



Non-Transparent Ministries: Are they Faithful in the Small Things?

MinistryWatch.com issues a Donor Alert, advising our readers to become knowledgeable before they give and to give to those ministries that are transparent

Support Ministries that Provide Clarity not Ambiguity

Ministries that are not open in providing basic information are obstructing prudent donors in understanding. In addition, Ministries are seen by many as teachers and ones with authority. What are these ministries teaching by their example? Are others to follow their example? What would the nonprofit sector look like if they all followed the example of a closed shop? Are not Christians to be light in a world of darkness? Should not Christians set the standard by their conduct? The following ministries do not post their audited financial statements on a website and based on MinistryWatch.com's request for basic information, nor would they give any to MinistryWatch.com:

1. African Children Welfare Foundation	16. Kenneth Copeland Ministries
2. Amazing Facts	17. Kenneth Hagin Ministries
3. Benny Hinn Ministries / World Outreach Church	18. Lesea, Inc. / Lester Sumrall Evangelistic
4. Bible Broadcasting Network	19. Manna International Relief and Development
5. Breakthrough Ministries / Rod Parsley	20. March for Jesus
6. Children's Survival Fund, Inc.	21. Metro Ministries International
7. Creflo Dollar Ministries	22. ORA International
8. Crystal Cathedral Ministries	23. Prophetic Image Expressions/ Kim Clement
9. East Gates Ministries International	24. Revival Ministries International
10. Ever Increasing Faith Ministries / Fred Price	25. TD Jakes Ministries/ Potters House of Dallas, Inc.
11. God's news Behind the News	26. Trinity Broadcasting Network/ TBN
12. High Adventure Ministries, Inc.	27. Vineyard Music Group
13. John Hagee Ministries/ Global Evangelism TV	28. Worldwide Leadership Council, Inc.
14. Joy of Jesus, Inc.	29. World-Wide Missions
15. Jubilee Network/ KFUO AM 850	30. Your Story Hour

Transparency Contrasted	
Transparent	Non-Transparent
Open	Closed
Knowledge	Ignorance
Understanding	Emotionally lead
Light	Darkness
Visible	Concealed
Verified actions	Empty talkers
Democracy	Totalitarian
Free	Enslaved
Compelled to act responsibly	Able to take advantage
Seeker Friendly	One that hides
Relationship	Divorce
Free Press	Controlled Spin
Humbled	Proud
Information Analyzed	Threats of Liable and Slander
Common Language	Translation Problem
Good Example	Bad Example
Joyous Giver	Skeptic

Practical Steps Prudent Donors May Take

1. Seek ministries that are transparent. Without information donors cannot make optimal decisions. Understand what it is you are going to support.
2. Examine the truth claims. Are its many claims true? Is there reasonable information to ensure that your donation is being used as solicited? Did it in fact do what it claimed to you in soliciting your donation? 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 values reflected in the ministry or in opposition?
4. Examine what type of ministry function you want to support. And then make sure that the ministry you support is maximizing in that area important to you, or is there in fact another organization more proficient and skillful?
5. How resourceful are your dollars being used by the ministry? Is the organization efficient and effective for the cause important to you? Or is it overly focused on its own financial gain? Is the ministry treasuring money or serving selflessly?
6. Are there any red flag issues that make you uncomfortable? If so, give elsewhere.
7. Seek consultation. Talk to your spouse, family, and mentor. Look to a donor advocate 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
- 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 (866) 364-9980
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.idealst.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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