

INDEPENDENCE HALL: THE BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICAN FREEDOM

Tucked away in the heart of historic Philadelphia stands a building that quietly witnessed some of the most courageous decisions in human history. **Independence Hall**, once the Pennsylvania State House, is known today as **the birthplace of the United States of America**.

Within its red brick walls, delegates from the thirteen colonies gathered in the sweltering summer of **1776** to debate and ultimately sign the **Declaration of Independence**. It was here that bold men, under threat of treason, declared their intent to break away from British rule and form a new nation founded on the belief that **all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights**.



Eleven years later, in **1787**, many of those same leaders returned to the same room to draft the **U.S. Constitution**, carefully crafting a government that would protect liberty and limit the power of tyranny. The decisions made in Independence Hall shaped not only our country but also inspired democratic movements around the world.

Steps away from this historic chamber rests the **Liberty Bell**, and together, these two symbols remind us that **freedom is both a gift and a responsibility**.

THE STORY OF THE LIBERTY BELL: A SILENT VOICE THAT STILL SPEAKS

In a quiet corner of Philadelphia stands one of America's most enduring symbols of freedom—the Liberty Bell. Though it no longer rings, its message still echoes across the nation.

The bell was originally cast in 1752 for the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall), but it cracked on its first test ring. It was recast twice by local craftsmen, John Pass and John Stow, whose names are still visible on the bell today.

Though intended simply to summon lawmakers and announce public meetings, the Liberty Bell's legacy far surpassed its original purpose. It rang on July 8, 1776, to summon citizens to hear the first public reading of the Declaration of

Independence. But its greatest power lies not in its sound, but in its inscription, taken from the Bible—Leviticus 25:10: **“Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.”**

The crack that silenced the bell in the early 1840s did not silence its meaning. Abolitionists adopted it as a symbol of freedom from slavery. Later, it became a rallying image for women's suffrage and civil rights movements. The Liberty Bell became a voice for the voiceless and a reminder that liberty must be safeguarded—not just celebrated.



LEGAL QUESTIONS, PRAYER REQUESTS, OR DONATIONS: CALL **888-252-1969** OR VISIT **WWW.CHRISTIANLAW.ORG**

STAND WHERE THEY STOOD — DEFEND WHAT THEY BUILT

The patriots who met in Independence Hall didn't just argue about ideas—they **risked everything** to secure freedom for generations to come. We walk in the legacy of their bravery.

But freedom is fragile. The values they enshrined—religious liberty, moral law, and personal responsibility—are under increasing pressure today.

Let's not relegate Independence Hall to a dusty memory. Let's treat it as a living challenge: **Will we defend the freedom they gave us—or will we stand by as it's slowly stripped away?**

Let us rise with the same conviction they had. **Now is our time to stand. Now is our time to protect liberty.**



A CALL WE MUST ANSWER

Today, we face a different kind of threat—not from foreign powers, but from **complacency, hostility toward truth, and disregard for our nation's founding freedoms**. As Christians and Americans, we must not be silent when liberty is under pressure. Like the Liberty Bell, our message must be **clear, unwavering, and grounded in truth**.

Now is the time to proclaim liberty once again—not just with words, but with action, prayer, and courage.

Let us answer the call. Let us be watchmen on the wall for freedom in our homes, schools, churches, and courts. **Liberty cannot protect itself—it needs people like you who will stand for what is right.**

FROM CHALLENGE TO CALLING — HOW CLA SUPPORTED A FAMILY AND A FUTURE PASTOR'S WIFE

Years ago, a young girl and her family faced a daunting challenge when their church was threatened in court by restrictive local regulations that jeopardized their place of worship. Her parents were deeply worried about the future—not only for their church but for their children's spiritual growth. It was during this difficult time that the Christian Law Association stepped in to provide crucial legal support and guidance.

CLA's experienced legal team helped the pastor and the church defend their rights and navigate complex zoning laws. With CLA's assistance, the church was able to continue meeting openly and freely, allowing the family's church to thrive. This support gave the parents peace and assurance that God's work would not be hindered.

Today, that young girl is married to a pastor and actively serves alongside him in ministry. She reflects

on those early struggles with gratitude, saying, "If CLA had not stood with my family and church, my path might have been very different. Their help preserved not just our church building, but our faith and future." Her story embodies the truth of Psalm 28:7: "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped."

This testimony is a powerful reminder that protecting religious freedom today shapes the leaders and ministries of tomorrow.

If your church or family faces legal challenges, remember you are not alone. The Christian Law Association is here to provide the legal help and encouragement needed to protect your ministry and faith legacy. Visit ChristianLaw.org to learn how CLA can stand with you through every trial and victory.

DEFENDING LIBERTY THE GODLY WAY

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

— II CORINTHIANS 3:17

Independence Hall reminds us that earthly liberty begins with divine truth. The founders understood that true freedom flows from God’s law and the fear of the Lord. Without God’s guidance, liberty can quickly become license—a gateway to chaos and bondage.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”

— PSALM 33:12

Our nation’s foundation rests on acknowledging God as the source of our rights and freedoms. When we honor Him, we prosper. When we reject Him, we invite trouble.

“Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.”

— LEVITICUS 25:10

This verse, inscribed on the Liberty Bell, is a call—not just to proclaim liberty, but to uphold and protect it for every person. Liberty is a stewardship entrusted to us. It requires vigilance, prayer, and righteous living.

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”

— PROVERBS 14:34

To safeguard liberty, we must uphold righteousness. Our personal and collective choices impact the freedom we enjoy. When we walk in God’s ways, liberty flourishes.



REFLECTION AND PRAYER

Lord, help us to cherish the freedoms You have blessed us with. May we be faithful stewards of liberty, standing firm in truth and righteousness. Give us courage to defend what is right, for the sake of our children and generations to come. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS IN EMPLOYMENT FOR CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES

Churches and ministries operate uniquely in the employment sphere, often requiring protections that recognize their religious mission and values. The Apostle Paul reminds us, “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake” (II Corinthians 4:5). Employment practices must reflect this calling.

Federal and state laws provide religious exemptions allowing churches to hire staff consistent with their beliefs without violating anti-discrimination laws. However, these exemptions require clear policies and consistent application to withstand legal scrutiny.

Fall is an excellent time to review your church’s employment policies. Ensure job descriptions and employee agreements clearly communicate your religious standards. Consult CLA’s legal resources to understand how to properly implement religious exemptions while remaining compliant with applicable laws.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ✓ **ALABAMA:** Pray for a pastor dealing with zoning restrictions after the city denied permission to install a temporary tent for summer youth ministry.
- ✓ **ALASKA:** Pray for a Christian nurse who contacted CLA after being told to remove her cross necklace while on duty.
- ✓ **ARIZONA:** Pray for a church whose nonprofit status is under review after offering prayer before meals at a community center.
- ✓ **ARKANSAS:** Pray for a homeschool family seeking legal advice following a school district's refusal to allow their children to share the Gospel in a local school talent show.
- ✓ **CALIFORNIA:** Pray for a Christian artist disciplined at work for creating faith-based artwork that was deemed "too religious."
- ✓ **COLORADO:** Pray for a church staff member who sought counsel after being told she cannot lead a prayer at a school graduation event.
- ✓ **CONNECTICUT:** Pray for a pastor who requested guidance concerning restrictions placed on outdoor worship gatherings in his town square.
- ✓ **DELAWARE:** Pray for a Christian employee reprimanded for keeping a Bible on her desk at a state government office.
- ✓ **FLORIDA:** Pray for a church seeking legal help after city officials challenged their right to distribute Gospel literature during a community festival.
- ✓ **GEORGIA:** Pray for a Christian student leader who contacted CLA after being told not to include Scripture in school announcements.
- ✓ **HAWAII:** Pray for a church being told that they cannot have a Christian school.
- ✓ **IDAHO:** Pray for a Christian counselor seeking legal protection after declining to provide therapy that conflicts with her Biblical beliefs.
- ✓ **ILLINOIS:** Pray for a Christian business owner sued for refusing to print materials that violate his faith.
- ✓ **INDIANA:** Pray for a pastor threatened with fines for ringing church bells during early morning services.
- ✓ **IOWA:** Pray for a Christian teen barred from sharing her testimony during a public school presentation.
- ✓ **KANSAS:** Pray for a Christian professor placed under review for including Scripture in a classroom syllabus.
- ✓ **KENTUCKY:** Pray for a Christian student who contacted CLA after being told she could not include a Bible verse in her senior graduation speech.
- ✓ **LOUISIANA:** Pray for a Christian parent seeking legal counsel after her child was punished for praying over his lunch.
- ✓ **MAINE:** Pray for a Christian librarian disciplined for displaying faith-based books on a recommended reading table.
- ✓ **MARYLAND:** Pray for a pastor seeking guidance after being denied a permit to hold an evangelistic outreach in a city park.
- ✓ **MASSACHUSETTS:** Pray for a Christian youth leader barred from mentoring at a public school due to his statement of faith.
- ✓ **MICHIGAN:** Pray for a Christian employee told to stop sharing Christian podcasts with coworkers during lunch breaks.
- ✓ **MINNESOTA:** Pray for a church facing threats of legal action after hosting Bible classes open to the community.
- ✓ **MISSISSIPPI:** Pray for a pastor dealing with land use disputes following city pushback on a church expansion project.
- ✓ **MISSOURI:** Pray for a church school facing scrutiny after refusing to comply with new curriculum mandates that contradict Scripture.
- ✓ **MONTANA:** Pray for a Christian family that was denied a foster license allegedly due to their Biblical views.
- ✓ **NEBRASKA:** Pray for a Christian teacher who contacted CLA after being instructed by school administrators not to keep a Bible visible on her desk during class hours.
- ✓ **NEVADA:** Pray for a street preacher issued citations for sharing the Gospel on the Las Vegas strip.
- ✓ **NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Pray for a church member facing eviction after holding Bible studies in her apartment complex's common area.
- ✓ **NEW JERSEY:** Pray for a Christian teen seeking help after school officials prevented him from handing out Gospel tracts.
- ✓ **NEW MEXICO:** Pray for a missionary group denied access to a public plaza for worship gatherings.
- ✓ **NEW YORK:** Pray for a church leader who contacted CLA after the city denied a permit to host a public Scripture reading in the local park, citing concerns about "religious displays" in government spaces.
- ✓ **NORTH CAROLINA:** Pray for a Christian camp director facing state investigation after refusing to hire staff who reject the faith statement.
- ✓ **NORTH DAKOTA:** Pray for a church whose mobile outreach trailer was banned from a local festival due to religious content.
- ✓ **OHIO:** Pray for a Christian school defending its right to hire teachers based on Biblical values.
- ✓ **OKLAHOMA:** Pray for a pastor seeking help after being ticketed for their outdoor worship, citing "noise violations."
- ✓ **OREGON:** Pray for a Christian business owner who contacted CLA after being threatened with legal action for declining to promote messages that conflict with her Biblical beliefs.
- ✓ **PENNSYLVANIA:** Pray for a Christian student group denied recognition at a public university due to its leadership requirements.
- ✓ **RHODE ISLAND:** Pray for a Christian retiree told she cannot read her Bible during breaks while volunteering at a city-run facility.
- ✓ **SOUTH CAROLINA:** Pray for a pastor navigating restrictions on public evangelism in tourist areas.

