



For Immediate Release

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Church Law & Tax Report Acquired by Christianity Today International

(Carol Stream, IL – November 17, 2005) Christianity Today International (CTI) has agreed to acquire the *Church Law and Tax Report* and *Church Treasurer Alert!* newsletters and a number of ancillary resources from the owners of Church Law & Tax Report (CLTR), the leading publisher of legal information and training tools for U.S. church leaders. The Jordan, Edmiston Group, Inc. (JEGI), the New York-based investment banking firm for the media and information industries, represented CLTR in this transaction.

“Liability in this litigious culture is a serious and growing problem for churches, and most pastors are not even aware of the risk,” CTI board member Jay Kesler said. “I think *Church Law & Tax Report* will help CTI provide a vital ministry service by expanding awareness and offering guidance in this critical area.”

CLTR was founded in 1987 by James Cobble and Richard Hammar to provide legal, tax and risk management resources and training for clergy and religious organizations. “For some time we have considered the best way to put into place a succession plan for our work,” Cobble said. “Both Rich and I have been impressed with the staff and the commitments that CTI is making to ensure that our work continues.”

Hammar, a Certified Public Accountant and graduate of Harvard Law School, will continue to provide content for the publications.

CTI President and Publisher Paul Robbins said, “*Church Law & Tax Report* is a wonderful addition to the CTI portfolio of ministry products and services. We are delighted that Richard Hammar will remain actively involved in the production of CLTR as a writer and editor. Pastors, church treasurers and other lay leaders have trusted his wisdom and insights for nearly twenty years.”

Beginning in November, CTI will publish both newsletters and all CLTR products, including:

- *Church Law & Tax Report* – a 32-page bi-monthly newsletter reviewing legal and tax developments;
- *Church Treasurer Alert!* – a four-page monthly newsletter reviewing financial, tax and risk management issues;
- *The Church and Clergy Tax Guide* – an annually updated book and CD covering all important tax issues affecting churches and clergy;

- *The Compensation Handbook for Church Staff* – an annually updated handbook using survey data to report compensation findings for nine church staff positions;
- Reducing the Risk – a kit that includes the *Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in Your Church* reference book, training manual and DVD. More than 145,000 kits have been sold; and
- *Pastor, Church, and Law* – a 1,000-page reference book that is also available on CD-ROM.

CLTR's online component, ChurchLawToday.com, provides church leaders, staff members and volunteer workers with extensive legal, tax and risk management resources and training. The Web site includes free and fee-based resource areas.

About Christianity Today International

CTI (www.christianitytoday.com) was co-founded in 1956 by Billy Graham and is the publisher of 13 print publications, online church leadership resources, and a variety of Web sites offering exclusive news and resources from a Christian perspective.

About The Jordan, Edmiston Group, Inc. (JEGI)

Founded in 1987, JEGI (www.jegi.com) is widely recognized for its leadership in middle-market merger and acquisition advisory services for the media and information industries. Leveraging the shared insights and wisdom gleaned from hundreds of transactions, JEGI has built a client base that ranges in size from the largest media and information companies consolidating their portfolios to entrepreneurs selling their businesses or taking them to the next stage of development. JEGI's impeccable reputation reflects its knowledge and record of superior performance on behalf of its clients.

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