



Churches Under Christ Newsletter

April 1, 2020

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

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

Purpose: To Glorify God by helping churches organize totally under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 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."

When viewing this Newsletter online, left click the name of the article, book, or website address to go directly to it.

Feel free to give me a call at 512-785-8445 if you cannot access a resource in the Newsletter.

UPCOMING MEETINGS RECOMMENDED BY THIS MINISTRY

Old Paths Baptist Church of Washburn TX, Pastor Rusty Bradbury, is hosting a Camp Meeting on **June 5-6, 2020**.

Old Paths Baptist Church is a church plant out of Charity Baptist Tabernacle of Amarillo TX, Pastor Ben Hickam. This Churches under Christ Ministry is under the authority of Charity Baptist Tabernacle. If you come, be prepared to preach. The following letter is from Pastor Bradbury:

Dear Brothers,

Another year has gone past and we are making preparations for the campmeeting here at Old Paths Baptist Church in Washburn, Tx. We hope to find all is well with you. We have had a good year here. We would like to invite you to come to our camp meeting on June 5th and 6th 2020. Food and lodging will be provided for everyone. We are always encouraged and blessed to have you join us. Please let us know if you will be able to come. I always look forward to hearing from everyone even if you can't come. We will be sending out a reminder letter in April, so be looking for it. Thank you for your prayers looking forward to seeing you in June.

God Bless
Rusty Bradbury

Contact Information

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[Pastor Dan Hardin and Gateway Baptist Church of Monroe, Michigan](#) has founded the [The Non-registered Bible Baptist Fellowship](#), *"Encouraging and enabling Baptist preachers to have a Bible based ministry, and "that ye should earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints."*

[The Non-registered Bible Baptist Fellowship](#) will host a conference July 1-2, 2020. See: [Non-Registered Baptist Bible Fellowship Meeting July 1, 2020 – July 2, 2020: 10AM-1PM, 6PM-9PM](#).

Basics of the love story between Christ and His churches, and the common law Bible trust and false reasons for church legal entity status (1-5):

1. [Christ and His Local Visible Churches: A Love Story](#)
2. [One Church Under God](#)
3. [Common Law Bible Trust Explained - Resources](#)
4. [Bible Basics - The Trust Relationship of Churches under Christ](#)
5. [False Reasons of "Christian" Lawyers and Pastors for Corporate, 501\(c\)\(3\) Status or Legal Status of Any Kind](#)

How a church can establish a common law (Bible) trust (5-10):

6. [Need Help?](#)
7. [Initial Mailing](#)
8. [Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines of the Churches Under Christ Ministry](#)
9. [Questionnaire 1](#)
10. [Questionnaire 2](#)
11. [Documents Used To Establish a Church under Christ and Christ alone](#)

A BRIEF REVIEW OF SOME DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES DURING MARCH 2020

Below are some of the ministry activities. The ministry worked on the website, responded to calls and e-mails not included below, etc.

1. **March 2, 2020:** Worked on the webpage, [False Reasons of Christians and Lawyers for Church Corporate, 501\(c\)\(3\) Status or Legal Status of Any Kind](#).
2. **March 2, 2020:** At the request of the pastor of a California church which adopted a Resolution to Adopt a Declaration of Trust and Declaration of Trust in 2018, reviewed trust documents.
3. **March 7, 2020:** Published [God's Final Judgment of America Gets Closer by the Day](#).

4. **March 10, 2020:** Replied to an email from a California attorney who began emailing me last year about church organization. I have sent him links to a lot of website resources explaining the common law trust as used by churches. In his latest email, he asked if I would review trust documents he prepares for a church. I replied:

Dear _____,

There is a lot more to properly drafting documents than I can explain. In addition, one must understand how to properly advise on the many related matters (opening a bank account, purchasing property for a meetinghouse, etc.) once properly executed documents are executed. A church can misstep and mess up her standing as a church under Christ alone once the documents are executed.

Word of caution: I did not get the DOT and related documents this ministry uses from law books or pattern them after forms from AmJur or from any other source. Pastors have sent me trust docs prepared by others (such as Peter Kershaw), and I have quickly reviewed them. The docs were a disgrace. I am not saying that would be the case with docs you prepare, but you must do a lot of study to know what you are doing.

I short, I cannot be of help.

God bless.

Jerald

This attorney and I are far apart on our "theology," and we simply could not work together.

5. **March 10, 2020:** Received an email inquiry from a pastor in Idaho. He asked:

Our body of believers is growing rapidly and I am in need of help in the office doing administrative tasks so that I have time for prayer, study, and ministering to the needs of the body here in Fernwood, Idaho. What is the best way to handle giving the individuals who are helping out on a regular basis a love gift? I want to do things in a Christ honoring fashion.

I emailed him and asked him to give me a call.

6. **March 10, 2020:** E-mail inquiry and my reply:

On Friday, March 6, 2020, 12:31:57 PM CST, _____ .com> wrote:

Hello Mr Finney,

My husband and I talked with you at length a short time ago about our ministry being 501(c)3 (_____ Ministries, Inc) and how you may be of help. We thank you for taking your time and explaining about what the 501(c)3 is all about and how it got started etc. You also stated you couldn't really help us because we are not a church.

Since then, we have discussed that we will voluntarily revoke the corporation (soon) but we also want to start a home congregation, a home ekklesia.

SO now we have 3 questions:

1. Can the current corporation and the new home congregation exist at the same time for a short period of time? (same two people, same address)

2. If this is possible, can the assets (only books we have been selling and giving away, a laptop computer and printer, plus the money in the checking account) be transferred to the new home congregation before dissolving the 501c3?

3. How do we obtain a checking account for the home congregation? (We had to provide that when we started the ministry). What documentation can we provide to the bank in order to get the name of the home congregation on the checking account? (We live in Michigan).

We want to do the right thing in God's eyes and the government.

We so appreciate your ministry and helping churches get out from under the government.

In His service,

Jesus is the Answer

Jerald Finney gerald.finney@sbcglobal.net To: _____ Tue, Mar 10 at 5:27 PM

Dear _____,

1. This ministry cannot help as long as you have the incorporated ministry. The Bible principle of separation is that one should not combine the holy with the unholy.

2. You may wish to exhaust the assets of the 501c3.

3. This ministry helps churches organize according to N.T. principles. First, the church must meet N.T. criteria before the ministry can help. The ministry has established procedures: for more on this, see: <https://geraldfinney.com/>.

God bless.

Brother Jerald

7. **March 10, 2020:** Email inquiry and my reply:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: _____ .com Subject: Information about a case from 1999

I am trying to find more information about a court case from 1999. It's number is IP98-498.

I have a write up by Dr. Edward R. DeVries which gives evidence of a chain link of Baptist churches throughout history that coincides with Dr. Carroll's, "Trail of Blood." I checked on court case sites and I couldn't find any more information.

I am hoping you can send me an official record or transcript of the case of when this evidence was entered in and how the justices ruled on the evidence. If you can't I will understand. Thank you for your time.

God Bless

Re: Weblog title "Information about a case from 1999"

Jerald Finney gerald.finney@sbcglobal.net To: _____ Tue, Mar 10 at 6:02 PM

Dear Mr. _____,

I regret that this ministry does not have time to do a lot of legal research not directly related to New Testament church organization. The issue you bring up is an important one, of course. You may wish to contact pastors who deal with this matter. They should have information on a chain link of Baptist churches, although none of the ones I have asked about the matter have produced evidence without breaks, of such a chain. I believe, by faith in the Word of God, that there is a chain.

. I did a quick check with the number you gave me, but, as I already knew, one needs a lot more information than you have provided.

God bless. If you find good evidence of the chain, would you please let us know.

Thanks.

For His Glory,

Brother Jerald Finney

8. **March 10, 2020:**

- Called 2 pastors interested in getting out of 501(c)(3). From talking with them it seems their churches are so entrenched in the system that it is unlikely they will take further steps to honor the Lord in this matter. My hope is that I am wrong.

- Counseled a pastor concerning church “Office help/Janitorial help” and how to give financially to them for their time given the Lord.
9. **March 12, 2020:** Continued working with pastor and church, in Minnesota, on various matters involved in their trust documents.
 10. **March 12, 2020:** C
 11. **March 13, 2020:** Called a pastor in Oklahoma, at the request of another pastor, to discuss church corporate, 501(c)(3) status. Talked with him at length. From the talk, it seems that the church is so entrenched that this pastor is not that enthusiastic about honoring God in these matters.
 12. **March 14, 2020:** Talked with a great pastor, whom I admire and love dearly, and church in Michigan who adopted the “old” trust docs and wants to either amend the old docs or adopt new ones. I went over all relevant matters with him and advised him to adopt new docs and make certain changes in related affairs for various reasons. He is in the process of doing so.
 13. **March 14, 2020:** Upon request of a great pastor, whom I admire and love dearly, I checked existing common law trust docs executed by a church in California to see if any amendments were needed. On March 16, I advised the pastor that, in my opinion, no amendments are necessary.
 14. **March 17, 2020:** Drafted letter to IRS for a great pastor in Nebraska, whom I admire and love dearly. The letter explained to the IRS, among other things, that the trust is a common law trust which is not a legal entity as is a Charitable Trust or Business Trust. This was necessary because the trustee applied for an EIN for identification purposes only and the IRS told the trustee to file form 1041. The letter was mailed on March 19, 2020. This has happened three times in the last three years. In each case, the letter of explanation to the IRS satisfied their concerns.
 15. **March 17, 2020:** Published [Obtaining a Church Common Law Trust Employee Identification Number “For Banking Purposes Only.”](#)
 16. **March 24, 2020:**

Re: Help **Jerald Finney** <gerald.finney@sbcglobal.net> To: mark bey Tue, Mar 24 at 7:32 PM

Dear Mark

We do not use the bogus church establishment affidavit. I expose it for what it is at:

[Critique of “Church Freedom and the Corporation Sole” Website](#)

God bless

Brother Jerald Finney _____ wrote:

greetings, I hope all is well with you. I found your site and it has a lot of helpful information. I cant access the church establishment affidavit. Do you have the template for that?

17. **March 24, 2020:** Advised a great pastor of an Indiana church, whom I admire and love dearly, on a matter involving EIN “for banking purposes only.” The church had dissolved the church corporation and established a common law trust to hold the Lord’s properties, including the Lord’s money.
18. **March 24 and 26, 2020:** Discussed with a great pastor in Minnesota, whom I admire and love dearly, on the matter of obtaining a property tax exemption on the Lord’s property for the real estate held in trust for the owner of the property, the Lord Jesus Christ.
19. **March 24, 2020:** Talked with a pastor who, after much study, rejected the methods of the Ecclesiastical Law Center which had been in use by the church, and executed common law trust docs as advised by this ministry.
20. **March 26, 2020:** Published [Close, But No Cigar: Dishonest and Unlearned Use of the Church Common Law Trust, with Spotlight on the Ecclesiastical Law Center.](#)

21. **March 27, 2020:** Advised a pastor (trustee), whom I admire and love dearly, on filling out the SS-4 form “for banking purposes only” for the trust bank account owned by the Lord Jesus Christ.
22. **March 30, 2020:** Published [Stewards of the Mystery of the Church and Arguments by Believers and Others To Support Unholy Union of Church and State.](#)
23. **March 31, 2020:** Call from 2 Brother in Nebraska in an incorporated church. Gave them an opinion regarding an “elder” of the church whom 75% of the church voted out, but he remained, had the keys to the church bldg. changed, had the sheriff come out when he did so, would let only those 6 who agreed with him in the bldg., etc. Ultimately, I gave them my thoughts on how to deal with the situation, advising them to get a Nebraska lawyer to advise and act for them.

24. Featured Sermons, Essays, and Books

Featured Short Course Studies: [The History of Religious Liberty in America or the History of the First Amendment.](#)

March 2020, CUCM publications:

- [God’s Final Judgment of America Gets Closer by the Day](#)
- [Obtaining a Church Common Law Trust Employee Identification Number “For Banking Purposes Only”](#)
- [Close, But No Cigar: Dishonest and Unlearned Use of the Church Common Law Trust, with Spotlight on the Ecclesiastical Law Center](#)
- [Stewards of the Mystery of the Church and Arguments by Believers and Others To Support Unholy Union of Church and State](#)

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

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,
Brother Jerald Finney
512-785-8445

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