

Worldwide Church of God linked with shell corporations

By Mac Overton

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v1issue7/wcg-linked-shell-corporations.html>

A federal lawsuit by a former Ambassador University regent against AU, the Worldwide Church of God and top officials of both also names a number of so-called shell corporations affiliated either with the WCG or its late pastor general, Joseph W. Tkach.

According to Houston, Texas, attorney George Crow, who represents Dr. John Merritt, he hopes to learn information about internal operations of the WCG using the discovery phase of Dr. Merritt's \$7 million lawsuit.

The shells named in the suit include Colorado, Utah and Nevada corporations, all linked with the late pastor general and his successors.

"There's been a lot of activity in the Colorado corporation since the first of the year," Mr. Crow said.

"There were a lot of corporations set up in 1978 in which the names Garner Ted Armstrong, Church of God International, Ralph Helge and Stanley Rader are interconnected," Mr. Crow said.

According to Mr. Crow, Mr. Helge, an attorney for the WCG, had registered the names Garner Ted Armstrong and Church of God International in at least 43 states in an effort to hamper GTA's organization formed in 1978.

Other WCG-affiliated corporations, which were not named in the suit, include:

- Reorganized and Reformed Worldwide Church of God (incorporated in 1993)
- Foundation for Pygmy Survival
- Foundation for the Preservation of the Estate, Herbert W. Armstrong the Apostle of the Churches of God and his successors
- Regal Insurance Companies of North America
- Regal Metals Ltd. Southwest Business Services Inc.

Former regent brings federal suit against Ambassador University

By Mac Overton

<http://www.thejournal.org/in-transition/v1issue6/former-regent-sues-ambassador-university.html>

BIG SANDY--A former regent has filed a \$7 million suit against Ambassador University here, the Worldwide Church of God, top officials of both organizations and several shell corporations affiliated with the church or its pastor general, Joseph W. Tkach.

John L. Merritt, M.D., who was appointed as regent in 1989, filed the suit Aug. 31 in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas at Marshall. He is represented by attorney George Crow of Houston.

In the suit, Dr. Merritt alleges that actions taken at a June 16 meeting of the AU board of regents were illegal because he was a member but was not notified of the meeting and that, without him, there were not enough voting members for the board to legally transact business.

Dr. Merritt, who resides in Laguna Hills, Calif., also contends he was disfellowshipped on false grounds for part of a day in May and again on June 23.

The suit seeks "civil action for damages under the common law theories of defamation, intentional infliction of emotional distress, fraud, invasion of privacy, collusion and civil conspiracy."

He also maintains that his disfellowshipment was for the purpose of removing him from the AU board. Dr. Merritt also contends that the disfellowshipment of three other regents-- Daniel Salcedo of Los Angeles, Harold Treybig of Houston and Carl Sable of Big Sandy-- was also on false grounds and was also for the purpose of removing them from the AU board.

The Merritt suit states that his disfellowshipment violates reasons cited as valid for disfellowshipment by Mr. Tkach in a Jan. 7 videotaped sermon, which was played in WCG congregations. Dr. Merritt also states that he was libeled by the publication of the disfellowshipment letters.

In the sermon, Mr. Tkach said, "Times past I'll tell you . . . wooha . . . we were quick to put people out of the church. And Mr. [Herbert W.] Armstrong said . . . one of the main . . . main reasons was only for causing division and secondly for untold sex acts. As we find the fornicator there in I Cor.5. But we put people out for every kind of thing imaginable under the heavens . . . it is high time we became shepherds and not sheriffs.

"Too many were very fast . . . quick on the draw with their spiritual guns to shoot people down. . . ."

Dr. Merritt states that publication of the letters damaged his "reputation of honesty, stability, and trustworthiness in his community and in his profession."

He alleges that "defendants maliciously published the letter complained of . . . with the knowledge that it was false" and "the letter was published with reckless and heedless disregard for the truth or falsity of the publication."

Alternately, the letter was published out of personal animosity toward plaintiff, and had no factual basis."

Dr. Merritt further contends that actions of defendants "in furtherance of this plan to remove regents by disfellowshipment, constitutes fraud, collusion, and/or arbitrariness."

Seeks reinstatement

He seeks his reinstatement, the reinstatement of Messrs. Treybig, Sable and Salcedo, and a declaration declaring the June 16 regents' meeting and actions taken there as void, including the appointment of Dr. Russell Duke as AU president pro tem and the appointment of five new regents to the board.

AU director of institutional advancement Tom Delamater said Sept. 1 he had not seen the suit and would not comment on it.

Dr. Duke did not return phone calls.

Ralph Helge, attorney for AU and the WCG, said Sept. 1 that he was unaware of the suit and could not comment on it until he had read it.

Dr. Merritt had filed a suit in 115th District Court in Gilmer in July seeking his reinstatement and the overturn of actions taken at the June 16 board meeting.

That suit was dropped July 27, after a visiting judge lifted an injunction and temporary restraining order Dr. Merritt had obtained against the university.

7 December 2005

Re: Worldwide Church of God's missing millions. Where has the money gone?

From the information I am aware of, the WCG income from 1933-1995 was about \$4 billion dollars....a lot by religious standards.... only a few percents by national standards.

Either way \$4 billion is \$4 thousand million..... a lot of money.

On the other hand....I am glad for the few hundred that bought the PTs that lead me to the truths that so much helped me and my family and all I have been able to influence.

Praise God for what He mobilized for me and mine and for so many others.

12/13/07:

However, if they do impeach Tkach, it has been said that they should also investigate the scores of irregularities, immoralities, law-breaking, lies, slander and the illegal takeover of the WCG by the Tkach mafia. Included in the investigation, some have said, should be the over 90 private corporations that Tkach

and co set up and snuck monies into - \$10s of millions.

Will they uncover incredible corruption and links to vary shady people and organisations?

Grounds For Impeachment

Raising the Ruins refers to an unpublished, sworn to tell the whole truth deposition of Joseph Tkach Jr., answering pointed questions about the distressed sale of the WCG's Ambassador Auditorium:

"Yet another legacy that was neither heavy nor burdensome. After 2,500 concerts and recitals, it was the Tkaches who shut down the famous performing arts series in 1985, saying they could not afford to subsidize the program and that it had "nothing to do with the mission of the church" anyway (Deposition of Joseph Tkach, September 8, 1998). "News of Ambassador's closure," the Los Angeles Times reported, "rumbled through Pasadena's business and political circles like an earthquake." The community was terribly disappointed. In fact, one reason it took so long for the WCG to sell the Pasadena property is the resistance that city officials put up over proposals to turn the campus into a residential community. "Our mission in the building is over; we aren't going to keep it," Bernie Schnippert, the church's director of finance and planning, told the Los Angeles Times in 2002. If it is not bought by the city or bought by a benefactor, the church will tear it down." Quite a legacy! They actually gave the city an ultimatum: Either buy Ambassador Auditorium for the appraised value of 22 million, or else we'll demolish it! In the end, city officials held firm and prevented the auditorium from being sold to a developer. This forced the WCG to divvy up the property and sell off the parcels piece by piece. Harvest Rock Church bought the auditorium in 2004 for a little more than a third of the appraised value.

After the sale, like a good politician, Schnippert's tune changed. The Ambassador Auditorium has always been an important part of the Worldwide Church of God's ministry, Schnippert told the Worldwide News. "We are pleased that this religious and cultural jewel will continue to be used for the glory of God." He said this just two years after threatening to demolish the structure."

Ambassador Auditorium's dedication occurred April 7, 1974. In order to help pay for the building, the church had set up a special Building Fund to collect donations from members. However, when the auditorium is built, it is announced that it was 100% financed by a special bank loan. Mysteriously, neither Tkach nor his predecessors in office have told the Church where the building fund money went or what it paid for..."

When the Mystery of the Ages lawsuit phased into calculating the amount of money damages Flurry would be ordered to pay, the WCG had to submit into evidence certain facts regarding its financial condition. Flurry may be basing the sale price of the Auditorium based on actual knowledge of WCG documents handed over during trial. If what Flurry says is accurate about this, Harvest Rock paid only one-third of the appraised value of Ambassador Auditorium, or the paltry sum of \$7.3 million dollars for it.

Some sketchy information has come to light recently from the WCG broker on the total amount the WCG received from the sale of its Pasadena campus. But Tkach has not fully informed the church of the financial details of these and other important transactions; as in what happened to the collections made for the Building Fund, or of the debts, assets, or balance sheet of the church. Such unaccountable arrogance of the Tkach dynasty since 1986 is grounds for impeachment of the Pastor General. And sufficient reason for the Pastor General to be ordered to reveal the WCG's balance sheet, real estate asset sales and executive compensation packages right before Senator Charles Grassley and the Senate Finance Committee.

cc: Sen. Charles Grassley
Committee On Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Here's another article: **19.11.07**

WCG Pocono Feast Site Condemned - Now A Corporate Business Park!

The Pocono Feast site has been condemned and is being turned into a new corporate business park - called Pocono Mountains Corporate Center East.

As many Worldwidiers will recall, the Pocono property was originally a WCG Feast of Tabernacles site. The 247 acre site was owned, developed and constructed by the WCG with much unpaid, volunteer, "sweat equity" labor from the church. One year after HWA died, Tkach Sr. sold it in a very mysterious transaction to the also mysterious US Senda Corporation, which supposedly had intended to develop and market the facility. The WCG property deed wording recorded claimed Pocono was sold for just "one dollar" and other valuable consideration. Just what other valuable consideration?

Property taxes declared on the sale were far, far lower than the estimated sales value of the property, Tkach hasn't released the 1987 WCG financial statements to show what money the WCG received for selling off the Pocono property. After the WCG sold it to US Senda, the property sat undeveloped, and it endured periodic vandalism, making it a blighted property. Monroe County, PA completed a redevelopment plan and the redevelopment authority of the county began the process of condemnation of the Poconos site. It would be interesting to know who really owned US Senda corporate stock, what US Senda paid Tkach for the Pocono property and compare the difference with what US Senda received for the condemned site from Monroe County. But with the Tkachs not responsibly releasing financial statements of their secretive cult, it's anybody's guess what the WCG actually got for the Pocono property, that is besides "one dollar".

The former feast site project was unique because it was one of the few times in the Commonwealth of PA that a redevelopment authority has condemned property and sold it to a public entity, like Pocono Mountains Industries (PMI), for development. Condemned properties are typically sold directly to the private sector. A 54,000 sq. foot Mountain Health Care facility has already been completed off Rt. 610 in the business park.

US Senda was a subsidiary of a Japanese corporation formed in California on 2/9/87 - in other words, formed only weeks prior to the time the Pocono deal was completed. The CA corporation in question could have been was formed for the specific purpose of buying Pocono from the WCG. The California private corporation US Senda in the WCG Pocono land deal has since been dissolved and disappeared without a trace. Believe it or not, US Senda corporate offices in California were listed in the Pocono property sale records as strangely being located in a warehouse, right across from the WCG campus on the other side of freeway, opposite Waverly Drive, directly behind Mijares Mexican Restaurant. How very odd. John Trechak then discovered where U.S. Senda moved to (at 200 E. Del Mar Blvd. in Pasadena) the exact suite at which the Senda Group received mail is also an address where Osamu Gotoh and associates received mail!

Tkach Jr. undoubtedly knows how much the WCG was paid for the Pocono feast site; for what reason the mysterious US Senda corporation was formed, with offices adjacent to the WCG Pasadena campus; how this mysterious US Senda corporation got the winning bid for the property; and who really benefited from the sale of the Pocono site. Certainly not the rank and file members. But Tkach isn't talking, he's taking the fifth.