

Quote of Month

“If you wish to live without struggle, without storm...
Do not seek a friend and do not call yourself anyone’s friend.”
Apollon Maikov, Russian Poet, in *Pillars of the Truth*

McKissic and Southwestern Trustees Reach Peace Agreement

Baptist Standard, 4-16-7, from *Associated Baptist Press*, in article by Hannah Elliott, edited by M. G. Maness

Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington and SWBTS graduate, feuded for months on “private prayer language,” a form of speaking in tongues. The controversy began after an August 2006 sermon at SWBTS in which he mentioned his own practice. He disagreed with the SBC IMB’s 2005 decision to exclude missionary candidates who espouse the practice. SBC leaders threatened to ask the SBC to remove McKissic from the SWBTS board. At one point, McKissic compared his treatment to a “lynching,” a comment he later apologized for. In April of 2007, the trustees decided to make peace, though they have had voted to “not endorse, advertise or commend ‘the conclusions of the contemporary charismatic movement including ‘private prayer language.’ McKissic was the lone Southwestern trustee to vote against the measure.”

Killing Disabled Babies—Acceptable?—Says Peter Singer

Edited from “Princeton prof Peter Singer says killing disabled babies acceptable” *Baptist Press*, reprinted in *Southern Baptist Texan* (Oct. 2, 2006): 16 – quotes from article, comments by M. G. Maness.

Princeton Professor Peter Singer founded the Great Ape Project to grant apes the same rights as humans, and his morals would allow the killing of disabled babies. The chief distinction comes with the human ability to make “distinctions between human beings he would consider normal and those he would consider not normal, thus he is deciding who is a person and who is not,” said Alex Schadenberg, executive director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (LifeSiteNews.com). Singer only believes in one moral absolute: “The only moral absolute is that we should do what will have the best consequences for all those affected by our actions.” Singer believes people have the right to end their life and even to end the life of their own loved ones, as with Terri Schiavo, and makes a distinction between “where people are competent to make their own decisions and cases where human beings are not competent, and who should then make those decisions. If it’s a newborn baby, it’s really the parents.”

I have written on Christian absolutes in my up-coming book, *Would You Lie to Save a Life*, and therein is a small section on absolutes regarding life and abortion. Most Christians would opt to save the life of the mother if her life was endangered in a pregnancy and a choice was forced, therein—as hard a choice as that is—a case for allowing death to take it’s natural course is not unreasonable, just as saving the mother at the expense of an unborn child seems reasonably Christian. We cannot save all life, and it is appointed unto humankind to once die.

Yet Professor Singer sings a sadder song inclined to slay all sanctity of life. So, we can kill disabled human babies, unborn human babies, and brain dead adults, claims Singer, *because* of the “best consequences for all affected”—and he is pretty talented to be able to determine the “consequences” for *all*. “All” is a big word, nearly divine in competence. And then he wishes to give human rights to monkeys and apes. What benefit is an ape? My dog knows more tricks than most apes and serves me better by keeping watch, but an ape—sheese, with all the trees? What is the difference between a monkey, a dog, a fish, and an insect? Can it be as simple as levels of consciousness? Hmmm ... seems to me, Singer has argued himself into being more of an ape than a human, but that is because I happen to think more of dogs than apes. My suggestion to Professor Singer is that we start with trying to give *all* humans *human* rights, like those currently pressed into slavery around the world, and admit that he who cannot distinguish between an ape and a human, certainly cannot distinguish which human is human enough to live or die.

☺ Woman Claims Religious Right to Eat Monkey Meat! ☺

A Staten Island woman claims she has the right to eat protected species in keeping with her religious beliefs. But prosecutors contend the Liberian-born Mamie Manneh Jefferson illegally imported pieces of

protected wildlife.... failed to show that eating the meat arises from a sincere religious belief.... federal agents at JFK International Airport allegedly discovered 65 species of illegal smoked bushmeat—including green monkey, hamadryas baboon, and antelope—buried beneath smoked fish in a ship to the Jefferson from Guinea.... Jefferson is a member of a church that blends Christianity with African traditional religion. As part of the religious practices, they eat boiled, blessed bushmeat on Christmas and Easter and a ritualistic events such as weddings and baptisms, believing it brings them closer to God. If ultimately convicted ... [she] could face up to five years ... a fine, or a combination.... She currently is serving a two-year state prison sentence in an unrelated case for running over her husband's girlfriend in a parking lot of a movie theater in February 2006. The victim survived.¹

Devotion

Knock away the Dog-Shores to Send the New Ship on its Way

#1845, The Pitifulness of the Lord the Comfort of the Afflicted, 6-14-1885, pp425-426, Vol. 31

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. James 5:11



The people of God find themselves more buoyant in the saltiest seas of sorrow than in other waters. The cross does raise us nearer to Christ when it is fully sanctified. Under his hand our struggle works out our lasting good. Rare gems glisten in the mines of adversity. I believe that the child of God seldom trusts God so simply at other times as he does when he is in great trouble. Then the second causes are all knocked away like dog-shores from a new-built vessel, and the soul glides like a ship from the stocks into the waters of grace which are her element. It is hard to learn swimming on dry land; but he that is in the water is driven to strike out: our troubles are such "waters to swim in." We are obliged—strange that we should need such forcing to it—we are *obliged*, I say, to cast ourselves on God when other helpers fail. It is written, "Blessed is he that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is": thus you see how sorrow compels us to trust that which makes us blessed, and thus you can better see why "we count them happy which endure."



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.erc.com— **American Center for Law and Justice**, www.aclj.org - **Christian polling**: www.grassfire.org & www.ethicsdaily.com ~ **Christian Coalition** www.cc.org

Congresspersons ~ 80th Texas Session begins January 2007

Todd Staples, Senator, Texas Senate District 3 – Capitol: 512-463-0103; District: 903-729-7717

Jim McReynolds, Representative, Texas House District 12 – Capitol: 512-463-0490; District: 936-634-9786

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

Kay Bailey Hutchinson, US Senator – <http://hutchinson.senate.gov/> 713-653-3456

John Cornyn, US Senator – <http://cornyn.senate.gov/> Tel: 713-572-3337 — **Kevin Brady**, U.S. Rep. Dist. 8 – 202-225-4901

www.Senate.gov
www.House.gov

¹ *Baptist Standard* 4-16-7.