



**Recommendation to Revoke the Tax Exempt Status
of Rockwealth International Church, Inc.
(a/k/a Rockwealth International Ministries, etc.)**

Trinity Foundation has been investigating religious organizations for over 25 years and from our standpoint, this organization is a scam. It is not a real church.

For decades, the IRS has used 14 characteristics to compare with church organizations and these still have merit and case-law precedent, but the legitimization of Scientology as a church has slowly eroded away the use of these criteria.

This report is divided into four sections—1) Why should his tax-exempt status be revoked? 2) Coontz's lavish lifestyle 3) Coontz's corporate affiliations 4) The Victims: Coontz high-pressure tactics and the story of one of Coontz's victims.



(currently Coontz's website logo)

Why revoke Rockwealth International Church, Inc.'s tax-exempt status?

Even though William Todd Coontz has recently been convicted of tax evasion, the tax exempt status of his organization Rockwealth International Church, Inc. has not been revoked.

After investigating Coontz and his financial operations, Trinity Foundation would like to suggest the IRS revoke Rockwealth International Church's tax exempt status for three reasons:

1) Coontz is operating a religion business as a tax shelter by claiming that Rockwealth International Church is a "church". This corporate entity fails to meet hardly any of the IRS 14-point criteria for what constitutes a church. Is a church without members really a church? The Rockwealth website doesn't list a way to become a member, nor does it include an address for church services.

There is only a PO Box listed. The primary business address for the corporation, listed in its annual state filing, is a luxury condominium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.¹ Furthermore, its 2015 articles of incorporation, filed in Florida, report, "The corporation shall have no members ..."² In addition, we've found no evidence that Coontz performs weddings, funerals, communion, or

¹ [Rockwealth International Church, Inc. 2018 Annual Report, Florida SOS business filing](#)

² [Rockwealth International Church, Inc. Articles of Incorporation, 2015](#)

baptisms for his TV viewing audience. More examples of criteria not met available upon request.

- 2) If the IRS fails to revoke Rockwealth International Church's tax exempt status, Coontz and/or his relatives will continue to exploit the church's exempt status and it will hurt donors. There is no transparency. Donors do not know where the money is spent. Extensive evidence uncovered by IRS investigators and US attorneys have already proved Coontz's self-dealing in court.
- 3) By revoking Rockwealth International Church's tax exempt status, the IRS will send a clear message to other religious non-profits that exploit their church status. Their own fake church status could be challenged next.

Coontz's Lavish Lifestyle



ICON Las Olas

Living in Luxury Condos

For several years prior to William Todd Coontz's conviction and during ten months he has been free on bond awaiting sentencing, Coontz has been living in style at "Icon Las Olas, 500 E. Las Olas Blvd. Apt 2606, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where luxury apartment leases start at approximately \$3500/month. This is the most recent of three consecutive high-rise condos.³

Amenities for this high-rise condominium building include the following: "...surrounded by breathtaking views. With signature fine dining and a riverfront cafe. Daily indulgences abound,

³ [Rockwealth International Church Inc. luxury high rise condo properties \(one in Charlotte, two in Ft Lauderdale\)](#)

from the lavish fitness center and spa to the wine salon, sky terrace, two rooftop pools, morning news cafe, and so much more. Step out onto vibrant Las Olas for nightlife, fine dining and world-class retail, all less than a mile from the beach.”



ICON Las Olas, where Coontz's church is currently registered in his 26th floor condo

In November 2014, Rockwealth International Church Inc. sold Coontz's luxury high-rise condo located in the Rosewood Condos at 2823 Providence Rd, unit 273, in Charlotte, NC. for \$1,375,000 according to LexisNexis records (image of Rosewood Condos exterior below).



After leaving Charlotte for Fort Lauderdale but before the Las Olas high-rise, Coontz lived in a high-rise condo on the 17th floor of the “Sunrise Harbor Residences and Marina” at 1010 Seminole Dr, Apt 1708, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and registered a church in that building in his 17th floor residence.



Sunrise Harbor Residences and Marina, where Coontz's church was supposedly on the 17th floor in 2017, yachts docked in the foreground

More Property

On September 8, 2015, Rockwealth International Church Inc. sold some property located at 3600 Smith Woods Place in Glen Allen, Virginia for \$845,000⁴ that hasn't been reported as yet in the news media.

⁴ [Rockwealth International Church Inc. property sold in Glen Allen, Virginia for \\$845,000—provided by LexisNexis](#)



2017 Maserati Ghibli—sample image

Motor Vehicle Registrations

It's unclear whether the IRS has seized Coontz's vehicles yet, prior to his sentencing.

Here's a list of current and probably still-owned vehicles: **1)** a 2017 Maserati Ghibli (luxury) 4 door sedan registered to Rockwealth International Church, Inc.; **2)** a 2017 Jeep Wrangler 4 Door Sport Utility (Unlimited Sahara) registered in the name of Coontz's company, Legacy Media. **3)** a 2010 Ferrari, California Series Convertible registered through summer 2018. **4)** a 2015 Land Rover, Range Series—Rover Sport SC, 4 door wagon SUV registered in the name of Coontz's company, Legacy Media through summer 2018. Added together these vehicles are estimated to be worth approximately \$380,000.



2010 Ferrari, California Series Convertible—sample image

Moreover, the US attorney's office stated that luxury vehicles purchased by Legacy Media, Coontz Investments and Insurance, and Rockwealth Ministries during 2011 through 2013 included three BMWs, two Ferraris, a Maserati, and a Land Rover, and a Regal 2500 boat, among others.⁵

Pilot's license active during years cited by US Attorney

During the years cited by the Criminal Investigations unit of the IRS in Coontz's criminal proceedings, Coontz held a pilot's ASEL (Airplane Single Engine Land) license. As of this report, we've no way to access past aircraft ownership records without having an N-Number or the serial number of a particular aircraft.

⁵ [Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of North Carolina April 5th, 2018 press release titled "Federal Jury Convicts Minister of Tax Crimes"](#)

We believe it would be easy for authorities to find historical FAA registration records containing N-Numbers for possible aircraft owned by Coontz and with that information our investigators would be able to obtain flight records and analyze how any possible ministry aircraft was used—whether for personal benefit or not.

Corporate Affiliations

Mr. Coontz is currently an owner, director, or involved with the following companies:

Rockwealth International Church, Inc.—controlling director

Legacy Media, Inc. (for profit)—owner

Coontz Investments and Insurance (for profit)—owner

Rockwealth Ministries—a Florida DBA for Rockwealth International Church, Inc.

Dominion Family Worship Center—a Florida DBA for Rockwealth International Church, Inc.

Rockwealth International Church Inc.—a DBA created in Aiken County, South Carolina, 2007

Legacy Media Inc.—a DBA created in Aiken County, South Carolina, 2005

Mike Murdock Evangelistic Association—treasurer, director

Lesea Global Feed the Hungry—**no longer a director**, still raising money for Feed the Hungry

The primary source of income for Mr. William “Todd” Coontz for many years has been and continues to be the business of religion and high pressure, highly deceptive “sales tactics”. One vehicle for that income has been and continues to be Rockwealth Ministries. As a speaker for hire, Mr. Coontz has used his ability to pressure people for donations on behalf of television networks, ministries, and churches, as well as himself; however, much of the evidence introduced at trial by the US Attorney’s office indicates, indicates his services are not cheap.

Rockwealth International Church, Inc. and DBAs

A press release from the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Western District of North Carolina titled “Federal Jury Convicts Minister of Tax Crimes” clearly shows that Rockwealth International Church, Inc. is a vehicle for illegal payments to Mr. Coontz. It’s original articles of incorporation state that it is a 501 C 3 non-profit corporation “organized exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes” and not the inurement uses exercised by Mr. Coontz.⁶

Rockwealth International Church, Inc. was incorporated in Florida in 2015. and located in a luxury high-rise condominium currently occupied by Todd Coontz’s son Landon Coontz at “Sunrise Harbor” 1010 Seminole Apt. 1708 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304-3231 and the

⁶ [Rockwealth International Church, Inc. Florida Articles of Incorporation, 2015](#)

address was changed in October 2017 to 500 E Las Olas Blvd, #2606, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 where Todd Coontz currently resides. In addition to his directorship, William Todd Coontz is also the registered agent for the corporation.⁷

A company named Chitwood and Chitwood drafted and filed the incorporation papers for Rockwealth. Chitwood claims to protect ministers from the IRS, “Our Church Management Conferences will arm you with the information you must have to *shield your Church or Ministry from IRS intrusiveness*; teach you how to get your Taxes to the lowest possible rate; and daily operate your Church or Ministry within IRS acceptable guidelines...Because of the Penalties, Fines, and even Imprisonment that the IRS imposed on many Churches and Pastors, Dr. Chitwood felt led by the Holy Spirit to *become a buffer* between Churches, Ministers, and the IRS.”⁸ To clarify, this statement by Mr. Chitwood is an extreme exaggeration. We doubt the firm stood by Coontz at his trial as they advertised.

Aside from Coontz, the Rockwealth International Church has two additional non-controlling directors, Mr. Elbert L Hall, whose address is at 43 Camino Real, Howey in the Hills, FL 34737 and, Gerald A Grillo Jr whose address is at 1838 31st Ave Lane NE, Hickory, NC 28601. These directors do not live anywhere near Ft. Lauderdale, where Coontz’s supposed church ministry is located, but it’s still unclear as to whether or not they attend possible Rockwealth church meetings if there are any.

Rockwealth Ministries, a fictitious name for Rockwealth International Church, Inc., is located in the luxury high-rise condominiums called “Sunrise Harbor” 1010 Seminole Apt. 1708 Fort Lauderdale, Florida.⁹

Dominion Family Worship Center, a fictitious name for Rockwealth International Church, Inc. is located in the luxury high-rise condominiums called “Sunrise Harbor” 1010 Seminole Apt. 1708 Fort Lauderdale, Florida.¹⁰

Rockwealth International Church Inc. also was a fictitious name filed in Aiken County, South Carolina in 2007 before it became an actual Florida non-profit company in 2015.

Legacy Media, Inc.

Legacy Media, Inc., another of Coontz’s corporations was formerly registered in 2005 in south Carolina (dissolved in 2016)¹¹ before it became a Florida for-profit corporation in November

⁷ [Rockwealth International Church, Inc. Florida Articles of Incorporation, 2015](#)

⁸ [Excerpt from Chitwood and Chitwood advertisement by Dr. Michael Chitwood, January 17, 2019](#)

⁹ [Rockwealth Ministries fictitious name filing from Florida Sunbiz fictitious name filings, 2015](#)

¹⁰ [Dominion Family Worship Center fictitious name filing obtained from Florida Sunbiz, 2015](#)

¹¹ [Legacy Media Inc.—South Carolina Secretary of State entity profile](#)

2015. Its articles of incorporation were also filed by Chitwood & Chitwood and Coontz is also its registered agent.^{[12](#)}

The US attorney proved that Coontz was using this entity to purchase vehicles used by him personally, contrary to tax code.^{[13](#)}

In our experience from various sources, Media companies owned by televangelists are used as vehicles of conversion, billing non-profit companies run by the same individuals for books, records, DVDs, CDs, etc.—in this case, we strongly suspect that Coontz as head of his for-profit company *on one hand* is billing his non-profit *on the other hand*, an obvious conflict of interest prohibited in legitimate non-profit organizations.

Coontz Investments and Insurance

Coontz Investments and Insurance was incorporated as a for-profit corporation in South Carolina 1995 and dissolved in 2016.^{[14](#)} This company was cited by the US attorneys press release announcing Todd Coontz’s conviction. Coontz’s companies, including Coontz Investments and Insurance, had purchased luxury cars in the name of the businesses as business expenses, yet these cars were used by family members and no records were kept about their supposed business use.

Mike Murdock Evangelistic Association

Todd Coontz is the treasurer of the Mike Murdock Evangelistic Association.^{[15](#)} Coontz is a protégé of Mr. Mike Murdock and their styles are similar. We’ve done extensive investigation on Mike Murdock and his organizations—Murdock’s private jets, mansion, and lavish lifestyle. Murdock’s organizations are operated in much the same manner as Coontz’s. They both work as ministers for hire raising money for “non-profit” Christian television networks—for example, the Word Network, whose owner makes about five million dollars a year and recently reinvented themselves as a “church”.

¹² [Legacy Media Inc.—articles of incorporation](#)

¹³ [Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Western District of North Carolina April 5th, 2018 press release titled “Federal Jury Convicts Minister of Tax Crimes”](#)

¹⁴ [Coontz Investments and Insurance record of creation and dissolution from South Carolina SOS](#)

¹⁵ [LexisNexis corporate filings records from Texas, page 4](#)



Photo captured from Coontz's Rockwealth website collecting for "Feed the Hungry"; however, the monies go to Rockwealth first

Lesea Global Feed the Hungry

Coontz's Rockwealth Ministries website has raised money every year since at least 2009 for "Feed the Hungry" an organization run by Lesea Global Feed the Hungry—to *help feed starving children*; however, Coontz is no longer even a director of the organization and we believe only a *minuscule* amount of the money raised by Coontz filtered through his own organization ever makes it to Feed the Hungry and on to hungry children. Todd Coontz was on the board of directors of Lesea Global Feed the Hungry from 2013^{[16](#)} through 2016.^{[17](#)}

Many payments were made to Coontz from Lesea Broadcasting.^{[18](#)} Lesea is a conglomerate of companies whose main business is Christian television broadcasting but includes Lesea Global Feed the Hungry. Lesea and its related entities include ten active non-profit corporations, seven assumed names, and a reserved name, including a "non-profit" tour company.^{[19](#)}

Other Corporate Affiliations

It's worth noting from trial evidence, the large number of Christian broadcast television networks, fellow televangelists, and churches that Todd Coontz has received money from. Here's a list of them, culled from out of 576 total trial exhibits presented by US Assistant Attorney Jenny Sugar.^{[20](#)} Many of these organizations and their private jets, mansions, and luxury cars have been or still are under investigation by Trinity Foundation—four of the TV networks in the first list and five persons on the second list.

^{[16](#)} [Lesea Global Feed the Hungry business report 2013, Indiana Secretary of State](#)

^{[17](#)} [Lesea Global Feed the Hungry business report 2016, Indiana Secretary of State](#)

^{[18](#)} [Coontz trial exhibits, US v Coontz](#)

^{[19](#)} [Page snapshot of Indiana SOS corporation listing for corporations beginning with the word "Lesea"](#)

^{[20](#)} [US v Coontz, a 22-page list of all 576 case exhibits filed with the court April 3, 2019](#)

TV Network list (monies given from these entities to Coontz)

Angel Christian Television
Cornerstone Television Network (Cornerstone Television, Inc.)
Daystar Television Network (legal name—Word of God Fellowship)
Inspiration Network/INSP
Lesea Broadcasting
Super Channel, a Canadian Cable and satellite television network
Trinity Broadcasting Network (legal name—Trinity Christian Center of Santa Ana)
Word Network (legal name now changed to—Church of the Word)

Televangelists and churches list (monies given from these to Coontz)

Benny Hinn Ministries (legal name—World Healing Center Church)
Calvary Temple Assembly of God
Great Health Works
Latin Missions Ministries, a/k/a Alpha and Omega Church
Life Center International
Morris Cerullo
Morris Cerullo World Evangelism (checks from both)
Paula White Ministries
The Favor Center Church
The Wisdom Center (a Mike Murdock organization)
Vicki Yohe Ministries
World Harvest Church (televangelist Rod Parsley)
World Overcomers Ministries

The Victims



Coontz's tactics affect the most desperate

The high pressure tactics used by Mr. Coontz get bountiful results from the poorest, most desperate, most illiterate people in our society. Coontz talks to people as though he's hearing from God right now. Here are some broadcast excerpts from one broadcast out of many²¹:

"the next seven minutes will be the most important seven minutes in your life, hallelujah, (Coontz closes his eyes as if hearing from God at that moment) I'm talking to twelve people.... God will multiply what he's given you (i.e. what we call a "heavenly lottery") ... God's gonna have you take a step of faith today... doesn't make things easy... the anointing that you sow into is the anointing that you have a right to (translation: sowing means giving money to his ministry so God will bless you) ... I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that when you plant the seed that God's talking to me about, your life is going to change... the only proof of faith is obedience... without faith it's impossible to please God ... (brief advertisement for purchasing Coontz's CD about building faith comes on screen) ... when you ask God for a miracle, he will always ask you to use your faith... he will always ask you to open your hands and sow a seed... why a seed?

(There's more) Why is God moved by offerings and seed? When you bring God a **financial** seed you are bringing him the best... when you ask him for a harvest, he will demand a seed... God will often give you an instruction... often God's instructions are illogical but they're always doable. You need to plant the \$273 recovery seed... you need to go to the phones right now to activate your seed... don't delay this, don't delay this... (on the screen "call now and sow your \$273 recovery seed 1-888-400-7625—Rockwealth.ORG) God says to tell you all losses will stop... From this day forward, when you release the seed, all losses will stop... you're going to recover all (quotes a half-scripture) somebody is going to open a door for you... just the right person... it's important that you tell the financial counselor that this is your recovery seed... when you **plant it on your bank card**... you'll get my CD... you're going to get favor on your business deal, your real estate transaction...

I feel like I need to say to a scoffer, you can't buy a miracle, but David (incorrectly summarizing a bible story), planted a miracle seed and stopped a plague (from killing more thousands of people) ... (at 16:53 minutes in) When your prayer requests come into my office I pray over them... shows him laying hands on prayer requests... 17:58 The principle of seed, time and harvest... I have sown seed and believe it or not I have gotten miracles in 7 minutes in 20 minutes in one day one week. Other harvests have taken longer but God has always multiplied my seed... 20:47 When I came into the studio God said you would be watching he would connect your life with my life.... I am a deliverer I have a breakthrough anointing... he told me to pray over your life for three things to happen... That all loses are going to stop Satan has been

²¹ [BET network, late night TV 5/16/2016, notes from broadcast](#)

beating you up he has been stealing from you and your back is against the wall and I don't have much longer I can't take this.... You will have total recovery. God will restore what has been taken from you. Satan has to give it back 7 times. God will multiply what you have. The \$273 recovery seed is bigger than you know.



This is an image of donation options excerpted from Coontz's website

Coontz often tells viewers to go to the phones right now, that they have a time limit to give money or they will miss out on God's blessings and miracles. In Coontz broadcast intro, viewers are led to believe they are donating to "Global Missions" and following biblical economics (BET network, late night TV 5/16/2016). Coontz tells viewers, "God has assigned me to your life." Viewers are told of an impending threat, that "Satan is attempting to steal the harvest from your life" (BET network, late night TV 5/16/2016). *More broadcast dates available upon request.*

Coontz uses a tactic often employed by televangelists. He tells viewers he is speaking to a specific group whom God has supernaturally told him about (i.e. the "twelve people" he mentioned a number of times in the above cited broadcast) and desperate people want to cling to any supernatural hope he might offer them—the tactics work—people want to believe he's speaking to them, that they are the ones God intends to bless this very night, and thus saving them from Satan's attempt to steal the blessing.

Coontz's programs are generally broadcast late at night. Viewers watching whatever time Coontz appears in the wee hours of the morning are ripe targets for this strategy. Anyone watching at that time of night is generally already in pain, lonely, in pain, in desperate financial straits, or in some other grave circumstances—imagined or otherwise.

The Fardettes

... August 24th, 2015—here are a couple of Coontz's victims ...



Larry and Darcy Fardette

On August 24th, 2015, we received a phone call from a man named Larry Fardette about he and his wife's daughter Katrina's sickness and their attempts to get help for their daughter from various television ministries they had donated to. She had and still has Lupus, and other issues and was deteriorating fast at the time of the call. Larry was on disability and his wife was on food stamps.²²

Fardette and his wife had donated thousands of dollars to a number of different television ministries, including the “\$273 seed” solicited by Todd Coontz—a number he claimed he had received from God but which turned out to be the number of his luxury condominium in Charlotte, NC. At the time of the call, they had sent out a 9-page letter to these ministries they had donated to, including to Coontz’s ministry, explaining their situation and asking for help.

No help was forthcoming. Every reply letter they received stated, in almost the exact same wording, “Our ministry mandates prohibit us from helping you (financially) but we will pray for you.”

Subsequently, Trinity Foundation and our home church community helped the Fardette family on a number of occasions when they were about to be homeless. At one point we created a crowd-funding campaign that raised \$2,000 for the Fardettes, all of which went to them.

Larry Fardette has given full permission to provide this information to anyone concerned and he can be reached either at his cell phone 904-444-7871 or his wife Darcy’s cell phone 916-912-9579. The couple currently resides in Alabama.

²² [August 24, 2015 memo/notes from extended conversation with Larry Fardette](#)