

A close-up, low-angle shot of the American flag waving. The flag is the central focus, with its stars and stripes clearly visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sunset with warm orange and yellow light. The flag's texture and the way it folds are captured in detail.

THE LEGAL ALERT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2026



BACK TO MINISTRY—AT A TIME WHEN AMERICA NEEDS THE CHURCH THE MOST

As summer draws to a close, churches across America are preparing for one of the busiest seasons of the year. Attendance rises and ministries resume as congregations return to the familiar rhythms and routines of autumn.

But this fall is more than just the beginning of the next ministry school year. It is also the church's opportunity to be a steady light in an increasingly uncertain culture.

Every year, Christian Law Association receives calls from churches facing challenges that would have been almost unheard of a generation ago. Questions involving religious liberty, church governance, employment issues, child protection, facility use, security planning, digital ministries, and nonprofit compliance continue to grow in both number and complexity.

Yet God's calling has not changed.

The local church remains His plan for proclaiming the Gospel, discipling believers, strengthening families, and offering hope to a world desperately searching for truth. In times of uncertainty, people are often more willing than ever to listen to the message of Christ.

That is why preparation matters.

As ministries reopen for a busy fall season, now is an excellent time to review governing documents, update child protection and volunteer policies, evaluate church security plans, confirm insurance coverage, and ensure that ministry practices continue to reflect both

Biblical conviction and sound stewardship. These practical steps help protect the testimony God has entrusted to each ministry.

The Apostle Paul encouraged believers to, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." (1 Corinthians 16:13)

That command seems especially fitting today. Our culture may continue to shift, but God's Word remains unchanged. His truth is still sufficient. His Gospel is still the power of God unto salvation. His church is still called to faithfully proclaim that message until Christ returns.

At Christian Law Association, we consider it a privilege to help pastors, churches, Christian schools, camps, and ministries navigate today's legal challenges so they can remain focused on tomorrow's eternal opportunities.

As you prepare for another ministry season, remember that your faithfulness matters more than ever. Every Sunday sermon, every children's lesson, every Bible study, every visit, every prayer, and every Gospel witness has eternal significance. While the legal landscape may become more complicated, our mission remains wonderfully simple—to faithfully serve the Lord and boldly proclaim His truth.

Thank you for allowing Christian Law Association to stand beside you as your legal missionary. Together, by God's grace, we will continue defending the freedom to preach the Gospel until He comes.

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

AS SUMMER ENDS...THE MINISTRY NEVER DOES

As families return from vacations and children prepare to head back to school, many churches begin one of their busiest seasons of the year. Sunday school classes resume, Bible studies begin again, choirs restart rehearsals, Christian schools welcome students, and ministries that may have slowed during the summer quickly regain momentum.

While schedules become fuller, our calling remains unchanged.

The Apostle Paul reminded believers, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (1 Corinthians 15:58a).

Satan never takes a season off. While churches prepare lesson plans, outreach events, and school openings, the enemy continues looking for opportunities to discourage pastors, divide congregations, burden ministries, and create legal obstacles that distract from the Gospel.

Many of the calls Christian Law Association receives each August reflect this transition into a new ministry year. Churches are reviewing child protection policies before welcoming children back into classrooms. Christian schools are updating employee handbooks and enrollment documents. Ministries are reviewing insurance coverage, transportation policies, security procedures, volunteer screening, and governance documents. These preparations may seem administrative, but they are acts of faithful stewardship.

The Lord has entrusted every church with more than a building. He has entrusted people, testimony, resources, and opportunities to proclaim Christ. Protecting those ministries allows churches to continue focusing on the work God has called them to accomplish.

Preparation is never a substitute for faith. Rather, preparation is often an expression of faith. Noah built the ark before the rain came. Nehemiah prayed—and posted guards. Joseph prepared during years of plenty before famine arrived. Scripture repeatedly shows God's people planning wisely while trusting completely in Him.

As another ministry season begins, may every church continue to preach the Gospel boldly, disciple believers faithfully, and carefully protect the ministries God has entrusted to their care.

Christian Law Association considers it a privilege to stand beside pastors, Christian schools, camps, and ministries every day. Whether answering a simple legal question or helping through a significant challenge, our desire remains unchanged—to remove distractions so churches can remain focused on reaching souls for Christ.

Thank you for praying. Thank you for giving. Together, by God's grace, we continue defending those who faithfully proclaim His Word.

YOUR PARTNERSHIP MAKES THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE

Every day, pastors, churches, Christian schools, and ministries contact Christian Law Association with urgent legal questions they cannot answer alone. Because of the faithful generosity of friends like you, many receive experienced legal assistance at no charge.

Your prayers sustain us. Your financial support allows us to continue standing beside those who faithfully proclaim the Gospel and defend religious liberty across America.

If Christian Law Association has encouraged you or if you believe this ministry is needed now more than ever, would you prayerfully consider a special gift this month? Together, we can help ensure that no Bible-believing church or ministry has to face legal challenges alone.

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)



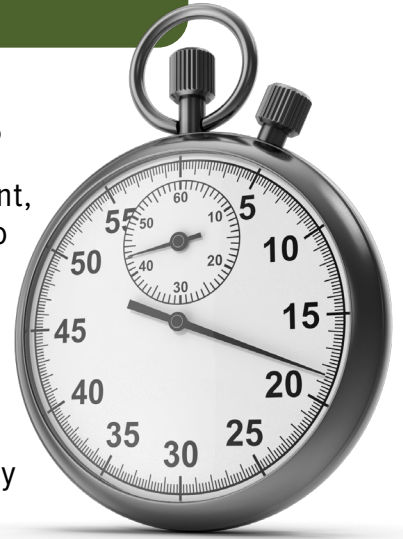
1 DON'T WAIT UNTIL A PROBLEM ARISES

Many churches think about legal documents only after a disagreement, accident, or government inquiry. By then, valuable opportunities to prevent problems have often passed.

Late summer is an excellent time to review governing documents, child protection policies, employment handbooks, facility use agreements, security plans, and insurance coverage before fall ministries begin.

An afternoon of preparation today can prevent months of difficulty tomorrow.

“A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself...” (Proverbs 22:3a).



2 PROTECTING THE NEXT GENERATION

As Sunday school classes, Christian schools, nurseries, youth ministries, and bus routes begin another year, now is the time to ensure volunteer screening, background checks, supervision policies, and emergency procedures are current.

Parents entrust churches with their greatest treasures—their children.

Strong policies not only reduce legal risks, but also demonstrate a ministry's commitment to loving families well and protecting every child entrusted to its care.



3 LEGAL QUESTIONS SHOULD NEVER STOP THE GOSPEL

Many pastors hesitate to ask legal questions because they fear the cost.

That is exactly why Christian Law Association exists.

Whether the question involves church governance, property matters, employment concerns, religious liberty, nonprofit compliance, or another ministry issue, our desire is to help before a small concern becomes a larger problem.

One phone call often provides peace of mind—and allows pastors to return their focus to where it belongs: faithfully shepherding God's people.

“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)



PRAYER & PRAISE CHECKLIST



☐ ALABAMA

- ◆ Pray for a church that is working through a contractor dispute after extensive sanctuary repairs were left unfinished.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a Christian employer who resolved a difficult employment matter peacefully without litigation.

☐ ARKANSAS

- ◆ Pray for a church updating its nursery safety procedures after discovering gaps in volunteer screening.
- ◆ Praise God for a congregation that recently paid off its mortgage, allowing greater resources for outreach.

☐ CALIFORNIA

- ◆ Pray for a church seeking permits after neighbors challenged plans to build additional classrooms for Sunday school.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a Christian camp that received approval to expand its facilities after years of planning.

☐ COLORADO

- ◆ Pray for a Christian school preparing to respond to allegations from a former employee concerning school discipline policies.
- ◆ Praise God for a pastor who was able to reconcile a long-standing church dispute before it reached court.

☐ CONNECTICUT

- ◆ Pray for a church facing unexpected zoning restrictions after purchasing a former retail building for worship services.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for volunteers who completed important child protection training throughout the church.

☐ DELAWARE

- ◆ Pray for a ministry that is rewriting its bylaws after discovering outdated governance provisions.
- ◆ Praise God for a church that recently welcomed dozens of new members following months of discipleship classes.

☐ FLORIDA

- ◆ Pray for a church working with its insurance company after hurricane damage left portions of its building unusable.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a pastor serving as a volunteer chaplain whose religious accommodation was respected.

☐ GEORGIA

- ◆ Pray for a church board making difficult decisions after uncovering financial misconduct by a former treasurer.
- ◆ Praise God that a ministry successfully resolved a copyright licensing concern before any penalties were assessed.

☐ HAWAII

- ◆ Pray for a church-planting family seeking legal guidance while purchasing their first permanent meeting place.
- ◆ Praise the Lord that a Christian school was able to complete all required inspections before the new school year begins.

☐ IDAHO

- ◆ Pray for a Bible camp responding to questions about liability after a camper was injured during recreational activities.

- ◆ Praise God for volunteers who donated countless hours to renovate camp cabins without incurring debt.

☐ ILLINOIS

- ◆ Pray for a church revising its security procedures following threats received through social media.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for an elderly congregation that faithfully completed an estate-planning seminar to better support future ministry.

☐ INDIANA

- ◆ Pray for church leaders helping two families resolve a property boundary disagreement affecting church access.
- ◆ Praise God for a successful mediation that preserved unity within a growing congregation.

☐ IOWA

- ◆ Pray for a Christian school responding to a parent's complaint regarding student discipline procedures.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for teachers who completed another year faithfully investing in children for Christ.

☐ KANSAS

- ◆ Pray for a church seeking legal advice after unauthorized individuals attempted to take control of church finances.
- ◆ Praise God for a peaceful pastoral transition after nearly forty years of faithful leadership.

☐ KENTUCKY

- ◆ Pray for a ministry negotiating with county officials over drainage requirements before beginning construction.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a church that dedicated its new fellowship hall debt free.

☐ LOUISIANA

- ◆ Pray for churches still waiting on insurance settlements months after storm damage.
- ◆ Praise God for volunteers who rebuilt a damaged sanctuary, allowing services to resume.

☐ MAINE

- ◆ Pray for a pastor facing a difficult church discipline matter involving longtime members.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a church that recently celebrated fifty years of faithful Gospel ministry.

☐ MARYLAND

- ◆ Pray for a Christian counseling ministry updating confidentiality policies to better protect those seeking help.
- ◆ Praise God for attorneys who were able to prevent unnecessary litigation through wise counsel.

☐ MASSACHUSETTS

- ◆ Pray for a church appealing occupancy restrictions that limit attendance during worship services.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for several young families joining a small congregation after months of faithful outreach.

☐ MICHIGAN

- ◆ Pray for a church attempting to recover funds lost through online financial fraud.
- ◆ Praise God for a ministry that successfully completed an independent financial audit with excellent results.

☐ MINNESOTA

- ◆ Pray for a Christian school revising transportation policies after an accident involving a school vehicle.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for faithful volunteers who safely transported children throughout the school year.

☐ MISSISSIPPI

- ◆ Pray for a church working through questions regarding a donated parcel of land.
- ◆ Praise God for a local church that recently launched a prison ministry after months of preparation.

☐ MISSOURI

- ◆ Pray for a pastor seeking wisdom after receiving a subpoena related to counseling records.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a church that resolved a long-standing insurance coverage dispute.

☐ MONTANA

- ◆ Pray for a church purchasing neighboring property to expand parking for its growing congregation.
- ◆ Praise God for county officials who worked cooperatively with church leadership during the approval process.

☐ NEBRASKA

- ◆ Pray for church trustees updating incorporation documents that have not been reviewed in decades.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a generous donor whose gift allowed critical building repairs to be completed.

☐ NEVADA

- ◆ Pray for a ministry seeking guidance after a former employee filed a wage complaint.
- ◆ Praise God for church leaders who resolved personnel concerns with grace and Biblical wisdom.

☐ NEW HAMPSHIRE

- ◆ Pray for a congregation defending its right to display Christian signs on church property.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a community outreach event that introduced hundreds of neighbors to the church.

☐ NEW JERSEY

- ◆ Pray for a Christian daycare addressing new licensing requirements before reopening classrooms.
- ◆ Praise God for a church that completed extensive accessibility improvements for elderly members.

☐ NEW MEXICO

- ◆ Pray for a mission church facing delays obtaining utility easements for newly acquired property.

- ◆ Praise the Lord for increased attendance in Bible studies throughout rural communities.

☐ **NEW YORK**

- ◆ Pray for a church working through city permitting requirements before renovating an aging sanctuary.
- ◆ Praise God for faithful believers who continue planting churches throughout urban neighborhoods.

☐ **NORTH CAROLINA**

- ◆ Pray for church leadership addressing a complicated estate gift designated for future missions.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a Christian school celebrating its largest graduating class.

☐ **NORTH DAKOTA**

- ◆ Pray for a church seeking legal guidance concerning mineral rights discovered beneath donated property.
- ◆ Praise God for a faithful pastor celebrating decades of uninterrupted ministry.

☐ **OHIO**

- ◆ Pray for a ministry responding after a former employee challenged the organization's Biblical employment standards.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for another church that completed updated governing documents before future leadership changes became necessary.

☐ **OKLAHOMA**

- ◆ Pray for church leaders resolving a disagreement over ownership of donated ministry equipment.
- ◆ Praise God for successful mediation that preserved friendships within the congregation.

☐ **OREGON**

- ◆ Pray for a pastor appealing a local decision limiting the use of church property for community outreach.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for believers faithfully serving foster families through church ministries.

☐ **PENNSYLVANIA**

- ◆ Pray for a church responding to concerns regarding cemetery maintenance on historic church property.
- ◆ Praise God for volunteers who labored countless hours to restore an aging church building.

☐ **RHODE ISLAND**

- ◆ Pray for a Christian nonprofit revising its conflict-of-interest policies to strengthen accountability.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for churches partnering together to provide legal and practical help after neighborhood flooding.

☐ **SOUTH CAROLINA**

- ◆ Pray for a church resolving questions concerning the ownership of historical records and archives.
- ◆ Praise God for a congregation that recently completed comprehensive emergency preparedness training.

☐ **SOUTH DAKOTA**

- ◆ Pray for a Christian school reviewing transportation contracts before the coming school year.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a successful fundraising effort that eliminated remaining building debt.

☐ **TENNESSEE**

- ◆ Pray for church leaders seeking legal guidance after discovering inaccuracies in decades-old property deeds.
- ◆ Praise God for a ministry that peacefully resolved a trademark issue concerning its name.

☐ **TEXAS**

- ◆ Pray for a Christian school facing construction delays after unexpected building code revisions.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a church that successfully established a benevolence ministry with sound financial policies.

☐ **UTAH**

- ◆ Pray for a new church plant seeking approval to meet regularly in a leased commercial space.
- ◆ Praise God for believers faithfully supporting Gospel outreach in communities with few evangelical churches.

☐ **VERMONT**

- ◆ Pray for a congregation working through the legal requirements of dissolving an inactive affiliated ministry.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a church that welcomed a new pastor after many months without one.

☐ **VIRGINIA**

- ◆ Pray for church leadership as they respond to confidential financial records being improperly accessed.
- ◆ Praise God for attorneys who helped a ministry strengthen policies before problems developed.

☐ **WASHINGTON**

- ◆ Pray for a Christian counseling ministry reviewing informed-consent documents to better protect those it serves.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for churches that have begun offering free legal education seminars for their communities.

☐ **WEST VIRGINIA**

- ◆ Pray for a church repairing damage after vandalism interrupted several weeks of ministry.
- ◆ Praise God for the many volunteers who quickly restored the property and encouraged the congregation.

☐ **WISCONSIN**

- ◆ Pray for church leaders navigating difficult questions surrounding charitable gift restrictions from a donor's estate.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for a congregation that unanimously adopted updated bylaws after months of careful study.

☐ **WYOMING**

- ◆ Pray for a rural church working to secure legal access across neighboring property to reach its building.
- ◆ Praise God for a missionary family that recently completed the legal process to establish a new ministry in the state.

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

