



Reports from the Street Evangelist for Women's Equality

(A special thanks to my friend, Sharon Martin, who makes it possible to give *Women Equal – No Buts: Powered by the same Source* and *Dethroning Male Headship: Second Edition* to those met by the Street Evangelist for Women's Equality)

Please note that I never actually get into why women are equal and do not ever quote scripture to those to whom I give my books. My books say it all much better than I can on the street. I move on to the next opportunity and, like the evangelists of old, never follow up with what happens.

Report from the street evangelist. Got off work early and decided to stop at Bed Bath and Beyond to purchase a knife block for my new very expensive knives from Mexico. They were a gift from a cousin who lives in Mexico. But I couldn't stop there and wandered around the store and was looking at bath rugs when a 50ish woman and I struck up a conversation. She had just moved to a city north of here and where I used to go to church and still know people. Her father is a Baptist pastor and about to retire. We discussed rugs and then the conversation moved to the recent presidential election, and quickly on as another woman joined in the conversation. I gave both women my card and the first woman said, "I'll call you sometime and we can go out to eat." I would love that. I also wanted to give her a copy of my book. "I am about to check out and I will go to the car and get my book and bring it back." She said she had lots more to look at and would be glad to get my book. I hurried out after paying for my purchase and got the book. Found her and gave her my book. Will I hear from her? I doubt it. Nobody yet has contacted me and I don't expect her to either.

Report from the street evangelist. Spent last night in a hotel after a great meeting of CBE Houston. Breakfast would have been Ok if the eggs had been warm, but they weren't and Don decided we could get a better breakfast at Whataburger on I-45. Couldn't remember which exit it was so we passed it. No problem. We will go to Whataburger close to the church where I work since we were headed there to church this morning. Don has an old co-worker who, along with his wife, starts every day at that Whataburger. We've seen them there before and not just at breakfast! Sure enough, when we walked in they were sitting at a table. There was another man with them. We joined them and before our food had come, I was signing a book to give to his wife. And I passed out a card to the other man sitting there. He said he knew me. I had no idea who he was. Couldn't remember ever seeing him in

my life. As we were leaving, I touched him on the shoulder and said, I really don't remember who you are. He said a few years ago we had come in to Whataburger and saw the couple we knew and he said he was with them. He said I passed out my street evangelist cards and he took one. Went home and ordered Women Equal – No Buts. Thought it was great. Well, what could I say? I sent Don out to the car to get "Outside the pastor's door: Reflections of a church secretary" and gave that to him as a gift! He thanked me and said, "You'll get your money back because I will order your newest one!" What fun! I gave away 7 books in the past 3 days. My friend who purchases these books for me to give away, said this morning "I was going to buy a goat from Heifer International for missions, but I guess I need to buy more books!" Buy the goat, I said. I still have some books!

Report from the street evangelist. The last eye glasses I bought was in 2007 when I replaced the ones I broke when I fell flat on my face in a restroom in Shanghai, China. Past eye exams showed no significant change in my eyes but it was time to get new glasses. Waiting for the optometrist, I struck up a conversation with the assistant. And of course happened to mention my books. Sent Don out to the car to get two books since the optometrist was a woman, but we were in Don's car and did not have any. Went to get my glasses yesterday. Stood up, took a few steps, and felt like I was on a cruise ship and sat back down. "I can't see!" Went back and got my eyes examined again. Problem was in the left eye so got a new prescription. This time I was prepared. Gave the assistant and the optometrist each one of my books. Forgot to say that the optometrist is a very sweet young Chinese woman who has two daughters. (have new glasses and can see perfectly!)

Report from the street evangelist. Today in church I realized that I live a strange Christian life. For ten years I have worked for a denomination but do not attend church there. I love the people and I love their attitude about women being equal. This is the church where I am hugged, called by name and loved. The church of a different denomination where I attend does not hug me, or love me, and outside of my Sunday School class, few know me. However, the pastors do know me and I can freely email any one of them and get a response, and a hug on Sunday morning. I am comfortable here, sitting beside a woman every Sunday, whom I don't email or call but do enjoy talking with (with Don sitting on my other side). But neither of these churches is where my heart is. My heart is with another denomination. Let me explain it this way. I was a poor, country girl when I left East Texas after high school graduation and moved to Houston where I met my husband. We had season tickets to the Houston Oilers, to the Grand Opera, went to the Ballet, classical music filled my home, we were at the Houston Astros games, we traveled far and wide. My life changed and I was no longer that poor country girl when I went back home. But I was 'home' and even though my life had changed, this was my family whom I loved and who loved me. I felt kinship and safe with them. This is how I see my Baptist denomination. I have grown away from them in a different direction. But they are my family, my kinfolks. You can see this in my letters (the past two weeks) in the Baptist Standard and my blog being picked up by Texas Baptist Committed frequently.

Report from the street evangelist. Set my booth up at the Craft Fair with all 5 of my books on display. Sent out a notice to "next door" neighborhood website inviting all to stop by and meet the street evangelist. Talked to many people today. Sold some books. Talked with the president of our

neighborhood Book Club president and she may or may not invite me to speak. Not counting on it because I had called her 2 years ago and asked if I could speak to their group. Can you believe they have never (up to today) met an actual author? Handed out dozens of cards. Was asked "Do you believe husbands are to be the spiritual leaders in their family?" I said an emphatic "No." Then I said, "Jesus never said husbands were spiritual leaders. Jesus told women he would send an Advocate, not a husband."

Report from the street evangelist. Just returned from our local library (huge system with many regional libraries). With two of my newest books "Raising the Hood: A Christian Look at Manhood and Womanhood" in my hand, I asked for the library director. Was told he was not in today but was actually there somewhere. So I went looking for him and found him. "I'm not in," he laughed. I gave him my books (one for that regional library and one for the Central Library) and he said he would process them for checkout. He loved the cover. I thanked him for carrying my books and told him that Christian book stores would not carry them because they will not carry books promoting women's equality. We also have a hard time finding a publisher because who wants to publish a Christian book that cannot be sold across the nation in Christian bookstores? I pointed out my experience with the Christian bookstore here and showed him where I had written about it. He could not believe it. Then he showed me their new library bookmarks with Texas and local authors' names printed on them. My name is on the bookmarks! He is a great guy. Father of elementary boys and an advocate for women's equality. I knew that but he told me his story today. He told me that a certain study had opened his eyes to how hard it was for women to break into most any field. Will you be like him and help promote women's books so that others can read the freedom of equality?