

LIBERTY COUNSEL

Mathew D. Staver, Founder and Chairman

These pastors are facing **PRISON!**

Right now, pastors in America are being THREATENED, AND SOME CRIMINALLY CHARGED for worshipping, the penalties of which are PRISON and FINES. In one of our cases, a prosecutor has threatened to criminally charge pastors and parishioners. Please see below and help me fight for pastors, churches, and every Christian in America.

Dear Friend of Religious Freedom,

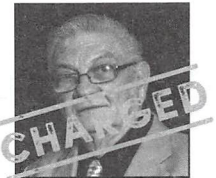
Pastors have been arrested (some put in jail) for leading worship, parishioners threatened with arrest, churches fined for religious services, government officials threatened to bulldoze church buildings, and home churches have been deemed criminal.

This is not China or some foreign regime. This is America. And every one of the above instances, and more, come from our pending legal cases.

These pastors, our clients, have faced PRISON in 2020 . . .

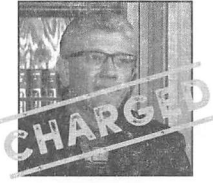
As I write, pastors across the country are being arrested and threatened with prison, thousands of dollars in fines, and the closure of their churches — all because they meet for worship.

- Dr. Jack Roberts (KY) — along with everyone who attended a drive-in parking lot Easter service, **HE WAS PLACED UNDER 14-DAY QUARANTINE HOUSE ARREST** with threats of criminal charges.
- Pastor Kevin Wilson (VA) — **CRIMINALLY CHARGED** with up to one year in prison and \$2,500 in fines for having just 16 people at a Palm Sunday Service in his 293-seat church. Every church member was also threatened with criminal charges if they met with more than 10 people. This church does not have internet, and they had no Easter service alternative.
- Dr. Rodney Howard-Browne (FL) — **ARRESTED, HANDCUFFED, BOOKED, AND JAILED WITH A MUG SHOT AND TWO CRIMINAL CHARGES**, simply for assembling for worship.



Over, please . . .

- Pastor Cristian Ionescu (IL) — **CRIMINALLY CHARGED** with “disorderly conduct” and faces prison and thousands in fines, along with outrageous threats against his church, including destroying the building. The “disorderly conduct” charge was merely for having more than 10 people assembled for worship.
- Pastor Ché Ahn (CA) — **THREATENED WITH DAILY CRIMINAL CHARGES, WITH UP TO ONE YEAR IN PRISON AND \$1,000 IN FINES PER DAY** for holding worship services. The criminal threat and fines also include every parishioner. California banned ALL WORSHIP, including home Bible studies and fellowship.



Except for the Florida pastor, whose case we got dismissed, Liberty Counsel is IN COURT defending each of these pastors who have come under attack. We are also in court defending Maine Pastor Ken Graves. This month we present oral argument at the court of appeals. Just days ago, I presented arguments in a California lower court for Pastor Ahn. One or more of these cases could reach the Supreme Court — a precedent that could set the course for religious freedom.

We are also advising about 2,000 pastors and churches in 44 states. The phones never stop ringing, in large part because dictatorial governors and mayors just keep grabbing more and more power, imposing ever-tightening restrictions on churches, and threatening pastors with imprisonment and fines.

These pastors are willing to risk everything — even their personal freedom — for the Gospel! They are putting it all on the line for Jesus and His Church!

But it’s not just the pastors who are at risk. In California, every pastor, staff, and parishioner who worships in church, or at home with anyone who does not live in the home, risks daily criminal charges and fines.

California threat: a warning to all Christians in America . . .

I’ve enclosed a copy of the letter Pastor Ahn received a few weeks ago from the Pasadena City Prosecutor.

You’ll see that the Pasadena prosecutor is threatening to lock up Pastor Ahn with DAILY CRIMINAL CHARGES, of which carries up to one year in jail! But not just Pastor Ahn — it includes all staff and every parishioner who attends Harvest Rock Church for religious services.

In California, and in every state we are working, these pro-abortion governors permit non-religious meetings in church, but ban or severely limit all religious worship. The prosecutor threatens criminal charges for “each day in violation.” The letter then says:

“Any violations in the future will subject your Church, owners, administrators, operators, staff, and parishioners to the above-mentioned criminal penalties as well as the potential closure of your Church.”

Continued on next page. . .

A few months ago, I would have thought such a letter would be impossible in America. But what the prosecutor sent to Pastor Ahn should serve as a WARNING to every Christian in America.

The states with the most severe restrictions on churches have a (1) Democratic governor, (2) who supports abortion and Planned Parenthood, and (3) who encourages the rioters to “keep doing it.”

This is how it happens . . .

Romanian Pastor Cristian Ionescu lived in a Communist country before coming to the “land of the free.” The Communists first tried to assure the churches the government cared for their well-being. But, after a time when more restrictions were imposed, the Communists threatened the pastors who pushed back, jailed some, and closed some churches. Fear and intimidation ruled the day. The real shepherds did not cave. The weak went along and some closed.

And it’s no coincidence that these attacks are happening globally, and here in the midst of a critical election year. If they can target and bully pastors, they can keep the church silent and control our nation.

Don’t believe the lie that these restrictions on churches are all about health and safety. In each of the cases I’ve cited in this letter, there have been blatant and specific attacks by authorities against people of faith!

Take Pastor Ahn’s situation as an example, and see what California Governor Newsom’s attack on churches includes. Note, I have listed the restrictions sequentially, so observe the increasing restrictions:

- **March** – Abortion centers are “essential,” but churches are not;
- **May** – Churches can have up to 100 people so long as they comply with a comprehensive list of restrictions on every detail of worship, including Bibles and Communion;
- **July 6** – A TOTAL BAN on singing and chanting;
- **July 13** – A TOTAL BAN on ALL WORSHIP for 80 percent of the population, while allowing non-religious services including feeding, secular counseling, and sheltering an unlimited number of people IN THE SAME CHURCH BUILDING where worship services are banned;
- **July 13** – A TOTAL BAN on Bible studies and fellowship in private homes with anyone who does not live there;
- Yet, Gov. Newsom tells tens of thousands of protestors and rioters who pack the streets, “God bless you. Keep doing it!”

Over, please. . .

All this is in violation of the Constitution. Plus, the Supreme Court ruled many years ago that the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment means that **neither state nor the federal government can “force nor influence a person to go to or to remain away from church against his will.”** (*Everson v. Board of Education, 1947*)

The Supreme Court couldn't be more clear! Especially when governors and mayors impose SPECIFIC restrictions against pastors and churches, SUCH RESTRICTIONS ARE DISCRIMINATAORY AND MUST BE REMOVED!

But right now, there is an AGENDA AT WORK to use the coronavirus crisis to FORCE THE CHURCH UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE STATE, to criminalize Christianity and silence people of faith.

Caesar has no authority over the church . . .

Both Biblically and constitutionally, Caesar has no authority to restrict or close churches.

In the Bible, the King had no jurisdiction over the Priest; nor the Priest over the King. The first King of Israel, Saul, committed a grave sin that cost him the kingship. After he performed the functions of a Priest, the prophet Samuel stated, “You have done foolishly.... your kingdom will not continue” (1 Samuel 13:8-14).

Jesus said, “Render to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar, and to God the things that belong to God” (Matt. 22:21).

And, the First Amendment draws a red line between the state and the church. The state cannot prohibit the free exercise of religion, nor can the state control the church – as noted, it cannot prohibit anyone from attending church.

With the exponential increase in domestic and child abuse, pornography, alcohol and drug abuse, anxiety, depression, and suicide, the church is more essential than ever. The church cannot be relegated to ONLY a podcast!

I commit to you . . .

NOT ON OUR WATCH! WE WILL NOT ALLOW PASTORS AND CHRISTIANS TO BE INTIMIDATED AND THREATENED WITH PRISON, FINES, AND CLOSURES!

That's why Liberty Counsel has five federal lawsuits against these power-grabbing governors. We also are working with about 2,000 pastors and churches in 44 states.

Our defense of pastors, churches, and parishioners is in addition to our many other cases, including our most expensive case in history defending Sandra Merritt against Planned Parenthood.

Liberty Counsel TOTALLY DEPENDS on the prayers and support of friends like you.
We always offer our services at no charge.

Continued on next page. . .

You are the reason we can reach across the country to defend the church, human life, and the family.

A generous supporter has established a CHALLENGE GRANT which will effectively DOUBLE the impact of your donation today. Please don't let this opportunity to DOUBLE your effective support pass you by. America's pastors and churches are relying on YOU, to help ensure religious freedom remains free!

Please return the enclosed STANDING FOR FREEDOM reply to support Liberty Counsel for such a time as this.

Thankfully, our extended challenge grant is still in effect and your gift will be effectively DOUBLED in defending beleaguered pastors and churches.

Thank you in advance,



Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman
Liberty Counsel

P.S. — These brave pastors are being CRIMINALLY CHARGED as state and local governments declare "open season" on the church! Our team is working day and night to fight for our churches. The resource drain has been considerable. I am grateful for your partnership.

P.P.S. Please take advantage of the extended challenge grant that will DOUBLE the impact of your gift today! Also, please keep this letter in your Bible or close at hand and PRAY FOR THESE PASTORS who are facing persecution as we fight these intense battles.

Here is the letter our client, Pastor
Ché Ahn, recently received from
the Pasadena, CA, prosecutor.
The prosecutor is threatening
MULTIPLE YEARS IN PRISON
for Pastor Ahn and his entire
congregation! Help me fight back!
M.P. Dowd



OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY / CITY PROSECUTOR
CRIMINAL DIVISION

August 13, 2020

Harvest Rock Church
c/o Pastor Che Ahn
2555 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107

Pastor Ahn:

It has come to the attention of the Pasadena City Prosecutor's Office that your facility is not operating in compliance with the Order of Governor Newsome issued on March 4, 2020 and July 14, 2020 and the Orders of the Health Officer of the City of Pasadena issued on March 19, 2020 and March 22, 2020 as well as subsequent orders of both entities in regard to indoor services and the wearing of protective masks along with the requirement of social distancing.

We have information that your Church was conducting live indoor church services at the location where anywhere from 50 to 100 people or more attended. It was also noted that the people who attended these services as well as church staff were not complying with the relevant governmental orders concerning social distancing or the wearing of protective masks. All of these are violations of the law. For guidelines, please see <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/public-health/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/Places-of-Worship-Public-Health-Reopening-Protocol.pdf?v=1597255343455>.

This letter is to remind you that violations of these Orders are criminal in nature. Each day in violation is a separate violation and carries with it a potential punishment of up to one year in jail and a fine for each violation. More importantly, these violations subject your parishioners, staff and the public-at-large to potential exposure to this lethal disease. Your compliance with these Orders is not discretionary, it is mandatory. Any violations in the future will subject your Church, owners, administrators, operators, staff, and parishioners to the above-mentioned criminal penalties as well as the potential closure of your Church.

This City, County, State and Country are facing an unprecedented and catastrophic health emergency. It is the duty of everyone to manage our lives in ways that will not do harm to others. Your compliance with the lawful orders of the responsible government officials is paramount to stopping the further spread and infection of this lethal disease. Your future compliance is expected and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Dowd
Chief Assistant City Prosecutor
City of Pasadena

STANDING FOR FREEDOM, OUR PASTORS AND OUR CHURCHES

URGENT ACTION RESPONSE FROM VOYLE A. GLOVER

Mat, I will not sit by silently as pastors face fines and imprisonment for standing for our faith. I want to help PASTORS AND CHURCHES and to keep Liberty Counsel fighting on these and other cases. Please apply the extended challenge grant to DOUBLE the impact of my gift of:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$160 (doubled to \$320) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$120 (doubled to \$240) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$80 (doubled to \$160) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ (DOUBLED TO \$_____) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will also PRAY for these pastors and the Liberty Counsel team during this unprecedented attack on our faith and liberties. | |

Voyle A. Glover
2441 Canterbury Pl
Scherverville, IN 46375-2308

2063095|H20C|LFA



Make your gift payable to Liberty Counsel. See back for credit card or recurring gifts. >>
LC is a 501(c)(3) organization and gifts are deductible for federal income tax purposes. Please return this entire form in the envelope provided.

THESE PASTORS ARE FACING PRISON!



Dr. Rodney Howard-Browne



Dr. Jack Roberts



Pastor Kevin Wilson



Pastor Cristian Ionescu



Pastor Daniel Chiu



Pastor Ché Ahn

Liberty Counsel is in court right now on behalf of these pastors who have been charged with, or are facing, serious CRIMINAL CHARGES with years in jail and thousands of dollars in fines. We must fight back and defend pastors and the church! Thanks for partnering with us. God bless, Mat Staver

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