

Negotiating Religion and Race in Immigrant America: Latinos Evangelicals and their Emerging Role in American Politics

Janelle Wong, PhD

Asian American Studies and American Studies
University of Maryland, College Park

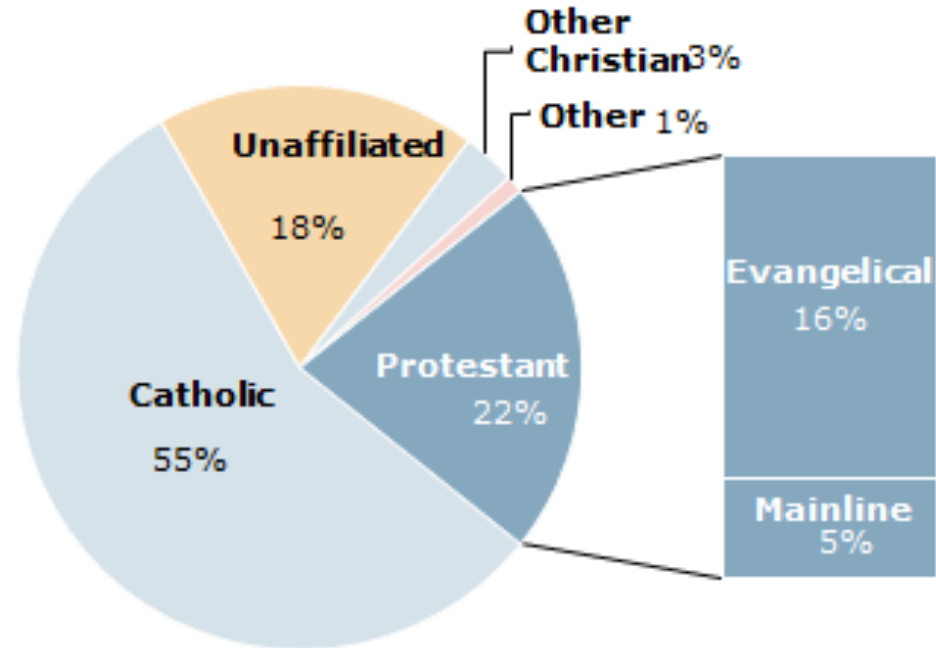
Latino Evangelicals, 9 million strong



10% of all Evangelicals

2013 Religious Affiliation of Hispanics

Using Pew Research's standard survey question about religion, % of Hispanic adults who identify today as ...



Source: Pew Research Center survey of Hispanic adults, May 24-July 28, 2013. Figures above based on FORM12 and FORMNCO, N=4,080. Figures may not add to 100%, and nested figures may not add to total, due to rounding.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Growing Over Time

	2010	2013	Difference
Evangelical Protestant	12	16	+4
Catholic	67	55	-12
Unaffiliated with Any Religion	10	18	+8

Largest and Fastest Growing Immigrant Organizations

Templo Calvario, Assemblies of God Church,
Santa Ana, California

10,000 Spanish-speaking worshippers

Lakewood (Houston, TX)



8,000 Sunday Worshippers at Spanish-language Service

Primary Research Questions

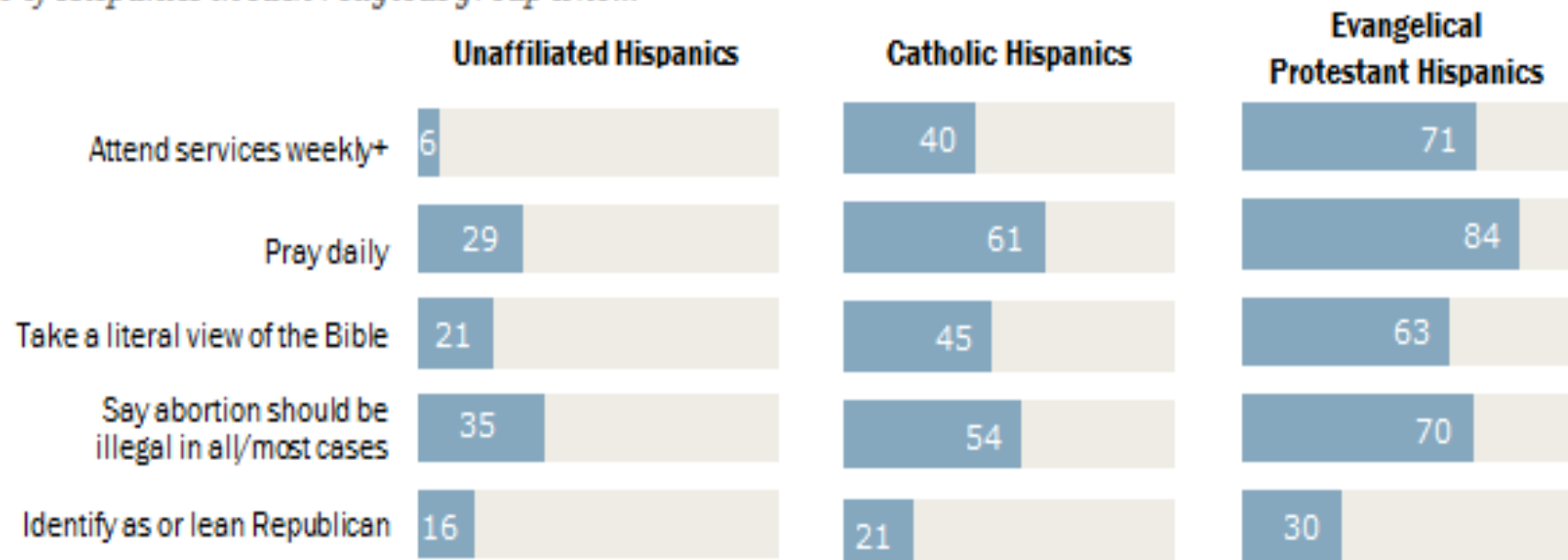
To what extent do growing numbers of Latino align with their white Evangelical counterparts with regard to political attitudes and behavior?

Will they add to the conservative Christian voting bloc or move politics in a different direction?

Pew Study - 2013

Three Points on the Social, Political and Religious Spectrum

% of Hispanics in each religious group who...



Source: Pew Research Center survey of Hispanic adults, May 24-July 28, 2013.

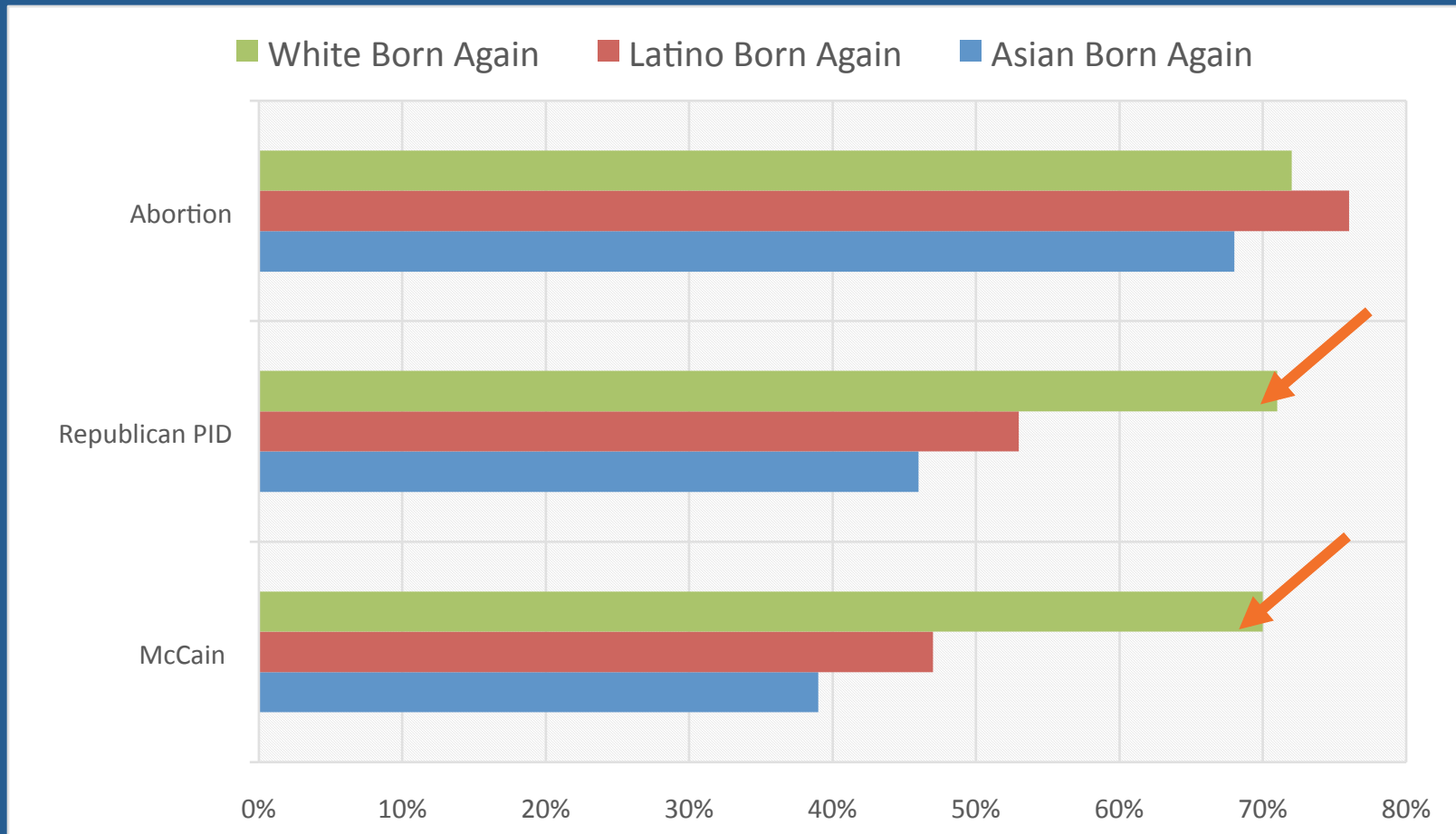
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Latino Evangelicals

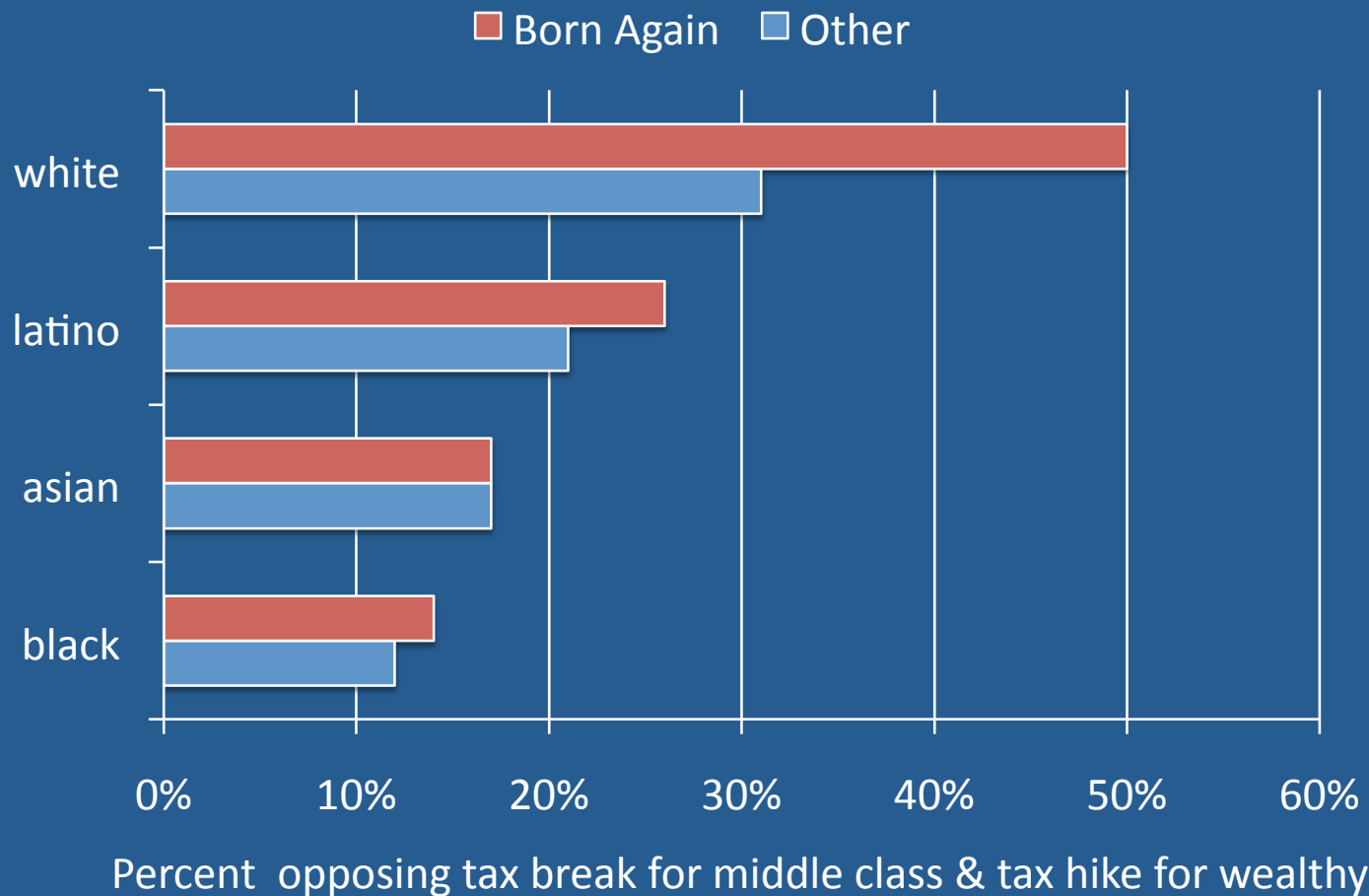
“[May] help Republicans take a bite out of the Democratic advantage with Hispanic voters. They prize the nuclear family. They are largely against abortion and gay marriage. They also tend to be wealthier than Latino Catholics....” (Rios 2013, np).

— Elizabeth Rios *TIME*

Except for Abortion Views, Less conservative than White Evangelicals

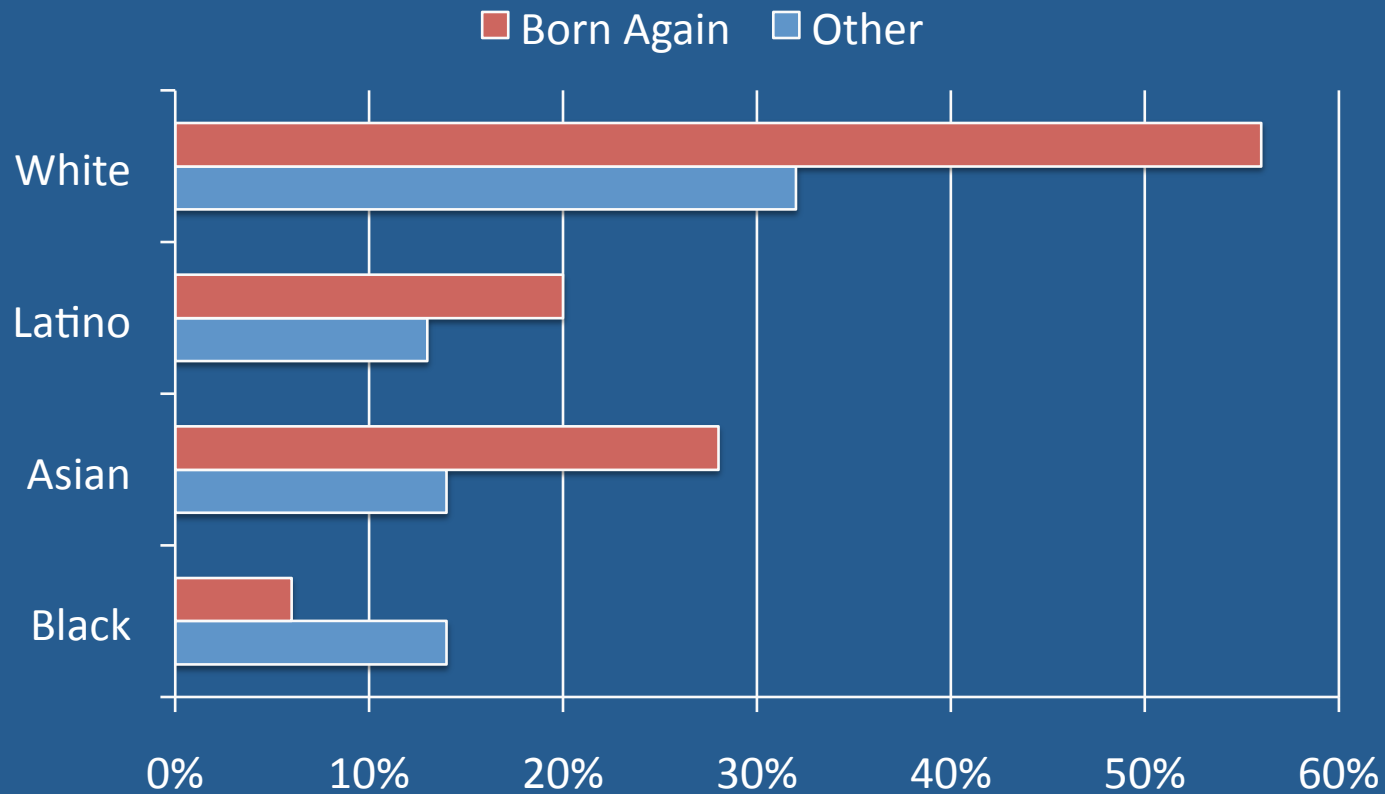


Latino and Asian American Evangelicals Resemble Non-Evangelicals in Opposition to Conservative Tax Policy



2008: CMPS

Only White Born Again Christians Oppose Universal Health Care



2008: CMPS

Take Home from Multivariate Models*

With few exceptions,
Latino and Asian American Evangelicals less conservative than White Evangelicals and more conservative than Black Evangelicals

*Controlling for church attendance, party identification, and demographic factors

Take Home from Multivariate Models

Born-again identity predicts much wider range of policy views among whites compared to non-whites

White Evangelical Policy Agenda

Among Latinos, Evangelical identity does not predict a political agenda

Political Implications

- On issues where church encourages strong claim, there is tempered agreement among religious adherents
- On issues where church has been less insistent on setting an agenda, race matters --sharp differences between White and non-White evangelicals

Very few voting blocs up for grabs.
Who will set the agenda?

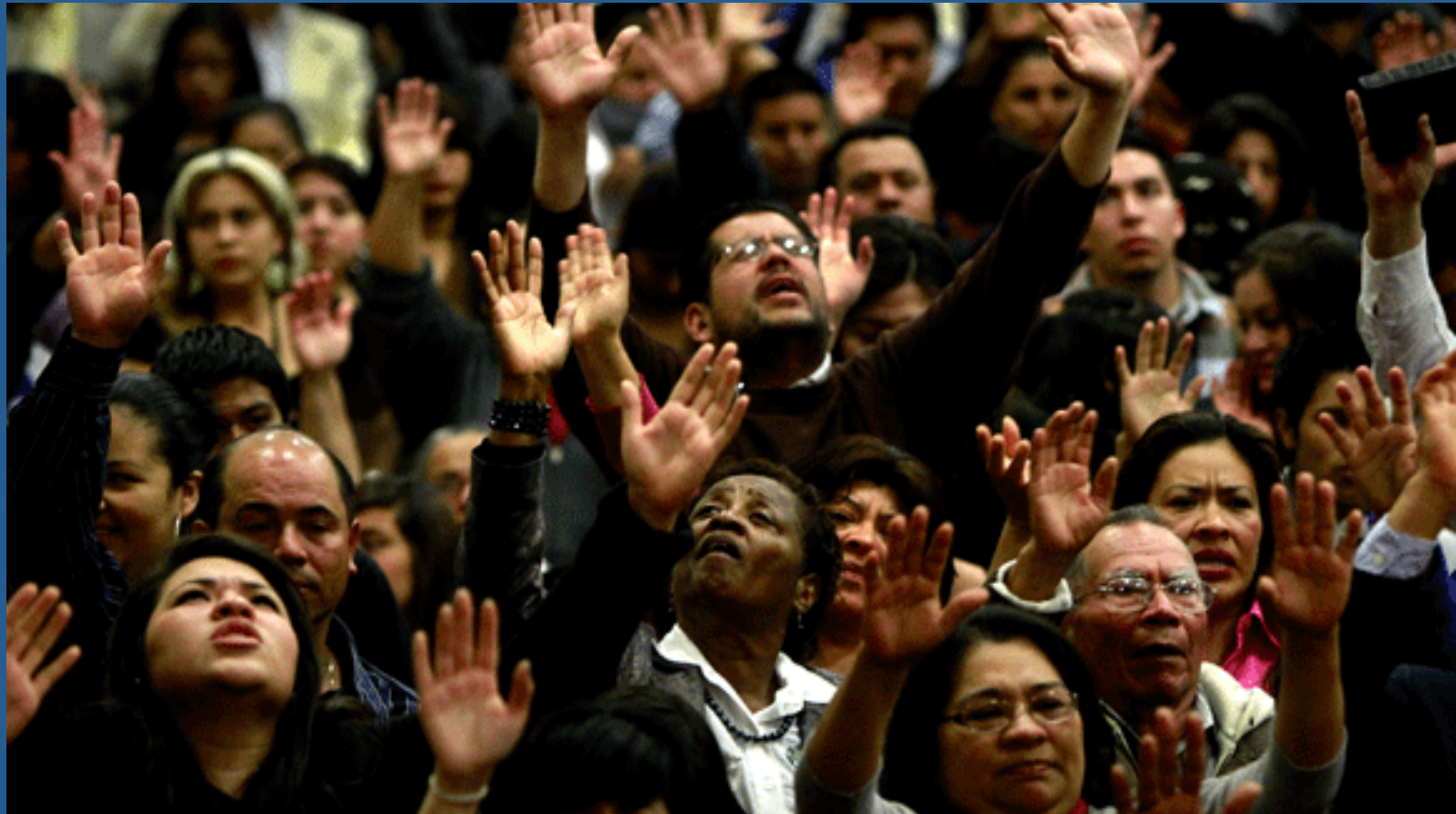


Rev. John Mendez – LIBRE Initiative





END



Appendix

Self-identified

“Evangelical or Born Again” Christians

- Christians who place emphasis on spreading one’s faith
- Believe Jesus sacrificed on the cross for human redemption
- Believe in the inerrancy of the Bible
- Believe that spiritual renewal is possible when one accepts Jesus as one’s personal savior