

# VOTE ON NOV. 8!

# The Kentucky

# CITIZEN

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND THE VALUES THAT MAKE FAMILIES STRONG

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Vol. XX No. 5

September/October 2011

## **VOTE!** It's time for everyone to do their part

*The election is set for Tuesday, Nov. 8 and we must all vote and encourage others to do the same. THIS is our duty!*

The future of the Commonwealth will be decided as all of the state's executive branch officers are to be chosen through the Nov. 8 election. Fortunately, significant amounts of information are available to citizens as they weigh the various candidates. Clearly, the incumbents have a track record that they can choose to "run on" or "run from," but in addition, challengers have risen to the occasion and have been very open with their alternative proposals for Kentucky's course. All of this makes for political drama that is fun to watch, but, more importantly, a responsibility for every Kentucky citizen.

The *Kentucky Candidate Information Survey* (KCIS) is available online and includes responses from 15 of the 17 candidates. (See related story on page 3) Many candidates even responded by sharing their personal values on tough issues that extend beyond the sphere of the office they seek. "These give the voter keen insight into exactly who the candidate is," said KCIS coordinator Sarah Roof. "And that is exactly what voters want and need."

One of the questions that haunts candidates is voter turnout. Unfortunately, only 10.4 percent of registered Kentucky voters voted in the 2011 Spring Primary, even though there were both Democrat and Republican races being challenged.

"All who are called to be 'salt and light' need to do their duty by voting for their best choice for each office," said Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation. "If they don't bring that foundational perspective, who will? In fact, who else is able to?"

Roof is encouraging everyone to get information and to vote intelligently. She emphasized that the [www.votekentucky.us](http://www.votekentucky.us) website has downloadable and printable layouts of each race so that people can get information for themselves and also share it with friends and fellow church members.

"All of the information and layouts are nonpartisan according to the IRS guidelines so that any nonprofit or church can use and copy and not be in violation of any regulation," said Roof. "We are very pleased to provide this – we just hope people use it."

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– Kent Ostrander  
The Family Foundation

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*Our Founding Fathers pledged  
their lives, their fortunes  
and their sacred honor  
to establish this nation.*

*Are you willing  
to vote in order to maintain it?*

It will take only a few minutes of your time to vote on November 8.

If you have Kentucky values, then you are "the salt of the earth" and you are absolutely critical to this process.

If you have these values and do nothing with them, then you are the salt that has lost its ability to savor, and are worth nothing more than to be cast out and trodden underfoot.

Let *each of us* do our part: Get reliable information and VOTE!

*For more on the candidates, including their personal values,  
go to:* **[www.votekentucky.us](http://www.votekentucky.us)**

# Small Kentucky town experiences big drama

*Berea is known for being on the right side of major social issues, but that doesn't guarantee it will always choose wisely.*

Berea, Kentucky, a small town nestled in the foothills of Appalachia, has been embroiled in a five-month battle over adding a “fairness ordinance” to its city laws. On Sept. 20, the long controversy was settled when the city council voted to form a Human Rights Commission without the addition of the fairness ordinance.

The fairness ordinance is a measure that prevents discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the areas of housing, employment, and public accommodations. Proponents insist that such measures are needed to protect the homosexual and transgendered population from discrimination. Critics of the legislation argue that the addition of a fairness ordinance signals that a city is granting legal recognition and subsequent approval to both homosexual and transgendered lifestyles. It also forecasts troubling legal implications for citizens whose religious or moral beliefs disagree with homosexuality. Berea

resident Shane Morris, who has been a vocal opponent of the measure, expressed concern that the measure was part of a “larger and broader liberal agenda.”

In May, the initial idea was proposed before a city council meeting in which individuals on both sides of the debate were given time to speak in favor of or against the measure. The contentious atmosphere of the initial meeting signaled that the debate in Berea would be heated. Over the summer months, Berea became a hotbed of political activity.

With the support of a small number of local residents, Berea College, and the Louisville-based Fairness Campaign, activists formed “Bereans for Fairness” and began furthering their agenda with mailing campaigns, press conferences, and articles in local papers. Opponents of the measure responded in similar measure. According to Kenny Davis, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Berea, it became a divisive issue. “The tension in the air was palpable,” said Davis.

Against the wishes of supporters of the fairness ordinance, the city council voted 6-1 to form a Human Rights Commission *without* the ordinance. Though happy with the outcome of the vote, critics are concerned that the formation of a Human Rights Commission is a troubling first step in the wrong direction.

The Commission will be set up to investigate discrimination on the basis of race, religion, age, and sex in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodations. Commissions of similar design throughout the state, however, have a history of broadening their scope to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

The vote to implement the commission will play a factor in the re-election of city officials next year. According to Davis, who led a large faith-based coalition in opposition to the fairness ordinance, “there



will be political repercussion for those who voted in favor of establishing the Human Rights Commission.” Proponents of the measure contend that the Commission does not go far enough in extending protections to the homosexual and transgendered community. Outside the city council meeting, advocates for the

fairness ordinance chanted their disapproval with the city council, demanding that fairness come now, not later.

Though settled for now, citizens looking back on this debate insist that there were larger forces at play than simply passing an anti-discrimination bill. “This debate has been about what is in bounds or out of bounds in society,” said Morris. “I’m as flawed as anyone, but when I’ve erred, I’ve always known where the goal posts are. This movement is about trying to move the goal posts.”

## School option coming to Kentucky?

*Kentucky has lagged behind many states because of the centralized control generated by KERA.*

A bi-partisan group of Kentuckians is working to bring change to the state’s struggling educational system. The group is working to bring “school option” to Kentucky—a common phrase meaning the establishment of public charter schools.

Called together by Pastor Jerry Stephenson of Louisville’s Midwest Church of Christ and the Black Alliance for Educational Options, the group is strategically creating an atmosphere where charter schools can gain momentum.

One of the biggest obstacles facing the group is explaining what charter schools actually are. According to the group, charter schools are public schools that function under different authorities, but remain accountable for results. Because charter schools are not under the immediate jurisdiction of state requirements, charter schools pride themselves on being allowed to explore innovative educational alternatives.

Charter schools have shown great potential where implemented. The group is insisting that public charter schools are not the total solution to the lagging educational statistics found in Kentucky. “We are realists,” said Stephenson. “We don’t believe that charter schools will solve every problem facing Kentucky children, but charter schools are at least one immediate solution to help change Kentucky’s direction.”

The Family Foundation, Bluegrass Institute, and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools are working in conjunction with individuals throughout the state and coordinating on how to get their message out. The group plans to release a document titled, “Putting Children First: A Vision for Public Charter Schools in Kentucky” before

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**“It’s inevitable that charter schools will come to Kentucky. With Kentucky being one of only ten states without charter schools, our time will eventually come”**

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– Pastor Jerry Stephenson

the 2012 General Assembly. The Family Foundation’s Louisville Policy Analyst Andrew Walker, one of the chief architects of the document, said that, “as a group, it was important to establish what charter schools actually are and defuse and refute any misconceptions.”

“The issue of charter schools isn’t an issue of favoring Democrats or Republicans,” said Stephenson. “It’s about putting politics aside and putting our children first!”

The obstacles, though, are many and the group knows as much. Current leadership in the House of Representatives has stonewalled charter school legislation in the past. And, with educational unions opposed to charter schools, the group faces stiff opposition from the Kentucky chapter of the National Educational Association—one of the most powerful and wealthiest unions in America.

Still, the group is holding out on hope, believing that educational justice and educational destiny are on their side. “It’s inevitable that charter schools will come to Kentucky,” said Stephenson. “With Kentucky being one of only ten states without charter schools, our time will eventually come.”



# Candidate survey provides reliable information

The **Kentucky Candidate Information Survey** website includes personal values questions AND Third Party candidates.

Fifteen of the state's 17 candidates running for Executive Branch offices participated in this year's *Kentucky Candidate Information Survey* (KCIS), which has been produced by The Family Foundation since 1993. Sarah Roof, project coordinator for the KCIS, is encouraged by such participation and the opportunity it allows both candidates and voters. "We use the survey not only as a tool to assist candidates in getting their message out in their own words, but also as an effective resource to educate voters," said Roof. "Without doubt, it's important for Kentuckians to learn about the candidates so they can make an informed decision when they head to the polls on Nov. 8."

Not only have numerous sponsors generously enabled the KCIS to be

inserted into community newspapers throughout the state, but the Survey is also available online. Roof encourages citizens to visit the website to download copies and distribute to neighbors, friends, co-workers and church members. Each survey is three pages in length and includes biographical informa-

tion as well as responses to various office-related questions and "personal values" assertions.

The KCIS is a non-profit, non-partisan, educational project. Over 800,000 copies will be distributed this year.



**Kentucky  
Candidate  
Information  
Survey**

*Learn about the Executive  
Branch candidates . . .  
in their own words.  
Then vote on Tuesday, Nov. 8!*

Go to: [www.votekentucky.us](http://www.votekentucky.us)

## Video slot machines in state; AG doesn't act

The Attorney General, the state's highest ranking law enforcement officer, has the responsibility to investigate, but he isn't.

After nearly two decades of debate, the legislature still has not authorized slot machines in Kentucky. Unfortunately, that has not stopped those who want them to bring them into the state anyway. With 200 such machines at Kentucky Downs race track, Attorney General Jack Conway has chosen not to investigate.

His absence of action is problematic because even though he wrote an opinion in January 2010 expressing how "Instant Racing" could possibly be authorized if the regulations were rewritten, he specifically noted on the first page that his opinion did not consider the legal questions around the machines themselves: "If regulatory or statutory changes are considered to permit this sort of wagering, the proponents should also be cognizant of the requirements of KRS Chapter 528 with regard to 'gambling devices' and consider whether amendments to that chapter are also in order."

Clearly, in January of 2010, he understood that the machines themselves were likely unlawful. Now that there are photos and even video of the machines, many Kentuckians are scratching their heads at what appears to be an electronic slot machine.

Though there is an ongoing court case about their legality, the first time anyone in Kentucky saw the machines was the day after the grand opening when the *Herald-Leader* released a single, frontal photo that actually showed the play screen. (See photo right) During the grand opening, media covering the event were told not to video the machines. Why? Possibly to hinder the recognition of what exactly was being introduced.

Later, a supporter of The Family Foundation went to the site and actually videoed a machine in operation, allowing all to see its function on the Internet.

Conway's difficulty is profound: When The Family Foundation asked his assistance

earlier this summer to secure a simple open records request that was being denied by the Racing Commission, he wrote in reply that he could not engage it because he had a "conflict"—presumably that his father sat on the state Racing Commission. When formally asked by The Family Foundation to investigate the machines, he responded he did not want to "interfere with pending litigation."

Either way, the Attorney General has sworn to uphold the constitution and the laws of the state. If he cannot do it for personal reasons he can appoint independent counsel to do the investigation (which Conway has done in other instances).

The Family Foundation is asking for all to call the Attorney General's office and kindly, but firmly, ask that he investigate.



Photo of video terminal at KY Downs.  
Video of its operation can be seen at  
[www.kentuckyfamily.org](http://www.kentuckyfamily.org)

*Call and ask Attorney General  
Jack Conway to investigate  
the video gambling machines.*

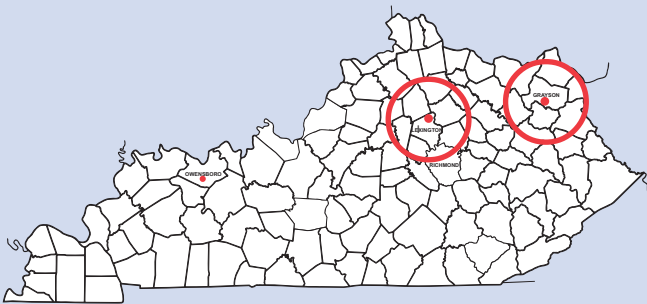
**Call 502-696-5300**

**The Family Foundation is asking all to call the Attorney General's office and kindly, but firmly, ask that he investigate.**



# Love &

# Respect



*National ministry coming to two more cities this Fall:  
Grayson on Oct. 21-22 & Lexington on Nov. 11-12*

**For more information call (859)255-5400  
or go to [www.kentuckymarriage.org](http://www.kentuckymarriage.org)**

## Two more Love & Respect video conferences!

*The goals are clear: 1) Strengthen the marriages of attendees; and 2) Prepare attendees to strengthen the marriages of others.*

The first two Love & Respect video conferences kicked off in September in Owensboro and Richmond as part of The Family Foundation's Kentucky Marriage Movement. Those two events provided great momentum leading to the final two Fall conferences in Grayson on Oct. 21-22 and Lexington on Nov. 11-12.

"It's a blessing to see marriages being changed and families being impacted," said Greg Williams, Director of Marriage Outreach for The Family Foundation. Williams pointed out that nearly every couple has responded directly to the challenge offered by speaker Dr. Emerson Eggerichs at the close of each conference to "drive a stake in the ground and begin to build your marriage on real Love and Respect."

As a result of the first two conferences, word is spreading and attendees are encouraging others to take advantage of the opportunity. One couple who was positively impacted at the Richmond conference plans to send their children to an upcoming conference. "We have five children, four in college, and we're paying for all four of our college-age children to come to the conference in Lexington," they said.

Another attendee says she sees her marriage in a new way now: "The seminar was outstanding! It was a little rough the first night because my husband was exhausted from

a hard week at work, but we are committed to applying what we learned. I have to tell you, this seminar was an answer to my prayers and dealt specifically with some of the issues we have been having! I am really pumped up about what I feel is like a whole new marriage for us! I understand my husband now in a whole new way!"

Williams is encouraged by such feedback. "That's exciting to us in the Kentucky Marriage Movement as these responses represent 'intentional investment' in marriages," said Williams. "This means we are already seeing initial movement toward both of our goals – helping strengthen marriages and helping others to encourage the marriages of those around them!"

Registration costs have been able to be kept low thanks to the generous sponsorship of various churches, individuals and businesses. Individuals can attend for \$15 and couples for \$25. For churches that send five or more couples, there is a special \$20 per couple rate.

For more information or to register, visit [www.kentuckymarriage.org](http://www.kentuckymarriage.org).

**To involve your church or group of friends, or to get promotional materials, call (859) 255-5400**

ANALYSIS: They are two sides of the same coin . . . and that coin is “Marriage.”

# Love & Respect: A secret hidden in plain view

Just as both sides, heads and tails, make a coin, it is much the same in marriage. It takes two becoming one to make a marriage. Now, in no way am I implying headship or “tailship” to either the husband or wife because the best marriages begin where the Bible itself does, “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” *Ephesians 5:21*

In the two sides of this “marriage coin” there exists the virtues of Love and Respect. As a husband learns to love his wife, and a wife learns to respect her husband, they both begin to better recognize one another’s needs, communicate and serve each other. In so doing, the marriage begins to fulfill what it was intended to do . . . two become one!

Dr. Emerson Eggerichs and his wife, Sarah, bring this to life wonderfully through their engaging, humorous and serious video conference entitled, you guessed it, *Love and Respect* (see inserts on previous page and below). This conference really hits the mark when it comes to getting across these foundational virtues of Love and Respect solidly grounded in Truth and very

relevant for marriages in today’s culture.

Here are just a few ‘nuggets’ of wisdom to tantalize you in the hope that it will encourage you in your marriage and help you to encourage others in theirs (and perhaps join us for a *Love and Respect* conference):

- Love is commanded of husbands because they do not tend to give it naturally.
- Respect is commanded of wives because they do not tend to give it naturally.
- Love and Respect are based on commitment rather than feelings or emotions, regardless of words, actions, responses or reactions.
- Understanding the differences between husbands and wives with regard to love and respect helps us see “we’re not wrong, just different.”
- Unconditional love simply means there are no conditions that can make a husband not love his wife (this does not mean he condones wrong or sinful behavior but chooses to love his wife in spite of it).
- Unconditional respect simply means there are no conditions that can make a wife not respect her husband (this does not mean she accepts wrong or sinful behavior

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**. . . marriage begins to fulfill what it was intended to do . . . two become one! Dr. Emerson Eggerichs and his wife, Sarah, bring this to life wonderfully through their engaging, humorous and serious video conference entitled, *Love and Respect*.**

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but chooses to respect her husband in spite of it).

- Christ is the real focus of any marriage based on True Love and Respect.



**Greg Williams is leading the “Kentucky Marriage Movement” for The Family Foundation**

So to couples, regarding this two-sided coin of marriage lived out in Love and Respect, I share some closing thoughts to encourage and challenge you.

I was recently reading an article on the virtue of “love” (applying the same thoughts to “respect” with regard to marriage) as I came across these words by Dr. John Whitcomb discussing the relationship of Love to Truth, “In I Corinthians 13: 6 we are told that love rejoices in the truth.”

In other words, faith, hope and love are virtues, but truth has an altogether different status. It is *THE* frame of reference, *THE* foundation, *THE* atmosphere, without which virtues such as love (and respect) cannot exist at all. Love “rejoices in the truth.” Why? Because without truth to define, interpret, protect, guide and channel it, love can become a total disaster.

Is there any doubt of the disastrous state of today’s marriage culture as we have applied our own definitions of love and respect without regard to truth? We’ve been learning about Love and Respect rooted in Truth and hearing of the difference that it makes.

Join The Family Foundation when the *Love and Respect* video conference comes to your area and see how it can enrich your marriage and help you enrich others in theirs. We’d love to see you and see many more “two-sided marriage coins” reflecting true Love and Respect!

The ***Love & Respect*** seminar is like a tune-up for your marriage — it’s great for a healthy marriage and healing for one that’s troubled. Here’s a ***TYPICAL*** testimony . . .

*“I can’t even begin to thank you for your thoughtful gift of sponsoring us for this seminar! It was outstanding! It was a little rough the first night because Robert was exhausted from a hard workweek, but we are committed to applying what we learned. I have to tell you, this seminar was an answer to my prayers and dealt specifically with some of the issues we have been having! . . . I am really pumped up about what I feel is like a whole new marriage for us! I understand Robert now in a whole new way! Thank you for letting the Lord use you to answer my prayers and bless us!”*

— Sharon

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**We have speakers available to challenge men’s or women’s groups to an authentic “revival of marriage.”**

**Call us: 859-255-5400**

# States work to defund Planned Parenthood

*Planned Parenthood has been a leech on state and federal budgets. Are everyday Americans finally waking up?*

The national debate regarding the defunding of Planned Parenthood has been a hot topic in recent months. In February, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to defund the abortion giant. Unfortunately, the U.S. Senate decided that tax dollars were being put to good use. They voted to continue the organization's funding despite the numerous reports of scandals, misuse of taxpayer dollars, and even reports of possible child abuse at some Planned Parenthood facilities.

According to Planned Parenthood's most recent annual report, the organization's total revenue was \$1.1 billion. Approximately \$363 million of this was in federal taxpayer funding through the Title X program. Title X was originally set up "to provide access to contraceptive services, supplies and information to all who want and need them." Under the Title X statutes and regulations, section 1008 stipulates that "None of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of

family planning." Still Planned Parenthood continues to receive funds under this federal program.

In May 2010, the non-partisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report that revealed that Planned Parenthood received \$657.1 million in federal grants and contracts from 2002 to 2009.

Although Section 1008 stipulates that federal funds can only be used for non-abortion services, the Chiaroscuro Foundation reported that Planned Parenthood has provided "more abortions than any other organization in the United States, about one of every four U.S. abortions."

Planned Parenthood's own latest annual report revealed that the abortion provider performed 332,278 abortions – about 27% of all the abortions performed in the U.S.

In a news report with *Fox-41* in Louisville, Planned Parenthood of Kentucky (PPKY) Director of Executive and Community Affairs Taylor Ewing-Johnstone stated that "only 3 percent of what we (Planned Parenthood) do is

related to abortion. The other 97 percent is cancer screening, STD screenings

and birth control."

While that statement sounds nice, it is likely misleading. Consider the fact that in 2008, Planned Parenthood reported that they provided 335,846 services to pregnant women. Of those services, 9,433 women received prenatal care, 2,405 lead to an adoption, and 324,008 were for abortion. This means that 98 percent of Planned Parenthood's services for pregnant women lead to an abortion. To underscore these

realities, since 1970, the collected data shows that Planned Parenthood has performed at least 5.3 million abortions. In the same report, the organization revealed that only 977 adoption referrals were made.

PPKY has two facilities in the state, the Louisville Health Center and the Bluegrass Health Center in Lexington. According to PPKY's 2008-2010 annual report, the organization received about \$756,807 in government grants and contracts through the Title X Family Planning program.

Since Congress failed in their efforts to defund Planned Parenthood, several states have taken it upon themselves to begin the process. Currently, nine states (Indiana, Florida, Kansas, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin) have passed legislation or enacted executive branch policies to defund the organization of \$60 million in federal funding.

Should Kentucky be the next?

# Ban of Bell County football prayer backfires

*There is a time to take a stand . . . and one of those times is when America's most basic freedoms is being manipulated.*

When the out-of-state, anti-prayer group Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) bullied Bell County Schools to end pre-game football prayers, they did not expect a backlash that would lead to more prayer. Superintendent George Thompson ended the prayers after receiving an Aug. 16 email by a Kentucky Department of Education attorney who recommended the school to "cease this activity immediately."

Instead of acquiescing to the decision to ban local ministers to lead in a pre-game prayer, the students and community went to work. "When they said we couldn't pray at the football games, it felt like it was taking my right away," said Bell County High School junior Paige Robbins. "We can't say anything to them for not praying, but they can tell us we can't." Prior to the next game, students circulated papers with the Lord's Prayer on it. When the announcer asked for a moment of silence, the crowd recited the Lord's Prayer together—something FFRF least expected.

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**"The Constitution does not ban citizens or elected officials from invoking divine guidance and blessings upon their public work. It's a practice that is part of our nation's religious heritage, and the Constitution does not prevent public officials today from doing the same thing America's founders did."**

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*– Mike Johnson  
Alliance Defense Fund*

According to the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), public prayers in schools are protected free speech. "The practice of opening public meetings with prayer is and always has been lawful," said ADF Senior Legal Counsel Mike Johnson. "The Constitution does not ban citizens or elected officials from invoking divine guidance and blessings upon their public work. It is a practice that is part of our nation's religious heritage, and the Constitution does not prevent public officials today from doing the same thing America's founders did."

Bell County High School students have also been wearing "Let Us Pray" t-shirts to the games. More than 2000 shirts have been made and several hundred orders are waiting to be filled. Local residents say they plan to continue wearing the shirts and supporting prayer. "I don't want to infringe on somebody's right not to pray, but you know there are more of us who want to pray than those who don't," said Chuck Green, who has two grandsons on the football team.



# Bell County prayers muffled

The Bell County school district in southeastern Kentucky is the latest target of an out-of-state atheist group offended because the school allowed ministers to pray before high school football games. By now, we should all know the biggest problem in our public schools is praying that gets out of hand and the role that community ministers contribute to this situation. If only that were the case.

Lawsuits against public prayer aren't anything new. On Aug. 6, Texas Governor Rick Perry hosted "The Response," a day of prayer and fasting which 30,000 Texans attended. What Perry did was similar to what Washington, Lincoln and FDR did in times of national turmoil. But unlike other executives, he faced a lawsuit from the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF)—the same group that threatened Bell County. They are reportedly thinking of changing their tagline to: "Offended by prayer? Call us: We don't have anything better to do with our time."

Consider the danger of this statement: "We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we

have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitful-

ness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!"

Perry has been raked over the coals for what some call a political stunt that purportedly entangles Church and State, but it wasn't Perry who said the above. It was Abraham Lincoln who called for a day of prayer and fasting at the height of the War Between the States in 1863. Dust off any number of public speeches and

proclamations from America's elected officials over the ages and you are likely to find reference to God and praying. But in the age of texts and tweets, one is more likely to be up on what Gaga and J-Lo are doing, and care less about what some dead guy in a top hat had to say.

Groups like FFRF conveniently interpret a public official's prayer as establishing a religion, and if Lincoln was around, they'd probably sue him too. It's a stretch to say that prayer establishes a religion.

Public prayer is not an altar call or forced conversion. Nor is it an imposition of sectarian doctrine into our laws. Throughout our history, prayer in public has been considered a free speech issue. People can take it or leave it. They can even vote elected officials out of office if they think they're praying too much, too little, or just off key.

Coercion you say? In this case, there was coercion . . . by FFRF. Their heavy-handed legal threats clipped a long-standing tradition of voluntary prayer in Bell County while an outside secularism has been imposed. Spectators are still looking for the yellow flag.

If the *summum bonum* of our society is secularism, then out-of-state, anti-public prayer groups like the Freedom From



**Richard Nelson is the western Kentucky policy analyst for The Family Foundation**

Religion Foundation are doing us a favor. But if the highest aim is to pursue justice, mercy and humility—virtues necessary for a good society, then can public prayer be anything but a benefit? After all, virtue must be derived by something higher than humanity itself.

According to English philosopher Os Guinness, freedom requires virtue, virtue requires faith, and faith requires freedom. There is a salient connection between the three, a connection our Forefathers understood. While ignorance may be bliss to the fainthearted who become apoplectic during public prayers, it is deadly to the society that presupposes the Almighty, that freedom flows from Him and that it is a good idea to keep in touch.

*Richard*

## “The Hospital Controversy”: A battle for life

*The “church and state issue” along with the ongoing sanctity of life battle has created an unusually potent debate.*

If you're looking for a recipe for a spicy public controversy, just take the church/state issue and the abortion issue, mix them together vigorously, and throw them into the legislative oven. That is precisely what has happened with the plans of the University of Louisville Hospital, Louisville's Jewish Hospital, and two Catholic hospitals, all of which are joining together and coming under the managerial control of a Catholic Health Cooperative. When several liberal state lawmakers found out about the plan, their political smoke detectors began screeching.

The most alarming aspect of the merger to critics like State Rep. Tom Burch (ironically, a self-proclaimed Catholic) is that U of L Hospital would be brought under the social policy directives of the Catholic Church, which preclude abortion, sterilization, and birth control. Indeed the issue of bringing what many legislators thought was a public hospital under the control of a religious corporation with decided views about social issues seems to be the most galling aspect of the deal to many liberal legislators.

The debate brought anti-religious sentiments that had formerly simmered just below the surface to a boil. Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, however, refused to back down. Speaking before the Louisville Rotary Club and in a letter to the *Courier-Journal*, Kurtz, who, along with Lexington's Bishop Ronald Gainer, must approve the deal, underscored his intention that in order for the deal to go through, Catholic moral directives must be followed.

Not only has the merger brought out the scent of anti-religious prejudice among some state lawmakers, but, according to some observers, there is also the faint, but unsavory odor of other prejudices. The liberal critics of the plan have used as one of their chief arguments that poor women will be denied “reproductive services.”

According to the Kentucky Commission on Women, a left-wing advocacy group funded by Kentucky taxpayers, in a letter to the editor on July 24 in the *Courier-Journal*, “Many low-income patients rely on access to sterilization after multiple

*(continued on bottom of page 8)*

# Hospitals that kill?

Caring and compassionate liberals who want to control the population of poor people are in a tizzy over the prospect of the Catholic Church taking over University of Louisville Hospital and Jewish Hospital of Louisville. The deal, they say, would prevent these hospitals from offering “reproductive services” to poor people.

The two hospitals, both of which are facing financial troubles, want to merge with St. Joseph’s Hospital and St. Mary’s Hospital, two Catholic hospitals, under an agreement that would result in placing



**Martin Cothran is the senior policy analyst for The Family Foundation**

public university hospital answered to a religious organization? It’s nothing if not ironic.

them under the authority of a Catholic health care organization. The prospect of such a merger has set off wailing and gnashing of teeth among

these caring liberals who fear it will interfere with their philanthropic plans to sterilize poor people and control their numbers through birth control.

Let’s face it, when is the last time a

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**The Church, for its part, operates under a more old-fashioned notion that poor people should be treated with dignity and respect, and that those goals properly exclude the attempt to decrease their numbers like they were a herd of elk.**

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These benevolent liberals are concerned about the fate of “reproductive services” that they fear poor people will lose access to under an

agreement that would result in placing the two non-religious hospitals under Catholic strictures on abortion, sterilization, and birth control.

The Church, for its part, operates

## “The Hospital Controversy” *continued from page 7*

births as a common method of contraception.”

“First of all,” said Martin Cothran, senior policy analyst with The Family Foundation, “whatever else the ‘services’ are that would no longer be offered, they’re not ‘reproductive’ services, they’re anti-reproductive services.” Cothran pointed out that the Kentucky Commission on Women has a link on their website to Planned Parenthood, whose founder, Margaret Sanger, once said, in caring and compassionate tones, “More children from the fit, less from the unfit – that is the chief aim of birth control.”□

“What this all points out,” said Cothran, “is the ugly side of the liberal approach to social policy. It sometimes seems that the preferred way to deal with poverty among some policy makers is to reduce the number of poor people.”

Cothran also pointed out that there are more noble concerns about the merger within the Catholic Church itself. Pat Schneider, a Lexington doctor, has warned about the problem of Catholic hospitals compromising their integrity by joining with secular hospitals, concerns that would seem to have some warrant in light of the expressed intention of several U of L Hospital officials who have said they will simply refer patients to other hospitals for the controversial procedures.

In addition, there is also the question of whether U of L Hospital is a public hospital or a private one. U of L officials say it is private, while many legislators say it is public.

And this recipe doesn’t need any more ingredients.

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*The Kentucky Citizen* is published by The Family Foundation, a Kentucky nonprofit educational organization that works in the public policy arena on behalf of the family and the values that make families strong.

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under a more old-fashioned notion that poor people should be treated with dignity and respect, and that those goals properly exclude the attempt to decrease their numbers like they were a herd of elk. Under Catholic governance, these hospitals could no longer offer abortion, sterilization, and birth control.

The caring and compassionate liberals who are against the reproduction of poor people call these procedures “reproductive services,” which is a little strange if you think about it. Abortion, for example, hardly contributes to reproduction. In fact, isn’t the whole point of abortion to prevent it? And whatever you think of birth control, it hardly promotes reproduction. (The Catholic Church opposes it but most Protestants support its availability.)

In any case, it’s a rather strange spectacle to see an institution like the Catholic Church, which supports the reproduction of everybody, accused by people who want to restrict the reproduction of poor people of being against “reproductive services.”

I mean, let’s be honest, isn’t it *anti-reproductive services* the caring and sympathetic Liberals want to make sure

are available to poor people? Did anyone notice there are no liberals out there concerned about poor people lacking *fertility services*?

There may be good arguments against the merger, but they don’t consist of social policies that propose to solve the problem of poverty by eliminating those who are impoverished.

There are concerns among Catholics, for example, that their own institutions will potentially be corrupted by the association with secular hospitals who don’t have the same priorities that Catholic hospitals have. In addition, there are concerns about whether, even under a deal that prohibits any of the hospitals from providing abortions, whether hospital staff will actively cooperate with outside abortion providers to redirect women to their facilities for abortions.

Abortion. You know. The “reproductive service.”