



30 of the Brightest Shining Light Ministries

By Rodney L. Pitzer, Managing Director of Research

MinistryWatch.com has often been asked to identify the “best ministries” and has been producing reports on what we have termed “Shining Light Ministries”. Given the large numbers of impressive Christian ministries and the many factors to consider to make such a determination (which will vary from person to person), such a task is quite difficult. Responsible giving is through prayer, following the Holy Spirit, and clear thinking in selecting those ministries that the Lord would have them support. Educating yourself by using the comprehensive information found at MinistryWatch.com is a part of the process in becoming a good steward with the resources God has given.

While identifying the best ministries is challenging given the selfless work that so many do for the cause of Christ, MinistryWatch.com believes that the following alphabetical list of 30 excellent ministries will be helpful to many. Each of the ministries mentioned has the following important features in common:

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

A high MinistryWatch.com Financial Efficiency Rating was not a requirement for inclusion on our 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.

MinistryWatch.com List of 30 Shining Light Ministries

Ankerberg Theological Research Institute

Answers in Genesis

Bible Study Fellowship

Care Net

Child Evangelism Fellowship

Children’s Hunger Fund

Christian Medical and Dental Associations

Compassion International

Crown Financial Ministries

EvanTell

Family Guidance

Family Research Council

Gideons International

Good News Jail and Prison Ministry

International Aid

JAARS

The Jesus Film Project

Jews for Jesus

Joni and Friends

Josh McDowell Ministries

New Directions International

New Tribes Mission

Northwest Medical Teams International

Operation Blessing

Prison Fellowship Ministries

Probe Ministries International

Ravi Zacharias International Ministries

Voice of the Martyrs

World Help

Young Life

Brief Details on the 30 Shining Light Ministries

Ankerberg Theological Research Institute / ATRI
 PO Box 8977, Chattanooga, TN, 37414-7414
 (423) 892-7722 / www.ankerberg.org

Educational Media

"The John Ankerberg Show" provides a unique and valuable service to the Christian community and society in general by providing a regular forum for constructive debate about ultimate issues. Dr. Ankerberg writes and speaks on difficult subjects in a concise, easy to understand style, making important ideas and arguments accessible to the non-specialist. Dr. Ankerberg consistently displays the heart of an evangelist, as he skillfully and tactfully takes opportunities to share the gospel during the course of his show and other speaking engagements. In addition to apologetics, ATRI demonstrates a heart for discipleship. Many articles in ATRI archives help believers deal with issues of personal holiness.

Answers in Genesis / AiG
 PO Box 510, Hebron, KY 41048
 (859) 727-2222 / www.answersingenesis.org

Christian Growth

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 is creating a Creation Museum. However, 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. AiG helps Christians to be more effective in their witnessing. In a society that is seeking answers to tough questions ('Why is there death and suffering?'), AiG is positioned to provide logical Biblical answers.

Bible Study Fellowship / BSF
 19001 Huebner Rd, San Antonio, TX 78258-4019
 (877) 273-3228 / www.bsfindernational.org

Christian Growth

BSF is helping to fulfill the Great Commission at home and abroad ("Go . . . make disciples of all the nations"). It offers its study materials free of charge to class members. BSF's class scheduling (day and evening) makes it possible for as many people as possible to participate. In any recipe for Christian growth, there is no substitute for in-depth Bible study. BSF's eclectic approach opens the doors for everybody to participate. In addition, it is mindful of the need to help people make life applications of Bible truths. BSF encourages and equips laypersons to take active roles in Christian ministry.

Care Net
 109 Carpenter Dr., Sterling, VA 20164-0164
 (703) 478-5661 / www.care-net.org

Advocacy

Care Net's efforts are essentially designed to assist more than 800 associate pregnancy care centers in the United States and Canada in fulfilling their core mission of assisting women in unplanned pregnancies so that they will choose life for their child, and share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed while doing so. Care Net promotes the work of pregnancy centers in a variety of ways. Care Net is committed to promoting centers and their programs and to plant new associate centers, particularly in urban areas. In addition, Care Net owns and operates Option Line along with Heartbeat International. It is a 24/7 pregnancy help line that directs about 7,000 callers each month to the local pregnancy centers in their area.

Child Evangelism Fellowship / CEF
 PO Box 348, Warrenton, MO 63383-0348
 (636) 456-4321 / www.cefonline.org

Evangelism

Child Evangelism Fellowship strives to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to establish (disciple) them in the local church for Christian living. 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 all over the world. These fast-paced, one-hour programs are designed to bring the Gospel of Christ to children on their level in their environment. Along with the clubs, CEF also has fair, camping, open-air, telephone and correspondence outreach programs for children.

Children's Hunger Fund / CHF
 PO Box 7085, Mission Hills, CA 91346-7085
 (800) 708-7589 / www.childrenshungerfund.org

Relief and Development

Children's Hunger Fund exists to alleviate 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. To do so, Children's Hunger Fund solicits donations of food, clothing, medicines, medical supplies, personal hygiene items, and other relief materials from American companies. These products are then delivered 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, while at the same time they maintain the best financial efficiency rating with MinistryWatch.

Christian Medical and Dental Associations / CMDA
 PO Box 7500, Bristol, TN 37261-7500
 (888) 230-2637 / www.cmdahome.org

Christian Growth

CMDA is a movement of Christian health professionals who hope to change, influence and mentor Christian spiritual belief from the perspective of the health care field. Its mission is to "change hearts in healthcare". CMDA addresses policies on health care issues; conducts overseas evangelism projects through its mission arm (Global Health Outreach); coordinates a network of Christian doctors for fellowship and professional growth; sponsors student ministries in medical and dental schools; distributes educational and inspirational resources; holds marriage and family conferences; provides Third World missionary doctors with continuing education resources; and conducts academic exchange programs overseas.

Compassion International / CI
 12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80921
 (800) 336-7676 / www.compassion.com

Relief and Development

CI is an evangelical Christian child development ministry dedicated to addressing the needs of children around the world. More than a relief program, CI focuses on the real life 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. Many Christians will applaud CI's forthright statements about its Christian identity as well as its emphasis on evangelism. CI encourages its sponsors to emphasize values such as faith and generosity.

Crown Financial Ministries
 PO Box 100, Gainesville, GA 30503-0100
 (800) 722-1976 / www.crown.org

Christian Growth

Crown is an interdenominational ministry that is broadly performing 5 major ministry activities: (1) Radio Broadcasts (56% of expenses) producing several 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", "A Money Minute"); (2) National ministries (19% of expenses); (3) Seminars, conferences and counseling (3% of expenses); (4) International operations (4% of expenses) (growing area of the ministry); (5) Other/ miscellaneous ministry work (18% of expenses). Those impacted by the ministry end up giving more to the work of the Lord.

EvanTell
 PO Box 741417, Dallas, TX 75374-1417
 (800) 947-7359 / www.evantell.org

Christian Growth

EvanTell, Inc. ("EvanTell") was founded in 1973 by its President/ CEO, R. Larry Moyer, who also serves as adjunct teacher in evangelism at Dallas Theological Seminary. EvanTell was founded to practice and promote a clear presentation of the Gospel through a careful study of the Scripture. EvanTell conducts conferences to reach non-Christians and seminars to instruct believers in evangelism, and sells 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.

Brief Details on the 30 Shining Light Ministries

Community Development

Family Guidance, Inc. / FGI
 307 Duff Road, Sewickley, PA 15143-9554
 (412) 741-8550 / www.familyguidance.net

FGI is a community-centered, evangelical Christian ministry, unwilling to let people simply waste away in the moral oblivion of crime and social negligence. FGI works throughout western Pennsylvania to reclaim lives that are on the brink of destruction, offering them, instead, hope and a future. FGI's ministry programs operate in a variety of settings, including vulnerable communities, children's camps, personal mentoring, and group seminars. FGI also maintains numerous partnerships with churches and other like-minded organizations. Community-wide needs are addressed by reaching out to individuals in a direct and personal manner, wherever they are, supporting them through their struggles and helping them to develop

Advocacy

Family Research Council / FRC
 801 G St NW, Washington, DC 20001-0001
 (202) 393-2100 / www.frc.org

FRC exists to provide educational materials to the general public concerning traditional Judeo-Christian family values and ethics, and information concerning legislative and judicial developments affecting family life and values. To accomplish this task, the Council promotes and defends traditional family values in print, broadcast and other media outlets. It develops and advocates legislative and public policy initiatives, which strengthen and fortify the family and promote traditional values. It also maintains statistical and research information, which reaffirms the importance of the family in civilization. Finally, it informs and educates citizens on how they can promote Biblical principles in culture.

Evangelism

Gideons International / GI
 2900 Lebanon Rd., Nashville, TN 37214-2509
 (615) 564-5000 / www.gideons.org

The Gideons International is an association of Christian laymen, which exists in order to be a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, principally by means of Bible distribution. GI was founded in 1899. Since that time, Gideon members have distributed more than one billion Bibles. Gideons distribute Bibles, free of charge, all over the world. GI is a God-centered, not man-centered, organization (evidenced in part by the fact that GI does not bestow public awards on individuals nor allow their members to receive such). Numerous people have testified to the spiritual impact made on their lives throughout the ministry of the Gideons.

Christian Growth

Good News Jail and Prison Ministry / Good News
 PO Box 9760, Richmond, VA 23228-0760
 (800) 220-2202 / www.goodnewsjail.org

Good News provides trained, ordained Chaplains in jails and prisons offering pastoral care to everyone within a correctional institution, including inmates and staff, as well as their families. Just like the pastor of a local church, these Chaplains provide individual, marital, and family counseling; conduct worship services and Bible studies, and provide inmates with Bible lessons to complete. They also handle death notifications, make hospital visits and perform crisis intervention and many unplanned engagements. About eight out of 10 inmates released from jail or prison will return within the same year, while only one out of 10 who complete the ministry's program will return. They are helping those in true spiritual need.

Relief and Development

International Aid / IAID
 17011 West Hickory St., Spring Lake, MI 49456-9712
 (800) 968-7490 / www.internationalaid.org

IAID provides a variety of supplies and services – especially in the area of health care – to poor and underprivileged people throughout the world. IAID is distinctly Christian in that its mission is founded upon specifically biblical principles. IAID's commitment to relief and development work is rooted in two passages from the Gospel of Matthew: 25:14-30 and 28:19-20. IAID'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 IAID's health care ministry: emergency relief and health infrastructure development. IAID has great expertise in the health sector.

Evangelism Support

JAARS
 PO Box 248, Waxhaw, NC 28173-0248
 (888) 773-1178 / www.jaars.org

JAARS provides support services to Wycliffe Bible Translators and to the SIL International. JAARS is, perhaps, 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. It originally featured just one plane and one pilot. The ministry currently has 90 pilots and 50 mechanics operating a total of 36 aircraft. 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.

Evangelism

The Jesus Film Project
 100 Lake Hart Drive, Orlando, FL 32832
 (407) 826-2300 / www.jesusfilm.org

The Jesus Film Project has been the world's most effective evangelism tool reaching over 1 billion people with the gospel message. The film is a two hour docudrama about the life of Christ based on the Gospel of Luke and has been translated into 895 languages already. The goal remains to reach every nation, tribe people and tongue, helping them see and hear the story of Jesus in a language that they can understand. For donors interested in evangelism, strong consideration needs to be given to the Jesus Film Project, which is a sub-ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. The Jesus Film Project should be contacted directly, however, to insure gifts will be spent directly on its mission.

Evangelism

Jews for Jesus / JFJ
 60 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94102-5895
 (415) 864-2600 / www.jewsforjesus.org

JFJ is a Messianic Jewish ministry, which exists in order to "make the Messiahship of Jesus an unavoidable issue to Jewish people worldwide." JFJ carries out its mission by means of deploying missionaries in major urban centers around the world to initiate contacts and explore witnessing opportunities with Jewish people in the area. JFJ also conducts major evangelistic campaigns in cities with large Jewish populations. JFJ makes available a variety of resources designed to introduce Jews to Messiah and to help believers (Jewish and Gentile) to effectively share the Gospel with Jewish persons. By employing only Jewish believers for front-line missionary work, JFJ is acting in a manner consistent with its proclaimed identity.

Educational Media

Joni and Friends / JAF
 PO Box 3333, Agoura Hills, CA 91376-1376
 (818) 707-5664 / www.joniandfriends.org

JAF was founded by Mrs. Tada as an outreach ministry to the disabled community. Given Mrs. Tada's own experience, one should not be surprised to find that JAF, while ministering to disabled persons, does not view persons with disabilities as simply objects of ministry, but as potential ministers of the Gospel. Persons with disabilities have special needs which the Christian community should understand and address. JAF works across the country and around the world to bring the Gospel message, practical help, and heartfelt encouragement to the disabled. Mrs. Tada is an influential advocate for disabled persons, and is associated in various capacities with several disability and medical organizations.

Christian Growth

Josh McDowell Ministries
 PO Box 131000, Dallas, TX 75313
 (972) 907-1000 / www.josh.org

The Josh McDowell Ministry is committed to doing whatever it takes to share the good news of Christ with a lost world. This calling has kept Josh and his team at the center of change, continually developing creative strategies to introduce people to the truth of Jesus Christ. One of the goals of the ministry is to provide relevant, biblically based resources to help believers grow in the Christian faith and non-believers gain an understanding of the truth of Christ. For donors interested in evangelism, strong consideration needs to be given to Josh McDowell Ministries, which is a sub-ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. Josh McDowell Ministries should be contacted directly, however, to insure gifts will be spent directly on its mission.

Brief Details on the 30 Shining Light Ministries

Foreign Missions

New Directions International / NDI
 PO Box 2347, Burlington, NC 27216-2347
 (888) PRAY-NDI / www.newdirections.org

NDI is not a missionary agency. Rather, it is a partnership agency. It works by "linking mission-minded churches and individuals in the U.S. with needy and worthy Third World pastors." This ministry strategy is implemented in three basic steps: (1) NDI provides, on its website and in its other publications, information regarding a number of particular needs faced by its National partners (pastor training, church facilities, transportation, child need, emergency relief, homelessness, etc.), (2) individual donors pick which need they would like to give towards, and (3) NDI sees to it that the money is used (through its partners in the field) to meet that need.

Foreign Missions

New Tribes Mission / NTM
 1000 E. First Street, Sanford, FL 32771-1487
 (866) 547-2460 / www.ntm.org

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 allows hands-on experience in short-term and intermediate opportunities so people can better evaluate a long-term career as well as involve greater amounts of people in ministry. 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.

Relief and Development

Northwest Medical Teams International / NWMTI
 PO Box 10, Portland, OR 97207-0010
 (800) 959-4325 / www.nwmedicalteams.org

NWMTI is a low-overhead Christian humanitarian relief and development service organization. Their first line of service is primarily that of a humanitarian world responder service. They send volunteer medical personnel for crisis situations, not only mobilizing retired doctors and nurses, but current medical professionals and many in an "on call" basis. 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 that does an exceptional job of helping those who are truly in need.

Relief and Development

Operation Blessing International / OBI
 977 Centerville Turnpike, Virginia Beach, VA 23463-3463
 (757) 226-3401 / www.ob.org

Operation Blessing International is motivated by the Bible to rain down a shower of blessing upon the world's poor and needy. The method is in the form of humanitarian relief such as food, clothing, medical supplies, equipment, financial support, as well as the furnishing of services, transportation and facilities. OBI addresses real human need and is an excellent example of Christians maximizing resources. OBI offers donors an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ to those in need.

Christian Growth

Prison Fellowship Ministries / PFM
 44180 Riverside Parkway, Lansdowne, VA 20176-0176
 (877) 478-0100 / www.prisonfellowship.org

PFM was founded by Watergate felon Chuck Colson who set out to minister to his fellow prisoners upon his own release from jail. The ministry has ministered to thousands upon thousands of prisoners worldwide through in-prison seminars. Additionally, PFM ministers to prisoners after their release and to their families during their incarceration. Well known for the Angel Tree Christmas project to provide gifts to prisoners children's, PFM also has addressed justice issues. Colson's ministry subsequently expanded into commentary on cultural and religious issues communicated primarily via PFM's Breakpoint radio and print commentaries. In both its prison ministry and its Breakpoint commentaries, PFM demonstrates excellence.

Christian Growth

Probe Ministries International / Probe
 1900 Firman Dr., Suite 100, Richardson, TX 75081-6795
 (800) 899-PROB / www.probe.org

Probe presents the Gospel to communities, nationally and internationally, by providing life-long opportunities to integrate faith and learning through balanced, biblically-based scholarship, educating people how to love God with their minds and equipping them to engage their culture for Christ. Programs include: (1) Field Ministries involving publications and speaking, including Mind Games Survival Course seminars designed to help fortify the Christian position on the college campuses, (2) Media Ministry providing a five minute Christian commentary on contemporary issues, and (3) Study Centers providing an on campus center at the University of Texas at Austin helping students understand and defend their faith.

Educational Media

Ravi Zacharias International Ministries / RZIM
 4725 Peachtree Corners Cir. Suite 250, Norcross, GA 30092-2553
 (770) 449-6766 / www.rzim.org

RZIM is a Bible based ministry with the main focus towards worldwide evangelism undergirded by apologetics, reaching the thinker and opinion makers of the world. With a commitment to strengthening the church, the organization trains emerging leaders. 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.

Advocacy

Voice of the Martyrs / VOM
 P.O. Box 443, Bartlesville, OK 74005-0443
 (918) 337-8015 / www.persecution.com

Voice of the Martyrs is an interdenominational organization working with Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith in Christ. Voice of the Martyrs' five main purposes, which are based on Hebrews 13:3, are to supply persecuted Christians with Bibles, literature, and Christian broadcasts; to provide the families of Christian martyrs with relief; to help believers rebuild their lives and witness in countries that have suffered Communist oppression; to win to Christ those who are opposed to the gospel; and to inform the world about atrocities committed against courageous and faithful Christians.

Foreign Missions

World Help
 PO Box 501, Forest, VA 24551-4551
 (800) 541-6691 / www.worldhelp.net

World Help is an evangelistic Christian ministry committed to speaking the Gospel to nations through evangelism, discipleship, church planting, humanitarian aid, child sponsorship, leadership training and Bible distribution. World Help has its priorities in order as evidenced by its commitment to proclaiming the Gospel even while meeting humanitarian needs. World Help's unique vocal group ministries are effective evangelists and communicators for the ministry. World Help is a particularly valuable contributor to worldwide Bible distribution and church planting in that it focuses its efforts on underserved and hard-to-reach people groups. World Help is a tireless advocate for people that have not yet heard the Gospel.

Fellowship Evangelism

Young Life / YL
 PO Box 520, Colorado Springs, CO 80901
 (719) 381-1800 / www.younglife.org

YL exists in order to introduce teenagers to Jesus Christ and to help them grow in their faith. Denny Ryberg, the current president and CEO of YL, states that the scope of YL's mission is no less than to reach "every kid, everywhere, for eternity." YL's plan for implementing this mission is as simple and straightforward today as it was when first articulated by YL founder Jim Rayburn: "We can't wait for teenagers to come to us; we must go to them." YL helps to make the Bible exciting for teenagers. YL field workers are well trained and committed role models. YL has been rapidly growing for several years (in keeping with its goal to reach every teen). YL does not get "pushy" with the Gospel; rather, youngsters are allowed to respond willingly.

Donor Discussion Items

No one is possessed of unlimited resources, and thus we cannot give to every ministry that we value. We are forced to choose to give to some ministries, and not to give to others. We need to make an assessment of our options and make discerning decisions. More time involved on the process and/or reliance on independent sources like MinistryWatch.com will help provide confident, wise giving decisions. Start by getting information before committing your financial resources. Consider the following in your assessment:

Transparency:

How transparent and open to questions is the ministry? Will they seek to hide their failings while trumpeting their successes? Do they 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. In such cases donors do not have a legal obligation to give and do have a moral obligation to give to those ministries that will allow them to be good stewards of their giving.

Truth Claims:

Is the organization 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?

Function/ Sector:

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

Values/ Worldview:

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?

Financial Efficiency:


How efficient is the ministry in using its resources? MinistryWatch.com has developed a 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.

Program Effectiveness:

What information is available in what the organization has done? What are the fruits of their labor? Is the organization just all talk or are they accomplishing great benefits to society?

Red Flags:

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 the depth of your faith should generally be ignored. Is the organization's structure reasonably simple? Do the claims made by the ministry seem realistic? Does the ministry seem to manipulate scripture or rely on extra biblical revelations?

(1) Think before your give. **(2)** Get information. **(3)** Align to those ministries that are doing what is important to you. **(4)** Give with confidence and rest with the joy of increased giving. 

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.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

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

Christian Ministry Marketplace

MinistryWatch.com

1 (704) 841-7828
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
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
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 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

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
For profit organization providing philanthropic counsel to high-capacity Christian donors.

Geneva Global

info@GenevaGlobal.com
www.genevaglobal.com
For profit organization assisting individual donors.

Excellence in Giving

www.excellenceingiving.com
For profit organization with tailored services of affluent families and individuals.

The Legacy Group

www.philanthropyatwork.com
For profit organization to assist private wealth management and those to achieve charitable goals.

The Eternity Portfolio

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
Nonprofit directing people, prayer and financial resources with churches and key ministries in the Middle East.

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.

Idealist.org / Action Without Borders

www.idealist.org
Provides an array of nonprofit and volunteering resources.

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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