

Long version for those who have not followed our bizarre court case—

Creation Science Evangelism (CSE) began Jan, 1989 shortly after we moved to Pensacola, FL. The outreach grew quickly and I was soon traveling to all 50 states and over 30 foreign countries. We produced videos and later DVD's of the creation seminar and allowed people to copy them freely to reach the world for Christ. I also did 100 debates with evolutionists (and beat them badly—in Christian love). 20 of these are available on DVD. Many thousands have called, written, or e-mailed telling of souls saved and lives changed by the simple creation message. The latest Chinese edition is spreading like wildfire across China! Pray for this outreach!

In 1999 CSE became part of Faith Baptist Fellowship and the 2 (at the time) properties were transferred into their name. In 2002 Pastor Mooneyhan was retiring and the board of elders voted to disband FBF. To prevent CSE from being “orphaned” church ministry trusts were created and property and bank accounts were out in these trusts to give me freedom to travel and preach as I had been doing 700+ times/yr.

Over the many years my wife would withdraw money to pay ministry bills. No problem. In 2002 this stopped. On July 13, 2006, with no warning or notice of any kind that there was or had been a problem, about 20 armed IRS agents swarmed onto the ministry property as I was preparing for staff devotions and my wife was sleeping. Four armed agents surrounded her bed and woke her up to handcuff her in her nightgown. She was not allowed to get dressed, put on a robe or go to the bathroom even though she begged for these simple courtesies.

We were taken to the Federal courthouse and indicted for “structuring.” We had no clue what that even was let alone that it was against some law or that we had broken it. We had banked at the same bank and normally at the same teller for over 10 years. We learned later that laws had been passed years ago to try to slow or stop drug dealers from moving large amounts of cash. Any transfers over \$10,000 would require the bank to fill out a form and notify the government. They also made it illegal to “break down” a large sum into smaller amounts to “evade” this reporting requirement. For example: if you had \$25,000 to deposit broke it down into 3 deposits of less than \$10,000 and made 3 deposits at the same or even different banks on the same day you could be found guilty of one count of “structuring” and sentenced to 5 years in prison! We didn't deal in drugs and never heard of this law.

As it turns out, the IRS has cherrypicked 45 times out of hundreds of transactions over the years that were under \$10,000 and charged each one as a separate count of structuring even though they averaged 12 days apart, were not part of a large amount being “broken down”, were not from drugs or any other illegal trade and were not trying to evade anything. It was money donated or earned in legitimate ways and spent on legitimate ministry bills.

After a two week trial our attorneys each advised us not to even give a defense since no laws had been broken and in America, in theory at least, you are innocent till proven guilty. It is not illegal to take any amount of money out of your own bank! The 4 times she did take out over \$10,000 the bank filled out their form. No problem.

As my attorney was giving his closing argument he was reading the jury instruction verbatim that said the amount had to be over \$10,000 in order to structure a transaction. The Assistant US Attorney stood up and objected to her own jury instruction! The judge took a 45 minute recess and returned with a new jury instruction that said if they found we took out less than \$10,000 they must find us guilty! Our attorneys objected since this was not what the law said and changing jury instructions after trial is against the rules. The objections were overruled and we were found guilty. I was given 10 years and my

wife a year and a day. She got out Oct. 1. The case is now at the SC where they will decide if they even want to take it in the next few weeks. [Note: The Supreme Court has denied it and will be in conference on Friday, Jan 8, concerning whether to reconsider their decision.]

If this case is not overturned anyone who takes any money out of their own bank will eventually be guilty of structuring. If you took \$100 out each week for 100 weeks you would be guilty of 100 counts of structuring and could be given 500 years in prison!

To make matters worse, the government said all the money withdrawn in those 45 counts should be given to them! Our attorneys objected since there were no drugs involved, the money was earned in legitimate ways and spent on ministry bills years ago. There was never a tax loss to the government. The fellow ministers at CSE testified that they had paid all the taxes they owed. There were no damages and no one can figure out what this money was "owed" to the government for but the judge overruled the objections. So now, I was not only in prison but I owed \$430,000!

Since I do not own a thing in the world the government asked for permission to seize the CSE ministry property! Of course the attorneys and the trustees objected and asked for a hearing or trial. This was denied and after letting the government's motion sit on her desk for 7 ½ months the judge ruled that Yes, they can seize CSE property to pay this "Debt."

So.... the IRS gave Eric the option of "buying" the ministry property to pay this "bill" or move out. That's the long answer to why he has asked people who love the Lord and our ministry to donate at this time. [Note: All the money has now been raised.] Many have responded and also sent heart-rending notes telling how their lives or the lives of loved ones have been impacted by CSE over the years. The ministry now has 10 properties, some for staff housing and future expansion. He has raised enough to "save" about 6 of them. [Note: This project is complete, so I believe all the properties were "saved."] If the Supreme Court rules for us it stops all this insanity. Please pray!