

The background of the entire image is a vibrant display of the United States flag waving across the top half, with its stars and stripes clearly visible. The bottom half of the image is filled with a dark night sky illuminated by numerous bright, golden-yellow fireworks exploding in various patterns.

**WHEN I THINK
OF AMERICA**

**THE LEGAL
ALERT**

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

JULY 2025



WHEN I THINK OF AMERICA...

When I think of America, I think of a land birthed in liberty—liberty not only to speak and assemble, but liberty to worship the Lord without fear of government interference. Our Founding Fathers were not perfect men, but they understood a perfect truth: that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. Chief among these is the right to worship freely.

We at the Christian Law Association are privileged to witness this freedom in action every day. We speak to pastors seeking to proclaim the Gospel boldly. We advise teachers disciplined for quietly living out their faith in public schools. We help Christian business owners who refuse to compromise their beliefs, even when it costs them financially. These believers are not making headlines—but they are the heartbeat of the American church.

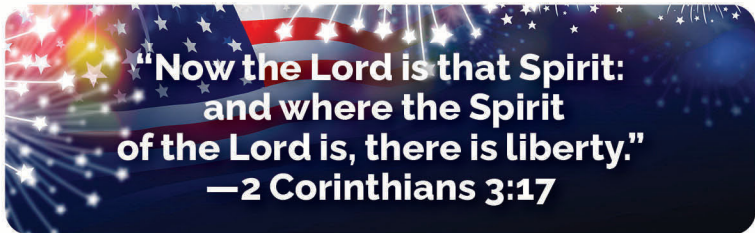
And yet, we also see another side of America—one that grieves our hearts. We see government officials who treat churches unequally. We see Christians told to remove Scripture verses from their workspaces, students barred from bringing their Bibles to school, and ministries targeted for holding to Biblical truth. This is not the America our founders envisioned.

But we are not discouraged. We are resolved.

When I think of America, I think of Christians who still kneel in prayer, families who still gather around the dinner table to read God's Word, churches who still preach the truth without compromise. I think of our attorneys—fighting daily, often behind the scenes, to ensure the next generation has the same religious freedoms we've enjoyed.

Our freedom is not free. It has been paid for by the blood of patriots—and by the sacrifice of those who stood for truth when it wasn't popular. The Christian Law Association stands with them.

Let us not take these freedoms for granted. Let us continue to speak, to serve, and to stand. Let us remember that this liberty is not man's idea—it is God's gift. And with His help, we will preserve it.



**"Now the Lord is that Spirit:
and where the Spirit
of the Lord is, there is liberty."
—2 Corinthians 3:17**



MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE

Lowell Mason, an important American musician in the 1800s, brought several books of German songs to Samuel Francis Smith, asking him to look for words that were especially appealing and translate them into English. When Samuel Smith read a patriotic song from a foreign nation, he was inspired to write an original poem of his own, a poem that reverently described his love for the United States. **These words were first sung 194 years ago at a children's service in Boston, Massachusetts, on July 4, 1831.** As we celebrate our nation's birthday this month, please take some time to allow your heart to swell with gratitude for the gift of America as you ponder these lyrics.

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From ev'ry mountainside
Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God, to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, our King.



AMERICA NEEDS OUR PRAYERS

Here are some surprising and thought-provoking statistics about Christians in the United States, based on recent studies from sources like Pew Research, Barna Group, Lifeway Research, and Gallup:

1 Christianity Is Declining Rapidly

Only 63% of Americans now identify as Christian (Pew Research, 2021), down from 90% in the 1970s. If trends continue, Christians could be a minority by 2070.

2 Church Attendance Is Even Lower Than Belief

While 63% say they are Christian, only about 28–30% attend a church service once a week. That means over half of self-identified Christians don't go to church regularly.

3 Fewer Than 10% Hold a Biblical Worldview

According to Barna (2023), only 6% of U.S. adults—and just 19% of born-again Christians—have a Biblical worldview, meaning they believe in core Biblical principles like absolute moral truth and salvation through Christ alone.

4 Evangelicals Are a Small Minority

Though often highly visible, evangelical Christians make up only 23–25% of the population, and that number is shrinking, especially among young people.

5 Gen Z Christians Are Doubting More

Among Gen Z (ages 10–25), over 45% of those raised in a Christian environment say they have serious doubts about their faith, and many cite the church's stance on social issues as a reason.

6 Bible Reading Is Shockingly Rare

Only 11% of Americans read the Bible daily (American Bible Society, 2023). More than half of self-described Christians say they rarely or never read Scripture.

7 Half of Pastors Are Seriously Considering Leaving Ministry

According to Barna (2023), 42% of pastors have seriously considered quitting full-time ministry in the past year due to stress, isolation, and pressure.

8 Christian Persecution Is Increasing Domestically

Legal pressure against Christian individuals and ministries is rising.

9 A Majority of Christians Can't Define the Great Commission

A Lifeway Research study found that 51% of U.S. churchgoers have never heard of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20), or can't explain what it means.

A MINISTRY OF LEGAL HELPS



Since 1969, CLA has been providing free legal assistance to Bible-believing churches and Christians who are experiencing difficulty in practicing their religious faith because of governmental regulation, intrusion, or prohibition in one form or another. The Christian Law Association serves in the following ways...

- Free legal defense of those facing difficulties for the Biblical faith
- Free legal counsel to churches and Christians for their ministries
- Free legal help to homeschooling families
- Publication of *The Legal Alert*, a monthly newsletter
- Legal books and other resources to inform Christians of their rights
- Preaching in churches across the country
- Intercessory prayer ministry for requests sent to the ministry offices
- Free legal consulting to local, state, and federal officials and legislators to provide maximum religious liberty
- Prayer initiative for our national leadership and government
- Legal seminars for ministries to help prevent lawsuits
- Weekday radio program broadcast, *The Legal Alert*, on 1,600 outlets around the world.

New Online Giving Options
call 888-252-1969 or visit WWW.CHRIStIANLAW.ORG

THE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY BATTLE IS NOT OVER

Through the years, the Christian Law Association has been blessed to win an unbelievable number of cases, defending the rights of churches and individual Christians to practice the religious liberty promised in the United States Constitution. But we can never make the false assumption that once something is settled, it is settled forever.

1 Courts tend to follow precedent.

If the courts allow one church in a state to have a Christian school, it is likely that they will allow all churches in the same state to have Christian schools because courts tend to follow precedent.

2 Attorneys tend to show distinctions.

In order to get a ruling that goes against established precedent, attorneys try to show how the present case is somehow different from cases in the past. They may argue something as simple as, "The cases in the past dealt with larger churches that were more likely to have qualified teachers, but the present case deals with a smaller church that is less likely to have such resources."

3 The United States Supreme Court sometimes changes its mind.

In the matter of abortion, the Supreme Court for many years ruled that every state must allow abortions. In

recent years, the Court ruled that it is acceptable for abortion rights to vary from state to state. Even long-established precedents can be overturned with a single case.

4 A recent Supreme Court decision has created some confusion.

In most cases involving public schools, if one group of students is allowed to express their thoughts, then all groups are. But when a school on the East Coast allowed some students to wear shirts that said, "He, She, They. It's All OK" but disallowed one student to wear a shirt that said, "There are only two genders," the Supreme Court refused to hear the case, thereby allowing the school to exercise viewpoint discrimination.

5 Please continue to pray for the Christian Law Association.

Because of the nature of the law in the United States, our work defending Christian liberty is never done. We are determined to continue winning cases in the future, just as we have in the past; but we know we cannot do so without God's help. We humbly ask all our supporters to keep us in their prayers.

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED?

Though it is thankfully rare, ministry workers need to know what to do when they come across an unknown substance in a suspicious package. Staff members need to be trained to put down the package immediately without attempting to clean up any released powder or liquid, and without attempting to brush off the substance from clothing or skin. Then turn off all HVAC systems immediately to prevent a potentially harmful substance from getting into the air circulation system and being spread throughout the building. These procedures seem like simple common sense, but because they occur so rarely, staff members should be periodically reminded of these actions to keep them at the top of their minds.

If you need to establish emergency response policies for your ministry, please contact our offices for further information.



COMPUTERS AND INCIDENT MANAGEMENT FORMS

When they are used effectively, computers can streamline work and make churches much more efficient. But mistakes happen, and not all of these are innocent errors. CLA recommends that churches adopt an Incident Management Procedure when there are issues with technology, including theft and data corruption.

Proper management procedures can help legally protect the church. These procedures include identifying the scope of the incident, creating an Incident Management Form, notifying the supervisor of the person who caused the incident, and defining a resolution.

If you need additional information about this important topic, contact our offices today.

An American flag is draped across the top and bottom of the page, framing the central text.

PRAYER CHECKLIST

We covet your prayers for these requests
and hundreds of others we receive regularly.

- ✓ **ALABAMA:** Pray for a pastor seeking legal counsel after city officials denied his church a permit to hold outdoor worship services in a public park.
- ✓ **ALASKA:** Pray for a Christian teacher who contacted CLA after being reprimanded for displaying a Bible verse on her desk.
- ✓ **ARIZONA:** Pray for a church facing zoning challenges as they attempt to expand their facilities to accommodate a growing congregation.
- ✓ **ARKANSAS:** Pray for a Christian business owner seeking guidance on how to handle a lawsuit alleging discrimination for declining to create a product that conflicts with his faith.
- ✓ **CALIFORNIA:** Pray for a Christian counselor requesting assistance after state regulations threatened her ability to provide faith-based counseling.
- ✓ **COLORADO:** Pray for a church whose tax-exempt status is under review due to their involvement in community political discussions.
- ✓ **CONNECTICUT:** Pray for a Christian student group at a public university seeking recognition after being denied official status due to their faith-based leadership requirements.
- ✓ **DELAWARE:** Pray for a pastor navigating legal complexities after his church was fined for noise violations during worship services.
- ✓ **FLORIDA:** Pray for a Christian school facing challenges from state education officials over their curriculum choices rooted in Biblical teachings.
- ✓ **GEORGIA:** Pray for a church leader seeking advice after being prohibited from holding Bible studies in his home due to local ordinances.
- ✓ **HAWAII:** Pray for a Christian employee disciplined for praying during his lunch break; he is seeking guidance on religious expression rights at work.
- ✓ **IDAHO:** Pray for a church confronting opposition from the community as they attempt to build a new sanctuary.
- ✓ **ILLINOIS:** Pray for a Christian student who was penalized for including a Bible verse in a school assignment and who needs clarity on her rights.
- ✓ **INDIANA:** Pray for a pastor whose sermons have been labeled as hate speech who has requested legal counsel to protect his freedom of speech.
- ✓ **IOWA:** Pray for a Christian couple facing legal action for declining to host a same-sex wedding at their privately-owned venue.
- ✓ **KANSAS:** Pray for a church denied a permit to operate a food pantry that has reached out for our assistance to serve their community.
- ✓ **KENTUCKY:** Pray for a Christian student group barred from meeting on campus that is asking us to help as they seek recognition and equal treatment.
- ✓ **LOUISIANA:** Pray for a pastor fined for holding baptisms in a local river; he contacted us for guidance on religious practices in public spaces.
- ✓ **MAINE:** Pray for a Christian teacher reprimanded for mentioning her faith in response to a student's question.
- ✓ **MARYLAND:** Pray for a church facing eviction from a leased property due to their religious activities.
- ✓ **MASSACHUSETTS:** Pray for a Christian business owner sued for displaying religious messages in his storefront.
- ✓ **MICHIGAN:** Pray for a church denied a grant for community development due to their religious affiliation.
- ✓ **MINNESOTA:** Pray for a Christian student disciplined for praying before meals in the school cafeteria.
- ✓ **MISSISSIPPI:** Pray for a pastor who has asked CLA for legal support after being arrested for preaching on a public sidewalk.
- ✓ **MISSOURI:** Pray for a Christian employee fired for refusing to work on Sundays who is now seeking advice regarding religious accommodation.
- ✓ **MONTANA:** Pray for a church facing legal challenges for ringing their bells during early morning services.

CONTINUE IN PRAYER,

and watch in the same with
thanksgiving;—Colossians 4:2

- ✓ **NEBRASKA:** Pray for a Christian student prohibited from distributing religious literature on campus.
- ✓ **NEVADA:** Pray for a church denied a license to operate a daycare due to their religious teachings.
- ✓ **NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Pray for a Christian employee facing workplace discrimination for wearing a cross necklace.
- ✓ **NEW JERSEY:** Pray for a church that is asking for help in order to continue worship after being fined for holding outdoor services without a permit.
- ✓ **NEW MEXICO:** Pray for a Christian photographer who has sought legal counsel from CLA after being sued for declining to photograph a same-sex wedding.
- ✓ **NEW YORK:** Pray for a pastor facing legal action for preaching in public parks without a permit.
- ✓ **NORTH CAROLINA:** Pray for a Christian student suspended for sharing her faith during a class discussion.
- ✓ **NORTH DAKOTA:** Pray for a church seeking to establish a place of worship; they have been denied a building permit due to zoning laws.
- ✓ **OHIO:** Pray for a Christian employee disciplined for organizing a voluntary Bible study during lunch breaks.
- ✓ **OKLAHOMA:** Pray for a church facing legal hurdles due to their religious mission as they are establishing a homeless shelter.
- ✓ **OREGON:** Pray for a Christian baker sued for refusing to make a cake for an event that contradicts her beliefs.
- ✓ **PENNSYLVANIA:** Pray for a pastor fined for noise violations during worship services. He is seeking to balance community relations and religious expression.
- ✓ **RHODE ISLAND:** Pray for a Christian student group denied access to campus facilities as we assist them to be sure they are given equal treatment.
- ✓ **SOUTH CAROLINA:** Pray for a church facing opposition from local officials while trying to establish a faith-based recovery program.

✓ **SOUTH DAKOTA:**

Pray for a Christian teacher reprimanded for including a Bible verse in her email signature.

✓ **TENNESSEE:** Pray for a pastor seeking legal advice after being prohibited from holding prayer meetings in his home.

✓ **TEXAS:** Pray for a Christian student seeking clarity on her rights after being punished for bringing a Bible to school.

✓ **UTAH:** Pray for a church denied a permit to build a new sanctuary due to their religious beliefs.

✓ **VERMONT:** Pray for a Christian employee facing discrimination for declining to participate in a workplace event conflicting with her faith.

✓ **VIRGINIA:** Pray for a pastor fined for holding outdoor baptisms without a permit; we are advising him about how to proceed.

✓ **WASHINGTON:** Pray for a Christian student group denied recognition at a public university as they contend for equal access.

✓ **WEST VIRGINIA:** Pray for a church facing legal challenges for operating a faith-based school without state accreditation.

✓ **WISCONSIN:** Pray for a Christian employee disciplined for discussing her faith with a coworker. She has reached out to us regarding her rights of religious expression.

✓ **WYOMING:** Pray for a church denied a permit to hold a community outreach event in a public park who reached out for assistance about the best way to continue serving their community.



LEGAL QUESTIONS, PRAYER REQUESTS, OR DONATIONS
CALL 888-252-1969 OR ONLINE AT WWW.CHRISTIANLAW.ORG