Mission Spotlight

TBA

From the desk of David C. Gibbs, Jr. CLA

Blessed in the nation whose God is the Lord; and to the people He hath chosen for His own inheritance. Psalms 33:12

"We can enjoy blessings for so long that we begin to forget how precious they are. We gather for church on Sunday morning without asking the government for permission. We open our Bibles. We preach the gospel. We send missionaries. We teach our children the Word of God. We pray publicly. We tell others about Christ.

These freedoms are so much a part of our lives it is easy to assume they will always be there.

But religious freedoms are not self-perpetuating. For more than five decades, the Christian Law Association has had the privilege of standing by pastors, churches, Christian schools, missionaries and individual believers whose liberties were threatened. Again and again, we have been reminded that rights that are not understood are easily surrendered, and freedoms that are not defended are quickly lost.

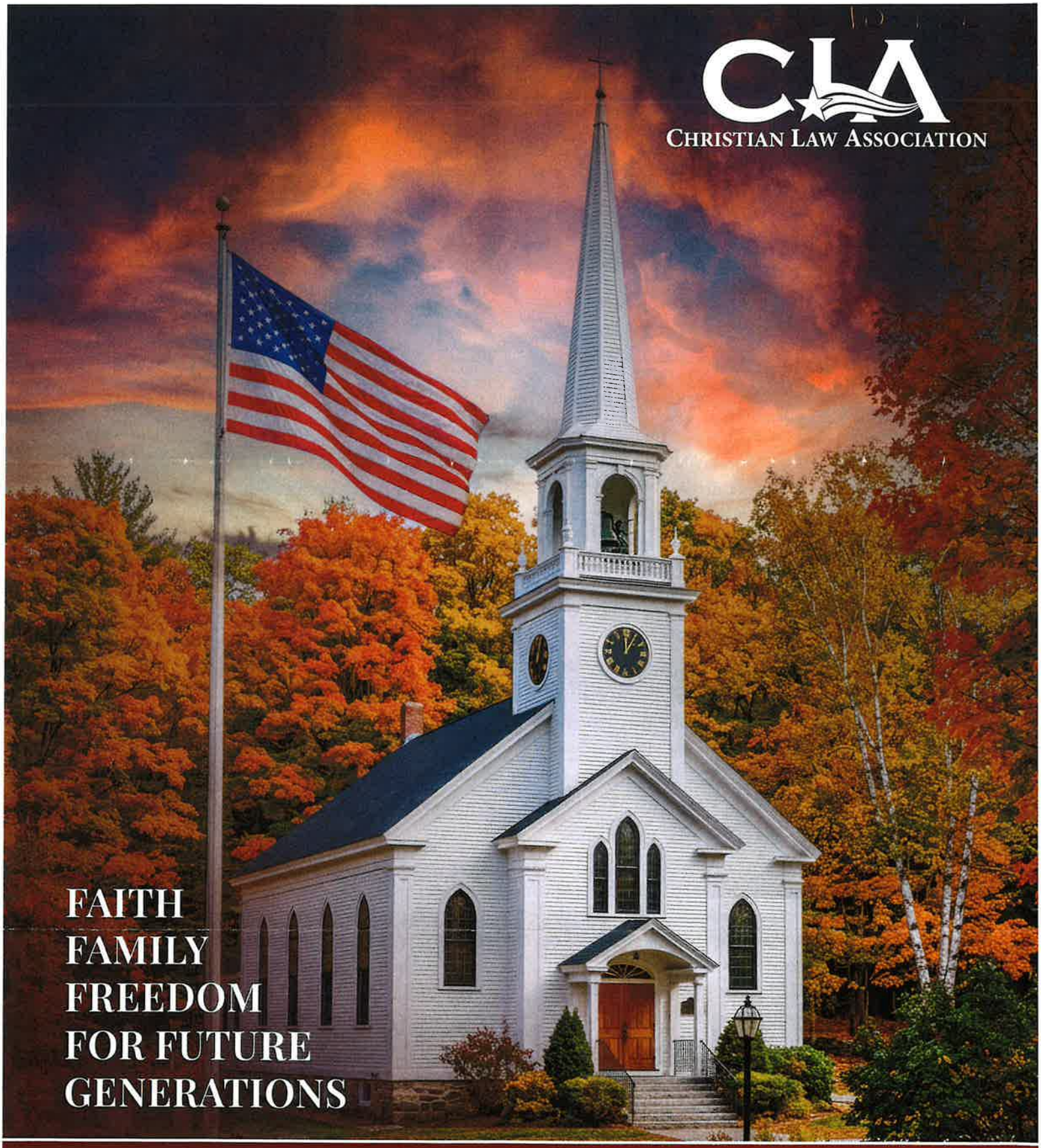
That is why Christians should be informed and participate responsibly in our communities. We should vote. We should respectfully speak the truth. And when the government exceeds its constitutional authority, we should be willing to stand for the liberties God has allowed us to enjoy. But there is something else we must never forget.

America's greatest need cannot be solved at the ballot box.

As your Mission Director, I read newsletters every month that include the following instructions:" **We ask that you do not print this letter on any social media or anywhere on the internet."** They fear the government of that country will shut them down if they are found out. These counties are referred to as "closed countries" since they are "closed" to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Some of these countries you could probably name but some are surprising because some started sending missionaries before we did. In fact, some of those countries are responsible for evangelizing America in her formative days of the 1700's. Like Mr. Gibbs says "our religious freedoms are not "self-perpetuating".

Noel Edwards, Faith Missions Director

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CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION



THE LEGAL ALERT

A MINISTRY OF THE CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

EDUCATE | EQUIP | ENCOURAGE | DEFEND

OCTOBER 2026



The Liberty We Must Never Take For Granted

From the Desk of Dr. David C. Gibbs, Jr.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance." (Psalm 33:12)

We can enjoy blessings for so long that we begin to forget how precious they are.

We gather for church on Sunday morning without asking the government for permission. We open our Bibles. We preach the Gospel. We send missionaries. We teach our children the Word of God. We pray publicly. We tell others about Christ.

These freedoms are so much a part of our lives that it is easy to assume they will always be there.

But religious liberty is not self-perpetuating. For more than five decades, the Christian Law Association has had the privilege of standing beside pastors, churches, Christian schools, missionaries, and individual believers whose religious liberties were threatened. Again and again, we have been reminded that rights that are not understood are easily surrendered, and freedoms that are not defended are quickly lost.

That is why Christians should be informed and participate responsibly in our communities. We should vote. We should respectfully speak the truth. And when government exceeds its constitutional authority, we should be willing to stand for the liberties God has allowed us to enjoy. But there is something else we must never forget.

America's greatest need cannot be solved at the ballot box.

Government can protect our freedom to preach the Gospel, but government cannot make the Gospel powerful. A court can protect the right of a church to assemble, but a court cannot bring revival to that church. An election can change those who hold public office, but only God can change the human heart. The Psalmist prayed, "Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" (Psalm 85:6)

Revival has always been God's work among God's people. So as we defend religious liberty, let us also use it. If we are free to pray—let us pray. If we are free to preach—let us preach. If we are free to witness—let us witness. If we are free to train our children in the things of God—let us do it faithfully. If the doors of our churches are open—let us fill them.

"...and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."
2 Corinthians 3:17b

The Christian Law Association will continue to stand wherever God gives us opportunity to defend the religious liberties of His people. But our ultimate prayer is not merely that America remains free. Our prayer is that God's people will faithfully use that freedom for Him. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free." (Galatians 5:1a)





Election Season: 7 Things Every Church Should Know

Election season inevitably brings questions to our office. "Can we encourage people to vote?" "What happens if a candidate visits our church?" These are important questions. Below are seven key principles to help your church navigate this season with confidence.

1 Churches Can Encourage People to Vote

A church may encourage its members and community to register and vote. Nonpartisan voter registration as well as get-out-the-vote activities are generally permissible.

2 Churches Can Address Biblical and Moral Issues

Nothing about an election season requires a pastor to stop preaching Biblical truth. Marriage, the sanctity of human life, religious liberty, fiscal responsibility, and other moral issues do not suddenly become forbidden because they may relate to candidates.

3 Voter Guides Must Be Nonpartisan

A voter guide that is factual and objective about candidates' positions on moral and Biblical issues is permitted. Churches should not endorse or oppose candidates.

4 Candidate Appearances Require Caution

Inviting candidates to speak at churches can be appropriate, but care must be taken to maintain nonpartisanship and avoid the appearance of endorsement.

5 The Church Should Not Endorse Candidates

Direct endorsement of a candidate by a church can jeopardize its tax-exempt status. This includes using church funds, facilities, or official communications to support or oppose a candidate.

6 Remain Focused on the Gospel

The church's primary mission is to proclaim Christ. While political issues may be discussed from a Biblical perspective, the church should avoid becoming a partisan battleground.

7 When in Doubt, Call Before You Act

Election law can be complex. The Christian Law Association is here to help. Our attorneys can provide practical guidance so your church can participate without crossing the line.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers." Romans 13:1a

If you have questions about elections, political activity, or any legal matter, call us at 888-252-1969 or visit christianlaw.org.

They Thought They Couldn't Afford a Lawyer

But God Made A Way

When a small church in our region received a legal letter threatening the ministry, they felt overwhelmed. They knew they needed an attorney, but like many churches, they simply did not have the financial means to hire one. Then someone told the pastor about the Christian Law Association, and he called.

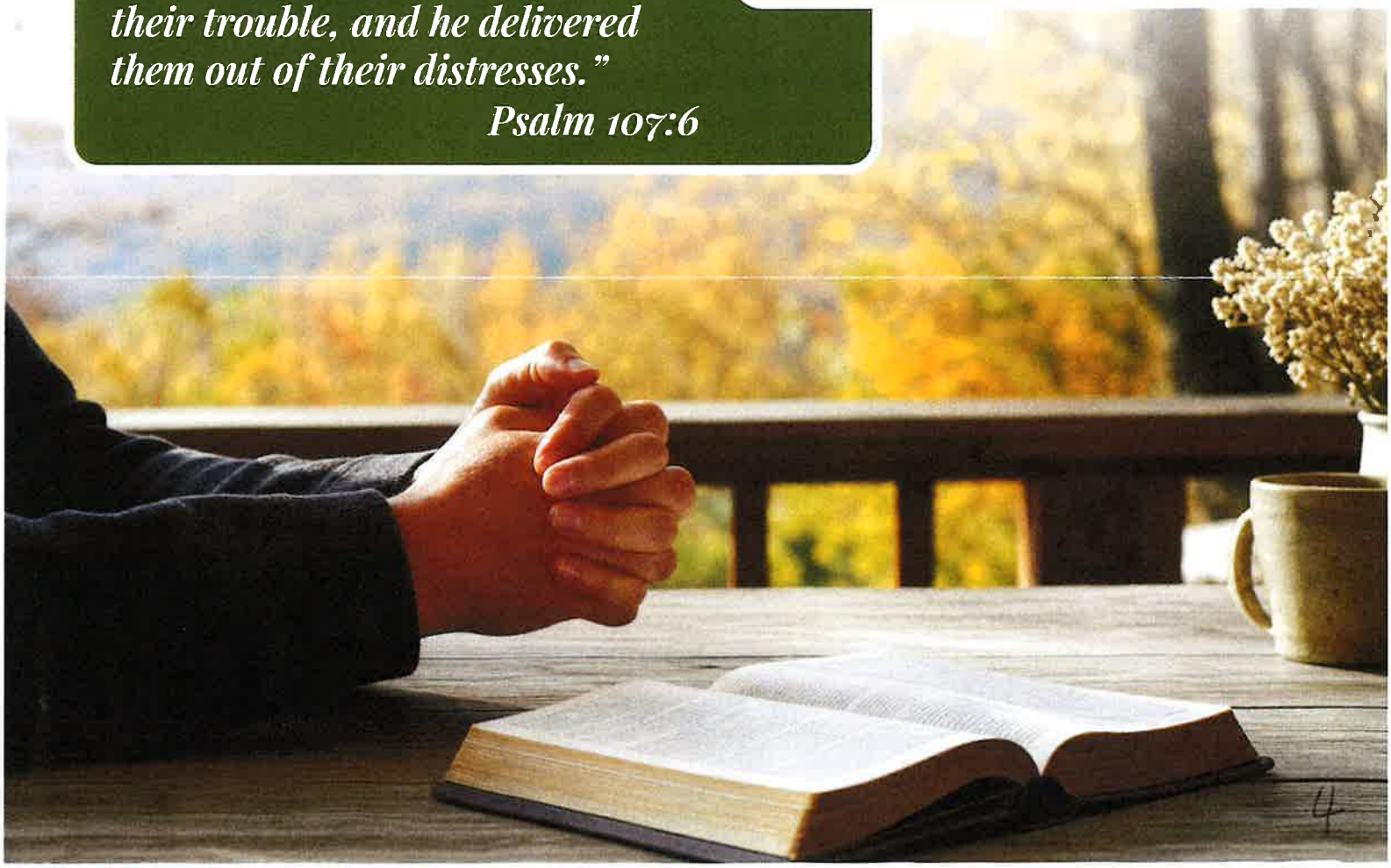
We were able to help—at no cost to the church. Because of the Lord's provision through faithful supporters, CLA attorneys reviewed the matter, provided guidance, and helped the church craft a proper response. The situation was resolved, and the church can now continue its ministry with confidence.

You Make Stories Like This Possible

Many of the churches, pastors, missionaries, Christian schools, and individual believers who contact CLA simply cannot afford legal help. Because of your prayers and generous support, we are able to provide assistance—often at no cost—to those who need it most.

Together, we are making an eternal difference for the cause of Christ. Thank you for your faithfulness!

"Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses."
Psalm 107:6



"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." Colossians 4:2

Prayer & Praise Across America

A SAMPLING FROM OUR 50 STATES



MISSISSIPPI

Pray for a small church that has received a threatening legal communication.
Praise the Lord for public school students who remain free to engage in voluntary prayer.



MISSOURI

Pray for a congregation facing a zoning question.
Praise the Lord for churches establishing appropriate security procedures.



MONTANA

Pray for a Christian ministry whose bylaws no longer reflect current practices.
Praise the Lord for parents who resolved a public-school concern.



NEBRASKA

Pray for a Christian student seeking equal opportunity in a religious group.
Praise the Lord for a church that successfully resolved a property use disagreement.



NEVADA

Pray for an employee whose work schedule conflicts with church.
Praise the Lord for a Christian school that strengthened its statement of faith.



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Pray for a church facing property questions.
Praise the Lord for parents who obtained an accommodation for their child.



NEW JERSEY

Pray for a student experiencing hostility for Biblical beliefs.
Praise the Lord for a ministry that resolved an employment concern.



NEW MEXICO

Pray for parents seeking an appropriate response to classroom material.
Praise the Lord for a church that received favorable treatment on property use.



NEW YORK

Pray for a church facing zoning and building-use requirements.
Praise the Lord for religious schools obtaining judicial review.



NORTH CAROLINA

Pray for a Christian school reviewing policies.
Praise the Lord for churches that are improving security measures.



NORTH DAKOTA

Pray for a rural ministry needing legal counsel.
Praise the Lord for a Christian employee whose workplace concern was resolved.



OHIO

Pray for CLA attorneys and staff as they respond to legal requests.
Praise the Lord for a church that recently updated governing documents.

View this complete list of requests by scanning the QR code or visiting christianlaw.org/document-library beginning October 1.

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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

HELPFUL ARTICLES

Browse our online library of articles on church law, religious liberty, and more.
Visit **christianlaw.org/articles**.

RESOURCES

Access materials for Christian living and ministry administration as well as women's devotionals and children's books at **christianlaw.org/shop**.

FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

We serve churches, ministries, Christian schools, pastors, and individuals. Call 888-252-1969 or visit **christianlaw.org/services**.

Standing with churches. Defending religious liberty. Serving believers.

Since 1969, the Christian Law Association has stood beside Christians and churches facing legal challenges—without charging them for our legal assistance.

CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

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