**ALCAP & American Character Builders**

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Joe Godfrey, Executive Director

**LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:** The 2020 Alabama Legislative Session began with a number of bills that ALCAP started monitoring. There were a couple of lottery bills and others were expected to be introduced, as well as local constitutional amendments that, if passed, would have expanded gambling in Alabama. Also, there was a “medical marijuana” bill introduced in the Senate, several local bills that expanded the availability of alcohol, and a bill legalizing Yoga (intrinsically tied to the Hindu religion) to be taught in public schools, all of which ALCAP opposed. Pro-life bills that ALCAP supported were also introduced early in the session.

Mid-March, the Legislature shut down for over a month due to the COVID-19 outbreak. When the legislators finally returned to the State House the first of May, they focused on passing uncontested local bills and the two state budgets (the General Fund Budget and the Education Trust Fund Budget), and then adjourned *sine die* within a week and a half after returning. Rumor has it (at the time of this writing) that the Governor may call a Special Session sometime in late summer or early fall in order to address any revenue shortfalls that might occur and to address prison reform and budgeting for new prisons. ALCAP will be monitoring the situation to make sure that gambling is not introduced as a “solution” to the financial needs of the state.

ALCAP has also been actively involved with the Governor’s Gambling Policy Study Committee. ALCAP lined up two speakers for the first public hearing (which ended up being held via Zoom). ALCAP also presented a written report to the committee explaining why gambling would be detrimental to our state, and, thanks to your financial support, we were able to purchase for each committee member a DVD of a documentary that shows the fraud of state-sponsored lotteries.

**CONSULTATIVE MATTERS:** Executive director of ALCAP, Joe Godfrey, is available to present a sermon series or conference entitled, “The Forgotten Command.” During the pandemic “shut down,” these sessions were videoed and uploaded to [www.ALCAP.com](http://www.ALCAP.com), along with a discussion guide for each session. There is a 4-minute introductory video and six individual sessions (averaging between 20 and 30 minutes in length). These video lessons would be ideal for use in small group meetings, during a Sunday or Wednesday evening churchwide Bible study, or they can be used by individuals and they are available for FREE!

**AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS:** American Character Builders resources continue to be available at our website [*www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org*](http://www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org). We have downloadable materials that address, alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, bullying and our newest packet of resources on the opioid crisis (which appears on our homepage).

American Character Builders has received grants to update our program on alcohol. Until the COVID-19 pandemic impacted our efforts, we were working with faculty and students at Samford University to design and implement a new video and online curriculum dealing with alcohol use and abuse. We will continue to pursue the production of that new material as soon as possible (but, not likely before the fall semester).

All of our resources are designed for use in public schools, but we also provide Bible studies for use in local churches. Church leaders can offer to teach one or more of our programs at local middle and high schools, and then offer follow-up programs at their church for parents, school officials and community leaders. At the church event, biblical principles can be introduced. This is a great way for churches, schools and local civic and government entities to partner together in addressing the growing alcohol and drug problems that are confronting all demographic groups in our state and nation.

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support for American Character Builders! Without your support, we would not be able to provide these quality resources for churches and schools.

***Both ALCAP and American Character Builders are completely dependent upon the prayers and financial support of the churches of Alabama. Please consider adding these ministries to your on-going prayer lists and to your church and associational budgets so that we can continue this important ministry.***