

The Liberator



WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS LIBERTY. 2 COR 3:17

Winter 2018 Edition

2018: GREAT VICTORIES AND INTENSE, ONGOING CHALLENGES

Amidst the many challenges we faced in 2018, we also experienced many important victories. This past June was filled with good news from the Supreme Court. As I sat in the Court on the first Monday in June, I held my breath as Justice Kennedy read the opinion in *Masterpiece Cakeshop*. A wave of relief came over me when he concluded in favor of Jack Philips who refused to make a cake to celebrate a same-sex “marriage” ceremony.

But, there was more. Later that month, the Court sided with crisis pregnancy centers in our challenge against a California law that forced them to post a notice in large letters referring women to abortion providers. This was a life and death ruling!

Then there was the gift within a gift. In the crisis pregnancy center opinion, the Court addressed two of our original cases challenging laws that banned any counsel to overcome unwanted same-sex attractions, behavior, or gender confusion. The Court overruled both cases and adopted our arguments! This was an unexpected blessing and will pave the way for us to strike down these harmful laws.

But, the best news of all was when Justice Kennedy announced his retirement. Kennedy had been the adverse swing vote in abortion and same-sex marriage opinions.

The confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh was bitterly contested because the culture of death is maniacally devoted to abortion. We were so involved in the confirmation of Justice Kavanaugh that our lead DC staff member was invited to the swearing-in ceremony

at the White House and recognized as one of the most influential people for the confirmation. A new day has dawned at the Supreme Court. We will now fight to overturn the abortion and same-sex marriage opinions!

In addition to the good news from the Supreme Court, we won other major victories, a fraction of which I will briefly overview in this *Liberator*.

I do not have the space to catalog all of the policy victories we have witnessed this year. The full list is over nine-pages long, single-spaced. You can view it at LCAction.org.

I am excited to share some news about the expansion of our ministry in Washington, DC. We have had a legal and public policy office in the nation’s Capital since 2007, but now we also have a spiritual and evangelistic ministry. Faith & Action, which we have renamed Faith & Liberty, has been very effective since 1994, but now it will be even more effective as a part of Liberty Counsel. I am bursting to share more of the details in the New Year.

Anita and I, and the entire Liberty Counsel team, give thanks to the Lord for your partnership with this ministry. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and financial support!

Mat Staver
Founder and Chairman



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ADVANCING LIBERTY, LIFE AND FAMILY

Here are just a few of the hundreds of cases and issues we handled in this momentous year. Your partnership enables us to save lives and impact the course of history.

California Crisis Pregnancy Centers

In June, the Supreme Court sided with life over death. The Court ruled that the California law which required our crisis pregnancy center clients to promote abortion violated the First Amendment. The law demanded that these pro-life ministries include a 29-word, 48-point font notice in up to 13 languages at the entrance, in the lobby, in print, and online that provided the phone number of “clinics” where women could kill their babies.

Director Lisa Stiefken said one day she heard a loud argument between a young couple in her CPC’s lobby. The woman wanted to stay, but her boyfriend demanded they leave to keep their appointment at the Planned Parenthood facility next door. But the crying woman insisted on getting a free ultrasound.

Shortly after the ultrasound, another commotion erupted in the waiting room. The father had a string of pictures in his hand. His face was beaming with joy as he showed everyone, saying repeatedly, “Here is my baby!”

Months later, Lisa was straightening up her office and saw a toddler waddling across the waiting room floor. A voice interrupted her, “Excuse me.” She knew that voice. With tears in the father’s eyes, he thanked her for the ultrasound and said, “If it hadn’t been for you, I wouldn’t have my son!”

Another one of our clients said if it were not for Liberty Counsel, the pregnancy center would have had to shut down. But, thanks to you, their daily mission can continue. The law has been permanently struck down. California has to pay Liberty Counsel attorney’s fees and costs! Your partnership makes this possible.

New York Sidewalk Counselors

This summer, we successfully defended pro-life sidewalk counselors during a four-week trial prosecuted by the New York Attorney General. The judge chastised the AG for presenting no evidence of wrong doing. One of the AG’s witnesses was the spokesperson for the Revolutionary Communist Party USA. This group advocates the violent overthrow of America! After

the trial, the Attorney General resigned in disgrace for sexual abuse. His second-in-command has now appealed our victory.

California, Sandra Merritt and Planned Parenthood



Our client, Sandra Merritt, with Chief Legal Counsel Harry Mihet and Liberty Counsel’s Founder and Chairman Mat Staver.

We continue to represent Sandra Susan Merritt, a mother and grandmother. She could lose everything, including her home and her freedom. She bravely revealed to the world that Planned Parenthood was harvesting and selling aborted baby body parts. In an unprecedented move, the pro-Planned Parenthood Attorney General filed 15 criminal charges against Sandra, even though she has not broken any laws. And, Planned Parenthood filed a multimillion dollar law suit against her for damages of lost revenue. We will stand with Sandra until this case is favorably resolved!

Good News Clubs in Multiple States

We have the privilege of representing Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) throughout the country. The mission of CEF is to “Bring the Gospel to Every Child – In Every Nation – Every Day.” The focus is on children ages 5-13, which is the most important age group for presenting the Gospel. About 70-85 percent of adults first accepted Jesus before age 13.

CEF sponsors Good News Clubs. There are thousands of GNC meetings every day at public elementary schools. Through this ministry, millions of children learn about Jesus every school day. When they surrender their young lives, the ripple effect reaches their parents and friends. Thank God, we have never lost a case involving CEF!

AFFILIATED MINISTRIES UPDATE

Covenant Journey: Raising up a Gideon's Army

Nearly 1,000 Christian college student leaders from over 300 colleges and universities have had a life-changing experience in Israel with Covenant Journey. We are blessed to work with these world changers who are more talented, passionate and committed to Jesus and His call on their lives than those in other generations. Covenant Journey is the most powerful ministry for Christian college-aged students in America. Allie, a CJ participant, said the Bible “came alive” and that “visiting Israel with Covenant Journey reignited my passion for Christ and His cause.”

Katie said the Bible turned from black and white to full color! Her understanding for and love of Israel and the Jewish people will never be the same. “There is no way to get on that plane back to America the same person you were when you got off.” Visit CovenantJourney.org.

Faith & Action (now Faith & Liberty) Joins Liberty Counsel

We are excited to announce that Faith & Action (renamed Faith & Liberty) has become one of Liberty Counsel's family of ministries. This ministry compliments our legal and public policy ministries that have operated in Washington, DC, since 2007. Faith & Action began in the nation's Capital in 1994. It is a spiritual and evangelistic ministry that will now have even more impact.

Every year, the ministry has the Live Nativity with a camel, donkey, sheep, and a full entourage of first century characters, including a newborn baby. This Live Nativity begins in front of our Ministry Center across from the Supreme Court and processes to the front steps of the Court. What a scene it is with the Supreme Court on one side and the Capitol Building on the other! We also enact the Live Nativity in New York City where it has been featured on Fox & Friends. Visit FaithandLibertyDC.org.

Liberty Relief International

Since 2014, Liberty Relief International has been helping meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of persecuted Christians in the Middle East. As conflict in the region continues to adversely affect thousands and thousands of our brothers and sisters, we want to continue bringing hope to those suffering because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

By working with Christ-centered partners, we seek to meet critical and urgent needs wherever believers are suffering under oppression, brutality and evil. Together, with your faithful prayers and generous financial support, we can stand alongside persecuted Christians around the world.

Our Christ-centered partners help distribute discipleship materials and humanitarian aid. When called upon, we also extend relief to victims of natural disasters. Tax-deductible donations are used to bless those struggling in the face of overwhelming persecution or in the aftermath of catastrophic loss. In 2019, LRI will begin working with a Christ-centered partner to assist victims of sex trafficking and help stop this horrendous international plague. Visit LibertyReliefInternational.net.



Mat Staver, left, with Covenant Journey participants in July outside the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, Israel's eternal, undivided capital.



Faith & Liberty's Live Nativity is a real traffic stopper!

Christians in Defense of Israel

It is important that we support Israel. The Bible has much to say about how Israel occupies a unique place in God's plan for mankind. In addition to what the Bible says, Israel is our greatest ally in the Middle East. Israel is the only place in the Middle East where religious liberty and democracy flourish. Our Western culture, law, policies and Judeo-Christian values can be traced back to Israel. Indeed, our Christian faith is rooted in Israel and the Jewish culture. Jesus was born in Jewish flesh, and the Bible was written predominately by Jews. CIDI is taking a leading role in our nation in standing with and advancing Israel's welfare among Americans. Visit CIDIsrael.org.

Liberty Prayer Network

We recognize that nothing can be accomplished without prayer. You can be a prayer partner for our many important cases and activities by joining Liberty Counsel's Liberty Prayer Network to pray for our work internationally, or as an "Advocate for America." LPN enlists intercessors to take a firm stand in their communities, lifting high the torch of liberty and calling others to pray to our loving, merciful God. The intercessors commit to spend time as they are able, alone or in groups, from wherever they live, to pray for His blessing over their states, the nation and the world.

Maureen Bravo, who has been active in international onsite prayer intercession for many years, serves as International Director of LPN. She networks with other prayer ministries and leads intercession for those who champion the principles of life, liberty, and the family.

LPN partners in a special American Prayer Initiative website, where you will find daily prayer topics and corresponding scriptures. Pray that the Lord will bring us everything that is needed so that we can expand our efforts to advance religious liberty, the sanctity of human life and the family. Visit LC.org/project/prayer.

Liberty Counsel Action

Liberty Counsel Action's vision is to restore America's core values, renew our love of freedom, foster individual responsibility, promote the sanctity of life and marriage, restore our Christian heritage, and advance our First Amendment rights.

Through our Washington, DC, office and a healthy friendship with the Trump administration, we have unprecedented opportunities to influence public policy. In spite of losses in the House in 2018, we will use every opportunity afforded to us to move Washington and our nation's judiciary in the right direction. We are re-doubling our efforts in 2019 to positively impact public policy and confront radical activists trying to subvert our constitutional republic. Visit LibertyCounselAction.org.



Join Us In The Holy Land!

Join Mat and Anita for a life-changing experience in Israel **March 31 - April 9, 2019**. This tour will strengthen your Christian faith and equip you to be an ambassador for Israel.

The 10-day experience includes round trip flights from Newark, NJ, a luxury tour bus, one of the best guides in Israel, teaching from Mat Staver, speakers, amazing hotel accommodations, three incredible meals a day, entrance fees to all the sites, and more. The total inclusive cost is \$4,995 per person, double occupancy.

Call **407-875-1948** today! You can also register online at CIDIsrael.org/tour.