



CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

August 8, 2011

Mark Oppenheimer
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Openheimer,

Thanks for the e-mail. I apologize for any failure on my part to explain why I wish to keep the questions and answers on the subject of Ms. Reitman's book in writing. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

As we mentioned to you in an earlier e-mail, Ms. Reitman had absolutely no contact with the Church over the five year period she allegedly worked on that book. Whatever the tenure of her reporting during that period, she searched out disgruntled sources whose opinions about the Church are well known in what we believe was an effort to make her reporting fit her preconceived thesis for her book. In doing so, not only did she make them the centerpiece of her book, but she put them on a pedestal publishing a book which disrespected our Founder, our ecclesiastical leader, our members and our religious beliefs.

You asked if the Church believes there are any major errors in the book. I've given you the answer to this question with an emphatic "yes" and provided specifics. The book contains numerous inaccuracies and misrepresentations and I do not wish to engage in a public debate about every minute detail. Further, I have absolutely no desire to give Ms. Reitman publicity for her biased book. Her dishonest reporting process is atrocious. I apologize in advance if you disagree.

INTERVIEW

The Church has not and is not going to provide any interviews regarding Ms. Reitman's book. However, it is important you understand the facts regarding Ms. Reitman's claim that she "requested" an interview with Mr. Miscavige so you do not mischaracterize it in any article you may publish.

- While writing her *Rolling Stone* article, to our knowledge, there was no book in the works. Any request, real or imagined, by Ms. Reitman with regard to the article did not extend to a subsequent project to write a book. Any responsible journalist or author would seek comment from a person she is writing about. Ms. Reitman refers to Mr. Miscavige hundreds of times in her book and devoted a chapter to him specifically and—for reasons that you can deduce—no one from the Church, including Mr. Miscavige, was contacted in an effort to fact check a *single* fact or detail or inquire about any of Mr. Miscavige's view of the events that Ms. Reitman "describes" in her book, despite her claim of having conducted five years of *thorough* research.
- In order to answer your question, I checked with Mr. Miscavige's office and confirmed that there indeed was no request from Ms. Reitman for an interview *ever*—including during the time of the *Rolling Stone* article. You indicate she may have casually made a request of one of CSI's Public Affairs staff during her magazine article reporting. However, even if that were the case, it would not extend to a book that was not being researched or written at the time. (If she was under contract to deliver a book while writing the *Rolling Stone* article, one would think she would have been conflicted in being able to tell the story without being influenced by that fact.)

I would hope you wouldn't attempt to mischaracterize Mr. Miscavige with regard to interviews. As the leader of the Scientology religion, he does media interviews when he finds the time to do so; he devotes his considerable time and energy to the religion. He travels constantly in

performing his duties and speaks with parishioners and officials in the context of his great responsibilities. Media inquiries, particularly routine ones, are not part of his functions. In the rare instances he has been interviewed, they have been appropriate in the media outlet or publication and the format of his choice.

QUESTIONS

I believe that for the purpose of writing about Ms. Reitman's book you have the Church position in my letter of 2 August and I would appreciate if any article you publish would reflect the Church's position. I have appended to this letter on the record answers to the fact check questions you asked.

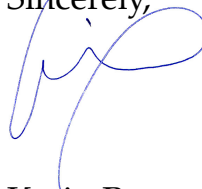
JOHN CARMICHAEL

I have relayed to John your interest in hearing back from him. I am sure he will be in contact with you. He too has expressed a desire to keep anything regarding Ms. Reitman's book and this article in writing so that he can be sure to give you accurate answers. I am sure you understand.

SUMMARY

Should you wish to do a story on the Church of Scientology in the future that is unrelated to this book please do contact us. We work hard to accommodate journalists where we can. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karin Pouw', with a stylized, flowing script.

Karin Pouw
Media Relations

CC: Roane Carey, Managing Editor

ATTACHMENT TO LETTER TO MARK C. OPPENHEIMER

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

1) How many Scientologists do you believe there to be, and how do you count those numbers? I know Trinity College estimated 25,000 in a 2008 report.

Our membership numbers reflect our mailing lists and other lists maintained in Church files around the world. It is from these lists that we draw the number in the millions. As to the Trinity College report, it is simply wrong. Dr. Barry Kosmin, one of the two authors of the ARIS study, has himself said that the extrapolated statistics are subject to a wide margin of error when it comes to new and smaller religions and advises reporters of this caveat. He specifically emphasizes the large margin of error in the sampling for Scientology, and has said, "There may be many more Scientologists than the actual numbers indicate." (I would add that is an understatement, viewed against the facts.) Dr. Kosmin stated the sampling method works for the older and much larger religions (Christianity, Judaism) and is entirely inaccurate for newer, smaller religions. The authors are aware of this inaccuracy in their survey and have themselves said they can't stop the media from misrepresenting what the survey means. You can quote me on this: "The figures they report are beyond inaccurate they are ludicrous."

2) Will you share with me the content of OT 3 and/or other OT levels, so I can assess for myself whether Ms. Reitman's reports of them are correct?

The Church does not discuss the upper level materials with the media. The vast majority of Scientology Scripture is widely available to the general public and can be read and studied by anyone. A very small portion of the Scripture that deals with the most advanced levels of spiritual counseling is restricted to those parishioners who have attained the prior levels of spiritual awareness. As you most likely know, it is not unusual for a

religion to have confidential scriptures and practices. Similar religious practices exist in Judaism and Mormonism, for example.

3) Ms. Reitman writes there was a cost of about \$3,000 for a complete package of OT levels in the 1970s -- is this accurate? If not, can you tell me what OT levels cost in, say, 1975? What do they cost today?

The approximate amount of fixed donations requested varies depending on which path one takes. This was true in the 1970s and remains true today. No matter the path one chooses, all who attain the states of OT express the pricelessness of greater spiritual freedom.

As to the subject of our system of fixed donations, there are no religions which do not obtain support from their members. In fact, courts that have examined this issue have determined that the method of fundraising used by Scientology Churches is in substance no different from fundraising practices of other religions. This was one of the critical issues the United States Internal Revenue Service addressed to its satisfaction before ruling that the Church and its related organizations were tax-exempt. As with every religion, Scientologists participating in religious services donate to their Church. In fact, many of the major religions require fixed financial payments as a prerequisite for participating in their "core" religious services:

- In Judaism, synagogues have fixed membership dues and access to High Holy Day services is based on payment of a fixed fee.
- Numerous Christian denominations, including the Church of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) and fundamentalist Christian churches, including Seventh-Day Adventists, Pentecostal Assemblies of the World and the Worldwide Church of God, require parishioners to pay a 10% tithe of their gross income to participate in religious services.
- In the Catholic Church, a payment is usually required for the celebration of a Mass for a special purpose or special intention.
- In the Church of England, marriage, funeral, memorial and dedication services are subject to a fixed charge. In addition, regular

churchgoers are asked to covenant £400 or more a year to the Church. Approximately 400,000 parishioners do so.

- Hindus set fixed payments for sacred rituals performed by the priest in the temple (pujas), considered an exact science in which the priest is trained. Hindu temples provide a price list for different types of pujas. The typical price for a puja is £100, and typically a Hindu will purchase two a month.

An average Scientologist donates about \$1,000 a year to his church, comparable to Baptists and Presbyterians. To compare participation in Scientology services to participation in services of other religions (of which people are more familiar) cannot be done. By way of example, a dedicated, practicing Catholic may attend Church once a week on Sunday and he would be considered, by most Catholics, to be a dedicated member of the religion. By comparison, a parishioner of Scientology engaging in upper levels may participate in religious services from morning until night (obviously with lunch, dinner and coffee breaks), 7 days a week for a period of days, weeks or months.

However, anyone can participate in Scientology. Indeed, services are provided to those with no means to donate and, in fact, we have a corps of Volunteer Ministers who travel to all corners of the globe to provide Scientology services to those most in need—people who couldn't *possibly* make a donation. Volunteer Ministers have provided tens of thousands of hours of auditing every year, often providing life-changing benefits, at no cost.

4) What are members of the Sea Org paid?

Members of the Sea Organization, the religious order of the Church of Scientology do not receive pay, as they have chosen to dedicate their lives to their chosen religion as volunteers. They are provided berthing, food, medical, transport and all other living costs by the Church to which they are assigned and also are given a nominal weekly stipend.

5) Are they discouraged from having children?

Since the mid-1980s, it has been the Church's policy that in the religious order, the Sea Organization, couples wishing to have children do so outside the Sea Organization. By joining the Sea Org one agrees to a lifetime commitment to the Church—a commitment that requires such intense devotion to religious work and study that it would be impractical to attempt to raise children. This has been the unwavering policy of the Church for nearly a quarter of a century and is similar to the commitment members of other religious orders make upon joining their order, such as vows of celibacy, poverty or seclusion. As in these other religious orders, members of the Sea Org know what they are agreeing to well in advance of joining the religious order.

6) Are Scientologists ever asked, pressured, or otherwise induced by church officials to cut off contact with Suppressive Persons?

No one is “asked, pressured or otherwise induced” to do anything with regard to our religious beliefs. Any decision to apply those beliefs is a self-determined decision, and is not made for anyone. The religious practice in Scientology regarding disconnection is a decision to no longer be connected to an individual who, despite all attempts to resolve their antagonism, remains antipathetic to someone and/or their beliefs. Any society or group that cares for its people, respects the right of a person to sever communication with an abusive individual who repeatedly violates their trust or threatens their safety. Scientologists, like those of other faiths through the ages, both exercise and respect this right. There is no policy in Scientology that *requires* Church members to disconnect from anyone, let alone family and friends who simply have different beliefs. To the contrary, the moral code of Scientology mandates that Scientologists respect the religious beliefs of others. The Church encourages excellent family relationships, Scientologists or not, and family relations routinely improve with Scientology because the Scientologist learns how to increase communication and resolve problems that may have existed before.

7) Did David Miscavige say that Lisa McPherson was "clear" or "a clear" or some other permutation of clearness?

The Church does not discuss the private matters of parishioners. This is but one of many lies in Ms. Reitman's book.

8) Does Scientology teach that masturbation is a sin or otherwise undesirable?

There is no such teaching.

9) Did Ms. Reitman ever ask to interview Mr. Miscavige? You seem to indicate that she did not ask to *during the writing of the book*. But if she asked to interview him, and was turned down, during the research for her magazine article, that would be relevant, too. And if that were true, I'd be curious why you did not mention it previously.

Please see the covering letter. The question is, honestly, an unfair characterization. We ask that you accurately portray the facts, which are that Ms. Reitman did not ask to interview anyone from the Church from March 2006 until the release of her book and refused the Church's offer to provide information. Prior to that, Ms. Reitman was not working on a book. In her own words she is the one that says she spent five years of research for the book.

10) Would you please ask John Carmichael to return my call? He sent me his cell phone number and asked me to call, but I have not heard back from him.

Certainly. Please see the covering letter.

11) Has David Miscavige ever physically abused his subordinates? Or had any physical altercations with any of them?

This allegation is absolutely false. Mr. Riffer wrote you on 2 August and his letter included this among a host of false assertions in Ms. Reitman's

book. Ms. Reitman is on record as well, stating there is no evidence to support this allegation. Her primary sources of information are a handful of apostates, previous external affairs officers who are admitted perjurers, dismissed and defrocked when their crimes were discovered. These sources have a documented history of making false and defamatory statements against the church. The sources of these allegations are in fact the individuals who committed violence themselves and the Church has published this information in Freedom Magazine and its accompanying videos. Please see the video at: www.freedommag.org/special-reports/cnn/video-a-beating-every-day.html.

Further, unlike the perpetrators of these defamatory rumors who have no evidence of their false allegations, there is a wealth of affidavits, declarations and other factual information from persons that eviscerate these false claims. Some of the affidavits disputing these tales told to the media are signed by the former spouses of those telling these falsehoods. In addition to sworn statements, the individuals countering the false claims have presented themselves to the media in person and by letter and in some cases spoken on television.

12) Where does Mr. Miscavige live, and may I visit him?

Mr. Miscavige travels a great deal as part of his ecclesiastical duties and lives and works in offices at a number of Church installations that house members of the religious order around the world.

13) I have provided this additional question and answer: What is the story that Ms. Reitman failed to give? The story of Scientology:

The story Ms. Reitman failed to give is the true and accurate story of Scientology: How it has touched and improved millions of lives and has devoted members around the world. Though you didn't ask specifically, I felt it would assist you to have some information on what the Church and Mr. Miscavige do, as you cannot separate his work from that of the Church itself. A lot of this information is available to you at www.Scientology.org/DavidMiscavige, which I encourage you to view.

While Ms. Reitman mentioned a few of the new Churches of Scientology that have been established, she failed to note the accelerated speed of their opening or the thousands of new parishioners attending services in these new churches.

Ms. Reitman says she spent five years researching the Church yet failed to view any of the 25 new Churches opened in recent years including those in the world cultural capitals of Rome, London, Berlin, Washington, D.C., Mexico City, Moscow and Melbourne. The most recent was dedicated on L. Ron Hubbard's centennial, March 13, 2011, in Tampa, Florida, by Mr. Miscavige. The Tampa Church moved to new quarters as it had grown out of quarters it had moved to in 2003 and expanded its parishioner base by four times in those few years. You may wish to see videos of the grand openings of these new Churches: www.scientology.org/newchurches

Also, as an example of the parishioners' contribution to the creation of their Church for generations to come, you can see high resolution footage of the opening of the Church of Scientology of Melbourne at: www.scientology.org/melbourne

The Church has more than 60 properties in various stages of design and construction, with many moving toward completion in the next 24 months.

Going hand-in-hand with the expansion of our Churches is a dramatic increase in the resources available for our worldwide humanitarian initiatives. Our new Churches play an integral part providing a strong base for Scientology-sponsored social and humanitarian programs that have reached 1.5 billion people:

- Scientology Volunteer Ministers has been active in more than 175 disaster relief efforts around the world, partnering with more than 800 agencies and organizations. Our ministry has trained 400,000 to provide volunteer assistance, while helping 11 million one-on-one in the last decade. Please see: www.volunteerministers.org.

- *The Way to Happiness*, a Church-sponsored education program that uses the non-religious moral code, *The Way to Happiness*, including 21 public service announcements and the new award-winning, feature-length book-on-film combined with an educator's guide, with 85 million booklets distributed in 94 languages since 1981. *The Way to Happiness* was entered in the Guinness Book of World Records as the most translated nonreligious work. Please see: www.thewaytohappiness.org.
- The Church sponsors one of the largest non-governmental anti-drug campaigns in the world: The "Say No to Drugs Say Yes to Life" program features public service announcements, an award-winning documentary about real people and the destructive influence of the most commonly abused drugs, and an educator's guide. It also includes information booklets exposing the myths of each drug, all provided at no cost. The program has reached 24 million through booklet distribution, and 3.4 million children have pledged to lead drug-free lives through the Church-sponsored Drug Free Marshals. Please see: www.drugfreeworld.org.
- The Church sponsors an international human rights public information campaign, broadly publicizing the 30 Articles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights with public service announcements for every article, an award-winning film providing the history of human rights, and booklets serving to fill the gap in human rights education. The human rights education world tour has traveled 174,000 miles through 45 nations reaching 11 million. More than 250,000 people have signed our petitions calling for mandatory human rights education. Please see: www.humanrights.com.

I hope this information is helpful in accurately representing some of the many activities the Church of Scientology does to improve society.