



CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

January 23, 2013

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT

CONCERNING LAWRENCE WRIGHT'S BOOK

Mr. Wright's book is so ludicrous it belongs in a supermarket tabloid. The book is an error-filled, unsubstantiated, bigoted anti-Scientology book. The Church has produced a white paper identifying the more than 200 errors so far discovered in Mr. Wright's book. See, www.lawrencewrightgoingclear.com. Specific examples include:

British and Canadian publishers chose not to print Mr. Wright's book, which speaks volumes about their confidence in its facts and allegations. Mr. Wright ignored the real story of Scientology in favor of taking the lazy path by relying on stale allegations and ever-changing bizarre tales invented by a handful of confessed liars.

If objectivity and truth are the hallmark of an ethical journalist, then the only words to describe Lawrence Wright are corrupt and bigoted. A self-described atheist, Mr. Wright apparently feels that Scientologists have no rights to express their religious beliefs. In a letter of October 14, 2011, a full 15 months before publication, the Church offered full cooperation to answer any questions so as to provide all information Mr. Wright would need to accurately represent the religion, the Church, its leadership and Founder. The Church repeated this request 15 times, as many of the letters went entirely unanswered while others resulted in only about a dozen fact-checks consisting of obscure or mundane subjects out of context. As a result, Mr. Wright produced a travesty of falsehoods—from getting wrong the date of the wedding of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes to falsely claiming the Church owns a bank in Florida.

Millions of Scientologists around the world embrace the religion. Since Lawrence Wright began his research, 30 new Churches of Scientology, known as Ideal Organizations, opened across the world—12 in 2012 alone—and our humanitarian programs are bringing help to thousands of people from all walks of life on a daily basis.

To find out the true story of Scientology and its Founder, one can visit www.scientology.org, www.ironhubbard.org, or one can read Mr. Hubbard's books, which are available worldwide.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Below are the responses to the list of topics you stated are covered in your interview.

1) Alleged potential violation of child labor laws.

Lawrence Wright is airing myths circulated by anti-Scientology apostates and bitter individuals still seething at having been kicked out of the Church years ago.

The Church of Scientology carefully adheres to all child labor laws. No underage Sea Organization members are permitted to perform tasks prohibited by law.

In every country where there are Sea Organization members, the churches operate according to published Church policies that regulate and define exactly the age at which a Scientologist is eligible to join the religious order. It is precisely in accordance with the laws of the land concerning minors. The minimum age of Sea Organization members is generally the minimum age in any state or country that a minor is legally permitted to hold a job, generally 16 years of age.

Where local laws regulate the number of hours a minor may work, their schedules are adjusted accordingly. Schooling is provided at Sea Organization installations for minor Sea Organization members who still need to complete education requirements. This is provided for the legally required number of hours. Each jurisdiction is different.

The Church of Scientology does not accept into its religious order, the Sea Organization, members with small children. This has been the policy of the Church for the past 25 years.

This information is available on our website. Lawrence Wright could have seen this is a myth had he chosen to review it.

2) Willful ignorance on the part of some members.

There is nothing about which the Church's members can be willfully ignorant with respect to this subject or any other, as there are no violations.

3) Abuse of former Church members by David Miscavige.

The four-year-old stale allegations are not credible and the sources are in many cases self-admitted liars, suborners of perjury and were engaged in malfeasance for which they were dismissed. The allegations began in 2009 and were generated to garner media attention by anti-Scientologist Marty Rathbun and his self-proclaimed "posse." The fact that one can find no physical evidence, no photos, no police reports and that these

individuals waited years before banding together to make these allegations to the media tells you all you need to know about their credibility. In addition, the former wives of four of the principal ringleaders making the allegations signed sworn affidavits and told CNN's Anderson Cooper that they never saw a single bruise or cut and that their ex-husband never mentioned once any of these alleged incidents during the entire time they were married. In short, these allegations which are now urban Internet myths are made by the same group of bitter apostates that have been making the same or similar claims over and over—they are no truer now than they were when they were originally made. Rather than provide hard evidence, this group self-corroborates its stories under the leadership of Rathbun.

In further illustration that the allegations are fraudulent, Mr. Wright's book lists witnesses he claims informed him about such conduct. The first person listed is John Axel [sic]. Yet, Mr. Aczel (the correct spelling of his name) has executed a statement under oath that Mr. Wright never contacted him and Mr. Aczel never told anyone he saw or experienced any act of assault and he never witnessed nor experienced any such act.

Further, the sworn statements of more than two-dozen witnesses and some of the supposed "victims" put the lie to this small posse of lunatics.

4) The threat of exposing private information about John Travolta when he considered leaving the Church.

The allegation is false. And Mr. Wright is disgusting to allege it given it is he and his sources who are making false public allegations. Lawrence Wright was on notice from the Church and Mr. Travolta's counsel that the claim is a lie.

All communications between a minister and any parishioner—celebrity or not—are privileged and confidential. That trust is never violated.

In fact, the Church would invoke all legal protections under its clergy-penitent privilege to safeguard this confidentiality. The Auditor's Code requires a minister to never use the secrets divulged by a parishioner in an auditing session. The information given in trust during an auditing session by a parishioner to a minister is considered sacrosanct by the Church and Church ministers. All such information is kept *strictly confidential* by a Scientology minister and the Church.

Mr. Wright's source for this statement is a man who was dismissed from the Church more than 30 years ago and who presents this claim today through Lawrence Wright's book as if it was a new allegation. The fact that there have been no disclosures for the

entire 30 years that this man has been making this ancient claim should have given Lawrence Wright a clue that the allegation was invented in the first place.

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