

November 2003



The JOURNAL

A Summit Ministries Publication

Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Acts 14:17

From The President's Desk

Your humble and obedient editor is profoundly thankful for your active support of Summit Ministries, this Journal, and me personally. Thank you for making this youth work a privilege to attend to and so satisfying. You surely know that we proceed in our mission in exact proportion to your faithful giving. And many of you have been so faithful! Thank you!

I also need to express my sincere thanks to our Summit Millennium Team—a Team that has come to my rescue more than I care to remember. This team gives Summit Ministries \$1,000 (or more) a year and at the present time nearly 340 have joined. Thank you for such a vital partnership. Our ultimate goal is 1,000 Team members, so we have room for 660 more of you.

So while you are enjoying this Thanksgiving season, rest assured that this editor is thankful for you and your interest in grounding our teens in the basics of their Christian faith.

Another thank you has to go to the Supreme Court justice of Alabama Roy S. Moore. Following is a summary of the issue he is facing regarding his stand on the Ten Commandments. This summary is based on the findings of the Foundation for Moral Law, Inc., Birmingham, AL.

In December 1992, as a Circuit Judge, Roy Moore placed a small wooden plaque of the Ten Commandments on the wall of his courtroom in Etowah County, Alabama, where he opened

each session of the court with prayer. The ACLU, representing the Alabama Free Thought Society, sued Judge Moore in Federal Court in the Northern District of Alabama. That case was eventually dismissed for lack of standing of the plaintiffs and the Ten Commandments and prayer continued to the dismay of the ACLU.

Thereafter, another suit was filed in state court and once again, the ACLU and Judge Moore were engaged in a bitter battle over the display of the Ten Commandments. Judge Moore was eventually ordered by Montgomery Circuit Court Judge Charles Price to stop prayer and to remove the Ten Commandments or surround them with secular documents. Judge Moore refused and appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court, which eventually dismissed the case. Again, the ACLU was denied any relief.

Unable to defeat Judge Moore in court, his opponents pursued false ethics charges against him threatening a \$10,000 fine and 20 years in prison. After an extensive investigation by prosecutors for the Attorney General of Alabama, Judge Moore was found innocent of any wrongdoing.

In 2001, when Roy Moore became Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, he installed a two-and-one-half ton granite monument depicting the Ten Commandments as the Moral Foundation of Law, in the rotunda of the Judicial building which houses the Alabama Supreme Court as well as the other Appellate Courts of Alabama.

The Monument portrays our National Motto, "In God We Trust," our National Anthem, The Pledge of Allegiance and the words of our oath of office, "So Help Me God." In a dedication ceremony, Chief Justice Moore explained that the monument served to remind Appellate Courts and Judges of this State as well as members of the Alabama Bar and the people who visit the Alabama Judicial Building of the truth stated in the Preamble of the Alabama Constitution, that in order to establish justice we must invoke the "favor and guidance of Almighty God."

This time, the ACLU, joined by Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and the Southern Poverty Law Center, two national organizations dedicated to the removal of God from our society, sued Chief Justice Moore in yet another Federal Court. In November 2002, U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson ruled that the Ten Commandments were "one of the most important sources of American law," but that an acknowledgement of the Judeo Christian God crossed the line between the permissible and impermissible making the monument display unconstitutional. The Ten Commandments were ordered to be removed within 30 days and again, Chief Justice Moore defied the court and was granted a stay until the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, Georgia could hear this case.

On June 4, 2003, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals heard Oral Arguments in this historic case, and on July 1, 2003 they upheld the District Court Order stating that matters like "In

God We Trust” or “God Save The United States and This Honorable Court” are immune from Establishment Clause challenges “because they have lost through rote repetition any significant religious content,” quoting former Justice William Brennan.

The federal courts have now made it clear that we can acknowledge God only when it doesn't mean anything—and when it does, it becomes unconstitutional.

This gives new meaning to “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.”

Now those who want to deny our God are pressing the court to award over \$740,000.00 in attorney fees to these organizations which already have millions at their disposal. They want to intimidate Chief Justice Moore and stop his appeal, but Chief Justice Moore will never stop and will not be discouraged from telling the truth! The very object of the First Amendment was to allow the acknowledgement of God.

There is a fierce struggle and the Lord will not be denied! The battle still belongs to the Lord!

Month In Review

Happy Thanksgiving!

Q “Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the Lord is the great god, and the great King above all gods. In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights of the hills are His also. The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land.

“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God. And we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.”

—Psalm 95:1-7

Q “This proclamation was made by Governor Bradford in 1623, three years after the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth:

“ “To all ye Pilgrims: Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as he has protected us from the raids of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience: now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at

ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November ye 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three, and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Plymouth Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.’ ”

Q “Count your blessing instead of crosses:

Count your gain instead of losses.

Count your joys instead of woes;

Count your friends instead of foes.

Count your smiles instead tears;

Count your courage instead of fears.

Count your full years instead of lean;

Count your kind deeds instead of mean.

Count health instead of wealth;

Count on God instead of yourself!”

Q “We ought to give thanks for all fortune: if it is ‘good’ because it is good, if ‘bad’ because it works in us patience, humility and the contempt of this world and the hope of our eternal country.”

—C.S. Lewis, Letters, August 10, 1948

Q “As Christians we are tempted to make unnecessary concessions to those outside the Faith. We give in too much... We must show our Christian colours, if we are to be true to Jesus Christ. We cannot remain silent and concede everything away.”

—C.S. Lewis, God in the Dock

Q “Christianity is a fighting religion. It thinks God made the world—that space and time, heat and cold, and all the colours and tastes, and all the animals and vegetables, are things that God ‘made up out of His head’ as a man makes up a story. But it also thinks that a great many things have gone wrong with the world that God made and that God insists, and insists

very loudly, on our putting them right again.”

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (1974)

Q “Enemy-occupied territory—that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed. You might say landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage. When you go to church you are really listening in to the secret wireless from our friends: that is why the enemy is so anxious to prevent us from going.”

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (1974)

Q “Kindergartners and first-graders may not distribute to their classmates gifts that bear a religious message, according to a ruling by a federal appeals court.

“The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals recently ruled in favor of a New Jersey elementary school in forbidding a boy from giving out pencils with the message ‘Jesus loves the little children’ with a heart symbol substituted for the word love.

“The classroom is not a place for student advocacy, wrote Chief U.S. Circuit Judge Anthony J. Scirica, speaking for the court in *Walz v. Egg Harbor Township Board of Education*. The school, he said, has a ‘legitimate area of control’ regarding speech within school confines.

“And the younger the student, ‘the more control a school may exercise,’ he added.

“But the Charlottesville-based Rutherford Institute, which is representing Daniel Walz, now 9, plans to appeal the case to a full bench of 12 judges of the 3rd Circuit, and, if necessary, to the U.S. Supreme Court. The recent unanimous ruling, which was handed down Aug. 27, was made by three judges.”

—The Washington Times, September 21, 2003, p. 1

Q “An international team of researchers has discovered the gene that allows male bees to have no father, a finding that may help experts preserve endangered bee populations so they can keep the busy insects pollinating crops and wild flora.

“ ‘We found the section of honeybee genome responsible for the differentiation between female and male,’ Kim Fondrk of the University of California at Davis, who worked on the study, said in a telephone interview.

“The discovery helps explain a lot of things that are strange about bees and may help experts preserve endangered bee populations so they can keep the busy insects pollinating crops and

wild flora.

“Writing in the latest issue of the journal *Cell*, Miss Fondrk and colleagues in Germany and Norway said the responsible gene is called complementary sex determiner, or *csd*.

“*Csd* has 19 alternative versions, called alleles. Female bees have two copies of *csd* which are always different alleles. Males have only one copy.

“About one-fifth of animal species including all ants, bees and wasps use a similar system of sex determination, but the actual genes and mechanisms involved are not well understood.

“It helps explain their complex social systems, said Miss Fondrk.

“ ‘There are three castes—the queen, who is the egg-layer and mother of all the bees in the hive,’ Miss Fondrk said. In the wild, she mates only once with a male to get the two sets of genes that go to all of her female offspring.

“ ‘Then the workers are females and they do all the work. They are the ones that sting. They are the ones that bring the honey in, too.’

“Then there are the males—the drones. ‘Drones just have a sexual function,’ said Miss Fondrk. And they do not inherit a second set of genes from a father bee. They are half-clones of the queen.”

—The Washington Times, August 28, 2003, p. A9

Q “The United Nations Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Employees (UN-GLOBE) sponsored a meeting of homosexuals at UN headquarters during the first week of August. Secretary-General Kofi Annan appeared briefly at the well-attended gathering and Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, sent a supporting message.

“In its report about the meeting, the UN-monitoring Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute noted that self-professed homosexual Representative Barney Frank (D-Mass.) announced plans to seek trade sanction against U.S. trading partners that oppose UN human rights measures for homosexuals.

“During a panel discussion, Paula Ettrick, executive director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), discussed the coming ‘showdown with religion,’ especially targeting Pope John Paul II’s statement condemning homosexual marriage. Princeton University professor Anthony Appiah suggested limiting religious freedom because of the numerous anti-homosexual religious groups. Canadian parliament member Svend Robinson criticized Bishop Frederick Henry of Calgary for his defense of

traditional marriage.

“The panel registered support for a resolution seeking to expand the UN’s definition of discrimination to include discrimination based on sexual orientation.

“An IGLHRC flier distributed at the meeting listed as targets measures against ‘sodomy, age of consent and other sex act laws, laws of prostitution, laws penalizing those wearing clothing of the opposite sex, obscenity/pornography laws, denial of marriage to same sex partners, denial of marriage to trans[gender] people, laws on parenting/adoption [by homosexuals].”

—The New American, September 8, 2003, p. 6

Q “Traditionally, sodomy was viewed as an act, and was condemned as unnatural and deviant...Today, “gay” signifies not so much an act or condition as the identity of people who say that they most essentially are what they do and want to do sexually....They are not asking for tolerance of their private sexual practices. ...They are demanding, rather, public acceptance and approval...

“Many oppose same-sex unions and the consequent revolution in marriage and family law because they believe homosexuality is a disorder and homosexual acts are morally wrong. That is not a private prejudice. It is not, as the Supreme Court claimed, an ‘irrational animus.’ It is a considered and very public moral judgment grounded in clear reason and historical experience, and supported by the authority of the biblical tradition.

“Nobody should apologize for publicly advocating a position informed by the foundational truths of western civilization.

“Homophobia is a term of recent coinage intended to serve as a conversation stopper. Its power to intimidate is rapidly diminishing. Support for the civilizational tradition...is not a phobia; it is not an irrational fear.”

—The Washington Times, September 19, 2003, p. A2

Q “Twenty-five years ago there were essentially two STD’s, gonorrhea and syphilis. Now there are at least 25 to 30 STDs.

“This year 15 million Americans are going to contract an STD. Two thirds of them will be under the age of 25, which comes out to about 10 million young adults.

“Eight to ten thousand (8,000-10,000) new cases of STDs are occurring each and every day.

“One in four teenagers (25%) who are sexually active has an STD. Most teenagers don’t

know they have an STD because 85% of the time they have no symptoms.

“Oral sex transmits the same diseases that intercourse does.

“The most common sexually transmitted disease is called Human Papilloma Virus, and it’s responsible for 95 to 98% of all cervical cancer cases. It kills 5,000 women each year.

“It used to be a disease that affected women in the 50s, 60s, and 70s; now early cervical cancer is occurring in teenagers.

“After just one episode of intercourse, forty-six percent (46%), almost half, of all girls catch Human Papilloma Virus.

“Genital herpes now affects 20% of all Americans over the age of 12 according to the New England Journal of Medicine. Another journal concluded that if things don’t change in the very near future, 50% of American men will have genital herpes.

“Genital herpes may not kill you, but it is killing babies. There is no cure for it. Newborns whose parents carry herpes are dying or live for a while with seizures and severe retardation. Their brains look like ‘Swiss cheese.’

□ “Gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia can be treated with antibiotics, but they must be treated as early as possible to avoid irreversible damage.

“Gonorrhea is now mutating and becoming resistant to antibiotics. When this happens, antibiotics no longer work on that strain of the disease.

“HIV & AIDS, genital herpes, and Human Papilloma Virus cannot be killed by medicine.

“In the last 20 years, condom use amongst teenagers has actually grown from 21% to 67%, and the number of pregnancies have gone down. During that same time, the increase of sexually transmitted diseases has gone through the roof.

“The National Institutes of Health concluded in 2002 that, ‘condoms at best, reduce the risk of HIV and gonorrhea in men, but for all other STDs, there is insufficient evidence that condoms reduce the risk at all.’

“Dr. Armand Nicholi, Harvard Medical School author and professor, concluded that ‘sexual permissiveness has not led to greater pleasure, freedom and openness, more meaningful relationships between the sexes, or exhilarating relief from stifling inhibition.’ But, ‘has often led to empty relationships, feelings of self-contempt and worthlessness.’

“Researchers have discovered that teenagers who are depressed are more likely to be sexually active.”

—Mothers Against Sexual Exploitation, St. Louis, MO 63141, 314-434-7028,
freedombasics@sbcglobal.net

Q “It wasn’t exactly the ‘Scopes Monkey Trail,’ but scores of sometimes unruly critics and proponents of modern evolutionary theory squared off Wednesday before the Texas State Board of Education.

“To loud groans from the audience, applause and occasional shouts of ‘witch hunt,’ a coalition of scientists and educators warned against watering down biology textbooks with Christian-based ideas. Others said publishers should make changes that reflect flaws in evolutionary theory.

“At stake: about \$30 million in biology textbooks set to hit Texas classrooms in the 2004-05 school year. The result will influence textbooks across the United States. The 15-member State Board of Education will vote on the books Nov. 7.

“The state requires evolution to be included in textbooks, but arguments against evolution have been successful over the past decade in other states. Alabama, Nebraska and New Mexico made changes that, to varying degrees, challenge the pre-eminence of evolution in the scientific curriculum.

Much of Wednesday’s testimony revolved around the concept of ‘intelligent design,’ which proponents call a legitimate alternative to Darwinist evolution, but which critics call pseudoscience.

“Samantha Smoot, president of the Texas Freedom Network, said intelligent design proponents want to use the concept of an intelligent design behind human evolution as a way of introducing religious creationism into science classes.

“ ‘Teaching creationism in science classrooms is unconstitutional,’ said Miss Smoot, whose group opposes proposals by Christian conservative groups, ‘Teaching “intelligent design,” the new creationism, is radically unscientific, and, despite the protests of “intelligent design” proponents, profoundly religious in nature.’

“But William Dembski, a leading proponent of intelligent design, told state board members that ‘Darwinian lobbyists’ are striving to maintain an illusion of scientific consensus related to evolutionary theory.

“ ‘I, another mathematically trained scientist, regard claims for the creative power of natural selection as implausible in the extreme,’ said Mr. Dembski, an associate professor at Baylor University. ‘All the textbooks under consideration grossly exaggerate the evidence of Neo-Darwinian evolution, pretending that its mechanism of natural selection acting on random genetic change is a slam-dunk. Not so.’

“In addition to holding a doctorate in mathematics, Mr. Dembski has a degree in divinity.

“The next generation of textbooks will cover courses of biology, family and career studies, and English as a second language. That state board can reject books based only on factual errors or for not meeting the state’s curriculum requirements.

“Because Texas is the second-largest textbook buyer in the nation, the board’s final decision on those books could affect education nationwide. The new books will be distributed next summer.

“Mark Ramsey, who represents Texans for Better Science Education, insisted that educators should consider alternatives to evolution theory.

“ ‘I once believed in evolution—I was surprised when a friend told me that there were inconsistencies with the theory,’ he said. ‘I was indoctrinated, some would say brainwashed, to believe that evolution was as proven as gravity. ... Today, over two decades later, many of us now know better.’”

—The Washington Times, September 12, 2003, p. A2

Q “It’s ‘Back To School’ time again, and here’s the first pop quiz. No, it’s not for the kids. It’s for parents, and they have to answer only one question: Do you know what your children are learning in sex-education classes?

“If you’re like most parents, the answer is no. But if the program is billed as ‘abstinence-based,’ you probably don’t feel particularly concerned. The important thing, as far as you’re concerned, is your kids are being taught to say ‘no’ to sex.

“But are they? The fact is, nearly all of the government-funded abstinence-based or ‘abstinence-plus’ programs delivered in schools nationwide contain little, if any, reference to abstinence. They may mention it briefly, but it’s often presented as something that (wink, wink) kids in the ‘real world’ will ignore.

“Far worse, though, is what abstinence-plus programs do contain: explicit demonstrations of contraceptive use—especially condoms—and direct encouragement to experiment sexually.

“This despite the fact parents consistently say they don’t want their children exposed to such

messages. A recent Zogby poll found 3 in 4 parents disapproved or strongly disapproved of abstinence-plus curricula. About the same number say they want their children to receive an authentic abstinence education.

“More likely, though, their children are being exposed to programs such as ‘Focus on Kids’ (which, like other abstinence-plus programs, is heavily promoted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Kids are told, among other things, to go on a ‘condom hunt’ to local stores to survey the various types of family planning methods and ask: ‘What’s the cheapest price for three condoms?’

“Focus on Kids also has teachers stage ‘condom races’ between teams of students. (Warning: Explicit language ahead.) ‘Each person on the team must put the condom on the dildo or cucumber and take it off,’ the program says. ‘The team that finishes first wins,’ But intercourse isn’t the only topic on the agenda. Teachers are told to have kids ‘brainstorm ways to be close. The list may include...body massage, bathing together, masturbation, sensuous feeding, fantasizing, watching erotic movies, reading erotic books and magazines...’

“Unfortunately, Focus on Kids isn’t the only program with such an approach. In ‘Becoming a Responsible Teen,’ or B.A.R.T, kids get an education not only in condoms but in lubricants: ‘If you were trying to find something around the house, or at a convenience store, to use as a [lubricant] substitute, what would be safe? Why? ...Some “grocery store” lubricants are safe to use if they do not contain oil: grape jelly, maple syrup and honey.’

“Then there’s the ironically named ‘Be Proud. Be Responsible’ program, which lists several way teachers can show kids as young as 13 ‘how to make condoms fun and pleasurable.’ For example, ‘Once you and a partner agree to use condoms...go to the store together. Buy lots of different brands and colors. Plan a special day when you can experiment. Just talking about how you’ll use all of those condoms can be a turn-on.’

“And who knows where you’ll be when the mood strikes? Perhaps that’s why the CDC-approved ‘Reducing the Risk’ program advises teachers to tell kids, while they’re shopping for condoms, to ‘put down the store’s hours, too, because it may be important to know where to get protection at some odd hours.’ There are also family-planning clinics, of course: Students who might worry about what Mom and Dad think are told, ‘you do not need a parent’s permission...no one needs to know that you are going to a clinic.’

“It helps to engage in some ‘role playing,’ too, according to the ‘Be Proud. Be Responsible’ program. Two females, ‘Tyceia’ and ‘Felicia,’ are told to ‘begin negotiating safer sex’ together. They’ve been ‘sexually active with males in the past,’ but now they can ‘accept’ their bisexuality. Male students aren’t excluded: ‘Gerald’ is told that ‘Allen has never used condoms. You want to have sex with him, but not without using condoms.’

“It’s bad enough that these sex-ed programs hide under an abstinence-based label while completely undermining what most parents want for their children. But when they encourage indiscriminate condom use and sexual experimentation, they’re sending kids a troubling message—that we expect them to be sexually active and approve of it, provided it’s ‘safe.’ And it’s all billed to you, the taxpayer. Is that what we want?”

—The Washington Times, September 3, 2003, p. A15

Q “In June 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court narrowly held that the Boy Scouts of America is free to exclude open homosexuals from the ranks of Scout leaders, even where a state anti-discrimination statute would otherwise prohibit the organization from doing so. Ever since, the American Civil Liberties Union has been resisting the decision. Wherever it can, the ACLU is suing, or threatening to sue, to demand that state and local governments and United Way cut off all relations with the Scouts, on the grounds entities must not associate with such a ‘discriminatory’ group.

“In late July, a federal district Court in San Diego sided with the ACLU when it held a longstanding lease of parkland to the Scouts to be an unconstitutional establishment of religion. But the case is far from closed; it may be overturned on appeal, and even if it stands, the court’s reasoning suggests that the remedy might be no more draconian than a requirement that the city allow other groups to bid for the Scouts’ lease. Nevertheless, the case deserves a closer look. The bias expressed by the judge is noteworthy, as is the plaintiffs’ zeal—in the absence of injury to any party—to harass the Scouts and if possible drive them from the public sphere.

“The lease at issue in *Barnes-Wallace v. Boy Scouts of America* goes back decades. The city first leased an 18-acre parcel of Balboa Park to the San Diego Scouts in 1957 for a nominal annual fee. The Scouts have invested several million dollars in this property since then to build and maintain a first-class campground site. In 1987, the city similarly leased a half-acre parcel to the San Diego Scouts in Mission Bay Park. The Scouts have invested millions in that site as well to build an aquatic center.

“The city’s practice has been to negotiate privately with the Scouts to renew the leases. But both sites are open to the public for a nominal fee on a first-come, first-served, reservation basis and are heavily used by non-Scout youth groups. The Scouts have now invested more in these properties than their sale value on the open market, according to the ACLU’s own expert witnesses.

“Moreover, the city has shown the Scouts no favoritism in the leases. San Diego maintains similar privately negotiated leases of public land with over 100 other nonprofit organizations, including religious ones, such as the Lawrence Jewish Community Center, the Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church, the San Diego Calvary Korean Church, the Salvation

Army, and the YMCA. In all these cases, the city's policy is to grant use of public property to an organization if it is willing to invest considerable amounts of its own money to provide a service to the public. In addition, the city grants public aid outright to nonprofit groups to provide public services. The grantees include religious groups, and even gay groups. Recipients have included Catholic Charities, Episcopal Community Services, the Salvation Army, and the Gay Men's Chorus of San Diego.

“Against this backdrop, the ACLU sued the city on behalf of a lesbian couple and an agnostic couple both with Scout-age sons, even though neither the sons nor the parents had been excluded from either facility or had tried to become Scouts or Scout leaders. The ACLU sought summary judgment. Judge Napoleon Jones granted it, holding that the Balboa Park lease amounts to unconstitutional aid to religion, and his reasoning applies to the other lease as well.

“But this is ludicrous. The Scouts receive no aid from the leases. Rather, the leases are a vehicle by which the Scouts provide millions in charitable aid to the city and the general public. The primary purpose and effect of the leases is not to advance religion, but to advance youth camping and water sports.

“In his ruling, Judge Jones was not shy about stating his views. The Boy Scouts, he said, ‘displays intolerance towards individuals who identify themselves as homosexual, agnostic, or atheist by denying membership to or revoking the membership of gay and nonbelieving individuals.’ The Scouts’ ‘strongly held, private, discriminatory beliefs,’ the judge continued, ‘are at odds with values requiring tolerance and inclusion in the public realm.’

“Tolerance and inclusion, that is, for liberal views, not for the traditional views embodied by the Boy Scouts. The San Diego case reflects an ominous metamorphosis in the gay rights movement. Gay rights used to be about the freedom of adults to do what they want with their sex lives behind closed doors, free of government interference or regulation. The public broadly has come to accept that view of government's role.

“But what the ACLU seeks now is something quite different. It is pursuing the vilification and marginalization of those who hold to traditional morality.

“In this new gay rights/ACLU world-view, approval of homosexual activity is mainstream, while the Boy Scouts, Catholics, and Bible-believing Protestants (not to mention Orthodox Jews, Mormons, Muslims, and so on) are all the fringe, unacceptable in polite society. The ultimate goal, one fears, is to prevent the expression and teaching of traditional values.

“How much healthier if those who espouse the ACLU/gay rights view were to exercise their civil liberties and start their own scout group to express their opinions on homosexuality, atheism, premarital sex, social justice, or whatever they wish. People then could vote with

their feet as to which outlook they support and which they think is right for their children.”

—Peter Ferrara, *The Weekly Standard*, September 29, 2003, p. 19

Q “On Aug. 15, Nicholas Kristof of *The New York Times* examined ‘the most fundamental divide between America and the rest of the industrialized world: faith. Religion remains central to American life, and is getting more so, in a way that is true of no other industrialized country, with the possible exception of South Korea.’

“Mr. Kristof wrote, ‘My grandfather was fairly typical of his generation: A devout and active [mainline] Presbyterian elder, he nonetheless believed firmly in evolution and regarded the Virgin Birth as a pious legend. Those kinds of mainline Christians are vanishing, replaced by evangelicals....The result is a gulf not only between America and the rest of the industrialized world, but a growing split at home as well. One of the most poisonous divides is the one between intellectual and religious America.’

“He concluded that ‘we’re in the middle of another religious Great Awakening, and that while this may bring spiritual comfort to many, it will also mean a growing polarization within our society....I worry partly because of the time I’ve spent with self-satisfied and unquestioning mullahs and imams, for the Islamic world is in crisis today in large part because of a similar drift away from a rich intellectual tradition and toward the mystical. The heart is a wonderful organ, but so is the brain.’

“Michael Horowitz, a Jewish leader in Washington, wrote a letter to Mr. Kristof in response. Here are excerpts:

“ ‘Nick, You’ve written a monumentally patronizing column—one that assumes that secularists are smarter [than believers] and that American evangelicals are akin to Islamist ayatollahs. My experience with the American Christian community—as extensive and intimate as that enjoyed by any non-Christian—is that American evangelicals are, increasingly, Rhodes scholars, Supreme Court clerks, law review editors, Ph.D. physicists, quiet community leaders, entrepreneurial businessmen. The equation of the mullahs with American evangelicals is profoundly inaccurate if only because the evangelicals I meet are self-questioning about their faith—earn it every day through struggles of the heart and mind.

“ ‘Your smug inaccuracy is...further bolstered by such patronizing notions as, for example, the repeated slander endlessly propagated by the Times that evangelical Christian support for Israel or opposition to anti-Semitism is done out of blind obedience to an obscure biblical passage rather than because the faith of evangelicals helps them understand the importance of supporting democracy, promoting tolerance, and reading the lessons of history. They understand that confronting Islamist terrorism is as much in the interest of oppressed Muslims as anyone else.

“ ‘The most profoundly inaccurate element that underlies your piece—the biggest lie of all—is one that assumes that all religious faith is pretty much the same in its character and effect. For all of the sins committed in its name, Christianity (and the Judeo-Christian heritage that happily still remains strong in America) has promoted democracy and tolerance—has surely done so far better than the secular faiths of the 20th century in whose name rivers of blood have flowed.

“ ‘Do you think that the rapidly declining mainline denominations you set up as models—which have largely substituted the politics of the left for belief in Torah and faith in Jesus, and have offered consistent apologies for the faiths of Mao and Stalin—have served rationality or tolerance or peace? What in the history of the 20th century, Nick, leads you to think that secularists who claim to think with their minds instead of being captured by the mad excesses of their hearts have not in fact been more mad and excessive in their actions and with the ideologies?

“ ‘The notion that evangelical Christianity is a kinder, gentler version of al-Qaeda terrorism and radical Islamist preaching—your central premise—is as dangerous an idea as floats around the world. Christianity is now experiencing the most rapid growth in its entire history—is happily spreading throughout the world... This development Nick, is closely linked to the spread of democracy and human rights.

“ ‘Your column does perhaps the greatest disservice of all to Muslims struggling to recapture their faith from modern-day Kharajites. It sells out beleaguered Muslim believers/heros like the late Anwar Sadat and the clerics struggling today, with almost no money, against Saudi-financed Wahhabi mosques and madrassas. Theirs is not an easy struggle, to be sure, but your implicit equation of fascist mullahs with Islamic faith is as patronizing as your treatment of American evangelicals.’ “

—World magazine, August 30, 2003, p. 35