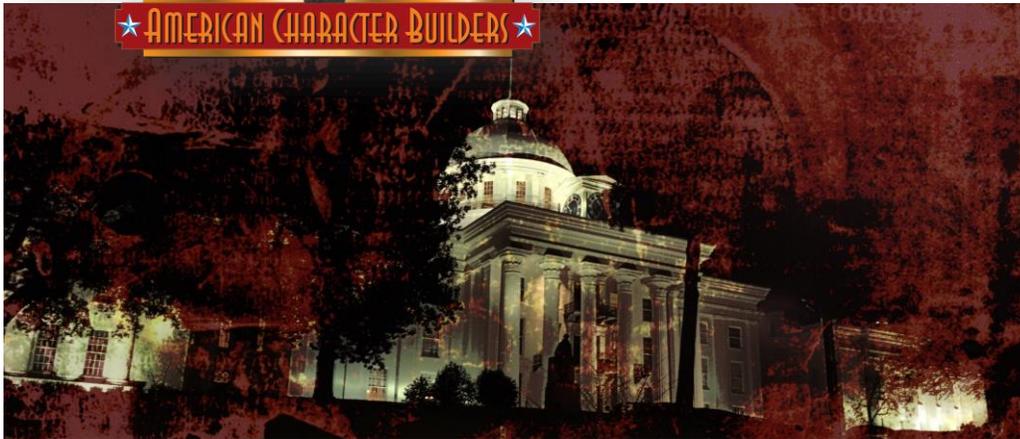


★ AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS ★



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

2 Thessalonians 3:13  
(NKJV)

## 2018 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature to begin January 9

MONTGOMERY, AL— The 2018 Regular session of the Alabama Legislature is set to begin on January 8. Since 2018 is an election year for state offices, the legislative session begins a month early so that legislators can finish their work in time to campaign for the June Primaries.

We are expecting several bills of interest to ALCAP and the churches of Alabama to be on the agenda.

1) We have been working with other conservative organizations to draft a daycare bill that will both protect children and the religious freedoms of churches. Last year a bill was introduced that many felt would infringe on religious freedoms for church daycares. Though we worked to get the bill amended so that those concerns were minimized, there were still some who felt it

did not do enough, and the bill failed to pass through the Senate. This year we are taking the initiative in order to get a bill that will accomplish the intended goals without infringing on the liberties of individual churches.

- 2) A bill will likely be introduced that will require abortion clinics to refund upfront fees to young women who change their minds and decide not to have an abortion. Currently, abortion clinics can collect upfront fees prior to a scheduled abortion, but if the woman changes her mind and decides not to go through with the abortion, the clinic is not obligated to refund those fees.
- 3) Pro-gambling bills are likely to be introduced, but many do not believe they will get much traction in an election year. We could be wrong to assume that to be the case, however. In

2010 (also an election year) the Legislature tried to pass a sweeping pro-gambling bill that ended with several people going to prison as a result of corruption charges involved in trying to get the legislation passed.

- 4) One gambling bill likely to get traction will be a bill legalizing Daily Fantasy Sports. In spite of the claims, DFS is gambling. For more information on this issue, visit [www.ALCAP.com](http://www.ALCAP.com) or [www.StopPredatoryGambling.org](http://www.StopPredatoryGambling.org).
- 5) We suspect more local Sunday alcohol sales bills to be introduced. While ALCAP will continue to speak against these bills, local churches and citizens need to be vocal in their opposition to the continued expansion of alcohol sales in their own communities.

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## STAFF:

Joe Godfrey, [jgodfrey@alcap.com](mailto:jgodfrey@alcap.com)  
Executive Director

Cheryl Corley, [ccorley@alcap.com](mailto:ccorley@alcap.com)  
Sharon Cook, [scook@alcap.com](mailto:scook@alcap.com)  
Administrative Assistants

2376 Lakeside Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35244  
Phone: 205.985.9062

[www.ALCAP.com](http://www.ALCAP.com)  
[www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org](http://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

*How one group is using our resources to impact the lives of inner-city youth in Birmingham, AL*

BIRMINGHAM, AL— One afternoon in October an African-American man, Milton King, came by our office to thank us. Unaware of the reason for his gratitude, we listened as Mr. King explained that 10 months earlier he had been led by the Lord to start a mentoring ministry for young African-American men in the inner-city of Birmingham. Discouraged by "roadblocks" he encountered and feeling defeated, as he drove by our office, he saw the words, "American Character Builders" on our sign. He said, "I made a U-turn and pulled into your office. Your administrative assistant, Cheryl Corley, met me at the door and when I told her what I was wanting to do, she loaded me down with your American Character Builders resources."

Mr. King went on to tell how he used our materials as a core curriculum, while also teaching the young men in his group things like how to tie a tie, and taking them to other areas of the city where they could be exposed to different standards of living. He said that when they would get out of the van, they would pull up their pants (without being told to do so)

because they became interested in taking a proper pride in their appearance.

Mr. King then told us that his group of young men, that meet twice each month in a room at the Birmingham Library, had grown during the last 10 months from 5 to 31! Needless to say, we gathered boxes of additional materials for him to use in his ministry, which he has named, "Determined 2 Be."

Churches can take advantage of our American Character Builders resources and make a similar impact in their own communities. All of our materials are now downloadable for free on our website, [www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org](http://www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org).

We are still raising funds in order to provide quality online videos to accompany our materials, but we also need continued help with our operational budget at this time.

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



## ALCAP & American Character Builders involved in addressing the state and national opioid crisis

MONTGOMERY, AL — After learning that Governor Kay Ivey had formed the *Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council* to address the opioid crisis in Alabama (part of the national health crisis identified by President Trump), ALCAP & American Character Builders executive director, Joe Godfrey, contacted the Governor's office and chairpersons of the Council and encouraged them to include someone from the faith community on the Council. Though the Council, made up of representatives from the law-enforcement community, health and mental health officials, educators, and others was already considered too large to add anyone else, it was agreed that someone from the faith community should serve on a sub-committee called, "The Community Engagement Sub-Committee." Joe Godfrey agreed to serve on that working sub-committee and has had input concerning how churches can be involved in helping deal with this crisis. It is expected that when the final report of the Council is presented to the Governor, pastors and church leaders, who are often the first people that church members turn to for help, will be provided a list of agencies and resources that will be available to help families affected by opioid addiction, as well as other drug addictions.

In addition, American Character Builders has received donations from several private grantors to produce a video that will be added to our online resources. We have decided that, in light of this national crisis, our first video will deal with opioid addiction and should be on our website by mid-January.



### Is Daily Fantasy Sports a Form of Gambling? New Rutgers Study Seems to Imply It Is

*Steve Ruddock, Jun 14, 2017*

Poker, DFS and other games are sold as skillful. We're led to believe that if players are smart and diligent enough they will have no problem beating the game. The problem is these games are played against other players, so skill is only relative to that of others. In DFS and poker, the opponents are also capable of improving.

Because of this, and because of the rake/fees taken by the house, there can only be so many winners. If **blackjack** were beatable with perfect strategy (suppose blackjack paid 2-1), then every skilled player would be a winner; they could all adopt the same strategies and beat the house.

Poker and DFS may be skill games, but for 95 percent of players, their skill won't translate to wins.

But because of the way the games are sold and because of variance, players can convince themselves they are skilled enough to win. Maybe right now they're just unlucky, or they're close to being skilled enough to win and just have to work harder, they can rationalize to themselves.

It's not hard to see how this mindset could lead to addictive behavior.

<https://www.legalsportsreport.com/14335/dfs-gambling-rutgers-report/>



<sup>13</sup> “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.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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)**

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALCAP AND AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS**

As we close out 2017 and prepare for 2018, ALCAP and American Character Builders is grateful for your continued prayer and financial support. Like many ministries, ALCAP and American Character Builders are facing financial challenges. Please consider a year-end contribution to help us begin the new year on a good foundation. 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](http://www.ALCAP.com) and [www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org](http://www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org)) to make contributions online. You may also consider including American Character Builders in your estate planning. Contact our office to discuss this option.

## **SCHEDULE A “FORGOTTEN COMMAND” CONFERENCE IN 2018...**

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.)

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

***Our entire staff at ALCAP and American Character Builders hope that you and your family have a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a very HAPPY NEW YEAR!***