



## 30 of the Brightest Shining Light Ministries

By Rodney L. Pitzer, Managing Director of Research

MinistryWatch.com desires to see overall giving to Biblical Christian values increase and as such we developed this format to highlight a sampling of ministries which are exemplary. The following 30 ministries represent some of the "best ministries". They are outstanding examples when we consider Philippians 4:8, as we weigh and take account of those ministries that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Identifying a diversity of the best ministries is challenging given the selfless work that so many do for the cause of Christ. Each of the sampling of ministries mentioned has the following important features in common:

- Legitimate nonprofit ministry and purpose.
- Have shown a willingness to treat donors fairly via a Transparency Grade of "A".
- Are unashamed of being identified as an evangelical Christian ministry.
- MinistryWatch.com researchers knows of no significant issues that would be of concern to donors.

A high MinistryWatch.com Financial Efficiency Rating was not a requirement for inclusion on this list although most do have good ratings. Many factors were reviewed and strengths in other areas can offset weakness in financial efficiency when determining whether a ministry should be of interest to donors seeking to be good stewards of their giving. Only you can decide for yourself with confidence if a ministry shares your values and with your giving plan.

### MinistryWatch.com's 2007—2008 List of 30 Shining Light Ministries

Ameritribes

AnGeL Ministries

Answers in Genesis

Awana Clubs International

Bethany Christian Services

Bridges for Peace

Care Net

Child Evangelism Fellowship

Children's Hunger Fund

Christian Legal Society

Compassion International

Crown Financial Ministries

EvanTell

Fellowship International Mission

International Aid

JAARS

Medical Teams International

Military Community Youth Ministry

Moms In Touch International

New Tribes Mission

Prison Fellowship Ministries

Ravi Zacharias International Ministries

Ron Hutchcraft Ministries

Scripture Union USA

Stand to Reason

Truth for Life

Turkish World Outreach

The Voice of the Martyrs

Wycliffe Bible Translators

Young Life

Brief Details on the 30 Shining Light Ministries

Community Development	<p><b><u>Ameritribes</u></b>                  PO Box 27346, Tucson, AZ 85726-7346                  (520) 670-9400 / <a href="http://www.ameritribes.org">www.ameritribes.org</a></p> <p>Ameritribes purpose is to make the glory of God known among tribal peoples of the Americas by planting churches while helping communities develop and thrive. Ameritribes has been serving Native Americans since the 1930's with ministry among the Dineh (Navajo) initiated on the reservation near Flagstaff, AZ. The name was changed to Ameritribes in 1994 when the organization expanded the work to include other tribes in the U.S. and northern Mexico.</p>
Christian Growth	<p><b><u>AnGeL Ministries</u></b>                  5115 Hollyridge Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612-3111                  (919) 787-6606 / <a href="http://www.annegrahamlotz.com">www.annegrahamlotz.com</a></p> <p>AnGeL Ministries is committed to giving out messages of Biblical exposition so that God's Word is personal and relevant to ordinary people. The ministry's name is derived from the initials of Anne Graham Lotz (AGL) and is especially fitting as an angel's Biblical role is to go only where the Lord sends and to proclaim only the word of the Lord. AnGeL Ministries serves as the umbrella organization for the diverse ministry of Anne Graham Lotz—including her many books, tapes and speaking engagements as well as special events like Just Give Me Jesus and A Passionate Pursuit.</p>
Christian Growth	<p><b><u>Answers in Genesis (AiG)</u></b>                  PO Box 510, Hebron, KY 41048                  (859) 727-2222 / <a href="http://www.answersingenesis.org">www.answersingenesis.org</a></p> <p>AiG provides seminars, materials, lectures and debates to the general public, colleges, universities and churches primarily on the topic of Biblical authority and accuracy, including creationism. In addition, AiG has created a Creation Musuem. AiG is not just involved in a debate about creation versus evolution. AiG is an evangelistic outreach that defends the authority of the Word of God against secular humanism and proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ. In a society that is seeking answers like, 'Why is there death and suffering?', AiG is positioned to provide logical Biblical answers.</p>
Leadership Training	<p><b><u>Awana Clubs International</u></b>                  One East Bode Rd., Streamwood, IL 60107-6658                  (630) 213-2000 / <a href="http://www.awana.org">www.awana.org</a></p> <p>Awana is an international, Bible-centered children's ministry and youth ministry providing local churches with weekly clubs, programs and training. Their goal is to equip churches and parents worldwide to raise spiritual champions who know, love and serve Christ using integrated programs for ages 2 to 18, resources for Bible-based parenting and discipleship, child and family evangelism and specialized volunteer training. The acronym Awana comes from the first letters of <b>A</b>pproved <b>W</b>orkmen <b>A</b>re <b>N</b>ot <b>A</b>shamed as taken from 2 Timothy 2:15.</p>
Community Development	<p><b><u>Bethany Christian Services</u></b>                  901 Eastern Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0294                  (616) 224-7610 / <a href="http://www.bethany.org">www.bethany.org</a></p> <p>Bethany is a pro-life, Christian adoption and family services agency. Besides working as an adoption agency, its care extends to people struggling with unplanned pregnancies, infertility, and a multitude of other challenges. It has more than 75 locations nationwide and international ministries in 15 other countries and as such it touches the lives of more than 30,000 people each year.</p>

Advocacy	<p><b><u>Bridges for Peace</u></b>                  PMB 33145, 5103 S Sheridan Rd, Tulsa, OK 74145-7627                  (800) 566-1998 / <a href="http://www.BFPUSA.org">www.BFPUSA.org</a></p> <p>Bridges for Peace is working to build positive relationships between Christians and Jews and to educate the church about its rich Hebraic heritage. They offer assistance to Jewish immigrants and other poor people in Israel by providing food baskets, blankets, medical assistance, etc. In addition, they provide education and ministry through various means such as television programs, prayer and teaching letters, newspapers and other periodicals.</p>
Advocacy	<p><b><u>Care Net</u></b>                  44180 Riverside Parkway, Suite 200, Lansdowne, Virginia 20176                  (703) 478-5661 / <a href="http://www.care-net.org">www.care-net.org</a></p> <p>Care Net's primary purpose is to assist and promote the evangelistic, pro-life work of crisis pregnancy centers. Care Net has grown to become the largest network of pregnancy centers in North America, with more than 1,100 centers serving more than 350,000 women each year. In addition, it ministers directly to women in crisis through its Option Line call center and website featuring America Online's (AOL) Instant Messaging service, dubbed IM. The call Center is open 24/7 and has more than 30 trained phone consultants.</p>
Evangelism	<p><b><u>Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)</u></b>                  PO Box 348, Warrenton, MO 63383-0348                  (636) 456-4321 / <a href="http://www.cefonline.org">www.cefonline.org</a></p> <p>CEF evangelizes boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. CEF has different types of evangelistic programs, but the two most identified with the organization is the 5-Day Clubs and the Good News Clubs. These two ministries take place in neighborhood settings such as homes, backyards, schools and community centers. These fast-paced, one-hour programs are designed to bring the Gospel of Christ to children on their level and in their environment. In addition, it also has camping, open-air, fair, telephone and correspondence outreach programs.</p>
Relief and Development	<p><b><u>Children's Hunger Fund (CHF)</u></b>                  PO Box 7085, Mission Hills, CA 91346-7085                  (800) 708-7589 / <a href="http://www.childrenshungerfund.org">www.childrenshungerfund.org</a></p> <p>CHF alleviates the suffering in children around the world. Whether it is hunger, malnutrition, poor medical care, abandonment or abuse, CHF works to provide products to assist in the care of children. CHF delivers food, clothing, medicines, medical supplies, personal hygiene items and other relief materials through a monitored distribution network in the cities and countries where they send aid. They have an impressive ability for attracting noncash contributions and they translate this into specific assistance to individuals.</p>
Advocacy	<p><b><u>Christian Legal Society (CLS)</u></b>                  8001 Braddock Road, Springfield, VA 22151-2151                  (703) 642-1070 / <a href="http://www.clsnet.org">www.clsnet.org</a></p> <p>CLS protects and promotes the inalienable and constitutional rights of free exercise of religion and sanctity of human life through its Center for Law and Religious Freedom. In addition, it provides consultant services, researches current issues, publishes a quarterly journal, and provides strategic litigation support at appellant and trial court levels. CLS also helps lawyers to integrate their faith in Christ with their professional responsibilities and reaches and teaches law students across the country to obey Jesus' age-old command "to do justice with the love of God" (Luke 11:42).</p>

Brief Details on the 30 Shining Light Ministries

Relief and Development	<p><b><u>Compassion International (CI)</u></b>                  12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80921                  (800) 336-7676 / <a href="http://www.compassion.com">www.compassion.com</a></p> <p>Compassion International is an evangelical Christian child development ministry addressing the needs of children around the world. CI focuses on the needs of children spiritually, physically, economically and socially. CI's programs provide tangible benefits such as education, health monitoring and food when necessary, as well as developmental opportunities that can include formal schooling, skills training, health education, presenting of the Gospel, and motivation to acquire meaningful social skills.</p>
Christian Growth	<p><b><u>Crown Financial Ministries</u></b>                  PO Box 100, Gainesville, GA 30503-0100                  (800) 722-1976 / <a href="http://www.crown.org">www.crown.org</a></p> <p>Crown teaches biblical principles of finance and money management. It also trains others to teach these principles and provides counseling and assistance to those in need. Its public image is through its radio programs which present biblical truths relating to stewardship, ethics, practical money management, and God's ability to meet financial needs (25-minute daily program, "Money Matters", 3 minute program "How to Manage Your Money", and "A Money Minute"). But it also conducts small group studies, seminars and other programs.</p>
Christian Growth	<p><b><u>EvanTell</u></b>                  PO Box 741417, Dallas, TX 75374-1417                  (800) 947-7359 / <a href="http://www.evantell.org">www.evantell.org</a></p> <p>EvanTell conducts conferences to reach non-Christians and seminars to instruct believers in evangelism, and materials to equip believers to evangelize. EvanTell's vision is to reach millions of people throughout the world with a clear, biblical presentation of the gospel of grace, through evangelistic outreaches and training believers in personal evangelism and evangelistic speaking.</p>
Foreign Missions	<p><b><u>Fellowship International Mission</u></b>                  555 S. 24th Street, Allentown, PA 18104-6666                  (610) 435-9099 / <a href="http://www.fim.org">www.fim.org</a></p> <p>Fellowship International Mission is involved in a wide range of ministries directly linked to the establishing of churches. They do this by (1) Proclaiming the Gospel world-wide by every means possible, (2) Leading people to trust Christ as Savior, (3) Discipling new believers, (4) Establishing local, indigenous, independent, biblically sound churches to nurture believers to reach their communities for Christ, and (5) Assisting in the training and mobilization of full-time national Christian workers.</p>
Relief and Development	<p><b><u>International Aid (IA)</u></b>                  17011 West Hickory St., Spring Lake, MI 49456-7490                  (800) 968-7490 / <a href="http://www.internationalaid.org">www.internationalaid.org</a></p> <p>IA provides a variety of supplies and services – especially in the area of health care – to poor and underprivileged people throughout the world. IA's commitment to relief and development work is rooted in two passages from the Gospel of Matthew: 25:14-30 and 28:19-20. IA's primary service is providing medicine, medical supplies, and other aid to mission hospitals, clinics, orphanages and churches across the globe. There are two major aspects to IA's health care ministry: emergency relief and health infrastructure development. IA has great expertise in the health sector.</p>

Evangelism Support	<p><b><u>JAARS</u></b>                  PO Box 248, Waxhaw, NC 28173-0248                  (888) 773-1178 / <a href="http://www.jaars.org">www.jaars.org</a></p> <p>JAARS provides support services to Wycliffe Bible Translators and to the SIL International. JAARS is best known for its aviation program. Founded as J.A.A.R.S. (Jungle Aviation and Radio Services); the name has since been changed to simply JAARS, in order to reflect the expanding number of services provided by the ministry. In addition to its aviation program, JAARS provides Bible translators in various parts of the world with transportation services on land and on sea. JAARS does not make Bible translation easier, it makes it possible.</p>
Relief and Development	<p><b><u>Medical Teams International</u></b>                  PO Box 10, Portland, OR 97207-0010                  (800) 959-4325 / <a href="http://www.nwmedicalteams.org">www.nwmedicalteams.org</a></p> <p>Medical Teams International's first line of service is primarily that of a humanitarian world responder service (a type of 911 call on an international scale). They send volunteer medical personnel for crisis situations, not only mobilizing retired doctors and nurses, but current medical professionals. Secondly, they distribute humanitarian aid. In addition, they operate mobile dental clinic units in the United States for the working poor. They do not sell their services but are totally supported by donations. This is pure Christian charitable work of helping those who are truly in need.</p>
Fellowship Evangelism	<p><b><u>Military Community Youth Ministry (MCYM)</u></b>                  P.O. Box 2486, Colorado Springs, CO 80901                  (800) 832-9098 / <a href="http://www.mcy.org">www.mcy.org</a></p> <p>MCYM is a chapel based, community focused outreach (known as Club Beyond) to bring Good News of Jesus Christ to middle and high school aged dependents of Americans serving in, or in connection with the Armed Forces of the United States of American (both overseas and in the U.S.) The term outreach ministry refers to the focus of the ministry to young people not currently involved in a chapel youth program. They intend to "win a hearing" with these teens, share the love of Christ with them through staff role modeling, and disciple them into the chapel or church.</p>
Fellowship Evangelism	<p><b><u>Moms In Touch International</u></b>                  P.O. Box 1120, Poway, CA 92074-1120                  (858) 486-4065 / <a href="http://www.momsintouch.org">www.momsintouch.org</a></p> <p>Moms In Touch encourages mothers and others to meet and pray for children and schools. They desire to provide a positive influence and support for public and private schools.</p>
Foreign Missions	<p><b><u>New Tribes Mission (NTM)</u></b>                  1000 E. First Street, Sanford, FL 32771-1487                  (866) 547-2460 / <a href="http://www.ntm.org">www.ntm.org</a></p> <p>New Tribes Mission works as a team in the evangelization of unreached tribal people, the translation of the Scripture into tribal languages and the planting of indigenous New Testament churches. NTM's activities include Bible institutes, primary training institutes, and a language and linguistics institute. NTM seeks people groups that have never heard the gospel. NTM is very systematic in its approach. They have learned through many avenues and have taken the time to write down and teach others in practical methods.</p>

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Christian Growth

**Prison Fellowship Ministries (PFM)**

44180 Riverside Parkway, Lansdowne, VA 20176-0176  
(877) 478-0100 / [www.prisonfellowship.org](http://www.prisonfellowship.org)

PFM assists the Church in its ministry to prisoners, ex-prisoners, victims, and their families, and to promote biblical standards of justice in the criminal justice system. PFM recruits, trains, and mobilizes volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds and denominations to participate in a broad array of in-prison and community ministries. In addition, it is well known for the Angel Tree Christmas project to provide gifts to prisoners children. PFM also provides commentary on cultural and religious issues communicated primarily via PFM's Breakpoint radio and print commentaries.

Educational Media

**Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM)**

4725 Peachtree Corners Cir. Suite 250, Norcross, GA 30092-2553  
(770) 449-6766 / [www.rzim.org](http://www.rzim.org)

RZIM's focus is evangelism undergirded by apologetics, reaching the thinker and opinion makers of the world. RZIM recognizes the benefits and ethics of any culture are powerfully influenced and molded by the intellectuals and entertainers of society. Ravi's speaking style seems to grab the attention of non-Christians and Christians alike. He is able to captivate audiences with relevant subject matter of the day, with intellectual concepts and quotes of the past, while concluding with Christ at the end.

Evangelism

**Ron Hutchcraft Ministries (RHM)**

P.O. Box 400, Harrison, AR 72602-0400  
(877) 741-1200 / [www.hutchcraft.com](http://www.hutchcraft.com)

Ron Hutchcraft Ministries is a two-fold mission: (1) calling the lost to conversion through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and (2) helping Christians to order their daily lives on the basis of wise advice grounded upon biblical principles.

Publishing

**Scripture Union USA (SU)**

P.O. Box 987 #1, Valley Forge, PA 19482  
(800) 621-LAMP / [www.ScriptureUnion.gospelcom.net](http://www.ScriptureUnion.gospelcom.net)

Scripture Union publishes a number of daily Bible study guides. In addition, SU has autonomous ministries in more than 130 countries and seeks to assist this International Ministry by making Bible reading help available to children and adults in their own language. SU also helps individuals and local churches establish and maintain effective Released-Time Christian Education Programs. Released-Time is a time set-aside during the public school day when students that have secured parental permission may leave campus to attend Bible classes.

Christian Growth

**Stand to Reason (STR)**

1438 E 33rd St., Signal Hill, CA 90755-0755  
(800) 273-2766 / [www.str.org](http://www.str.org)

Stand to Reason trains Christians to think more clearly about their faith and to make an even-handed, incisive, yet gracious defense for classical Christianity and classical Christian values in the public square. It does so through radio, self-directed training curricula, public speaking and seminars, publications, Internet, and small groups.

Educational Media

**Truth for Life**

P.O. Box 398000, Cleveland, OH 44139  
(877) 518-7884 / [www.truthforlife.org](http://www.truthforlife.org)

Truth for Life provides radio-based expository preaching programming as well as on the Internet. The radio broadcast ministry can be heard by millions around the world and features the Bible teaching of Alistair Begg, Senior Pastor at Parkside Church in Ohio.

Foreign Missions

**Turkish World Outreach (TWO)**

508 Fruitvale Ct., Grand Junction, CO 81504-5768  
(970) 434-1942 / [www.two-fot.org](http://www.two-fot.org)

Turkish World Outreach is an evangelical, non-sectarian Christian mission which shares Jesus Christ with Turkic peoples throughout the world. TWO goes to the Turkic world and groups associated within it, such as the Kurds and Tajiks. TWO seeks to establish reproducing, indigenous churches.

Advocacy

**The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM)**

P.O. Box 443, Bartlesville, OK 74005-0443  
(918) 337-8015 / [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com)

The Voice of the Martyrs is an interdenominational organization working with Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith in Christ. VOM desires to fulfill the Great Commission and to educate the world about the ongoing persecution of Christians.

Foreign Missions

**Wycliffe Bible Translators**

P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200  
(407) 852-3600 / [www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org)

Wycliffe Bible Translators advances the translation of the Word of God into all those languages of the world where it is needed. Wycliffe desires to provide access to Scriptures to everyone in the language they understand best.

Fellowship Evangelism

**Young Life (YL)**

PO Box 520, Colorado Springs, CO 80901  
(719) 381-1800 / [www.younglife.org](http://www.younglife.org)

Young Life introduces teenagers to Jesus Christ and to help them grow in their faith. YL desires to reach every kid, everywhere, for eternity. YL helps to make the Bible exciting for teenagers and to prepare them for the future. YL does not get "pushy" with the Gospel; rather, youngsters are allowed to respond willingly.

## Prudent Steps for Donors

No one is possessed of unlimited resources, and we are not able to give to every ministry that we value. It is best to make an assessment of our options and make discerning decisions. Start by getting information before committing your financial resources. Consider the following in your assessment:

### **(1) Seek ministries that are transparent:**

Is the ministry open and transparent, or are they experts in pushing emotional buttons in fundraising persuasion? Transparency is foundational in order to make a good decision. Does the ministry provide adequate financial reports for donors to be good stewards of their giving? Do not give to a ministry that claims it has no legal obligation to share financial or other information — it has a moral obligation to do so. Without access to comprehensive ministry information it is not possible for donors to make optimal giving decisions. Ministries that seek to obscure critical information from scrutiny undermine the faith and trust of donors and damage attitudes that have a long term negative impact. For those few ministries that state it has no legal obligation, it should be noted that donors are even less so obligated with any legalist obligation to give, but they do have a moral obligation to give in a prudent and wise fashion. Transparency is a consensus of practical sound wisdom. Many Christians are willing to live ethically without a governmental entity mandating that they do so. Transparency is the key component to a growing and prosperous donor — ministry relationship and fundamental to long-term ministry success.

### **(2) Examine the truth Claims:**

Now that the organization is open and giving you information, is it in fact telling the truth? If the ministry states that your gifts are tax deductible, is it true? Is the organization in fact what it says it is and is it doing what it claims? There are fraudulent and fake organizations and scams, in particular after major disasters they seem to come on the scene in droves. And those ministries that are legally formed and have a sound purpose, are they in fact spending donations as solicited? Truth is synchronized with fact and reality, not just a gut feeling and mere belief. Do not rely on an emotional hope of what the ministry might be doing, but instead check out the facts. Saint Thomas Aquinas said, "Doubt leads to inquiry and inquiry leads to the truth." We will discover the truth as a result of our ability to inquire and to learn from that inquiry.

### **(3) Are your beliefs as a donor reflected in the ministry?**

Ministries represent values, but do they represent your values? How is the organization "Christian?" Is it Christian in name only? Do they just market to Christians? Do they evangelize? What is their message? Do they teach? What do they teach? How do their theological underpinnings determine their actions? Have they strayed from theological beginnings? Are their motivations based on a theological premise? Do they have a statement of faith or a creed? What do they say or not say about God? Is it important that the organization is pro-life? Is it important how they define family? Are denominational connections important?

### **(4) What type of ministry function do you want to support?**

What kind of ministry do you believe the Lord is guiding you to give to? What type of ministry do you want to give to? Some options include Relief and Development, Foreign Missions, Evangelism Support, Evangelism, Educational Media, Community Development, Christian Growth, and Advocacy.


### **(5) How resourceful are your dollars being used by the ministry?**

What information is available in what the organization has done and how efficient is the ministry in using its resources? Is the ministry in need of additional gifts, or have they built themselves a great nest egg that looks like a perpetual foundation that could live on investments? Is the organization just all talk or are they actually accomplishing something and/or providing a great service to society? Additionally, consider the structure of the organization. Generally the simpler the structure, the more donor efficient an organization is going to be. If an organization is primarily a "fundraising" tool that in turn gives to other organizations, more overhead expenses are being used before a smaller portion of your donation makes it to those in need. Check out MinistryWatch.com's 5 Star Financial Efficiency Ratings to measure a ministry's financial efficiency. This is an objective measure because they are derived from financial ratios that are based on financial information contained within a ministry's audited financial statement or its IRS Form 990. The overall rating is a summarization of the financial efficiency rating system's three efficiency area assessments. The three efficiency areas are Fund Acquisition, Resource Allocation and Asset Utilization.

### **(6) Are there any red flag issues that make you uncomfortable?**

Are there any odd aspects of the ministry? Is the organization embroiled in lawsuits and if so, why? Does the organization employ highly emotional fundraising appeals? Emotional appeals that question or measure the depth of your faith based on how you give to them should be ignored. Is the organization's structure understandable or confusing? Do the claims made by the ministry seem realistic? Does the ministry seem to manipulate scripture and/or rely on extra biblical revelations, if so look elsewhere.

### **(7) Seek consultation:**

It is not wise to ignore talking with your spouse before committing financial resources. And if you do not have a spouse, talk to other family members. Bounce things around with a mentor, church members, and other godly counselors. If you do not have the time to perform some due diligence research, check out a donor advocacy website like MinistryWatch.com. 

## 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](http://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.NASCO.net](http://www.NASCO.net), 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](http://www.ftc.gov)

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

### Christian Ministry Marketplace

#### MinistryWatch.com

1 (866) 364-9980  
[www.ministrywatch.com](http://www.ministrywatch.com)  
A free donor advocate service. Aid donors in understanding the key issues concerning a ministry's operations.

#### The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)

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

#### WWW.thegoodsteward.com

Growing source of information on all areas of stewardship.

#### Generous Giving

[www.generousgiving.org](http://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](http://www.royaltreasure.org)  
Nonprofit teaching Biblical Stewardship to women.

#### The Gathering

[www.gatheringweb.com](http://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

[www.nationalchristian.com](http://www.nationalchristian.com)  
Facilitates Christian stewardship. Helps donors set up a Stewardship Fund, a donor advised fund, liquidate assets, provide gift annuities, trusts, scholarships, and endowments.

#### Calvin Edwards, & Co.

[Info@calvinedwardscompany.com](mailto:Info@calvinedwardscompany.com)  
For profit organization providing philanthropic counsel to high-capacity Christian donors.

#### Geneva Global

[info@GenevaGlobal.com](mailto:info@GenevaGlobal.com)  
[www.genevaglobal.com](http://www.genevaglobal.com)  
For profit organization assisting individual donors.

#### Excellence in Giving

[www.excellenceingiving.com](http://www.excellenceingiving.com)  
For profit organization with tailored services of affluent families and individuals.

#### The Legacy Group

[www.philanthropyatwork.com](http://www.philanthropyatwork.com)  
For profit organization to assist private wealth management and those to achieve charitable goals.

#### The Eternity Portfolio

[www.eternityportfolio.com](http://www.eternityportfolio.com)  
Book by Alan Gotthardt that shows how to get the ultimate return on your investments through investing in eternity.

#### Strategic Resource Group

[www.srginc.org](http://www.srginc.org)  
Nonprofit directing people, prayer and financial resources with churches and key ministries in the Middle East.

### Secular Resources

#### GuideStar

[www.guidestar.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.charitynavigator.org)  
Helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the financial health of each charity in its database.

#### Charity Channel

[www.charitychannel.com](http://www.charitychannel.com)  
Known best for its nonprofit email arena discussion forums.

#### The American Institute of Philanthropy

[www.charitywatch.org](http://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](http://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.

#### Idealist.org / Action Without Borders

[www.idealist.org](http://www.idealist.org)  
Provides an array of nonprofit and volunteering resources.

#### Independent Sector

[www.independentsector.org](http://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](http://www.philanthropy.com)  
Biweekly newspaper of the nonprofit world.

#### The Nonprofit Times

[www.nptimes.com](http://www.nptimes.com)  
Articles and topics related to nonprofits.

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