

February 25, 2009

Tim Thibault
Box 3220
Humboldt, SK
S0K 2A0

cc: CRTC, Ottawa, ON

Dear Mr. Thibault;

RE: CRTC Case File ID # 422625 addendum

Thank you for your correspondence dated February 1, 2009 as an addendum to the case file noted above. Following are our comments to your expressed concerns:

1) Conversion/Proselytism

One of The Miracle Channel Association's stated goals as a registered Canadian charity is *"To proclaim, through the medium of television, the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world in order to win souls for the Kingdom of God."* This is the same or similar goal of other religious broadcasters and program providers who seek to spread their faith message via the airwaves and is a right expressly granted by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and, in our opinion, recognized by the CRTC which allows for and encourages a diversity of religious thought and expression. The Miracle Channel plans to continue its mandate of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with our viewers and encouraging them to accept His presence in their lives. It should be noted that the Miracle Channel does not encourage anyone to accept a certain statement of faith, church denomination, or religious affiliation with any organization. The gospel message is not the 'message of the Miracle Channel' but rather the testimony of individuals who have found freedom and peace through accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour.

2) Balanced Programming

Mr. Thibault, your letter stated that Miracle Channel programming encouraging viewers to accept Jesus Christ is not balanced. Please note that the balance requirements of our broadcast license are fulfilled through the programming shown over a period of time and not based on a particular segment or phrase or program you may have chosen to object to. Our balance commitments have been kept according to our broadcast licence requirements and documented in our latest license renewal. We are committed to ensuring that this compliance continues.

3) Targeted Groups

The Miracle Channel recognizes the Religious Broadcasting Policy CRTC 1993-78, section IV, point 2, which states "No group shall be targeted for the purpose of conversion or proselytism". We take great care in ensuring that we do not discriminate between our viewers as we seek to provide all our viewers with the gospel message. The teachings of Jesus Christ, in our opinion, are for everyone and not just a select group, as Jesus himself stated in Mark 16:15 that his followers are to *"go into all the world and preach the gospel*

to every creature". Your request for clarification on the definition of the word "group" as it appears in the Religious Broadcast Policy is one which, in our opinion, must be determined and replied to by the Commission and not the Miracle Channel as broadcaster.

With respect to comments made by our guests, the Miracle Channel encourages guests to give their personal testimonies of accepting Jesus Christ and how this has impacted their lives. In your example, the guest spoke of his personal journey from studying Buddhist scriptures in Sri Lanka to becoming a follower of Jesus Christ later on in life. The Miracle Channel is of the opinion that this is a fair statement on the guest's personal story. In these comments it should be noted that there was no effect of abusing or misrepresenting any individual or group and not calling into question the human rights or dignity of any individual or group.

The guest also referred to his "brothers and sisters in the first nations reservations". Although he did not clarify this statement in the program in question, we have confirmed that he was referring to their shared status as visible minorities and/or as members of God's family. Mr. Thibault, your letter stated by example that just because you are Caucasian does not mean you are representative of your race. By the same token we may conclude that just because someone is of a particular race or culture, that does not make them representative of any particular religion either. There are many First Nations people who have a strong belief in their creator and many who also identify themselves as followers of Christ. These people whom the guest referred to as his "brothers and sisters" were encouraged to heal their land through the spiritual principles of prayer and sacrifice. In short, just because a specific group is spoken to or about, that does not mean they are being targeted for proselytism.

Summary

The Miracle Channel record of programming stands as one that has always endeavoured to treat all people regardless of their religious belief with dignity and respect. The Miracle Channel Association, while adhering to its mission as a religious charity to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people, does not agree with targeting specific groups for this purpose and does not agree with your assumption that this was the intended purpose of the channel given in your examples. When taken in the context of the guest's statements it is clear that there was no intent to target any particular group. This has been confirmed by the guest subsequent to receiving your letter of concern. The acceptance of the Christian message is one that we believe must be made by the individual and it is to the individual that this message is given.

Thank you Mr. Thibault for once again contacting us about our programming. We have looked closely into the concerns expressed in your letter. We trust this response has clarified our position and helped to answer your questions. Please note, your addendum to this complaint has been forwarded to the Miracle Channel's Regulatory Review Committee for their review.

Sincerely,

Gordon Klassen
Chief Operations Officer
CJIL-TV