

Accounting and registration irregularities

Lanka Evangelical Fellowship or Lanka Evangelical Fellowship of Churches (LEFC)

This is not a registered charity or religious organization in either UK or Sri Lanka. Even as an “informal” organization it has no constitution, or statement of faith or accountable leadership, unless you class Jeyakanth as accountable. It produces no accounts that are available in the UK, and as far as I can ascertain there is no record of how much money it receives. In the latest accounts of Care Sri Lanka there is no record of any money being paid to it. There are no elections either by churches that supposedly make up its “membership” of any committee of leaders. It would appear any sort of leadership of it is directly and personally appointed by Jeyakanth. Essentially it is Jeyakanth’s personal fiefdom, there is nothing stopping him doing whatever he wishes with the funds given to it. He may spend them on his own family and personal projects there is no one to challenge him, no means of calling him to account, no public records to examine.

The Council of Reference seems very happy for this to continue. I have repeatedly asked them for a copy of the constitution of LEFC or its statement of faith. None has been forthcoming. They are happy to simply state that LEFC is the name of an internal fund of Belvidere Road Church in Liverpool, and Belvidere Road Church is registered with the UK Charity Commission. Jeyakanth has been one of three men who oversee the distribution of this fund. It is not listed in the published accounts of Belvidere Road Church.

Some may say this does not constitute fraud. Personally I believe it is fraudulent to label something a fellowship of evangelical churches, when it has no statement of faith, nor constitution. Otherwise, all that can be said is the ideal situation for someone who would like to use funds dishonestly. There is no one to give an account to, there are no publicly available accounts to check. There is a Council of Reference who accepts whatever explanation is given by Jeyakanth, and has undertaken no financial investigation of LEFC.

Care Sri Lanka

I understand Care Sri Lanka was set up as a separate means of funding work in Sri Lanka so that non-believers could give to it and the monies would be used for relief work. It is registered with the UK Charity Commission. In the last published accounts grants for various aspects of relief work are detailed. LEFC does not appear in the accounts for 2020/21. Rather there is a statement saying all grants were made through Children for Jesus Church. Children for Jesus Church does not exist as a church in Sri Lanka, so far as I am aware, nor is it a registered charity in the UK. “Children for Jesus” was a UK charity (though never apparently registered with the Charity Commission) founded by Martha Morphew and I believe gave a substantial grant to start an orphanage in Sri Lanka. The organization no longer exists today. Martha Morphew died some years ago.

As Children for Jesus Church does not exist, it does not produce any publicly available accounts, nor is overseen by a plurality of biblically elected elders. So what does it mean that all the grants by Care Sri Lanka are made through this? Is it simply an account that is wholly under the control of Jeyakanth?

So how much of Care Sri Lanka’s income is simply at the disposal of Jeyakanth? I do not dispute that some relief work is carried out but is there a way of checking if all money is used in that way? A more honest way of marketing the combined work of LEFC and Care Sri Lanka would be to say you are giving all your money to Jeyakanth himself and he may do with it as he wishes. As long as you are happy to do so, so be it. He can and does put title of land into the name of members of his family, and you have no complaint. Is this a right way to use the Lord’s money who commands us to do all things honest in the sight of God and man?

David Kay on behalf of the Council of Reference sent a letter to me dated 20/06/2021 in which he stated concerning LEFC *“It has a statement of faith, a code of conduct, a fully audited accounting system and it is answerable to a body of about 10 senior men (8 Elders and 2 social workers) drawn from various churches across Sri Lanka. Pastor Jeyakanth is the Senior Pastor within the LEFC, a position we believe he has held with integrity for many years.”* If any can present me with a written constitution, statement of faith and audited accounts for LEFC I am happy to retract

my comments. Sadly I think the Council of Reference has been misled. Perhaps they and others would do well to check their facts and consider the other side of the story.

I understand, but again I am happy to be corrected if wrong, the recent investigation by Pastor Richard Clarke only covered Care Sri Lanka only, and not LEFC. It was limited to financial matters. LEFC is not mentioned in the latest published accounts of Care Sri Lanka. I believe it would be dishonest for he or others to seek to state that all the finances relating to LEFC are in good order.