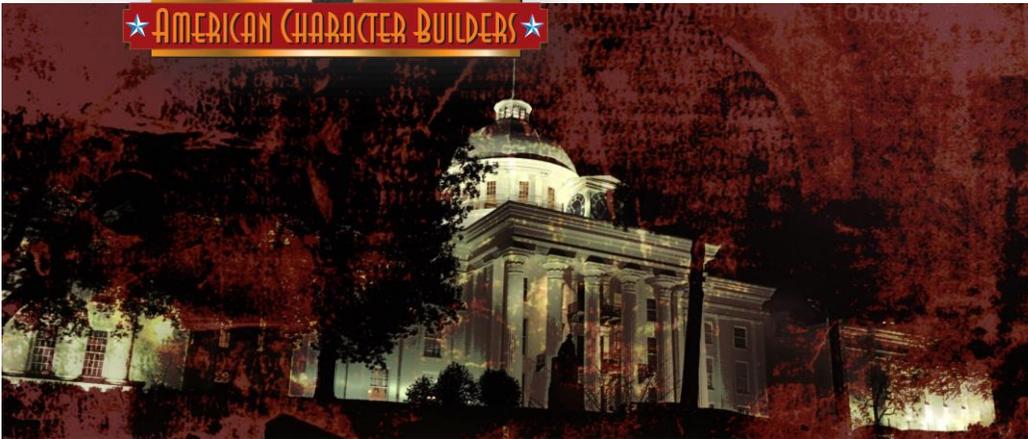


★ AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS ★



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

2 Thessalonians 3:13
(NKJV)

Significant successes in the 2018 vote, but challenges expected in the 2019 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature

STATEWIDE — On Election Day, November 6, 2018, two important statewide amendments were adopted. Amendment #1, which affirms the displaying of the Ten Commandments in public buildings and on public property (including public schools) passed by a 71.7% to 28.3% margin. The amendment does not really change what was already legal because the United States Supreme Court has already ruled on the constitutionality of displaying the Ten Commandments as long as they are a part of a broader historical display. However, the amendment does send a signal that Alabama's citizens believe in religious liberty.

Amendment #2, which recognizes and supports the sanctity of unborn life and the rights of unborn children, passed by an overwhelming 59% to 41% of the vote. This wide margin was in spite of \$1Million (or more) being poured into the state by

Planned Parenthood and other pro-abortion interests who tried to deceive Alabamians into believing this was a bad amendment. But, the vast majority of Alabama citizens were able to see through the slick ads and deceptive tactics of the pro-abortionists and made a definitive statement that lets legislators and constitutional officers know that we want more restrictions on abortions in our state.

Thank you, ALCAP supporters, for working so hard for the passage of these two amendments!

The 2019 Alabama Legislature will meet in January for two or three days in order to organize for the upcoming quadrennium, but the full 2019 Regular Session will not begin until March 5. ALCAP will be there each day of the session to share a biblical perspective on the issues and to share Christ with

everyone who works at and visits the Alabama State House. We are expecting gambling to be high on the agenda of many legislators, so we need for the "folks back home" (church leaders and members) to contact your House and Senate members and let them know of your opposition to expanding any form of legalized gambling in this state.

A large number of new legislators will be taking office this session, so ALCAP will be working hard to build relationships with the newcomers and to establish credibility with them. Please tell your legislators about ALCAP and refer them to our website for more information about our ministry and where we stand on the issues they will be facing. Also, keep us on your personal and church prayer lists.

www.ALCAP.com

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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 ★



American Character Builders News

Updates on the opioid crisis package of resources and on fund raising efforts for building expansion

BIRMINGHAM, AL— As many of you have heard by now, American Character Builders has completed a package of resources related to the opioid crisis in our state and nation. A high-quality, four-minute video, found on the home page of our website, though not a documentary, tells the story of three very different kinds of people who get caught up in opioid addiction. One is an inner-city, African-American young man, another is an upper-class, professional business man, and a third is a little farm girl who finds her parents passed out on the couch from opioid use after she arrives home from school. The urban young man almost loses his life, but for the efforts of a friend, the suburban professional loses his home and family and the farm girl is last seen being driven off to foster care.

The video is meant to show how opioids (and all mind-altering drugs) are impacting the lives of all socio-economic and racial groups in America. Accompanying the video are two lesson plans for use in public schools (one for middle schoolers and one for high schoolers; three Bible studies for use in local churches; and a list of links and resources to help pastors and churches, as well as school

officials, deal with this growing epidemic in our state and nation. All the resources are FREE to use! Check it out at...

www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org

In our summer edition of the newsletter, we told about a unique opportunity American Character Builders has been given to assist a "sister ministry," the Apologetics Resource Center (ARC), headed by Rev. Clete Hux. We said that we need to raise \$35K-\$45K in order to "build out" the basement of the ALCAP/American Character Builders office building to house this additional ministry. ARC is already using a couple of offices on the main level of our building, but they need to be in a space of their own, so they can access their extensive library of resources. To date, both organizations have collected about \$21K in donations, but more is needed in order to begin construction. If you would like to make a special, one-time gift to this project (OVER AND ABOVE YOUR REGULAR GIVING TO ALCAP AND AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS), please designate on your envelope and check that all or a portion of your gift is for the "Building Project." If you have any questions, feel free to contact Cheryl Corley or Sharon Cook in our office.

Alabama's Longtime Hostility to Gambling Shows Signs of Fading

By Alan Blinder
June 10, 2018

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Even more than its Bible Belt neighbors, Alabama has steadfastly resisted legalizing gambling for generations.

The clout of evangelical Christians helped make sure of it: Joe Godfrey, the top lobbyist for the state's most powerful churches, once received an Inauguration Day promise from an influential politician that no proposal for gambling would make it through the State House while he was in office.

But the resistance is now openly fraying, suggesting that gambling is no longer a potent moral issue that animates voters and politicians the way it once did.

As the landscape shifts in Montgomery, the state capital, the consequences may reverberate across the South, where nearby states gladly rake in billions of dollars that Alabamians are not allowed to wager at home.

The Supreme Court opened a new front last month when it cleared the way for sports betting in any state that wanted it, a ruling that neighboring Mississippi swiftly moved to embrace. And on Tuesday, Alabama voters in both major parties nominated candidates for governor who favor a vote on creating a state lottery.

[To read the entire article, visit www.ALCAP.com and click on the "Current Issues / Gambling" page.]

Editor's Note: Because of changes in the Alabama Legislature that occurred as a result of the November 2018 elections, it is more important than ever that church leaders and members contact their newly elected House and Senate members and let them know of your opposition to expanding gambling in Alabama. If you want more details about why gambling hurts local and state economies, visit our national partner's website...

www.StopPredatoryGambling.org

Alcohol responsible for one in 20 deaths worldwide: WHO

AFP - Yahoo News
Nina LARSON
September 21, 2018

Geneva (AFP) - Alcohol kills three million people worldwide each year -- more than AIDS, violence and road accidents combined, the World Health Organization said Friday, adding that men are particularly at risk.

The UN health agency's latest report on alcohol and health pointed out that alcohol causes more than one in 20 deaths globally each year, including drink driving, alcohol-induced violence and abuse and a multitude of diseases and disorders.

Men account for more than three quarters of alcohol-related deaths, the nearly 500-page report found.

"Far too many people, their families and communities suffer the consequences of the harmful use of alcohol through violence, injuries, mental health problems and diseases like cancer and stroke," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

Drinking is linked to more than 200 health conditions, including liver cirrhosis and some cancers.

Alcohol abuse also makes people more susceptible to infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV and pneumonia, the report found.

[To read the entire article, visit www.ALCAP.com and click on the "Current Issues / Alcohol" page.]



For unto us a Child
is born,

Unto us a Son is
given;

And the government
will be upon His
shoulder.

And His name will
be called Wonderful,
Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of
Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

PLAN TO SCHEDULE A “FORGOTTEN COMMAND” CONFERENCE IN 2019...

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 or call our ALCAP and American Character Builders office at **205.985.9062**.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE ALCAP & AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS STAFF!

As we close out 2018 and prepare for 2019, 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 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 and 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.