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Mr. Robert C. Hawkins  
President  
Harvest House Publishers  
1075 Arrowsmith St.  
Eugene, OR 97402-9121

January 11, 2001

Express Mail Return Receipt Requested  
Sent by fax transmission simultaneously to (541) 342-6410

Re: *Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions* by John Ankerberg and John Weldon

Dear Mr. Hawkins,

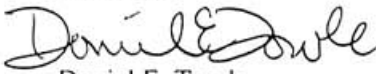
We are writing on behalf of a group of local churches in the USA and abroad, the Living Stream Ministry, Kerry Robichaux, the co-workers of Witness Lee, and a number of individuals who have been characterized as a "dangerous cult" by your book titled above. Both in the chapter titled "The Local Church" and in various other parts of the book we are made to share the vilification that your authors heap upon all they label "a significant threat to society." They do this with direct words and with innuendo that "a far darker picture could have been painted." They write with the animus that praises "intolerance" as a "virtue" and then direct that intolerance against those, including "The Local Church," said to be illustrative of evil cults. This letter is to register our most strenuous formal protest to your characterization of us as being false, damaging and therefore libelous.


We do not know why you chose to include us in a book of cults. We consider ourselves as your brothers in Christ. The ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee that we publish (and try to practice) is known and treasured by seeking Christians around the world. The light and nourishment received by the multitude of readers of this ministry stands in sharp contrast to the accusations of your book. The testimony of Christ that is borne by the many local churches in all parts of this world is acknowledged by true believers and has been at the cost of the suffering and even martyrdom of its saints.

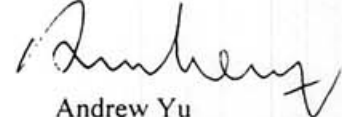
As followers of Christ we are observing His teaching to bring this offense to the attention of our offending brothers in an attempt to be reconciled. We feel this can be best done by a time of direct fellowship, face-to-face to discuss our concerns. We have discovered certain facts that may be crucial to your evaluation of Harvest House Publishers' position in this matter that we prefer to explain to you in person. It may be to your advantage to initially hear us out privately. To that end we are offering to come to Eugene to your offices to meet with you in the near future.

We believe you will understand our seriousness about this matter. We hope you know that this kind of writing has been ruled as libelous concerning us in the past. Time is of the essence, so we must ask for a response from you by Monday, January 22nd. Please direct any response to Dan Towle in writing, by telephone or by e-mail at the above. Thank you for your prompt attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Daniel E. Towle  
The co-workers of Witness Lee

  
Richard W. Taylor  
The Local Churches

  
Andrew Yu  
Living Stream Ministry