

I'm privileged today to have a friend of many years as a guest. Mimi Kennedy currently stars as Marjorie, the voice of reason and AA sponsor to Christie and Bonnie on the Chuck Lorie comedy *Mom*. Together with the laughs of this program, watched by as many as 8 million people each week, there's a subtle welcoming invitation to many alcoholic viewers to become part of AA and its joyful and often humorous victory story. Joined with Mimi's huge television hit is a long and successful career as a film star, play write and activist. Welcome, Mimi Kennedy.

Mimi: Thank you, Blase. It's an honor to be on your program.

Blase: Thank you so much. You know, on March 8 for the women's march, in traffic bound LA, you gave a moving challenge to all of the participants. I'd like to ask if you would mind sharing that rap with us today?

Mimi: Yes, I'll read something that it quite close to the speech I actually gave. "Every morning I wake up to the news, often on the KPFK show of Margaret Prescod of Sojourner's Truth. For a moment I hold in my mind's eye the image of a woman waking up in Syria or Iraq or Afghanistan - facing another day of dread, or perhaps not waking up at all because during the night her life, her home and her family have been destroyed. Sometimes I imagine in my mind's eye of some American sister who is waking with the knowledge that her son lay dead in the street, shot by police. I came of age as an American during the Vietnam War, and since then I've grieved and tried to atone for what I now our country's government has done and is doing in the world. My activism is my rejection of passive complicity in the suffering of these women, and they are first in my mind every morning.

My most recent activism has been to restore an honest ballot box for our country. Without ballots, people will turn to bullets. More death. More violence. And without paper ballots that can be publicly verified, we've been conned. Americans have been led to believe that we are all voting for policies of war, of racism, when in fact for a long time the majority of Americans, particularly people of color and women, have been ready to support policies of caring and equal justice. Healthcare, Not Warfare is the founding motto of the organization I helped found.

I'm also an Irish American woman, I was raised with a whole lot of religion at the center of which is a 33 year old male Palestinian Jew who on his way to a cruel death at the hands of the Roman Empire, told his grieving women followers (they defied the norms of their day to follow him) that they should not weep for him, but for themselves, because the day was coming when people would say "Blessed are the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Those words horrified me as a child, they stuck with me. They fueled my activism to make sure that I and all women activists I know, so many of them mothers, never see that day arrive on our watch.

It has arrived in too many places in the world, where violence has flung people into despair. We work to relieve that despair and spread the essence of peace. And throughout history, men have used women as vessels of comfort and reproduction, and they have to control us, enchain our minds in order to do this. Our work has been exploited. Women's work is never done to meet the basic needs of our families so that men alone would be free to do the work we didn't have time for. To shape society.

Well, women demand freedom to do this work now, too. Society as a whole is not a reflection of humankind if only half the human race is shaping it. Women have to step up, and we are fighting back for our freedom to retake society and save the earth. We're staging an intervention. We know that earth nurtures society, and we must nurture it back or we all die. Nurture is the opposite of blood sacrifice and war. Nurture is caring for one another, with love, compassion, justice and mercy. And too often these very qualities have been characterized as women's *alone*. We know them well because we've had to use them to nurture the young. But we are not the only ones who have these characteristics. In fact, in our time, gender is expanding between bipolar opposites because they mix and can be at home in our world and in our bodies. It's not just true of humans. It's happening to all biological life. Not all of us are fertile any more because human activities have changed earth's chemical balance, just as we've changed the climate.

Women can and do meet this moment fearlessly. We've known all along that nurture requires all of us working. It is daily work to support public policies that allow us to care for one another. Head Start. Food stamps. Medicare for All. Thriving public schools. A healthy environment without profit run amuck. Society requires men and women working together, but women know how to do it. So we can lead. It's already happening. The powerful national nurse's union. The striking teachers in West Virginia. This empowerment is spreading to other states. They know, the teacher and nurses, caring people, that their work deserves higher values, and across the globe women are speaking out, often at the risk of death. MeToo, TimesUp, both in public and in private, we're ending the culture of exploitation, domestic violence, forced marriage, human trafficking, rape, and the mass murder of war.

Back in 1888, our American suffragette foremother Lucretia Moss was fired from the the first World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London because it was deemed by these otherwise enlightened white male abolitionists, that female presence would defile the assembly. Lucretia was made to sit behind a curtain, unseen and unable to speak, with a handfull of other women delegates. And she was joined by American abolitionist William Lloyd Harrison who was the celebrity speaker everyone wanted to hear from. Harrison remained silent in solidarity with the women, and so did the man he brought with him, Charles Furlong, and freeman African American from Massachusetts, one of the few men of color who attended.

Women have always had allies. The doctors of Quebec, the traditionally male portion of healthcare work, rejected their pay raise awarded by the legislature and asked that it be used instead to pay the underpaid, overworked nurses in the system, the traditionally female portion of the healthcare role. Of course, these roles mix, but for the most part women are not yet equally paid.

I believe the dead stand with us women, too. I believe that maybe as Joni Mitchell's song goes - don't it always seem to go / That you don't know what you've got till it's gone - maybe those on the other side of life see clearly now that earth is a unique opportunity for justice, where matter and spirit meet, and action can take affect. I'm proud to stand with global women today, the women I see in my mind and heart when I wake up every morning, and I pledge as an American sister to continue working to change my country to eradicate greed, racism and war in favor of

policies that do justice, show mercy and nurture all of us. I love doing this work with you. Thank you.

Blase: Thank you so much Mimi. It's so appreciated at this time when we hear so much barbarism coming from places like the White House. Now we've been hearing the voice of Mimi Kennedy who currently stars as Marjorie, the voice of reason and an AA sponsor to Christie and Bonnie on the Chuck Lorrie comedy *Mom*. About eight million people watch every week, and I think it's been very helpful to people who may have an alcohol problem to urge them to get into this amazing organization which is joyful and humorous in its ability to bring people to sobriety. Thanks a million Mimi, and keep doing the wonderful work you're doing.

I think we have Matthew on the line. Are you there?

Matthew: Yes, I'm here Blase. Thanks for having me on today.

Blase: Did you have a problem with the audio?

Matthew: Oh, it was fine. I just think a gremlin got into your system there and cut Mimi off. I could actually hear Mimi, but I guess you couldn't.

Blase: Yes, we just had a little technical problem. We have a lot happening. The president is planning a vacation trip to North Korea. Do you have any thoughts on that?

Matthew: I'm actually very much in favor of it. My opinions on Donald Trump and what he represents notwithstanding. I just saw something very interestingly tweeted by a friend of mine who works for Pew Research. The average number of no votes in the senate for judicial appointments has historically - since before Lyndon Johnson - been about 1. something or other per president. And so far President Trump has received 23 no votes from the senate on average for his judicial appointments, which shows how reprehensible his judicial appointments are. How reactionary, and how dedicated to destroying any human liberties or civil rights advances we've had. So thankfully we've had these no votes. So my opinion on Trump is pretty well understood. But this possibility, this chance for him to meet with the North Koreans and potentially defuse the situation and get the North Koreans to denuclearize and perhaps removes some of the US military presence - or all of it - and possibly move toward a reunification of the Koreas I think is an opportunity that I'm glad President Trump is taking. And if he gets credit for it, so be it. If he's able to run in 2020 as the person who stopped the Korean problem, hey, that's fine with me as long as the threat of war subsides and the reintegration of Korea can take place. I'm very dismayed by what I've seen by a lot of progressives and liberals on this issue who don't want to see any advancement in Korea or any potential for peace in Korea or possible reunification of Korea if it comes at the expense of Donald Trump getting credit. I think we have to stop and say, hey, what are our values and principles here. Are we really slaves to this two party, tribal political system? So enslaved to it that we can't permit Donald Trump to meet with North Koreans?

Blase: I fully agree with you, Matthew. We have the great Christine An, who has spoken so clearly on all of this. She says it would be a mistake to believe that maximum pressure will force North Korea to dialogue. It was the Premier of South Korea, Moon Jae-in, whose outreach to the

North was so effective. It was a masterful diplomatic stroke. It's a dangerous re-writing of what happened to say otherwise, and it's sure to be what causes Trump to fail in talks with North Korea if he doesn't understand this. The Premier of South Korea showed *genuine desire* for political resolution, and this is why Kim reciprocated in the way. Maximum pressure does not work because it fails to take into consideration North Korea's genuine fears. Christine goes on to say: "Moon engaged in diplomacy that treated North Korea with respect, with an eye toward long-term solutions, not short term transactions. Trump should understand what Moon does. North Korea's long held desire for a peace treaty and the normalization of relations as the key to achieving a nuclear-free Korea." I think she has a very good thought there. The real work has come from the South, which can't deal with the possibility of being nuked because they're bound at the hip with North Korea.

Matthew: Yes, Christine An is absolutely correct. President Moon of South Korea was in favor of talks and negotiations, of meeting with the North Koreans and seeking a solution to this 70 year old conflict long before Donald Trump came onto our political scene a few years ago. President Moon's views on this well predate any of this. He worked with a previous South Korean president when they had the Sunshine Policy, which was an attempt to reach out to the North Koreans that was scuttled by the Bush Administration. And why do the North Koreans have these nuclear weapons? Because they fear us. They have seen what has happened to other nations - Afghanistan to Iraq to Libya to Syria - and they believe that the nuclear weapons they possess are what is keeping them from being burned to the ground much like North Korea was burned to the ground during the Korean War in the early 1950s. Most Americans don't know that we killed one in five North Koreans during that war. We burned every city to the ground. There's a quote from General MacArthur, who had been in the first and second world wars. He said he saw in Korean things that made him vomit. He was so sickened by the barbarism of what we did that it made him vomit.

This is the living history of North Korea, and this is why they built nuclear weapons. It's why they have 50 or so nuclear weapons. To deter American aggression and barbarism. You're exactly right, Blase, and Christine An is exactly right, and another person I recommend people read on this issue is Tim Shorrock. He's a longtime journalist who grew in South Korea and spent a lot of time in South Korea and knows it well. The advancement of the relationship between North and South Korea and the well being of the Korean people and the Korean Peninsula is what this should be about. It is not about the United States. There is a desire for peace and a willingness to talk among Koreans, you know, the people who actually live there.

Blase: Here's Tim Shorrock saying - and I'm going to take a moment of personal privilege here to say he was speaking to Amy - he said "I've been on the show for the last ten years talking about the need for the US to talk to North Korea to resolve this crisis and bring an end to the Korean War, and I feel very vindicated today that this has happened against the wishes of the media, the think tanks here that have been down on this idea and have criticized it, and are still criticising it as we speak. Do they need war to exist? What are these people doing?" Tim knows what he's talking about, and I've noticed that the press is saying that this is going to make Trump less of a power in the world and it's going to make Kim Jong-un too much of a power! Because we talked with him! If you're sane, you know - *you talk to people!*

Matthew: Two aspects of it - one is racism that exists in American foreign policy...what you brought up is the notion that God forbid this happens, that the Koreans are able to see themselves as equals to us. And this racism has predominantly been in Central and South America, and my experience has been in the Middle East. This racism is one of the reasons why the US military has fared so poorly in its wars. Whether in Vietnam or Afghanistan or Iraq, the attitude is that "these yellow people, these brown people, they can fight like us, they aren't as smart as us, they're not as strong as us..." There is this angst that the North Korean people will someone rise to equals. And we can't have that. It really comes through, this racism.

Blase: Some 20 or 30 million people have died, mostly people of color, in our wars. Racism is a central component in the perpetual war culture which we've gone through. Shorrock also continues saying that "the significance is that when President Moon took over last May, he said South Korea should be in the driver's seat of Korea peace initiatives with the engagement of North Korea. And it should remain in the driver's seat. And finally, on January 1, Kim Jong-un said he would send a high level delegation to the Olympics and would engage in talks with South Korea. This is a result of a South Korean initiative, and it was really something to see those Olympics this year. Don't you think?"

Matthew: Yes, I do, and the presence of his younger sister and the fact that the Koreans did things together - just that whole atmosphere and the timing of those Olympics. And of course, the Olympics are supposed to be about the potential for man and woman kind to be their best, the potential for international cooperation and harmony through sports competition. It's one of the ways we can advance as a people on this planet. And I think we really saw that with the timing of these Olympics. As you mentioned, the think tanks and pundits are so against any type of talks with North Korea really show their concern over American primacy as well as their concern over the continuing growth of the US defense budget. This potential summit is seen that way. But we don't lose anything by having Trump meet with Kim except the "oh my God, we're treating Koreans as equals to Americans." And what I mean by that - we don't lose anything - if nothing comes of the potential talks, the summit, we still have 50,000 troops in South Korea, we still have multiple war games which involves the destruction of the government in Pyongyang. That's how every American war game ends in Korea. The North Koreans are right of fear for their lives. We still have aircraft carrier groups that can burn North Korea to the ground. And we still have all this, which is why the arguments against talks are being made in such bad faith. They show the agendas, the inherent racism of so many who populate the democrat and republican sides.

Blase: Think about it. The North sent the highest delegation ever to go to South Korea since the Korean War during the Olympics. They met and discussed things for hours. The possibility of negotiation. Moving forward with engagement. This is utterly amazing, and of course Mr. Pence was there and he didn't really want to talk to anybody. But this very strong relationship between these two countries with one culture, one language, one nation for many years. I remember so well when people used to say Germany will never unite, it cannot happen. Etc Etc. Did it or didn't it?

Matthew: I'm a little younger than you are, and I remember being insulted about this in my history class in 1988 as a sophomore in high school. And I remember my history teacher saying it would happen eventually (because nothing is permanent; he was a really smart guy who taught

me a lot, a great guy) but he also said it will never happen in my lifetime. And not even a year later the wall had come down.

I also remember too, Blase, at that time, when President Reagan was meeting with Gorbachev, all the same kinds of people in the United States who said you can't trust the Russians, you can't trust the Soviets, they'll somehow use these summits to their advantage. They said, if Reagan meets with the Soviets, he'll undermine the strength, the honor, and the prestige of the United States. They said we'd give away our security - that as soon as we did something with the Russians, they'll invade Europe. I remember they said the same sorts of things that they're saying now about Trump meeting with Kim. The same hysteria from those who depend upon the defense budget, the American empire and rampant militarism. At all levels of our country. People say it can't be done. A good friend of mine, a race car driver, and his race car says "Peace is Possible." That's what he says. Get through all the lies, get through all the BS, and what's standing right in front of you is peace. You get through all these lies about Korea, all these lies about the need for the American military to be around the globe policing it, and what do you find on the other side of that? Peace. I truly do believe that.

Blase: Gorbachev spoke out just today about the danger of a new cold war situation. People I hope will listen to his comments and remember his warm relationship with Senator Cranston and others, trying to form an international peace situation. You know, we also have that military presence in Syria. Is that a way into Iran, and how in the world is Israel fitting into this with its new engagement in Syria as well. Do you have thoughts on this terrible situation?

Matthew: Well, the war in Syria is a direct result of our invasion and occupation of Iraq. The 15th - I hate to use the word *anniversary*, since often we use the word in the sense of celebration. But it's been 15 years since our invasion and occupation of Iraq. And what's happening in Syria - and has been happening for 6 years - is a direct outgrowth of that. I don't think most Americans know that the US military now controls about one third of Syria, that eastern part of Syria. We control it, the US controls it through our proxie forces of primarily Kurds along with smaller Arab groups. Now the Arab groups are fighting with the Kurds, as was predicted by many people six years ago. But this is a consequence of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and of course predates these modern wars. I was born in 1973, Blase, and since my time on this planet, from Libya across into the Levant through Iraq, Iran and into Afghanistan and Pakistan and the Hindu Kush, US policies have directly or indirectly led to the literal destruction of those nations. With the exception of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Jordan - I think that's it. All those other nations have been - well, you can use the term decimated in the Roman sense of one in then, because of the horrific losses in some of these countries. The killed, the wounded, the displaced, those made refugees - easily ten percent of the people in all these nations have suffered horribly at our hands. None of this is new to me. Look at the destruction in Iran after the overthrow of Mossadegh and the imposition of a brutal dictatorship, and the Iran / Iraq war, a proxie war on behalf of the American government. Saddam Hussein invaded with the blessing of the United States, and received enormous help from the United States, including the precursors to make the chemical weapons he used against the Iranians and *his own people*, as well as the equipment and intelligence to use them. What we're seeing in Syria is the continued legacy of the policies of the American government throughout the greater Middle East and the Muslim world, policies that date from well before I was born. You see these videos - I saw more today from Gouta, which is

east of the capitol of Damascus - and it looks like footage from WWII. It could be Dresden or Stalingrad or Tokyo. In terms of the level of destruction that has occurred. And yes, the Syrian government and the Russians bombed, too, from the opposite side in this conflict, but this is a conflict of our making, that results from our policies, and I believe we are ultimately responsible for this; for my entire lifetime, this has been the American Way.

And of course Israel is such a crucial factor in this. The Israeli military receives around 12 million dollars a day from the US government. The brutal Israeli occupation of Palestine has been going on for decades. This year will be the 70 anniversary year of the establishment of Israel, which the Palestinians call the *Nakba* (the catastrophe). 700,000 Palestinians were kicked out of their homes, forced to flee for their lives, and made refugees. And the massacres that occurred. The myth of how Israel was created and made the desert bloom; the myth of *a land without a people for a people without a land*, those myths simple are lies, they aren't true, and what occurred there has been a crime, just as the holocaust was a crime. I think you would agree with me about what the Israeli government has done to the Palestinian people, along with their involvement in violence in Syria and other places, and the way they have helped push the US into invading Iraq and are pushing war in Iran - now that's not representative of *Jewish* government; I don't consider the Israeli government Jewish because if it was Jewish it would follow the precepts of the Torah. The Torah is thoroughly infused with notions of justice and mercy, which are completely antithetical to how the Israeli government has conducted itself for decades now.

Blase: Yes, it seems that Zionism has supplanted Judaism, and that's why so many people of the Jewish faith are simply not Zionists and oppose the behavior. We had Colonel Larry Wilkerson speaking at the national press club a day before the official AIPAC conference - and alternative conference. He started with the question: Is the US ramping up its military presence in Syria and planning to attack Iran for Israel? And then he mentions that Israel has recently been intensifying air strikes and the arming of anti-government forces in Syria, some of which are close to Al Qaeda. This is a unique situation we're in at this time. And as you mention, the destruction of nation after nation...I know people don't realize that Libya was the richest country in Africa that had all kinds of social guarantees. People got an oil check every month. Not some people. All people. Education. Healthcare. That country was destroyed. Authoritarian, yes, but much of the world is authoritarian. Try to name a few places that aren't. But the point is that what happened there was to go from a very poor country to the richest nation in Africa. And it was destroyed with a little joke on the side. So this is what we are dealing with. It's what we've been engaged with here is really not funny and we must not have a military engagement with Iran coming as a result of this new intrusion into Syria.

You know, Matthew, you have been very interested in the religious component here. So are many many people. Bill Burkowiiz is writing about this and he spoke about Christian Dominionists meeting at Trump's Washington hotel to answer the divine call the War. This is absolute fanaticism that's going on at this time. They believe what they call "Christians" (who have nothing to do whatsoever with Christianity) to take complete control of the political, secular and cultural institutions of the country. They're not as well known as the Christian right leaders like Graham and Falwell. But the dominionist leaders are, according to People for the American Way's Right Watch, as associated with the New Apostolic Reformation which believes the triumphant,

dominion-taking church will help bring about the return of Christ, and many are part of the presidential shield - a network of self-described apostles and prophets who believe that President Trump is annointed by God the help bring that about. Well...this is a wonderful story for Dinesyland. Do you have any thoughts about this?

Matthew: Yes, one of my professors in college, Professor Fitchler, who is another person who helped me in my life and taught me to think critically. He was wonderful. He said very clearly, if you're crazy enough, you can find anything in the Bible. This notion that Trump *is annointed by God*, well, you can look in one place where Paul says "obey the rulers," but you can look in another place in the Bible where Paul says our fight is *against the rulers*. That our fight is against the darkness they represent. You see how it's possible for people to be hoodwinked or to be blinded by this type of rhetoric, this type of talk, this type of belief. It's hard to understand, but it exists. We shouldn't underestimate or diminish it...I saw a thing today on Twitter about Trump's military parade that he wants to have. And on Twitter everyone was saying "that's just to stroke his ego." And that underestimates and diminishes the 63 million people who voted for Trump and think the idea of a military parade is a good idea. They like the idea of having a military parade, of the American military and American militarism. So we have to be careful not to diminish outright these people whose rhetoric or belief or ideology is so outwardly and so disturbingly specious. We'd be foolish to underestimate them and not recognize the danger they represent, because they have manoeuvred themselves into the White House. They have millions and millions of followers and believers who are well-organized and are royalists. It's quite amazing on the left that we are so adept at forming a circular firing squad, while on the right they tend to work together despite their differences for a common or larger goal. Maybe I'm being to harsh on our side, Blase, but I do tend to see that, and I also tend to see this underestimation of the forces that are bound together and having a profound effect on our country and on our world.

Now, fortunately these dominionists haven't got - with regards to Trump and North Korea - to stop these possible talks between North Korea and the US. We see how they work on him and affect on issues regarding Iran and our overall military might. These are men and women who are supposed believers in Christ; however, they're also some of the most fervent supporters of, for example, spending a trillion dollars to increase our nuclear weapons arsenal.

Blase: We've had this going on since the puritans. Apart from the writings of Berkowitz, which are very clear, we have the great James Carroll, who wrote for the Boston Globe, leaving Trump in the dust and speaking about how Bush chose a word - Crusade, not just against terrorism, but at it turned out against much of the Islamic world. He writes: The Crusades were, of course, a centuries-long medieval catastrophe. "Bush's Global War on Terror, in contrast, has already wreaked comparable havoc in a paltry 17 years, leading to almost unimaginable mayhem abroad and a moral collapse at home personified by President Donald J. Trump.

Despite the threads of causality woven together as if on some malignant loom that brought about his election -- the cult of reality-show celebrity, the FBI director's last-minute campaign intervention, Russian mischief, Hillary Clinton's vulnerability to self-defeat and misogyny, electoral college anomalies, Republican party nihilism, and a wickedly disenchanting public -- the ease with which such a figure took control of the

levers of power in this country should still stun us. Some deep sickness of the soul had already played havoc with our democracy's immune system or he wouldn't have been imaginable. Think of him as a symptom, not the disease. After Trump finally leaves the Oval Office, we'll still be a stricken people and the world will still be groaning under the weight of the wreckage this country has brought about. How, then, did we actually get here? It might be worth a momentary glance back."

We are in what is being called a crusade and repeating the past. The religiosity of the crusades, which says "you will believe what we say or you will die." We have this problem of religion that has been with us since the puritans came, and then we have a wonderful constitution with the establishment clause which says there will be no law regarding an establishment of religion. And by God, they're at it again. The puritans are back.

Matthew: Right. One of the amazing things about the role religion has played in our war and our policies - you back and look at the first half of the 19 Century and the debate about slavery in the United States - much of the pro slavery argument was sponsored and supported by the churches and by Christian doctrine. It has had this affect, and it continues to have this affect - and you have this oddness about American Christianity that is so tied up in property rights. For the first couple of centuries of Christianity - as you've express often so eloquently in the past - before the establishment of "official" Christianity - you had this communal religion, a "communist" form of living. But it's now totally bound up with property rights. I've doing a lot of reading about Europe during just prior to the Second World War, particularly the years 1938 - 1940, and of the myths that have come out of it, through Churchill's own autobiographies and various narratives, but the reality of how we supported Naziism because it was a better alternative than Bolshivism. I'm not defending Salinism, but within western governments during those years, 38-40, they chose Hitler as a much better option than Stalin, and used Hitler as a hedge against Bolshevism because *we have to defend our property rights*. Up until early 1940, the British government's war plans were not to fight the Germans but to send the British army through Norway into Finland to fight the Soviets. So much of our religion is bound up with property rights, and this goes back to slavery and everything else, but you also see it in terms of being bound up with capitalism, and then you have the dominionists around Trump, are at the core some of the most brazen and ardent capitalists that we have in this country.

So American Chrisitanity is a new form of the Crusades, as you described, with Bush's war, which killed millions of people and diplaced millions of other people, which set the whole Middle East on fire - but not just that, but within our own country, these dominionists, who help people like Bush and Trump formulate these policies, are also responsible for the breakdown of the rather miniscule and knee-jerk social networks and lifelines that so many of the poorest and most desperate in this country rely on.

Blase: Practically every fascist government has had very warm theological statements, and Naziism - the Church, the Children, the Kitchen - basically go to church, take care of the children, and shut up. The same was true in Chile, we could see it under the same Nazi group that was in Germany coming to power through Henry Kissinger. To Work and To Home; God, Tradition, Family, Property, God and Nation - and God is With Us was emblazoned on the Nazi

belt buckle. This attempt to make a religion out of fascism has been consistent. Certainly it was true of Franco and just about any dictator you could name. There were always quite pious in their approach, and were of course deadly. We're approaching that with this new ersatz, false religiosity that is basically adoration of the state. It's idol worship; that's what it comes down to. An idol can do no wrong, and God is on our side, and nothing could be more foolish. Oh, we're out of time. Thank you so much for being with us again today on World Focus.

Matthew: Thanks for having me, Blase.