



CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

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Bryan Seymour

Senior Reporter, Today Tonight
Seven Network (Operations) Limited

52 Martin Place

Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

Postal Address: PO Box 777

Pymont NSW 2009 Australia

Email: bseymour@seven.com.au

Copy: DLeckie@seven.com.au

CMcpherson@seven.com.au

Justine.munsie@addisonslawyers.com.au

Dear Mr. Seymour

I have received your eleventh-hour questions concerning a show you intend to air within hours. Best journalistic practices require providing someone a meaningful opportunity to respond. It is clear you have no interest whatsoever in our answers and that you never intended to give the Church a chance to respond to the unsupported and untrue allegations you raise.

The claims that the Church undertook any investigative actions concerning the creators of South Park are false.

In any religion, there are those individuals who may choose to leave for any manner of reasons. Lana Mitchell's departure from the Scientology religion is no different.

- Mrs. Mitchell was a volunteer member of the Church's religious order before leaving of her own accord in 2005. Her versions of events are unequivocally denied.

- In 2010 Mrs. Mitchell sought to become an active Church member again and repudiated the false claims she had made on the Internet.
- Contrary to your allegations, Mrs. Mitchell and her husband hosted two Church staff members at her ranch who were assisting her to resolve her situation at the time. The visit was very cordial.

That she is now bitter and joined a group of anti-Scientologists and makes up wild and untrue allegations about the Scientology religion and the Church she used to be a member of is unfortunate. One must ask why she waited seven years to suddenly “remember” these “terrible” experiences which contradict what she said and did in all those previous years.

Every religion has its detractors and Lana Mitchell’s stories have come at a time when the Church is experiencing the greatest period of expansion in its history.

The allegations you have put forth are false and denied. Having left more than seven years ago, she knows nothing about the Church of Scientology or its ecclesiastical leadership. Her statements are unfounded.

Ms. Mitchell’s disagreements with the Church of Scientology are not isolated to the Church or its management. She disagrees with every Scientologist, her former friends and the Founder of the religion. Apparently Ms. Mitchell disagrees with everyone except her new apostate “friends.” For more information, please see *Freedom* magazine, *The Posse of Lunatics* at www.freedommag.org/special-reports/sources.html.

The Church remains true to the Scripture of its Founder and when individuals violate the ecclesiastical procedures for settling their differences, they remove themselves from the community of Scientologists. This was Ms. Mitchell’s choice and her loss.

The Church of Scientology is expanding at an unprecedented rate. It is doing so across the world. Just last week, the 25th Ideal Church of Scientology opened its doors in the United States, in St. Paul Minnesota. It was hailed as a “mega-center” in downtown and a place where anyone can come to learn about and experience the Scientology religion. Next week another Church and Community Center will open its doors. At the beginning of this year, our Ideal Church of Scientology of Melbourne cut a ribbon and has expanded its community service by a factor of four in only a few short months.

The Church is active in disaster relief throughout the world and in Australia; our Truth About Drug initiative is the broadest and most successful non-governmental drug awareness program in the world today. We work to improve education in Human Rights and to restore the moral fabric in society. And we do so seven days a week, 24 hours a day. These are the things the ecclesiastical leader of the Scientology religion does and the Church is proud of its record of accomplishment.

Today Tonight may continue its biased reporting of unfounded and unsupported allegations by a handful of apostates. That's all this is. *Today Tonight* has proven that it utterly ignores the Australian Broadcasting Code and flaunts it at every opportunity.

The Church of Scientology will continue to work to achieve a world without crime, without war and where the able can prosper and honest beings can have rights, and where Man is free to rise to greater heights. Anyone who wishes to find out more about the Scientology religion may find the truth at www.scientology.org.

I request that you use this statement in any program you may plan to air and that you post it on your website nonetheless. This statement does not alleviate *Today Tonight* of its responsibility to accurately report the news.

Sincerely,

Karin Pouw