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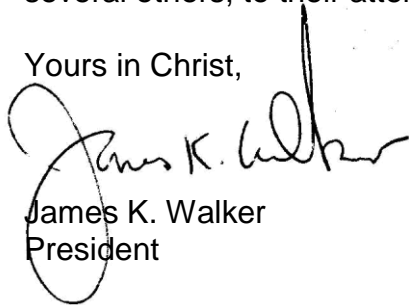
Monday, June 8, 2010

Mrs. Jane C. Anderson  
2324 Stone Creek  
Plano, TX 75075-3000

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that I have sent to all the signers of the "2007 Open Letter to the Local Church and Living Stream Ministry Leadership." You referred to that letter in your May 2, 2010 open letter concerning the Local Church Leadership. I wrote my letter to the signers in order to bring your open letter, as well as the writings of several others, to their attention.

Yours in Christ,



James K. Walker  
President

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[respective signers' addresses]

To the fellow signers of the 2007 Open Letter to Local Church and Living Stream Ministry Leadership:

This letter is to inform you of some recent developments related to the 2007 Open Letter that we signed, along with 73 other evangelical Christian scholars and ministry leaders ([www.open-letter.org](http://www.open-letter.org)).

In January 2010, the Christian Research Institute (CRI), under Hank Hanegraaff's<sup>1</sup> presidency, published a 48-page response to our 2007 Open Letter in their *Christian Research Journal (Journal)* under the title, "We Were Wrong: A Reassessment of the 'Local Church' Movement." The *Journal* states that in 2003 the LC contacted CRI and asked them to revisit the position taken by CRI in the 1980s (when Walter Martin, now deceased, was its director) that some of the LC doctrines and practices were cultic or aberrant. The *Journal* states that its new conclusion is based on six years of in-depth research (2003-2009) by CRI of the Local Church (LC). The main thrust of the *Journal's* articles is that CRI's past conclusions were wrong<sup>2</sup> and, likewise, that we, the signers of the 2007 Open Letter, were wrong. The magazine, is available for purchase from CRI at (<http://journal.equip.org/issues/we-were-wrong>) Vol. 32, No. 06).

Two other signers of our Open Letter, Dr. Norman Geisler and Dr. Ron Rhodes, have published an excellent theological response to the *Journal's* articles. I want to encourage you to consider their response now posted on the Open Letter website, [www.open-letter.org](http://www.open-letter.org).

Also, a former LC member, Jane Anderson, who in 2005 published the book, *The Thread of Gold* ([www.thethreadofgold.com](http://www.thethreadofgold.com)) about her family's experience in the LC, has written a new Open Letter to the LC leadership in response to the *Christian Research Journal's* articles. A copy of Mrs. Anderson's letter, "Can the Local Church Leadership Say, 'We Were Wrong?'" may be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/JaneAnderson>.

Mrs. Anderson maintains that while LC doctrines are clearly problematic, their practices are also very disturbing. Her letter may give those of us in the evangelical academic and apologetics communities considerable cause for concern. It highlights the failure of CRI to address controversial questions related to the LC's orthopraxy. It describes authoritarian, harmful practices of the LC leadership who operate in a closed environment over which they rule without accountability. She makes the case that the LC's reputation for hurting people both spiritually and psychologically, its aggressive recruiting activities, and the lack of critical, objective, information about the LC for the

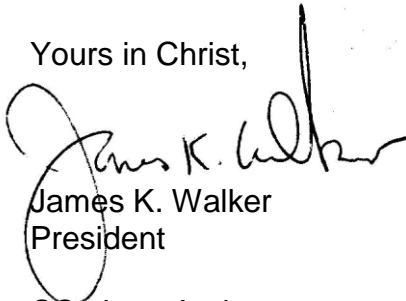
public (mainly because of LC lawsuits) raises important questions regarding the LC's orthopraxy in addition to its orthodoxy.

As a concerned signer of the Open Letter, I will be very interested to see how the LC leadership responds to the Anderson letter. The manner in which they respond to her letter will either illustrate the deviant leadership practices Mrs. Anderson describes in her letter, or if they respond to her letter with integrity, as they should, this would be a very positive development.

The LC's primary recruiting efforts are on university campuses worldwide, through student organizations that may not declare their affiliation with the LC until prospects have been drawn into the movement. The *Journal* will be used, no doubt, to assuage the fears of recruits who might hear allegations that the LC is a cult or some type of aberrant group. The LC also seeks to recruit from existing churches by offering free LSM, heavily-footnoted Bibles to various church congregations. This practice is apparent in another letter that was written by a Baptist pastor in Texas to CRI after seeing a copy of the *Journal*. His letter shows the aggressive and controversial nature of LC recruitment (<http://northtexasbaptist.org/open-email-to-christian-research-journal>).

Thank you in advance for any time you can take out of your busy schedule to learn more about recent developments in the LC/Living Stream Ministry controversy. May our Lord continue to bless you, your family, and ministry.

Yours in Christ,



James K. Walker  
President

CC: Jane Anderson  
Rev. Johnnie R. Jones

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<sup>1</sup> You may be aware that in 2006 Hanegraaff filed an Amicus Curiae in support of the LC's \$136 million lawsuit filed against Harvest House Publishers, John Ankerberg, and John Weldon ([www.worldmag.com/articles/12349](http://www.worldmag.com/articles/12349)).

<sup>2</sup> CRI's original research primarily involved the ministry's founder, Walter Martin; E. Calvin Beisner, his sister, Gretchen Passantino Coburn; and her late husband, Robert Passantino. Two of the four are now deceased. While Gretchen has reversed her decades-old position concerning the LC, Cal Beisner strongly disagrees with his sister's new stance. Dr. Beisner is currently the national spokesman of Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation and former associate professor (2000–2007) of historical theology and social ethics at Knox Theological Seminary, where he taught church history, ethics, apologetics, logic, systematic theology, and non-Christian religions. (See: [www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2009/januaryweb-only/104-11.0.html](http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2009/januaryweb-only/104-11.0.html)).