

the Informer newsletter



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
PARAGON CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL
MARCH 2024 | ISSUE 3

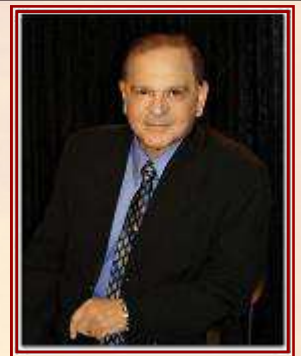
UNCERTAIN TIMES (SUFFERING) WILL BUILD CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

By Dr. Henry Harbuck, PCAI General Overseer

The Lord is with us. So, let's remember what the psalmist said, "God is our refuge and strength, [He's] always ready to help [you] in times of trouble." (NLT-Psalms. 46:1 Quotations marks are mine).

Our society is driven by the desire to succeed so there will be no suffering. And if you're not one of the elite who enjoy this elusive plateau, you are labeled a failure. This kind of thinking is not biblical. To make matters worse, some preachers actually teach "If you're not making lots of money, you're not in God's will." This is certainly not the apostolic view of the early Christians who endured hardship and death. They were tortured, burned at the stake, starved, chained, thrown into prison to rot, and fed to wild beasts in Rome. Yet they shared whatever they had with each other (Acts 4:32-33) because they were filled with love.

To assume that the Christian lifestyle doesn't involve suffering is a mistake. The Bible says in Romans 5, verse 3 that "we can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us – they help us learn to endure" (NLT- quotation marks are mine). Think



about this! As followers of Christ, we should actually grow stronger spiritually when we face problems and trials; i.e., when we suffer. I agree that it's not a lot of fun, but God's ultimate plan is to help us grow through suffering. Therefore, we must remember that when we endure suffering (trials), we are not alone. The Lord is with us. So, let's remember what the psalmist said, "God is our refuge and strength, [He's] always ready to help [you] in times of trouble." (NLT-Psalms. 46:1 Quotations marks are mine). ♥



Life's Narrative Worthy of Observation

By Dr. Daniel O.C., Pastor and Author

Welcome to the third month of the year. Remember, figure three signifies POWER, therefore, may the power of the Omnipotent God reign supreme in your life in this month in Jesus' mighty name, Amen! Watch out, in this month that stubborn situation of sickness, infirmity, financial constraint, misunderstanding, confusion of the mind, strife and contention, indecisiveness, depression, high and low blood pressure (etc.), all these and more will be dealt with in this month by the power of the Almighty God in Jesus' mighty name, Amen!

Calvary greetings to you and yours in the mighty name of our Lord and Savior Jesus

Christ, Amen! May the Lord God Almighty bless you with a wonderful and glorious Christ-centered month in Jesus' mighty name, Amen!

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life in the eternal kingdom of God as Mark 8:36-37 says? For what can a man give as an exchange, a compensation, a ransom, in return for his blessed life in the eternal kingdom of God?

Today, as you wake up decide not to stress over the things you cannot control. People will be people. Jobs will be jobs. One thing you should know for sure is that God will be God and He's got you! All glory to the

Lord Most High in Jesus' mighty name, Amen!

Good friends care for each other. Close friends understand each other, but True friends stay forever beyond words, beyond distance and beyond time. Remember, happiness is not about getting what you want all the time but it is about loving what you have and being grateful for it.

Understand that the richest wealth is wisdom. The strongest weapon is patience. The best security is faith. The most effective tonic is laughter.

May the Lord God bless you with all of the above today and always in Jesus' mighty name. Amen!



Be ready to receive your long-awaited miracles in Jesus' mighty name! Somebody shout a resounding, "AMEN & AMEN!" ♥

Mark 8:36-37

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

God Says Buckle Up and Enjoy the Ride

By Rev. Mike Taylor, Raphah Ministries President

2024 the year of Psalm 24. The king of glory coming again. It's not about republican or Democrat or Trump versus Biden. It's about the return of Jesus Christ to set up His Kingdom on earth. The real battle is spiritual. We need Christ. The world and the world system is out of control. Too many unbelievers ruling. Too many unbelievers in key leadership positions in all facets of society. I continue to partner with God to bring down all evil leaders and replace them with people who care about people. Our country is greatly divided. The real issue is spiritual. We must have another great awakening. We must turn back to God it's our only hope. The signs are all there we just need to see more and more manifestations of God's glory. I pray God continues to move throughout the earth. I pray He continues to expose all evil. Many continue to lie and fall far short of the glory of God. You must be born again. Many are ignorant of the things of God. They will never fully understand unless they are born again. I pray God opens the eyes of the people.

We need a major turnaround. I believe Holy Spirit is at work. We need a miracle. The flesh is weak but the spirit is willing. Psalm 24 says in part "Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be

lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. (Psalm 24:7,8) NKJV

The battle is the Lords. Let's do our part. Rest in the Lord. Stay in our lane. We will be challenged if we follow Christ. God's glory is coming down. The enemy knows his time is short. If we do what is right in the sight of the Lord we will have no regrets in the end. Our hope is in Christ and eternity to come. This is going to be a wild year and a wild season. Buckle up and enjoy the ride!! ♥

Psalm 24: 1-2 (NKJV)

*"The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness,
The world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas,
And established it upon the waters."*



City Ordered to pay Fees, Damages for RLUIPA Violation

St. Pete Beach sought to restrict the beachfront church from soliciting donations from the public in exchange for the use of its parking lot.

Key point 7-06.4 The federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act prohibits state and local governments from imposing a land use regulation in a manner that imposes a substantial burden on the exercise of religion unless the regulation is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

A federal court in Florida awarded a church \$254,000 in attorneys' fees and \$15,000 in damages in a lawsuit alleging a city government's actions constituted a violation of the federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (RLUIPA).

The church sued after **the city imposed its land use regulations to prohibit the church from allowing the public to park in its parking lot for free.** The church solicited donations, but they were optional. **The city fined the church \$1,000.**

The church alleged that the city violated RLUIPA by imposing its regulations to restrict the church's use of its parking lot. The court entered a preliminary injunction securing the church's religious rights with respect to the church's use of its parking lot. The parties then reached a settlement agreement resolving all of the issues except for the amount of attorneys' fees the church would be awarded.

In particular, the settlement agreement provided that the church may continue to allow the general public to park in its off-street parking lot and solicit charitable donations. The city also agreed to pay the church \$15,000 in damages. Since the church was the prevailing party under RLUIPA, it became entitled to attorneys' fees. The court ultimately ruled the church was entitled to \$254,000 in attorneys' fees.

What this means for churches

RLUIPA specifies that state and local governments cannot subject religious organizations to a land use law that imposes substantial burdens on the free exercise of religion unless the law is supported by a compelling governmental interest. **It specifies:**

No government shall impose or implement a land use regulation in a manner that imposes a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a person, including a religious assembly or institution, unless the government demonstrates that imposition of the burden on that person, assembly, or institution—(A) is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest; and (B) is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

It should be noted that RLUIPA provides for attorneys' fees to the prevailing party in any litigation.

The law states: "In any action or proceeding to enforce a provision of ... the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act... the court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party, other than the United States, a reasonable attorney's fee." (42 USC §1988)

This is an important point for church leaders to keep in mind when they succeed in lawsuits against state and local government agencies for violations of RLUIPA. □

Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church v. City of St. Pete Beach 2022 WL 1242482 (M.D. Fla. 2022).

Preserving Our National Identity

Excerpt from Christian Law Association



Jaiden Rodriguez is a 12 year old middle school student in the state of Colorado. Like many students at his school he enjoyed decorating his backpack with patches that reflected his interests. One of those patches he particularly like was the Gadsden Flag.

Named for Christopher Gadsden (1724-1805), a delegate to the Continental Congress and a Brigadier General in the Continental Army, the flag was created to warn England, or any other nation, not to "tread on" the liberties of Americans. The Gadsden Flag is part of the story of America's foundation as students of American history know well.

Imagine Jaiden's shock when he learned he would not be allowed to attend school unless he removed the patch from his backpack. When he and his mother talked with school officials, the charter school appeared to have deliberately distorted the flag's history in their effort to ban it. Though it may not have been true, it certainly seemed as though the school disliked the idea of free Americans who stood for right.

The Christian Law Association has long maintained that students do not leave their First Amendment rights at the door of their school, and this legal theory has been the basis of many cases that we have won in court. Simply put, if other students are allowed to have patches on their backpacks, patriotic students must be able to enjoy that same liberty.

Fortunately, under intense pressure, including from the Governor of Colorado, the school reversed the policy and allowed Jaiden back in class – with his Gadsden Flag patch still on his backpack. □

Keep Your Ministry Safe and Secure with Shepherd's Watch Background Checks

Excerpt from Christian Law Association Publication

From time to time we are asked to recommend organizations that run background checks. While we have no interest financial or otherwise in Shepherd's Watch we have been made aware of some services and prices they offer. We wanted to pass the information along to you in the event you are looking for a background check company.



In today's challenging environment, it's critical to take steps to protect those in your church/ministry's care. Properly screening your staff and volunteers is an important step in the process.

Shepherd's Watch Background Checks is partnered with the leading global background check company, First Advantage. Because of our long-term partnership with First Advantage, we're able to offer you best-in-class background checks at affordable prices.

The Group has been serving churches for more than 45 years and have been doing background checks for 17 years. You can trust that we know your church's needs and we understand the best ways to protect your church and those you serve. Quality and affordable background checks starting at just \$9 from the leading background check company in the world. First Advantage is FCRA compliant and accredited with PBSA..

WEBSITE: <https://www.group.com/background-checks/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARTER RENEWAL DEADLINE MARCH 28TH



ATTENTION:

ONLY for those who have 501 (c)(3) Chartered Ministries & Churches under PCAI Group Exemption...

They should have received their **Charter Renewal Yearly Report Packet** mailed last month OR, Forms are also available in our website: <https://www.paragonchristianalliance.org> under "MEMBERS" tab.

It is important that your report be received in our office no later than **March 28th**.

These renewals are **necessary to remain in compliance** with the IRS code and maintain your charter's tax-exempt status under the PCAI Group Exemption.

PLEASE REVIEW: This is a good time to review your monthly giving obligation to ensure you are up-to-date on your ministerial and charter giving. These must be current in order for your 501(c)(3) to be renewed in 2024.

PCAI Ministries Fellowship extends the warmest welcome to the newly added Ministers, Churches and Ministries worldwide since last month. Thank you for partnering with us in expanding God's kingdom. We love you all!!!

A Warm Welcome

"The Informer Newsletter" is a FREE monthly publication of Paragon Christian Alliance Int'l

2149 Hwy. 139 - Monroe, LA 71203
 1-866-268-5600 | FAX: (318) 345-0350
 E-MAIL: info@paragonchristianalliance.org |
 WEBSITE: www.paragonchristianalliance.org
 OFFICE HOURS: 9a.m. to 4p.m.

Copyright © 1976—2024

IMPORTANT LEGAL INFO

ANNUAL CHARTER RENEWAL

Have you renewed your state incorporation and have confirmation that it is active? Without a current state incorporation your federal incorporation (501c 3) becomes void. You may not receive notice from your Secretary of State that it is due since it is your responsibility.

Check with your Secretary of State office to verify that your state incorporation is current and active. Some states vary from needing renewal every year or like Texas every four (4) years. Without valid state incorporation your federal incorporation (501 c 3) becomes invalid. You may not receive notice from your Secretary of State that it is due as it is your responsibility to handle this.

Paragon Christian Alliance Int'l, Inc.)
 P.O. Box 70, Swartz, LA 71281
 Tel: 1-866-268-5600