



CHURCH OF GOD STATE OFFICES  
Office of the Administrative Bishop

March 1, 2010

Dear Fellow Ministers:

The past few months have been interesting times for our politicians in Alabama. Of great concern to the Body of Christ, is the ongoing debate concerning the decision on whether to legalize gambling in our state? Although the last effort failed to make it to the floor, there is an effort now to bring it back for possible passage. Regardless of what the final outcome is in Montgomery, this issue is of great social concern to the Church of God and causes us to look again at our moral responsibility.

The Church of God in Alabama is blessed to have three State Representatives that attend a local Church of God. I have spoken directly with two of them in regards to this issue. These men are:

Richard Laird, Roanoke Church of God  
Reverend Mac McCutcheon, College Park Church of God  
Randy Wood, Anniston, Harvest Church of God

The Church of God Practical Commitments, 71<sup>st</sup> General Assembly Minutes, Page 79, Item C, states that we should refrain from gambling. Please reacquaint yourself with this statement to properly educate yourself on our denominational stance.

Further, the Church of God Ordained Ministers Council adopted a resolution on gambling at the 1998 General Assembly. Please consult your General Assembly Minutes, 71<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, Page 249, for a copy of this resolution.

In conclusion, I want to encourage you to contact your local Representative and urge them to oppose Bills SB 380 and SB 381. To locate your Representative, go to [www.legislature.state.al.us/index.html](http://www.legislature.state.al.us/index.html) and click on "House Members". If passed, these bills would legalize electronic gambling in our state; create a monopoly for gambling bosses currently operating, and open up a flood of gambling casinos throughout our state and in our home towns.

May God's richest blessings continually be yours.

Sincerely,

John D. Childers  
Administrative Bishop, Alabama