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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 LIBERTY AMBASSADOR COUNSEL'S TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND: AN EXPERIENCE BEYOND WORDS

After our recent return from Israel in late May, people have asked me "How was the trip?" But when I try to answer, I find it difficult, if not impossible, to describe the experience! Each day was so packed with information, amazing sites, and incredible lectures that when I begin cataloging each day, it takes a very long time to explain. Yet, the experience was far greater than the sum of the events, so I can never fully answer that simple question!

Visiting Israel as part of our Liberty Ambassador Counsel (LAC) program is truly an experience beyond mere words.

Anita and I have now been to Israel seven times. Each time we visit we learn more, and each trip provides unique experiences. In the past year, God has opened many doors for us in Israel. To put it mildly, we are totally amazed and excited about what God is doing!

In fact, we invite you to come with us on our next trip, taking place on May 18-27, 2013, to see what we

mean. Our Liberty Ambassador Counsel (LAC) program will greatly strengthen your Christian faith and equip you to literally become a goodwill ambassador for Israel, and this is especially true for those who travel to the Holy Land with us.

A Liberty Ambassador Counsel tour in Israel includes visiting the important biblical and historical sites, along with exclusive private meetings with high-level Israeli government,

military, business, religious, and academic leaders. There is no other tour or experience in Israel that compares with this one!

On this trip, we began in the Galilee and traveled north to the Golan Heights – to the edge of the Israel-Syrian border. Standing in this strategic location puts any discussion into perspective about the absurdity of Israel returning to her 1967 borders.

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Liberty Ambassador Counsel (LAC) offers a truly unique opportunity to experience Israel. Our recent trip in May 2012 was the second LAC Israel tour since the launch of this exciting program in September 2011. In addition to visiting the biblical and historical sites, we have exclusive private meetings with high-level Israeli government, military, business, religious, and academic leaders. Join us for our next scheduled trip to Israel May 18-27, 2013!

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If the nation of Israel complied with such demands, the entire Golan region from Syria and Lebanon to the Sea of Galilee would be handed over to radical Islamic nations. This would also include the Judea-Samaria region, making Israel only 9 miles wide at its narrowest point. Returning to the 1967 border would literally be national suicide!

As you doubtless know, Jesus performed most of his ministry in the Galilee region. It was in nearby Capernaum where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, and on this year's LAC mission we visited the actual ruins of the home. In this city, Jesus called

It is undeniably true that Judeo-Christian values shaped and formed the United States of America. We share common values with Israel and the Jewish people, and we also share common threats.

Matthew, the tax collector, to be a disciple. We also visited the Mount of Beatitudes, where it is likely Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount.

We had an amazing experience on the Sea of Galilee. I shared from the portion of Matthew 14 in which Jesus fed the multitudes and, later that night and early the following morning, the disciples were tossed about in a boat by raging winds. It is here that Jesus summoned Peter to get out of the boat and then rescued him with these eternal words, "Oh, you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

The Scriptures come alive in Israel! This was certainly true for our group at Caesarea Philippi. In ancient times,

this was the center of paganism, where Zeus and other pagan gods were worshipped and where their altars are still carved in the mountain. Here we find the place that was called the "Gates of Hell" or "Hades."

It was here that Jesus asked the disciples "Who do people say that I am?" When Peter responded, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God," Jesus said, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."

No trip to the northern part of Israel can be complete without a visit to the Jordan River. The Jordan runs from the Sea of Galilee in the north to the Dead Sea in the south. It forms the border between modern Jordan and Israel. The Israelites crossed the Jordan when they entered into the Promised Land. It is in this same place that John the Baptist baptized Jesus.

Before leaving the Galilee, we had the rare privilege of touring an Israeli Air Force Base in the Valley of Jezreel near Mount Carmel, where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. This is near Mount Megiddo, which the Book of Revelation refers to as Armageddon (which means Mount Megiddo). This opportunity is very rare indeed: For obvious reasons, very few civilians get to visit an Israeli Air Force Base.

I'm sure you can understand that it is impossible in this brief report to catalog all the sites and lectures we experienced in Jerusalem! Some highlights included the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, where Jesus took his disciples to pray hours before the Crucifixion. In the Garden, there remain several ancient olive trees, one of which is 2,000 years old and still bears fruit!

After visiting Caiaphas's house, we went to where Jesus was taken before Pontius Pilot. The games the Roman soldiers played are still visibly carved into the stone floor. From here we

walked down the Via Dolorosa and then to the Garden Tomb, where we celebrated communion. As you might imagine, mere words fail to describe that experience!

Our LAC group toured many other ancient sites in Jerusalem, including the Western Wall (also referred to as a Wailing Wall), the Upper Room, and

Israel is at the epicenter of our faith and values, and there is no other place in the world that links the past, present, and future like the Holy Land.

many other such sites. Although we were well-scheduled, each experience seemed surprising in its impact!

One day, we toured the Knesset and watched a debate in session. Mark Regev, the spokesman for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, spoke privately with our group.

This same day we toured Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum, and in the evening we were riveted by the testimony of Jacob Handelli, who survived Auschwitz and the infamous Death March. He shared his incredible story of torture and survival and then showed us the tattoo on his forearm that only those confined to Auschwitz received. This experience was deeply moving and truly priceless.

We also toured the Israeli Supreme Court and had a private meeting with a Supreme Court Justice. *I was not surprised to hear him relate that the same issues we face in America with judicial activism are also plaguing Israel's legal system.*

Our tour included a trip to Masada, which was the last Jewish stronghold conquered by the Romans in 73 AD. We then went to Qumran where the most important discovery of ancient Scripture occurred in

1947, less than a year before Israel declared Independence in May of 1948. As an avid student of ancient languages and manuscripts, I was completely enthralled!

Nadav Kidron gave our group an amazing presentation on the economic and business aspects of the nation of Israel. A good book to read about Israel's economy is "Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle" by Dan Senor and Saul Singer. As you may have recently read, huge gas and shale deposits have now been discovered both in Israel's offshore territory and under their land mass, which could mean Israel will soon become energy independent and even become an exporter of petroleum products.

On a side note, Israel surely has the largest buffets you've ever seen! Their restaurants are filled with fresh fruit and countless vegetables. There is more food – and much better prepared, I might add – than on the most luxurious cruise ship. This once-barren land and the vegetation it now produces are truly miraculous!

On the final day, we went to Caesarea Maritima located on the Mediterranean Sea. Here the Apostle Paul was held in custody, and it was here that he appealed to Caesar. I shared on the steps of the massive amphitheater about the manner in which our Christian faith was transmitted by Paul to Rome, and eventually to the shores of America.

Of course, our Christian faith began in the Holy Land. It is undeniably true that Judeo-Christian values shaped and formed the United States of America. We share common values with Israel and the Jewish people, and we also share common threats.

To summarize, on the two occasions Anita and I have visited Israel with our Liberty Ambassador Counsel members, we have had incredible experiences! Without exception, our companions have shared that they had the experiences

of their lifetimes. Israel is at the epicenter of our faith and values, and there is no other place in the world that links the past, present, and future like the Holy Land.

Again, I invite you to join us for an unforgettable experience of your own on May 18-27, 2013! For more information, call our office at 800-671-1776.

We are more resolved than ever to fight to preserve the Judeo-Christian values that have made America a great nation. The modern geo-political reality is that Israel is America's greatest ally in the Middle East. For many reasons, we MUST support Israel!

Anita and I expect God's continued blessing on our LAC outreach and for our part, we will work tirelessly this year to educate and motivate pastors, churches, and concerned citizens to join us in supporting Israel. *For those who have an ear to hear, the very future of Western civilization depends on our actions, and both America's and Israel's destiny will be determined in our lifetime.* 🙏



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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growing secularism in America.

We are also excited to be actively involved in training the next generation to engage in law and public policy from a biblical perspective. You will be glad to learn that our Washington, D.C., office is actively involved in fighting secularization. In fact, our office is a key training ground for students who

We must be extremely wary of these secularists, whose real intent is to drive Christianity out of public life, back into church, and eventually underground.

want to learn how to impact the nation's public policy. Each year, we train about 20-25 students in all of our offices. Some listen to lectures, work on our cases, and practice litigation skills, while others analyze legislation and learn how to interact with congressional staff members.

We are resolved not to let the atheists and other anti-Christian forces take over our government! Secularists are free to ignore the Almighty at their own peril, but they cannot expect us to abandon Him or ignore America's Christian history! To borrow from a well-known Scripture verse: As for the Liberty Counsel team, we *will* serve the Lord! 🙏

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.

From Anita Staver, President

FIGHTING THE RISING SECULAR THREAT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE



In his pride the wicked does not seek Him. — Psalm 10:4

Recently, the head of the Council for Secular Humanism gleefully wrote about the growing secularization of America.

Tom Flynn believes that “with the number of ‘hard seculars’ continuing to multiply...it seems more reasonable than ever to hope that, one day, America will look more like Western Europe in its level of popular piety.”

I have a suggestion for admirers of Western Europe, who disdain American exceptionalism. Secularists should experience life in Belgium or France, which both rank in the top 25 for national suicide rates, where taxes exceed 50% of income, and where Islamic radicals perpetrate violence at ever-increasing levels.

If a secular America was just the dream of a solitary antitheist, we would not need to take notice. But Flynn’s group is just one of eleven members of the 10-year-old Secular Coalition of America, a DC-based lobbying group with the radical

Secularists are free to ignore the Almighty at their own peril, but they cannot expect us to abandon Him or ignore America’s Christian history!

agenda of erasing any acknowledgement of God from this nation.

This ungodly coalition’s wish list includes: Removing “under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance and “In God We Trust” from our money, ending tax exemptions for churches and other religious groups, mandating acceptance of same-sex “marriage,” revoking the federal charter of the Boy Scouts for refusing to hire atheists, requiring doctors to give treatment that offends their consciences, and instituting school sex-ed programs that promote promiscuity, just to name a few.

In fact, one could accurately call this badly misguided group the “Anti-Christian Coalition”!

In an effort to achieve mainstream

acceptance, the Coalition recently hired Republican lobbyist Edwina Rogers, who effused: “We have grand plans in that we’ll be trying to meet with everyone we can and we’ll also be looking to work with Christian groups and other religious groups on issues where we have common ground.”

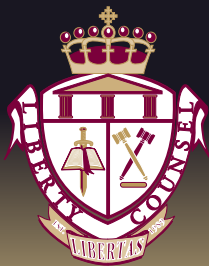
Common ground?

I cannot imagine what Christian could find “common ground” with a group pushing the Coalition’s to-do list of anti-American hogwash. Mingle such disparate groups as you will, but like oil and water, they just won’t blend. Indeed, we must be extremely wary of these secularists, whose real intent is to drive Christianity out of public life, back into church, and eventually underground. They are the proverbial “wolves in sheep’s clothing.”

But – praise the Lord – Christians have the perfect antidote for creeping secularism! Remember, we do not face this challenge alone. God is big enough to solve any problem. ***One person + God = the solution!***

Better yet, we are not just one person. We often hear from Liberty Counsel’s growing army of supporters who are both praying for our success and taking action with the information we provide through our website, www.LC.org, email alerts, online programs, and publications. We will continue to let you know what steps to take to effectively combat the

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

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