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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 you there!

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



CPC’s 2022 Legislative Agenda

CPC’s priorities this session will be to:

- ☒ 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.

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Register Today for the CPC Candidate Training!

Have you ever thought about running for office? 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 ofhce. 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 Nelson interviewing Denny Burk

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!

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CPC Launches Cornerstone Partner Initiative

As we come to the end of this year, we are excited to announce a new partner program that the Commonwealth Policy Foundation has recently introduced. Supporting us has never been easier! Now for just \$10 per month, you can join hands with our ministry as we strive to preserve conservative 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.

Through the generous support of our partners this past year, CPC stepped out in faith and hosted 5 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 the church to better understand its 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

were featured in these important conferences, including pastor and author Bob Russell, Pastor Hershael York, and pro-life activist Angela Minter.

The next three years are going to be critically important for the future of our Commonwealth and our nation. CPC will continue 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 state-level offices. We also plan to host two more Christianity & Culture conferences in 2022.

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 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.



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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,

Richard 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

THE GOD WHO ENTERS THE STORM

by Richard Nelson

The pictures of the devastation in the wake of the tornado that hit Mayfield and several West Kentucky communities are hard to fathom. Some have described it as a war zone, "like a nuclear bomb went off." Hundreds are now homeless in Mayfield. According to one estimate, more than a thousand homes have been leveled across the commonwealth. Instead of families putting 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 expected 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 to happen? And right before Christmas of all times of the year?

I've pondered much on the meaning of suffering lately, as I've suffered tremendous loss and heartache in recent years. My pastor reminded me in a sermon last week that suffering is good when it drives us to the Savior. Suffering is good when it conforms us to be more like Jesus—bringing us to a place of humility, repentance, and peace with God and with our fellow man.

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

tened. The downtown restaurant we met for lunch is unrecognizable. The church just down the road—one I spoke in several years ago, terribly damaged. The pastor is a friend and he shared on his social media page that he found a song sheet titled "All Praise to Him." The church met 36 hours after the storm in the badly damaged sanctuary—standing 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

the National Guard in their streets, helicopters hovering over, and debris removal efforts right now. It should be Christmas. But it is Christmas.

The other side of the Christmas story is that Jesus was born amidst a political and religious storm 2000 years ago. He left heaven to enter into a broken world where there are tornados, loss of life, and disappointments, in order to repair it. Jesus 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

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The Commonwealth Policy Center is a non-profit public policy group helping Kentuckians value life, protect natural marriage, defend religious liberty, and promote fiscal integrity.

Learn more about our work at
CommonwealthPolicyCenter.org