

## AFA UPDATE

### A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

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### PRESENTING RELIGION TO THE AMERICAN MASSES - LESSONS FROM THE OPPOSITION?

Evangelical Christians are using new and daring ways to reach the American public, and their efforts are proving hugely successful. A sampling of their techniques can be found in the May 23rd issue of *Business Week*. In a special report titled "Earthly Empires: How evangelical churches are borrowing from the business playbook," *Business Week* shows how Christians are presenting the Gospel in new and contemporary formats, adding more music to their services, opening "mall churches," and using other innovations with telling effect. Some of these methods would be appropriate for Asatru, while others would violate our core values, but in either case the content is well worth reading by those of us interested in spreading the Way of our ancestors. (This article has stimulated creative discussions on the new Yahoo group for AFA members, by the way.)

While studying the glitzy new Christian approaches, of course, we should not forget that other, decidedly non-glitzy, religions like Islam are growing just fine - and that the Hollywood approach may not prove to have the staying power of these less glamorous methods of growth.

One humbling but valuable graph in the *Business Week* article broke down the American population by religious belief. Evangelical Christianity is expanding rapidly while the mainline Protestant churches were shrinking. But the most sobering revelation was that non-Christian religions - defined as "Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, other" - amounted to a whopping five percent of Americans. Asatru? Well, we didn't quite rate a specific mention.

The lesson is simple: Asatruar are numerically insignificant. We must face this unpleasant truth, then (1) work to increase our numbers while (2) trying to gain proportionally more clout for the numbers we do have...

...and that is exactly what the Asatru Folk Assembly is all about.

## POST-CHRISTIAN EUROPE, THE MUSLIM INVASION, AND THE RESPONSE OF NATIVE EUROPEAN RELIGION

Another interesting trend is the emerging Third World domination of Christianity. The book *Megashift*, by Christian author Jim Rutz, claims that evangelical Christianity is sweeping through Africa, Southeast Asia, China, and other places outside the Euro-American sphere. So rapid is this growth - 8 percent per year - that Rutz predicts that the whole planet will be essentially Christian within a few decades. If mathematics were the only concern, he reports, the number of Christians would equal the number of living humans in the autumn of 2032.

It is not that simple, of course. What Mr. Rutz does not understand is that Christianity has simply reverted to its original Third World roots. The European form of Christianity, on its deathbed in historical terms since Vatican Two, has essentially expired. Its death leaves behind a religious vacuum that is being filled by immigrant Muslims, while a distinctly non-European version of Christianity is running rampant in places like Latin America and Africa. The important demographic fact in Rutz' dreamworld is not the admittedly dramatic growth of Christianity outside the West, but the ongoing population implosion in Europe.

The good news in this scenario is that Europeans are finally shaking off the hangover caused by massive doses of Middle Eastern religiosity. What is not good is that it leaves our European kin agnostic, rootless, and largely without defense against the current Muslim invasion - an invasion different in style, but identical in intent and result, from the onslaught of the Middle Ages. Sprung from the same roots as Christianity and Judaism, Islam now infiltrates our ancestral homeland from Granada and Marseilles to Stockholm.

This infiltration will turn into a tidal wave if Turkey is admitted to the European Union. Turkey is not European in race or culture, and only a tiny slice of the country is on the European continent. Nevertheless, its acceptance into the EU will happen unless there is an outpouring of anger from the European people. Every other nation of the EU has a population that is in freefall, while that of Turkey continues to climb. With the EU policy of free migration across national borders within the Union, the result will be inevitable: The Europe we have known will disappear.

Europe needs a religion to oppose this demographic disaster. A revived form of militant Christianity, inspired by the Crusades, may possibly step into this role, but this would be a tragedy. The Germanic revival would be delayed for years, or even centuries. We would simply be crushed in the flow of events.

There must be a revival of native European religion to fill the space once occupied by Christianity. We who follow Germanic religion must move quickly and forcefully to

exploit this historically unique opportunity. Otherwise, our ancestral homelands will suffer under the renewed lash of a hostile, alien religion - whether Christian or Muslim.

### CLASSIC GUIDED VISUALIZATIONS NOW ON CD FOR THE FIRST TIME!

Paths to the Gods, our collection of guided visualizations, has long been praised for its ability to connect the listener with the gifts of Thor, Freya, Heimdal, Idun, and Skadi. Now, for the first time, it is available in CD format. You can order it from the AFA's website, [www.runestone.org](http://www.runestone.org), by clicking on our Online Store.

### YOUR HELP NEEDED TO SAVE NORWAY'S WOLVES!

As many of you know, the wild wolf population of Norway is teetering on the edge of extermination. Due to recent overhunting, it is entirely possible that there are no wolves in Norway capable of reproduction - a sad state of affairs for the animal arguably most identified with Odin!

I've said it before and I'll say it again: When we kill off the wildness around us, we kill off the wildness within our souls. That's good news for the world managers, for economic man, for the advocates of docility and a life defined by obedience, but for the rest of us it is not an option! Hence, we must stand with the wolves.

The AFA's representative in Norway is Kimberley Remen. She is trying to convince Norwegian conservation organizations that the AFA would be a viable partner in any endeavor to save Norway's wolves from eradication. But to do that, she needs to know how many AFA supporters would be willing to help. If you would be willing to sign a petition, send a letter, make a donation, or otherwise take action on behalf of Norway's desperately endangered wolves, please send a short, concise email to [afa@lanset.com](mailto:afa@lanset.com).

Our next step is to compose an online petition. We'll send a special message to AFA Update subscribers as soon as it is available.

### RUNE AND LORE CLASSES

The AFA sponsors twice-monthly classes on the runes and on Eddic lore in the Sacramento area. Anyone interested in attending can contact us at [afa@lanset.com](mailto:afa@lanset.com).

### AFA MEMBERSHIP

The mission of the AFA is "to practice, promote, and further evolve the religion of Asatru, thus forging it into a powerful and effective tool for building a better world." We

want to make a difference. If that pretty much describes your own attitude, then AFA membership is a logical next step.

How can you sign up? One way is to read the relevant documents on the AFA website (<http://runestone.org>), download an application form, and send in your dues. Or if that doesn't work for you, write us and we will happily send you a membership packet by regular mail.

It's been said that life is a battle. Maybe so - but when you've joined the AFA, you don't have to fight alone!

## DONATIONS!

The Asatru Folk Assembly is a 501 c (3) religious organization, and donations to it are tax-deductible.

## ODIN LIVES!

The groundbreaking radio program Odin Lives! is broadcast every Thursday night at 8 PM Eastern Time on a frequency of 7.415 MHz. This broadcast is repeated the next Tuesday morning at 12:15 AM on the same frequency. You can learn more by going to their web site at <http://www.odinlives.org>.

## IMPORTANT DATES

June 9 - Day of Remembrance for Sigurd the Volsung. No Germanic hero outshines Sigmund's noble son. His courage and nobility won him fame shining through the centuries. Recall his glory by listening to Wagner's Ring operas, or by doing something noble, or by slaying one of your own private dragons.

June 21 - Midsummer. This is the sun's moment of greatest glory, and the time of longest daylight. After today, the sun's decline begins. Decorate your house with sunwheels. Build a bonfire, or if that's not possible, burn a candle in her honor.

July 9 - Day of Remembrance for Unn the Deep Minded. Unn was a strong-willed matriarch who established dynasties in the Orkneys, Faroes, and Iceland. Do something to make your own family line stronger and more permanent. Recall the deep-minded women of your clan today.

Hail the AFA!

Stephen A. McNallen  
Asatru Folk Assembly

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Please refer him or her to [AFA\\_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:AFA_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

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