

Churches Under Christ Newsletter

May 1, 2022

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List of April, 2022 Ministry Publications

1. [April 1, 2022 Ministry Newsletter](#)
2. [Are Churches Automatically Tax Exempt?](#)
3. [Church Common Law Trusts: Real Life Examples with Contact Information](#)
4. [Living Springs Baptist Church, Idaho](#)
5. [TRINITY SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH TRUST; PASTOR MARTIN JONES, A HERO OF THE FAITH: TESTIMONY CONCERNING HIS BATTLES AGAINST GOVERNMENT INTRUSIONS INTO GOD'S CHURCHES](#)
6. [Concerning Stand-alone Ministry outside the Authority of a Local Church and the Obligations of a Church Who Takes a Ministry under Her Umbrella](#)
7. [A Biblical and Legal Analysis of the Helping Hand Outreach Publication, Why All Churches Should Be A 508\(c\)\(1\)\(A\)](#)
8. [Faith Baptist Church, Kearney, Nebraska](#)

To listen to the **501(c)(3) Song:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ob135YjeUU&feature=youtu.be>

Highlighted April, 2022 Ministry Activities

Note. Only the most important ministry activities, and activities which deal with important matters concerning Bible trust operation, are included below. [Click here for links to archived Churches under Christ ministry Newsletters](#). Matters worked on in April, 2022.

1. Wrote and published the articles and essays listed above.
2. Discussed with a trustee the appropriateness of converting the Lord's money held in trust into cryptocurrency for future purchase of real estate for use as a meetinghouse (no conclusions yet reached);
3. Began the process of planting 3 different churches under Christ alone—one pastor had been seeking Bible bases answers as to how to do this and had rejected the unlearned methods of "Helping Hands Outreach", studied the ministry website materials and decided that this ministry has the correct answers and methods (Initial Mailing sent out);
4. Counseled and advised two different inquiries from persons who wanted to keep an incorporated 501(c)(3) church going but also want to run a ministry outside the authority of civil government (non-incorporated, non-501(c)(3)) (they apparently rejected my advice since I have not heard back from them; I published the article [Concerning Stand-alone Ministry outside the Authority of a Local Church and the Obligations of a Church Who Takes a Ministry under Her Umbrella](https://jeraldfinney.com/2022/04/19/concerning-stand-alone-ministry-outside-the-authority-of-a-local-church-and-the-obligations-of-a-church-who-takes-a-ministry-under-her-umbrella/) concerning one of the inquiries;
5. Advised a trustee concerning his donation or giving link on the church website so as not to compromise the non-legal entity status of the church or the Bible trust;
6. Replied to an inquiry on how to establish a certain "ministry" under an Irrevocable Trust. The inquiry asked "How would the Trust provide the financial needs for those involved in the work of the ministry?" I replied: "I regret that this ministry cannot be of help to you. The ministry helps churches who wish to organize according to the principles of the New Testament."
7. Helped a trustee who had tried to open a trust bank account and had been turned down by 2 banks. The church included the name "Russian." After my advice, he never called me back. He said he would do so if the next bank turned him down. One reason for his difficulty may have been the "Russian" in the title. He went to a small local bank recommended by a friend and got the trust checking account;
8. Replied to the following question: Since I'm uninterested in 501 3 c can our ministry file under a declaration trust or something else ? My reply was: "I refer you to the following links which may answer your questions.

<https://jeraldfinney.com/2022/04/19/concerning-stand-alone-ministry-outside-the-authority-of-a-local-church-and-the-obligations-of-a-church-who-takes-a-ministry-under-her-umbrella/>

<https://jeraldfinney.com/2022/03/17/the-rules-and-regulations-that-come-with-church-irs-code-sections-501c3-and-508c1a-tax-exempt-status/>

9. Counseled with a trustee concerning leasing property for a meetinghouse, applying for property tax exemption on the property as the lessor had offered to lower the lease payments equal to any money saved on property taxes, and amending his old trust documents;
10. Discussed amending old trust documents with another trustee.

Contact me should you wish to get more info. on any or the activities summarized above. Jerald Finney, 512-785-8445; gerald.finney@sbcglobal.net; jeraldfinney.com (website).

Featured Article

Note. There are many fraudulent or ignorant pretenders who offer “services” helping churches organize, persons or organizations who pretend, professionally or publicly, to skill, knowledge, or qualifications they do not possess (charlatan). This article exposes another one: Helping Hand Outreach.

[A Biblical and Legal Analysis of the Helping Hand Outreach Publication, “WHY ALL CHURCHES SHOULD BE A 508\(c\)\(1\)\(a\).”](#)



Jerald Finney
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Note. The title of the [Helping Hand Outreach](#) Publication, “WHY ALL CHURCHES SHOULD BE A 508(c)(1)(a)” should read WHY ALL CHURCHES SHOULD BE A 508(c)(1)(A)[Capital A]; But it should really read and explain “WHY NO CHURCH SHOULD BE 508(c)(1)(A).” [Helping Hand Outreach](#) and its website were pointed out to me by a pastor who took the time to seek out the matter of proper church organization. He examined what they had to say. Then he found the Churches under Christ Ministry

website, studied materials on the website, and contacted the ministry. He is now organizing the church he is head elder of according to New Testament principles.

A church dishonors God when she recognizes any authority other than the Lord Jesus Christ. A church under Christ alone is a spiritual non-taxable entity only protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and outside the jurisdiction of man's law. The pastor of such a church, as well as the church, has all the protections of the First Amendment. He can preach as the Lord, not the federal government, leads.

A church who becomes a legal entity of any kind has chosen another authority, civil government, for many purposes. A legal entity is a temporal earthly entity which can contract, sue, be sued, be charged with a crime, or act legally in any other ways. A church can only become a legal entity through man's law: through non-profit corporation law, unincorporated association law, charitable trust law, business trust law, Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3) or 508(c)(1)(A) tax exemption law, etc. For thorough Biblical and legal explanation see [*God Betrayed/Separation of Church and State: The Biblical Principles and the American Application*](#). See also, [Short Answers to Some Important Questions](#) for shorter quicker answers to some important matters. A church who chooses to become a legal entity has voluntarily placed herself, as a legal person, under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution for many purposes.

Our Lord loved the church and gave Himself for it (Ep, 5:25). He purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Our Lord wishes churches to choose to keep Christ the head (authority) over all things to the church (See, e.g., Ephesians 1:22, Colossians 1:18).

[Helping Hand Outreach](#) declares that they will show you how to start a church (for a substantial and continuing price). Their online publication, "WHY ALL CHURCHES SHOULD BE 508(c)(1)(A)," misleads sincere believers on the matter of church organization. Their "help" has both a financial and spiritual cost. The church who pays for and utilizes their help dishonors God.

This article, and the resources linked to herein, explains why the teaching of [Helping Hand Outreach](#) is devoid of both Biblical and legal understanding. The Bible—not mysticism, man's reasoning, man's philosophies, or man's law—is to be the sole foundation for all matters of faith and practice. The word of God gives the principles which every Christian and church should seek to honor when considering church order. According to Bible church doctrine, "NO CHURCH SHOULD BE 508(c)(1)(A)."

Of course, the [Helping Hand Outreach](#) publication has a small amount of truth mixed with a lot of lies. For example, there is considerable confusion about what pastors can and cannot say from the pulpit. Their article does not address the cause of the confusion. The cause of the confusion is a lack of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom of God's word and the application thereof. Pastors and members of churches who choose to remain under Christ and Christ alone have not been confused. They have always, even under penalty of death, preached what the Lord leads them to preach. They have always

exercised their God-given freedoms and principles regardless of the laws of civil government. They have always honored civil government as long as civil government law did not require them to disobey God.

America, by making the First Amendment part of the highest law of the land, became the second civil government, with any lasting influence, to protect religious freedom and soul liberty. Originally, the First Amendment applied only to federal jurisdiction. However, in 1833, Massachusetts became the last state to abolish the *requirement for* church establishment (church incorporation) on the state level. Church legal entity status is a choice, but not a requirement, on the state level. However, most American churches have betrayed God and chosen to become corporations or other types of legal entities on the state level and/or either to apply for 501(c)(3) tax exempt status or claim 508(c)(1)(A) tax exempt status on the federal level. The Lord Jesus Christ as sole authority over the church is not sufficient for them.

[Click here to see what President James Madison wrote on February 21, 1811 in vetoing with a bill which would have incorporated a church in Washington D.C.](#)

Because of the First Amendment and corresponding state constitutional provisions, churches can choose, without persecution, to do things God's way which is explained in the New Testament. The First Amendment provides for religious freedom and soul liberty. The First Amendment protects those churches who choose to remain under Christ alone.

Sections 501(c)(3) and 508(c)(1)(A) tax exempt status, not Form 1023 as stated in the [Helping Hand Outreach](#) publication, violate the First Amendment. Form 1023 is merely an application form, not a law. The tax exempt law, 501(c)(3) and 508(c)(1)(A), violates the First Amendment as to churches. The Form merely implements the law. Both 501(c)(3) and 508(c)(1)(A) are laws passed by Congress and signed into law by the President. The First Amendment says:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Thus, by voluntarily submitting to a law such as 501(c)(3) or 508(c)(1)(A), a church has taken herself from under the founding law of the land, the highest law regarding religion, speech, association, and press while submitting to a legislative law which on its face is unconstitutional for churches. Churches choose to do this because of ignorance of God's will and for perceived "benefits."

For a correct analysis of church 508(c)(1)(A) status, see [Church Internal Revenue Code § 508\(c\)\(1\)\(A\) Tax Exempt Status](#). That essay explains in some detail matters such as the difference between church 501(c)(3) and 508(c)(1)(A) tax exempt status, and church First Amendment non-taxable status. Even a business which does not make a profit will pay no

taxes. Is a church to be an earthly temporal organization whose gifts to the corporation operates under man-made law, rules, and regulations? Or is a church to be a spiritual eternal body ordered according to the principles of God and which uses money given to God according to the will of God? The real reason for federal tax-exempt status, whether through 501(c)(3) or 508(c)(1)(A) is so that donors know that the IRS will approve tax deductions for gifts. In the event of audit, the donor must show an IRS Acknowledgment from the 501(c)(3) or 508(c)(1)(A) church. The IRS may require the giver to the 508(c)(1)(A) church to prove that it was a church he gave to. Of course, 501(c)(3) churches are on the IRS list of approved tax exempt organizations. By giving IRS Acknowledgments, the 508(c)(1)(A) church claims tax exempt status without having filed Form 1023. She has put herself in the same position, by claiming the same status, as the 501(c)(3) church. She has taken herself from under the First Amendment and put herself under a law, a law which the First Amendment forbids, as to churches. Of course, churches do not have to worry too much anyway. The IRS, to this point in time, does not have the resources and personnel to keep an eye on churches. Besides, cannot churches and pastors can be trusted to proceed with honesty, integrity, knowledge, understanding and wisdom? Or can they? Those who feel that the 508(c)(1)(A) tax exempt church is not under the same rules and regulations as other tax exempt churches certainly cannot.

For analysis of 501(c)(3) see: [Federal government control of churches through 501\(c\)\(3\) and 508\(c\)\(1\)\(A\) tax exemption](#) and [The church incorporation-501\(c\)\(3\) control scheme](#).

WHY ALL CHURCHES SHOULD BE 501(c)(1)(A) mentions only one rule that comes with 501(c)(3), the Johnson Amendment. The truth is that Sections 501(c)(3) and 508(c)(1)(A) tax exempt status for churches come with five rules and a host of regulations; Rule 5, "Shall not violate fundamental public policy," has not yet been applied to churches. See, [The Rules and Regulations that Come with Church IRS Code Sections 501\(c\)\(3\) and 508\(c\)\(1\)\(A\) Tax-Exempt Status](#).

No Christian or church should go to [Helping Hand Outreach](#) for help with the matter of church organization. A

For an examination of the false reasons churches give for legal entity status, see [Analysis of False Reasons of Christians and Lawyers for Church Corporate, 501\(c\)\(3\), 508\(c\)\(1\)\(A\) tax exempt status or Legal Status of Any Kind](#).