

FROM OUR PASTOR

August 6, 2016

Sabbath Greetings to Everyone!

The Northwest UYC Teen Camp and the pre-teen camp are now finished and what a wonderful experience they were for all who participated. A big Thank You to everyone who helped make them possible! Many in the area donated time, scholarship money, or served on staff so that our youth could experience "a week away from the world" and learn about how we are to be guided by God's word in everything we do. The Bible truly is "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path." May we all live by it every day.

In his epic book "1984" futuristic genius George Orwell stated many prescient things. Here are two that are coming to pass: 1. "Big Brother is Watching You" and 2. "If you want to keep a secret, you must also hide it from yourself."

Orwell predicted a time when the government would be watching everything you do and the "thought police" would enforce conformity on everyone. This is now possible thanks to "data base subscription services."

Bloomberg.com reported this week: "For more than a decade, professional snoops have been able to search troves of public and nonpublic records—known addresses, DMV records, photographs of a person's car—and condense them into comprehensive reports costing as little as \$10. Now they can combine that information with the kings of things marketers know about you, such as which politicians you donate to, what you spend on groceries, and whether it's weird that you ate in last night, to create a portrait of your life and predict your behavior. IDL, a year-old company in the so-called data-fusion business, is the first to centralize and weaponized all that information for its customers."

Notice the use of the word "weaponized." The collection of everything about you, particularly all internet and electronic communication data, is routinely excused as "harmless." But is it really? Experts have stated that "The Cloud Never Forgets" but instead keeps on adding pieces to the puzzle that is you. The information is out there for sale. Already the information is being used for security and background checks. What will happen when a government comes to power that wants to enforce ideas—or religion—and seeks to prohibit any discussion on a subject? We have already seen pronouncements along this line concerning a speaking against abortion rights and climate change. Judging from recent proposals made at the United Nations, there is considerable support for such rules and regulations. It is not too difficult to see where things are going. There is coming a time when true servants of God will be called to give an account of our faith. It will be pretty much the same as recorded for us in the book of Acts about Peter, James, Paul, and the other apostles. God gave them faith and saw them through those times and promises the same for us. Remember these verses, these promises, when the time comes.

Matthew 10:17-20 "But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be bought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."

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