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January 31, 2001

John F. Ankerberg  
6928 Lee Hwy.  
Chattanooga, TN 37421-2466  
423-892-8767 fax

By: Express Mail Return Receipt Requested and e-mail simultaneously

Re: *Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions*

Dear Mr. John Ankerberg,

We are writing to you on behalf of a group of churches in the USA and abroad, The Living Stream Ministry, a number of Christian workers and other individuals who are described in your encyclopedia of cults as "The Local Church". This letter is to express our most serious protest over how that book vilifies our Christian name and testimony and to inform you of the damage it has and will cause to many of your brothers in Christ. According to the Lord's word in Matthew 18, we ask you to meet with us that we may seek to correct this problem together as brothers in Christ.

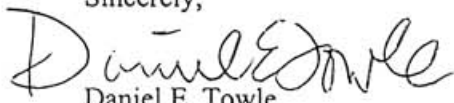
We do not know why we were chosen to be in your book of cults. The ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee that we publish (and try to practice) is known and respected by seeking Christians from around the world. The light and nourishment received by the multitude of readers of this ministry stands in sharp contradiction to your book. The testimony of Christ that is borne by the many local churches in all parts of this world is widely acknowledged by informed believers and has been at the cost of the suffering and even martyrdom of its saints.

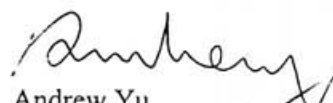
What the book says about us is inaccurate and our inclusion in that book is a mistake. We hope that you would be reasonable and agree to a time to talk about this situation, face to face. As you may know, we asked Mr. Hawkins of Harvest House Publishers for such a time and were refused by a letter from their attorney who offered to give us "a meaningful response" in place of the fellowship we had asked for with Mr. Hawkins. He demonstrated Harvest House's apparent lack of interest in who we were by citing the wrong book in reference to our request. Although Harvest House has initiated the use of lawyers, we hope you will join us in preferring to settle this in a more Christian manner.

We believe that you understand our seriousness and sense of urgency in this matter. In the past we were forced to expend a great amount of time and energy to have these same accusations (of your book) adjudicated to be libelous concerning our ministry and our churches. We do not desire to repeat that history. We would cherish the opportunity to work with you to avoid such a problem for us all. We respectfully request your response by February 8, 2001.

Please direct any response to Dan Towle in writing, by telephone or by e-mail at the addresses above. Thank you for your prompt attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Daniel E. Towle  
The Local Churches

  
Andrew Yu  
Living Stream Ministry