The past twelve months, Liberty Counsel’s silver anniversary year, was characterized by intense activity and notable triumphs as we built a firm foundation for our next quarter century of service. We strengthened our core assets while creating new strategies and vehicles to advance our mission well into the future. Read more in our highly refined list of 2014’s many legal actions, campaigns, achievements, and honors.

We began 2014 issuing an urgent call for active Christian citizenship in this pivotal midterm election year. Liberty Counsel’s unprecedented Pastors & Patriots travelling tour, coupled with our powerful Who Will Stand? rallies at churches across the nation, and a greatly increased media and Internet outreach, aggressively emphasized the crucial role Christians and people of faith and values must play in our culture. By the end of the year, we gave God praise for the stern repudiation American voters gave the radical Obama agenda!

But as gratifying as the 2014 landslide victories were, we recognize that our liberties are still in great peril under the most tyrannical administration in American history.

This notable year also included significant personal realignments as Mat transitioned from his nearly nine years of distinguished service as Dean of the Liberty University School of Law, which has freed Mat to focus his energy on Liberty Counsel. With the law school now on firm footing, and with the nation’s culture wars intensifying, the timing is perfect for this transition. Mat will continue to provide consulting to the law school as it enters its next decade. And, we will maintain a Liberty Counsel office at the law school to work with the next generation of Champions.

This year has also been one of strategic growth in the midst of increasing challenges to our core liberties, both here and abroad. The Lord brought us into oversight of Christians in Defense of Israel (CIDI), a vibrant group of over 90,000 American Christians dedicated to standing with the nation of Israel against her many enemies. We also assumed a strategic role in RUN Ministries’ (Reaching Unreached Nations) amazing outreach to refugees suffering from ISIS evil in northern Iraq.

In short, the past year has required us to be flexible and responsive to new opportunities the Lord has brought us. The success we have achieved in advancing liberty, life, and family is simply not possible without a sizable group of faithful partners who share our perspective and realize that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance.

As you review the scores of legal actions and other culture changing activities Liberty Counsel undertook in 2014, please realize that we could not have succeeded at any level without the faithful support of thoughtful, patriotic Americans like you! The strength of our resolve to answer His call is certain to be tested again in 2015, but with God’s help, we can overcome in every circumstance. Together, we will continue making a positive difference in our culture regardless of the misguided and dangerous policies our adversaries are forcing upon the American people!
Together, We are Fighting for Life, Liberty, and Family!

The pivotal 2014 mid-term elections proved to be an outcry against both the corruption and anti-Christian bigotry of the current administration and its sycophants in Congress. Liberty Counsel and our affiliated organizations had a major impact in moving the hearts and minds of concerned Americans to vote their consciences and principles in this watershed election. Thankfully, we will soon have a dramatic change in power balance in Congress, but this is no time to let down our guard and simply trust elected officials to do what they promised. We plan to take even bolder initiatives to positively impact the culture in 2015!

The following brief synopsis of hundreds of cases and other legal and policy actions Liberty Counsel undertook in 2014 is just a sampling of the actual volume of activity friends like you have enabled us to achieve. Besides being one of the nation’s first Christian legal ministries, we are also among the most aggressive and productive. We have organized the highlights of our activities over the past calendar year in accordance with Liberty Counsel’s motto: Restoring the Culture by Advancing Religious Freedom, the Sanctity of Human Life, and the Family.

Religious Freedom

- Filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby*, in which the Court ruled that the Christian business did not have to comply with the ObamaCare HHS contraception and abortion drugs mandate.
- Defended the First Amendment rights of a Pueblo, Colorado, citizen who regularly engages in street evangelism.
- Won a federal lawsuit on behalf of high school students with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Florida through which the club will now have equal access to meet on campus.
- Filed a brief at the U.S. Supreme Court in *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, wherein the Court issued a significant opinion upholding prayer at city or town meetings.
- Testified before the U.S. Congress on Threats to Religious Liberty.
- Resolved many cases involving Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) in multiple states where school districts formerly discriminated against their Good News Clubs in terms of use of the facilities, time of use, fees, and announcements or advertisements. Now scores of children will be able to hear the Good News in public schools in which they couldn’t before our interventions.
- Successfully defended homeowners Enock and Ines Berluche in Kissimmee, FL, when their homeowner’s association allowed numerous lawn ornaments, including
human skulls and four-foot topless Greek statues, but tried to force them to remove two small statues of Mary and Jesus.

- Filed a brief with the Supreme Court to defend the rights of a church to advertise or display religious messages like other entities can advertise or display secular messages.

**Sanctity of Human Life**

- Continued to defend pro-life sidewalk counselors against a law in south Florida that restricts pro-life speech near an abortion clinic.
- Worked with legislators and pro-life groups in Arkansas on pro-life laws and defense of a law that bans abortion after twelve weeks.
- Filed a major brief before the Alabama Supreme Court, which then ruled that the word “child” in a child endangerment law includes unborn children.
- Defended a pastor’s right to speak out on abortion after he was arrested and jailed for four hours simply for holding a sign stating that abortion kills children.
- Filed a brief with the federal Court of Appeals arguing that abortion viability standards should be revisited in light of modern advancements in medicine and understanding of children in the womb.
- Filed an important brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *McCullen v. Coakley*, in which the Court struck down a Massachusetts law that featured a 35-foot “buffer zone” around abortion clinics.

**The Family**

- Continued to defend Massachusetts pastor Scott Lively who faces charges from Sexual Minorities of Uganda (SMUG) for allegedly violating international law by speaking out against homosexual conduct while visiting Uganda. Even though the Supreme Court ruled in 2012 that the Alien Tort Statute cannot be used against citizens in America for alleged violations of international law, the federal judge, who calls himself the “legislator of mankind,” refused to dismiss the case.
- Filed suit and submitted a brief in New Jersey on behalf of a family against a law that bans minors from receiving counseling regarding unwanted same-sex attractions, behavior, or identity.
- Defended natural marriage by filing briefs and arguing in courts in Florida, Virginia, Nevada, Utah, Oklahoma, Texas, Indiana, and other states.
- Presented oral argument in federal district court and the court of appeals and filed a petition before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of counselors and counseling organizations challenging New Jersey Bill A3371, which bans counselors from offering, and minors from receiving, counseling to diminish or eliminate same-sex attractions, behavior, or identity.
- Filed a petition with the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of minors, parents, counselors, and counseling organizations challenging California Law SB 1172, banning minors from receiving, and counselors from offering, counsel to change unwanted same-sex attractions, behavior, or identity.
- Worked to defeat laws banning change therapy in multiple states including Florida, Maryland, Virginia, Illinois, Ohio, and the District of Columbia.
- Fought for Justina Pelletier and her family against the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families and finally won her release to return home to her mom and dad.
- Arranged for Justina Pelletier to address more than 70 members of Congress regarding her experiences, urging Congress to pass “Justina’s Law,” a bill protecting children who are wards of the state from involuntary medical research.
- Successfully defended a Christian business owner who refused to host a same-sex ceremony at his venue.

**Other Significant Events**

- Received the Medal of Honor from the Peruvian Congress after speaking to a packed Senate room. The event was broadcast on Peruvian national TV, showing how a worldview based on the existence of God makes a difference in laws and policies, particularly on life, marriage, and religious freedom.
- Produced and released a feature film entitled *Uncommon* about religious liberty in high schools. The storyline of the feature film follows a group of students who face religious discrimination and who persevere in the face of opposition.
- Filmed and released *I Choose* on the Eleventh Annual Day of Purity. The short video encourages young people to look past casual sex to lifetime intimacy.
- Launched the Twelfth Annual *Friend or Foe Graduation*
Prayer Campaign to educate and, when necessary, litigate to ensure that prayer and religious viewpoints are not censored from graduation.

• Launched the Eleventh Annual Friend or Foe Christmas Campaign to educate and, when necessary, litigate to ensure that Christ and Christianity is not censored from Christmas. This campaign includes the Naughty & Nice list of retailers.

• Christians in Defense of Israel (CIDI) became a ministry of Liberty Counsel. The 90,000 supporters of CIDI joined Liberty Counsel’s own Israel outreach with more than 150,000 supporters, making CIDI one of the largest Christian pro-Israel organizations in the country.

• Hosted law student interns at the U.S. Supreme Court as part of our 10-week program to train a new generation of Christian legal advocates through Liberty University School of Law’s internship, externship, and constitutional litigation clinic programs. A Supreme Court Justice spoke to the interns.

• Co-hosted the Seventh Annual TeenPact Judicial Program at Liberty University School of Law, a week-long program that instructs motivated teenagers in the rule of law and the importance of a Christian worldview.

• Co-sponsored the Values Voter Summit in Washington, D.C., with about 2,000 people in attendance.

• Conducted many conferences to educate teachers and public school administrators on how to integrate Christian values and history into their curricula and informed them of students’ rights to religious liberty.

• Hosted and spoke at many pastors’ conferences to educate and mobilize pastors to speak out on biblical values.

• Launched the Pastors & Patriots traveling tour mobilizing pastors across America and then conducting Who Will Stand? rallies at churches to activate Christians to engage the culture.

• Hosted a training and educational tour of Israel as part of our Liberty Ambassador Counsel program with the goal of strengthening participants’ Christian faith and equipping them to be goodwill ambassadors for Israel. Participants also met with high-ranking Israeli political, military, academic, business, and religious leaders, including members of the Knesset (the legislature of Israel).

• Hosted high-level Israeli government and national security experts on national conference calls to update Americans about Israel and political issues.

• Co-sponsored the Thirteenth Annual Israel Solidarity event, celebrating Israel’s independence at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC.

• Completed service on a national panel of legal experts for The Commission on Accountability and Policy for Religious Organizations and issued a detailed report of findings on legal issues affecting churches and nonprofit organizations.

• Sponsored the Women Impacting the Nation (WIN) conference in Orlando, Florida, with the theme For Such a Time as This.

You Can Become a Liberty Ambassador to Israel!

Liberty Counsel is looking for “Liberty Ambassadors to Israel” to experience the Holy Land with us on May 17-26, 2015! This tour will strengthen your Christian faith and equip you to be a goodwill ambassador for Israel.

The Liberty Ambassador Counsel VIP Tour is unlike any other experience in Israel, combining a present-day experience of that nation with a first-class Holy Land tour. It will help you combine an understanding of the biblical Jewish nation with knowledge of present-day Israel’s geo-political reality. We promise, it will be the trip of a lifetime! Please consider this article as your special invitation to join us!

To learn more or register for the tour, go to AmbassadorCounsel.org or call 800-671-1776
Liberty Counsel fought many intense policy battles in 2014, sending out more than 18 million citizen action messages over the internet in support of these strategic initiatives. Among many other efforts, we launched massive campaigns against statist intrusion into personal and church liberties (campaign bumper sticker, top left), organized citizen action to keep legislators true to their promises (window sticker, top left), and rallied church members to take a stand for righteousness in civil government (campaign button, top left). Liberty Action PAC, our highly effective Super Political Action Committee (PAC), had a major impact on the pivotal 2014 midterm elections and helped deliver the most conservative Congress in memory (U.S. Capitol and our watchword, center left). Among Liberty Counsel’s many educational themes during the year, our campaign to encourage peaceful resistance to unjust laws (including wide distribution of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s timeless piece, Letter from a Birmingham Jail (center left), reached hundreds of thousands of our supporters.

At center left, Liberty Counsel clients Lou and Justina Pelletier arrive home after Justina suffered a torturous sixteen-month false imprisonment by the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families and Boston Children’s Hospital. The Pelletier case was perhaps the most publicized parental rights battle in the nation’s history and Mat Staver appeared on scores of national media platforms discussing the case. In the end, through diligent work and much organized prayer, we secured Justina’s release and a major victory for American parents and children. The 2014 Pastors & Patriots campaign (the logo is shown at bottom left) was one of the most extensive campaigns in Liberty Counsel’s history. Many tens of thousands of our fact-filled Action Packs, including a special training DVD, were distributed to Christian leaders in key battleground states to counteract the Left’s intimidation campaign seeking to limit church involvement in voter education activities.

At top right, blankets and other basic relief items are shown at a RUN Ministries “Community of Hope” refugee camp in northern Iraq. Liberty Counsel Action has partnered with RUN’s efforts and through early December, our supporters had directly contributed over $50,000 to the relief effort for victims of ISIS evil!

At top right, Liberty University School of Law Dean Mat Staver congratulates Megan Chapman upon receiving her Juris Doctor degree last spring. Once a Liberty Counsel client who was denied free speech rights during her high school graduation, Megan’s courageous Christian witness inspired millions of people worldwide when her story went viral in the media. The late Dr. Jerry Falwell, Sr., gave Megan a full scholarship as a “Champion for Christ” for her undergraduate work and she then continued studying to receive her law degree! At center right, Mat greets Israeli Minister of Defense Moshe Ya’alon during a special meeting arranged by the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC. The Lord continues to give Liberty Counsel amazing opportunities to bless the nation of Israel. At bottom right, Liberty Counsel Chief Counsel Horatio Mihet (at left in picture) is shown with our client Pastor Scott Lively and his wife. Lively was sued by a George Soros funded group called Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) in a U.S. District Court for preaching on the sanctity of marriage in Ugandan churches! Liberty Counsel is asking for sanctions on the parties filing the lawsuit, which amounts to an attempt to use a vague international law to silence, and eventually criminalize, speech by U.S. citizens whose viewpoint on homosexuality and moral issues differ from George Soros and other radical activists.

At bottom center, Mat Staver is shown addressing the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice regarding the state of religious liberty in the United States. Staver’s testimony emphasized the fact that the dangers to religious liberty today are at unprecedented levels and focused on conflicts involving the sanctity of human life, same-sex “marriage,” and sexual “identity” issues. Also at center bottom, Mat baptizes a member of 2014’s Liberty Ambassador Counsel tour of Israel in the Jordan River. You can learn more about 2015’s tour by calling our headquarters office at 1-800-671-1776.
Ministry Projects and Other Affiliations

• Liberty Counsel Action is a 501(c)(4) sister organization. This group increases our ability to engage in issue advocacy and lobbying legislators and other elected officials. LCAction.org.

  • Liberty Action PAC is affiliated with our sister organization, Liberty Counsel Action, and engaged in voter mobilization during 2012, 2013, and 2014. We are now strategically positioned to greatly impact future election cycles and fully engage the unique supporters of Liberty Counsel’s family of ministries. LibertyActionPAC.com.

  • Liberty Ambassador Counsel connects hundreds of thousands of Americans with the nation of Israel and includes tours of biblical sites, special briefings by leading Israeli officials, and educational updates. AmbassadorCounsel.com.

  • New Revolution Institute provides training to educate and mobilize citizen activists in order to advance our nation’s core values and celebrate its first principles.

  • New Revolution Publishers produces books and educational materials on American history, the Founding Fathers, first principles, and Christian citizen activism.

  • Liberty Counsel Connect website links all of the Liberty Counsel entities and provides updates and interactive news. This website allows easy access to the websites of our various ministry outreaches LibertyCounsel.com.

  • For the second consecutive year partnered with the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, the largest Hispanic organization in the country comprised of 40,118 Evangelical Hispanic churches, by sponsoring the Life Directive. NHCLC now also includes Conela, which represents nearly 500,000 Evangelical Hispanic churches throughout Latin America and Canada.

• Joined with The Salt and Light Council (SLC) to educate and mobilize pastors and churches to engage in responsible Biblical citizenship.

LIBERTY PRAYER NETWORK

• Enlisted people to pray and intercede for America through the Liberty Prayer Network, a prayer ministry collaborating with our extensive group of friends and supporters. Liberty Prayer Network is headed by International Director Maureen Bravo.

• Encouraged and inspired church leaders through the Pastors and Patriots Initiative, designed to educate and mobilize pastors and churches to engage in responsible citizenship. Liberty Counsel sent tens of thousands of churches a DVD entitled “Silence is Not an Option,” in which Mat Staver informs pastors about how they can be involved in shaping local, state, and national issues.

• Liberty Counsel’s 60-second weekday radio program, Freedom’s Call, and 15-minute weekday program, Faith & Freedom, is broadcast on more than 500 radio stations each weekday. In addition, Liberty Counsel’s 60-second weekday Llamada de Libertad, the only Hispanic, conservative public-policy radio show in the United States, is heard in 10 of the biggest Hispanic-populated cities, including Dallas and Miami. This year, Liberty Counsel launched a weekly 30-minute version of Faith & Freedom, which is aired on Kaliki, an on-demand, audio news and information platform. LC is active in traditional and new media including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, and sends Liberty Alert email updates and News Releases.

• Who Will Stand? Pastors’ and Wives’ Meetings and Church Rallies are key components of the ongoing Pastors & Patriots campaign.

For more information on these and other Liberty Counsel entities and outreaches, please visit LibertyCounsel.com
The fault line of Western civilization runs through Israel, and the epicenter is Jerusalem. Radical Islamic Jihadists call Israel the “Little Satan” and refer to America as the “Big Satan.” Israel and America share Judeo-Christian values and consequently have shared threats to those values. For many reasons, we must stand with Israel and the Jewish people!

Along with Liberty Counsel’s current Israel initiative, Liberty Ambassador Counsel, we are pleased to announce that Christians in Defense of Israel has now merged with Liberty Counsel.

In 2011, Liberty Counsel launched the Liberty Ambassador Counsel program to connect people with Israel through a program designed to strengthen the participants’ Christian faith and equip them to become goodwill ambassadors for Israel. The unique tour components include biblical and historical sites, but, unlike other tours, we also include political, military, security, academic, and business sites and instruction from experts in these fields. The tour is literally life-changing.

Now, we are excited to announce that Christians in Defense of Israel (CIDI) has become part of Liberty Counsel! Combined with our more than 150,000 self-identified supporters of Israel, CIDI brings more than 90,000 additional supporters, making Liberty Counsel’s CIDI outreach one of America’s largest Christian, pro-Israel organizations! CIDI has regular mailings dedicated to all things related to Israel and the Middle East.

CIDI was founded by Dr. Ed Hindson, the Dean of the School of Religion and Distinguished Professor of Theology at Liberty University. Dr. Hindson is an expert on the Bible, Israel, and the Middle East. He is a walking encyclopedia of information! With a sincere desire to expand the influence of CIDI, Dr. Hindson has merged CIDI with Liberty Counsel.

We will now advance our impactful outreach to Israel under the name of Christians in Defense of Israel. Mat Staver will take over the leadership of CIDI, but Dr. Hindson will remain involved as a consultant and will accompany us on some of our future trips to Israel. The next trip is May 17-26, 2015. Visit AmbassadorCounsel.org for more information and to sign up for the trip of a lifetime!

We will soon be launching a dedicated website under the name Christians in Defense of Israel. Stay tuned for more information.

Mat Staver recently had lunch in the home of the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Ron Dermer, to discuss this new development and some additional exciting initiatives. We will share those developments with you in the near future!

If you want to support Christians in Defense of Israel, or to sign up for our next tour, please go to AmbassadorCounsel.org for more information. You will receive special CIDI monthly updates and other pro-Israel action alerts. If you provide us with your email address, we will share breaking news with you on a nearly real-time basis. We will also be making special online training relating to Israel and the Middle East available to you as we develop the materials.

Along with your request to join the CIDI communications program, if you are able, please include a generous gift to Liberty Counsel. We are a faith-based ministry stepping out to fight Goliath, and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is with us!

Also, make plans now to join us in Israel on May 17-28, 2015. You will never be the same after visiting Israel on one of our totally unique tours. This is the land where the Bible was written; you will be able to walk where Jesus walked. As many of your fellow believers who have joined us have testified, the Scriptures will come alive for you and the experience will be truly life-changing!

To learn more, please visit AmbassadorCounsel.org or call 800-671-1776. Stand with Liberty Counsel and CIDI as we stand with Israel!

A renowned biblical scholar, Dr. Ed Hindson founded CIDI as a means of encouraging Israelis and educating American Christians. In July 2014, Dr. Hindson merged the organization with Liberty Counsel and continues to make his expertise and highly respected teaching materials available to CIDI members.
The Liberty Counsel family of ministries has long provided charitable relief in situations in which we were positioned to make a critical difference. Our specialized relief work has been grounded in our firm commitment to the cardinal tenets of Christianity and our careful stewardship of the Lord’s resources.

In the summer of 2014, the rapid advance of ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham, which now calls itself “The Islamic State,”) left tens of thousands of refugees fleeing to escape its cruelty. Many of the victims of ISIS barbarism were Christians, but other ethnic and religious minorities – and even Muslims who ISIS felt weren’t radical enough – also fell prey to advancing ISIS forces, especially in northern Iraq.

In August, Liberty Counsel was approached by RUN Ministries (Reaching Unreached Nations) with a request to make our hundreds of thousands of supporters aware of the horrific humanitarian crisis ISIS was creating. RUN was founded in 1990 by Eric and Becky Watt as a USA registered 501 (c)(3) tax-deductible organization. An interdenominational mission, RUN subscribes to the Lausanne Covenant and cooperates with Christians around the world to help fulfill the Great Commission.

In the course of establishing networks in the Middle East to achieve their mission, RUN’s many indigenous team members were well positioned to provide aid to victims of ISIS attacks. RUN was among the first responders to meet this need and remains among the most effective relief organizations working to help the suffering victims of ISIS evil.

Because the situation on the ground is extremely sensitive, RUN must observe strict security measures and we can report only in general terms that their efforts in Iraq have been highly fruitful. By the end of November, nearly a dozen lives have been lost from among RUN’s national colleagues who rescue others at great personal risk. Thanks to the prayers and generosity of many and the grace of God, the RUN teams on the ground in northern Iraq...

- Continue, every day, the “search and rescue operations” that began in early August to find those desperately fleeing from murderous jihadists to bring them to one of four Community of Hope Refugee Camps or secure them within a network of safe houses.
- Provide loving care, the Good News, safety, shelter, food, and clean water for at least 21 days until they can help each family find a permanent place to rebuild their lives.
- Meet new terrified and desperate families and help them escape the brutality of the jihadists to come into the camps.
- Respond to the ongoing need for tents, food, blankets, clean water, and other relief supplies.

Please pray for God’s protection of all those in the camps as well as the other places where RUN’s workers and colleagues have temporarily housed families. The enormous responsibility to care for these victims of terror in northern Iraq has been an unexpected and overwhelming challenge. Yet, the refugees’ gratitude for those who have rescued them has resulted in a growing number of non-Christians choosing to serve the one true God!

Liberty Counsel’s family of ministries will continue supporting RUN’s wonderful outreach under the banner of Liberty Relief, International. We will continue in solidarity with Pastor Eric Watt and his compassionate and courageous team members in the Spirit of Psalm 82:3-4...

Defend the weak and the orphans; defend the rights of the poor and suffering. Save the weak and helpless; free them from the power of the wicked.