

rescue their souls from the summit of the Teide volcano and take them to a new world." Members of the sect have refused to cooperate in the investigation by authorities.

—MKG

SCIENTOLOGY SETTLEMENT REVEALED

The Church of Scientology revealed in early January that it had paid the Internal Revenue Service \$12.5 million in a 1993 settlement that established its tax-exempt status. Called a "closure agreement," the multi-million dollar settlement concluded a battle between the two entities which began in 1967. The IRS had maintained that the church should forfeit its tax-exempt status because they said it was a "for-profit business" that benefited church officials. The church responded by filing more than 2,000 lawsuits against the IRS.

Mark Rathbun, the church's director of Religious Technology, confirmed to the Associated Press previously undisclosed information regarding the erstwhile arrangement first reported by *The Wall Street Journal*.

Under the settlement, the church agreed to dismiss its suits and pay the \$12.5 million to satisfy any tax liability previous to 1993. And while additional compensation is possible, the IRS said it would forgo any outstanding audits of the church and its organizations. It also stated that its ruling to grant tax-exempt status to the church

was "based upon voluminous information provided by the church to the IRS regarding its financial and other operations."

Church members will be permitted to deduct from their personal income taxes the fees they incur for "auditing." Auditing is a Scientology procedure which, the church says, frees a person of false brain programming and purges negative thoughts.

The Church of Scientology was founded by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard in 1954. He died in 1986.

—MKG

BOOKS IN REVIEW

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Readers become acquainted not only with the dominant cultic forces prevalent today, but with a handful of self-appointed prophets sowing their seeds of confusion within the Church. This latter group includes: Harold Camping, Edgar Whisenant and John Hinkle. Abanes' work could have been further enhanced by adding the unscriptural declarations and biblical eisegesis of other well-known visionaries, including Benny Hinn.

The volume's extensive endnotes, as well as its Scripture and Subject Indexes, help to make the book a valuable apologetic resource.

—MKG

PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH — STATEMENT OF BELIEF

- I. THE BIBLE AS THE DIVINELY INSPIRED, INERRANT WORD OF GOD: IT IS IN ITS ENTIRETY THE SOLE AUTHORITY FOR ALL MATTERS OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF AND PRACTICE.
- II. THE ONE TRUE GOD. IN THE ONE TRUE GOD THERE EXIST THREE PERSONS, BEING: THE FATHER, THE SON JESUS CHRIST, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- III. JESUS CHRIST: HIS DEITY, HUMANITY, VIRGIN BIRTH, SINLESSNESS, DEATH AND BODILY RESURRECTION; WHO WILL PERSONALLY AND VISIBLY RETURN AGAIN TO EARTH.
- IV. THE PERSONALITY AND DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- V. THE EXISTENCE AND PERSONALITY OF SATAN, HIS TOTAL OPPOSITION TO GOD, AND HIS POWER OVER THE UNREGENERATE.
- VI. THE COMPLETE AND TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF ALL MEN WHICH MAKES THEM HOPELESSLY LOST WITHOUT THE NEW BIRTH OBTAINABLE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.
- VII. THE FINAL ESTATE OF MAN: FOR THE SAVED, EVERLASTING LIFE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND FOR THE UNSAVED, EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF.
- VIII. THE GOSPEL BY WHICH WE ARE SAVED BEING SUMMED IN THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
- IX. THE CHURCH BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST, UNITED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, CONSISTING OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR. A LOCAL CHURCH IS AN ORGANIZED ASSEMBLY OF BELIEVERS UNITED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST.
- X. THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRIST BEING TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL MEN, BAPTIZING AND DISCIPLING THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED.