

*Quote of Day*

Isaiah 42:6-7

“I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee ... for a light of the Gentiles; to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.”

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**Patriotism: Islam and Independence Day**

Imam Mikal Saahir, *Muslim Journal* (July 15, 2011), 3.

In the May CLC report, I gave an extended quote from a Heritage Foundation Article (Heritage.org) “The Real Impact of Shariah Law in America,” among which was discussed the lawsuit of a Moroccan Muslim woman who lived with her Moroccan Muslim husband in New Jersey, who beat her repeatedly and claimed such was his “religious” right. In this article, the Muslim author outlines the meaning of the Fourth of July celebrating the American *right* of independence. Here are a couple of quotes:

Independence does not belong more to the White man than it does to the Black man or any other human being. The need for and urge toward independence was established in every human while yet in the wombs of their mothers....

The Quran 2:193 states: “*And fight them on, until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in G-d. But if they cease, let there be no hostility, except to those who practice oppression.*” Isn’t this the same basis upon which America’s independence was founded? America was founded, first and foremost, upon freely establishing “Faith in G-d.”...

*Al-Islam teaches that the worse form of oppression is false worship [italics his]....*

Allah did not allow Prophet Muhammed to force religion on anyone. The Prophet was told to invite them with beautiful teachings to the faith. And Allah established that there is no compulsion in religion.... Independence Day, as exemplified in all the major faiths, is a time for remembering and celebrating the ability for every human being to achieve independence in their mind, body and soul; the ability to be free to serve their Creator.... Real religion practiced (lived out) as dictated by our Creator is specifically designed to give each and every human being a true independence that educates and liberates, to the point where we are free to accept G-d as our Lord. That is our human nature as given to us by Allah (G-d).

The wise men who penned the Declaration ... were blessed to grow into an understanding of this basic and essential need of every human being, and the role of government to be formed around this human need [Author closes with a quote from the Declaration, “We hold these truths ...”].

Maness: Focusing on the author’s assumption of a universal “need” for independence, he failed to address the greater need of all people to be “dependent” upon God, even in Islam, to say nothing of Christianity. Historically, the Declaration was less about “need” and vastly more about “rights.” Here was a national publication to primarily black American Muslims that it is *publishing* not what many anti-Muslim Christian harbingers allege, when the harbingers quote anything at all. Still, the Muslim author betrays a faulty understanding of “independence” as essentially something that is only available within the Muslim faith, without touching on his own more basic theological dilemma: the very word *Islam* means “submission,” and followers (Muslims) are those who “submit” to the will of Allah. The Muslim author’s “independence” is far from clean of conflict and is similar to the Calvinist God of providence who grants freedom though God knows and is over every “free-will” action before it happens. What is “free will” and “independence” in this context? For this Muslim, the need for true independence is only obtained *in submission* to Allah, and he struggled to value independence with some patriotic words driven into a gully of “need” that, somehow, Islam has supported for 1,000 years before 1776. He failed (or refused) to grasp that those “wise men” actually meant that independence was a *right* to believe what one’s conscience dictated, even to believe in any God or no God, and those “wise men” signed that that *right* was given to them by their creator.

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## 2010 Year's End Numbers (*TIME* Dec. 28-Jan 4), 35.

U.S GDP - \$14.3 Trillion	Swine Flu Cases 47 million
Words of U.S. Legislation, 3.5 million	World Languages in danger of becoming extinct 2,500
People who joined Facebook 200 Million	U.S. Newspapers failed – 139
Average # of Emails 13,505	Britain's tax rate on Banker Bonus' – 50%
Miles driven on U.S. hwy. – 2.9 trillion	NASA spent to discover water on moon - \$3,038,461

Makes me reflect, what are *my* numbers at years end? Not merely on finances or baptisms, the common numbers, but the odd numbers: how many flat tires fixed for strangers, handshakes to visitors, meals to shut-ins, and – God help us – how many complements to one's pastor, how many times did we remember his sermon points (or worse, what passage used [or worse, how many times we reviewed the passage in the following week {or worst, how many times did we *practice* a single point}])? How many times did you \_\_\_\*\_\_\_ or did you fail to \_\_\_\*\_\_\_? What is the oddest or strangest *number* in your life this past year?

The very fact that most us cannot recall much (or anything), then, what does that say about our accounting?

### Texas Prison Chaplaincy – We Won -- Thanks

In an email this week from Texas House of Representative Jerry Madden, chairman of the House Committee on Corrections, he affirmed that Texas prison chaplaincy was funded the same as last biennium, with the certain loss of one position. That was great news, only, we should not have had to fight to preserve the institution. Here are some statistics for prisoners in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

TDCJ in FY2010 on 8-15-2010					
Total Prisoners	160,711	%	Atheist	246	0.153%
Christian	131,120	81.6%	Satanist	217	0.135%
Non-Catholic Xns	97,624	60.7%	Agnostic	177	0.110%
Baptist - all	37,348	23.2%	Episcopal	175	0.133%
Catholic	33,506	20.8%	Neo-Pagan	126	0.078%
Muslim	7,018	4.37%	Rastafarian	102	0.063%
Native Am.	4,121	2.56%	Hinduism	59	0.045%
Pentacostal	3,972	2.47%	Druid - all	29	0.0180%
Jehovah Witness	1,880	1.43%	Christian Science	20	0.0153%
Methodist* - all	1,684	1.05%	Scientology	16	0.0100%
Paganv - all	1,563	0.973%	Unitarian	15	0.0093%
Church of Christ	1,259	0.783%	Hare Krishna Iskcon	13	0.0081%
Jewish	839	0.522%	Rosicrucian	13	0.0081%
Disciples	794	0.494%	Thelema	12	0.0075%
Wiccav	768	0.478%	Voodoo	12	0.0075%
Buddhist - all	794	0.494%	Salvation Army*	11	0.0068%
Lutheran	498	0.310%	Santeria	9	0.0056%
Odinist Asatru	378	0.235%	Evolutionist	1	0.0006%
Nation of Islam	332	0.207%	None	8,133	5.06%
			Unclassified	2,804	1.74%

### 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](http://www.ChristianLifeCommission.org) & [www.BGCT.org](http://www.BGCT.org), 888-332-5870 — **Baptist Joint Committee**, Washington, DC — [www.BJCPA.org](http://www.BJCPA.org) — **SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission**, [www.ERLC.com](http://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](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us) - Who represents you: [www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm](http://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

[www.Senate.gov](http://www.Senate.gov)  
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