



Written by [Staff](#) on December 24, 2018

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## Inside Track

### Facebook Poised for Exodus of Current Employees

In the midst of one scandal after another, Facebook — already dealing with plummeting stock prices — is also facing what could prove to be an exodus of its workforce. Current employees are increasingly reaching out to former employees to ask for job references and opportunities outside the social-media giant. CNBC reported December 2: “Some former Facebook employees say their phone is ringing a lot more in the last two months. On the other line: former Facebook colleagues asking about job openings or looking for a reference.”

The report also mentioned a former Facebook recruiter who said he has heard from more than 30 current Facebook employees in the past year — roughly half of those in the past two months alone. He said the typical comment he hears from most of these contacts is, “My manager sucks, and I need to look for something new. Do you know of any new opportunities?”

Because Facebook classifies departing employees as either “regrettable” or “non-regrettable” attrition, and since being blacklisted by the company decreases the likelihood of offers from other top-tier Silicon Valley companies, Facebook employees thinking of leaving have to carefully plan their departures. “The way you do it and the timing matters a lot, and it requires knowledge of the game,” according to a former Facebook engineer. A former manager agrees, saying that a bad recommendation from Facebook is enough to make your name “like Voldemort,” adding, “It’s a name you can not say.”

Given the fact that Facebook has been exposed as what NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden referred to as a “surveillance company collecting personal data, rebranded as ‘social media,’” it is not surprising that some would be ashamed (or at least feel as if their mothers would be ashamed) to admit to being employed by the company.

And even considering how difficult it appears to be to leave the company “the right way,” those who do not hasten their departure may wind up feeling as if they stayed too long on a sinking ship.

### Before Election, Canada’s Trudeau to Subsidize “Trusted” News Outlets

With an election just 10 months away, the left-wing government of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is proposing \$595 million (USD \$450 million) in tax breaks for “trusted” news outlets.

“To protect the vital role that independent news media play in our democracy and in our communities, we will be introducing measures to help support journalism in Canada,” Finance Minister Bill Morneau told the House of Commons on November 21.

Those measures include small tax breaks to individuals donating to qualified nonprofit news organizations and a temporary 15-percent tax credit for subscriptions to certain online news outlets. The bulk of the package’s five-year, \$595-million cost, however, consists of refundable tax credits — meaning businesses can get back more than they’ve paid, with other taxpayers picking up the tab — for labor costs at qualifying news companies.

Naturally, many of the money men in the news business are happy about the tax breaks. Paul Godfrey, the CEO of Postmedia, publisher of the *National Post* and other papers, called them “a turning point in



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the plight of newspapers in Canada.”

“I tip my hat to the prime minister and the finance minister. They deserve a lot of credit,” he said November 21. “Everyone in journalism should be doing a victory lap around their building right now.”

Likewise, unions representing newspaper employees were ecstatic about the plan, seeing it as job security.

Not everyone is so sanguine about the situation.

“The media should be independent from the government,” said Pierre Poilievre, a member of Parliament from the Conservative Party. “We should not have a situation where the government picks a panel that then decides who gets to report the news. That is very dangerous.”

“There’s an election next year. And if you are a journalist who wants in on Trudeau’s \$595,000,000 slush fund, he has to know that he can trust you,” wrote Ezra Levant, founder of the Toronto-based conservative website The Rebel.

## **Archbishop of Canterbury Says Middle East Christians Face Extinction**

The Most Reverend Justin Welby, archbishop of Canterbury, writing in the December 1 Sunday *Telegraph*, observed that Christians are on the brink of “imminent extinction” in the Middle East.

Welby described the “daily threat of murder” that Christians encounter in the Middle East. Writing just before a service at Westminster Abbey to celebrate the contribution of Christians in the Middle East, he stated:

In the last few years, they have been slaughtered by so-called Islamic State, and in many countries they find themselves squeezed between the upper and lower millstones of pressure on them within society and of conflicts that afflict the region.

Many have left. Hundreds of thousands have been forced from their homes. Many have been killed, enslaved and persecuted or forcibly converted. Even those who remain ask the question, “Why stay?” The Christian population of Iraq, for instance, is less than half what it was in 2003 and their churches, houses and businesses have been damaged or destroyed. The Syrian Christian population has halved since 2010. As a result, across the region Christian communities that were the foundation of the universal Church now face the threat of imminent extinction.

Welby said we should not ask Syrian Christians to choose between President Assad “under whom they were tolerated” and “the unimaginable horrors and threats of [the] so-called Islamic State.”

The late deposed dictator of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, went beyond Assad’s “tolerance” of Christians. Tariq Aziz, Saddam’s close advisor and deputy prime minister, was a member of the Chaldean Catholic Church.

Welby described the symptoms, but for the cause of the deterioration of Christianity in the Middle East, we must look further. Former Representative Ron Paul hit the nail on the head when he said back in 2015, “The reason so many are fleeing places like Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, and Iraq is that U.S. and European interventionist foreign policy has left these countries destabilized with no hopes of economic recovery.”



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“The issue of homosexuality is a very serious issue that must be adequately discerned from the beginning with the candidates,” says Pope Francis, in referencing applicants to Catholic seminaries. His comments appear in a book-length interview entitled *The Strength of a Vocation*, released in 10 languages in early December.

He describes sodomy as a modern fashion that adversely affects the clergy. “In our societies it even seems that homosexuality is fashionable and that mentality, in some way, also influences the life of the church,” he notes. The pope cautions that religious life and sodomy should not mix, saying, “In consecrated and priestly life, there’s no room for that kind of affection. Therefore, the Church recommends that people with that kind of ingrained tendency should not be accepted into the ministry or consecrated life.”

The Catholic Church actually does more than “recommend” barring homosexuals from ministry. In 2005, the Vatican published a ban stating that the church “cannot admit to the seminary or to holy orders those who practice homosexuality, present deep-seated homosexual tendencies or support the so-called ‘gay culture.’”

Though the current pontiff’s remarks are far more sugar-coated than actions of his predecessors, he has nonetheless disappointed liberal fans. Recalling his infamous 2013 dodge when asked about sodomites in the priesthood, “Who am I to judge?” *The Daily Beast* accuses Francis of homophobia, remarking that the “pontiff once adorned the cover of *Advocate* magazine for his seemingly liberal stance on gay priests. Now he’s changing his tune.”

In his interview, the pontiff made no direct links between homosexuality and sex-abuse scandals plaguing his church. The closest he came was a comment that we “have to urge homosexual priests and men and women religious to live celibacy with integrity, and above all, that they be impeccably responsible, trying to never scandalize either their communities or the faithful holy people of God by living a double life.” However, the interview was conducted on August 9, 13 days before Vatican Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò accused Francis of helping cover up clerical abuse.



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