

Federal Bureau of Investigation

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Investigations into the Christian Conventions

Revised March 20, 2026

F.B.I. Investigations into Christian Conventions

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February 20, 2024

Seeking Victim Information in Two by Two Investigation

<https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/victim-services/seeking-victim-information/seeking-victim-information-in-2x2-investigation>

The F.B.I. Omaha Field Office is seeking the public's help in identifying victims or individuals with knowledge of abuse and/or criminal behavior that has occurred within a religious group that traditionally has not had a name. The group has often been referred to by others outside of the group as "Two by Two," "The Way," "The Truth," and "The Church With No Name," among others.

While it is natural for parents to want to gain a better understanding of the potential exploitation of their child, further questioning of the child may lead to inaccurate statements and increased emotional trauma.

If you have information about this ongoing investigation or believe your child or other children may have been victimized by individuals affiliated with Two by Two, the F.B.I. requests you complete a short online questionnaire.

The F.B.I. is legally mandated to identify victims of federal crimes it investigates. Victims may be eligible for certain services, restitution, and rights under federal and/or state law. Your responses are voluntary but may be useful in the federal investigation and to identify you as a potential victim. Based on the responses provided, you may be contacted by the F.B.I. and asked to provide additional information. All identities of victims will be kept confidential.

To assist in the investigation and to be provided with information on resources available to victims, please answer the questionnaire to the best of your ability. It may be that you have already given this information to an F.B.I. agent or law enforcement, but please provide it again on this questionnaire. Based on your responses, you may be contacted by the F.B.I. and asked to provide additional information.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

October 7, 1942

Black Stockings, File No. 100-147337; 3 pages

CAUSE: "Subject (name blacked out) reported to be a suspicious character because of his strange religious affiliation at (blacked out). Investigation reveals he is a member of a sect known as the 'Black Stockings,' that he is registered for Selective Service in (blacked out) where he was classified as a Conscientious Objector, and that he has been making efforts to be classified as a minister. No indication of any subversive activities."

Federal Bureau of Investigation

March 25, 1943–June 16, 1943

Black Stockings, File No. 100-194864; 9 pages

CAUSE: "This investigation is predicated upon a letter alleging...itinerant preachers of an unorganized church, wandering through the vicinity of (blacked out), and...acting in a suspicious nature, in that an oil train was wrecked in the vicinity of his meeting, and that they took long walks in the woods...caused them to be regarded with suspicion by informant."

Federal Bureau of Investigation

May 21, 1943–October 7, 1943

Go Preachers, File No. 100-209144; 47 pages

CAUSE: "This investigation was predicated upon request of the Bureau to obtain information concerning the religious sect 'GO PREACHERS'."

NOTE: The content of the report contains many quotes from George Walker's letter to the Selective Service of 1942.

The Coronet Magazine June 1946 reported about this investigation in an article titled: "Interesting Cases the F.B.I. investigated during the war."

"The Saint's Case" took months to unravel. It involved a huge ring of suspects exchanging letters in religious jargon. Yet none ever named a church or denomination to which he belonged. Their code could not be broken, although Price's linguists were adept at everything from Punjabi and Kurdish through Bantu dialects. When these letters formed a pattern around an office in New York, the

censor found a respectable and patriotic executive of a big Corporation acting as private postmaster for a Christian sect with nine hundred evangelists scattered over the earth. The letters were ***genuine spiritual epistles***, unrelated to the war.

NOTE: The above article was distributed with this comment by a member: "There were censors on the east coast and on the west coast who censored all incoming and outgoing mail. The censors must report to the Government any suspicious cases. They thought, as they read our letter, and the incoming letters, always with Scripture in, that surely it was a code being used, and so reported the letters, and the F.B.I. began to investigate the cases. The executive mentioned is in our meetings in New York, and when, during the war, he found out it was hard to get money to our preachers overseas, he offered to send the money through his Company's offices, which they had in many parts of the world, and then they could send money that way. So he was able to explain the case to them, the F.B.I. and they gave us a very good testimony: ***Genuine Spiritual Epistles***.

George Walker said, "We have been thoroughly investigated, and now we must live up to our name."

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Christian Conventions

March 23–26, 1964

File No. 62-109060, Serials 2704, 2714, 2754; 7 pages

CAUSE: "Typewritten postal card received from Dorothy Mendenhall, Linneus, MO named eighteen members of Christian Conventions as real assassins of President Kennedy...card indicates group has persecuted and imprisoned writer."

Personal typed account, undated, no author given, titled:

"1942 Followers of Christ"

First line: "As an F.B.I. Agent on the investigating committee for Ministers as conscientious objectors...I come across many interesting religious individuals and groups. But the strangest and most interesting, and perhaps the most practical is this group."

TTT Editor's Note: A source has reported that this is a spurious account written by Walter Nelson, a young worker in Virginia at the time. For years workers have been trying to get this piece destroyed, but it continues to surface. Walter was instructed to send a retraction for the hoax and to apologize to every person he had sent it to. He was then sent to preach in Africa for many years.

F.B.I. Seeking Victim Information in 2x2 Investigation

February 20, 2024

<https://forms.fbi.gov/2x2>

<https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/victim-services/seeking-victim-information/seeking-victim-information-in-2x2-investigation>

The text of the F.B.I. post follows

Seeking Victim Information in 2x2 Investigation

The F.B.I. Omaha Field Office is seeking the public's help in identifying victims or individuals with knowledge of abuse and/or criminal behavior that has occurred within a religious group that traditionally has not had a name. The group has often been referred to by others outside of the group as "2x2," "The Way," "The Truth," and "The Church With No Name," among others.

While it is natural for parents to want to gain a better understanding of the potential exploitation of their child, further questioning of the child may lead to inaccurate statements and increased emotional trauma.

If you have information about this ongoing investigation or believe your child or other children may have been victimized by individuals affiliated with 2x2, the F.B.I. requests you complete a short online questionnaire.

The F.B.I. is legally mandated to identify victims of federal crimes it investigates. Victims may be eligible for certain services, restitution, and rights under federal and/or state law. Your responses are voluntary but may be useful in the federal investigation and to identify you as a potential victim. Based on the responses provided, you may be contacted by the F.B.I. and asked to provide additional information. All identities of victims will be kept confidential.

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Resources

F.B.I. Resources:

- Hotline: 402-493-8688.
- [Coping with Crime Victimization](#)
- [F.B.I. Help for Victims of Crime Brochure](#)
- [Internet Security Information](#)

Additional Resources:

- **National Safe Place Network**
- **National Child Traumatic Stress Network**
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** | 800-273-8255
- **Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)**
- **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children**
- **Office for Victims of Crime, Directory of Crime Victim Services**

Compiled by Cherie Kropp-Ehrig

To obtain the above reports, contact the F.B.I. and request same under the **Freedom of Information Act.**