Prayer and Praise Updates

Praise the Lord that CLA attorneys were able to legally advise a church in MASSACHUSETTS with two unrelated questions concerning picking up children for church.

Praise the Lord that CLA attorneys were able to legally advise a church in CALIFORNIA with laws about keeping student records.

Praise the Lord that CLA was able to assist a church in TEXAS with hiring policies so that future employees will be compatible with its beliefs.

Praise the Lord that CLA attorneys were able to legally advise a church in ORIOGO about policies and procedures for church accounts.

Praise the Lord that CLA attorneys were able to legally advise a church in VIRGINIA with updating their Constitution & Bylaws.

Praise the Lord that CLA attorneys were able to legally advise a church in ILLINOIS about his rights to witness to students in public school.

Praise the Lord that CLA attorneys were able to help a Christian school in NORTH CAROLINA put policies in place for transporting students by bus.

Protecting Your Ministry

One of the most widely received calls we get at this time of year is “what do I need to do in order to file taxes correctly?” This is a very good question, and it is also one that branches into several different strains of thought. Most prevalent are the individual income taxes and 1099s.

Churches have never before been under the IRS scrutiny that they are today. As local, county, state, and national governments look over and develop budgets, they no longer see churches as moral centers and invaluable assets to the community. They no longer hold the status that people once believed. When assets to the community. They no longer see churches as moral centers and invaluable assets to the community. They no longer hold the status that people once believed. When a legislator sees wasted space. The government is now viewing churches in a new, highly dangerous light.

As the scrutiny over religious organizations and churches develops, we must take extra precautions to ensure that our freedom and non-taxed status continues. Here are a few legal remedies to further protect your status.

1. Look at your church’s constitution and bylaws. Take the time to read through it. Our attorneys can help you make sure that the most updated protections are there for your ministry. Many churches have bylaws that have been outdated and untouched for decades. We can help you update yours.

2. Follow the basic steps to qualify as a church or nonprofit. Our ministry provides a step-by-step guide to starting ministries. Many churches have bylaws that have been outdated and untouched for decades. We can help you update yours.

3. Know what’s right, and then go ahead. The explorer and U.S. Congressman Davy Crockett used this motto throughout his life. If you are following the guidelines and doing what you know is right, be bold in sharing what you know is right, be bold in sharing with others.

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Our ministry offers decades of experience and the legal premise to build a solid foundation. Our ministry offers decades of experience and expertise in this field. Call us if you have any questions. One of the greatest joys we receive is hearing about new ministries being started where numerous others will hear the Gospel.

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How can we find blessings to count as we scramble to find receipts in preparation for tax season? During this time of year, it seems as though all we can manage to count are our hard earned dollars. Are you feeling burdened by taxes? During this season of "rendering to Caesar," how can we find blessings to count even in our most stressful times.

Christian ministries are not supported by the tax dollars that the government collects from us, but our own investments in worthy ministries can reap eternal dividends that are far beyond what we can begin to imagine. Please keep this in mind as you consider your charitable giving this year.

Navigating the tax maze can be tricky under any circumstances, especially when laws seem to change so rapidly. Tax season is a very busy time here at the Christian Law Association. We get numerous questions regarding tax law, and we want to make sure that our pastors, missionaries, churches, and ministries have the answers that they need regarding current laws. We at the Christian Law Association stand ready to serve you as you face this taxing time of year.

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Here are a few tax season blessings to get your list started:

1. If we are filing taxes, we are still active in our lives. That means God is still using us for His glory.
2. If we are paying taxes, we are xaming money.
3. Taxes were used by God that Scripture might be fulfilled regarding the birthplace of Jesus. Caesar Augustus thought he was in charge, but God was using him to make sure prophecy was fulfilled.
4. When we pay taxes, we are honoring God by obeying the law. Even if that law sometimes seems unfair, confusing, or oppressive, we are being obedient and entrusting our care to Him. Our income is His money. We are only His stewards and will someday give the Lord an account of what we did with the money.
5. If we are helping people to prepare for tax season? During this time of year, it seems as though all we can manage to count are our hard earned dollars.
6. Taxpayers are given the right to a jury trial. How do you classify a "love gift?"
7. For tax purposes, who is considered a minister? Our former pastor just retired, but can we still help with housing?
8. What classifies as a gift to our church for a foreign mission trip? They returned, the pastor asked the group to stand before the church and tell exactly what they accomplished, which is a very common practice. The church family appreciated hearing about how their financial investment had been spent, but there was another purpose for the accounting of their activities. The IRS requires that in order for a donation to the church to be tax deductible, the funds must be used to spread the Gospel. By having the students tell the church about the trip and emphasize their desire to reach others with the good news of Jesus Christ, the church is able to encourage those who heard it and also help use that as a protection for the church.

What questions should you be asking? There may be many that you have not even thought to ask yet. Here are some common questions we get on a regular basis:

For tax purposes, who is considered a minister? How do you classify a "love gift?"

How should a housing allowance or parsonage setup be labeled? Our former pastor just retired, but can we still help with housing?

What classifies as a gift to our church and school volunteers, and do we really need to report that? We receive these questions and many more each year at this time. If you have any questions about your ministry taxes, please do not hesitate to contact us. We desire to help you navigate through. Our number is 888-252-1969.

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