In California, Liberty Counsel represents Pastor Ché Ahn, Harvest Rock Church, and Harvest International Ministry, and 162 other California-based churches.

On June 6, Gov. Newsom banned singing and chanting. On July 13, he banned ALL worship for about 80 percent of the state, including Bible studies and fellowship in private homes or apartments. Under the orders, a person cannot visit a neighbor in the same apartment complex for Bible study or worship. The criminal penalty for doing so carries up to one year in prison and daily fines of \$1,000.

On August 11, Pasadena city officials sent a "Cease and Desist" letter demanding that churches comply with Gov. Newsom's illegal "no worship" orders. If they continued to meet for worship, they would face "misdemeanors under California and Pasadena law punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment."

Another Pasadena prayer ministry received a similar letter for having five people gathered for prayer in a 7,000 square foot facility – and this is in a country that is *supposed* to have religious freedom!

On August 13, the City of Pasadena Prosecutor sent a letter threatening criminal prosecution and daily fines of \$1,000 against Pastor Ahn, Harvest Rock Church, staff and *even parishioners*. Each criminal charge carries up to one year in prison. **Pastor Ahn had to announce that anyone who attends worship could face criminal charges**.

Pastor Ahn has affiliate churches in 70 nations and has traveled to 100 nations. Never could this Korean immigrant have imagined that the persecution against the church in some parts of the world would come to America!

Let this sink in – if you attend church in California or have Bible studies or worship in your home, you run the risk of being criminally charged and face up to one year in prison. As outrageous and unbelievable as this sounds, sadly it is true.

Defend the Body of Christ Against These Anti-God Orders



In Los Angeles, where our client, Harvest Rock Church, has one of its campuses, Mayor Eric Garcetti threatened to shut off <u>power and water services to any institution</u>, <u>building or even home that violates Gov. Newsom's unconstitutional ban on worship</u>. <u>California's overreaching government has illegally decreed</u>:

- Jail time for non-compliant pastors.
- \$1,000 per day fines for churchgoers.
- No power or water for churches *or homes* caught worshipping the Lord.

Yet protestors and rioters fill the streets shoulder to shoulder, singing and chanting about killing cops and destroying America. None of these protestors or their organizers received "Cease and Desist" orders or threats or criminal charges, fines or the threat of losing power and water.

On June 1, Gov. Newsom told protestors "God bless you. Keep doing it."

Apparently, Gov. Newsom thinks California is his personal monarchy – one in which he encourages rioters while threatening to throw pastors and parishioners into prison. One in which Ventura County requests that armed police block church doors and that faithful followers of God should be physically and financially punished for worshipping according to the dictates of their consciences.

When one part of the body of Christ is attacked, the entire body of Christ is under <u>attack</u>. We must rise as one to defend the whole! We must defend the God-given, unalienable RIGHT to worship as one pleases, not as the government dictates!

Throughout the Bible — and through all of history, for that matter — God's people have suffered and have been imprisoned or even killed for worshipping Him or reading His Word. They have been attacked, mocked and jailed by tyrannical rulers intent upon silencing them.

But despite incredible pressure, these faithful believers pressed *into* the Lord, even when earthly authorities tried to tear them away. Like the Apostle Paul, not even the threat of prison or death stopped them from spreading the Good News.

Some pastors in America are encountering the early stages of the same age-old threat, right now and right here in a country founded upon Judeo-Christian values — a country whose founding charter was *designed* to protect the right of people to worship *as they please*, and not as a government official directs.

For over 30 years, we have stood in the gap between tyrants and the law, defending life and liberty. WE WILL NOT STOP NOW.

That's why I am humbled that you have chosen to stand in the gap with us, defending the right to worship, unfettered by the illegal actions and personal edicts of tyrannical officials.

YOUR generosity makes it possible for us to provide FREE legal defense to the pastors, churches and churchgoers oppressed by out-of-control governors, mayors and local officials. YOUR GENEROSITY KEEPS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FREE!

Defend the Body of Christ Against These Anti-God Orders



RIGHT NOW, THE EXTENDED CHALLENGE GRANT WILL **DOUBLE** THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT AND YOUR DONATION WILL GO **TWICE AS FAR IN DEFENDING PASTORS AND CHURCHES!**

Let us stand strong on our watch.

For Faith and Freedom,

Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman Liberty Counsel

P.S. Please don't let this challenge grant opportunity pass you by. America's pastors and churches are relying on YOU to help ensure religious freedom remains FREE! <u>Select here</u> or the graphic below.

> **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Due to the nature of these new, unprecedented attacks on our churches and our liberties, some dear friends have helped us extend our **CHALLENGE GRANT** for another month. That means the impact of your gift **WILL BE DOUBLED**. Please help! The attacks and threats we now face are unlike anything I have yet seen. The workload on my team feels crushing at times, but we must press on! Thanks in advance and God bless! - Mat

P.P.S. Tired of the shutdowns and unconstitutional restrictions on our liberty? Take a moment to tell all 50 governors to RESTORE OUR RIGHTS & RE-OPEN AMERICA! <u>Select here</u>.



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