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# News Updates

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## TBN FRAUD REPORTED

Reports of substantial financial malfeasance — said to be in the tens of millions of dollars — have been disclosed by a former high-ranking official of the Trinity Broadcasting Network. Even more disastrous for the organization, which is said to be the world's largest Christian television network, is that the whistle-blower is the granddaughter of its co-founders, Paul and Jan Crouch.

In September 2011, Brittany Koper was fired by TBN following her discovery of "illegal financial schemes," according to the *Los Angeles Times*. A legal battle has followed. According to the *Times'* report, the "lawsuit alleges that Brittany Koper was promoted to the position of TBN's financial director in July [2011] because the network directors needed someone 'within the family' to keep its financial 'skeletons' hidden."

In the lawsuit, it is claimed that "Trinity Broadcasting's directors, Paul, Matthew and Janice Crouch, bought luxury items for personal use through sham loans to alter-ego corporations. The complaint cites a long list, including a \$50 million 'Global Express' luxury jet aircraft, luxury cars, 'a \$100,000 motor home purchased by Trinity Broadcasting as a mobile residence for director Janice Crouch's dogs,' and mansions and cabins in California, Florida, Tennessee and Texas," according to an online report by the *Courthouse News Service*. It was also alleged that up to \$500,000 is used annually for meal expenses, personal chauffeurs, fictitious rent expenses, and redecorating expenses for the Crouches.

In the network's response, TBN's lawyers claimed that Koper and her husband, Michael, "used forged documents to embezzle funds to buy trucks, jewelry, a fishing boat, a motorcycle, a Lexus and life insurance," the *Times* said. It was also reported that the Kopers gave to Michael's uncle, Joseph McVeigh, "thousands of dollars without authorization."

According to the British online publication, *The Guardian*, "The network's lawyer has denied the allegations calling the McVeigh lawsuit a 'tabloid filing' accusing McVeigh and the Kopers of working together to steal from the ministry."

A TBN lawsuit against the Kopers and McVeigh, based upon the aforementioned allegations, was dismissed in both state and federal court last year. McVeigh says that the funds were a \$65,000 loan he acquired with an agreement to make monthly payments of which he claims he is current. The 13-year promissory note was obtained in 2010 and was approved by the Kopers.

Attorney Tymothy MacLeod, who filed the lawsuit on behalf of McVeigh, also said that Koper plans to file a wrongful-termination suit against the network. In the lawsuit already filed, the Crouches are not named as defendants.

—MKG

## CAMPING ADMITS FAILURE

Approximately 10 months after his predicted date for the return of Christ and the end of the world failed to materialize, Harold Camping of Family Radio finally admitted his error.

In March, the ministry posted "An Important Letter from Mr. Camping" on its Web site. Originally the letter was to be mailed out to Family Radio's listeners, but the document was reportedly leaked onto the Internet without authorization, so the ministry's board made an immediate decision to post it.

The confession sends mixed signals and critics see little, if any, true repentance on Camping's part. "Yes, we humbly acknowledge we were wrong about the timing; yet though we were wrong God is still using the May 21 warning in a very mighty way," Camping wrote. The 90-year-old radio evangelist also maintained, "The May 21 campaign was an astounding event if you think about its impact upon this world."

Camping further wrote: "We must openly acknowledge that we have no new evidence pointing to another date for the end of the world. Though many dates are circulating, Family Radio has no interest in even considering another date. God has humbled us through the events of May 21, to continue to even more fervently search the Scriptures (the Bible), not to find dates, but to be more faithful in our understanding."

Nearly two decades ago, Camping first prophesied the end of the world for 1994. Following that failed prediction, and for the past several years, he predicted the end of the world for May 21, 2011. When his predicted date for May 2011 passed without the foretold result, he decided he must have misinterpreted the biblical data by five months. At that time the end, he said, would occur in October of last year.

Days after the failed May date, Camping suffered a mild stroke.

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