

KING

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are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”

Phillip was sent by God to be the guide to show him the way.

“In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

Phillip was ready to explain the gospel to him which brought immediate results.

The preaching of the Cross is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes.

The last question confirms the Ethiopians’ faith in Christ. As they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”

He was immediately ready to make a public witness to his faith. Phillip consents and baptizes him in the water.

By immersing him, it reveals the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It also reveals the death, burial, and resurrection of the eunuch in Christ.

“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?”

FUNDING

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to governments to aid in disaster recovery.

As part of the meeting, councilors gave authorization to City Chief Financial Officer Mike Broyles to file paperwork with state offices to receive federal financial assistance under the Disaster Relief Act.

The winter storm moved through the region during the last week of January, dumping around three-quarters of an inch of ice and leaving many without power while outside temperatures dipped to zero or single digits.

The storm also introduced many in Kentucky to the concept of “frost quakes” – loud, thunderous popping noises that happen when water saturates ground that is already frozen, causing the liquid to freeze rapidly and leading the surrounding land mass to crack.

While the frost quakes were not dangerous in and of themselves, the freezing rain and frigid temperatures that caused them led to numerous deaths around the state, including one in Pulaski.

Also at Monday’s meeting, Mayor Alan Keck answered questions about the funds awarded to the city through the national opioid settlements.



CARLA SLAVEY | CJ

Somerset City Clerk Nick Bradley, left, reads a resolution concerning the city seeking FEMA funds for recovery from Winter Storm Fern, as Mayor Alan Keck, right, looks on.

Kentucky, along with other states, successfully sued opioid manufacturers and distributors in an effort to hold them responsible for their role in the increasing opioid epidemic.

Companies such as Purdue Pharma and Albertsons were sued by state attorneys generals for creating and marketing addictive medications that contributed to rising illegal drug use.

For example, Purdue Pharma was the manufacturer for Oxy-Contin, which was marketed as a safe, non-addictive prescription pain reliever.

In reality, OxyContin turned out to be highly addictive, and earned the nickname of “hillbilly heroin” due to its widespread illegal use in the Appalachian region.

Last year, courts approved a \$7.4 billion settlement from Purdue, to be paid out over 15 years.

Similarly, in April of this year Albertsons Companies, Inc. agreed to a \$774 million settlement to be paid out over nine years.

According to the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission, Kentucky is set to receive more than \$1 billion in abatement funding from these and similar national settlements.

Its website states that \$382,300 is earmarked to be given to the City of Somerset.

But, as Keck explained, the city’s money hasn’t been fully allocated yet, and it will take several years to receive the full amount.

“They (state officials) don’t know exactly how long, which

might seem odd, but 10 to 12 years is the estimate,” Keck said.

The funds must be used for programs that focus on drug use prevention, drug awareness and recovery.

“We have distributed some funds. The Boys and Girls Club is a recipient of it,” Keck said, as are educational programs.

Additionally, Keck said he would like to see some of the money used to kick-start the local branch of Life Learning Center, a program that aims to help those in recovery get back on their feet.

Keck said that it is a 12-week “recover to redemption” educational program that originated in Covington.

It is set to operate in Somerset out of the OakPointe Centre building – formerly the Palm Beach facility – once the task of removing asbestos and lead paint is finished.

Keck pointed out that the Kentucky General Assembly has appropriated money to assist OakPointe in the removal of those hazardous materials from the building, but there has as of yet been no money to help start the program.

“My hope and heart would be to use a lot of the opioid money for the programming to see that thing get off the ground, and then hopefully it will become self-sufficient,” Keck said.

COX

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members, and has several other family members who work for city government.

In all, Cox has three daughters, six grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren, most of whom, along with many friends, joined the birthday girl at her house for a party celebrating her century milestone.

Cox said she grew up out in the country, and as a child came into town with him and saw all the horses and wagons going through the streets.

She herself didn’t travel by wagon, however. “We lived out in the country, and my dad, he had one of the first cars that we had out there.”

She said she got her first name, Thalia, when her older sister, Dhalia, went to school in Covington. “She met this girl, her name was Thalia, and she (Dhalia) liked it, so that’s what she wanted to name me when I was born.”

Later on, Cox said she came to Somerset and lived with sister Dhalia and her husband, Dennie Gooch, when she went to school. “I came to her (Dhalia’s) house and stayed with her when I was a child,” Cox said.

Then in 1943, she met and married Rex Cox and lived in Science Hill with him.

He unfortunately passed away when he was 57, and Thalia Cox said that she moved to Somerset just a few months after that.

And she’s been here ever since, she said, having lived in her current home for 47

years.

She also worked 32 years at Palm Beach, retiring just a few years before the clothing factory closed.

She also traveled extensively, she said, talking about her trips to Hawaii and Cancun.

Godsey said the Hawaii trip was Thalia and all three daughters, and that it took place in 1985. The Cancun trip was in 1987.

“We had the best time,” Godsey said.

Vicky Godsey’s husband (and City Council member) David Godsey, pointed out that his mother-in-law also traveled with church groups a lot too.

“We’ve always taken her on vacation with us, and we’ve done a lot of stuff together,” David Godsey said.

He and Vicky Godsey called it a blessing to have

Cox here on her 100th birthday. “And for her to have her mind, it means so much,” Vicky said.

David added that if he needs to remember when something 40 years ago happened, he knows he can “ask granny” and she’s able to remember it.

And not only is she able to connect to Facebook to message people, family members said, Thalia Cox gets on Facebook to follow the Somerset City Council meetings.

“She does keep up,” son-in-law (and Council Member) Jimmy Eastham said.

“She watches our meetings,” grandson-in-law (and Council Member) Brian Dalton said.

“Yeah, I always watch your meetings,” Thalia Cox agreed with him.

Then, she joked, “I’d like

to speak up sometimes, but I know I can’t,” because she’s at home.

There might be a bit of irony in Cox receiving a “key” to a city she may know better than anyone currently serving in government. When a reporter pointed that out, she said, “Well, I’ve been through a lot of mayors.”

Still, she showed appreciation for receiving the honor.

“I’ve heard about people getting them, but I didn’t know how they got them,” she said. “But it’s wonderful to know I’ve got one. I appreciate it, I really appreciate it.”

She also expressed appreciation for the family and friends who turned up to celebrate her birthday with her.

“I’m just thankful for each and every one of them,

honey. They’ve been so good to me, watched over me and took care of me. (With-out) them and the Lord, I couldn’t have made it,” she said.

When asked about her best memories of her family, she said, “They’ve always been so good to me. ... We went through births and deaths, and we’ve had a lot of different things in our lives, but we’ve all just done okay.”

When someone asked if it is a close-knit family, she agreed. “When one hurts, we all hurt. ... But we all celebrate together too,” she said.

When asked if she had any advice on how to live to 100, she said, “All I know is live as good a life as you can have, and love the Lord, and do what He wants you to. That’s what you need to do.”

KERLEY

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fragmentary.” Yet, Freeman leads the reader to believe that Constantine took a leading role in the doctrinal outcome because of the “overpowering position” that he occupied at the Council meetings.” Freeman contends that Constantine exerted control “even to the extent of attempting to formulate its doctrine at Nicaea.” However, it was not Constantine but 230 bishops from across Christendom who met, discussed, and eventually found consensus in the creed issued by the council. Freeman seems to blur this distinction, leading the reader to view Constantine and the Roman government as having dictated theological doctrine. That was never Constantine’s strategic intent, nor was it the results.

Freeman states that the Nicaean council of 381 issued edicts confirming the divine nature of Christ

as homoousian (same substance) with the Father, thereby sealing state authority. Freeman writes, “The edicts finally confirmed the emperor as the definer and enforcer of orthodoxy.” Even so, Freeman still misses the point. It was not government officials deciding doctrinal matters; it was bishops, theologians, and church leaders. Christian orthodoxy came to be, as such, through consensus, not state coercion. Freeman would have the reader believe that doctrinal challenges began only under Constantine and that Christians lost control of doctrine at that time. That simply was not the case.

However, Freeman argues forcefully that the emperors, starting with Constantine, prioritized political stability above all else. After all, Constantine’s original interest was in finding a consensus at Nicaea. Freeman argues Constantine’s “political position was threatened by the endemic political and doctrinal disunity of the Christian Greeks.” Constantine would

not be the last in a long list of rulers whose sole purpose was to keep civil unity and domestic peace. All governments at all times move to squelch discord in one way or another. The criticism that Freeman lodges against Christianity could also be made against every government that has ever governed, including that of Rome. One need not go back but a few years before Constantine to see a Roman government under Diocletian, who severely persecuted Christians as being threatening to civil unity and domestic peace. After all, there were some pretty stiff penalties to be paid if one didn’t recognize the emperors as gods in their own right. Burning a pinch of incense to Caesar, regardless of one’s interpretive bias, was mandatory for unity and peace.

In the end, Freeman aptly highlights the tremendous changes that followed Constantine’s embrace of Christianity, as well as those wrought by state-sponsored Christianity in the Western

world over the next several centuries. Undoubtedly, the Western world was a different world because of it. In that sense, Freeman makes a valid argument that state-sponsored Christianity stifled religious diversity. Even so, does this mean that the world was not a better place because of Christianity? Even if Freeman’s thesis is correct, I, along with the entire Christian world, would continue to loudly argue that, even so, the world is a better place because of Christianity, because of one thing: hope. Jesus Christ brought real, eternal hope into the world. And the gift of eternal hope that Christ brought into the world is of such incalculable value that it really does not matter if Freeman’s thesis is correct (although, on at least two points, Freeman appears to be in error). Real hope of eternal life outweighs any “light momentary affliction” (2 Cor 4:17-18) we might face in this life. Hope, real hope. Until next time. Look at the evidence and ask a

bold question: Is God dead? Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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Southern Oklahoma. Dr. Kerley and his wife, Vicki, are members of the Waurika church of Christ, and live in Ardmore, OK. You can contact him at dr.kerley@isGoddead.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following vehicle will be sold for towing & storage fees by Gerald Sears Towing 67 Dungan Knob Rd, Science Hill KY, (606) 219--3218, pursuant to KRS 189A.190. 2015 Toyota Tundra VIN: 5TFAW5F-CX47483 Last known owner: PARKER, RICHARD. Lienholder: EXETER FINANCE LLC.

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