

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Blackwell, Morton: Files
Folder Title: [Faith Baptist Church Letters]
(3 of 6)
Box: 36

To see more digitized collections visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Sent

12/30

R. D. #1, Route 30
Esperance, New York, 12066
November 9, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Whitehouse
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter as a concerned American citizen. I am writing in support of the cause of Christian Education. I feel that it is a terrible injustice when the doors of a church are padlocked shut, and a Christian school closed.

Please fight against this closure of God's church and school, Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, Nebraska.

Thank you,
Mrs. Willard Martini Sr.

2234 Vailthorn Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21220
November 9, 1981

President Ronald Reagan
c/o Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: Pastor Everette Sileven
Faith Baptist Church
Lewisville, Nebraska 68037

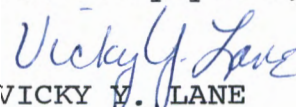
Dear Mr. Blackwell:

I am writing to voice my support for Pastor Sileven and Faith Baptist Church in their efforts to be allowed the freedom and right to operate a Christian school within their church and without the accreditation and control of the local government. The State of Nebraska is presently padlocking the doors of this church in an effort to restrict and prevent them from teaching their children according to God's Word.

Our great nation was founded on the principle and belief in God and the right of each and every person to freedom of worship. As I am sure you are aware, schooling was entirely the Church's responsibility when our nation first came into being. Over the years, the public schools have assumed the majority of that responsibility but it still remains or should remain the right of every individual to choose between public or Christian schooling.

Our country needs strong leaders who have retained the ideals upon which our forefathers built this nation, the ideal of freedoms and trust in God. I sincerely hope that you will address President Reagan with this most important issue and oppose the action being taken by the State of Nebraska. I stand firm in my belief in the A.C.E. Christian schools and sincerely hope that some assistance will be rendered immediately to allow each of us the freedom and right to have our children taught in Christian schools.

Sincerely yours,


VICKY Y. LANE

1835 Derry Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17104
November 9, 1981

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

I'm writing concerning a recent case in the state of Nebraska against Pastor Everett Sileven of the Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, Nebraska.

This church has been padlocked (a first in the U.S., not in Russia) because the Church refuses a license by the state to run their Christian School which is a ministry of their Church.

I'm urging you to do what you can to help Pastor Sileven and the Faith Baptist Church. A Mr. Bowhouser who handles parochial schools in Penna. has already said whatever happens in Nebraska will be put into effect here in Penna. We are really in serious trouble. I have 2 daughters in College that graduated from our Christian school. My son graduates next year. He has spent all his school years in Christian schools.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Marilyn Kobus

FREDERICK W. SMITH III
608 DUNWICH WAY
BALTIMORE, MD. *21221*
MEMBER: CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
OF DUNDALK 21222

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
PASTOR EVERETT SILEVEN
LOUISVILLE, NEBRASKA 68037

THE LORD USED A PILLAR OF FIRE TO GUIDE MOSES AND HIS PEOPLE. THE PADLOCKING OF A CHURCH-SCHOOL ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE LIKE A PILLAR OF FIRE, INDIGNATION AND OUTRAGE TO ALL CHRISTIANS. THIS PILLAR SHOULD GUIDE US BACK TO THE REALITY OF OUR FIGHT AGAINST SATAN.

JOHN 10:9 - I AM THE DOOR; BY ME IF ANY MAN ENTER IN, HE SHALL BE SAVED, AND SHALL GO IN AND GO OUT AND SHALL FIND PASTURE. MAN CAN NOT LOCK GOD'S DOOR AND IN PROVERBS 22:6 TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO, AND EVEN WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT. CONTINUE AS YOU HAVE BEEN TRAINED AND DON'T DEPART FROM THIS FIGHT AGAINST LUCIFER.

WE AT CALVARY ARE PRAYING AS I TIM. 2:1,2 - I EXHORT THEREFORE, FIRST OF ALL, THAT SUPPLICATIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS, THANKSGIVINGS, BE MADE FOR ALL MEN; FOR KINGS AND ALL THAT ARE IN HIGH PLACE; THAT WE MAY LEAD A TRANQUIL AND QUIET LIFE IN ALL GODLINESS AND GRAVITY. PRAYING FOR YOUR GOV. CHARLES THONE AND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES RONALD REAGAN. WE HOPE THEY UNDERSTAND PROVERBS 1:7 THE FEAR OF JEHOVAH (THE LORD) IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE. AND IF THEY GAIN IN KNOWLEDGE THEY DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE ANN CAMBELLS (STATE DEPT. EDUCATION: LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, 68037).

I'M SENDING BOTH OF THESE LEADERS A COPY OF THIS LETTER AND HOPE THEY DO AS ROMANS 16:17 COMMAND FOR MS. CAMBELL (NOW I BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN, MARK THEM THAT ARE CAUSING THE DIVISIONS AND OCCASIONS OF STUMBLING, CONTRARY TO THE DOCTRINE WHICH YE LEARNED; AND TURN AWAY FROM THEM.)

MY BROTHER WE BOTH KNOW THE FINAL DAYS ARE SOON COMING. A UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THAT ABOUNDS WITH SIN: HOMOSEXUALS, DIVORCES, ABORTIONS, DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND NOW TRYING TO STOP CHRISTIANS FROM TRAINING OTHERS IN GOD'S WORD AND KNOWLEDGE; DOES NOT LONG HAVE TO EXIST.

UNTIL THE LORD COMES BACK - ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIER-
YOURS IN GODS WAR,
BROTHER RICK SMITH.

COPIES SENT:

MR. MORTON BLACKWELL
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
WHITEHOUSE, WASHINGTON D.C. 20500

GOV. CHARLES THORNE
CAPITOL BUILDING
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68501

November 9, 1981

Mrs. Liz Scarpulla
401 N. Curley Street
Baltimore, MD 21224

Mr. Merton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Whitehouse, Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Just recently I have heard that Faith Baptist Church, Pastor Everett Sileven, Louisville, Nebraska has been closed down because they refused to take a state liscence for their Christian School. The Sherriff has put a padlock on the doors of the church and only takes them off for one hour on Sunday morning for Sunday Service.

I totally disagree with this as the state has no business interferring with the Church. The women who took this action is Ann Campbell, State Department of Education, Lincoln, Nebraska 68037. I pray that you will do anything you can to get the padlock off of the doors of this church.

If the state of Nebraska is successful in closing this church because they will not take a liscence for their Christian School; "What is going to stop the State of Maryland from closing down its Churches because they will not take a liscence for their Christian School????"

President Reagan is a Bible Believing man and I ask you to speak to him on the importance of taking action NOW before it is too late. Our children need Christian Schools to attend.

Thank you and God bless you!

Sincerely,
Liz Scarpulla

Nov. 5, 1981

Patricia Lawrence
4613 Y-oung St.
South Charleston
West Virginia 25309

Mr. Martin Blackwell
Special Assistant of The President

Mr. Martin Blackwell:

I am writing with a troubled heart, the pastor of the church my husband and I attend told the congregation about the padlocking of the Faith Baptist Church, Louisville, N.B. because the Christian School refused to be licesed by the Board of Education. My understanding is that the Christian School has a much higher scholastic rating than the state program, plus the children are getting guidance in the Christian walk of life.

I am a mother of three grown children who attended public school. My children are in their early twenty's. They were a part of the movement when prayer and the Pledge of Aligent to the Flag were being removed from the public schools. Also the children were schudling their own study time. There was very little discipline. My children suffered from these things. Other parents and myself talked about our rights were being miss used but we did nothing about it. I feel as parent and citizen of the United States of America we need Christian Schools. I feel the Christians are being Discriminated against when a padlock is kept on a school after it has proved scolasticly superoir to State Schools. We in America should be more interested in our children knowledge and Christ Like behavier, not in rules the Board of Education makes. I know they try, I do not want to sell them short, I am a state employee myself. Schools now days are busy teaching a large varity of things in such a small amount of time unless the child is excelled they miss it. Christian Schools are small usually, an they can give the child more attention when needed.

In essense I believe if a parent chooses to send a child to a Christian School it should be their PRIVALAGE to do so.

Respectfully yours,

Patty

Patty Lawrence
Jerry Lawrence



ROCK CHURCH ACADEMY

640 Kempsville Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464
Telephone (804) 495-1905

November 13, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant To The President
White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

I am writing you because of my strong concern for the preservation of church schools and religious affiliated organizations and institutions. The fundamental domestic conflict of our time is the struggle between the Church and State, the private and the public sector. I think we are now at a crossroad in that struggle.

The recent padlocking of Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, Nebraska is what I consider an unconstitutional act of tyranny brought on by the Nebraska State Department of Education.

This issue jeopardizes the freedom and the integrity of Christian education as well as our churches in this great nation.

The Lord our God has commanded His own to teach His words to their children, to train them up in the way they should go. In obedience to the engrafted Word, not to be hearers only, we consider the Christ-centered education of our children as recorded in the Word of God not as an alternative, but as a divine mandate from our heavenly Father. The church school for our children is a matter of conviction.

Therefore, this action by the Nebraska State Department of Education puts the burden on Christians as well as the church schools to prove or demonstrate policies or other evidence that our churches are operating in good faith.

If this type of control by the state is accepted it will inexorably lead to the destruction of Christian institutions as well as our personal freedoms.

Mr. Blackwell, I am asking you to intervene on behalf of the Bible believing Americans in order to maintain our religious liberties.

Respectfully,
Rock Church Academy
Mike Yates
H. M. Yates, Principal

HMY/ps

Mrs. L. W. Whisner
9254 U.S. 36
Bradford, Ok. 45308.
Nov. 6, 1981

Martin Blackwell
White House
Wash., D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell

I am writing in regards to Rev. Silurian Ed his Church who have been so severely persecuted. Seemingly his Church ^{Lewesville, Nebr.} has been pad locked because of their strong conviction to have a Christian school for their children. It is my sincere desire and prayer that someone might do something to help these honest Constitutional abiding people!

Sincerely,

Mrs. L. W. Whisner

Brent G. Harstad
Juvenile Court Judge

Juvenile Probation Office
Of

Paul Nelson
Chief Probation Officer

Benton, Iowa & Tama Counties

710 12th Street
Belle Plaine, Iowa 52208
Telephone (319) 444-2012

Dean Beckman
Probation Officer

Michael Carter
Probation Officer

Catherine Holmes
Probation Officer

Helen Towns
Office Manager

November 3, 1981

Mr. Martin Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Whitehouse
Washington, D. C. 20500

RE: Pastor Bill Hinshaw
Faith Baptist Church
Belle Plaine, IA 52208

Pastor Everett Sileven
Faith Baptist Church
Louisville, Nebraska 68037

Dear Sir:

These ministers of God and their church schools are before the Courts at the present time for presenting an education in a christian manner. The church doors have been padlocked on the church in Nebraska except for certain days. Sir, we are in danger of losing our religious freedom in America if this practice is allowed.

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land under God's rule and the legal rights of parents over the education of their children is being threatened by misguided government officials. Interpretation of the Constitution and the Bible is being misconstrued and fundamental rights are being violated. In my heart I feel State control here is illegal.

No one denies that our children should not receive good educations or that government is not necessary. What I am asking is that this matter of education be further investigated and the parental and church delegation of a christian education be recognized and upheld. I pray that you might take a close and personal look at what is happening in these two particular church schools. How do you interpret the Constitution and our position?

These children are willing to be compared academically with other children in classrooms across the United States.

I might add that to date we have not seen any of the young people from the Faith Baptist Church of Belle Plaine in our office on delinquency charges. I do not have school age children, but being in contact with young people constantly, I am concerned.

Our government was given the obligation of protecting our rights and freedom through the Constitution, not to overstep it's authority and deny our right to religious freedom and education. I am hereby standing up to be counted. My prayer is that God will be with you and direct you in regards to what I feel is a very critical situation in America today.

Yours in prayer,

Helen Towns

November 9, 1981

Mr. Martin Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Whitehouse
Washington, D. C. 20500

RE: Churches and their schools - In trouble - But not with God

Dear Sir:

I would bring to your attention the problems before us in regard to parents having the right to choose the educational facility for their children that best fulfills academic and christian obligations by said parents. These rights are being violated.

All children belong to God and are given to parents in divine stewardship. God commands parents to train their children at all times in their faith and He commands the Church to teach doctrine to the children. Religious freedom has been granted to us through the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and the Word of God. Yet those in authority are taking these American principles out of context, and the constitutional rights of many are being desecrated. Government is under God; subject to God's Law.
Eph. 1:20-23 Is. 33:22 James 4:12 Rom. 13:1

Would you please do what you can to help us maintain the rights our ancestors migrated to America for, fought and died for, and which are now being taken in vain? I especially ask that you might intercede personally in the tribulations now befalling upon:

Pastor Bill Hinshaw	Pastor Everett Sileven
Faith Baptist Church	Faith Baptist Church
Belle Plaine, IA 52208	Louisville, NE 68037

We don't ask that everyone believe as we do, we just ask the right to practice our faith and bring our children up in the sight of God and Man through our inherent freedom of choice. Our prayers go with you as you weigh the heavy burden placed on you by this nation. May God be with you and guide you in the tasks ahead and your efforts in our behalf.

Yours in respect,

Mr. and Mrs. Don Chilcote

Mr. and Mrs. Don Chilcote
Belle Plaine, IA 52208

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dave

1/4/82

Cedar Brook Pt. 4
Cynthiana, Ky.
41031
October 28, 1981

Dear Sir,

I go to Faith Christian
School in Kentucky. We would
appreciate your support in helping
the Christian day schools in
the United States, especially
Faith Christian School in
Nebraska. I will do all
I can when I can and if
I can.

Thank you,
Marilyn Howard

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

11-10-81

I am writing this letter to inform the President of the United States about the situation in Nebraska. The State has no right to padlock the doors of the Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, Nebraska.

Congress is elected by the United States Citizens. We are not to serve the government but the government of the United States is to serve us. I demand that something be done about the situation in Nebraska. The government can't push God around and get away with it. Judges all over the United States are turning against churches and putting preachers in jail. It is sad when we see preachers being put in jail and common criminals set free. One day; every judge; every Congressmen, and every president there has ever been and ever will be, will stand before the Supreme Judge, God almighty, and then they will answer for the churches they closed, the pastors that were put in jail, and the way they served the United States. Churches are tired of being harassed by the state and local governments.

I appreciate what the President is trying to do for this nation. He is busy and is working. I ask that the President take a stand with God's people. We need to stop crime. Common sense tells you that if you want to stop murder enforce capital punishment. A man will think twice if he knows he can't get away with killing someone or stealing. Mr. President do you really care at all about the people of the United States of America. If you do then take a stand with us and do something about the situation in Nebraska, but not only in Nebraska, but churches all over America need your help.

Thank you,

Dean Smith Jr.

120 Shenandoah St.
Leesburg, Va. 22075



Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant Whitehouse
Washington D.C.
20500

153 Mingo Street
Morgantown, W. Va. 26505
November 10, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to President
Whitehouse
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

I am writing concerning the locked church in Louisville, Nebraska whose pastor is Everett Sileven of Faith Baptist Church. I work in a Christian school, and have learned by seeing in our children, the great value of Christian education.

I would ask you to do everything possible and within your power to get the church and its school open once again. I understand now the building is just opened for Sunday and mid-week services.

It does seem the Nebraska state education department is exercising too much power and control. Our nation was settled in 1620 by Pilgrims seeking religious freedom. Their children were taught the Bible as well academics. The colonists wrote into the Constitution separation of church and state. Must we again fight to establish these rights? God forbid- let us uphold our already established rights. May we count on you to uphold our freedoms and set things aright there in Nebraska and in other places across our nation should the occasion arise?

Thank you.

In His service,

Trudy Satterfield

Trudy Satterfield

Oct. 14, 1981
Chadron, Christian School
Chadron, NE
69337

Dear President Reagan,

Hi! How are things at the White House? All well, I hope. To the point.

I am in sixth grade + 12 yrs. old. I really like Christian school. They offer so many opportunities. They have a way of making kids WANT to go to school.

You learn lots. These schools have discipline not harsh, but enough to make kids behave like they should. They have awards, banquets, prizes, suppers, + many more things.

Awards + stuff really make a kid want to work for it!

I hope as you read this letter, I hope you will understand what point I am trying to make. I sincerely want our schools open!

! Please, President Reagan, keep our schools open!

I will be always praying for your ~~dec~~ decision in this case + all other's.

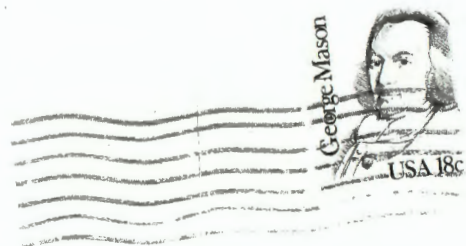
Again I will ask you: PLEASE.

Sincerely,
Missie Mahoy

P.S.

Our schools want to obey the Lord in sending their children to Christian School. Be

Miss Melroy
359 Morehead
Chadron, NE
69337



President Reagan
White House
Washington, D.C.
20500

Attn: Mr. Martin Blackwell

Rt. 1, Box 654-B
Columbia S.C.
29203

Nov. 17, 1981

Dear Pres. Ronald Reagan,

Hi, I am 16 years of age, and I go to Killian Christian School. I have been going there since I was eight years of age. I really enjoy it because it has a spiritual atmosphere. We do not have a problem with drugs, smoking, alcohol, swearing, etc.

Our school is being supported by my church, Ebenezer Holiness Baptist Church, since its founding of 1973. Our school has never been real big but we have made it, and can still make it by God's help. In our School we have an opportunity to read and discuss the Bible openly without fear of anyone finding out. Pres. Reagan I was very much saddened when I heard about other Christian schools being locked up because of their belief in God. I heard recently about a church, school in Louisville, Nebraska, Faith Baptist

Church, being locked up. I hope you will do all within your power to reopen all the A.C.E. schools in America. It will be very much appreciated by the God, believing citizens of America.

I am proud of the A.C.E. program that Dr. Howard started. I really enjoy the program. It can help students progress a lot further than some in the public schools where there are a lot of things to attract their attention. I am thankful for the opportunity to attend a Christian school. Pres. Reagan you have my support and prayers behind you. I think you are doing a great job as President. I appreciate your concern for Christian schools all over America. I hope you will do all you can to help us Christians. Thank you very much.

Sincerely Yours
Melody Styles

Dan

1-4-87

Marie Todd
2910 NE 14 St
Gainesville, FL
32601



Nov 30, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the
President
White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr Blackwell:

I am very concerned over the closing of Faith Baptist Church in Lewisville, Nebraska. I understand this church has been padlocked by the sheriff and is opened for only a specified period of time on Sundays and Wednesdays. I further understand that the root of the problem is A State Board of Education Complaint against the Church School.

The padlocking of a church in the United States of America ~~is~~ is A very serious matter. I believe the first Amendment has been violated. This scares me!

I appeal to you to make a

thorough investigation of this case. I am positive you will find the church/church school should be reopened and the Nebraska State Board of Education reminded of first amendment rights regarding the free exercise of religion.

With President Reagan's very definite stand on limiting government controls, I feel confident that this country does not wish to control churches, church activities or length of church services.

I cannot express to you enough the fear I feel when I realize that in this country there is a padlock on a church door; there are a group of people being denied the free exercise of their religion; there are children not allowed to attend their school and be educated - not only in the basic academic subjects but in the principles of God's Word.

Please look into this right away. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Marie Dodd

The Lighthouse

PASTOR DAN SATTERWHITE

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Rev. Stephen R. Nix, Principal

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

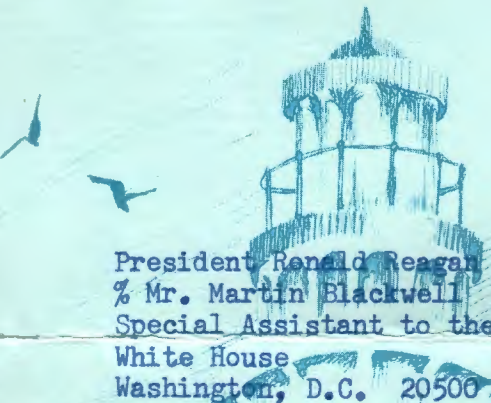
2107 N.W. 21st

Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Church ph. (503) 276-6588

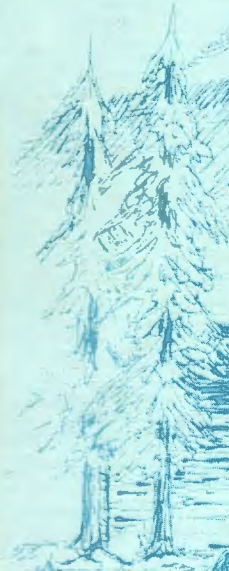
Pastor's res. (503) 276-2712

October 13, 1981



President Ronald Reagan
% Mr. Martin Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President,



At a recent Fall Educator's Convention, sponsored by Accelerated Christian Education, Inc., a matter came to my attention which is very ugly. The Nebraska State Department of Education has moved to close down one of our church-schools, through the local Sheriff, in Louisville, Nebraska. Specifically, I am referring to Pastor Everett Sileven of the Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, Nebraska.

Mr. President, I can hardly believe that in the United States of America a local judge would order the Sheriff to enter private property, disrupt a religious service, evacuate the congregation and chain and padlock the church doors. Sir, this is despicable! One reads accounts of such horror stories in Russia, and it frightens me unmeasurably to know that the State of Nebraska could exhibit such flagrant disregard for the Constitution of the United States of America.

As far as I am concerned, the day that the State of Nebraska padlocked a CHURCH was the blackest day in the history of our nation, and moreso, in the universal history of the struggle of mankind everywhere for the pursuit of moral and religious freedoms. Mr. President, I am ashamed that my fellow Americans could do such a thing! I love my country and will defend it any day or night, and my defense includes a powerful disdain for anyone who would reproach the honor and the integrity upon which the principles of the United States of America and its Constitution are based.

Sir, I would have you to know that the matter is not without judicial recourse. Such action as the state has taken seriously impares the operation of sectarian schools within the state, which will result in the destruction of an established church-school facility.

In 1925, the Supreme Court ruled in Pierce v. Society of Sisters, 268 U.S. 510 (1925), that the state may not deny children the right to attend adequate private schools and force them to attend only public schools. The basis of this ruling comes from the Fourteenth Amendment which

"protects persons from arbitrary state action impairing life, liberty or property interests. (1) The act requiring children to attend only public primary schools is not reasonably related to a legitimate state purpose since children could be adequately educated in private, as well as in public schools. (2) The act unreasonably interferes with the liberty of parents to direct the education of their children." (Zirkel, A Digest of Supreme Court Decisions Affecting Education, p. 16)

Mr. President, the founders, the directors, and the many Principals, including myself, resent the inference that state certification and licensure is the only valid criterion which may document the adequacy of the instructional process and curricula which is administered in the Accelerated Christian Education (A.C.E.) schools across this nation, and indeed, all over the world. Independent, documented proof has demonstrated the soundness of the A.C.E. system, procedures and curricula. They are based on sound and proven educational principles—the difference being in the Christian orientation and moral values system which is integrated into all facets of study. Academic discipline is maintained and our average graduate is as successful or moreso on A.C.T. and S.A.T. scores than his average counterpart in the public spectrum. To even think that church-schools on the A.C.E program provide an inadequate education is a preposterous supposition.

During the course of the Fall Educator's Convention, I saw a videotape ceremony, Mr. President, in which Doctor Howard, founder and President of Accelerated Christian Education, Inc., presented you with a copy of an A.C.E Bible with your name inscribed on it. I then heard you speak very kind words in favor of the work that we are doing, lending your support to the mission of Christian education. Sir, I have faith in your integrity and your commitment to see that right and justice prevails in an hour in which it is being sorely tried.

As fundamental Christians, we stand on our liberty to educate our children in the total precepts of Christianity and our lifestyle, which are inseparable. You cannot lawfully deny access to a church-school any more than you can the access to the church itself because the Supreme Court, in *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 411 U.S. 192 (1973), has ruled that church-schools are "integral and inseparable" from their mother churches.

Legal precedent was established in 1963 in *Sherbert v. Verner* in which certain burdens of proof were imposed. We must prove that our beliefs are truly held, that they are valid religious convictions and not preferences, and to further establish that the law or action imposes a burden on the church's freedom of religion. Such being the case, as you will find in this situation, the state must then prove compelling interest and that there is no less offensive way to resolve the situation.

I believe that the State of Nebraska has operated in a very unethical, unlawful and arbitrary manner without respect to due process of law—both legislative and case law—as provided in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, and to the protection of the First Amendment with respect

to the establishment and free exercise of our religion. This being true, I implore you to invoke all influences and powers vested in you as the President of the United States of America, to reverse the situation and to redeem the good name and reputation of the people who mandated you to serve.

Concluding my appeal, let me paraphrase portions of our Declaration of Independence: "We therefore, the representatives of the Lord God Almighty,...appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, solemnly publish and declare that the churches of the Living God, along with their inseparable religious educational function are, and of right ought to be, ~~FREE and INSEPARABLE~~ entities; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the state educational system, and that all political connexion between them and the state is, and ought to be, totally dissolved;...And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of DIVINE PROVIDENCE, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

In the Interest of Religion
And Freedom of Exercise,

Rev. Stephen R. Nix

Rev. Stephen R. Nix
Principal
Lighthouse Christian Academy

Christine Herrington
940 Jackson
Lincoln, Ne, 68521
October 12, 1981

Mr, Martin Blackwell
Special Assistant to the president
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear sir,

I go to a Christian school
in ne. and I am really thankful for
it. I am writing because I would like
you to support the LB 472-A with-
out the "Sunset Clause" attached,
because that will not be the solution
to our problem. We want freedom now
and for all time.

Prayerfully yours,

Christine Herrington

October 12/81

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

I am sending you a copy of the letter that I sent that I sent to Governor Thone of Nebraska.

I would like to imform you and the President, about the church in Louisville , Nebraska being padlocked and also about what I think Christian Education means to me and what I hope it means to you and The President.

Sincerly,

Norman Davidson

Norman Davidson

Age 14

October 13/81

Dear Governor Thone,

There are a couple of things that I would like to discuss with you.

About Chistian Education what is wrong with it?! Does it cost? NO. Does it pay? YES.

We have an A.C.E. school here and I like it. I have never been to a public school, so I don't know any thing about it, it doesn't sound very good to me. A boy in our school went to public school for 9 years, and he said that there was nothing said about the BIBLE, so I don't want anything to do with it, and I feel we are getting a good Education.

Also about the church in Louisville, Nebraska, being padlocked, now that is DOWN-RIGHT RIDICULOUS, you may say that you can't do any thing about it but why? aren't you the Governor? How would you like it if your church was padlocked, and only opened on Sundays for church services and on Wednesday nights for a midweek service? What would you do just sit there and let it go by? Lets say that you had some children in school and they came and locked it up so your children couldn't go to school, how would you like it?

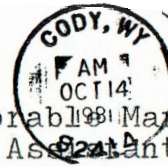
May I ask why the teachers and the schools have to be licensed by the State? Who made the law anyhow? Can't we have the teachers we want and why can't we have the text books we want? We don't want the teachers or the books from YOUR SECULAR schools. Romans 13:1-4 Says that we are to be subject unto the higher powers, GOD is the highest power. The church and the school are supposed to be one, not separated. If Faith Baptist can have Sunday School why can't they have Monday School? With Freedom of Religion can't they worship when they want? I don't like to be tough with people over me and GOD doesn't want to get tough with people under Him, but this is serious business and something should be done about it.

The work that Faith Baptist is doing is the work of the Lord.

Sincerly,

Norman Davidson
Norman Davidson
Age 14

Norman Davidson
R.T.1 Box52-D
Cody, Wyo
82414



The Honorable Martin Luther King, Jr.
Special Assistant to the President
White House
Washington, D.C.
20500

Dec. 7-1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell

Hennessey Okla.

Special Assistant to the President

The Whitehouse

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I cant believe this is happening in America that has happened to the Baptist Church in Louisville, Nebr. Padlocking their Church so they cant teach their children during the week as well as on Sunday.

I believe the Bible teaches the Church should do the educating of our children.

I am deeply distressed and pray you will do all in your power to stop this persecution of Christians.

Yours Truly,

Mrs. C. E. Hesser

R. 1 Box 4 D

Hennessey, Okla. 73742



LANCASTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1515 DEWBERRY BLVD. - P. O. BOX 339 • LANCASTER, TEXAS 75146 • (214) 227-5303

December 8, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Whitehouse
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

I wish you would express to the President my concern over what has happen to Pastor Everett Silenew and the Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, Nebraska. To padlock a church in America. I can't believe this is happening. Is not this what our nation was founded on? Are we loosing our freedoms?

I do appreciate, Mr. Blackwell, what you and the President are doing. I pray that God will guide and direct President Reagan every day.

Thank you and thank Mr. Reagan. We are continually praying for the man God put in as President of the United States.

Sincerely,
Vicki Boggs

The KING'S RANCH

Affiliated with Teen Challenge of Arkansas

Bob Stone

Director

Dear Sir,

It has been brought to my attention of the closing of a church ~~and~~ in our country, which houses a Christian school. This absolutely shocks me. When our country was founded on God and His Word for the freedom to worship, they they fled to our nation. When our very gut level existence of belief as a freedom is taken away from us, what do we have left? I say let freedom reign, even in the education of our children.

I am a reading monitor in a Christian education program. It is amazing how our kids come to us, enter our program and get excited about coming to school. When they first came, they were very much behind in their work because they did not wish to attend school period.

I say, let us use what works to educate our future generation.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Stone

Route 4, Glory Rd.
Blountville, Tenn.
Dec 2, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
White House
Washington DC

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the padlocking of Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, Nebraska. I know that we have your support in standing against the unconstitutional act of locking this church. The Pastor Everett Sileren is representing his people's right not to have the state dictate what teachers or curriculum that they must use in their Christian school.

We appreciate that you are standing with us concerning this matter and trust that God will continue to bless your work.

Sincerely,
Sandra Inell

done
1/4/82

Michelle Coleman

Rt. 1 Box 49

Pollock, Ga. 71467

Mr. Morton Blackwell

Special Assistant to the President

White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am a student at an A.C.E.
Christian School in Ball, Louisiana.

I would like to thank you for
standing behind the A.C.E. Louisville
Nebraska case. They need all the
support they can get. Thank you for
sharing your precious time.

May God bless you as you
endeavor to lead our great country

May God bless you,

Michelle

Coleman

2316 Kingsman Arch
VA Beach VA 23456

November 12, 1981

Dear Morton Blockwell,

I appreciate your standing up for our Christian schools! I go to Rock Church Academy in Virginia Beach. I believe we are God's children and our school is God's school. God does not want the Christian schools closed and I believe he will help you win!

Our school will be praying for you and I'm sure other schools will also. Thank you for the courage you are showing in this matter. May God Bless you!

Love in Christ,
Rusti Mathewson

Mrs. Mary Main
606 So. 5th
Nat Springs, S.D.
57747
Dec 10, 1981

The President of the U. S.
% Mr. Martin Blackwell
Special Assistant to the Pres.
Whitehouse
Washington, D. C.
20500

Dear Mr. President,

I hope that you are aware of the jeopardy that our Christian schools have gotten into around the country.

We live in South Dakota and none of our schools have been closed yet but the state is working on it.

The State of Nebraska has already closed a Christian School, padlocked the church door and is working on closing all the Christian schools in that state.

Where has our freedom gone? I really think that this nation is thinking that it is freedom "from religion" instead of "of religion".

Education is not lacking just because it is not approved by the state. We guard ~~as~~ our curriculum just as closely if not closer than the public system. Really closer because we guard against Anti-Christian teachings, actions, music and stories.

We can not accept state approval because

They can not accept us. Our teachings are good but and will remain good but and. We will continue to use humanism and socialism - Communism out of our schools as they do not belong in a Christian's life.

Our children's spirituality is just as important as any other aspect of their life.

A Christian is to be separated from the things in this world. Not from the love of this world but from the materialism and other things in this world that are really designed to pull our time and devotion from God. This is why our Christian leaders must be different also.

I know that you are a Christian and that you must be able to understand these things. Our freedom is becoming tied up in the love of our state. Those people who turn the other don't believe in God and want to stamp out anything that has to do with Him. They want to train our people starting with our children to become socialist. We as a nation can not allow that.

God is calling us all back to righteousness. As a nation as well as an individual. The U.S. has a long way to go. If we don't want to see her go down the drain we must seek His righteousness and protect our Church and Christian leaders. That our children, the future generation, will know what is right and what is wrong.

3 The Bible says that the children are to be taught when the sun comes up and when the sun goes down. If all our children were taught of God and His Word - What a wonderful world this would be. If only everyone truly lived God's word and hid His words in their hearts.

Sincerely yours with God's love,

Mrs. Mary Main

We do need your help in this area.



Shekinah Ministries

P.O. BOX 3442 - KINGSFORT, TENNESSEE 37664

JOHN AND SUE CURRAN
DIRECTORS

December 11, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

I am writing to you concerning the recent padlocking of Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, Nebraska. It is shocking to consider that our country, originally founded for religious freedom, would allow such a thing.

I was glad to hear that you are in sympathy with my views. I hope that you will do your utmost not only to rectify this situation but to work on legislation that would prevent any further encroachment upon the church. I am amazed when I think of Christian parents, who sacrifice to send their children to receive a Christian education, being locked out of their own church. It violates the Constitution and good economic sense. Each of those students is saving the taxpayer over \$1,000 a year.

I trust and pray that you will be successful in helping to correct this situation.

Sincerely,

Sue Curran
Sue Curran

SC/blm

1 R.R. 2 Box 133

Boscabel MI 53805

October 21, 1981

Mr. Martin Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

I would like to thank you
for Everything you are doing to
help the Growth of the christian
schools in our Great nation. I
feel it is very Important to
have the freedom to attend a
christian school. Please help us
fight for that freedom. God bless you.

Sincerely,
Briant Russell