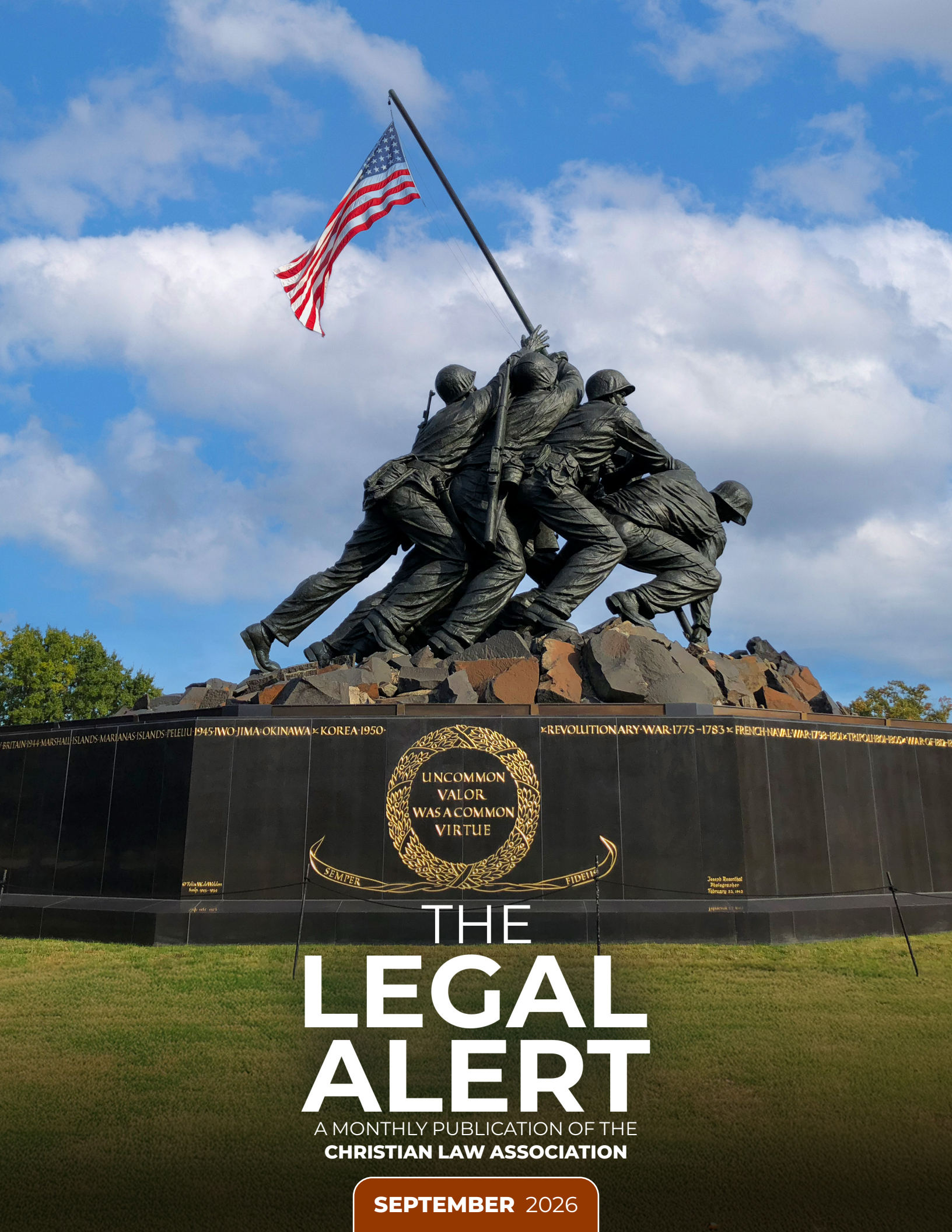




THE LEGAL ALERT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2026



COURAGE FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

God has always placed His people in challenging times, and when God's people are faithful to His ways and empowered by His Spirit, they stand as bright lights shining in the darkness, pointing people to the saving power of the Gospel. "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

Like Daniel, Esther, and Paul, believers are called to faithfulness rather than fear. Even when wicked courtiers worked behind the scenes to outlaw Daniel's faith, he steadfastly lifted his prayers to Heaven, even when a lions' den was waiting. In a time when kings could execute anyone they chose for the smallest reason, Esther made her way to the throne and saved a mass slaughter of the Jewish people. In recounting his own testimony, Paul mentioned that he had received "stripes above measure," that he had "five times received...forty stripes save one." He was "thrice beaten with rods" and was even stoned (2 Corinthians 11:23–25). In spite of these impossible obstacles, his ministry helped carry the message of the Gospel far and wide to the known world.

The Church does not retreat—it ministers. Like those faithful people who have preceded us, we bear our burdens with God's help, and we do all we can to help the people God sends our way. Here at the Christian Law Association, we have seen countless pastors and faithful Christian people in the midst of legal battles that are clearly unfair and unjust. But when these godly people view their legal challenges as opportunities to stand for Christ with wisdom, it not only is a great blessing to see, but it also shines the light of God's love into the darkness of this sin-cursed world, showing people that our loving Heavenly Father is real.

May the Lord give us the courage to stand and the wisdom to stand well.



DID YOU KNOW?

The reason we hear phrases like "Fifth Circuit Court" stems from the fact that the justices of the United States Supreme Court used to "travel the circuit," with each justice going to a different area to hear cases several months per year. This practice officially came to an end only in 1911.

CHURCH SAFETY MINUTE

If your church experiences a power outage during a service, the pastoral staff and members of the security team should encourage everyone to remain seated until the lights come back on or until an alternate source of light can be obtained. The security team should immediately retrieve flashlights and deploy to every populated area of the building, including the nursery, to help people evacuate safely.



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

FROM DR. GIBBS' DESK



People often ask me what gives me hope for the future of America. My answer may surprise them.

My confidence has never rested in an election, a political party, or the passage of another law. While good leaders and wise laws certainly matter, they have never been the true source of our nation's strength.

The hope of America has always been found in God's people faithfully living for Him.

Every time a Christian opens God's Word, bows in prayer, faithfully serves in the local church, raises children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, shares the Gospel, or simply chooses obedience over compromise, the spiritual foundation of our nation is strengthened. Those acts may seem small in the eyes of the world, but Heaven measures them differently.

Throughout history, God has often accomplished His greatest work through ordinary believers who simply remained faithful. Revival has never begun in the halls of government—it has begun in hearts that were fully surrendered to God.

So do not become discouraged by the headlines. Do not allow fear to replace faith. Keep serving the Lord where He has placed you. Live with conviction. Love people. Share the Gospel. Support your local church. Raise the next generation to know and love Christ.

America does not need more discouraged Christians. America needs more faithful Christians.

Stand for Christ. Stay true to His Word. Finish your course with joy. Faithfulness has always changed lives—and by God's grace, it can still change a nation.

CAN YOU HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE CALLS?

Every phone call answered helps another church remain faithful.



The Christian Law Association receives tens of thousands of calls each year, as churches face serious legal threats or struggle to navigate the complexities of local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

The sacrificial giving of our faithful partners makes it possible for our staff and attorneys to tend to this never-ending stream of legal questions. We encourage you to pray to determine how you might be able to support this ministry of helps.

DO RELIGIOUS VICTORY WINS HELP MY CHURCH?



If your church enjoys religious freedom in your community, it can be easy to wonder why court victories in another state really matter.

The answer is simple: our legal system is interconnected.

Court decisions often influence future cases across the country. A religious liberty case decided in one federal circuit may later shape legal arguments in another. Attorneys who oppose religious freedom understand this and frequently pursue cases strategically, hoping to establish legal precedents that can be expanded elsewhere.

America may consist of fifty states and thousands of counties, but our legal system often functions as one interconnected framework.

Every religious liberty victory helps strengthen protections for churches throughout the nation.

Thank you for praying as we continue defending churches and Christians wherever these important cases arise.

REMEMBERING A FAITHFUL PRAYER WARRIOR: **THOMAS ALAN STOKES**

NOVEMBER 8, 1948 – JUNE 16, 2026

For more than a decade, the Christian Law Association was blessed by the faithful prayers of a very special friend, Thomas “Tom” Stokes.

Tom was blind, but he never allowed that limitation to keep him from asking what he could do for the Lord and for others. And what he could do, he did faithfully. Prayer became Tom’s ministry.

Day after day, Tom called our offices for one simple reason—to pray with us and for us. CLA was only one of many ministries, friends, and individuals he faithfully remembered. Throughout each week, Tom would personally call approximately 150 people to pray with them, encourage them, and let them know they were not forgotten.

Remarkably, Tom had an extraordinary memory. He could remember an amazing number of telephone numbers without needing to look them up. He also had the unusual ability to hear someone’s birth date and tell them the day of the week on which they were born. Those who knew him could not help but marvel at the gifts God had given him.

But what we will remember most was Tom’s heart. He loved his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and he wanted his life to be a blessing. He used what God had given him and faithfully did what he could.

We cannot begin to measure how many burdens were lightened, battles were helped, and lives were encouraged because Tom prayed. His familiar calls will be deeply missed at CLA, but we rejoice knowing that the friend who prayed with us so faithfully is now in the presence of the Savior to whom he prayed.

Tom reminded us **that every** Christian has something he can do for the Lord. Thank you for standing with this ministry on your knees. Your faithfulness will never be forgotten.

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

RECENT RELIGIOUS LIBERTY VICTORIES BRING ENCOURAGEMENT

Across America, courts continue to affirm important constitutional protections for churches, ministries, religious schools, and people of faith. Recent decisions have reinforced the rights of believers to freely exercise their faith, protected religious organizations from unnecessary government interference, and recognized that the First Amendment remains a vital safeguard for religious liberty.

While many legal battles continue, these victories remind us that standing faithfully for Biblical convictions is never in vain. Every favorable decision strengthens the legal foundation that helps protect churches and Christians throughout our nation.

At the Christian Law Association, we are grateful for every religious liberty victory—whether it occurs in a courtroom across the country or in a local community where a church is simply allowed to continue serving the Lord without interference. Please continue praying for wisdom for judges, courage for Christian attorneys, and protection for ministries as together we stand for the freedoms that allow the Gospel to be proclaimed.





ALABAMA

- Pray for a church seeking county approval to build a handicap-accessible entrance before winter weather arrives.
- Praise the Lord for a congregation that peacefully resolved a long-standing property boundary disagreement with a neighboring landowner.

ALASKA

- Pray for a Christian school working to renew its operating license before the new academic term.
- Praise God for a rural church that recently completed much-needed building repairs after years of prayer and planning.

ARIZONA

- Pray for wisdom as a church reviews construction contracts for a new fellowship hall.
- Praise the Lord for a ministry that successfully updated its child protection policies before launching fall programs.

ARKANSAS

- Pray for Christian grandparents seeking to preserve opportunities to bring their grandchildren to church during a custody proceeding.
- Praise God for a church whose revised constitution and bylaws were unanimously approved by its membership.

CALIFORNIA

- Pray for a congregation seeking city approval to convert unused office space into additional Sunday school classrooms.
- Praise the Lord for a Christian employee who received a reasonable religious accommodation in the workplace.

COLORADO

- Pray for a church applying for a special-use permit to begin a weekday preschool ministry.
- Praise God for a ministry that recently completed the purchase of property for future expansion.

CONNECTICUT

- Pray for wisdom as a church responds to questions from its insurance carrier regarding playground safety.
- Praise the Lord for a congregation that retired the debt on its church building.

DELAWARE

- Pray for a Christian camp updating liability forms before hosting fall retreats.
- Praise God for a church that welcomed several new families into membership this summer.

FLORIDA

- Pray for a church working through FEMA and insurance paperwork following storm damage.
- Praise the Lord for a ministry that reopened all of its classrooms after completing hurricane repairs.

GEORGIA

- Pray for a church reviewing employee handbook policies to ensure they reflect Biblical convictions and current law.
- Praise God for a peaceful resolution to a disagreement that could have divided a congregation.

HAWAII

- Pray for wisdom as a church negotiates a renewed lease for its worship facility.
- Praise the Lord for visitors who trusted Christ during recent outreach efforts.

IDAHO

- Pray for Christian parents requesting appropriate religious accommodations for their children at school.
- Praise God for a church that received approval to expand its parking area.

ILLINOIS

- Pray for a church seeking legal guidance after discovering fraudulent activity involving ministry finances.
- Praise the Lord for faithful volunteers who completed additional safety training for children's ministries.

INDIANA

- Pray for wisdom as church leaders review a proposed easement affecting their property.
- Praise God for a successful mediation that avoided costly litigation.

IOWA

- Pray for a Christian college reviewing student handbook policies before the fall semester.
- Praise the Lord for an attorney who recently volunteered to assist churches through legal ministry through CLA.

KANSAS

- Pray for a church replacing aging buses while ensuring compliance with transportation regulations.
- Praise God for generous donors who supplied the funds needed for a ministry building project.

KENTUCKY

- Pray for a congregation establishing a benevolence ministry while complying with charitable giving requirements.
- Praise the Lord for a family that dedicated their new home to Christian hospitality and ministry.

LOUISIANA

- Pray for a church requesting approval to erect a permanent sign identifying its property.
- Praise God for a congregation that successfully completed an emergency preparedness plan.

MAINE

- Pray for a rural church seeking volunteers to restart a children's outreach program.
- Praise the Lord for a small congregation that celebrated its 100th anniversary of faithful ministry.

MARYLAND

- Pray for wisdom as a ministry updates cybersecurity protections for donor information.
- Praise God for a Christian school that completed a successful accreditation review.

MASSACHUSETTS

- Pray for a church appealing a local decision affecting renovation of its sanctuary.
- Praise the Lord for a ministry that recently received an unexpected estate gift to strengthen future outreach.

MICHIGAN

- Pray for a congregation seeking legal guidance before merging with another Bible-believing church.
- Praise God for a church that was able to purchase a neighboring parcel of land for future ministry.

MINNESOTA

- Pray for Christian employers seeking wisdom while honoring Biblical convictions in hiring decisions.
- Praise the Lord for a pastor who returned to the pulpit after recovering from serious illness.

MISSISSIPPI

- Pray for a church updating nursery procedures to provide the safest possible environment for children.
- Praise God for a congregation that completed extensive volunteer background screenings.

MISSOURI

- Pray for wisdom as a church negotiates a construction contract for classroom renovations.
- Praise the Lord for a lawsuit that was dismissed before reaching trial.

MONTANA

- Pray for pastors serving several congregations across great distances each week.
- Praise God for faithful members who completed a debt-free renovation of their fellowship hall.

NEBRASKA

- Pray for a church reviewing succession plans to ensure a smooth pastoral transition when needed.
- Praise the Lord for a congregation that celebrated the ordination of a young preacher.

NEVADA

- Pray for wisdom as a Christian business owner requests a religious accommodation from a government agency.
- Praise God for new opportunities to share the Gospel through community outreach events.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Pray for a ministry responding to questions regarding charitable solicitation requirements.
- Praise the Lord for churches that have formed new partnerships to reach their communities.

NEW JERSEY

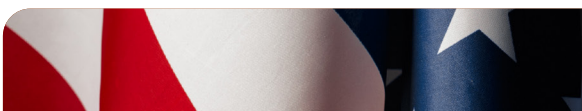
- Pray for a church establishing written policies for counseling and discipleship ministries.
- Praise God for a Christian school that welcomed a record enrollment this year.

NEW MEXICO

- Pray for a congregation ministering to families impacted by addiction and legal difficulties.
- Praise the Lord for lives transformed through faithful prison ministry.

NEW YORK

- Pray for wisdom as a church responds to neighborhood concerns regarding expanded service times.
- Praise God for believers who successfully defended their right to distribute Gospel literature.



NORTH CAROLINA

- Pray for a church seeking permits to construct additional classrooms for growing attendance.
- Praise the Lord for increased attendance during recent revival meetings.

NORTH DAKOTA

- Pray for a congregation updating payroll and tax procedures for ministry staff.
- Praise God for faithful deacons who quietly serve their churches with integrity.

OHIO

- Pray for wisdom as a church strengthens cybersecurity after detecting attempted online fraud.
- Praise the Lord for ministries that prevented legal problems by seeking counsel before making major decisions.

OKLAHOMA

- Pray for a Christian school reviewing volunteer screening procedures before new programs begin.
- Praise God for a church that completed a successful financial audit with excellent stewardship.

OREGON

- Pray for a congregation seeking approval to renovate an older church building to meet current safety codes.
- Praise the Lord for a favorable court ruling that strengthened religious liberty protections.

PENNSYLVANIA

- Pray for wisdom as a church develops a security ministry to better protect its congregation.
- Praise God for faithful Sunday school teachers beginning another year of ministry.

RHODE ISLAND

- Pray for church leaders resolving questions regarding ownership of historical church records.
- Praise the Lord for peaceful unity during an annual church business meeting.

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Pray for a ministry expanding its food pantry while complying with health regulations.
- Praise God for churches seeing many professions of faith through community outreach.

SOUTH DAKOTA

- Pray for a church seeking financing for much-needed roof repairs before winter.
- Praise the Lord for God's provision through unexpected gifts that met pressing ministry needs.

TENNESSEE

- Pray for wisdom as a church establishes policies for livestreaming and copyright compliance.
- Praise God for pastors who faithfully mentor young men preparing for ministry.

TEXAS

- Pray for attorneys defending churches whose religious liberties have been challenged.
- Praise the Lord for recent legal victories that strengthened constitutional protections for people of faith.

UTAH

- Pray for a church-planting team seeking a permanent location for worship services.
- Praise God for growing Bible studies reaching families throughout the community.

VERMONT

- Pray for a small congregation seeking volunteers to continue its children's ministry.
- Praise the Lord for churches that faithfully support missionaries around the world.

VIRGINIA

- Pray for wisdom as a church reviews policies regarding benevolence assistance for community members.
- Praise God for successful cooperation between churches and Christian schools in strengthening families.

WASHINGTON

- Pray for a ministry responding to proposed local regulations affecting church-operated daycare programs.
- Praise the Lord for believers who graciously shared their faith despite opposition.

WEST VIRGINIA

- Pray for churches ministering to communities struggling with unemployment and economic hardship.
- Praise God for a congregation that recently completed a much-needed accessibility renovation.

WISCONSIN

- Pray for wisdom as a church updates emergency evacuation procedures for all ministry buildings.
- Praise the Lord for favorable resolutions that allowed ministries to continue serving without interruption.

WYOMING

- Pray for a church purchasing its very first permanent place of worship.
- Praise God for faithful believers whose quiet service continues to strengthen small churches across 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