



*America the Beautiful*

THE **LEGAL  
ALERT**

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

**MAY 2025**





# ARE YOU A SECOND-MILE CHRISTIAN?

## 1 The Meaning of Going the “Second Mile”

In Jesus’ time, a Roman soldier could compel a person to carry their equipment for one mile. This was a form of legal obligation, and it was something that could easily be resented. Jesus’ command to go a second mile was radical, as it encouraged believers to go beyond mere duty and show extraordinary generosity and willingness. Going the “second mile” signifies going above and beyond in both acts of service and in our attitudes towards others.

## 2 Serving with a Christlike Attitude

Going the second mile isn’t just about doing more but doing so with the right heart and attitude. Believers need to view acts of service, no matter how small or inconvenient, as opportunities to reflect Christ’s love and humility. Rather than begrudgingly fulfilling obligations, Christians should joyfully seek to serve others and show kindness beyond what is expected.

## 3 Demonstrating Unconditional Love

The second-mile principle also applies to relationships, especially when others are difficult to love or when the situation feels unfair. By choosing to go the second mile, Christians are demonstrating unconditional love—love that isn’t based on how others treat us but on how Christ has loved us. This challenges the idea of loving only those who love us back, instead calling believers to extend love and grace even in difficult situations.

## 4 The Impact of Going the Extra Mile

Going the second mile has the potential to make a powerful impact on others. When Christians go beyond expectations, they stand out in a world that often values self-interest and convenience over selflessness. This can be a powerful witness to the world about the love and character of Christ.

## 5 Christ as Our Example

Jesus Himself is the ultimate example of going the second mile. Jesus went far beyond what was required in His sacrifice on the cross for humanity. His willingness to lay down His life for others is the model for Christians to follow in their own lives.

## 6 A Call to Action

Will you go the second mile? Christians need to actively seek opportunities to go the second mile in their daily lives. Whether in relationships, work, or service to the church and community, believers should look for ways to exceed expectations and serve with a heart of love and humility.

*Being a “Second-Mile Christian”  
is a call for believers to go beyond what is  
required or expected in their Christian walk.  
It’s about offering extra service, demonstrating love,  
and reflecting Christ’s heart in a world that needs it most.*

## PRAYER WORKS

**In times of need, hope, or gratitude,** prayer has the power to bring peace, strength, and healing.

- We believe in the power of prayer. Whether you’re facing challenges, seeking guidance, or simply need a moment of comfort, we’re here to stand with you in prayer.
- Let us pray for you. No matter what you’re going through, we’ll lift your requests and pray for your peace, joy, and success.

*How can we pray for you today?*

## What type of America do you want to leave behind?

CLA wants to preserve Christian liberty in America, and we need you! Here are simple ways you can make a difference:

- (1) **Pray**—Lift up the ministry, its attorneys, its cases, and its mission in your prayers.
- (2) **Donate**—Every contribution, big or small, helps support CLA’s mission to preserve liberty.
- (3) **Tell**—Share the cause of CLA with your church, friends, and family.

**Together, we can promote the cause of Christ in America.**



## 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
- 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
- Preaching in churches across the country



## STATE LEADERSHIP

**Your voice matters!** Connect with local and state representatives to ensure your Biblical values and concerns are heard. Why is this important?

- State leaders' decisions impact your community, education, healthcare, and more.
- Being informed and engaged strengthens democracy and shapes your state's future.

### How to Contact Your Representatives:

1. Visit your state's official government website to learn who represents you.
2. Call or email using the contact information on their websites to share your thoughts!
3. Attend your representatives' public forums, like town halls, to engage directly, ask questions, and stay informed.
4. Follow on Social Media: Many state leaders are active on platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Follow and engage with their posts.

**Stay Informed. Be Involved. Make a Difference!**



## REACHING THE WORLD

Our ministry recently had the privilege to legally assist some missionaries who had some unusual issues. Helping others remove legal red tape to take advantage of every opportunity to reach the world for Christ is our calling. These missionaries had a reputation of reaching dozens of people for Christ in their city each week, but they were in danger of being pulled off the field. We could not let that happen. Each individual you meet has an eternal destination. Every missionary, pastor, and, yes, every Christian has a mandate from God to tell others about the good news of the Gospel.

Each week, our legal missionaries travel for legal meetings, court hearings, and depositions. As we travel, we have the unique opportunity of handing out Gospel tracts to strangers in airports, on airplanes, in restaurants, and many other places around the country. Because of what we get to do for the Lord, we can serve others who are being hindered from sharing the Gospel in the same manner. God's Word will never return void, and it will plant a seed for someone to reap. God has a plan, and it includes every person taking the initiative to speak about Christ.

We are also in many churches and conferences throughout the year that inform others of how we can help. Your legal right to witness is paramount to God's plan for your life. What can you do today? Take a moment when you stop for a meal or drive through a fueling station to hand the worker a Gospel tract and introduce that person to your Savior. We have tracts available that you can use if you need some. The Gospel is good news, and it is the best news anyone can ever hear!

If you are a pastor, think about putting the Gospel on your website if it is not already there, and make your address and phone number easy to see so that anyone can easily find you if they have questions.

If you are a believer, you can be the wisest person in your area. The Scriptures reveal that "He that winneth souls is wise." With the most careful thought, let us also remind ourselves of the reverse: God is telling us that it is unwise for us not to win souls. Ask God for wisdom, and He will give you the boldness to win souls.

If you have questions about how to take the first steps in reaching out to others about Christ, speak with your pastor. He will guide you through the process and be glad to teach you. You can also reach out to us here at the Christian Law Association, and we will be glad to help however we can.

**NEW ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS**  
CALL 888-252-1969 OR VISIT [WWW.CHRISTIANLAW.ORG](http://WWW.CHRISTIANLAW.ORG)



# 10 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## 1. Clear Registration Process

- **Policy:** Ensure that all children attending VBS are registered in advance. This helps with planning, class sizes, and the allocation of resources. Include consent forms for medical emergencies, permission for photography, and emergency contacts.
- **Tip:** Create an online registration system for ease of access, while also allowing in-person sign-ups.

## 2. Age Group Guidelines

- **Policy:** Define clear age groupings for VBS classes, ensuring that children are placed in the appropriate age groups (e.g., preschool, elementary, etc.). This promotes age-appropriate lessons and activities.
- **Tip:** Use age-based groupings to ensure safety and age-appropriate activities.

## 3. Volunteer Screening and Training

- **Policy:** Require all VBS volunteers to undergo background checks and training before interacting with children. This includes safety procedures, child protection policies, and first-aid basics.
- **Tip:** Provide a volunteer handbook with roles, expectations, and guidelines for working with children.

## 4. Safety and Supervision

- **Policy:** Maintain a clear child-to-adult supervision ratio to ensure safety. Always have more than one adult present in classrooms and activity areas, and ensure that volunteers are stationed at entry and exit points.
- **Tip:** Institute a “Two-Adult Rule,” meaning that no volunteer should be alone with a child.

## 5. Medical and Allergy Information

- **Policy:** Collect and maintain medical information for each child, including any allergies, medications, or special needs. Ensure that volunteers are aware of these details for safety purposes.
- **Tip:** Have a designated person responsible for overseeing and administering any medications during VBS.

## 6. Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

- **Policy:** Establish strict drop-off and pick-up procedures, ensuring that children are released

only to authorized adults. Use a check-in/check-out system with identification verification.

- **Tip:** Consider assigning pick-up tags to parents or guardians for added security.

## 7. Discipline and Behavior Guidelines

- **Policy:** Set clear expectations for behavior and discipline, emphasizing a positive, respectful, and loving environment. Establish procedures for dealing with disruptive or inappropriate behavior.
- **Tip:** Use a positive reinforcement approach to encourage good behavior, and have a plan for addressing behavioral issues respectfully.

## 8. Emergency Procedures

- **Policy:** Create detailed emergency procedures for various situations, including medical emergencies, natural disasters, fire drills, and other safety issues. Ensure that all volunteers are familiar with these protocols.
- **Tip:** Regularly review and practice emergency drills to ensure everyone knows how to respond in case of an emergency.

## 9. Inclusive Participation

- **Policy:** Ensure that VBS is open to all children. Provide accommodations or special assistance for children with physical, emotional, or developmental needs.
- **Tip:** Communicate with parents ahead of time if their child may need special accommodations, and plan accordingly.

## 10. Parent Communication and Engagement

- **Policy:** Keep parents informed of VBS activities, themes, and any special events through newsletters, emails, or social media updates. Encourage parental involvement and participation, and ensure parents are aware of any relevant VBS policies.
- **Tip:** Consider hosting a “parent night” at the end of VBS week, where children can showcase what they’ve learned and made. This is an excellent time to introduce new families to your ministry.

By using these policies, you can create a safe, organized, and enjoyable VBS experience for both children and volunteers. Clear communication, safety measures, and well-defined roles are essential to running a successful program.



# PRAYER CHECKLIST

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

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”— Ephesians 6:18

✓ **MINNESOTA:** Pray for a pastor who is working to get the permits he needs to continue a building project the church is working on.

✓ **FLORIDA:** Pray for a pastor and his church who are being harassed on social media by a member of the community.

✓ **OKLAHOMA:** Pray for a church whose bank accounts were frozen due to a complicated situation with a local district. The pastor called our attorneys right away for guidance.

✓ **TEXAS:** Pray for an elder who spoke with our attorneys in regards to a disgruntled former member posting defaming remarks about the church on social media.

✓ **PENNSYLVANIA:** Pray for a church whose pastor is handling a problematic situation with a woman in the church who has a history of drug abuse.

✓ **OHIO:** Pray for a pastor and his wife who have been renovating a condo for their ministry. The condominium appointed a new board president, and the board is now denying ministry use of the condo.

✓ **FLORIDA:** Pray for the executive director of a recovery program ministry for female victims of human trafficking. A government worker is telling the director that the ministry cannot mandate or require any Christian activity in the safe houses. Our attorneys are assisting this ministry.

✓ **OKLAHOMA:** Pray for a pastor who sought our advice as he has discussions with his church congregation about working with their neighbor on sharing some of the property.

✓ **TEXAS:** Pray for a church as they consider church property liability issues while still ministering to the community in allowing use of their parking lot for local sport games at the nearby ballpark.

✓ **NORTH CAROLINA:** Pray for a Christian singing group that travels to public schools to sing and talk with students. A teacher wrote a complaint to the school board about them and the songs they were singing. Our attorneys advised this group regarding steps they could take regarding the situation.



✓ **TENNESSEE:** Pray for a deacon who found out a previous secretary was embezzling from the church. Our attorneys provided guidance on how to handle the situation from a legal perspective and next steps he should take.

✓ **MISSOURI:** Pray for a pastor as he handles a liability situation with a member who fell on a church outing.

✓ **OHIO:** Pray for two churches as the congregation and leadership work together to merge into one ministry. Seeing churches come together to thrive in their community is something our team always loves to see and facilitate in any way that we can.

✓ **FLORIDA:** Pray for a Christian who started a ministry to help provide catering and witnessing for funerals and other events. As his ministry grows, our legal team provided guidance on getting legally organized.

✓ **MASSACHUSETTS:** Pray for a pastor who has concerns for reaching his community and is working on ways to help provide more outreaches to further the Gospel and bring people together. Our attorneys are always ready to speak with pastors on ideas they have or concerns they want to address as they shepherd their people.

✓ **MISSOURI:** Pray for a public-school student who was told he could not have just Christianity represented in his school assignment and had to represent all religions.

CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION  
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# PRAYER CHECKLIST CONTINUED

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

✓ **ACROSS AMERICA:** Pray for churches, Christian schools, and other ministries alike who are handling difficult situations that must always be reported immediately.

✓ **OHIO:** Pray for a pastor as he works with an assisted care facility in providing church services for residents.

✓ **ARIZONA:** Pray for a nurse who has been offering prayer to his clients and, upon consent, will pray with them. He was told he was no longer allowed to ask patients if they wanted prayer. Our attorneys provided helpful guidance on his rights as an employee as well as the rights of his employer.

✓ **KENTUCKY:** Pray for a church as they donate their assets to another local ministry and work together to support their community.

✓ **NORTH CAROLINA:** Pray for a Christian as he starts a ministry to help counsel troubled teenagers and their families.

✓ **OHIO:** Pray for a Christian as she begins serving in a tutoring assistance ministry in a public school.

✓ **FLORIDA:** Pray for a principal who sought our attorneys' guidance on handling a situation with a family whose student was injured.

✓ **NORTH CAROLINA:** Pray for a daycare administrator as he goes through a situation where an employee had to be let go. Our attorneys provided guidance on the best way to approach the situation.

✓ **ACROSS AMERICA:** Pray for Christians whose schedules have changed to work on weekends so that they cannot attend church. Our attorneys are always ready to help those who need guidance on religious accommodations for their workplace.

✓ **MICHIGAN:** Pray for a Christian who operates a Bible club in the local public school. The school is discontinuing flyers being distributed for all clubs. She sought advice from our attorneys on speaking with the superintendent.

✓ **FLORIDA:** Pray for a Christian who was banned from passing out tracts around the apartment complex where she lives.

✓ **IOWA:** Pray for a Christian who works in her state's foster care system and was told she could not discuss religion with the adults aging out of the system, even if they initiate the conversation. Our attorneys provided her with information about steps she can take.

✓ **CONNECTICUT:** Pray for a pastor who had a management change at his workplace and is now no longer allowed to have Sundays off. Our attorneys provided him with guidance for speaking with his employer.

✓ **NEW YORK:** Pray for a Christian attorney who was told he was not allowed to have his Bible on his desk, even though it was not in full display. Our attorneys provided him with encouragement and guidance on upholding his beliefs.

## *America the Beautiful*



**Katharine Lee Bates wrote the original poem** in 1893 after a trip to Pikes Peak in Colorado, inspired by the vast beauty of the American landscape. A college professor, she penned it during a summer teaching stint, reflecting on the nation's potential to exceed its flaws through sacrifice and brotherhood. Published in 1895 and later set to Samuel A. Ward's 1882 tune "Materna" in 1910, it became a beloved anthem. The line "crown thy good with brotherhood" suggests going beyond mere patriotism to selfless unity, echoing Galatians 6:2—"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

LEGAL QUESTIONS, PRAYER REQUESTS, OR DONATIONS  
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