

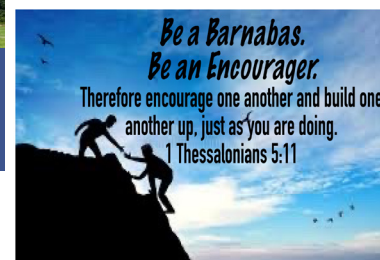


W.O.N.
White Oak Newsletter
White Oak Hill
Free Will Baptist Church



From Pastor Hal

Issue #172
October 4, 2023
252-235-3868



Occasionally, I will go into my mother's room at the hospital and notice her phone isn't charging. After a thorough investigation (which simply means I look at the outlet-lol); I find the reset button needs to be pushed back into the outlet. But why does the reset button keep popping out? An electrician will tell you that when too much electricity flows through the outlet, the circuit will shut off to protect itself. Many Christians probably need to hit the reset button. Their life is crowded with busyness. I'm not sure if you have read the book "Atomic Habits" by James Clear (It is available on audiobooks), but the author points out that each of us are the sum of our habits. For many Christians, the habit of doing is far above the priority of being. Please let me explain. As a follower of Jesus Christ, our greatest gift to the Lord is personal holiness. It's not the gift of serving, benevolence, faithfulness, etc. Those are great attributes, but they will naturally flow from a life of personal holiness. John 15 paints the vivid picture of a branch connected to the Vine. The branch should bear fruit. But we shouldn't miss the most important part of the picture Jesus was painting in John 15. A PERSON MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE VINE. Our lives cannot be eternally profitable unless they are rooted in Christ. Jesus warns us about the doers in the church who weren't connected to Him in Matthew 7:21-23. They were very busy doing things in church, but they weren't connected. They weren't BEING the person who could enter Heaven. Our BEING in Christ is the most important decision in life. But after a person gets connected (saved), it's important they take care of themselves. Many times the busyness of life will cause our spiritual outlet to pop out. And that's when it's time to reset the outlet. Because as Pete Scazzero puts it, "their role has outpaced their soul."1 The schedule for many Christians drains the life out of them. Many Christians are doing, doing, and more doing. A life filled with busyness. But the busyness drains their BEING. Being who they need to be in Christ and for Christ. When God created the world, He instituted the Sabbath. He even rested on Sunday. Genesis 2:2 "...He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made." Do you think God was tired? Absolutely not! He was unfolding the need that each of us have for rest. God commanded the Israelites to rest on the Sabbath when He delivered them from Egypt. And our Savior repeatedly mentions the importance of the Sabbath Day. God knows humanity's tendency to fill each day with doing things. But if a person does not take time to rest the body, there will be huge mental and physical problems. If you are reading this newsletter and not taking time to rest. Not taking the time to worship. Then you are living a life-draining life. It is non-sustainable. Let me encourage you to develop the life-giving habit of taking time to rest. God knows you need it! Also, take the time to worship at church. Making incremental changes in your life today will give you a better tomorrow.

1 Replicate, Robby Gallaty and Chris Swain, pg. 88



The revival services have been amazing. Rev. Henry Horne has challenged us every evening. Let me commend our choir, praise team, instrumentalists, and special singers this week. The messages have been outstanding, and the music has been inspirational. Thank you for serving the Lord. The attendance has also been very good. A special thank you to everyone who has been so faithful to the services. May the Lord bring a revival to White Oak Hill FWB Church. Starting with your pastor.



*Let's not forget the meal is at the church this Wednesday! Spaghetti will be served in the Family Life Center starting at 5:30 p.m.

Did you know the Girl Scouts of America have sunk to a new moral low? They are now offering an LGBTQ+ Pride Month Celebration Fun Patch. According to the organization, they want to acknowledge the many contributions that the LGBTQ+ organization has made across the nation. The criteria to earn the badge are as follows:

- Sketch someone in the LGBTQ+ community whom they admire.
- Make an LGBTQ+ music playlist. (I didn't even know there was such a thing.)
- Create art that celebrates how families come in various forms.
- Participate in a No Name-Calling Week.
- Attend an LGBTQ+ Pride Celebration.



Also, did you know that less than 20% of the Girl Scout cookie revenue goes to the local Girl Scout troop? Most of the money goes to the organization as royalty for its trademark. 1 Since 2015 when the leadership decided to be more open to diversity, their membership has declined nearly 50%. Personally, I love seeing the young ladies in the scout outfits. And the young ladies learn so much from the Girl Scout organization. I am sure many of the local troops (which meet in churches) will not endorse the Celebration Fun Patch. But I wanted to make you aware of the direction of the organization. I think this year, I will refrain from purchasing the cookies and just make a small donation to the local troops. My waistline doesn't need the extra calories anyway.

1 BattleCry, Sept/Oct 2023, pg.1, Chick Publications



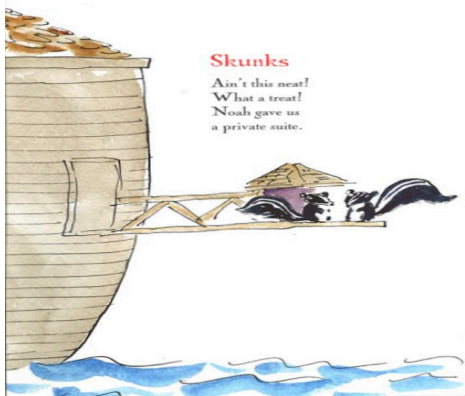
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Through your faithful giving to H.O.P. E. Ministries, the church was able to take a lot of supplies to the teachers at the Middle School this week. The collective generosity allowed us to get 16 Cases of Soda, 6 Cases of Water, and 48 bags of walnuts for the educators in our area. Our church family is amazing!



Please don't forget the other ways to show your generous spirit. This month we launched the Operation Christmas Child program. Can you imagine a child with nothing under the tree at Christmas? There isn't even a tree! That is the situation for tens of millions of children around the world. Let me encourage everyone to get involved in this wonderful outreach opportunity. We may not see where the boxes go this Christmas. But we can imagine the smile on the faces of the kids who get them. Let's all make smiles.



Another small way you can help this month is to participate in the Harvest Festival. The festival will take place on October 31st from 6-8. The church will serve hot dogs for everyone who comes. And EVERYONE is invited. You don't have to be a kid to have fun. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer if you can help with the games. Another way to help is to bring candy for the event. We will need LOTS of candy this year. This is the biggest event of the year for the children, and we always have a good turnout. Thank



Noah's Ark Update

Our WOH congregation has herded a total of 97 animals in Noah's Ark! Our super readers, the children, have saved 53 animals. But wait for it... our adults added 44! Visit the library and see our rescued Ark inhabitants. Thanks to Emma, even the skunks are safe. (Two gnats have been sighted near the ark-don't tell Pastor Hal.)



The Sonshine Club will meet on October 7th at 5:00 p.m. Get ready for some tacos!! All the seniors are invited to join us this Saturday for some Mexican food. The Johnsons are ready to serve, and we are ready for some fun! Mrs. Angela Salazar is preparing some authentic, blazing-hot taco sauce. It's going to be so hot, that prizes will be awarded to anyone who can eat it. Please let the church know you plan to come. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer. We would love to see everyone over fifty join our fellowship.



Listed below are the prayer needs in our church:

- Judith Grant- Please pray for Ms. Judith! Please pray specifically for her lungs to function normally.
- Patricia Register- Please continue to pray for our dear sister. She still needs the healing hand of God to perform a miracle.
- Tim Riggs- Please pray for our former pastor. His kidneys are not working, and he needs a kidney transplant.
- Carl O'Neal -The family has called hospice to help brother Carl. He is struggling to breathe and cannot enjoy life without lots of medication. Unless the Lord gives a miracle to Bro. Carl is running his last lap for the Lord.
- Melisa Belcher- Melissa is at Wake Medical Hospital with Bacterial Meningitis. She is doing better, but she is still very sick. Also, pray the infection was contained to just Ms. Melisa.
- Loretta Lamm-She is Sue Lamm's daughter. They found a few suspicious lumps in her intestinal tract and are doing a biopsy.
- Geraldine Tuck- She is doing much better. But please continue to pray for continued healing.
- Bailey Christian Childcare -Specifically everyone can get healthy.
- Teresa Medlin-Ms. Teresa is improving, but still having some medical issues that affect her quality of life.
- Dottie Massey- Ms. Dottie is much better. Thank you for praying.
- Earlene Pitts-Many of you know she has been struggling with Parkinson's disease for years. She is having a very difficult time. Please pray for Brother Gene and Ms. Earlene as they navigate this season of life.
- Joyce Batchelor-Ms. Joyce is in Wilson Medical Rehab. She is doing better, but the long road to recovery is extremely hard to travel. Please drop her a card or go by for a visit.
- Gail Pridgen-Ms. Gail has recently been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for her and the doctors as they seek treatment and healing.

- Faye Bottom - This is Dottie Massey's cousin. Dottie asked us to pray for her.
- Jean Jones- Mom is still in room 515 at Nash General. They were able to remove some of the fluid from her congestive heart failure, but her kidney and liver continued to misbehave. She is a very sick lady. Please pray.
- Harold Brantley- Brother Harold is home but still struggling to breathe. Please pray for him and Ms. Nancy.
- Peggy Bunn - Mrs. Peggy is having difficulty walking. Please pray specifically for energy and strength.



September 27th

Wednesday Night 73

October 1st

Sunday School 83

Sunday Worship 139

Love in Christ,

Rev. Hal W. Jones III

Pastor Hal

Galatians 2:20





DID YOU ASK?

An Excerpt from *Across the Miles*
By Attorney David Gibbs, Jr.

I was traveling through the night with a pastor friend when he told me, "A number of years ago, I asked God for something utterly and ridiculously impossible. God's done it every day since."

"You asked for something really impossible?"

"Yep...really impossible for me. I'm not good at witnessing. I stutter. I get confused. My knees shake. So, I told God, 'I want You to let me win at least one person a day to Christ every day.' Since I asked, God has let me do that every day for the last eleven years. And I told God if I won more than one, I didn't want the extras to count for the next day."

I exclaimed, "Why'd you do that?"

"No, I asked God for one every day. In fact, since it's after midnight, I'm already on soul patrol for today. God's got one. I know it's impossible, but I've asked, so I'm looking. Maybe it will be someone at the next gas station."

"I'd like to see that!" I replied.

We pulled up before long at a well-lit gas mart and fueled up before we went inside. The woman behind the counter was in her late twenties or early thirties.

"Hey, do you think maybe she's the one?"

"I don't know. But God has one. I asked."

We put some snacks on the counter, and that pastor said to the cashier, "You ready to die tonight?"

In shock, I thought, *Sweet Alabama! There's no telling what that lady must be thinking!*

As soon as he spoke, perspiration sprang out on his forehead, and his hands started shaking. That poor lady's eyes got as big as saucers, and then he said, "No, what I mean is, if you died tonight." And that was no better.

I thought to myself, *We need to give him a script to read.*

"What I'm trying to say is, but I'm messing it all up, do you know if you died tonight whether you'd go to Heaven or not? Do you know?"

That girl was staring at us with big eyes, but she scared me when she started reaching under the counter.

Oh, she's got a shotgun down there. I'm going to end up dead because you can't give the Romans Road! I thought.

Then her hand came back up with a Bible as she told him, "Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you! I'm saved."

Then I'm thinking, *Oh, that's too bad. She's already saved.*

About that time, a lady behind us began speaking. "Well, she may know she's going to Heaven, but I don't. A little over a week ago, my mother died in my arms. With her last breath, she begged me, 'Please trust Christ.' And I told her no. I'm only here because I can't sleep. I'm scared to death I'm going to die and go to hell, mister."

My friend said to her, "I can show you how to go to Heaven."

Without another word, this woman just hit the floor on her knees. So, the preacher kneels beside her and starts sharing the Gospel. She's crying, the cashier is crying, my dear pastor friend is on his knees, shaking, and I'm just standing there looking at all of them when two men walk in. One immediately asks, "Is this a stickup?"

I start saying, "No, no..." but before I can say any more, the cashier starts explaining...for five minutes. Then she asked, "Are you guys ready to die tonight?"

One of them dropped to his knees and asked, "Can I get in on this?"

The girl behind the counter replied, "Oh, sure! This is sweet. C'mon, c'mon."

I watched a man and a lady trust Christ with tears flowing down their faces. When they stood up, the lady kept thanking me, but all I could think was, *Lady, if it had been just me in here tonight, I don't think this would have happened. But you ran into someone who has asked God for the impossible.*

Back in the car, I told my pastor friend, "I've never seen anything like that."

"David, I'm no good at it. The only difference is, I ask."

²² And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. ²³ And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. ²⁴ But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. ²⁸ And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

MATTHEW 14:22-28

Mankind achieves great accomplishments—we see it in industry, science, education, and even in spurious religious groups—when God's not even in what they are doing. Man doesn't need God to do something great. But for the impossible, man must have God.

In Matthew 14, twelve disciples are in the boat, but only one of them will

DIGGING DEEP FOUNDATIONS



Growing up in church, many heard and sang "How Firm a Foundation," a hymn that describes how the Word of God provides a sure foundation for the people of God. The Bible talks plainly about the importance of foundations. "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3).

We live in a society where many secularists are using every weapon they can to destroy the spiritual foundations so important to God's people. The Bible teaches us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). But for decades, it has been illegal for teachers to lead their classes in Christian prayer. The Ten Commandments provide a moral foundation that is the bedrock of civil society, but secular education bans the teaching of these commandments in the classroom.

The Bible is clear that parents are to educate their children in the fear of the Lord. "And these words, which

I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). In clear contrast, secularists are doing everything in their power to prevent parents from influencing the education of their children.

Here at the Christian Law Association, we urge God's people to dig deep foundations. When secular society pressures you to abandon your faith and to have your children receive an education that is antithetical to the ways of the Lord, you must determine to do everything within your power to ensure that your family is being raised in a home built on godly foundations.

On the legal front, CLA is constantly battling for religious liberty, but all of

this is to no avail if the people of God do not have a heart to dig deep spiritual foundations for their families. We must be aware of the onslaught against the very foundations of our faith, and we must determine to pursue God's truth more than ever.

It is clear that there are strong currents in our nation doing everything in their power to create a godless society, but as long as God's people retain their determination to serve the Lord faithfully, there is still great hope. Let us continue to echo the words of the hymn...

How firm a foundation,
ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith
in His excellent Word!
What more can He say
than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge
to Jesus have fled?

DID YOU ASK? (continued)

be a water walker—because only one asked in Matthew 14:28.

"Mark! John! Matthew! Why didn't you guys ask?"

Why haven't you asked? Although we are not limited to one request, I've discovered that we are afraid to ask God for something great, let alone something impossible. Yet God says that what is impossible with man is never impossible with God. We simply have to ask.

What would it take for you to ask God with specificity? The Bible says in John 16:24, "Ask, and ye shall receive." James 4:2 tells us, "Ye have not, because ye ask not." Are you willing to let God use you to do the impossible? Why would we want to waste our lives doing something merely

great for God when we are invited to do the impossible?

You might be thinking, *I'm struggling with trying to imagine doing something great for God, much less impossible.* Ask God to ignite your imagination with something that would be of honor and glory to His cause—something that you are going to ask God to do that is utterly impossible. Just remember that it's impossible only with man...never with God.

You might be thinking, *I don't have the experience, talent, connections... God will have to use that other guy.*

Even if we do have experience, talent, and connections—none of that is what God will use to do the impossible. Every Christian can be used by God to do the impossible regardless of

experience, talent, connections, or anything else. Never forget that the very power that raised Jesus from the dead resides in us.

Have we grown comfortable staying away from the miracle-working power of God? God says in 2 Chronicles 16:9 that "the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."

Will you, like Peter and my dear friend, ask God to use you to do the impossible for Him today?





PRESERVING OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY

Imagine Jaiden's shock when he learned that he would not be allowed to attend school unless he removed the patch from his backpack. When he and his mother talked with a school official, 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.

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

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.



Children's Books by Glorianne Gibbs

Available at christianlaw.org!



These four children's books by Glorianne Gibbs contain a total of 39 fun, creative stories with memorable characters whose shenanigans are relatable to children of all ages. Join Georgie and his friends as they learn lessons about obedience, kindness, peer pressure, thankfulness, diligence, sharing, self-control, and much more.

Coming soon!

Join Georgie and his friends as they travel to cities across America, starting with Boston, to learn important character lessons based on people and landmarks that played formative roles in our nation's founding and history.

Boston





BE NOT OVERCOME

What can you do when the world around you seems to be falling apart? In many states, the courts are allowing more anti-Christian materials into schools and taking away the parental rights the Bible so adamantly commands. CLA's attorneys are standing with Christians being harassed at work for not endorsing debauched lifestyle choices of others and asked, by threat of firing, to agree that such ideals are not condemned by God. Where is the justice in America? Where is the great idea of an America that once stood, as John Winthrop said, like a city on a hill? The America we once knew has changed culturally in a dramatic way. The Bible speaks of a similar culture in Isaiah 59:14: "And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter." When we see the instances of looting, the rights of law-abiding citizens taken away, and the blame placed on crime victims rather than offenders, the shift away from God is evident.

So, how do we impact the world? When the fight seems so much bigger than we are, what can we do? We must get back to the basics and share the Gospel to bring the light of Jesus Christ to the world! May the following reminders both challenge and encourage you.

Always remember, greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world! God is greater than any situation and mightier than the strongest foe. In our bleakest moment, God will give us power. When we are weak, He is strong. When we are discouraged, He shelters us in His strong tower and under His wings.

God gave us the method to cope with life's trials. For everything in life, the Bible has an answer. God's Word lights our path to show us the motivation, the direction, the

method, and the only way to God. When our way seems weary, His Living Word refreshes and provides rest to our souls. Trials of life are common to everyone who lives in this old, sinful world, but God has given us the victory already! We are living in this present world, but we are bound for an eternal heavenly home that is unspeakably better!

We are looking ahead! For every Christian written in the Lamb's Book of Life, our citizenship lies in a home far beyond the skies. But until then, we need to remember that anything that happens is a part of God's divine plan. Titus 2:12-13 reminds us how to approach our current situation: "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." We cannot help but hope that today is that day!

Please allow our attorneys at the Christian Law Association to assist you! The Scriptures say to redeem the time because the days are evil, and sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. As the world waxes worse and worse, you have an advocate to stand with you against these trials. If you are prevented from inviting coworkers to church, call CLA. If you are being told you can't share the Gospel, call CLA. We are your legal missionaries, and we help Christians across the country with these issues every day.

As we see the day approaching, take heart! God is still the God of miracles! He alone can turn the tide in America! We can share the light of His glorious Gospel and be a beacon in our communities for Jesus Christ. "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

A MINISTRY OF LEGAL HELPS

Since 1969, CLA has been providing free legal assistance to Bible-believing churches and Christians who are experiencing difficulty in practicing their religious faith because of governmental regulation, intrusion, or prohibition in one form or another. The Christian Law Association serves in the following ways...

- Free legal defense of those facing difficulties for the Biblical faith
- Free legal counsel to churches and Christians for their ministries
- Legal books and other resources to inform Christians of their rights
- Weekday radio program broadcast, *The Legal Alert*, on over 1,586 outlets around the world
- Publication of *The Legal Alert*, a monthly newsletter
- Free legal consulting to local, state, and federal officials and legislators to provide maximum religious liberty
- Intercessory prayer ministry for requests sent to the ministry offices
- Free legal help to homeschooling families
- Prayer initiative for our national leadership and government
- Legal seminars for ministries to help prevent lawsuits
- Preaching in churches across the country



PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER

These requests are a small sampling of those we have received in recent weeks. We covet your prayers for these and hundreds of others that come to us on a regular basis.



CHURCHES & MINISTRIES

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Pray for a church and homeschool ministry as our attorneys provide legal guidance for their endeavor to partner together to serve families in their area.

OKLAHOMA: Pray for a church seeking advice as they consider avenues to start a homeless ministry.

OHIO: Pray for a group of Christians working together as our attorneys assist them with starting a new church.

ILLINOIS: Pray for a pastor seeking our help as he implements important financial safeguards for the church he pastors.

EAST AFRICA: Praise the Lord! A ministry in East Africa is now recognized by their government. Pray for the team as they start to minister to their community.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Praise the Lord! Our attorneys were able to provide information to a church about legal ways to help their pastor with needed home repairs.

NORTH CAROLINA: Pray for a church who reached out to our office for guidance on requirements as they make parking lots ADA compliant.

MEXICO: Praise the Lord! A ministry contacted CLA requesting assistance with bylaws, and we were happy to send our sample bylaws translated into Spanish.

UNITED STATES: Pray for churches across the country as we advise them about the legalities of allowing political organizations to use ministry facilities during the upcoming election season.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

NORTH CAROLINA: Praise the Lord! Our attorneys were able to provide an administrator with some pertinent information for the church's Christian school handbook.

TENNESSEE: Pray for a Christian school seeking advice regarding improved staff and student safety.

OHIO: Pray for an assistant pastor as he diligently plans to start a Christian school in 2024 and our attorneys supporting him through the process.

FLORIDA: Pray for a Christian school as our attorneys provide direction on policies to put in place for student and staff safety.

INDIVIDUALS

ILLINOIS: Pray for a Christian needing advice after being asked to follow a policy at her workplace that goes against her religious beliefs.

TEXAS: Pray for a Christian seeking advice as she starts a Bible study in her apartment complex.

COLORADO: Pray as our attorneys assist a Christian in approaching a senior center to which he was denied access because of his Christian-focused support group.

TENNESSEE: Pray for a Christian seeking guidance as he runs for alderman for his city. If elected, pray that he will be able to influence policies to promote Christian values.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Pray for a pastor who reached out because his son was being told not to pass out church invitations at his elementary school and our attorneys who are assisting.

WEST VIRGINIA: Pray for a pastor who contacted CLA regarding setting up a Bible club in the local public school.

TEXAS: Praise the Lord! Our attorneys were able to assist Christian parents taking a stand against questionable materials being taught at the public school.

DELAWARE: Pray for a Christian seeking legal counsel as he communicates with his employer about not working on Sundays.

NEBRASKA: Pray for a Christian family as our attorneys assist by providing information regarding the legalities of passing out tracts on private property.

TRACTS...

Sharing the Gospel
through the Written Word

INSIDE...

10 Reasons to Share a Tract

Can I or Can't I?

35 Ways to Share a Tract

Remember the Golden Rule

15 Cautions for Sharing Tracts

Do Tracts Really Work?



Contact ChristianLaw.org
for your free copy of the
resource, *Tracts...Sharing the
Gospel through the Written Word.*



PO BOX 8600 | MASON, OH 45040
888-252-1969 | CHRISTIANLAW.ORG