

## Statement

On or about May 16, 2003, I, Jennifer Chambers, attended a presentation given by Bob Gempel, President of HOPE Worldwide. HOPE Worldwide is a faith-based charity founded by the International Churches of Christ.

During this presentation, Mr. Gempel discussed how HOPE collects and manages its donations.

Mr. Gempel explained that HOPE collected funds from all ICOC churches through what was known as a Management Fee. This fee was 4% of each churches local budget. He explained that various churches would collect this fee from their individual members in various methods, from annual fund-raising events, weekly Poor Contributions, or through a line-item budget entry. HOPE considered this collection taken from the ICOC churches to be "unrestricted" donations.

Mr. Gempel explained the meaning of "unrestricted" versus "restricted" funds within HOPE. Restricted funds were to be used for specific programs within HOPE, unrestricted funds were used for salary and administrative overhead. HOPE would then solicit donations from corporations and promised these corporate donors that 100% of their donation would go to fund specific programs because the administrative costs were covered by the ICOC donations, therefore making it more attractive to the corporate donor. He mentioned that by doing this, HOPE was actually able to raise seven times the amount raised from the ICOC "seed" money.

I was surprised to discover that HOPE's methods for fund-raising and its use of those collected funds was VERY different from how we, the rank and file members of the ICOC Churches I had been a part of, were told.

Throughout my 14 years in the ICOC, a weekly "poor" contribution was taken up. We were consistently told that this contribution would be used to help people who were in need, both locally and on a worldwide level through HOPE. In addition to this weekly contribution, the church would also conduct an annual HOPE fund-raising event. These events would include but were not limited to such things as walk-a-thons for HOPE immunization projects, and door-knocking campaigns all designed to help the average church member get out into the community and solicit funds for HOPE.

One member of the audience that night asked Mr. Gempel, to the effect, "How do you plan on motivating members to continue to give when all of the money raised goes to overhead?" To which Mr. Gempel replied in effect, "Good question, yes, we need to come up with a better way to explain it."

I solicited funds for HOPE every year and gave my weekly contribution for the poor. Little did I realize all those years, that both HOPE and the ICOC were telling me that my sacrifice and contributions was helping people all over the world, when in reality my sacrifice and contributions went to pay for the salaries and overhead of HOPE Worldwide.

I, Jennifer Chambers, give this statement as my recollections of the meeting referenced above, and consider these facts to be true.

State of Florida

County of ORANGE

This instrument was acknowledged before me on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER, 2004, before me,

MARION P. BATTAD, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared

JENNIFER L. CHAMBERS.

Personally known to me or  proven to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and who acknowledged to me that she executed the same.

(Notary stamp)



Marion P. Battad  
My Commission DD030618  
Expires June 03, 2005