~ continued from page 1 ~

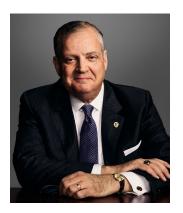
and his mission is much grander than a fairy tale consisting of a jolly man with a white beard bellowing ho, ho, ho.

Jesus came to bear our sufferings and to suffer with us. He came to take on our sin, to redeem us, and give us a hope and a future. He came to reshape our souls to be more like him. And sometimes it takes a radical shaking, as painful as it may be, in order to reshape our lives.

Yet, we are not alone in our pain and suffering. Psalm 34:18 reminds us that "the Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." There are many followers of Jesus across the commonwealth already helping those crushed in spirit. Those who've been mercifully salvaged from the storms of the world understand the import of extending mercy and aid to those who are now suffering. More help is on the way.

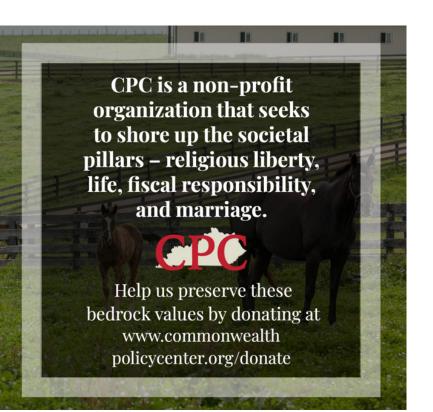
Save the Date: An Evening with Dr. Albert Mohler

Evangelicals have had many voices in the public square. One voice in particular that has been respected by all and always provides level-headed commentary is that of Dr. Albert Mohler. Dr. Mohler is the president of The Southern Baptist



Theological Seminary, a prolific author, and the host of the popular podcast The Briefing.

CPC is excited to announce that we will host An Evening with Dr. Albert Mohler on February 15th. We will discuss cultural engagement and have a Q&A with the audience. Be on the lookout for further details on our social media. We hope to see vou there!



CPC's 2022 Legislative Agenda

CPC's priorities this session will be to:

 \blacksquare Expand school choice

- ☑ Support the Save Women's Sports Act (which keeps biological boys out of girls' locker rooms and sports)
- ☑ Protect minors from transgender hormone therapy and so-called "sex reassignment surgery"
- ☑ Protect religious freedom for faith-based organizations and businesses (defend the rights of Sunrise Children's Services)
- ☑ Support the Omnibus Pro-Life Bill to promote the sanctity of human life
- ☑ Explore ways to limit losses at KY's existening casinos
- ☑ Oppose legalizing marijuana
- ☑ Oppose legalizing sports betting
- ☑ Oppose CRT indoctrination in K-12 public schools
- The General Assembly will meet from January 4th to April 14th.

Visit CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org to read our blogs, commentary and listen to our radio programs.

Register Today for the CPC Candidate Training!

Have you ever thought about running for ofice? Or helping on a political campaign? It seems like a daunting task, but there's too much at stake not to consider political involvement. It's time for down to earth, common sense conservative Kentuckians to stand in the gap in the political arena.

Not everyone is called to run for House or even Lt. Governor, but there are thousands of elected positions in Kentucky. Offices range from city council, county magistrate, school board and local judgeships to state and Congressional offices. "We need good people, principled people to run for every office,' said CPC Executive Director Richard Nelson. "This will take some courage and sacrifice, but there's too much at stake to not engage."

One of the goals of CPC is to help equip conservatives to run winning races. The events provide a 'toolkit and a roadmap' as to the basics of campaigning. CPC has trained hundreds of candidates and has held multiple training events in locations across Kentucky. Graduates have made it into all levels of government from city council and the Kentucky Court of Appeals to the Lt. Governort office. The first day of training will equip candidates with the information necessary to understand and respond to the tough issues of the day, including gender ideology, sports gambling, and school choice. On the second day candidates will learn the ins and outs of a succesful campaign. The candidate training will be on Friday, January 28 and Saturday, January 29, at the Frankfort Country Club in Frankfort. Register by January 7 for the early bird registration price of \$125. To register, go to www.commonwealthpolicycenter.org/candidate-training. The 2022 Board of Elections filing deadline for candidates is 01/07.

CPC Interviews Dr. Burk, Rep. Comer



Richard interviewed Congressman James Comer, who represents Kentucky's first district, on his work this year in our nation's capital. They discussed issues directly affecting Kentuckians, including Rep. Comer's opposition to Pres. Biden's Richard Nelson interviewing Denny Burk vaccine mandate, astronomical spending plan, and the high inflation and gas prices. Richard also interviewed Denny Burk, a professor at Boyce College in Louisville, and a trusted source on Christian sexual ethics. The topic of conversation was how Christians should think about and respond to our current transgender moment.

Bob Scott interviewed State Rep. Nancy Tate (R-Brandenburg) on what has been called the Pro-Life Omnibus bill she will introduce in the upcoming legislative session. He also interviewed the President of Sisters for Life Angela Minter to promote the great work her organization is doing in Louisville. To watch or listen to these interviews, go to CPC's Facebook page, our Youtube channel, or your favorite podcast app!



One way CPC achieves its mission of preserving the bedrock values of our Commonwealth is by informing Kentuckians of what is happening across our state, and even our nation, through interviews with political, community, and faith leaders. This winter, CPC Executive Director Richard Nelson and Director of Church Outreach Bob Scott interviewed a few high-profile guests.

CPC Launches **Cornerstone Partner Initiative**

Policy Foundation has recently Minter. introduced. Supporting us has never been easier! Now for just \$10 per month, you can join hands with our ministry as we Christian values in Kentucky. Your tax-deductible gift will help us achieve our goal to add at least 50 new partners who will help Kentucky become the best version of itself.

stepped out in faith and hosted 5 Culture conferences in 2022 very well attended Christianity and Culture Conferences around our great state. We received rave reviews. The expenses per conference averaged about \$12.000. Our goal is always to help role in their community and engage tough issues in a winsome, effective way. Some of the most dynamic Christian pastors and ministry leaders from the Commonwealth

As we come to the end were featured in these important of this year, we are excited conferences, including pastor and to announce a new partner author Bob Russell, Pastor Hershael program that the Commonwealth York, and pro-life activist Angela

The next three years are going to be critically important for the future of our Commonwealth and our nation. CPC will continue strive to preserve conservative our diligent efforts in Frankfort working with governmental leaders on important legislation that protects religious liberty and leads to human flourishing. We will also be recruiting and training conservative candidates to run for Through the generous support state-level offices. We also plan of our partners this past year, CPC to host two more Christianity &

As you can see, we have an ambitious agenda. But we need your help. Will you partner with us in this important fight? Please go to CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org. Make sure to select the "Donate the church to better understand its Now" tab and the "Become a Cornerstone Partner." By doing this today, you are partnering in an important work that will make for a better Kentucky tomorrow.



Become a Cornerstone Partner **Today!**

Sign Up at our Website

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Director's Corner

I trust this message finds you well as the Christmas season is upon us. Even as we anticipate the joy of Christmas, there is a heaviness across the commonwealth after the devastating EF4 tornados ravaged many West Kentucky communities on December 11. As of this writing there are 76 confirmed dead and over 1000 homes destroyed.

It's shocking to hear stories of people literally being sucked out of their homes and swept a quarter mile away by the deadly twister. Some are asking: where was God? Why us? Such traumatic events bring us to our knees and cause us to ask big questions. Our mortality and vulnerability both come into focus.



CPC Staff Christmas Photo

In response, scores of churches are mobilizing and providing shelter, clothes, and food to those who were left homeless. Corporations like Toyota and Kentucky colleges and universities are donating significant resources to alleviate the suffering. And CPC's very own Director of Church Outreach Bob Scott assisted in the WJIE on-air fundraiser earlier in the week for tornado victims in Mayfield. Pam Roberts, CPC's Director of Political Outreach, is traveling to several cities to deliver assistance checks to people who've sustained damage to their homes. So help is on the way.

Perhaps this is why devastating storms come. They bring us to our knees, force us to ask the big questions, and force us to look to the Creator and Savior. Tragedy also allows us to minister to others. The tornado is a reminder that we live in a fallen world where evil and death looms around the corner. It's a reminder that we need someone to make it right again. It should be clear to those celebrating Christmas, that someone is Jesus Christ. He's the one our hearts long for. And in a time of crisis Psalm 34:18 comes to mind: "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."

Our fellow Kentuckians need help. Basic necessities of life are being covered by so many ministries. People are piecing their lives back together. Businesses and homes will be rebuilt. My hope is that they will rebuild upon a new foundation in Jesus. He's the rock upon which any structure will endure the storms of life, including EF4 tornados. Please pray that those rebuilding might do so and embrace that truth. May God bless you and your family this Christmas.

Yours in Christ

Kichand Nelson

Richard Nelson **Executive Director**

P.S. Here's a matter for prayer. After Thanksgiving, we found a notice to vacate letter from the bank holding our office property. We were given 7 days to turn in the keys. As many of you know, the office space was previously donated to us by a generous donor. That is no longer the situation as the bank owns the property. We are currently looking for something closer to the capitol. The bank is willing to work with us but there is urgency for office space that is a better fit for us. Please pray for timely and adequate provision as we search out a good fit.

Help us preserve the bedrock values of the Commonwealth by donating at www.commonwealthpolicycenter.org/donate

COMMONWEALTH POLICY CENTER PO BOX 4172 FRANKFORT, KY 40604-4172

For to us a child is born to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

~ Isaiah 9:6 ~

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DMMONWEALTH

Reinforcing the Commonwealth's Founding Principles - Renewing the Commonwealth's Future Promise

THE GOD WHO ENTERS THE STORM

by Richard Nelson

mate, more than a thousand homes hours after the storm in the badting the final touches on Christmas gatherings, they will be planning funerals. At the time of this writing, there are 76 confirmed fatalities in Kentucky. The death toll is expect-

ed to rise. Churches that planned special Christmas cantatas and services are no longer standing.

Such loss leaves many asking: How could a good and loving God allow this happen? to And right before

Christmas of all times of the year? the National Guard in their streets,

I've pondered much on the meaning of suffering lately, as I've suffered tremendous loss and heartache in recent years. My pastor

Several weeks ago, I was in Mayfield on business. The office where the meeting took place was flat-

The pictures of the devastation tened. The downtown restaurant we in the wake of the tornado that hit met for lunch is unrecognizable. The Mayfield and several West Kentucky church just down the road—one I communities are hard to fathom. spoke in several years ago, terribly Some have described it as a war damaged. The pastor is a friend and zone, "like a nuclear bomb went he shared on his social media page off." Hundreds are now homeless that he found a song sheet titled "All in Mayfield. According to one esti- Praise to Him." The church met 36 have been leveled across the com- ly damaged sanctuary-standing monwealth. Instead of families put- room only since there were no seats.

> To those outside the church, this doesn't make sense. Why should anyone praise God in such cruel devastation? How can you bring a heart full of praise when the building

> > dedicated to worship is torn apart? Families have lost loved ones and homes. Children are typically anticipating Santa and his reindeer and all the presents tucked away in his sleigh. These kids shouldn't be homeless. They shouldn't have

helicopters hovering over, and debris removal efforts right now. It should be Christmas. But it is Christmas.

The other side of the Christmas reminded me in a sermon last week story is that Jesus was born amidst that suffering is good when it drives a political and religious storm 2000 us to the Savior. Suffering is good years ago. He left heaven to enter when it conforms us to be more into a broken world where there are like Jesus-bringing us to a place tornados, loss of life, and disappointof humility, repentance, and peace ments, in order to repair it. Jesus with God and with our fellow man. came not to be a genie in a bottle to give us our every wish. He's not Santa Claus. He's the Savior of the world

~ Continued on page $2 \sim$

Inside this issue...

An Evening with Albert Mohler page 2

2022 Legislative Agenda page 2

CPC Candidate Training page 3

High-Profile Interviews This WInter page 3

> **Cornerstone Partner** page 4

> > **Director's Cornel** page !

The Commonwealth Police Center is a non-profit publ policy group helpir Kentuckians value li protect natural marriag defend religious liberty, an promote fiscal integrit

Learn more about our work a CommonwealthPolicyCenter.or

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The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. ~ Psalm 34:18 ~

