



Isaiah 62:6

# KEYSTONE SENTINEL



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Michael Clater, Editor

## boardroom

By  
Mr. Tim  
Anger

### The Regressive Benefits of Public School: A Testimonial

*A dichotomy has been growing during the past decade in Christian circles. Christian leaders and KCEA staff hear some claim it is more important for the son(s) to attend a public school so they can “get a job,” have more and better sports programs, or be more ready for attending a state university. In contrast, many of those same parents want their daughter(s) to attend a Christian school so they can learn the Bible, be protected from society’s “bad influences,” and can grow to be good mothers. Over the years, the use of these excuses has crept from college to high school, and now into upper elementary grades. The consequences of this philosophy are not always readily apparent; however, here we present an example of a parent who deeply regrets their choice.*

“If I had it to do over again, I would have put my son in the Christian school.” That’s what a father just told me last week. About five years ago I had asked him to consider enrolling his high school age son in our Christian school at the same time that he and his wife were enrolling their daughter in 7th grade in our school. His answer at that time was that he wanted his son to be better prepared for the real world and not be sheltered in our school. He was afraid the academics would not be as strong in our small school, putting his son at a disadvantage in college, but he was even more fearful that he would basically become a “sissy” and unable to cope in the “real world.”

His son stayed in public school, got very involved in theater which he enjoyed and enriched his life in some respects, but he made some friends there that pulled him even further away from spiritual things and the drama experience did not benefit him at all when he got to college. His dad is grieved now over the fact that his son is not in church, has no interest in spiritual things, has no discernment about the wrongness of worldly things, and has adopted a wrong world view and worldly values.

Now that his daughter is entering her senior year and he has had more time to observe our school and our graduates, he has changed his thinking 180 degrees. He now believes that his son would have been better prepared for college – and life—if he had enrolled him in our Christian school. “In public school,” he observed, “students are just pushed through. And the over-worked guidance counselors can’t possibly know their students as well as the staff in a small Christian school can.” His greatest concern though, in looking back, is how brain-washed his son became through the subtle indoctrination of a secular humanistic world view and the worldly influence of peers. “Now I realize that Christian education is not a harmful sheltering from the real world, but an inoculation or vaccination so that when they head out to face the real world they are better prepared.”

His too-wise-too-late observation reminds me of the statement I often share with our school

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families at orientation and graduation, “Our goal is to teach students how to live – not just how to make a living.”

Thankfully his daughter is still in our school! She got saved just last year and is exciting about her new spiritual life. She soaked up everything she was taught in last year’s World Views class which our pastor taught to the upper classmen. Her dad and mom are excited about her potential and the progress she’s made thus far.

“If only I had it to over again,” the dad lamented to me, “I would have enrolled my son here years ago!” But that decision can’t be made over. He can only grieve over wrong choices his son makes based on the value system he has acquired – and pray for him.

How many other parents make the decision to put their son in public school for the sports, the academics, the science lab, the extra-curricular experiences, thinking they are getting him better prepared for college than he would be in the Christian school. They don’t see the inherent danger of losing their son’s heart and seeing him indoctrinated in an unbiblical world view. The consequences of that choice will come with a high price tag – and too late to undo it.

*Mr. Anger is principal of Emmaus Baptist Academy in Emmaus, PA.*



## ***The Bible and Society***

Recent Items of Interest for Believers

### **Philistine Temple Found at Gath**

Announced in late July, archaeologists from Bar Ilan University uncovered remains of a Philistine temple while excavating the city’s *tel*, or mound of remains. Now known as Tel Safit, the excavations found a temple and numerous

religious items that experts dated to the 10th century B.C. Professor Aren Maeir of BIU noted the architectural similarities with the building described in Judges 16:23-29.

As a result of the dig, the team found the temple, evidence for the area’s settlement by the Philistines around 1200 B.C., and buildings’ destruction around 830 B.C. by King Hazael of Aram Damascus (II Kings 12:18). The group also uncovered major evidence for a magnitude 8 earthquake, similar to one mentioned in Amos 1:1.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/138843>

*Israel National News, July 29*

### **New Test: At Least Some Dead Sea Scrolls Made Locally**

Using a new testing method of alpha particles and x-rays, a team of researchers and scientists found important evidence that at least a portion of the Scrolls’ parchment was produced in close proximity to the Dead Sea. The new technique, which measured the unique chemical signature of water found in fragments of the Temple Scroll parchment, isolated the high unique salt composition associated with the Sea. The next analysis will be of the ink, to more definitively determine if it was written at Qumran or another nearby location.

<http://news.discovery.com/archaeology/dead-sea-scrolls-protons.html>

*Discovery News, July 20*

### **Increasing Arrests of Christians Near Islamic Locations**

Arrests in June of 4 Christian missionaries at an Arab festival in Dearborn (Michigan) and in July of two other Christians near a mosque in Philadelphia (their trial was set to begin August 10) give us a foreboding air of persecution for the American church. Police and city leaders are increasingly willing to side with outspoken and influential Muslims. We cannot take lightly our responsibility to tell others of God’s wonderful gift of salvation through Jesus Christ or our freedom to do so.

# A PA Public School Principal's Resignation Letter

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with strong conviction that I write this letter as my formal resignation effective Thursday, July 1, 2010 from my position as Principal of Hanover Elementary School, where I have devoted the last five of my 14 years in the Bethlehem Area School District. Though there is no job at present to which I will be going, God has clearly persuaded me through His Word and through my research into the foundations of our educational system that I must end my career in public education.

For the last fourteen years, I have worked diligently to be the "salt and light" spoken of in Matthew 5:13, but I have realized that while I am plugging up pinholes in the dike that holds back the tumultuous waters of public education, the improperly laid foundation has been eroding beneath our feet. God states, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7a). This means that neither God nor moral character can be separated from true education; in fact, the glorification of God and the building of Biblical moral character must be the basis of true education. In the words of Benjamin Rush, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, "We profess to be republicans [in form of government], and yet we neglect the only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government, that is, the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity by the means of the Bible. For this Divine Book, above all others, favors that equality among mankind, that respect for just laws, and those sober and frugal virtues, which constitute the soul of republicanism."

But what have we done? We have thrown God, Bibles and prayer out of our schools based upon an inaccurate interpretation of the "Separation clause", while openly proselytizing the religion of Secular Humanism (Smith v. Board of School Commissioners of Mobile County, Ala.). We have divorced morality from education and focused only on what special interest groups perceive as the "right" content knowledge. We manage the masses at the expense of the individual. As with most educators in the system, I have been sincere in my efforts to apply the doctrines of those we call the founding fathers of education, but I have realized that I have been sincerely wrong. My research into the real philosophies and beliefs behind men such as Rousseau, Dewey, Hall, etc. has opened my eyes. I am now aware that not only have I not been working for God, I have been working in complete opposition to Him. I mistakenly thought I was on neutral ground: there is no neutral territory.

That said; let me assure you that my argument is not against those I have worked with for the past 14 years. I have a love for my colleagues and friends; most are wonderful teachers of a curriculum they have been given, most truly love the children and will do anything for them, most sincerely try to improve our children, our city, our nation. But we have all taken our eye off the mark of what the chief end of man is. The nation's statist system of public education is the real issue.

The Bible is overwhelmingly clear in that the primary responsibility in educating a child rests with the parents (Deuteronomy 6, Ephesians 6:4, etc.). We need parents to be parents once again, families to be families once again, fathers to be the father and leader, mothers to be the mother and nurturer. It does not "take a village to raise a child"; it takes a family entrusted with the Word of God. Our children are not to be wards of the State; on the contrary, they are creations of a God of love, justice, and redemption who loves us so much He sent Christ to die for us so that if we believe in Him and profess Him as Lord and Savior, He will grant us eternal life. He does not need us, but we need Him. He has given us the roadmap to life and to education: the Bible. I pray that He may manifest Himself in your life as he has clearly done so in mine.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Metarko

*Editor's Note: We do not know Mr. Metarko; but from what we have found, he is an evangelical believer. He may not worship in the same church you and I may choose, but we cannot find issue with his clear statements of the contradictory philosophy of public education for the believer. He has learned this from personal experience, seeing that his self-avowed "salt and light" ministry was drastically opposed by the educational establishment that had "expelled" God long ago. To abandon his former position, he was willing to leave a comfortable, secure, well-paying job (and likely extensive*

*retirement benefits) in order to hold fast to his convictions. Just as it was not too late for Mr. Metarko to recognize the system's core problem and remove himself from it, it is never too late — or too early — to help ground our children in Scripture and in a biblical worldview by sending them to a good Christian elementary school, high school, or college.*

Posted August 6, 2010, <http://www.ncfic.org/weblogmodule/view/id/548/src/@random493e73d2154bd/>.

# 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 several legislative and policy issues of which to be aware and involved.

### **Financial Sector Overhaul Bill Signed**

*H.R. 4173; Public Law No. 111-203*

Signed into law on July 21, liberals touted the bill as reining in Wall Street and the banking industries' excessive risk-taking. Hidden in (or absent from) the 2,000+ page legislation were numerous unhelpful components, one of which should impact many believers in the near future: forcing banks to raise more capital before lending it, thereby reducing loans they will give to individuals and businesses for homes, equipment, and vehicles. To make money, banks will probably reduce the "free" services currently offered while eliminating many options for interest-bearing accounts and charging more fees if possible.

### **Stopping a "Lame Duck" Session**

It is expected the next Congress will be far more conservative than the present one. As a result, many anticipate Congress will act irresponsibly and pass harmful liberal legislation during a two-month window after the November elections when the public cannot hold them accountable. Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) recently sponsored a resolution to prevent such a session. The resolution was *defeated on August 10, 163-236*, assuring voters that Democrat leaders intend to meet. A recently leaked memo confirms this.

### **More Cramming, As Soon As Possible**

The Democrat leadership is pushing to move on several key bills, and will pass them out of desired order if needed. Both bills could be voted on in a "lame duck" session if support during the regular session is lacking.

1. **Repeal of Don't Ask—Don't Tell (S.3065)** Supporters of this bill want homosexuals to be able to openly flaunt their "sexuality" in the armed forces, and be protected from opposition. Many commanders, soldiers, and analysts predict this change would decrease enlistments and damage morale. Supporters are pushing for a vote mid-September.
2. **Employer Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 3017, S.1584)** ENDA would classify homosexuals as protected employees, giving them increased job security and legal protections. Both employers and fellow employees would be held to a far higher burden of proof to speak or act negatively against a homosexual.

## Litigation Updates

### **California Marriage Court Case Decision**

On August 2 Judge Vaughn Walker issued his ruling on California's Proposition 8, finding the state law was federally unconstitutional under the Equal Protection and Due Process clauses of the 14th Amendment. He decided that the 52.1% of voters used irrational judgment and unfounded bias in voting against same-sex marriage, while also declaring same-sex marriage socially "equal" to that of one-man-with-one-woman marriage — disregarding thousands of years of common law and modern legal precedent. He also ignored the state's interest in childbearing and childrearing. (Numerous studies have shown traditional families consistently produce more well-adjusted children than gay "couples.") Pro-gay groups and the "mainstream" media heralded the decision as a major breakthrough in civil rights for gays. Numerous conservative groups noted the judge's trampling of historic standards for traditional marriage and cultural values, and the judicial establishment of a different standard than most California voters (and current federal law) approve. Judge Walker's own potential vested interest (because he and his gay "partner" could benefit from a future "marriage" by his allowing the case to proceed) has been little reported.

A notice of an intended appeal has already been filed with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in California. Both sides have expressed confidence in a victory at the U.S. Supreme Court, though the "moderate" Justice Kennedy would be the likely swing vote in a close decision.

The greatest difficulty in the "gay marriage" / "civil unions" debate is that the general population is uninformed on the issues. Most get their information solely from mainstream media or commercials advocating one side of the issue. To be responsible voters and citizens, Christians should more fully understand the implications of this ruling and of pro-homosexual legislation. Below is a short list of suggested websites that summarize the arguments against "gay marriage" and the familial and societal benefits of one-man-with-one-woman traditional marriage.

### ***10 Facts about Counterfeit Marriage***

<http://www.frc.org/content/ten-facts-about-same-sex-marriage>

Family Research Council

**Marriage** (a series looking at the benefits of traditional marriage over gay "unions," cohabitation, or single parenthood)

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/marriage-and-family/marriage.aspx>

Focus on the Family

### ***Definition of Marriage***

<http://www.heritage.org/Issues/Family-and-Marriage/Definition-of-Marriage>

Heritage Foundation

# THE STATE LINE

## **Child Care Education Regulations Proposed**

In a move that would precede a ruling by the state Supreme Court in the St. Elizabeth's case, the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) proposed new regulations and policies to require ongoing worker training and professional development of adults who work with groups of children. While superficially this sounds harmless, numerous dangers exist:

- 1) The proposed *educational* policies are based on their claim that the required training is essential for the *health and safety* of the kids;
- 2) DPW would determine the content of what would be taught in the mandated annual training, which includes a full array of issues on child rearing. Thus, a class taken at even an accredited Christian college may be unacceptable to the state;
- 3) DPW would intrude into church and school ministries' local practices for determining what curriculum is to be taught to children, following the liberal National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) "professional standards" for such issues as sex education;
- 4) Church ministries with children differ substantially from state education and secular child care in areas of purpose, principle, and procedure. This would collide with the proposed curricula, which must be as diverse as the attending children.



Image: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

KCEA staff submitted comments to DPW on July 26 with support from over 900 affiliating ministries and Bible believing churches. The document voiced extensive concerns for religious and educational liberty for our churches and child care ministries (whether they are independent or connected with a school) across the state.

## *Legislative Updates*

### **Budget Battles to Continue**

Since Congress passed (and Pres. Obama signed on August 10) the \$26 billion "bailout" package for states and government unions, the amount of Medicare funding from the federal level is now a known quantity. Pennsylvania is to receive \$600 million for its portion of the program, which still leaves a \$250 million funding gap in the budgetary spending Gov. Rendell signed.

Negotiations have already begun on where to cut state funds. The most obvious and first target is the governor's \$250 million increase for primary education. This would be a natural choice, since the federal bill includes about \$380 million for PA school districts to retain and/or hire primary education teachers and staff. Other suggested possibilities to receive budget reductions include public welfare and discretionary spending (including "walk-around money" or WAMs, which the governor has handed out this fiscal year) or an across-the-board cut.

It's a toss-up where cuts will actually be made, but it will still be important to communicate with your legislators.

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

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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.