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Conspiracy Theories and Religion: Christian Nationalism and the Rise of North American Populism¹

Carmen Celestini²

Religion and conspiracy theories intertwine with disinformation campaigns to create political movements online and have become an offline issue for society to deal with. Religious leaders in Canada such as Pastor Artur Pawlowski are working closely with Christian nationalists in America such as Lance Wallnau, the Black Robe Regiment, and the Patriot Pastors movement in an attempt to create a Christian Nationalist Political movement which is not constrained by national borders but is mobilized through conspiracy theories. The religious leaders' public speeches and sermons are laced with disinformation and conspiracy theories, as are their online presentations and social media. In fact, this movement is calling for a New Great Awakening in America which is being spread through a new church tent revival, mixing recognizable religious history with politics, conspiracy, and attacks on progressives/woke political rivals.

Creating a religio-political movement based upon fear, perceived injustices, and tropes of prosecution and persecution, these religious leaders are manipulating their adherents through conspiracy and disinformation to create a North American Christian Nationalist state. Political populist leaders in Canada have utilized these ideas of Christian persecution, conspiracy theories, and disinformation campaigns as political platforms. In America, tropes of Donald Trump as Cyrus or the God Emperor of the United States fuel the movement while progressive and liberal politicians are referred to as demons, tyrants, and dictators. Far more than an us-versus-them positioning, the religious leaders create a vision of good vs. evil in the ultimate battle for God, country, and family through moral panics, conspiracies, and a borderless nationalism. Analyzing the religious leaders' social media, podcasts, and tent revival sermons, we will argue that the interconnections and relationships created by these individuals, and their dependence on conspiracy theories and disinformation, is creating a borderless North American Christian Nationalist populist political movement that depends upon fear and moral panics spread through disinformation and conspiracy theories to mobilize.

Christian Nationalism

The ideology of Christian nationalism is not new within the political landscape in America, yet with both elected politicians and religious leaders and influencers promoting this form of nationalism it has become a mainstream topic across the political spectrum. The term is no longer considered a political position among adherents but is now understood as being a duty for Christians. The pandemic, the rise of populism, and the widening cleavage between those on either end of the political spectrum have given rise to a movement that no

¹ A version of this article was presented as part of the conference "Our Whole Society: Finding Common Ground in a Time of Polarization" held at Martin Luther University College, Waterloo ON, May 7–9, 2023.

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longer sees a border between the nations of Canada and America. While the term itself has been used as a derogatory adjective against those who identify as conservative Christian, recently the term has been openly used as a namesake for those “saving the nation.” Republicans such as Marjorie Taylor Greene³ and Lauren Boebert⁴ proudly announce their status as Christian nationalists and evoke terms and demands that resonate with their political bases enmeshed in this movement. Christian nationalism, in scholarship, is understood as a distinct understanding of the history and the future of America that allows the division of who is an American and who is an enemy based on responses to understandings of attack on “culture” and traditions of the nation. Those designated as enemies can be both foreign entities and those who are American citizens who do not hold the same beliefs. The cultural definitions of America through this lens are told through decades of tales of the founding of the nation until they seem to be the truth. This retelling of the past may not rely upon historical facts but is rather a “mythological version of history.”⁵ This version of both the founding and the history of America is one that is focused on white, traditionally Christian men, who created a country based upon Christian principles; in essence, it is a land blessed by God. This blessing is evidenced by the success of America within the realms of capitalism/economics and power and influence globally. Success in these world stages is understood as proof that America will play an important or special role in God’s plans for humanity. Those who are understood to be persecuting or attacking Christian culture in America through degradation or “progressive” immorality are subverting God’s ultimate plan.⁶ These evil racial, religious, cultural “outsiders” attacking the Christian culture of America are perceived as being enemies who are persecuting and usurping the position of white, conservative Christian males, the inheritors of the American dream. This conflict for power positions can result in violence, with the aim to restore the position of Christians upon the highest tier of the racial and religious hierarchy that the mythical version of the Christian foundations of America demands.⁷

This delineation of who is an American and what that means that is created through Christian nationalism is fundamentally based on fearmongering. The spectres of loss of power, position, and culture are presented via fear tactics and dystopian narratives. The potential loss is not just for Christians but for the nation as a whole. In essence, the destruction of Christianity equates to the destruction of America. Christian nationalist movements are predominately led by popular or famous Christian preachers, authors, or influential congregants.⁸ These Christian nationalist preachers include individuals such as Pastor Artur Pawlowski, who rose to prominence nationally in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic when a video he recorded of Alberta bylaw officers attempting to shut down his Easter weekend sermon during lockdown mandates went viral. In the video, Pawlowski

³ Amanda Tyler, “Opinion: Marjorie Taylor Green’s Words on Christian Nationalism Are a Wake-Up Call,” *CNN*, accessed July 27, 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/27/opinions/christian-nationalism-marjorie-taylor-greene-tyler/index.html>.

⁴ Adela Suliman and Timothy Bella, “GOP Rep. Boebert: ‘I’m Tired of This Separation of Church and State Junk,’” *The Washington Post*, accessed June 28, 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/06/28/lauren-boebert-church-state-colorado/>.

⁵ Philip S. Gorski and Samuel L. Perry, *The Flag and the Cross: White Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197618684.001.0001>.

⁶ Gorski and Perry, *The Flag and the Cross*.

⁷ Gorski and Perry, *The Flag and the Cross*.

⁸ Gorski and Perry, *The Flag and the Cross*.

screams at the officers to “get out” and refers to them as Nazis.⁹ This video went viral as anti-mandate, and those who believed the virus to be a hoax saw Pawlowski’s act of defiance as representative of their movement. He was not unknown to the police in Alberta, having been fined numerous times for his public anti-LGBTQ2SA pronouncements and refusal to follow health code laws in his mission to feed the homeless, but his viral video led him to a place of prominence with the anti-mandate movement.¹⁰ His refusal to adhere to the lockdown measures led to numerous arrests throughout the pandemic, and it also fuelled his influencer status. There are others, such as COVID-19 religious resisters American Pastor Nathan Busenitz and Canadian Pastor James Coates. Busenitz fought the COVID-19 mandates by continuing to hold church services and won a battle against the city of Los Angeles to remain open. Coates did not fare as well and was imprisoned for his stand against the Canadian mandates against public gatherings.¹¹ Lance Wallnau, who is a leader of the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR), has also taken a leadership position in American Christian nationalism. NAR is a movement of Christians who believe they are living in an age of new apostles and prophets. These prophets received revelations from God and believe that Jesus is returning very soon, and Christians have to exert dominion over the world. In the worldview of the members of NAR, their enemies (liberals and the woke) are working on the behalf of Satan. This eternal battle between good and evil is fought in a spiritual realm surrounding the planet, where demons and angels battle, and this battle is articulated in earthly politics.¹² Wallnau has become a Christian nationalist influencer with his books *God’s Chaos Code: The Shocking Blueprint that Reveals 5 Keys to the Destiny of Nations* (2020) and *God’s Chaos Candidate: Donald J. Trump and the American Unravelling* (2016).

Conspiracy Theories and Movements

Current research on radicalization and violence shares many commonalities with those who are conspiracists and the theories in which they believe. Counterterrorism scholar Amanda Garry (2021) argues that conspiracy and extremist ideologies are different, but they can intersect.¹³ Garry et al found that, “While conspiracy theories may not have mass radicalizing effects, they are extremely effective at leading to increased polarization within societies.”¹⁴ For this analysis we use the definition of radicalization given by Doosje et al: “Radicalization is a process through which people become increasingly motivated to use violent means against members of an out-group or symbolic targets to achieve behavioural change and political goals.”¹⁵ Conspiracy theories too delineate those who are the enemies

⁹ Artur Pawlowski, YouTube Video, accessed April 3, 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziWXH7T15zw>.

¹⁰ Carmen Celestini and Randi R. Warne, "From the Cave of Adullam a King Shall Rise: Covid, Conspiracy Theories, Christian Nationalism, and Populism in Canada," *Journal of the Council for Research on Religion* 3, no. 2 (2022): 40–58, <https://doi.org/10.26443/jcreor.v3i2.75>.

¹¹ Nathan Busenitz and James Coates, *God vs. Government: Taking a Biblical Stand When Christ and Compliance Collide* (Harvest House Publishers, 2022).

¹² Tim Dickinson, “He Has a 7-Point Plan for a Christian Takeover—and Wants Doug Mastriano to Lead the Charge,” *Rolling Stone*, accessed September 29, 2022, <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/lance-wallnau-doug-mastriano-christian-dominion-1234602214>.

¹³ Amanda Garry et al., "QAnon Conspiracy Theory: Examining Its Evolution and Mechanisms of Radicalization," *Journal for Deradicalization* 26 (2021), 154.

¹⁴ Garry et al., “QAnon Conspiracy Theory,” 156.

¹⁵ Bertjan Doosje et al., "Terrorism, Radicalization and De-Radicalization," *Current Opinion in Psychology* 11 (2016): 79.

and those who are unaware of the truth from the ingroup who prioritize their knowledge of the truth, their morality, and most importantly their role as the social heroes who will save the world.

Doosje et al. argue that there are five characteristics of radical groups, the first being that the group perceives that there is a serious problem in society.¹⁶ Once having perceived the problem, the group is dissatisfied with the manner in which it is being dealt with by institutions. These institutions blamed are predominantly the police and politicians who are understood as not acknowledging or paying attention to the problem or as simply not doing enough to handle the issue. This lack of acknowledgement or action sows a distrust in the institutions and an understanding that the authorities are not legitimate.¹⁷ Conspiracy theories are an effective tool in the political realm for those who feel the political is inaccessible or a process from which they are disenfranchised. This inaccessibility renders the political as something that is secretive or impenetrable.¹⁸ Although at first glance conspiracies can seem simplistic in their analysis of the world, under the salaciousness lies a problem or societal issue that needs to be addressed or brought up for discussion in the public sphere rather than ignored. Structural inequalities, an unjust political order, a dysfunctional civil society, an exploitative economic system, or other injustices, either real or perceived, can all be found under the intricate conspiracy theories.¹⁹ The conspiracy theory can provide a “cause” or reasoning for these issues faced by the adherent, when society or the welfare safety net does not. The disenfranchisement the conspiracy theorists feel from the political system can lead them to seek out others who can empathize because they too feel the same way, and in doing so create a community or social group of like-minded people. This is apparent in the Christian nationalist movement, where even though elected representatives such as Greene and Boebert promote the movement’s beliefs, it not enough to stop the persecution of the faith or provide the parallel religious nation they wish to build. This is why Christian nationalists like Wallnau use the term SAGECons, spiritually active and governmentally engaged conservatives,²⁰ to describe Christians battling against the “deep state” for the Great Reset as the hope for the nation. They are Christians fighting for their faith politically and as prayer warriors against those deemed evil or demonic, destroying the moral culture of their nation. Conspiracy theories are a form of narrative that express an injustice, regardless of being real or imagined, and are promoted to be used as a tool for mobilization. Using conspiracy as a lens of interpretation for the political is not a new technique for populist and militia movements, but in the hands of Christian nationalist at this juncture in time it is an incredibly useful mechanism.

Populism and conspiracy theories are often connected, with populism being the political voice of those who feel separated from the political realm. The group designated as the “other” or enemy by the conspiracy theorists is perceived to have endless power, and because their actions and control are secretive, there is no possible means to render the conspiracy theories as falsifiable. Basically, any attempt to refute or disprove the conspiracy

¹⁶ Doosje et al., “Terrorism, Radicalization and De-Radicalization,” 79.

¹⁷ Doosje et al., “Terrorism, Radicalization and De-Radicalization,” 80.

¹⁸ Mark Fenster, *Conspiracy Theories: Secrecy and Power in American Culture* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008).

¹⁹ Fenster, *Conspiracy Theories*, 70.

²⁰ Lance Wallnau and Mercedes Sparks, *God's Chaos Code: The Shocking Blueprint that Reveals 5 Keys to the Destiny of Nations* (Killer Sheep Media Incorporated, 2020), 130.

theory is held as evidence that the out-group is in control.²¹ Populism and conspiracy theories share worldviews, both believing that there are two distinct sides to the battle and these sides are defined through morality, with the evil side being and promoting immoral understandings of the world. This immoral group is in control of society or the nation, and by holding the means and power can enslave citizens, creating a society of victims. Both conspiracy theorists and populists distrust institutions and hold animosity towards legacy media, the government, universities—fundamentally the “elites” of society in their eyes—and this results in worldviews that manifest politically to combat those perceived as harming the nation.²² Many of these same beliefs are found in Christian nationalism, and in the words and actions of influencers Wallnau and Pawlowski.

As his influencer status increased, Pawlowski became a regular guest on conspiracist Alex Jones' show *Infowars*. Here Pawlowski created a narrative of Canada being a police state, under the tyrannical Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party, where Christians were being both persecuted and prosecuted for their faith, in an attempt to destroy religion and usher in the Great Reset.²³ This was not the only conspiracy that Pawlowski used to frame the Prime Minister as an enemy to Canada and Christianity; he continuously referred to him as “Trudeau Castro,” utilizing the conspiracy theory that Justin Trudeau was the illegitimate son of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro. With this link to Communism, Pawlowski positioned Trudeau as an enemy of the nation, a Godless communist, who was not elected to his position but appointed, and was leading a nation that was no longer democratic.²⁴ His narrative of Trudeau was capitalized upon by the leader of the populist People's Party of Canada during the 2021 federal election, with Party leader Maxime Bernier interviewing the pastor via FaceBook live. Bernier, wearing a t-shirt emblazoned with the phrase “Get Out,” questioned Pawlowski about his experiences being arrested for leading his church during the pandemic. Bernier's platform had focused on anti-mandate issues, as well as anti-Great Reset measures to “save Canada.” Throughout the interview, Bernier played the role of a sympathetic listener, while establishing himself and his party as the ones who could end this Christian persecution in Canada.²⁵

In his books, Wallnau argues that legacy media outlets and politicians are false prophets²⁶ and the “mouthpiece of the false prophets of Baal.”²⁷ Using fear tactics and conspiracy theories attached to a “shadow cabinet” who are a powerful group wanting to “unravel America at the seams” Wallnau also leans on apocalyptic thought and ideas of the Parable of Jesus and the “end-time harvest.” Wallnau describes the shadow cabinet as a very small group of people who have access to media and academia, who use intimidation tactics against those who resist the group.²⁸ His scare tactics create a narrative that this group has

²¹ Bruno Castanho Silva, Federico Vegetti, and Levente Littvay, “The Elite Is Up to Something: Exploring the Relation between Populism and Belief in Conspiracy Theories,” *Swiss Political Science Review* 23, no. 4 (2017), 426.

²² Silva, Vegetti, and Littvay, “The Elite Is Up to Something,” 427.

²³ Celestini and Warne, “From the Cave of Adullam,” 48-49.

²⁴ Celestini and Warne, “From the Cave of Adullam,” 46.

²⁵ Maxime Bernier, “Get Out!” <https://fb.watch/dswEo5xaQm>

²⁶ Wallnau and Sparks, *God's Chaos Code*, 124.

²⁷ Gene Bailey, *Flashpoint*, accessed June 3, 2021, <https://flashpoint.govictory.com/episode/the-facts-matter-lance-wallnau-hank-kunneman-and-artur-pawlowski-june-3-2021>.

²⁸ Lance Wallnau, *God's Chaos Candidate: Donald J. Trump and the American Unraveling* (Killer Sheep Media Incorporated, 2016), 11.

been actively working to destroy America since the 1960s and if America “should have one more presidential cycle [of Democrats], America as we know it will cease to exist.”²⁹ Drawing on another of his books, *Invading Babylon: The 7 Mountain Mandate*, Wallnau explains that the left/progressives aspire to control the seven institutions that shape the culture of the nation: religion, family, education, government, news media, entertainment, and business/economics. He refers to these institutions as the mountains. Using contemporary politics, policies such as same sex marriage, and Howard Zinn’s scholarship in schools as false doctrines that will create a “generation of America-hating leaders,”³⁰ institutions such as the government, universities, and their thought leaders are spreading the “doctrines of demons” that can only be stopped by Christians active politically for the dominion of the nation.³¹

Further, radical groups envision their values and morals as being superior to others, and in doing so develop an us-versus-them mentality.³² The group can rationalize violence as a way to address their problem/concern. This violence is directed at the “other” who they have demonized or blamed for the problem.³³ The last characteristic is the belief in the efficacy of using violence.³⁴ Doosje et al. theorized that there were three levels of radicalization: the sensitivity phase, the group membership phase, and the action. In the first phase the individual suffers from a feeling of insignificance, which could stem from a loss of status or not having a job. The newfound group provides a sense of belonging, gives them a feeling of being respected and that they are fighting for a holy cause. Additionally, the individual would be afflicted with a sense of personal uncertainty which the group eases through providing the individual a set of norms and values to adhere to and believe in. Eventually, in this first phase, there is a sense created that you and your group have been treated worse than another group.³⁵

Social media is one of the main sources of recruitment of new individuals into conspiracy. Communication Studies Scholar Adam Klein finds that postings on social media are rarely the definition of hateful rhetoric directed at a particular community, so for social media companies it is difficult to find and limit them. Those posting such things know what the words are and will circumnavigate. An example being when QAnon was banned from Twitter and Facebook, the adherents changed the phrasing to “cue anon” and it subverted the search algorithms. “Rather than overt bigotry, today’s online hate speech comes in the shape of fear incitements and identity politics.”³⁶ Klein’s research examined how extremists traded messages of hate and “cultural superiority” fostering and spurring on fear and paranoia.³⁷ The messages of hate were presented via political and fearmongering messages and memes.

²⁹ Wallnau, *God's Chaos Candidate*, 12.

³⁰ Wallnau, *God's Chaos Candidate*, 13.

³¹ Wallnau, *God's Chaos Candidate*, 18.

³² Wallnau, *God's Chaos Candidate*, 18.

³³ Wallnau, *God's Chaos Candidate*, 18.

³⁴ Doosje et al., "Terrorism, Radicalization and De-Radicalization," 81.

³⁵ Doosje et al., "Terrorism, Radicalization and De-Radicalization," 82.

³⁶ Adam Klein, "Social Networks and the Challenge of Hate Disguised as Fear and Politics," *Journal for Deradicalization* 26 (2021), 2, accessed January 22, 2024, <https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/431>.

³⁷ Klein, "Social Networks and the Challenge."

“The people in power want a Great Reset, but what we are going to give them instead is a Great Restoration”³⁸

Linking morality-based resentments to mainstream politics is an effective tool to both appeal to others to recruit and also subvert the algorithms of social media platforms. As Klein argues, this is an attempt to legitimize hate within political discourse.³⁹ Klein continues that using this device also allows these groups to adopt a victim persona. Conspiracy theories can delineate the attributes of a patriot or social hero who can save the nation from the “enemy,” whether domestic or foreign. They also serve to formulate the components of the identity of the enemy; for example, via religion, race, culture, and/or political leaning.

Fear of cultural threat leads to hostility.⁴⁰ Fear speech is a significant tool, at times more effective than hate speech. Fear speech is also connected to the potential for violence.⁴¹ Scholar of law and historian Antoine Buyse (2014) researched the development of tools to limit hate speech, and permissible limitations on free speech, but also connected law scholarship with other disciplines in hate, extremism, and violence. Buyse argues that the emphasis should not be put on hate speech but rather on fear speech. “It is fear speech that is a much stronger indicator of impending violence. This is true especially when speech takes the form of instilling fear that the other group is out to strike one’s own groups with violence, possibly even with the aim of extermination (existential fear).”⁴² The role of fear speech “reflects the process in which violent action against another group is legitimized as a form of self-defence against impending or recent lethal danger.”⁴³

The rate at which unrelated narratives of conspiracy are brought together to create new narratives has been accelerated through the use of the internet. The internet also allows for these “narratives to gain more credibility and resonance”⁴⁴. The intermingling of conspiracy and extremism can form “a more dangerous mechanism.”⁴⁵ The Radicalisation Awareness Network found that there were three indicators that are present in conspiracy narratives when combined: “One group is superior to another (superiority vs. inferiority), one group is under attack by the other (imminent threat) and the threat is apocalyptic in nature (existential threat).”⁴⁶

This fear speech is an important weapon in the arsenal of Christian nationalist influencers. Pastor Pawlowski has appeared numerous times on Alex Jones’ *Infowars*. In one of his appearances Pawlowski addressed Jones’ audience and directly implored the listeners to rise up and fight with him. Further, he called for the arrest of every individual who was involved in the COVID-19 vaccines, going so far as to state they should face capital punishment for their tyrannical acts.⁴⁷ With this call for action, Pawlowski puts the onus

³⁸ Andrew Torba, Andrew Isker, and Shane Schaetzel, *Christian Nationalism: A Biblical Guide for Taking Dominion and Discipling Nations* (Gab AI Inc, 2022), 22.

³⁹ Klein, “Social Networks and the Challenge,” 10.

⁴⁰ Klein, “Social Networks and the Challenge,” 12.

⁴¹ Klein, “Social Networks and the Challenge,” 13.

⁴² Antoine Buyse, “Words of Violence: Fear Speech, or How Violent Conflict Escalation Relates to the Freedom of Expression,” *Human Rights Quarterly* 36 (2014), 795. <https://doi.org/10.1353/hrq.2014.0064>.

⁴³ Buyse, “Words of Violence,” 796.

⁴⁴ *The Impact of Conspiracy Narratives on Violent RWE and LWE Narratives – Conclusion Paper – 24 and 25 November, 2020 – Radicalisation Awareness Network*, 2.

⁴⁵ *The Impact of Conspiracy Narratives*, 3.

⁴⁶ *The Impact of Conspiracy Narratives*, 3.

⁴⁷ Alex Jones, *Infowars*, accessed April 30, 2021 (second hour), <https://www.bitchute.com/video/fuYI0WUKI2LP/>.

upon religious leaders to rise up and demand the end of political tyranny and persecution.⁴⁸ Pawlowski places the blame for the “tyranny” Christians are facing upon those ministers who are “cowards,” but Pawlowski also depends upon an end time narrative to spur on the religious leaders to find their strength and battle to save America and Canada.⁴⁹ Pawlowski has also appeared with American Lance Wallnau on the online show *Flashpoint*. The show is hosted by the Senior Executive Pastor of Eagle Mountain Church International, Gene Bailey, who links the populism and conspiracies of the Trump presidency with Christianity. Bailey argues that American Christians know the truth about the hoax of the pandemic, that the election was stolen from Trump, and that the real government heroes are officials such as Texas Governor Abbot and Florida’s Ron DeSantis, who enact policies to end the immorality of America.⁵⁰

For Wallnau, Trump is God’s instrument on Earth. He claims that, through a vision from God, he was directed to read Isaiah 45, that refers to the trials and tribulations of the leader Cyrus. After reading Isaiah, Wallnau realized that God was telling him that Trump was the Cyrus of America, not a traditionally Christian leader, but the conduit to allowing Christians to make a Christian nation through their activism and faith.⁵¹ Cyrus was an instrument of God who provided a way for Christians to find Grace. Christians are to “heal, deliver, and restore whatever is collapsing in culture.” They must build a spiritual house for the nation.⁵² Wallnau positions anyone who speaks out against Trump’s actions or presidency as “every devil in hell” coming together to destroy America.⁵³ In fact, Wallnau predicted that if Trump lost his 2020 presidential bid, Christians who were disloyal to the “woke deities” in the White House would be considered guilty of hate speech and would be punished through means such as imprisonment, fines, and seizure of property.⁵⁴

In an interview on *Flashpoint*, Wallnau and Pawlowski use conspiracy theory to describe the pandemic as a “fevered dream” of the Davos crowd, who wanted a “global reset so they can reorder the globe with a digital economy and a universal government and bring a new utopia to Earth, which we know would usher in the Anti-Christ.”⁵⁵ Wallnau argues that Wuhan and COVID-19 were a deception that was concocted because the prayers of Christians and Donald Trump were interfering with the devil’s agenda. COVID-19 helped the “corrupt Democratic Party. It helps Black Lives Matter and it helps Antifa.” Continuing, Wallnau states that prayer warriors can see the concentrations of the power of darkness over democratic-run cities such as Portland and New York City.⁵⁶ Discussing the pandemic, Wallnau states that the mandates of closing the churches and blocking the gatherings in homes of parishioners was “targeted persecution,” which was evidenced by the same government bodies allowing protests in the streets, referencing the BLM protests.⁵⁷

⁴⁸ Alex Jones, *Infowars*, accessed October 7, 2021, <https://www.bitchute.com/video/gsxk2Jy6ltUo>

⁴⁹ Alex Jones, *Infowars*, accessed April 30, 2021 (full episode), <https://www.bitchute.com/video/ayDCwDdWlnqJ>

⁵⁰ Gene Bailey, *Flashpoint*, accessed June 3, 2021, <https://flashpoint.govictory.com/episode/the-facts-matter-lance-wallnau-hank-kunneman-and-artur-pawlowski-june-3-2021>

⁵¹ Wallnau, *God’s Chaos Candidate*, 22.

⁵² Wallnau, Lance, and Mercedes Sparks, *God’s Chaos Code: The Shocking Blueprint that Reveals 5 Keys to the Destiny of Nations* (Killer Sheep Media, Incorporated, 2020) 152.

⁵³ Wallnau and Sparks, *God’s Chaos Code*, 153.

⁵⁴ Wallnau and Sparks, *God’s Chaos Code*, 127.

⁵⁵ Bailey, *Flashpoint*.

⁵⁶ Bailey, *Flashpoint*.

⁵⁷ Wallnau and Sparks, *God’s Chaos Code*, 130.

Both Wallnau and Pawlowski position the BLM protests as political movements to destroy Canada and the United States. Wallnau accuses Antifa and BLM of taking over the peaceful George Floyd protests, with an agenda of escalating the protests “into cultural, political, and even spiritual revolution.”⁵⁸ Using “research” from a podcast by Abraham Hamilton III, who is the public policy analyst for the American Family Association, Wallnau argues that BLM is connected to witchcraft, and is a “Marxist, anti-Christ, anti-family, and anti-man organization.”⁵⁹ Pawlowski offers a resolution to this evil power, by stating that the politicians are building their own gallows for their crimes, as atheists in the tens of thousands are contacting him daily, praising him for his actions and asking how to return to the church. Prior to his being on *Flashpoint*, God had spoken to Pawlowski and told him that the atheists were watching the church and seeing pastors and priests who were cowardly bowing before the golden image, but instead these atheists needed to see courageous true believers, “heroes of the faith.”⁶⁰

After his many appearances with Jones, Pawlowski soon became a regular on a church revival circuit in the United States, the Courageous Faith Tour. With Pawlowski was integrative life coach Cindy Chafian, who works with grassroots movements that are warriors for “freedom” in America. Chafian is also a headliner with Eric Trump, Donald Trump Junior, and Donald Trump supporters Mike Lindell and General Michael Flynn on the “Reawaken America Tour.” This tour is promoted specifically to American pastors—what are referred to as “Patriot ministers” who will lead America’s next great awakening.⁶¹ Pawlowski was joined on stage by Laura Lynn Tyler Thompson, a former candidate for the Christian Heritage Party in British Columbia, where she ran on a platform addressing a host of culture war issues. These issues included lowering immigration numbers to Canada, pro-life, pro-family, anti-Islam, and anti-transgender.⁶²

The culmination of these individuals working together on the stage across America combines the ideologies of Christian nationalism, conspiracy theories, and most importantly populism. This populism Pawlowski promotes is based on the mythology that Canada too was founded on Christianity by the founding fathers.⁶³ During an *Infowars* interview, Pawlowski told Jones that the entire Canadian political structure was composed of traitors to the nation, focused on the destruction of the middle class, to ensure the enslavement of the population for the Great Reset.⁶⁴ Pawlowski linked the “Great Steal” conspiracy theory promoted by former President Donald Trump and his supporters to Canadian politics, building a fear narrative that was borderless when it came to the powers of the elite to silence the population.⁶⁵

In many interviews and sermons, Pawlowski claims to have visions from God which foretell the role he must take in saving the world. These visions include God commanding

⁵⁸ Wallnau and Sparks, *God's Chaos Code*, 141.

⁵⁹ Wallnau and Sparks, *God's Chaos Code*, 144.

⁶⁰ Bailey, *Flashpoint*.

⁶¹ *Thrive Time Show*, “Reawaken America Tour,” <https://www.thrivetimeshow.com/wp-content/uploads/Reopen-America-Tour-Episode-14-Version-5-ThrivetimeShow.jpg>.

⁶² Christian Heritage Party, Laura-Lynn Tyler Thompson, candidate, <https://www.chpbc.ca/candidates/laura-lynn-tyler-thompson>.

⁶³ Alex Jones, *Infowars*, accessed October 7, 2021, <https://www.bitchute.com/video/gsxk2Jy6ltUo>

⁶⁴ Alex Jones, *Infowars*, accessed April 30, 2021, <https://www.bitchute.com/video/ayDCwDdWlnqJ>

⁶⁵ Alex Jones, *Infowars*, accessed April 30, 2021.

him to plant his church and a vision in which God said that people would soon be forced to choose between God and the devil.⁶⁶ While Pawlowski's messages appear to be full of negativity and fear, he also provides a remedy to stop the empowerment of evil by asking American Christians to help Canadians—with their prayers, their protests, and in one case asking them to have the American government intervene to intimidate Trudeau to stop persecuting Christians in Canada.⁶⁷ Pawlowski has also created his own political party, The Solidarity Movement, that, if elected, would create "A government for the people, and by the people, and God in the middle."⁶⁸ Pawlowski, through his election as Prime Minister, would create a Canada where Canadians live under God's rules.⁶⁹

The rise of Christian nationalism across North America is a threat that needs to be understood, as the rise of attacks on marginalized communities are spurred on by fears and conspiracy theories, as are attacks and threats of the dismantling of institutions in society are included in the political platforms of populist parties in Canada and the United States. Without addressing these societal issues beneath the conspiracies and fearmongering, we stand to feel their impact upon our democracies.

⁶⁶ Natural News, *Anti-Christian Tyranny Comes to Canada*, accessed May 17, 2022, <https://www.bitchute.com/video/04SQLGaHMHUd>

⁶⁷ Celestini and Warne, "From the Cave of Adullam," 51

⁶⁸ Artur Pawlowski, *Canadian Solidarity Movement Announced!* accessed December 3, 2021, <https://www.bitchute.com/video/9MiYxhgabZRD>

⁶⁹ Pawlowski, *Canadian Solidarity Movement Announced!*