

# Reports from the Street Evangelist for Women's Equality

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**Report from the street evangelist.** Mindy who works in our nursery came by to get her check. Mindy is leaving at the end of May to go into nursing school. She is from Chicago. Her husband is a mechanic.

As I held her check in my hand, I said, "Please don't forget what you have learned here. That in this church, women are equal." She began talking and told me how she had told her husband that she was equal. How their grandmother from Mexico was allowed to be the servant of the family and she had told them that grandmother did not eat until everybody was fed and then she ate by herself, and Mindy said that that was going to stop. That grandma was going to eat with everybody else and they could all help. She said now they order pizza!

Then she began telling me about her sister who has just come to live here. Abusive husband and she left with just the clothes she had on and was in Houston getting some clothes. I took her to my car and opened my trunk and took out two books. I signed one to Mindy and one to her sister. She said "my sister needs this."

She mentioned the machismo of Hispanic men several times.

My book is really geared toward women who are in church, but that is all I have, and I trust that the women that I give it to can find something in there to build them up. If nothing else, I trust that the title will be meaningful to them.

**Report from the street evangelist.** What a day! About 1:30 two young Hispanic women came to the door. There were wasps swirling around so I invited them inside. They were from some health organization and had name tag lanyards around their neck so they looked official.

I knew that I could not agree to anything they were offering, but there was nobody else around, so I had them sit down and they talked about presenting health benefits and Medicare Part D to our congregation. I made mention that we were mostly an older congregation and that might be something we would need to hear.

Then I moved the conversation to them and told them that my concern was equality for women in the church and home. I also told them that I had spoken at El Buen Pastor Baptist Church and that the men heard what I had to say. I said, "I had an interpreter." One laughed and said she wondered if I spoke Spanish. She also said more about the Hispanic machismo culture.

I showed them my book and asked if they liked to read. That one said yes and I knew she did. The other said yes, but I wasn't as sure about her. Anyway, I said to the hesitant one, I want to give you this book and I asked her what her name was and signed it to her. I knew that I had another book in the car, so I

told the eager one that I had a book for her in the car. So we walked out to the car and I signed the book to her. I wish I could remember their names, but it will probably come to me when I go to sleep tonight.

The eager one said she was going to read it, and then give it to her 14 year old daughter to read because she needed to know that. I said, "We have to break the cycle of women not feeling as if they are equal." and I gave her a hug and then hugged the other one.

**Report from the street evangelist.** A man was standing outside my office door. He had a lanyard around his neck. He was from the Neurorecovery Center and he wanted a pastor come pray with the 60 residents on Thursday which is the National Day of Prayer.

He said he was Catholic and that he felt the call to be a deacon but was not sure yet. He said that his wife had to sign the papers because being a deacon in a Catholic church became a family affair. He is a 'cradle' Catholic and his wife converted 3 years ago. She is the master gardener and teaches the residents about horticulture and gardening.

I asked if she liked to read. Then I said that I had a book in my car that I would like to give her. I got the book, signed it to his wife, and gave it to him.

When I got home, I had an email from CBE International telling me that I had won a book called "Finally Feminists" and it was being shipped to me.

**Report from the street evangelist.** Now I am worried. I just received a response from the Franklin Graham Samaritan's Purse Chaplain. I had written to Mr Graham about my concern that he might be teaching male headship in his Alaskan retreats for soldiers and spouses. The letter is from the chaplain and I knew by the first sentence that he is male headship and certainly was confirmed by the last sentence "Men especially need to have 'bands of brothers' in Christ, where they are encouraged to be healthier and stronger men in every facet of their lives, especially in their marriages." My problem with this is that they have just come from a war in male headship countries where they have helped little girls go to school and women go to work. Now they are told they themselves are to be 'heads' of their families. And the female soldiers are told that they are to submit to their husbands much like those women had to. Then I checked this chaplain out and he is Presbyterian PCA which does not allow women to be pastors or deacons and of course, men are the heads of women. What do I do?

**Report from the street evangelist.** Got a turn down from Dr Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. I had written him asking for a few minutes to sit and talk with him. His reply letter: "Thank you for your letter of April 17 along with the book "Dethroning Male Headship." In a sense, I am not fully certain why you wrote me. Obviously I am on the other side of this issue. You, of course, have every right to hold your position and to propound your position whenever and wherever you want. The issue in the final analysis is not really about gender, however. It is about the sacred Scriptures. Given the extensive misrepresentations of our own positions that I read in your book I do not think anything is served for us to sit down and talk. Especially is that true when all such discussions take away from the time we might spend leading men and women to faith in Jesus Christ.

Thank you, however, for the communication and may God richly bless you in every way. Until He Comes, Paige Patterson."

**Report from the street evangelist.** The toilet at the church where I work was leaking again, so I called the plumber. In the 9 years I have been there, Nick the plumber has been called many times. This time as he was squatting down by my desk writing out the charges, I said, "Nick, are you married?" Now, I am probably 25 years older than Nick, but he was still surprised. He said he was. I told him I had a book I would like to give his wife. I reached behind me and got "Women Equal - No Buts" and handed it to him. He thumbed through it, and looked and looked at many pages. I wasn't sure what he was about to do. He said, "My wife loves to read. I just took home a box of books for her yesterday." I said, "What is her name?" Let me sign it to her. He walked out with the book in his hand.

**Report from the street evangelist.** Time for a haircut. As I have mentioned to several people, I go to different stylists to cut my hair. I have gotten some bad haircuts this way, but evangelizing in hair salons is an easy thing to do. They have to stand there and listen (maybe that is why I have bad haircuts?!), but in reality, I have found stylists to be interested in what I am saying. So yesterday we talked about gambling at Coushatta where she and her mother were going to right after work. Then she remembered that the last time I had seen her I had mentioned my book. "Yes, and I have brought one for you today." I signed it and gave it to her. It was raining and a slow day so I think she will thumb through it. If not, the title "Women Equal - No Buts" will be seen and who knows?

**Report from the street evangelist.** Went to the dermatologist today. As I was going into the huge almost empty building, a young very pregnant woman came in with me and we rode the elevator to the doctor's office. She and I were the only two in the waiting area and I asked her when her baby was due. She said June 9. And that it is a little boy. She has one little boy already. I told her I had 2 sons. She said, "I'm going to be outnumbered." As a mother of boys, I knew exactly what she meant. Camping and Star Wars and such. When I was leaving, the waiting area was full of people, but as I went to get on the elevator, she was coming down the hall and I held the elevator for her. I said, "You are going to be outnumbered with the boys! But I want you to remember that you are Equal - No Buts." I handed my street evangelist card to her.

**Report from the street evangelist.** Overdue time for a mammography and bone density test. This is a one-on-one 30 minutes time with a woman technician, so I tucked a book Women Equal-No Buts into my purse. When we were finished, I told her that I wanted to give her a book I wrote. I pulled out my book and wrote "To Betty" and signed it. I told her that my background was Baptist. Sometimes you just know when to say that. Anyway, she said she was born Catholic but became Baptist and she and her husband attended a large Baptist church here for 14 years. They loved the music, but now attend a large non-denominational church. They still miss the music. I said, "My sister went there for many, many years and she loved the music, too. But then she realized that she could not stand for the pastor (who has been there 30+ years) to say anything more against women. So she left." Sounding surprised, Betty then said, "I guess he does." She had not put a finger on what the preacher was saying, but when it was brought to her attention, she saw it.

**Report from the street evangelist.** I have written three books, but the one I give away on the street is *Women Equal-No Buts: Powered by the same Source*. My other two books are *Dethroning Male Headship* and *Outside the pastor's door: Reflections of a church secretary*. All three of my books are in our local library. Last week a woman found my *Outside the pastor's door: Reflections of a church secretary* which also promotes women equality, and is a collection of columns that I have written for the church newsletter.

**Dear Shirley,**

**I just picked up your book "Outside the pastor's door" in the "new book" section of the library and am so enjoying it! I think it was another "God-incidence" as I have been asked to do a break-out session on good inspirational reads this weekend at our retreat for our church's Women's Retreat. I will definitely be including your book. Shirley, I feel like I know you from reading this book and would love meet you, maybe for lunch? I am a retired elementary school librarian, and love the Lord. Let me know if you are interested. Have a great, blessed day! Signed Martha (name changed).**

Hi Martha,

I am so glad that you enjoyed the book "Outside the Pastor's Door." Several people told me that they really enjoyed it, but that it was not what they expected by the title. I always countered with "I can't reveal any church secrets because I don't want to lose my job or be sued!"

You can't imagine how pleased I am that you will be taking it to the Women's retreat. I hope they enjoy the book. If they are interested, I have some here at home that I sell for \$7.50 each.

Another reason this is very important to me is that I am also a member of your church. My husband Don and I attend the 8:30 morning worship each Sunday. I would love to meet you and have lunch sometime. I still work as a church secretary but could meet for lunch one day.

Again, thank you so much.

Shirley Taylor

Street evangelist for women's equality

author of *Women Equal - No Buts: Powered by the same Source*.

author of *Dethroning Male Headship*.

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**Shirley, I'm so sorry I did not know you were a member of OUR church. I knew your name sounded familiar but I couldn't think why! When I return from the retreat, I'll email you about lunch. Now I really am excited about sharing your wonderful book - wow - one of our own has authored this book! Thanks for getting back to me! Have a blessed weekend. Signed: Martha**

