

Phone Transcript Michael Maness & Grove Norwood
Phone Call, Sept. 8, 2021, 14:30

See www.PreciousHeart.net/Seminary



This was part of a lot of data and interviews for the book:

How Nationalists Scam Evangelicals: A Case Study in Purposeful Prison Culture Degradation, or, TDCJ's 25 Years of Anti-Criminology Authoritarian Antics—

Texas Prison Mocks Our Constitutions in Sex, Cover Ups, Big Bucks, and Psychopaths Prostituting Faith in Seminary Scams (2021)

Earlier in the first week of September, I received by mail the IRS response for the Form 990s on the Grove Norwood's Heart of Texas Foundation, a repeat of the info received a year earlier. They did not contain the 2019 or 2020 Form 990s. I called the number, and on 9-8-21 IRS Michael Devine called me back. There had been no filing posted to date. The last was for 2018, after an extension, posted on 11-15-19. If none was sent for 3 years, that would initiate an automatic revocation of the of 5.01(c)3. I sent Grove Norwood an email requesting the 2019 and 2020 Form 990s. Here is the transcript.

Grove—Hello. First question you asked me about the separation of ourselves and Southwestern with TDCJ.

Me—Yeah.

Grove—It has nothing to do with whatever was going on, on their side as far as something hidden or anything like that. I know there's been articles in the paper and all that stuff. Our main concern was that after 11 years of trying to prepare men and now women for the work at this mission field, which, as you will know, is a very special place. And we realized that about a year ago that the curriculum that we have been having to use could be better focused on that mission field. And so, about a year ago, we began working to create an entirely new degree and a degree plan and 42 basically totally different courses that are more focused on the kind of Field Minister we want to produce.

And once we got that degree plan put in place, we took it to Southwestern to see if they would like to adopt it. Their provost at the time loved it and wanted to use it going forward. They subsequently fired him. That was Randy Stinson. And that idea dropped, and he was planning to submit it to SACS. And so when that happened, we realized we need to just do this college on our own. And when we looked at it, and when I looked at it, talked with Brian Collier about this—we basically were doing it anyway. We were just sending all the money to run the College up in Fort Worth. It was going around the horn and back down to Darrington.

So, we undertook to bring the college out, let it stand on its own under the heart of Texas Foundation, and now we're about to submit our application to SACS to accredit the institution and this new degree. And that's why it's called the Bachelor of Arts in Applied Ministry, it is *applied* to this particular mission field. The folks we have shown it to love it. So, that's where we are right now as far as that goes.

And TDCJ had had some challenges with working with Southwestern of its own. I won't speak for them. But they were down there when Southwestern went down and fired its staff, a year or so ago, nearly two years ago I guess, and walked them off the farm.

And we brought in some staff that we helped find and recruited so forth. The school went through some challenges, because the Houston campus closed, it basically went under. And, you know, the President was fired, and you know all of that. They closed all of their campuses. The new interim president closed all of their campuses in the United States except for Darrington. And that was the only one that was financially viable and that was working.

So, we're just in a beautiful phase of a transition to an independent self-sustaining college of ministry that we're praying real hard that SACS will see us with favor and ultimately accredit our degree and our program. Because we haven't changed.

As far as the 990 goes, you're welcome to any one of them that you want. I think they're all out. They should be on GuideStar who goes—when the IRS gets, Guidestar goes and puts them in their website. So, they're there for everybody.

Me—The only ones that are available are to 2018, which was the last one was submitted in 2019; 2020, I mean 2019 and 2020 are not up.

Grove—That's right. I'll tell you why. We, up until SACS, we were not doing a full audit every year. But Saks requires a full audit every year. And so this year we have commissioned two audits: the one for '19 and the one for '20. They have just been submitted and approved by our board, so they're not out there yet, but they're, they're about—the 990 is about to be submitted for this year, but they can't do the 990 until the audit is complete. So, now they're working on our 990 for 2020. And when that, when I sign that in the next week or two, then that'll go up, you'll be able to see it. And you'll see that, you should see the 2019 990. That's out there because that was filed last year.

Me—Well, I talked with the IRS guy this morning. He said it is not up there, it doesn't take long for them to put it up on the IRS site. Yes, GuideStar, I've been following them for well over 20 years. But is it just possible that you can send me the 219 email that to me and then

Grove—The 2019?

Me—Yeah.

Grove—Well, yeah, if I have to pull it out of our files and copy it. I'll be glad to.

Me—And, and, and if you're going to be signing the 2020 this, it may take you know a month before they actually put it up, if you can just mail that to me too, that'd be fine in the next week, or two just put them both together.

Grove—When I get that 990 for 2020, I will do that, there's, I have no problem with it. Make sure that it doesn't, the IRS does not put the names of the donors out publicly, so I'll be sure to redact the names of the donors, because that's something we don't care [to share] publicly.

Me—Well, that's fine. Don't have to do anything, don't do anything you feel is confidential and the donors are really not on there. I've seen some of

these over the years, where they have put—where they have given, where the 5.01(c)3 has reported what *they* have given, but not *who* has given to them.

Grove—Yeah. I'd love to send you a copy, as long because I'm trying to gather a couple things to send to you, is a copy of our new curriculum.

Michael, you've been, you've been in the system as a volunteer and a warrior for a long time, and I love the work you did back when you were championing for the chaplains. It's hard to believe they would have even considered that, you know, shutting them all down. So, I think if it hadn't been for you, that probably would have happened. I admire you for that.

Me—That was a lot of hard work. And that, they had decided that at nearly the very same time they were signing contracts with you in 2010.

Grove—It looks suspicious, didn't it?

Me—Well, it does. It's, it's—there's a bit of two-faced stuff going on there, supporting you and canceling all of chaplaincy.

Grove—Yeah, yeah.

Me—And we had—it was, it was *dead!* We actually got news of this before some of the legislators did, thanks to Emmett Solomon. And it was *dead* coming to the legislature. If we had not have marshaled our stuff in January and February, there would be no chaplaincy. Now they may have rehired some in the next two or three or four bienniums. But it was dead.

Grove—But I never believed it would happen, and I could be naive in this. But I realized that no inmates can ever talk to people on the outside. They can't pick up the phone and answer questions. They can't talk to volunteers and bring them in and schedule out. The inmates cannot do that, and I realized, that is one of the primary goals of the chaplaincy is to talk to the public, be the face of the warden to the public, the face of the spiritual and religious efforts going on in the prison. The inmates can never do that. That voice would have been shut down.

Me—Well, even that is pretty limited. But I have been pretty vocal, And I'm not really for the seminary program. I'm putting together a lot of research on that. With respect to the curriculum, yes, I would like that. I guess it's a little different—is it a little different than what you currently have on your website?

Grove—No. What we have, is what it is.

Me—Okay. Well, that's—I've already been there. I've seen some of those updates. It's quite a program you're putting together.

Grove—Well, what are your objections to the seminary, Michael?

Me—Well, I just think it's unconstitutional, and there's just a lot of issues with that. But, ah, I really would like to see those form 990s, when you can get those, and I would appreciate it very much.

Grove—All right, sir. Well, we certainly will do that. We're as transparent as we can possibly be. And I love your heart, and I love your heart for the chaplaincy and for the work of God in the prison. And I pray that as you look at the seminary, you will see that the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is what we're all about, legally, and that you'll see the transforming power it's having among Jews, Gentiles, Muslims, and families on the outside. It is a beautiful thing to see.

And we're in our 11th year right now, and just started the women's program yesterday for their first class of 34 Freshmen women up in Hobby [Prison in Marlon].

Me—You mentioned in your message a while ago that I wasn't able to answer the phone, a College of Dentistry. Are you starting a dentistry.

Grove—College of *ministry*.

Me—Ministry—Okay! I have a hearing aid, and I guess my hearing aids messed that up. Okay.

Grove—I am glad you asked. Where is Jasper? Your phone comes in from Jasper. Where is that? I know the name.

Me—Well, that's about 30 miles west [really *east*] of where I am actually at. I'm in Woodinville.

Grove—Okay, okay.

Me—Where the Gib Lewis Unit is at.

Grove—Yeah, yeah, Absolutely. Excellent.

Me—That's where I retired from after 20.

Grove—Bless your heart. Well, it's good to talk with you.

Me—Thank you Grove, You have a wonderful day, and I look forward to that stuff.

Grove—Well, I appreciate you. We've got a small handful of donors, but they're so faithful. And it's just a blessing to be open to all. And we're getting ready to bring in our next class of freshmen. We're in 39 prisons with over 200 Field Ministers of all races, shapes, colors, and creeds and religions. And they're just doing a beautiful job to minister to their peers and try to bring some peace to the to the units. And the wardens who don't have them our calling TDCJ asking for them. I think if you got close to it, you'd see there is a lot of good coming.

When the chaplains leave, there's nobody there full-time to deal with the things that happened at two o'clock in the morning. And that's what they're doing. And they're even on death row now. For the first time, TDCJ is allowing the Field Ministers to go down and talk to men who are on death row, even those with their dates. And just, just talk with them and share with them, bring them back from the edge. So, it's not walking down beating them over the head with Bibles. They learned that's not the game plan. The game plan is just to live the life of Christ and let it be seen.

Me—Well, I admire your heart, I admire your heart. I have met a lot of volunteers over the years that just have hearts of gold, and believe in what they're doing. And I don't have any doubt about your belief or your sincerity on that. I am putting together a sizable piece of criticism that will probably be out in a while. And it's also related to 25 years of abuse of chaplaincy, ah, that just never ceases. And, ah, not just the 2011 attempted assassination of the chaplaincy that we had to fight, did you know, you may have seen my book on that. I wrote a book on that. This one is going to be a larger book. It's going to be my last one, because I don't have the stamina, or the heart to do anything else on this. But, ah, TDCJ hasn't been fair to the chaplains or to religion. And, ah, it's going to be. This is a very significant part of the history.

Grove—What are you hoping to get TDCJ to revise or revamp? How they've structured chaplaincy? What their overall mission is?

Me—It would be nice if.

Grove—I know you're not thinking about shutting it down.

Me—Oh no, this is actually volume seven in what I call the Defense Against the Abuse of Chaplaincy Series. Because I've been defending chaplaincy for 21 years. The first time is 2000 when I went to the legislature for our first pay group pay raise in *40 years!* [Drawn out.]

Grove—Wow. Really?

Me—Yes, and we won. And then in 2003, Mr. Carl Jeffries, the [RPD] director, cut chaplaincy by 33%—50 chaplains lost their jobs, punitively on that. They didn't use any evidence-based anything on that. In 2007, I went back to the legislature with my representative pitching for 50 chaplains back and a restructuring, and we got 25 back, and, ah, that they did not budget.

Grove—I remember, I remember those days, and your heading that up, the charge on that, I remember that. I do.

Me—Well, there's been, there's a whole lot more to it. And, ah, many other things attended. But I am getting a little older, too, and some of my faculties ain't what they used to be. And I don't have the emotional stuff to do anything else. But this is the last hurrah for me. And it's, ah [long pause] you'll just have to see it when it comes out.

Grove—Well, I've always seen you as a warrior for the good. And that's, that's just the way I remember you from those days when you stood up. That was when I first became aware of your name. And you, and I do believe that I read that early book years ago. I, I do feel like that I have read it, and probably have it somewhere, unless it burned up in our house fire that we had.

Me—Who knows? But there's a lot going on, you probably won't care much for what's coming out. But it is my heart, too.

Grove—Yeah, yeah.

Me—So, I really would appreciate those form 990s. And, ah, I appreciate yah calling back.

Grove—You're more than welcome, sir. Out of respect. I, ah, will send you the 2019, and, ah, I'll send you the 2020 when it gets done.

Me—Sure. And you don't have to send the donors, unless you just really want to, because that's. a lot of people probably consider those things confidential.

Grove—And I wouldn't want to upset anybody or embarrass somebody I know they would not be ashamed, but it just, you know. I know you understand.

Me—Well, I do. And, ah, you want to cherish those. And they probably don't need to see what it is that I'm putting together with respect to you. And, ah, you want to cherish those donors as everybody does. There's a lot of money flowing around out there.

Grove—Yep. There is.

Me—Well look, have a great day, ah, Grove. And, ah, y'all have a safe trip.

Grove—Thank you. Talk to you again. Take care, Michael. Take care of yourself.

Me—bye.

Grove—Okay, bye bye.