

Christian Research Institute Moving to North Carolina

Cost of living cited as reason

By Michael Barrick

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Forty-five years after Walter Martin first founded The Christian Research Institute (CRI), his successor, President Hank Hanegraaff, has announced the apologetics ministry is moving its operations here.

Hanegraaff explained that the ministry, which is located in Rancho Santa Margarita, a suburb of Los Angeles, is moving “to increase ministry impact in the lives of more people.”

Hanegraaff said the CRI Journal staff will remain in southern California, while the move for remaining operations will occur through June.

He explained the move, “Last year, CRI hired a firm to do a cost comparison of both locations. We found that over the next several years, our dollars would go further for the Lord’s work in Charlotte because it is a much more cost-effective place from which to minister.”

Indeed, in 2003, the last year for which numbers are available, CRI showed a deficit of more than \$500,000 on revenues of \$8.75 million. Additionally, Hanegraaff, in a letter posted on CRI’s website in mid-January and mailed to supporters, claimed, “A bizarre error by the U.S. Post Office has cost the Christian Research Institute and Bible Answer Man broadcast an unknown amount of income...” He continued, “We don’t know how much we lost, but we know it was substantial – perhaps in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

And, in a broadcast heard on WTRU in Winston-Salem, N.C. on March 24, Hanegraaff told listeners that donations were down and spent the hour-long program selling an item on CRI’s website (www.equip.org). The iLumina Gold software program sales on the website for \$89.99

Hanegraaff said the ministry will construct a new headquarters in Charlotte. “Which, long-term, will save money versus renting.”

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