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LIBERTY COUNSEL'S MONTHLY ACTION/ALERT NEWSLETTER  
"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty." 2 Cor 3:17

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## A Message from Mat Staver, our Founder and Chairman

# TWO HISTORIC EVENTS REPRESENT TWO ROADS FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

*Two events occurred this August in San Francisco that may well affect the course of history. The concurrence of these two events within hours of each other illustrates what I've often stated: "God loves irony. He will turn apparent adversity into incredible opportunity. The only difference between the two is one person willing to stand in the gap to be used by Him."*

**O**n the momentous afternoon of August 4, 2010, Federal Judge Vaughn L. Walker struck down Proposition 8, the California Marriage Protection Amendment passed by the people of that state in November 2008. As part of the state Constitution, Prop. 8 declares: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." Judge Walker said that this amendment was irrational and further ruled that same-sex marriage is a "right" protected under the U.S. Constitution.

Like many other citizens across the nation, I was deeply disturbed by this ruling. But for the next few hours my focus had to be given to preparing for

another important legal event. In less than 24 hours, on August 5, I would appear before a panel of legal education experts assembled by the American Bar Association (ABA) just a few blocks from the federal courthouse where Judge Walker released his outrageous decision. I would represent Liberty University School of Law in the final

round of our first attempt to obtain full accreditation. The ABA is the entity recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the accrediting agency for all American law schools.

It was a long-anticipated milestone in the history of Liberty University.

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Photo by Chris Breedlove

**Liberty Counsel Founders Mat and Anita Staver joyfully celebrate** the successful conclusion to a nine-year labor of love along with Liberty University School of Law students, faculty, and staff members on Monday, August 9, 2010. The announcement that the law school had achieved full accreditation from the American Bar Association (ABA) days earlier was the culmination of a vision shared by the Stavers and the late Dr. Jerry Falwell, Founder of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. Dean Mat Staver began collaborating with then-Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Sr., in 2001 to make the law school a reality. Mat and Anita give all glory to God for the fulfillment of the awesome vision of establishing a top ranked, Christ-honoring school of law!

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Anita and I have had a vision for a Christ-centered law school since the mid-1990s. In 1989, when we founded Liberty Counsel, we soon realized that when we showed up to defend our freedom we most often won. *Of all the cases Liberty Counsel handles, we successfully resolve 95 percent of the cases without litigation. Of the five percent that remain unresolved, we litigate, and of that amount since 1989, we have won 86 percent, and from 2004 to the present, we have won 92 percent.*

But in the mid-1990s, we also realized that to expand our God-given mission we needed to train a new generation of lawyers, judges, educators, policymakers and world leaders in the rule of law founded upon a Christian worldview. We learned that our friend, Dr. Jerry Falwell, had the same vision when he founded Liberty University in 1971. As you may know, Liberty University is now the world's largest Christian university, with more than

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62,000 students enrolled in degree programs worldwide.

In God's timing and providence, Dr. Falwell and I worked to found Liberty University's law school. The first students arrived in August 2004. Then we obtained provisional accreditation on February 13, 2006, faster than any law school in history at that time.

But provisional accreditation only lasts for five years. After that, a school must become fully accredited or die. Many schools never survive the rigorous accreditation process. Of all the colleges and universities in America, there are only 200 law schools accredited by the

ABA, which includes Liberty University School of Law.

August 5 was clearly a significant milestone in the history of the vision God placed in our hearts. How ironic that our final round of accreditation hearings would occur in San Francisco, only hours following Judge Walker's ruling on Prop. 8!

With the exception of this Prop. 8 case before Judge Walker, Liberty Counsel has actively defended every challenge to marriage in California since February 2004, when San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom began issuing same-sex marriage licenses at City Hall. Liberty Counsel attempted to intervene in this most recent Prop. 8 challenge to provide a proper defense of the case, but we were denied that opportunity.

While the moral foundations of America were burning with news of the August 4 decision, God was raising up a law school to train a new generation of Champions in the midst of those very flames! Liberty University now joins the elite category of law schools that are fully accredited. This new status lays the foundation for the law school to pursue broader goals and train even more Champions who will work in every profession.

*God has blessed our efforts with great success and high visibility. In fact, in the law school's few short years of existence, we have literally jolted the legal community!* This year alone, our students won the second best brief and fourth best oral argument in the nation at the ABA Moot Court Competition. Further, we are the reigning champions in the ABA Regional Negotiation Competition for the last three years in a row.

Our graduates are working for judges and Members of Congress. They work as prosecutors, in private practice, as educators, in media and entertainment law, and much more. Some, I am very pleased to say, work for Liberty Counsel advancing life, liberty and family.

This summer, Liberty Counsel's externship and clinic programs provided real-life experience to about

20 students in constitutional law. These students worked in our offices located in Florida, Virginia, and Washington, DC. It is no exaggeration to say that we are training a new generation of front-line warriors to advance the rule of law and defend our liberties.

*So, here's what we saw quite clearly as the shock of August 4, 2010, gave way to the sunrise of August 5: We cannot get discouraged over a single judge's ruling. God has not changed His design for marriage, and*

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***Of all the colleges and universities in America, there are only 200 law schools accredited by the ABA, which includes Liberty University School of Law.***

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Judge Walker's opinion will hardly convince Him otherwise! In fact, I believe Walker's opinion will be short-lived and reversed on appeal.

But what God then raised up in the same city will continue expanding and prospering for generation after generation! As Judge Walker's opinion at the District Court level moves to its appeal at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Liberty Counsel will submit a substantial brief with the court making the arguments that should have been made at trial. And then, we pray, the California same-sex marriage case will be relegated to the trash heap of history.

*As we learned twenty years ago, when we show up, we most often win through God's grace and blessing!* To counter assaults on marriage, life, and liberty, we need the resources and the staff to show up. For instance, there are many highly skilled graduates of Liberty University School of Law who are called to devote their life to the causes we advance. Right now, the only reason we cannot hire them for our litigation team and place them in

hotspots across the nation is because we lack the financial resources.

Please commit to pray and financially support the ministry of Liberty Counsel. God raised up this ministry for such a time as this. *As the challenges to our freedom and the family increase, we must increase our time in prayer and our financial commitment to ministries that make a difference.* Stand firm in your resolve and witness the mighty miracles the Lord is working through this ministry.

After we returned from San Francisco, Anita and I have had time to reflect on what God has done. We now see the two August events in San Francisco as representing two roads for America's future.

We can simply give up and go down the path laid out by Judge Walker's ill-considered decision. Or, like Joshua when he peered into the Promised Land, we can see God's plan dwarfing any unfortunate giants who stand in the way! Having seen God's mighty works in San Francisco during the first week of August, Anita and I joyfully choose to continue following in Joshua's footsteps. We invite you to join us on that journey! ✝



*Mathew D. Staver, who founded Liberty Counsel along with his wife, Anita, in 1989, serves as the organization's Chairman. A leading constitutional attorney, widely read author, and sought-after speaker and cultural apologist, he also serves as Dean of the Liberty University School of Law and as Chairman of Liberty Counsel Action. Staver is among the core leaders of a national effort to rebuild the conservative movement in America.*



## Prayer Requests

- ❑ Please pray for all those in governmental authority (1 Timothy 2:2) and that the Lord would protect the 2010 elections from disruptive forces that would deceive voters and thwart the will of the American people.
- ❑ Please pray for wisdom for Liberty Counsel's litigation team as it enters a new phase of our legal challenge to the ObamaCare healthcare "reform" law. Pray for favor in the federal court system and that the "individual mandate" and other illegal components of the law will be thoroughly exposed and disposed of through our lawsuit.
- ❑ Please pray for our ongoing litigation in Santa Rosa County, Florida, and other battles with the ACLU. Pray that the ACLU's strategy of bullying public school administrations into signing "consent decrees" leading to criminal penalties for expressions of the Christian faith would be completely discredited. Please also pray that our Kentucky display of the Ten Commandments case would be heard by the United States Supreme Court.
- ❑ Please pray for Liberty Counsel's educational and mass communication strategies as we emerge as a leader in the restoration of the conservative movement in America. Pray for God's provision of the necessary production and technology equipment to better communicate with our fast-growing national constituency.

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that love is not just an emotional feeling toward another person. Then he gave a simple definition of love that has greatly impacted my subsequent relationships: "Love is an outgoing concern." I can testify that learning how to operate within that simple definition will make each of us better spouses.

After we have learned truths that have helped us in our own marriages, we must share those insights with others. In fact, in Titus 2:4, the apostle Paul admonishes older women to teach younger women how to be good wives.

If knowing how to behave in a marriage relationship came naturally, we wouldn't have to be taught how to love. But selfishness is imbedded in the sinful nature that we must all actively work to overcome.

Once we take responsibility for strengthening our own marriages, we

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***Clearly, we must fight for the future of our own generations by maintaining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.***

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are responsible for helping others so that, working together, we can preserve marriage not only for ourselves but for future generations. Now that outgoing concern could save our nation! ✝

*Anita L. Staver, Liberty Counsel's President, cofounded the ministry in 1989 along with her husband, Mat. Anita is a member of the bars of the State of Florida and the District of Columbia. She is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, every federal court of appeals in the nation, and six federal district courts.*

**For tips on how to have a successful marriage, follow Anita on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/AnitaStaver>.**

**From Anita Staver, President**

# SAVE OUR MARRIAGES TO SAVE OUR NATION

*Has not the Lord made them one? So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. — Malachi 2:15*



**T**he recent news chatter about the same-sex “marriage” battle in the courts should make us pause to consider the reasons for real marriage. I would say that our national survival depends on it.

Giving special recognition to spouses is the way that our society, through laws and public policy, demonstrates to the next generation that marriage matters. *Marriage isn’t good because it is a tradition; marriage is a tradition because it is good!*

Marriage preserves society by providing a safe place for children and giving role models so they can grow into parents themselves. Granting equal status to same-sex couples gives voice to a false and dangerous message that will destroy families and eventually destroy society itself.

Obviously, same-sex coupling is not the same as being spouses, either for the couple or for the children who may share their housing arrangements. Even same-sex couples who describe themselves as “committed” are often agreeable to promiscuous activities with other partners. Once the reason for marriage has broken down, there is nothing to bind couples together. The breakdown of marriage will irrevocably alter the lives of future generations.

We don’t need to wonder what will happen if same-sex marriage becomes commonly accepted in America. We

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should examine Scandinavian countries that accept same-sex “marriage” to see what will happen if we follow their path. *When marriage lacks special value, many people will simply not bother to get married. Single parenthood will become the norm.*

Researcher Stanley Kurtz reported that as early as 2004, after a decade or more of the Scandinavian acceptance of same-sex unions, “Marriage is

slowly dying in Scandinavia. A majority of children in Sweden and Norway are born out of wedlock. Sixty percent of first-born children in Denmark have unmarried parents.”

Kurtz concluded that “once marriage is redefined to accommodate same-sex couples, that change cannot help but lock in and reinforce the very cultural separation between marriage and parenthood that makes gay marriage conceivable to begin with.”

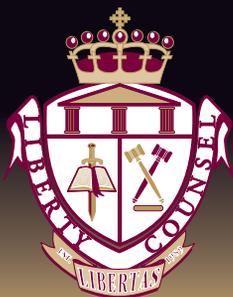
Clearly, we must fight for the future of our own generations by maintaining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. But our actions cannot stop there. *We must continuously seek ways to improve commitment to real marriage in our society.* We must face the fact that the condition of many marriages in this country has encouraged people to make fun of marriage because all professing Christians do not practice what they profess to believe. *Here’s the bottom line: If the institution of marriage is worth preserving, then individual marriages are worth saving.*

I believe the reason for the failure of marriages is the same as the reason for so many of life’s problems. It is summed up in one word: Selfishness.

The blame for turbulent or broken marriages must fall on the husband or on the wife – or on both of them. Spouses that give in to selfishness will deplete their marriage of true love, which is, by definition, unselfish.

As I was growing up, I listened to an evangelist who often shared his biblical insights on living. He explained

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***Restoring the Culture by Advancing Religious Freedom, the Sanctity of Human Life and the Family***

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