

# ARE WE LOSING AMERICA?



## THE LEGAL ALERT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

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# ARE WE LOSING AMERICA AS CHRISTIANS?

As we look across our nation today, many believers sense a deep and unsettling shift. For generations, America was a place where Biblical values shaped the culture, where churches operated freely, and where Christian conviction was both protected and respected. But increasingly, pastors, ministries, and Christian families contact the Christian Law Association with a single question: **“Are we losing America?”**

The question itself is not born from fear—it is born from observation. We are witnessing changes in the legal, cultural, and moral landscape unlike any we have seen in our lifetime. The very protections that once guarded religious liberty are being challenged, reinterpreted, or quietly pushed aside. Christian educators are facing pressure. Churches are dealing with zoning disputes and government intrusion. Employees who simply want to live out their faith at work are told to remain silent. Students are told their Bibles must stay in their backpacks. And believers across the nation feel the steady tightening of a culture moving away from God.

Yet Scripture reminds us that **the spiritual health of a nation is tied to its relationship with the Lord**. Psalm 33:12 declares, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.” When a people move away from Biblical truth, they naturally move away from the blessings, protections, and stability that truth brings. And as America’s spiritual foundation weakens, the ripple effects touch every area of life—our families, our freedoms, and our future.

But the story is not one of despair. Even in shifting times, **God’s people are called to stand**. The early church thrived in a hostile culture. The prophets spoke truth in dark days. And our nation itself has weathered spiritual storms before. What matters

now is that Christians respond with clarity, courage, and conviction.

At the Christian Law Association, we see firsthand the rising number of believers seeking help because they chose to stand for Christ. And while the challenges are real, so is the opportunity. Every legal victory we are able to secure, every pastor encouraged, every ministry protected, and every child defended is a reminder that **God is still at work in America**.

But we must be honest: **we are in a defining moment**. If Christians remain silent, the culture will continue drifting. If churches retreat, the legal pressures will intensify. But if God’s people pray, engage, and stand firm on the truth of His Word, then even in changing times, America can still be reached—and lives can still be transformed.

As we move into a new year, this is our prayer and our commitment:

- To stand beside every believer who calls.
- To protect every church that faces pressure.
- To defend every Christian school, ministry, and family trying to serve the Lord without fear.
- To ensure that the freedoms with which God has blessed this nation remain intact for the next generation.

America may be changing—but **our God has not changed**. And His people are still called to shine as lights in the midst of darkness (Philippians 2:15).

Thank you for standing with the Christian Law Association as we continue the work. Your prayers and support ensure that when a Christian asks, “Are we losing America?”—The answer can still be, **“Not if God’s people stand.”**



# BEGINNING THE YEAR STRONG: KEY AREAS EVERY MINISTRY SHOULD REVIEW AND REFRESH

The start of a new year is a wonderful time for churches and ministries to pause, reflect, and prepare for the work God has called them to do in the months ahead. A small amount of preparation now can help prevent misunderstandings, legal issues, and ministry interruptions later.

Here are several important areas that every church and Christian ministry should “clean up” as a new year begins:

**1**

## REVIEW AND RESTATE CHURCH POLICIES

Many churches have written policies that haven’t been reviewed or updated in years. These include:

- Child protection & youth worker guidelines
- Facility use policies
- Marriage, weddings, and pastoral counseling policies
- Staff and volunteer handbooks
- Social media and communication policies



Updating and reaffirming these guidelines each year ensures everyone is on the same page and reduces confusion when situations arise. Consistency and clarity are essential to protecting both your ministry and the people you serve.

**2**

## CONFIRM DOCUMENTATION AND RECORDKEEPING

A new year is the perfect time to make sure your ministry’s paperwork is complete, organized, and current. Items to review include:

- Articles of incorporation and bylaws
- Insurance policies and coverage limits
- Employment records and job descriptions
- Childcare worker background checks
- Copyright and media permissions

Well-maintained documentation protects the ministry should questions, audits, or challenges arise.

**3**

## VERIFY VOLUNTEER & STAFF TRAINING

Churches rely heavily on volunteers, and many serve faithfully without ever receiving formal orientation. Now is the time to:

- Reconfirm who is approved to work with children
- Re-train ministry workers on safety procedures
- Refresh ushers, greeters, and security teams
- Make sure transportation volunteers understand vehicle and insurance guidelines



Ensuring everyone understands expectations minimizes risks and strengthens the ministry’s testimony.

## THE CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING:

- 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

## 4

### UPDATE FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

The beginning of the year is an excellent opportunity to:

- Confirm dual-control procedures for offerings
- Update check-signing authorization lists
- Review donor receipt procedures for IRS compliance
- Ensure proper documentation of designated gifts
- Conduct an internal financial review or audit



These steps provide transparency, protect your ministry from accusations, and uphold a high standard of stewardship.

## 5

### REEVALUATE FACILITY & SAFETY MEASURES

A brief safety check today can prevent significant problems later. Ministries should:

- Inspect emergency exits, lighting, and signage
- Review inclement weather procedures
- Update emergency contact information
- Check fire extinguishers, alarms, and first-aid kits
- Verify insurance coverage for special events

Many potential liabilities can be avoided simply by checking regularly for safety concerns.

## 6

### REFRESH COMMUNICATION & MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

Over the year, addresses, phone numbers, and membership statuses change more than we realize. Ministries should:

- Update membership rolls
- Refresh contact lists and emergency numbers
- Ensure privacy policies are being followed
- Clean up outdated email or text-alert lists



Accurate records help ministries care for their people more effectively.

## 7

### REAFFIRM YOUR MINISTRY'S MISSION AND TESTIMONY

Above all, the beginning of a new year is a time to remind staff, volunteers, and the congregation of the spiritual mission of the church. Consider:

- Sharing the ministry's core beliefs and purpose
- Encouraging leaders to renew their commitment to Biblical service
- Setting goals for outreach, discipleship, and evangelism
- Challenging the church to serve with excellence "as unto the Lord"

When everyone is aligned spiritually AND administratively, the ministry is positioned for a strong and faithful year of service.

### MOVING FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE

The Christian Law Association is here to help churches and ministries operate with clarity, integrity, and legal confidence. By taking time now to refresh policies, strengthen documentation, and prepare your ministry teams, you honor the Lord and protect the work He has entrusted to you.

If your ministry has questions or needs assistance reviewing these areas, our attorneys are available to help — free of charge, as always.

# VICTORY SNAPSHOT



## CITY REVERSES DECISION AFTER CLA INTERVENTION

A small church in a growing suburban community wanted to host Christmas caroling in their town square. Officials denied their request, saying religious songs were “not appropriate for public space.” The church contacted CLA.

After reviewing the law, CLA communicated with the city and clearly explained the constitutional protections for religious expression.

Within days, the city reversed its decision—and the congregation joyfully sang the message of Christ to hundreds of people.

**Your support made this victory possible.**



*Dr. Gibbs, Atty. Susan Ojeda and Judge Rey Ojeda*

### LEGAL TIP OF THE MONTH



#### “CAN CHURCHES USE PUBLIC PARKS FOR MINISTRY EVENTS?”

Many ministries host baptisms, outreach booths, concerts, or evangelistic gatherings in public parks. Generally, public parks are considered “traditional public forums,” meaning religious groups have the **same rights** as any other community group.



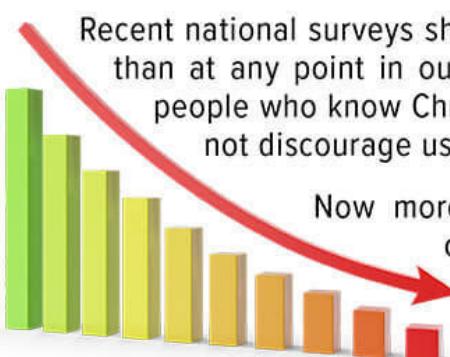
#### Legal Tip:

If a city requires a general permit for all groups, churches may need to follow the process. But **cities cannot deny use simply because an event is religious in nature.**

If your church is ever told otherwise, please contact CLA—we are here to help **free of charge**.

## FEWER CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA THAN EVER

*Our Mission Has Never Been More Urgent*



Recent national surveys show that the number of Americans identifying as Christians is lower than at any point in our nation’s history. While the population grows, the percentage of people who know Christ and faithfully follow Him continues to decline. This trend should not discourage us—it should stir our hearts with renewed urgency.

Now more than ever, believers must share the love of God with clarity, compassion, and conviction. The light of the Gospel shines brightest when the world around us grows dim. Every conversation, every act of kindness, and every invitation to church matters eternally.

Scripture reminds us of this: “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.” (Romans 13:11)

The fields are still white unto harvest, and the opportunity to reach souls for Christ is as great today as it has ever been. Let us labor fervently, love boldly, and stand steadfastly for truth—so that generations to come may know the hope that only Jesus provides.



# PRAYER CHECKLIST

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

- **ALABAMA:** Pray for a pastor seeking counsel after the city required a special permit for an outdoor outreach.
- **ALASKA:** Pray for a Christian business owner whose license renewal was delayed after she included Bible verses on her company website.
- **ARIZONA:** Pray for a church defending its right to operate a daycare ministry without burdensome new state regulations.
- **ARKANSAS:** Pray for a Christian student reprimanded for distributing invitations to a youth rally at school.
- **CALIFORNIA:** Pray for a Christian teacher who contacted CLA after being told to remove a Bible from her classroom desk.
- **COLORADO:** Pray for a church facing restrictions on using amplifiers during outdoor worship services.
- **CONNECTICUT:** Pray for a pastor denied use of a public building for midweek Bible study gatherings.
- **DELAWARE:** Pray for a Christian volunteer removed from a city committee for referencing her faith in meetings.
- **FLORIDA:** Pray for a Christian retirement home investigated after holding daily prayer meetings for residents.
- **GEORGIA:** Pray for a Christian school facing pushback for requiring staff to attend chapel services.
- **HAWAII:** Pray for a church ministry seeking guidance after being told to stop distributing food to homeless families.
- **IDAHO:** Pray for a Christian counselor whose credentials were questioned after she offered Biblical guidance to a client.
- **ILLINOIS:** Pray for a Christian accountant dismissed from a state position for refusing to work on Sundays.
- **INDIANA:** Pray for a Christian student prevented from distributing invitations to a youth revival on school grounds.
- **IOWA:** Pray for a Christian group denied permission to rent a public park for a baptism service.
- **KANSAS:** Pray for a Christian professor under review for opening class with prayer.
- **KENTUCKY:** Pray for a Christian parent seeking counsel after her child was disciplined for bringing a Bible to school.
- **LOUISIANA:** Pray for a church facing property tax disputes despite being a recognized ministry.
- **MAINE:** Pray for a Christian bookshop fined for playing Scripture readings through outdoor speakers.
- **MARYLAND:** Pray for a Christian police officer reprimanded for sharing Bible verses on his department's private social page.
- **MASSACHUSETTS:** Pray for a Christian nonprofit told to stop including Gospel literature with food donations.
- **MICHIGAN:** Pray for a Christian daycare worker dismissed after singing faith-based children's songs.
- **MINNESOTA:** Pray for a pastor facing city complaints for holding revival meetings under a tent on church property.
- **MISSISSIPPI:** Pray for a Christian teacher warned not to discuss the role of faith in American history.
- **MISSOURI:** Pray for a Christian camp denied a routine renewal of its youth program license.
- **MONTANA:** Pray for a small-town pastor investigated after holding Bible studies in his home.
- **NEBRASKA:** Pray for a Christian coach disciplined for praying with his team.
- **NEVADA:** Pray for a street evangelist cited for sharing Scripture outside a public event.
- **NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Pray for a Christian author excluded from a local book fair due to "religious content."
- **NEW JERSEY:** Pray for a church told they cannot display Scripture banners during community events.
- **NEW MEXICO:** Pray for a Christian ministry denied booth space at a county fair because of its religious nature.
- **NEW YORK:** Pray for a Christian family seeking counsel after their homeschool curriculum was rejected by local officials.
- **NORTH CAROLINA:** Pray for a Christian business owner challenged for closing early on Wednesdays for church services.
- **NORTH DAKOTA:** Pray for a Christian nurse facing backlash after praying quietly with a patient.
- **OHIO:** Pray for a Christian school receiving pushback for maintaining a daily chapel requirement.
- **OKLAHOMA:** Pray for a church fined for placing Gospel signs along a public road.
- **OREGON:** Pray for a Christian youth pastor investigated after organizing student-led prayer meetings.
- **PENNSYLVANIA:** Pray for a Christian student group denied access to university meeting rooms.
- **RHODE ISLAND:** Pray for a Christian postal worker disciplined for listening to hymns while sorting mail.
- **SOUTH CAROLINA:** Pray for a church facing zoning challenges for operating a homeless outreach on its property.
- **SOUTH DAKOTA:** Pray for a Christian homeschooling family targeted with excessive state inspections.
- **TENNESSEE:** Pray for a church facing legal questions about displaying nativity scenes on its front lawn.
- **TEXAS:** Pray for a Christian teacher disciplined for giving Bibles to students who requested them.
- **UTAH:** Pray for a Christian college student denied approval to start a campus Bible discussion club.
- **VERMONT:** Pray for a Christian farmer told to remove Scripture signs posted along a rural highway.
- **VIRGINIA:** Pray for a Christian attorney criticized for hosting a voluntary prayer meeting at his firm.
- **WASHINGTON:** Pray for a Christian employee denied Sundays off to attend worship services.
- **WEST VIRGINIA:** Pray for a Christian radio station threatened with fines over outdated broadcasting codes.
- **WISCONSIN:** Pray for a Christian parent seeking help after a public school barred students from distributing special outreach invitations.
- **WYOMING:** Pray for a Christian camp director needing counsel after new state rules restricted youth ministry activities.