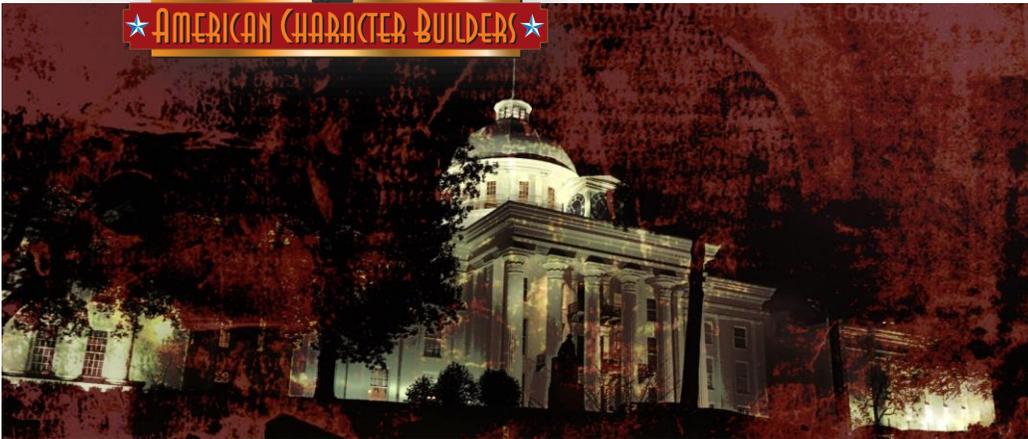


★ AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS ★



But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good.

2 Thessalonians 3:13
(NKJV)

2019 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature was one for the record books!

MONTGOMERY, AL —

Senate Bill 236 (**SB236**), sponsored by Sen. Tim Melson, had to do with medical marijuana. It was an extensive legalization of medical marijuana when it came out of the Senate, but the House substituted and amended the bill so that its final version was somewhat different. The final version of the bill simply extended for one year Carly's Law that was passed a few years ago. Carly's Law allowed for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) to study the use of cannabidiol (CBD oil) in children that have debilitating epileptic seizures. The final version of SB236 that passed also calls for a study commission to make recommendations to the Alabama Legislature concerning the legalization of medical marijuana in the future.

SB220, sponsored by Sen. Greg Albritton, would have given the people of Alabama an opportunity to vote to legalize a

state-sponsored lottery. This bill passed the Senate with the 21 votes needed for passage, but failed to pass a procedural vote in the House and thus it "died." The reason is that one group of legislators wanted to include electronic gambling devices ("slot machines") at existing dog tracks and other designated locations; another group wanted paper lottery tickets only; and, another group of legislators, acting on principle, wanted no gambling expansion in the state at all. The result was that there were not enough votes to pass a lottery bill. We anticipate that it may come up again as a suggested source of revenue to fund prison reform when the Legislature convenes in September or October for a Special Session (as some have indicated will take place). This is why churches and concerned citizens need to mobilize and educate their members and communities about

how state-sponsored and state-sanctioned gambling are not only immoral, but are bad for the economy, as well. I am available and would welcome opportunities to share with your church and/or community the facts concerning gambling. Contact our ALCAP office to schedule an educational event in your church and/or community.

The most significant bill to pass and be signed into law by the Governor during this session was House Bill 314 (**HB314** – a pro-life bill). This bill makes all abortions illegal in Alabama once implantation in the uterine wall takes place. It is hoped this law will be used by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) to reverse the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision which legalized abortions nationwide.

***Continued on page 3
"REGULAR SESSION"***

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 American Character Builders receives grants for new alcohol addiction resources
- 3 2019 Legislative Update conclusion; Article from *The Marijuana Delusion Magazine*
- 4 Gambling information; Invitation to Schedule a "Forgotten Command" Conference or Revival

STAFF:

Joe Godfrey, jgodfrey@alcap.com
Executive Director

Cheryl Corley, ccorley@alcap.com
Sharon Cook, scook@alcap.com
Administrative Assistants

CONTACT US:

2376 Lakeside Drive
Birmingham, AL 35244
Phone: 205.985.9062
www.ALCAP.com

www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org

WHO WE ARE:

The Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP), originally founded in 1937 as the Alabama Temperance Alliance, serves together with local churches as Alabama's "moral compass." This ministry provides an outlet for churches throughout Alabama to fulfill God's command to His followers to be "salt & light" in our culture. (Matthew 5:13-16)

In 2010 ALCAP became a 501c4 organization (non-profit, but NOT tax-deductible) and renamed its school program "American Character Builders," a 501c3 organization (non-profit AND tax-deductible), having its own separate Board of Directors.

Churches are encouraged to support ALCAP while individuals are encouraged to support American Character Builders with their financial contributions and prayers.



American Character Builders News

Funds received for new resources addressing alcohol addiction and fund-raising efforts for building expansion continue

BIRMINGHAM, AL— After American Character Builders completed a package of resources related to the opioid crisis in our state and nation (found on the home page of our website) we received new grant money to produce a video (or multiple videos) and a package of updated resources concerning the alcohol addiction problem in America.

We are currently working to find someone to produce the video(s) and to help with the writing of Bible studies and lesson plans on the subject of alcohol abuse (similar to the resources already provided on the opioid crisis). All our resources will continue to be FREE to download and use. Check out what is already available at...

www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org

For the past year, we have been telling you about a unique opportunity American Character Builders has been given to assist a "sister ministry," the Apologetics Resource Center (ARC), headed by Rev. Cleve Hux. As stated in earlier newsletters, we need to raise

about \$50,000 in order to "build out" the basement of the ALCAP/American Character Builders office building so that we can house this additional ministry. ARC is already using a couple of offices on the main level of our building, but they need to be in a space of their own, so they can access their extensive library of resources. To date, both organizations have collected about \$21K in donations, but more is needed in order to begin and complete construction. If you would like to make a special, one-time gift to this project (OVER AND ABOVE YOUR REGULAR GIVING TO ALCAP AND AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS), please designate on your envelope and check that all or a portion of your gift is for the "Building Project." If you have any questions, feel free to contact Cheryl Corley or Sharon Cook in our office.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
REGULAR SESSION

House Bill 350 (**HB350**), sponsored by Rep. Terri Collins (who also sponsored the pro-life bill), legalizes, with certain restrictions, the direct shipment of alcoholic beverages to the homes of individuals. ALCAP commends Rep. Collins for her efforts in passing the important pro-life bill, but we are disappointed in the passage of HB350.

Two local gambling bills failed to pass: One called for a local constitutional amendment in Greene County and the other called for a local constitutional amendment in Macon County, allowing the people of those two counties to vote on legalizing electronic gambling devices (“slot machines”).

HB361, legalizing Daily Fantasy Sports (DFS), sponsored by Rep. Kyle South, passed both houses. ALCAP argued that DFS is gambling and should have been a constitutional amendment, requiring a vote of Alabama citizens. Proponents argued that it is a game of skill and did not require a vote of the people. For more information on Daily Fantasy Sports, visit www.StopPredatoryGambling.org.

FROM THE MAGAZINE

The Marijuana Delusion

States rush to legalize recreational pot, even as evidence of its harms grows.

Steven Malanga – Spring 2019

After Colorado and Washington State voters gave a thumbs-up to recreational marijuana use in 2012, cannabis advocates needed another six years to win legalization battles in eight additional states. But in 2019 alone, at least eight more states seem ready to pass laws permitting recreational pot. Driving the legalization surge are several claims fast becoming conventional wisdom: marijuana is not only not harmful, but it's also therapeutic; legalizing pot will end the unjust imprisonment of casual users, especially in minority communities; lawful pot, further, will help eliminate drug black markets and the violence that accompanies them; once able to regulate and tax pot, states will enjoy a fiscal windfall, as an era of responsible marijuana use dawns.

It's an enticing narrative, but most of it is wrong. Even as the legalization push gains momentum, scientific journals report mounting evidence of the drug's harmful psychological effects and social consequences. “There's a tremendous gulf between what everybody thinks they know and what's actually happening,” says Kevin Sabet, a former drug-policy advisor in the Obama White House and cofounder, with former congressman Patrick Kennedy, of Smart Approaches to Marijuana. “What's going on with the scientific research is not filtering down to the public.” Pockets of resistance to the pot movement are emerging, however. Some minority-community leaders reject the social-justice rationale for legalization, fearful of legal pot's impact on their neighborhoods. Doctors treating the physical and psychological effects of marijuana are increasingly disputing the notion that it is “medication.” States seeking a fiscal windfall from marijuana are finding that, if you tax it at high rates, you drive the market back underground. And some legislators are urging decriminalization instead of full-on legalization. Right now, the odds appear stacked against cannabis foes, but an earlier campaign for legalization, which began in the 1970s and looked unstoppable, fizzled out after enough people were educated about the drug's effects. Something similar may eventually happen again—but the cost to the country, in the meantime, could be significant.

[The article continued...]

The press continues to seize on any slim evidence that pot is harmless or medicinal. Newspapers have published hundreds of stories, for instance, suggesting that marijuana use could reduce opioid dependence, all based on a much-disputed study in 2014 in the journal *Internal Medicine*, which employed very limited data. Subsequent studies show a far different outcome. A 2018 report in *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, using nationwide data, found that adult marijuana users were three times *more likely* to move on to opiates within several years. A 2018 [editorial](#) in the journal *Addiction* attacked the “myth” that marijuana can reduce opioid addiction and worried that widespread misconceptions might encourage an unproven treatment over other approaches that have been shown to work. Yet New Jersey governor Phil Murphy recently [approved](#) medical marijuana in his state for treating opioid addiction.

[To read the entire article, visit <https://www.city-journal.org/marijuana-legalization>]



As some in the Alabama Legislature continue to mistakenly believe that gambling should be expanded in our state, citizens should educate themselves concerning the truth about how gambling has failed as a government policy everywhere it has been tried.

Visit www.StopPredatoryGambling.org to get the facts on this deceptive and destructive enterprise. Gambling is based on deceiving our poorest citizens that it is their ticket out of poverty; gambling is rife with corruption; gambling takes money out of the economy without producing any goods or services; even taxpayers who do not gamble end up paying more in taxes in order to cover the costs of social problems associated with gambling and to cover the lost revenue from other revenue streams that diminish when people gamble away their hard-earned income.

¹³You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are in the house*. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16 (NKJV)

PLAN TO SCHEDULE A “FORGOTTEN COMMAND” CONFERENCE...

Christ’s call to become His followers carries with it three assignments – THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS (to love God and love others), THE GREAT COMMISSION (to make disciples) and THE GREAT CALLING (the often “forgotten command” to be salt & light). To neglect any one of these is to fail to follow Christ completely. ALCAP is currently offering a series of messages built around this theme of “THE FORGOTTEN COMMAND” in which we look at each of these assignments from our Lord Jesus and show how they are all intertwined in the purpose and mission of Christ’s Church. The messages can be presented in a one or two-day conference setting, or a revival setting over the course of several days in which a couple of messages can be added that deal with current issues facing our culture today (religious freedom, homosexuality, alcohol and other drugs, gambling, etc.)

To schedule a conference or series of messages, feel free to contact me at jgodfrey@alcap.com or call our ALCAP and American Character Builders office at **205.985.9062**.

