





The mission of American Family
Association is to inform, equip, and
activate individuals and families to
transform American culture and to give
aid to the church, here and abroad, in
its calling to fulfill the Great
Commission.



The vision of American Family
Association is to be a leading
organization in biblical worldview
training for cultural transformation.



The following presents the core values of American Family Association. AFA desires that these values define and drive this ministry to transform culture by fulfilling the Great Commission.

Evangelism and Discipleship

AFA aims to evangelize the lost and disciple the believer.

Morality

AFA believes true morality flows from biblical principles and directs people to the manner in which God intends them to live.

Stewardship

AFA believes that its ministry, as well as everything in the heavens and on earth, belongs to God, and AFA's role in it all is that of a trusted manager.

Marriage and Family

AFA aims to strengthen biblical marriages and equip parents to raise godly children.

Sanctity of Human Life

AFA upholds the truth that all human beings, including the unborn, are created in the image of God and are worthy of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Religious Liberty

AFA believes that all men and women, whether in private or public, should be free to exercise their faith without hindrance from the government.

How it all began...



1977 Turn the Television Off Week

February 27 - March 3, 1977

Brother Don Wildmon spearheaded Turn the Television Off Week, As pastor of First Methodist Church in Southaven, Mississippi (a suburb of Memphis, Tennessee), Wildmon encouraged the members of his church to not watch TV for a week in protest of the growing drift toward sex and profanity in network programming. He notified newspapers and television stations of his congregation's small protest, and his press releases garnered interest from several news outlets beyond Memphis, bringing local and national media attention to the inaugural campaign.



July 21, 1977

Brother Don was granted an official non-profit charter for the National Federation for Decency (NFD), with its office based in the Wildmon home at 5869 Lakeshore Drive in Southaven, Mississippi, The founding board members of NFD were Donald E. Wildmon, J. Wesley Youngblood, Allen F. Wildmon, and D. Russell Jones, Jr. The statement of purpose for NFD, as written in the original charter document, was three-pronged: To promote decency in the American society through the dissemination of information and public information through education: To educate the American population to the negative effects of violence and crime in the media; To do all things necessary for the promulgation of the

Judaic-Christian ethic in America.



Late 1977

Brother Don stepped down from the pastorate to operate NFD, relocating his family and the organization to Tupelo, Mississippi.



February 1978

NFD released its first TVmonitoring report.

1978 Holding Advertisers Accountable

March 3, 1978

NFD announced a national boycott of Sears. which would include picket lines to be held on May 12, 1978, at Sears stores across the nation. The boycott was initiated only when other means proved unsuccessful. Personal requests had failed to convince the networks to alter their TV programming, so Wildmon had appealed directly to the advertisers. Upon discovering that Sears - a company with a family-friendly public image - was one of the nation's leading corporate advertisers on prime-time sexual and profane shows (including Soap, Charlie's Angels, and Three's Company), phone calls had been made to the corporation. These were fruitless, prompting the boycott. Marketing News, a publication of the American Marketing Association, covered the NFD boycott of Sears in their issue dated March 24, 1978.



April 19, 1978

Sears' public affairs and advertising executives traveled to Mississippi and met with Don in Tupelo to discuss the retailer's problematic advertising agenda. Receiving no official word of changes from the corporation, NFD continued the boycott.





June 1979



June 1979 - NFD
rented office
spaces at 432
Magazine Street
in downtown
Tupelo, moving
the headquarters
out of the
Wildmon home.

May 12, 1978

Don traveled to Chicago, Illinois, to join the "People's Protest" picket outside the corporate headquarters, while similar pickets organized by NFD occurred simultaneously at local stores in 29 cities. As the protests were taking place, Sears announced the removal of their advertising from the questionable shows. Chicago media interviewed Don, and the protests were covered by all major radio networks, both wire services, and NBC Nightly News. The corporation's national news director said, "Admittedly, these are popular shows, but they are not for Sears." The company also spearheaded a meeting of 20 top advertising executives to discuss concerns over the direction of television programming, signifying a major victory for NFD.



Gaining Momentum

February 2, 1981

Along with Jerry Falwell, Phyllis Schlafly, and 150 other Christian leaders from a wide array of groups, Don formed the Coalition for Better Television (CBTV). While Don was chairman of CBTV, the group received considerable press coverage and subsequent media exposure.

January 1983

NFD issued a call-to-action, asking supporters to contact the Southland Corporation in response to Don's announcement that 7-Eleven, a chain of convenience stores owned by the company, was the largest retailer of pornographic literature in the nation.

June 1983

Construction began on a new 3,200-square-foot office facility on Parkgate Drive in Tupelo, Mississippi, on land that was acquired at a \$10,000 discount from an NFD supporter.



July 1983

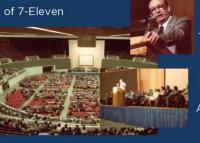
Don and Allen Wildmon met with the leadership of Southland Corporation (the parent company of 7-Eleven), hoping to convince the company to stop selling Playboy and Penthouse magazines at their stores. Southland leadership was not persuaded.

October 1984

Another major protest of 7-Eleven stores took place.

April 1985

NFD conducted its third major protest of 7-Eleven stores.





May 1983

After NFD highlighted the proadultery themes in an episode of Diff'rent Strokes, the Campbell Soup Company removed its ads from the television sitcom.





August 6, 1984

The NFD held its first major picket of individual 7-Eleven stores.

October 25, 1983

The Rally for Decency was held in Dallas, Texas, to raise awareness about pornography proliferation and to protest Southland Corporation as the largest American retailer of pornographic magazines at that time.

May 20, 1985

October 1985

In Los Angeles, California, Don Wildmon appeared before the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, testifying about the harmful effects of pornography.

Attorney General Edwin Meese III officially announced the formation of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography to "determine the nature, extent, and impact on society of pornography in the United States."

December 16, 1985

Twenty-four Christian leaders met in Chicago, Illinois, to form a new coalition to respond to sex, violence, and anti-Christian material on television. Group members proposed the name "Christian Leaders for Responsible Television (CLeaR-TV)." It would represent over 1,600 Christian leaders who agreed to the mission and focus of the group.



February 3, 1986

"CLeaR-TV" was approved as the group's name. As the newer version of the Coalition for Better Television, CLeaR-TV agreed to support specific consumer boycotts based on NFD's monitoring data.

July 1987

CLeaR-TV called for a boycott of Mazda and Noxell due to their continued advertising on several offensive programs, despite meeting with CLeaR-TV leadership.

April 10, 1986

The Southland Corporation announced that when the May 1986 issues of Playboy, Penthouse, and Forum were sold, their stores would no longer carry pornographic magazines.

August 1987

With the number of local NFD chapters growing to over 300, statewide groups were formed to coordinate activities across the smaller local affiliates. The first state chapters were based in Arizona (led by Harry A. Spence), Arkansas (led by Don Robinson), and Michigan (led by William Johnson). The expressed goal of the statewide program was to have 1,000 affiliates nationwide.

October 1987

Mazda agreed to change its ad policy, and CLeaR-TV canceled its boycott of the corporation in response. The boycott against Noxell also ended.



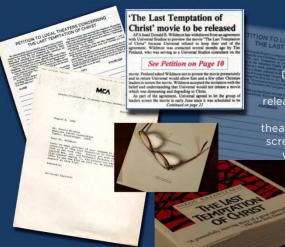
1988 American Family Association

January 1988

The National Federation for Decency changed its name to American Family Association (AFA).







July 1988

Due to concerns regarding the upcoming film The Last Temptation of Christ, AFA released a petition encouraging Christians to pledge not to attend their local movie theater for one year. if that theater agreed to screen the blasphemous movie. The petition was eagerly met with the participation of hundreds of thousands of Christians.

August 11, 1988

In protest of the planned August 12th release of The Last Temptation of Christ, a major demonstration of 25,000 Christians took place, starting outside the gates of Universal Pictures in Los Angeles, California, and ending nearby at Universal's corporate offices.

March 1989

The Honda Motor Company announced that it would no longer advertise in porn magazines, which was a direct response to the actions of AFA and a January 1989 AFA Journal article highlighting Honda.

August 1989

Blockbuster Video became the first video store chain to announce its refusal to carry VHS tapes of The Last Temptation of Christ.

December 6, 1989

AFA submitted its first application for a radio station license to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

1989 Accomplishments Of The American Family Association

Show is a brief dataly of some of AEV's accomplishment during 1990. Chronally, we chance possible bandes a summary of all one activities. Not one highlight a live of them. I have been supported by the summary of the summary of the 1. In compression with Christian Landors for Responsible Toleration, began a one of the summary of the summary of the summary of the summary of the production of the summary of the summary of the summary of the summary and and Christian among program of the summary of the summary of the summary of againments.

3. Published and distributed approximately \$10,000 cupies of "Parangraphy A. Experim including \$200 cupies to tap Christian bashon.

4. Ridged contribute for Department of Health and Statess Resources to bill the \$15 cupies and the state of the state

AFA Goals For 1990

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4. To introse the opposition of the AVA Journal to 500,0

May 1989

AFA brought attention to a photograph by artist Andres Serrano, which was featured in an art exhibition sponsored in part by the tax-funded National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Serrano's photograph featured a crucifix submerged in what the artist claimed was his own urine.

AFA requested that the NEA fire the official responsible for promoting this work, but the NEA defended the art and its tax funding. Therefore, AFA encouraged supporters to contact Senators and Congressmen to protest the NEA's decision to use tax funds in this way.

1990 Adding Legal Services

June 1990

In order to challenge the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other left-wing groups, AFA announced plans to build a legal team. Attorney Peggy Coleman was already on staff, and Ben Bull soon joined AFA in this effort.

vil No.

October 1990

For the first time, AFA Journal used the name "AFA Law Center" when describing the legal actions of the ministry, which included the defense of AFA's own work and the defense or litigation of cases of interest to Christians. AFA Journal detailed not only upcoming cases but past ones as well, backdating the official work of the AFA Law Center to attorney Peggy Coleman's arrival in May 1988. The Journal also stated AFA's desire to add lawyers and take on more work in the future.

February 20, 1991

The FCC granted a radio broadcast license to AFA.

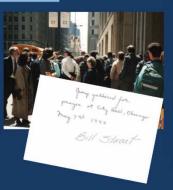
american family radio

August 21, 1991

The flagship station of American Family Radio, WAFR, went live in Tupelo, Mississippi

May 7, 1992

AFA held its first national "Meet at City Hall," which took place on the National Day of Prayer. This was a call to "moral rebirth" and was meant to encourage Christians to publicly pray for their country, their civic leaders, and a revival of religion in America. Around 3,000 cities participated, with crowd sizes ranging from 12 to 2,300.



September 1990

AFA made its first public announcement offering legal assistance to any AFA supporters who might need such services in relation to obscenity cases or ones where a Christian's rights were being violated because of his or her faith.

November 1990

AFA announced that during its first 60 days of operation, 200 Christian lawyers had contacted the AFA Law Center to volunteer as affiliate attorneys.

June 21, 1991

The Supreme Court decided in favor of a case the AFA Law Center was representing. In Barnes v. Glen Theatre, Inc., the High Court ruled that, in the interest of upholding state order and morality, public indecency laws could ban nude dancing.

Battling Disney

June 5, 1993

Disney's Magic Kingdom hosted its third annual "Gay Day" at the theme park. After witnessing numerous homosexuals holding hands, embracing, and kissing, a family attempted to file a complaint at a park office, but they were dismissed by the staff and then taunted by homosexuals as they left the park.

July 1993

AFA Journal circulation passed 1,000,000.

February 1994

Don Wildmon joined Gary Bauer, Bill Bright, Larry Burkett, James Dobson, D. James Kennedy, and Adrian Rogers, along with executive director Alan Sears, as the founding board members for the Alliance Defense Fund, an endowed fund created to defend Christians and advocate for religious freedom.

June 1994

AFA Journal reported on Disney's mission to include homosexuals in their advertising on ABC programs.

June 1995

A report in AFA Journal provided updates regarding six Law Center cases. including that of AFR reporter John Riley, who had his press credentials stripped from him while covering a prolife protest in Jackson, MS.

88.3...

forth Mississippi News, Views, Arts and Entertainmen

NEWS NTERVIEWS

Conservative groups join Southern Baptists in boycott of Disney

MUSIC MOVIES INTERNET HEALTH DINING GUIDE COMICS

PlanetWeekly

Disney helps push homosexual agenda

October 24, 1995

A full-page ad in the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal announced that American Family Radio was 100 stations strong.

November 1995

AFA coverage of Disney increased after the announcement that Disney had hired a convicted child molester to direct the movie Powder.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

DISCOURS OF THE PRESCRIPT

February 1996

AFA Journal added The Walt Disney Company to its "Current AFA Boycotts" list.

The Planet Weekly Interview with. . .

Tim Wildmon, Vice-President

American Family Association

Expanding Influence

March 1996

AFA's internet home page went live.

September 21, 1996

President Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, which declared that no state would be required to recognize same-sex marriages performed in another state.

August 1997

AFA released Don Wildmon: An American Treasure, a VHS video about Don's upbringing and the formation of AFA.

October 1997

Focus on the Family joined the Disney boycott.



April 1996

AFR announced it would upgrade its news department to combat left-wing bias in the media.

May 1997

Don Wildmon represented AFA when he spoke at a rally in Montgomery, Alabama, in support of Judge Roy Moore, who had refused to remove the Ten Commandments from his courtroom wall or to stop opening court with prayer.



September 1998

AFA Foundation began accepting charitable gift annuities.

January 1999

AFR grew to 192 stations nationwide.

September 1999

In response to the American Library Association's position of allowing access to internet pornography on library computers, AFA joined with others in calling for filtering software to be used on public computers in libraries. The effort was met with resistance from the library group. Radical library organization pushes

radical ... from front page that they even provide a link from their website to another Internet location which instructs children how to turn off the blocking software installed by parents on their home computers.

unrestricted access to pornography

New AFA video warns of danger to children

AfA law center changes name, leadership

The American Family Association Law Center has changed its name to the American Family Association Center for Law Policy (Center for Law & Policy), The nearman, which became effective in January reflects a broadening mission and practic that will include addressing and advisin on matters of public policy.

Center for Law &
cy also advises state
federal legislators on
stitutional, political

April 1999

AFA Journal reported that the AFA Law Center had changed its name to the AFA Center for Law & Policy (CLP), indicating a "broadening mission and practice." This meant the legal arm of AFA would not only continue to defend Christians' First Amendment rights, but it would also advise lawmakers on constitutional, political, and legal issues, as well as draft legislation.

September 1999

AFA began promoting the Truth for Youth Bible, designed by Tim Todd of Revival Fires Ministry.

"In God We Trust" <u>Nation</u>al Poster Campaign

March 2000

AFA designed and printed "In God We Trust" posters for display in schools, courthouses, and other public buildings all over the country. As it was the official national motto and a form of free speech, this project was off-limits for the ACLU.

July 2001

AFR began internet streaming of the broadcast.



homosexual agenda Tanagendere confi Tanagendere confi Tanagendere confi Tanagendere confi Tanagendere confi-

October 2000

AFA Journal highlighted examples of how the homosexual rights movement was encouraging further confusion in society through their promotion of transgenderism.

September 2001

Distribution of the "In God We Trust" poster hit 90,000.

May 31, 2005

AFA issued a press release announcing its boycott of Ford Motor Company. BoycottFord.com launched, featuring overwhelming, documented evidence of the company's years-long support of the homosexual agenda including company policy decisions, lucrative financial contributions. and sexualized, gaythemed advertisements in overseas magazines. Over the next week, 110,000 people pledged to boycott the automobile maker.

December 15, 2005

In behind-the-scenes meetings with Ford dealers and officials, AFA reached an agreement with the company. However, Ford officials reneged on this agreement, leading AFA to reinstate the boycott in January 2006.

June 2003

Represented by Don Wildmon, AFA was foundational in creating the Arlington Group, a coalition of conservative and Christian organizations that sought to influence American governmental leaders. Among others, member groups included Focus on the Family, led by founder Dr. James Dobson, and Concerned Women for America, whose president at the time was Sandy Rios. The Arlington Group was instrumental in the Supreme Court confirmations of both John Roberts and Samuel Alito. This coalition also helped ensure that a federal marriage amendment was brought to a vote in Congress. Although this measure did not pass, the Arlington Group was considered by some Washington insiders to be the most powerful and influential organization in America at the time.

June 6, 2005

After meeting with a group of Ford dealers, AFA suspended the boycott for six months to allow the local dealers to bring their concerns before Ford officials and seek an agreeable resolution. AFA saw this as a good-faith effort and suspended the boycott until December 1, 2005.



Governmental Affairs Affiliate

April 2006

AFA Action, the new governmental affairs affiliate of the ministry, was introduced in AFA Journal through an article explaining that the organization would be a co-sponsor for the Values Voter Summit to be held that fall in Washington, D.C. This was the first major event to be sponsored by the group, which was formed after leadership at AFA recognized the need for greater freedom to speak on political and civic matters. To that end, AFA Action was formed as a 501(c) (4) organization with the intended goal of "advancing godly values in government."



FACTION

July 2007

The AFA Journal reported the closure of AFA's Center for Law & Policy. The CLP had been a pioneer in the areas of First Amendment, pro-life, and religious freedom issues. Over the years, however, other groups had begun offering the same types of legal services. Therefore, AFA's Board of Directors determined that those entities would adequately carry on that work, and AFA's efforts could be redirected elsewhere. AFA retained general counsel.

March 11, 2008

AFA ended its boycott of Ford after officials agreed to the original terms. Over the threeyear time frame, a total of 780,635 people had signed the boycott pledge.

June 2, 2011

Buddy Smith and Randy Sharp took hundreds of thousands of petitions from AFA supporters and delivered them to The Home Depot's corporate shareholder meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

July 21, 2010

AFA initiated a boycott of The Home Depot after the company refused to remain neutral in the culture war, saying that to do so was in opposition to their "inclusive culture." Gay pride events sponsored by The Home Depot often exposed children to lewd dancing, sexually provocative activity, and vulgar language.

September 5, 2013

AFA announced an end to the Home Depot boycott. To save face with gay rights groups, the company denied making any funding or policy changes; however, AFA determined that enough changes had been made to suspend the boycott. By the end, more than 750,000 people had signed the online pledge to boycott The Home Depot.





AFA Action Expands

November 8, 2016

Donald Trump was elected President of the United States. In the months leading up to this, AFA had played a central role in educating voters about the election's importance. The George Barna Group recognized the role of evangelical leaders (including Tim Wildmon) in this historic election. The Barna Group pointed to AFA as among the top six most influential organizations in getting out the vote in 2016. Among Christian activist groups, AFA was No. 1.



December 2021

AFA Action acquired iVoterGuide. Founded in 2009 by Richard Ford and Jim Sneeringer, the online voter guide was heavily promoted by AFA and AFA Action in the intervening years before the acquisition.



June 2022



Roe v. Wade was overturned. AFA was influential in three facets that led to the decision: AFA Action co-sponsored the 2016 meeting between then-presidential candidate. Trump and evangelical leaders; AFA's Jameson Taylor helped draft the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization case that went to the U.S. Supreme Court; and AFA Action worked with several other groups to proactively identify pro-life and constitutional potential Supreme Court nominees, eventually leading to the installment of Justice Amy Coney Barrett after the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. All these components helped bring down Roe.

January 2022

AFA Action instituted the Center for Government Renewal (CGR). This division was created to advance biblical and constitutional principles in law and policy, specifically through drafting model legislation to protect America's families from a variety of threats in states around the country.



March 20, 2024



AFA Action announced the launch of the Center for Judicial Renewal (CJR). Although the group was initiated in 2021, the official introduction was not made until the legal team had conducted more than 10,000 hours of research, vetting not only sitting Supreme Court justices but prospective jurists as well. This branch of AFA Action aims to "strategically restore the judiciary to its proper rotation deciding cases under the law rather than legislating from the bench."

To be continued...

God does not require that we be successful. He only requires that we be faithful.

-Bro. Don Wildmon

The Story of American Family Association
Compiled by: Walker Wildmon, M.D. Perkins, Jennifer Nanney,
Joy Lucius, and Heather Hefner.

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