



The Alliance Defense Fund has been involved in hundreds of cases in defense of religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, and traditional values. The stories below are just a small sampling of the ongoing battle to protect our religious liberty, reclaim what we have lost, and shape a future where religious freedom is affirmed.

THE CASE OF THE ADOPTED DAUGHTER THE CASE OF THE CONTROVERSIAL QUILT WHO'S AFRAID OF FUZZY BEAR?

Linda Dodds has a BIG heart for abused children. That concern led her to form a non-profit organization called C.U.D.D.L.E (Children Under Duress Divinely Loved Everywhere) Outreach, Inc.

As part of the ministry, C.U.D.D.L.E distributes wellness kits to children who have been placed in foster care centers. The kits consist of a hand made quilt that says "Jesus Loves You", toiletries, a stuffed animal, and a children's Bible. All of the items are placed in a handmade bag. As of March 2003, over 1000 kits had been given to Child Protective Services (CPS) for distribution to children in crisis in northern Arizona. The bags are given to the children when they leave CPS agencies and the child is given the choice to accept or decline the bag with the knowledge and assent of the foster parents or private contracting agency.

Mrs. Dodds contacted the Phoenix CPS office and asked if they would be interested in distributing the kits to foster care children there. The CPS office – which is part of the Department of Economic Security (DES) -- contacted the Arizona Attorney General's office to seek an opinion about the kits.

In early April, Mrs. Dodds was told that *per the Attorney General's office, "DES should not distribute the Bible, quilt, or any material with religious references."* The bags could only be distributed if they did not contain religious material. Mrs. Dodds turned to ADF for help.

ADF legal team member Joshua Carden sent a letter to the acting director of the Department of Economic Security citing several ADF-funded legal precedents that would support C.U.D.D.L.E.'s right to include the Bible and quilt in the wellness kits. On October 7th, the DES agreed and C.U.D.D.L.E will be able to distribute the bags, with the Bible and quilt included, once again.

THE CASE OF THE PRAYING TEACHER THE CASE OF THE RECESS PRAYER

Lance Sorenson had been teaching school in Washington State for twenty-eight years. As a Christian, he was concerned about the eternal destiny of his students and decided to start a private prayer group and Bible Study with other Christian teachers that met in a classroom before school hours (non-contract time). School administrators knew of the meeting and had no objection.

Then one day, just before they were to start, the teachers were told by a school official that they had to cease – the superintendent has decided that the Bible Study and prayer group is forbidden. The teachers moved to a local church.

Then Mr. Sorenson read a policy governing religious meetings on school property and realized that the guidelines applied to students, not employees. The district then came back and told the teachers that they could meet at the school, but would have to pay rent! The district said that the Bible Study and prayer meeting violated the establishment clause of the First Amendment – which was not true.

ADF funded a lawsuit on behalf of Mr. Sorenson and the teachers against the school district and the teachers secured their right to meet before school at school facilities at no charge!