

FINGERPRINTS, EYE SCANS **TAKE CHARGE AT** **CHECKOUT**

Cash and credit cards are so over; but practice leads civil libertarians to raise privacy issues.

By Ellen McCarthy / Washington Post - Monday, June 13, 2005

Note from pastor Kevin follows this article.

Three or four days a week, Darren Hiers gets lunch at a Sterling, Va., convenience store near the car dealership where he works. He grabs a chicken sandwich and a soda and heads to the checkout counter, where a little gadget scans his index finger and instantly deducts the bill from his checking account.

Hiers doesn't have to pull out his wallet to buy lunch -- and if it were up to him, he'd never have to write a check or swipe a credit card again.

The finger scan at the shop, known as a biometric payment system and made by a Herndon, Va., firm, is starting to be installed at convenience stores and supermarket chains, including Piggly Wiggly, another step in a revolution that is turning the human body into the ultimate identification card.

Already, faces and fingerprints are used to track visitors coming into the country. Computer passwords are being replaced by thumbprints at some companies and iris scans are giving consumers in England and Germany access to their bank accounts at ATMs.

The owner of BioPay LLC, which makes the technology used at the store, predicts the finger scan soon will be ubiquitous, offering speed and convenience for consumers. But civil libertarians have raised privacy concerns, citing some recent problems. In February, ChoicePoint Inc., a background-screening company that collects personal information -- including biometric data -- said it inadvertently sold more than 100,000 profiles to identity thieves.

Using BioPay "makes my life a little easier, especially if I just want to get in and get out," Hiers said.

That's exactly what BioPay President Tim Robinson likes to hear. His company says it has a database of 1.8 million customers. Most of those consumers are using BioPay's technology as an identification verification for merchants cashing paychecks -- an application intended to cut down on fraudulent checks.

Biometric technology makers say the biggest advantage their systems can offer is speed at the checkout counter. Executives of Pay by Touch say a transaction on their system can be completed in about 14 seconds, compared with 64 seconds to process a check and 48 seconds for a credit card.

BioPay's Robinson said the real motivation for retailers will be financial. Credit card companies often charge retailers a fee equal to almost 2 percent of the purchase price for each credit transaction. So for every \$30 tank of gas bought with a credit card at the Sterling BP, the store pays a fee of 60 cents or more. But BioPay charges the store a flat 15-cent fee for each transaction, regardless of the size of the purchase.

Lee Tien, senior staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a privacy rights group in San Francisco, is concerned about the biometric payment trend. He worries that the technology could be compromised, exposing huge databanks of personal information. The information stored by biometric companies is in some ways far more valuable than that held by credit card firms, he said.

Note from pastor Kevin Lea:

It is becoming increasingly obvious that we are getting ever closer to the day Revelation 13 and 14 will be literally fulfilled.

Rev 13:16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666. (NKJ)

With all the press on stolen identities, robberies, bad checks, corruption, etc., the citizens of the world are more and more willing to accept draconian biometric controls over their life.

In exchange, the financiers of the world are promising to provide a bullet-proof, cashless, society that will allow a global and instantaneous "follow the money" trail. This global control is

promised to eliminate terrorist threats by completely shutting down their secret financial pipelines and will also stop all other forms of money/identity driven crimes.

The world events driving us toward these controls are moving us closer to the fulfillment of amazing biblical prophecies written over 1,900 years ago. Someday, a man who will be the biblical Antichrist will mandate a global financial system. In order to get the "Mark" that allows participation in this system, the citizens will also be forced to worship him or his image (much like the citizens of Germany were required to make a salute to Hitler). Those who do bow to worship the Antichrist in order to get their Mark will be able to buy and sell during the short reign of the Antichrist, but in the end will suffer eternal judgment.

Rev 14:9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 "And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." (NKJ)

Those who refuse to take the "Mark" will die for lack of buying power or be killed by the police state of the Antichrist. However, they will inherit everlasting life if they trust in Jesus as their savior.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (NKJ)

The technology and infrastructure for a financial system, which would allow the literal fulfillment of the above, is nearly complete. I hope the reader will not be like Esau, who for a bowl of food sold his birthright, something he later regretted.

Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking diligently

*lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.
(NKJ)*

Also see Gen 25 and 27.