



“Alabama’s Moral Compass”

Alabama Citizens Action Program
American Character Builders

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“Building Character One
Good Choice at a Time”

Matthew 5:13-16KJV

13Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.



Summer has arrived!

School’s out, families are going on vacation and, for charitable organizations like ALCAP and American Character Builders, contributions typically drop. That’s why we need for your church to continue to be faithful in giving to **ALCAP** throughout the summer. If you are giving as an individual and need for your gift to be tax-deductible, you will need to make your checks payable to **American Character Builders (ACB)**.

ACB’s work continues through the summer months as we prepare for the next school year. Also, ALCAP’s expenses continue to climb as we travel the state, helping local communities to organize for wet/dry elections. Since the State Legislature voted in 2009 to lower the population requirement for a municipal option within a dry county from 7000 to

1000, we have seen an increase in the number of wet/dry rallies throughout the state. So, we need your financial assistance NOW in order to offset our increased travel expenses!!!

If you would like to help our ministry with a generous gift, please use the enclosed envelope.

You can also go online to **www.alcap.com** and click on the **PayPal** button to donate. You will be given a choice of PayPal buttons—one button for **ALCAP** and another for **American Character Builders**.

Thank you for your continued support! Remember that ALCAP and ACB together form the first line of defense for your local church!



Through ALCAP’s lobbying efforts and consultative work, and through the American Character Builders school programs, we are attempting to stop people from getting enslaved to addictive and destructive behaviors before they start!

If ALCAP and American Character Builders were not at work, there would be more lives destroyed and more homes broken by alcohol and other drug use, and by gambling and other addictive behaviors!

ALCAP & ACB need YOU! And, YOU need ALCAP & ACB!

ALABAMA CITIZENS
ACTION PROGRAM

STAFF:

Joe Godfrey, Executive Director

Bill Day, Education Director for American Character Builders

Administrative Assistants: Cheryl Corley and Sharon Cook

PURPOSE:

The Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP), originally founded in 1937 as the Alabama Temperance Alliance, serves as Alabama’s “moral compass.” This ministry provides an outlet for churches throughout Alabama to fulfill Christ’s command to His followers to be “salt and light” (Matthew 5:13-16).

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“Slot Machine Legalization Bill” passes Senate by one vote, but is stopped in the House

MONTGOMERY—ALCAP monitored 134 bills out of a total of 1,425 bills that were introduced in both the House and the Senate during the 2010 Legislative Session. Senate Bill (SB) 380 was probably the most controversial bill introduced during the Session. This was the “Slot Machine Legalization Bill” (a.k.a., the “Bingo Bill”). The bill failed to be brought up for debate when first introduced in the Senate, but two weeks later Senators passed a revised (and more dangerous) version of the bill by one vote. This last version of the bill called for a Constitutional Amendment to appear on the November General Election ballot in Alabama which, if passed by a



Alabama would never be able to undo!

majority of the voters, would allow the Alabama Legislature, in a special session in January 2011, to write the regulations for electronic gambling devices in the state and pass those regulations with a simple majority in the House and Senate. This could open the door for all kinds of corruption that the people of

Though an FBI investigation into possible corruption involved in getting the bill passed in the Senate was announced two days after the Senate voted on SB380, the bill’s failure to be brought to the floor of the House for debate was arguably and more significantly the result of hundreds of phone calls, letters and e-mails from church members across Alabama! This experience shows the importance of Christians being involved in the political process! ALCAP, together with pastors, church members and concerned citizens can make a difference in our local communities and state government!!!



“Fortified Wine Bill” passes—Governor’s veto is overridden

Senate Bill 98 (SB98) that eliminates the distinction between “table wine” and “fortified wine” and allows all wine (up to 24% alcohol per container) to be sold in convenience stores and grocery stores passed both Houses.

Prior to passage, only table wine (containing up to 16.5% alcohol per container) could be sold in these locations, while fortified wine had to be sold in Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) stores. Though the Governor vetoed this bill, his veto was overridden

den in both the House and Senate and has now become law. This law makes inexpensive forms of VERY potent wine easily accessible to adolescents. Some have predicted that these wines will become the “drink of choice” on prom night in Alabama!



"These programs on alcohol awareness, other drugs, tobacco and bullying, as well as all of the other programs we offer, would be ideal for use on Sunday or Wednesday evenings with students and their parents and adult leaders. Also, the program on prom-prep could be easily incorporated into a weekend event prior to local high school proms."—
Dr. Bill Day

American Character Builders News—Report from the 2009-2010 school year

Educating students concerning the dangers of drug use and providing them with the knowledge, skills and core values that deter drug involvement are significant components of the American Character Builders Drug Education and Character Education Program. American Character Builders (ACB) seeks to combine the entire community (parents, schools, students, law enforcement and church organizations) in sending the message that drug use of any kind is morally wrong and physically harmful.

The 2009-2010 school year saw 25 ACB Presenters involved in sharing fourteen different modules in 522 public and private schools plus detention centers, boot camps and residential homes. This

translates into 1,392 presentations to 60,204 students. In addition to these requests, the summer activities in Nu-Start, Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, Restart, 21st Century and University Graduate programs involved another 7,200 students. In-service and continuing education programs were made available to statewide teachers' organizations.

When questioned about other ways to utilize these character-building programs, Education Director for ACB, Dr. Bill Day responded, "We would love to see more churches taking advantage of our programs. These programs on alcohol awareness, other drugs, tobacco and bullying, as well as all of the other programs we offer,

would be ideal for use on Sunday or Wednesday evenings with students and their parents and adult leaders.

"Also," Day continued, "the program on prom-prep could be easily incorporated into a weekend event prior to local high school proms."

American Character Builder programs could give student ministers an avenue for getting into local middle and high schools in order to build relationships and reach students for Christ.

Anyone interested in the ACB Programs or in learning to present the programs should go to www.alcap.com (education page) or call 205.985.9062. (NOTE: www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org is coming soon!)

New American Character Builders Board elected

At the February 2, 2010 annual meeting of the ALCAP Board, the Board finalized the transition from one ministry to two ministries by electing a new Board of Directors for the 501c3 organization, now called American Character Builders. The new 501c4 ministry took

the name, "ALCAP," and the former ALCAP Board members were elected to serve on that new board.

The new board members for American Character Builders (ACB) include Charlotte Anthony, John Bell, Vic Nichol, Tim Vines, Jeanna Westmoreland, and Danny Wood.

The ACB staff continues to work on securing private grants that will be used to turn the fourteen school program modules into kits that can be used by classroom teachers throughout the school year. The goal is to expand these character-building programs into more schools and into states other than just Alabama.



Children continue to be overexposed to ads glamorizing alcohol use

The Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth at Georgetown University (CAMY), which has monitored alcohol advertising on television and in magazines since 2001, says youth exposure to televised alcohol ads increased by 48

"Exposure to alcohol ads influences youth drinking behavior," said CAMY research director David Jernigan, Ph.D. "Kids need to see fewer of these messages glamorizing alcohol use, not more."

percent from 2001 to 2005, even as magazine advertising fell by 30 percent. A CAMY fact sheet explains that in 2003, the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States and the Beer Institute announced tighter standards for maximum youth audiences for alcohol advertising placements, from 50 percent to 30 percent (70 percent adults). The 2003 standard had an immediate effect on lessening youth exposure to magazine alcohol ads, but television alcohol ads increased on cable television, where audiences are more narrowly segmented than

on traditional broadcast TV. The 2003 standard has thus resulted in no decline in total youth exposure to alcohol advertising.

"Parents, families and teachers face the tragic consequences of teen alcohol use every day," said Jernigan. "Alcohol companies need to adopt more effective standards to protect our kids from exposure to a barrage of advertisements for a product they are not allowed to purchase."

An avoidable tragedy in New Mexico

A heart-wrenching story from *The Albuquerque Journal*:

The countdown to Kathy Borrego's judgment day had already begun. In less than 55 hours, she would be standing in front of state District Judge Stephen Pfeffer to find out her punishment for embezzling an estimated \$3.4 million from the small Jemez Mountain School District. She faced up to life in prison.

Instead, Borrego, 51, apparently committed suicide Saturday, suffocating herself. It was a tragic end for a woman who had been living the high life until her embezzlement scheme began to unravel about 11 months ago. Borrego gambled away hundreds of thousands of dollars at New Mexico casinos, apparently using money that should have gone to educating children in one of the poorest areas in the state.

The government program of predatory gambling has created thousands of real stories like Kathy Borrego's. In a nation where all blood is supposed to be royal, where everyone is equal, how can we continue to deem people like Borrego as expendable?

From: www.StopPredatoryGambling.org
May 11, 2010

Alcohol Today: Abstinence in an Age of Indulgence— A review of Peter Lumpkin's book

In Peter Lumpkin's book, *Alcohol Today: Abstinence in an Age of Indulgence*, the author counters the growing trend among preachers and seminary professors who are teaching that the use of alcoholic beverages is acceptable as long as one "imbibes" with moderation.

Lumpkin shows that abstinence is a biblical principal that started with God's com-

mand to Adam and Eve to **abstain** from eating the fruit of the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" in Genesis 3. He goes on to point out that the word for "wine" in the original Hebrew and Greek languages could be used for both fermented and unfermented grape juice, and that it is always spoken of negatively when described as fermented.

For a \$15 or more donation to **American Character Builders** (plus a S&H cost of \$2.10), you can get a copy of this book! Just go to our website, www.alcap.com and click on the Education page to donate to American Character Builders and receive your copy today! NOTE: www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org is still under construction.

