

January 26, 2000

Dear Family,

I got a letter from Tom dated Jan. 19. In case you forgot, he went on a cruise on the Caribbean on a Church of Scientology ship in December. In his letter, he talks about the trip and reponds to a note I sent him saying that I'd started a book about L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of Scientology. I said the Scientologists sounded like a pretty dangerous bunch and he'd better get out. Here is his letter:

"The trip to the ship was one of the best things I've ever done. I did a couple courses there, and a convention that the funniest learning experience I've ever had. The guy who gave it wa an old guy who was a riot. It was great to be in an environment where everyone was really bright and on-the-ball, away from the common masses. But what made it one of the best things I've ever done was a course I did where I spotted and got rid of the thing that kept me hung up in indecision as to what I really wanted to do with my life. I decided to stay here on staff in Kansas City, and am happier than ever about it. It's quite a weight that' been lifted.

"Also, I visited the islands of St. Kitts, St. Bart's ("Bartholomy" or something like that), Antigua and St. Eustachia (I don't think I have that last name right). Went swimming on the beach, went hiking, climbed up an extinct volcano that had a forest inside. St. Bart's was my favorite - French, reminded me of New Orleans a little. The most beautiful, and had nice art galleries. Never went snorkeling, though. I'll have to do that next time I go. The weather was great for the most part. The most beautiful view I got was actually the first flight on the way back; it was dark when I arrived, but when I left I got a view of the islands from not too high in the sky. The first flight was from St. Bart's to St Martin. I couldn't believe how light blue the water was - I thought it was only like that by the shore.

"So what made you suddenly decide to attempt to learn about Scientology? I trust you will look at more than just the enemy's side. Otherwise it's sort of like trying to learn about Judaism by reading Nazi literature. DIANETICS would be a good start. Maybe you feel you need an outsider's view to be objective. but that's hard to find because anyone who studies the subject honestly and thoroughly and applies it tends to become a Scientologist on seeing that it works. That's what I did. You don't really know it until you've applied it. Also, I've established for myself the falsehood of enough of the crazy rumors that I don't care what new ones I hear or how "authoritative" the source supposedly is. Actually, I have seen one book written by an outsider that was mostly favorable, but it still contained too may inaccuracies for me to recommend it.

"On the other had, if you only picked up this book out of concern for me, then let me assure you I'm the last person you need to worry about. I'm doing better than ever. If you're troubled by what the book says (I've never read it), let me know and I can probably find counter-documentation to it."

On a personal note, my boss at work who gave me the awful "annual valuation" is leaving to take another job. I'm pleased, but our company will have a rough time with him gone. He is the only one on staff who fully understands our computer systems. But it looks like there is a good chance

we will be able to get a consultant with IBM to keep us afloat until me and our only other computer person get up to speed. He has done a lot of work for us in the past and knows our systems. He should be a better teacher than my boss was.

Steve