

New Bethel Christian Life Report – August 2011

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Quote of Day

"Walk Slow, Talk Low ... and Watch Out for Snakes."

Rev. Jack Lewellen, saying of his father

“Media’s Undermining of Men Does No Favor to Women”

by Betsy Hart *Beaumont Enterprise* (August ?, 2011) – edited by M.G. Maness

This powerful article challenged the credibility of two influential male authors and the general media’s slamming of males as a gender.

Dan Abrams’ *Man Down: Proof Beyond a Reasonable Doubt that Women Are Better Cops, Drivers, Gamblers, Spies, World Leaders, Beer Tasters, Hedge Fund Managers, and Just About Everything Else* has a title that says it all and is a light-hearted book by chief legal news analysts for NBC. Hart notes how Abrams has never been married (from the cover “about author” section) “so despite his admiration for women evidenced by this book,” certainly then, it “does not mean he necessarily knows how to talk about them.” Though entertaining, Abrams offers serious conclusions, including editing the old cliché to read, “behind every great man there is probably an even greater woman – and in most cases, she ought to be out in front.”

Maybe that book will help *find* one.

Long-time married, high profile news correspondent and self-described counselor Mike Love wrote a huge tome *Confessions of a Recovering Stupid Male: Creating Loving Relationships that Will Last a Lifetime*, that Hart said was filled with New Age clichés like him working on his getting his emotions “in harmony.” Love “fills his tome with litanies against ... the violence and aggressiveness of men,” said Hart.

Hart seems astute to notice the positive: “Yep, sometimes those tough-guy qualities, rightly channeled, can come in handy. Like, let’s see, in defending women and children, winning wars, taking down Osama ben Laden, and checking out those bumps in the night – those kinds of things.”

Yet, powerfully pointed out in Hart’s op-ed, certainly and sadly true, though Abrams reportedly got a six-figure advance for his book, what are the chances of a similarly high-profile news person – man or woman – getting the same kind of advance for a book titled *Countless Ways that Men Are Better Than Women*? As Hart said, “Uh, let me think, let me think – not a chance!”

Hart’s concluded: “What may be the disappearing man in our culture is nothing that women, or real men, should cheer.”

China Arrests Church Members

by Whitney Jones, *Baptist Press* in “Week 16: China Arrests 35 Church Members”

Southern Baptist Texan (Aug. 15, 2011), 15, edited and clipped by M.G. Maness

Members of the Shouwang Church have been repeatedly arrested for praying. To be legal, churches must register, and so each week that Shouwang met was illegal and arrests have ensued: week 2, 50 arrests; week 3, 40; then 30, 13, 20, 25, 20, 20, 14, 14, 15, 19, 26, and 22 arrests on week 15. “Police has some of the arrested Christians sign a statement saying they would no longer attend the outdoor worship meetings and others were asked for their address so the police could keep them under watch,” ChinaAid said.

“Partnership Bring Seminary Education to Texas Prisoners”

by Clinton Wolf, *Southern Baptist Texan* (July 4, 2011), 1, edited by M.G. Maness

With a \$116,200 grant from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) partly funding the program, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) will train 40 long-term prisoners at the Darington Unit Texas state prison in a program that will lead to a fully accredited bachelor’s degree. SWBTS will provide “money outside its Cooperative Program allocation to fund the remaining half” of the professors’ salaries, and the state will provide classroom space. It is based on a program that began in Louisiana’s Angola Prison in partnership with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS).

See the documentary of the NOBTS program here: onmission.com/A-New-Hope/.

Invitations to prisoners are without respect to their faith: that is, the invitation is given to ALL prisoners with 10-plus years before they make parole, regardless of whether they are Christian, Muslim, Pagan, or Hindu.

What Should We Do? What CAN We Do?

Obviously, Doing Nothing and Saying Nothing Will NOT Help!

See the numbers below on how to contact YOUR U.S. Senator and Representative

Oh, I know what we can do ... continue to lie to our children on precisely HOW laws are made
... as illustrated wonderfully in this cartoon

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 —
James White, 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 – Tel: 713-572-3337 — **Kevin Brady**, U.S. Rep. Dist. 8 – 202-225-4901

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