PEDDLING “FAKE HATE”

If you were to perform an internet search to “define hate group,” you might be surprised to discover how many of the top links reference the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). The well-funded, extremely left-leaning group is loudly and effectively peddling “fake hate,” by labeling Liberty Counsel and other pro-family organizations as “hate groups.”

At Liberty Counsel, we are deeply grateful for loyal supporters who understand the nationwide impact of the SPLC’s fake hate strategy if left unchecked. First, the SPLC’s proliferation of lies is very dangerous to anyone who disagrees with pro-LGBT propaganda. These unfounded accusations threaten the physical safety of Liberty Counsel’s employees. In 2012, Floyd Corkins relied upon the SPLC’s “hate group” list and attempted to massacre employees of the Family Research Council (FRC). The security guard stopped Corkins and was shot in the process. Corkins confessed that he was motivated to kill FRC staff because of the SPLC “hate map” that listed FRC. More recently, James Hodgkinson “liked” the SPLC Facebook page, and he also attempted to commit mass murder against conservative Republicans. Had it not been for Representative Steve Scalise’s security, many people would have been killed. Labeling pro-family groups as “hate groups” is dangerous.

Access Denied

Meanwhile, the SPLC is all but celebrating the fact that its “hate” attack campaign against Liberty Counsel is spreading to other far-left organizations. One group we wouldn’t have expected to pick up the SPLC’s lying assertions about pro-family groups is GuideStar, the self-proclaimed “world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations.” GuideStar is a “go-to” reference for foundations, grant-makers, and other donors researching organizations like ours before making significant gifts. Among the

Continued on page 5

Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel
STOP ANTI-CHRISTIAN INTERNET BIGOTRY!

The misrepresentations of the Southern Poverty Law Center’s (SPLCs) “fake hate” campaign have spread like a cancer, with major Internet organizations jumping on the bandwagon to blacklist pro-family groups.

This summer, Norton Security Software, the anti-virus software company owned by Symantec, blocked users from the Liberty Counsel website. They posted a bold ‘warning’ stating, “This website is not allowed. This website is categorized as Hate and is blocked as part of this networks web content filtering policy.”

As soon as Liberty Counsel learned that our website had been blocked by Norton, we sent a demand letter to unblock our website because it does not contain “hate.” Norton unblocked the site, reviewed its content, and issued written response that concluded the Liberty Counsel website does not promote hate and should not be blocked.

Norton “Support” lists various website categories and defines “hate” as “websites that advocate hostility or aggression toward an individual or group on the basis of race, religion, gender, nationality, ethnic origin, or other involuntary characteristics and sites that denigrate others or justify inequality on the basis of those characteristics.”

However, Liberty Counsel does not advocate hostility or aggression toward anyone and does not justify inequality on any of the categories. Liberty Counsel is a pro bono litigation, education and policy organization that opposes violence and hate. We are pleased that Norton Security Software took the correct action and unblocked our website. After all, pro-family values are not a computer virus.

Because of this, our sister ministry, Liberty Counsel Action, has launched a “Stop Anti-Christian Internet Bigotry” campaign from our base of operations in the nation’s capital. This initiative serves to inform, alert, and equip hundreds of thousands of citizens to stand against these attacks before it is too late.

We also launched a petition drive to Federal Communications Commission chairman Ajit Pai, demanding that the FCC investigate and stop these targeted attacks that discriminate against and seriously threaten pro-faith and pro-family organizations. The FCC has jurisdiction over the Internet and must take action to stop these blatant acts of anti-Christian discrimination by the “fake hate” bullies!

We are accelerating our efforts to turn back the SPLC’s false, defamatory and dangerous ‘fake hate’ campaign against pro-faith and pro-family groups. If we allow them to continue without a public outcry, the voice of pro-faith and pro-family citizens will be silenced in our land. If we do nothing, every Christian and pro-family citizen’s liberties will be at risk.
By supporting the work of Liberty Relief International (LRI), you have a direct impact on a miraculous harvest of souls coming to Jesus. Muslims who have never heard the Gospel are coming to Christ by the thousands and tens of thousands through refugee camps and other outreach efforts that LRI helps support in the Middle East. Refugees who were once running for their lives because of the despicable evil of ISIS terrorists and a murderous civil war in Syria, are now running to the Lord of Lords.

LRI’s Christ-centered partners are ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of men, women, and children in refugee camps, while Christian workers also are sharing the Good News through Bibles and other discipleship materials. The Holy Spirit is touching hearts and opening eyes to the truth of God’s love through the savior, Jesus.

That also means tens of thousands of new believers from Muslim backgrounds are risking everything to turn from Islam and follow Jesus. According to one of our Christian partners, 75 percent of Muslim converts who don’t receive active discipleship within the first 6 to 12 months will ultimately return to Islam.

Liberty Relief International is sponsoring Bibles for these new believers to become true disciples of God’s Word. Our ministry partner in the Middle East can deliver an Arab language Bible to a new believer, persecuted Christian, or spiritual speaker in a Muslim-majority nation for just $5! Your support can advance the gospel in an area of the world where people of faith put their lives on the line when they accept Christ as Savior.

This miracle harvest in the Middle East is unprecedented in modern history. With millions of people still suffering under the oppression and brutality of ISIS evil, your support can help nourish the body—and soul—of persecuted Christians, new believers, and spiritual seekers in some of the most deeply affected areas of ISIS terror. Liberty Relief International remains deeply committed to sharing the love and hope of Jesus Christ with those suffering under oppression and brutality in the Middle East. Thank you for supporting this vital work!

For more information, visit LibertyReliefInternational.org
DEFENDING THE DEFENSELESS

Imagine the unthinkable — your mother or grandmother is searched, handcuffed, and led away to jail. That is just part of the whirlwind of chaos, threats, arrest, and uncertainty that has engulfed Sandra (Susan) Merritt and family, ever since her undercover work helped expose the vile truth behind Planned Parenthood (PP).

Sandra could easily be any woman you might sit next to in church. She is a devoted mother, grandmother, and compassionate friend. She is a quiet, very private person with a strong conviction that unborn lives should be protected. That is why she accepted the opportunity to help blow the whistle on the atrocities and calloused attitudes at PP.

Though she is being treated like a criminal, Sandra did not break any laws when she chose to take part in the undercover investigation into PP’s trafficking of aborted baby body parts. But soon after the videos showing PP employees discussing procurement and sales of aborted baby body parts went public, charges were filed against Sandra in Texas. We represented her in that case and the charges were ultimately dropped. Shortly after, Sandra faced potentially devastating criminal charges from the California Attorney General after he filed 15 felony counts against her—each carrying the potential of real jail time.

As Sandra was searched, handcuffed, and jailed, Liberty Counsel attorneys appealed to three judges to navigate her release. In response to our legal efforts, the federal judge dismissed 14 of the 15 criminal charges filed against her. It was great news, but our team braced for the hostile and openly pro-Planned Parenthood Attorney General to strike back in the 10 days he was granted to refile his case. We were stunned 10 days later, when the AG’s office filed their amended complaint—on the wrong case! You read that right. Only God knows how, but they accidentally failed to file the charges in Sandra’s case within the strict 10-day timeframe. Though that technically meant the 14 charges would be dismissed, we knew we were still not out of the woods. Liberty Counsel is defending Sandra against the full force of the state of California’s legal resources—and its $440+ million legal budget.

Liberty Counsel has pointed out the ridiculous nature of Planned Parenthood’s claims and demonstrated that Planned Parenthood’s losses were caused by its own gruesome, barbaric, unethical, and potentially unlawful practices, not by the courageous and constitutionally protected acts of a truth-teller who exposed those practices. The Supreme Court has ruled that RICO cannot be used to silence free speech and that is precisely what Planned Parenthood is seeking to accomplish. PP is abusing the law in a desperate attempt to silence Sandra Merritt. PPH will not succeed, and we look forward to announcing the end of this absurd lawsuit in the near future. No matter how long it takes, and no matter how hard the State of California tries to jail Sandra, we will be back to defend her every time—because people like you care.

Friends like you who pray for Sandra, send her notes of encouragement, and stand with Liberty Counsel on her behalf, have meant so much to her and her family.
tens of thousands of non-profit groups listed in its information bank, new leadership at GuideStar chose to apply an official-looking SPLC warning on 46 pro-family groups’ records, including Liberty Counsel.

Using the SPLC’s defamatory hate group designation to cripple many of the leading pro-family organizations in the nation cannot be tolerated. We took immediate action by first organizing the other victimized groups (including ministries and outreaches like the the American Family Association, the American College of Pediatricians, Family Research Council, and many other leading pro-family organizations) in sending a strongly worded Demand Letter to GuideStar CEO Jacob Herald. When GuideStar gave us an insufficient response, we filed a powerful law suit in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (GuideStar’s headquarters are in Williamsburg, Virginia).

After we announced that we had filed suit against GuideStar for its slanderous SPLC-inspired “hate” attack on us—which GuideStar based solely on the SPLC’s “hate” classification—the SPLC came out swinging:

“We stand ready to support our designation of Liberty Counsel as a hate group.... This lawsuit and other recent attacks against GuideStar are simply attempts to distract the public from Liberty Counsel’s hateful agenda.”

Just before the July Fourth weekend, we learned that Silicon Valley giant Symantec, owner of the popular Norton anti-virus software and the LifeLock identity protection system, had used the slanderous SPLC hate group designation as a basis for blocking their subscribers’ access to our website, LC.org. As in the case of the GuideStar attack, we immediately sent a Demand Letter to Symantec’s corporate officials which resulted in the company removing the block.

After doing a thorough review of the Liberty Counsel website, Symantec stated that the website is not a “hate” website. We could have saved them the effort and told them we are not a “hate” group and the website is not a “hate” website.

**Bullied to Silence**

We have received an outpouring of encouragement from many leaders in American culture and politics, including an email from my friend Bob McEwen. Bob is a former Member of Congress and one of our nation’s most respected political leaders. Here’s what he said:

“This lawsuit to stop the false and dangerous labeling of Liberty Counsel and pro-family organizations as ‘hate groups’ is more significant for our country and the cause of Liberty than any 10 things Congress will do this session. This is a noble cause and effort.”

A number of news organizations have begun to expose the SPLC as a far-left “hit squad” preying on the fears and insecurities of their liberal progressive supporters. Yet, even after years of public criticism and censure, SPLC fear tactics continue to get support from a wide range of left-leaning political activists. Instead of backing down from their slanderous attack on Liberty Counsel and other pro-family groups, the SPLC is doubling down to support their hate group classifications.

The simple fact is that the SPLC wants to destroy Liberty Counsel and then use our example to bully other pro-faith and pro-family organizations and individuals into silence. You can see just how existentially threatening SPLC’s “fake hate” strategy has become. We will not allow this to happen.

**Truth Prevails**

Liberty Counsel is left with no choice but to double down. We must commit every legal resource available to fight the SPLC and the organizations relying on its **Continued on page 6**
“hate” designation to ban, punish, and destroy Liberty Counsel and other pro-family organizations. The ground we have gained in this battle thus far is thanks to the support and prayers of our committed donors.

These new SPLC-related cases place even more pressure on our litigation resources that are already stretched thin due to other legal battles against “Goliaths” of the far-left, anti-faith movement. Liberty Counsel is simultaneously engaged in intense legal battles that are directly related to the SPLC’s “hate” attack. We must remain fully engaged in our critical “Save Liberty” campaign against the lawsuit backed by the SPLC in the case of Jenkins v. Miller. Liberty Counsel represented Lisa Miller in her efforts to protect her biological daughter against the ‘custody’ claims of Janet Jenkins, Miller’s former lesbian partner. Miller has since taken her daughter and disappeared, which prompted the SPLC-backed lawsuit against Miller and Liberty Counsel. Concurrently, we are working to turn back recent injurious attacks from GuideStar and Symantec, in addition to other critical cases like defending pro-life hero Sandra Merritt, protecting religious speech across the nation, and many other initiatives.

Despite the intensity of these battles, I remain optimistic because I am confident that truth will prevail, and that the anti-faith, anti-family bullies and censors will be exposed as we confront them with the law and the facts. Perhaps most importantly, I am grateful for our loyal friends who are standing with us at this critical time. We are bracing for this adversary to get even more engaged in attacking us before we ultimately prevail. And make no mistake: We must prevail for the sake of every God-fearing American patriot, their families, and for the survival of our constitutional republic.

LIBERTY COUNSEL
PO Box 540774 • Orlando, FL 32854-0774
LC.org • liberty@LC.org
407-875-1776

The Liberator newsletter is published for the benefit of Liberty Counsel’s friends and supporters. Additional copies of this report may be obtained by writing to the address listed. Feel free to reproduce its contents for inclusion in a civic flyer or a church bulletin with attribution to Liberty Counsel. Thank you for your interest in Liberty Counsel’s vital work and for your continuing prayer and financial support!