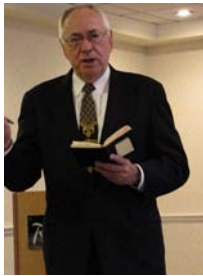


# *Counsel the Word*

*Volume 7 No. 5      March 2010      Institute of Soteria Counseling*



**From the President:**

## **“bible” Again Revised** *by J.R. Ensey*

I know most of our readers will be so thrilled to hear that the psychiatry bible (with a little “b”) is again being updated and enlarged. The *Washington Post* reports that the following additions are up for inclusion in the new edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM):

- Children who throw too many tantrums could be diagnosed with “temper dys-regulation disorder with dysphoria.” That used to be cured with loving discipline that sometimes involved the peach tree out back.
- Teenagers who seem “eccentric” might be candidates for treatment of “psychosis risk syndrome.” Hmmmm... “Eccentric” is quite broad in its definition. Could “risk syndromes” be extended to include such conditions as “extreme religiosity,” or “Bible addiction,” or “church attendance disorder”? I realize that may sound unreasonable to us now, but the way our country is moving, anything is possible five or ten years from now.

Advocates of these and many other proposed additions to the growing list of so-called disorders claim that the new diagnoses “will help shape which emotions, behaviors, thoughts and personality traits society considers part of the natural spectrum of the human persona and which are considered pathological, requiring treatment and possibly even criminal punishment.” Wow! Re-read that quote from the report and consider the possibilities this offers to the regulation of human behavior. The DSM puts a club into the

hands of the social engineers of the current administration that could be used to quell any dissent and curtail whatever behaviors they feel are not in the best interest of society. It creates a track to move from simple “personality traits” to “criminal” activity and “punishment.” Think of the implications.

The American Psychiatric Association president, Alan Schatzberg, says, “We want to get an accurate assessment of what the degree of psychopathology might be in the culture.” Of course. Backing the new diagnoses will be the drug companies who stand to reap billions from the medications they will produce to treat them. And the psychiatrists will cream off millions in kickbacks from the pharmaceuticals for prescribing their pills and potions. Duh.

A few level-headed individuals have expressed “fear that the new diagnoses could unnecessarily stigmatize many people and lead to the unnecessary use of psychiatric medication that can sometimes produce serious side effects.”

Wake up, America! Wake up, Apostolics! The “psych bible” might need enlarging and adjusting, but the Bible we know still has the solid answers people most need to hear: “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (II Peter 1:3). —

J. R. Ensey



## **SINdromes**

*by Jerry Trevino*

We live in a world that is anxiously waiting for a chance to make excuses for man's sins. If you have a habitual vice, our world will name it a disorder and tell responsibility to hit the door. Everything from adultery to impulsive buying habits are being blamed on some mental deficiency. And since nobody asked to be born that way, they certainly should not have to suffer repercussions from their actions, no matter how heinous they are.

I read in the news that a defense attorney says that a man who raped and brutally killed a nine-year-old girl was mentally retarded; therefore, he should not be punished to the fullest degree. Yet this same man reads the newspaper everyday and uses the library in prison to read law books. Oh, but he has a mental problem! So let's put justice in the back seat so emotion can take the wheel and drive us into a never land where humanity is believed to be basically good in nature. Then when things go horribly wrong, we can blame it on some aberration and call it a syndrome. Perhaps we should call it a SINDrome.

A woman is suing a car dealership because she claims to have a bipolar disorder that causes her to make impulsive decisions. She says that she was taken advantage of by the car salesman. Who hasn't been taken advantage of by a car salesman? Do we all have a bipolar disorder? No, we've got a car note. Suppose the car salesman says he has a bipolar disorder and it causes him to take advantage of people. Then what?

This plague among us started with the mental health community. Where they go wrong is in the basis of their philosophy. They believe all men are good and really don't want to do bad things. So when humans do things that are harmful to themselves and others they cannot accept the fact that these perpetrators meant to do what they did.

When a man repeatedly steals, cheats on his wife, or physically abuses others, it confuses them. And they need a reason as to why man does bad things. The reason they finally decided on was mental disease; it was the perfect scapegoat. That way we have something (not someone) to blame.

The premise that all men are good is false and with a false premise everything else that follows will lack verity. The truth of the matter is that we were all shapen in iniquity and in sin did our mothers conceive us. Human actions cannot be understood unless human nature is comprehended. When we lay at the foundations of our judgment that man is sinful, then we can make sense of some things. Sin is in us all, working to the destruction of body and spirit. When we understand that it is sin working, then we know people

who constantly do wrong, like sin! They may not like where sin took them, but they did enjoy getting on the ride. How many times have you regretted getting on that roller coaster as it reached its apex? But it was too late, wasn't it? So you just hung oooon! And so it is with people when they get into a fix because of their actions, regret it. But it's too late then; sin has them for the duration of the ride.

When our misdeeds are labeled as sin, it brings responsibility into the picture because sin is a temptation yielded to and temptation can be resisted. However, many lack the scruples to resist and thus fall into wickedness. But remember, it was a choice and our choices have consequences. A consequence is the logical result of an action. Would to God our society still believed this! How crime and malfeasance could be curbed if we taught our nation this one principle again.

If we are not careful, we in the ministry are going to be taken up in this whirlwind of psychiatric nonsense. We need to be wary of the "experts" that so desperately desire to show us the way more perfectly. Was it not an expert who told us not to spank our children some decades ago? He has since changed his mind. Was it not the experts who told us free love was okay? They have since changed their minds. The experts also told our women that they were wasting their lives being homemakers, and now statistics show they were wrong. What did the experts say of the bold line between masculinity and femininity? Look what the feminizing of the American man has done to our society and families. God told Israel in Isaiah, "Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels." These counsels were the experts of the day. God then told them to go ahead and depend on those experts to save them from the judgment (sin's results) that was to come. The obvious point was that only God could save them. Are we not yet wearied in the multitude of our counsels? Our only hope is to adhere firmly to the precepts of God's Holy Word. The Bible still is the answer.

So before we adopt the syndrome excuse, let us try a good old-fashioned message of repentance and responsibility and see what God will do.



## **College students urged: Trade Bible for Playboy 'Religious texts are so appalling, you are better off having porn'**

Posted: February 27, 2010

10:05 pm Eastern By Drew Zahn

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In the lobby of the University of Texas at San Antonio's humanities building, a hand-drawn poster announces, "Free porn: Just trade in your holy books (Bible, Koran, Vedas) for porn." A student group at the university called The Atheist Agenda is reviving its Bibles-for-porn program, called "Smut for Smut," for three days beginning March 1, according to a report from San Antonio's KENS-TV. "The idea is that religious texts are so appalling," said Atheist Agenda group member Brian Talker in a 2006 interview with UTSA student publication *The Independent*. "They are so full of genocide, misogyny and ludicrous ideas that far overshadow any banal common-sense platitudes like loving thy neighbor, that you are better off having porn, which isn't nearly as smutty." A current member of the group told KENS the program is also meant as a slap against religious leaders and the "hypocrisy" of their condemnations of pornography. "They've been going and rallying against pornography for the longest time," the unidentified student said, "and the disgusting, depraved acts that are within the Bible, Koran and Vedas completely outnumber any [faults] of any pornographic image." *Find out how corruption is "packaged, perfumed and marketed" to us as good and wholesome. The culture-war classic "The Marketing of Evil" is now available as a 4-disc AUDIOBOOK read by the author, David Kupelian!* Other students, however, have expressed outrage. "As a Christian myself, I just take offense to it," one student told the TV station. "Did they really do that?" asked another. "It kinda made me want to cry, it really did." University officials have stated that the controversy over the poster and

program boils down to protected freedom of speech. UTSA spokesman David Gabler told KENS, “We are a marketplace of free ideas here at UTSA, and our students have all [the] constitutional rights afforded to all individuals in the United States.” The Atheist Agenda, founded by students in 2005, launched its first Smut for Smut program in December of that year. The then-president of *The Atheist Agenda*, Thomas Jackson, told MSNBC he thought the swap program presented a fair trade: “Well, first of all, you know, pornography gets a lot of negative press, and it's smut. A lot of it really is,” Jackson said. “And we wanted to make the comparison between that and the smut that is religious scripture, or a lot of it, you know. The stuff that says a woman is worth half a man, the things that say, you know, you should beat children. “These things aren't acceptable in our society,” he continued, “and if pornography is not acceptable, then these things surely aren't. At the very least, what we're doing is trading something that's very, very bad for something that's only moderately bad.” In its first Smut for Smut campaign, the San Antonio Express News reports, the atheist group avoided legal problems by placing the explicit magazines in envelopes and storing them in a box under a table. Students also checked IDs to ensure recipients were 18 or older and gave instructions not to view the material in the commons area. Also in 2005, a rival Christian group established their own booth across the plaza from The Atheist Agenda and offered materials denouncing negative effects of pornography use. This year, opposing signs have been posted in the same campus lobby, immediately next to the “free porn” poster, and KESN reports websites rallying against the program have already drawn thousands of members.





**From Lynda Doty, ISC Distance Education:**

**The following is a question from a prospective student:**

“Sister Doty, I am scheduled to begin my college work in psychology this Fall. Don’t you think this kind of study is beneficial? Psychology offers a lot of good—why throw it all out?”

*My answer:*

My friend, it took me so many years to “replace” what had been put into my brain. Even after I determined not to use any more psychological techniques, I still did, because they were so ingrained in me. It’s almost like a reflex action. People tend to get into things like psychology and new age because of their desire to be of service, and help others. Because psychology does have some good points, it is so easy to get drawn in. Along these lines, a friend once asked me: is it worth digging through all the garbage to get a delicious slice of lemon pie? I had to confess, it was not worth it. The smell would be awful, my hands slimy...plus, the pie would have ABSORBED the odors and the stench of the garbage.

For me, it took the Christian Counseling from Scripture course. It is indeed a life-changing course. I would suggest that you read the books you have ordered—and I assume one of them is APOSTOLIC COUNSELING. Then write to me again. Give me an update.

I am here to work with you through all this, as J. R. Ensey was there for me. God is so good to send the right people into our lives at just the right time!



**ISC to the West Coast?**

We are considering taking the ISC Training Conference to the West Coast for 2010. I realize that most of our attendees are from the Midwest and South but the folks in the West need the exposure to soteric counseling. If this materializes, we hope that our alumni will consider making the trip to the L.A. area to give the cause of Christian counseling a much needed boost out there.