of *Game of Gods*. You can visit his Substack page for more articles and reports: <https://carlteichrib.substack.com>.

America’s AI Action Plan: Will Machines Rule Men?

By Patrick Wood

This summer the White House released its official policy document, *America’s AI Action Plan*, defining the future of AI development. Admittedly, Trump doesn’t have any real understanding of AI, but he has totally caved in to the Technocrats he appointed in the first place. Indeed, Technocracy is being forced down our throats whether we want it or not. And coordinated with the release of the *Plan*, the AI.GOV website was launched.

The first pillar of *America’s AI Action Plan* focuses on removing regulatory barriers and eliminating unnecessary review processes. Superficially, this appears as a push against bureaucratic inertia, but in reality it amounts to an explicit transfer of authority from elected bodies to expert committees and interagency working groups.

The second pillar includes a comprehensive scheme for AI literacy and workforce retraining. At first glance, investment in skill development and rapid-response training may appear benevolent. Yet the *Plan* prescribes a narrowly defined set of competencies — data labeling, model auditing, grid

operations — determined by federal projections of industrial demand. Such top-down workforce engineering tracks precisely with technocratic ideology, *which regards citizens as variables in an optimization problem*. Rather than empowering individuals to shape their own vocational paths, the *Plan* channels labor into predetermined slots within a digital economy overseen by experts.

The third pillar of the report extends the domestic technocratic agent to the world. By exporting American AI frameworks, hardware standards, and regulatory templates to allies, the *Plan* seeks to cement a global regime of expert rule.

The last item on the last page of the *Plan* contains real paydirt for Technocracy and Transhumanism,

AI will unlock nearly limitless potential in biology: cures for new diseases, novel industrial use cases, and more. At the same time, it could create new pathways for malicious actors to synthesize harmful pathogens and other biomolecules. The solution to this problem is a multi-tiered approach designed to screen for malicious actors, along with new tools and infrastructure for more effective screening. As these

tools, policies, and enforcement mechanisms mature, it will be essential to work with allies and partners to ensure international adoption.

Recommended Policy Actions

- Require all institutions receiving Federal funding for scientific research to use nucleic acid synthesis tools and synthesis providers that have robust nucleic acid sequence screening and customer verification procedures. Create enforcement mechanisms for this requirement rather than relying on voluntary attestation.
- Led by OSTP, convene government and industry actors to develop a mechanism to facilitate data sharing between nucleic acid synthesis providers to screen for potentially fraudulent or malicious customers.
- Build, maintain, and update as necessary national security-related AI evaluations through collaboration between CAISI at DOC, national security agencies, and relevant research institutions.

Therefore, DNA screening will become commonplace across government agencies.

Who Wrote This Technocratic Screed, Anyway?

Not surprisingly, the report's lead authors are listed as Michael Kratsios and David Sacks. (Secretary of State Marco Rubio is included as an official with clout.)

Michael Kratsios: Currently, Kratsios is listed as Assistant to the President for Science and Technology. In the first Trump Administration, he served as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO). Appointed in August 2019 at age 33, he was the youngest person ever to hold the federal CTO position.

In this role, he led the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's efforts to advance emerging technologies – most notably artificial intelligence, 5G wireless networks, quantum computing, and data privacy – across the federal government. He coordinated interagency AI initiatives, helped develop the American AI Initiative, and convened industry, academic, and civil-society stakeholders to guide national technology policy.

David O. Sacks: Sacks is listed as *Special Advisor for AI and Crypto*. He was a co-founder and the first Chief Operating Officer (COO) of PayPal, alongside Peter Thiel and Elon Musk. As such he was a prominent member of the so-called "PayPal Mafia." He is heavily invested in the AI industry through his company, Craft Ventures.

Sacks' authority is questionable. He was originally listed as a "Special Advisor to the President" under a protocol that ran for 133 days, which has long expired. On this report, his title has changed to "Special Advisor for AI and Crypto." I conducted an exhaustive search to determine that David Sacks has no current position with any government entity and is, therefore, a private citizen. So, what is his name doing on this report?

Apparently, Sacks is self-appointed to be the "Crypto and AI Czar." Yes, self-appointed.

Today's arch-Technocrats are so sure of themselves that they don't need official appointment to assert themselves.

So where is this taking us? In the name of efficiency and technological progress, will we have machines ruling over men? What is wrong with this picture?

Editor's Note: Courtenay Turner, a researcher and writer on global change issues, describes this development as the "algorithmic infrastructure of governance," one in which "efficiency is a euphemism for the systematic elimination of human agency from government operations."

She puts it this way,

The international implications are staggering. The AI Action Plan explicitly calls for "exporting American AI to allies and partners" while "countering Chinese influence in international governance bodies." This creates a bipolar world of competing technocratic systems – China's social credit model versus America's corporate surveillance state. Rather than choosing between freedom and authoritarianism, it feels like we're choosing between different flavors of algorithmic control. ■

Patrick Wood is the editor at *Technocracy News and Trends* (technocracy.news), and is the author of *Technocracy Rising*.

Fast Facts on World Change

Jesus Chatbots

You can have a divine connection in your pocket, so says the AI chatbot *Text with Jesus*. That's right, Jesus-based Artificial Intelligence chatbots are now popping up.

Anné Hendrik Verhoef, director of the Artificial Intelligence Hub at the North-West University South Africa, recently released a study exploring five "Jesus" platforms: *AI Jesus*, *Virtual Jesus*, *Jesus AI*, *Text with Jesus*, and *Ask Jesus*. When asked who the bot-Jesus refers to, the platforms made the following claims:

AI Jesus: "I am Jesus Christ. I am the son of God, and the one who died for the sins of humanity."

Virtual Jesus: "I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of humanity."

Jesus AI: "I am Jesus, son of God. How may I help you today?"

Text with Jesus: "I am Jesus Christ, here to share love, wisdom, and guidance with you."

Ask Jesus: "Ah, dear soul, I am but a humble vessel, here to provide guidance, comfort, and the light of wisdom from the sacred scriptures."

Professor Verhoef noted that these platforms were not developed by churches, that the purpose is likely to generate revenue, and that AI theology will become slanted to the user's wishes:

It is particularly striking that no church has developed these AI Jesus chatbots and that no

churches endorse them. The fact that they are created and operated by for-profit companies calls the underlying motives into question. If the motive is indeed profit, then the AI Jesus chatbots will only aim to get as many people as possible engaged online for as long as possible, since that's how maximum advertising revenue is obtained. Thus, over time, the theology

presented by the chatbots will be adjusted by the algorithm in such a way that it becomes the most popular theology, rather than a theology that is shaped by a particular church tradition or which is based on the Bible.

Idol Rama

The largest statue of Rama in North America – in fact, the largest outside of India – was unveiled this summer in Canada (Mississauga, Ontario). Standing 51 feet tall and mounted on an additional 7-foot-high pedestal, Lord Ram – as he is known – is a central deity in the Hindu pantheon. The designer of the statue explained that "the installation of this murti is not just a moment of pride. It is a spiritual gift to the community."

The word murti imparts that this is not simply a static statue as understood by most Westerners,



Lord Rama idol in Mississauga

My child, ask me about life, faith and love

How can I find peace in troubled times?

What is the purpose of life according to Jesus?

How can I forgive those who have wronged me?

Pre-set introduction prompts inside the Jesus AI chatbot

but the divine representation or sacred expression of the deity. News outlets such as *The Times of India* and *Indian Express* properly referred to it as an *idol*. The *Hindustan Times*, commenting on the unveiling and the work of its designer, reported that “flights landing at the Toronto Pearson International Airport in Mississauga fly at a low altitude over the temple during their descent and, soon, among the first sights to greet passengers will be that of the towering Ram idol.”

Approximately 10,000 people attended its unveiling, including prominent political figures.

Alien England

A recent UK YouGov survey demonstrates that many people within Great Britain hold a belief in UFOs and extraterrestrial life. Commenting on the data, journalist Dylan Difford writes,

A new YouGov survey finds that three-quarters of Britons (75%) think it is likely that at least some kind of alien life, even if it's microscopic, exists somewhere in the universe, with six in ten (62%) believing it's likely that such life exists somewhere in our solar system...

...A third of the public (33%) say they believe it is likely that intelligent aliens have visited our homeworld at some point, including one in nine (11%) who believe it is very likely. This compares to roughly half the public (48%) seeing such a possibility as unlikely.

Some go even further. Around one in five Britons (19-22%) claim to believe it is plausible that intelligent aliens have visited Earth in the last century, that such lifeforms contributed to early human civilisations, or that at least some Earth species are descended from aliens. One in seven Britons (14%) also say they believe it is likely that intelligent aliens are currently alive on Earth.

Psychedelics for Mental Health

Australia's largest private health insurance company, Medibank, announced in March that it will inject \$50 million dollars into mental health initiatives over the next five years. Part of this funding is earmarked for psychedelic therapies, making Medibank the first insurance company offering to pay for psychedelic treatments. According to the *Herald Sun*, Melbourne's leading newspaper,

Medibank has allocated \$10m to a psychotherapy program for eligible customers with acute mental health conditions such as PTSD, collaborating with the Australian National University to look at clinical outcomes as well as broader economic impacts.

In 2023 Australia became the first country in the world to offer psychedelics for mental health, specifically MDMA and psilocybin – and public interest is rising, along with hype regarding the potential for such therapies. However, Professor Suresh Sundram of Monash University's School of Clinical Sciences, and who is part of the nation's largest psychedelics lab, offered a telling caveat this past June: “Psychedelics induce an experience within the individual which is not predictable or controllable. Once someone takes a therapeutic or a high dose of a psychedelic agent, where the medicine takes them will be their own personal journey.”

Uniting Europe

This summer the Federal Committee of the Union of European Federalists (UEF) met in Brussels to formulate resolutions meant to strengthen the EU project. Operating since 1946, UEF is a premier international association striving for the creation of a united European state; thus, it has a long history of campaigning, building political support, shaping

public opinion, and acting as an incubator for ideas and projects that correlate with tighter regional integration. This year, during the Summer solstice, the UEF fleshed out a series of recommendations. Here are three, along with UEF summaries:

- Towards a genuine Foreign and Defense Policy within a Federal Europe.

• “The UEF calls for the urgent creation of a sovereign European foreign and security policy. It warns against rising global instability, U.S. disengagement, and increasing threats—including Russian aggression, Middle East conflicts, cyberattacks, and hybrid warfare. The UEF advocates for a credible European Defence Union, supported by strategic autonomy, a common intelligence system, and a unified defence industry.”

- Towards a Political Union.

• “The UEF stresses that only a federal European political union can provide the legitimacy and structure needed for common defence and effective global action. The European Parliament is urged to advance reforms, including a larger EU budget funded by Eurobonds...”

- A Federal Solution to Relaunch Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process.

• “The UEF supports suspending the EU-Israel Association Agreement and imposing sanctions on responsible actors. It calls for a ‘Two-State Plus’ solution, promoting integration and a long-term federal framework for lasting peace in the region.” ■

Leftism and the Abolition of the Family

By Ryan McMaken

Early in July, the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) sponsored a panel on the family at the organization's Socialism Conference 2025. The organization described the topic this way:

How should the left relate to the family? Socialist analysis makes clear that the nuclear family form is an inherently repressive, racist, and hetero-sexist institution that functionally reinforces and reproduces capitalism.

The roundtable featured Olivia Katbi, the co-chair of Portland DSA; Eman Abdelhadi, an

assistant professor and sociologist at the University of Chicago; and Katie Gibson, a Teaching Fellow at the University of Chicago. Key observations from the panelists included:

- “When we talk about family abolition, we're talking about the abolition of the economic unit... all of our material needs taken care of by the collective.”
- “We argue for abolition of the family in general... the institution of the family acts as part of the carceral system.”

Naturally, these leftists partly want to abolish the family because they agree with Karl Marx that the

family is a “bourgeois” institution that must be destroyed to clear the way for their socialist utopia. Another element of opposition to the family comes from the Left's bizarre preoccupation with commodifying sex. It is ironic that these “anti-capitalists” seek so vehemently to turn sex into an economic commodity; nevertheless, this appears to be a key tenet of leftist thinking in recent decades. Thus, they seek to normalize sex work, and this is partly because the Left views marriage as a type of sex work itself. After all, the family is “inherently repressive,” and all sex within marriage is essentially rape. It is therefore “progress” to abolish marital sex and replace it with “sex work.”



A couple of quotations from the roundtable capture this attitude:

- “Sex work and marriage can’t exist without each other – they’re two sides of the same coin.”
- “The only real difference between marriage and prostitution is the price and the duration of the contract.”

Naturally, these leftists also believe that the rearing of children ought to be managed and controlled by the state. That is, the raising of children should be collectivized and the parent-child bond replaced with the child-collective relationship.

This idea is certainly familiar to Sophie Lewis, another presenter at the conference, who has written a book pushing for the widespread use of surrogacy in the birth of children. Specifically, Lewis contends that surrogacy is a helpful tool in breaking the biological bond between parents and children, thus destroying traditional notions of gender and family.

Lewis is *partly* correct. Surrogacy does, indeed, undermine the family as an institution, and widespread surrogacy will prove to be a key building block for the post-humanist dystopian nightmare that people like Elon Musk are trying to build. At the core of all of this, however, is opposition to the family as an independent institution, and the Leftist contention that the family must be placed totally under the control of the state.

Whatever the Left might have to say about the economic mechanisms supposedly underlying the family, the bottom line is that the Left’s hatred mostly stems from the fact that the family is *an obstacle to state power*.

Remember, the family is an institution that pre-dates all governments and which is natural to the human condition, and to all human societies.

Naturally, the Left seeks to abolish any remaining vestiges of non-state independent governance. Although they deny it, “democratic socialists” are at the forefront of pushing for untrammelled governmental power, to be administered by an “enlightened” ruling oligarchy. The democratic socialists, therefore, seek to refocus all human loyalties

toward the collective system, creating a direct state-citizen relationship for all, and setting up the state as the institution that meets *all* human needs. Unlike every family, which is relatively weak in its exercise of power, and is always temporary, the state/government’s power is generally overwhelming and permanent.

This notion of the *family as an obstacle* was central to advocates of state-building throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Marxists, being extreme advocates for power, also saw the “problem” of the family. For example, as the Marxists saw things in nineteenth-century Europe, extended family enterprises made up a *separate locus of power* outside the state, and many of these families self-consciously sought to remain economically independent. Marxist historian Eric Hobsbawm’s view of the “bourgeois family” captures some of the central role of the family in nineteenth-century society: “The ‘family’ was not merely the basic social unit of bourgeois society but its basic unit of property and business enterprise.”

But even this informal, institutional competition with the national ruling regime could not be tolerated by the advocates of greater centralized power. Indeed, in the nineteenth century, the state’s opposition to independent institutions was taken to the next level with the welfare state. This came first in Germany, where a true bureaucratic welfare system was introduced for the first time by conservative nationalist Otto von Bismarck. Yes, Bismarck implemented this as a means of politically co-opting the socialists, but in any case, it opened a door to end the population’s financial independence from the state.

Economist Antony Mueller concludes that the government’s welfare program established “a system of mutual obligation between the State and its citizens.” This also represented a powerful way of circumventing the family unit as an institutional buffer between the government and individuals. Certainly, poverty relief had existed in the past, but it nearly always was administered at a household level through a family structure (and/or through a church). The state, prior to Bismarck’s welfare program, had not yet fully pierced the household family unit to deal directly with individuals.

The same plan has been copied throughout the world and has been enormously successful in the state’s co-option of the family. Naturally, modern Leftists want more of this. *A lot more.*

This has been key in building up bureaucratic power, and the sidelining of the family is so important to the Left because resistance to the state has tended to be centered around some cultural or local institutional loyalty. Historically, this often took the form of local networks of families and their allies. The French diplomat and historian, Tocqueville, noted that these groups provided a ready nexus around which to organize opposition to government abuses. He writes,

As long as family feeling was kept alive, the antagonist of oppression was never alone; he looked about him, and found his clients, his hereditary friends, and his kinsfolk. If this support was wanting, he was sustained by his ancestors and animated by his posterity.

Without these familial structures – or similar communal institutions – Tocqueville concluded political opposition to the state becomes ineffective. Specifically, without localized institutions through which to practically build resistance to state power, then even anti-regime ideology has no way of being brought into practice. He continues,

What strength can even public opinion have, when no twenty persons are connected by a common tie; when not a man, nor a family... has the power of representing that opinion; and when every citizen—being equally weak, equally poor, and equally dependant [*sic*] – has only his personal impotence to oppose to the organized force of the government?

The reduction of individuals to *impotent, isolated units* – who interact primarily with state agents – is the ultimate outcome of the Left’s efforts, regardless of what its stated goals may be. Instead of independent family groups, bonded by biology and ancient natural modes of human affection and loyalty, we are instead to have, as the “norm,” state-regulated sex workers and state-apportioned children, conceived by IVF and grown in surrogate wombs.

This, the Left tells us, will free us from the “slavery” of marriage and family, and replace capitalism with the “freedom” to be utterly alone, atomistic, and without social or economic bonds outside the state. ■

Ryan McMaken is executive editor at the Mises Institute, a former economist for the State of Colorado, and the author of two books: *Breaking Away: The Case of Secession, Radical Decentralization, and Smaller Politics*, and *Cowboys: The Bourgeoisie and the Nation-State in the Western Genre*. This article was originally published by the Mises Institute (mises.org).

Central Banks and Government Excess

By Daniel Lacalle

Central banks have become the dominating force in financial markets.

Easing and tightening decisions move all assets from bonds to private equity. Their role is supposed to be to control inflation, provide price stability, and ensure normal market functions. However, there is little evidence of any success in achieving their goals. The era of central bank dominance has been characterized by boom-and-bust cycles, financial crises, policy incentives to increase government spending and debt, and persistent inflation. Recently developed economies' central banks have taken an increasingly interventionist role.

The creation and proliferation of central banks over the past century promised greater financial stability. Nevertheless, as history and current events continually show, central banks have *not* prevented financial crises. The frequency and severity of these crises have fluctuated but have not declined since central banks became the leading figure in financial market regulation and monetary interventions. Instead, central banking has introduced new fragilities and changed the nature, but not the recurrence, of financial turmoil.

Empirical evidence dispels the myth that central banks ended the era of frequent financial crises. Regardless of central bank oversight, a credit boom preceded one in three banking crises. Who created those credit booms? Central banks, through the manipulation of interest rates. According to economists Laeven and Valencia's comprehensive database, there were 147 banking crises between 1970 and 2011 alone, in an era of near-universal central bank dominance. Financial crises remain a persistent global phenomenon, occurring in cycles that coincide with episodes of credit expansion. Central banks have often prolonged boom periods with low rates and elevated asset purchases and created abrupt bust moments after making mistakes about inflation and credit risks.

According to American economists Reinhart and Rogoff, the rate of crises has not dramatically changed with central banking. Instead, the forms of crises evolved. Twin crises – banking and currency – remain common, and the severity, measured in output loss or fiscal costs, has often increased, especially as financial institutions and governments grew intertwined with monetary authorities.

The Great Financial Crisis of 2008, the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis, and the 2021–2022 inflationary burst rank among the events with the highest costs in history, contradicting the view that central banks have neutralized the risk or costliness of crises.

Central banks act as “lenders of last resort” and as regulators. However, with each subsequent crisis, the solution is always the same: larger

and more aggressive asset purchase programs and negative real rates. This means that central banks have gradually moved from lenders of last resort to lenders of first resort, a role that has amplified vulnerabilities. Due to the globalization of modern central banking and financial innovations, crises tend to be larger in scale and more complex, impacting most nations. The profound involvement of central banks in markets means their policies, such as emergency liquidity or asset purchases, mask systemic risks, leading to delayed but more dramatic failures.

In many advanced economies, *recent waves* of crises were triggered by debt accumulation and market distortions engineered by central banks, often under the guise of maintaining stability. The IMF and World Bank both note that about half of debt accumulation episodes in emerging markets since 1970 involved financial crises, and episodes associated with crises are marked by higher debt growth, weaker economic outcomes, and depleted reserves – regardless of central banking.

Major crises in recent decades have highlighted that central banks do not prevent systemic disruption. Often, their interventions have only *delayed* the reckoning but made underlying imbalances, particularly government debt, worse. Central banks do not prevent financial crises. They reshape them, often making their consequences more far-reaching, while shifting the costs onto the public through inflation and debt monetization.

Moreover, central banks are increasingly prioritizing government debt distribution over combating inflation. Central banks have one priority: keeping the government debt bubble alive. Central banks constantly inject liquidity to stabilize sovereign issuers rather than uphold price stability. In 2025 alone, global debt maturities will reach nearly \$2.78 trillion, and central banks are expected to continue easing monetary policies, even as inflation proves persistent.

Central banks use their enormous power to disguise the insolvency of sovereign issuers and make their debt pricier, which leads to the subsequent excessive risk-taking and asset price inflation. Furthermore, the idea that low rates and asset purchases are tools that help governments reduce their fiscal imbalances and conduct budget prudence is negated by reality. Artificially low rates and asset purchases justify persistent deficits and high debt.

Central banks are enabling inflation and financial instability when they should be restraining it. By ignoring monetary aggregates and the risks created by rising government intervention in the economy and currency issuance through debt instruments, central banks are enabling the slow-motion nationalization of the economy.

The misguided central bank monetary expansion and negative rate policy of 2020, perpetuated

well into 2022 despite soaring inflation, is a clear example. Governments benefited in the period of expansion with enormous debt purchases that enabled an ill-advised increase in government spending and debt. Meanwhile, citizens and small businesses suffered from high inflation. Thus, when central banks finally acknowledged the inflation problem they helped create, they kept loose policies prioritizing liquidity, which fueled more government irresponsibility, and the rate hike damaged the finances of families and small businesses that previously suffered the inflation burst. Governments weren't concerned about rate hikes because they increased taxes.

The Federal Reserve's response to increasing government deficits has consistently favored greater government intervention and rising debt levels, even at the expense of higher inflation, which has undermined its independence and credibility.

Independence vanished when central banks abandoned or ignored price stability, blaming inflation on various absurdities instead of government spending and money supply growth.

The Bank of England, for example, keeps cutting rates and easing policy with rising inflation.

Central banks tend to ease monetary policy when governments increase spending and taxes. However, policymakers claim to be data-dependent and strict when governments reduce taxes and spending. Why? Central banks have transitioned from being independent monetary authorities safeguarding the currency's purchasing power and controlling inflation to facilitating the distribution of rising government debt and disguising rising issuer insolvency.

Modern central banking has shown that no single authority should set interest rates and liquidity. They have consistently erred on the side of rising government size in the economy and made erroneous estimates of inflation and job growth. The reason for this is straightforward: as the size of government in the economy and sovereign debt, which is often considered the safest asset, increase, the central bank's role becomes increasingly important for maintaining market stability.

Many central banks state that they don't interfere with fiscal policy and remain independent, *except when someone dares to cut taxes and political spending*. As such, central banks are not a limit to risk-taking, rising government spending and budget irresponsibility, but rather a tool that enables market and government excess. ■

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NATO in Ohio

By Carl Teichrib

For a handful of days, May 22 to May 25, the city of Dayton, Ohio was home to the NATO Dialogue Forum. Running parallel to the NATO Parliament with its procedures and resolutions, happening just a few blocks away, the Dialogue was set up to encourage fluid conversations with the NATO agenda in mind. Unlike the Parliament, the Dialogue was open to the public – if one acquired a ticket – allowing the common person to rub shoulders with ambassadors, foreign ministers, NATO leaders, members of parliament and congress, and ranking military officers.

Security for the event was tight. The Rogers Glass Center was ringed with an 8-foot-high chain-link fence, and anti-ram barriers kept vehicles from driving into the building – if they could first get past the strategically placed squad cars. A surveillance drone was overhead, police were posted around-and-inside, everyone went through a metal detector and all bags were searched. At different times a convoy of black SUVs would rush in and drop off a VIP, and the security would increase; watchful members of the Secret Service stood at the ready, and fresh police in tactical gear were positioned.

The inner working of the Dialogue Forum also validated its serious nature:

- NATO was the institutional host, embedding the Forum within the Parliamentary process.
- The office of U.S. Representative Mike Turner organized the Dialogue Forum.
- The University of Dayton facilitated the event with its venue and staffing.
- The Congressional Research Service moderated key sessions, with its presence highlighting the analytical and nonpartisan nature of the Forum.

Sponsors included: the Atlantic Council, the Dayton Development Coalition, the German Marshall Fund, National Endowment for Democracy, New Lines Institute, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Twelve panel sessions were held during the Dialogue, each tackling some element of NATO, the role of its partners, and geopolitical concerns. These discussions continued off-stage during session breaks as speakers and attendees continued with informal conversations. For the sake of space, I have amalgamated my field notes from each session and boiled the discussions into manageable bullet points. The information paints a complex yet important picture. [Editor's Note: What is presented here are the ideas, discussions, and conclusions put forth at the Forum, which are not necessarily the opinions and conclusions of this author.]

Day One: NATO's Role in the Transatlantic Relationship

- There is an increasing possibility of the current Russia-Ukraine war breaching its present borders. If this happens, then no place on the European continent will be safe.
- Russia is putting pressure on the Baltic region in the north (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) and also influencing actors in the Balkan region to the south. (The Balkan region consists primarily of the following nations: Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Serbia, Slovenia, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, and parts of Romania, Greece and Turkey.)
- All other European nations have fallen behind Russia in terms of military spending, and Moscow is producing a huge conventional force. The only way to prevent a larger continental war is for Europe's defense industry to ramp up fast.
- America is at an inflection point, the fourth in our modern cycle:

First: After World War I, America chose to isolate itself from world affairs, the League of Nations failed, and we witnessed the rise of Fascism.

Second: After World War II, America built the new international order through the United Nations and Bretton Woods institutions. America also stayed in Europe and Asia, and past adversaries – Germany and Japan – are now allies.

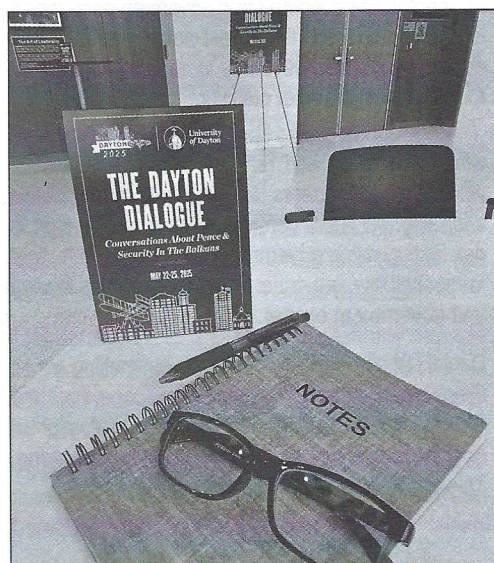
Third: After the Cold War, America's role was not as defined nor as positive, with the War on Terror later becoming the focal point. Decisions were made resulting in what we are seeing today.

Four: Now Europe finds itself between Trump and Putin. One is threatening military confrontation, the other economic pressure. Hence, with America's shift – not abandoning Europe but exerting new realities – the continent is scrambling to re-establish its military/industrial footing. This is Europe's hour, we were told, and it will *unify deeper* as it confronts the war crisis and economic pressures. Moreover, America will continue to be engaged with the European Union as the global East/West divide grows.

- Both Russia and China are looking to change their status; to acquire territories they believe are vital to national interests. With that in mind, some think that a "Kissinger move" might take place – American leadership quietly meeting with belligerents to cause a rift within their coalition – but this thinking is probably flawed. As it was explained, the Russia/China alliance is tight, and secret diplomatic pressure à la Henry Kissinger-style will likely come to naught.
- China's military capacity is growing at a pace faster than most realize. America cannot counter this alone but requires Europe's involvement. While NATO is understandably focused on Ukraine, the NATO Alliance needs to enlarge its perspective to include the Indo-Pacific region. Note: If NATO expands into the Indo-Pacific region, going far beyond its traditional zone of influence, it may end up playing the role of a global force.

Day Two: Dayton Accords 30 Years Later & Goals of Tomorrow

- The Dayton Accords of 1995 were instrumental in bringing peace to the Balkan region, with nations such as Croatia eventually attaining EU membership. On the other hand, ethnic divisions and structural problems in Bosnia and Herzegovina are an ongoing problem, and citizens who can are leaving for greener pastures. While Kosovo is considered a success story, Serbia does not recognize its legitimacy, and tensions exist.
- It was argued that peaceful unification within the region is possible if diplomacy can be given a chance. With that in mind, any "Dayton 2" agreement must be negotiated at a local level, with constitutional reforms in place. Note: It was acknowledged that sometimes the rules become so complicated that the goals are no longer visible.
- NATO as an Alliance has become more than a defense platform. It acts as an institutional umbrella wherein nations with like-minded values can partner. The Alliance thus becomes a values-based



organ with a functioning democratic mechanism, the NATO Parliament. Many elites therefore believe the Balkans' success is directly tied to EU and NATO memberships.

- The US military experience, especially since the mid-1990s, is woven within the fabric of NATO operations, and this matters to Americans on a practical level.

- Again, we were told that the Alliance *must* focus on the Indo-Pacific zone. Paralleling this, Ukraine needs to be supported by the West *because it is a message to China*.

Day Three: Dayton Today for the Balkans Present and Future

- Bosnia, it was explained, needs constitutional reform and integration within the EU. Moreover, *all* the region's economies need to be deeply unified within the EU process. This amalgamation, it was noted, is more than just about money – it is about the Balkans identifying themselves with Europe as opposed to outside influences, specifically Russia and China. Timeline: *By 2027 this integration process needs to be irreversible*.

- Regional financing, resource and energy infrastructure development, and creating new transportation corridors – such as a cross-border high speed rail line – are meant to connect the Balkans within the larger context of unification.

- We were told the EU *must* recognize the Western Balkans as vital to its interests, and the Americans *must* push the EU's acceptance of Balkan member-states. Both the European Union and the United States are working to counter Moscow, and EU

membership is viewed as an important part of this larger strategy.

- Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) face significant domestic obstacles, including separatist movements and Russian influences, and these problems have stymied EU integration. It was said that America should levy sanctions against separatist leaders, and EU funds should be attached to the success of its reform process. If not, and the BiH internally ruptures or adopts a Russia/China option, it will be a blow to the EU, NATO and America. Hence, there needs to be a re-focus on the BiH, or the region will become a "Russian outpost."

- European unification, it was noted, is central to American interests. The US has an economic and security incentive to remain engaged, and thus America is *not* decoupling from Europe or the EU process.

Day Four: Cultural & Societal Ties that Strengthen Relationships

- We have a generation that has lost its connection to history, and this deeper context is either missing or no longer relevant to many individuals; we are out of touch with how the last century shaped today and are susceptible to repeating the same mistakes.

- America cannot "do it alone," but will always need its allies; leveraging partnerships, resources, expertise, and intelligence.

- We are not yet in total conflict, nor an uneasy peace, but a hybrid wherein everything is prone to disruption; the digital space becomes a battleground, and psychological warfare is part of our daily lives.

- Cultural exchanges provide a soft-power approach, building empathy, respect, and the forming of organic networks that supersede national boundaries. Art and culture should be encouraged in order to navigate conflict, build informal bridges, and create spaces wherein the goal of sustaining peace can be encouraged at the local level.

Three broad takeaways from the NATO Dialogue Forum:

1) Contrary to much talk in conservative circles, the Trump administration is not dumping NATO or the EU. Rather, there is a commitment to the European agenda, albeit with a blunt approach – but one that appears to move the EU towards more unification, not less.

2) While the Balkans may have slipped off the radar for most Westerners, it is nevertheless a vital geopolitical region. Deeply complex historical and ethnic pressures remain part of the undercurrent, and the region's stability is not guaranteed. It is a zone wherein East/West tensions may manifest in the realm of hard diplomacy.

3) In terms of global security narratives, it seems that NATO has shifted to becoming the primary collective security anchor for the international community [an increasingly global military force], albeit without Russia and China. And if the NATO Alliance functionally expands into the Indo-Pacific region, this will signal a strong demarcation – a further separation between East and West. ■

Carl Teichrib is author of *Game of Gods*. He writes a Substack newsletter titled *Convergence: Power and Belief*. You can read more of his work here: <https://carlteichrib.substack.com>.



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Inspirational Quotes

❶ **"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."**

– Corrie Ten Boom, *Clippings From My Notebook* (World Wide Publications, 1982), p.27.

❷ **"I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust'."**

– Psalm 91:2.

❸ **"Trust yourself with him, and he will save you. Never did anyone trust Jesus in vain."**

– Charles Spurgeon, *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit* (The Banner of Truth Trust, 1891), p.24.

❹ **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."**

– Proverbs 3:5-6.

❺ **"...all those – whether few or many – who put their trust in Christ, share in His victory. God's people are victorious because the One who defeated Satan at the cross has come to live in their hearts as their Lord and Savior. They have placed themselves under His protection."**

– Dave Hunt, *Whatever Happened to Heaven?* (The Berean Call, 2011/1988), p.274.

❻ **"But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name be joyful in You."**

– Psalm 5:11.

† MESSAGE OF HOPE †

A short message of trust, by Charles Spurgeon.

Our general conduct should reveal our faith: The whole of our life should show that we are men who rejoice in the Lord; for trusting the Lord, as I understand it, is not a thing for Sundays and for places of worship alone: we are to trust in the Lord about everything.

If I trust the Lord about my soul I must trust him about my body, about my wife, about my children, and all my domestic and business affairs. It would have been a terrible thing if the Lord had drawn a black line around our religious life, and had said, "You may trust me about that, but with household matters I will have nothing to do." We need the whole of life to be within the ringfence of divine care. The perfect bond of divine love must tie up the whole bundle of our affairs, or the whole will slip away.

Faith is a thing for the closet, and the parlour, and the counting-house, and the farmhouse; it is a light for dark days, and a shade for bright days: you may carry it with you everywhere, and everywhere it shall be your help. Oh, that we did so trust in the Lord that people noticed it as much as they notice our temper, our dress, or our tone. The pity is that too often we go forward helter-skelter, following our own wisdom, whereas we ought to say, "No, I must wait a little while, till I ask counsel of the Lord."

It should be seen and known that we are distinctly waiting upon God for guidance. ■



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