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[scams](http://www.scam.com/index.php) (<http://www.scam.com/index.php>)

- [MLM / Pyramid Scams](http://www.scam.com/forumdisplay.php?f=11) (<http://www.scam.com/forumdisplay.php?f=11>)
- [Advantage Conferences BS \(Merged\)](http://www.scam.com/showthread.php?t=13128) (<http://www.scam.com/showthread.php?t=13128>)

spanky

07-20-2006 02:48 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Any Person thinking of joining this scam... i'd Highly recommend that you read one persons personal story on this scam

<http://scam.com/showthread.php?p=222988#post222988>

Hi Everyone,

I wish that I would have found this thread a year ago! I need to warn everyone about a scam called the 7kadvantage....

There is an evil man masquerading as a Christian, and his name is Jack Weinzierl. He will lie and cheat every last penny out of your savings and then never return your calls after it is obvious that you have no more to give.

I fell for this scam BIG TIME.... I believed in Jack.... and he and his wife kept telling me to "believe" and that everything would "work out" in God's time. What a fool I was.... he tried to tell me that my faith wasn't strong enough! The more I got to know him, the more un-Christian I realized he was! There is truly a dark spirit around this man and his wife! They are EVIL to the core!

My entire life savings was blown on this ridiculous opportunity. I fully understand that is probably my fault as much as anyone's, but there was Jack and his evil wife... encouraging me every step of the way! I am so embarrassed.... but I feel the need to share this disaster

with others so that they don't fall for it as well!

I literally cried the night I went to my hotel room after attending a Millionaire Mindset Conference... I knew then that I had been taken. And I felt worse because I had unknowingly conned a close friend of mine to attend as well...He could only afford a one day ticket...I was sick.

PLEASE people.... beware of this scam. I have lost everything because of this opportunity, along with my poor decision making... my wife left me...everything.

BEWARE OF JACK WEINZIERL!!!!

Wishyouknew

07-21-2006 02:24 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

I have come across a handful of former AC reps that feel the same way...

This is funny how Soapboxdad has disappeared from our thread..

Soapboxmom

07-22-2006 12:50 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

http://www.advantageconferences.com/...erest_form.asp

Quote:

Thank You for Your Interest!

Please check all boxes that apply to you:

Yes, I would like to find out more about earning \$7,000 on an ongoing basis!

Yes, I am serious about earning
\$100,000 plus this year
\$250,000 plus this year
\$500,000 plus this year

Timmy boy and Wacko Jacko are still at it. That is gross misrepresentation and fraud to present the opportunity like that. The old sign up page has been reincarnated without the option to sign-up to earn a cool million a year. Gee, Jack, are you sure ya'll aren't purposely deceiving folks,

scammer?

Soapboxmom

Phinnly Slash Buster

07-22-2006 04:20 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

More on the myth of Christ-centered business:

KRIMINAL KRISTIAN KLERGYMAN DIES PRE-TRIAL

July 20, 2006

Two Plead Guilty in Offshore Bank Scam

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - A man and woman have pleaded guilty to fraud in an offshore bank scam in Grenada that may have cost investors more than \$125 million, federal prosecutors said.

Robert Skirving and Rita Regale each pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering in a scam involving the First International Bank of Grenada and various subsidiaries.

Both Skirving and Regale agreed in their pleas that the total funds laundered during the scheme exceeded \$100 million, and that restitution owed could exceed \$125 million, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Skirving and Regale faced maximum sentences of up to 10 years in prison, fines of \$250,000, and three years on probation.

Under his plea agreement, Skirving will receive eight years while Regale's plea agreement calls for about five to six years in prison.

Sentencing for Skirving is set for Oct. 2 before U.S. District Judge Garr King. Regale's sentencing was postponed pending trial of the remaining co-defendants.

The man accused of leading the scam, Gilbert Ziegler, also known as Van Arthur Brink, died last December, resulting in the dismissal of charges against him.

Ziegler was a former suburban Portland mortgage broker and minister who declared bankruptcy in 1994 and left the state. He established an offshore bank on the Pacific atoll of Nauru before he founded the First International Bank of Grenada in 1997, according to court records.

Ziegler was indicted by a federal grand jury in Portland in July 2002 and arrested in Uganda in June 2004 following a shootout that left a security guard dead. The indictment accused him of

soliciting investors through church groups, get-rich-quick seminars and the Internet.

Among other things, the defendants in the scam were accused of buying luxury homes in Oregon, Nevada and Grenada, along with a palace in Uganda.

Two other defendants, Douglas Ferguson and Laurent Barnabe, are scheduled for trial in February.

(Copyright 2006 by The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.)

Gilbert Allen Ziegler, a.k.a. Van Arthur Brink (First International Bank of Grenada)

Exposed: OffshoreAlert, starting on January 29, 1999

Libel Action: CASE DISMISSED

Outcome: Group went into liquidation in January, 2001 and Brink fled to Uganda. In January, 2004, a federal court in Oregon unsealed a criminal indictment against him and four other FIBG insiders who have been charged with multiple counts of fraud and money laundering. Three, Robert Skirving, Larry Barnabe and Rita Regale, were arrested in the USA and two, Van Brink and Doug Ferguson, were arrested in a shoot-out in Uganda in which one of their bodyguards was killed.

Founding Chairman and CEO of the First International Bank of Grenada, which collapsed in the summer of 2000 with losses estimated at more than \$200 million. FIBG promised annual interest rates of up to 250 per cent and claimed that deposits were insured by a sham insurer known as IDIC. The bank was famously capitalized by a letter of appraisal for a \$20 million ruby that it did not own.

Like many white-collar crooks, Ziegler specializes in ripping off the elderly and the religious and appears to have no conscience about doing so. Promotional literature distributed by FIBG was replete with Biblical references and Ziegler liked to refer to his bank as a "vision" and a "blessing". After leaving Grenada not long before FIBG stopped operating, Ziegler went to live in Uganda, where he set up similar sham operations, got married to a Ugandan woman half his age (the man with the white beard in the background is IDIC principal and fellow crook Doug Ferguson, of Canada) and bought himself luxury properties.

Ziegler is a former bankrupt who hails from Oregon. He is a prodigious writer of extraordinarily lengthy and boring e-mails in which he is fond of claiming that FIBG was actually a huge success and has billions of dollars in assets, notwithstanding the fact that it is in liquidation, its assets have disappeared and depositors are unlikely to recover any of their investment.

After being exposed by Offshore Alert in January, 1999, FIBG, the World Investors' Stock Exchange and IDIC hired one of Florida's biggest and most expensive law firms, Tampa-based

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, and sought an injunction at Federal Court in Miami to prevent further publication of damaging articles and also sued for libel. The Plaintiffs were not granted a hearing on the injunction application and the libel action was dismissed a year later. They also issued a press release, which, as events subsequently showed, turned out to be littered with lies.

An analysis of the hard-drive of Ziegler's computer in Grenada by investigators showed that most of the links on his Internet web browser were pointed at pornography sites, rather than financial ones, although, in keeping with his inability to accept responsibility for his actions, he blamed someone else for this. Apart from his involvement with FIBG, Ziegler was also at one time an 'Ambassador at Large' for the Dominion of Melchizedek, a fake jurisdiction that exists only in cyberspace.

Ziegler likes to tell people that he changed his name to 'Van Brink' for spiritual reasons, although he has yet to explain what these are. According to sources, however, the real story is that 'Brink' was taken from the security firm 'Brink's' and 'Van' comes from the vans in which Brink's armed guards typically transfer money. You can download more documents from our 'First International Bank of Grenada' page.

http://www.kycnews.com/hall_of_shame.asp

deepsouth

07-22-2006 04:45 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Anyone still trying to get others to join Advantage Conferences is morally bankrupt. The math is simple. They should easily be able to tell that people aren't making money with this scam.

The guy that set me up clearly lied to me about a few things. I learned of this shortly after I joined.

Honestly, I don't see how they can even pay their support staff with as little money as they've got coming in. I am hoping that AC crashes in the near future before more good people lose their money.

I also hope that anyone considering AC will find this forum before losing their hard-earned money.

Again, anyone still promoting AC is morally bankrupt.

Soapboxmom

07-22-2006 08:55 PM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **SoapBoxDad**
SoapBoxMom,

You are essentially on mute here as you have no integrity. A person can simply read the entire thread and see that you feel your faith belongs between you and a minister just on Sunday. Your reference, not mine. I will repost for you here if you need it.

As for a holy war, we are not ashamed to share the Gospel boldly in our business and in our lives Monday through Sunday. You and your anti-Christian friends on this board like Renloz and Phinnly have attacked that fact that this business is Christ-centered.

Have a blessed weekend SBM and I am glad you are here for the duration as that is very helpful.

Gee, Wacko Jacko you want to tell us again who has no integrity here? You have been defrauding people to the tune of 15 grand with the Millionaire Wannabe Conference and all the attendance and advertising expenses.

What happened to you defending this scam for years to come? Aren't you going to spend eternity threatening me with lawsuits for exposing the truth about this scam? I live my life honestly and in service to my fellow man. From what the poor souls you swindled are saying you certainly aren't doing the same! Are you really sure now that God is on your side?

I guess you won't be purchasing any more dead animal carcasses to adorn your wife! You know the reps have every incentive to sue you personally for their losses. Fraud, misrepresentation, deceptive business practices and pyramid laws are just some of the actionable elements here! Go get 'em reps!!!!

Soapboxmom

Wishyouknew

07-22-2006 11:04 PM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Soapboxmom,

I would put money on the fact that their lawyers told them to stop posting on scam.com because this could and probably will be used against them in court.

We have brought to much evidence to the surface not to, against Advantage Conferences.

Especially now that Soapboxdad has been outed.

I would also be willing to bet that Tim might drop his lawsuit because I am sure he can't afford to continue to move forward on it. Lawyers are not cheap these days!

Nor do I think he can match the deep pockets of the BBB. I am sure they are well represented and have a lawyer on staff or on retainer.

I am sure after this lawsuit comes to an end. The BBB will make an example out of them and they will be on the 5 o'clock news. Then all of us will say
"God is GREAT!"

Wishyouknew

07-23-2006 12:37 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Did anyone notice this GOOGLE AD that sometimes appears at the top of scam.com?
This is what it reads:

[Christian Millionaire MBA](#)

Mentor seeks Apprentices.
Not MLM. Christ-centered.

Hmmm, Jack, is a Christian Millionaire.??? Not MLM???

BIGfranky75

07-23-2006 03:20 PM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Wishyouknew**

*Did anyone notice this GOOGLE AD that sometimes appears at the top of scam.com?
This is what it reads:*

[Christian Millionaire MBA](#)

*Mentor seeks Apprentices.
Not MLM. Christ-centered.*

Hmmm, Jack, is a Christian Millionaire.??? Not MLM???

nice. this guy, Jack/SBD is so evil. he knowingly LIES in his advertisements, then preaches

about "honesty and integrity" to all of us that think this business is a joke. how "Christ-centered" is that?!?!?

c'mon Jack! you have to walk the walk, not only talk the talk!

Remember Jack, God is watching!

yossarian

07-24-2006 11:39 PM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

I think Jack's gone mute. Maybe he decided to take a holy vow of silence? :) Anyway, I kinda miss his irrational rants and pseudo-pious propaganda.

...Actually, now that I think about it, I really don't.

Phinnly Slash Buster

07-24-2006 11:57 PM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Maybe he finally listened up to his lawyer's advice.
STFU!!

Wishyouknew

07-26-2006 11:34 PM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Yes, no action from Soapboxdad or anyone.

Unlucky36

07-27-2006 12:06 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Wishyouknew**
Yes, no action from Soapboxdad or anyone.

Well, it looks like the ballgame is over!!

Final score: Scambusters 45 AC (soapboxdad) ZEEERRRRROOOOOOOOO :D

Wishyouknew

07-27-2006 01:40 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Unlucky36**

Well, it looks like the ballgame is over!!

Final score: Scambusters 45 AC (soapboxdad) ZEEERRRRROOOOOOOOO :D

Now that Soapboxdad (aka Jack W.) got exposed he is not showing up on here.
Not that he had any credibility but, now people can see hopefully see what type of person he and Tim are.

Who knows maybe Jack is taking a vacation while he still can afford to.

humbled-by-grace

07-27-2006 04:08 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Don't underestimated how powerful the positive spiritual message of the "Health and Wealth" Gospel is for those who are searching for a more meaningful life. The presentation is slick, clean and very life affirming. The verbiage is the "product" that many MLM rely upon to make the "sale" or "invitation" (Professional Invitors). Some of the programs even copyright the scripts.

The financial potential of the "Health and Wealth" gospel is immense, much greater that the Anthony Robbins type seminar for the very reason that faith talk is built into the program. Preachers such as Tilton or the old "Reverand Ike" used this approach to build their ministries. Now we see it brought to the "for profit" arena in the form of AC and the ilk.

What SoapBoxDad has accomplished is the use of this forum to repeat the script. There were a few "slips", but for the most part, it was clean, positive and life (or "dream") affirming. The goal is repeated exposure for the targeted audience: the mark of an accomplished Mutlilevel Marketeer.

The Gospel (the Good News of our Salvation) is the most powerful message and reality. References to Scripture give a depth that can be falsely attributed to "Health and Wealth"

techniques and scripts promoted side by side with God's Word. The Glory of God is subtly (and sometimes, not so subtly) associated abundance of worldly wealth and profit. What a great message to hear, God loves you as you are (which is true), your salvation is certain (which it is by faith), and you can make a lot of money too (which happens for a few); No sacrifice, no cross to bear, no possessions to sell (that may come later), no poor to deal with (now).

I don't know whether SoapBoxDad or any of the others at AC really believe what they preach. I cannot know another man's heart. But what I do know is that if the product that you are selling is the product that you are selling, then the hope will eventually end. Some states (like North Carolina) have developed a legal test known as the 70% rule. For a business opportunity not to be a pyramid scheme, at least 70% of the reps revenues must come from retail sales other than selling the right to sell (attend AC or whatever). But even if a MLM is legal, there is the question of whether it is ethical and/or a good business opportunity.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:12.

The power of the devil in this world is that "when he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies" John 8:44

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15

"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."
2 Peter 1:2

Unlucky36

07-27-2006 04:32 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Wishyouknew**

Now that Soapboxdad (aka Jack W.) got exposed he is not showing up on here.

Not that he had any credibility but, now people can see hopefully see what type of person he and Tim are.

Who knows maybe Jack is taking a vacation while he still can afford to.

Maybe Tim helped jack off the horse :eek: , 2nd option? A two way circle jerk :eek:

renloyx

07-27-2006 04:51 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Unlucky36**

Maybe Tim helped jack off the horse :eek:

hahaha anyone else see clerks 2 today?

Soapboxmom

07-27-2006 06:47 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

humbled-by-grace,

May I be the first to welcome you to our humble little thread!

I was very impressed by your post. You are the first to apply the 70% rule to this scam and I had to laugh at that one. With 500 reps and 300 ten grand sales they can't even sell to the reps. There are 0.6 sales average per rep and it seems likely no outside sales at all. The tradegy is as you said AC comes off as a powerful spiritual thing.

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Poweroldglory**

P.S. A personal message to Tim Darnell

Tim there is a growing band of brothers and sisters in Christ who support you and the awesome Christian Movement you are leading. God is not threatened by the negativity on this pathetic thread and He will be glorified in your fight and He will prevail. We love you brother and will stand by you as witnesses for and to His Glory!

This is the ridiculous drivell we get from brainwashed reps and it is very frightening. Timmy seems to be morphing into something more akin to Charles Manson than Christ!

Soapboxmom

Wishyouknew

07-27-2006 08:19 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **humbled-by-grace**

Don't underestimated how powerful the positive spiritual message of the "Health and Wealth" Gospel is for those who are searching for a more meaningful life. The presentation is slick, clean and very life affirming. The verbiage is the "product" that many MLM rely upon to make the "sale" or "invitation" (Professional Invitors). Some of the programs even copyright the scripts.

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I don't know whether SoapBoxDad or any of the others at AC really believe what they preach. I cannot know another man's heart. But what I do know is that if the product that you are selling is the product that you are selling, then the hope will eventually end. Some states (like North Carolina) have developed a legal test known as the 70% rule. For a business opportunity not to be a pyramind scheme, at least 70% of the reps revenues must come from retail sales other that selling the right to sell (attend AC or whatever). But even if a MLM is legal, there is the question of whether is is ethical and/or a good business opportunity.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:12.

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Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15

"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." 2 Peter 1:2

Very nicley worded! I agree!

humbled-by-grace

07-27-2006 08:31 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

See here:

<http://falseprofits.com/>

Phinnly Slash Buster

07-27-2006 04:38 PM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **humbled-by-grace**

See here:

<http://falseprofits.com/>

Good link, I found this myself sometime ago and it may be posted here already.

Well worth the time it takes to reveiw.

Proving that all these MLM scum bags have always worked from the same tired and worn out script.

humbled-by-grace

07-27-2006 05:42 PM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Dear Soapboxmom,

Thank you for the welcome. I had written a fairly lengthy post in response to the quote from Poweroldglory you included in your post. My response is both from the perspective of a successful businessperson and a Christian. There is more of a purpose to what the MLMarketeers do on these message boards than than spew "ridiculous drivell...from brainwashed reps".

Unfortunately, I left the text on the screen too long before submitting it and when the webpage refreshed, I lost all of it. When I have time, I will post a summary of the point I was making.

"The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep." Ecclesiastes 5:12

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come follow me." Matthew 19:21; See also Mark 10:21

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Phinnly Slash Buster

07-27-2006 06:53 PM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Soapboxmom**

This is the ridiculous drivel we get from brainwashed reps and it is very frightening. Timmy seems to be morphing into something more akin to Charles Manson than Christ!

Soapboxmom

Soapboxmom,

If Charley Manson was out and about today he would certainly be a MLMer.

The language, deceptions and purpose of cults and MLM's are identical.

This site does an excellent job of detailing these parallel universes.

In some cases the MLM blurs into a cult and visa-versa, Scientology, Amway and now

Advantages Conferences are examples of this morphing.

Since Advantages Conferences uses bible references to elicit predictable responses from good Christians who are already pre-programmed by many years of indoctrination this cult is especially vile and destructive.

The Millenium Project

<http://www.ratbags.com/rsoles/cults1.htm>

CULTS:

A destructive cult is a pyramid-shaped authoritarian regime with a person or group of people that have dictatorial control. It uses deception in recruiting new members (e.g. people are NOT told up front what the group is, what the group actually believes and what will be expected of them if they become members). It also uses mind control techniques to keep people dependent and obedient.

Multi-Level Marketing, Pyramid Schemes, Scams and Frauds

<http://www.ratbags.com/rsoles/mlm1.htm>

Get rich quick, just forget about things like mathematics, the population of the world, and how

many friends you would like to still have at the end of the year. A pyramid scheme is a pyramid scheme, even if black-letter law pretends it is not.

Pyramid schemes aren't the only way fraudsters try to empty wallets. The sites listed here include many methods of making you poorer.

humbled-by-grace

07-27-2006 07:59 PM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Phinnly Slash Buster

You are correct in describing the "cult-like experience" and I would also agree that some of the MLM morph into cults. But there is a difference in tactics and use of the honest and real spiritual experiences for profit. Scientology has a cult like structure that builds on control and mental processing. It really doesn't tap into the power of legitimate faith in God. Amway is different. Although the "script" is not explicit as it is in AC, the experiences of many attendees is nothing short of spiritual. Some weep and tremble as they would at a rival.

You are right to say that "... Advantages Conferences uses bible references to elicit predictable responses..."; but I do not think it's effective because the target audience has been "pre-programmed by many years of indoctrination". The power is in the exploitation of the human need for God. St. Augustine describe the human soul as containing a "God shaped hole". We try to fill it with all sorts of substitutes that fall short. As the great doctor stated: "My heart will not rest until it rests in Thee".

God talk is powerful, not because some are pre-preprogrammed or indoctrinated (that takes too much work to sustain), but because it hits a "homing device" in our souls. But so does a good drink, great meal, passionate love affair, sex, drugs or a great close. In time the sunstitutes will fall short (they always do) and will lead to one's unhappiness, poverty, exploitation or worse.

It is the "pimping" of our passion for God that makes MLM using Christian scripts so destructive. To equate the Glory of God to making a profit is blasphemous. It is also bad business.

"but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful." Mark 4:19

"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ." 2 Corinthians 11:13

humbled-by-grace

07-27-2006 08:18 PM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Someone asked for the full quote of 2 Corinthians 11:12-14. Here it is:

"12. And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. 13. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. 14. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light."

That's right Satan doesn't walk around with horns and a tail.

Phinnly Slash Buster

07-27-2006 10:19 PM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

humbled-by-grace,
I agree with your take on this.
With minor exception.

The reason I included Amway in my post:

Trademark® of the Beast
Part 1: Procter & Gamble and rumors of Satanism
Dateline: 06/10/98
By David Emery

Here's proof that you can't stop an urban legend, not even in a court of law.

In 1997, Procter & Gamble filed the latest in a series of lawsuits against Amway Corporation and some of its distributors for allegedly spreading rumors to the effect that P&G, maker of familiar household products such as Mr. Clean and Tide laundry detergent, is affiliated with the Church of Satan.

<http://urbanlegends.about.com/librar...y/aa061098.htm>

Amway, aside from their rivalist patina, have also shown that they will exploit the fears of religious people to serve their own agenda. Very cult like in my opinion even though this may not qualify them as a cult, they act like one.

Scientology is also in both worlds promoting services like Drug re-hab and mixing it with mind control rituals designed to empty the wallets of adherents.

Duck98

07-27-2006 11:54 PM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **humbled-by-grace**

Phinnly Slash Buster

You are correct in describing the "cult-like experience" and I would also agree that some of the MLM morph into cults. But there is a difference in tactics and use of the honest and real spiritual experiences for profit. Scientology has a cult like structure that builds on control and mental processing. It really doesn't tap into the power of legitimate faith in God. Amway is different. Although the "script" is not explicit as it is in AC, the experiences of many attendees is nothing short of spiritual. Some weep and tremble as they would at a rival.

I have no desire to get into a debate about religion per se. But the use of "religion" in MLMs is EXACTLY the same as the controlling tactics used in cults like Scientology. I would recommend that you read "Merchants of Deception" regarding how the Amway Motivational Organizations (AMOs) use cult control strategies to keep people in them.

You can see those tactics used on almost every thread on these boards. Pro=mlm posters (for the most part, there are some very few exceptions) start off by a) complaining about the fact that people don't like the company b) accuse those doing it of being losers and "just out to attack successful things" c) say that people opposing the company have not tried it and therefore don't know what they are talking about d) people opposed to mlms should not be wasting their time on a board complaining about the company e) the company is a wonderful opportunity. This is parroting the information that gets thrown at them day in and day out in motivational meetings, CD's tapes, more motivational meetings, phone calls and so on.

I invite you to check out 5 different topics on this section of scam.com - any 5. You should be able to spot the similarities - even though all the "opportunities" are different!

I would also encourage you to read Hassan's book "Combating cult mind control" - I should, I guess, emphasize that I am only recommending this in relation to MLMs.

humbled-by-grace

07-28-2006 12:54 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Phinnly Slash Buster

LOL. Great post!

humbled-by-grace

07-28-2006 01:02 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Duck98

Yes I have read Merchants of Deception and recommend it for exposing some of the tactics used by Amway. I think the book "False Profits" goes into greater detail in explainin the dynamics of how effective these tactics are. I still think you can get a free download PDF copy of Merchants of Deception here:

<http://www.merchantsofdeception.com/DOWNLOADBOOK.html>

humbled-by-grace

07-28-2006 01:07 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

I you don't want to download the entire book to your computer, you can read each chapter online in your browser by starting here (Chapter 1) and clicking the link to the next chapter at the bottom of the book. A compelling story:

http://www.amquix.info/merchants/book/chapter_01.htm

yossarian

07-28-2006 01:39 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Phinnly Slash Buster**

humbled-by-grace,

I agree with your take on this.

With minor exception.

The reason I included Amway in my post:

Trademark® of the Beast

Part 1: Procter & Gamble and rumors of Satanism

Dateline: 06/10/98

By David Emery

Here's proof that you can't stop an urban legend, not even in a court of law.

In 1997, Procter & Gamble filed the latest in a series of lawsuits against Amway Corporation and some of its distributors for allegedly spreading rumors to the effect that P&G, maker of familiar household products such as Mr. Clean and Tide laundry detergent, is affiliated with the Church of Satan.

<http://urbanlegends.about.com/librar...y/aa061098.htm>

Amway, aside from their rivalist patina, have also shown that they will exploit the fears of religious people to serve their own agenda. Very cult like in my opinion even though this may not qualify them as a cult, they act like one.

Scientology is also in both worlds promoting services like Drug re-hab and mixing it with mind control rituals designed to empty the wallets of adherents.

The ridiculous Church of Satan rumor comes as no surprise. Amway is run almost exclusively by the Mormons. So, at the very least, Amway is a cult by association.

Unlucky36

07-28-2006 01:43 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **yossarian**

The ridiculous Church of Satan rumor comes as no surprise. Amway is run almost exclusively by the Mormons. So, at the very least, Amway is a cult by association.

Amway, Primerica, Quixtar, PAS, AC and many more have one thing in common: They all suck horse urine! Nothin but cults of scammers and circle jerks.

Soapboxmom

07-28-2006 04:05 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Folks,

The discussion of religion and cult behavior is a fascinating discourse. The caliber of posters here is incredible.

I received an emotional private mail that without disclosing the identity of the writer I would like to address here. My heart goes out to anyone who has worked for AC or purchased a conference and become a sales rep. All of these reps and employees are clearly victims. It is Tim Darnell and Jack Weinzierl who are knowingly destroying other people's lives.

Timmy boy was in Liberty League International and then created All-Star Entrepreneur where he coined the infamous Millionaire Mindset Conferences. He has a degree in psychology and is a master manipulator and professional con artist. He learned from LLI that one must be the

originator of the venture in order to really profit handsomely. He jumped that ship and founded All-Star. All-Star was said to have folded because of his evil unscrupulous business partners, but I suspect that the pyramid scheme simply folded when the sucker pool ran dry. The most recent page for All-Star had been sanitized and was Tim Darnell free. So, obviously the scheme had run its course as the luxurious conferences ended in late 2004 and the BBB says the company has closed its doors. So, in essence Tim like many other scammers just goes from one losing venture for the reps to another and milks it for all its worth.

Tim morphed All-Star into Advantage Conferences by simply adding the religious twist to the scheme. The religious twist is the only real difference between the two schemes. humbled-by-grace said it very well: "It is the "pimping" of our passion for God that makes MLM using Christian scripts so destructive. To equate the Glory of God to making a profit is blasphemous. It is also bad business."

To the individual that PMed me I hope you understand I am battling an egregious scheme and you are but another victim. Hopefully in the future you will not end up involved in a very painful situation like this again. The only winners here are Timmy boy, Jacko and a few others that got in early. Almost all the reps will lose their hard earned money. I hope what we do here keeps others from the devastating emotional, physical and financial effects of being scammed.

Soapboxmom

openQuestion

07-28-2006 05:44 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Soapboxmom**
He has a degree in psychology...

Think that's a coincidence? Me neither.

Wishyouknew

07-28-2006 06:29 AM

!

Oh BOY, LOOK WHAT I FOUND!!!! THE SCAMMERS CAN'T HIDE FROM THE GREATNESS OF GOOGLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! THIS JUST HIT THE WIRE TODAY!!

TOO FUNNY!!!

<http://www.newtimesbpb.com/Issues/20.../tailpipe.html>

Jesus Saves

Like everybody else in this country, Tailpipe wants to get rich. And like everybody else, he wants it to come fast and effortlessly. So the 'Pipe squirmed with anticipation when he found a card from a rep for Advantage Conferences (it was perched on a gas pump in West Palm Beach), promising that he could make "\$7,000 Over & Over & Over Again." How could Tailpipe resist!

The almost-clincher for the 'Pipe was the hint of divine protection the program offers. After receiving promotional materials from Mike Melvin, an Advantage Conferences emissary, the 'Pipe learned that it was a "Christ-centered business." This battered auto part wouldn't be dealing with just the hurly-burly of capitalist schemers but with an enterprise bathed in a warm, heavenly glow. All Tailpipe needed to do was ante up \$10,059.90.

Based in Allen, Texas, Advantage Conferences recruits "pro reps" across the country to sell its \$10,000 product, a ticket to a two-day "Millionaire Mindset Conference." That's a golden ticket. With each one you sell, you get a \$7,000 commission.

You don't even have to buy the first ticket yourself, the company's promotional materials say; the only cost to participate and represent the company is a \$59.95 "enrollment fee." Of course, you don't get the full \$7,000 commission unless you cough up ten grand of your own money. But, hey, it's a breeze. There are already pro reps all over Florida, from Loxahatchee to Tampa to Boca Raton, who are so eager to add you to their ranks that they're leaving business cards in odd public places.

"Nobody knows about this company," says Melvin, Tailpipe's own pro rep, who declined to answer questions about his income, saying that success depends entirely on personal effort and marketing skill. The company has grown from 220 people last November to 500 today, he says.

"As it grows out, it's going to go faster," Melvin says.

You betcha. The promotional materials talk about the "infinite width" and "infinite depth" of its potential to make money, guaranteeing that it is "legal" and "federally trademarked." The visual aid the company uses is a diagram of a pyramid.

Wait a minute. This sounds familiar.

The money really starts to roll in when the folks you recruit start to recruit some candidates of their own. Advantage Conferences is run by Tim Darnell, who writes on the company's website: "You get 100% of 70% of the two training sales of everyone who comes into your business, ad infinitum." Could this be a Jesus Christ-endorsed pyramid scheme?

Darnell apparently learned the ropes of this kind of financing at Liberty League International (formerly called Big Ass Britches Holdings, LLC, according to Arizona corporation records), which sells conferences and a "multimedia personal development program" for huge fees.

Darnell left Liberty League in 2003, got Jesus' backing, and started Advantage Conferences. In May of this year, Arizona's attorney general fined Liberty League \$115,000 for "tricking" consumers. Though Liberty League suggests that associates who hawk its products will earn sizable commissions, the attorney general's office found that a "majority of participants did not earn enough to cover the amount they paid to buy the products sold to them."

When the Dallas Better Business Bureau suggested last fall that Advantage Conferences might be a pyramid scheme, Darnell sued them for "defamation and business disparagement." A year later, the suit is still under way. The Florida attorney general's office hasn't received any complaints about Advantage, though if things proceed as such endeavors do, it may be only a matter of time. Consumer affairs experts say that, as would-be investors get wise to what's going on, pyramids inevitably collapse, with the pro reps at the bottom losing their own \$10,000 investment.

Become a Christian entrepreneur today — Tim Darnell and Mike Melvin will thank you. The 'Pipe said thanks, JC, but no thanks.

Wishyouknew

07-28-2006 06:32 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

I hope you guys and girls will get as big of a laugh out of this article as I did.

Does anyone know whats up with the Auther using "TailPipe" ?

Is this a ghost name or what?

Is he doing this to protect him self from lawsuit or what?

Wishyouknew

07-28-2006 06:36 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Another thing I found pretty pathetic is this guy was advertising on the side of a Gas pump. How horrible and Low budget is that?

I wonder if this was one of Tim Darnell's new marketing plans.

How much do you want to bet that the Auther of that article found this thread??

Scambusters you should be proud of yourself. :D

Garyknows

07-28-2006 07:23 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Is this site targeted toward the deep south?

Wishyouknew

07-28-2006 07:24 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

There just seems to be alot of Scams in the North Texas area for some reason.

spanky

07-28-2006 07:54 AM

Re: Advantages Conferences / Tim Darnell

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Wishyouknew**

There just seems to be alot of Scams in the North Texas area for some reason.

i know isnt that interesting... there has to be an explanation for that????

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