



STANDING FOR THE

NEXT GENERATION

THE
**LEGAL
ALERT**

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

MAY 2026

A photograph of two young boys outdoors, holding American flags. The boy on the left is smaller and holds a small flag. The boy on the right is taller and holds a larger flag with both arms raised. They are both smiling. The background is a blurred green field with trees.

WILL THE NEXT GENERATION HAVE THE SAME FREEDOM?

There was a time when churches did not have to think about their freedoms—they simply lived them. Ministry was not something that required careful legal consideration or measured hesitation. Churches opened their doors, planned outreaches, disciplined believers, and proclaimed the Gospel without wondering whether those activities might be questioned or challenged. It was understood that this was the natural and protected work of the church. For many, that memory still feels recent. Yet across the country, a growing number of pastors and ministry leaders are beginning to sense that something has shifted. Not in ways that always draw public attention, but in quieter, more subtle ways that are becoming increasingly familiar—moments of uncertainty, questions that did not used to arise, and situations that require more careful navigation than before.

At Christian Law Association, these moments are not theoretical—they are heard every day through the voices of pastors and church leaders seeking guidance. A pastor may call after receiving a notice from a local official questioning whether a ministry activity complies with local regulations. Another church may be unsure how to proceed with a new outreach effort that, in years past, would have been undertaken without hesitation. A Christian school may be working through how to uphold its Biblical convictions while responding to outside pressures that challenge its policies. Each situation is unique, yet together they reflect a broader reality—one that is developing steadily and deserves thoughtful attention. These are not isolated concerns, but part of a pattern that reveals how the environment in which churches operate is gradually changing.

This leads us to a question that is both simple and deeply significant: will the next generation have the same freedom we have known? It is a question that extends beyond current circumstances and reaches into the future of ministry itself. Scripture reminds us that what is not intentionally preserved is often quietly lost. In Judges 2:10, we read of a

generation that arose which ***“knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.”*** That did not happen suddenly, nor was it the result of a single decision. It was the result of something not being faithfully carried forward. In much the same way, the freedoms that allow churches to operate, teach, and minister are not self-sustaining. They are not preserved simply because they existed in the past. They require awareness, stewardship, and continued faithful use.

One of the greatest challenges in recognizing this shift is that it rarely happens all at once. Instead, it unfolds gradually—often so gradually that it can be difficult to identify in the moment. A small concern raised here, a request for change there, a moment of hesitation that replaces what was once confidence. Individually, these situations may seem minor or manageable, and in many cases they are. But over time, they begin to shape the way churches think and operate. Ministries that once moved forward without question may begin to pause. Outreach efforts may be reconsidered. Leaders may find themselves asking not only what is right, but what is allowed. And when uncertainty begins to influence action, it can quietly limit what is done.

This is how freedom can be eroded—not through one defining moment, but through a series of smaller ones that, taken together, create a different environment. It is not always the presence of direct opposition that changes things, but the gradual introduction of uncertainty that leads to caution replacing confidence. When churches begin to step back—not out of conviction, but out of concern—the effect is cumulative. Over time, what was once freely exercised becomes less visible, less frequent, and ultimately less understood. And what is not consistently practiced becomes more vulnerable to restriction.

What is at stake in these moments is not limited to present challenges. It is the future of how

ministry will function in the years to come. It is whether churches will continue to gather without interference, whether Christian schools will be able to teach Biblical truth without compromise, whether pastors can counsel individuals with clarity and confidence, and whether ministries can continue reaching their communities openly and effectively. These are not distant or abstract concerns—they are being shaped right now, through the decisions churches are making and the guidance they are seeking in real time.

Psalm 78:4 reminds us of the responsibility that rests on each generation: ***“We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord.”*** There is a clear call not only to believe and to serve, but to ensure that what has been entrusted is passed forward intact. That responsibility extends beyond doctrine into the practical ability to live out and proclaim that truth. The freedoms that make ministry possible are part of that stewardship. They are not ends in themselves, but they are essential tools that allow the work of the Lord to continue unhindered.

This is where the work of Christian Law Association becomes so vital. Each call received is more than a question—it is a moment where a ministry is choosing how it will move forward. Churches are not looking to create conflict or draw attention; they are simply seeking to continue faithfully. They want to understand how to respond wisely, how to proceed with confidence, and how to ensure that their ministry remains both protected and effective. CLA comes alongside these churches in those moments, providing guidance that is rooted in both legal understanding and a deep appreciation for ministry. In doing so, it helps churches continue their work—not with fear, but with clarity.

Much of this work happens quietly. Situations are resolved without public attention. Questions are answered, and ministries move forward, often without others ever knowing what was at stake. Yet those quiet resolutions carry significant weight. Each one represents a moment where a church chose to continue rather than withdraw, to seek wisdom rather than remain uncertain, and to stand in a way that preserves not only its own ministry, but the broader ability of others to do the same.

Galatians 5:1 provides a clear and steady instruction: ***“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.”*** This is not a call to react with fear or to become defensive. It is a call to remain steady, faithful, and grounded. To continue doing what is right with wisdom and confidence. To recognize that standing is not always dramatic, but it is always important. It is found in the consistent, thoughtful decisions that allow ministry to move forward even when circumstances become more complex.

The freedoms we enjoy today are a gift, but they are also a responsibility. They have been preserved through the faithfulness of those who came before us, and they are now entrusted to us to steward wisely. What we do with them—how we use them, how we respond when they are questioned, and whether we choose to continue faithfully—will shape what the next generation inherits. May we be found faithful in that responsibility, not only for the sake of ministry today, but for those who will follow us in ministering tomorrow. So that the next generation will not have to wonder what freedom once looked like, but will be able to live and serve within it just as we have been able to do.

HAS YOUR MAIL TO CLA BEEN RETURNED?

We are currently experiencing ongoing issues with mail delivery through the post office. Many letters and donations have been returned to sender with notices such as “undeliverable” or “box closed,” despite no changes to our addresses.

We are working diligently with the post office to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

If your donation has been returned, we kindly ask that you consider resending it or using an alternate method, if convenient.

Thank you for your patience, prayers, and faithful support as we work through this unexpected challenge.



RETURN TO SENDER

“WHEN CHALLENGES ARISE—EVEN UNEXPECTED ONES—THE MISSION REMAINS THE SAME.”



FREEDOM IS STRENGTHENED WHEN IT IS USED

There is a quiet assumption that freedom, once established, will simply continue on its own. That because it has existed in the past, it will remain unchanged in the future. But history—and even present experience—reminds us that this is not the case.

Freedom is not sustained by its existence. It is sustained by its use.

Across the country, churches are continuing to do what they have always done—preaching the Gospel, ministering to families, and reaching their communities. Yet in many places, questions are beginning to surface. Pastors are asking whether certain outreaches are still permitted. Churches are wondering how to respond to new challenges. Ministries that once operated without hesitation now find themselves pausing, uncertain of what is allowed.

While wisdom and caution are important, there is a subtle danger when uncertainty leads to retreat.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:14–15, “***Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel...***” The purpose of the church has never been to withdraw, but to shine. To remain visible. To continue faithfully in the work it has been given.

When churches pull back—not out of conviction, but out of uncertainty—something begins to shift. Ministries become quieter. Outreach becomes less visible. Opportunities to reach others begin to narrow. And over time, what was once freely exercised becomes less common, less expected, and ultimately less protected.

Freedom, like a muscle, grows stronger when it is used and weaker when it is not.

Each time a church continues its outreach...

Each time a pastor preaches truth without hesitation...

Each time a ministry serves its community faithfully...

...that church or pastor or ministry is doing more than fulfilling a calling. The presence of religious liberty is being reinforced in each place where this occurs.

At Christian Law Association, many of the calls we receive reflect this very moment of decision. Churches are not looking to retreat—they simply want to move forward wisely. They want to understand how to continue their ministries with confidence, clarity, and protection.

And that is where CLA comes alongside them.

By providing guidance rooted in both legal understanding and ministry experience, CLA helps churches continue—not step back. It allows pastors and leaders to move forward with assurance, knowing they are acting both faithfully and wisely.

Scripture reminds us in 2 Timothy 1:7, “***For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.***” The answer to uncertainty is not fear—it is wisdom. Not retreat—but steady, faithful continuation.

Freedom is not preserved in theory. It is preserved in practice.

And every time a church chooses to continue in its mission—thoughtfully, carefully, and faithfully—it strengthens not only its own ministry, but the future of religious liberty for others.

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

PRAYER & PRAISE CHECKLIST



○ ALABAMA

Prayer: Pray for a pastor who contacted our office after his city issued a warning that a weekly neighborhood children's Bible club at the church may violate local zoning.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a church that received a favorable ruling from a zoning board, allowing continued operation of its midweek children's program after neighbors filed complaints regarding traffic and noise.

○ ALASKA

Prayer: Pray for a church that was denied use of a public school gym where they have met for years and is seeking guidance on next steps.

Praise: Praise God for successful intervention with a state agency that reversed a licensing concern, allowing a Christian counseling ministry to continue operating without undue regulatory burden.

○ ARIZONA

Prayer: Pray for a Christian school that called with concerns about revising its handbook while maintaining clear Biblical standards.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a church that resolved a property boundary dispute with a neighboring business, preserving access to its parking lot and avoiding costly litigation.

○ ARKANSAS

Prayer: Pray for a church that received a notice questioning whether it can host a weekly community meal on its property.

Praise: Praise God for a pastor who received a dismissed citation after holding a prayer gathering that had been mistakenly classified as a prohibited assembly.

○ CALIFORNIA

Prayer: Pray for a street evangelism ministry which was notified that it may need a permit to continue distributing Gospel literature.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a church that secured an exemption from certain state employment mandates that conflicted with its sincerely held religious beliefs.

○ COLORADO

Prayer: Pray for a church seeking guidance after being advised it could be liable for injuries during youth activities.

Praise: Praise God for a ministry that was able to continue feeding the homeless after local restrictions were clarified and modified through legal advocacy.

○ CONNECTICUT

Prayer: Pray for a pastor who reached out regarding questions about church bylaws and leadership authority.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a church that successfully defended its tax-exempt status after questions were raised regarding use of its fellowship hall.

○ DELAWARE

Prayer: Pray for a small congregation calling for help in properly organizing as a nonprofit ministry.

Praise: Praise God for a Christian school that resolved a dispute with a vendor over contract terms without financial penalty after legal review clarified the agreement.

○ FLORIDA

Prayer: Pray for a pastor seeking counsel on how to handle sensitive counseling situations with legal implications.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a church that regained access to its online donation platform after being improperly flagged and suspended.

○ GEORGIA

Prayer: Pray for a church that contacted us about properly classifying staff members for tax and payroll purposes.

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○ HAWAII

Prayer: Pray for a church facing financial strain and needing wisdom regarding its legal obligations.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that was able to secure a permit for a beach baptism service after initial denial.

○ IDAHO

Prayer: Pray for a church seeking approval from local officials to expand its building due to growth.

Praise: Praise God for a church that resolved an insurance claim dispute, receiving proper coverage for storm damage to its building.

○ ILLINOIS

Prayer: Pray for a pastor who called after being drawn into a family dispute where legal concerns have arisen.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a Christian employer who successfully clarified religious accommodation policies for staff without facing penalties.

○ INDIANA

Prayer: Pray for a church reviewing its child protection policies after recognizing potential vulnerabilities.

Praise: Praise God for a church that retained its right to hold outdoor services after local officials attempted to impose additional restrictions.

○ IOWA

Prayer: Pray for a church needing guidance regarding ownership and documentation of its property.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that resolved a copyright concern regarding use of music in services through proper licensing guidance.

○ KANSAS

Prayer: Pray for a church planning a large outreach event and seeking to address liability concerns.

Praise: Praise God for a pastor who received protection under clergy-penitent privilege in a legal inquiry.

○ KENTUCKY

Prayer: Pray for a pastor requesting help in understanding reporting responsibilities in a counseling matter.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a church that avoided foreclosure after negotiating a revised payment agreement with its lender.

○ LOUISIANA

Prayer: Pray for churches preparing legally and logistically for hurricane season.

Praise: Praise God for a ministry that successfully addressed a city code enforcement issue regarding signage without fines.

○ MAINE

Prayer: Pray for a church working to secure a lease after losing its current meeting space.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a church that secured approval to renovate its historic building after initial denial due to preservation concerns.

○ MARYLAND

Prayer: Pray for a ministry asking about its rights to share the Gospel in public areas.

Praise: Praise God for a Christian school that clarified student conduct policies in a way that satisfied state requirements while maintaining Biblical standards.

○ MASSACHUSETTS

Prayer: Pray for a church facing restrictions tied to renovations on its historic building.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that resolved a lease dispute with its landlord, allowing continued occupancy.

○ MICHIGAN

Prayer: Pray for a church navigating leadership changes and related legal responsibilities.

Praise: Praise God for a church receiving a favorable decision in a dispute involving access to shared property easements.

○ MINNESOTA

Prayer: Pray for a Christian school responding to concerns raised about its Biblical policies.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a pastor who was protected in a housing allowance matter after IRS-related concerns were addressed.

○ MISSISSIPPI

Prayer: Pray for church leaders addressing questions related to church property and building use.

Praise: Praise God for a church that successfully reinstated its insurance coverage after a lapse was wrongly attributed.

○ MISSOURI

Prayer: Pray for a ministry that contacted us after being questioned by local authorities about its outreach.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that resolved a volunteer liability concern by implementing proper legal protections.

○ MONTANA

Prayer: Pray for a rural church dealing with access and land-use questions.

Praise: Praise God for a church that secured water access rights for its property after a dispute with neighboring landowners.

○ NEBRASKA

Prayer: Pray for a church seeking guidance before launching a new outreach ministry.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a Christian organization that successfully navigated nonprofit reporting requirements, avoiding penalties.

○ NEVADA

Prayer: Pray for a ministry working with addiction recovery and navigating liability concerns.

Praise: Praise God for a church that resolved a dispute with a contractor over incomplete work without additional cost.

○ NEW HAMPSHIRE

Prayer: Pray for a church facing financial pressures impacting its legal responsibilities.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that was granted a variance to operate in a residentially zoned area.

○ NEW JERSEY

Prayer: Pray for a church needing permits to continue using its facility for services.

Praise: Praise God for a church that addressed a wage classification concern and avoided fines after proper correction.

○ NEW MEXICO

Prayer: Pray for a ministry addressing property use concerns in a rural community.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that successfully responded to a state inquiry regarding charitable solicitation compliance.

○ NEW YORK

Prayer: Pray for churches dealing with increasing regulatory oversight.

Praise: Praise God for a church that maintained its religious hiring practices after facing external complaints.

○ NORTH CAROLINA

Prayer: Pray for a church seeking help structuring its counseling ministry.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that resolved a dispute over use of public space for evangelistic outreach.

○ NORTH DAKOTA

Prayer: Pray for a small church needing help with administrative and legal organization.

Praise: Praise God for a church that successfully clarified property tax exemption status with local officials.

○ OHIO

Prayer: Pray for a church addressing zoning concerns after attendance growth exceeded building limits.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a church that resolved a dispute regarding livestreaming rights and use of copyrighted material.

○ OKLAHOMA

Prayer: Pray for church leaders preparing youth programs and addressing safety requirements.

Praise: Praise God for a pastor who received legal protection after being threatened with action for declining to perform a ceremony inconsistent with his beliefs.

○ OREGON

Prayer: Pray for a church encountering resistance while trying to conduct outreach in public areas.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that secured approval to expand its facility after initial zoning resistance.

○ PENNSYLVANIA

Prayer: Pray for a Christian school seeking to maintain Biblical policies under pressure.

Praise: Praise God for a church that successfully defended against a nuisance complaint filed by a neighboring property owner.

○ RHODE ISLAND

Prayer: Pray for a church seeking clarity on its legal standing and structure.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that resolved a contract dispute with a service provider without litigation.

○ SOUTH CAROLINA

Prayer: Pray for a pastor handling legal questions tied to counseling ministry.

Praise: Praise God for a church that corrected corporate filings and avoided administrative dissolution.

○ SOUTH DAKOTA

Prayer: Pray for a new church plant organizing its legal foundation.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that secured proper liability coverage after previous denial.

○ TENNESSEE

Prayer: Pray for a ministry seeking guidance regarding new laws affecting outreach.

Praise: Praise God for a church that resolved a dispute regarding use of its property for a community event.

○ TEXAS

Prayer: Pray for a church needing guidance as it expands due to rapid growth.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that successfully addressed a demand letter related to online content without further action.

○ UTAH

Prayer: Pray for a church sharing the Gospel in a challenging legal environment.

Praise: Praise God for a church that clarified land use rights and avoided restrictions on future development.

○ VERMONT

Prayer: Pray for a church working to remain compliant without compromising its mission.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that maintained its ability to operate a small school despite regulatory scrutiny.

○ VIRGINIA

Prayer: Pray for ministries working with local officials on regulatory matters.

Praise: Praise God for a church that successfully negotiated a favorable lease renewal for its meeting space.

○ WASHINGTON

Prayer: Pray for a church navigating facility use restrictions.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that resolved a dispute involving digital communications and member privacy.

○ WEST VIRGINIA

Prayer: Pray for a church addressing legal considerations in benevolence outreach.

Praise: Praise God for a church that secured access to its property after a right-of-way issue was clarified.

○ WISCONSIN

Prayer: Pray for a Christian school strengthening policies to protect its mission.

Praise: Praise the Lord for a ministry that successfully addressed employment documentation concerns during an audit.

○ WYOMING

Prayer: Pray for a rural church dealing with land-use and access concerns.

Praise: Praise God for a church that resolved a dispute with a utility provider regarding service access and billing.

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

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