

In Memoriam: Carlton Sherwood (1946-2014)

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Carlton Sherwood (1946-2014)

Carlton Sherwood, the author of *Inquisition: The Persecution and Prosecution of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon* (Regnery Gateway 1991) died of congestive heart failure at age 67 on June 11, 2014. A former marine and controversialist, Sherwood was known in his later years for opposing Senator John Kerry's Presidential candidacy, most prominently in a 2004 film, "Stolen Honor: Wounds That Never Heal."

Sherwood's *Inquisition* is a massive (705 pp.) reconstruction of Rev. Moon's 1982 indictment and trial on charges of tax evasion and conspiracy. Regnery Gateway said it was "a book about racial and religious bigotry." Sherwood concluded that the Unification Church and its leader "were and

continue to be the victims of the worst kind of religious prejudice and racial bigotry this country has witnessed in over a century."



An award-winning investigative reporter, Sherwood worked at *The Washington Times* in 1984-85. He noted that during that year he "made a vigorous but failed effort at digging up some dirt on the Unification Church which owned the paper." Instead, he found a "witch hunt" and a case that never should have come to trial.

Sherwood's investigation had ramifications for minority religions generally. In a concluding chapter titled, "A Matter of Selective Prosecution," he covers his prior exposure of religious corruption in mainstream religions. Detailing a series of sordid scandals and the "hands-off" position of government and even media, he concluded, "It's hard to square this kid-glove treatment given the American mainline churches

with that laid on the tiny Unification Church."