

## Statement

I, Joan Chisholm, a former member of the Buffalo International Church of Christ, Buffalo, NY.

On or around February 17, 2000. I lost everything I owned in an apartment fire. I was homeless for 2-3 weeks. During that time I stayed at other disciples homes. I am a single mother of one and on public assistance.

Preached from the pulpit the Sunday after the fire, the congregation was told that the contribution for the benevolence for the poor, was going to go to a fund for people in disaster situations such as home fires etc., in the community and also for me. There was also a special fire contribution collection taken for me.

I was told that what ever I needed after I received help from other agencies, Welfare, The Red cross and Roberts school fire fund raiser, the Buffalo Church would help with anything else I needed.

My cousin offered to let me purchase personal care items and clothing for me and my son on her credit card only as long as the Buffalo Church was going to reimburse her when the bill came in. The advice I received was to go ahead and purchase the items and that the Buffalo Church would reimburse her for the purchases when the bill came in.

When the bill came in my discipling partner took the bill to the Evangelist wife Tracy Macaluso and her response was that "the church does not pay for personal bills". My cousin did not get reimbursed by the Buffalo Church of Christ. Like they said she would be, after they said to go ahead and make the purchases.

I was told to make a list of items that was needed. I made a list of items that needed to be replaced that had been destroyed and smoke damaged. My son needed a bedframe, new mattress and box spring. My discipling partner made up her own list and omitted the bedframe, mattress and box spring and handed it in.

I was not approved to receive any money from the Buffalo Church of Christ.

I ended up having to garbage pick a bedframe so that my son had something to sleep on.

Even though there was a special fire contribution collected for me I never receive one penny of the money collected. My cousin was never reimbursed by the Church.

Where did all that money go that they collected for me?

Why did I have to make a list of items that needed to be replaced?

Why didn't they give me what was collected for me? After all it was collected for me and I lost everything I owned.

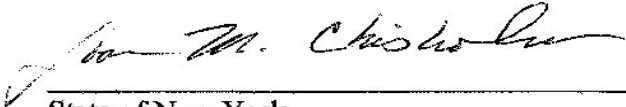
One member of the Church directly gave me \$50.00, and stated I know how this works so I am giving this to you personally.

Another member a nurse, asked me at two different times, if I had received the fire contribution yet. She told me that she had put a lot of money in the collection for me. When I told her no, she had a dumbfounded look on her face.

When I asked my Bible talk Leader why I have not received the fire contribution. I was told that I was selfish, greedy and ungrateful. She also told me to give a thank you card to the Church. Approximately, two months later I was asked to stand up and Thank the Church. I stood up and thanked the members of the church.

This incident has destroyed my walk with God and the Church. That they could be so deceitful not only to me but, the whole congregation as well. The members thought I was ungrateful. I question, did any other poor people who lost their homes due to disasters or people who were in need, were they ever helped by the Buffalo Church of Christ benevolence fund? Where did the contributions go?

I, Joan Chisholm, give this statement as my recollections of treatment by the Buffalo Church of Christ, referenced above and considers these facts to be true.



State of New York

County of Erie

This instrument was acknowledged before me on this 4 day of December, 2006, before me Joan Marie Chisholm, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared Janet A. Bauer.

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

JANET A. BAUER  
No. 01BA6149478  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified in Erie County  
My Commission Expires July 10, 2010