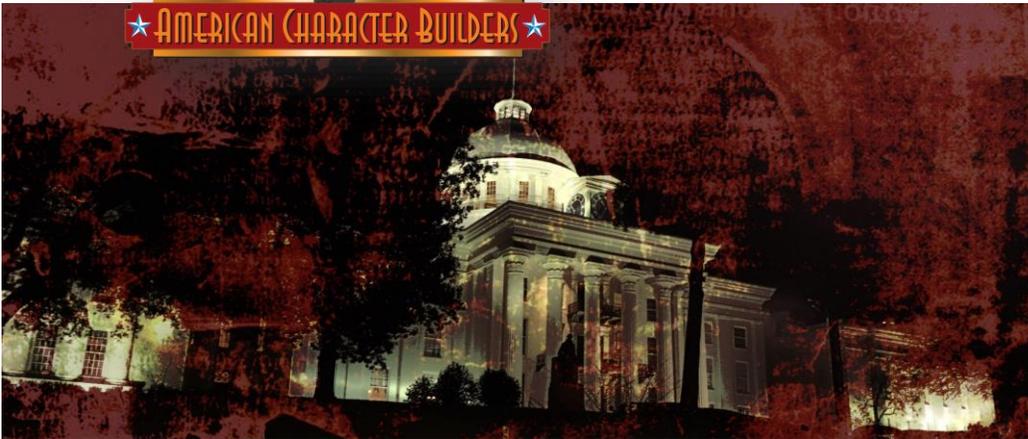


★ AMERICAN CHARACTER BUILDERS ★



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

2 Thessalonians 3:13  
(NKJV)

## 2021 Legislative Session was EMBARRASSING for a conservative state like Alabama

STATEWIDE — Alabama has always been considered a very socially conservative state, but the 2021 Legislative Session was an embarrassment as legislators in both houses passed a number of socially liberal bills.

### **Alcohol**

Since becoming a “super majority,” Republican lawmakers have demonstrated that they have never seen a beverage alcohol expansion bill they did not like. This year was no exception. A series of bills were passed and signed into law by the Governor that legalize direct shipment of alcoholic beverages to the homes of Alabama citizens. While the bills included requirements for delivery personnel to check IDs to make sure the person receiving the shipment is 21 years of age or older, ask yourself if you think FedEx or UPS delivery personnel will consistently do that. It is not likely.

### **“Medical” Marijuana**

In spite of heroic efforts by several members of the Alabama Senate and the House of Representatives to stop its passage, the “medical” marijuana bill (SB46, sponsored by Sen. Tim Melson) passed both houses and was signed into law by Governor Ivey. We are disappointed, but we will do everything we can to keep marijuana legalization from continuing to expand. In many states where “medical” marijuana has been legalized, the legalization of recreational marijuana has often followed.

### **Yoga**

Yoga is intrinsically tied to the Hindu religion and for that reason has been banned in Alabama public schools (K-12). But no longer. The Alabama Legislature has now voted to allow a Hindu religious practice to be taught in public schools.

### **Vulnerable Child Compassion & Protection Act (VCAP)**

This bill passed the Senate, but leadership in the House refused to allow the bill to come to the floor of the House for a vote. This bill would have prohibited hormone blockers and surgical procedures to be used on children for the purpose of changing their birth sex before being old enough to decide for themselves.

### **“Born Alive” Bill**

One bright spot was the passage of the “Born Alive” Bill, sponsored by Rep. Ginny Shaver. This bill requires that medical staff do everything possible if, during an abortion, a child is born alive. We applaud Rep. Shaver for her persistence in getting this law passed.

**Gambling** – See Page 3 –  
“Alabama Governor...gambling...”

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## 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.



## Executive Director Search Begins

***After I announced my plan to retire, effective April 30, 2022, as executive director of ALCAP & American Character Builders, the Boards of both organizations began the search process for a new executive director.***



BIRMINGHAM, AL— During the annual board meeting of the ALCAP Board (by Zoom) on March 1 of this year, I announced my plan to retire on April 30, 2022, at the end of the 2022 Legislative Session and the current Alabama political quadrennium. I will have completed 15 years at ALCAP and American Character Builders and I believe it is time for someone with energy and fresh ideas to "take the reins."

It has been my honor and privilege to serve the Boards of ALCAP & American Character Builders, as well as the churches of Alabama in these important ministries. As your voice in the Alabama Legislature concerning moral issues and as your missionary in the Alabama State House, I have been truly blessed. By providing resources for churches and schools to use in teaching students about the dangers of addictive drugs and activities, I pray that our work has made an eternal impact in our state and beyond.

After announcing my retirement, the ALCAP Board formed a search committee that also

includes a member of the American Character Builders Board. This search committee has been tasked with finding my successor with the goal of having this person in place by the first of October of this year. It is hoped that I will be able to introduce the new executive director to the churches of Alabama through December and that he will be able to "shadow" me at the Alabama Legislature beginning the second Tuesday of January 2022.

Please pray for the search committee, the man God has in mind for this ministry (and his family), and for my wife and me as we transition to a new stage in our lives and personal ministry.

For more information about the job qualifications and requirements or to submit a résumé, visit <https://alcap.com/who-is-alcap/executive-director-search/> or contact Cheryl Corley at **205.985.9062** or by email at [ccorley@alcap.com](mailto:ccorley@alcap.com).

## Alabama Governor and Legislature Are Gambling with Alabama's Future and "Family-Friendly" Culture

*[Continued from Page 1]*

For ALCAP, the biggest issue during the 2021 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature was gambling. Early in the session, Sen. Del Marsh introduced a comprehensive gambling bill (SB214) that included a state-sponsored lottery, state-sanctioned casinos, a compact with the Poarch Creek Indians that would allow them to turn their current facilities into full-fledged casinos and build a new casino in Northeast Alabama, as well as legalizing online gambling and sports betting. He, also, introduced several bills that gave details concerning how gambling would operate in the state and where the gambling revenue would be used. This is called, "enabling legislation."

Because a bill legalizing gambling must be a constitutional amendment, it requires 21 votes in the Senate and 63 votes in the House to pass. Also, constitutional amendments do not go to the Governor for a signature but are placed on a statewide ballot for the voters to decide. Sen. Marsh's bill only received 19 votes and thus, it "died." However, a few weeks later, Sen. Jim McClendon, who had already introduced a "lottery only" bill (SB319), which we argue could eventually result in casinos, was voted out of the Senate Tourism Committee. The problem was that SB319 was substituted with language that was very much like Sen. Marsh's original comprehensive gambling bill that included casinos throughout the state, online gambling, etc. This time, the gambling bill passed the Senate with a vote of 23-9 and was sent to the House for their consideration, with the goal of the constitutional amendment being on the ballot in the November 2022 election.

The House leadership proceeded to make amendments in an attempt to get as many people "on board" as possible, but the bill never made it to the floor of the House for a vote. The main reason was "greedlock" (gridlock that occurs when various gambling enterprises cannot agree on a way for everyone to get a "piece of the gambling pie"), but we have also heard that many, many pastors and church members contacted their State Senators and House Members, and that was certainly an important part of what stopped this massive gambling expansion in our state.

A last-minute attempt late at night on the next-to-the last legislative day to bring the gambling bill to the floor of the House with a substitute that would have made it a "lottery only" bill, failed and caused a great deal of resentment among legislators. The Legislature took a week off and returned for the last day of the session on May 17. They hoped to get a compromise worked out during that week, but failed to do so and the gambling bill, as well as the enabling legislation, never made it to the floor of the House for a vote.

"Rumor has it" that if the different pro-gambling factions are able to reach a compromise, the Governor may call a special session in coming weeks to address the gambling issue. She may call the special session to deal with another issue, but unless she specifically states that the special session is limited to one legislative matter, gambling (if it is not the reason for the special session) could be introduced. The battle for the soul of Alabama is not over for this year and we must stay diligent in guarding against the pro-gambling forces that will keep pushing to forever change the culture of our great state.

**What can you do? Do not wait until a special session or the 2022 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature to contact your state senator or House member to voice your opposition to gambling expansion in Alabama. Go ahead and let them know that you are disgusted with their continued efforts to push gambling on our family-friendly state. Contact the Governor and ask her to ENFORCE the anti-gambling laws of our state by allowing the Attorney General to use State Troopers to shut down illegal gambling operations. She has stated publicly that illegal gambling is rampant in Alabama. The reason is that she will not enforce the current laws against it and the solution is to enforce the laws and strengthen those laws if necessary – NOT to legalize and expand gambling!**



Cartoon by Scott Stantis, courtesy of the Alabama Policy Institute (API)

<sup>13</sup>You 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.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor 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. <sup>16</sup>Let 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 THIS SUMMER OR FALL...

Christ’s call to become His followers carries with it three assignments – THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS (to love God and to 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 continues to offer a FREE video series built around this theme of “THE FORGOTTEN COMMAND.” In the introductory video and the six-sessions that follow you will discover how each of these assignments are intertwined in the purpose and mission of Christ’s Church. Each video is accompanied by a discussion guide and the series can be presented in a one or two-day conference or retreat setting, or as a six-week study. It is available to download for free on our website, [www.ALCAP.com](http://www.ALCAP.com).

The series can also be presented in person as a weekend conference or a revival series. To schedule a conference or series of messages, feel free to contact me at [jgodfrey@alcap.com](mailto:jgodfrey@alcap.com) or call our ALCAP and American Character Builders office at **205.985.9062**.

As we enter the summer months when receipts tend to “take a vacation,” ALCAP and American Character Builders are grateful for your continued prayers and financial support. Like many ministries, ALCAP and American Character Builders face financial challenges, especially as we hope to have a new executive director coming on board and overlapping the remaining few months of the current director’s tenure. Please consider a special summertime contribution to help us through these months and the transition period between directors. We have sought to be good stewards of the gifts you have given in the past, and we will continue to do our best to accomplish as much as we can with limited resources, but we need your help. If you are an individual who would like to contribute, make your checks payable to *American Character Builders* in order to get a tax deduction. If you represent a church, we request that you make your checks payable to *ALCAP*. You may also visit our websites ([www.ALCAP.com](http://www.ALCAP.com) and [www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org](http://www.AmericanCharacterBuilders.org)) to make contributions online. If you are interested in including *American Character Builders* in your estate planning, please contact our office to discuss this option.