



## Focus on Religious Freedom

*"Let us preserve freedom. Let us cherish freedom. Freedom of conscience, Religious Freedom, the freedom of each person, each family, each people, which is what gives rise to rights." Pope Francis*

### Federal Agency to Begin Tracking Those Seeking Religious Exemption to Vaccine

"The federal government has no business to create a database of people who file religious exemptions," said Liberty Counsel, a religious freedom legal aid nonprofit, upon learning about this newest government policy that will begin tracking all federal employees who file for religious exemption to the Covid vaccine, beginning on Feb. 10, 2022. <sup>(1)</sup>

"Knowing who files for religious exemptions serves no legitimate purpose," said Liberty Counsel. "A federal agency compiling a database of people who take their faith seriously sets a bad precedent, (and is) hostile to religious freedom." <sup>(2)</sup>

### Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Case of HS Coach Fired for Praying on Field

"No teacher or coach should lose their job for simply expressing their faith while in public," said Kelly Shackelford, First Liberty law firm. <sup>(3)</sup> "By taking this important case, the Supreme Court can protect the right of every American to engage in private religious expression, including praying in public, without fear of punishment." <sup>(4)</sup>

In 2016, Coach Kennedy sued the school district after being suspended in 2015 for his practice of praying silently for 15-seconds on the football field 50-yard line after games. He accused school officials of violating his religious freedom. Kennedy said he hoped he would "soon be able to be back on the field coaching the game and players I love." <sup>(5)</sup>

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### Happening Now: Praying for Religious Faith & Freedom at Renewal 2022

On Jan. 8, 2022, in Plant City, FL, many Christian pastors, leaders and believers from around the nation joined in a rally designed to be the beginning of a movement to renew faith and religious freedom in America. The hope is to inspire our nation to come back to God through a revival similar to the great faith awakenings of past centuries.

"I believe in this darkest hour of American history, we're about to see the greatest move of God ever, as dark and light converge in this epic battle of (our) times," said Rev. Kevin Jessip, organizer of the event. "The whole world is watching America and what we're doing; it's crucially important that we begin to turn back to God. He is the answer." <sup>(6)</sup>

(tiogapublishing.com, 1/14/22(1)(2); heritage.org, 1/12/22; christianpost.com, 1/15/22(3)(4)(5); firstliberty.org, 1/15/22; msn.com 1/15/22; washingtontimes.com, 12/27/21(6); operationrestoredwarrior.org, 1/8/22)

*"He changes the times and the seasons; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding." Daniel 2:21*