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"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty." 2 Cor 3:17

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A Message from Mat Staver, our Founder and Chairman

Two Distinct Americas but One Lord and One Hope!

My recent trip to Peru had a profound impact on me. In a brief period of time, I experienced both the past and present – and I saw hope for the future! The contrast between this Latin American country and America was amazing, in some ways disturbing, and yet greatly inspiring. I saw what America was and what America can still be. I saw two distinct Americas but one Lord and one hope!

It was Friday night – my last night in Lima, Peru. I was riding in a congressional security vehicle as we drove through a tunnel into a soccer stadium packed with 70,000 Christians. As I exited the vehicle and was taking in the moment, a man who saw my arrival approached me. I had heard his story but had never met him. We embraced as Christian brothers.

This man was once a male prostitute who underwent surgery and hormone treatments to present himself as a woman. He moved to France, and there he encountered his Creator and Savior. He returned to Peru and underwent yet more surgery in an attempt to reverse

what he had done. What a mess Satan wrought in his life! But the Lord's transforming power was beautiful to see.

Another vehicle soon arrived and Reverend Rodolfo Gonzales stepped out. He heads the denomination that

sponsored this spectacular evangelical event. My friend, Peruvian Congressman and former pastor Julio Rosas, introduced me. Reverend Gonzales then took the stage while I sat in a

(continued on page 2...)



Liberty Counsel Founder and Chairman Mat Staver is shown (center) speaking on the subject of God's higher law in the Peruvian Senate chamber to an overflow assembly of dignitaries that included legislators, military generals, judges, high-ranking academicians, lawyers, and other national leaders. The message was broadcast across Peru and included Staver receiving a Peruvian Congressional Medal of Honor (bottom right) for his lifetime work advancing religious freedom. At top right, Staver is received at the Peruvian Supreme Court where he was further honored by members of the Peruvian judiciary, the bar association, and Peru's academic accrediting body. On the final day of the visit that was arranged by former pastor Julio Rosas, a leading member of the Peruvian legislature, Staver attended a massive Christian celebration in the largest stadium in Peru (as seen from a helicopter, top left) that was attended by over 70,000 Peruvian Christians. After seating Mat with other dignitaries, the pastor in charge of the massive convocation asked for prayer for Staver and Liberty Counsel's family of ministries.

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reserved seating area. He asked the massive audience to pray for Congressman Rosas and me and then began to thunder like a prophet of old!

He said politicians and nations that pass laws contrary to God's created order will be cursed and cease to exist. As he urged the throngs in the stadium and the millions watching by TV to not vote for such people, the crowd roared their affirmation! He spoke of the power of Jesus Christ and urged his listeners to be bold in the Lord. His message, to say the least, was powerful, confident, and totally inspiring!

Tears filled my eyes. It was an overwhelming experience to see so many

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people praising the Lord and enthusiastically receiving such a powerful message. I was in Peru, where the nation's Christian foundations are clearly present and honored. *But I was thinking about America – what it has become and what it can still be. I will never forget that deeply moving experience.*

When I arrived in Lima two days prior, I was met by congressional security and led through customs in the diplomat line. A motorcade drove me to the hotel.

On Thursday morning of my visit, the motorcade drove me to Congress where I spoke in the Senate chamber. The room was packed with dignitaries and many more stood in the hallways.

Members of Congress, military generals, Navy Seals, members of the Judiciary, lawyers, high-ranking members of academia, law students and other young people, and more filled the room. The message was broadcast nationally on Peruvian television.

I spoke about two worldviews – one with God and one without God, and I compared the French and the American revolutions. Believing that there is a Creator God who gives us dignity and endows us with unalienable rights makes a difference in a nation's laws and policies! I spoke about God's higher law and said that earthly laws must not be contrary to God's natural order. I referred to the key issues of abortion, marriage, and religious freedom.

In America, I said, we have strayed from God's higher law. America kills its children and certain radical groups are deconstructing marriage. Religious freedom is now under intense attack, even in the military. By contrast, the Peruvian Constitution affirms the sanctity of human life from conception, marriage as being reserved to the union of one man and one woman, and guarantees religious freedom for all citizens of Peru.

It was clear to me that the Judeo-Christian values that were present for most of America's history still remain in Peru. I urged the Peruvians to stand fast. I expressed hope that America will once again lead the world in supporting these values.

My message was greeted by applause and warm support, and I was presented with a Peruvian Congressional Medal of Honor! To say that I was humbled and amazed cannot begin to describe how I felt.

Later, I was welcomed by the heads of the Peruvian bar association, Peru's academic accrediting body, members of the Peruvian judiciary, and the Israeli Ambassador to Peru. Each meeting was its own miracle! I don't have the space to go into detail, but believe me, these were not ordinary meetings. Each branch of government and academia

bestowed medals upon me and expressed their appreciation for the stand we take at Liberty Counsel.

Of course, not every Peruvian is a Christian, but the people share a common belief in God and hold Judeo-Christian values. *As you can imagine, Peruvians are very concerned about America, and particularly the Obama administration.* Tragically, Barack Obama is using our tax dollars to promote abortion, homosexuality, and

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same-sex marriage in Latin American countries, including Peru.

I was ashamed to hear stories of the Obama administration and left wing ideologues like George Soros working to destroy the Christian foundations of Peru. At the same time, I saw hope for the future. Beyond all doubt, God is moving in Peru and Latin America. The Gospel is spreading and Christians are shaping public policy in that region. In Peru, I saw abundant, undeniable evidence that Christ can transform people and cultures!

I saw two Americas but one God. *I left Peru with even more resolve and hope for our work in America. I saw what this nation was and what it can still be again!*

As I said, I was profoundly impacted by my experience. I will return and help the Peruvians stand fast in any way I can. *But, I am even more determined to pray and fight for America!*

The best victories often come from defeat – that is if you trust God and don't give up. General George Washington's experience at Valley Forge drives home that point. Many of Washington's soldiers had no shoes or pants, and many died from the bitter cold. Some

deserted and others called for George Washington to be replaced.

Valley Forge was the low point of General Washington's career. Yet, he pressed forward and relied on God for hope. He would later win some battles and lose some, but he pressed forward and eventually won the American Revolution. Peru reminds me what was and can be. Valley Forge tells me to never give up. *With God, all things are possible!*

As we begin this New Year, I ask that you redouble your commitment to pray and act. Please join with Liberty Counsel to pray for America. Sign up for regular prayer through our Liberty Prayer Network and our special prayer website, www.RandRPrayer.org.

And please commit to regular financial support for our efforts. Without your help, we cannot do what we must to defend and restore our precious liberties!

We were born – and then born again – for this very hour. God has called us for such a time as this. Let us answer His call and return America to being a shining city set upon a hill for His glory! 🙏



Mathew D. Staver, who founded Liberty Counsel along with his wife, Anita, in 1989, serves as the organization's Chairman. A leading constitutional attorney, widely read author, and sought-after speaker and cultural apologist, he also serves as Dean of the Liberty University School of Law and as Chairman of Liberty Counsel Action. Staver is among the core leaders of a national effort to rebuild the conservative movement in America.

WE BEGIN OUR 25TH YEAR WITH A POWERFUL NEW PRAYER INITIATIVE!

Liberty Prayer Network is being created from several established intercessory outreaches.

From our founding in 1989, Liberty Counsel has had a strong corporate commitment to intercessory prayer. In fact, we consider Liberty Counsel to have been born in prayer as we transitioned from being a private law practice, with a significant *pro bono* commitment to religious freedom issues, to becoming an international ministry. To our knowledge, Liberty Counsel is the only non-profit law and policy organization that was established from the resources of a private law firm.

It is highly appropriate that we begin our 25th year of service to the nation by launching a powerful new prayer initiative! After a quarter century of public service and our specialized ministry in the judiciary, legislatures, and the corridors of executive power, we can affirm that it would be impossible to represent the People's interests without humbly seeking God's direction and blessing!

As our nation's Founders emphatically stated, exercising the power of civil government without seeking God's direction and relying on God's help is a totally vain exercise.

We feel certain the Lord has orchestrated the formation of Liberty Prayer Network (LPN) and is actively bringing it forth! Over the past several months, He has created a collaborative spirit and desire to unite efforts in each of four well-established, successful prayer outreaches. In no particular order, these outreaches are: The American Prayer Initiative, Washington, D.C., founded by Nancy Schulze and Vonette Bright; The Salt & Light Council, Solana Beach, CA, under the direction of Dran Reese; Resources Unlimited International, Orlando, FL,

headed by Maureen Bravo; and Advocates for America, an ongoing project of Liberty Counsel, under the direction of Mat and Anita Staver.

Maureen Bravo will serve as Liberty Prayer Network's International Director. The Lord has knit Maureen to Liberty Counsel for many years now, establishing set-aside times for her unique ministry to our staff and to our leadership team.

Here are a few of the distinguishing characteristics we are building into LPN: This prayer network will be highly substantive, featuring daily prayer guidelines and extensive, accessible materials to inform and stimulate participants' prayer; LPN will have a geographic structure with regional, state, and local specificity for its U.S. activities; as the Lord leads, there will be an international focus as befits a Kingdom enterprise; we anticipate the establishment of a physical presence in Washington, D.C., to advance the Lord's dominion in that influential city; LPN will feature a vibrant prayer telephone line and frequent teleconferences to engage and empower its individual members; LPN's leadership will collaborate with many other networks the Lord has raised up for His intercessors at this crucial time in world history; plus many other special attributes and functions as the Lord directs.

We would be remiss if we didn't ask for your prayer to further bless Liberty Prayer Network's birth and establishment! Would you join your prayers with ours for this amazing, God-given opportunity?

We are confident that we will have the Lord's direction and a mighty, protective shield of prayer around the effort to build and activate Liberty Prayer Network. Thank you in advance for your prayerful support! 🙏

From Anita Staver, President

JOYFULLY EMBRACING A NEW YEAR OF LIBERTY



The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

Psalm 126:3

At the start of each New Year, I am thankful to look back and say that our work at Liberty Counsel has made the world a better place. Again this year, I can truly make that statement without reservation!

The Lord blessed this ministry with many victories and greatly enlarged our territory during 2013. Whether you have been watching cable news or following current events on the Internet, you have undoubtedly seen reports highlighting Liberty Counsel's crucial work. Last year was a monumental period of time in which we experienced many God-given successes.

For instance, in Florida, well-funded radicals with the ACLU were forced to dismiss a lawsuit designed to remove a privately placed Ten Commandments monument that Liberty Counsel defended. In Arizona, we successfully assisted a Romanian evangelist who was arrested for sharing Jesus in a public area.

Further, many cases involving discrimination against Bible clubs were resolved with our assistance, resulting in hundreds, if not thousands, of children

hearing about the life-saving power of Jesus Christ. We never forget that our main goal is to keep the doors open for the Gospel to be preached throughout this nation and around the world. With that goal in mind, we can be assured that the battles will continue!

We are deeply grateful that so many faithful friends come alongside us in these endeavors! Whether you support this ministry through financial giving,

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prayer efforts, or some other investment of time or treasure, your participation is vitally important. *Only with God's blessing and your help can we meet the challenges 2014 will bring!*

We need your support as we advance religious freedom against direct and sustained attack. For example, this year we will need you to stand with us as we defend a pastor whose biblical message was targeted when he was sued by a foreign group with funds from liberal billionaire George Soros.

And, of course, our work continues against the ironically named "Affordable" Care Act, challenging the entire budget-busting law that forces Americans to directly fund the killing of innocent human life.

Yet in the midst of our intense activity, pressing deadlines, travel, and

other work-related duties, we also experience the kinds of real life drama you will not see reported on the nightly news. Like you, our talented and dedicated staff members are not immune to the trials of life. Many are "storing up treasures in heaven" through their sacrificial service. They persevere joyfully, notwithstanding their vulnerability to serious illnesses such as cancer and diabetes, family tragedies, chronic pain, financial challenges, and other struggles such as are common to men and women on this side of Eternity.

That's one reason Liberty Counsel is committed to exercising the power of prayer! Our office workday begins with morning prayer for each other, our cases, our supporters, and even some of our adversaries. *Please, commit to praying for us and the many challenges and opportunities that await Liberty Counsel and our staff this year.*

We see your support as one of the great things God has done for us! With your continued prayers and donations, we can face the future with joy and continue to fulfill the vision that God has given us. Happy New Year from your friends at Liberty Counsel! 🙏

Anita L. Staver, Liberty Counsel's President, cofounded the ministry in 1989 along with her husband, Mat. Anita is a member of the bars of the state of Florida and the District of Columbia. She is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, every federal court of appeals in the nation, and six federal district courts.

***Restoring the Culture by Advancing
Religious Freedom, the Sanctity of
Human Life and the Family***

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