

Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)

Answers to Ann Marie's Questions:

- A. How many Life Surge events have taken place since it was launched? How many this year?
- B. How many people have attended a Life Surge event, and what is average attendance in 2025?
- C. What percentage of people who attend Life Surge sign up for the \$97 classes? What percentage attend the classes? What percentage of Life Surge attendees sign up for the advanced programs?
- D. A question for Joe Johnson, it appears Life Surge is similar in structure to Get Motivated but has much more of an emphasis on faith. Why did he decide to center it around faith instead of relaunching something more similar to Get Motivated?
- E. How, specifically, does building wealth advance Kingdom Impact? (I heard several speakers address this topic in general but would like the official explanation from Life Surge)
- F. Do the advanced training programs lead to licensure or certification of any kind? Or is the end result simply more knowledge/expertise?
- G. Could you connect me with a couple of people who have gone through the advanced training and are now using their wealth for Kingdom Impact?
- H. I asked about Welfont before, but last week a judge ruled in favor of the plaintiff in a civil case against Welfont and ordered Welfont to pay treble damages and more. It appears from this case and others that Welfont orchestrated a scheme to inflate appraisals to benefit itself and leave the building sellers owing huge sums of tax dollars to the IRS. Shawn Marcell is president of Welfont and Life Surge, so there's a clear connection, what is his response to the most recent ruling against Welfont? Why should Life Surge attendees take financial advice from someone with this track record? (I know Joe Johnson isn't as directly tied to Welfont anymore but has direct ties to some of these suits so would be interested in his thoughts as well)
- I. At Life Surge, they talked about the partnership with YouVersion to donate Bible apps. How does that work? Is Life Surge donating funds to YouVersion? And since the YouVersion app is free to download, what do the funds support? How much money has Life Surge donated to YouVersion through this partnership? Is there a specific group donating the YouVersion app thanks to Life Surge?

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A. How many Life Surge events have taken place since it was launched? How many this year?

- 70 unique events to date
- 22 events so far this year, with 7 more to go for a total of 29 events in 2025.

B. How many people have attended a Life Surge event, and what is average attendance in 2025?

- Well over 250,000 people have attended our events since inception.
- Average attendance per event in 2025 so far is 4,240+ and increasing.
- When we started, we were seeing about 2,000+ people per event. Our average attendance has more than doubled since then, and we expect that trend to continue.
- Repeat markets tend to have much higher attendance because people are coming back to Life Surge when we return to that market.
- In 2025, we project selling over 200,000 tickets from January 1 to December 31. This includes some events scheduled for 2026, but the tickets are sold in 2025.
- We're projecting 6,000 to over 7,000 tickets sold per market in 2026, especially since we're returning to mostly repeat markets in 2026, whereas most of the 2025 markets were new to us. Sometime in 2026, we project to have sold over half a million tickets.
- These trends and data are consistent with our 98% customer satisfaction scores, 90%+ 5-star reviews from our online reviews, and world-class Net Promoter Scores (NPS). When an event achieves such a high customer satisfaction level, attendance increases year-over-year and event-to-event, and that's exactly what's happening.

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C. What percentage of people who attend Life Surge sign up for the \$97 classes? What percentage attend the classes? What percentage of Life Surge attendees sign up for the advanced programs?

The answer to this question is proprietary and confidential for several reasons, including, but not limited to, our desire to protect this information from certain competitors.

However, here is what we can share with you:

- A large number of people choose the option to attend our additional classes (in the thousands each year).
- Likewise, a large number of people choose the option to enroll in the advanced training programs (in the thousands each year).
- 9 out of 10 of our reviews for Life Surge, the optional classes, and the optional advanced training programs are 5-star reviews.
- And as Joe shared with you in your 80-minute interview, the benchmark for what customers really think about a product, event, or business is the Net Promoter Score (NPS) because it asks the ultimate question: “How likely is it that you would recommend this organization, product, or service to a friend or colleague?”. Our average NPS is world-class, yet it only gets stronger for people who choose to pursue the additional educational options.
- Life Surge has an average NPS score of 63+, whereas the typical NPS scores for live event companies are in the teens (e.g., [Live Nation scores 15](#) and [Feld Entertainment scores 18](#)), while the best in class and famous [Cirque du Soleil scores 60](#).
- By contrast, the optional classes offered at Life Surge have an average NPS of 75, while the advanced training has an average NPS of 86. By comparison, the average for higher education institutions in the US is “[around 32](#),” with Harvard Business School [rated 37.3 by students](#) and [MIT at 0](#). The vast majority of Christian ministries and higher education institutions either don’t track NPS scores or don’t publish them, which doesn’t mean that they aren’t highly regarded for who they are and what they do.
- Again, it is essential to note that a NPS score of over 50 is excellent, and anything above 80 is considered world-class and “[rarely obtainable](#).” Our products and experiences consistently range between world-class and rarely obtainable.

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D. A question for Joe Johnson, it appears Life Surge is similar in structure to Get Motivated but has much more of an emphasis on faith. Why did he decide to center it around faith instead of relaunching something more similar to Get Motivated?

From Joe:

The heartbeat of our organization of over 400 team members is “to know God and make Him known.” This is our why and our purpose statement. Our vision is “to see God’s Kingdom surge worldwide.” This isn’t just a slogan—it’s what drives us. We do this by inspiring, training, and equipping others to surge their resources and influence for Kingdom impact, which is our ultimate mission. Life Surge was our first step of many toward seeing this vision come to fruition.

In 2019, I was praying about how to bring this vision to life. My thought at the time was to “start” by launching an online educational company to help entrepreneurs and investors create and multiply resources, leveraging them for Kingdom impact. I had my life radically changed by learning how to invest in real estate, a story I share from the stage when I have the opportunity to do so.

I wanted others to be able to experience a life transformation similar to what I had experienced. I am very passionate about entrepreneurship and had also recently completed my PhD in Entrepreneurial Leadership.

However, launching events weren’t part of my thought process at that time (2019) because I had had a negative experience with events in the past (i.e. Get Motivated). This business failure caused all sorts of issues in my life, and the pain and scars were deep.

As I was praying for direction, I was driven to this scripture: “The mind of a person plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps” (Proverbs 16:9). So, I asked God to direct my steps. The more I prayed about it, the more I sensed that God was leading me to start with events. But the fear of failure and past wounds gripped my heart.

As I worked through my own fears and insecurities, I felt strongly that God was leading me to start with events. So, I completely changed my plans to start with events and not with an entrepreneurial and investor education company. This was a BIG pivot.

In the process of deciding what these events should look like, I was driven to this scriptural principle of “first to the Jew, then to the Gentile” (Romans 1:16). I am not trying to make any theological statements with this verse. I believed that the modern application of this principle for us was to first go to God’s people and then to the world. So, I believe God was directing our steps to start with God’s people first.

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This is where the idea of Life Surge was born. We did not have a name. But we knew we wanted to start with a faith-based business event. Most people, maybe rightfully so, thought this was a crazy idea, and it wasn't going to work. But we were committed to being led by what we believed God was leading us to do rather than what made human sense.

During the launch of this faith-based business event, we faced an unprecedented challenge: COVID-19. Events came to a standstill, and the event world seemed to have gone bankrupt right before our eyes. Fear gripped my heart again.

But I believed that this was the direction God was leading us. So, I decided to overcome my fears and plow forward. It was anything but easy. The first four attempts to launch Life Surge failed. Many people are unaware of this aspect. They see our success and impact now, and think it was a smooth journey, but it wasn't.

Part of the reason it failed was because of COVID, and part of it was because of our own startup issues. But with each failed attempt, we returned to the drawing board to determine how we could improve it.

Then, on our fifth attempt, in the summer of 2021, we pulled off our first successful Life Surge event! 2,400 people joined us for a one-day event in Tampa, Florida. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and the attendees kept describing it as a "life-changing" event.

I would love to say we were off to the races. But we weren't.

In December of 2021, we held our second Life Surge event. It almost ruined us financially. In a single day, we lost over \$1 million. I remember being backstage on my knees, praying and crying out to God. A few hours later, God lifted my spirits when I saw Nick Vujicic sharing the Gospel from the stage, and over 60 people giving their lives to Jesus! I remember asking myself: "What price do we put on eternal impact?"

Most of our staff, however, thought Life Surge was coming to an end after the second event. They were expecting to be let go after such a financial hit. But I came back encouraged and believing that God was with us.

We continued to struggle as an organization—but we plowed forward anyway. It wasn't until our fifth event, approximately one year after our first event, that we saw a breakthrough. So, we doubled down and tried to do one life-changing event per month. We had ups—but they were accompanied by a lot of downs. Still, we kept moving forward, making improvements, and trying to build momentum.

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Eventually, our burn rate (a term used to describe the typical experience of a startup where they lose money month after month until they turn a profit) turned to break-even, and our break-even eventually turned into a profit. Then, after many consistent months of profitability, our company became financially healthy.

One of the key milestones for us was when we were finally able to become an education company.

When I started Life Surge, I knew we could not start an educational company at the same time. I believed it was too much to ask for anyone—let alone our tiny company—to start *both* events and our own educational company in the midst of the COVID pandemic. So we focused on world-class events and partnered with various education companies until we could launch our own advanced training and mentorship program.

Finally, in the late spring and early summer of 2024, we were able to launch our own world-class educational program. After three years of struggle, we were finally off to the races, changing lives through both world-class events and education.

I say all this to give context to the answer to your question.

Get Motivated was a motivational event targeted to the general business community with an emphasis on bringing the Gospel to the workplace. But Get Motivated was not a faith-based educational company like us. And like anything, we learn from all of our experiences, both the good and the bad.

I didn't start Life Surge by comparing it to how similar or how different it was from Get Motivated. I started Life Surge with a strong emphasis on faith because at my core that's who I am and that's what I believe God is leading us to do.

If you look at it from strictly a numbers perspective, one could argue that leaning into faith like we have done is a mistake because although averaging over 4,000 attendees per event is great, it is a fraction of what Get Motivated achieved at its peak (over 12,000 attendees per event). But I didn't lean into faith because of the opportunity. I did it because we believed that's what God was leading us to do.

Although I have a lot of things to be thankful for, the one thing that excites us the most is how many people are giving their lives to Jesus at Life Surge. It's hard to describe in words what it's like to see thousands of people give their lives to Jesus every month, which is what we have been experiencing in 2025.

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This year alone, in less than nine months, we have seen 19,356 people give their lives to Jesus (thousands per month). The fact that we're just a regular business, still a startup, and that we don't ask for any donations to support this great evangelistic movement is truly beyond comprehension.

Another thing that humbles us is the incredible team we've assembled and the culture we've built and continue to develop. As I write this, Life Surge has over 400 incredible people who make up our team. To have grown from zero to over 400 people in five years is truly remarkable.

On [Glassdoor](#), we've received a 4.9-star rating out of 5, with over 90% of employee reviews at 5 stars. Even among elite organizations and best-loved brands, few reach this status. Now think about sites like Glassdoor and how often they're used by disgruntled current or former employees to anonymously strike out at a company, free of consequences or fact-checking. To achieve this type of positive feedback is truly humbling.

But I want to make this clear: as the founder of this organization, I may have made an important contribution to launching it in the early days. However, as our organization continues to grow and achieve new heights, the reality is that I'm a very small part of it. As a serial entrepreneur, my biggest contribution, by far, is "starting things" as opposed to driving, growing, and running things. So, although I'm very proud of what Life Surge is doing and how it's continuing to grow, I do not run Life Surge nor do I take credit for its current success.

I spend most of my time starting new things because I believe launching things is part of my core strengths. For example, I am currently working on launching something completely new that is not part of Life Surge.

The best part of it all is that I believe we're just getting started! I also believe this is a move of God, and that we're just a small part of His bigger plan.

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E. How, specifically, does building wealth advance Kingdom Impact? (I heard several speakers address this topic in general but would like the official explanation from Life Surge)

This is not the official answer, as we believe this topic encompasses a breadth of principles, examples, context, and nuances in Scripture that require a more in-depth study and explanation, but this will give you a sense of our theological conviction.

In short, building wealth, in our context, is about being better stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us and then using them to advance His Kingdom.

The Bible teaches us that everything belongs to God (Psalm 24:1). He expects us to be good and faithful stewards of the resources he entrusts to us. In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus used a parable to underline the importance of stewardship, comparing it to a man going on a journey who entrusted his wealth to his servants while he was gone. Those who were faithful and multiplied their master's resources were commended as good and faithful servants! But those who were not faithful at building more resources were chastised as wicked and lazy. The resources God entrusts to us are comprised of vastly more than monetary wealth, but they do include monetary wealth.

But the faithful stewardship of building resources *is just one part*. The other part—and this is essential—is to use those resources for Kingdom purposes. Building wealth alone does NOT advance Kingdom impact. That's why we teach *both* building wealth *and* leveraging those resources to advance God's Kingdom. This is the only way finances advance Kingdom impact.

For example, in Luke 12:16-21, Jesus tells the parable of a rich, successful business owner who amassed resources for his own pleasure as opposed to making a lasting impact. This man is not a hero of faith—he's a cautionary tale. Jesus states it this way: "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:15). Anyone who "stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God," is quite simply, a "fool."

We believe Christians must be faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. This happens when we grow them and then use them for Kingdom impact. This is why our mission statement is clear: "to inspire, train, and equip others to surge their resources and influence for Kingdom impact." Notice that our mission statement doesn't stop at "resources" but specifically includes "for Kingdom impact."

So, the next obvious question is: "How does someone leverage their additional resources for Kingdom impact?"

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The term Kingdom impact is a broad term that encompasses the unique calling God has on each individual. Here are just some biblical examples of how we can leverage resources for Kingdom impact:

1. Supporting the church through tithes and offerings (Ex. 36:3-7; Mal. 3:10)
2. Funding evangelism and missions (Phil. 4:15-17; Rom. 10:14-15)
3. Providing for family and future generations (1 Tim. 5:8; Prov. 13:22)
4. Helping the poor and hungry (Prov. 19:17; Matt. 25:35-36)
5. Caring for the needy and underprivileged (Jas. 1:27; Deut. 10:18)
6. Advancing justice (Isa. 1:17; Prov. 31:8-9)
7. Generosity as a lifestyle, or for every occasion (2 Cor. 9:6-7; 2 Cor. 9:11)
8. Building Kingdom businesses (Col. 3:23-24; Acts 18:1-3)
9. Promoting God's Word and His ways (2 Thess. 3:1; Ps. 68:11)
10. Serving the church or Kingdom causes with more time (1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 4:11-12)
11. Influencing the world (1 Thess. 4:11-12; Prov. 11:10-11)

In today's context, we see leveraging more financial resources for greater Kingdom impact in multiple ways, too numerous to list.

But it can be as simple as a single mother struggling to provide for her family. But by stewarding more resources, she can now provide for her family. And maybe she can afford to help her children receive a strong Christian education and invest in future generations.

It can also be as simple as someone's ability to give more money or more time to their church or the causes that are dear to their heart. It can also be liberating more people from sex trafficking through giving or volunteering time to certain organizations. It can also be more extreme, like building a Kingdom business and generating a lifestyle of generosity through the proceeds of their business, as the Green family has done with Hobby Lobby.

In summary, Kingdom impact can be both a general term (e.g., tithes and offerings, as well as being generous), but also very specific to the calling for each individual (e.g., giving money or time to a specific cause or starting a new organization that is Kingdom focused).

Regardless, at the end of the day, we believe that Kingdom impact means advancing God's Kingdom and His agenda on earth through a myriad of ways and methods. More than we could ever list. But we think you get the point.

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F. Do the advanced training programs lead to licensure or certification of any kind? Or is the end result simply more knowledge/expertise?

The end result is Kingdom Impact through applied knowledge and mentoring. It's not simple, though. Let's talk about credentials. It seems that a college degree used to be a prerequisite for almost every job, including those of receptionists. But how are Gen Z Americans and their employers—if they've been able to land a job—feel about their college degrees, most of which were likely conferred by an institution with federal, state, or regional accreditation?

- [85% wish their college had better prepared them for the workplace](#)
- [77% say they learned more in six months at their job than in their entire four-year education.](#)
- [53% of hiring managers feel that Gen Z college graduates are unprepared for the workforce and believe they have poor communication skills](#)
- [52% of bachelor's degree holders are underemployed one year after graduation, working in jobs that don't require their degree. This underemployment persists in the long term, with 45% still underemployed 10 years after completing college.](#)
- [30% of 2025 graduates and 41% of 2024 graduates secured full-time jobs related to their degree.](#)
- [24% say they possess all the skills needed for their current role.](#)

Why do graduates feel this way? Because they earned a credential that guarantees neither success as an adult nor even a job.

Like most Americans, we also believe that our current higher education systems is antiquated and not able to adequately prepare students for their future. Based on the data, and in a general sense, we believe degreed programs and licensing have not delivered what students need. We offer an alternative to working adults who are looking for something different.

Knowledge is something altogether different from *information*. Some equate successful higher education with the transfer of information from the instructor's notes to the student's notes through lecture. But mentoring—shovel-ready insight from a successful practitioner tailored to the student's needs—is something altogether different. Our students understand this, and I think it's why the deeper they go in our training, the higher their satisfaction becomes.

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G. Could you connect me with a couple of people who have gone through the advanced training and are now using their wealth for Kingdom Impact?

We're happy to let some of our students answer this question for you. These are the same students you met and were interviewed at the Life Surge event in Grand Rapids.

Here are some highlights from those interviews:

- For Danielle, the single mother with a special needs child who was experiencing housing and food insecurity, our education is empowering her to make a Kingdom impact by:
 - Providing for her family despite being a single mom.
 - Providing for the future generations by being able to put a child through college and pay for her car.
 - Reaching the world and helping the poor and hungry by founding her own non-profit to help women and families in need.
 - Walking out generosity as a lifestyle by putting thousands of dollars into her non-profit and not taking a salary.
 - By the way, Danielle just posted a video about her experience in Grand Rapids and the interview you saw while there:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXMtS9EuwH0>
- For Luis, the first-generation immigrant who overcame poverty and a scarcity mindset, our education is empowering him and his wife to make a Kingdom impact by:
 - Providing for their family by paying off their debts and starting their own company.
 - Helping the poor and hungry with food and education in his native Columbia, where he now has real estate investments.
 - Caring for the needy and underprivileged as he ramps up a school to “teach kids about God and about making money so they don’t have to depend on a job.”
 - Building a Kingdom business and partnering with investors on ventures that combine faith and business.
 - Walking out generosity as a lifestyle by understanding, “The more money we have, the more we can help other people.”

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- Influencing the world as those around see what he does and wonder what's behind it all, which is God. As he puts it, "All you have to do is have hope and faith and step forward."
- For Aprille, the company president and first-generation Philippine immigrant, and her husband and son, our education is empowering them to make a Kingdom impact by:
 - Providing for their family without having to be torn between the demands of their high-level executive jobs and their desire to take the time needed to build the family they longed for.
 - Providing for those in need, both in their extended family as well as in the community.
 - Opening up the time they wanted to use their resources and talents to help others.
 - Promoting God's Word and His ways by showing their son, who is also a high school student and also trades, a way he could make a real living, yet still have the time to study theology.
 - Serving their church and Kingdom causes because they now have the time to dedicate to the things that matter the most.

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H. I asked about Welfont before, but last week a judge ruled in favor of the plaintiff in a civil case against Welfont and ordered Welfont to pay treble damages and more. It appears from this case and others that Welfont orchestrated a scheme to inflate appraisals to benefit itself and leave the building sellers owing huge sums of tax dollars to the IRS. Shawn Marcell is president of Welfont and Life Surge, so there's a clear connection, what is his response to the most recent ruling against Welfont? Why should Life Surge attendees take financial advice from someone with this track record? (I know Joe Johnson isn't as directly tied to Welfont anymore but has direct ties to some of these suits so would be interested in his thoughts as well)

Before we answer your question, it's appropriate to remind you what Joe shared in your 80-minute interview with him and our leaders at our Life Surge event.

In that interview, Joe read the following things his staff unearthed in public records and the media about Julie Roys, namely that:

1. [She was fired from Moody Radio under a cloud of scandal.](#)
2. She has been sued for libel and slander. (2018-L-011219, HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL vs. MAHONEY RYAN, IL Circuit - Cook(LD) First Municipal / City).
3. [She has been accused of being a “professional liar,” “a deceiver,” “perverted,” and a “grifter.”](#)
4. [She doesn't belong to a church but has made it her mission to restore the church by peddling attention-grabbing hit pieces on church leaders.](#)
5. She has been accused in court documents of making false statements, violating the Illinois Deceptive Practices Trade Act. (See Attachment 6).
6. [She has been accused of running a fake charity: The Roys Report.](#)
7. Although she often targets people with accusations of infidelity, public records show that she and her husband live at different addresses. (See Attachment 7).
8. [She was even a finalist for the award called the “Worst Christian of the Year” in 2023.](#)
9. Although she prides herself on exposing church abuse, [she admits to having an inappropriate emotional relationship with another young lesbian girl while she was her youth pastor.](#) She even had to recuse herself (for one year) from speaking at her own event due to this inappropriate relationship.

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Your response to these facts was telling and exactly right: “Have you vetted any of this?”

And we did—but context is important. The whole truth matters. Not just a few isolated shards of information and misleading characterizations cherrypicked to create an impression and support a predetermined story. The book of Acts relates how Ananias and Sapphira created the impression that they had given all the proceeds from the sale of their land to the church. Now they had sold the land. That's a fact. They had brought money from that sale and put it at the apostles' feet. That is also a fact. But these two facts distorted the truth in the way they were framed and the impression they created. These two facts equaled one big lie.

It seems to us that that's where you're going in your aggressive, accusatorial questions put to our speakers—drawing selectively from unvetted, uncontextualized sources, framing them in a prejudicial way, and then taking them out for a spin. This technique will never achieve your mission of “Reporting the Truth,” but it works splendidly for “Reporting the Truth *that Fits*.”

With this context in mind, we answer your questions one at a time.

1. Why should Life Surge attendees take financial advice from someone with this track record?

We assume your question is directed at Shawn.

First, your question is built on a false premise. It assumes that Shawn Marcell provides financial advice when, in fact, he does not. It assumes Shawn is the current president of Life Surge, which he is not. Shawn is the president of Life Surge as President—not as a financial advisor. Never has been. Never will be.

As a former vocational pastor, missionary, and evangelist turned real estate investor, Shawn is the perfect person to serve as president of Life Surge. His primary focus is on promoting the purpose, vision, mission, and core values of Life Surge, while also building an incredible, God-honoring culture within the organization.

Shawn also shares his story, boldly presents the Gospel, and teaches the Word of God to Life Surge attendees and students. Thousands of people are giving their lives to Jesus each month after hearing Shawn's presentation of the Gospel. We acknowledge that it is God who draws people to Him, but He does use anointed evangelists, and Shawn is one of them.

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Second, I think one of the important facts that escapes you based on various questions you have asked is that Life Surge is made up of hundreds of incredible people, from leaders and evangelists like Shawn to instructors, mentors, and coaches, as well as staff from our C-suite all the way to our warehouse workers. There is no one person that is Life Surge. Instead, Life Surge is an organization with over 400 people, and a beautiful collection of unique individuals that are used by God in their own unique gifts and skills, contributing to our purpose, vision, and mission in unique ways.

2. What is his response to the most recent ruling against Welfont?

First, like anything: context matters. As we mentioned in our written responses to your initial questions,

- [36% to 53% of small businesses are sued annually.](#)
- [45% of small businesses are currently involved in litigation at any given time.](#)
- [90% of all businesses experience a lawsuit at some point during their existence,](#) as has Julie Roys.

So, let's start by understanding the typical litigation volume that an average commercial real estate business experiences in today's highly litigious world.

Commercial real estate is one of the most litigation-prone industries because of the sheer complexity and value of the transactions. With multiple parties, intricate financing, and high-stakes assets, disputes are inevitable. Law firms and insurers who specialize in this space often note that it should be expected that a percentage of deals will ultimately result in litigation. In that sense, having lawsuits arise isn't unusual; it's broadly recognized as part of the commercial real estate business landscape rather than an outlier. Unfortunately, it's just part of the litigious society we live in.

Some organizations experience a higher degree of litigation due to their complex structures, high profile and litigation strategy, such as the Trump Organization. Welfont engaged in hundreds of complex commercial real estate transactions. Welfont's litigation volume is actually less than those expected ranges.

Second, neither Joe, who stepped down from Welfont in early 2019 to pursue the launch of Life Surge, nor Shawn, nor anyone else who was at Welfont, was even aware of this case because they were never properly served. Welfont's counsel has investigated the matter and found that someone unknown received service. This person had no authority to receive service, and neither did this person alert Welfont of the matter.

Third, the judge did not rule in favor of AMPCO, she acknowledged the legal precedent that when a party fails to respond, "it 'effectively admits all well-pleaded allegations in the

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Complaint.” That’s the *only* reason they were able to achieve a partial summary judgment—not on the merit of their agreements nor the factuality of their narratives.

This is why Proverbs 18:17 states: “In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross-examines.” Welfont has not come forward yet to answer and cross-examine. Now that Welfont is aware of it, their counsel will appeal the ruling and are confident they will prevail.

Fourth, the essence of AMPCO’s complaint is that Welfont’s client, the nonprofit to whom AMPCO sold the property, flipped the property for a profit. In other words, AMPCO sued because they were angry the nonprofit made too much money. The point of Welfont was to resource nonprofits. Welfont clearly indicated in its contract that it represented the nonprofit’s interests (see Attachment 3), so we’re glad to fight this in court now that we are aware of it.

Fifth, any appraisals for tax deduction purposes are fully the responsibility of AMPCO and not Welfont or its clients. In signing their contract with Welfont’s client, AMPCO took on sole responsibility for seeking their own tax advice and obtaining any valuation (see Attachment 3). Therefore, this whole case has no merit and is baseless.

3. It appears from this case and others that Welfont orchestrated a scheme to inflate appraisals to benefit itself and leave the building sellers owing huge sums of tax dollars to the IRS.

First, as we mentioned in your round of questions, Welfont was a commercial real estate brokerage that was wildly successful and widely recognized:

- Welfont twice earned a spot on Entrepreneur Magazine’s prestigious “Entrepreneur360” list of companies hailed as “successful not only by revenue numbers, but by how well-rounded they are. The companies that make the list have pushed boundaries with their innovative ideas, fostered strong company cultures, impacted their communities for the better, and increased their brand awareness.” (See Attachment 1).
- Welfont was recognized by Entrepreneur Magazine as #20 “Best Entrepreneurial Company” in the US. (See Attachment 2)
- Welfont was listed for twice on the prestigious “Inc. 5000” list which ranks the 5,000 fastest-growing privately held companies in the U.S. (See Attachment 2)

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- Welfont was recognized as the #1 Fastest Growing Real Estate Brokerage in Inc. 5000 History. (See Attachment 2)

Second, what you characterize as a “scheme” has actually been part of the tax code for over a century.

- It's called the IRS Section 170 Bargain Sale.
- It was passed by the Congress and signed into law by the president in 1917.
- It was designed to benefit nonprofits. A bargain sale is when a donor sells property to a qualified nonprofit for less than fair market value while the donor gets cash for the sale part and a charitable deduction for the discounted part.
- Among the nonprofits actively using this so-called “scheme” are:
 - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
 - Harvard
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - The Museum of Modern Art
- Welfont served a niche market: nonprofits by empowering them to find discounted real estate transactions to fund their missions, commonly sold via bargain sale.
- Welfont did nothing but help nonprofits raise more money by buying discounted real estate.
- The sellers who sold these properties to Welfont's nonprofit clients were NOT Welfont's clients. Welfont had a fiduciary responsibility to its nonprofit clients, rather than to the sophisticated sellers, who were typically large companies or wealthy individuals with their own teams of tax advisors, CPAs, and attorneys.
- What Welfont *never* did, though, was appraise the property's value or select an appraiser. This was always the responsibility of the seller utilizing the tax deduction. Neither Welfont nor Welfont's clients directly benefited from the tax deduction and had no control over how the sellers would use those tax deductions in their own tax returns. In this particular case, the onus was on the Seller, AMPCO, to appraise the property (see Attachments 4 and 5).

Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)

Nonetheless, we want to ask you: *what does any of this have to do with Life Surge?*

Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)

I. At Life Surge, they talked about the partnership with YouVersion to donate Bible apps. How does that work? Is Life Surge donating funds to YouVersion? And since the YouVersion app is free to download, what do the funds support? How much money has Life Surge donated to YouVersion through this partnership? Is there a specific group donating the YouVersion app thanks to Life Surge?

One thing that is unique about Life Surge is that it's a for-profit business that incorporates a massive evangelistic and discipleship ministry with over 20,000 people giving their lives to Jesus in the last year. However, we don't ask anyone to donate money to support our evangelistic and discipleship ministry. This is an outflow from our organization and is 100% self-financed.

At the same time, instead of asking people to donate money to cover our ministry costs, we explore ways to support other organizations by donating to them with the aim of achieving greater Kingdom impact. Donating to YouVersion is one of those ways.

Last year, the leadership team was praying about what organizations we could partner with where we would have a great Kingdom impact. We looked at a lot of incredible organizations. After much thought and prayer, we have decided to support YouVersion Bible as our key ministry partner for 2025.

The reason was this: We believe in the life-changing power of the Word of God. But that raises the question, "How can we help get the Word of God to as many people as possible?"

The Gideons International, a revered organization, has been printing and distributing Bibles for over 100 years. It costs them approximately \$5 per Bible to have it printed and distributed, which is really incredibly low. If we donated \$10, or approximately 10% of the proceeds from every person who signs up for one of our classes offered at Life Surge, we could help distribute two Bibles per class registration.

However, the YouVersion Bible app, the most downloaded Bible app on the planet, is able to distribute a digital Bible through an app download for approximately 40 cents. This means for every \$10 dollars we donate to YouVersion, 25 people will be able to download their Bible app (\$10 divided by 40 cents).

YouVersion doesn't print Bibles, nor does it charge the people who download the app; however, there are significant costs associated with the development, maintenance, improvement, expansion, and distribution of the app. There is no specific language or people group that our donations go to—they simply empower YouVersion to distribute more Bibles to more people in more places around the world.

So, in 2025, we made it our goal as an organization to help distribute 1 million YouVersion Bible downloads by donating \$10 from every class registration at our Life Surge events. Note that not all Life Surge event proceeds were donated to YouVersion in 2025. When we

Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)

hold an event in a market affected by a local disaster (e.g., hurricanes or wildfires), we donate the proceeds to local Christian organizations helping with relief aid.

Our second goal was to promote YouVersion and encourage Life Surge attendees to also donate to YouVersion on their own. However, we do not track how much our attendees donate to YouVersion.

To date, Life Surge has been able to donate \$344,849.30 to YouVersion, which is equivalent to helping distribute 862,123 Bibles. We are confident we will be able to help distribute more than 1 million Bibles through YouVersion by the end of this year, achieving our own external ministry support goal for 2025.

Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)

I. Attachment 1



Tampa Bay Business Journal (Florida)

2018-12-19

Four Tampa Bay businesses ranked among best entrepreneurial companies in the U.S.

December 19, 2018 Wednesday

Byline: Lauren Coffey

Body

While Tampa Bay residents are able to name the heavy hitters in the entrepreneur scene, smaller businesses are getting recognition with a new national list.

Entrepreneur magazine's Entrepreneur360 List named four Tampa Bay companies as Best Entrepreneurial Companies in 2018: Clearwater-based companies Digital Media Solutions and Elite Insurance Partners, along with Tampa-based **Welfont** Companies Inc. and Day Translations Inc.

The 360 companies featured were judged on a balance of impact, innovation, growth, leadership and value.

"Our annual evaluation of vetted data offers a 360-degree analysis of top privately held companies across a multitude of industries," said Jason Feifer, editor in chief of Entrepreneur Magazine in a press release. "They are deemed successful not only by revenue numbers, but by how well-rounded they are. The companies that make the list have pushed boundaries with their innovative ideas, fostered strong company cultures, impacted their communities for the better and increased their brand awareness."

The **Welfont** Companies Inc. lead the pack on the list, ranking No. 20. Founded in 2014 in Tampa, it employs 60 people and provides investors and the nonprofit sector with real estate services such as brokerage representation, asset management and dispositions.

[Digital Media Solutions](#) followed, coming in 35th on the list. This is the second year in a row the company was featured. The Clearwater-based company is one of the largest marketing firms in

Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)

the area and focuses on performance marketing. It was founded in 2012 and employs 374 employees.

Elite Insurance Partners broke into the top 100 of the list, coming in at No. 100. The small company employs 35 people and was founded in 2014 in Clearwater. The company deals with insurance brokerage specializing in Medicare. Earlier this year, they were No. 112 on Inc. 5000's list of companies with the fastest growing private companies.

Rounding out the list is Day Translations Inc., which came in at No. 328 of the 360 companies. It is a language service that provides translation, localization and interpretation services. The company was founded in 2007 in Tampa and employs 61 people.

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper **Publication-Type:** Newspapers

Subject: ENTREPRENEURSHIP (92%); PRESS RELEASES (90%); SMALL BUSINESS (90%); PRIVATELY HELD COMPANIES (89%); COMPANY LISTS & RANKINGS (78%); BRAND EQUITY (70%); NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (68%); BRANDING (67%);

Industry: SIC2721 PERIODICALS: PUBLISHING, OR PUBLISHING & PRINTING (58%); **Industry:** AWARENESS MARKETING (78%); TRANSLATORS & INTERPRETERS (78%); INSURANCE (76%); INSURANCE AGENCIES & BROKERAGES (76%); (76%); BRAND EQUITY (70%); BRANDING (67%); REAL ESTATE AGENTS (66%);

Geographic: UNITED STATES (92%);

Load-Date: 2019-01-02

Tampa Bay Business Journal (Florida)

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Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)

II. Attachment 2:

Welfont for the 2nd Consecutive Year Ranks in the Top 1% on the Inc. 5000 and #1 Fastest Growing Commercial Real Estate Brokerage

Real Estate Monitor Worldwide

August 21, 2019 Wednesday

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Length: 661 words

Body

(PRWeb) - **Welfont** does it again!

Welfont is the #1 Fastest Growing Commercial Real Estate Brokerage in America for the 2nd Consecutive Year.

Inc. magazine today revealed that The **Welfont** Companies, based out of Tampa, Florida, is No. 31 overall on its annual Inc. 5000 List, the most prestigious ranking of the nations fastest-growing private companies.

The Inc. 500 started in 1982 and was expanded into the Inc. 5000 in 2007. With approximately 30 million businesses in America, the Inc. 5000 list approximately represents the top .01% fastest growing businesses in the U.S.

By being ranked in the Top 50 of the Inc. 5000, **Welfont** has made the top 1% of the top .01% two years in a row!

After breaking records in 2018 by being the #1 Fastest Growing Commercial Real Estate Brokerage in the History of the Inc. 5000, **Welfont** grew revenue from \$14 million in 2018 to over \$20 million in 2019, holding to the title of the #1 Fastest Growing Commercial Real Estate Brokerage 2 years in a row.

With an impressive 3-year growth rate of 6,871%, **Welfont** joined SwanLeap, 2018 Inc. 5000 champion, and Homesnap as the only companies that placed in the Top 50 of the Inc. 5000 in each of the last 2 years. However, in this years ranking **Welfont** placed higher than Homesnap once again, and has surpassed

Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)

SwanLeaps growth rate, arguably making **Welfont** the fastest growing company in the country when accounting for both 2018 and 2019 Inc. 5000 rankings.

Recently, **Welfont** was also named by **Entrepreneur magazine** as the #20 Best Entrepreneurial Company in the country, and the #1 Best Entrepreneurial Real Estate Brokerage in its annual Entrepreneur 360 List.

The Entrepreneur 360 List is more comprehensive in its rankings as it analyzes 50+ data points measuring impact, innovation, growth, leadership, and business value. Only **Welfont** and one other company, Scientist.com, made both the Top 50 in both the Inc. 5000 and Entrepreneur 360 Lists in 2018.

Here are few comments from members of **Welfont** on this latest recognition:

Founder Joe Johnson, PhD, stated, Its a great joy and also very humbling to see **Welfont**, what was only a concept a few years ago, get this much traction this quickly. The leadership team, the agents, and the back-office team members are just absolutely incredible!

CEO Shawn Marcell on receiving the honor, stated, Today marks a special day for the **Welfont** family. Two years of continually pushing the boundaries, hard work, dedication and building relationships has paid off in a big way with us being one of only three companies to crack the Top 50 two years in a row. I couldnt be more proud of our team for believing in our vision.

2019 Tampa Bay Business Journal Business Woman of the Year Honoree, Amy Stevenson who is Welfonts Broker of Record and Executive Vice President of Compliance, said: "We are truly honored to receive such incredible recognition for the 2nd year in a row. Our amazing team of talented professionals continue to grow, innovate and exceed expectations every day.

COO Mike Mehaffey added, We are all very humbled by the Inc. 5000 recognition and I couldnt be prouder of our entire **Welfont** family. Our business is not an easy one, it is only been through their hard work, dedication and innovation that we are where we are today.

Complete results of the 2019 Inc. 5000, including company profiles and an interactive database, can be found at <https://www.inc.com/inc5000/2019/top-private-companies-2019-inc5000.html?cid=hmhero>

About **Welfont**

Welfont is a national commercial and residential real estate company specializing in providing real estate investors and the nonprofit sector with a wide range of services, including brokerage representation, advisory, marketing, underwriting, due diligence, financial services, asset management, and dispositions. **Welfont** manages each investment from deal sourcing to underwriting to acquisition and disposition while helping our clients maximize their return-on-investment. 2019 Global Data Point.

Load-Date: August 21, 2019

Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)

III. Attachment 3:

Case 2:22-cv-02329 Document 1-5 Filed 05/26/22 Page 7 of 19 PageID 77
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DocuSign Envelope ID: F48E01E7-30CD-48D3-81BC-B442F99207A0

acknowledgement in substantially the form attached as Exhibit E to this Agreement.

d. **Buyer's Closing Documents.** Buyer shall deliver to Seller the following: (i) the balance of the Purchase Price by confirmed wire transfer; (ii) an appropriate certificate of incumbency and resolution authorizing Buyer's acquisition of the Property, if required by the Title Company; (iii) a signed counterpart of the closing statement; (iv) any other documents necessary in opinion of Seller or Seller's counsel for Closing; and (iv) IRS Form 8283 as set forth in Section 12 below.

12. **IRS FORM 8283.** At Closing, Buyer shall sign and deliver to Seller IRS Form 8283, setting forth the appraised value of the Property. The form will represent that Buyer is a duly established non-profit corporation and qualified as a tax exempt public charity under IRC Section 501(c)(3) and is qualified to receive federal tax deductible contributions pursuant to IRC Section 170.

13. **BROKER'S FEE.** Seller and Buyer represent and warrant to each other that no other real estate brokerage firm, broker, salesperson or finder are involved in any aspects of this Agreement other than Marcus & Millichap Real Estate Memphis, TN ("Seller's Broker"), which represents the Seller's interest in this transaction and Welfont or its assignee, which represents Buyer's interest in this transaction. Seller further agrees to pay a real estate sales commission ("Sales Commission") equal to ~~Six~~ ^{Five} percent (4%) of the estimated cash benefit. Cash benefit is the combined total cash payment at Closing and the estimated net tax savings (net tax savings is a calculation of the Appraisal multiplied by the Seller's federal and state income tax bracket) determined by the Appraisal noted in Paragraph 4 of this Agreement at the Closing. Seller acknowledges the Sales Commission shall be shared equally between Seller's Broker and Welfont.

14. **DEFAULTS.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, no party shall be in default hereunder unless and until the other party has provided written notice of the basis for any such default and the alleged defaulting party has failed to cure such matter within fifteen (15) business days of its receipt of such notice.

a. **Breach by Seller.** If (i) Seller defaults with respect to the performance of any or all of its obligations under this Agreement, and (ii) Buyer is not in default with respect to the performance of any or all of its obligations under this Agreement, then after the expiration of the fifteen (15) day notice and cure period set forth above, Buyer may, at its option, elect either (i) to terminate this Agreement by written notice to Seller and Escrow Agent, whereupon the Deposit shall be returned to Buyer as well as reimbursement to Buyer of all hard costs and expenses and all rights, obligations and liabilities hereunder shall terminate, except those that expressly survive termination of this Agreement, or (ii) to seek specific performance of this Agreement, in equity, without reduction in the Purchase Price. These shall be the sole and exclusive remedies of Buyer in the event of any default by Seller under this Agreement.

b. **Breach by Buyer.** If (i) Buyer defaults with respect to the performance of any or all of its obligations under this Agreement, and (ii) Seller is not in default with respect to the performance of any or all of its obligations under this Agreement, then after the expiration of the fifteen (15) day notice and cure period set forth above, Seller shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by written notice to Buyer and Escrow Agent, whereupon the Deposit shall be remitted to Seller as liquidated and agreed damages for the breach (and not as a penalty) and in full satisfaction of all claims against Buyer and all rights, obligations and liabilities hereunder shall terminate, except those parties that expressly survive termination of this Agreement. This shall be the sole and exclusive remedy of Seller in the event of any default by Buyer under this Agreement.

Seller  Buyer 

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Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)

IV. Attachment 4

Case 2:22-cv-02329 Document 1-4 Filed 05/26/22 Page 5 of 6 PageID 69

OPINION OF VALUE



Purpose of Document

This report is an IRS Section 170 Bargain Sale Opinion of Value (based on IRS Publication 561 guidelines) on the subject property described below for the purposes of determining value of donated property. It is not the actual appraisal, but a good faith estimate of where the appraisal will come in. If seller is interested in the proposed transaction, the seller must obtain an actual appraisal from a qualified appraiser in accordance with IRC Section 170. Unlike a bank appraisal seeking a quick-sale value, the actual appraisal will reflect true and full, fair market value.

IRS Publication 561 Appraisal Guidelines

Highest and Best Use: When determining FMV (Fair Market Value) for a 561 Appraisal, the appraiser may factor in highest and best use, which may elevate appraisal value.

Comparable Sales Method: The comparable sales method compares the subject property with several similar sold properties where the seller is under no compulsion to sell. (Properties excluded from comparison include bank owned, REO, liquidation sales, distressed sales, non-arms length, etc.)

Capitalization of Income: This method capitalizes the net income from the property at a rate that represents a fair return on investment at the particular time, considering the risks involved.

Replacement Cost Minus Observed Depreciation: The replacement cost of a building is figured by considering the materials, labor, overhead, the quality of workmanship, and the number of square feet or cubic feet in the building and profit. After the replacement cost has been figured, consideration must be given to the following factors, including physical deterioration (wear and tear), functional obsolescence (inadequate lighting/plumbing, etc.) and economic obsolescence (external factors causing property to be less desirable).

Weighted Average: At the appraisers discretion, a weighted average (blended approach) may be taken to arrive at the most accurate FMV. This typically comes in higher than a conservative bank appraisal.

Property Address

3685 Hickory Hill Rd, Memphis, TN 38115

IRS Section 170 Bargain Sale Opinion of Value Based on IRS Publication 561

\$5,542,000

Author's IRS Section 170 Bargain Sale Opinion of Value Notes

The subject has 89717 square feet and sits on 6.6 acres:

- In the market approach, property comparables believed to be sold under compulsion were not used per IRS Publication 561. Due to the unique size and type of property, comps had to be pulled from a local and regional basis. Therefore, an average rate of 36.13 per sq ft was used.

- In the income approach, average annual lease rates in the local area were used for the property's highest and best use.

- In the replacement cost approach, new building construction cost survey in the area was used less 60% depreciation.

- A weighted average of 20% to the market, 20% to the replacement cost and 60% to the income approach was applied to arrive at the final opinion of value estimate.

Disclaimer

This IRS Section 170 Bargain Sale Opinion of Value is not an actual appraisal, but simply the author's opinion of what this property may ultimately be appraised at for the purposes of valuing donated property as described in IRS Code Section 170 and IRS Publication 561. This opinion is calculated in good faith based on information available on the Internet and key real estate databases. The opinion author has not had the opportunity to actually inspect the property. Therefore, the opinion author has no way to verify or assure that all the information submitted is completely accurate. If the seller is interested in the proposed transaction, the seller must obtain an actual qualified appraisal according to Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code and IRS Publication 561.

Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)

V. Attachment 5

Case 2:22-cv-02329 Document 1-5 Filed 05/26/22 Page 8 of 19 PageID 78
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15. **NOTICES.** All notices which are required or permitted to be given by either party to the other under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to be given by either party to the other, as the case may be (notwithstanding lack of receipt by the addressee): (i) three (3) business days after having been deposited in the United States Mail, certified or registered, postage pre-paid, and addressed to the intended recipient at the address specified herein; or (ii) one (1) business day after having been deposited for overnight delivery with a nationally recognized expedited, overnight delivery service (such as by way of example but not limitation, FedEx or UPS), addressed to the intended recipient at the address specified herein. The addresses of the parties for all notices are as follows (unless changed by similar notice in writing given by the particular person whose address is to be changed):

IF TO SELLER:

American Properties Co., G.P.
5720 Stage Rd. STE F
Bartlett, TN 38134

WITH COPY TO:

Harkavy Shainberg Kaplan & ~~Hanson~~ PLC
Attn: Michael Kaplan
6060 Poplar Ave, STE 140
Memphis, TN 38119

IF TO BUYER:

c/o The Wellmont Group, LLC
100 S Ashley Drive Suite 1300
Tampa, FL 33602
Telephone: 813-226-2099
Attn: Closing Dept.

16. **MISCELLANEOUS.**

a. **Rules of Assignment.** Buyer may assign this Agreement or designate another entity to take title to the Property at any time before the Closing Date, provided any such designee or assignee is wholly owned by Buyer or is another qualified 501(c)(3) entity. Where appropriate in this Agreement, the term "Buyer" includes any assignee or designee of Buyer.

b. **Interpretation and Governing Law.** The headings in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only, and are not to be used in interpreting this Agreement. This Agreement shall be governed, construed and enforced pursuant to the laws of the State of Tennessee and the laws of the United States pertaining to transactions in such State.

c. **Professional Advice.** Each party to this Agreement represent to the other party that they have consulted with their own legal and tax counsel and other appropriate professional advisors prior to signing this Agreement and have not and do not rely on any legal or tax advice or opinion that either may have provided to the other during the course of the negotiation of this Agreement.

d. **Effective Date of Agreement.** The "Effective Date" of this Agreement is deemed to be the date that the last of Buyer or Seller executed this Agreement as memorialized on the signature page to this Agreement.

e. **Risk of Loss.** If any part of the Property is damaged by fire or other casualty prior

Seller [Signature] Buyer [Signature]

Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)

VI. Attachment 6

Page 1 of 2

Megachurch sues ex-members

Megachurch sues ex-members

Chicago Daily Herald

November 28, 2018 Wednesday

MM1 Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 605 words

Byline: By Susan Sarkauskas , ssarkauskas@dailyherald.com

Body

A suburban megachurch fed up with criticism from several former members is suing them, accusing them of defamation. And it is using the **Illinois Deceptive** Trade Practices Act to do so. Harvest Bible Chapel and its founder and senior pastor, James S. MacDonald, filed the suit Oct. 17 in Cook County circuit court.

The suit names Ryan and Melinda Mahoney of Wheaton, Scott and Sarah Bryant of Geneva and Julie **Roy**s of Carol Stream as defendants. Former church members Ryan Mahoney and Scott Bryant run the website The Elephant's Debt, which includes articles about Harvest Bible Chapel. Melinda Mahoney and Sarah Bryant are named as having provided material support for The Elephant's Debt. **Roy**s is a religion writer, speaker and blogger and was a show host on radio station WMBI, run by Moody Bible Institute. The Elephant's Debt has been critical of the church's finances and borrowing; changes to the governing structure of the church, including how much authority rests with MacDonald; and the excommunication of three elders, among other topics. MacDonald founded Harvest Bible Chapel in Rolling Meadows in 1988. It has additional campuses in Elgin, Aurora, Deerfield, Crystal Lake, Highland Park, Niles, Chicago and Naples, Florida, and it has regular attendance of more than 12,000 people weekly, the lawsuit states. It has also helped start about 150 other Harvest Bible Chapels worldwide and owns a camp in Michigan. MacDonald has a daily television show on the Trinity Broadcasting Network and a show on WMBI. In the lawsuit, the church accuses The Elephant's Debt of conducting "an ongoing campaign of harassment" and publishing defamatory statements that paint MacDonald in a false light. The suit says the critics' publication constitutes "commercial disparagement." "To fund the mission of the Church, Harvest must rely upon donations for the congregation and others, and while Harvest is a nonprofit entity, its 'business' is the promotion of faith and spirituality and Defendants' actions and words threaten Harvest's ability to conduct the business of the church, and threaten its ability to raise the funds necessary to conduct that business," the lawsuit states. The lawsuit says Ryan Mahoney was a former teacher at Harvest Christian Academy who was accused of "influencing" students to share his "cynical view of Harvest and its culture." His contract was not renewed after 2010, the lawsuit states. Scott Bryant was a church member, according to the lawsuit. The lawsuit says **Roy**s made false statements about the church and MacDonald in digital and written media. MacDonald has published an essay in Christianity Today defending the decision to sue. According to a statement on the church website, the elders believe they are responsible for protecting the members of the church from harm. "We believe governmental authorities, whether criminal or civil, are His (God's) protection when those who oppose us are actually breaking the law," it says, citing the Bible verse Romans 13:1-2. **Roy**s, the Mahoneys and the Bryants have declined to comment on the advice of their attorneys. A judge denied a temporary restraining order in late October. The parties are due back in court Thursday. In August, Harvest Bible Chapel sued the Evangelical Christian Credit Union of California, saying it

Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)

Page 2 of 2

Megachurch sues ex-members

renege on a promise to refinance five of the church's mortgages. The church said it had to start paying more interest on its mortgages after the credit union did not refinance. The suit was filed in Kane County, but the credit union is asking a federal court judge to move the suit to an Orange County, California, court.

Notes

Released from channel family

Graphic

James S. MacDonald Bev Home/bhome@dailyherald.com Pastor James MacDonald at the Harvest Bible Chapel in Elgin. James S. MacDonald

Load-Date: November 28, 2018


End of Document

Roy's Report Written Questions (Round 3)




VII. Attachment 7

SmartLinx® Person Report

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Report created for: 

Person Summary




| Name | Address | County | Phone |
|-------------|--|----------|---|
| Roy, Neal K |  Phoenix, AZ  1901 (Residential) | Maricopa |  |

SmartLinx® Person Report

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Report created for: 

Person Summary

| Name | Address | County | Phone |
|--------------|---|--------|---|
| Roy, Julie S |  West Chicago, IL  5147 (Residential) | Dupage |  |