

New Bethel Christian Life Commission Report – January 2011

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Quote of Day

“Words are like leaves; and where they most abound,
Much fruit of sense beneath is seldom found.”

Alexander Pope (1688-1744), his entire poem “Words” in
William R. Bowlin (compiler), *A Book of Living Poems* (Albert Whitman, 1934; 158p.), 83.

Did You Know? – Of 50 Largest Charities

The Christian Science Monitor (11-22-10), 22: source Vic Robert, *The NonProfit Times*.
From full-page chart, comments by Michael G. Maness

Did you know that of the 50 largest charities, here are the top six, with a few others in the ranking and some of the data reported from their U.S. Form 990s.

Rank & Name	Total Income in Millions	Public Support in Millions	Compensation of Highest Paid Official
1. YMCA	\$ 5,843.9	\$ 774.7	\$ 432,600
2. Catholic Charities USA	4,270.3	597.8	194,082
3. United Way	4,128.8	3,842.0	628,379
4. Goodwill Industries Intl.	3,676.0	562.3	412,136
5. American Red Cross	3,301.8	562.3	412,136
6. The Salvation Army	2,611.2	1,719.3	214,810
7. Mem. Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center	2,188.3	1,719.3	2,817,483
8. Boys & Girls Clubs of America	1,470.0	624.5	893,926
10. Easter Seals	1,270.8	190.9	714,400
14. Boy Scouts of America	1,126.1	375.1	1,016,135
15. Smithsonian Institution	1,114.9	131.2	599,463
16. Planned Parenthood Federation	1,091.4	305.3	385,163
19. American Cancer Society	897.1	897.6	1,550,705
24. Girl Scouts of America	752.7	239.6	435,352
30. Campus Crusade for Christ	511.0	473.0	73,027
40. Metropolitan Museum of Art	319.1	138.3	871,647
50. Leukemia & Lymphoma Society	277.8	74.6	482,288

“Don’t Ask” Repeal Could Endanger Troops and Alcohol in the City of Woodville

Michael Foust, “Chiefs: ‘Don’t Ask’ repeal could endanger troops,” *Southern Baptist Texas* (12-21-10), 16.
Edited and comments by Michael G. Maness

Washington: all four military chiefs with the commandant of the Coast Guard and vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff gave their opinion on Dec. 3, 2010, before the Senate Armed Services Committee on how repealing (reversing) the ban on open homosexuality would impact the military. General George W. Casey Jr., chief of staff of the Army, said he believed there would be a “higher level of risk than is suggested in the survey,” referring to a Pentagon survey that indicated a low risk. Commandant of the Marine Corps General James F. Amos said a reverse “would absolutely have an impact on the combat forces.”

Maness comments. As you have seen it in the news, and shortly open homosexuality in the military will be the norm. Showering in cross-gender may next – who knows? The organization and leadership for the status quo was not as strong or influential as that for repeal. The same happened in Woodville, where nearly everyone I know wanted Woodville to stay dry; there were a lot voices around tables, but not *nearly* as much leadership and concerted teamwork to fight the sale of alcohol as there was to support it. Now we have semi-loads of cases of beer stacked at

Brookshire's and Wal-Mart. Today—it will be much harder to get out *now* and *forever after* than it would have been to fight yesterday.

I apologize for not taking anymore leadership in that myself, other than these notices and several encouragements for this association to endorse the writing of letters and newspaper ads by our DOM in the Tyler County Booster. We have *talked* about it here, and moaned together, but so few took a stand enough to make a difference. These facts a hand are more than spilt milk or the insight from hindsight. They are a warning of *who* we are.

This is all the more apropos to New Bethel, as the alcohol issue was lost years ago in the other two associations. And still the other two could have helped us too, but did not, knowledgeable as we all are that members who live in this association that attend churches in the other associations. So, let me ask—how many other town/hamlet/cities are left in Texas or in the USA that are still dry? There will shortly come a time when NONE exist. The proponents wasted no time: the day it was legal, the stores were stocked! Here is the point of this: if we – that is, Baptists especially – continue with this level of activity, there *will* be bars and more.

And it will take *much* more effort to oppose bars – sometime in the future – than it would have taken last year to oppose the city amendment. How should we then live?

Do No Harm – Medical Errors Kill some 100,000 Americans Every Year. How We Can Reverse the Trend

Claudia Kalb, *Newsweek* (10-4-10), 48-49; edited by Michael G. Maness

Citing the 1999 Institute of Medicine's landmark "To Err Is Human," it noted that 98,000 Americans die every year from preventable medical errors, a number *Newsweek* said, "Many experts believe is conservative." Moreover, "what is clear is that the culture of medicine must change." Harvard's Dr. Atul Gawande's *The Checklist Manifesto* and John Hopkins's Dr. Peter Pronovost's *Safe Patients, Smart Hospitals* are challenging the medical industry to "institute checklists modeled on the aviation industry." Much more research is coming. Some are heading this way already, to a "patient-drive, not physician-driven" institutions.

Newsweek's Power 50

Newsweek (11-8-10), 35-44 – edited by Michael G. Maness

1st Rush Limbaugh, making \$50+ million a year, pictured full page with house slipper and wireless mic; 2nd Glenn Beck, \$33m; 3rd Sean Hannity, \$22m; 4th Bill O'Reilly, \$20m; 5th Jon Stewart – and so on, the article went, detailing the scope of their influence, publications, and the most significant areas of impact of the top 25, merely listing the names, income, and platform of 26-50. Billy Graham was not there. Not one professional religious person was!

Oh, yes, we have come a long way. Where will the 21st century take us?

Will the most attended institutions in Woodville in 2099 be the honky-tonk, up past the gay bar and the XXX book store, easing out Big Bill's Video? It may if we continue the course of the last five years – but that is just my opinion.

Sorry ...
no cartoon today



News on Ethics—Have You Heard Something?

Have you seen something in the news or on the internet relating to Christian ethics and values? You can forward it to me, and I will put it in my grab bag for inclusion here.

E-mail me at Maness3@att.net – cheers and have a great day. ☺

BGCT Texas Christian Life Commission, www.ChristianLifeCommission.org & www.BGCT.org, 888-332-5870 — **Baptist Joint Committee**, Washington, DC – www.BJCPA.org — **SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission**, www.ERLC.com—

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Texas Legislature www.capitol.state.tx.us - Who represents you: www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm

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