March 30, 2010

In light of recent slanderous allegations made against my Church, I felt obliged to not let these lies go unchallenged or at least responded to with some truth.

Let me start by telling you a bit about what I do. I am a documentary and film editor. I have worked for Golden Era Productions for a good many years. But first and foremost I am a member of the Sea Organization. Why did I join? I saw a chance to change conditions on this planet and in our country on a broader level than just a one on one basis. And that's what I do. I document human rights abuses in the field of mental health, drugging of children, violence caused by drugs in schools, etc. I let people know that it *is* possible to live drug free. I get a chance to give them solutions to their addictions. I make it possible for a lot of one on one help to happen by letting people know of the problems right next door to them, or even in their own homes!

Now how many people get a chance to do that? And how many people have the support of an entire group to help you do that? And not just a group of people who are doing it as a "job". People who have dedicated their lives to doing it and are as passionate about doing it as I am. That's what the Sea Organization is all about

I don't have to worry about my meals, a home, transport, electricity bills, even means of furthering my education in my field. They are all *provided* to me. Just so I can continue doing what I love doing. How many people get a chance to experience that level of support?

I started in this field pretty young, I was not formally trained in it. But guess what? I was given a full education in it. My group provided me the means to make myself into something. I've received hundreds of hours of professional training in the tools for my position and the techniques of my field. You don't see that sort of care for staff everywhere.

Yes, the hours can be long and the work intensive, but that is to be expected. And no one comes into this organization thinking otherwise. It is a small sacrifice for the gain you receive in helping others (as anyone who works in a humanitarian capacity could tell you).

I am personally offended that a few of those who were given the privilege and support to actually help people in a full time capacity could then turn around and attack that support and everything we stand for, claiming it was based on lies.

Let me ask you this, what are those people now DOING to help anyone? Have they volunteered to help in the disasters in Haiti? Are they tutoring those less fortunate who were never given a chance to have an education? Have they accomplished getting one off a lifetime habit of cocaine? Have they even tried? The answer is probably "No".

And if they claim they are trying to "help us" then I beg to differ. If they really wanted to "help us", they would be working to accomplish our aims and giving us the backup and support we need to do it. No one said it was easy, but there's not a lot of other people out there dedicating their lives to it. And their stabs in our back are certainly not "helping".

But even more disheartening is their attack on Mr. David Miscavige, one of the hardest working, dedicated people I have known. I have personally worked with him many times over the years and have never found him to be anything but passionate about achieving the aims of our Church. Despite the great workload he carries, he still finds time to look after the staff, make sure they are cared for, berthed properly, fed good, healthy food, etc. I can remember several times when, upon learning we were working well into the night to meet a deadline, had his own staff bring us hot food and drinks. He cares. No matter what lies are spread about him, which is the truth. I have never seen him do anything that was not in the interest of helping someone else or in accomplishing the goals of Scientology, which is to help others.

In light of the above, it is saddening to find those willing to listen to slanderous insults and accusations with out actually looking themselves. Claiming to be "unbiased" and then never really looking at the work we *accomplish*? Is that fair? I haven't been asked to give my views on this or even give my side of the story. Is it really that difficult to see the works we've accomplished far out weight any small self-sacrifices that had to be made?

I hope that this letter sheds a bit more light on who we really are. I would hate for you to be so easily duped by those willing to hurt so many others with petty lies, all for their own personal benefit.

Marine Labourdique