

FASTFACTS ANTI-CHRISTIAN BIGOTRY



Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

— Matthew 5:11 (NKJV)

If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

— John 15:18 (NKJV)

... IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES...

Los Angeles, Calif. — After receiving a letter from the ACLU threatening potential litigation, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to remove a small cross from the official county seal.

— ABC News, June 2, 2004.

Milwaukee, Wisc. — Gail Anderson was kicked off of a public transit bus for passing out Bibles. She filed a federal lawsuit in defense of her First Amendment rights, but U.S. District Judge Lynn Adelman dismissed the lawsuit, claiming that the county was justified in prohibiting such “unwelcomed communications.”

— Duluth News Tribune, January 10, 2005.

... ON THE JOB ...

Hoover, Ala. — Christopher Word, an employee of the Hoover Chamber of Commerce, was fired after he refused to remove a Ten Commandments pin from his lapel. A.W. Bolt, an attorney representing the chamber, defended its action by claiming that the display of the Ten Commandments is nothing more than a “political act.”

— The Daytona News-Journal, May 19, 2004.

Roseville, Calif. — Enoch Lawrence, an employee of the California Department of Social Services, filed a federal lawsuit, after department officials removed several items from his cubicle, including a small faith-based sign, several Bible verses, and a “Marriage: One Man, One Woman” bumper sticker. Department officials claimed that “religious” materials were not permitted in cubicles.

— Alliance Defense Fund, May 19, 2004.

... IN SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES ...

Athens, Ga. — The University of Georgia fired cheerleading coach Marilou Braswell, after twelve years of service, for sharing information with her cheerleading squad about a complaint that had been lodged against her for holding voluntary Bible studies with student-athletes.

— CBS News, August 24, 2004.

Fayetteville, Ark. — The state-funded University of Arkansas has imposed restrictions on visiting evangelists. Under the new guidelines, these evangelists are forced to notify campus officials at least three days prior to every visit and are required to obtain an official permit for each visit. Incredibly, the university has also imposed limits on the number of visits an evangelist can make to the campus — no more than five per semester.

— Alliance Defense Fund Press Release, January 14, 2005.

Chapel Hill, N.C. — Alpha Iota Omega, a Christian fraternity at UNC-Chapel Hill, was stripped of its official status as a campus group because its officers refused to sign the school’s nondiscrimination policy, which would have forced the group to accept nonbelievers and homosexuals as voting members.

— The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, August 25, 2004.

Boyd County, Ky. — The Boyd County Board of Education announced plans to force all middle and high school students to attend a “diversity training” seminar in which students were taught that the homosexual lifestyle is a healthy alternative to heterosexuality. The district will not permit parents to opt their children out of the seminar, even if the material violates personally held beliefs.

— Alliance Defense Fund Press Release, February 15, 2005.

... DURING THE HOLIDAYS ...

Maplewood, N.J. — The South Orange/Maplewood School District barred a Columbia High School brass ensemble from performing any Christmas tunes which mention the life of Christ — even though the songs were instrumental (i.e. no lyrics).

— ABC News, December 7, 2004.

New York, N.Y. — New York City implemented a policy that forbids public schools from displaying any “holiday” decorations that commemorate the birth of Christ. Though school officials allowed Islamic crescents and Jewish menorahs to be displayed on school property, city attorneys argued that it would be “wholly disingenuous” for schools to portray the Christian nativity scene as an “historically accurate representation” of the birth of Jesus.

— WorldNetDaily, November 12, 2003.

Eugene, Ore. — City Manager Jim Johnson barred city employees from displaying religious decorations at their desks. He also prohibited all public displays of Christmas trees.

— The Oregonian, December 18, 2000.

Everywhere, U.S.A. — Lawsuits seeking to remove all displays of public faith during the Christmas holiday have been witnessed across America — in cities like: Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Oldham County, Ky.; Cedar County, Iowa.; Elizabeth, Colo.; Baldwin City, Kans.; LaFayette, Ind.; Madison, Wis.; North Gresham, Oreg.; Cranston, R.I.; Norwood, Mass.; Tacoma, Wash.; Portland, Maine.; Springfield, Mass.; Fairfax County, Va.; Newark, N.J.; Jersey City, N.J.; Bethany, Okla.; Lancaster, Ohio; York, Pa.; Denver, Colo.; Florissant, Mo.; Duncan, S.C.; Turon, Kans.; Little Rock, Ark.; Meriden, Conn.; Troy, Mich.; Putnam County, Tenn.; Eddy County, N.M.; Custer County, Mont.; Utah County, Utah; DeKalb County, Ga.; Ramsey County, Minn.; Kensington, Md.; and many more.

Compiled from various sources

SUPREME COURT V. RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION IN SCHOOLS

Everson v. Board of Education (1947) — the Court erects the “wall of separation.”
Engel v. Vitale (1962) — Supreme Court restricts a child’s right to pray to God.
Abington v. Schempp (1963) — Supreme Court declares Bible-reading “unconstitutional.”
Murray v. Curlett (1963) — Supreme Court rules the Lord’s Prayer “unconstitutional.”
Epperson v. Arkansas (1968) — Supreme Court forces evolution into public schools.
Stone v. Graham (1980) — Supreme Court rules Ten Commandments displays unlawful.
Arkansas v. McLean (1982) — Supreme Court banishes creationism from the classroom.
Wallace v. Jaffree (1985) — Supreme Court strikes down Alabama’s “moment of silence.”
Lee v. Weisman (1992) — Supreme Court rules clergy-led graduation prayers unlawful.

STATE-SPONSORED ANTI-CHRISTIAN BIGOTRY

The Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) rejected Shawn Byrne’s request for a specialty plate reading “John 3:16.” This Bible verse reads, “For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

When the Alliance Defense Fund asked why the application had been rejected, state officials responded that the verse “refers to deity and has been denied based on that reason.”

— *WorldNetDaily*, January 19, 2005.

The New York City Council voted 43-5 to approve legislation forcing the Salvation Army to provide health insurance benefits to the domestic partners of homosexual employees. As a result, the Salvation Army would be forced to choose between (1) violating its own religious beliefs, or (2) shutting down all operations in NYC, abandoning millions of residents who benefit from the Army’s presence. In response to the city’s threat, the Army vowed, “We will not sign any contracts that require domestic-partner benefits, or contracts that force the Salvation Army to change its spiritual integrity.”

— *The New York Post*, May 23, 2004.

Eleven Christians were arrested while protesting a Philadelphia gay pride parade. The district attorney sought to imprison these men for up to 47 years, charging each of them with three felonies (including “ethnic intimidation”) and five misdemeanors. The prosecutor’s claims were debunked by a reporter’s videotape, which proved that the Christians had only been at the rally for 35 minutes and had been peacefully reading from their Bibles. Despite this evidence, the prosecutor continued to argue that much of Scripture is “hateful” and amounted to “fighting words.” Eventually, another judge dismissed all charges against the men.

— *WorldNetDaily*, February 17, 2005.

The Anti-Defamation League filed a formal complaint against Riverside County, Calif., seeking to remove an engraving that has been etched into the courthouse’s mahogany walls for nearly seventy years. The gold lettered engraving is a sentence uttered by President Theodore Roosevelt, who once said, “The true Christian is the true citizen.” County officials have agreed to place a large piece of plywood over the display when the court is in session.

— *The San Francisco Chronicle*, October 1, 2004.

ANTI-CHRISTIAN BIAS IN THE MEDIA

USA Today reported that *Rolling Stone* magazine refused to publish an advertisement from Zondervan Publishing — the nation’s largest Bible publishing company. Executives with Wenner Media, the parent company of *Rolling Stone*, explained that the ad was rejected because it contained a “spiritual message in the text.” These executives added that *Rolling Stone* “was not in the business of advertising for religious messages.”

Immediately after the article was published in *USA Today*, public outrage led *Rolling Stone* to rescind their unwritten policy prohibiting Christian ads and to accept the Zondervan ad.

— *USA Today*, January 17, 2005.

Following the November 2004 election, famed CBS commentator Andy Rooney mocked Christians for praying to God. During his monologue, he said, “I heard from God just the other night. God always seems to call at night. ‘Andrew,’ God said to me. He always calls me ‘Andrew.’ I like that. ‘Andrew, you have the eyes and ears of a lot of people. I wish you’d tell your viewers that both Pat Robertson and Mel Gibson strike me as wackos. I believe that’s one of your current words. They’re crazy as bedbugs ... Mel is a real nut case. What in the world was I thinking when I created him?’”

— Andy Rooney on *60 Minutes*, February 22, 2005.

FASTFACTS is published by the Center for Reclaiming America — an outreach of Coral Ridge Ministries — to inform, equip, motivate, and support Christians; enabling them to defend and implement the biblical principles on which our country was founded. Founder: Dr. D. James Kennedy; (877) SALT USA; cfra@coralridge.org; www.reclaimamerica.org; P.O. Box 632, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33302 **04/05 LPAR**

Did Our Founders Intend to Allow for Today’s Secular Hostility?

NO.

“[The Founders] had no fear or jealousy of religion itself, nor did they wish to see us as an irreligious people ... **We are a Christian people**... not because the law demands it, not to gain exclusive benefits or to avoid legal disabilities, but from choice and education; and in a land thus universally Christian, what is to be expected, what desired, but that **we shall pay due regard to Christianity.**”

— Senate Judiciary Committee, January 19, 1853.

The Father of American Jurisprudence

Joseph Story was a well-respected legal mind of the early 1800s. After graduating from Harvard University, Story became very active within government. After serving in representative government for only six years, James Madison (primary author of the United States Constitution) nominated Joseph Story to serve on the United States Supreme Court. Story served on the Court for 34 years, wrote 269 majority opinions, and has been labeled the “Father of American Jurisprudence.” In fact, he helped to found the nation’s most prestigious school of law at his alma mater — Harvard Law School.

In the case of *Vidal v. Girard’s Executors* (1844), Justice Joseph Story delivered the unanimous opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court. The High Court declared, “**Christianity... is not to be maliciously and openly reviled and blasphemed against to the annoyance of believers or the injury of the public** ... It is unnecessary for us, however, to consider ... the establishment of a school or college for the propagation of Judaism or Deism or any other form of infidelity. **Such a case is not to be presumed to exist in a Christian country.**”

— *Vidal v. Girard’s Executors* (1844), 43 U.S. 127.

If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land.

— 2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV