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Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, "God with us." Matthew 1:23

From The President's Desk

Dear Summit friend and Journal reader,

May you have a Blessed, Christ-honoring Christmas Season and a wonderful, meaningful, fulfilling—yet challenging New Year.

Your editor,

David A. Noebel

Month In Review

Merry Christmas !

Q “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’

“So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’

“Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he call His name Jesus.

“Now after the Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.’

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

“So they said to him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.” ’

“Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.’

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

“Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed

for their own country another way.”

—Matthew 1:18-24, 2:1-12

Q “Jesus Christ, whose birthday is celebrated throughout the world this month, has had a greater impact on human history than any person who ever lived. Though he died at the age of 33, the year in which we live is dated from his birth. Though he lived in an obscure corner of the Roman Empire nearly 2,000 years ago, more than one billion [1,000,000,000] people today call themselves followers of Christ. Though he never wrote a book, tens of thousands of books have been written about his life and teachings.”

—James J. Drumme

Q “Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love:
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee.
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.”

—Henry van Dyke (1853-1933)

Q “This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, he shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars. He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet, without writing a single line. He set more pens in motion, and furnished them far more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs or praise, than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times.”

—Philip Schaff, historian

Q “One starlit night
One couple in distress
One shabby stable
Only one place to rest
One group of shepherds
One night long ago
One angel’s message
Only one place to go
One wiseman’s journey
One king did they seek
One Son of David
Only one child so meek
One reason for coming
One goal on earth’s sod
One death that redeems
Only way to God.”

—Myra Dye

Q “Mel Trotter gave a whole new meaning to the terms ‘no good.’ He was so ‘no good’ it was almost written on his forehead. He was the very scum of the scum. He abused his family. He neglected his children. He was fired from his jobs. He was a drunkard in the gutter and would do anything for a drink. In fact, one day he came home and found his little daughter very seriously ill. He was so ‘concerned’ that he took off her shoes and went out and sold them for a drink! When he returned, he found that his little girl was dead. He was so overwhelmed by remorse that he said he was going to end his life. He made his way across one of the worst parts of Chicago, to throw himself into Lake Michigan. But as he passed down the street, he could hear someone preaching over a loudspeaker. He stepped into in the building’s doorway and heard a man talking about Jesus Christ, who loved sinners. He said to himself, ‘Can it be that there is anyone who could love someone like me?’ He stood transfixed by that message of love that he heard. All of the grasp of that addiction suddenly was loosened. Mel Trotter was set free!

“He later established a great mission for the down-and-outers in downtown Grand Rapids, and ultimately established fifty more missions around the nation. Tens of thousands of drunks and ne-er-do-wells had their lives transformed by Christ through Trotter. Take Christ out of the picture, and all you end up with is a drunken suicide!

“ ‘Ah,’ you say, ‘Christianity is only for the down-and-outers and feeble-minded. It is only for those who need a crutch.’ First of all, we all need a crutch when it comes to sin. In fact,

we need more than a crutch; we need new life to be breathed into us. Every one of us is in need of a Savior—only, some of us recognize the need; others are blinded to their need by their pride. Second, numerous people have come to Christ who had brilliant minds. One of them was C.S. Lewis.”

—D. James Kennedy, Jerry Newcomb, *What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?*, p. 194, 195

Q “Montgomery, Ala.—Chief Justice Roy Moore testified Wednesday he installed a 5,300-pound Ten Commandments monument in the rotunda of the Alabama Judicial Building because he believes it is the moral foundation of law.

“Moore, questioned as a witness in a suit seeking to move the building, said the word ‘moral’ means ‘those things that are from God’ and that he is referring to the Judeo-Christian God of the Bible.

“The testimony by Moore, a conservative Christian, came on the second day of the trial of the lawsuit. It was filed by the Southern Poverty Law Center and Americans United for Separation of Church and State on behalf of three Alabama attorneys who contend the monument conveys Moore’s religious stand and violates the constitution.

“Moore testified that when he was running for chief justice, he often talked about his efforts as a circuit judge to display the Ten Commandments on the wall of his courtroom in Gadsden.

“SPLC attorney Morris Dees asked Moore if he considers himself ‘the Ten Commandments judge,’ a slogan Moore used on billboards when he ran for chief justice in 2000. Moore replied: ‘I don’t call myself that, but it was important to my campaign committee to do that.’

“Legal experts have said the case could mark a legal milestone over whether it is constitutional for such monuments to be displayed in and around government buildings. U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson is hearing the case without a jury.

“In other testimony Wednesday, court administrator Rich Hobson said he has on various occasions prayed both out loud and to himself in front of the Ten Commandments monument. Asked why he would want to pray in front of the monument, he said, ‘It is the moral foundation of law. I’m thankful I’m there, I’m thankful I’m employed in that building.’

“Moore had the monument placed in the building late on the night of July 31, 2001, without telling other justices. A Florida TV preacher who supports Moore, D. James Kennedy, had a crew from his Coral Ridge Ministries film the installation and offered videotapes of it for a donation of \$19.

“In opening statements Dees, lead counsel and co-founder of the SPLC, said Moore placed the monument in the judicial building to make good on campaign statements that he was ‘on a personal mission from God for one purpose—to acknowledge God.’

“Moore testified Wednesday that he began planning to put a monument in the judicial building at his inauguration in January 2001.

“One of Moore’s attorneys, Herbert Titus of Virginia Beach, VA, told Thompson the lawsuit was part of a national movement ‘to censor God.’

“What is at stake here is the historic American legacy of God and liberty,’ Titus said.”

—Athens Banner-Herald, October 17, 2002

Q “Rep. Dave Weldon, Florida Republican, is among an elite group on Capitol Hill. Besides politician, he’s a medical doctor.

“In recent days, this physician-turned-congressman has turned his medical scope on Advocates for Youth, SIECUS and Planned Parenthood after they launched yet another campaign to eliminate ‘abstinence-until-marriage’ education programs.

“ ‘They claim that abstinence education is “harmful” to the health of adolescents while turning a blind eye to the medical facts regarding the gaps in protection from pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and other STDs that condoms provide,’ says the doctor, er, congressman.

“Dr. Weldon charges that such groups promote their own interests over the health and well-being of teens, explaining that federal abstinence programs are unwelcome competition to an industry that has been taking federal funds for over three decades and is more interested in protecting its wallets.”

—The Washington Times, September 23, 2002, p. A6

Q “The key event in recent American environmental history is not the Exxon Valdez or the spotted owl, but the vast reforestation of the eastern side of the North American continent. The American East Coast has exploded in green.

“In the last few decades, as 19th century farms have been abandoned, the forest cover in the eastern United States has returned abundantly despite its much larger population and increased development of suburban and rural areas. Bill McKibben, author of several environmental books, writes that the forest cover of the eastern United States today is as extensive as it was before the American Revolution. This renewal of the eastern forest largely is the result of economic accident and generally unremarked.

“Tom French, of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, says the state reached its peak of deforestation about the time of the Civil War, when approximately 70 percent of the forest had been cleared. Virtually the only trees left standing were on precipitous slopes, venues difficult for farming.

“Since agriculture no longer dominates either the Massachusetts economy or that of the eastern United States, abandoned farms once again have become forested. French says 62 percent of Massachusetts land now is wooded, a precipitous increase that occurred despite a sixfold growth in the human population. And, according to Dunwiddie’s bog cores, “the pollen is now beginning to resemble the pre-European.” MacCleery says that the land in Vermont in 1850 was 35 percent forested, whereas today it is 80 percent forested.

“A USFS Website states that the amount of forest in Pennsylvania grew from 9.2 million acres in 1907 to 16.9 million acres in 1997. New York state jumped from 12 million acres to 18.58 million acres, Rhode Island from 250,000 acres to 409,000 acres and Illinois from 2.5 million acres to 4.29 million acres, all within what could be someone’s lifetime.

“ ‘Nationally, forest growth rates have exceeded harvest rates since the 1940s,’ MacCleery states. ‘The United States in total has about the same area of forests as it did in 1920. The [predicted] timber famine never came.’ In the Northeast United States, the country’s most populous region, MacCleery says the land was less than 50 percent forested in 1900. Today, he says, the region is more than two-thirds forested, an increase of 26 million acres.

“The nation’s 20th-century environmental progress goes way beyond numbers of trees, for the animals that live in [northeastern] woods are pouncing forward after taking a severe beating. The almost complete elimination of the East Coast forests in past centuries resulted, among other environmental difficulties, in severely depleting or eliminating many species of animals indigenous to the wooded lands, including white-tailed deer, wolves, fishers, bears, bobcats, beavers and mountain lions. In 1694, Massachusetts established its first closed season on deer hunting, a mere 64 years after Winthrop first landed. And the bears eventually moved out of state.

“But after all the Massachusetts bear population had vanished, within just the last 11 years state wildlife officials say their numbers have increased from 725 to almost 2,000, with occasional backyard sightings that greatly excite (or scare) homeowners, sometimes within 45 minutes of the Boston Stone at the heart of the old city. Bear numbers in Massachusetts

now are equal to those in the 1700s.

“Beavers were hunted in colonial Massachusetts for their fur and were disappearing from its coast as early as 1640. They were erased utterly from the commonwealth by 1764 until the early 1900s. But now there are 70,000 of the workaholic rodents laboriously constructing menacing dams throughout the state.

“One beaver enjoyed a sunny spring day floating along the Merrimack River in downtown Lowell, adjacent to the Boott Cotton Mills where the American industrial revolution began in the early 1800s. The beaver’s neighbors now include Atlantic salmon, which had stopped swimming in the Merrimack years ago when the river became one of the most soiled in the nation. Salmon also now live in the Connecticut River, where just 152 once were estimated.

“Although a few animals have not returned from the days of deforestation, many indigenous Massachusetts species are undergoing a startling renaissance. Coyotes now live in virtually every town. They crossed the Cape Cod Canal in the 1970s and started breeding on the Cape. Being good swimmers they recently have made the short ocean crossing to the Elizabeth Islands.

□ “Today we kill twice as many deer on the highways of America than existed in the entire eastern United States in 1890,” says Doug MacCleery of the United States Forest Service in Washington. ‘In 1890, Pennsylvania, Ohio and the lower part of Michigan did not have any deer.’ Officials estimate Pennsylvania’s deer population today is 1.5 million.

“ ‘Many species which would likely have been on the endangered species list — had one existed in 1900 — are today abundant,’ MacCleery says, ‘including wild turkey, beaver, egrets, herons and many other wading birds, wood ducks, whistling swans, Rocky Mountain elk, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, black bear and white-tailed deer.’ He says, ‘Many other species, although not on the brink of extinction in 1900, are today both more abundant and more widespread than they were back then.’

“In addition to the added forest area of the eastern United States, the resurgence of many species of animals throughout the last few decades also can directly be attributed to changes in levels of pollution that affect, among other aspects, the manifold varieties of foods animals consume. Here again the news is almost all positive.”

—Insight magazine, October 1-14, 2002, p. 28, 29

Q “Many thanks to those readers across the country who tried to help me find the old inspirational essay, ‘Don’t Die on Third’—and thanks especially to the anonymous reader

who e-mailed it to me in its entirety. That essay meant a lot to me because of when and where I first read it.

“I was 17 years old, had left home and was on my own for the first time. I had not finished high school—indeed, had not finished the 10th grade, in part due to illness, and had no one to turn to.

“You can imagine how much demand there was for a black teenager with no skills, no experience and little education. I ended up working as a delivery boy in New York’s garment district, and was living in a tiny rented room, not large enough for a 9x12 rug. A nail on the back of the door substituted for a closet—and it was an adequate substitute, given the size of my wardrobe at the time.

“Although I had done well in schools before dropping out, now it looked very much as if I was going nowhere, as if I was going to die on third. That was when I read the essay, ‘Don’t Die on Third.’

“ ‘No time for self-applause on third,’ it said, ‘many a promising run has died there.’ The essay recalled a baseball game, decades earlier, when George Moriarty of the Detroit Tigers found himself on third base with two out in the last of the ninth inning of a tied ball game.

“ ‘There he stood, alert in every nerve, his powerful running legs, his quick eye and quicker brain holding the hazard of the game.’ Moriarty shrewdly assessed the situation and his chances, drawing on his knowledge and experience on the baseball diamond to plot his next move. ‘Luck might lie in the lap of the gods, but preparations, knowledge, judgment and initiative were with the player.’

“At just the right moment, Moriarty broke for home, arriving in a cloud of dust, with the empire standing over the plate ‘with hands extended, palms down.’ Moriarty had scored the winning run by stealing home. ‘It was just a run made in the course of a baseball game; but it has been saying to us these many years—Don’t die on third.’

“It was an inspiration to me, at a time when I needed all the inspiration I could get. Today, we may think we are too sophisticated for inspirational writings. Besides, our schools are more likely to focus young people’s attention on grievances, injustices and excuses, rather than on inspiration.

“Yet all sorts of things have inspired all sorts of people. When black students went to the newly built Dunbar High School in Washington in 1916, they found on the walls a poem by Paul Laurence Dunbar, for whom the school was named. Its first verse said:

Keep a pluggin’ away

Perseverance still is king,
Time its sure reward will bring.
Work and wait, unwearied,
Keep a-pluggin' away.

“Can you imagine saying such a thing to black students in 1916—in a racially segregated school, in a racially segregated city, at a time when jobs for blacks were being cut back in the federal government under Woodrow Wilson, and the Ku Klux Klan was resurgent?”

“The poem was a symptom of a mindset that pervaded the school. The track record of the students who saw that message, in a school that lived that philosophy, compares very favorably with that of later black students who have been generously supplied with bitterness and excuses by black ‘leaders’ and white ‘friends.’”

“Over the period from 1870 to 1955, most of the students who graduated from Dunbar High School—called the M Street School in earlier years—went on to college. Most white students didn’t go on to college in those years. During World War II, when black military officers were rare as hen’s teeth, more than 20 Dunbar alumni held ranks ranging from major to brigadier general.

“They kept pluggin’ away—and it paid off. They didn’t die on third. Too many die on third today, and too many others don’t even get that far.”

—Thomas Sowell, *The Washington Times*, September 21, 2002, p. A14

Q With some parents asking for teachers to mention biblical creationism as an alternative to evolution, officials said they will consider allowing differing views about the origin of life to be taught in Georgia’s second-largest school district.

“The Cobb County school board voted unanimously Thursday to review a proposal that says the district ‘believes that discussion of disputed views of academic subjects is a necessary element of providing a balanced education, including the study of the origin of the species.’”

“Board Chairman Curt Johnston said he did not know how the policy would change classroom practices and was unsure whether the new language would allow creationism to be discussed.

The board felt it should consider the plan because some teachers worried that they would get in trouble if they told students about any alternatives to evolution, Mr. Johnston said.

“ ‘We’ve been told by our attorney we’re not allowed to teach creationism. But the point is we want free and open discussion in the classroom,’ he said. ‘And our teachers are nervous about what they can talk about. This will clarify things.’

“The theory of evolution, accepted by nearly all scientists, says evidence shows that life developed from earlier forms through slight variations over time and that natural selection determines which species survive. Creationism credits the origin of species to God.

“In 1987, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that creationism was a religious belief that could not be taught in public schools along with evolution.

“Some parents say they see the Cobb County proposal as a back door for getting religion into schools.

“ ‘It’s deception and indoctrination,’ said parent Paula Jackson.

“Schools in the conservative suburban Atlanta county are already in court over the science curriculum. The district put stickers in thousands of middle and high school science books that said evolution is a theory, not fact, and should be critically considered.

“The American Civil Liberties Union sued Wednesday to have the stickers removed.

“ ‘I believe science does not need a disclaimer or an apology,’ parent Bill Hart said. ‘That compromises the ability to teach science. As a Christian, my faith demands honesty. It is not honest to present creationism as fact.’

“Many others told the board that students need to hear about creationism.

“ ‘Separation of church and state is a fallacy promoted by the liberal press,’ said parent Russell Brock, urging the board to allow creationism to be taught ‘We’re a Christian nation.’

“The board, however, took pains to say the plan was not about getting religion into schools.

“In a statement read before the vote, Mr. Johnston said, ‘The board is not considering requiring, permitting or promoting the teaching of creationism or other faith-based ideas of origin of the species in science classrooms.’

“The board is expected to vote on the policy Sept. 26. If approved, it will go into effect immediately in the 100,000-student school district.

“Science educators criticized the plan.

“ ‘You can’t teach creationism and evolution, and still have a science program with integrity,’ said Eugenie Scott, executive director of California-based National Center for Science Education.”

—The Washington Times, August 24, 2002, p. A2

Q Eugenie Scott, executive director of the National Center for Science Education, mentioned in the previous news item, is a party to the Council for Secular Humanism and its publication Free Inquiry. Scott’s idea of fair and balanced in the area of origins is summarized by S. Matthew D’Agostino in a Free Inquiry article (Winter 2001/02) entitled “A Challenge for naturalism.” He writes, “Based on current knowledge we can only assume that life is one of the many inherent capabilities that matter happens to possess, a capability that actualized or developed under some still largely unknown set of united conditions. We’re not absolutely sure what life looked like once the process was full underway: something like algae, the biologists suggest: a foamy, blue-green pond scum.” Scott, and her Free Inquiry friends, want us to believe that life from dead matter is science and that our ancestor in the process was foamy blue-green pond scum. No wonder our 7th grade students need a course in self-esteem!

Q “Naturalists [or Secular Humanists] define people as a ‘kind of animal.’ For example, anthropologist Brad Shore views people as ‘meaning constructing’ animals living in a world in which ‘there is no God’s-eye view of reality for human beings’ (1996: 333). Robert Wright (1994) defined people as ‘moral animals.’ Before him, zoologist Desmond Morris described people as ‘naked apes, an exploratory species’ (1967: 12), and anthropologist Alexander Goldenweiser considered people as ‘social animals’ (1942: 298). Now, while naturalists’ definitions of people range from the above to ‘rational animals,’ ‘transactional animals,’ and ‘featherless bipeds,’ Wierzbicka concludes that ‘all these definitions and other definitions (of people) are clearly deficient, and it is a relief to be able to go back to Pascal’s view that the notion is basic, and that all attempts to define it must fail.’ (1996: 41)”

—Gilbert R. Prost, *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, Vol. XIV, No. 1/2, p. 64

Q “While we ought to learn from our own experiences, it is even better to learn from other people’s experiences, saving ourselves the painful costs of the lessons. In the case of the dominant educational fads of our times, many have been tried out before in other countries. Their failures there should have warned us they were likely to fail here as well.

“Our education establishment’s objections to ‘teaching to the test’ are echoes of what was said and done in China during the 1950s and 1960s, when examinations were de-emphasized and nonacademic criteria and social ‘relevance’ were given more weight. In 1967, examinations were abolished.

“This was an even bigger step in China than it would be in the United States, for China previously had extensive examinations for more than a thousand years. Not only were there academic examinations; for centuries most Chinese civil servants were also selected by examinations.

“A decade after academic examinations were abolished in China, the Ministry of Education announced that college entrance examinations ‘will be restored and admittance based on their results.’ Why? Because ‘the quality of education had declined sharply’ in the absence of examinations and this had ‘retarded the development of a whole generation of young people.’

“Mao Tse-tung’s successor, Deng Xiaoping, complained about ‘the deterioration of academic standards’ and said, ‘schools have not paid attention to educational standards and instead of overemphasized practical work, students’ knowledge of theory and basic skills in their area of specialization have been disregarded.’

“None of these failing educational fads was unique to China. They went back to the teachings of John Dewey, whose ‘progressive’ ideas shaped developments in American schools – and especially American schools of education, where future teachers were trained. Moreover, Dewey’s ideas were tried out on a large scale in the Soviet Union in the 1920s, before they had achieved similar influence in the United States.

“During a visit to the Soviet Union in 1928, Dewey reported ‘the marvelous development of progressive educational ideas and practice under the fostering care of the Bolshevik government.’ He noted that the Soviets had broken down the barriers between school and society which he had urged others to do, and said, ‘I can only pay my tribute to the liberating effect of active participation in social life upon that attitude of the students.’

“Here we see the early genesis of the current idea in today’s American schools that the children there should be promoting causes, writing to public figures and otherwise ‘participating’ in the arena of social and political issues. Another progressive educator, W.H. Kilpatrick, was likewise exhilarated to find that his books were being used in Soviet teacher training programs.

“Kilpatrick was also delighted to learn that the tree R’s were not being taught directly but were being learned ‘incidentally from tasks at hand.’ Here was the basic principle behind today’s ‘discovery learning.’

“Even as visiting progressive educators from America were gushing over the use of their ideas in Soviet schools, the bad educational consequences were turning the Soviet government leadership against these fads. The commissar who had imposed progressive education on Soviet schools was removed shortly after John Dewey’s visit.

“When the romantic notions of progressive education didn’t work, the Soviet and Chinese governments were able to get rid of them because they were not hamstrung by teacher’s unions. They were able to restore ‘teaching to the test’ – which was not very romantic, but it worked.

“The ‘barriers between schools and society,’ which Dewey lamented, existed for a reason. Schools are not a microcosm of society, any more than an eye is a microcosm of the body. The eye is a specialized organ that does something no other part of the body does. That is its whole significance.

“You don’t use your eyes to life packages or steer automobiles. Specialized organs have important things to do in their own specialties. So do schools, which need to stick to their special work as well, not become social or political gadflies.

—Thomas Sowell, *The Washington Times*, August 25, 2002, p. B3

Q “Rowan Williams is about to take two religious positions. He’s becoming the new Archbishop of Canterbury. He’s also becoming a druid this month, reports Ruth Gledhill of *The Times of London*.

“The Anglican leader will ‘don a long white cloak while druids chant a prayer to the ancient god and goddess of the land,” she writes. Then “Dr. Williams will close his hands in prayer while the archdruid, wearing a crown and shield over his bardic robes, will enfold them in his own and utter words of welcome. That will be the moment that Dr. Williams, who will adopt a new, bardic name, is accepted into the white druidic order.

“This initiation has caused consternation among British evangelicals, while other churchmen have denied that the druids are actually pagans. Archdruid Robin Lewis defended his group. ‘Ours is a very respectable society,’ he told the paper. ‘The ceremony is not pagan. It is just a ceremony.’”

—World Magazine, August, 3, 2002, p. 10

Q “The Rev. Steven L. Snyder, a tireless global traveler and advocate for voiceless Christians abroad who faced religious persecution under communist and Islamic regimes, died Monday night of an infection. He was 53.

“The evangelical minister, a native of the San Diego area, began his advocacy work as the U. S. director of Christian Solidarity International, which in the 1980s focused on persecution under communism. In 1995, he founded International Christian concern to extend the work to Islamic countries.

“The Silver Springs resident and father of four was acknowledged yesterday as a pioneer voice on the topic of Christian persecution when it was not high on Washington’s human rights agenda.

“Mr. Snyder also took risks to penetrate such countries as Sudan, Vietnam, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, China and Pakistan to bring out accurate information, documents and video footage of underground churches or persecuted minorities.

“ ‘He was a faithful servant of people persecuted for their faith,’ said U.S. Ambassador at Large for Religious Liberty John V. Hanford III, who had met and worked with Mr. Snyder in 1985. ‘He stayed with it despite the constant discouragement that comes with human rights work.’

“ ‘Steven labored in this vineyard long before the movement against persecution captured the imagination of evangelicals,’ said the Rev. Richard Cizik, Washington director of the National Association of Evangelicals. ‘What a faithful friend he was of the persecuted.’

“Friends and human-rights workers who knew Mr. Snyder noted his on-the-ground work, desire to highlights those who suffered rather than himself, and a kind of perpetual sad look in his eyes from seeing such grim events abroad – and so little interest at home.”

—The Washington Times, August 29, 2002, p. A3