2018: GIVE ME LIBERTY!

Mat Staver

When Patrick Henry boldly stood before his countrymen at the Second Virginia Convention on March 23, 1775, his passionate plea stirred the nation to action. The words of that God-fearing patriot were a rally cry to defend America against the impending threat of British colonial rule. His closing declaration of, “Give me liberty or give me death,” inspired his fellow countrymen to protect the liberties they enjoyed here. Months later, the American revolution was underway.

In like manner, “Give me liberty” has become Liberty Counsel’s rallying cry and theme for 2018.

Well-funded forces are at work in America to not only erode the godly foundations of our great nation — but to destroy our faith and strip away our freedom. Like Patrick Henry and his fellow patriots, we must be vigilant and resolved.

We must take a firm stand to bring about a revolution of faith and values across our nation!

When our client, a grandmother, can be searched, handcuffed, and jailed for exposing the illegal, vile practices of Planned Parenthood harvesting baby body parts….When our client, Kim Davis county clerk, can be jailed for living according to her faith on the job…who’s next?

One of our clients, Sandra “Susan” Merritt, could be any woman you might sit next to in church. She is a devoted mother and grandmother. She is a quiet, private person. Because of her faith and her strong conviction that unborn lives should be protected, she accepted an opportunity to blow the whistle on Planned Parenthood’s (PP) trafficking of aborted baby body parts. Even though Sandra didn’t break any laws when she helped expose the atrocities of Planned Parenthood by her undercover investigation, she has faced a whirlwind of threats, arrest, and uncertainty since the video footage she helped obtain was made public. The pro-abortion California Attorney General has pounced on her and wants to send her to prison for doing what other journalists have done in the state. This tactic is unprecedented in the history of California. Even the Los Angeles Times Editorial Board has blasted the AG for his assault on the First Amendment.

Similarly, one day in 2015, Kim Davis went to work as a Kentucky court clerk...Continued on page 5

Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!
God’s Word has a lot to say about Israel. Every nation that has attempted to annihilate the Jews is no more. Genesis 12 provides a blessing and a curse. No wonder why there is so much opposition to Israel.

The past few months have been a whirlwind of activity as we have seen America take a renewed stand as a strong friend and ally of Israel. This is the answer to a great deal of prayer and much hard work. We continue the ministry of Christians in Defense of Israel to give friends of the Jewish people a powerful voice both in Washington and in the Promised Land.

President Trump has announced that the move of the U.S. Embassy will be timed to take place during the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the rebirth of the modern Jewish state in May. Matt Crouch and our friends at TBN have invited Mat Staver to join them in Jerusalem for this historic event. In addition to discussing the current situation and its implications, this will give us an opportunity to highlight our powerful Why Israel Matters original 13-part series, which will soon be available on DVD. And we’ll be announcing some wonderful news — that TBN has invited us to begin taping for Season Two to highlight the vital need to support and defend the nation of Israel.

We’re also continuing our powerful Covenant Journey ministry to take Christian college-aged students who have leadership potential on a life-changing journey in Israel. The impact of these trips is impossible to overstate. Recent polling shows a dramatic and disturbing decline in support for Israel among young people in this age group. Campus after campus has become a hotbed of radical anti-Semitism. Jewish speakers are routinely heckled, threatened, and even forced to cancel their appearances.

By reaching out to young Christian leaders in this community and taking them to Israel to strengthen their Christian faith, these leaders impact their college campuses, the nation, and the world. The alumni are now making a difference in every conceivable field worldwide. And the friendships that are formed on these intense trips bear fruit long into the future. Covenant Journey is without question the most powerful Christian ministry to young Christian leaders I have experienced. For more information, visit CovenantJourney.org.

For adults, the next Liberty Ambassador Counsel trip to Israel is scheduled for March 31 to April 9, 2019. This will be just before Passover and Easter. We encourage you to save the date and begin making plans to join us in Israel on the trip of a lifetime. Whether you’ve been to Israel before or not, an LAC trip is one you will never forget. We’d love to have you be part of this amazing adventure. For more information, visit CIDIsrael.org/take-the-trip.
The mission of a crisis pregnancy center is to save human lives. Facing difficult circumstances with a pregnancy, millions of women turn to crisis pregnancy centers for services such as confidential pregnancy testing, access to ultrasounds, counseling, adoption services, clothes, furniture, housing, and more. These centers offer women help and a true “choice” for themselves and the life of their baby.

Yet, the abortion industry sees these pro-life centers as a thorn in their flesh, cutting into these profits from money made through exorbitant fees for abortions. Planned Parenthood, NARAL, and other pro-abortion titans want a monopoly on so-called “women’s services” and are attempting to silence, fine, or shut down any organizations that protect unborn children and provide support for pregnant mothers.

California and other states are forcing crisis pregnancy centers to promote ways to kill these precious unborn children! The California Reproductive FACT Act forces crisis pregnancy centers to speak a message that goes directly against their religious beliefs and mission to save lives. It is an overreaching law that is intentionally assaulting free speech rights and right of conscience.

The First Amendment protects the right to speak as well as the right not to speak. However, this California law mandates that faith-based crisis pregnancy centers advertise within their centers and online a state-drafted, pro-abortion message — in 12 languages in 48 point font — or be severely fined each time they fail to comply. The California law is more accurately nicknamed the “Bully Bill.”

Keep in mind: There is no similar mandate for the abortion mills to tell their clients that there are crisis pregnancy centers nearby!

There is an egregious double standard in these overreaching laws, along with being totally unconstitutional. Advancing the sanctity of human life is one of Liberty Counsel’s core missions, and we resolutely stand in defense of crisis pregnancy centers under assault by pro-abortion advocates.

Liberty Counsel first challenged the California law in federal court on behalf of three pro-life pregnancy centers. In that case, a federal district court judge and a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals denied Liberty Counsel’s request for a preliminary injunction, finding that it was not likely that the law violates the First Amendment. But now this case is before the U.S. Supreme Court and will be decided by the end of June.

The Supreme Court has agreed to review the case on the limited question of “whether the disclosures required by the California Reproductive FACT Act violate the protections set forth in the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment, applicable to the States through the Fourteenth Amendment.” Our team filed a major brief. Pray that we win in the next few months!

We have tremendous opportunities under the Trump administration to advance the sanctity of human life and the protection of preborn lives. Never before has a U.S. president addressed a March for Life gathering the way President Donald Trump did this year. At the event, Vice President Pence introduced President Trump as “the most pro-life president in American history.” And he is right.

President Trump declared, “The March for Life is a movement born out of love. You love your families, you love your neighbors, you love our nation and you love every child — born and unborn — because you believe every life is sacred, that every child is a precious gift from God…. Under my administration, we will always defend the very first right in the Declaration of Independence, and that is the right to life.”

Across America, attitudes are changing about abortion. Long before modern medicine gave physicians a window into the womb, and even before the process of conception, gestation, and birth were more fully understood, society recognized that preborn children were not merely lumps of tissue that could be discarded with impunity. As Vice President Mike Pence said when he spoke at last year’s March for Life event, “Life is winning through the steady advance of science that illuminates when life begins, more and more, every day.”

Studies indicate a significant increase in the number of pregnant women who choose life for their babies once they see an ultrasound of the person they are carrying. The state of Alabama is working to pass a “personhood” law that would criminalize the most common method of second-
Every Christian and conservative needs to be aware of the effort that is being made under the guise of opposing bigotry and discrimination to label Christians, pro-family, and conservative people and organizations as “haters” or “hate groups.” The masters of this technique are found at the Southern Poverty Law Center. They are leveraging their position to declare all kinds of Christian and conservative organizations as “hate groups” and trying to cut off funding.

Of course, as you know, in our case it’s gone even further with the ongoing legal saga of the Jenkins case. The SPLC is behind a lawsuit filed against Liberty Counsel attempting to destroy our ministry. The suit is frivolous and we are fighting back. Their motive is clear. Speaking for the SPLC, Mark Potock said, “Sometimes the press will describe us as monitoring hate groups, I want to say plainly that our aim in life is to destroy these groups, completely destroy them.” The SPLC is representing lesbian Janet Jenkins in a lawsuit targeting Liberty Counsel. They never let the facts get in the way of its fundraising. The SPLC lawsuit alleges Liberty Counsel aided Jenkins’ former lesbian partner, Lisa Miller, to flee the U.S. with Lisa’s young daughter.

Lisa became a Christian and left her relationship with Jenkins. Jenkins then lodged a custody suit in which Liberty Counsel represented Miller. But during court-ordered visitation with Jenkins, Lisa said her daughter, Isabella, began having nightmares, bedwetting, and tried to harm herself. Jenkins forced Isabella to bathe naked with her and forced her to listen to “Heather Has Two Mommies.”

Lisa Miller suddenly, and without notice, disappeared in 2009. Liberty Counsel notified the court and withdrew from the case. We had no knowledge of Lisa’s plan to flee and no idea of her whereabouts. But the truth has not stopped the SPLC from representing Jenkins and suing Liberty Counsel. We will not be intimidated and the truth will prevail.

Rather than helping to stop real hate and hate groups, the SPLC’s false labeling incites violence against peaceful organizations. The SPLC’s false “hate group” label motivated Floyd Corkins II to attempt mass murder in 2012, at the Family Research Council (FRC). Corkins is now serving a 25-year federal sentence for domestic terrorism, and he confessed he was motivated by the SPLC’s “hate map.”

Despite their bias, the SPLC has over $300 million in reserves, much of it hidden in offshore accounts. The SPLC allies include Google, Facebook, YouTube, PayPal, Prudential, credit card processing companies, and more. I cannot overemphasize the importance of this battle. We have seen how quickly the media and big corporations can react to destroy conservative groups. We saw it last year following the tragedy in Charlottesville and this year following the shooting at the school in Parkland, Florida. Those opposed to freedom politicize every tragedy to destroy good people and groups that oppose violence and hate.

Liberty Counsel is leading a coalition of legal and nonprofit groups to fight back against this assault. This is a battle we cannot lose, and we need your help to win.
just like any other day. She had no idea she’d become caught up in a landmark case stemming from the lawless opinion of five lawyers on the U.S. Supreme Court regarding same-sex “marriage.” Because of her Christian faith, Kim endured a great deal of persecution and six days in jail for refusing to authorize a marriage license bearing her name and authority that conflicts with God’s definition of marriage. With our representation, Kim eventually won her request for a religious accommodation. However, the losing plaintiffs seek to punish Kim financially and to force her to pay their attorney’s fees, and be personally liable for “damages.” We continue to represent Kim to defend against this outrageous request.

What Sandra and Kim have faced — and continue to face — is why Liberty Counsel exists.

These two ladies represent every Christian suddenly caught up in the perpetual, intense assault on religious liberty and life that is becoming the new norm. The ongoing attack on religious liberty, life, and family in this nation is coercive, unyielding, and highly aggressive — and no one will be exempt. Free speech and religious views are being censored, mocked, diminished, and labeled as “hate.” Christians are being vilified, fined, and even jailed solely because they hold a pro-faith viewpoint. Businesses are being shut down and livelihoods threatened as Christians are being told to “submit or quit.”

These radicals intend to force every person of faith into submission and to crush religious liberty. The culture war in America has intensified to the point that any individual or organization that opposes the radical LGBT and anti-faith agenda will be punished or even destroyed. The attempt to absolutely abolish gender will directly impact every American and every institution.

**We will remain vigilant!**

Liberty Counsel’s legal teams are working in courtrooms across the nation to protect and advance the core tenets of liberty, life, and family for people just like you. Some of our Key Objectives for 2018 include:

- **Continue defending America’s Crisis Pregnancy Centers against Big Brother’s assault.** Liberty Counsel filed an extensive brief to the Supreme Court on behalf of crisis pregnancy centers challenging laws forcing them to post a government-written script promoting local abortion services in 12 languages and 48 font at the entrance, in the lobby, in printed material, and online. These laws are a violation of the First Amendment. Before the Supreme Court we represent three faith-based crisis pregnancy centers in California. Pray for our clients as a decision will be rendered by the end of June. Advancing the sanctity of human life is part of our core mission.

- **Continue defending Sandra “Susan” Merritt.** Planned Parenthood seeks to intimidate our client for her undercover work exposing their illegal trafficking of baby body parts. She faces a retaliatory $16 million suit filed by Planned Parenthood, and California Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed a 15-count criminal complaint that is unprecedented in the history of the state. Liberty Counsel is defending Merritt in both cases.

- **Defeating the defamatory and dangerous “hate group” agenda of the Southern Poverty Law Center and its allies through direct confrontation in courts, education campaigns, and collaborative legal efforts with dozens of America’s most influential ministries.** We lead a coalition of groups which are subject to this false, defamatory, and dangerous label. And we have a pending suit against GuideStar for slapping the “hate” label on Liberty Counsel.

- **Defending a pre-K teacher who peacefully shares the Gospel outside an abortion clinic and is being sued by the New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.** The death mill was founded in 1971, and its founder freely admits abortion is the taking of human life and therein lies the foundation of abortion — it gives power to the abortionist and the woman to take another person’s life! How distorted. One of the state’s witnesses, Mary Lou Greenburg, is a leader of the clinic “escorts” and a longtime spokesperson for the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA, which openly advocates the violent overthrow of the United States. Her hero is Mao Zedong who is responsible for killing an estimated 65 million people!

- **Defeating and Defunding Planned Parenthood and advancing pro-life measures in the courts and in federal and state governments.**

- **Defending Child Evangelism Fellowship to protect the Good News Clubs on public school campuses.**

- **Defending religious liberty against an aggressive LGBT agenda.** We filed an important brief in the U.S. Supreme Court and a decision is expected by the end of June. We also represent a score of others, including licensed professional counselors and clients, against these assaults.

- **Working hard to ensure that the right person is nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court because the future of America depends on the next appointment.**

- **Mobilizing America’s grassroots pastors and patriots to vote** in accordance with biblical values during the critical mid-term elections.

- **Standing with Israel** on a wide variety of policy and relational measures.

- **Advancing responsible and limited government …** and so much more.
2018: GIVE ME LIBERTY!
Continued from page 5

We need Praying Patriots

All of our efforts amount to nothing without prayer. Liberty Prayer Network, founded and facilitated by International Director, Maureen Bravo, is the prayer ministry for Liberty Counsel, interceding for the United States and those championing the principles of life, liberty, and the family. Among the many prayer focuses of LPN, we are part of a 24/7 prayer for America and Israel that has been continuously ongoing since November 2016. We invited you to pray for Liberty Counsel, America, and Israel.

You may follow Liberty Prayer Network at Facebook.com/LibertyPrayerNetwork.

Please pray that the Lord will bring to us everything that is needed so that we can expand our efforts to advance religious liberty, the sanctity of human life, and the family.

Continuing the “BULLY BILL” and the Continued War on Life in America

Continued from page 3

trimester abortion: dilation and evacuation (D and E). Mississippi and other states are also considering bans on abortions past a certain stage of development.

We must continue to pray and fight to protect our most vulnerable preborn citizens!

Liberty Counsel’s extensive litigation efforts include defending the free speech rights of pro-life counselors. We are in a protracted legal battle against the attacks launched against Sandra Merritt by Planned Parenthood and the State of California and against the state of New York. We are also fighting “buffer zone” restrictions on behalf of sidewalk counselors in several states. And we continue challenging Roe v. Wade through state-led initiatives across the nation. These are a few among many others, and we do not charge our clients for representation.

When you stand with Liberty Counsel, you are standing for life and for the protection of preborn lives. You equip us to fight for the restoration of those values that declare every life has meaning and a purpose.

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