



Isaiah 62:6

KEYSTONE SENTINEL



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Michael Clater, Editor

boardroom

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Local Church Responsibility in Christian Education:

College for Tomorrow's Leaders

Support for a comprehensive Christian education philosophy is vitally important for today. Church leadership and congregations must ensure the involved, accurate teaching of Biblical content, principles, and practices through the totality of its corporate programs. Without this strong emphasis on sound Christian education in the church, we jeopardize the future presence of our Bible-believing churches in America and elsewhere if few Biblically astute lay leaders, pastors, and missionaries are produced and trained by the current generation.

Nevertheless, the historic balance between corporate and individual/parental responsibility for education has been significantly modified by many in the last few decades. Taken to its logical (tragic) end, this is practically manifested by (1) families that "have church at home" instead of attending with a grouping of other Christians; (2) families who refuse to use the church nursery or attend Sunday school or other youth activities; (3) churches dropping support for educational institutions; (4) a reduced emphasis on evangelizing children of the unchurched; (5) pastors

avoiding showing involvement in administering religious educational programs; and (6) fewer churches contributing to the success of Christian institutions of higher education.

Historically and Biblically, the existence and role of Christian higher education is crucial for the Christian church. Colleges continue the training of the next generation, while also serving as a gauge of what has been accomplished during our children's elementary and secondary years. We must recognize that our colleges can only build upon what education has already been taught and learned. (In a recent online article, Dr. Kevin Bauder, President of Central Baptist Theological Seminary, advocates not just for the Bible institute but also for the long-term usefulness of a Christian liberal arts education. See <http://www.centraseminary.edu/publications/Nick/Nick248.html>.)

Thus, Christian higher education builds heavily upon what the local church supports educationally.

Churches can support Christian higher education in many ways. (1) Financial contributions to a scholarship fund, building fund, or even the general fund at their favorite college(s) not only help the institution and show direct support, but also the students from your church through potentially reduced fees or tuition. (2) Include the college(s) on the church prayer lists – and communicating that to the institution(s) – helps remind the congregation of the benefits and needs at Christian colleges. (3) Hosting guest

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Legislative News & Updates

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COLLEGE EDUCATION (Continued from p. 1)

speakers and groups gets the congregation (and prospective students' families) in direct personal contact with college staff, which ought to help give a sense of the school's "heartbeat" and direction. (4) Establish a budget line item for awarding scholarships to your church members who attend your preferred college(s).

The training process of the child in Prov. 22:6 is ongoing and active, even if the child has graduated from high school. If church support for Christian higher education is absent, do we not handicap the greater Christian church by neglecting that same spiritual and educational process we desire for our children?

Help your institution do its part. Plant our next generation of leaders by the rivers of water so they learn, grow, and discern — then lead.

37th Annual KCEA Christian Education Conference

**September 23-24, 2010
Willow Valley Family Resort
Lancaster, PA**



2009: The Unseen KCEA

People easily see the "front" of KCEA: the Christian Education Conference, sports tournaments, All-State Choir and Band, Festival, and Civics Days. More goes on behind the scenes. For example:

Consultation: All Year

- ◆ Answered calls to assist pastors, teachers and lay leaders
- ◆ Read to study current issues, trends, and reports on education

- ◆ Researched for solutions with employment, church leadership, doctrinal questions, regulation, and government issues
- ◆ Analyzed legislation that may impact religious freedoms
- ◆ Wrote and filed a court brief
- ◆ Testified before legislative committees

H1N1 Flu: Summer and Fall 2009

- ◆ Monitored state and national flu reports
- ◆ Produced communications and publications on best practices, prevention methods, and appropriate institutional procedures

Conference: January through September

- ◆ Contacted potential exhibitors, keynote speakers, and workshop leaders to prepare for the 36th Annual Christian Education Conference at Lancaster
- ◆ Communicated frequently with workshop leaders on a plethora of potential topics
- ◆ Coordinated exhibit hall layout, workshop room layout, and technology needs
- ◆ Ensured useful sessions were available for each attendee demographic

Sports: Spring through October

- ◆ Investigated the feasibility of holding a small-school, 7-on-7 soccer tournament
- ◆ Conducted a rules review and analysis to fit 7-on-7 play
- ◆ Facilitated overall tournament organization, in which 5 schools participated
- ◆ Gathered post-tournament feedback in preparation for more involvement next Fall

Academics: Summer through December

- ◆ Prepared for the academic testing and creative writing competitions
- ◆ Reviewed each test for accuracy
- ◆ Created 3 new spelling tests
- ◆ Updated the spelling test recordings
- ◆ Determined topics for creative writing
- ◆ Prepared coordinators for the academic testing and creative writing competitions



The Bible and Society

Recent Items of Interest for Believers

Earlier Hebrew Writing Uncovered

A fragment of pottery recently uncovered at Khirbet Qeiyafa, near the Valley of Elah in Israel, has early Hebrew writing on it. The piece and text have been dated to the 10th Century B.C. – 400 years earlier than other pieces previously discovered. The text is similar to several Biblical passages, but it is clearly not a direct quote. As a result of the discovery, some scholars are adjusting the timeframe for when they think Old Testament texts were written.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34880397/ns/technology_and_science-science/wid/7279844/

MSNBC.com, Jan. 15

King David's Tomb, Upper Room Renovated for Preservation

Since 1948, both locations have withstood hordes of tourists, with little being done to protect either site's architecture or artifacts. Starting in 2007, successful collaborative efforts to preserve part of David's Tomb resulted in expanded preservation work under the Jerusalem Development Authority's auspices. Renovations beautified and preserved the visible externals at both sites, with work still ongoing in the Tomb and surrounding spaces. New infrastructure should enhance the visitor experience and prevent damage at both sites.

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3830412,00.html>

Ynetnews.com, Jan. 25

Evolutionists Still Arguing about Life's Origin

A team of prominent secular scientists wrote an article attacking the concept of life's origins through a "primordial soup." The notion of a primordial soup, originally published in 1929,

continues to be a prominent keystone to the evolutionary argument of life's origins.

In the new concept, instead of the organic matter in the "soup" being forced to gain and dispense energy, special chemical vents on the ocean floor generated the substances, energy, and heat necessary for the process to begin its evolutionary journey. According to Dr. Nick Lane of University College London, life came from a complex mixture of gases flowing through the undersea vents, which trapped some of the earth's "geochemical gradients" and formed cellular components (lipids, nucleotides and proteins). Over time, these eventually changed into the cellular structures now studied by mankind.

Both ideas are completely wrong. These and many other scientists are completely unwilling to believe God's own accurate record of His creation in Genesis 1.

The article, "How Did LUCA Make a Living? Chemiosmosis in the Origin of Life" was published in the January 27, 2010 issue of *BioEssays*, and authored by Nick Lane, John F. Allen, and William Martin.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/02/100202101245.htm>


Science Daily, Feb. 3

The Sentinel is an electronic publication of the Keystone Christian Education Association, 6101 Bell Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111 (717-564-1164; TClater@kcea.com). Affiliating ministries should refer to their Special Reports and monthly News Notes for additional information on these and other topics.

The Sentinel is intended for general circulation. To subscribe, send an email to TClater@kcea.com with SENTINEL in the subject line. In the body of the email, include your name and mailing address, and what church or school ministry you are associated with. Subscribers are encouraged to distribute each issue to friends and contacts either electronically or in print.

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NATIONAL NOTES



New Legislative Announcements

Bible believers should be faithful to discern how issues could affect their evangelism, edification, religious freedom, and life. There are numerous legislative and policy issues of which to be aware.

Education Funding and Student Loans

A plan proposed by the Obama administration would increase the federal government's participation in student loan activities, replacing banks and private institutions. Any outstanding balance after 20 years would be forgiven. For a student who becomes a government employee, their loan balance would be forgiven after only 10 years.

Some hail this announcement as highly necessary since student lending from private institutions has declined and college costs continue to rise. Opponents argue the lifting of financial responsibility from the student would cause greater government dependency, increased loan defaults, and more national debt.

Legislative Updates

Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009

The Thomas More Law Center filed a lawsuit in Federal court on behalf of three pastors challenging the law's constitutionality based on the First and Fifth Amendments. The suit contends the law elevates people who practice deviant sexual behavior to a protected status. The criminalization of beliefs and ideas — either real or perceived — as thought crimes includes the association with those who hold them. This clearly attacks Christians and other conservative groups by threatening free speech from the church pulpit and in public.

California Marriage Court Case

Since the start of the case in January (see the January 2010 [Sentinel](#)), the *San Francisco Chronicle* revealed the judge practices homosexuality. Reports indicate his bench rulings have clearly favored the pro-homosexual plaintiffs, who want the current law overturned in spite of its enactment through proper democratic process. Most expert witnesses for the

defense, fearing for their families' safety, decided not to testify after seeing the heated protests supporting the plaintiffs.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has already overturned several of the judge's procedural rulings, with the U.S. Supreme Court overturning another.

Obama/Democratic Health Package

In recent revisions to the legislation, the financial penalty for married couples has been increased. A married couple without insurance could pay \$12,000 in taxes and fines, while an unmarried couple could pay as little as \$1,100. Also, the lack of conscience protection is still a concern, which would shield health care providers from retribution for not providing care contrary to their beliefs. However, there is no consensus on contents for the final bill while the Obama administration continues to push its agenda.

If successful, the government would effectively take over 17% of the U.S. economy, with computer formulas informing bureaucrats' health care decisions for families and individuals. Lawsuits have already been threatened to challenge the law's constitutionality if it is passed and enacted.

Don't Ask— Don't Tell

House of Representatives Bill 1283

The current law (U.S. Code Section 654, Title 10), in place since 1993, is being considered for repeal. In Congressional hearings on the law and policy, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced the start of a study of how the Armed Services could implement it. H.R. 1283 would legalize open homosexuality in the military. Action on this bill, which has almost 190 co-sponsors and would only need a few additional votes to pass, may be debated and voted on concurrently with the implementation study. Early reports predict such a change would take two years to implement and "educate" members of the Armed Services, which would be in place before Pres. Obama's term expires.

Advocates of the law and policy say that having an "open" military would strengthen recruitment, and no differences exist when firing on the enemy. But opponents — including religious groups, family groups, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and over 1,100 retired admirals and generals — say the problem exists in the behaviors exhibited outside of battle.

THE STATE LINE

New Legislative Announcements

Governor's Budget Proposal

Gov. Ed Rendell proposed his state budget that starts July 1, increasing the budget by 4%, to \$29 billion.

Increased Taxation - Gov. Rendell proposes to lift over 70 sales tax exemptions on materials, goods, and services. The sales tax rate would go to 4%, but would tax more items and cost people more money. Monies from the tolling of Interstate 80 are also included in the budget. If tolling is not approved by the Federal Highway Administration (and it is far from certain), the budget will need reworked due to the loss of over \$400 million.

EITC Scholarship Reduction - Though Gov. Rendell's proposal increases funding for state education to \$12.3 billion, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program which funds scholarships for kids across the state would see a \$10 million cut. Without these funds, fewer parents can send their children to the school of their choice.

Marriage Protection Amendment

Senate Bill 707

Sen. Eichelberger (R-Dist. 30) introduced the Marriage Protection Amendment, the first step to amend Article I of the State Constitution with a definition of marriage: "Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid and recognized as a marriage in this Commonwealth." The bill would increase the legal protection of traditional marriage to the constitutional level from the current state law, the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996.

There are three major steps: to a state constitutional amendment: (1) Pass the legislation in both House and Senate; (2) after the next election of offices in the General Assembly, the legislation must be passed a second time in the next legislative session; and (3) the voters would vote to approve or reject the constitutional amendment.

The bill is currently under consideration in the Judiciary Committee.

Domestic Relations

Senate Bill 935

Sen. Leach (D-Dist. 17) introduced legislation to amend Title 23 of the state Consolidated Statutes to allow for same-sex marriages and provide a new definition of marriage. This bill would repeal a section of Title 23, which presents the state's policy of marriage between one man and one woman. All same-sex marriages legally performed in another state would be recognized by the Commonwealth.

The bill is currently under consideration in the Judiciary Committee.

Litigation Updates

St. Elizabeth's Court Case

Following the ruling by the Commonwealth Court on January 7 in favor of the Department of Public Welfare (see the January 2010 Sentinel for details), an appeal was filed for the case to be re-heard by the full Court, not just the three-judge panel. DPW filed a brief asking that the case not be re-heard, since the case had already been decided in their favor.

If upheld, the existing ruling allows increased government intrusion into the hiring practices and the teaching of religious content in daycare centers.

KCEA is a loose association of Bible-believing churches and Christian schools in PA uniting under a common banner for the furtherance of a common goal: the protection and promotion of Christian education as a philosophy and methodology of training our youth.

The Association is a faith ministry that serves Bible-believing ministries in Pennsylvania. Churches and other ministries are encouraged to support the Association with regular prayer and financial gifts. Dr. Tom Coleman, President. Rev. Ross Ritchey, Vice-President. Mr. Michael Boole, Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Theodore Clater, Executive Director.