Will the gentleman yield?

I want to thank the gentleman

from Iowa for his kind comments

about his experiences with various

folks who are in Syria.

I just wanted to say one other thing

too. This past Sunday I attended a

church service at my own church that

has a large Syrian community; and a

woman made a presentation at the

church who represents the Presbyterian

Church of Lebanon and Syria,

and spoke in my church in very moderate,

secular tones about why she

thought it was not in anyone’s interest

for the United States to intervene at

this point in the Syrian civil war.

It was a very compelling statement.

Then, after that church service, I

stopped by another at St. George Antioch

Orthodox Church after their services

had ended and met with some of

the parishioners whose family members

are over there, in many cases, and

some told me their family members

had been killed. And there was a lot of

crying and wailing and deep sadness.

It’s quite emotional for them, as you

can well imagine. They feel so strongly

that this intervention is only going to

make the plight of the Christians that

much more dire and difficult in Syria

and that it could lead to their ultimate

extermination in many cases. This was

their term, not mine.

That’s how serious this is to them in

a country, that I believe, the last I

checked, is somewhere between 15 to 20

percent Christian, although the numbers

are diminishing, given this turmoil.

We’ve seen that in many Middle

Eastern countries. The Christian communities

are just not able to endure in

this type of environment.

So I appreciate your interest in this

issue, Mr. KING, and thank you for allowing

me to speak. Keep up the good

work.