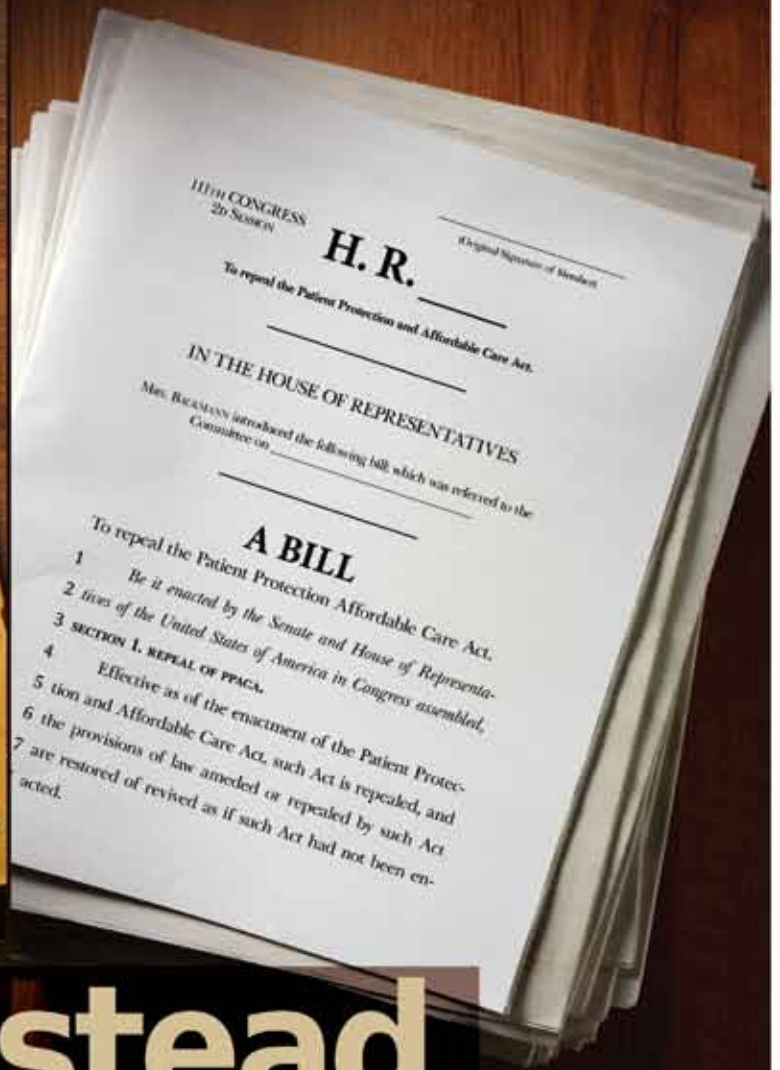
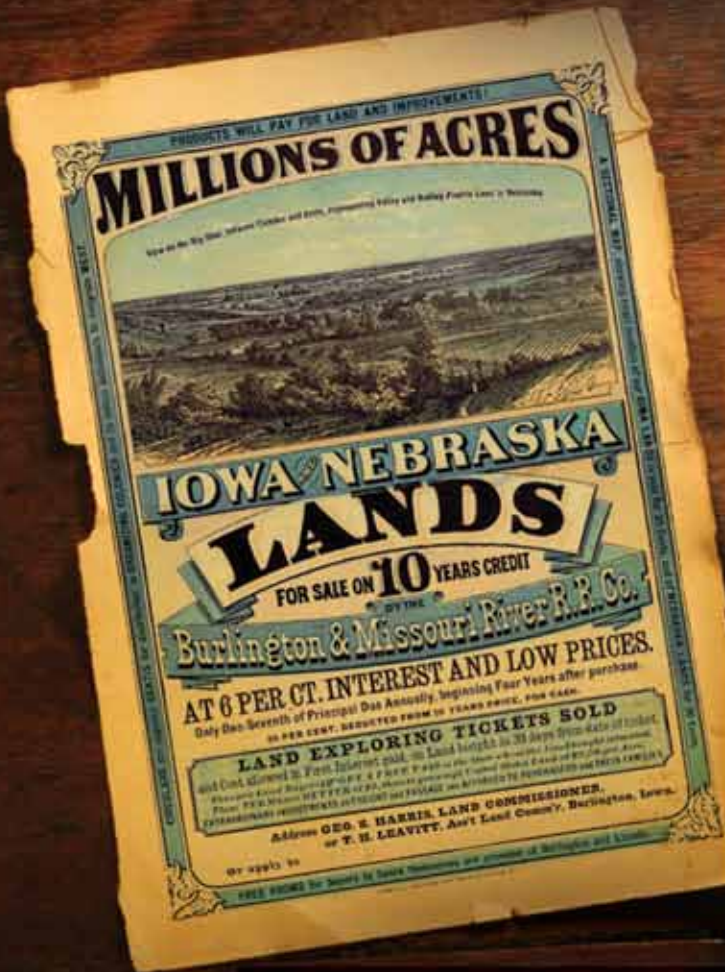


A Monthly Publication of Christian Law Association

THE LEGAL ALERT



Homestead & Healthcare

America: Turning to Government and Away from God



Homestead & Healthcare

America: Turning to Government and Away from God

Tragedically, the young people of America are turning away from God in huge numbers. As our young people move away from God, many now turn to the government as their source of security and rights. This means that churches and Christians that CLA serves by the thousands each month are facing an ever-growing, rapidly encroaching government that wants to control more and more facets of American life.

The Can-Do Spirit

To give some perspective to this dilemma, consider the difference between the Homestead Act, passed by Congress in 1862 and signed by President Abraham Lincoln, and the Healthcare Act, passed by Congress in 2010 and signed by President Barack Obama.

A great example of American exceptionalism based on the governing philosophy of our Declaration of Independence and Constitution can

be found in the 19th Century. In 1800, a decade after the Constitution was ratified, America's population was about 5 million people stretching along the Eastern Seaboard. By 1899, America had grown faster than China is growing today. Its population of 76 million had spread all the way to California.

What drove this amazing growth and prosperity? One primary factor was the Homestead Act, a short concise piece of legislation by which Congress divided up America's western lands into 160-acre plots and offered them at nominal cost to anyone bold enough to head west, live on the land, and develop it. There was no consideration of race, color, creed, ethnicity, education, or background for these settlers; just the need for an adventuresome heart, a can-do American spirit, and a willingness to work hard and take care of one's self and one's family with a reliance on God, not government.

Contrast the Homestead Act with the recent Healthcare legislation. The healthcare bill was over 2,000 pages, chock full of regulations and controls. The Homestead Act was 50 pages, with merely a requirement to settle and tend whatever land any individual claimed.



USA Today reports in a recent poll of 1,200 18- to 29-year-olds:

65%
rarely or never pray with others

40%
almost never pray by themselves either

65%
rarely or never attend worship services

67%
don't read the Bible or other "sacred texts"

1/2
say Jesus is not the "only path to Heaven"

**Of the 50%
who said Jesus
is the only path
to Heaven:**

68%

did not mention faith,
religion, or spirituality
when asked what was
"really important in life"

50%

do not attend church at
least weekly. (7 in 10
people age 18-30 who
went to church regularly
in high school quit by
age 23. 34% of those
polled had not returned
by age 30)

36%

rarely or never read
the Bible

40%

say it is their
responsibility to tell
others about Jesus

15%

appear from the poll to
be "deeply committed"
in study, prayer,
worship, and action

While we understand that some basic land use and other regulations are now required to preserve a modern society, these two laws demonstrate the basic difference between 18th and 19th century America under presidents like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, and America in the 20th and 21st centuries under presidents like Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, and Barack Obama. These modern presidents have believed a governmental "elite" is required to care for and control ordinary Americans who cannot be expected to take care of themselves or each other. Before the 20th Century, Americans looked to God and relied on benevolent societies, churches, and neighbors to take care of them in tough times. Today's Americans have been trained to rely on the government for basic needs.

Fundamental Truth

The Homestead Act was based on the philosophy of the Declaration of Independence. That philosophy recognizes the fundamental and absolute Biblical Truth that God created all men equal with unalienable rights. It also recognizes that the Law of Nature (natural laws put in motion by our Creator) and the Law of Nature's God (the Bible) make it unjust for some men to rule over others without their consent. America's Founders understood the sinful human nature of both governors and the governed because

they knew their Creator, knew the Bible, and understood the Biblical concept of freedom.

In contrast, the governmental philosophy behind the Healthcare Act can be understood in a passage from President Obama's book, *The Audacity of Hope*, where he claimed, "Implicit in [the Constitution's] structure, in the very idea of ordered liberty, was a rejection of absolute truth [and] the infallibility of any idea or ideology or theology or 'ism.'"

Think about the differences. America's Founders recognized that absolute Truth was to be found in the Bible. The Biblical Creator made everyone equal in value. Today's governing philosophy rejects absolute truth for the evolving idea of a governmental "elite." Elitists must regulate

We respect and pray for our government, but we wish for our government to limit itself to the roles outlined in Scripture and understood by our founders.

and control "lesser" citizens considered to be either unable or unwilling to control or care for themselves or others. Freedom fades for average Americans placed at the mercy of a fallible government of men they can no longer control. These men (and women) assume ever greater power to regulate the citizenry according to their own fallible ideas of what is good for the nation.

Look to God

It is time for Americans to begin looking to God again, not government, as our Source and Sovereign Ruler. It is time to reject the governing philosophy of the Healthcare Act, which takes away freedom, and return to the governing philosophy of the Homestead Act that made America great.

At the Christian Law Association, we are honored to stand with local churches and Christian families in the tradition of our founding fathers. We respect and pray for our government, but we wish for our government to limit itself to the roles outlined in Scripture and understood by our founders. More government is not the answer. The God Who created government is America's only true Hope.



Dangers of the Internet

The law has not yet caught up with reality when it comes to protecting children in cyberspace. That means parents and teachers have the job of keeping children safe when online. Here are some tips to keep children safe online.

■ Children should use computers only in common areas of the home where they can be monitored, never behind closed doors in their bedrooms.

■ Talk with your child often about how to keep safe on the Internet. Let your child know you will regularly be checking their computer history and their email and chat messages.

■ Encourage your child to use nicknames on networking and chat sites and never to put identifying information about themselves or the family in social networking profiles. Your child should be told to keep passwords secret from everyone but you.

■ Remind your child that millions of people can potentially see anything they post online and these messages and photos will never go away. Teach your child to think before posting.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

■ Tell your child never to personally meet with anyone they have met only in cyberspace.

■ Monitor any social networking sites your child uses. Make sure your child “friends” you and makes their personal setting “private.”

■ Watch for signs of cyber bullying and tell your child to report such activity to you immediately, whether it involves them or a friend. Encourage them

to reach out and help others who are being subjected to cyber bullying.

■ Make sure to retain all evidence of cyber bullying, including emails and text messages.

The Internet is a powerful tool, much like a loaded gun. If parents allow their children to go online, they must make sure careful safety guidelines are in place. It only takes one incident for tragedy to result.



Comments
from
across
the **NATION**

Thank you for the ministry of CLA. Several times I have needed legal advice as a pastor and for churches I have served. They have been small congregations and we have not had the finances to pay for legal advice, but CLA has gladly helped us out. Thank you and may the Lord bless you greatly!

-Ohio Pastor

We are deeply impressed with the testimony of personal faith that the wills your office drafted contain. We could hardly have penned a more meaningful and eloquent testimony of our hearts ourselves.

-Virginia HLA Member

We are deeply indebted to you for your great kindness to us. We believe that our Lord works through those who are willing to be used of Him. And we sense that is who you are at CLA.

**-Church School
Administrator in Texas**

You can email us at
davidgibbs@christianlaw.org

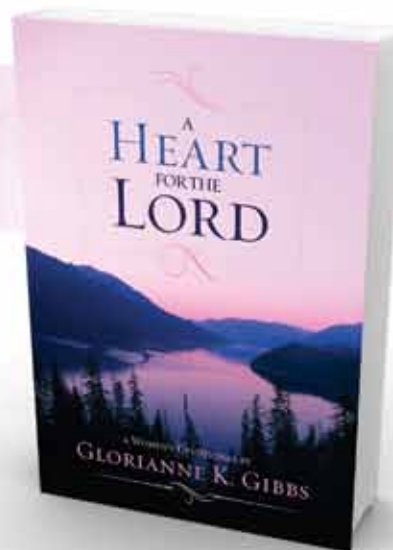


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A HEART FOR THE LORD

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CLA attorneys have compiled a brand new **free brochure** to help you know your rights during this election season. In this resource you'll find answers to our most frequently asked questions regarding tax-exempt status and political involvement.



Contact us and request a copy in the mail.

OR



Visit christianlaw.org to view or download the PDF instantly.



What are your children being taught?

Mary was a straight-A student in a high school honors program. When her literature class was assigned to read a book that included pornography, Mary refused and asked to be assigned another book. The teacher threatened to give her a zero. Mary's father called our office for backup as he sent letters to the local newspapers and the school board, including actual text from the offensive book. The newspapers could not even print the material because it was so obscene. One school board member was very upset. She insisted the teacher allow Mary to read another book and took steps to make sure that book will never be assigned to students in the future.

If you have a question regarding public school rights, please contact our office at 727.399.8300.

Tune in daily to hear how CLA is protecting your Christian liberties

The Legal Alert Radio Program

Subscribe to the podcast on iTunes.
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CLA SERVES AS LEGAL MISSIONARIES PROVIDING:

- Free legal defense of those facing difficulties for the Biblical faith
- Free legal counsel to churches and Christians for their ministries
- Legal seminars for ministries to help prevent lawsuits
- *The Legal Alert* radio program
- Preaching in churches across the country
- Publication of a monthly newsletter, *The Legal Alert*
- Free consulting to local, state, and federal officials and legislators to provide maximum religious liberty
- Intercessory prayer ministry for requests sent to the ministry office
- Capitol Prayer Initiative
- Homeschool Legal Advantage



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Prayer & Praise

JUNE 2010

CLA Fights for Prayer

Praise the Lord that **Virginia** chaplains will now be permitted to pray in the Name of Jesus. Virginia's new governor, Bob McDonnell, has removed a prohibition imposed by the previous administration. Elections do have consequences. In this case, the consequence was a good one. CLA had previously requested prayer for this issue.

Pray for a **Florida** student who was asked to pray at a college function but was told he could not use the name of Jesus.

Cross Wins in California

Praise the Lord that the United States Supreme Court has ruled that a cross honoring World War I veterans located in a remote area of the Mojave Desert in **California** will be permitted to stay. Anti-religious groups had challenged the cross as a violation of the "separation of church and state" even though, as one Justice stated in his decision, the cross was most likely seen by more rattlesnakes than people over its seventy years of existence. The cross had been covered by a box while the courts heard years of legal arguments on this issue.

Unborn Babies at the Ballot Box

Pray for ballot initiatives that will be voted on in November to grant Personhood Rights to unborn babies. These initiatives intend to grant the legal rights of persons beginning at conception.

Christian Harrassed by Homosexual

Pray for a Christian student in **West Virginia** who is being harassed by homosexual students at her school because of her religious beliefs. Unfortunately, although homosexuals claim to be victimized and bullied by others, calls to our office indicate it is much more common for the homosexuals to bully and victimize Christians, both in public schools and in the workplace.

CLA Stands with Soul Winners

Pray for a church in **North Carolina** where the city is attempting to stop their soul winning activities on the public beach.

CLA Fights Against Church Discrimination

Pray for a church in **Florida** where the school district is attempting to remove the church's name from a fence that displays banners for all groups that donate money to the school. The school's attorney mistakenly believes that equal treatment of the church as a school donor would be promoting a particular religion.

CLA's Reputation Wins Case

Praise the Lord for a good outcome when a church in **Virginia** was having difficulty having a building plan approved. When the church indicated it intended to call CLA, city officials researched CLA on the internet and discovered its reputation for aggressively litigating cases. The city immediately approved the building plan.