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BBB Wise Giving Report for St. Matthew's Churches

BBB Wise Giving report issued July 2008.
BBB Wise Giving report expires July 2009.

NONDISCLOSURE
This Charity did not provide requested information. As a result, the Wise Giving Alliance cannot determine if it meets standards. Find out more...

Help

For Charity Admin Only:
Contact the BBB Wise Giving Alliance about your report

Send to:
Printer Email Wireless

Receive Updates:
Email RSS

Find out more about this charity:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Charity Contact Information | Tax Status |
| BBB Wise Giving Alliance | Governance |
| Comments | Fund Raising |
| Programs | Financial |
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Charity Contact Information

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Name: St. Matthew's Churches
Address: Post Office Box 3036
Tulsa, OK 74101
Phone: 918-582-7167
Web Address: www.saintmatthewschurches.com
also known as: Prayer By Letters

BBB Wise Giving Alliance Comments

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Year, State Incorporated: 1977, Oklahoma

Affiliates: None

Stated Purpose: "The principle mission of the Church is following the dictates of St. Mark 13:10...."

BBB Wise Giving Alliance Comment

Despite written BBB Wise Giving Alliance requests in the past year, this organization has declined to be evaluated in relation to the Alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability. While participation in the Alliance's charity review efforts is voluntary, the Alliance believes that failure to participate may demonstrate a lack of commitment to transparency. Without the requested information, the Alliance cannot determine if this charity adheres to the Standards for Charity Accountability.

A charity's willing disclosure of information beyond that typically included in its financial statements and government filings is, in the Alliance's view, an expression of openness that strengthens public trust in the charitable sector.

The BBB Wise Giving Alliance reports on national charities and determines if they meet 20 voluntary standards on matters such as charity finances, appeals, and governance. The Alliance does not evaluate the worthiness of the charitable program.

Charity Response

In response to the Alliance's request for information, St. Matthew's stated, in part, that:

"St. Matthew's Churches is a church, not a charity. The Church at no time makes any charitable outreach in any of its literature that it sends out, and the Church never makes any representations as to any charitable use of its funds. The Church does provide its members, as all churches do, an opportunity to worship through tithes and offerings, yet the Church never makes donations a requisite for membership in the Church or a requirement for receiving the Churches' literature. The Church provides everything to the public for free. While some churches have subsidiary religious organizations that are charities and are subject to reporting requirements, this Church has no such entity or subsidiary.

In addition to conducting its weekly Church services, the Church mails millions of pieces of religious mail nationwide annually and is mindful of the fact that the Better Business Bureau receives numerous complaints concerning the Churches' mail sermons...Any person who asks that their name be removed from the Churches' mailing list will have their name immediately removed. They may receive one or two additional sermons which were already in the mailing system."

The Alliance notes that both the Alliance and BBBs from across the country have received public inquiries from individuals who have received direct mail letters from this organization.

Tax Status

This organization is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is eligible to receive contributions deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.

Complaints

Number of complaints processed by the BBB in the last 36 months: 107

Mailing List Removal

The organization addressed the complaint issues brought to its attention: 98

The organization did not address the complaint issues brought to its attention: 9

(These complaints involve individuals seeking to have their name and address removed from the organization's mailing list.)

An organization may change its practices at any time without notice.

A copy of this report has been shared with the organization prior to publication. It is not intended to recommend or deprecate, and is furnished solely to assist you in exercising your own judgment. The name BBB Wise Giving Alliance is a registered service mark of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance