

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER

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Dollar helping to define life's worth

Pastor preaches that money alone doesn't determine prosperity.

By **BOB MAKIN**
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Creflo A. Dollar always wanted to live up to his name by becoming a millionaire. But he also wanted to be a pastor and preach the word of God.

As a televangelist whose books, CDs, DVDs and personal appearances are in high demand, he has done both. He will sign copies of his latest book, "8 Steps to Create the Life You Want: The Anatomy of a Successful Life," from 1 to 3 p.m. today at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 W., Springfield.

The appearance comes at a time when Dollar's success is under scrutiny.

In November, the Georgia-based pastor was one of six televangelists asked by the U.S. Senate Finance Committee to divulge financial information to determine whether personal profit was made from donations. The others are Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Eddie Long, Joyce

Meyer and Paula White.

Dollar said he has nothing to hide but refuses to cooperate with Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, of the Finance Committee without a subpoena.

"A process has been put in place, and laws have been put in place," Dollar said in a telephone interview. "Sen. Grassley has got to subpoena us by the processes that have been put in place. When he does, we'll be more than happy to (comply). But if you don't stand for something, then you'll fall for anything. It's the principle of the thing. We don't have anything to hide, but we have a right to abide by the process of the law, and we would be happy to do whatever is required by law."

Grassley responded by e-mail, "It's a new year and the ministries that have chosen not to cooperate have a chance to see the inquiry in a new light.

This has nothing to do with church doctrine. It's only about tax-exempt policy, so the constitutional principle of separation of church and state doesn't apply. Also, the ministries are no different from any other tax-exempt group in terms of an obligation to cooperate with a congressional oversight inquiry exploring tax policy."

Dollar said he keeps his for-profit intellectual property, which includes books, CDs and DVDs, financially separate from his nonprofit, tax-exempt Christian World Changers Ministries. The ministry includes the 30,000-member World Changers Church International that he founded with eight people in 1986 in his birthplace of College Park, Ga. In 2006, the church

IF YOU GO:

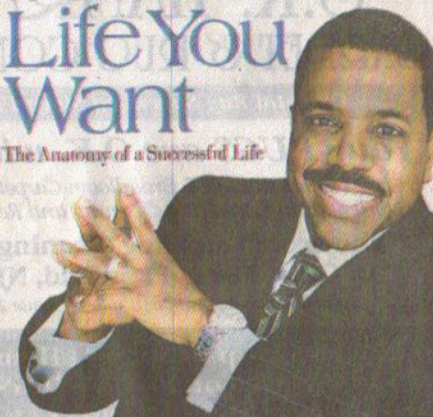
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