



Churches Under Christ Newsletter

June 1, 2019

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and one and only head of **HIS** churches.
A ministry headed by Christian Attorney Jerald Finney under the authority of Pastor Ben Hickam and Charity
Baptist Tabernacle, Amarillo TX.

- Matthew 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I** will build **my** church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
- Ephesians 1:22 "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave **him to be the head over all things to the church.**"

A BRIEF REVIEW OF SOME DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES DURING MAY, 2019

I continue to work with churches organizing and already organized using the Resolution to Adopt the Declaration of Trust, the Declaration of Trust, and Appendix.

Thought: For by one book are we all [**believers in a local church under Christ who study God's Word**] brought into the unity of the faith.

In May I worked with pastors, churches, and other believers to include the following:

1. May 3, 2019 e-mail from a man who wanted to learn how to utilize the trust and wanted me to send him copies of the documents. I corresponded with him via e-mail, but refrained from going further for various reasons. For one thing, he had some very radical and uninformed positions.
2. May 7, 2019, talked with a lady from a Texas church who heard about the ministry from Mark Taylor. She initially wanted to know how she could know if the church she is a member of was 501c3. I talked to her for some time about church corporate 501c3 status and encouraged her to discuss the matter with others in her church, etc.
3. May 7, 2019 call from woman pastor about 501c3. Told her very kindly that it is against Bible principle for a woman to pastor a church and that I am concerned about the all matters of church organization and operation including proper pastoral leadership, not just 501c3, and she hung up on me.

4. May 8, 2019 got a call from a man in Washington. He wanted to know how the international ministry he was associated with could renounce the 501(c)(3) status. I talked with him at length about 501(c)(3) and 508 status as well as incorporation. I explained that we help churches, not ministries outside church authority. He felt that the IRS would declare the ministry to be a church, but I explained that the Word of God would not say that it was a church, etc.
5. May 8, 2019 gave a message to Charity Baptist Tabernacle explaining Bible reasons for the new phase of the ministry—that is, preaching and displaying a banner and sandwich signs outside Trinity Fellowship church here in Amarillo. I hope to extend this to other churches.
6. May 9, 2019 got a call from a man in Des Moines, Iowa who wanted to know if there was a church in Iowa that was not corporate 501(c)(3). We ended up talking for about 45 minutes or an hour about various matters. I found 2 Iowa churches in my files which I had helped to organize, but they were too far away for him to attend.
7. May 9, 2019 published [Doing God's Work God's Way: A Bible Call To Preach Outside The Typical American Church Explained](#). As I fulfill the ministry of preaching to the typical American church, the Lord is verifying what I already believed - the average person in the typical American church, to include pastors, has no clue as to and could care less about what the Bible says and the Holy Spirit teaches through Bible study about a church under Christ (and other matters).
8. May 10, 2019 talked with a pastor of a Massachusetts church whose membership is made up of immigrants from satellite countries out of the former Soviet Union. He heard about the ministry from a pastor of an associated church with a membership of 200 in Minnesota which is organized under the DOT. I sent him the initial letter and will continue to work with him and the church which hopefully will organize using the trust documents.
9. May 12, 2019 talked at length with a missionary friend in New Mexico. He is missionary to the native Americans. He has an opportunity to use the facilities of a Baptist church which was once prosperous with 150 or so members, but now has no members other than the 81 year old pastor. We discussed many matters surrounding the situation and also got into the "pastoral authority" heresy of many "independent fundamental" Baptist pastors. He was very familiar with the Hyles mentality in that as a young man he was extensively exposed to it. He accurately described (in general with exceptions) those Baptist pastors who promote the pastoral authority clergy-layman mentality, the "man of God" mentality that says that only the pastor is privy to the Holy Spirit, etc. as "selfish, arrogant, pompous, gasbags." We also discussed our experiences getting alleged professions of faith from hundreds using the Jack Hyles soul winning sales technique.
10. May 12, 2019 received an e-mail from a "minister of an incorporated church" who has read and studied some of the materials on the websites and become convinced that a church should be unregistered. He had a lot of questions. I replied with my phone number and asked him to give me a call.
11. May 14, 2019 received a call for a pastor in Indiana. The church he now pastors is an unincorporated association—church owns real property, has a bank account, etc. He wants to reorganize as a New Testament church. We talked for some time. I mailed him the initial letter and attachment (Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines) on how to go about doing this.
12. **May 18, 2019 began to help with a case in which a local property tax board maintains that incorporation and 501(c)(3) status are elements in the definition of a church.** I started the case while living and licensed in Minnesota, but it has taken 3 years for the Minnesota tax court to get to the case. I moved from MN in May, 2018. They have 6,000 cases a year to deal with. Of course, most involve disputes over home property tax evaluations and such. Our case is novel to the county property tax office that denied the church property tax exemption because the church was not incorporated and 501(c)(3). Minnesota has no property tax agency process, so the only recourse is to go to Minnesota Tax Court.

13. May 20, 2019 Received an e-mail from an Indiana pastor with whom I talked in February. He has laid the groundwork as I advised him in February and is now ready to organize the church he pastors using the DOT and related documents.
14. May 25, 2019 received text from a pastor (not the lead pastor) of a church in Oregon. He has been looking at online websites which deal with the 501c3 issue. He has been talking with other church members about the issue. I sent him links to essays which explain the Bible Trust relationship and to a webpage which links to many other essays and resources. Added him to the BLC_Friends e-mail list.
15. May 29, 2019 continued my discussions with a member of a church in Massachusetts made up of born again believers from former Soviet bloc countries. I have sent them an initial letter and attachment (Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines).
16. I am spending a lot of pro bono time writing a legal memo for a law firm which is helping one of the DOT churches in Minnesota. The local property tax board turned down their application for property tax exemption. I was working on the case starting in 2016, but it was not taken up in court until recently and was scheduled for trial in June. The County Property Tax Office denied their request for property tax exemption. They have filed a Motion for Summary Judgment and the law firm will file a response (and probably Cross Motion for Summary Judgment). Minnesota has no provision for agency hearing in property tax cases, so the only way to contest a ruling of a local tax board there is to file a petition in district court which is then transferred to MN Tax Court. Tax Court deals with 6,000 cases a year, I was told, so it takes a long time for the court to get to a case.
17. I continue to preach and display signs and banners on the sidewalk outside Trinity Fellowship Church. See the [May 1, 2019 Newsletter](#) for more on this ministry. See also, [Doing God's Work God's Way: A Bible Call To Preach Outside The Typical American Church Explained](#) (050919).
18. A few new e-mail addresses were added to the BLC mailing list in May.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS MINISTRY. IT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE LORD TAKES ME HOME OR MY HEALTH FAILS. I PRAISE THE LORD FOR KEEPING MY JOYFUL AND HAPPY AT AGE 72. I HAVE VISIONS OF MANY THINGS THAT COULD BE DONE WITH MORE RESOURCES AVAILABLE. THOSE RESOURCES HAVE NOT MATERIALIZED, SO THE MINISTRY WILL GO FORWARD, PRO BONO (WITHOUT CHARGE), AS THE LORD PROVIDES AND LEADS. THE LORD CAN ACCOMPLISH WHAT HE WANTS WITHOUT MONEY. I WANT TO THANK THOSE FEW WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS CAUSE AS WELL AS THOSE WHOM THIS MINISTRY HAS COUNSELED AND/OR HELPED TO ORGANIZE BUT COULD NOT AFFORD TO GIVE TO THE MINISTRY. IT IS A BLESSING TO BE OF SERVICE FOR THIS TREMENDOUS CAUSE.

Featured Sermons, Essays, and Books

Sermons: Go to the sermons page of the Biblical Law Center: Separation of Church and State/The Biblical Principles and the American Application website (<https://jeraldfinney.com/miscellaneous/sermons/>) for links to great relevant sermons such as Dr. Greg Dixon 2005 sermon "[Authority, The Greatest Thing In The Universe](#)", Jerald Finney's message, "[Is an Incorporated 501\(c\)3 Church a Church of Christ?](#)" [The Rose of Sharon](#) (Transcript of a sermon depicting the love relationship between Christ and His local visible church , emphasizing the importance of organization under Christ only as opposed to corporate 501c3 or 508 status or legal status of any kind) etc.

Books by Jerald Finney are free online in PDF, online form, and Kindle, and may be ordered. Go to the [free online, PDF and order page for books by Jerald Finney](#).

Churches Under Christ Ministry Website: <https://jeraldfinney.com/> (Browse this page for a wealth of informational resources)

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US FOR ANY REASON. YOUR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

For the Glory of God,

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