



# LIBERTY

2024 LIBERTY CAMPAIGN MATERIALS INSIDE

Resources at [religiousliberty.info/campaign](https://religiousliberty.info/campaign)

Give at [libertymagazine.org/donate](https://libertymagazine.org/donate)



# Are you ready for Religious Liberty Sabbath?

## **Tips and Resources for Planning a Religious Liberty Campaign in Your Church**

**E**very year since 1906, when the first issue of *Liberty* magazine rolled off the press, Seventh-day Adventist congregations across North America have come together to support the religious liberty mission of our church. Back then, powerful political voices in America were calling for a national Sunday observance law. In response, Adventists worked tirelessly—and successfully—to call attention to the dangers this law would pose to all people of faith.

Today, the threats to religious freedom may look different but they're just as troubling. Now, more than ever, we need to share our unique, biblical perspective with people of influence in society—lawmakers, judges, community leaders, and leaders of other faiths.

On **Sabbath, January 13, 2024**, a special offering will be collected in the churches of the North American Division to support religious freedom. This is the time each year when the religious liberty work of the church is highlighted in a very special way, and it's a wonderful opportunity to engage the support of church members. The funds raised through this special offering help us to:

- » **Defend religious liberty in the courts.**
- » **Advocate directly with lawmakers in Congress and state capitals.**

- » **Support church members who face religious discrimination in the workplace.**
- » **Send *Liberty* magazine to judges and elected officials across the nation.**

As your church's religious liberty leader, we're grateful to you for carrying this message to church members.

We've assembled this Campaign Kit to make planning a religious liberty campaign in your church as easy as possible. All the resources contained here—plus many more—are also available online at [www.religiousliberty.info/campaign](http://www.religiousliberty.info/campaign).

### **There are many ways you can plan an effective Religious Liberty Sabbath program.**

- 1. Use the sermon included as part of your online resources. You can either use or adapt the written version of the sermon, or simply play the video version.**
- 2. Before the offering is collected, play the short video offering appeal. This year our video tells the story of a tremendous Supreme Court win that has strengthened protections for Sabbathkeepers and other people of faith within America's workplaces.**



**Experiencing religious discrimination? Call the  
Religious Liberty Helpline: 877-721-3700**

**QUESTION:** What if I can't plan a Religious Liberty Sabbath program on Sabbath, January 13? Can I hold a Religious Liberty Sabbath on another date?

**ANSWER:** This is a frequent question. Although the division-wide offering is collected on January 13, you can *still* run an effective Religious Liberty Campaign on another Sabbath if necessary. You can ask church members to simply return their donations by mail (using the mailable form in the campaign brochure), or you can direct them to our online giving portal at [www.libertymagazine/donate](http://www.libertymagazine/donate).

**3. Following the video offering appeal, we ask that you also give your own offering appeal. We have some suggested scripts available online that you're welcome to use or adapt.**

There are many other resources available online for you to use both in the lead-up to your special Sabbath program and on the day itself. On page 4 of this Campaign Kit we've outlined a step-by-step approach to putting together an excellent program. If you need more information, we also have a webinar you can watch that answers some of the common questions we receive about how to run a great campaign. You can access this, along with all the other resources, at [www.religiousliberty.info/campaign](http://www.religiousliberty.info/campaign).

## Thank You

It's clear we're living in uniquely troubled times. Yet, as followers of Christ and people of the Word, we have a unique perspective and message to share. Ellen White spelled this out in words we know well: "The banner of truth and religious liberty held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God's witnesses during the centuries that have passed since then, has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands. The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with knowledge of His Word."

Each year your faithful and creative efforts keep this vital mission of *Liberty* before church members. As you prepare for this year's campaign, please know that the financial support of church members continues to play an absolutely central role in the work of *Liberty*. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to this vital mission.



**Bettina Krause**, Editor, *Liberty* magazine

## 2024 LIBERTY CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

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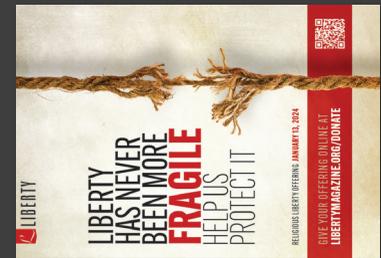
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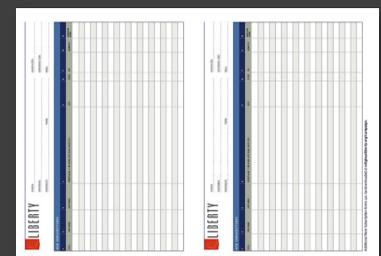
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# Tips for conducting the 2024 Religious Liberty Campaign

## 1 Timeline

DECEMBER  
2023

Begin promoting January 13, 2024, as Religious Liberty Sabbath.

JANUARY  
13

Religious Liberty Sabbath

## 2 How to Plan for Religious Liberty Sabbath

### During December 2023:

- » Go online to view all the Religious Liberty Campaign resources.\*
- » Display poster (contained in this kit) in church foyer.
- » Work with your pastor to choose your speaker for Religious Liberty Sabbath (whether it is the pastor or a guest speaker), or plan to use the special sermon provided. Alternately, you can simply show the video version of this sermon presented by John Ashmeade, Esq.\*
- » Watch the Webinar: *Planning an Impactful Religious Liberty Campaign*, also available online.\*

### In the first week of January 2024:

- » Ask your church secretary to email church members the special Liberty Sabbath email graphic or include it in your church's electronic newsletter.
- » Ask your church communication director to post the Religious Liberty Sabbath social media graphics on your church's Facebook page, Instagram account, and Twitter. A range of different social media graphics are available online.
- » Share the link to offering appeal video and Religious Liberty Sabbath PowerPoint slide with your AV team.
- » Plan how you will distribute the printed campaign brochure to church members on January 13. (We suggest inserting them in your church bulletin.)

### On Religious Liberty Sabbath, January 13, 2024

- » Ensure church members have a copy of the campaign brochure.
- » Play the campaign offering appeal video.
- » Give your own offering appeal. (Suggested scripts are available online.)\*
- » During your offering appeal, display the Religious Liberty Sabbath PowerPoint slide, which has a QR code directing church members to online giving options.
- » If you don't have a special speaker, use the text of the Religious Liberty sermon or play the Religious Liberty sermon video.

\* All the campaign resources mentioned above are available online at [www.religiousliberty.info/campaign](http://www.religiousliberty.info/campaign).

MARCH  
15

Deadline for you to mail Corrected Printout and New Subscription order forms to your union Public Affairs and Religious Liberty office.

- » You can download and print New Subscription order forms at [www.religiousliberty.info/campaign](http://www.religiousliberty.info/campaign).
- » Use the self-addressed return envelope included in this kit. (In Mid-America and Atlantic unions, please send forms to your local conference PARL office.)

MARCH  
31

Deadline for church members to turn in religious liberty offering at church.

## 3 Other Event Ideas

During the remainder of Religious Liberty Campaign season (which extends through to the end of March) you can continue to hold special religious liberty events, such as:

- » a Sabbath afternoon panel discussion on religious liberty
- » featuring a church member who has had a Sabbath work challenge
- » interviewing a local attorney who specializes in religious liberty discrimination issues

For more ideas, watch the Webinar *Planning an Impactful Religious Liberty Campaign*, available at [www.religiousliberty.info/campaign](http://www.religiousliberty.info/campaign).

## 4 Important Facts

- » The 2024/2025 subscription starts with the May/June issue of *Liberty*.
- » Campaign subscription rate is \$7 (U.S. and Canada). Regular subscription rate is \$10.
- » Subscriptions to addresses outside the U.S., Canada, and Bermuda cost \$9 (Cdn \$11). U.S. territories such as Guam, Micronesia, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico are not foreign subscriptions.



# Dear Pastor and Local Church Religious Liberty Leader:

The annual North American Division Religious Liberty Offering is scheduled for January 13, 2024. Every year we have an opportunity to highlight God's sacred gift of freedom of conscience, and make an appeal to church members to financially support the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Here are a few of the many ways PARL advocates for your religious freedom:

- Each year 1 million copies of *Liberty* magazine are put into the hands of thought leaders in the government and community across the Division.
- The Seventh-day Adventist Church defends you in religious workplace accommodation challenges. Many legal precedents have been set over the years on behalf of your right to uphold your freedom of conscience and keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy.
- We maintain a close communication with legislators at the state and federal levels to protect against legislation that might inhibit your free exercise of religion.
- The North American Religious Liberty Association, our church's member-driven advocacy organization, mobilizes church members for freedom action.

As citizens of this world and ambassadors for Christ, we have the responsibility to emphasize the meaning of religious freedom. It is our responsibility to keep before the thought leaders of our governments the importance of religious accommodation and freedom of expression.

Thank you for your commitment as you support and promote religious freedom!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Alexander Bryant". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elder G. Alexander Bryant  
President, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists



## Dear Church Treasurer:

The North American Division Religious Liberty Offering Sabbath is January 13, 2024. However, you will receive significant religious liberty offerings in February and March, and donations may be made throughout the calendar year. As treasurer of your church, you are greatly needed by your pastor and religious liberty leader to make the offering a success.

On Religious Liberty Sabbath when the offering is taken, all church members will be given a brochure with a tear-off envelope labeled “My Gift.” Church members should put their offering in the tear-off envelope and place it in the offering plate. After you receive these envelopes, please do the following:

1. Make sure the “Amount Enclosed” is correct and the money is enclosed.
2. Receipt the offering and give the envelope with the donor’s name and address back to the religious liberty leader each week. **(Step 2 must be done in order for each church member who requests it to receive *Liberty* magazine. If you do not give this information back to the religious liberty leader, your church members will not receive *Liberty* magazine.)**
3. Send the offering to your local conference treasurer with your regular monthly remittance. You must retain the donation envelope at the local church level according to tax regulations. Your church will not be billed for subscriptions. **The deadline for your offerings to be turned in is March 31.**

Thank you for your part in making the 2024 Religious Liberty Offering the most successful ever. We pray that the message of religious freedom and the mission of *Liberty* magazine may reach its full potential!

If you have any additional questions, please contact your union or local conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Glass". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Judy Glass, Treasurer  
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists



**LIBERTY**

**LIBERTY  
HAS NEVER  
BEEN MORE  
FRAGILE**



# HELPUS PROTECT IT



RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OFFERING **JANUARY 13, 2024**

GIVE YOUR OFFERING ONLINE AT  
**LIBERTYMAGAZINE.ORG/DONATE**





## The Religious Liberty Sabbath speaker for 2024 is John B. Ashmeade, Esq.

John is a Senior Assistant Counsel for Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS). In this role, he is responsible for the provision of legal services to Yale New Haven Health, with a focus on litigation and E-discovery.

Prior to joining YNHHS, John was an Associate at the law firm Day, Berry and Howard and an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Connecticut. John received his undergraduate degree from City College (CUNY) and his law degree from Howard University School of Law.

John also serves as the Associate Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director for the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and the first elder for the Breath of Life Fellowship Church in Stamford, Connecticut. He is married to Stephanie Ashmeade and they have two children, Rory and Ian.

The title of John's sermon is  
**"Give Them Rest"**  
and the text is Exodus 5:5.



You can access both the written and video versions of this sermon at [www.religiousliberty.info/campaign](http://www.religiousliberty.info/campaign).

# Tips for Updating Your Church's *Liberty* Subscriptions

## Correcting and Maintaining Your Church's Current *Liberty* Subscription Printout

Your Religious Liberty Campaign materials includes a printout of the names and addresses of people in your church who received *Liberty* magazine last year.

Please review this list carefully and make any necessary updates.

- To delete a subscription, write OUT to the left of the line number.
- To maintain a subscription, write KEEP next to the name.
- For partial name or address updates, draw a line through the incorrect portion and write the corrected data in the space above the old information.
- If your church sponsored subscriptions last year but did not receive a subscription printout, please contact your union PARL department. (In Mid-America and Atlantic unions, please contact your local conference office.)

## Filling Out the New Subscription Order Form

New Subscription order forms are available for download at [www.religiousliberty.info/campaign](http://www.religiousliberty.info/campaign)

Use a New Subscription order form to add the names and addresses of church members who have indicated they would like a *Liberty* subscription.

Alternately, some church members may nominate a community member—such as a local government official or faith leader—to receive a gift subscription to *Liberty* magazine.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The *Liberty* office maintains a National Priority List of sponsored subscriptions, which covers federal and state government officials, so there is no need to include those individuals on your church's list.

It is very helpful, however, if members of your church can identify local-level community and faith leaders who should receive gift subscriptions to *Liberty*.

Where there's frequent turnover in the name of officeholders—such as mayor, chief of police, librarian, school principals, etc.—we recommend using the position title instead of the name of that individual.

To ensure your congregation's subscription list is correctly designated, please include your church and local conference codes on your New Subscription order form. Those codes can be found on your existing *Liberty* subscription printout or, if you haven't sponsored subscriptions recently, by calling your union PARL office.





# RESOURCES



## **religiousliberty.info/campaign**

Official website of the North American Division Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department



## **libertymagazine.org**

Complete current issue of *Liberty* magazine plus 10+ year archive



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**Liberty Subscriber Services: (800) 456-3991**



**Experiencing religious discrimination?  
Call the Religious Liberty Helpline: (877) 721-3700**



**Seventh-day  
Adventist<sup>®</sup> Church**

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

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