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May 24, 2001

Mr. John Weldon
2812 Kauhale St.
Kihie, HI 96753

By: FEDEX Overnight Letter

Re: *Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions*

Dear Mr. Weldon,


We are writing 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 and New Religions* 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. As you are aware, a court of law concluded in 1985 that The Local Church is not a cult and that the many negative characteristics of cults, such as described in your book, are libelous when applied to The Local Church (see <http://www.contendingforthefaith.com/summary/judgement/completeTOC.html>). According to the Lord's word in Matthew 5:23-24 and 18:5-7, we ask you to meet with us to discuss the serious inaccuracies and misrepresentations of us in your book, the offense and damage it has caused, and to seek to resolve the problem as Christian brothers.

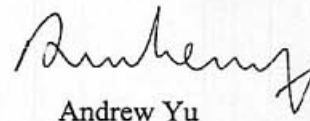
Although we have requested a similar meeting with Mr. Ankerberg, he has as yet been non-responsive to our efforts to meet and discuss the problem. You may be informed that Mr. Hawkins of Harvest House has, so far, also ignored our offer to come to meet with him regarding the book. Instead he has turned our appeal over to an attorney, bringing this matter into the legal realm. Before we proceed in that direction, we want to ask you to come together with us to find a simple and peaceful way to resolve this problem. We are open to meeting you at a place and time of your convenience.

We ask for your prayerful consideration and timely reply.

Thank you,


Daniel Towle


Richard Taylor


Andrew Yu