

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

January—February, 2009 ☆ Vol. 19, Number 01

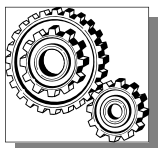
Inside

Changing the Nation

Part 2 of an article by David Barton

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If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)



In the Works

Legislative initiatives

A Night to Honor Israel

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 372-6442.

The "Pulpit Initiative"

A Project of the Alliance Defense Fund

By
Bob Garvey

This initiative was launched by the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) together with many courageous Pastors, as a legal effort to secure the right of Churches and Pastors to speak freely from their pulpits to their congregations; and to act freely, from a scriptural basis, on political matters without improper censorship/regulation by the government. Because of a 54-year old regulation that legal scholars from all spectrums agree violates the First Amendment, many government officials, particularly the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), seek to limit what preachers may preach about. Specifically, they don't want Pastors telling their congregations what the Bible says about political issues and the agendas of particular individual candidates (for office).

In the words of Alan E. Sears, President, CEO & General Counsel of the ADF: *"Dozens of Pastors all across the Country are challenging these limits on their sermons so that if the government tries to penalize clergy when they preach freely from their pulpits about candidates and elections, ADF will defend them by*

exposing in open court just how profoundly unconstitutional this regulation really is! So why is ADF doing this? For the same reason ADF does everything to defend religious liberty."

As a student in college, CEO Alan Sears had serious misgivings about whether he could

and devout Christian.

One young participant in the program put it this way: "I met a lot of Christians at school who also felt the same heavy spirit affecting them. Subsequently they all discovered that their respective Law Professors were approaching legal questions from a purely



become a Christian Lawyer, having been taught by former secular law professors where he went to school, until he learned of a national training program for future leaders in law, called the Blackstone Fellowship. There he learned he could be both a leading lawyer

secular, materialistic perspective; e.g. they examined only the economic benefit of a judge's particular ruling. They taught us to approach law by using the same model."

Continued on Page 2



"The penalty good men pay for indifference to public affairs, is to be ruled by evil men." Plato (429-347 BC)

(Continued from page 1)

This student suddenly realized that he could be both a lawyer and a Christian. "The Alliance Defense fund showed me what my school was teaching me and how to combat it. I received the tools, the step by step process to follow to go back into the classroom and challenge my professors." The student concluded with the following thought: "I know that what I learned will go with me throughout my career into whatever doors God opens for me."

Sears subsequently decided to tap into the leading law schools, recruited the top students throughout the country, and began a program of his own using the principles he learned at the Blackstone Fellowship.

His first goal was to train 1,000 ADF attorneys. Yet it soon became clear that the early dream was too small, especially with nearly 1,000,000 lawyers in America, plus the explosion of same sex marriage cases and other assaults on America's Judeo-Christian values and religious freedoms, and so many other needs.

Several years ago, this writer became aware of the above organization and its leader. Founded by several Christian



Ministries, such as Campus Crusade and its leader, Dr. Bill Bright; Focus on the Family and its leader Dr. James Dobson; the late Larry Burkett of Christian Financial Concepts; the late Dr. James Kennedy, and respected Christian leaders Marlin Maddox and William Pew. Their insight and trust in God's providence appears to have been most prophetic, and led to their hiring of Alan Sears to become the visible leader of the new Ministry.

Why this topic and information now? In a recent ADF release to his Ministry's supporters, Sears felt it was necessary to set the record straight to dispel the IRS contention that a 54 year old regulation limits what preachers may preach about. Sears explained that "We've won zoning cases...and free-speech cases..and we're de-

fending churches in cases for the right to hire church workers who share the church's religious convictions and not hire those who don't. All of these were within our Ministry's mandate to defend religious freedom and clear a path for the Gospel." The Pulpit Initiative is another crucial step in defending religion by blocking efforts of aggressive government bureaucrats to exert censorship over the local church."

Note: Before the Pulpit Initiative even launched, the ACLU and its ally, the Americans United for Separation of Church and State, raised shrill voices and raced to print with accusations that completely missed—or deliberately misconstrued the effort. ADF's adherence to the truth really bothers and angers these organizations who are bent on

wiping out any vestige of God in America.

In his recent notes to supporters Sears concluded, "Encouraging a pastor to freely exercise his constitutional rights is a compelling example of empowering Christians to exercise their faith, and apply scripture to every aspect of life, including the selection of our national leaders and public policy."

The Alliance Defense Fund has rightly earned our thanks for retaining our Christian values in legal case wins, over and over again. Of course his ministry can only succeed if they are generously supported in their efforts with our prayers and, where possible, with our financial support of his work.

If you want to know more about the Alliance Defense Fund and some of its unanimous Supreme Court victories, you can contact them at Alliance Defense Fund, 15333 North Pima Rd-Suite 165, Scottsdale, AZ 85260; or by phone 1-800-tell-ADF, or at www.TELLADF.org.

Bob Garvey is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends St. Marks's Catholic Church

"At any given moment there is an orthodoxy, a body of ideas which it is assumed all right-thinking people will accept without question. It is not exactly forbidden to state this or that or the other, but it is "not done" ... Anyone who challenges the prevailing orthodoxy finds himself silenced with surprising effectiveness. A genuinely unfashionable opinion is almost never given a fair hearing, either in the popular press or in the highbrow periodicals.

George Orwell

Changing a Nation (part 2)

By
David Barton

This is the conclusion of Part 1 which appeared in our previous newsletter. Even though the November 2008 elections are now over, David Barton's message is one that applies for many elections to come (editor's comment).

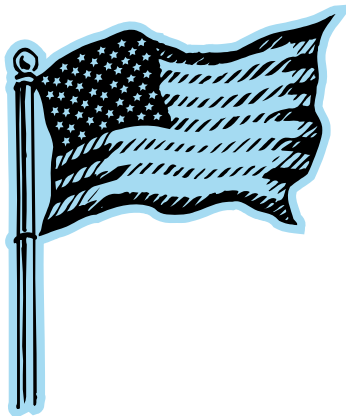
(Excerpt from Part 1)

We must regain the conviction that biblical principles are vital to national success, and be willing to pursue their reinstatement . . .

It was the plan and intent of our founding fathers for godly people, and thereby godly principles, to be intimately involved in the political, judicial and educational realms. The founders believed only the godly would understand the unalienable freedoms provided by God and thus protect them in our government. They never intended for Christian principles to be divorced from public affairs . . . As Edmund Burke explained: "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

Part 2

One of the founding fathers of the United States of America, Noah Webster,



delivered this admonition: *Let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers just men who will rule in the fear of God (Exodus 18:21) . . . If the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted. If government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the Divine commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the laws.*

And Charles Finney, a prominent minister in the early 1800s, succinctly declared: *The time has come that Christians must vote for honest men and take consistent ground in politics or the Lord will curse them . . . God cannot sustain this free and blessed country which we love and pray for unless the Church will take right ground.*

It is time to believe and to behave differently. We are not a minority --- we are the majority! It is time to declare at the ballot box that we will no longer allow officials who embrace the values of the six percent [in America] who do not believe in God to repeal the rights of the 94 percent who do. We must remove officials who do not comply with traditional, historical and biblical principles and replace them with those who do. Our vote does count!

We must regain the conviction that biblical principles are vital to national success, and be willing to pursue

their reinstatement. In recent decades, we have wrongly allowed the very principles which produced morality and virtue, and thus national stability, to be restricted in public life. We need once again to recognize the truth so well understood by George Washington who said: *The propitious [favorable] smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.*

We must become convinced of the principle expressed by Abraham Lincoln, and then accept the civic responsibilities implied by his statement: *The truth announced in the Holy Scripture, and proven by all history [is] that "Those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."*

David Barton is the founder and president of WallBuilders. The entire article appeared in the April 2008 edition of BVOV Magazine. Reprinted with permission of the author.

"Democracy extends the sphere of individual freedom, socialism restricts it. Democracy attaches all possible value to each man: socialism makes each man a mere agent, a mere number. Democracy and socialism have nothing to common but one word: equality. But notice the difference: while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality in restraint and servitude."

*Alexis de Tocqueville
(A French contemporary of America's founding fathers)*

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead
James 2:17

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As we begin the new year, and the nineteenth year of the Christian Action Ministry, it is appropriate to reflect on the blessings that God has given this country. We are a free people with much to be thankful for. Even if there are economic difficulties ahead, we are far more fortunate than the rest of the world.

Accordingly, we must not forget to heed God's Word, and strive not to become slaves to the wiles of the evil one. Care must be taken not to put our faith and trust in government, but rather to keep our minds focused on God's will. We will likely be called upon in the upcoming years to stand up for the moral values upon which this country was founded, defend traditional marriage, and oppose the evils of assisted suicide and late term abortion / infanticide. Pray for the strength to do what is right.

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Next Meetings
January 12, 7:00 pm
No. Ave. Alliance Church
Burlington, Vt.
February 9, 7:00 pm
Community Bible Church
South Burlington, Vt.

**Making A Difference
in
Vermont!**



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