

### Amy Barrett - Link to People of Praise

Study on the systematic removal of evidence connecting Amy Barrett, a SCOTUS nominee, to a religious group known as "People of Praise"

Study conducted by Udith Prabhu CS 895



### Background of Amy Barrett



https://www.wsj.com/articles/supreme-court-nominee-amy-cone y-barrett-signed-antiabortion-ad-in-2006-11601592289

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- Amy Barrett is currently serving as a circuit judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- Was nominated for SCOTUS position on Sep 26, 2020.
- Family
  - Spouse Jesse M Barrett
  - Father Michael E Coney
  - Brother Michael Coney
  - Mother Linda Coney
  - 7 children
- No official Twitter account for her or for her husband
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amy\_Co ney\_Barrett



#### People of Praise is a charismatic Christian community



https://peopleofpraise.org/

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- Established in 1971
- Is a network of lay Christian intentional communities.
- 1700+ members
- 22 branches in 17 states across the US
- Web presence
  - Facebook https://www.facebook.com/thevinepop
  - Twitter <a href="https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise">https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise</a>
  - LinkedIn <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/people-of-praise-inc">https://www.linkedin.com/company/people-of-praise-inc</a>

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Website - https://peopleofpraise.org/



### News on which the study is based on



www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/people-of-praise-deletes-mentions-of-barrett-from-its-website/article\_80a427be-03eb-11eb-8d72-3bf384490a90.html



https://www.marketwatch.com/story/charismatic-christian-group-pe ople-of-praise-has-erased-references-to-and-photos-of-amy-coney-b arrett-from-website-01601508035



https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/09/24/explainer-amy-coney-barrett-people-of-praise-catholic-charismatic-trump



### First step: Twitter Analysis



#### Past vs Present for the official twitter account



http://web.archive.org/web/20200920040240/https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise



https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise



# The official Twitter account of the group and the users that are followed the group



https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise/following

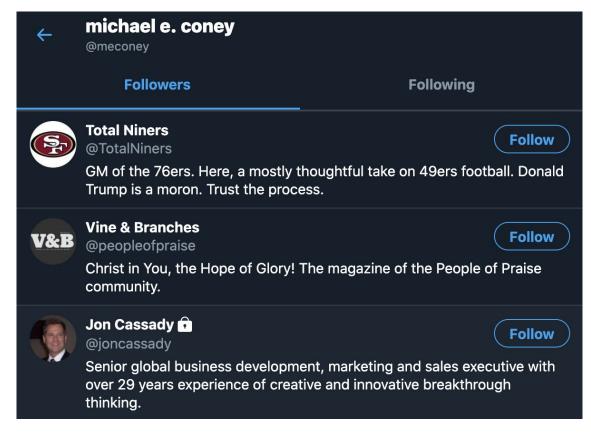


https://twitter.com/meconey

- Account was created on May 2009
- 0 non-deleted tweets from the account

### The twitter account is most probably valid





https://twitter.com/meconey/followers

- Not a verified account of the father or the brother.
- Account is followed by the official group which adds validity.

#### Possible Twitter account of the father or brother not found in the archives



```
> carbondate https://twitter.com/meconey
    "self": "",
    "uri": "https://twitter.com/meconey",
    "estimated-creation-date":
"2020-10-12T00:42:03",
    "earliest-sources": [
        "last-modified
    "sources": {
        "last-modified": {
            "earliest": "2020-10-12T00:42:03"
        "bing.com": {
            "earliest": ""
        "google.com": {
            "earliest": ""
        "pubdate": {
            "earliest": ""
        "twitter.com": {
            "earliest": ""
        "bitly.com": {
            "earliest": ""
        "backlinks": {
            "earliest": ""
```

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```
> memgator https://twitter.com/meconey
[ No Result ]
> curl -s
"http://web.archive.org/cdx/search/cdx?url=https://twitter.com
/meconey&matchType=prefix" | awk '{print $3}' | uniq;
[ No Result ]
```

- 0 non-deleted tweets from the account.
- Account page was not found in any archive
- None of the tweets were archived (deleted or otherwise)

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## Finding mentions of Amy Barrett in the tweets of the account's followers



```
> python3 getFollowers.py mconey > followers.txt; cat followers.txt | wc -l
> cat followers.txt | head -n 5
TotalNiners
peopleofpraise
joncassady
deliriousquy
_Justinw
> python3 getTweets.py followers.txt | grep "[^a-zA-Z](amy|barrett|coney)[^a-zA-Z]" | awk
'{ print $1 }' > mentions.txt; cat mentions.txt | wc -1
   18
> cat mentions.txt | head -n 5
https://twitter.com/twitter/statuses/1314024691753979904
https://twitter.com/twitter/statuses/1310209835133276160
https://twitter.com/twitter/statuses/1016340126711140352
https://twitter.com/twitter/statuses/299544173411962880
https://twitter.com/twitter/statuses/24761693024
```

## Mentions of Amy Barrett and her family in one of the group member's tweets







https://twitter.com/meconey

https://twitter.com/\_Justinw/status/1178517639



### Possible alternate accounts of the group

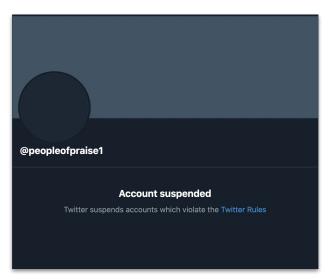
```
> curl -s
"http://web.archive.org/cdx/search/cdx?url=https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise&mat
chType=prefix" | awk '{ print $2 " " $3 }' | sort | uniq

20191010042711 https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise1/status/1182147781466771457
20191101045427 https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise1/status/1190127210704846848
20200514033514 https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise2/status/1260728017401208832
20200920040227 https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise?prefetchTimestamp=1600574547226
20200920040240 https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise
20201001045721 https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise
20201007020533 https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise
```

Prefix search yields tweets from three different accounts @peopleofpraise, @peopleofpraise1, @peopleofpraise2

#### Current status of the other Twitter Accounts





https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise1/



https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise2

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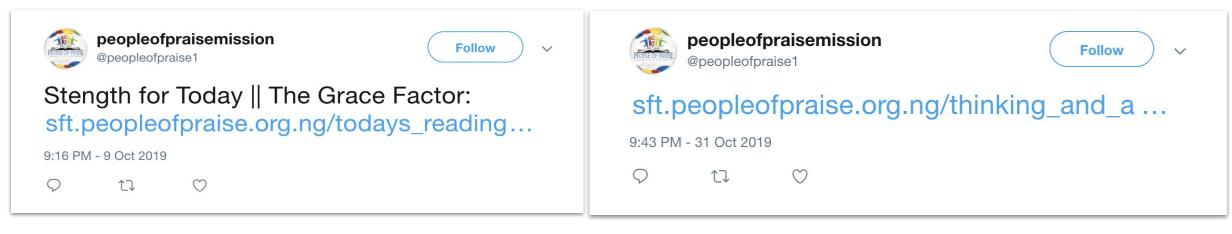
- Status
  - @peopleofpraise1 Suspended
  - @peopleofpraise2 Active
- Created on
  - @peopleofpraise1 Before 2019-10-10
  - @peopleofpraise2 2020-05
- First Archived
  - @peopleofpraise1 2019-10-10
  - @peopleofpraise2 2020-05-14
- High possibility of being fake as one account is suspended and the other has minimal account activities.

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### Deleted tweets of @peopleofpraise1

> curl -s "http://web.archive.org/cdx/search/cdx?url=http://twitter.com/peopleofpraise1&matchType=prefix" | awk '{print "http://web.archive.org/web/" \$2 "/" \$3}' | sort | uniq; http://web.archive.org/web/20191010042711/https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise1/status/1182147781466771457 http://web.archive.org/web/20191101045427/https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise1/status/1190127210704846848



http://web.archive.org/web/20191010042711/https://twitter.com/people ofpraise1/status/1182147781466771457

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http://web.archive.org/web/20191010042711/https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise1/status/1182147781466771457

Both the tweets refer to the domain - peopleofpraise.org.ng

Possibility of a different website?



### A single tweet from @peopleofpraise2



https://twitter.com/peopleofpraise2/status/1260728017401208832

https://t.co/4iPQHY8tx\$

### Following the redirect link



```
curl -sSL -D - https://t.co/4iPQHY8txS -o /dev/null
HTTP/2 301
cache-control: private, max-age=300
content-length: 0
date: Thu, 15 Oct 2020 15:22:57 GMT
expires: Thu, 15 Oct 2020 15:27:57 GMT
location: https://www.instagram.com/p/CAJelopFeyE/?igshid=rgx1vk8rbm74
server: tsa_b
set-cookie: muc=b1dd6b4e-e8f7-43d6-a45b-07d65b33849f; Max-Age=63072000; Expires=Sat, 15 Oct 2022 15:22:57 GMT; Domain=t.co; Secure;
SameSite=None
vary: Origin
x-connection-hash: b6b4382b4403bd41038b9db3a341369a
x-response-time: 9
HTTP/2 404
content-type: text/html; charset=utf-8
vary: Cookie, Accept-Language
content-language: en
date: Thu, 15 Oct 2020 15:22:57 GMT
strict-transport-security: max-age=31536000
cache-control: private, no-cache, no-store, must-revalidate
pragma: no-cache
expires: Sat, 01 Jan 2000 00:00:00 GMT
x-frame-options: SAMEORIGIN
content-length: 45956
x-fb-trip-id: 1679558926
alt-svc: h3-29=":443"; ma=3600,h3-27=":443"; ma=3600
```





```
> curl -iLs memgator.cs.odu.edu/timemap/link/https://www.instagram.com/p/CAJelopFeyE
HTTP/1.1 404 Not Found
Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
Access-Control-Expose-Headers: Link, Location, X-Memento-Count, Server
Content-Length: 19
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=utf-8
Date: Thu, 15 Oct 2020 00:55:29 GMT
Server: MemGator/1.0-rc8
X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Memento-Count: 0
404 page not found
   Instagram
                                                                                         Sign Up
                                              Q Search
                                                                                   Log In
                                 Sorry, this page isn't available.
               The link you followed may be broken, or the page may have been removed. Go back to Instagram.
```

https://www.instagram.com/p/CAJelopFeyE/?igshid=rgx1vk8rbm74

The Instagram post is neither present in archives nor is it present on the live web



# Finding archived copies of the alternate link found in tweets from @peopleofpraise1

```
> curl http://www.peopleofpraise.org.ng
curl: (6) Could not resolve host: www.peopleofpraise.org.ng
> memgator http://www.peopleofpraise.org.ng
[ No Result ]
> curl -s "http://web.archive.org/cdx/search/cdx?url=http://www.peopleofpraise.org.ng&matchType=prefix" |
awk '{print "http://web.archive.org/" $2 "/" $3}' | uniq;
[ No Result ]
> curl -s "http://web.archive.org/cdx/search/cdx?url=peopleofpraise.org.ng&matchType=host" | awk '{print
"http://web.archive.org/" $2 "/" $3}' | uniq;
[ No Result ]
> curl -s "http://web.archive.org/cdx/search/cdx?url=peopleofpraise.org.ng&matchType=domain" | awk '{print
"http://web.archive.org/" $2 "/" $3}' | uniq;
[ No Result ]
```

No links from the org.ng extension was archived by the Wayback Machine



### The website was registered before the tweet

#### WHOIS LOOKUP



#### peopleofpraise.org.ng is already registered\*

Domain Name: peopleofpraise.org.ng Registry Domain ID: 1355645-NIRA Registry WHOIS Server:: whois.nic.net.ng Registrar URL: https://www.smartweb.com.ng Updated Date: 2020-10-05T23:16:38.366Z Creation Date: 2019-08-06T17:10:30.117Z Registry Expiry Date: 2020-08-06T17:10:30.355Z

Registrar Registration Expiration Date: 2020-08-06T17:10:30.355Z

Registrar: smartweb

Registrar IANA ID: 24062013

Registrar Abuse Contact Email: abuse@smartweb.com.ng

Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: 08035905422 Redemption Expiry Date: 2020-11-02T23:16:38.366Z

Registrar Country: NG

Registrar Phone: 08035905422

Registrar Customer Service Contact: Smart Web Nigeria Limited Registrar Customer Service Email: ticket@smartweb.com.ng Registrar Admin Contact: Smart Web Nigeria Limited

Registrar Admin Email: ticket@smartweb.com.ng

Domain Status: pendingDelete https://icann.org/epp#pendingDelete

Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited https://icann.org/epp#clientDeleteProhibited

Domain Status: redemptionPeriod https://icann.org/epp#redemptionPeriod

Domain Status: serverHold https://icann.org/epp#serverHold

Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited

Registry Registrant ID: ikWBR-0AyVm

Registrant Name: Debo Adewole

Registrant Organization: ApexRoyal Communications

Registrant Street: Flat 3, Block C, Maval Estate, via Fuller Estate,

Registrant Street: Off Fuller Road, Luvu, Area 1, Masaka,

Registrant City: Karu

Registrant State/Province: Nasarawa Registrant Postal Code: 961106

Registrant Country: NG

Registrant Phone: 8027404235

Registrant Email: info@apexroyal.com.ng

Registry Admin ID: cTcnO-7BXdc

- Tweet date Oct 9th 2019
- Domain registration date Aug 6th 2019
- The domain was valid at the time of the tweet



### Second step: Website Analysis



# IA and BA have the most number of mementos of the group's homepage

```
> curl -s http://memgator.cs.odu.edu/timemap/link/https://peopleofpraise.org/ |
grep datetime | awk '{print $1}' | awk -v FS=/ '{print $3}' | sort | uniq -c |
sort -n -r

367 web.archive.org
93 web.archive.bibalex.org:80
2 wayback.archive-it.org
2 arquivo.pt
2 archive.md
```

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### 1803 distinct web pages of the website found in the IA

```
> curl -s
"http://web.archive.org/cdx/search/cdx?url=https://peopleofpraise.org/&matchType=prefix" |
awk '{ print $3 }' > urls.txt; python3 sanitize.py urls.txt | sort | uniq > distinct.txt
> cat distinct.txt | wc -l
   1803
> cat distinct.txt | head -n 5
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/news/6.0.65
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/news/?feed=rss2&p=233
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/missionary/?cat=11
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/media/main/vb/add/V%26B%20Summer%202015%20web.pdf
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/thevine/covers/2011-wintercover.jpg
```



### 1502 web pages archived with 200 status

1502 out of the 1803 archived web pages were archived successfully (200 during capture)



### 54 pages of the website found in the BA Archive

```
> curl -s "http://web.archive.bibalex.org/web/*/http://www.peopleofpraise.org*" | grep -Eo
'\"([^\"]*?web.archive.bibalex.*peopleofpraise[^\"]*?)\"' | grep -v query | sed
's:^.\(.*\).$:\1:' | cut -d/ -f 6- | sort | uniq > ba.txt
> cat ba.txt | wc -l
   54
> cat ba.txt | head -n 5
http://peopleofpraise.org/pics/moretrinsm.gif
http://peopleofpraise.org/pics/revival.gif
http://peopleofpraise.org/pics/transparent.gif
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/feedback
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/misc/drupal.css
> cat ba.txt >> valid distinct.txt
```



# 45 live web pages of the group contain the word "Amy", "Barrett" or "Coney"

> python3 matchWebContent.py valid\_distinct.txt > matched.txt; cat matched.txt | wc -1
45

> cat matched.txt | head -n 2

http://www.peopleofpraise.org/news/?p=566 coney
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/news/?p=284 coney

### Tom Evans to Step Down as Coordinator for Southern Branches

**BRANCHES 17 COMMENTS** 

By Chris Meehan

Tom Evans, the coordinator responsible for the Biloxi, Mobile and Shreveport branches will step down from his position on July 1, 2010. Diane, Tom's wife, will also relinquish her handmaid-type responsibilities for these three branches.

Mike Coney, principal branch coordinator for New Orleans and a member of the community's board of governors, will assume Tom's responsibilities Linda Coney principal handmaid in New Orleans, will take up Diane's work relating to the women leaders of these



Tom and Diane Evans. Credit: Angela Pingel

http://www.peopleofpraise.org/news/?p=566



"You don't have to be Mr. Handyman to help on these trips," he adds. "It's great if you can plumb, install wiring or do carpentry, but if you can't there's still plenty of work to do."

Work like driving the team from place to place, preparing meals, or traveling to the various Lowe's and Home Depots around town and begging for discounted building materials.

"The life experiences that adults bring to these trips are huge assets," adds Mike Coney (Indianapolis), who is managing this Action team's work. "Just knowing what questions to ask about a job and when to ask them can make the difference between success and failure."

https://peopleofpraise.org/news/?p=284



### O references of Amy Barrett on the live website

Person	Relationship	Count of References
Amy Coney Barrett	Self	0
Jesse Barrett	Husband	0
Michael Coney or Michael E Coney	Father or Brother	13
Linda Coney	Mother	13

Table was generated after manually verifying the various links that had one of the keyword "Amy", "Coney" or "Barrett"

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## Successfully Archived pages that are currently unavailable



```
> python3 checkInactive.py valid_distinct.txt > inactive.txt; cat inactive.txt | wc -l
   484
> cat inactive.txt | head -n 5
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/news/wp-content/themes/gridline_lite/js/functions.js
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/media/thevine/2008-10-11-vine-and-branches.pdf
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/pdfsize/pdf/V&B%20Winter%202018%20web.pdf.300x.jpg
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/thevine/issues/2008-05-vine-and-branches.pdf
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/media/index.js
> cat inactive.txt | grep -v "(jpg|png|gif|js|css)/?$" > final.txt; cat final.txt | wc -l
  289
> cat final.txt | head -n 5
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/media/thevine/2008-10-11-vine-and-branches.pdf
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/news/?cat=30
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/thevine/issues/2008-05-vine-and-branches.pdf
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/news/?cat=19
http://www.peopleofpraise.org/news/?p=5454
```



### 7 references to Amy Barrett found in archived pages

```
> cat inactive.py | grep pdf > pdf.txt; cat pdf.txt | wc -l
102
```

> cat pdf.txt | head -n 2
http://web.archive.org/web/20151018030811id\_/http://peopleofpraise.org/media/thevine/2011-winter-vine-and-branches.pdf
http://web.archive.org/web/20151018031423id\_/http://peopleofpraise.org/media/thevine/2012-summer-vine-and-branches.pdf

Person	Relationship	Count of References
Amy Coney Barrett	Self	7
Jesse Barrett	Husband	6
Michael Coney or Michael E Coney	Father or Brother	36
Linda Coney	Mother	9

Table was generated after manually verifying the archived content for keywords "Amy", "Coney" or "Barrett"



### Image snippet of 3 of the 7 references

■ Jesse and Amy Barrett (South Bend) happily welcomed long-awaited John Peter into their family on January 26. He was born in Haiti and was three on February 11. Since they were nearing the end of the adoption process when the earthquake hit, the final U.S. paperwork was fast-tracked.

#### **Karen Murray**

**Branch:** New Orleans **Job:** Kindergarten teacher

Story: I met Mike Murray (New Orleans) in the spring of 2004 at a Theology on Tap gathering in New Orleans. He invited me to a public meeting, and within six months I had attended a Pentecost Seminar and a Community Weekend. I came underway in January of 2005, and not long afterwards Mike and I were engaged. We were married the next November, just about two months after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. Since the branch was scattered all over the country, two women in the South Bend branch, Carrie Urbanski and Amy Barrett, collected cards and gifts to present at my bridal shower.

The day I made the covenant, I read some Scripture verses that capture my experience in the community: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life... nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God" (Rm. 8: 38-39).



From left: Amy Barrett (South Bend) and Carolyn Bassett (northern Virginia).

http://web.archive.org/web/201510180157 16id\_/http://peopleofpraise.org/media/th evine/2010-03-vine-and-branches.pdf http://web.archive.org/web/201510180728 23id\_/http://peopleofpraise.org/media/th evine/2008-12-vine-and-branches.pdf http://web.archive.org/web/20071028065558id\_/http://www.peopleofpraise.org/thevine/issues/2006-05-vine-and-branches.pdf



### Summary

- Amy Barrett and her husband do not have an official Twitter account, so any analysis on their tweets could not be conducted.
- The group's official twitter account is not famous enough to be archived frequently, so deleted tweets, if any, were not found.
- No mention of Amy Barrett or her husband Jessie Barrett was found on the live version of the group's website.
- Seven references to Amy Barrett and six references to Jessie Barrett were found to be deleted from the website.
- All the digital magazines were removed from the website. This could have been done to obfuscate the intent of only removing references to Amy Barrett.



### Backup Slides



### Script for getting the followers of a twitter account

```
import tweepy
import sys

consumer_key = "*"
consumer_secret = "*"
access_token = "*"
access_token_secret = "*"
auth = tweepy.OAuthHandler(consumer_key, consumer_secret)
auth.set_access_token(access_token, access_token_secret)
api = tweepy.API(auth)
for page in tweepy.Cursor(api.followers, screen_name=sys.argv[1]).pages():
    for user in [x.screen_name for x in page]:
        print(user)
```



### Script for getting the tweets of a twitter account

```
import tweepy
import sys
consumer_key = "*"
consumer_secret = "*"
access_token = "*"
access_token_secret = "*"
auth = tweepy.OAuthHandler(consumer_key, consumer_secret)
auth.set access token(access token, access token secret)
api = tweepy.API(auth)
with open(sys.argv[1], "r") as f:
  for user in f.read().split("\n"):
      for tweet in tweepy.Cursor(api.user_timeline,id=user, tweet_mode = "extended").items():
         print(f"https://twitter.com/twitter/statuses/{tweet.id} {tweet.full_text}")
```



### Script for sanitizing the url

```
import sys
fname = sys.argv[1]
with open(fname, "r") as f:
    for url in f.read().split("\n"):
        print("http://www." + url.split("//", 1)[-1].lstrip("www.").rstrip("/").replace(":80", ""))
```



### Script for keyword search in set of live urls



### Script for checking inactive urls

```
import sys
import requests
def sanitize(x):
  return "http://www." + x.replace(":80", "").replace("https", "http").split("/", 2)[-1].replace("www.", "")
fname = sys.argv[1]
with open(fname, "r") as f:
    for url in f.read().split("\n"):
         resp = requests.get(url)
         status_code = resp.status_code
         if sanitize(resp.url) != sanitize(url):
           status_code = resp.history[0].status_code if len(resp.history) > 0 else status_code
         if status code != 200:
           print(url)
```