



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
f o u n d a t i o n
FALL FUNDRAISING KICKOFF

Dear Friends and Supporters,

During this time of financial insecurity and great fiscal pressures, now more than ever the Military Religious Freedom Foundation needs your support. During recent years, we have been faced with many inconvenient truths regarding the conduct of the United States government and the welfare of its servicemen, servicewomen and veterans. I know that now is not a convenient time to come to you to seek your financial support, but the need is great and the time could not be more perilous for the brave men and women in uniform who have served and continue to serve our nation so faithfully.

I come to you on behalf of the servicemen and servicewomen who are pressured and coerced to attend specific religious services and activities against their will and, when they refuse, are belittled and often assigned extra duties and even more dangerous assignments. I come to you on behalf of the veterans who are denied medical care because they dare to stand up to religious discrimination. I come to you on behalf of the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines on the front lines of conflict in the Middle East who face physical and emotional intimidation, abuse and even death threats because they have the strength of their own convictions regarding religion and spirituality. I come to you on behalf of those who have risked and continue to risk their very lives in service to our great country and yet are marginalized by their government – if we don't speak up for these men and women, if we won't advocate for them, if we aren't willing to sacrifice in the face of their own great sacrifice, who will?

At a time in our nation's life when everything appears so polarized, our cause is the cause of all who would be free and all who seek "liberty and justice for all." I recall Senator Goldwater's famous words, "I would remind you that extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice! And...moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue." No, this is not the time to wait and see what happens. Now is not the time to falter in our support of our servicemen, servicewomen and veterans. They can wait no longer; they are contacting the Military Religious Freedom Foundation every day, desperately reaching out for our help because we are their last best hope for justice.

I am asking each one of you to consider for yourself how much these honorable men and women have sacrificed already and then decide how much you are willing to sacrifice to support them – they're counting on you, and we're counting on you, because we can't continue to secure justice for them without your generous support. Now more than ever we are all relying on you to dig deep – the measure of a friend is not how they act when times are good, but how they conduct themselves when times are bad.

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation uncovers more astonishing unconstitutional religious proselytizing activities each and every day. On the reverse side is a brief outline of some of the critical current successes MRFF has achieved just in the last six months. Also enclosed is a volunteer sign up form along with a contribution form. New plans will soon be released on our website (www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org) to develop a working grassroots organization that can reach volunteers in your community. Look for a fabulous new MRFF store, a place you can go for all of your gift giving needs. Finally, all donations to MRFF are fully tax deductible and as Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Thank you,

Michael L. "Mikey" Weinstein
Founder & President
Military Religious Freedom Foundation

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-  **October 1, 2008:** MRFF stopped the virulently anti-Muslim film, *Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West*, from being shown at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado within hours of finding out that a screening of the film was planned.
-  **September 25, 2008:** MRFF filed its second Federal lawsuit against the Department of Defense, alleging a "pattern and practice" of unconstitutional religious bias in favor of fundamentalist Christianity throughout the Department of Defense. MRFF's co-plaintiff, SPC Dustin Chalker, is a decorated combat medic who served in Iraq and was awarded the Combat Medic Badge and the Purple Heart. Since returning to Fort Riley from Iraq, SPC Chalker, who is not religious, has been forced to attend mandatory events that included overtly Christian prayers. Chalker's requests to be excused from such events have been denied.
-  **September 5, 2008:** The California Council of Churches IMPACT (CCCI), one of the country's largest Christian organizations, representing 21 mainstream and progressive Protestant denominations, 5,500 congregations, and millions of congregants formally announced its endorsement of MRFF. CCCI Board President Rev. John Freeseemann said, "Our alignment with the Military Religious Freedom Foundation is on behalf of religious freedom for all people, regardless of belief or non-belief. It is not the function of the U.S. military to proselytize our troops but to protect our constitutional freedoms."
-  **April-July 2008:** MRFF was immersed in a wave of mainstream media coverage, including interviews with Mikey Weinstein and Jeremy Hall, the co-plaintiff in MRFF's first Federal lawsuit, on ABC Good Morning America, CBS News Sunday Morning, and FOX News - Fox & Friends. A July segment on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360 dramatically shifted the opinion of both Christians and non-Christians. In a study conducted by MediaCurves, the percentage of Christians surveyed who believed there was pressure to embrace fundamentalist Christianity in the U.S. military rose from 24% before viewing the segment to 49% after viewing it. Among the non-Christians, the percentage rose from 44% to 79%. When asked if they agreed with Hall's decision to join MRFF in suing the Department of Defense, 53% of the Christians and 84% of the non-Christians said yes.
-  **March 20 2008:** Three self-proclaimed former Muslim "ex-terrorists" turned fundamentalist Christians, had lectured across the country universally attacking Islam while promoting Evangelical Christianity. These "ex-terrorists" were hosted at the United States Air Force Academy during a special event. MRFF successfully pressured the Academy into allowing Mikey Weinstein and two MRFF Advisory Board members, Islam expert Reza Aslan, and former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, to speak to the cadets and staff to counter the inaccurate information and hate speech disseminated at the "ex-terrorists" event.
-  **January 2008:** As a result of MRFF's December 2007 report exposing numerous violations throughout the military, a web site for Campus Crusade for Christ's Military Ministry at Fort Jackson was taken down. This web site for Fort Jackson's "God's Basic Training," a program teaching basic trainees that "when you join the military, you've really joined the ministry" and that they have the "responsibility" to "punish those who do evil" as "God's servant, an angel of wrath," contained photos of the basic trainees posed with their rifles in one hand and their Bibles in the other. Among the many other things exposed in this report was a Campus Crusade promotional video filmed at the Air Force Academy in which the Academy's Campus Crusade director stated that by the time the cadets leave the Academy they are "government-paid missionaries."