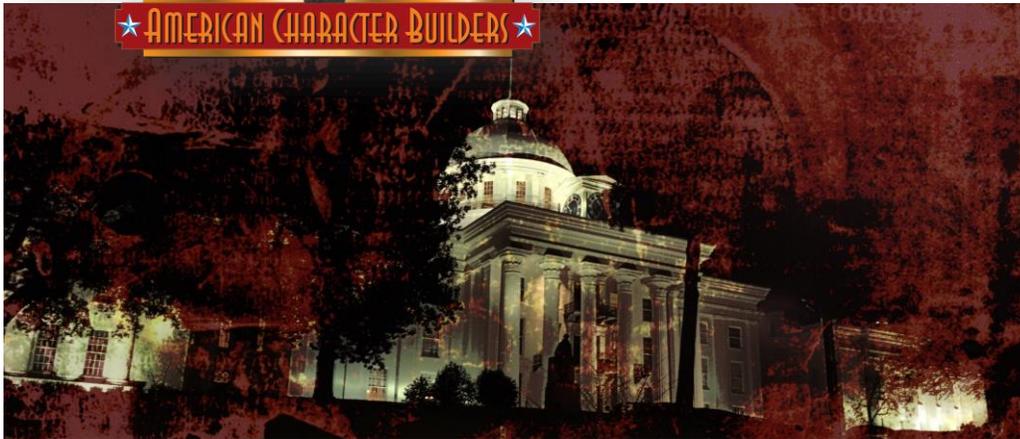


★ AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS ★



But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good.

2 Thessalonians 3:13
(NKJV)

The 2017 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature best described as a “wild ride”!

MONTGOMERY, AL— The 2017 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature was like a roller coaster ride! Besides changes in the governorship, the United States Senate Seat of Alabama and the State Attorney General, within the Legislature itself, changes in leadership occurred and continue to occur even after the Session ended in mid-May. New committee chairpersons are still being announced.

As for the issues, pro-gambling bills were put on hold until a report of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Gaming (Gambling) could finalize their report. However, with Bentley’s resignation, that report and the Council itself seems to have been “ditched”.

One pro-gambling bill that did almost make it to the finish line was the Daily Fantasy Sports Bill. This bill would have legalized Daily Fantasy Sports gambling in

Alabama and, as ALCAP argued, open the door for full-fledged Class III gambling (slot machines, table games, roulette wheels, etc.) in Alabama. In a private meeting, an unnamed, but very reliable source, confirmed our assessment to be true. We stopped the bill from passing out of the Senate on the last day, but it will no doubt be back next year. Everyone needs to contact their legislators and let them know of your opposition to this legislation.

Several local Sunday alcohol sales bills passed. It is almost impossible for ALCAP to stop these bills without the involvement of the local citizens. Churches and Christian individuals must speak out to their local leaders and legislators if we are going to stop this continued expansion of alcohol.

The best news of all from the 2017 Regular Session was the passage of several pro-life bills:

-HB24 (Child-Placing Agency Inclusion Act), protecting faith-based adoption agencies from being forced to place children with couples who do not hold to those agencies’ deeply held religious beliefs.

-HB95 (Healthcare Rights of Conscience Act), protecting health care providers who decline to perform services that violate their consciences.

-HB96 (Assisted Suicide Ban)

-HB98 (Constitutional Amendment concerning Alabama’s commitment to the right of life of unborn children). As a Constitutional Amendment, this will ultimately require a vote of the people of Alabama to become law.

ALCAP also helped negotiate a compromise on the Church Daycare Bill (HB277) that would protect children, as well as the religious freedom of churches. The bill failed, but we will work for a better bill next year.

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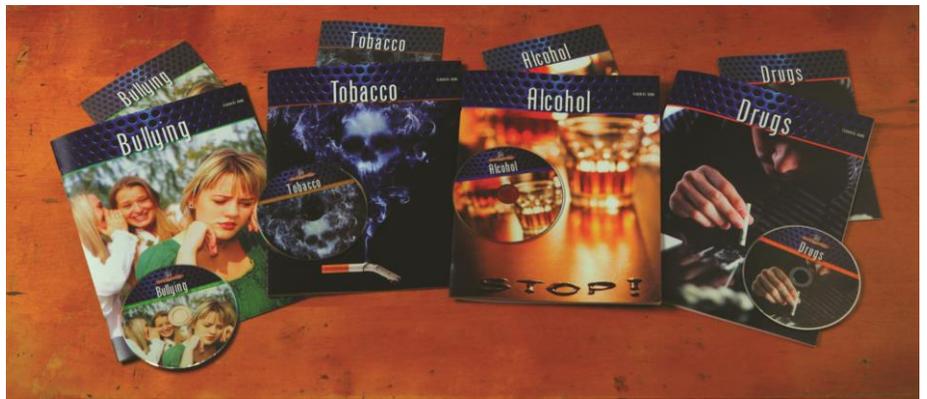
www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org

WHO WE ARE:

The Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP), originally founded in 1937 as the Alabama Temperance Alliance, serves together with local churches as Alabama's "moral compass". This ministry provides an outlet for churches throughout Alabama to fulfill God's command to His followers to be "salt & light" in our culture. (Matthew 5:13-16)

In 2010 ALCAP became a 501c4 organization (non-profit, but NOT tax-deductible) and renamed its school program "American Character Builders," a 501c3 organization (non-profit AND tax-deductible), having its own separate Board of Directors.

Churches are encouraged to support ALCAP while individuals are encouraged to support American Character Builders with their financial contributions and prayers.



American Character Builders

All four kits now online and downloadable for FREE!

BIRMINGHAM, AL— Last year American Character Builders announced it was embarking on an exciting and challenging new journey to produce a series of videos that could be used in public school classrooms, by church youth groups, or even by individuals. These videos, once produced, will provide students with the tools they need to make wise choices in life and they will be free to download, show in group settings and share through social media. Additional resources and discussion questions for use in group settings in reproducible PDF files that will accompany each video are also planned.

The videos will be of the highest production quality and as up-to-date and relevant as possible. A trailer found on our website shows the quality of the videos we hope to produce.

Each video will cost about \$10,000 to produce and publicize on social media. By the end of last year we had received almost \$2000 in contributions for the first video in the project, but we have received nothing since that time. Due to the financial needs for the basic operations of ALCAP and American Character Builders we have been focusing our fund-raising efforts on raising the money needed to continue these important ministries. Therefore, we are not currently promoting the

video projects. We will continue to receive any designated money for these videos, but we really need help with our operational budgets at this time.

That does not mean we are not continuing to provide resources through our American Character Builders website. Though the video project is on hold, since December 2016 we have worked to put all four of our kits online as PDF files that are free to be downloaded and used.

- *Alcohol: It's a Killer!*
- *Tobacco Awareness*
- *Saying NO to Meth, Marijuana & Cocaine*
- *The Bully Issue*

Check out our website, www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org and see how you can use these free materials in your church and/or school.

Also, "like" us (both ALCAP and American Character Builders) on Facebook to receive up-to-date articles and information throughout the year.



From Yellowhammer News...

Alabama Joins Multi-State Investigation into National Opioid Crisis

WRITTEN BY JORDAN LAPORTA
ON JUNE 15, 2017 AT 2:32 PM CDT

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — State Attorney General Steve Marshall (R-Ala.) confirmed that Alabama has joined a bipartisan national coalition of Attorneys General in an ongoing investigation into potential illegal practices of opioid manufacturers. At this stage, state AGs are subpoenaing documents and conducting interviews to determine how to proceed.

Opioids are often prescribed by medical professionals as a painkiller. However, their chemical properties are incredibly addictive, and many people become hooked on the substances.

Over the past several years, the death toll from opioids in the United States has skyrocketed, and medical officials have termed the increase a crisis. Between 2006 and 2015, 5,128 Alabamians died from prescription painkiller overdoses.

According to the most recent data, Alabama outpaced every other state in the number of opioid prescriptions written in 2015 with 5.8 million. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the Yellowhammer State's per capita ratio for opioid prescriptions is 1.2 prescriptions per person, which is higher than the national average of 0.71.

"Alabama has disproportionately suffered from prescription painkiller abuse and I have joined with a majority of my fellow Attorneys General to investigate what role opioid manufacturers may have had in creating or prolonging the opioid abuse epidemic," Attorney General Marshall said in a statement.



PROHIBITION DID WORK!

"Cirrhosis death rates for men were 29.5 per 100,000 in 1911 and 10.7 in 1929. Admissions to state mental hospitals for psychosis declined from 10.1 per 100,000 in 1919 to 4.7 in 1929. Arrests for public drunkenness and disorderly conduct declined 50 percent between 1916 and 1922...[V]iolent crime did not increase dramatically during Prohibition. Homicide rates rose dramatically from 1900 to 1910 but remained roughly constant during Prohibition's 14-year rule. Organized crime may have become more visible and lurid during Prohibition, but it existed before and after."

To contend Prohibition didn't work is an untenable argument, no matter who makes it. What is more, to claim the current prohibition on marijuana hasn't worked is just as untenable because, like alcohol, legalization won't reduce consumption or harms but only increase both.

*Dr. Mark Creech
Christian Action League of North Carolina*



¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

**Matthew 5:13–16
(NKJV)**

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM ALCAP AND AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOE GODFREY

To obey the GREAT COMMANDMENTS (to love God and to love others) and the GREAT COMMISSION (to make disciples) are, without question, difficult and both involve a huge amount of sacrifice and a certain level of risk. However, there is an often “forgotten command” of Jesus, or what might be identified as the “GREAT CALLING,” that may arguably be the most dangerous challenge of all. Christ’s call to be “SALT & LIGHT” in Matthew 5:13-16 is a call to confront our culture, with its human and self-centered focus – the very opposite of “political correctness”. In fact, confronting our culture will often lead to emotional stress and sometimes even verbal and/or physical persecution, and in some cases, martyrdom. The Old Testament prophets and many church fathers through the centuries who gave their lives as a result of their stand on the Word of God can attest to that fact.



Christ’s call to become His followers carries with it all three of these assignments (the GREAT COMMANDMENTS, THE GREAT COMMISSION and THE GREAT CALLING, or the “forgotten command” to be salt & light). To neglect any one of these is to fail to follow Christ completely. I am pleased to announce that I have developed a series of messages built around this theme of “THE FORGOTTEN COMMAND” in which I take each of these assignments from our Lord Jesus and show how they are all intertwined in the purpose and mission of Christ’s Church. The messages can be presented in a one-day conference setting or a revival setting over the course of several days in which a couple of messages can be added that deal with current issues facing our culture today (homosexuality, alcohol and other drugs, gambling, etc.).

To schedule a conference or series of messages, feel free to contact me at jgodfrey@alcap.com or call our ALCAP and American Character Builders office at 205.985.9062.

As I share every year, the summer months are very difficult for ALCAP and American Character Builders financially. Please be faithful in giving and in praying for us during this time. Encourage your church and others to help support these important ministries. Visit our websites to see how you can be a part.

Joe Godfrey