

The Liberator

Spring
2017
Edition



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



FIGHTING GIANTS – THE ACLU

Infused with over \$100 million in new donations since the presidential election, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has launched what may be the largest, most aggressive anti-faith and anti-family legal assault in our nation's history.

The ACLU, along with other radical groups, is working overtime to bully President Trump and members of Congress to prevent them from enacting the agenda that we put them in office to accomplish. Earlier this year, a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld an ACLU-assisted effort to block President Trump's temporary travel restrictions impacting seven terrorist-dominated countries. After successfully tying up the immigration order, the ACLU made it known that they plan to strategically attack the Trump administration at every turn, stating, "There is no limit to how big a resistance to Trump we can build at the ACLU."

The ACLU is growing at a shocking pace, throwing their war chest and legal weight into their radical, extreme agenda that threatens our liberties, undermines our families, devalues human life, and puts our communities at risk.

Dismemberment Abortion

On the same day that the ACLU successfully blocked the President's anti-terrorist temporary travel restriction, ACLU officials

announced their intent to challenge a new Arkansas law that bans "dismemberment" abortions.

Already at work to uphold a similar law in Kansas, Liberty Counsel filed an *amicus* brief in support of the *Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act*, which currently bans dismemberment abortions. The brief states that since medical research has determined unborn babies feel pain by the second trimester, prohibiting this harsh and painful procedure furthers the state's interest in protecting life and in preventing cruel and unusual punishment.

Abortion in any form is genocide and cruel, but dismemberment abortion is utterly barbaric — literally ripping apart the baby in the womb and removing it piece-by-piece. Any law

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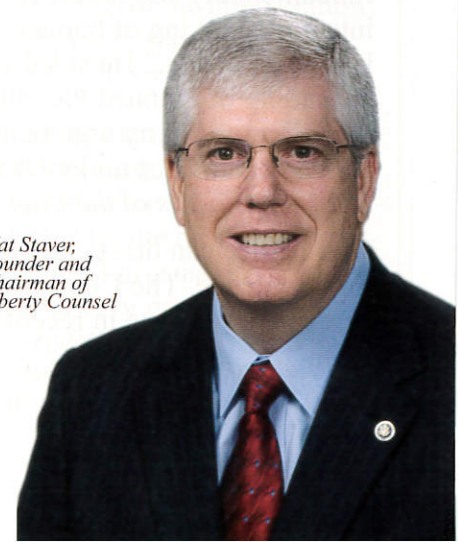
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Mat Staver,
Founder and
Chairman of
Liberty Counsel





SAVE OUR COURTS, SAVE OUR NATION

Many important issues that impact Americans — including religious freedom, self-defense, marriage, bathroom privacy, equal access for Bible clubs, forced funding of abortion, ObamaCare, school vouchers, online child pornography, and the public acknowledgement of God — will be impacted over the next four years. And many of these issues will be decided by the narrowest of margins.

Soon after taking office, President Trump nominated Judge Neil Gorsuch, a federal appellate judge on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, to fill the vacancy left by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Although Neil Gorsuch is a superior jurist and the right choice, radical forces immediately launched an unprecedented media and grassroots campaign to delay and defeat the Gorsuch nomination. They know that Judge Gorsuch will impede their ongoing effort to impose their agenda, destroy the culture, and further erode the biblical foundations of America.

We support the nomination and confirmation of Judge Neil Gorsuch and believe that he will help reestablish the rule of law in our nation, help restore the integrity of the Supreme Court, and honor the legacy of Antonin Scalia in his rulings. Judge Gorsuch's credentials and experience are stellar. His resume includes degrees from Harvard University (J.D.); Columbia University (undergrad); and Oxford University (D. Phil), where he studied Natural Law.

More importantly, his judicial philosophy is correct. In Judge Gorsuch's book titled *The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia* he states that "human life is fundamentally and inherently valuable" and that "the intentional taking of human life by private persons is always wrong." He sided with the state of Utah's defunding of Planned Parenthood, and he supported the religious liberty arguments against forced abortion mandates under ObamaCare in *Hobby Lobby* and *Little Sisters of the Poor*.

One Justice can drastically alter years of American jurisprudence. The Court has decided many crucial cases by a 5-4 vote in recent years, for example:

- *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* – Upholding the 1973 abortion decision in *Roe v. Wade*.

- *Gonzales v. Carhart* – The federal law banning partial-birth abortion does not violate the Constitution.
- *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* – The government cannot regulate the amount of money corporations spend on political speech but can ban contributions from corporations to candidates and require disclosure of advertising sponsors.
- *Obergefell v. Hodges* – A state cannot refuse to issue a marriage license to two people of the same sex or recognize such unions licensed in other states.
- And by a single vote in the ObamaCare case, the Supreme Court rewrote a law enacted by Congress and turned a "penalty" into a "tax." One Justice could have prevented the socialist-style takeover of our healthcare system!

We need the balance Judge Gorsuch can bring to the Supreme Court, and at just 49-years old, Judge Gorsuch could serve for many years.

In addition to Supreme Court appointments, about 120 federal court vacancies will be filled by this administration. These lifetime appointments will determine the direction of this nation for many years. From the Supreme Court to the state courts, the role of judges is to judge fairly. The only power that courts have is the trust of the people that judges will act fairly and put aside personal bias.

There is credible information suggesting that Justice Kennedy will retire this year. He has been on the wrong side of many 5-4 votes like abortion and same-sex marriage. Filling his seat with a Justice who will adhere to the law will result in huge reversals. With our office in Washington, D.C., we will be in the midst of this critical battle.

Will we do what it takes to see America transformed into a safe and prosperous home for future generations ... or will we allow our precious liberties to be decimated by a single black-robed individual with the stroke of a pen? Liberty Counsel is committed to the restoration of the judicial branch of government as it was intended to be in our Constitution.



PROTECTING THE UNBORN

We are seeing encouraging progress in the fight to protect the unborn since the start of the Trump administration. In a 238-183 vote January 24,

the House passed H.R. 7, known as the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act, which permanently prohibits taxpayer dollars from being used to pay for abortions in Obamacare health plans starting the next plan year.

On February 16, the House of Representatives voted 230-188 to overturn former President Barack Obama's HHS mandate that forces states to give federal Title X money to organizations that provide abortions, such as Planned Parenthood (PPH). The mandate prevented states from redirecting the funds to other organizations not engaged in the abortion industry. Passage means states can choose which healthcare organizations should receive the Title X funds, potentially defunding Planned Parenthood in each state.

One day after the 44th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's infamous abortion decision in *Roe v. Wade*, President Donald Trump signed an executive order to restore the Mexico City Policy and defund International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). The Mexico City Policy was originally announced by President Reagan in 1984 and required nongovernmental organizations to agree that they "would neither perform nor actively promote abortion as a method of family planning in other nations" before receiving any federal funding. Former President Barack Obama overturned the policy that provided a portion of over \$400 million in federal funds to the abortion businesses IPPF and Marie Stopes International for their foreign efforts. The IPPF reports that its affiliates ended the lives of nearly one million unborn children in 2015 alone and claims to have provided 16.8 million abortion-related services over the past five years.

Last year, the Senate Judiciary Committee referred four Planned Parenthood organizations and three organ procurement companies to the FBI and the Department of Justice (DOJ) for criminal prosecution related to the illegal trafficking in aborted baby body parts for profit. The four California PPH organizations investigated were featured in the undercover videos obtained by Sandra

"Susan" Merritt and David Daleiden of the Center for Medical Progress (CMP). Evidence indicated that Planned Parenthood did, in fact, illegally profit financially through the sale of aborted baby remains from three organ procurement organizations including StemExpress, LLC, Advanced Bioscience Resources, Inc., and Novogenix Laboratories, LLC.

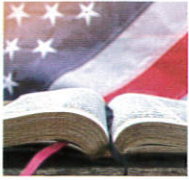
CMP reported that the House Energy & Commerce Committee's Select Investigative Panel's Final Report confirms that "Planned Parenthood and associates in their abortion empire are guilty of breaking numerous state and federal laws in their criminal harvesting and sale of aborted baby body parts. The report documents admissions under oath by top-level Planned Parenthood leadership that they change their abortion methods to get higher quality baby parts, use fraudulent and invalid consent forms with vulnerable pregnant women, set their prices for fetal organs and tissue without regard to actual cost..."

Federal prosecution against these California companies, which traces the purchase of baby body parts to PPH, will help our defense of Susan Merritt.

The CMP videos Merritt recorded caused national outrage over PPH's barbaric operations and led to the defunding of Planned Parenthood in more than 10 states. In retaliation, Planned Parenthood unleashed a 15-count federal lawsuit in California, claiming that Merritt and other pro-life activists are legally responsible for its loss of taxpayer funding and for \$10 to \$16 million in other losses. Liberty Counsel successfully defended Merritt against those outrageous charges, but we are still working to defend her in the additional Federal RICO case filed in California. The RICO case could take as long as 5 years to bring justice for Susan for standing up for the unborn. Susan has expressed her genuine appreciation for the ongoing encouragement and prayer she has received from Liberty Counsel supporters!

Behind the facade of helping women lurks the real Planned Parenthood that profits from the blood of innocent children. Just as Abel's blood cried out to God for justice (Genesis 4:10-11), the blood of more than 58 million precious unborn humans also cries out to God. Liberty Counsel is very grateful for our loyal supporters who are earnestly committed to defending and advancing the rights of the unborn.

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FIGHTING GIANTS – THE ACLU

banning dismemberment abortion should have widespread support, but abortion advocates are blinded by their culture of death.

The ACLU is actively engaged in supporting this inhumane procedure and is challenging laws that support ultrasounds for woman considering abortion as well. This is a serious and growing threat from the ACLU! We must boldly stand for the lives of the preborn and uphold laws that prevent the horrific torture of those who are the least protected in our society.

Religious Freedom

A draft of President Trump's executive order protecting religious liberty was leaked to build momentum against the order even before it was released. Immediately, anti-faith forces like the ACLU began threatening lawsuits and rallying their base to stop President Trump's executive order protecting religious liberty.

Our contacts in the Trump administration asked for Liberty Counsel supporters to speak out loudly in support of this pending order. In response to that request, Liberty Counsel prepared an “Open Letter to President Trump” backing his executive order on religious liberty. We rallied support for several weeks before delivering the Open Letter—co-signed by tens of thousands of like-minded pro-faith citizens—directly to the White House.

We must stand united against these attacks before our religious liberty is decimated by powerful secularist organizations, anti-faith elements in government agencies, and our courts. The sacred right to religious liberty and freedom of conscience was the first Amendment enshrined in our Constitution—and it is non-negotiable.

Supreme Court

Aware that the ACLU was channeling millions of dollars into its campaign to defeat the President's Supreme Court nominee, Liberty Counsel launched an intense “Save our Courts, Save our Nation” campaign regarding the confirmation of Supreme Court and lower-court judges to help restore our nation's Supreme Court. We are also applying this initiative to urge the confirmation of lower-court judges who are constitutional-based jurists and not judicial activists. Judicial activism is destroying the judiciary and has no place on the bench.

Liberty Counsel is committed to the restoration of

the judicial branch of government, as it was intended to function under the Constitution. Now is the time to return this country to the rule of law through which judges interpret the original meaning of the Constitution and the laws before them. That's what we are seeking for our nation on all levels of the judiciary!



Mat Staver speaking at a press conference with Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore.

Pressing Onward

We cannot be complacent. This is our time to accomplish the restoration of America to its founding principles, including the First Amendment. If the President is doing what we elected him to do, then we must continue to do our part to help in support of this and other pro-faith initiatives. Together, we can help usher in a new revolution of faith and values in our nation!

As one of the leading voices for life, liberty, and family, Liberty Counsel has the truth and God's grace on our side. The battle is costly and every donation helps us continue to go head-to-head against radical forces like the ACLU in courtrooms across the country. We do not charge our clients for representation. We fight back against the “Goliath” of the ACLU with a fraction of the funds they are amassing—yet time and again, we are victorious! We must be able to ensure that our shared values are restored and enshrined in our nation's laws and culture.

BUILDING HOPE — CHANGING LIVES

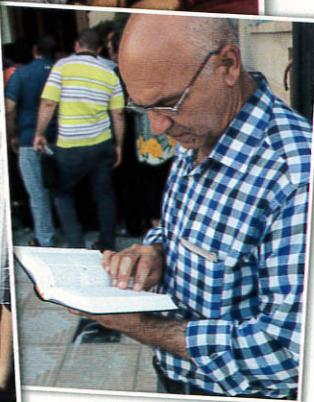
Because of the tremendous response to our Bible Shipping Labels campaign, Liberty Relief International (LRI) is making God's Word available to hundreds of refugees and their children in the Middle East in their own language. New believers, as well as those hearing about the love and peace of Christ for the first time, now have the chance to stay grounded in the love of God in the midst of unimaginable suffering thanks to the compassionate response of our generous supporters.

The world has watched the ISIS-caused humanitarian disaster spin out of control in the Middle East for over three years. The resulting refugee crisis has affected (and perhaps even altered) the political landscapes of several nations, including the United States. But what's the answer to this continuing catastrophe? Should more countries open their doors to refugees? Or is it better for governments to help displaced persons return home? Most importantly, what do the refugees want?

Many may be surprised to know that the brutal terror group's intimidation tactics have not kept ISIS survivors from wanting to return to their own communities. As U.S.-backed Iraqi Defense Forces reclaim more ground from the so-called Islamic State, former refugees and displaced persons are eager to find their way back to their homes. However, getting there is only half the battle. When LRI became aware of the critical and urgent need to rebuild homes and churches in northern Iraq, we took immediate action to help. We are working with a Christ-centered partner in the Middle East to help persecuted believers and others suffering under oppression and brutality. LRI is blessed

to play a role in this significant opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus for persecuted believers and others in Iraq and Syria as they struggle to get back on their feet.

Of course, their day-to-day needs remain a major focus of our work. That is why we will continue to rally support to provide humanitarian resources to ISIS victims in Iraq and Syria. One Christian organization we work with has set an ambitious goal to supply persecuted believers and others with relief aid, Bibles, discipleship materials, church leadership training, trauma counseling, and more. The fervent prayers and generous financial support of our donors on behalf of the persecuted are renewing hope, drawing people to faith, and yielding a great harvest!



Photos courtesy of Open Doors

In 2017, LRI will continue working with ministries and Christian relief organizations who can provide aid and comfort to the persecuted Church and to others suffering under oppression and brutality in the Middle East, Africa, and wherever our help is needed.

For more information, visit LibertyReliefInternational.org

COVENANT JOURNEY 2017

In just a little over a month we will begin the 2017 Covenant Journey summer tours that take Christian college students from across the country on a radical faith journey. Over ten long days in Israel . . .

- they will walk in the very steps of Jesus living the Bible in front of their eyes.
- they will take in incredible lectures from guest speakers that teach far more about the importance of Israeli technology, Middle East/World diplomacy and the holocaust than they hear in a U.S. classroom.
- they will worship daily with peers from all walks of life gaining confidence to speak and support their faith out loud.
- they will gain a new found resolve to stand as the next generation of Christian leaders.



Please join us in prayer for our staff and these students as they embark on a journey that has already changed so many lives each summer.

PRAYER FOR JERUSALEM

Psalm 122

A song of ascents. Of David.

- 1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
- 2 Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.
- 4 That is where the tribes go up—the tribes of the Lord—to praise the name of the Lord according to the statute given to Israel.
- 5 There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure.
- 7 May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels."
- 8 For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you."
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity.

YOUR LEGACY GIFT CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE



Over the years since our founding in 1989, Liberty Counsel has relied upon tens of thousands of friends to help us with financial support. We are a faith-based ministry.

Every day, we trust God anew for the resources to continue our vital mission. By including us in your estate planning, you can leave a lasting legacy that will impact many lives, receive significant tax benefits and current income for a term or for life, and help Liberty Counsel continue our calling to restore our culture by advancing religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, and the family.

Planned Gifts

- Simple Bequests
- Charitable Trusts
- Annuities

"Every generation must yearn for liberty and fight to preserve it!" — Mat Staver

For more information on how to make a legacy gift to Liberty Counsel, contact Liberty Counsel's Office of Constituency Affairs at 800-671-1776 or email Liberty@LC.org

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