

**Alan L. Weathers**

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**From:** "James Bjornstad" <BJORNSTJ@cedarville.edu>  
**To:** <alan@johnankerberg.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2002 10:13 AM  
**Subject:** For John

John:

I began studying religions back in 1966 when I met Walter R. Martin and became involved with his Christian Research Institute [hereafter CRI] in Oakland, NJ. At that time I was a student at Northeastern Bible College in Essex Fells, NJ. I worked at CRI in research until 1972 when, together with Shildes Johnson, I started an independent religious research group called the Institute of Contemporary Christianity.

In that same year I began teaching at Northeastern Bible College. I taught courses there in Bible, theology, and philosophy until it closed in 1990. I then went to The Kings College in Briarcliff Manor, NY, where I taught courses in Bible and philosophy from 1990-1995. Since 1995, I have been teaching courses in theology and philosophy at Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH. In all three schools, I have taught courses on cults/current religious movements and world religions/religion and culture.

My educational background includes a BS and Th B from Northeastern Bible College and an MRE from New York Theological Seminary. I completed all my course work and most of my dissertation for a Ph D at New York University when the program closed. I am currently a Ph D candidate at the Union Institute.

Regarding the Local Church, I have been assessing them since the late 1970s. I have read much of their material through the years and have talked with a number of their leaders. In my book, *Counterfeits at Your Door* (1979), I mentioned one of the problem I had observed (see page 150). In 1984 I gave testimony on behalf of Spiritual Counterfeits Project [hereafter SCP] in their court case with the Local Church. SCP declared bankruptcy part way through the proceedings, and the Local Church continued with the case without SCP and prevailed.

The Local Church continues to make statements regarding certain doctrines (e.g. the Trinity and salvation) that are orthodox, statements that fall within the parameters of what could be allowed, and statements that exceed that which could be allowed (for example, the statement regarding the Godhead as being "four in one.") There needs to be some form of retraction for statements like this from Witness Lee.

Although some clarification has been given in recent years, more

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is still needed (for example, the teaching regarding the judicial and organic aspects of salvation. Somehow man might become God in life and nature yet not be in the Godhead nor be worshipped).

Please count on me for whatever help I can give you regarding the Local Church

Your friend in Christ,

Jim

James Bjornstad  
Professor of Philosophy  
Cedarville University  
251 N. Main St  
Cedarville, OH 45314  
1-937-766-7642

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