

30 March 2010

Re: Church of Scientology

Dear Sir/Madam:

Too often I feel today “news” has been predefined or categorized into what editors or marketing people watching ratings consider being “what the public wants.” Whether that in itself is an indictment on Western civilization or upon media organisations, or both, is not the subject of this letter.

I would say though, that I have watched CNN over many years and I have seen some good coverage of specific events. No, not enough good news or positive things in the world are being reflected and way too much speculation and scare mongering. A lot of footage and reports though were as they should be: Balanced. Intelligent. Thoughtful. Insightful. TRUTHFUL. Verifiable. I liked that about CNN and it was a discernable and important differentiator from many of your peers in the media across the globe.

Thus it was that I was dismayed—no, outraged—to hear that you have reportedly been doing a story on Scientology—a religion. A practical and applicable religion with empirical results in helping me, members of my family, extended family, friends and so on. A religion for which I dedicated almost 20 years working my way up as a “Sea Org Member” and eventually finding myself at the “Int Base”—the International HQ of Scientology in Hemet, California.

Why outrage?

There are a group of apostates, all of whom I know, all of whom I worked with. They have boasted of how CNN will be their mouthpiece. Will tell the “true” story. How things “really were.” These include Marty Rathbun, Mike Rinder, Amy Scobee/Pesch/Mortland, Tom DeVocht, Bruce Hines, etc. Apparently, CNN is only listening to this side of the “story” and thus that is all it is—a story. A fable. A tale. A creation. A work of fiction. Not credible. Not true. Worst of all, you will give these people a platform to vilify and attack a religion which they are attacking with clever changes and modifications to their stories (all of which they have been discussing for months, years, etc.) in a planned campaign against the head of Scientology, David Miscavige.

Rathbun, Rinder, Scobee, et al. pick out details which they try to sensationalize from their 20 years or more experiences, and they omit a great deal of facts and context...

I was at the Int Base for 17 years. My ex-wife was Marty Rathbun’s Personal Assistant. I saw him in action.

I shared an apartment with Amy Scobee.

Mike Rinder was best friends and flat mates with my former sister-in-law. His ex-wife, Cathy, was my boss – my manager.

Tom DeVocht and I were in a dorm together. I was at his wedding and at Jennifer Linson's father Art's house in LA.

I went skiing with several of them and we enjoyed holidays together.

Went to the movies.

Had days off.

Danced.

Did laundry.

Had sports days.

Watched "Aussie Rules" football with Mike Rinder.

Knew of Steve Hall and saw him around and thought he was a weirdo—he told people that he was Jesus Christ reincarnated. He told a guy whose wife had not too long ago passed away that she had come to him with messages from beyond the grave. I have read many of his posts and this guy professes to be something he was not. I was a senior member of the Watchdog Committee (WDC) at the same time as Amy Scobee, for example. I did projects with her and late at night she used to regale me with stories of her singing and promiscuity and how Scientology and the discipline of the Int base helped her reform. I found that when she was in senior positions she was disingenuous, lacked empathy in ways that I have since recognized as being linked to so called "sociopaths", and she was just an extremely pugnacious and nasty person to be around.

I was in charge of the International Finance Office for a while in my role as WDC for Reserves. Mike Rinder and Marty Rathbun ran the Church's PR and Legal Departments. They were secretive. They used their connection to COB to garner support and to constantly threaten. When it was a choice of staff pay or funding for them and their legal bills, guess what they chose without a second look? That's right. NEVER staff welfare. They could not care. God, the other day I read an article/blog from Rinder where he blamed David Miscavige for the no pay. Like my father used to say, when you point a finger just remember that there are three pointing back at YOU! David Miscavige did care. Got new berthing buildings built. Staff pay resolved. New uniforms. Sports field. Movies, etc.

I am now working in business and trying my best to do a good job and to be successful. I learned valuable lessons working at the Int Base.

It was a tough place. I have never experienced such high expectations in terms of one's ability to learn new skills and to become adept at them quickly. Standards of product and quality were second to none – and I mean before, during and after I was there. I have never seen such surpassed.

I occasionally worked with David Miscavige and I will say this: never before or since have I encountered someone with the raw power and dynamic that I experienced with him. He would fill a room when he entered. There was never any question that he was in charge. The apostates you are apparently listening to as your “sources” make out that that is a bad thing—being intelligent, dynamic, forthright, demanding, rewarding, discerning and in some cases awe inspiring by his sheer ability in sound, lighting, writing, event production, editing, buildings, architecture, etc. I can't describe it. It was staggering.

I could not cut it at the International Base. I knew before I was there, while I was there and when I left that it was a tough environment. So did the apostates. That handful of people. They came out, just as I did.

Difference? I am working to make myself a better person. No, I am not there. Not entirely. I am working to take responsibility for actions which I did that broke the rules which I agreed to while I was there. Not rules by “COB” but rules between myself and my ex- wife and my fellow friends and workers. People I loved and spent some of the best years of my life with.

Amy Scobee might not admit it now. She blames this and that on what was “done to her.” All of them do. “Look what they did to me.”

The common thread.

If you, CNN, simply listen to these mudslingers, lying to try to make sense for themselves of where did it all go wrong, then you are doing the world and yourselves and your profession a grave disservice.

I seriously suggest they do some soul searching and stop trying to blame good, upright, decent, caring, incredibly hard working people and the most ethical group I have ever had the privilege to know and work with.

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I did see Mike Rinder hit someone.

I did see Marty hit someone.

I have heard them threaten, coerce and yell obscenities and I have seen the results of Marty's "Ethics."

Oh, and the RPF. My God. The lies I have read from these guys. Again, beggars belief... I studied and got counseling for 5 hours, every day. I was there by choice. No one hit me. No one held me down. I sang while working on the decks. I got cigarettes and other supplies when I needed. I heard from my wife routinely. I WAS THERE BY CHOICE...

I made up stories too when I left. I tried to blame others for my own misgivings and failings. That was the easy road out and I regret having said such things. Why?

Why am I writing this? Because I feel that Marty Rathbun and Mike Rinder are... working to "get even" for being fired. Sacked. For incompetence. They can't stand it. Hate it. They are taking weak minded and unintelligent people like Amy, Steve Hall, Tom DeVocht, etc., and they are abusing them.

But just as the Catholic Church, Anglicans, Buddhists, Muslims in fact, EVERY religion I can think of, just as they have apostates and members who are pedophiles, or break the chastity rules, or take drugs—things like that. Scientology has people who break their rules too and who carp and whinge when they are found out and who try to avoid responsibility by blaming others. These ghouls of humanity carp on with their tales and lies of how they were held against their will for 20 years and "forced" to be bad. Oh yeah! Right! Of course.

I read today of a murderer in Europe telling of how Lucifer had "made" him kill his victims! Oh yeah, I thought. Right. If you simply listen to a small group of disaffected ex-members without hearing the truth of others—ex or current members alike but with an opposing view—then you have sold out that shred of credibility that you had in the past.

Do the right thing. Be balanced and ethical. Be just. Listening to the rants of a bunch of people who failed without speaking to those they affected, whose lives they hurt, whose families they helped wreck, well, that would just be wrong.

Instead, why don't you buck the trend of sensationalist media types. Why not try something novel? Tell the real story of Scientology and how it is the fastest growing religion in the world and why. Tell of how it helps SOLVE everyday problems of spirituality and life which plague man in every corner of the world.

If you chose to look, really look, you would probably find something to improve your own lives and those of people you love and care about.

Surely, SURELY, this is a better story.

Kind regards,

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