



Focus on Religious Freedom

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"The Secret of Freedom - Courage" - *Thucydides (Greek historian - 5th century BC)*

Some With Courage Are Defending Religious Freedom

"Get out! Get out! ... Don't come back without a warrant!," ⁽¹⁾ yelled Pastor Artur Pawlowski to police and a public health officer as they "entered the church building uninvited on its holiest, most anticipated day for parishioners," during their church's Passover service in Alberta, Canada. "If they want to inspect the building, they can call me and we can arrange that... I asked them to get out and they would not move," said the Polish Pastor.⁽²⁾

"I grew up under communist dictatorship behind the Iron Curtain, under the brute of the Soviets... It was like a ...flashback when those police showed up at my church.... And the only thing I could do is to fend off the wolves as a shepherd, and I used my voice to get rid of them."⁽³⁾

In a "Huge Win!" ⁽⁴⁾ California lifts capacity limits on churches and in home religious gatherings following five rebukes from the U.S. Supreme Court in five separate cases citing the First Amendment's right to religious freedom. "This is the fifth time the Court has summarily rejected the Ninth Circuit's analysis of California's COVID restrictions on religious exercise," the opinion said.⁽⁵⁾

"For over a year, the state of CA has targeted the faith community for discriminatory treatment depriving them of their fundamental right to worship. It shouldn't take a decision from the Supreme Court, much less five decisions, for Gov. Newsom to realize that what he has been doing is unconstitutional," said Center for American Liberty founder and CEO Harmeet Dhillon.⁽⁶⁾

"Truth draws strength from itself and not from the number of votes in its favor."

-Pope Benedict XVI

"Evil preaches tolerance until it is in power and then it seeks to silence good." -Archbishop Chaput

Colorado cake artist Jack Phillips is again defending his freedom to practice his Christian faith in his refusal to create a cake celebrating a gender transition. "Jack Phillips serves all people, no matter how they identify, but he cannot violate his conscience and create custom cakes celebrating all messages," said Alliance Defending Freedom.⁽⁷⁾

"And, he is not alone. There are cases like these across the nation where an artist's livelihood - and in some instances, their homes and personal assets - are on the line simply for not wanting to speak a message that violates their core convictions. ... our system of justice is being weaponized as nothing more than an arm of cancel culture to ruin people with whom one disagrees."⁽⁸⁾

(chrisitanpost.com, 4/7/21(1); christianitydaily.com, 4/8/21(2)(3); independent.co.uk, 4/7/21; dailywire.com, 4/12/21(4)(6); yahoo.com, 4/7/21(5); brnow.org, 3/39/21(7)(8); usatoday.com, 3/23/21)

"Courage is contagious.

When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened." -Billy Graham