Dear Mrs. Leah Remini,

Because of the sensitivity of my situation, I am now taking a personal risk by reaching out and trusting that you will understand. My name is John Evans and I am 16 years old. I have recently chose to abandon the church of Scientology. As a child, we were taught things that I still believe in now, but that’s because they weren’t revealing the whole truth. For example, we are supposed to believe in the restriction of any kind of drugs, but to what extent? Apparently, my father didn’t have any. When I was about five, my mother became very sick with pneumonia. Being the pastor of the entire church, he made the decision to not allow her to take any antibiotics. Because of this, she died two weeks later. I experienced the “treatments” that I grew up with to be believable, but now have come to the realization that they are being used as torture devices. In whole, I’m not particularly against the religion of Scientology. I am against the way it was introduced to me and many others. Pertaining to Scientology, my father is an extremist at all costs. Even though Scientology is fundamentally very supportive of personal equality, my dad only allowed me to have thoughts that aligned with his. My aunt was the first person to leave our church in 50 years. She was the only person I could count on to escape from all the restrictions I was given growing up. Although her leaving deeply affecting me in a negative way, I understand why she left. My dad was so strict and adamant about this religion, so he never prioritized anything besides it, not his sister, and not his son. She had to move on to what she believed in, and now I am doing the same.

Since my escape, I have been shunned by everyone I know and have no financial help. The only support I have is those who share that support for my father. Those people are trying to revert me back to the church, but more specifically my father’s ways, which is why I need to keep my contacting you a secret. I am completely alone and now realize that I have no knowledge of the real world due to my father putting blinds in front of my face all my life. You, being an ex-scientologist, have experienced the same problems that I have and you understand the problems that come with abandoning the church.

Someone like you, with your experience, contributing to the improvement of someone who has gone through a similar experience. With your contribution and assistance I will also be able to create a small charity to help others like me. With about $30,000 I will be able to start making a living for myself, something I was never able to do. With $100,000 I can create a non-profit charity to assist those who are in unfortunate, horrific situations like mine and yours. All my life I have never felt like I had a purpose. The church made me feel like I was a joke because I didn’t give into something I knew was wrong. Now, with your help, we can make a difference in the lives of so many people.

Sincerely,

John Evans