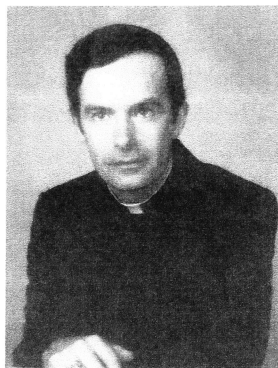


Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



The Fourth Amendment clearly states, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects...shall not be violated..." Technological advances in the 21st century are violating that security in ways the Founding Fathers

could not have imagined. Perhaps the most insidious assault is being waged in the field of biometrics, the scanning and measuring of human physiological characteristics to create a digital picture or map for identification. It began in the late 19th century when William Herschel, a British magistrate in India, studied the use of fingerprints and Francis Galton, Darwin's cousin, developed a method for classifying them. Juan Vucetich began the collection of fingerprints of criminals in Argentina. Since then, science has embarked on an endless quest to discover additional biomarkers. The list currently includes prints and veins of palms, hand geometry, the iris and retina of the eye, DNA, body scent, and facial construction. If one's privacy or security is breached, security devices like names, passwords, and codes can be changed. But, biomarkers are permanent parts of our genetic composition, part of who we are, and cannot be changed or discarded.

Originally, biometrics was limited to fighting criminals. In recent years, primarily due to the explosion of international terrorism, the creation and preferred method of warfare of militant Moslems, the use of biometrics has been expanding along with the use of computers and scanners to become a standard means of identifying all people for a variety of purposes. Once you have been identified, your identity can be linked to data collected without your consent or knowledge including your name, social security number, financial and medical records, criminal history, memberships, and more. Personal profiles can be put on RFID chips on documents such as passports, bank cards, driving licenses, and other sources of identification used for voting, travel, tax collection, accessing a bank account or obtaining a loan.

In the US, the use of biometrics for identification was expedited by the 9/11 attacks on NY. In 2001, Congress passed the Patriot Act which incorporates biometrics. In 2005, the Real ID Act established national standards for all identity records, but not all states follow them. The military collects data for identification using biometrics. The Homeland Security Department has spent \$133 million since 2003 on biometrics. Its domestic terrorist list also includes Christian groups, pro-life organizations, defenders of marriage, and probably even Confederate organizations among others. The Defense Department has spent \$3.5 billion in 2007-15. The FBI has expanded development of its fingerprint database, iris and palm scans, and facial recognition. Even a school in Pinellas, Florida, used palm scanners on students. Our government divulges very little information regarding the use of this collected data.

Internationally, Australia, Britain, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Israel, Italy, Iraq, Norway, New Zealand, and Netherlands are using biometrics. India possesses the largest system, used to identify all of its citizens. China used cameras to scan the faces in a crowd of anti-government protestors and a database to provide information on each individual to facilitate mass arrests. The proliferation of surveillance cameras makes this a reality for all people for all reasons around the world. In many nations, the crossing of borders involves biometrics. Just wave a passport over a scanner, look into a camera, or place your hand on a scanner and immigration officials can access information about you. The US has bilateral agreements with approximately twenty-five nations for the sharing of biometric information. The mining of information using biometric technology has evolved into a \$13.8 billion market expected to escalate to \$23.5 billion by 2020. L-1 Identity Solutions, now owned by the French company Safran, processes most driving license and has joined with the World Bank to make biometric identifications internationally. Advisors to this company include George Tenet of the CIA,

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, Louis Freeh of the FBI, and Michael Chertoff of Homeland Security. The first global database in history has already been developed for use by governments, the UN, law enforcement, and corporations.

Biometrics shifts the balance of power from the people in general and the individual in particular to governments, corporations, and organizations with an agenda. It makes possible personal privacy and security violations that make NSA data sweeps seem superficial. You might have nothing to hide, but you do have privacy and security worth protecting. We must be vigilant about who collects our information, how it is used, and the inevitability of security breaches. China's recent attack on US government records is just one illustration of the real danger posed to US citizens. Without the traditional constraints of Judaeo-Christian beliefs and values that have made American society civil, in the wrong hands the use of biometrics could become a nightmare. The Secular Coalition For America actively lobbies Congress on behalf of seventeen atheist organizations and seeks to influence voters. Other groups, including American Atheists, American Humanist Association, Freedom From Religion Foundation, and Moslems seek to form cohesive

and formidable voting blocs within the US by rallying around issues they share in common. Faceless bureaucrats and appointed judges are going beyond their jurisdiction of determining what is legal and illegal to redefining what is right and wrong. Today, what is legal is not always what is moral.

Satan encouraged the first man to pursue a means promising that "...your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen. 3:5) Satan baited the hook with the advantages—knowledge, power, a better life—and was silent about the disadvantages. Biometrics can be useful against crime and terrorism, but such technology big enough and pervasive enough to protect also has the capability to dominate. Mankind is relying on technology more than God, seeking god-like knowledge and power. Those who control this technology seek the capability to say to us what only God has the right to say: "Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered." (Lk. 12:7) Pandora's box has been opened. Against this threat of such tyranny, we must not cease to persevere and "...stand firm and hold to the traditions that (we) were taught..." (II Thess. 2:15) At this point in history, our only certain hope for real security in this age is in Christ Who promises, "I am coming soon; hold fast what you have..." (Rev. 3:11)

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