



Trinity Broadcasting Network's (TBN) Coffers are Overflowing with Cash!


The issue:

Facts regarding the financial affairs of Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) should cause donors to prayerfully consider supporting other Christian ministries that will achieve the donor's objective in a manner that is more transparent and reveals a more efficient and effective use of contributed funds. Huge excess funds, high salaries and very low spending on ministry purposes are grave concerns for donors particularly when so many other worthy ministries are struggling to find the money to meet the needs of the people the Lord has called them to serve.

MinistryWatch Take:

MinistryWatch.com believes donors are entitled to make an educated and knowledgeable giving decision based on all the facts about a ministry. Regarding TBN, donors should know:

- TBN presently has cash, short term investments and long term investments of about \$280 million. This huge cash stockpile should be spent on their charitable purpose and not built ever higher each year. Yet, TBN continues to ask donors for more money without disclosing how much they already have.
- The salaries for TBN founders Paul and Jan Crouch were \$403,700 and \$361,000 respectively for 2002 (the last year such numbers are available). This total of \$764,700 is considerably higher than the average for executive pay for nonprofits.
- The profits earned by TBN over the past five years amount to \$285 million, which raises questions about the claims that Paul and Jan Crouch make regarding the need for additional ministry funding. The profits TBN reports annually are actually larger than the total yearly financial needs of most ministries in the www.MinistryWatch.com database!
- Most ministries are struggling financially, but still scrimp on salaries and overhead expenses in order to provide aid and comfort to the needy or reach the lost. TBN, however, is financially well off compared to other ministries but spends shockingly little on its charitable programs. TBN's 2002 program expenses are extremely low at 46%, when compared to the www.MinistryWatch.com database average at about 80%. Additionally, TBN's 2002 savings rate is high at about 36% compared to Wall Watchers' ministry database average of around zero.
- TBN refuses to release consolidated audited financial statements, giving it a Transparency grade of 'C' and making it impossible for MinistryWatch to fully and accurately analyze the financial operations of TBN on behalf of donors.
- Questions regarding an extravagant lifestyle for the couple remain unanswered.

MinistryWatch recommends that donors to TBN strongly consider redirecting their giving to one of the many scripturally sound, needy ministries that can be found in our www.MinistryWatch.com database. 

Contact Information and Resources

Government Contacts

Internal Revenue Service

Exempt organization customer service address:
Internal Revenue Service
TE/GE Customer Account Services
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

- Tax-exempt assistance: 1-877-829-5500
- General tax questions: 1-800-829-1040
- Order forms and publications: 1-800-829-3676
- Website: www.irs.gov
- Verify tax-exempt status
- Verify tax deductibility
- Obtaining federal tax-exempt status
- Completing federal tax forms
- Specialized assistance to tax-exempt organizations

Attorneys General offices, or Departments of Justice, Charitable Activities Section

Most states have an active unit of the Attorney General's office that are willing to help consumers. Check with NASCO (National Association of State Charities Officials) at www.NASCOnet.org, look under US State Charity Offices and click on the state of interest.

- Reporting illegal activity by nonprofit organizations
- Information about charitable organizations and copies of annual reports
- Questions about professional fundraising reporting requirements
- Registrations of charitable corporations or trusts
- Questions about annual reports for charitable organizations
- Merging nonprofit organizations
- Serving as a board member of a nonprofit organization
- Dissolving nonprofit organizations

Secretary of State, Corporation Division

Check phone number on the Internet or your local phonebook under state government.

- Verifying that a nonprofit corporation is in fact incorporated and current in its filing
- Obtaining copies of filed articles of incorporation and amendments
- Forming a new corporation
- Obtaining state identification numbers
- Merging nonprofit corporations
- Amending articles of incorporation
- Dissolving nonprofit corporations

Federal Trade Commission

Consumer Response Center
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580
1-877-382-4357
Website: www.ftc.gov

- Information on fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices
- How to file a complaint

Christian Ministry Marketplace

MinistryWatch.com

1 (866) 324-7097
www.ministrywatch.com
A free donor advocate service. Aid donors in understanding the key issues concerning a ministry's operations. Ministry research reports on over 500 ministries.

The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)

1 (800) 323-9473
www.ecfa.org
A membership ministry advocate. A self regulator or peer accountability membership group. Primary responsibility to the ministries that pay dues to the ECFA and thereby fund its operations.

WWW.thegoodsteward.com

Internet source of constantly growing information on all areas of stewardship.

Generous Giving

www.generousgiving.org
Nonprofit that seeks to encourage givers of all income levels to experience the joy of giving and embrace a lifestyle of generosity, according to God's word and Christ's example. It was launched in 2000 by the Maclellan Foundation.

Royal Treasure

1 (770) 977-4502
www.royaltreasure.org
Nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching Biblical Stewardship to women.

The Gathering

www.gatheringweb.com
Conferences, email forums, conference calls and other activities for those that give a minimum of \$200,000 annually to Christian ministries or have the capacity to do so.

National Christian Foundation

1 (800) 681-6223
www.nationalchristian.com
Facilitates Christian stewardship. They can help donors set up a Stewardship Fund, a donor advised fund, liquidate assets, provide gift annuities, trusts, scholarships, and endowments.

Calvin Edwards, & Co.

1 (770)-395-9425
CalvinEdwards@MaximumGood.com
For profit organization providing philanthropic counsel to high-capacity Christian donors.

Geneva Global

1 (610) 254-8202
info@GenevaGlobal.com
www.genevaglobal.com
For profit organization assisting individual donors.

Excellence in Giving

1 (866) 780-1000
www.excellenceingiving.com
For profit organization with tailored services of affluent families and individuals.

The Legacy Group

1 (262) 789-3160
www.philanthropyatwork.com
For profit organization to assist private wealth management and those to achieve charitable goals.

Secular Resources

GuideStar

www.guidestar.org
Largest public search engine of nonprofit organizations. Provides access to many tax-exempt organization's IRS Form 990s. Some knowledge of accounting may be necessary to understand the documents found on this site.

BBB Wise Giving Alliance

www.give.org
A charitable watchdog site. The Alliance reports on nationally soliciting charitable organizations that are the subject of donor inquiries. These reports include an evaluation of the subject charity in relation to the voluntary BBB charity standards.

Charity Navigator

www.charitynavigator.org
Helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the financial health of each charity in its database.

Charity Channel

www.charitychannel.com
Known best for its nonprofit email arena discussion forums.

The American Institute of Philanthropy

www.charitywatch.org
A charitable watchdog group that rates US charities in different categories. Fee for reports. They also provide tips to insure safe giving.

The Charities Review Council

www.crcmn.org
Conducts detailed reviews of national and local charitable organizations soliciting in the State of Minnesota. They also provide tips and guides for donors to help them make wise giving decisions.

Internet Nonprofit Center

www.nonprofits.org
Provides an extensive array of nonprofit topics.

Independent Sector

www.independentsector.org
A national leadership forum, working to encourage philanthropy, volunteering, nonprofit initiative and citizen action that help to better serve people and communities. There is a section on ethics and accountability, including donor's bill of rights, related publications, articles and other resources.

Chronicle of Philanthropy

www.philanthropy.com
Biweekly newspaper of the nonprofit world.

The Nonprofit Times

www.nptimes.com
Articles and topics related to nonprofits.

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www.ministrywatch.com
www.wallwatchers.org
www.thegoodsteward.com