



Churches Under Christ Newsletter

October 1, 2019

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and one and only head of **HIS** churches.

A ministry under the authority of Charity Baptist Tabernacle, Amarillo TX, Pastor Ben Hickam.

Purpose of the ministry: To Glorify God in helping churches organize totally under the Lord Jesus Christ and operate according to New Testament Church Doctrine.

This conflict between the establishment and God's people and churches has always been one of authority.

- 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.**"
- Acts 5:29 "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2019

September 24, 2019: Published: [Another Victory for a Church under Christ](#). That article links to the substance of the brief filed in the case which successfully contended for property tax exemption held in trust for use by a church which had adopted a Declaration of Trust. The brief references two churches—Trinity Springs Baptist Church, Pastor Martin Jones in Shoals, Indiana, and Faith Baptist Church Pastor Clarence Jones in Kearney, Nebraska—which, with the help of the Biblical Law Center, established trusts years ago in order to keep the church under Christ and Christ alone. Pastor Martin Jones successfully challenged the denial of the Indiana Property tax exemption on property held in trust for uses by Trinity Springs Baptist Church in 2013. See [The Indiana Board of Tax Review Determines that Property Held in Trust for the Lord Jesus Christ Must Be Granted Property Tax Exemption](#). Of course, most trust property gets the exemption without contest, but due to the fact that most churches willingly grieve our Lord and get legal status (usually through incorporation), some local property tax

boards think all churches in America must incorporate for the real property they use for “religious” purposes to be tax exempt.

September 28, 2019: Taught and answered questions at a Pastors’ conference in Philadelphia via Skype.

The 30th Annual Unregistered Baptist Fellowship Meeting is scheduled for October 14-26. Fairland Baptist Temple outside Indianapolis, Indiana. Host Pastor: Tom Chestnut; 317-502-4871/317-502-4873; E-mail: sscotts@sbcglobal.net.

A BRIEF REVIEW OF SOME DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES DURING SEPTEMBER 2019

Note: To view a resource linked to (an article, book, etc.) which is referenced in the Newsletter, you can copy and paste the link into your browser address window, or simply open this Newsletter online and left click the name of the article, book or website address. Feel free to give me a call at 512-785-8445 if you cannot access a resource in the Newsletter.

In September 2019, I worked with pastors, churches, and other believers to include the following:

1. September 3, 2019: Received completed Questionnaires from three pastors who wish to establish a church Bible trust relationship.
2. September 4, 2019: Call with Brother Vitaly Vdovichenko to set up arrangements for speaking at a conference in Philadelphia on September 28. Attending will be pastors of east coast churches made up of former Soviet Bloc immigrants. The churches represented are from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, N. and S. Carolina, Georgia, Florida.
3. September 6, 2019: Published [ANOTHER CHURCH MEMBER WILL LEAVE CHURCH IF PASTOR DOES NOT REJECT CHURCH 501C3 STATUS!](#)
4. September 9, 2019: Zoom Conference with men in Denmark, Dr. Greg Dixon, and Greg A. Dixon. The Danish men wish to plant churches under Christ in Denmark. Arrangements were made for their proper baptism, ordination, and training.
5. September 10, 2019: Published [Answer to the question: Can a church corporation be changed to a trust?](#)
6. September 10, 2019: Call from a South Carolina husband and wife who left a 501c3 church where the pastor refused to discuss the 501c3 issue. They now go to a church where the pastor is willing to discuss church corporate 501c3 status.
7. September 11, 2019: Phone conference with an Arkansas pastor who wishes to have a counseling/advising service with 501c3 but does not want to compromise the non-501c3 status, non-legal status of the church.
8. September 11, 2019: Discussions with pastors concerning a pastors conference in Philadelphia where they wish me to speak on issues involving the non-registered, non-legal church.
9. September 12, 2019: Talked with a pastor in Ohio who planted a church in 2017. The church executed Trust documents and opened a trust bank account. Now, the church needs a meetinghouse and are looking to buy. The property will be purchased in the name of the trust, not in the name of the church. We discussed Ohio property tax exemption for churches, etc. God is blessing the church. Praise the Lord!
10. September 14, 2019: 2 ½ hour call with a Michigan couple who are very concerned about the 501(c)(3) status of the church they belong to. We discussed how they can approach their pastor about the issue. They love the

pastor and do not want to leave the church even though they have not attended in three months. Their daughter and her children go to the church and also love the church. Etc. They made a 2:00 p.m. September 16, 2019 appointment with the pastor to discuss this with him. They, like many who call me about this, heard of the issue and the Biblical Law Center through Mark Taylor's online videos.

11. September 16, 2019: Received the following from a pastor and wife: "Blessings Jerald, I just wanted to update you on our progress. We just got back the "Tax Clearance Certificate" from the state of Pa. We are moving forward with dissolving the corporation. Look forward to setting up the "Trust" with you soon! I pray God is sustaining you as you lead in this area of expertise for the Body of Jesus Christ. Peace"
12. September 16, 2019: Published [Question and Answer: Do you have a template for a "common law" or "Bible Trust?"](#)
13. September 17, 2019: Call from an Elder in Missouri. Church is now incorporated and 501c3. We discussed many matters. The church owns property (with mortgage), is 501c3, etc. Very interested in coming out of corporate 501c3 status. Sent him an initial letter with "Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines," and Questionnaire. [Click here to see the letter without identifiers.](#) Put him on the e-mail list.
14. September 21, 2109: Call from the elder to whom I sent the initial letter, "Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines," and Questionnaire on September 17 (see above). He said his pastor is very interested in talking with me face to face about reorganizing the church by coming to Amarillo or me going to St. Louis. However, his pastor is a woman. I told him in love that I cannot help a church with a woman pastor. This matter is covered in the Questionnaire which he had not had time to look at yet.
15. September 24, 2019: Published: [Another Victory for a Church under Christ.](#) That article links to the substance of the brief filed in the case which successfully contended for property tax exemption held in trust for use by a church which had adopted a Declaration of Trust. The brief references two churches-Trinity Springs Baptist Church, Pastor Martin Jones in Indiana, and Faith Baptist Church in Nebraska, Pastor Clarence Jones—which established trusts years ago in order to keep the church under Christ and Christ alone.
16. September 28, 2019: Taught and answered questions at a Pastors' conference in Philadelphia via Skype.
17. I continue to preach and display signs and banners on the sidewalk outside Trinity Fellowship Church. I do this in love as led by the Lord. 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).

Featured Sermons, Essays, and Books

Sermons: Go to [Bible Studies which explain the Doctrine of the Church.](#) A born again church member who understands that doctrine will never be satisfied with corporate 501(c)(3) status or any other legal status which compromises a church's love for the Savior. The main thrust of these studies is to show that a church who claims to be a church under Christ should never become part of the legal system (a church established under man's law). One may disagree with these studies on some matters as related to the Bible doctrine of the church, the Bible doctrine of government, and/or the Bible doctrine of separation of church and state; but we can still work together if we agree that a church should refuse to subject herself to man's law through incorporation, 501(c)(3) or 508 status, unincorporated association status, or by any other means. One should be able to support his belief in separation of church and state with Bible reasoning. It helps to also understand the history and meaning of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. See [The History of the First Amendment.](#)

Articles published in September: (1) [ANOTHER CHURCH MEMBER WILL LEAVE CHURCH IF PASTOR DOES NOT REJECT CHURCH 501C3 STATUS!](#); (2) [Answer to the question: Can a church corporation be changed to a trust?](#) (3)

[Another Victory for a Church under Christ; \(4\) Question and Answer: Do you have a template for a “common law” or “Bible Trust?”](#)

Links to short teachings on questions important to churches under Christ: [Short Answers to Some Important Questions.](#)

For answers to false arguments given by uninformed pastors and “Christian” Attorneys for church corporate 501(c)(3) status, see [Separation of Church and State/God’s Churches: Spiritual or Legal Entities?](#)

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**](#)

[**Biblical Law Center Website**](#)

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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