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LIBERTY COUNSEL'S MONTHLY ACTION/ALERT NEWSLETTER  
"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty." 2 Cor 3:17

MAR  
2014

## A Message from Mat Staver, our Founder and Chairman

# LIBERTY COUNSEL PREMIERS ITS FIRST FEATURE FILM, *UNCOMMON*

*"I walk the halls every day and it's hard seeing what I see, knowing what I know. But just 'cause they took out God, doesn't mean He left! I think He's just waiting. Waiting for the right people to stand up and take back what we lost."*

Those are the opening words of Rosewood High School Maintenance Supervisor Marc Garcia, played by Erik Estrada, in Liberty Counsel's first feature film, entitled *Uncommon*. Judging by the audience's reaction at the premier on February 1, this is a movie you and your family will want to watch!

*Uncommon* is a feature-length motion picture starring Erik Estrada (of *The Cross and the Switchblade* and *CHiPs* fame), Ben Davies (*Courageous*), Irma P. Hall (*Soul Food*), and Grammy Award-winning Christian musician Jason Crabb. *Uncommon* highlights the struggles of a group of students at Rosewood High School. Fighting overwhelming challenges, the teens struggle against anti-Christian bias,

doubt, and disillusionment. Through all of their challenges, they come to realize what it means to be... uncommon!

This is Liberty Counsel's first feature film. The film has been in planning and production since 2012. The shooting of

the movie consumed the entire month of July 2013, with 12 to 16 hour days and over 350 combined cast, crew, and extras. Post-production and editing took six months, leading up to the red carpet

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**On February 1, 2014, Liberty Counsel debuted its new faith-based, family-friendly film entitled *Uncommon* at Thomas Road Baptist Church's main sanctuary in Lynchburg, Virginia. The feature-length film was produced by JC Films in association with Liberty Counsel and explores the issues surrounding religious liberty in public schools. Liberty Counsel Founder and Chairman Mat Staver (top left) plays himself in the well-received film. The ambitious undertaking was accomplished in miraculous fashion with many of the cast, crew, and extras giving up summer vacation time to film 12 to 16 hours a day, six days a week, for the month of July 2013. *Uncommon* is now touring the nation having a major impact wherever it is shown!**

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premier on February 1 of this year. *The audience response has been very positive and this is a movie for all ages.*

While set in the context of a high school, the message of *Uncommon* transcends its setting. The young students struggle against tragedy, strained relationships, cultural opposition, and personal doubt. But through it all, they are bound together by faith, hope, and perseverance. With comedy and positive messages throughout, experiencing *Uncommon* will inspire and motivate you

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***After watching the movie, many people told me that they were inspired to live an uncommon life for Christ. Simply put, they were lifted by the film's positive and inspiring message.***

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to be an uncommon Christian – one who makes a positive impact for Christ in the culture.

After watching the movie, many people told me that they were inspired to live an uncommon life for Christ. Simply put, they were lifted by the film's positive and inspiring message. Audio-visual film reaches all of our senses – visual, aural, and emotional – engaging both the left and right sides of our brains. With the right content produced in a professional manner, film can drill home a message to people who would otherwise not be reached.

Last year, we distributed almost 100,000 of our pocket-sized booklets addressing the rights of students in public schools. Every principle in the country was included in the distribution, Kindergarten through the 12th grade. Entitled, "Religious Freedom in Public Schools," the booklet is part of



our five-title (so far) Patriot's Handbook series. We are planning a similar distribution strategy for our feature length films, beginning with *Uncommon*.

*Uncommon* is an excellent film and can also be performed as a play in any setting. While *Uncommon* has a very powerful message for youth, its content is highly relevant for all generations.

*This is far more than an entertaining movie. We have developed a package of resources designed to inspire you to be an uncommon Christian!*

*Uncommon Voices* is an 82-page, full-color book with scenes and quotes from the movie and real stories of people who stood up for their faith and never backed down. Megan Chapman is prominently featured. When faced with a court injunction obtained by the ACLU ordering her not to pray at her high school graduation, Megan had a choice to remain silent or to speak from her heart.

Megan stood up and her Christ-honoring message greatly inspired the 3,000 people attending the graduation ceremony. It spread to several hundred thousand through the regional newspaper, to several million on Fox News, and to tens of millions worldwide in the two-hour, award-winning CNN documentary, "God's Christian Warriors." I had the pleasure last year of awarding Megan her Juris Doctor degree in law. Megan had a choice to be silent or to be uncommon: She clearly made the right choice!

*Be Uncommon* is a month-long, five-day-a-week Bible study. Accompanied by a DVD, each day begins with a scene from *Uncommon*, the daily Scripture that goes with the scene, and a Bible study lesson that inspires the reader to be an uncommon Christian.

A CD containing all the inspirational songs from *Uncommon*, including "Have Faith," the upbeat song written for the movie, allows you to take the inspiration with you throughout the day. Without doubt, the DVD of the 106-minute *Uncommon* movie is one you will want to get for your home movie collection.

Erik Estrada and the production team are embarking on a nationwide tour to show *Uncommon* in over 200 churches. I will join them for some of the tour. If you know of a church that seats 500 or more people that would like to have *Uncommon* screened with

Erik Estrada, call Liberty Counsel at 800-671-1776. Erik will be at many viewings and is committed to getting this message out as widely as possible.

*In the face of adversity, there is great opportunity when you make the decision to stand up for God.* As Erik's character says at the beginning of the movie, God is "waiting for the right people to stand up and take back what we lost." Join the Liberty Counsel team this year in standing up and taking back what we have lost in America. **With God, nothing is impossible!**

I hope you will consider ordering *Uncommon* and getting the full package of resources. You can order these important resources from our on-line store at LC.org or by calling 1-800-671-1776. Then, you can share the blessing with friends and begin living a Christian life that is truly uncommon! 🙏



*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.*

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*Thank you* for playing an integral part in Liberty Counsel's vital work through your prayers and financial support! You are sewing good seeds in our culture that **will** bear good fruit!

As we work His plan together, He promises that He will prosper us and protect us from harm, while also giving us hope and a future. Now **that** plan is certainly worthy of our next 25 years of collaboration! 🙏

*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.*

## DO YOU WANT TO BE UNCOMMON?

You can enjoy and use Liberty Counsel's first feature-length motion picture, *Uncommon*, and special materials we have developed! These materials are designed to educate students, teachers, and parents about the fact that students do NOT lose their freedom of speech and freedom of religion when they enter the schoolhouse door!

### ***THIS IS NOT JUST ENTERTAINMENT...***

*Uncommon* is more than an entertaining movie. We have developed a package of resources designed to help you to become an uncommon Christian: A DVD of the 106-minute *Uncommon* movie is one you will want to get for your home movie collection. Special music was developed for the film including several hip-hop and Latino-style music compositions. A CD (not pictured) containing all the inspirational songs from *Uncommon*, including "Have Faith," an upbeat song written for the movie, allows you to take the inspiration with you throughout the day. *Uncommon Voices* is an 82-page, full color, oversized book with scenes and quotes from the movie and real stories of people who stood up for their faith and never backed down. *Be Uncommon* is a month-long, five-day-a-week Bible study. Accompanied by a DVD, each day begins with a scene from *Uncommon*, the daily Scripture that goes with the scene, and a Bible study lesson that inspires the reader to be an uncommon Christian. *Uncommon* is not only an excellent film, but it can also be performed as a play in any setting. We have developed a script which can be performed by your drama group!

All of these uncommon resources are available at nominal cost in our *Online Store* at LC.org. But when you send a gift of at least \$50 to support Liberty Counsel's vital mission today, we will send the DVD, play script, soundtrack CD, the Bible study, and the beautiful *Uncommon Voices* coffee table book. Simply check the special box on your Response Form and we will rush your resources to you.

***Let these special resources give you the tools to become uncommon today!***



**From Anita Staver, President**

# FOLLOWING THE PLAN AND ADVANCING THE MISSION



*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11*

**A**s you probably know, this year marks Liberty Counsel's 25th year of ministry!

When Mat and I consider what God has accomplished through this ministry in the last quarter of a century, we are amazed and it encourages us to continue to push forward in eager anticipation of what lies ahead. We are especially appreciative of the fact that so many patriots have been standing with us over the years.

You can be assured that this year – as has been the case in each of the 24 preceding years – we are intensely focused on Liberty Counsel's core mission: *To restore the culture by advancing religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, and the family.*

We advance religious freedom so that people can freely practice their faith and share it with others. We advance the sanctity of life because of the intrinsic value of human beings created in God's image. We advance

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ideals that strengthen the family and promote a just and stable society.

Much of our time is spent combating radical secularists' attempts to pervert the law to fit their own misguided desires. *But laws and regulations that do not conform to God's law will degrade and eventually destroy any society.*

As U.S. Supreme Court Justice James Wilson, who signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, observed, "Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is Divine." Indeed, Liberty Counsel's efforts in courtrooms, legislative halls, and the arena of public opinion are designed to help point the way back to the great Lawgiver.

When unjust laws repress faith and pervert justice, His work is hindered.

But when faith is shared freely, lives are changed! *As we work to fulfill our mission, we are always keenly aware that the futures of a great many individuals hang in the balance.*

Thankfully, we do not undertake this crucially important work alone. God has sent us many friends – now numbering in the hundreds of thousands – who engage with us on important cultural challenges.

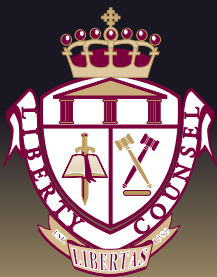
For example, working with our supporters, we enable Christian students and teachers to let the light of Christ shine through them in the crucially important public education setting. We refuse to abandon even the most corrupt public school systems to radicals!

And although Hollywood, the secular media, and the current administration seem bent on destroying natural marriage and the family, we will continue fighting so that destructive lifestyles do not become normative in our culture.

We are also committed to protect the unalienable right of every American to follow God according to his or her convictions and to express their faith without fear of government retaliation or censorship.

*Throughout history, God has accomplished His work through people like you and me.* This challenging year will be no different, although the stakes in our battle for liberty, life, and family are getting higher and higher.

*(continued on page 3...)*



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

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**Liberty Counsel**

PO Box 540774

Orlando, FL 32854-0774

800•671•1776

[www.LC.org](http://www.LC.org) • [liberty@LC.org](mailto:liberty@LC.org)

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