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United States District Court  
Eastern District of Kentucky  
Northern Division at Covington

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ) Covington Criminal  
 ) Action No. 11-70  
vs. )  
 ) London, Kentucky  
RONALD E. WEINLAND ) June 4, 2012  
 ) 4:11 p.m.  
 )

TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY OF JOYCE GARRETT  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE DANNY C. REEVES AND A JURY

Appearances of Counsel:

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Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography,  
transcript produced by computer.

1 (Whereupon, the following proceedings were had in the  
2 presence of the jury.)

3 MR. MCBRIDE: Your Honor, may I call the next witness?

4 THE COURT: Yes, sir, you may.

5 MR. MCBRIDE: Your Honor, the United States calls  
6 Ms. Joyce Garrett.

7 JOYCE GARRETT,  
8 having been first duly placed under oath, was examined and  
9 testified as follows:

10 THE COURT: Thank you.

11 Mr. McBride, you may proceed.

12 MR. WEBB: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. MCBRIDE:

15 Q Good afternoon, ma'am. What is your full name, please?

16 A Joyce Garrett.

17 Q Where do you live, ma'am?

18 A You want the full address or just -- I live in Boone  
19 County, Kentucky.

20 Q You live in the Triple Crown Subdivision, don't you?

21 A I beg your pardon?

22 Q Triple Crown? Do you live in Triple Crown, ma'am?

23 A Yes, that's correct.

24 Q All right. And do you know Mr. Weinland?

25 A I do.

1 Q Would you tell us how you know Mr. Weinland?

2 A He's my minister.

3 Q Okay. How did you come to Mr. Weinland's church?

4 A Well, it was through a process. I was with the church that  
5 had the apostasy and through the process of elimination of  
6 listening to other ministers, then I came to Mr. Weinland's  
7 church. I'm sure you don't want the full story.

8 Q No, ma'am, I would like the full story, if you could. Tell  
9 the ladies and gentlemen what you mean by the apostasy and what  
10 church you were referring to?

11 A Well, I was with what was called the Worldwide Church of  
12 God and the apostasy is where our beliefs were totally turned  
13 upside down and -- which had been told in scriptures what was to  
14 happen, and that's why it's called the apostasy, it actually  
15 comes from the scriptures. And so once that occurred, then most  
16 of us left and the church pretty much scattered into a lot of  
17 individual groups. And so it was from there that we had to  
18 select, well, where were we going to go in order to listen to  
19 the minister that would be adhering to what we considered the  
20 truth.

21 Q Can I ask a couple of follow-up questions. The Worldwide  
22 Church, that was the church led by Herbert Armstrong; correct?

23 A Correct.

24 Q All right. And at what place were you living when the  
25 apostasy occurred?

1 A In the State of Maryland.

2 Q All right. And at that time, your husband was still alive;  
3 correct?

4 A Correct.

5 Q And what was his profession?

6 A He was a dentist.

7 Q Okay. All right. And as I understand it, you came to  
8 follow Mr. Weinland after the apostasy; correct?

9 A Not right at first. We went several places and then  
10 decided eventually to go with Mr. Weinland.

11 Q And why did you decide to follow Mr. Weinland?

12 A Beg your pardon?

13 Q Why did you decide to follow Mr. Weinland?

14 A Because he was adhering to the teachings that we had with  
15 the original church and was adhering more closely than any of  
16 the other ministers.

17 Q All right. And over time, did you become a member of the  
18 Church of God - Preparing for the Kingdom?

19 A Correct, yes.

20 Q And how is it that you moved to Northern Kentucky? How did  
21 that happen, ma'am?

22 A Well, my husband died and I remained in Maryland for about  
23 two years, and so I knew a lot of people in Cincinnati and  
24 elsewhere and then I -- it was sort of a process of elimination  
25 as to -- to determine where I would live. And I chose this

1 particular area because it was centrally located and so that I  
2 could go and visit others and in most cases be able to drive  
3 there.

4 Q Were there people you knew here in a congregation?

5 A Yes. Yes.

6 Q And how did it come to be that you ended up -- You're  
7 essentially a neighbor of Mr. Weinland's, aren't you?

8 A Correct, yes.

9 Q How did you end up as Mr. Weinland's neighbor?

10 A Well, I was -- I started out looking for property in  
11 Cincinnati and I wanted to -- I wanted to have something that --  
12 because of my age, I wanted something that would be more of a  
13 rancher-type home. And so I was not finding anything suitable  
14 right away and so when I was talking with Mr. Weinland at one  
15 point and I was describing to him what I was looking for,  
16 because I wanted to be near a major highway, I wanted more of a  
17 rancher-type home and such, and he said, "Well, that sounds  
18 similar to the house that we moved into." And so he offered  
19 that when I would come down to be looking around for property,  
20 if I wanted to look at his house, I could. And so I did. But I  
21 didn't make the decision right away, I continued to look some  
22 more, and then I realized, well, that particular area, that the  
23 house suited me more than anything that I had seen.

24 Q Now, one of the things that we're concerned about here  
25 today are the operations of the Church of God and I want to ask

1 some questions of you as a member about the church. Okay. Do  
2 you belong to a local congregation?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Where and when do you meet?

5 A Well, we meet on Sabbath, Saturday is our Sabbath, and we  
6 meet here in Cincinnati.

7 Q Where specifically in Cincinnati do you meet?

8 A At the La Quinta hotel.

9 Q How are the -- you meet in a meeting room; correct?

10 A In a meeting room, yes.

11 Q How is that meeting room arranged, do you know?

12 A In terms of payment or -- what do you mean, arranged?

13 Q How is it scheduled and paid for, do you know?

14 A Well, I'm assume it's paid for by the church.

15 MR. CLINE: Your Honor, I apologize. Forgive me for  
16 interrupting. I'm going to object for lack of foundation. I  
17 believe she said she assumed.

18 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, I can't hear you.

19 MR. CLINE: I'm sorry, I'll try to speak a little  
20 louder.

21 THE COURT: All right. I'll overrule the objection at  
22 this point.

23 I believe you were following up, Mr. McBride; is that  
24 correct?

25 MR. MCBRIDE: All right. Thank you, Your Honor.

1 BY MR. MCBRIDE:

2 Q As a member, do you pay for the meeting room?

3 A No, I don't, no.

4 Q And you don't get any kind of reimbursement for the meeting  
5 rooms, do you?

6 A No. No.

7 Q You have to drive to the meetings from your home in Union  
8 to Cincinnati and back; correct?

9 A Correct.

10 Q Do you get any reimbursement for your mileage?

11 A No.

12 Q Would you expect any?

13 A No.

14 Q Now, I know that you hear sermons from Mr. Weinland at your  
15 meetings. How do you receive those sermons?

16 A It's over the Internet and sometimes he's there in person,  
17 because he does travel from area to area, so -- but when he's  
18 not here, then we hear them over the Internet.

19 Q All right. Are you aware of other congregations of your  
20 church?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Where are they located?

23 A All over. I mean, all over the United States and other  
24 countries.

25 Q There's some in Europe and some in --

1 A Yes.

2 Q Very good.

3 A Yes.

4 Q Have you ever traveled to any of those other congregations?

5 A Only -- and not recently, but I've gone to -- just a couple  
6 of times to others here in the United States. And occasionally  
7 in the past, when my husband was alive, when it was feast time,  
8 and then a couple of times we went to other countries during the  
9 feast.

10 Q Did the church reimburse you for your expenses traveling to  
11 and from the feasts?

12 A No.

13 Q Would you expect the church to?

14 A Pardon me?

15 Q Would you expect the church to?

16 A No. No.

17 Q You mentioned holy days and feasts. Generally, are the  
18 holy days in the springtime?

19 A Well, they start in the spring and then it goes into the  
20 fall.

21 Q My understanding, and correct me if I'm wrong, I thought  
22 you had some holy days in the spring and then you had the Feast  
23 of the Tabernacles in the fall. Is that not accurate?

24 A Well, the Feast of Tabernacles is also holy days. The holy  
25 days start in the spring and they're like in the summertime and



1 then in the fall.

2 Q I see. They're not continuous, but they happen during that  
3 period of time?

4 A Right. They're individual holy days, yes.

5 Q Thank you for helping me understand that. Have you ever  
6 served as an elder in the church?

7 A No.

8 Q Who serves as the elder for your congregation?

9 A There's several.

10 Q Who are they, ma'am?

11 A Do you want the names?

12 Q Yes, please.

13 A Okay. All of them?

14 Q Yes, please.

15 A Let's see, there's Steve Dalrymple, Tim Brown, Sandy Bays,  
16 Bobbie Brown, Lois Domeland. Do you want me to continue?

17 Q No, that's fine.

18 A Okay.

19 Q So there are several?

20 A Yes.

21 Q This may seem obvious to you, but I want to ask you, are  
22 there any permanent buildings, like churches or anything of that  
23 nature, that the church has?

24 A No.

25 Q All right. I would like to ask you about, from my point of

1 two, the income of the church. Do you tithe to the church?

2 A Yes.

3 Q All right. Could you explain to the jury the system of  
4 tithing used in your church?

5 A You tithe on your increase, and this would be, say, for  
6 example, if you're a working person and you would tithe on the  
7 net, and the tithe is 10 percent, and this is what's prescribed  
8 by scripture. It would mean that after you paid taxes, after  
9 all of the deductions, Social Security and whatnot, then  
10 whatever your net would be, then you tithe 10 percent on that.

11 Q How often do you do that, ma'am?

12 A Well, as often as you get paid. So it would be for the --  
13 whatever you would make for the entire year, and if you're paid  
14 weekly -- some people will take it out weekly, some will take it  
15 out monthly, depending upon how you're paid.

16 Q And as I understand it, that's referred to as first tithe;  
17 correct?

18 A I'm sorry?

19 Q That's first tithe?

20 A That's first tithe; correct.

21 Q What is second tithe?

22 A Second tithe is where you have another 10 percent and you  
23 use that for attending holy days. It's like a savings, but  
24 that's just for your use, that's not for the church's use.

25 Q It's never sent to the church, is it?

1 A Pardon me?

2 Q It's not sent to the church, it's kept for yourself?

3 A Some people will take what they call a tithe of a tithe.  
4 If they have -- if it's someone who makes a lot more money than  
5 someone else and in order to go to attend the feast they only  
6 need a certain amount of money, well, in order to help others  
7 who might not have as much, then they may go ahead and offer  
8 more of theirs or like what's called a tithe of a tithe. You  
9 take 10 percent of it, that goes in and then it helps others to  
10 attend the feasts.

11 Q Very good. What is third tithe?

12 A Well, third tithe in our church now is not collected. It  
13 was at one time when we were in Worldwide and -- but basically  
14 what the third tithe is for are for people who are unable to  
15 take care of themselves, and so once the -- once the welfare  
16 system and other groups within the government, once they were  
17 formed where people could go to agencies and get the help, well,  
18 then the third tithe then was discontinued. Now, still -- in  
19 some groups it's still done.

20 Q Still done, but not in your church?

21 A Right.

22 Q Very good. What are the different -- what are offerings  
23 and what's the difference between offerings and tithe?

24 A Well, in the offerings, it's prescribed in the Bible that  
25 when we attend the Holy Days we give a -- what's called a free

1 will offering, and this can be based on whatever you want to  
2 give. And what people do is they determine, well, how much they  
3 have, they feel that sometimes they've been blessed by things  
4 they've done and they feel then, okay, well, they may give more.  
5 But you give it according to what you want, it's your choice.

6 Q And as I understand it, people who are unemployed and who  
7 are retired don't have to tithe; is that correct?

8 A Correct. It's only on your increase.

9 Q Thank you. Do you still tithe?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Could you tell me, where do you send your tithe?

12 A To the Post Office box -- sometimes I -- since I live  
13 across the street, sometimes I hand it to someone, but otherwise  
14 we have the envelopes that have the Post Office box for the  
15 church and you can mail it.

16 Q That's a Post Office box in Cincinnati, ma'am?

17 A Correct.

18 Q Okay. And when you happen to be in the neighborhood or  
19 over near Mr. Weinland's house, who would you hand your tithe  
20 to?

21 A To Audra Weinland.

22 Q Why would you hand it to Audra?

23 A Because it saves me a stamp.

24 Q Okay. Fair enough. Does Audra have a role in the church  
25 with regards to the tithes that's you're aware of?

1 A I know that she handles some of the bookkeeping. I don't  
2 know specifically what she does, but I know she does some of the  
3 books.

4 Q That's what I was asking. Thank you. In what form do you  
5 give your tithe?

6 A Check.

7 Q Always a check?

8 A Yes, never cash.

9 Q And do you get any documentation back from the church about  
10 your tithe?

11 A Yes.

12 Q What do you get?

13 A It's a statement that gives the details, it gives the check  
14 number and the amount and shows what it's for. And those come  
15 quarterly, and then at the end of the year, it's all summarized  
16 on one statement.

17 Q All right. Do you check those statements?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Why do you check them?

20 A Because that's my nature, I check everything.

21 Q And are they usually accurate?

22 A Yes.

23 Q All right. What do you do with them?

24 A I keep them.

25 Q All right. Do you use the annual statement for anything?

1 A If -- when the taxes are prepared, I'll show that as an  
2 offering, yes.

3 Q So that's a charitable contribution you deduct from your  
4 taxes?

5 A Yes. Yes.

6 Q Okay. Thank you. Do you know what Mr. Weinland's salary  
7 is?

8 A No.

9 Q Do you know if Mrs. Weinland is employed by the church?

10 A I don't know as an employee. I know that she's part of the  
11 church, an integral part of the church.

12 Q She's clearly part of the spiritual church; correct?

13 A Pardon me?

14 Q She's clearly part of the spiritual church?

15 A Oh, yes. Definitely, yes.

16 Q But you don't know whether she's a paid employee, do you?

17 A I do not know that, no.

18 Q Are you aware that Mr. Weinland put some church money in a  
19 Swiss account?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What did you -- did you attend a sermon in which you heard  
22 that?

23 A Yes.

24 Q What did Mr. Weinland say about it?

25 A That -- during that time, there was a lot of talk in the

1 news and all around that the dollar was going to be in trouble  
2 and he made statements concerning that, because it was at a time  
3 that -- I can't remember if that's during the time that the  
4 books were being done or they were talking about doing the  
5 books. But there was concern that if the dollar did go down  
6 dramatically, if there were any problems that way, by putting  
7 some money in that account, then that would kind of safeguard  
8 things and so the church could still operate.

9 Q Do you know how much money he put in those accounts?

10 A No.

11 Q Do you know what bank the accounts were in?

12 A No.

13 Q Do you know whose name was on the accounts?

14 A No.

15 Q Do you know how many deposits were made into those  
16 accounts?

17 A No.

18 Q When you were with Worldwide Church, did they provide  
19 financial statements of the entire church?

20 A That was -- not to my knowledge. But I did hear just a day  
21 or so ago, though --

22 MR. CLINE: I apologize, ma'am.

23 I object, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: All right. I'll sustain the objection  
25 based on hearsay.

1 MR. MCBRIDE: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 BY MR. MCBRIDE:

3 Q So you never saw a financial statement from Worldwide  
4 Church?

5 A I did not. A statement was made just the other day, so I'm  
6 just saying --

7 MR. CLINE: I apologize again.

8 THE COURT: All right. You can't discuss matters that  
9 you may have talked about with someone else.

10 THE WITNESS: Okay. Well, then I would have to say  
11 no, that I didn't personally see it.

12 MR. MCBRIDE: Thank you.

13 BY MR. MCBRIDE:

14 Q I didn't mean to get you in trouble, sorry.

15 A Pardon me?

16 Q I didn't mean to get you in trouble, I'm sorry.

17 A No, that's okay.

18 Q Have you ever seen a financial statement from Church of  
19 God?

20 A No.

21 MR. MCBRIDE: Your Honor, those are all the questions  
22 I have at this time.

23 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

24 Will there be any cross-examination of the witness?

25 MR. CLINE: No, Your Honor. Given the hour, we're at



1 the end of the day, and I hate to keep her overnight. No  
2 cross-examination.

3 THE COURT: All right. Very well.

4 Any objection to the witness being finally excused?

5 MR. MCBRIDE: No, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

7 Ms. Garrett, you're finally excused. Do you have any  
8 documents up there that you were given? I don't think that you  
9 did receive any. You can step down at this time, you're  
10 excused. Thank you, ma'am.

11 (Testimony concluded at 4:31 p.m.)

12 C E R T I F I C A T E

13 I, Cynthia A. Oakes, certify that the foregoing is a  
14 correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the  
15 above-entitled matter.

16  
17 6/5/2012  
DATE

s/CYNTHIA A. OAKES  
CYNTHIA A. OAKES, RPR, RMR, CRR

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