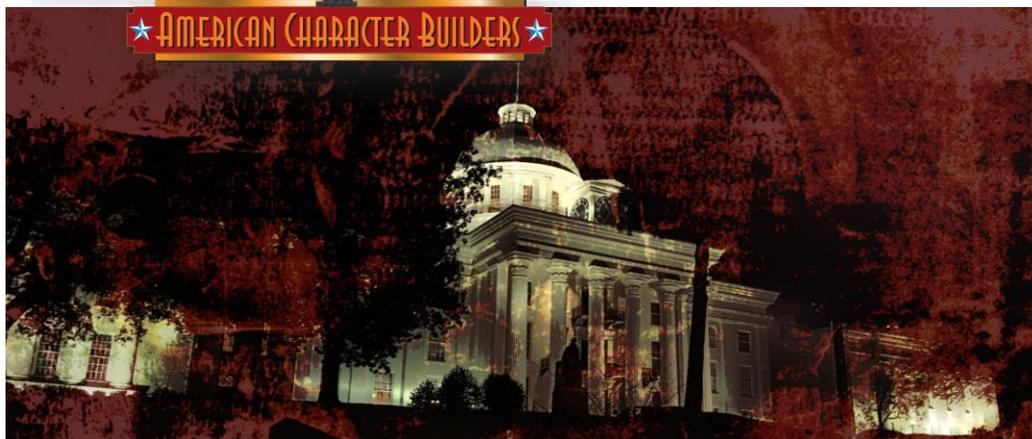


★ AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS ★



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

2 Thessalonians 3:13
(NKJV)

2020 Legislative Session shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic

STATEWIDE — The 2020 Alabama Legislative Session began with a number of bills that ALCAP started monitoring. There were a couple of lottery bills and others were expected to be introduced, as well as local constitutional amendments that, if passed, would have expanded gambling in Alabama. Also, there was a “medical marijuana” bill that was introduced in the Senate and several local bills that expanded the availability of alcohol. Pro-life bills were also introduced early in the Session.

Mid-March, the Legislature took a week of Spring Break, but that week turned into over a month due to the COVID-19 outbreak. When the legislators finally returned to the State House the first of May, they focused on passing uncontested local bills and the two state budgets (the General Fund Budget and the Education Trust Fund Budget), and then adjourned *sine die* within a

week and a half after returning. Rumor has it that the Governor may call a Special Session sometime in late summer or early fall in order to address any revenue shortfalls that might occur and to address prison reform and budgeting for new prisons.

ALCAP will be monitoring the situation to make sure that gambling is not introduced as a “solution” to the financial needs of the state. Gambling will only exacerbate the problem, not help.

During her 2020 State of the State Address in February, Governor Ivey called for and later appointed a Gambling Policy Study Committee to research the possibility of expanding gambling in Alabama. ALCAP lined up two speakers for the first public hearing hosted by the committee. We had secured a plane reservation and hotel accommodations for **Les Bernal**, national director of the

Stop Predatory Gambling organization, and we had recruited **John Kindt**, a business administration professor at the University of Illinois, to speak on the social costs of gambling in society. As it turned out, the public hearing was held by teleconference. Both individuals did an excellent job presenting their information. However, in the next two meetings of the committee, they heard from several proponents of legalized gambling, so we are doubtful they will present a report that advises against expanded gambling in the state. Thanks to your financial support, ALCAP was able to purchase DVDs of a documentary that shows the fraud of state-sponsored lotteries, but we are waiting for an in-person meeting of the committee in order to distribute the DVDs.

For more information, visit
www.ALCAP.com

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STAFF:

Joe Godfrey, jgodfrey@alcap.com
Executive Director

Cheryl Corley, ccorley@alcap.com
Administrative Assistant

CONTACT US:

2376 Lakeside Drive
Birmingham, AL 35244
Phone: 205.985.9062
www.ALCAP.com

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 News

Updates on resources provided by American Character Builders

BIRMINGHAM, AL— American Character Builders resources continue to be available at our website...

www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org

We have downloadable materials that address, alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, bullying and our newest packet of resources on the opioid crisis (which appears on our homepage).

American Character Builders has received grants to update our program on alcohol. Until the COVID-19 pandemic impacted our efforts, we were working with faculty and students at Samford University to design and implement a new video and online curriculum dealing with alcohol use and abuse. We will continue to pursue the production of that new material as soon as possible (but, not likely before the fall semester).

All of our resources are designed for use in public schools, but we also provide Bible studies for use in local

churches. Church leaders can offer to teach one or more of our programs at local middle and high schools and then offer follow-up programs at their church for parents, school officials and community leaders. At the church event, biblical principles can be introduced.

This is a great way for churches, schools and local civic and government entities to partner together in addressing the growing alcohol and drug problems that are confronting all demographic groups in our state and nation.

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support for American Character Builders! Without your support, we would not be able to provide these quality resources for churches and schools.

The following edited letter appears on the www.momsstrong.org website...

MEDICAL MARIJUANA AND MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE, COLLIDED

It's criminal to legalize THC marijuana, a powerful and addictive drug, that is killing our youth in so many ways. The death of my innocent 22 year old daughter is another tragic example.

My daughter Jennifer Corinne H. was vibrant, intelligent, and so driven to be a productive and meaningful member of our society. She was tall, had the most beautiful hair and the brightest smile, with green eyes to match. Jen played lacrosse so well and earned herself a college scholarship to a small school in Northern Ohio where she blossomed into an incredible woman.

She graduated with honors in May of 2012 with a degree in Intelligence and Analysis Research. She now spoke Spanish and Arabic fluently and could translate both languages, which in the world of today is critical in her field.

After a cruise with a friend to celebrate her years of hard work, she began her new job. Not more than a couple of weeks into training, one of the store managers she oversaw called her at about 12:30 a.m. to say there was an alarm going off in her store. She asked Jennifer to meet her at the store, and my daughter, being the responsible person she was, got up, got dressed, and made her way to the location in her new Camry, given to her as one of the perks.

As she crossed an intersection not far from her home, a man came racing through the intersection at 82mph, speeding through the red light. He slammed into the side of my daughter's car, sending it over the embankment and straight into the front wall of a Lube Stop building, collapsing it on Jennifer's car.

Jennifer passed away at the scene from the severe injuries she sustained. The 26-year-old man who caused her death was not injured. He was high on "medical marijuana" given to him in his home state of Michigan. He was just passing through our state and decided he would break every law and kill my daughter.

After he took a plea and his charges were severely reduced to a felony 3, he spent a total of only 15 months in prison. This man had several previous OVI charges and run-ins with the law. He admitted he was smoking marijuana before the crash, and there was marijuana in the car. His life goes on with a slap on the wrist and our life is devastated forever. He obtained this marijuana legally which is another slap in the face for our family.

By: Jennifer's Mom, Corrine
Ohio

"The most common myth is that marijuana is not addictive. This has clearly been debunked by science; marijuana is addictive, particularly for young people. Marijuana addiction resembles other drug addictions; it is characterized by loss of control over consumption, loss of interest in activities not involving cannabis, recurrent use resulting in failure to fulfill major obligations, continued use despite negative consequences, and even its own [cannabis withdrawal syndrome](#)." – [Psychiatric Times](#)



As the Alabama Legislature and now, perhaps, the Governor's Gambling Policy Study Committee continue to mistakenly believe that gambling should be expanded in our state, citizens should educate themselves concerning the truth about how gambling has failed as a government policy everywhere it has been tried.

Visit www.StopPredatoryGambling.org to get the facts on this deceptive and destructive enterprise. Gambling is based on deceiving our poorest citizens that it is their ticket out of poverty; gambling is rife with corruption; gambling takes money out of the economy without producing any goods or services; even taxpayers who do not gamble end up paying more in taxes in order to cover the costs of social problems associated with gambling and to cover the lost revenue from other revenue streams that diminish when people gamble away their hard-earned income.

¹³You 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. ¹⁵Nor 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. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16 (NKJV)

Plans are underway to produce the "FORGOTTEN COMMAND" conference in a video format

Christ's call to become His followers carries with it three assignments – THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS (to love God and love others), THE GREAT COMMISSION (to make disciples) and THE GREAT CALLING (the often "forgotten command" to be salt & light). To neglect any one of these is to fail to follow Christ completely. ALCAP is currently offering a series of messages built around this theme of "THE FORGOTTEN COMMAND" in which we look at 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 or two-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.). We are also beginning work on producing the entire conference in a video format, which can be viewed by individuals, shown in small group settings or to the entire church.

To schedule a conference or series of messages (after the pandemic "shutdown" has ended), feel free to contact me at jgodfrey@alcap.com or call our ALCAP and American Character Builders office at **205.985.9062**. We will notify everyone in our email database when the video version of the conference is available.

Financial and prayer support for ALCAP & American Character Builders continues through the summer months

As we move through the summer months, ALCAP and American Character Builders are grateful for your continued prayers and financial support. Like many ministries, ALCAP and American Character Builders are facing financial challenges. Please consider a mid-year contribution to help us continue this important ministry. We have sought to be good stewards of the gifts you have given in the past, and we will continue to do our best to accomplish as much as we can with limited resources, but we need your help. If you are an individual who would like to contribute, make your checks payable to *American Character Builders* in order to get a tax deduction. If you represent a church, we request that you make your checks payable to *ALCAP*. You may also visit our websites (www.ALCAP.com and www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org) to make contributions online. You may also consider including American Character Builders in your estate planning. Contact Cheryl Corley or me in order to discuss this option. Contact information can be found on our websites or on page 2 of this newsletter.