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## Agape Ministries International cult (now known as Agape Community Church)

The Agape Ministries International is a Domsday Cult. In Australia, the Agape Community Church Inc. is a registered/incorporated community religious organisation that is part of the Agape International church Ministries. It is the umbrella Christian ministry that has many church branches and ministries in Australia, Asia and Africa. Agape International Church Ministries is led by Reverend Nava Malula and Chris Azu Ozegbe.<sup>1</sup> Agape Ministries International is listed on the Australian Business Register as a charitable institution, and has Agape Ministries centres listed in South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia.<sup>2</sup> In 2010, police raided the 12 properties of the Agape Ministries South Australian branch led by Rocco Leo. The large Mt Magnificent compound named 'Oakden' was the Agape Ministries headquarters. Nestled amongst the quiet rural farmland setting 20km east of Willunga, the cult compound contained a number of buildings, an assembly hall, a secret underground bunker, and 'shipping containers that hid 20,000 rounds of ammunition, explosives, and other prohibited weapons such as extendable batons, slow burning fuses, detonators and detonator cords.'<sup>3</sup> The bunker, which cult leader Rocco Leo named 'The Holy Land Hideout', is said to be more than 50m long, 30m wide and contains food supplies. It was built to shelter the cult followers from the end of the world.

Rocco Leo taught that people in the future would be implanted with microchips (those who refused would be killed) and the Apocalypse would occur in 2012. He told his couple of hundred of followers that he would save them by moving to an island near Vanuatu, where he would heal the sick and disabled. All they had to do was donate at least 10 per cent of their salary and follow the sect's rules. Many sold their properties and assets and donated the proceeds to the cult.<sup>4</sup>

The doomsday cult followers at 'Oakden' would gather daily at the property (sometimes 20 or 30 at a time) and work on maintaining the land. The followers fed the 50 goats and six or seven cows with the feed that was kept in two sheds either side of the kitchen. Followers, including young children were also trained in weapons use and marksmanship at a secret gun range in Kuitpo, south of the Mount Lofty Ranges.<sup>5</sup> In the evenings, the cult followers were made to sleep on the floor of the dining room located inside the kitchen building. The followers had only their sleeping bags and bean bags for bedding, while the leaders and their families relaxed with heating while watching television in the Leaders-Only house. Former followers have also claimed that the Agape Ministries cult would 'marry-off' young girls to middle-aged men.<sup>6</sup> The 'Oakden' site is powered by mains electricity. A dam at the front of the property is maintained by a gravity-fed water supply from a nearby gold mine. Prior to Leo buying the property more than five years ago, the dam water was shared between local landowners, but the doomsday cult quickly cut off the water supply on purchase of the property.<sup>7</sup> In recent years, the noise of gunshots on the property had become more frequent. Neighbours have stated that they can recognise the sound of

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<sup>1</sup> 'Agape Community Church, New South Wales, Australia', *Agape Community Services Australia*, (2016), <<https://agapecommunityservices.org.au/church/>>.

<sup>2</sup> 'Police hunt religious leaders over weapons stash at Agape Ministries International', *Cultbusters Galactica*, (27 May 2010), <<https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/cultbustersgalactica/agape-ministries-cult-australian-doomsday-rocco-le-t458.html>>.

<sup>3</sup> 'Cult's promised land in the Adelaide hills', *The Advertiser*, (23 May 2010), <<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/cults-promised-land-in-the-adelaide-hills/news-story/f50ab803cfb1740d129479ad0971ad5e>>.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> 'Sects in Australia: Fringe religious groups that have left their mark on the nation', *The Daily Telegraph*, (5 August 2015), <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sects-in-australia-fringe-religious-groups-that-have-left-their-mark-on-the-nation/news-story/>>.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> 'Police hunt religious leaders over weapons stash at Agape Ministries International', *Cultbusters Galactica*, (27 May 2010), <<https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/cultbustersgalactica/agape-ministries-cult-australian-doomsday-rocco-le-t458.html>>.

"a .22 for general farm use but these were different guns."<sup>8</sup> The 2010 police raids were initially triggered by disgruntled former followers including one disabled woman who was promised healing. The Cult members have 'tried to claw back millions of dollars in donations and claims of young girls being promised in marriage to middle-aged men.'<sup>9</sup> "The ministry's built up a substantial amount of funds and those funds have been obviously provided by its membership or by its followers by selling up their properties or by pledging funds to that church," Detective Superintendent Jeffery said.<sup>10</sup> The South Australian Agape Ministries cult's vast financial empire was frozen by a court and it has ordered it be dismantled to pay Leo's tax bill and compensation. The raid resulted in numerous arrests including four men who were charged with firearms offences and breaches of the Firearms Act. In the aftermath after the raid, Rocco Leo was charged with fraud and the Australian Tax Office chased him for \$4.1 million he owed in unpaid taxes. Rocco Leo fled overseas remains in hiding, thought to be somewhere in Fiji. The charges were later dropped. In 2015, ten former followers of the Agape Ministries cult sued Leo for \$2.5 million, demanding their donations be returned.<sup>11</sup> South Australian fraud investigators are also examining payments from members who gave money to Agape Ministries International. Police are now looking for the group's key leadership group, which they say could be interstate or overseas.<sup>12</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



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<sup>8</sup> 'Cult's Promised land in the Adelaide Hills', *The Advertiser*, (23 May 2010), <<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/cults-promised-land-in-the-adelaide-hills/news-story/>>.

<sup>9</sup> Police hunt religious leaders over weapons stash at Agape Ministries International', *Cultbusters Galactica*, (27 May 2010), <<https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/cultbustersgalactica/agape-ministries-cult-australian-doomsday-rocco-le-t458.html>>.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> 'Sects in Australia: Fringe religious groups that have left their mark on the nation', *The Daily Telegraph*, (5 August 2015), <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sects-in-australia-fringe-religious-groups-that-have-left-their-mark-on-the-nation/news-story/>>.

<sup>12</sup> 'Police hunt religious leaders over weapons stash at Agape Ministries International', *Cultbusters Galactica*, (27 May 2010), <<https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/cultbustersgalactica/agape-ministries-cult-australian-doomsday-rocco-le-t458.html>>.

## Ananda Marga cult

The Ananda Marga cult was founded in India by railway accountant, Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar, in 1955.<sup>13</sup> Sarkar adopted a new 'spiritual' name Shrii Shrii Anandamurti, soon after the cult group began. Sarkar believed he had 'spiritual gifts' and claimed to have had a vision<sup>14</sup> declaring that it is his life's work to 'create a world where every person will get a chance to realize his or her full potential and reach spiritual perfection'.<sup>15</sup> He formed Ananda Marga (The Organization to Propagate the Path of Bliss), that is based on two goals - "self-realization and service to all".<sup>16</sup> Sarkar's system of spiritual practice has been described as a combination of Vedic and Tantric philosophies. He also taught a political philosophy known as "Prout" (progressive utilization theory), claiming that capitalism 'makes men slaves and communism makes them beasts; Prout offered a middle way of socialist autocracy'.<sup>17</sup> He denounced materialism and capitalism, and described the universe as 'a result of macro-psychic conation – the entire universe exists within the cosmic mind, which itself is the first expression of consciousness coming under the bondage of its own nature'.<sup>18</sup> New recruits are ordered to abstain from material possessions, separate from family members and friends,<sup>19</sup> and to follow a formally regimented lifestyle consisting of study, chores, yoga, and dedicated worship. They are told to meditate twice daily, participate in social/community service, become a member of his Proutist political party, and work toward 'bringing all to the path of perfection'<sup>20</sup> via cult recruitment strategies. By the late 1960s, the Ananda Marga cult had expanded dramatically due to its popularity in India. Sarkar then sent 'acharyas' (teachers) worldwide to open new Ananda Marga cult offices in various countries, establishing regional centres teaching yogic and social philosophies to several thousand members, living communally in the ashrams.<sup>21</sup> The Proutist political party had also attempted to put candidates in India's parliament. The Ananda Marga's Proutist popularity in India put it in direct confrontation with the Communist Party in West Bengal, and became involved in a series of political scandals. In 1967, Ananda Marga headquarters came under attack by locals who were allegedly incited by Communist leaders.<sup>22</sup> This became a long-running conflict resulting in Sarkar's imprisonment in 1971 till 1978.

Other criminal acts involving Ananda Marga cult members concern the Sydney Hilton Hotel bombing in 1978, during Australia's first Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting (C.H.O.G.R.M), which hosted twelve foreign leaders. The bombing killed three people – as protest to India's imprisonment of their cult leader Sarkar. This event is regarded as Australia's first domestic terrorist

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<sup>13</sup> 'About Us', *Ananda Marga: Australia website*, (2014), <<https://www.anandamarga.org.au/about-us/>>.

<sup>14</sup> 'Cults 101: If it chants like a duck, it's a duck', *All Things Religious.com*, (10 July 2011), <<https://allthingsreligious.wordpress.com/2011/07/10/cults-101-if-it-chants-like-a-duck-its-a-duck/>>.

<sup>15</sup> 'About Us', *Ananda Marga: Australia website*, (2014), <<https://www.anandamarga.org.au/about-us/>>.

<sup>16</sup> 'Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (6 September 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prabhat\\_Ranjan\\_Sarkar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prabhat_Ranjan_Sarkar)>.

<sup>17</sup> 'Ananda Marga Yoga Society', *Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology*, (2001), <<https://www.encyclopedia.com/science/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/ananda-marga-yoga-society>>.

<sup>18</sup> 'Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (6 September 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prabhat\\_Ranjan\\_Sarkar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prabhat_Ranjan_Sarkar)>.

<sup>19</sup> Rovnick, N., 'For the love of Baba', *Post Magazine*, (28 April 2013), <<https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/article/1222059/love-baba>>.

<sup>20</sup> 'Ananda Marga Yoga Society', *Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology*, (2001), <<https://www.encyclopedia.com/science/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/ananda-marga-yoga-society>>.

<sup>21</sup> 'Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (6 September 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prabhat\\_Ranjan\\_Sarkar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prabhat_Ranjan_Sarkar)>.

<sup>22</sup> Ananda Marga, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (23 August 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ananda\\_Marga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ananda_Marga)>.

attack, and was committed by cult members Evan Pederick<sup>23</sup> and Tim Anderson. The pair were later jailed for their involvement. Since the terrorist attack, Sarkar has been continuously refused visas to enter Australia, New Zealand, Ethiopia, and the Philippines. The cult followers of the Ananda Marga cult have also been the prime instigators in other criminal incidents: i) Sarkar's arrest for the murder of six former cult followers in 1971; ii) sex scandal involving Sankar's wife and a cult follower in 1971; iii) the Calcutta massacre of 17 Ananda Marga cult members in 1982;<sup>24</sup> and iv) the "Purulia arms drop case" in 1995. The "Purulia arms drop case" involved a cache of ammunition air-dropped from an Antonov An-26 aircraft. The cache included hundreds of AK-47 rifles, pistols, anti-tank grenades, rocket launchers and over 25 000 rounds of ammunition – enough weapons to start a civil war.<sup>25</sup> India's Central Bureau of Investigation (C.B.I) claims the weapons were meant to arm members of the Ananda Marga cult who wanted to revolt against West Bengal's Communist government. Sankar is also known to inflict cruel physical punishments onto his followers, primarily with the use of a cane. Reports from ex-members state that it was a frequent practice for Sarkar to demand that all followers within the compound be stripped naked, so he could cane them one by one mercilessly.<sup>26</sup> Former cult member describe Sankar as "a perverted megalomaniac" whose 'murder squads' tied disloyal members to trees and fatally stabbed them.<sup>27</sup> The controversies have led the Ananda Marga cult to keep a low profile in many countries, while managing health food stores, day-care centres and yoga centres that double as training grounds for new members, in an effort to raise money and increase membership for overseas terrorist activities.<sup>28</sup>

In 1993, the Ananda Marga cult established A.M.U.R.T International (Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team). It is an international Not-for-Profit charitable organisation based in Switzerland (for tax purposes as Switzerland offers the incorporation of offshore companies<sup>29</sup>). The cult claims that the focus of the charity is to alleviate the suffering and impoverished living conditions, provide emergency relief, and organise sustainable development cooperation.<sup>30</sup> A.M.U.R.T International is currently active in South Sudan, Sudan, Nigeria, Kenya, Mozambique and the United States of America. In 2019, the United States conducted a financial Audit of the U.S.AID Resources Managed by the Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team in Kenya Under Multiple Awards, during January 1 to December 31, 2017 (Report No. 4-615-19-049-R). It was noted that various costs claimed by A.M.U.R.T International were 'questionable' and in need of further review.<sup>31</sup> In 2003, the Ananda Marga also developed a form of volun-tourism

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<sup>23</sup> 'Anglican vicar turns from terrorism to eco-agitation', *Anglican Samizdat*, (16 October 2014), <<https://www.anglicansamizdat.net/wordpress/tag/evan-pederick/>>.

<sup>24</sup> 'Ananda Marga: Controversial movement survives years of conflict, emerges stronger than ever', *Hinduism Today*, (May 1989), <<https://www.hinduismtoday.com/modules/smartsection/item.php?itemid=621>>.

<sup>25</sup> 'Purulia arms drop case: Will Kim Davy be extradited?', *New Delhi Television Limited*, (30 June 2011), <<https://www.ndtv.com/video/news/news/purulia-arms-drop-case-will-kim-davy-be-extradited-203892>>.

<sup>26</sup> 'The FBI is investigating a worldwide cult that runs...', *United Press International*, (27 August 1982), <<https://www.upi.com/Archives/1982/08/27/The-FBI-is-investigating-a-worldwide-cult-that-runs/>>.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> 'Ananda Marga: Controversial movement survives years of conflict, emerges stronger than ever', *Hinduism Today*, (May 1989), <<https://www.hinduismtoday.com/modules/smartsection/item.php?itemid=621>>.

<sup>29</sup> 'Tax Haven Switzerland', *Tax havens.biz*, (2011), <[www.taxhavens.biz/european\\_tax\\_havens/tax\\_haven\\_switzerland/](http://www.taxhavens.biz/european_tax_havens/tax_haven_switzerland/)>.

<sup>30</sup> 'AMURT International', *Devex.com*, (2019), <<https://www.devex.com/organizations/amurt-international-46602>>.

<sup>31</sup> 'Financial Audit of USAID Resources Managed by the Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team in Kenya Under Multiple Awards, (Report No. 4-615-19-049-R)', *Office of Inspector General, U.S. Agency for International Development*, (2019), <<https://www.oversight.gov/sites/default/files/oig-reports/4-615-19-049-R.pdf>>.



organisation called KIDS Worldwide ([www.kidsworldwide.org](http://www.kidsworldwide.org)). The cult advertises for 500 international volunteers every year, who wish to become involved in over forty children's projects located in 17 developing countries around the world.<sup>32</sup> The idea is to promote the cult's Neo-Humanist Education programs to children in poor socio-economic countries, namely throughout Africa, India, Nepal, Philippines, and Romania.<sup>33</sup>

In Australia, the Ananda Marga cult head office is based in Katoomba, N.S.W. It has several branches and ashrams in all Australian States (but not in the Territories). The Ananda Marga cult in Australia has been able to establish their own form of primary education thanks largely to Government grants. According to the cult's website, the "Neo-Humanist Education" is practiced in a network of schools and institutes that span over fifty countries with more than 1000 kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and children's homes.<sup>34</sup> The Ananda Marga cult's ideologies are taught via its "Neo-Humanist Schools". In Australia, the Ananda Marga cult schools are the Vistara Primary School in Lismore, N.S.W; Sunrise Preschool & Kindergarten in Melbourne, Victoria; and the Ananda Marga River School in Maleny, Queensland.<sup>35</sup> All of the cult's Independent schools are funded by State and Federal governments of Australia.<sup>36</sup> Ananda Marga cult now is established in 182 countries. Its international headquarters is registered in Calcutta as Ananda Marga Pracharak Sangh. Outside India it is divided into nine world sectors headquartered in Berlin, New York, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Manila, Delhi, Nairobi (Kenya), Cairo, Georgetown (Guyana), Australia, New Zealand, and Suva (Fiji). Each sector is further divided into regions, dioceses, districts, towns and, finally, villages.<sup>37</sup> The Ananda Marga cult has a worldwide following of 400 000 members in 30 countries<sup>38</sup>, with approximately 1380 of them in Australia. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>32</sup> 'Volunteer internationally', *Kids Worldwide*, (2019), <[www.kidsworldwide.org/](http://www.kidsworldwide.org/)>.

<sup>33</sup> 'About: Our vision', *Kids Worldwide*, (2019), <[www.kidsworldwide.org/aboutus.php](http://www.kidsworldwide.org/aboutus.php)>.

<sup>34</sup> 'Schools', *Ananda Marga website*, (2014), <<https://www.anandamarga.org.au/philosophy-and-practices/neohumanism/schools-in-south-pacific/>>.

<sup>35</sup> 'Schools', *Ananda Marga website*, (2014), <<https://www.anandamarga.org.au/philosophy-and-practices/neohumanism/schools-in-south-pacific/>>.

<sup>36</sup> Karp, P., 'Labor defends \$1.2bn private school package it previously called a 'slush fund'', *The Guardian*, (10 September 2019), <<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/10/labor-defends-12bn-private-school-package-it-previously-called-a-slush-fund>>.

<sup>37</sup> 'Ananda Marga: Controversial movement survives years of conflict, emerges stronger than ever', *Hinduism Today*, (May 1989), <<https://www.hinduismtoday.com/modules/smartsection/item.php?itemid=621>>.

<sup>38</sup> 'About us', *Ananda Marga.org*, (2019), <<https://www.anandamarga.org/>>.



### Ashtar Command cult

The Ashtar Command cult is a U.F.O religion which has followers all over the world including Australia. They believe in the extra-terrestrial being(s) called Ashtar Sheran. In 1952, George van Tassel (an aircraft mechanic) claimed to have received the first message from Ashtar Sheran. According to Van Tassel, an alien occupant - from the planet Venus - woke him up and invited him to come aboard his spacecraft. There, the alien provided Van Tassel verbal and telepathic instructions for a technique to rejuvenate the human body. Tassel created an event known as the Giant Rock Spacecraft Convention in 1953, during which he and his followers would channel messages from Ashtar via meditation groups. In 1954, Van Tassel and others began building what they called the 'Integratron' to perform the rejuvenation. According to Van Tassel, the 'Integratron' was to be

'a structure for scientific research into time, anti-gravity and at extending human life. Van Tassel described the 'Integratron' as being created for scientific and spiritual research with the aim to recharge and rejuvenate people's cells, "a time machine for basic research on rejuvenation, anti-gravity and time travel".<sup>39</sup>

Van Tassel's book, *I Rode A Flying Saucer* (1952, 1955), recounts his claims of receiving "cosmic wisdom" "Solgonda" from a group of aliens from space. Van Tassel spent a vast amount of time book writing and giving lectures about Ashtar's 'knowledge. This is what led to infighting amongst the original cult group and its eventual collapse. In the late 1970's the Ashtar Command cult was reborn by a woman named Tuella, who took out a lot of the U.F.O parts and focused mostly on spiritual well-being. The direction away from aliens was short-lived though. Around 1986, an Australian woman, Yvonne Cole, claimed to be receiving messages from Ashtar and allegedly has 'memory recall' of times they were transported onto spaceships. Cole made a bold prediction, that in 1994 multiple alien races would arrive on the Earth and proceed to destroy human civilization.<sup>40</sup> Today, the Ashtar Command cult uses the internet and social media for recruitment. The cult believes that the alien Ashtar is working alongside 'Sananda' (the cult's name for Jesus Christ) and Archangel Michael to save the world from annihilation.<sup>41</sup>

**The cult is currently active in Australia.**

<sup>39</sup> 'George van Tassel', *Wikipedia: The Free encyclopedia*, (13 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Van\\_Tassel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Van_Tassel)>.

<sup>40</sup> 'The most wack-a-doodle UFO cults of all time', *The Ghost Diaries*, (2014), <[theghostdiaries.com/the-most-wackadoodle-ufo-cults-of-all-time/](http://theghostdiaries.com/the-most-wackadoodle-ufo-cults-of-all-time/)>.

<sup>41</sup> *Official Command Webring*, (2012), <[ashtar.galactic.to/indexb2.html](http://ashtar.galactic.to/indexb2.html)>.



## Aum Shinrikyo cult (now known as Aleph)

In 1984, Shoko Asahara founded the Japan-based Aum Shinrikyo (A.U.M) doomsday cult (now known as Aleph). This cult has been formally designated a terrorist organization by several countries, including the European Union, Russia, Canada, Kazakhstan, and the United States. Originally the A.U.M cult emerged out of Asahara's dissatisfaction with traditional Japanese Buddhism.<sup>42</sup> The cult incorporates a variety of techniques, from yoga and meditation to psychic-development exercises, to assist the followers' growth toward enlightenment, and preparation for the world's apocalypse. Progress through the cult hierarchy is marked by three levels of initiation, and after attaining the third level members could be admitted into the group's monastic community. In fact, the [now called] Aleph cult had managed to set up its own university in Moscow and had begun targeting vulnerable students for recruitment.<sup>43</sup> The A.U.M cult followers, who included many well-educated people, were taught to give total devotion to their guru.<sup>44</sup> Cult members are involved in kidnapping, extortion, murder, assassinations of public figures, developing and stockpiling chemical weapons and nerve agents, and the torture of fellow cult members.<sup>45</sup> The A.U.M cult also had ties to a town in W.A where they

“were allegedly testing nuclear bombs. In 1993, the cult had purchased a property in Banjarn and has had its share of suspicious activity. On May 28 of that year, local seismographs shot off the scale. A loud boom echoed out across the desert, followed by a rumble that was felt dozens of miles away. Locals reported seeing a fireball leap up into the sky. When the Australian Federal Police investigate the area, they discovered that the remote parts of the property were littered with the carcasses of sheep that had died in agony. Tests revealed that they'd been poisoned with sarin. In the abandoned house, policemen stumbled across a vast chemical weapons lab, primed to produce nerve gas”.<sup>46</sup>

During rush hour on March 20, 1995, the cult coordinated five sarin gas attacks in the Tokyo subway system. The attack killed 12 people and severely injured 50. A year later, they committed further sarin gas attacks. Asahara and cult followers were imprisoned for these attacks. In 2007, Asahara's successor, Jōyū Fumihiko (and a few followers) decided to leave the A.U.M cult group. From that point onward the A.U.M was split into the Aleph cult and the Hikari no Wa (“Ring of Light”) cult. This is due to the ongoing court trials regarding the Japanese sarin attacks. On 6 July 2018, after exhausting all appeals, Asahara and the twelve other followers were executed in Japan, as punishment for the 1995 attacks and other crimes. They never admitted to committing these crimes. On New Year's Day 2019, at least nine people were injured when a car was deliberately driven into crowds. The suspected driver intentionally rammed his vehicle into crowds to protest his opposition to the execution of the A.U.M cult members.<sup>47</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>42</sup> Melton, C., 'Aleph: Japanese new religious movement', *Encyclopedia Britannica.com*, (2019), <<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Aleph>>.

<sup>43</sup> Morris, M., '10 Unsettling facts about Japan's creepiest cult', *List Verse*, (6 August 2015), <[listverse.com/2015/08/06/10-unsettling-facts-about-japans-creepiest-cult/](http://listverse.com/2015/08/06/10-unsettling-facts-about-japans-creepiest-cult/)>.

<sup>44</sup> Wiginton, P., 'Aum Shinrikyo: Doomsday cult that attacked the Tokyo subway system', *Thought Co.*, (13 July 2018), <<https://www.thoughtco.com/aum-shinrikyo-japanese-doomsday-cult-4171578>>.

<sup>45</sup> Morris, M., '10 Unsettling facts about Japan's creepiest cult', *List Verse*, (6 August 2015), <[listverse.com/2015/08/06/10-unsettling-facts-about-japans-creepiest-cult/](http://listverse.com/2015/08/06/10-unsettling-facts-about-japans-creepiest-cult/)>.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> 'Aum Shinrikyo', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (10 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aum\\_Shinrikyo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aum_Shinrikyo)>.

## Blood Rites Clan cult

A branch of one of many Satanic Sects arising from Europe since the mid-1500s AD. It has the same beliefs and practices as The Lilith Children, but with more focus on vampirism and blood-letting rituals. The Blood Rites Clan cult target people that are vulnerable with mental illnesses, or isolated from family and friends. Recruiting starts by telling people basically whatever they want to hear, through the online forums, private messaging, email, and websites. The online 'community' (using fake names) makes people believe they are becoming part of something special.<sup>48</sup> The phony website comprises of the 'vampire Elders' and other members (aspiring to be called Elders) all using different names on multiple different forums and websites, to make the group appear to be a lot larger than it is. The offer of free food, free shelter and friendship is enough to convince the susceptible to move into the cult's home. It is within the cult's home where the vampires entice the recruit to be 'turned' (or converted) into a vampire. This involves bloodletting rituals and drinking blood from the recruit. Once done, it is the cult's belief that the vampire who drank the recruit's blood is forever responsible and 'owns' the person that they have converted.<sup>49</sup> If the newcomer refuses to become a vampire, then they become a 'host'. A 'host' is a person whose body is used by the cult for their specific ritual purposes (ie: blood is drained from their body for Sabbat ritual). A 'host' is usually held captive, raped, tortured, and often killed. Those seriously involved may practice one or more of the following: blood-drinking, sleeping in coffins, avoiding daylight, performing occult rituals, taking drugs, wearing fangs or having incisors sharpened, and engaging in unusual sexual practices.<sup>50</sup> Some Blood Rites cult members have been known to acquire jobs within the hospital sector. They are cleaners, nurses, doctors, administration staff, and hospital board members. They can gain access (often illegally) to the hospital blood bank supplies. Vampires select the blood supplies that are past their 'expiry date' (or close to expiration) for safe transfusion.<sup>51</sup> During Blood Bank opening hours, the cult member pretends the supply is for several patient transfusions and transport the supplies back to their ward/unit according to hospital protocol. Upon returning to the ward, the cult member instead enters the staff kitchen and place the blood supply into a large, opaque-coloured lunch box labelled with a 'phony' staff members name. (When the Blood Bank is closed, the members who have jobs as hospital cleaners will perform this action as they have key/swipe card access to gain entry into all hospital rooms). The blood is needed for their Vampire/Black Witchcraft Sabbats rituals. If any of the Blood Rites cult rules or regulations are broken, the recruit is severely punished (by becoming a 'host'), generally resulting in death.<sup>52</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>48</sup> 'Vampire Cults', *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/vampirecults.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/vampirecults.html)>.

<sup>49</sup> 'The New Code', *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/thenewcode.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/thenewcode.html)>.

<sup>50</sup> 'Vampirism, Vampyrism and Vampire Cults', *Apologetics Index.org*, (10 February 2018), <[www.apologeticsindex.org/243-vampire-cults](http://www.apologeticsindex.org/243-vampire-cults)>.

<sup>51</sup> 'Vampire Cults', *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/questionsanswered.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/questionsanswered.html)>.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*

## Breatharian cult

The Breatharian cult ("Air Cult") is based on the ancient belief that it is possible for a person to live without consuming food (and in some cases - water) as it is not necessary for survival, and that humans can be sustained solely by 'prana' (Sanskrit for "breath", "life-force", "vital life") in Hinduism.<sup>53</sup> Breatharianism is sometimes called Inedia, which is Latin for 'fasting'.<sup>54</sup> The recordings of Breatharian practices has been noted in ancient Hindu (Mandakarni<sup>55</sup>), Tao (Bigu<sup>56</sup>), and Christian (Anorexia mirabilis<sup>57</sup>) documents. Cult followers adopt the practice to attain a higher spiritual state of being through starvation methods. In Australia, the prominent facilitator of the Breatharian cult is former Brisbane business and finance consultant, Ellen Greve (now known as Jasmuheen).<sup>58</sup> Jasmuheen founded the modern branch of Breatharianism in 1993, and has written eleven books about the benefits of 'living on air' (main publications being *Living on Light* and *Pranic Nourishment*).<sup>59</sup> Jasmuheen claims to survive on a diet of fruit tea and sunlight, and preaches a philosophy of starvation as a pathway to spiritual cleansing. She maintains that she has eaten nothing for five years except for the occasional chocolate biscuit. Jasmuheen says that she is nourished by "Pranic energy" in the atmosphere<sup>60</sup> and the elements contained in air - nitrogen, carbon dioxide, oxygen and hydrogen - can sustain a body.<sup>61</sup> However, media reporters have been surprised to find her house crammed with food, but Jasmuheen insists these are the vegan requirements of her second husband.<sup>62</sup> Jasmuheen relies on the internet to promote the Breatharian cult, and has made a fortune from lectures, online courses, and books that expound the wonders of "living on light".<sup>63</sup> Jasmuheen also hosts annual Breatharian 'retreats' (usually held in Third World countries – as a recruitment strategy), details of which are listed on her 'Embassy of Peace' website.<sup>64</sup> Jasmuheen is also the self-appointed "lifetime President of the Global Congress of Spiritual Scientists" and an Australian "Ambassador of Peace" of the Breatharian cult.<sup>65</sup> Jasmuheen also promotes "The Prana Program". She claims it is an 'Alternate Energy' for the New Millennium which can eliminate hunger in Third World countries. Jasmuheen believes Breatharian methods of nourishing and hydrating the body (using an inner energy source produced in the body) will free humans from their

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<sup>53</sup> 'Inedia', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (12 March 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inedia>>.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> 'Manadakarni', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (10 February 2018), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Māṇḍakarnī>>.

<sup>56</sup> 'Bigu', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (8 February 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bigu\\_\(grain\\_avoidance\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bigu_(grain_avoidance))>.

<sup>57</sup> 'Anorexia mirabilis', *The Free Dictionary: Medical*, (2019), <<https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/anorexia+mirabilis>>.

<sup>58</sup> 'Jasmuheen', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (17 May 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jasmuheen>>.

<sup>59</sup> 'Jasmuheen: About Breatharianism', *Apologetics Index*, (31 January 2002), <[www.apologeticsindex.org/b12.html](http://www.apologeticsindex.org/b12.html)>.

<sup>60</sup> Marks, K., 'Gaunt and weak, the sham diet guru who refuses to see the light', *Indy/Life: Independent*, (26 October 1999), <<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/gaunt-and-weak-the-sham-diet-guru-who-refuses-to-see-the-light-737972.html>>.

<sup>61</sup> 'Jasmuheen: About Breatharianism', *Apologetics Index*, (31 January 2002), <[www.apologeticsindex.org/b12.html](http://www.apologeticsindex.org/b12.html)>.

<sup>62</sup> Walker, T and O'Reilly, J., 'Three deaths linked to living on air cults', *Sunday Times UK*, (26 September 1999), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/848-breatharianism/3269-three-deaths-linked-to-living-on-air-cults.html>>.

<sup>63</sup> Marks, K., 'Gaunt and weak, the sham diet guru who refuses to see the light', *Indy/Life: Independent*, (26 October 1999), <<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/gaunt-and-weak-the-sham-diet-guru-who-refuses-to-see-the-light-737972.html>>.

<sup>64</sup> 'About', *Embassy of Peace website*, (2019), <<https://www.embassyofpeace.net/about/>>.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

dependence on world's food resources and thereby change the economic status of the world.<sup>66</sup> However, there has been several deaths<sup>67</sup> and numerous reports of cult members needing hospitalisation after following Jasmuheen's "Pranic Energy" courses and the introductory "21-day mediation diet".<sup>68</sup> Jasmuheen has denied any responsibility for the deaths<sup>69</sup> and have stated that perhaps the victims were "not coming from a place of integrity and did not have the right motivation".<sup>70</sup> Breatharian cult followers have also been unrepentant, and the German new age magazine *Esotera* announced that "one death in 5000 is not too high a price to pay to fight world hunger".<sup>71</sup> Medical and dietary practitioners across the globe have condemned Jasmuheen's sham health advice and dangerous 'Pranic Programs'.<sup>72</sup> In 2000, Jasmuheen was awarded the 'Bent Spoon Award' by Australian Skeptics ("presented to the perpetrator of the most preposterous piece of paranormal or pseudoscientific piffle")<sup>73</sup> Some Breatharians are also linked to the 'sungazing/solar healing' health practice.<sup>74</sup> Jasmuheen claims to have the support of almost 12 000 Breatharians cult followers worldwide.<sup>75</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>66</sup> 'The Prana Program: effective enjoyable evolution', *Living on Light: Jasmuheen website*, (2019), <<https://www.jasmuheen.com/products-page/living-on-light/the-prana-program-effective-enjoyable-evolution/>>.

<sup>67</sup> Marks, K., 'Gaunt and weak, the sham diet guru who refuses to see the light', *Indy/Life: Independent*, (26 October 1999), <<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/gaunt-and-weak-the-sham-diet-guru-who-refuses-to-see-the-light-737972.html>>.

<sup>68</sup> 'Jasmuheen: About Breatharianism', *Apologetics Index*, (31 January 2002), <[www.apologeticsindex.org/b12.html](http://www.apologeticsindex.org/b12.html)>.

<sup>69</sup> 'Jasmuheen', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (17 May 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jasmuheen>>.

<sup>70</sup> Walker, T and O'Reilly, J., 'Three deaths linked to living on air cults', *Sunday Times UK*, (26 September 1999), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/848-breatharianism/3269-three-deaths-linked-to-living-on-air-cults.html>>.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> 'Jasmuheen', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (17 May 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jasmuheen>>.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> 'About: Solar Healing Centre', *Solar Healing website*, (2019), <[solarhealing.com/about/](http://solarhealing.com/about/)>

<sup>75</sup> 'Jasmuheen', *Facebook Page*, (2019), <<https://www.facebook.com/jasmuheen/>>.



## Children of God cult (now called The Family International)

The Children of God cult was created in 1968 by paedophile David Brandt Berg (a former Christian and Missionary Alliance pastor).<sup>76</sup> David Berg called himself "The Last End-time Prophet". He convinced his followers that he had the ability to predict future events. Berg predicted that: i) that Jesus would return to earth in 1993; ii) a huge comet would hit the Earth in 1974, destroying much of the planet; iii) the War of Armageddon would occur in the mid 1980's; and iv) the Antichrist would appear from Egypt in 1989 and require that everyone worship him.<sup>77</sup> Living in communes, followers were taught that incest was acceptable and encouraged, even with underage people. The global cult merged traditional Christian beliefs with communal living, was centred on prostitution, violence and exorcism. Sexual contact was allowed with children from around the age of 11 or 12, the same age Berg had sex with his own daughter.<sup>78</sup> Within the communes, Berg insisted that videos of both adult women and girls were to be made. Children were encouraged to learn as much about sex as possible, as early as possible. The Children of God cult's 'Law of Love' dictates that free expression of love (and sex) is considered Holy. Their religious pamphlets even celebrated child marriage.<sup>79</sup> According to the Children of God cult, sex was one part of God's love, so sharing love was good and pure, and withholding love (sex) was selfish act and often punishable. Followers were encouraged to imagine Jesus was always present when they were having sex, including when they were masturbating. Berg deemed sodomy not to be practiced as God condemned the sex act in the Bible. Berg called male homosexuality a disgusting perversion, most likely caused by female demons. Berg permitted the practise of other sex acts (including incest) as this glorified God.<sup>80</sup> Mass orgies were a regular event. Men who chose to masturbate were politely requested to adopt a 'female persona' for themselves in their sex-with-Jesus fantasies, to avoid an imaginary homosexual relationship with Jesus.<sup>81</sup> Female members are taught that they are collectively "one wife," first married to the body of Christ, that they should be free of jealousy, and have the liberty of sharing their partner with others. Women (whether they wanted to or not) are required to share themselves sexually with the other male cult followers. It is considered a duty. 'Sharing' is so commonplace, the word has become a euphemism for sex, and some homes have drawn up 'sharing schedules' to coerce people into a "swinger" lifestyle.<sup>82</sup> Female members were also used as a recruitment strategy. The Children of God cult utilised a recruitment technique they called 'Flirty Fishing'. This entails the female members of the Children of God to offer free sex and/or sex acts when discussing the commune lifestyle people and entice the public to join. Following Berg's death in 1994, The Children of God cult became the subject of several lawsuits across the globe (Britain, Australia, Canada, Italy, and Hong Kong) amid reports of permitted sex abuse of minors, production of pornographic material, deliberately isolated and

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<sup>76</sup> 'The Family International', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (13 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Family\\_International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Family_International)>.

<sup>77</sup> Huber, Lucy, '30 Terrifying Facts About the Children of God Cult', *Twenty-Two Words*, (2018), <<https://twentytwowords.com/terrifying-facts-about-the-children-of-god-cult/>>.

<sup>78</sup> Petha, S., 'I grew up in a sex cult', *The Sun*, (14 May 2018), <<https://www.whimn.com.au/talk/people/i-grew-up-in-a-sex-cult/news-story/a2412748aaeeda04bb85882484013888>>.

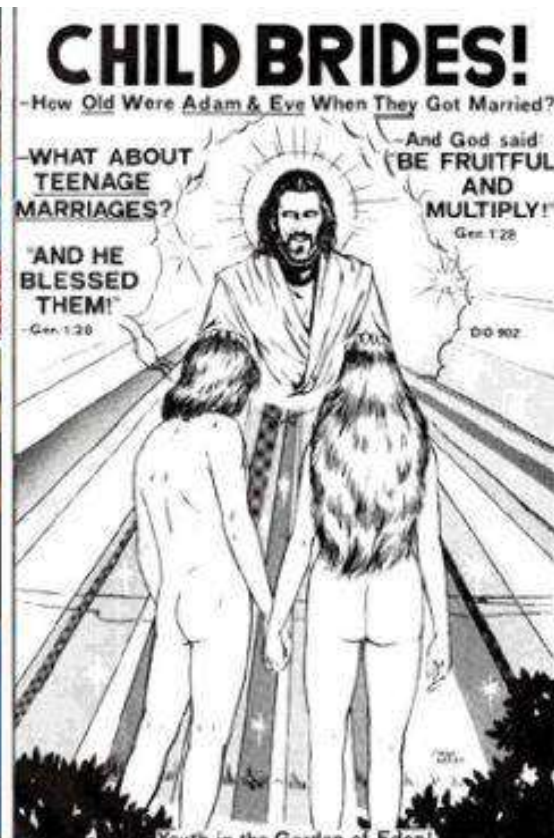
<sup>79</sup> Huber, Lucy, '30 Terrifying Facts About the Children of God Cult', *Twenty-Two Words*, (2018), <<https://twentytwowords.com/terrifying-facts-about-the-children-of-god-cult/>>.

<sup>80</sup> Thornely, J., 'Children of God: Bizarre sex rules of world's kinkiest cult', *News.com: Books*, (28 February 2019), <<https://www.news.com.au/entertainment/books-magazines/books/children-of-god-bizarre-sex-rules-of-worlds-kinkiest-cult/news-story/04f29d0765b78066b4707b972c6fe03>>

<sup>81</sup> 'The Family International', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (13 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Family\\_International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Family_International)>.

<sup>82</sup> 'The Children of God cult', *Ex Family.org*, (2004), <[www.exfamily.org/children-of-god/](http://www.exfamily.org/children-of-god/)>.

sequestered children away from their parents, prostitution, slave labour, serious misconduct due to the extensive use of corporal punishment, financial mismanagement, the senior followers' abuse of authority.<sup>83</sup> The cult leaders gave assurances that they will adopt the recommendations outlined by the court judges in 1996, and no charges were ever laid against the cult leaders or perpetrators. The cult now stipulates that children will not participate in sexual activities until they reach the 'age of consent' in their host nation. Therefore, in Australia, it is expected that children must engage in sexual activities with other cult followers when they turn 16. In 2004, The Children of God cult changed its name to The Family International cult. The Family International cult oversees many Not-for-Profit and Tax-Exempt charitable organisations that provide a vast amount of money to finance their cult communes. Organisations include: The Family Care Foundation (tax exempt), Aurora Production AG (music, video, film productions), Family Missions Foundation, Activated Ministries, TEAM Foundation. Brookside Farm, Cheer Up Missions, Ton-A-Month Club, Donate Car 2 Charity, New York Family Mission, The Extra Mile Ministries, Change the World, Just Enough Faith, Countdown to Armageddon, Sunny Side Up Entertainment, Cherub Wings, Beart Communications, and Kidsz Vids.<sup>84</sup> The Family International cult has also been allowed to provide support and 'Christian' counselling services ministered to prison inmates jailed within the Kariong Juvenile Justice Centre on the Central Coast, New South Wales. Since 1996, the cult followers have assisted the chaplaincy as well as providing basketball training and bringing in young people from the community to interact with the boys.<sup>85</sup> The cult's membership comprises over 1700 members in nearly 130 communes in 80 countries, including Australia. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>83</sup> Wigington, P., 'Children of God: History and Teachings of the Notorious Cult', *Thought Co.*, (30 May 2018), <<https://www.thoughtco.com/children-of-god-cult-4165811>>.

<sup>84</sup> 'Overview of Projects in Australia', *The Family International Australia*, (2019), <<https://www.thefamilyinternational.org/en/work/asia-pacific/australia/>>.

<sup>85</sup> 'Prison Ministry: Overview of projects in Asia Pacific', *The Family International Australia*, (2009), <<https://www.thefamilyinternational.org/en/work/asia-pacific/>>.



### Christian Assemblies International cult

The Christian Assemblies International (C.A.I) was formed by Anthony Scott Williams, a school teacher from Ballarat. Williams became a self-styled pastor and attracted parents' attention for trying to indoctrinate high school students (mainly young boys)<sup>86</sup> to join a perverted form of evangelical Pentecostalism. During the 1970s, he moved with his wife to Feldafing in Germany. Williams found work at the Fernmeldeschule (School of Signals) of the German Army as swimming pool attendant in 1980. It was at the German Military Base where he began his European cult named "Pfungsten Erweckungs Bewegung" (Pentecost Revival Centre).<sup>87</sup> The church is an extreme Pentecostal group based on a societal organization that includes the totalitarian thought-reform and life-control tactics normally considered characteristic of a cult.<sup>88</sup> The framework of the church was 'to mask a homosexual sex ring while using the cult followers' donations to benefit only Williams and amass a fortune'.<sup>89</sup> There he began recruiting young men at a military school, allegedly having them engage in mass naked massage sessions, after which he would select one to "surrender and submit to the Lord's training" by spending the night with him.<sup>90</sup> In the early 1990s, the self-appointed religious guru 'Pastor' Scott Williams relocated back to Australia along with many of his German followers, and established a N.S.W-based Christian Assemblies International (Pacific Headquarters) at Wayper Creek Road, Upper Orara near Coffs Harbour.<sup>91</sup> In Australia, Williams continued to coerce male followers to build same-sex friendships amongst the men within the assembly. This is justified by emphasising the one example in the Old Testament, where David and Jonathan agree on forming a covenant of everlasting friendship. In reality, these 'C.A.I friendships/covenants' are established by the breaking down of barriers in individuals. This involved repeated acts of customary hugging and kissing each other 'with a holy kiss', bonding rituals, and personal confessions of their innermost sins and weaknesses - facts which will be used at a later stage to: i) control the cult followers; ii) lead them into homosexual activities; iii) infesting their

<sup>86</sup> 'Sects in Australia: Fringe religious groups that have left their mark on the nation', *The Daily Telegraph*, (5 August 2015), <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sects-in-australia-fringe-religious-groups-that-have-left-their-mark-on-the-nation/news-story/>>.

<sup>87</sup> 'Christian Assemblies International: Wikis', *The Full Wiki*, (2019), <[www.thefullwiki.org/Christian\\_Assemblies\\_International](http://www.thefullwiki.org/Christian_Assemblies_International)>.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> Back, A., 'ABC investigation reveals claims of abuse in NSW cult', *Sydney Morning Herald*, (28 July 2014), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/abc-investigation-reveals-claims-of-abuse-in-nsw-cult-20140728-zxrct.html>>.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> 'Cult boss on 14 sex charges', *The Coffs Coast Advocate*, (17 July 2009), <<https://www.coffscostadvocate.com.au/news/cult-boss-on-14-sex-charges-on-14-sex-charges/274186/>>.



conscience with guilt; iv) split up families; v) and divide children from their parents. They arrange "massage evenings" where men are naked and "serve" each other with massages. They compare this practise with the biblical "foot washing". However, this activity was introduced as a form of 'grooming' to prepare some of the men for homosexual liaisons with the "overseer" Scott Williams. Parents are being encouraged to educate their children (especially young boys) to perceive every adult within the C.A.I as trustworthy, addressing all as either 'uncles or aunts'.<sup>92</sup> Any cult follower who wish to become Officers in the C.A.I must be deemed of being worthy of more respect, love and obedience. Being presented to the (homosexual) Pastor / Overseer is supposed to be a special honour, and children are taught to aspire to become an Officer. Followers are manipulated to believe that contact with 'Pastor' Scott Williams is 'an extremely rare opportunity to partake of the 'Finest of the Wheat' '<sup>93</sup>(a C.A.I term which disguises the real church doctrine – "surrender and submit to the Lord's training" by spending the night with Anthony Scott Williams). The role of women within the cult is to obey their husbands as the male is the "head of the family", and follow the C.A.I doctrine of the fellowship. Women are treated as little more than slaves and are subjected to constant discrimination because of their sex. Any questions and thoughts regarding the validity of doctrine and customs in the C.A.I are strongly discouraged. The C.A.I has a group of ultra-loyal followers of the inner circle called K.G 'Kern Gruppe' (Centre Group). They are called upon to 'deal with' the individual, pass judgement and decide on suitable punishment. "Let the dead bury their dead" (from Luke 9;60) is the central teaching towards unbelievers including family members.<sup>94</sup> 'The Pacific Headquarters for C.A.I is in a park-like compound of about 285 acres within an isolated valley. The compound is enclosed with a high wire fence with enormous gates, but members of the group do at times open the gates to invited non-members for barbecues and religious discussions.'<sup>95</sup> The cult's financial records show that the C.A.I allegedly gave only about five per cent of a \$20 million fund to charities, the rest going to maintenance of properties owned by Williams. On 5 June 2005, Anthony Scott Williams was arrested and charged with 14 counts of aggravated indecent assault which included indecent assault of a victim under the authority of the offender; assault with an act of indecency; aggravated sexual assault of a victim under the authority of the offender and sexual intercourse without the consent of the victim.<sup>96</sup> The charges involved two different male victims, both allegedly members of C.A.I at the time and related to alleged offences on a variety of occasions between 2002 and 2005.<sup>97</sup> The police alleged the offences were aggravated by Williams use of his position as the Overseer (highest authority) of the organisation of which the victims were members. Anthony Scott Williams died in 2015 under house-arrest at his residence located at the C.A.I Pacific Headquarters. The Christian Assemblies International remains an Australian-based charity organisation and religious group registered as Christian Assemblies Europe International. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>92</sup> 'Christian Assemblies International: Wikis', *The Full Wiki*, (2019), <[www.thefullwiki.org/Christian\\_Assemblies\\_International](http://www.thefullwiki.org/Christian_Assemblies_International)>.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> 'Sects in Australia: Fringe religious groups that have left their mark on the nation', *The Daily Telegraph*, (5 August 2015), <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sects-in-australia-fringe-religious-groups-that-have-left-their-mark-on-the-nation/news-story/>>.

<sup>95</sup> 'Cult leader Anthony Scott Williams on sex crime charges', *Religion News Blog*, (19 July 2009), <[www.religionnewsblog.com/25213/cult-leader-anthony-scott-williams-on-sex-crime-charges](http://www.religionnewsblog.com/25213/cult-leader-anthony-scott-williams-on-sex-crime-charges)>.

<sup>96</sup> 'Cult boss on 14 sex charges', *The Coffs Coast Advocate*, (17 July 2009), <<https://www.coffscostadvocate.com.au/news/cult-boss-on-14-sex-charges-on-14-sex-charges/274186/>>.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.



## Church of Satan cult

In 1966, at the urging of a friend, Anton LaVey formed the Church of Satan, shaving his head and proclaiming 1966 as "Anno Satanas", year one in the age of Satan. Three years later, in 1969, he published *The Satanic Bible*, a collection of ruminations and rituals that is now considered the essential text for LaVeyan Satanism. LaVey promulgated what is known as "atheistic Satanism", a philosophy in which the Dark Lord serves not so much as a literal figurehead but as a symbol of pride, liberty, and individualism. "We are the first above-ground organisation," says the Church of Satan's website, "dedicated to the acceptance of Man's true nature - that of a carnal beast, living in a cosmos that is indifferent to our existence." Hedonism is a birthright, and indulgence is endorsed.<sup>98</sup> The religion's doctrines, most notably *The Satanic Bible*, contain ideas of social Darwinism which are taken more seriously by some practitioners than others.<sup>99</sup> According to modern Satanists the Devil is not evil but stands for a 'spirit of change'. They believe Satan represents opposition and balance. It means simply becoming the Devil Advocate, looking at different ways of conducting oneself,<sup>100</sup> and ensuring that the pendulum doesn't swing too far towards 'goodness' in society.<sup>101</sup> The concept of a Devil Worshipper generates many stereotypical descriptions within the population, most untrue. Not all Satanists walk about in public wearing black robes, horned headwear, or necklaces made of bones. There are three categories of Satanists. Firstly, there is "organisational" Satanism, which has a structure with high priests and temples. Second, "generational" Satanism, where children were brought up within a Satanic cult; and finally, people known as "wannabes", "try-hards" or "dabblers" who are mainly outwardly seeking attention by wearing T-shirts adorned with a Devil's image or dressing in black attire. The people that fall into final category are usually not heavily into Satanism itself.<sup>102</sup> The Church of Satan has affiliations with other Satanic Cults and ties with Neo-Nazi groups in Australia and abroad. According to the 2011 census, there are now more Satanists in Australia than Scientologists.<sup>103</sup> It is unknown the exact figures of practising Satanists in Australia as it is a part of their *Code of Practice* to 'never reveal'.<sup>104</sup> Investigative reports state that the cult is growing particularly in the State and Territories prison system. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>98</sup> Harris, P., 'The Devil's Advocates', *Sydney Morning Herald*, (28 June 2014), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/the-devils-advocates-20140623-3anzy.html>>.

<sup>99</sup> 'Satanism and the Far Right', *Detoxorcist*, (20 Jan 2016), <[www.detoxorcist.com/satanism-and-the-far-right.html](http://www.detoxorcist.com/satanism-and-the-far-right.html)>.

<sup>100</sup> Barry, D., 'Sympathy for the Devil: story of Satan', *Woolly Ways – Blog*, (11 September 2007), <<https://nebuchadnezzarwoollyd.blogspot.com/2007/09/sympathy-for-devil-story-of-satan.html>>.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

<sup>102</sup> Goldstone, C., 'In the grip of 'Satan'', *IOL Independent Online*, (30 August 2008), <<https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/in-the-grip-of-satan-414440>>.

<sup>103</sup> Harris, P., 'The Devil's Advocates', *Sydney Morning Herald*, (28 June 2014), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/the-devils-advocates-20140623-3anzy.html>>.

<sup>104</sup> Tuohy, W., 'Speak of the Devil', *Sunday Herald: Sunday Life*, (15 July 2001), <[www.haunted.com.au/news/age03.html](http://www.haunted.com.au/news/age03.html)>.



## Church of Scientology cult

The Church of Scientology was founded by an American author of science fiction and fantasy stories, Lafayette Ronald Hubbard. Initially, Hubbard was an active member of the Pasadena O.T.O. and regularly participated in sex magick rituals intended to summon the supreme Thelemite Goddess.<sup>105</sup> Early in his career (as a Naval Officer), Hubbard spent time writing several Science Fiction novels. In 1950, Hubbard authored *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*. Hubbard described Dianetics as "the hidden source of all psychosomatic ills and human aberration" and that "skills have been developed for their invariable cure." Dianetics was duly launched in May 1950, writing several books about it in the next decade, delivering an estimated 4000 lectures while founding Dianetics research organizations.<sup>106</sup> However, Dianetics was poorly received by the press and the scientific and medical professions. The American Psychological Association criticized Hubbard's claims as "not supported by empirical evidence".<sup>107</sup> *Scientific American* said that Hubbard's book contained "more promises and less evidence per page than any publication since the invention of printing"<sup>108</sup>, while *The New Republic* called it a "bold and immodest mixture of complete nonsense and perfectly reasonable common sense, taken from long acknowledged findings and disguised and distorted by a crazy, newly invented terminology".<sup>109</sup> Some of Hubbard's fellow science fiction writers also criticized it; Isaac Asimov considered it "gibberish" while Jack Williamson called it "a lunatic revision of Freudian psychology".<sup>110</sup> By August 1950, Hubbard's book had sold 55 000 copies - selling at the rate of 4000 a week - and translated into French, German and Japanese. Five hundred Dianetics auditing groups had been set up across the United States, and people were willing to pay \$500 for a Dianetics course. However, by the end of the of 1951 the public support for Dianetics began to wane, and Hubbard lost the rights to Dianetics during bankruptcy proceedings in 1952.<sup>111</sup> Hubbard's friend, Lester del Rey told him that an easy way "to get rich was to start a religion".<sup>112</sup> Using this idea (along with his Science Fiction writing skills), Hubbard expanded upon

<sup>105</sup> 'Jack Parsons (rocket engineer)', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (29 April 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack\\_Parsons\\_\(rocket\\_engineer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Parsons_(rocket_engineer))>.

<sup>106</sup> 'Church of Scientology', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (24 April 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church\\_of\\_Scientology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Scientology)>.

<sup>107</sup> 'APA response to Dianetics', *American Psychological Association*, (1950), <<https://www.apa.org/about/policy/chapter-11>>.

<sup>108</sup> Shermer, M., 'Hermits and Cranks: Lessons from Martin Gardner on Recognizing Pseudoscientists', *Scientific American*, (23 May 2010), <<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/hermits-and-cranks-lesson/>>.

<sup>109</sup> Gumpert, M., 'A Doctor's Scathing 1950 Takedown of L. Ron Hubbard's 'Dianetics'', *The New Republic*, (6 May 2015), <<https://newrepublic.com/article/121590/1950-takedown-l-ron-hubbards-scientology-book-dianetics>>.

<sup>110</sup> 'Church of Scientology', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (24 April 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church\\_of\\_Scientology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Scientology)>.

<sup>111</sup> Ibid.

<sup>112</sup> Branch, C., 'Church of Scientology: A Religious Mafia?', *Watchman Fellowship*, (2014), <<https://www.watchman.org/articles/scientology/church-of-scientology-a-religious-mafia/>>.

the basics of Dianetics to construct a 'spiritually-oriented' doctrine. According to L. Ron Hubbard, Scientology's fundamental creation myth is described as such:

'Xenu (also referred to as Xemu) was once ruler of the Galactic Confederacy, an ancient organization of 76 planets. Having existed for 20 million years, the planets were struggling from extreme overpopulation. Fearing he'd be thrown out of power, Xenu gathered billions of his people, froze them to capture their souls ("thetans" – Greek for 'thought'), and transported them to Earth (then called Teegeeeack) for elimination. He dumped his frozen people at the bottom of volcanoes and proceeded to destroy them using nuclear explosives. This killed all - except a few whose souls were sent flying into the air. Once in the air, the souls were captured by Xenu. He then implanted into souls misleading information, including concepts related to all of Earth's religions. After this evil act had been completed, Xenu was imprisoned. The Earth was then left to be a mere prison planet by the Galactic Confederacy.'<sup>113</sup>

It is noted that Scientologists are not permitted to learn this story until they have advanced well into the church's ranks (after spending tens of thousands of dollars to do so). Due to these financial 'donations' to study the various Levels, the church routinely denies the existence of this story to outsiders or even low-level church members. According to Hubbard, each human has their own 'thetan' (an immortal, omniscient and potentially omnipotent entity) and Scientologists strive to purify these spirits through "auditing" sessions until they reach a state of "Clear." Hubbard taught his followers that 'thetans', having created the material universe, had forgotten their god-like powers and become trapped in physical bodies. Scientology aimed to 'rehabilitate' each person's self (the 'thetan') to restore its original capacities and become once again an 'Operating Thetan'. Hubbard insisted that humanity was at risk of deviation, which were the result of engrams (latent memories) carried by immortal 'thetans' for billions of years. The Church of Scientology has stated 'the procedure is 100% effective providing it is done properly, and the recipient is truly seeking change'.<sup>114</sup> Auditing is extremely expensive. It is estimated that reaching "Clear" costs about \$128,000.<sup>115</sup> Hubbard believes that Dianetics is all about releasing the mind from the "distorting influence of engrams", and provides the first workable approach to solving the problems of the mind and the causes of irrational behaviour, thereby allowing people to improve themselves.<sup>116</sup> Hubbard also introduced The Tone Scale to teach Scientologists how to interpret people behaviour and provide the appropriate emotional response. The tone scale runs from minus 40 to 40. The higher on the scale you are, the better. A score of 40 is described as "Serenity of Beingness." A 1.1 is considered covert hostility (smiling on the outside while plotting inside) and describes someone who can't be trusted. If you don't believe in Scientology, you are a 1.1.<sup>117</sup> Scientology also employs a homophobic doctrine and their "Tone Scale" also aligns with sexual orientation. For example, if someone is gay, they automatically fall into the Covert Hostility category and can only achieve spiritual elevation after converting to heterosexuality through intense auditing procedures. Besides inventing an

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<sup>113</sup> Stewart, C., 'Five of The Strangest Things Scientologists Actually Believe', *All That's Interesting*, (9 May 2016), <<https://allthatsinteresting.com/scientology-beliefs-five-strangest>>.

<sup>114</sup> 'Way to Happiness', *Scientology.org.*, (2019), <<https://www.scientology.org.au/how-we-help/way-to-happiness/>>.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

<sup>116</sup> 'Spotlight on Scientology', *Daily Mail: Australia*, (May 2019), <<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-381998/Spotlight-Scientology.html>>.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

entire science fiction-based religion, Hubbard also wrote *What to Audit / A History of Man* in 1952, as a guide for Scientologist auditors. Hubbard attempts to provide answers to the evolutionary process of human beings. The book describes 'thetans' as eternal entities with past lives which had experienced traumas throughout time. As a result, people today have subconscious memories of past lives as being 'clams, atoms, cells in the process of mitosis, early photosynthetic organisms, and sloths, just to name a few.' This material was first released as four lectures which Hubbard delivered to his cult followers. Hubbard's unofficial biographer Russell Miller describes *A History of Man* as "one of Hubbard's most bizarre works and possibly the most absurd book ever written".<sup>118</sup> From this self-conceptualised religious doctrine of the Church of Scientology was born.

Hubbard's true intentions behind the development of Scientology only reinforced his critics' opinions of him: "mentally unstable" and a "chronic liar". Hubbard opened the Hubbard Association of Scientologists International to promote his new "Science of Certainty".<sup>119</sup> Hubbard introduced a device called an 'E-meter' which he claims as having an almost mystical power to reveal an individual's innermost thoughts. Scientology was organized in a very different way from the decentralized Dianetics movement. The Hubbard Association of Scientologists (H.A.S) was the only official Scientology organization. Training procedures and doctrines were standardized and promoted through H.A.S publications, and administrators and auditors were not permitted to deviate from Hubbard's approach. Branches or 'orgs' were organized as franchises, rather like a fast food restaurant chain. Each franchise holder was required to pay 10% of income to Hubbard's central organization. They were expected to find new recruits (known as 'raw meat') but were restricted to providing only basic services.<sup>120</sup>

Hubbard marketed Scientology through medical claims, such as attracting polio sufferers by presenting the Church of Scientology as a scientific research foundation investigating polio cases. The Food and Drug Administration (F.D.A) took action against Scientology's medical claims, seizing thousands of pills being marketed as 'radiation cures' as well as publications and E-meters. The Church of Scientology was required to label them as being "ineffective in the diagnosis or treatment of disease". Following the F.D.A.'s actions, Scientology has since attracted increasingly unfavourable publicity across the English-speaking world. It faced particularly hostile scrutiny in Victoria, Australia, from members of the Health Profession. The Victorian state government established a Board of Inquiry into Scientology in November 1963. Its report, published in October 1965, condemned every aspect of Scientology and Hubbard himself. He was described as being of doubtful sanity, having a persecution complex and displaying strong indications of paranoid schizophrenia with delusions of grandeur. His writings were characterized as nonsensical, abounding in "self-glorification and grandiosity, replete with histrionics and hysterical, incontinent outbursts".

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Hubbard spent much of his time at sea on his personal fleet of ships as "Commodore" of the Sea Organization, an elite, paramilitary group of Scientologists. Some ex-members and scholars have described the Sea Org as a totalitarian organization marked by intensive surveillance and a lack of freedom. There is substantial, perhaps overwhelming evidence to support the

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<sup>118</sup> 'Scientology: A History of Man', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (19 December 2018), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientology:\\_A\\_History\\_of\\_Man](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientology:_A_History_of_Man)>.

<sup>119</sup> 'Church of Scientology', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (24 April 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church\\_of\\_Scientology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Scientology)>.

<sup>120</sup> 'Knowledge Report: A documentary on Scientology fraud and abuse', *Religion News Blog*, (31 March 2014), <[www.religionnewsblog.com/27578/scientology-fraud-abuse](http://www.religionnewsblog.com/27578/scientology-fraud-abuse)>.



conclusion that “despite Scientology's attempted religious front, it is in reality a criminal, fraud-ridden, commercial, profit-motivated enterprise engaged in the practice of psychotherapy with a military structure and operational methods designed to accumulate money, information, and power”.<sup>121</sup> There are countless reports in which Scientology has been accused of physical and sexual abuse towards adults and children, under-age girls married-off to older men, fraud, tax evasion, tearing apart friends and family members, forcing staff members to have abortions, and having its staff members work for a pittance.<sup>122</sup> Sometimes a Scientologist was issued with an order perform an ‘R2-45’ to either their enemies or self to achieve “exteriorization” (separate the ‘thetan’ soul from a person’s body). Hubbard defined ‘R2-45’ as a process by which “exteriorization” could be produced - this is done by shooting a person in the head with a .45 revolver.’<sup>123</sup> Enemies are referred to as ‘Suppressive Person’ (often abbreviated S.P). It is a term used in Scientology to describe the "antisocial personalities" who, according to Scientology's founder L. Ron Hubbard, are those whom the Church perceives as its enemies, such as those whose "disastrous" and "suppressive" acts are said to impede the progress of individual Scientologists or the Scientology movement. One of the reasons Scientology doctrines portray Suppressive Persons as such a danger is that they are supposed to make people around them become Potential Trouble Sources (abbreviated P.T.S).<sup>124</sup> Scientology defines a P.T.S as "a person who is in some way connected to and being adversely affected by a suppressive person. Such a person is called a potential trouble source because he can be a lot of trouble to himself and to others."<sup>125</sup>

In 1987, L. Ron Hubbard stepped down from his control of the Church of Scientology. Hubbard’s books and ‘church’ eventually spread worldwide, while Hubbard became a secretive recluse. He died in 1986, after spending most of his last years traveling around quietly on his yacht. The Church of Scientology is now under the leadership of David Miscavige. His official title is Chairman of the Board of the Religious Technology Centre (RTC), a corporation that controls the trademarks and copyrights of Dianetics and Scientology.<sup>126</sup> Official Church of Scientology biographies describe Miscavige as "the ecclesiastical leader of the Scientology religion".<sup>127</sup> Since Miscavige assumed his leadership position, there have been numerous allegations made against him and the cult. These include claims of forced separation of family members, coercive fundraising practices, harassment of journalists and church critics, humiliation of the cult’s staff members, and physical assaults (some assaults allegedly committed by Miscavige himself). Miscavige and the cult’s spokespersons keep denying the claims, often criticizing the credibility of those who mention the criminal acts and allegations.<sup>128</sup> Scientology has a reputation for hostile action toward anyone who criticizes it in a public forum. Executives within the organization have proclaimed Scientology is "not a turn-the-other-cheek religion".<sup>129</sup> Journalists, politicians, former Scientologists and

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<sup>122</sup> ‘Knowledge Report: A documentary on Scientology fraud and abuse’, *Religion News Blog*, (31 March 2014), <[www.religionnewsblog.com/27578/scientology-fraud-abuse/](http://www.religionnewsblog.com/27578/scientology-fraud-abuse/)>.

<sup>123</sup> Lamont, S. *Religion Inc: The Church of Scientology*. (1986). London, Harrap and Company Limited, p. 25.

<sup>124</sup> Branch, C., ‘Scientology: A History of Terror and Abuse’, (2014), *Watchman Fellowship*, <[https://www.watchman.org/articles/scientology/scientology\\_a-history-of-terror-and-abuse/](https://www.watchman.org/articles/scientology/scientology_a-history-of-terror-and-abuse/)>.

<sup>125</sup> ‘Suppressive Person’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (24 February 2014), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suppressive\\_Person](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suppressive_Person)>.

<sup>126</sup> ‘David Miscavige’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (3 May 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_Miscavige](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Miscavige)>.

<sup>127</sup> ‘Official Church of Scientology: David Miscavige, Religious Technology Center Chairman of the Board’, *Scientology.org*. (3 May 2019), <<https://www.scientology.org/david-miscavige/biography.html>>.

<sup>128</sup> ‘David Miscavige’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (3 May 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_Miscavige](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Miscavige)>.

<sup>129</sup> ‘A Sci-Fi Faith’, *Time Magazine*, 1976-04-05. (24 July 2009), <[content.time.com/time/magazine/article/](http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/)>.

various anti-cult groups have made accusations of wrongdoing against Scientology since the 1960s, and Scientology has targeted these critics in retaliation - almost without exception - in the form of lawsuits and public counter-accusations of personal wrongdoing. Many of Scientology's critics have also reported they were subject to threats and harassment in their private lives.<sup>130</sup>

The Church of Scientology has been heavily reliant on their Hollywood celebrity members to promote their ideology and rebuke any bad publicity about the cult.<sup>131</sup> Some famous members include: John Travolta, Kirstie Alley, Beck, Issac Hayes, Nancy Cartwright, Elizabeth Moss, Juliette Lewis<sup>132</sup> and Kate Cebrano. The most well-known celebrity is Tom Cruise who is regarded by Scientologist followers as a deity.<sup>133</sup> Cruise and his children are active members of the cult. Recently, Cruise's daughter Isabella has promoted the cult's practises 'as the face of a March 19 email recruitment statement, in which she extols her experience of completing an "auditing" internship at Scientology London.'<sup>134</sup> In Australia, the cult's follower numbers have dwindled significantly although the cult organisation has properties worth millions across the Sydney C.B.D, Chatswood and Dundas. In 2017, the Australian branch of the Church of Scientology doubled its national revenue to nearly \$40 million.<sup>135</sup> The cult have been actively recruiting and Taiwanese cult followers to increase the organisation's membership in Sydney and Melbourne. Former cult followers claim the Church's solution to its dwindling standing in Australia is to bring in believers from Taiwan, where the religion has flourished in the last twenty years. The devoted recruits come to Australia to do as much Scientology as they can, on as little amount of money, before going back to Taiwan. Cult followers are made to sign a 'One Billion Year' contracts with the promise that they will return to the church every time they die.<sup>136</sup> The Church of Scientology also operate the following charity events and organisations: "Peace Rides", Narconon Drug Rehabilitation Centres, Foundation for a Drug-Free World, Volunteer Ministers, Citizens Commissions on Human Rights, Association for Better Living and Education (A.B.L.E) and Applied Scholastics.<sup>137</sup> The cult has been attempting to infiltrate the Australia's Education system with their Applied Scholastic reading material. Applied Scholastics is somewhat of a Trojan horse for religious indoctrination and is being covertly rolled out across the globe.<sup>138</sup> The Church of Scientology has a worldwide membership of approximately 40 000.<sup>139</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>130</sup> 'A Sci-Fi Faith', *Time Magazine*, 1976-04-05. (24 July 2009), <[content.time.com/time/magazine/article/](https://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/)>.

<sup>131</sup> Kaplan, M., 'Scientology is Using International Stars to Lure in New Recruits', *New York Post*, (26 January 2019), <<https://nypost.com/2019/01/26/scientology-is-using-international-stars-to-lure-in-new-recruits/>>.

<sup>132</sup> Merryweather, C., '10 Famous People Who Are Devoted Scientologists', *List Verse*, (10 April 2019), <[listverse.com/2019/04/10/10-famous-people-who-are-devoted-scientologists/](http://listverse.com/2019/04/10/10-famous-people-who-are-devoted-scientologists/)>.

<sup>133</sup> Smith, E., 'A-list Star Tom Cruise and his Daughter Isabella Climbing Scientology Ranks', *News.com Australia*, (29 March 2019), <<https://www.news.com.au/entertainment/celebrity-life/alist-star-tom-cruise-and-his-daughter-isabella-climbing-scientology-ranks/news-story/>>.

<sup>134</sup> Ibid.

<sup>135</sup> Weir, B., 'Australian Recruits have dwindled to virtually zero: Scientology struggles in NSW', *Sydney Morning Herald*, (13 January 2019), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/australian-recruits-have-dwindled-to-virtually-zero-scientology-struggles-in-nsw-20190112-p50qzy.html>>.

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> 'How We Help', *Scientology*, (2019), <<https://www.scientology.org.au/scientology-today/how-we-help/>>.

<sup>138</sup> Mantesso, S., 'Scientology campaign to push educational materials in schools', *ABC News*, (5 May 2019), <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-05/scientology-campaign-to-push-educational-materials-in-schools/>>.

<sup>139</sup> Metzger, R., 'Have you wondered how Scientologists there really are?', *Dangerous Minds*, (2014), <[https://dangerousminds.net/comments/have\\_you\\_ever\\_wondered\\_how\\_many\\_scientologists\\_there\\_really\\_are1](https://dangerousminds.net/comments/have_you_ever_wondered_how_many_scientologists_there_really_are1)>.

## Divine Truth cult

This Queensland-based religion (with its 16 hectares compound at Wilksdale near Kingaroy) was founded in 2007 by spiritual teacher Alan John Miller. Miller believes he is Jesus of Nazareth reincarnated. This belief commenced soon after his marriage breakdown in 1997. Miller claims that he began to remember the details of his life on earth and in the spirit world for the past 2000 years.<sup>140</sup> Before founding the Divine Truth cult, Miller 'was a property developer who was married with two children. He was also a senior member of a Jehovah's Witness cult but was pushed out when he left his wife for a woman named Karen who was about 10 years his junior.'<sup>141</sup> While prophesying in 2007, Miller met Mary Suzanne Luck. Months later Miller revealed to Mary Luck that she is Mary Magdalene re-born. Mary Luck now shares Miller's fixed-false belief that she is Mary Magdalene and has been reincarnated. Miller predicted between 2011 and 2013 that billions of people would die, a 100m tall tsunami would hit Australia, and that a new continent would appear near Hawaii. As the Divine Truth prophet, Miller has concocted various businesses, websites and religious webinars courses all to help spread his message across the world. Miller teaches via webinar what he calls the 'Divine Love Path' which focuses on 'Emotional Clearing' (an emotion-based rather than mind-based lessons to form a direct loving relationship with God). His teachings and writings have been taken from Jean Piaget's (psychologist) theory of cognitive development, the pages of the Bible, and various psychology books.<sup>142</sup> The Divine Truth cult has an Australian Business Number and A.C.N, as well as a 'Trading Address' linked to the compound's address in Kingaroy. The businesses have intellectual property disclaimers, a provisions' policies, and a public warning that any donations to Divine Truth are not refundable. In 2009, Divine Truth listeners purchased another 240ha property, with plans to build "learning centres" and a visiting centre for international visitors. Hundreds of cult followers have bought dozens of properties that are located close to Miller near Kingaroy.<sup>143</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>140</sup> Jolly, N., 'The Queensland man who believes he's Jesus', seriously' *News.com*, (26 July 2016), seriously<<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/wtf/the-queensland-man-who-believes-hes-jesus-seriously/news-story/ea7abfc3680912eae7666392e3768be4>>.

<sup>141</sup> 'Cult Alert-AJ Miller from Australia', *Dig Deeper*, (12 July 2012), <[master1844-dc.blogspot.com/2012/07/cult-alert-aj-miller-from-australia.html/](http://master1844-dc.blogspot.com/2012/07/cult-alert-aj-miller-from-australia.html/)>.

<sup>142</sup> Ibid.

<sup>143</sup> 'Divine Truth', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (22 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine\\_Truth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine_Truth)>.



### Exclusive Brethren cult

The Exclusive Brethren are a subset of the Christian evangelical movement generally described as the Plymouth Brethren. They are distinguished from the 'Open Brethren' from whom they separated in 1848. The Exclusive Brethren are now divided into several groups, most of which differ on minor points of doctrine or practice. Perhaps the best-known of these, mainly through media attention, is the Raven-Taylor-Hales group, now known as the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church (P.B.C.C). The cult maintains the doctrine of uncompromising separation from the world based on their interpretation of: 2 Corinthians 6 and 2; Timothy 2; mandatory attendance at the Communion Service, the 'Lord's Supper'; and governance over their relationship with others, even other Brethren groups.<sup>144</sup> The P.B.C.C can be categorized as a cult because of its policy of separating itself from other orthodox denominations, and its members live in a 'closed-community' status. The P.B.C.C cult controls every aspect of its members' lives. Women over a certain age must wear headscarves and long skirts. Arranged marriages - some polygamist, and some young brides<sup>145</sup> - must be approved of by the leadership. According to the principles of their faith they shun contact with those not in the Brethren. The P.B.C.C now run their own schools and receive a copious sum of financial assistance from the Federal government.<sup>146</sup> The P.B.C.C children must stop their education at Year 12 as the Brethren Elders believe that Higher Education is a "hotbed of atheism".<sup>147</sup> The P.B.C.C cult: prohibits the use of radio, recorded music, mobile phones, or television; will not allow a member to go to the beach; limits the use of computers; and discourages socializing with people from outside the movement (called 'worldlies'). Breaking these rules risks excommunication. The P.B.C.C do not vote, because voting interferes with God's right to ordain who rules. The P.B.C.C believes that Satan has infiltrated democracy and the Exclusive Brethren have started putting money and time into Australian political campaigns. There are 15 000 members of the Exclusive Brethren in Australia, 40 000 world-wide. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

<sup>144</sup> 'Exclusive Brethren', *Cult Survivors*, (7 Mar 2019), <<https://cultsurvivors.org/exclusive-brethren/>>.

<sup>145</sup> Bachelard, M., 'Potential witness in Exclusive Brethren sex abuse case paid to remain silent', *Sydney Morning Herald*, (21 October 2017), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/potential-witness-in-exclusive-brethren-sex-abuse-case-paid-to-remain-silent-20171018-gz35mf.html>>.

<sup>146</sup> Karp, P., 'Labor defends \$1.2bn private school package it previously called a 'slush fund'', *The Guardian*, (10 September 2019), <<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/10/labor-defends-12bn-private-school-package-it-previously-called-a-slush-fund>>.

<sup>147</sup> 'Elusive Exclusive Brethren', *ABC Radio National: ABC.net.au*, (30 April, 2006), <<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/elusive-exclusive-brethren/>>.



## Falun Gong cult

The Falun Gong cult (otherwise known as Falun Dafa) was founded in 1992 by Li Hongzhi, a former clerk at a Chinese grain and cereal company.<sup>148</sup> Falun Gong translated means "Dharma Wheel Practice" or "Law Wheel Practice". Their website claims that prior to establishing the Falun Gong cult, Li had studied under several Buddhist, Daoist, and other spiritual masters in China<sup>149</sup> - but this statement is far from the truth. Li established the Falun Gong cult based on the similar teachings of the 'qi gong movement' that had previously emerged in China in the 1950s. 'Qi gong' is the ancient Chinese spiritual practice characterized by slow, meditative exercises believed to improve body, mind and spirit.<sup>150</sup> The Falun Gong cult claims that its practice emphasizes morality and the cultivation of virtue. The cult group identifies as a practice of the Buddhist school, though its mish-mash of spiritual teachings also incorporate elements drawn from Daoist and Taoist traditions. Li instructs his followers to believe that: through moral rectitude; regular practice of meditation; renunciation of modern medicine and health practices; and the elimination of worldly material attachments – they will ultimately achieve spiritual enlightenment.<sup>151</sup> The three stated tenets of the belief are Truthfulness (真, Zhēn), Compassion (善, Shàn), and Forbearance (忍, Rěn).<sup>152</sup> Cult followers also believe that the regular practice of Falun Gong will restore "human beings into their original divine status they had lost by coming to Earth and entering the cycle of reincarnation. The very name Falun alludes to a dharma wheel that is said to be mystically inserted in the abdomen of the devotees."<sup>153</sup> Other beliefs practiced by the Falun Gong cult followers include: i) regular practice of Falun Gong will eventually transform human bodies into high energy matter, which then enables people to fly to heaven;<sup>154</sup> ii) always think good and pure thoughts about other practitioners and Falun Gong teachings because Li has the gift of mental telepathy and can read everybody's minds;<sup>155</sup> iii) not to consider of leaving the cult as Li has the ability to astral travel and his 'fashen' (spiritual law body) always observes what his followers are doing; and iii) if the followers do leave the Falun Gong cult, their souls will enter the 'Gate of No-Life' and be "boiled in a pot of human sputum."<sup>156</sup>

Li Hongzhi claims that he is a reincarnation of Buddha – a 'Living Buddha' - and commenced studying 'qi gong' at the age of four with Buddhist masters in the Changbai Mountains of China.<sup>157</sup> Apparently by age eight, Li had acquired the 'Superb Great Law of the Universe' along with supernatural powers

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<sup>148</sup> Carlson, P., 'For whom the gong tolls', *The Washington Post*, (27 February 2000), <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/2000/02/27/for-whom-the-gong-tolls/>>.

<sup>149</sup> 'F.A.Q: About Mr Li Hongzhi', *Falun Dafa Infocentre*, (2020). <<https://faluninfo.net/faq-about-mr-li-hongzhi/>>.

<sup>150</sup> Carlson, P., 'For whom the gong tolls', *The Washington Post*, (27 February 2000), <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/2000/02/27/for-whom-the-gong-tolls/>>.

<sup>151</sup> 'Falun Gong', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (6 September, 2020), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falun\\_Gong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falun_Gong)>.

<sup>152</sup> Ibid.

<sup>153</sup> 'Why China persecutes Falun Gong?', *Bitter Winter Magazine*, (30 August 2018), <<https://bitterwinter.org/why-china-persecutes-falun-gong/>>.

<sup>154</sup> Pasley, J., 'Inside Dragon Springs: the high-security compound in upstate New York that's home to a 'cult' tyrannized by China', *Business Insider: Australia*, (10 September 2019), <<https://www.businessinsider.com.au/dragon-springs-falun-gong-upstate-new-york-compound-photos-2019-9>>.

<sup>155</sup> Hurley, B., 'The ABC is right: Falun Gong has some dangerous teachings', *ABC Religion and Ethics*, (8 August 2020), <<https://www.abc.net.au/religion/the-abc-is-right-that-falun-gong-teachings-are-dangerous/>>.

<sup>156</sup> Ibid.

<sup>157</sup> Carlson, P., 'For whom the gong tolls', *The Washington Post*, (27 February 2000), <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/2000/02/27/for-whom-the-gong-tolls/>>.

(which include invisibility, levitation, clairvoyance, telekinesis, mental telepathy, and astral projection).<sup>158</sup> At the age of twelve, Li supposedly learnt martial arts and physical skills from a great Taoist Master; and from 1974 was a full-time student of Buddhist teachings.<sup>159</sup> Li also believes that: i) aliens do exist and currently walk the Earth; ii) he is a being from a higher spiritual realm; and iii) he has been reincarnated to help humankind from its own destruction due to the growing rampant evil amongst people.<sup>160</sup> However, the investigations into Li Hongzhi childhood and work history revealed he did not have such an extraordinary past. Li Hongzhi was born in Jilin province in northeast China. After high school, he worked on the People's Liberation Army stud farm between 1970 and 1978 and then worked as a military guesthouse attendant for the following four years.<sup>161</sup> He later played the trumpet in the local police municipal band and, in the 1980s, became a clerk for the Changchun Cereals Company.<sup>162</sup> Li's co-workers described him as 'odd' and 'peculiar', with an unhealthy obsession for 'qi gong' and ancient spiritual teachings.<sup>163</sup>

By the late 1980s, the post-Mao government had lifted restrictions on religion and encouraged entrepreneurship. So, Li quit his clerk's job and began the foundations of his cult. Under the guise of free 'qi gong' classes, Li initially taught his Falun Gong practices at public parks within the Changchun province. The 'qi gong' classes, meditation groups, and exercise regimes become increasingly popular and rapidly sprang up across the country. By 1993, the Beijing-based Falun Dafa Research Society was accepted as a branch of the state-run China Qigong Research Society (C.Q.R.S), which oversaw the administration of the country's various 'qi gong' schools, and sponsored activities and seminars.<sup>164</sup> In 1996, Li's first book *Zhuan Falun* (considered the Falun Gong bible) became a bestseller.<sup>165</sup> Shortly after publishing his book, Li announced that he had completed his teachings in China. He began to travel the world extensively, making guest appearances at conferences in support of his techniques.<sup>166</sup> By the following year, Beijing considered the Falun Gong cult to be a dangerous influence on the citizens of China. Reasons for this decision was due to several incidents that made international headline news. For example: there was the retired oil worker in Hubei who spent much of his time in a trance, insisting he had a 'dharma wheel of law' (which is a part of Li's teachings) in his stomach - and later died when he dissected himself with scissors to take a look at the 'wheel'. Another incident involved a clerk in China's Jiangsu province. The man was so convinced he was a Buddha – like Li Hongzhi – that he chopped his wife to death, after she tried to stop him from practising the Falun Gong teachings.<sup>167</sup> Li

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<sup>158</sup> Carlson, P., 'For whom the gong tolls', *The Washington Post*, (27 February 2000), <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/2000/02/27/for-whom-the-gong-tolls/>>.

<sup>159</sup> 'Falun Gong', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (6 September, 2020), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falun\\_Gong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falun_Gong)>.

<sup>160</sup> 'Who is Li Hongzhi?', *BBC News*, (8 May 2001), <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/1223317.stm>>.

<sup>161</sup> Schloss, G., 'The Strange World of Li Hongzhi', *The South China Post*, (25 July 1999), <<https://www.scmp.com/article/288956/strange-world-li-hongzhi>>.

<sup>162</sup> Carlson, P., 'For whom the gong tolls', *The Washington Post*, (27 February 2000), <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/2000/02/27/for-whom-the-gong-tolls/>>.

<sup>163</sup> Schloss, G., 'The Strange World of Li Hongzhi', *The South China Post*, (25 July 1999), <<https://www.scmp.com/article/288956/strange-world-li-hongzhi>>.

<sup>164</sup> 'Falun Gong', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (6 September, 2020), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falun\\_Gong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falun_Gong)>.

<sup>165</sup> 'Who is Li Hongzhi?', *BBC News*, (8 May 2001), <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/1223317.stm>>.

<sup>166</sup> 'Why China persecutes Falun Gong?', *Bitter Winter Magazine*, (30 August 2018), <<https://bitterwinter.org/why-china-persecutes-falun-gong/>>.

<sup>167</sup> Schloss, G., 'The Strange World of Li Hongzhi', *The South China Post*, (25 July 1999), <<https://www.scmp.com/article/288956/strange-world-li-hongzhi>>.

Hongzhi teaches that aliens are promoting the mixing of the human races as part of a plan to overtake humankind. During a Wellbeing Conference in Switzerland, Li publicly stated that:

“The way alien beings get human beings to ‘shake free’ of the gods is - to mix the races, causing human beings to become rootless people, just like the plant hybrids people make nowadays. South Americans, Central Americans, Mexicans and some people in South East Asia - all of these races have been mixed. None of this can evade the gods’ eyes. Alien beings have made rather extensive preparations for overtaking human beings.”<sup>168</sup>

Li Hongzhi has also publicly announced derogatory homophobic beliefs, declaring that:

“Gays are ‘disgusting’ and possess a ‘black substance’ that accumulates within the bodies of homosexual men. Disgusting homosexuality shows the dirty abnormal psychology of the gay who has lost his ability of reasoning at the present time - and one day homosexuals will be eliminated from the planet by the gods.”<sup>169</sup>

After several controversial and fatal incidents, the C.C.P removed the Falun Gong’s name from the country’s official martial arts list – and this action led to a series of public protests by Falun Gong cult followers against the government’s decision. Due to the growing tensions between Falun Gong and the C.C.P, Li fled China in 1997, and became a U.S. citizen - later moving to New York state. Initially, the organized public protests by Falun Gong cult members were successful. However in April 1999, a stronger attack against the Falun Gong cult was published by a scientist He Zuoxiu (何祚庥) in the Tianjin Normal University publication - *Youth Science and Technology Outlook* (青少年科技博览).<sup>170</sup> This led to more protests which resulted in police arrests of Falun Gong cult members.

“To protest the arrests, 10 000 Falun Gong members gathered in the Zhongnanhai, the sector of Beijing where many C.C.P top leaders live, on April 24. The unprecedented protest took the C.C.P by surprise, scared its leaders, and showed that Falun Gong could no longer be controlled. The C.C.P offered to negotiate, but secretly prepared a crackdown, which was launched in July with the simultaneous arrest of 150 senior leaders of Falun Gong.”<sup>171</sup>

Three months later, Chinese President, Jiang Zemin declared the Falun Gong cult a threat to the government and issued an arrest warrant for Li Hongzhi. The police also detained thousands of Li’s followers, some of whom were officials in the Chinese Communist Party. Millions of Li’s books and cassette tapes were destroyed in the crackdown.<sup>172</sup> The C.C.Ps campaign against Falun Gong became more violent, murderous, and deceptive. Moreover, this campaign has had the unintended consequence of helping Falun Gong become more powerful overseas.<sup>173</sup>

Since fleeing to the U.S.A, Li has accumulated a massive amount of wealth from his Western Falun Gong cult followers. Li has since amassed \$5.4 million through illegal publication of Falun Gong

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<sup>168</sup> ‘Teaching of Falun Gong’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (23 July 2020), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teachings\\_of\\_Falun\\_Gong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teachings_of_Falun_Gong)>.

<sup>169</sup> ‘Chinese “cult leader” has likely become US millionaire’, *Cult News*, (22 April 2006), <<https://cultnews.com/2006/04/chinese-cult-leader-has-likely-become-us-millionaire/>>.

<sup>170</sup> ‘Why China persecutes Falun Gong?’, *Bitter Winter Magazine*, (30 August 2018), <<https://bitterwinter.org/why-china-persecutes-falun-gong/>>.

<sup>171</sup> Ibid.

<sup>172</sup> Brown, D. ‘Li Hongzhi’, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, (2020), <<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Li-Hongzhi>>.

<sup>173</sup> Hurley, B., ‘The ABC is right: Falun Gong has some dangerous teachings’, *ABC Religion and Ethics*, (8 August 2020), <<https://www.abc.net.au/religion/the-abc-is-right-that-falun-gong-teachings-are-dangerous/>>.

materials in China and tax evasion<sup>174</sup> in both China and the U.S.A. The fortune has enabled Li to acquire a 160 hectare property located in the Shawangunk Mountains, two hours from New York city - and establish the new Falun Gong headquarters known as 'Dragon Springs'.<sup>175</sup> Permanent residents include Falun Gong practitioners who fled persecution in China<sup>176</sup> and Western devotees. Also based in the cult compound is the Fei Tian Academy – which trains and organises the six Shen Yun Dance Companies (including its three touring companies).<sup>177</sup> Throughout major cities across the globe, the Shen Yun dance 'event' promotes itself as an exciting and beautiful journey through thousands of years' worth of Chinese history, but the truth is that it acts as a propaganda mouthpiece for the Falun Gong.<sup>178</sup> The dance performance is peppered with propaganda songs throughout the stage event. During the Shen Yun dance tour titled *Reviving 5000 Years of Civilization*, audiences were serenaded to tunes such as: "We follow Dafa, the Great Way", "Atheism and evolution are deadly ideas" and "Modern trends destroy what makes us human."<sup>179</sup> The two hour performance usually ends with a impromptu appearance by a Mao impersonator, a Communist earthquake, a large hammer-and-sickle tsunami, and the enormous face of Karl Marx.<sup>180</sup> Throughout the musical dance act, audiences are 'educated' about the wrongful persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. Particular emphasis is placed on: China's 'unlawful' arrests; imprisonment of Falun Gong practitioners; and the insinuated organ harvesting of its cult members. Falun Gong cult believes that there is a direct correlation between missing and/or imprisoned cult members and a growing increase in the availability of organs—ranging from corneas to kidneys.<sup>181</sup> Ticket prices for the Falun Gong propaganda show ranges between \$110.00 to \$240.00 per ticket.

Falun Gong cult followers championed their cause in the Western media as an issue of freedom of religion, often citing Article 2, Article 18, and Article 26 from the *United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights*. However, should any journalist from the Western media declares that the Falun Gong group is indeed a 'cult' and cites examples of their beliefs and practices to reinforce their written investigation - Falun Gong followers will rebuff by insisting that the journalist's accusations were staged by the Chinese government.<sup>182</sup> In order to by-pass the regulations of Western Media organisations, the Falun Gong cult has subsequently established its own media outlets which includes: the *Epoch Times* newspaper, the *New Tang Dynasty Television* network, and the *Sound of Hope* radio network. By forming and controlling their privately-owned media networks, and using the internet and social media to extensively promote Falun Gong, the cult has continued to grow – completely controlling the thoughts and opinions

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<sup>174</sup> Yu, S., 'Falun Gong: an Evil Cult', *Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States of America*, (10 January 2000), <<http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/zt/ppflg/t36582.htm>>.

<sup>175</sup> Campbell, E. and Cohen, H., 'The power of Falun Gong', *ABC News*, (21 July 2020), <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-21/inside-falun-gong-master-li-hongzhi-the-mountain-dragon-springs/>>.

<sup>176</sup> Ibid.

<sup>177</sup> Tolentino, J., 'Stepping into the uncanny, unsettling world of Shen Yun', *The New Yorker*, (19 March 2019), <<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/stepping-into-the-uncanny-unsettling-world-of-shen-yun>>.

<sup>178</sup> Sachs, J., 'The truth about Shen Yun – Propaganda, Buddhism, and genocide for organ harvesting', *Grit Daily.com*, (6 December 2019), <<https://gritdaily.com/shen-yun-falun-gong/>>.

<sup>179</sup> Tolentino, J., 'Stepping into the uncanny, unsettling world of Shen Yun', *The New Yorker*, (19 March 2019), <<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/stepping-into-the-uncanny-unsettling-world-of-shen-yun>>.

<sup>180</sup> Ibid.

<sup>181</sup> Sachs, J., 'The truth about Shen Yun – Propaganda, Buddhism, and genocide for organ harvesting', *Grit Daily.com*, (6 December 2019), <<https://gritdaily.com/shen-yun-falun-gong/>>.

<sup>182</sup> Brown, D. 'Li Hongzhi', *Encyclopedia Britannica*, (2020), <<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Li-Hongzhi>>.



of its followers, while resisting the ongoing campaign of repression in China.<sup>183</sup> Falun Gong has also established an internet software company called Global Internet Freedom Consortium (G.I.F.C). In 2010, the U.S State Department officials offered \$1.5 million to G.I.F.C for the development of software which can over-ride internet censorship across the globe – the Great Firewall (GFW).<sup>184</sup> Thanks to the funding, the G.I.F.C can now use its software to promote Falun Gong – and advertisements encouraging people to join the sect is seen on its software download page. In essence, then, the State Department is funding a vein, albeit a somewhat indirect one, for Falun Gong propaganda.<sup>185</sup>

There is also growing concern amongst journalists and politicians about the Falun Gong cult's influence at the White House. Cult members are able to sway politicians opinions and therefore parliamentary votes.

“The Epoch Media Group, the Falun Gong media operation, has spent millions of dollars on social media campaigns, including setting up fake accounts, that have promoted Trump and proffered conspiracy theories against presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden. Over 600 accounts removed by Facebook were discovered to have been fake Falun Gong accounts. Epoch Media Group's broadcast arms, *New Tang Dynasty Television* (N.T.D.T) and *Sound of Hope* radio network, are suspected of feeding anti-Chinese Falun Gong propaganda to another right-wing and conspiracy-heavy broadcaster, *One America News Network* (O.A.N.N), which is based in San Diego. O.A.N.N and Falun Gong have both promoted far-out conspiracy theories emanating from a pro-Trump social media group called QAnon. Falun Gong has established close links with neo-Nazis in Germany and the far-right in France. Falun Gong has convinced its most ardent followers that Trump was sent by heaven to destroy the Chinese Communist Party.”<sup>186</sup>

The cult's newspaper *The Epoch Times*, enjoys access to White House press conferences and is currently engaged in a campaign to cast blame on China for the CoViD-19 pandemic. Although medical scientist across the globe are struggling to find a vaccine, the Falun Gong cult members believe they have the cure for CoViD-19. Apparently, repetitively chanting the words “Falun Dafa is good” will eliminate the virus from an infected person's body.<sup>187</sup> According to Li, “illnesses are caused by evil deeds the sick person performed - in this life or a previous one. Modern medicine treats only the symptoms of a disease, not its underlying spiritual cause, which can be cured only by practicing Falun Gong.”<sup>188</sup> Li also believes that illness presents itself as a ‘tangible’ form of karmic clusters, and are small, high-density tiny beings.<sup>189</sup> Such beliefs have allegedly led some Falun Gong devotees to neglect their health by not properly consulting doctors in a timely manner and/or seeking medical treatment and instead relying

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<sup>183</sup> Brown, D. 'Li Hongzhi', *Encyclopedia Britannica*, (2020), <<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Li-Hongzhi>>.

<sup>184</sup> Custer, C., 'US Gives \$1.5m to Falun Gong Group: A Terrible Idea', *China/Divide blog*, (13 March 2010), <<http://chinadivide.com/2010/us-gives-1-5m-to-flg-group-terrible-idea.html>>.

<sup>185</sup> Ibid.

<sup>186</sup> Madsen, W., 'A cult within a cult: Falun Gong and the Trump administration', *Intrepid Report*, (30 April 2020), <<http://www.intrepidreport.com/archives/29784>>.

<sup>187</sup> Ibid.

<sup>188</sup> Carlson, P., 'For whom the gong tolls', *The Washington Post*, (27 February 2000), <<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/2000/02/27/for-whom-the-gong-tolls/>>.

<sup>189</sup> 'Why all the fuss about Falun Gong?', *Cult News.com*, (28 January 2006), <<https://cultnews.com/2006/01/why-all-the-fuss-about-falun-gong/>>.

upon Li's supposed powers and religious practices.<sup>190</sup> According to Li, if a person's health does deteriorate it is because of the 'attachments' that the ill person hadn't let go of - and that is the cause of the sickness.<sup>191</sup> Li also requests his cult followers around the world to "send righteous thoughts" to "eliminate evil interference" that was causing this person to become ill.<sup>192</sup> Long before 1999, the Chinese government criticised the Falun Gong cult about its practises which resulted in the preventable deaths of thousands of Falun Gong believers because they had refused medical help for treatable conditions.<sup>193</sup> Published in May 2015 on the Falun Gong website *Clearwisdom.net*, Li acknowledged the 'many' deaths in the group. However, he lays the blame squarely on the deceased practitioners' thoughts:

"There have been quite a few instances of sickness karma tests, with many people even passing away. But truth be told, if I'm to put it seriously, you cannot tell from the surface how a cultivator is really doing. Of course, such a person will be doing Dafa things like others, but what people see are the outward things, while in reality there are many attachments deep inside, which others cannot see."<sup>194</sup>

Since its beginnings in 1992, it is estimated that 10 million people are practicing Falun Gong worldwide, with followers convinced about the healing properties of the cult's meditation exercises and the wisdom of Li's teachings.<sup>195</sup> The Falun Gong cult is firmly established in every State and Territory of Australia. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>190</sup> 'Why all the fuss about Falun Gong?', *Cult News.com*, (28 January 2006), <<https://cultnews.com/2006/01/why-all-the-fuss-about-falun-gong/>>.

<sup>191</sup> Hurley, B., 'Me and Li — Why I left Falun Gong after being a devoted believer for a decade', *Medium.com*, (23 October 2017), <[https://medium.com/@Ben\\_D\\_Hurley/-10677166298b](https://medium.com/@Ben_D_Hurley/-10677166298b)>.

<sup>192</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>193</sup> Hurley, B., 'The ABC is right: Falun Gong has some dangerous teachings', *ABC Religion and Ethics*, (8 August 2020), <<https://www.abc.net.au/religion/the-abc-is-right-that-falun-gong-teachings-are-dangerous/>>.

<sup>194</sup> Hurley, B., 'Me and Li — Why I left Falun Gong after being a devoted believer for a decade', *Medium.com*, (23 October 2017), <[https://medium.com/@Ben\\_D\\_Hurley/-10677166298b](https://medium.com/@Ben_D_Hurley/-10677166298b)>.

<sup>195</sup> Campbell, E. and Hagar, C., 'The Power and Falun Gong', *ABC News*, (21 July 2020), <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-21/inside-falun-gong-master-li-hongzhi-the-mountain-dragon-springs/>>.

## Happy Science cult

The Happy Science cult was founded by Ryuho Okawa in Japan on 6 October 1986. Okawa resigned from a position at a trading corporation to establish his own religion. Ryuho Okawa claims to be able to channel 'spiritual messages' from religious and historical figures such as Jesus Christ, Confucius, Isaac Newton, Einstein, Nostradamus, Socrates, Kant and more than 500 other spirits. Okawa is called 'Master' by his followers.<sup>196</sup> The Happy Science cult worships a deity named 'El Cantare' who they believe is the "Highest God of Earth, the Lord of all gods" (similar to Allah or the Father of Jesus). 'El Cantare' was first born on Earth as 'Alpha' 330 million years ago approximately where Africa is today. The cult followers believe that 'El Cantare' has embodied Elohim, Odin, Thoth, Ophealis (Osiris), Hermes, Shakyamuni Buddha, and now the consciousness of Okawa himself. The movement accepts both monotheism and polytheism. They explain that there is a hierarchy in the heavenly spirit world and believing in the existence of many gods, Tathagatas, Bodhisattvas, and other high spirits.<sup>197</sup> Happy Science cult also claims it is a religion that has the power to save all humankind through the teachings of 'El Cantare'.<sup>198</sup> The organization has branches in several countries including South Korea, Brazil, Uganda, the United Kingdom, Australia and India. Worship facilities are called *Shoja* (精舎 or *vihara* in Sanskrit) or *Shoshinkan* (正心館). Okawa preaches that making money is a legitimate way to create happiness. Okawa achieves this by the many business ventures established at The Happy Science. The cult has a publication division called I.R.H Press, educational establishments such as Happy Science Academy and Happy Science University, a political party called The Happiness Realization Party, and three media entertainment divisions, which are called New Star Production, A.R.I Production and H.S Pictures Studio.<sup>199</sup> Their income is generated through its publishing, membership, lectures, and seminar fees, and donations. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>196</sup> 'Happy Science: a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Religion or an ancient pagan religion?', *Let Us Reason*, (2012), <[www.letusreason.org/WorldR4.htm](http://www.letusreason.org/WorldR4.htm)>.

<sup>197</sup> 'Happy Science', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (13 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happy\\_Science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happy_Science)>.

<sup>198</sup> 'Happy Science: a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Religion or an ancient pagan religion?', *Let Us Reason*, (2012), <[www.letusreason.org/WorldR4.htm](http://www.letusreason.org/WorldR4.htm)>.

<sup>199</sup> 'Happy Science', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (13 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happy\\_Science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happy_Science)>.





## Heaven's Gate cult

In 1974, The Heaven's Gate cult was founded by Marshall Applewhite along with his wife and partner Bonnie Lou Nettles. The pair met in a psychiatric hospital where Nettles worked as a nurse and Applewhite was an admitted patient with schizophrenia. Applewhite used a combination of mysticism, theosophy and fundamental elements of many religions as the basis for a U.F.O focussed cult. Heaven's Gate is a U.F.O doomsday cult. Members dress alike wearing all-black outfits with Nike sneakers and purple capes. They hold the belief that the Hale-Bopp Comet would bring extra-terrestrial beings to take them through a gate to heaven. In order to 'graduate', they need to abandon their earthly bodies. In 1985 Nettles died, and Applewhite had trouble adjusting to her death. As a result, the cult's belief system took a dark turn. Self-mutilations, castration, polygamy, starvation, celibacy, mind control techniques, regimented sleep and eating, and constant humming were all inflicted on the members of the cult. Applewhite created a new doctrine for The Heaven's Gate cult. It stated that only the spirit (soul) of a human would now be accepted into the extra-terrestrial spaceship. The 'graduation' now meant a mass suicide of the 39 followers, including their leader. In 1997, the Hale-Bopp Comet was due to travel past the Earth. Applewhite convinced his followers that there was a spaceship in its wake, piloted by Nettles' spirit (12 years after her death). The cult followers believed the story and video-taped their suicide notes describing their justification for the mass suicide.<sup>200</sup> After ingesting a mixture of phenobarbital, apple sauce, and vodka,<sup>201</sup> the 39 cult followers laid down peacefully to die with a purple shroud over their face in their cult 'uniform'. Since the mass suicide little had been heard from the cult until 2015. Heaven's Gate teachings, website's hosting and registration are now being run by the T.E.L.A.H Foundation (purportedly based in Phoenix, Arizona). It is managed by Mark and Sarah King. T.E.L.A.H, (as the Heaven's Gate website explains), stands for '*The Evolutionary Level Above Human*'. According to T.E.L.A.H (the Kings), they have been commissioned with the task of staying behind on Earth for precisely this purpose:

“to fill the position of maintaining the website, emails and the physical, and intellectual properties.

[The Kings] believe that the followers that had 'departed' will be coming back. Until then, it's their duty to make sure people can find out about the religion Heaven's Gate in time for the return”.<sup>202</sup>

The Heaven's Gate cult is still practicing in many European countries, as well as America and Australia.

**The cult is currently active in Australia.**

<sup>200</sup> 'The Heaven Gate Cult', *Those Conspiracy Guys*, (17 January 2018), <<https://thoseconspiracyguys.com/heavens-gate-cult/>>.

<sup>201</sup> McLeay, B., 'The Heaven's Gate Website Is Still Active & They Will Send You Video Tapes', *Pedestrian TV*, (12 March 2018), <<https://www.pedestrian.tv/news/heavens-gate-website-active-videotapes/>>.

<sup>202</sup> Ibid.



## Hermes Far Eastern Shining cult (also known as The Water People)

The Hermes Far Eastern Shining (H.F.E.S) cult evolved from a company called “Infinity Forms of Yellow Remember Pty Ltd” which started in the early 1990s by clinical psychologist, Gerald Hart Attrill. He reinvented himself as a ‘Jesus figure’ called Jessa O’My Heart and believed he possessed the power to bless water.<sup>203</sup> Attrill’s cult group is located at Tyalgum and Murwillumbah in the Northern Rivers region of N.S.W. The cult belief systems are based on the teachings of Egyptian philosopher and Alchemist, Hermes Trismegistus.<sup>204</sup> According to H.F.E.S website their practice of Alchymie is “about Heart Awakening; the transmutation of density and the unenlightened disposition, into the Gold of Enlightenment or Heart Intelligence.”<sup>205</sup> The H.F.E.S cult’s mission statement claims the cult will

“bring about the capacity within Humanity to shift in Consciousness so that we can purify our normal way of living to bring about a healing for the Earth Plane and bring an end to the crises within Nature and the suffering in our own Hearts.”<sup>206</sup>

The cult followers believe their leader Atill is an alchemist and Jesus Christ incarnate.<sup>207</sup> The H.F.E.S cult creates and sells ‘Alchymeic Artifacts’ under its business name “Hermes Far Eastern Shining”. These products consist only of water (hence the reason why locals call the group “The Water People”). Atill claims that each coloured glass vial holds the Blessing Current of the individual Archangels and the Angelic Realms.<sup>208</sup> The cult claims that their Alchymeic Artifacts assists in “supporting real transformation and higher adaptation within a person at an ‘Energetic’ level, affecting the auric field, the Chakra and Nadis while releasing energy blocks and limitations.”<sup>209</sup> Cult followers claim the “The Waters” can cure weak hearts, migraine, anxiety, muscle fatigue, and dependence on alcohol and pharmaceutical drugs.<sup>210</sup> A laboratory test (organised by a media reporter) on a sample of “Pink Beloved” water revealed it contained water of similar purity to spring water.<sup>211</sup> Hermes Far Eastern Shining Pty Ltd sell their Alchymeic Products in esoteric and wellbeing shops such as “Earth Heartbeat”, “Heart of Space”; and online via the “Touching Light”, “Alchymie Golden Gate” website. The H.F.E.S Alchymeic Artifacts range between \$55.00 (‘Lifestream Wand’ = a 50mL sealed plastic tube of water) to \$3 250.00 (‘A-Cosmic Man Energy House’ = 20x50mL sealed plastic tubes of green-dyed coloured water standing upright in a decorated square plastic container). The H.F.E.S online store also distributes ‘Bubblers’ (small plastic balls filled with various coloured water sitting on pedestals), ‘The Fractaliser’ (a 50mL sealed plastic tube of water - that has a gold plastic pyramid on top - contained inside a large

<sup>203</sup> Gusmaroli, D., ‘Calls for probe into secret society Hermes Far Eastern Shining’, *The Daily Telegraph*, (24 October 2016), <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/calls-for-probe-into-secret-society-hermes-far-eastern-shining/news-story/>>.

<sup>204</sup> Daval, K., ‘Inside the cult-like group hidden away in Byron Bay that targets new age festival-goers - convincing them to work 16 hours a day making ‘healing products’ that sell for \$12,500’, *Cult Education Institute*, (24 October 2016), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/988-infinity-forms-of-yellow-remember/29743-inside-the-cult-like-group-hidden-away-in-byron-bay-that-targets-new-age-festival-goers-convincing-them-to-work-16-hours-a-day-making-healing-products-that-sell-for-12-500.html>>.

<sup>205</sup> ‘About Alchymie’, *Hermes Far Eastern Shining website*, (2019), <[hermesfareasternshining.com/about-alchymie/](http://hermesfareasternshining.com/about-alchymie/)>.

<sup>206</sup> ‘Touching Light’, *School & College Listings website*, (2019), <<https://www.schoolandcollegelistsings.com/AU/Avalon/219100008141313/Touching-Light>>.

<sup>207</sup> Doherty, M., ‘Hermes Far Eastern Shining: Bubble or Nothing’, *Cult Information and Family Support- source Tweed Daily News*, (6 June 2006), <[www.cifs.org.au/bubble.php](http://www.cifs.org.au/bubble.php)>.

<sup>208</sup> ‘Touching Light’, *School & College Listings website*, (2019), <<https://www.schoolandcollegelistsings.com/AU/Avalon/219100008141313/Touching-Light>>.

<sup>209</sup> ‘Online Shop’, *Hermes Far Eastern Shining website*, (2019), <[hermesfareasternshining.com/](http://hermesfareasternshining.com/)>.

<sup>210</sup> ‘Don’t Deal with NSW Cult Selling Cure-all Waters, Says Watkins’, *Cult Education Institute - Department of Fair Trading, New South Wales*, (16 July 2001), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/988-infinity-forms-of-yellow-remember/10396-dont-deal-with-nsw-cult-selling-cure-all-waters-says-watkins.html>>.

<sup>211</sup> ‘Infinity Forms of Yellow Remember’, *Apologetics Index – source The Mercury*, (2000), <[www.apologeticsindex.org/i14.html](http://www.apologeticsindex.org/i14.html)>.

clear plastic pyramid), and 'The Food and Beverage Spiritualiser' (a round table piece with four plastic balls filled with yellow-dyed coloured water). The online store sells gold-plated jewellery at exorbitant prices. The H.F.E.S cult actively promotes their esoteric beliefs and products on social media via Hermes Facebook and Hermes Instagram.<sup>212</sup> The cult also operates an 'education centre' called the "Esoteric School of Higher Learning". The school promotes the cult's beliefs through its educational materials (webinars and online lessons) costing \$700.00 a year.<sup>213</sup> The H.F.E.S cult also facilitates regular monthly Alchymic Sessions and groups, called 'The Book of Gates'. Occurring on the second Saturday of each month the three-hour group gathering is held at Tyalgum, with a \$50.00 attendance fee (lunch not included).<sup>214</sup> The cult also offers various 'angelic-psychic' spiritual workshops (a fusion of Alchymic beliefs and astrology, chakra readings, reiki/massage, and tarot card readings) costing between \$75.00 to \$150.00. The H.F.E.S cult recruitment method is by "love bombing" unsuspecting people at Health and Wellbeing festivals (ie. Mind Body Spirit Festivals), and university students by offering them the promise of 'enlightenment'.<sup>215</sup>

Once an interested person provides their contact details to the cult followers, the "love bombing" takes on a more sinister and harassing behaviour. Cult followers (and even their leader) have bombard people with constant phone calls. They also unexpectedly arrive at a person's house and attempt to coerce the individual to leave their home, their family, their job, relocate to N.S.W and join the cult.<sup>216</sup> In N.S.W, cult followers are expected to: i) donate their finances to the cult; ii) do unpaid work for up to 16 hours in the cult-owned "Flutterbies" tea-room, and/or at "The Little Shop" - both located in Tyalgum; iii) making and dispatching the Alchymic Artifacts; and iv) working as Atill's housekeeper at his cottage.<sup>217</sup> Cult followers actively promote and sell the Alchymic Artifacts at their place of work. An example of this behaviour occurred when Tasmanian registered nurse, Salsa Headrock Junior (name change by deed pole), carried H.E.F.S magical wands and pendants during her nursing rounds when working in a psychiatric health facility. After discussing the products with the hospital patients, Headrock coerced the patients to contact her outside of work to make a purchase or learn more about the cult.<sup>218</sup> Complaints about the aggressive sales and recruitment methods were received by the Office of Fair Trading, claiming the cult operated as an unfair trader under Section 86A of the N.S.W Fair Trading Act.<sup>219</sup> Concerns about people with severe drug addictions, mental illness, or with potentially fatal diseases such as H.I.V or cancer, may be vulnerable to H.E.F.S promises of cures through the use of

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<sup>212</sup> 'Blog Roll', *Hermes Far Eastern Shining website*, (2019), <[hermesfareasternshining.com/](http://hermesfareasternshining.com/)>.

<sup>213</sup> 'Subscribe and Upgrade', *Esoteric School of Higher Learning*, (2019), <[eshlworldwide.com/index.php/home-2/subscribe\\_upgrade/](http://eshlworldwide.com/index.php/home-2/subscribe_upgrade/)>.

<sup>214</sup> 'Workshops', *Hermes Far Eastern Shining website*, (2019), <[hermesfareasternshining.com/new-monthly-workshop-programme/](http://hermesfareasternshining.com/new-monthly-workshop-programme/)>.

<sup>215</sup> Gusmaroli, D., 'Calls for probe into secret society Hermes Far Eastern Shining', *The Daily Telegraph*, (24 October 2016), <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/calls-for-probe-into-secret-society-hermes-far-eastern-shining/news-story/>>.

<sup>216</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>217</sup> Daval, K., 'Inside the cult-like group hidden away in Byron Bay that targets new age festival-goers - convincing them to work 16 hours a day making 'healing products' that sell for \$12,500', *Cult Education Institute*, (24 October 2016), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/988-infinity-forms-of-yellow-remember/29743-inside-the-cult-like-group-hidden-away-in-byron-bay-that-targets-new-age-festival-goers-convincing-them-to-work-16-hours-a-day-making-healing-products-that-sell-for-12-500.html>>.

<sup>218</sup> Binet, H., 'Christie keeps up cult battle', *Cult Education Institute – source The Mercury*, (4 November 2000), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/988-infinity-forms-of-yellow-remember/10400-christie-keeps-up-cult-battle.html>>.

<sup>219</sup> 'Don't Deal with NSW Cult Selling Cure-all Waters, Says Watkins', *Cult Education Institute – source Department of Fair Trading, New South Wales*, (16 July 2001), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/988-infinity-forms-of-yellow-remember/10396-dont-deal-with-nsw-cult-selling-cure-all-waters-says-watkins.html>>.

these “waters”.<sup>220</sup> The N.S.W Supreme Court banned “Infinity Forms of Yellow Remember Ltd Pty” and its directors from selling bottled water and other items it claimed had healing or empowerment properties.<sup>221</sup> However, this did not deter Atill, for in 2002 he changed the cult’s name to “Hermes Far Eastern Shining” and continued trading. A spokesperson for the Office of Fair Trading stated that “this is a very old-fashioned rip-off - the old sideshow spruiker selling the cure-all elixir - but it is dressed up in New Age language.”<sup>222</sup> Atill, the cult leader of Hermes Far Eastern Shining died of a suspected stroke, aged 72, in December 2012.<sup>223</sup> The cult is now governed by Drew Porter and Paula Mary Rutherford. The H.E.F.S cult has followers in Europe, U.K, Asia, New Zealand, and America (mainly comprising of women using Multi-Level Marketing strategies). There are almost 7000 followers of the Hermes Far Eastern Shining cult. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>220</sup> 'Don't Deal with NSW Cult Selling Cure-all Waters, Says Watkins', *Cult Education Institute – source Department of Fair Trading, New South Wales*, (16 July 2001), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/988-infinity-forms-of-yellow-remember/10396-dont-deal-with-nsw-cult-selling-cure-all-waters-says-watkins.html>>.

<sup>221</sup> Doherty, M., 'Hermes Far Eastern Shining: Bubble or Nothing', *Cult Information and Family Support – source Tweed Daily News*, (6 June 2006), <[www.cifs.org.au/bubble.php](http://www.cifs.org.au/bubble.php)>.

<sup>222</sup> 'Don't Deal with NSW Cult Selling Cure-all Waters, Says Watkins', *Cult Education Institute – source Department of Fair Trading, New South Wales*, (16 July 2001), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/988-infinity-forms-of-yellow-remember/10396-dont-deal-with-nsw-cult-selling-cure-all-waters-says-watkins.html>>.

<sup>223</sup> Gusmaroli, D., 'Calls for probe into secret society Hermes Far Eastern Shining', *The Daily Telegraph*, (24 October 2016), <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/calls-for-probe-into-secret-society-hermes-far-eastern-shining/news-story/>>.

## Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn cult

The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn (H.O.G.D) was founded in 1888, England, by W. Wynn Westcott, Robert Woodman, and Samuel Liddell Macgregor Mathers – former Freemasons.<sup>224</sup> The cult is based on the Hermetic belief system. Hermeticism is an esoteric philosophy based primarily upon writings attributed to 'Hermes Trismegistus' the 'thrice-greatest Hermes'<sup>225</sup>, (the Greek god 'Hermes' = god of interpretive communication combined with the Egyptian god 'Thoth' = wisdom).<sup>226</sup> The cult attracted many well-known influential people in British history including William Butler Yeats, Arthur Edward Waite, Dion Fortune, Aleister Crowley, Bram Stoker, Sir Arthur Canon Doyle, Frederick Leigh Gardner, Pamela Colman-Smith, John Todhunter, and Israel Regardie.<sup>227</sup> It has been touted by H.O.G.D as the most prestigious and influential magical order of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century occult revival.<sup>228</sup> The H.O.G.D system is based on a hierarchy of Three Orders and initiation processes like the Masonic Lodges; however women are admitted on an equal basis with men.<sup>229</sup> In the First Order, recruits are taught esoteric philosophy based on the Hermetic Qabalah (Hebrew: קבלה literally meaning "receiving"), personal development through study and awareness of the four Classical Elements, and the basics of astrology, tarot divination, and geomancy.

NOTE: [The teachings of the Qabalah and earlier forms of Jewish mysticism emerged in southern France and Spain during the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Century. It became reinterpreted in the Jewish mystical renaissance of 16<sup>th</sup> Century and then later in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century occult trend of the Victorian period. The Qabalah is a set of esoteric teachings meant to explain the relationship between an unchanging, eternal and mysterious *Ein Sof* (no end) and the mortal and finite universe (his creation).<sup>230</sup> Its definition varies according to the tradition and aims of those following it. It can be interpreted in various ways and its message adapted to suit various belief systems – whether it is Judaism, Christianity, New Age, or Occultism.]

Within the Second or "Inner" Order, the Rosae Rubeae et Aureae Crucis (the Ruby Rose and Cross of Gold), cult followers are taught magick rituals, including scrying, astral travel, and alchemy. The Third Order is that of the "Secret Chiefs" comprised of 'transcendent cosmic authorities responsible for the operation and moral calibre of the cosmos, or for overseeing the operations of an esoteric organization that manifests outwardly in the form of a magical order or lodge system.<sup>231</sup> The H.O.G.D claim that only highly skilled members can be "Secret Chiefs" and direct the activities of the lower two Orders via 'spirit communication'.<sup>232</sup> The cult requires secrecy regarding the names of members, certain oral traditions and teachings pertaining to their Temple.<sup>233</sup>

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<sup>224</sup> 'Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn: Alpha Omega Rosicrucian School', *Golden Dawn website*, (2018), <<https://www.golden-dawn.com/eu/index.aspx>>.

<sup>225</sup> 'Hermeticism', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (28 April 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermeticism>>.

<sup>226</sup> 'Hermes Trismegistus', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (12 May 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermes\\_Trismegistus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermes_Trismegistus)>.

<sup>227</sup> 'Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn: Alpha Omega Rosicrucian School', *Golden Dawn website*, (2018), <<https://www.golden-dawn.com/eu/index.aspx>>.

<sup>228</sup> 'Hermetic Order of The Golden Dawn', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (16 May 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermetic\\_Order\\_of\\_the\\_Golden\\_Dawn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermetic_Order_of_the_Golden_Dawn)>.

<sup>229</sup> 'Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn: Alpha Omega Rosicrucian School', *Golden Dawn website*, (2018), <<https://www.golden-dawn.com/eu/index.aspx>>.

<sup>230</sup> 'Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn', *Crowley and the True Will*, (October 2012), <<https://crowleythetruewill.blogspot.com/2012/10/aleister-crowley-hermetic-order-of.html>>.

<sup>231</sup> 'Secret Chiefs', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (26 April 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secret\\_Chiefs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secret_Chiefs)>.

<sup>232</sup> 'Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn', *Crowley and the True Will*, (October 2012), <<https://crowleythetruewill.blogspot.com/2012/10/aleister-crowley-hermetic-order-of.html>>.

<sup>233</sup> 'Our Temples', *Order of the Golden Dawn in the Outer website*, (2018), <[goldendawnorder.com/our-temples/](http://goldendawnorder.com/our-temples/)>.



To maintain absolute secrecy, the cult's doctrines and rituals are written in English using the Trithemius cipher known as the 'Cipher Manuscripts'.<sup>234</sup> Also, materials were incorporated from the Egyptian *Book of the Dead*, the prophetic books of William Blake, and the *Chaldean Oracles*.<sup>235</sup> Other H.O.G.D beliefs include: i) people born after 1945, have been exposed to "Mind Virus", which is causing depression, obesity, anxiety, disconnection with nature, sleeplessness etc.; ii) Magick is a tool to regain freedom, claim spiritual birthright, and determine their own destiny;<sup>236</sup> and iii) the practice of alchemy. Alchemy is 'the medieval forerunner of chemistry, concerned with the transmutation of matter to convert base metals into gold or find a universal elixir'.<sup>237</sup> Alchemy within the H.O.G.D is done through an elaborate process called 'Z2 Alchemy' or the Neophyte ritual. A selected cult follower's body is substituted by a Talisman (or material being transmuted), and put through the alchemical process.<sup>238</sup> The Neophyte ritual is based on the afterlife (the ancient Egyptians believed the soul would be weighed and measured against the 'feather of truth'), and judged by the Gods as worthy or unworthy for receiving the astral light bestowed on H.O.G.D cult followers.<sup>239</sup> The H.O.G.D makes false claims that they created the rituals practiced in Wicca and Neo-Pagan ceremonies, particularly the 'Lesser Banishing Ritual' which uses the Pentagram symbol. The H.O.G.D website also incorrectly states that their Magickal Order has influenced all later esoteric groups, spiritual beliefs, the New Age movement. The cult declares that "countless Neo-Pagans and New Agers, along with those who dabble in esoteric practices like astrology, Tarot, Kabbalah, astral travel, visualization, or channelling - have no idea that their spiritual beliefs and practices are pulled directly from the pioneering work of this magical secret society."<sup>240</sup> This statement is historically incorrect as evidence, research, and ancestral lineages have revealed that pagan practises, ritual ceremonies, and Magickal Orders have existed for many centuries and not since the 1880s as claimed by H.O.G.D. Also, it is lore amongst wiccans, witches, and pagan groups that a person is forbidden to recruit others into their religious practice. This is because authentic pagans are governed by the Witches Rede (guide) of "An it harm none, do what ye wilt" (harm no one, do what you want)<sup>241</sup> and recruiting is viewed as a form of coercive behaviour. Therefore, a person who has been recruited is in fact not entering the esoteric practice because they really want to or 'on their own free will'. The former H.O.G.D member Aleister Crowley chose only to abide by "Do what ye wilt" which caused a great deal of arguments within the pagan society.

Membership into the H.O.G.D requires the recruit to pay \$200.00 (per year) for 612 lessons comprising of downloadable grade material, videos and audio lessons, live webinars so they can acquire 'the knowledge, protections, insights and magickal abilities to build the future they want and deserve'.<sup>242</sup>

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<sup>234</sup> 'Hermetic Order of The Golden Dawn', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (16 May 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermetic\\_Order\\_of\\_the\\_Golden\\_Dawn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermetic_Order_of_the_Golden_Dawn)>.

<sup>235</sup> 'Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn', *The Mystica.com*, (2019), <<https://www.themystica.com/hermetic-order-golden-dawn/>>.

<sup>236</sup> 'Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn: Alpha Omega Rosicrucian School', *Golden Dawn website*, (2018), <<https://www.golden-dawn.com/eu/index.aspx>>.

<sup>237</sup> 'Alchemy: Definition', *Lexico.com*, (2019), <<https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/alchemy>>.

<sup>238</sup> Robinson, S., 'Golden Dawn Review 4: Alchemy Score of the Golden Dawn', *Rosicrucian Tradition: Traditional Teachings of the Invisible Order*, (15 May 2018), <[pansophers.com/golden-dawn-alchemy/](https://pansophers.com/golden-dawn-alchemy/)>.

<sup>239</sup> Ibid.

<sup>240</sup> 'Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn: Alpha Omega Rosicrucian School', *Golden Dawn website*, (2018), <<https://www.golden-dawn.com/eu/index.aspx>>.

<sup>241</sup> 'The Wiccan Rede', *Wiccan One's Universe*, (2009), <[www.wiccanone.org.uk/rede.html](http://www.wiccanone.org.uk/rede.html)>.

<sup>242</sup> 'Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn: Alpha Omega Rosicrucian School', *Golden Dawn website*, (2018), <<https://www.golden-dawn.com/eu/index.aspx>>.

There is also hidden added costs involved (concerning initiation ceremonies and additional workshops) which can amount to hundred-thousands of dollars a year. H.O.G.D cult followers must commit to everyday study, meditation and ritual practice. Members must attend meetings at their regular local Temple, which typically meet twice per month, and attend online classes when offered. Members are also expected to attend the mandatory Equinox meetings twice per year. Cult demands that distance members should compensate for their absence from regular temple meetings with additional work and remain in contact with their mentor.<sup>243</sup> Since the 1970s, the original H.O.G.D society has formed various branches. Known branches are: The Open Source Order of the Golden Dawn; The Fellowship of the Golden Dawn; Golden Dawn Collegium Spiritu Sancti; Golden Dawn Universum; Golden Dawn Ancient Mystery School; The Ordo Stella Matutina; Sodalitas Rosae+Crucis et Solis Alati; Orden Hermética de la Aurora Dorada; Ordem Esotérica da Aurora Dourada no Brasil; Hermetic Society of the Golden Dawn; August Order of the Mystic Rose; and the Order of the Golden Dawn in the Outer.<sup>244</sup> In Australia, the cult is known as Fraternitas L.V.X. Occulta (F.L.O) or The Fraternity of The Hidden Light; New Ra Temple of the Golden Dawn (Brisbane); and Hermetic Order of the Red Dragon (Melbourne).<sup>245</sup> The H.O.G.D has its headquarters in London, and a myriad of "Golden Dawn" groups crowding the Internet.<sup>246</sup> The cult has groups in most capital cities worldwide, and almost 3000 followers in Australia. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>243</sup> 'Membership', *Order of the Golden Dawn in the Outer website*, (2018), <[goldendawnorder.com/membership/](http://goldendawnorder.com/membership/)>.

<sup>244</sup> 'Hermetic Order of The Golden Dawn', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (16 May 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermetic\\_Order\\_of\\_the\\_Golden\\_Dawn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermetic_Order_of_the_Golden_Dawn)>.

<sup>245</sup> Gladwin, H., 'Golden Dawn Temples, Orders and Organizations', *Rosicrucian Tradition: Traditional Teachings of the Invisible Order*, (15 May 2018), <[pansophers.com/golden-dawn-locations/](http://pansophers.com/golden-dawn-locations/)>.

<sup>246</sup> 'Golden Dawn Groups', *Golden Dawn F.A.Q and Hermetic – Rosicrucian Timeline*, (11 June 2019), <[golden-dawn.info/Groups.html](http://golden-dawn.info/Groups.html)>.

## Ideal Human Environment cult

The Ideal Human Environment (I.H.E) cult was founded in the early 1980s by War Veteran named James Salerno. Salerno, who came to Australia with his Italian family when he was seven, enlisted in the Australian Army when he was 19 and spent a one-year Tour of Duty in Vietnam. Salerno returned from the horrors of Vietnam and began a quest for an existence that was the opposite of what he had witnessed and endured. During his 20s, Salerno travelled extensively throughout the world, and adopted various philosophical ideologies from such diverse sources as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Australian aboriginal tradition.<sup>247</sup> Upon his return Salerno convinced a crowd of friends, family, and strangers (who had answered advertisements placed in Adelaide's newspapers), to partake in an ongoing social experiment. Salerno goal was to establish a small group of people willing to serve as both researchers and human 'guinea-pigs'. The participants' lives would be judged and assessed through normal observation, by their fellow members 24 hours a day.<sup>248</sup> The people involved in this 'social experiment' moved into a house in Adelaide where they attempted to establish and create the "ideal human environment"<sup>249</sup> hence the cult's name. In the late 1990s, he set up Project Research 2000, a 'Survivor-like' experiment designed to road-test the principles he and his I.H.E team had been formulating.<sup>250</sup> This first social experiment lasted five months. According to Salerno's 2008 research paper, the original aim of I.H.E cult 'was to create a working model ideal human environment; an environment where all people regardless of race, colour, creed or religion can feel emotionally and physically safe from and with each other. The ideal human environment would form the model for families to practice and therefore ultimately create world peace.'<sup>251</sup> The I.H.E cult lived in the Arbury Park mansion in the Adelaide hills from 2001 to 2008.<sup>252</sup> During this time, the group was divided into two – the 'observers' and the 'guinea-pigs'. The guinea-pigs were subjected to a range of experimental hierarchies which supposedly mirrored social structures found in the real world, while the group of observers took notes and enforced changes. From this process a set of 'laws' emerged and a doctrine was written, solidifying the group's structure.<sup>253</sup> Some of the unusual rules are: i) cult followers must adhere to the 51-page "bible" written by Salerno; ii) the cult followers must salute Salerno like Russell Crowe's character from *Gladiator* (stand to attention, place their right arm over their shoulder and say "Strength and Honour");<sup>254</sup> iii) the cult followers are to call Salerno 'Taipan' or say "praise Taipan" (as

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<sup>247</sup> 'Australia's 'IHE' Cult Dealt in Mansions, Ferraris, and Alleged Sexual Assault', *Vice.com*, (19 June 2018), <[https://www.vice.com/en\\_au/article/xwmpk7/australias-ihe-cult-dealt-in-mansions-ferraris-and-alleged-sexual-assault](https://www.vice.com/en_au/article/xwmpk7/australias-ihe-cult-dealt-in-mansions-ferraris-and-alleged-sexual-assault)>.

<sup>248</sup> Burrell, A., 'James Salerno's ideal human environment (IHE) movement: is he onto something?', *The Australian: Weekend Australian Magazine*, (8 August 2015), <<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/weekend-australian-magazine/james-salernos-ideal-human-environment-ihe-movement-is-he-onto-something/news-story/>>.

<sup>249</sup> 'Australia's 'IHE' Cult Dealt in Mansions, Ferraris, and Alleged Sexual Assault', *Vice.com*, (19 June 2018), <[https://www.vice.com/en\\_au/article/xwmpk7/australias-ihe-cult-dealt-in-mansions-ferraris-and-alleged-sexual-assault](https://www.vice.com/en_au/article/xwmpk7/australias-ihe-cult-dealt-in-mansions-ferraris-and-alleged-sexual-assault)>.

<sup>250</sup> Burrell, A., 'James Salerno's ideal human environment (IHE) movement: is he onto something?', *The Australian*, (8 August 2015), <<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/weekend-australian-magazine/james-salernos-ideal-human-environment-ihe-movement-is-he-onto-something/news-story/>>.

<sup>251</sup> Salerno, J., & Perry, N., 'The Family – the Cradle of Mediation', *Asia Pacific Mediation Forum Conference*, (2008), <[www.asiapacificmediationforum.org/resources/2008/9-James\\_G.\\_Salerno.pdf](http://www.asiapacificmediationforum.org/resources/2008/9-James_G._Salerno.pdf)>. p 1.

<sup>252</sup> 'Inside the bizarre Ideal Human Environment cult headed by a leader who insists he's called "Taipan"', *Express Digest*, (2018), <<https://expressdigest.com/inside-the-bizarre-ideal-human-environment-cult-headed-by-a-leader-who-insists-hes-called-taipan/>>.

<sup>253</sup> 'Australia's 'IHE' Cult Dealt in Mansions, Ferraris, and Alleged Sexual Assault', *Vice.com*, (19 June 2018), <[https://www.vice.com/en\\_au/article/xwmpk7/australias-ihe-cult-dealt-in-mansions-ferraris-and-alleged-sexual-assault](https://www.vice.com/en_au/article/xwmpk7/australias-ihe-cult-dealt-in-mansions-ferraris-and-alleged-sexual-assault)>.

<sup>254</sup> Butler, G., 'This Aussie cult leader was allegedly inspired by Russel Crowe in Gladiator', *Vice.com*, (19 October 2018), <[https://www.vice.com/en\\_au/article/qv957m/this-aussie-cult-boss-was-allegedly-inspired-by-russell-crowe-in-gladiator](https://www.vice.com/en_au/article/qv957m/this-aussie-cult-boss-was-allegedly-inspired-by-russell-crowe-in-gladiator)>.

Salerno believes he is an omnipotent god); iv) all followers must dress in white attire as it represented 'pure energy'; v) female cult members are to provide Salerno ritual "healings", massages, manicures, pedicures, organize bathing routines, do his laundry, and prepare his meals (as was done in Ancient Rome); v) only the females can care for the children; vi) all cult followers are to be involved in a ranking system which grades people according to their "emotional quotient";<sup>255</sup> and vii) each ranked member are expected to obey their higher-ranked peers.<sup>256</sup> Punishments for not obeying the cult rules include being treated like a slave, being forced to sleep outdoors, or not being allowed any food.<sup>257</sup> The I.H.E cult members also practice 'Wisdom Bank', which is a group awareness session in which all problems are discussed between adults, at length and resolved through a consensus. According to Salerno, the method is modelled on the decision-making process among Elders in traditional Aboriginal society.<sup>258</sup> "Children don't do anything wrong," explains Salerno. "If they do, it's the adults' fault – that's what our research shows." Any issue no matter how trivial, will be turned into an issue for the 'Wisdom Bank' to resolve immediately.<sup>259</sup> Salerno managed to amass a large number of I.H.E cult followers, and in 2008 the cult relocated to Beaudesert in south-east Queensland, before finally settling on a station at 638 Packsaddle Road in Kununurra, within the Western Australia's Kimberley region.<sup>260</sup> Most of the I.H.E cult members have normal nine-to-five jobs at the local town, yet hand over their entire salary to help fund Salerno's projects.<sup>261</sup> In 2005, Salerno and his cult followers formed the Study and Prevention of Psychological Diseases Foundation Incorporated (S.P.E.D). The I.H.E cult claims that S.P.E.D is a 'health promoting charity' and the cult followers work voluntarily as full-time guinea pigs, researching poverty, opulence, crowded living, living alone, living in cities, living in remote areas of Australia<sup>262</sup> and the effects of the various environments on the human condition. Some of the I.H.E's programs have been designed to help young Aboriginal people in the Kimberley and work with drug-addicted teenagers and young adults.<sup>263</sup> However, some of the weirder social experiments undertaken by I.H.E over the last 20 years includes giving a chronic gambler \$100 000 so the group could witness and understand addiction. They bought three luxury cars to experiment with luxury car use on the Gold Coast. Among their "findings" was that their \$300 000 Ferrari was popular with men, the \$700 000 Rolls-Royce became the car of choice for older women, and that a \$100 000 Hummer was favoured by no one.<sup>264</sup>

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<sup>255</sup> 'Australia's 'IHE' Cult Dealt in Mansions, Ferraris, and Alleged Sexual Assault', *Vice.com*, (19 June 2018), <[https://www.vice.com/en\\_au/article/xwmpk7/australias-ihe-cult-dealt-in-mansions-ferraris-and-alleged-sexual-assault](https://www.vice.com/en_au/article/xwmpk7/australias-ihe-cult-dealt-in-mansions-ferraris-and-alleged-sexual-assault)>.

<sup>256</sup> 'Inside the bizarre Ideal Human Environment cult headed by a leader who insists he's called "Taipan"', *Express Digest*, (2018), <<https://expressdigest.com/inside-the-bizarre-ideal-human-environment-cult-headed-by-a-leader-who-insists-hes-called-taipan/>>.

<sup>257</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>258</sup> Burrell, A., 'James Salerno's ideal human environment (IHE) movement: is he onto something?', *The Australian: Weekend Australian Magazine*, (8 August 2015), <<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/weekend-australian-magazine/james-salernos-ideal-human-environment-ihe-movement-is-he-onto-something/news-story/>>.

<sup>259</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>260</sup> 'Inside the bizarre Ideal Human Environment cult headed by a leader who insists he's called "Taipan"', *Express Digest*, (2018), <<https://expressdigest.com/inside-the-bizarre-ideal-human-environment-cult-headed-by-a-leader-who-insists-hes-called-taipan/>>.

<sup>261</sup> Burrell, A., 'James Salerno's ideal human environment (IHE) movement: is he onto something?', *The Australian*, (8 August 2015), <<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/weekend-australian-magazine/james-salernos-ideal-human-environment-ihe-movement-is-he-onto-something/news-story/>>.

<sup>262</sup> Dibben, K., 'SPED loses appeal over tax-free status', *The Courier Mail*, (5 January 2014), <<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/sped-foundation-loses-appeal-over-taxfree-status/news-story/>>.

<sup>263</sup> Burrell, A., 'James Salerno's ideal human environment (IHE) movement: is he onto something?', *The Australian*, (8 August 2015), <<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/weekend-australian-magazine/james-salernos-ideal-human-environment-ihe-movement-is-he-onto-something/news-story/>>.

<sup>264</sup> *Ibid.*



Incredibly, these 'research studies' have been approved by the Australian Government and given several financial grants to assist with the research methods. Since its inception, there has been no evidence that any part of S.P.E.D's research has been published in any medical, psychiatric, science or health publications or journals. Its financial records for 2009 reveal that S.P.E.D's research expenses totalled \$761 052 but no money was spent on study. At the time, it held total assets worth \$10.6 million and liabilities of \$3.1 million.<sup>265</sup> In 2011, The Australian Tax Commission revoked S.P.E.D's income tax exemption stating it was not classified as a charity institution. The I.H.E cult now owes the Australian Tax Office \$3.5 million in unpaid taxes. Besides dubious financial dealings, Salerno has been found guilty in 2019, of repeatedly sexually assaulting a girl who was a member of the group, starting from when she was 13 years old.<sup>266</sup> The sexual assaults occurred while the I.H.E cult was residing in Albury Park in the Adelaide Hills during the early 1990s.<sup>267</sup> The I.H.E cult has 21 followers and the recruitment is via marriage, encouraging members of the public to participate in one of I.H.E 'projects', or word of mouth. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



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<sup>265</sup> Schetzer, A., 'Charity' that spent \$1m on luxury cars, holidays and gambling fails to regain tax-free status', (24 November 2015), *Sydney Morning Herald*, <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/charity-that-spent-1m-on-luxury-cars-holidays-and-gambling-loses-taxfree-status-20151124-gl6v20.html>>.

<sup>266</sup> Campbell, C., and Opie, R., 'Adelaide Hills cult leader James Salerno guilty verdict', *ABC News.net*, (24 May 2019), <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-24/adelaide-hills-cult-leader-james-salerno-guilty-verdict/>>.

<sup>267</sup> Butler, G., 'This Aussie cult leader was allegedly inspired by Russel Crowe in Gladiator', *Vice.com*, (19 October 2018), <[https://www.vice.com/en\\_au/article/qv957m/this-aussie-cult-boss-was-allegedly-inspired-by-russell-crowe-in-gladiator](https://www.vice.com/en_au/article/qv957m/this-aussie-cult-boss-was-allegedly-inspired-by-russell-crowe-in-gladiator)>.

## Islamic State in Iraq & Syria cult

The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (I.S.I.S) cult is an extremist militant group that rules by Wahhabi/Salafi law. In Arabic, the group is also known as Daesh.<sup>268</sup> Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was the head of I.S.I.S and claimed that he was the spokesperson for Allah. He was known to be a ruthless tactician, motivated by power, greed and vengeance more than theology. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's recruitment drive focuses on 'bright, idealistic people who have become disaffected. Disenchanted with life and looking for something different or a greater purpose, young recruits are easily drawn to the appeal of the slick propaganda film *Flames of War*, which depicts I.S.I.S as heroically fighting all 'infidels' to right the injustices against Muslims throughout history.<sup>269</sup> Members of I.S.I.S cult believe that they are waiting for the army of 'Rome' (whose defeat at Dabiq, Syria) will initiate the countdown to the Apocalypse, according to the cult's 'Holy' teachings.<sup>270</sup> Upon arrival at the I.S.I.S training camps, the new male recruits (some as young as nine years of age) are required to engage in sharia lessons. They are tested by senior members of the I.S.I.S cult group about their understanding of I.S.I.S beliefs, knowledge about the Nusayri (a derogatory reference to Alawites), and the Free Syrian Army objectives.<sup>271</sup> "Inside the camps, recruits receive a mix of military training, bomb-making, chemical weaponry techniques, improvised explosive device (I.E.D) production methods, political lessons, and sharia orientation. During training, recruits can be dispatched to checkpoints but not to the frontlines. After they graduate, they will remain under supervision and can be expelled or punished in case of noncompliance – including being whipped if the recruit expresses reservations about joining. If the new I.S.I.S cult members question the logic of the cult's ideology and its brutal acts of war crime, they will be sent back to base camp to receive more training and to "strengthen" their faith."<sup>272</sup>

The I.S.I.S cult is heavily involved in the genocide of the Yazidi people in northern Iraq and Syria. The cult orders the Yazidi people to convert to Islam – upon their refusal, the men are removed from the towns and murdered. The women are then abducted by I.S.I.S cult militants, held captive over many years and repeatedly raped, beaten and traded like livestock.<sup>273</sup> It is purported that 7 000 members of the ethnic and religious minority have been killed and 3 000 are currently missing. The I.S.I.S cult has carried out executions on civilians, journalists, medical staff, food aid workers, and imprisoned soldiers who have been accused of various acts and found guilty of crimes against Islam such as sodomy, adultery, usage and possession of contraband, rape, blasphemy, witchcraft, renouncing Islam and murder. Before execution, the accused have their charges read aloud to them and the spectators in public squares. Executions take various forms, including mass shootings, stoning to death, crucifixions, beheadings, burning people alive, and throwing people from tall buildings.<sup>274</sup> I.S.I.S is also actively

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<sup>268</sup> 'Isis definition | Isis defined', *Your Dictionary*, (7 Mar 2019), <<https://www.yourdictionary.com/ISIS>>.

<sup>269</sup> Hassan, S., 'ISIS Is a Cult That Uses Terrorism: A Fresh New Strategy', *Huffington Post: The Blog*, (21 Oct 2014), <[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/steven-hassan/isis-is-a-cult-that-uses-\\_b\\_6023890.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/steven-hassan/isis-is-a-cult-that-uses-_b_6023890.html)>.

<sup>270</sup> Ibid.

<sup>271</sup> Hassan, H., 'The secret world of Isis training camps – ruled by sacred texts and the sword', *The Guardian*, (25 January 2015), <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/25/inside-isis-training-camps>>.

<sup>272</sup> Ibid.

<sup>273</sup> Schwartz, D., 'Bought and sold 20 times, but no-one's slave: Hayfa Adi's story', *Microsoft News*, <<https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/bought-and-sold-20-times-but-no-ones-slave-hayfa-adis-story/ar-AAH3AC9?ocid=spartanntp>>.

<sup>274</sup> 'Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (8 September 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic\\_State\\_of\\_Iraq\\_and\\_the\\_Levant#Human\\_rights\\_abuse\\_and\\_war\\_crime\\_findings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_State_of_Iraq_and_the_Levant#Human_rights_abuse_and_war_crime_findings)>.

involved in the destruction of cultural and religious heritage. Throughout the Iraq and Syria area of the Middle-East, the I.S.I.S cult have been going from town to town, wiping out Jewish, Christian and other non-Sunni religious and cultural sites, by waging a focused campaign to obliterate any archaeological sites, ancient artifacts, and landmarks that do not fall in line with their extreme Islamic ideology.<sup>275</sup>

Since the development of the internet, the I.S.I.S cult have released various how-to guides (available in English) about launching successful lone-wolf attacks in the West.<sup>276</sup> Young zealots, keen to impress the senior members of the cult, are coerced via I.S.I.S propaganda websites and chatrooms to show their allegiance and commit terrorist attacks on landmarks or events that are of special significance to Western society. It has been reported that jihadists are brainwashing Western teenagers through the internet. Relatives of the teenage recruits state that their family members had been radicalised online after spending increasing amounts of time on her laptop and smart phone communicating with I.S.I.S members. Many teenagers have been recruited through a so-called 'jihadi dating site'.<sup>277</sup> The I.S.I.S cult can brainwash males and females (up to 19 years of age) to leave their own home and relocate to the Middle East to fight for their cause. The cult's spokespersons often speak in codes and allusions that sound odd or old-fashioned to non-Muslims but refer to specific traditions and texts of early Islam. In September of 2014, Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, the Islamic State's chief spokesman, called on Muslims in Western countries to find an infidel and "smash his head with a rock," "poison him", "run him over with a car", or "destroy his crops."<sup>278</sup> As a part of their recruitment strategy, the I.S.I.S cult has released a manifesto detailing the role of women in the jihadist group - stating it is 'legitimate' for girls to be married to fighters at the age of nine and emphasising their role as wives, mothers and homemakers. The 10 000-word manifesto titled *Women in the Islamic State: Manifesto and Case Study*, has been uploaded onto popular jihadist forums by the all-female Al-Khanssaa Brigade's media wing.<sup>279</sup> The document emphasises the 'sedentary' role of women as homemakers, wives and mothers, heavily criticising Western women and human rights concepts of gender equality.<sup>280</sup> On the 27 October 2019, Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and his 'right-hand man' Abu Hassan al-Muhajir were killed near Jarablus in northern Syria by direct coordination between the S.D.F Intel and U.S military.<sup>281</sup> Currently, the latest estimates suggest that the I.S.I.S cult may have anywhere between 20 000 and 30 000 militant members in the war-torn regions of Iraq and Syria.<sup>282</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>275</sup> Savir, A., 'UN: ISIS' Destruction of Ancient Artifacts a 'War Crime', *United With Israel*, (10 March 2015), <<https://unitedwithisrael.org/un-isis-destruction-of-ancient-artifacts-a-war-crime/>>.

<sup>276</sup> Hitchcock, C., 'ISIS and their 'lone wolf' bomb making manual', *Action On Armed Violence*, (13 Jan 2016), <<https://aoav.org.uk/2016/14018/>>.

<sup>277</sup> Ross, A., 'ISIS death cult and internet brainwashing', *Cult Education Institute: Cult News*, (13 October 2014), <<https://cultnews.com/2014/10/isis-death-cult-and-internet-brainwashing/>>.

<sup>278</sup> Wood, G., 'What I.S.I.S really wants', *The Atlantic*, (March 2015), <<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/03/what-isis-really-wants/384980/>>.

<sup>279</sup> Saul, H., 'Life as a woman under ISIS: Document reveals for the first-time what group really expects from female', *Independent: World Section*, (23 July 2015), <<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/life-as-a-woman-under-isis-document-reveals-for-the-first-time-what-group-really-expects-from-female-10025143.html>>.

<sup>280</sup> Ibid.

<sup>281</sup> Palin, M., 'Second major blow to Islamic State: Al-Baghdadi's 'right-hand man' dead', *News.com*, (29 October 2019), <<https://www.news.com.au/world/north-america/second-major-blow-to-islamic-state-albaghdadis-righthand-man-dead/news-story/>>.

<sup>282</sup> Pickrell, R., 'As many as 30,000 ISIS fighters may still be crawling across Iraq and Syria — as many as at the height of their power', *Business Insider*, (15 August 2018), <<https://www.businessinsider.com.au/as-many-as-30000-isis-fighters-still-in-iraq-and-syria-2018-8?r=US&IR=T>>.

## Jehovah's Witness cult

The Jehovah's Witness cult emerged from the Bible Student movement founded in the late 1870s by Charles Taze Russell.<sup>283</sup> It was influenced by the Millennialist Restorationist Christian movement that swept through North America during the late 1800s. In 1870, Russell and his father established a group with a number of acquaintances to undertake an analytical study of the Bible and the origins of Christian doctrine, creed, traditions and concluded that many of the primary doctrines of the established churches, including the Trinity, hellfire, and inherent immortality of the soul, were not substantiated by the scriptures.<sup>284</sup> From these meetings, Russell co-wrote a book with an Adventists supporter, titled *Three Worlds* in 1876. The book detailed Russell's conclusion about his Bible studies, prophesied about Armageddon and concluded that earth's people will be governed by God's kingdom.<sup>285</sup> Three years later Russell began publishing a magazine *Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence* in the hope to convey to people about the coming of Armageddon, and that a new age of earthly and human restitution under the reign of Christ was imminent.<sup>286</sup> Russell's magazine had reached a large audience convinced by his ideology. By the 1910s, Russell had formed a cult called the *Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society* which had become a not-for-profit business organising thousands of colporteurs and hundreds of 'pilgrims' (traveling preachers), appointing foreign missionaries, and establishing branch offices. The fledgling cult believed in the prophetic teachings by Russell. Russell's faith was influenced by the Pyramidology Theories of John Taylor and Charles Piazzi Smyth in the late 1800s. This led Russell to conclude that the Great Pyramid is Jehovah's 'witness' and he turned to the Great Pyramid itself to gain prophetic insights and corroborate the Bible's prediction of the 'end-of-times'. (However, in 1928, the belief that the Great Pyramid contained a prophetic blueprint of biblical chronology was rejected by the cult leaders. The Pyramid was then declared to be built 'under the direction of Satan the Devil').<sup>287</sup> Russell prophesied that the Second Coming of Jesus was 1874, and the start of the 1000-year earthly reign was 1914, ending in 2914 A.D.<sup>288</sup> After Russell's death in 1916, Joseph Franklin Rutherford was appointed to be the new representative of the *Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society*. Rutherford reorganised the Watch Tower society by moving its headquarters to Brooklyn, U.S.A; changing a vast amount of doctrines; and rearranging administrative issues of the cult. Rutherford also changed the name of the cult to Jehovah's Witnesses in 1931. The new name is based on Isaiah 43:10:

"You are my witnesses," declares Jehovah, "Yes, my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and have faith in me and understand that I am the same One. Before me no God was formed, and after me there has been none." (New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures 2013 Edition).<sup>289</sup>

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<sup>283</sup> 'Jehovah's Witnesses', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (1 August 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s\\_Witnesses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses)>.

<sup>284</sup> Ibid.

<sup>285</sup> Grundy, P., 'Changed dates: failed predictions', *Facts About Jehovah's Witnesses: JW Facts.com*, (August 2008) <<https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/1800s.php>>.

<sup>286</sup> 'Jehovah's Witnesses', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (1 August 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s\\_Witnesses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses)>.

<sup>287</sup> 'Eschatology of Jehovah's Witnesses', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (1 August 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eschatology\\_of\\_Jehovah%27s\\_Witnesses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eschatology_of_Jehovah%27s_Witnesses)>.

<sup>288</sup> Grundy, P., 'Changed dates: failed predictions', *Facts About Jehovah's Witnesses: JW Facts.com*, (August 2008) <<https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/1800s.php>>.

<sup>289</sup> 'Jehovah's Witnesses', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (1 August 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s\\_Witnesses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses)>.



The Jehovah's Witnesses produced their own version of the Holy Bible called *New World Translation*. But in doing so, they changed a lot of the 'original' version<sup>290</sup> to suit their own ideology. The cult firmly believes that their faith is a true restoration of 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christianity. The cult's meetings for worship and study are held at 'Kingdom Halls'. The congregations meet for two sessions each week comprising four distinct meetings that total about three-and-a-half hours, typically gathering mid-week (two meetings) and on the weekend (two meetings). It is here Jehovah's Witnesses learn the cult's central teaching that the current world era, or "system of things", entered the "last days" in 1914 and faces imminent destruction through the intervention of God and Jesus Christ. When Armageddon comes to an end and humanity has been destroyed, it is believed that exactly 144 000 Jehovah's Witnesses followers will be allowed to transcend to heaven. This 'small flock' will then rule earth's New Holy Kingdom (alongside Jesus) as kings and priests.<sup>291</sup> Cult members mandate that all worship should be directed toward Jehovah (God), and that God is not part of a Trinity. They believe Jesus died on a single upright post rather than the traditional cross, and that Biblical references to angels, cherubs, 'the word' etc., are Jesus himself (but in various forms). Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Satan and his demons were cast down to earth from heaven after 1 October 1914, which herald the 'end of times' on earth. They believe that Satan is the ruler of the current world order. The Jehovah's Witnesses have continuously announced that the world is about to end - in 1881, 1910, 1914, 1925, 1931, 2007, and now 2033.<sup>292</sup> Other beliefs in the Jehovah's Witnesses cult are: i) that other religions are actually under the control of Satan and his demons; ii) the Biblical literal interpretation of Hell being a 'fiery torment' is not true as Hell does not exist; iii) that there is no everlasting soul which carries on after death (except the chosen Jehovah's Witnesses); iv) it is their life's purpose and biblical duty to spread their truth and save others from Armageddon; v) that only other worthy Jehovah's Witness followers will be resurrected; vi) that two Caucasians produced the first black person and thus the entire black race; and vii) committing the "crime" of Apostasy is worse than being an adulterer, paedophile, or a murderer.<sup>293</sup>

Baptism is a requirement for being considered a member of Jehovah's Witnesses, along with the practice of speaking, or bearing witness, about Jehovah.<sup>294</sup> Jehovah's Witnesses cult practices include: i) the rejection any and all blood transfusions, interpreting the act as an infraction on God's law; ii) refusal to go to war, or be involved with any national conflict; iii) 'disfellowship' (shunning/excommunication) of anyone for breaking their rules – this practice also applies to families and friends; iv) scheduling of all sermons in every Kingdom Hall throughout the world so they are the same - to establish uniformity of the cult teachings (as directed by its headquarters located in U.S.A); v) adhere to a strict and modest dress code; vi) not to associate with "worldly" people (anyone else) because the general population are 'slaves of corruption'; vii) discouragement of tertiary education as it promotes 'heathen' activities and is not in keeping with Christian values; viii) homophobia; ix) not pledging allegiance to their nation's flag;

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<sup>290</sup> Forrester, K., '20 dark secrets about the Jehovah's Witness way of life', *The Richest.com*, (5 September 2017), <<https://www.therichest.com/shocking/20-dark-secrets-about-the-jehovahs-witness-way-of-life/>>.

<sup>291</sup> Flynn, C., '10 Facts about the Jehovah's Witness you never knew', *The Richest.com*, (25 May 2015), <<https://www.therichest.com/rich-list/most-popular/10-facts-about-the-jehovahs-witness-you-never-knew/>>.

<sup>292</sup> Grundy, P., 'Changed dates: failed predictions', *Facts About Jehovah's Witnesses: JW Facts.com*, (August 2008), <<https://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/1800s.php>>.

<sup>293</sup> Forrester, K., '20 dark secrets about the Jehovah's Witness way of life', *The Richest.com*, (5 September 2017), <<https://www.therichest.com/shocking/20-dark-secrets-about-the-jehovahs-witness-way-of-life/>>.

<sup>294</sup> 'How do I become one of Jehovah's Witnesses?', *JW.org: Official Website of the Jehovah's Witnesses*, (2019), <<https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/how-become-jehovahs-witness/>>.

x) they do not participate in society's holidays ie. Easter or Christmas (because many of these holidays are rooted in pagan beliefs, and do not descend from true Christian origins); and xi) they do not celebrate birthdays (because birthdays have pagan roots, and the early Christians didn't celebrate birthdays). The only celebration Jehovah's Witnesses acknowledge is the Memorial or the Lord's Evening Meal which is held in either March or April. Their annual Memorial "celebration" corresponds with the Passover and Nisan 14 on the "Bible's lunar calendar".<sup>295</sup> The Jehovah's Witnesses cult is organized hierarchically, in what the cult's leadership calls a "theocratic organization", reflecting their belief that it is God's "visible organization" on earth.<sup>296</sup> A Jehovah's Witness cult member has written on his blog about the comparison of *The Watchtower* magazine and George Orwell's 'Big Brother' in the novel *1984*. Both written works incite fear-inducing propaganda, and an element of "thought police." The cult follower also states that throughout both literary styles, there is an overriding theme of control.<sup>297</sup> This opinion is reinforced by an article in *The Watchtower* magazine published on 1 June 1953, which states:

"Minds must be cleansed and made over, mental circuits formed by old-world thinking and acting faded out and new ones put in according to new world specifications. By privately studying regularly, by attending all meetings regularly, and by engaging in all features of the preaching work regularly, mental circuits are deepened, and such good activities become habitual."

Obedience to the elders in each congregation is also expected. The April 1, 2007, *Watchtower* magazine contained an article about being obedient to the elders. It said:

"What, though, if we are not convinced that in a certain case the elders' direction is the best way of doing things? That is where submission comes into play. It is easy to obey when everything is clear and we agree, but we will show that we are truly submissive if we yield, even when we do not personally understand the direction provided."<sup>298</sup>

The Jehovah's Witness cult and its overarching body, the *Watchtower Bible and Tract Society*, came to the attention of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Sexual Abuse with a 2015 case study hearing more than 1000 allegations of paedophilia had been made against the organisation over 60 years yet not one complaint was reported to police.<sup>299</sup> The group has been criticized for its "two witness rule" for church discipline, based on its application of scriptures at Deuteronomy 19:15 and Matthew 18:15–17, which requires sexual abuse to be substantiated by secondary evidence if the accused person denies any wrongdoing.<sup>300</sup> Also alarming, a 2012 *Watchtower* memo stated, "Not every individual who has sexually abused a child is considered a 'predator'".<sup>301</sup> Jehovah's Witnesses also enforce the subjectivation of women via the work of coercive practices or power relations with the cult

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<sup>295</sup> 'Jehovah Witnesses: The second coming in 1914?', *MacGregor Ministries Outreach Inc.*, (2006), <[https://mmoutreachinc.com/jehovahs\\_witnesses/1914.html](https://mmoutreachinc.com/jehovahs_witnesses/1914.html)>.

<sup>296</sup> 'Jehovah's Witnesses', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (1 August 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s\\_Witnesses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses)>.

<sup>297</sup> Forrester, K., '20 dark secrets about the Jehovah's Witness way of life', *The Richest.com*, (5 September 2017), <<https://www.therichest.com/shocking/20-dark-secrets-about-the-jehovahs-witness-way-of-life/>>.

<sup>298</sup> James, A., 'Beware the Cult-Like Control and Abuse of Jehovah's Witnesses', *JW Victims.org*, (25 January 2015), <<https://jwvictims.org/beware-the-cult-like-control-and-abuse-of-jehovahs-witnesses/>>.

<sup>299</sup> Browne, R., 'Inside the Jehovah's Witnesses: A 'perfect storm' for abuse', *Sydney Morning Herald*, (10 March 2017), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/inside-the-jehovahs-witnesses-a-perfect-storm-for-abuse-20170309-guukur.html>>.

<sup>300</sup> 'Jehovah's Witnesses', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (1 August 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s\\_Witnesses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses)>.

<sup>301</sup> Forrester, K., '20 dark secrets about the Jehovah's Witness way of life', *The Richest.com*, (5 September 2017), <<https://www.therichest.com/shocking/20-dark-secrets-about-the-jehovahs-witness-way-of-life/>>.

organisation.<sup>302</sup> Former cult members claim that they have regularly seen “women in the back rooms crying during meetings, talking among themselves about their oppressive and abusive marriages, but knowing they could do nothing about them”.<sup>303</sup> Jehovah’s Witnesses male leaders do not consider it healthy for a man to be alone; that he needed a wife to satisfy his sexual needs. Sex is something that married women do or “due”, as in “paying your dues”. The cult believes men who remained single too long may not ‘function properly’ and women need to be available for marriage to the single male believers. The cult considers it ‘selfish’ for a woman to remain single. The only exception to this rule are women who “pioneer” (a full-time evangelizer).<sup>304</sup> It is also noted that most of the Jehovah’s Witnesses funding is provided by donations, primarily from its members. There is no tithing or collection at congregation services.<sup>305</sup>

The Jehovah’s Witnesses cult actively teach that the League of Nations (now the United Nations) has been established by forces of Satan and works as a “counterfeit of God’s Kingdom”. The cult believes:

“that the United Nations is the “the scarlet-coloured image of the wild beast” referred to in Revelation 13:1-18 and the fulfillment of the “disgusting thing that causes desolation” from Matthew 24:15. The cult declares that the U.N would be ridden by the “woman Babylon”, which they have identified as “the religious organization with headquarters at Vatican City”. Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that God will use the U.N to destroy “false religion”. They further believe that after all other religions are destroyed, “a coalition of nations” will then turn against Jehovah’s Witnesses to destroy them, but God will intervene and destroy all political elements. They believe this act of divine intervention will be Armageddon, the final part of the Great Tribulation”<sup>306</sup> as predicted by the cult’s founder Charles Russell.

In Russia, the Jehovah Witnesses cult is now banned from the nation after a 2017 Supreme Court ruling upheld the Justice Ministry’s claim that the religious group is “extremist” and would “pose a threat to the rights of citizens, public order, and public security”.<sup>307</sup> And yet, after making constant disparaging comments about the U.N organisation since 1919, the Jehovah’s Witnesses cult have submitted 48 appeals to the United Nations Human Rights Committee, complaining that punishments for ‘sharing their faith’ violate the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.<sup>308</sup> The Jehovah’s Witnesses continue to evangelise and grow their cult’s membership. According to the Jehovah’s Witness website, their current followers stands at 8.2 million people dispersed throughout 239 countries.<sup>309</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>302</sup> Blanco, Azucena G., ‘Processes of Subjectivation: The Biopolitics and Politics of Literature in the Later Foucault’, *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture*, Vol 20 Issue 4, (2018), <<https://doi.org/10.7771/1481-4374.3485>>.

<sup>303</sup> James, A., ‘Beware the Cult-Like Control and Abuse of Jehovah’s Witnesses’, *JW Victims.org*, (25 January 2015), <<https://jwvictims.org/beware-the-cult-like-control-and-abuse-of-jehovahs-witnesses/>>.

<sup>304</sup> Hudson, M., ‘Love & Sex: What I’ve learned since leaving Watchtower’, *Advocates for Awareness of Watchtower Abuses*, (Posted on 19 January 2014), <[aawa.co/blog/love-sex-what-ive-learned-since-leaving-watchtower/](http://aawa.co/blog/love-sex-what-ive-learned-since-leaving-watchtower/)>.

<sup>305</sup> ‘Jehovah’s Witnesses’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (1 August 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s\\_Witnesses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses)>.

<sup>306</sup> ‘Jehovah’s Witnesses and the United Nations’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (5 July 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s\\_Witnesses\\_and\\_the\\_United\\_Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses_and_the_United_Nations)>.

<sup>307</sup> Forrester, K., ‘20 dark secrets about the Jehovah’s Witness way of life’, *The Richest.com*, (5 September 2017), <<https://www.therichest.com/shocking/20-dark-secrets-about-the-jehovahs-witness-way-of-life/>>.

<sup>308</sup> ‘Jehovah’s Witnesses and the United Nations’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (5 July 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s\\_Witnesses\\_and\\_the\\_United\\_Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses_and_the_United_Nations)>.

<sup>309</sup> Flynn, C., ‘10 Facts about the Jehovah’s Witness you never knew’, *The Richest.com*, (25 May 2015), <<https://www.therichest.com/rich-list/most-popular/10-facts-about-the-jehovahs-witness-you-never-knew/>>.

## Jesus People cult

The Jesus People cult began in Chicago, U.S.A in 1972 as a counterculture response to the 1960s. The “Summer of Love” had not only created iconic images of hippies, protest marches and music festivals but it also ‘brought with it a number of problems including overcrowding, crime, poverty, sexually transmitted diseases and bad drug trips.’<sup>310</sup> The Jesus People cult of that era was focused on feeding the hungry, poor and sick, and has been dubbed the last great American religious revival.<sup>311</sup> When the Jesus People cult became an organised group it established missions in the guise of coffee shops. Its cult followers were referred to as “Street Christians”<sup>312</sup> as they walked the streets handing out brochures about their “coffee shop”, discussing theological concepts, and inviting the homeless, impoverished, drug-addicted and/or troubled, disillusioned, needy youth<sup>313</sup> to join their communes. This recruitment technique is still practiced today. The Australian branch Jesus People cult is dominated by millionaire property owner Daniel Landy-Ariel (known as Dawid Daniel Yosep Abishai Yokannan Landy-Ariel within the cult).<sup>314</sup> The cult has three compounds which are situated near Herberton (far north Queensland), Gympie (north of Brisbane), and near Parkes (central west region of N.S.W).<sup>315</sup> Landy-Ariel has two wives and promotes an orthodox Christian lifestyle. The Jesus People cult followers believe: i) their cult leader Landy-Ariel is a proclaimed prophet; ii) they can speak the ancient language of Aramaic; iii) that cult followers can exercise all the gifts of the spirit that were available to ancient Christians; iv) that women are inferior to men and their only role on earth is to serve their husband; and v) the total separation of church and state. New members of the cult are forced to give up all their rights and income to be part of the group.<sup>316</sup> Landy-Ariel expects the recruits to be known by new Biblical names<sup>317</sup> and donate their personal property, assets, and money to the cult compound. The Jesus People cult is primarily supported financially by money which comes from Welfare Payments and Centrelink.<sup>318</sup> Frugal living is a requirement for working and living with Jesus People cult.<sup>319</sup> Landy-Ariel demands that clothing be bought from charity shops only and he controls the money spent on groceries shopping. New cult followers are not allowed to have romantic relationships with any person for one year after joining. Creating individual families while belonging to Jesus People is tightly managed by the cult leader. Cult followers are must ask Landy-Ariel’s approval before marrying and married couples need his permission before having children. The cult is not registered as a church so therefore does not

<sup>310</sup> Eskridge, L., ‘Jesus People’: a movement born from the ‘Summer of Love’, *The Conversation.com*, (15 September 2017), <[theconversation.com/jesus-people-a-movement-born-from-the-summer-of-love-82421](http://theconversation.com/jesus-people-a-movement-born-from-the-summer-of-love-82421)>.

<sup>311</sup> Whitman, A., ‘The Jesus People revolution: the 60s hippies who changed the world’, *Premier Christianity*, (September 2017), <<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Past-Issues/2017/September-2017/The-Jesus-People-Revolution-the-60s-hippies-who-changed-the-world>>.

<sup>312</sup> Eskridge, L., ‘Jesus People’: a movement born from the ‘Summer of Love’, *The Conversation.com*, (15 September 2017), <[theconversation.com/jesus-people-a-movement-born-from-the-summer-of-love-82421](http://theconversation.com/jesus-people-a-movement-born-from-the-summer-of-love-82421)>.

<sup>313</sup> Trott, J., ‘JPUSA: Jesus People USA’, *Apologetic Index*, (28 February 2014), <[www.apologeticsindex.org/j18.html](http://www.apologeticsindex.org/j18.html)>.

<sup>314</sup> Sundstrom, K., ‘Mum tells of life in ‘brainwashing’ polygamous cult’, *Sunshine Coast Daily*, (28 July 2014), <<https://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/news/mum-tells-life-brainwashing-polygamous-cult/>>.

<sup>315</sup> Ibid.

<sup>316</sup> Coon, J., ‘5 Beliefs that set the Jesus People USA apart from other Christians’, *Newsmax Media, Inc.*, (7 May 2015), <<https://www.newsmax.com/FastFeatures/jesus-people-christians-beliefs-apart/2015/05/07/>>.

<sup>317</sup> Sundstrom, K., ‘Mum tells of life in ‘brainwashing’ polygamous cult’, *Sunshine Coast Daily*, (28 July 2014), <<https://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/news/mum-tells-life-brainwashing-polygamous-cult/>>.

<sup>318</sup> Owens, J., ‘Capture of wanted killer sheds light on life in polygamist cult’, *The Australian*, (18 February 2011), <<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/capture-of-wanted-killer-sheds-light-on-life-in-polygamist-cult/news-story/>>.

<sup>319</sup> Coon, J., ‘5 Beliefs that set the Jesus People USA apart from other Christians’, *Newsmax Media, Inc.*, (7 May 2015), <<https://www.newsmax.com/FastFeatures/jesus-people-christians-beliefs-apart/2015/05/07/>>.



need to register the cult "marriages" with authorities.<sup>320</sup> All females are required to wear headscarves from the time they are toddlers<sup>321</sup> and taught to be submissive to males. Violence against women and children is encouraged.<sup>322</sup> Adults can physically discipline any children in the group, not just their own.<sup>323</sup> Former cult followers have witnessed extreme cases of bullying and physical violence (a chair smacked over a girl's back; girl hit in the head with a brick).<sup>324</sup> The environment of fear within The Jesus People has assisted the male cult followers in maintaining women as "sub-humans".<sup>325</sup> Women and children within the cult compound are stripped of the ability to make decisions, and are told if they do decide to leave the cult they will go straight to Hell.<sup>326</sup> Evidently, the violence goes unreported because of the closed commune status.<sup>327</sup> In 2011, the Jesus People cult made news headlines when convicted murderer Luke Andrew Hunter, was found to be residing within the group. Hunter is alleged to have escaped from Borallon Correctional Centre, near Ipswich, in 1996. He was serving a 21-year jail term after being found guilty in 1990 of the "cold-blooded assassination" of his lover's husband.<sup>328</sup> Hunter (known within the cult as Ashban Cadmiel) was a member for nine years. There are approximately 300 cult followers within the three compounds<sup>329</sup> in the North QLD's Atherton region, southern QLD, and the N.S.W town of Parkes. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>320</sup> Owens, J., 'Capture of wanted killer sheds light on life in polygamist cult', *The Australian*, (18 February 2011), <<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/capture-of-wanted-killer-sheds-light-on-life-in-polygamist-cult/news-story/>>.

<sup>321</sup> 'Secretive Jesus Group community works on the philosophy of "what's yours is mine"', *Religion News Blog*, (9 January 2011), <[www.religionnewsblog.com/25577/secretive-jesus-group-community-works-on-the-philosophy-of-whats-yours-is-mine](http://www.religionnewsblog.com/25577/secretive-jesus-group-community-works-on-the-philosophy-of-whats-yours-is-mine)>.

<sup>322</sup> Owens, J., 'Capture of wanted killer sheds light on life in polygamist cult', *The Australian*, (18 February 2011), <<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/capture-of-wanted-killer-sheds-light-on-life-in-polygamist-cult/news-story/>>.

<sup>323</sup> 'Secretive Jesus Group community works on the philosophy of "what's yours is mine"', *Religion News Blog*, (9 January 2011), <[www.religionnewsblog.com/25577/secretive-jesus-group-community-works-on-the-philosophy-of-whats-yours-is-mine](http://www.religionnewsblog.com/25577/secretive-jesus-group-community-works-on-the-philosophy-of-whats-yours-is-mine)>.

<sup>324</sup> Owens, J., 'Capture of wanted killer sheds light on life in polygamist cult', *The Australian*, (18 February 2011), <<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/capture-of-wanted-killer-sheds-light-on-life-in-polygamist-cult/news-story/>>.

<sup>325</sup> 'Sects in Australia: Fringe religious groups that have left their mark on the nation', *The Daily Telegraph*, (5 August 2015), <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sects-in-australia-fringe-religious-groups-that-have-left-their-mark-on-the-nation/news-story/>>.

<sup>326</sup> 'Secretive Jesus Group community works on the philosophy of "what's yours is mine"', *Religion News Blog*, (9 January 2011), <[www.religionnewsblog.com/25577/secretive-jesus-group-community-works-on-the-philosophy-of-whats-yours-is-mine](http://www.religionnewsblog.com/25577/secretive-jesus-group-community-works-on-the-philosophy-of-whats-yours-is-mine)>.

<sup>327</sup> Owens, J., 'Capture of wanted killer sheds light on life in polygamist cult', *The Australian*, (18 February 2011), <<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/capture-of-wanted-killer-sheds-light-on-life-in-polygamist-cult/news-story/>>.

<sup>328</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>329</sup> Sundstrom, K., 'Mum tells of life in 'brainwashing' polygamous cult', *Sunshine Coast Daily*, (28 July 2014), <<https://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/news/mum-tells-life-brainwashing-polygamous-cult/>>.

## Kenja Communications cult

Kenja Communications (or Kenja) is an Australian company co-founded in 1982 by Kenneth Dyers and his partner Jan Hamilton. The word 'Kenja' is derived from the first letters of their names only discovering later that it meant 'wisdom' in Japanese. Dyers (a World War II veteran) was once a member of the Church of Scientology.<sup>330</sup> Dyers and Hamilton incorporated pieces of Scientology-derived pseudo-psychological science techniques to establish Kenja Communications which operates under the guise of a Workplace Communication Skills business. Kenja website states its goal is "to increase understanding of the spiritual nature of man and our relation to the human spirit, coupled with practical training in the basics of effective communication — time, space and energy".<sup>331</sup> Kenja Communications has many qualities that are more characteristic of a business than a religion. It is marketed as a self-improvement organization that teaches participants to communicate more effectively and to be personally successful.<sup>332</sup> The communication tools that seminars or workshop participants are introduced to include Energy Conversion Meditation (E.C.M), clowning classes, and theatrical productions (at a considerably cost to the participant). Kenjans are also expected to take part in many activities, from sports training to full-scale theatrical performances. The followers were expected also to raise money for Kenja by selling flowers and other commercial activities. However, Kenjans, like Scientologists, are taught to see themselves as a body and a mind, but overall as a spirit, an element that is immortal and thus far more important than anything that is part of mundane everyday life. Teaching about metaphysical ideas to participants seeking to improve their communication skills or workplace competencies proves that Kenja Communications business extends far beyond personal development organization.<sup>333</sup> Kenja uses E.C.M as a means to 'permanently eliminate the suppressed emotion, thought or energy that can divert a person from what s/he wants to achieve'.<sup>334</sup> A person is expected to participate regularly (and at a considerable cost) in two-way meditations. Dyers (the "meditation consultant") would lock into prolonged eye contact with a client – called "Holding a Person Still" – and, after listening to their secrets, supposedly reach and unwrap the deepest recesses of the soul.<sup>335</sup> Hamilton has made claims that Kenja's 'Energy Conversions' are similar to the meditations used by the Tibetan Buddhists (Hamilton refers to it as 'psychic osmosis'), and by the North American Indians as a healing process.<sup>336</sup> It has been reported by cult followers that 'out-of-body' experiences and dissociative states occur (due to being drug induced and extensive hours of staring) during the practice of E.C.M, reinforcing Hamilton and Dyers' teachings about the 'nature of the person'.<sup>337</sup> Hamilton also incorporates 'clowning' activities and states that it "is a direct and practical application of the E.C.M work pioneered by Dyers, and works hand-in-hand. This is because E.C.M first provides a conceptual then subjective reality on spiritual understanding in a physical world. Clowning follows through with an

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<sup>330</sup> Cusack, C., 'Kenja Communications', *World Religions and Spirituality Project website*, (2016), <<https://wrlrel.org/2019/03/04/kenja-communications/>>.

<sup>331</sup> 'About us: Purpose', *Kenja website*, (2019), <[www.kenja.com.au/about-us/purpose.aspx](http://www.kenja.com.au/about-us/purpose.aspx)>.

<sup>332</sup> Cusack, C., 'Kenja Communications', *World Religions and Spirituality Project website*, (2016), <<https://wrlrel.org/2019/03/04/kenja-communications/>>.

<sup>333</sup> Ibid.

<sup>334</sup> 'Kenja Communication', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (24 April 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenja\\_Communication](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenja_Communication)>.

<sup>335</sup> Manne, R., 'The unknown story of Cornelia Rau', *The Monthly*, (September 2005), <<https://www.themonthly.com.au/monthly-essays-robert-manne-unknown-story-cornelia-rau-often-she-cried-sometimes-she-screamed-she-be>>.

<sup>336</sup> 'Energy Conversion Meditation: Basis of Training', *Kenja website*, (2019), <[www.kenja.com.au/training/energy-conversion-meditation.aspx](http://www.kenja.com.au/training/energy-conversion-meditation.aspx)>.

<sup>337</sup> Cusack, C., 'Kenja Communications', *World Religions and Spirituality Project website*, (2016), <<https://wrlrel.org/2019/03/04/kenja-communications/>>.

objective reality.”<sup>338</sup> Kenja Communication has been a source of controversies in Australia. The R.S.L and Department of Defence issue Dyers and Hamilton ‘cease and desist orders’ because the Kenja Cult had been using the Australian Army’s ‘rising sun’ emblem as a part of the cult’s logo.<sup>339</sup> In Kenja Communication there is a ban on gossip. This means that cult followers rarely discuss issues or compare notes after their workshops or E.C.M sessions. Members who ‘asked too many questions’, had psychiatric illnesses, or were not totally devoted to Kenja ideology were quickly ejected from the organisation.<sup>340</sup> The cult has been blamed for exacerbating the mental illnesses of some of its followers with fatal results. Known cases are: Peter Faragher (committed suicide after being expelled by the group<sup>341</sup>); Michael Beaver (had chronic schizophrenia and killed himself, writing in his suicide note that Kenja was “partly to blame”);<sup>342</sup> Richard Leape (had schizophrenia and disappeared in 1993 whilst he was a member of Kenja<sup>343</sup> - now listed on the *Missing Persons Register of Australia*),<sup>344</sup> and Cornelia Rau (joined in 1998 but was humiliated and expelled by the group. Treatment by Kenja contributed to her declining mental health - erratic behaviour, use of false names - resulting in her being detained in Australia for 10 months. Immigration officials assumed she was an illegal immigrant, and failed to diagnose her schizophrenia, leading to her detention).<sup>345</sup> In 1995, Dyers was charged with 11 counts of sexual assault against four girls from two former Kenja families. He was acquitted of all charges. Then in 2005 he was charged with another 22 counts of sexual assault against two girls who were 12 at the time.<sup>346</sup> While waiting to face trial on multiple alleged sex abuse offences, Dyer committed suicide at his family home in 2007.<sup>347</sup> Hamilton continues operating Kenja Communications from its headquarters in Surry Hills, Sydney.<sup>348</sup> There are four Kenja centres: Sydney, Greater Western Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra. Kenja Communication runs classes, workshops and one-to-one sessions, as well as events and activities at different venues around Australia.<sup>349</sup> Information regarding Kenja Communications events is regularly advertised on their website. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>338</sup> ‘Articles by Jan Hamilton’, *Kenja Communication website*, (2019), <[www.kenja.com.au/articles/Jan-Hamilton.aspx](http://www.kenja.com.au/articles/Jan-Hamilton.aspx)>.

<sup>339</sup> ‘Sects in Australia: Fringe religious groups that have left their mark on the nation’, *extract from The Daily Telegraph: Cult Education Institute*, (24 October 2016), <[www.cifs.org.au/fastest.php](http://www.cifs.org.au/fastest.php)>.

<sup>340</sup> Cusack, C., ‘Kenja Communications’, *World Religions and Spirituality Project website*, (2016), <<https://wrldrels.org/2019/03/04/kenja-communications/>>.

<sup>341</sup> ‘Kenja Communication: Wikis’, *The Full Wiki*, (19 August 2010), <[www.thefullwiki.org/Kenja\\_Communication](http://www.thefullwiki.org/Kenja_Communication)>.

<sup>342</sup> ‘Kenja Communication’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (24 April 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenja\\_Communication](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenja_Communication)>.

<sup>343</sup> ‘Everything: Kenja Communication’, *Explained Today website*, (2015), <[http://everything.explained.today/Kenja\\_Communication/](http://everything.explained.today/Kenja_Communication/)>.

<sup>344</sup> ‘Richard Leape’, *AFP: National Missing Persons Coordination Centre - Missing Persons Register of Australia*, (2019), <<https://missingpersons.gov.au/search?location=register&full=richard%20leape>>.

<sup>345</sup> ‘Sects in Australia: Fringe religious groups that have left their mark on the nation’, *extract from The Daily Telegraph: Cult Education Institute*, (24 October 2016), <[www.cifs.org.au/fastest.php](http://www.cifs.org.au/fastest.php)>.

<sup>346</sup> Tibbits, A., ‘Abuse case: ‘staff asked to lie’’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, (26 July 2008), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/abuse-case-staff-asked-to-lie-20080726-gdsnse.html>>.

<sup>347</sup> Kennedy, L., ‘Sydney cult leader found dead’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, (26 July 2007), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/sydney-cult-leader-found-dead-20070726-gdqpdw.html>>.

<sup>348</sup> ‘Dedicated followers left rudderless in a sceptical world’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, (4 August 2007), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/dedicated-followers-left-rudderless-in-a-sceptical-world-20070804-gdqs1i.html>>.

<sup>349</sup> ‘Everything: Kenja Communication’, *Explained Today website*, (2015), <[http://everything.explained.today/Kenja\\_Communication/](http://everything.explained.today/Kenja_Communication/)>.



## Ku Klux Klan cult – Australian Branch

The Ku Klux Klan (K.K.K) cult were officially founded in 1866 by veterans of the American confederate army in the aftermath of the American Civil War. The preservation of the slave industry and the ideal of white supremacy were two of the major founding principles of the K.K.K, and have been instilled in the 'Klansmen' (members) and their families belief systems for generations since. Upon the establishment of the K.K.K, the Klansmen (sometimes categorised using the W.A.S.P acronym: White Anglo-Saxon Protestants), have been carrying out heinous activities. Such activities included group lynching; burning and desecrating churches and graves of an opposing race and/or religion; mutilation; castration; rape; murder and horrendous torture. The people that they targeted were African Americans, Catholics, Jews and Liberals voters. The K.K.K cult created biblical ideals suited to their goals by only choosing particular sections of the Bible and 'twisting' the intended meaning of the holy text. This action provided the Klansmen a religious excuse to commit criminal deeds prompted by harsh economic factors and pure hate. From 1915 onward, Klansmen conducted cross-burnings not only to intimidate targets, but also to demonstrate their respect and reverence for Jesus Christ. The 'holy' gatherings also include prayers and singing Christian hymns. Modern Klan organizations, such as the Knights Party in U.S.A, continue to focus on the Christian supremacist message, detecting a "war" which allegedly aims to destroy "Western Christian civilization."<sup>350</sup> Australian branches of the Ku Klux Klan can be found throughout Australia in each State and Territory. The cult targets migrant people (especially Muslims), and the Australian Indigenous population. It also has links with various White Supremacists groups, criminal organisations, and Right-Wing political parties - particularly the Australia First Party.<sup>351</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>350</sup> 'A History of the Ku Klux Klan', *KVLT*, (24 Feb 2015), <[kvlt.scribd.com/features/a-history-of-the-ku-klux-klan1](http://kvlt.scribd.com/features/a-history-of-the-ku-klux-klan1)>.

<sup>351</sup> 'Killing raises Ku Klux Klan link in Queensland', *The Courier Mail*, (May 14, 2010), <<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/killing-raises-ku-klux-klan-link-in-queensland/news-story/23b2d6f9a64a04747c828ae4f4101d53>>.



## Magnificat Meal Movement cult

The former primary school teacher Debra Geileskey (now Debra Burslem) began the Magnificat Meal Movement (M.M.M) in in 1986. It is a “missionary” branch of the ‘Celtic Corma Adoration’ group of Australia, which was founded in Melbourne in 1976 by J. Phelan, F. Eaton, D. Burslem and E. Burslem.<sup>352</sup> The Celtic Corma Adoration group was initially predominantly made up of traditionalist and conservative Novus Ordo Roman Catholic parishioners who had rejected the post-Vatican II changes to the Catholic Church and announced in the late 1990s.<sup>353</sup> Burslem, the self-proclaimed visionary, told followers she was receiving messages from the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ. In 1992, she moved from Melbourne to the small town of Helidon in rural Queensland. Burslem encouraged her 400 followers to live in Helidon, claiming Jesus Christ would return to the town once they built a \$45 million basilica.<sup>354</sup> Many families gave generous donations to the M.M.M and several signed over part-ownership of their houses, including 10% of their income, plus gifts and donations<sup>355</sup> to Burslem, including a former convent at Helidon that became the cult compound headquarters.<sup>356</sup> The cult followers would wear long blue robes and called themselves the “slaves of the eucharist”.<sup>357</sup> Burslem claims that she has witnessed miracles and receives messages delivered by the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ. A few Catholic priests have investigated her claims only to find it a hoax, with nothing but false props, and good acting abilities performed by Burslem herself.<sup>358</sup> When the authenticity of the “miraculous” incident was challenged by Catholic priests, Burslem took offence and declared that the priests were paedophiles and had been led astray by the Devil.<sup>359</sup> Burslem claims: i) to be the rightful heir to the British throne; ii) that Ireland will sink beneath the waves; iii) the world will face a calamity in around 2017; and iv) that humanity has entered the final stage of the “purification week” for planet earth.<sup>360</sup> Burslem also considers herself above the law and marries couples without legal authorisation.<sup>361</sup> Burslem encourages members of M.M.M to practice in the use of “colour energies” for the development of unity with the “Light Presence.” The cult’s belief determines the choice of colour for everything - and clothing, buildings, and gems are used to gain spiritual union by using the “light energies”.<sup>362</sup> Another ideology Burslem has is that God only wants her to drive Mercedes vehicles because the word “Mercedes” sounds similar to “mercy”.<sup>363</sup> She has since owned nine Mercedes. The M.M.M cult increased their finances by coercing the cult followers to establish numerous small community groups (ie. the Helidon Table Tennis Association) and

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<sup>352</sup> Magnificat Meal Movement, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (2 January 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnificat\\_Meal\\_Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnificat_Meal_Movement)>.

<sup>353</sup> Ibid.

<sup>354</sup> ‘Cult leader cashes in’, *Courier Mail*, (10 May 2007), <<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/cult-leader-cashes-in/news-story/>>.

<sup>355</sup> ‘Queensland’s Helidon cult leader living large in Vanuatu’, *Sunshine Coast Daily*, (17 February 2015), <<https://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/news/queenslands-helidon-cult-leader-living-large-vanua/2546520/>>.

<sup>356</sup> Ibid.

<sup>357</sup> Murray, D., ‘Sect leader Debra Burslem convinced followers to give her millions’, *The Courier Mail*, (21 February 2015), <<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/sect-leader-debra-burslem-convinced-followers-to-give-her-millions/news-story/>>.

<sup>358</sup> Sabalto, R., ‘Magnificat Meal Movement’, *Apparitions*, (2013), <[www.unitypublishing.com/Apparitions/ClaireMonsour.htm](http://www.unitypublishing.com/Apparitions/ClaireMonsour.htm)>.

<sup>359</sup> Ibid.

<sup>360</sup> Burslem, D., ‘Study Points: Shared Teachings’, *Magnificat Meal Movement website*, (2019), <[www.magnificatmealmovement.com/study-points/](http://www.magnificatmealmovement.com/study-points/)>.

<sup>361</sup> Sabalto, R., ‘Magnificat Meal Movement’, *Apparitions*, (2013), <[www.unitypublishing.com/Apparitions/ClaireMonsour.htm](http://www.unitypublishing.com/Apparitions/ClaireMonsour.htm)>.

<sup>362</sup> Magnificat Meal Movement, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (2 January 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnificat\\_Meal\\_Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnificat_Meal_Movement)>.

<sup>363</sup> Murray, D., ‘Sect leader Debra Burslem convinced followers to give her millions’, *The Courier Mail*, (21 February 2015), <<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/sect-leader-debra-burslem-convinced-followers-to-give-her-millions/news-story/>>.

each apply for the State community grants. Every year the Queensland government dutifully allocated \$50,000 to the individual “community organisations” (approximately eight in total) that were run by M.M.M cult in the Helidon area.<sup>364</sup> Another tactic Burslem used was to recruit cult followers to sell products for multi-level marketing companies such as Herbalife, Neways and Forever Living (home loans and slimming tablets). The cult followers believed that they were assisting in raising funds to build the planned \$45 million basilica, instead they were only increasing Burslem’s bank account as their product sales would earn her commissions.<sup>365</sup> The cathedral has never been built. Burslem claims of spiritual healing abilities have lured people with serious illnesses to seek her help for healing and religious counsel.<sup>366</sup> Teenage leukaemia victim, Nora Hanley from Kilrooskey, Co Roscommon, Ireland was buried weeks after her mother's quest for a "miracle cure" from Burslem.<sup>367</sup> While staying in the cult commune, 15-year-old Nora stopped taking her medication and vital blood units. Investigations have revealed that at least six other members of the cult have died after they ceased taking medication for serious illnesses when Burslem encouraged them to focus on the ‘healing power of prayer’ and swap to herbal remedies<sup>368</sup> (Herbalife) in which Burslem profiteers. Former cult followers who have been fleeced of thousands of dollars in assets and financial agreements state that the initials M.M.M should really stand for ‘Make More Money’.<sup>369</sup> Members describe Burslem as a clever saleswoman, selling real estate and now selling her cult to people. It is estimated that Burslem has raised \$20 million through her followers since she first shot to prominence in the 1990s.<sup>370</sup> Burslem now lives in Vanuatu,<sup>371</sup> a tax-free haven where she goes by the alias "Princess".<sup>372</sup> In her Pacific Island retreat, "Princess" now charges \$200 a night for believers wanting to visit.<sup>373</sup> Burslem has also purchased real estate in Spain and has spent \$800,000 converting a dilapidated stable in the Spanish village of San Sebastian de Garabandal into a villa.<sup>374</sup> Burslem remains living in Vanuatu for the purpose of avoiding the Australian Federal Police on multiple charges of embezzlement and tax fraud.<sup>375</sup> Burslem still manages the M.M.M website and the various multi-level marketing companies (Herbalife, Neways and Forever Living) from abroad. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>364</sup> Thompson, T., ‘Community grants awarded to Queensland cult’, *The Courier Mail*, (16 June 2008), <[www.religionnewsblog.com/21636/community-grants-awarded-to-queensland-cult](http://www.religionnewsblog.com/21636/community-grants-awarded-to-queensland-cult)>.

<sup>365</sup> Murray, D., ‘Sect leader Debra Burslem convinced followers to give her millions’, *The Courier Mail*, (21 February 2015), <<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/sect-leader-debra-burslem-convinced-followers-to-give-her-millions/news-story/>>.

<sup>366</sup> Sabalto, R., ‘Magnificat Meal Movement’, *Apparitions*, (2013), <[www.unitypublishing.com/Apparitions/ClaireMonsour.htm](http://www.unitypublishing.com/Apparitions/ClaireMonsour.htm)>.

<sup>367</sup> Thorne, F., ‘The prophetess of the outback’, *Cult Education Institute sourced from Ireland on Sunday*, (13 July 2003), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/1048-magnificat-meal-movement/13370-the-prophetess-of-the-outback.html>>.

<sup>368</sup> Ibid.

<sup>369</sup> Gearing, A., ‘Dangerous flights of fancy’, *The Courier Mail*, (15 June 2003), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/1048-magnificat-meal-movement/13367-dangerous-flights-of-fantasy.html>>.

<sup>370</sup> Murray, D., ‘Sect leader Debra Burslem convinced followers to give her millions’, *The Courier Mail*, (21 February 2015), <<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/sect-leader-debra-burslem-convinced-followers-to-give-her-millions/news-story/>>.

<sup>371</sup> Magnificat Meal Movement, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (2 January 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnificat\\_Meal\\_Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnificat_Meal_Movement)>.

<sup>372</sup> ‘Queensland’s Helidon cult leader living large in Vanuatu’, *Sunshine Coast Daily*, (17 February 2015), <<https://www.sunshinecoastdaily.com.au/news/queenslands-helidon-cult-leader-living-large-vanua/2546520/>>.

<sup>373</sup> Ibid.

<sup>374</sup> Murray, D., ‘Sect leader Debra Burslem convinced followers to give her millions’, *The Courier Mail*, (21 February 2015), <<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/sect-leader-debra-burslem-convinced-followers-to-give-her-millions/news-story/>>.

<sup>375</sup> Magnificat Meal Movement, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (2 January 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnificat\\_Meal\\_Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnificat_Meal_Movement)>.

## Mormon Church cult (now known as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)

The Mormon Church was founded in 1820 by Joseph Smith, a farmer's son in western New York state. In the 1800s, there was a period of protestant church revivals throughout the United States settlements. It was the time known as the Second Great Awakening.<sup>376</sup> As a teenager aged 14, Joseph Smith was undecided which church or doctrine he should worship. According to Smith's accounts, he walked into the woods and prayed to God asking for his guidance. God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son then appeared before Smith and told him "all churches on Earth were wrong, and that he was to join none of them."<sup>377</sup> Smith had numerous visions, and claimed that God wants him to re-establish the 'true Christian church' by establishing the correct doctrine for restoring the faith.<sup>378</sup> In 1823, Smith witnessed visions of an angel named Moroni<sup>379</sup> which revealed to him the location of Golden Plates that are of biblical significance from the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, Middle Eastern region. The plates were buried in a box within a nearby hill at Manchester, New York state. The Golden Plates had been inscribed the text of 'The Book of Mormons' in a reformed Egyptian language. Smith claimed to have translated the language with the assistance of the special eyewear and 'seer stones'. Smith began dictating the text of The Book of Mormon around the fall of 1827 until the summer of 1828 when 116 pages were 'lost'. Translation began again in April 1829 and finished in June 1829, saying that he translated it "by the gift and power of God". Smith's friend Oliver Cowdery acted as scribe for the translation. After the translation was completed, Smith said the plates were returned to the angel. During Smith's supposed possession, only three other people "witnessed" or authenticated the 'Golden Plates'.<sup>380</sup> They were Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris, and David Whitmer. The Three Witnesses were a group of three early leaders of the Latter Day Saint movement who wrote in a statement of 1830 that an angel had shown them the golden plates from which Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon, and that they had heard God's voice testifying that the book had been translated by the power of God.<sup>381</sup> Smith, Oliver Cowdery, and other early followers, began baptizing new converts into their newly organised Church of Jesus Christ, and Smith was seen by his followers as a modern-day prophet.<sup>382</sup>

The word Mormon was devised by Joseph Smith as meaning 'more mon'. He combined the English word 'more' and the Reformed Egyptian word 'mon' meaning 'good'. Thus, Mormon means 'more-good' and sums up their belief that the Mormon's book of scripture, a prophet, and a place of covenant are interconnected to better serve the world.<sup>383</sup> The historical accuracy of the Book of Mormon remains questionable because no archaeological, linguistic, or other evidence of the use of Joseph Smith's 'Reformed Egyptian' writing in ancient America has been discovered.<sup>384</sup> This did not stop Joseph Smith

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<sup>376</sup> 'Second Great Awakening', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (5 May 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second\\_Great\\_Awakening](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Great_Awakening)>.

<sup>377</sup> 'First Vision: Mormon in Transition', *Institute for Religious Research*, (1 August 2011), <[mit.irr.org/first-vision](http://mit.irr.org/first-vision)>.

<sup>378</sup> 'Mormonism', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (7 April 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormonism>>.

<sup>379</sup> 'Gods, Prophets and Schizophrenia', *Beyond I Am*, (16 May 2017), <[beyondiam.com/gods-prophets-schizophrenia/](http://beyondiam.com/gods-prophets-schizophrenia/)>.

<sup>380</sup> McKeever, B., 'Problems with the Gold Plates of the Book of Mormons', *Christian Research Institute*, (2014), <<https://www.equip.org/article/problems-with-the-gold-plates-of-the-book-of-mormon-2/>>.

<sup>381</sup> 'The Three Witnesses', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (2 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book\\_of\\_Mormon\\_witnesses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Mormon_witnesses)>.

<sup>382</sup> 'Gods, Prophets and Schizophrenia', *Beyond I Am*, (16 May 2017), <[beyondiam.com/gods-prophets-schizophrenia/](http://beyondiam.com/gods-prophets-schizophrenia/)>.

<sup>383</sup> Hunter, K., 'What Does "Mormon" Mean, Anyways?', *Basic Beliefs of Mormons*, (8 March 2006), <[https://ldsblogs.com/1495/what\\_does\\_a\\_mormona\\_mean\\_anyways](https://ldsblogs.com/1495/what_does_a_mormona_mean_anyways)>.

<sup>384</sup> 'Mormonism', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (7 April 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormonism>>.

from preaching his version of history, and convinced followers that the Indigenous peoples of the Americas were members of the Lost Tribes of Israel.<sup>385</sup> Other beliefs and behaviours practiced by Mormons include: anything that the prophet of the Mormon Church says is considered official canon;<sup>386</sup> Jesus visited the peoples of American after his resurrection;<sup>387</sup> the Garden of Eden is located in North America, and that the New Jerusalem would be built in Missouri;<sup>388</sup> that God Jesus and the Holy Spirit are three separate entities;<sup>389</sup> God, Jesus and resurrection beings are made of flesh and bone;<sup>390</sup> a person can be forgiven for any sin except two (murder, and denying the existence of the Holy Spirit);<sup>391</sup> hell (often called spirit prison) being a temporary repository for the wicked between death and the resurrection;<sup>392</sup> followers are expected to wear special under garments day and night after they have been 'Endowed in the Temple';<sup>393</sup> Baptism of the Dead via proxy (so the deceased can have a second chance at salvation after physical death);<sup>394</sup> mandatory payment of tithing at services;<sup>395</sup> obedience to the "Law of Chastity" (strict celibacy outside of a marriage that is legally recognized by the local government, and that is both monogamous and heterosexual);<sup>396</sup> coffee, drugs and tobacco are forbidden;<sup>397</sup> and females are not allowed to partake in the priesthood.<sup>398</sup> Also mentioned within the Mormon doctrines is the concept of

'the three heavens: Celestial Kingdom, Terrestrial Kingdom, and Telestial Kingdom. The Celestial is the highest, where God and the ones who followed his law reside. The Terrestrial is the middle, where people who followed the Law of Moses reside. The Telestial is the lowest, where the ones who followed carnal law reside. Mormons also believe that God created multiple worlds and each world has people living on it. They also believe that multiple Gods exist, but each has their own universe. People are only subject to the God that governs that particular world, and if humans obtain the highest level of heaven then they can become gods as well.'<sup>399</sup>

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<sup>385</sup> 'Mormonism', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (7 April 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormonism>>.

<sup>386</sup> 'Scriptures: Doctrine and Covenants', *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints website*, (1 September 2018), <<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament?lang=eng>>.

<sup>387</sup> 'Top 10 Bizarre Mormon Beliefs', *List Verse*, (4 February 2008), <[listverse.com/2008/02/04/top-10-bizarre-mormon-beliefs/](http://listverse.com/2008/02/04/top-10-bizarre-mormon-beliefs/)>.

<sup>388</sup> 'Mormonism', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (7 April 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormonism>>.

<sup>389</sup> 'Scriptures: Doctrine and Covenants', *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints website*, (1 September 2018), <<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament?lang=eng>>.

<sup>390</sup> 'Mormon Church and Obedience - Personal Observations', *Recovery from Mormonism website*, (2018), <<https://www.exmormon.org/>>.

<sup>391</sup> 'Scriptures: Doctrine and Covenants', *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints website*, (1 September 2018), <<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament?lang=eng>>.

<sup>392</sup> 'Mormonism', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (7 April 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormonism>>.

<sup>393</sup> 'Mormon Church and Obedience - Personal Observations', *Recovery from Mormonism website*, (2018), <<https://www.exmormon.org/>>.

<sup>394</sup> 'Mormon Practices: Mormonism', *Religion Facts*, (5 March 2017), <[www.religionfacts.com/mormonism/practices](http://www.religionfacts.com/mormonism/practices)>.

<sup>395</sup> 'Mormon Church and Obedience - Personal Observations', *Recovery from Mormonism website*, (2018), <<https://www.exmormon.org/>>.

<sup>396</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>397</sup> 'Top 10 Bizarre Mormon Beliefs', *List Verse*, (4 February 2008), <[listverse.com/2008/02/04/top-10-bizarre-mormon-beliefs/](http://listverse.com/2008/02/04/top-10-bizarre-mormon-beliefs/)>.

<sup>398</sup> 'Scriptures: Doctrine and Covenants', *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints website*, (1 September 2018), <<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament?lang=eng>>.

<sup>399</sup> 'Mormon Practices: Mormonism', *Religion Facts*, (5 March 2017), <[www.religionfacts.com/mormonism/practices](http://www.religionfacts.com/mormonism/practices)>.



A way for the cult followers to achieve the highest level of heaven is to undertake Missions across the globe and spread the word about the Mormon belief in the form of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Missionary efforts seek to make converts to their faith by means of direct evangelism, massive rallies, through various acts of service, or charity efforts.<sup>400</sup> Mormon missionaries are usually between 19 and 21 years old and dedicate two years of their life in seeking converts.<sup>401</sup> Missionaries live under very strict restrictions devoid of entertainment and contact sports. They must adhere to a specific dress code, follow the Church practices, and finance their own way.<sup>402</sup> Previously, missionaries could indicate a preference for their country of service, but now they go wherever the Church Elders dictate (usually Third-World countries).<sup>403</sup> After their mission work is complete it is expected that followers marry and bring forth a multitude of children into the world. Mormons practice polygamist marriage as they believe it is God's law and they are living similar lives to that of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob of the Old Testament. They believe that their latter-day church includes, as predicted in the Bible, the "restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:21).<sup>404</sup> Mormons claim to have discontinued the practice of polygamy, but members still do have multiple couplings under the guise of 'sister wives' <sup>405</sup>. This is a way to bypass marriage laws in certain countries, including Australia. It is achieved by marrying and registering only one wife legally under a country's law, and then acquire more 'sister wives' by having a Church Elder perform the Union Ceremonies.<sup>406</sup> The 'sister wives' are unregistered marriages. All the women (or teenage girls) live together with their 'church husband' in a pseudo-de facto relationship. A Mormon male can have up to eight or more 'sister wives', a multitude of children, and live according to the word of God under Australian laws.<sup>407</sup> Many Mormons commence Multi-Level Marketing (M.L.M) schemes or other direct selling schemes. The businesses include - Amway, Noni Juice, Nu Skin, Mary Kay, Nature's Sunshine Products, Nutra Smart and Herbalife.<sup>408</sup> The reasoning is twofold. Firstly, most Mormon women are stay-at-home parents and M.L.M help them to gain further finances. Secondly, the Mormon's mandatory tithing rule means that the cult followers must give up to 25% (possibly more) of their income to the Church. Mormons also need to donate money to the Mission Fund (and other Church events) which takes an even larger chunk of money out of the typical Mormon family budget.<sup>409</sup> The total church membership in Australia is around 151,000.<sup>410</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>400</sup> 'Mormon Church and Obedience - Personal Observations', *Recovery from Mormonism website*, (2018), <<https://www.exmormon.org/>>.

<sup>401</sup> 'Mormon Practices: Mormonism', *Religion Facts*, (5 March 2017), <[www.religionfacts.com/mormonism/practices](http://www.religionfacts.com/mormonism/practices)>.

<sup>402</sup> 'Mormon Church and Obedience - Personal Observations', *Recovery from Mormonism website*, (2018), <<https://www.exmormon.org/>>.

<sup>403</sup> 'Mormonism', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (7 April 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormonism>>.

<sup>404</sup> 'Scriptures: Doctrine and Covenants', *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints website*, (1 September 2018), <<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament?lang=eng>>.

<sup>405</sup> Bennet, K., "Sister Wives: How Polygamist Kody Brown and His Four Wives Support Their Family of 23", *The Cheat Sheet*, (6 June 2018), <<https://www.cheatsheet.com/money-career/sister-wives-how-polygamist-kody-brown-and-his-four-wives-support-their-family-of-23.html>>.

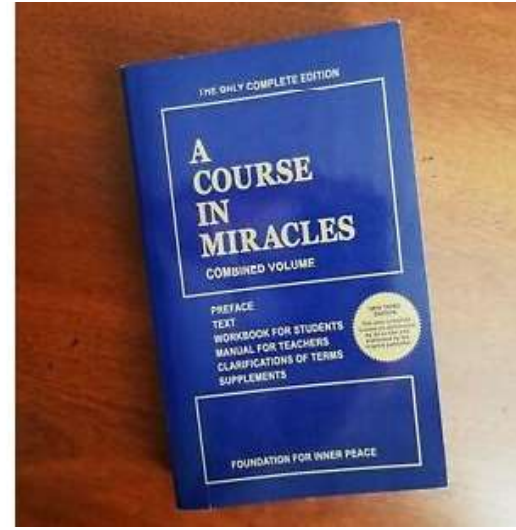
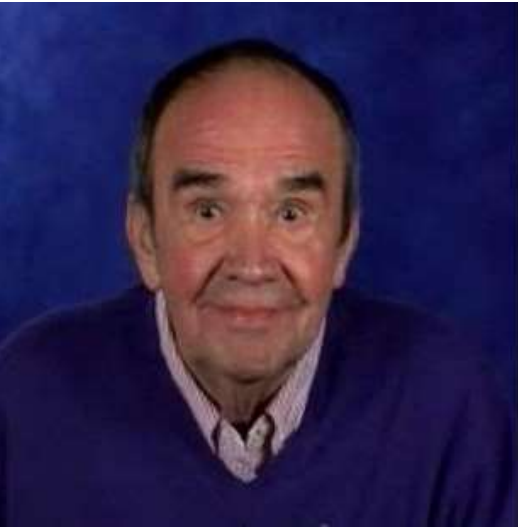
<sup>406</sup> 'Mormon Church and Obedience - Personal Observations', *Recovery from Mormonism website*, (2018), <<https://www.exmormon.org/>>.

<sup>407</sup> Ibid.

<sup>408</sup> 'Why do so many Mormons enter MLM schemes?', *Not A Mormon: Blogspot*, (7 August 2006), <<https://notamormon.blogspot.com/2006/08/why-do-so-many-mormons-enter-mlm.html>>.

<sup>409</sup> Ibid.

<sup>410</sup> 'All your questions about Mormonism, answered', *SBS: Topics*, (3 April 2019), <<https://www.sbs.com.au/topics/life/culture/article/2019/03/25/all-your-questions-about-mormonism-answered>>.



## New Christian Church Of Full Endeavour cult

The New Christian Church of Full Endeavour cult (aka Endeavour cult in the U.S.A) began in 1992 by Wisconsin's real estate salesman and former U.S Marine, Charles Buell Anderson. Anderson claims to have experienced a few 'spiritual awakenings' prior to establishing the cult group – and declared that his last 'vision' immediately cured his cirrhosis of the liver.<sup>411</sup> Initially, Anderson formed a small group of like-minded Bible Study students to focus on the teachings of the New Testament. However, after his 'awakenings', Anderson's spiritual interests deviated towards a modern New Age text called *A Course in Miracles (A.C.I.M)*. The book *A.C.I.M* was written in 1976 by child psychologist Helen Schucman, a Baptist. Schucman claims 'that the book had been dictated to her, word for word, via an "inner dictation" procedure from Christ himself.'<sup>412</sup> Schucman states that she was a 'channeler' to Christ the Lord, but other health professionals believe Schucman had underlying symptoms of psychosis, schizophrenia, and delusions of grandiosity.<sup>413</sup> In Schucman's book, she states that "the underlying premise is that the greatest miracle is simply the act of simply gaining a full awareness of love's presence in one's own life".<sup>414</sup> Critics claim that the book's text is borrowed from spiritual literature of the 1960s & 1970s New Age Movement, especially regarding the use of 'spiritual channelling' methods in the hope to gain wisdom and/or hear some words from Christ.<sup>415</sup>

Anderson's 'Bible Classes' gradually evolved over time as he slowly incorporated Schucman's psychotic teachings, combined with Eastern spiritual beliefs and elements from the New Testament.<sup>416</sup> By the late 1980s, the group had expanded from 20 people to almost 500 members. The cult followers had began to revere Anderson and became convinced that he is "a continuing union with the mind of Jesus of Nazareth through the Holy Spirit...a Teacher of God...the Awakener" and a "Light Transmitter".<sup>417</sup> Cult followers are to call Anderson - 'Master Teacher'. In 1991, Anderson decided to list the cult as a

<sup>411</sup> 'Endeavor Academy', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (23 March 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endeavor\\_Academy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endeavor_Academy)>.

<sup>412</sup> 'A Course in Miracles', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (2 April 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A\\_Course\\_in\\_Miracles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Course_in_Miracles)>.

<sup>413</sup> Cairnes, J., 'The Mother Of All Delusions Of Grandiosity', *Medium*, (22 November 2019), <<https://medium.com/julie-von-nonveiller-cairnes/the-mother-of-all-delusions-of-grandiosity-ca9320645096>>.

<sup>414</sup> 'A Course in Miracles: Sunday Mornings', *Unity of Houston* (2020), <<https://unityhouston.org/spiritual-teaching/classes/a-course-in-miracles-sunday-mornings/>>.

<sup>415</sup> 'Helen Schucman and the Voice of Jesus', *Facebook Page* (30 November 2018), <<https://www.facebook.com/Helen-Schucman-and-the-Voice-of-Jesus-276444906348106/>>.

<sup>416</sup> Cairnes, J., 'The Mother Of All Delusions Of Grandiosity', *Medium*, (22 November 2019), <<https://medium.com/julie-von-nonveiller-cairnes/the-mother-of-all-delusions-of-grandiosity-ca9320645096>>.

<sup>417</sup> 'Wisconsin "cult" leader Chuck Anderson dead', *Cult News: Cult Education Institute*, (19 January 2008), <<http://cultnews.com/2008/06/wisconsin-cult-leader-chuck-anderson-dead/>>.

business organisation. The cult was originally called 'God's Country Place' (G.C.P). However, a name change occurred a year later and the cult was officially registered to operate under the names of 'Endeavor Academy' (in the U.S.A) and 'New Christian Church Of Full Endeavor' (in Australia).<sup>418</sup>

The spiritual ideology of the Endeavour Academy cult are based on i) the text from *A.C.I.M*; ii) the Bible; and iii) the 'Perennial Philosophy' concept – a “perspective in philosophy and spirituality that views all of the world's religious traditions as sharing a single, metaphysical truth or origin from which all esoteric and exoteric knowledge and doctrine has grown”.<sup>419</sup> This esoteric concept acknowledges “a 'Divine Reality' behind the visible world of human sense experience known as 'maya' or 'illusion'. The Endeavour Academy cult believes that by “discovering the reality behind the 'illusion' of life humans will discover their own essence as being equal with the 'Divine Reality'.”<sup>420</sup> At the Endeavor Academy the cult followers spend their days studying Anderson's words, and working part-time at the Academy-owned restaurant.<sup>421</sup> The spiritual practice involves the mandatory need to spend hours each day in a kind of meditative trance that they call 'sessions' or 'light intensives'.<sup>422</sup> The cult followers claim that regular practice of this activity is the only way a human can find: i) spiritual healing; ii) a fulfilled life; and iii) a guaranteed path to heaven.

Anderson conducts his teachings of *A.C.I.M* using the format of the '12-Step programme' – a cognitive process founded in 1935 by Bill Wilson and Dr. Robert Smith, which is normally used to address a wide range of alcoholism, substance-abuse, and dependency problems.<sup>423</sup> The programme is better known as Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A). Anderson claims that people are "humaholics", because they are addicted to their limited identities as human beings.<sup>424</sup> “In 12-Step programmes, the illness of the spiritual dimension, or 'spiritual malady', is considered to be a character flaw of self-centeredness. The programme's steps are intended to replace self-centeredness with a growing moral consciousness and a willingness for self-sacrifice and unselfish constructive action which is beneficial to others. In 12-Step groups, this is known as a 'spiritual awakening'.”<sup>425</sup> The Endeavor Academy cult invites the surrounding community to attend their 12-Step programme, spiritual teachings and 'sessions' which are conducted twice a week inside their cult compound. In the U.S.A, the Endeavor Academy cult has been granted permission from the Wisconsin State to teach their cult doctrines and 12-Step programme to incarcerated criminals in the State's correctional facilities, and provide support to the Christian association for Prison Aftercare and related Ministries.<sup>426</sup> The Endeavor Academy cult targets people who are dissatisfied with life - this a part of Anderson's “teachings and the cult's recruitment method. They believe that anyone who is not living in the Endeavour Academy is "living in hell". They want people

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<sup>418</sup> 'Endeavor Academy', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (23 March 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endeavor\\_Academy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endeavor_Academy)>.

<sup>419</sup> 'Perennial Philosophy', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (14 May 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perennial\\_philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perennial_philosophy)>.

<sup>420</sup> Matt, 'New Christian Church of Full Endeavor', *Occult Health: Conspiracy Vault*, (22 November 2018), <<https://occulthealth.com/new-christian-church-of-full-endeavor/>>.

<sup>421</sup> Roberts, T., 'The Academy: Miracle Or Cult?', *C.B.S News*, (6 December 1999), <<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-academy-miracle-or-cult/>>.

<sup>422</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>423</sup> Clark, J., 'How Rehab Works', *How Stuff Works*, (2007), <<https://people.howstuffworks.com/rehab.htm>>.

<sup>424</sup> Scott, V., 'Freedom Now', *Cult Education Institute*, (1995), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/900-endeavor-academy/5861-freedom-now.html>>.

<sup>425</sup> 'Twelve Step Program', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (13 May 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve-step\\_program](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve-step_program)>.

<sup>426</sup> 'Endeavor Academy', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (23 March 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endeavor\\_Academy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endeavor_Academy)>.

to become more aware of their pain so they will move to Wisconsin and live in the cult's compound - their Haven from hell."<sup>427</sup>

By 1994, the Endeavour Academy cult had amassed enough money to purchase a former summer resort facility located at 530 East Adams Street in Wisconsin Dells, and a 161.8 hectare property on Highway 23 near Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, U.S.A.<sup>428</sup> The properties features an enormous 'Revelation Hall' (where large international events are held), an old resort motel, and several housing complexes for the residential cult followers. Cult members are charged \$49411.00 a month accumulatively to live in the 'main house', and must pay for their own food and utilities. Visitors and new recruits to the compound are expected to pay \$495.00 a week for the duration of their stay. If a person is unable to pay or doesn't have any money, they need to do unpaid part-time work<sup>429</sup> at the cult compound to compensate. Anderson believes that it is "impossible to have a holy relationship, except with God."<sup>430</sup> Due to this belief, marriages are discouraged within the cult and couple's relationships are intentionally destroyed.<sup>431</sup> It is also mandatory for all members and visitors to purchase their own *A.C.I.M* book (priced between \$25.00 upward to \$55.00) before entering the cult compound. Within the cult group there has been concerning incidents of financial fraud, sexual assaults, and multiple cases of cult followers needing to be admitted to hospitals following a psychotic episode. Serious sexual harassment and abuse allegations have been levelled against their cult leader. Former cult followers have witnessed Anderson take advantage of women on many occasions and describe incidents of molestation and physical assaults – "he puts his hands down their tops"; "plays with their breasts in public"; "he yanks at their hair"; "screaming at them and making absolutely no sense in the process"; and "grabs at their sexual organs".<sup>432</sup> Anderson has also been embroiled in legal battles concerning his cult teachings and disregard of copyright laws. "The 'Foundation for Inner Peace' and Penguin Books sued Anderson claiming that he and Endeavor Academy cult had violated their *A.C.I.M* copyright. Ultimately, the U.S Courts declared that the First Edition of the *A.C.I.M* book was 'public domain' in 2004.<sup>433</sup> Anderson has never been convicted nor jailed for his criminal activities within the cult group – he died peacefully on 13 May 2008.<sup>434</sup>

In the 1990s, the cult established branches in Australia, and registered themselves as the New Church Of Full Endeavor in January 1994 (A.B.N - 062 289 150). This particular cult branch in Australia is sometimes referred to as 'Miracle Sessions' or the 'Miracle Centre'.<sup>435</sup> The cult initially established their

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<sup>427</sup> Picone, K., 'My Experience at "God's Country Place" a.k.a. The Endeavor Academy', *Cult Education Institute*, (1991), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/900-endeavor-academy/5855-my-experience-at-gods-country-place-aka-the-endeavor-academy.html>>.

<sup>428</sup> 'Endeavor Academy', Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia, (23 March 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endeavor\\_Academy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endeavor_Academy)>.

<sup>429</sup> Picone, K., 'My Experience at "God's Country Place" a.k.a. The Endeavor Academy', *Cult Education Institute*, (1991), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/900-endeavor-academy/5855-my-experience-at-gods-country-place-aka-the-endeavor-academy.html>>.

<sup>430</sup> Ibid.

<sup>431</sup> 'Leaving Endeavor Academy: CBS 48 Hours', *Cult Education Institute*, (9 December 1999), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/900-endeavor-academy/5845-leaving-endeavor-academy.html>>.

<sup>432</sup> 'Wisconsin "cult" leader Chuck Anderson dead', *Cult News*, (19 June 2008), <<http://cultnews.com/2008/06/wisconsin-cult-leader-chuck-anderson-dead/>>.

<sup>433</sup> Ibid.

<sup>434</sup> 'Wisconsin "cult" leader Chuck Anderson dead', *Cult News*, (19 June 2008), <<http://cultnews.com/2008/06/wisconsin-cult-leader-chuck-anderson-dead/>>.

<sup>435</sup> 'Holy Smoke Newsletter', *Cult Education Institute*, Vol No: 14, (June 2000), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/900-endeavor-academy/5864-holy-smoke-.html>>.



organisation in the Byron Bay region (in a hub called 'Miracle Centre'), and in the small town of Westbrook near Toowoomba, Queensland. The cult centres offers lessons in *A.C.I.M*, 'light intensive' training, and 'spiritual bootcamps'. These bootcamps also include 'Gay Conversion Therapy' programmes – and use the following passage from Lesson 170 in *A.C.I.M* to justify their cruel and discriminatory practices: "With love as enemy, must cruelty become a god. And gods demand that those who worship them obey their dictates, and refuse to question them. Harsh punishment is meted out relentlessly to those who ask if the demands are sensible or even sane. It is their enemies who are unreasonable and insane, while they are always merciful and just."<sup>436</sup> The Westbrook 'spiritual bootcamp' was disbanded in the early 2000s.<sup>437</sup> The New Christian Church Of Full Endeavor cult had hoped to take its teachings into the Queensland prisons system by forming the 'Miracles Prisoner Ministry'. As yet, no formal application has been lodged to the Corrective Services Department - if so the request would be referred to the department's chaplaincy board.<sup>438</sup>

The Australian spokesperson for the New Christian Church Of Full Endeavour is Ms Margo Knox, who is one of the cult's 'Awakened Teachers' (Minister). Ms Knox is also a Funeral Celebrant at 'Graceful Transitions', a Registered Nurse (RN Number: NMW0001268924), and a former child protection officer with the New South Wales Family Services.<sup>439</sup> She frequently works in aged care facilities (Feros Care), health retreats, and wellness centres throughout the Northern Rivers region, Gold Coast, and Brisbane. Ms Knox is most noted for sprouting racist, homophobic tirades as well as anti-Semitic and anti-Islamic views on social media - particularly on Facebook.<sup>440</sup> Her views stems from the cult's spiritual teachings sourced from the Bible. "The early Christian church developed the notion that the Jews were therefore a people rejected by God: children of the devil – as interpreted from the Biblical verse in John 8:44."<sup>441</sup> The cult also applies the same religious interpretation and deluded thinking to people of Islamic faith. Ms Knox firmly stands by the cult's view that all non-believers of the Christian faith will ultimately face damnation, and that eternal life is only "gained by revelation and resurrection through continuing uncompromising, unconditional surrender to the eternal, perfectly-creating Will of God".<sup>442</sup> Ms Knox regularly conducts wellbeing presentations and workshops at the Relaxation Centre of Queensland (which actively promotes the New Christian Church Of Full Endeavour cult), in the suburb of Alderley, Brisbane. The workshops cost \$50.00 per person and are aimed at retirees and the aging population.<sup>443</sup> Ms Knox has based her workshops on the teachings from *A.C.I.M*,<sup>444</sup> all the while surreptitiously trying to recruit new followers into the cult. The New Christian Church Of Full Endeavour cult believes that

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<sup>436</sup> 'Lesson 170', *Miracle Distribution Centre: A Course In Miracles Resource Centre*, (2021), <<https://www.miraclecenter.org/a-course-in-miracles/W-pl.170.php>>.

<sup>437</sup> 'Holy Smoke Newsletter', *Cult Education Institute*, Vol No: 14, (June 2000), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/g900-endeavor-academy/5864-holy-smoke-.html>>.

<sup>438</sup> Smith, W., 'Suicides spark fears of Byron church cult: excerpt from Courier Mail', *Cult Education Institute*, (19 May 2001), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/g900-endeavor-academy/5860-suicides-spark-fears-of-byron-church-cult.html>>.

<sup>439</sup> Ibid.

<sup>440</sup> 'Margo Knox', *Facebook*, (2021), <<https://www.facebook.com/margknoxo.>>.

<sup>441</sup> Nathan, J., 'Report on Anti-Semitism in Australia 2014', *Executive Council of Australian Jewry*, (1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014), <<https://www.scribd.com/document/246079620/2014-Antisemitism-Report>>.

<sup>442</sup> 'Bible Talks', *The Master Teacher TV*, (2021), <<https://themasterteacher.tv/books/bible-talks>>.

<sup>443</sup> 'Latest Newsletter & Programme', *Relaxation Centre of Queensland*, (2021), <<https://www.relaxationcentreqlld.org/announcements/newsletter-and-programme/>>.

<sup>444</sup> 'All About Miracle Healing', *Miracles Healing Centre*, (2021), <<https://miracleshealingcenter.com/miracle-healing/all-about-miracle-healing>>.

sickness is self-caused, and that death is an illusion.<sup>445</sup> According to the website, the cult claims the ability to teach people various strategies to help improve their life so they will not be 'controlled' by physical ailments or unconscious conditions.<sup>446</sup> The 'miracle' workshops have led to people to: i) be improperly diagnosed, ii) refuse medical attention; and iii) become non-compliant with medical treatments. These 'miracle' workshops also purports that people can use 'mind over matter' strategies to cure medical ailments – even cancer.<sup>447</sup>

The New Christian Church Of Full Endeavor cult has been involved in numerous controversies. There has been police investigations concerning two suicides within three years – all linked to the cult's teachings.<sup>448</sup> Witnesses' testimonies state that the victims began believing that "the world was not real, and death didn't matter", and in a "Statutory Declaration written eight months before her death, one of the suicide victims said she experienced "horrific psychotic episodes" as a result of her five-year involvement in the cult".<sup>449</sup> Also, several former cult members have been admitted into Mental Health facilities after experiencing acute psychosis, suicidal ideations, or clinical depression due to ongoing exposure to The New Christian Church Of Full Endeavor's teachings and cult activities.<sup>450</sup> The cult group has come under scrutiny of the Australian Immigration Department concerning the legitimacy of some work visas and tourist visas of cult members. "It is understood a Master Teacher with the cult, American Eugene Shearn, was refused re-entry to Australia in 2001 after his visa was revoked. The visa of the other 'Awakened Teacher' of the Byron Bay cult, Theodore H Poppe II (aka 'Hector') had also been investigated."<sup>451</sup>

The Endeavor Academy cult aims to recruit 144000 members – the exact figure mentioned in the book of Revelations - "The 144000 will be the first to receive the seal of God" (Revelation 7:3).<sup>452</sup> Besides its headquarters in Wisconsin (U.S.A), the cult has now established international communities in Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Spain, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Australia, and Mexico. The Endeavor Academy has a worldwide membership of approximately 10 000 followers. The New Christian Church Of Full Endeavor cult with its Australian base in Byron Bay, has formed branches in: Brisbane (Queensland); Tweed Heads, Newtown, Waverley (New South Wales); Warrene (Tasmania); Perth (Western Australia); and a national following of approximately 800 people. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>445</sup> 'A Course in Miracles or a road to Nowhere? – Transcript from The Spirit of Things', *Radio National: ABC*, (11 March 2001), <<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/archived/spiritofthings/a-course-in-miracles/3481870#transcript>>.

<sup>446</sup> 'Margo Knox', *Relaxation Centre of Queensland* (2021), <<https://www.relaxationcentreqld.org/presenters/margo-knox/>>.

<sup>447</sup> 'How is healing accomplished?', *Miracles Healing Centre*, (2021), <<https://miracleshealingcenter.com/miracle-healing/all-about-miracle-healing/how-is-healing-accomplished>>.

<sup>448</sup> 'Some general myths about the Endeavor Academy: Holy Smoke Newsletter', *Cult Education Institute*, (August 2000), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/900-endeavor-academy/5854-some-general-myths-about-the-endeavor-academy.html>>.

<sup>449</sup> Smith, W., 'Suicides spark fears of Byron church cult – excerpt from Courier Mail', *Cult Education Institute*, (19 May 2001), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/900-endeavor-academy/5860-suicides-spark-fears-of-byron-church-cult.html>>.

<sup>450</sup> 'Some general myths about the Endeavor Academy: Holy Smoke Newsletter', *Cult Education Institute*, (August 2000), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/900-endeavor-academy/5854-some-general-myths-about-the-endeavor-academy.html>>.

<sup>451</sup> Smith, W., 'Suicides spark fears of Byron church cult – excerpt from Courier Mail', *Cult Education Institute*, (19 May 2001), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/900-endeavor-academy/5860-suicides-spark-fears-of-byron-church-cult.html>>.

<sup>452</sup> 'Let's Talk About The 144,000- Servants or Saints?', *Ask Jacqueline: Spiritual Abuse And It's Aftermath*, (5 September 2019), <<https://askjacqueline.life/lets-talk-about-the-144000-servants-or-saints/>>.

## New Kadampa Tradition cult

The New Kadampa Tradition is a Buddhist religious movement founded by Kelsang Gyatso in England in 1991. The New Kadampa Tradition-International Kadampa Buddhist Union (N.K.T- I.K.B.U), describes itself as an "entirely independent" modern Buddhist order that presents itself to be a religion based on the teachings of the Gelugpa tradition of Tibetan Buddhism. The cult has now grown to become a global Buddhist organisation. Cult followers of the N.K.T celebrate the cult leader named Gyatso (called Geshe-la by his students), as the one who "is primarily responsible for the worldwide revival of Kadampa Buddhism in our time".<sup>453</sup> However, critics have described The New Kadampa Tradition as a breakaway cult and argue it is not part of the ancient Kadampa Tradition but a split from the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism.<sup>454</sup> Tibetologist Thierry Dodin has described the N.K.T as a cult, "on the basis of its organisational form, its excessive group pressure and blind obedience to its founder. The organisation's extreme fanaticism and aggressive missionary drive are typical cult features too."<sup>455</sup> There is an apparent contradiction between claiming a pure Tibetan lineage and separating completely from contemporary Tibetan tradition. While the N.K.T strongly emphasises its unbroken 'lineage', it has no Tibetan followers and claims to stand outside current Tibetan Buddhism.<sup>456</sup> This has not prevented the N.K.T from distorting and exporting a minor Tibetan fundamentalist cult of Shugden worship around the world to rival the Dalai Lama. The media-savvy multinational organisation consists of 1100 meditation centres, deluxe Mediterranean hotels, government-subsided apartments, spas, mansions, restaurants, and web sites. They manage Empowerment Festivals (including Mass Tantra Empowerments for novices and children), and entice many young clergy and followers dedicated to the worship of Shugden.<sup>457</sup> The finances to fund the N.K.T assets have come from their followers. The followers' treatment by the cult would often match their financial contribution to the N.K.T. It has been noted – the bigger the donation amount, the greater status, responsibilities and respect the cult follower would receive; a small donation, resulted in the cult followers being shunned and punished. Cult followers justify N.K.T actions as 'balancing the negative karma from both this life and past lives on the road to enlightenment'.<sup>458</sup> Besides paying large amounts of money to the N.K.T centres so they can earn "Good Merit", cult followers are brainwashed to reject the teachings of His Holiness The Dalai Lama. They want the Dalai Lama to agree with the N.K.T that the fierce deity/spirit that they call 'Dorje Shugden' (and most Tibetans call 'Dolgyal'), is really a Buddha. They know the Dalai Lama thinks it is a hostile spirit, since he considers that it has been malevolent in history toward his former incarnations, and toward the Tibetan people under his protection.<sup>459</sup>

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<sup>453</sup> 'New Kadampa Tradition', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (21 September 2018), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Kadampa\\_Tradition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Kadampa_Tradition)>.

<sup>454</sup> Jäckel, M., 'The story of a New Kadampa Tradition monk – or how I got sucked into a cult', *Buddhism Controversy Blog*, (16 December 2014), <<https://buddhism-controversy-blog.com/2014/12/16/the-story-of-a-new-kadampa-tradition-monk-or-how-i-got-sucked-into-a-cult/>>.

<sup>455</sup> 'The Dorje Shugden Conflict: An interview with Tibetologist Thierry Dodin', *Tibetan Buddhism in the West: The Problems of Adoption and Cross-Cultural Confusion*, (8 May 2014), <[https://info-buddhism.com/Dorje\\_Shugden\\_Conflict\\_Dalai\\_Lama\\_protests\\_Thierry\\_Dodin.html](https://info-buddhism.com/Dorje_Shugden_Conflict_Dalai_Lama_protests_Thierry_Dodin.html)>.

<sup>456</sup> Dryburgh, G., 'When it is more than abuse: Experiences within the New Kadampa Tradition', *Buddhism Controversy Blog*, <<https://buddhism-controversy-blog.com/2016/01/12/when-it-is-more-than-abuse-experiences-within-the-new-kadampa-tradition-nkt/>>.

<sup>457</sup> 'An NKT overview', *NKT World: Anti-Buddhist?*, (2009), <<https://www.nktworld.org/overview.html>>.

<sup>458</sup> Dryburgh, G., 'When it is more than abuse: Experiences within the New Kadampa Tradition', *Buddhism Controversy Blog*, <<https://buddhism-controversy-blog.com/2016/01/12/when-it-is-more-than-abuse-experiences-within-the-new-kadampa-tradition-nkt/>>.

<sup>459</sup> Thurman, R., 'Concerning the current wave of "Protest Demonstrations" against His Holiness the Dalai Lama', *Huffington Post*, 3 January 2015), <[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/dalai-lama-protests\\_b\\_6096576](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/dalai-lama-protests_b_6096576)>.

‘To properly understand this controversy, it is also necessary to understand the role of tantric deities (‘Iha’ in Tibetan) and spirits, and the status of protectors of the Dharma in Tibetan Buddhism. There are innumerable ‘Iha’ within the Tibetan cultural consciousness—deities of the ordinary world and protectors of the Dharma (masculine and feminine deities of different classes, often with a wrathful appearance); mundane—linked to a master by an oath and a principle of “submission-conversion”—and supramundane—emanations of bodhisattvas or buddhas.’<sup>460</sup> Everything changed when the Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 to escape the Chinese occupation. In exile, the Dalai Lama concluded that Tibetan unity was more important than the supremacy and purity of the Gelug tradition, and he adopted the inclusive outlook of the Rimé movement. Tensions built steadily as he distanced himself from Dorje Shugden. Eventually, he demanded that Gelug practitioners refrain from worshipping the deity entirely, which caused a rift in the Gelug school. Several Gelug lamas in the Tibetan exiled community, most of them disciplines of Trijang, turned against the Dalai Lama.<sup>461</sup>

Since then, the N.K.T cult followers have published two pamphlets (*A Great Deception*, and *False Dalai Lama*) attacking not only the current Dalai Lama, but all his predecessors from the Great Fifth Dalai Lama (1617-1682) onward, in which they make all manner of wild assertions to argue that all Dalai Lamas have been “evil,” “dictators.” etc. The cult’s primary goal is to confuse public opinion and ruin the Dalai Lama’s reputation.<sup>462</sup> The N.K.T cult followers have also been denied education in ethics, meditation, and critical wisdom. The cult followers are taught to find calm and insight in their own minds and hearts, and yet are being prevented from learning about Buddhism from the most important teacher in this era, His Holiness the Dalai Lama.<sup>463</sup> In doing so, the cult followers ostracise themselves from their families and friends, slowly deplete their bank accounts and assets, dutifully work long unpaid hours (02:00hrs till 17:00hrs), whilst residing in sub-standard living conditions.<sup>464</sup> Cult followers are expected to be engaged in a study programme and attend the centre’s commitments, and do their delegated ‘voluntary’ chores. People who are unable to keep up their ‘voluntary’ work routines are asked to leave the centre as they are perceived as a burden to the N.K.T.<sup>465</sup> The N.K.T do not view human frailty or sickness with compassion. A person with sickness is viewed as: i) being self-absorbed, ii) lazy, iii) result of karma, iv) do not have enough ‘faith’, v) not a ‘pure’ practitioner, vi) it’s ‘all in their head’, and vii) needing to train the mind to ‘eliminate the problem’ - mind over matter.<sup>466</sup> Cult followers who struggle with serious mental illnesses are encouraged to go off their medications and try to heal themselves through spiritual practice.<sup>467</sup> N.K.T followers are pressured to constantly show outward displays of

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<sup>460</sup> Campergue, C., ‘The exclusivism of the New Kadampa Tradition: the French example’, *Buddhist Door Global*, (8 February 2018), <<https://www.buddhistdoor.net/features/the-exclusivism-of-the-new-kadampa-tradition-the-french-example>>.

<sup>461</sup> Hertzog, J., ‘The one pure Dharma’, *Tricycle Magazine*, (2018), <<https://tricycle.org/magazine/the-one-pure-dharma/>>.

<sup>462</sup> Thurman, R., ‘Concerning the current wave of “Protest Demonstrations” against His Holiness the Dalai Lama’, *Huffington Post*, 3 January 2015), <[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/dalai-lama-protests\\_b\\_6096576](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/dalai-lama-protests_b_6096576)>.

<sup>463</sup> Ibid.

<sup>464</sup> Jäckel, M., ‘Kadampa Buddhism: International Kadampa Buddhist Union (I.K.B.U)’, *Tibetan Buddhism in the West: The Problems of Adoption and Cross-Cultural Confusion*, (May 2015) <[https://info-buddhism.com/new\\_kadampa\\_tradition.html#Criticism\\_of\\_the\\_NKT](https://info-buddhism.com/new_kadampa_tradition.html#Criticism_of_the_NKT)>.

<sup>465</sup> ‘There is a culture of not looking after the sick’, *New Kadampa Truths*, <[www.newkadampatruths.org/there-is-a-culture-of-not-looking-after-the-sick/](http://www.newkadampatruths.org/there-is-a-culture-of-not-looking-after-the-sick/)>.

<sup>466</sup> ‘Is it murder? Is it manslaughter? Is it just your karma?’, *New Kadampa Truths*, <[www.newkadampatruths.org/is-it-murder-is-it-manslaughter-is-it-just-your-karma/](http://www.newkadampatruths.org/is-it-murder-is-it-manslaughter-is-it-just-your-karma/)>.

<sup>467</sup> Hertzog, J., ‘The one pure Dharma’, *Tricycle Magazine*, (2018), <<https://tricycle.org/magazine/the-one-pure-dharma/>>.



happiness, because unhappiness is a sign of spiritual failing.<sup>468</sup> The followers are also taught to be grateful to receive the Buddhist teachings and were constantly told that it was the only path that will lead to people to Nirvana. Gyatso has convinced his cult followers that if they completely devote themselves to him, then they would attain Enlightenment in Three Years, Three Months, and Three Weeks.<sup>469</sup> If the follower did not achieve Enlightenment, then it is because the follower did not perform their 'devotions' properly according to Gyatso.<sup>470</sup> The cult follower is then required to: i) repeat the program; ii) donate more money; iii) volunteer more time doing chores at the meditation centres; iv) be more involved in public protests denouncing His Holiness the Dalai Lama; and v) recruit more people into the N.K.T. by 'outreaching' (at Wellness/Spiritual/Folk/New Age/Health Festivals or Retreats).<sup>471</sup> N.K.T centres offer year-round programs of meditation classes, courses, retreats, and major gatherings. Some centres also provide special classes and programs for children.<sup>472</sup> The vast sums of money donated to the N.K.T by the cult followers have been used towards building and maintaining the N.K.T.'s 'Temples for World Peace', 'World Peace Cafés', 'Hotel Kadampas' and the 'International Temples Project'. Gyatso is wants as many Kadampa Temples built around the world in every major capital city so to spread the teachings of Gelugpa tradition of Tibetan Buddhism.<sup>473</sup> Due to this behaviour the organization has expanded quickly in countries such as Mexico and Brazil, and the N.K.T.'s doctrines has been published in English, Spanish, Portuguese, German, French, and Chinese.<sup>474</sup> The N.K.T currently claims to have 1200 centres and branches in 40 countries around the world,<sup>475</sup> with five centres in Australia. The N.K.T cult has 'drop-in' Meditation Centres in: Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Port Macquarie, Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo, Parkes, Charmhaven, Holgate, Long Jetty, Terrigal, Toukley, Umina (N.S.W); Melbourne, Monbulk, Ballarat (VIC); Hobart, Launceston (TAS); Adelaide (S.A); Perth (W.A); Brisbane, Gold Coast (QLD); Darwin (N.T); and Canberra (A.C.T).<sup>476</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>468</sup> 'Kelsang Gyatso', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (7 April 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kelsang\\_Gyatso](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kelsang_Gyatso)>.

<sup>469</sup> 'New Kadampa Tradition', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (21 September 2018), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Kadampa\\_Tradition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Kadampa_Tradition)>.

<sup>470</sup> Hertzog, J., 'The one pure Dharma', *Tricycle Magazine*, (2018), <<https://tricycle.org/magazine/the-one-pure-dharma/>>.

<sup>471</sup> Ibid.

<sup>472</sup> 'General Program: Buddhism', *Kadampa Buddhism: N.K.T - I.K.B.U website*, <<https://kadampa.org/buddhism/general-program>>.

<sup>473</sup> 'New Kadampa Tradition', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (21 September 2018), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Kadampa\\_Tradition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Kadampa_Tradition)>.

<sup>474</sup> Ibid.

<sup>475</sup> 'New Kadampa Tradition', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (21 September 2018), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Kadampa\\_Tradition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Kadampa_Tradition)>.

<sup>476</sup> 'New Kadampa Tradition: International Kadampa Buddhist Union in Australia', *Kadampa Meditation Centre Australia*, (2012), <<http://www.kadampa.org.au/>>.

## Ordo Templi Orientis cult

The Ordo Templi Orientis (O.T.O) is an international fraternal and religious organization founded at the beginning of the 20th century by Carl Kellner and Theodor Reuss. English author and occultist Aleister Crowley is the best-known and most influential member of the Order. The cult was originally intended to be modelled after the format associated with European Freemasonry (similar to Masonic Templar organizations). However, under the leadership of Aleister Crowley, O.T.O. was reorganized around the 'Law of Thelema' as its central religious principle. Crowley claimed to have been contacted by a supernatural entity named Aiwass, who provided him with *The Book of the Law*, a sacred text that served as the basis for Thelema. Announcing the start of the Æon of Horus. The word thelema is the English transliteration of the Koine Greek noun θέλημα "will", from the verb θέλω "to will, wish, want or purpose." During WWII, the European branches of O.T.O. were either destroyed or driven underground. By the end of the war, the only surviving O.T.O. body was Agapé Lodge in California, although there were various initiates in different countries. At this time, Karl Germer, who had been Crowley's representative in Germany, migrated to the United States after being released from Nazi confinement. On March 14, 1942, Crowley appointed him as his successor as Outer Head of the Order, and Germer filled the office after the death of Crowley in 1947.<sup>477</sup> Membership in O.T.O. is based upon a system of initiation ceremonies (or degrees) which use ritual drama to establish fraternal bonds between members as well as impart spiritual and philosophical teachings.

'The entire system is as follows: i) 'The Man of Earth Triad'; ii) 'Outside All Triads'; iii) 'The Lover Triad'; and iv) 'The Hermit Triad'. The degrees of the Hermit Triad are of a sexual nature. In the VIII° degree, the initiate is taught masturbation and magical practices, in the IX° degree magical techniques related to vaginal intercourse, and in the XI° a form of sex magic involving anal intercourse. The basis of O.T.O.'s sex magic is Crowley's theory that the mixing of semen and female ejaculate released during the sex magic act would produce an 'elixir', which is then ingested or smeared on an object for magical purposes. This 'elixir' is also used to heal patients according to other O.T.O. 'spiritual' methods that is: practising yoga and smearing the person with sexual fluids'.<sup>478</sup>

The O.T.O main methods to achieve 'illumination' has been: spermatophagy, coprophagy and algolagnia. There is also a urine fetish ('Golden Showers') amongst members. The O.T.O cult has also devised the 'Cake of Light'. It is the eucharistic host found within O.T.O rituals. It contains honey, oil, flour, semen, vaginal secretions, saliva, menstrual fluid, and is usually cooked in the shape of a small, flat wafer. "Cake of Light" appears by name in two important Thelemic rituals: the Gnostic Mass and the Mass of the Phoenix. The religious writings of Crowley teach members of the O.T.O that women only exist for the use of men. He believed that "man is the guardian of the Life of God; woman a just a temporary expedient - a shrine for the God, but not the God." Crowley was also accused of advocating human sacrifice. He stated that "A male child of perfect innocence and high intelligence is the most satisfactory victim".<sup>479</sup> The O.T.O cult has Grand Lodges in the United Kingdom, Croatia, Italy, Australia, and the U.S.A (the International Headquarters). There are approximately 3000 cult members in Australia. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>477</sup> Ordo Templi Orientis, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (7 Mar 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordo\\_Templi\\_Orientis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordo_Templi_Orientis)>.

<sup>478</sup> Koenig, P., 'Ordo Templi Orientis Spermognosis', *Discussions on the Nature of the O.T.O. Phenomenon*, (March 2000), <<https://www.parareligion.ch/spermo.htm>>.

<sup>479</sup> 'Aleister Crowley', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (7 Mar 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleister\\_Crowley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleister_Crowley)>.

## Osho cult

Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, later known as Osho, founded the Rajneesh 'sex cult' in 1974 opening the first ashram in Pune, India. His followers came from all over the world to visit the ashram. Popularly known as the 'Orange People' because of their brightly coloured robes, Sannyasins were disciples of Osho.<sup>480</sup> Osho was a fruitful conman who generated millions on the spiritual vulnerability of others. Under Osho guidance, the Rajneesh cult practiced: addiction to drugs, particularly Valium and nitrous oxide; freely donating money to Osho (who allegedly massed a great deal of wealth and owned over 90 Rolls Royces); organised 'drug-induced orgies; arranged over 400 sham marriages to evade U.S immigration laws (it is still regarded as the 'largest recorded marriage fraud in the U.S.A); collecting an armoury of over 100 weapons (including .357 Magnum revolvers, semiautomatic Uzi carbines, and Galil assault rifles, along with tear gas grenades and barricade-penetrating shells for police riot guns, sourced from over 25 dealers); and inviting over 3000 homeless people to stay at the cult compound and drugged them (without their knowledge) with Haldol to prevent them from leaving.<sup>481</sup> During 1981, they relocated to Wasco County, Oregon to create the commune 'Rajneeshpuram' and expand their cult organisation. With tension building from authorities, an Australian follower plotted to kill a U.S prosecutor investigating the cult in 1985 and was later convicted for her crimes. Osho's sannyasin cult generated international headlines with its bizarre sexual rites and its audacious takeover of the town of Antelope in the U.S. state of Oregon in the mid-1980s. The cult was also found to be responsible for what is regarded as the world's first bioterrorist attack. It resulted in the arrest of several cult followers, and the Osho's sannyasin cult members to be hounded out of the U.S.A. Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh died in 1990.<sup>482</sup> His followers still practice Rajneesh's belief system, and continually look for new recruits to expand the cult. Rajneesh's legacy is conspicuous today in the hills of northern NSW, where many of his American and European-born followers have now established the cult. At the Australian-based ashrams, Osho's followers are once again involved in sham marriages in the Byron Bay region. They marry Australian citizens so foreigners can stay in the Northern Rivers region permanently. The cult followers think this is a 'big joke' as it is easy to get around the Immigration Department. Local organiser Shahido estimates that 2000 of the shire's 30,000 residents are sannyasins. The sannyasins own three large communal properties in Byron Shire: 'Jindibah' near Bangalow; 'Gondwana' at Tyagarah; and 'Mevlana' near Mullumbimby (along with several small multiple occupancy holdings).<sup>483</sup> The cult has also established a website called 'Osho World' and lists their locations throughout the world. The list refers to information centres, meditation rooms, permaculture farms, punes, ashrams, and a mobile massage service.<sup>484</sup> In Australia, other Osho locations can be found in: Adelaide (S.A); Capel, Margaret River, South Fremantle (W.A); Lapionya (TAS); St Kilda (VIC), Bray Park, North Bondi, Wickham, Uki, Rosebank,(N.S.W); and Newmarket, Cairns, Kuranda, Currumbin, Innes Park, Nambour (QLD). Some of these locations offer various meditation techniques to lure people into their organisation. One such

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<sup>480</sup> Gartner, A., 'Orange-tinted world of free love', *The West Australian*, (29 March 2017), <<https://thewest.com.au/entertainment/art/orange-tinted-world-of-free-love-ng-b88415490z>>.

<sup>481</sup> Bhanot, S., '10 Shocking Things That Were Allegedly Happening Inside Osho's Infamous 'Sex Cult' In The 80s', *Shoop Whoop Media*, (5 Apr 2018), <<https://www.scoopwhoop.com/shocking-things-about-rajneeshpuram/#.i64bjmehu>>.

<sup>482</sup> Wolfson, S., 'The free-love cult that terrorised America – and became Netflix's latest must-watch', *The Guardian*, (8 Apr 2018), <<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2018/apr/07/cult-oregon-1980s-terror-netflix-documentary-wild-country>>.

<sup>483</sup> Roberts, G., 'Byron's sect appeal', *The Australian*, (11 April 2007), <<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/inquirer/byrons-sect-appeal/news-story/>>.

<sup>484</sup> 'Osho Meditation Centres Outside India', *Osho World website*, (2019), <[www.oshoworld.com/oshocenters/oshocenters\\_outside\\_india1.asp](http://www.oshoworld.com/oshocenters/oshocenters_outside_india1.asp)>.



meditation is called “Mystic Rose”.<sup>485</sup> It comprises of a two-week process of Laughter and Tears which entails - talking gibberish for 10 minutes, crying for 10 minutes, and then laughing for 10 minutes. The process occurred three hours per day for two weeks.<sup>486</sup> Afterwards, there is an added third week of meditation to settle the energy entitled ‘The Watcher on the Hills’. Each course cost almost \$600. Osho community centres have also been falsely promoted as permaculture farms, organic gardens, and/or health retreats in various working-holiday forums such as Help Exchange (*HelpX*) Farm Stay Host No:12373,<sup>487</sup> and W.W.O.O.Fing (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) websites.<sup>488</sup> Many backpackers have been misled by these claims and have unwittingly walked into the Osho cult. Osho’s Northern River ashram is currently advertised as ‘Metanoia Gardens’ by tourist centres around the Byron Bay region. According to *W.W.O.O.Fing Australia*, the ashrams are in breach of several ‘Terms and Conditions’ and ‘Host Farms Guidelines’ (particularly regarding inappropriate behaviour).<sup>489</sup> The Osho’s House operator called Santoshi, is one of Australia’s leader of the Osho sex cult. from her Byron Bay home, Santoshi is currently co-ordinating the recruitment of hundreds of people for the so-called ‘Anunda Healing Resort’ situated on an unidentified South Pacific island. The identity of the financial backers for the resort project’s (Osho cult) is not revealed to job applicants.<sup>490</sup> The island, with its own schools, law enforcement system and medical services, would be run in much the same way the Antelope community had been before authorities in Oregon prosecuted the cult leaders. The Osho cult has 250 000 members worldwide.<sup>491</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>485</sup> ‘Home for radical inner transformation’, *Sundaram Space website*, (2019), <<https://www.sundaramspace.com/>>.

<sup>486</sup> Selwood C., ‘Caught in a cult: Australia’s Osho Samaya Ashram is far more than a meditation retreat’, *The Mindful World*, (29 October 2017), <<https://www.themindfulword.org/2017/cult-osho-samaya-ashram/>>.

<sup>487</sup> ‘Host List: Farm Stay Host No:12373 - Rosebank, NSW’, *HelpX.net*, (2019), <[https://www.helpx.net/hostlist.asp?search=rosebank&host\\_region=&host\\_category=&radio=and&network=2&order=&pic=&vid=&rev=&new=>](https://www.helpx.net/hostlist.asp?search=rosebank&host_region=&host_category=&radio=and&network=2&order=&pic=&vid=&rev=&new=>)>.

<sup>488</sup> ‘What is WWOOFing?’, *WWOOF in Australia website*, (2019), <<https://wwooof.com.au/volunteer/>>.

<sup>489</sup> ‘F.A.Q s and Legal Stuff’, *WWOOF in Australia website*, (2019), <<https://wwooof.com.au/host/#guidelines>>.

<sup>490</sup> Roberts, G., ‘Byron’s sect appeal’, *The Australian*, (11 April 2007), <<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/inquirer/byrons-sect-appeal/news-story/>>.

<sup>491</sup> Gartner, A., ‘Orange-tinted world of free love’, *The West Australian*, (29 March 2017), <<https://thewest.com.au/entertainment/art/orange-tinted-world-of-free-love-ng-b88415490z>>.





### Providence cult

Founded in South Korea in 1978, leader Jeong Myeong-seok is a self-proclaimed Messiah, who sometimes goes by the name of 'Pastor Joshua'. The Providence cult was established in Australia in 1997. The cult's ideology is based on a numerological interpretation which identifies the Providence cult leader, Myeong-seok as the Second Coming of Christ.<sup>492</sup> Myeong-seok's main focus is recruiting young, beautiful women by using methods he refers to as "heavenly deception". The recruiters often lure new disciples into the cult by: i) offering them modelling opportunities; ii) Bible study classes; or iii) through participation in organised sport. Female cult followers are taught that they are the Brides of Jesus Christ and - by inference - are also Brides of Myeong-seok. They are drilled on the importance of looking good, keeping themselves slim, and dressing immaculately. Recruiters are known to be active in and around shopping centres, Australian Universities, Colleges, and T.A.F.E campuses - targeting tall, attractive women to become spiritual brides for the leader. Once they are inducted, new members are then encouraged to sever ties with friends and family and to live in a communal house with other members. It has been reported that female recruits were encouraged to have sex with Myeong-seok's so to attain "purification". Cult followers are expected to pray to images of Myeong-seok and Jesus, and are gifted with necklaces as symbols of their dedication to the cult's founder.<sup>493</sup> In 2009, the South Korean courts convicted Myeong-seok of rape, and he served ten years in jail. Myeong-seok was released in 2018,<sup>494</sup> and re-immersed himself into the Providence cult's activities. He remains active as the leader of Providence, and promotes the cult's beliefs and his own self-importance via a website blog.<sup>495</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

<sup>492</sup> 'Providence (religious movement), Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia, (31 July 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Providence\\_\(religious\\_movement\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Providence_(religious_movement))>.

<sup>493</sup> 'Sex, cults and the bizarre world of Providence leader Jeong Myeong-seok', *ABC News*, (13 December 2017), <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-11/the-bizarre-world-of-providence-cult-and-its-leader-jms/9224564>>.

<sup>494</sup> 'Providence (religious movement), Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia, (31 July 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Providence\\_\(religious\\_movement\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Providence_(religious_movement))>.

<sup>495</sup> 'Jeong Myeong Seok', *Jeong Myeong Seok - The Man of God: Blogspot*, (2019), <<https://jeongmyeongseok.blogspot.com/p/jeong-myeong-seok.html>>.

## Raëlian Movement cult

This U.F.O religion was founded by Frenchman Claude Vorilhon (now called Raël) in 1974. The Raëlian Movement teaches that life on Earth was scientifically created by a species of humanoid extra-terrestrials referred to as 'Elohim'. According to Raël, the alien species appeared as a normal person when having intimate contacts with the descendants of the humans that they made.<sup>496</sup> Raël believes that the aliens purposefully misinformed early humanity that they were angels, cherubim, or gods. Raëlians believe that messengers of the 'Elohim' include prophets such as Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad. The cult followers also believe that their brainwaves are linked to an alien computer stationed at an unknown destination in outer space. Raëlians do not invoke any god, for the object of their reverence are aliens addressed by the name of 'Elohim'. It is their strong belief that 'that humanity's salvation will be determined by extra-terrestrial beings'.<sup>497</sup> 'One of the most important beliefs in Raëlism is that humans need to master cloning technology. According to the Raëlians, aliens have already done this, and use cloning technology to transfer their minds to new bodies when they die. Raël uses the 'Resurrection of Jesus Christ' as evidence of this technology. By perfecting cloning, Raël believes that humans too can achieve immortality – like Jesus.<sup>498</sup> To accomplish the task of cloning, Raël formed a company called Clonaid in 1997. Followers can achieve immortality by paying \$200 000 U.S for Clonaid to clone their genetic material (with no guarantee of success), and fund Clonaid's cloning research.<sup>499</sup> Raëlians are firmly convinced that extra-terrestrials will pay a visit to earth before 2035 on the proviso that humans eradicate war and terrorism. The Raëlians believe they exist for the purpose of welcoming extra-terrestrials to earth, and are currently searching for the best location to establish its international headquarters. Australia has 400 Raëlian cult followers, and a Brisbane artist has been inducted as a priest within the cult. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>496</sup> Borthahur, D., 'Inside the crazy world of Raelism, the cult which believes aliens created humans', *The Times of India*, (6 Apr 2017), <<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/inside-the-crazy-world-of-raelism-the-cult-which-believes-aliens-created-humans/articleshow/59931314.cms>>.

<sup>497</sup> Masterson, A., 'Raelians and other UFO cults stand firm on their 'out-there' ideas', *Sydney Morning Herald*, (10 July 2014), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/raelians-and-other-ufo-cults-stand-firm-on-their-outthere-ideas-20140710-zt2af.html>>.

<sup>498</sup> Redd, W., 'The bizarre beliefs of Raelism – The religion that says humanity is an alien experiment', *All Things Interesting.com*, (15 February 2018), <<https://allthatsinteresting.com/raelism>>.

<sup>499</sup> Cohen, P., 'Cult's bizarre vision rekindles cloning debate', *New Scientist*, (31 May 1997), <<https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg15420841-400-cults-bizarre-vision-rekindles-cloning-debate/>>.

## Rigpa International cult

The Rigpa International cult was founded in 1979 by Sogyal Rinpoche, a Buddhist teacher from Tibet, who is also the author of *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying*.<sup>500</sup> Rigpa is a Tibetan word, which in general means 'intelligence' or 'awareness'. Sogyal claims that

“in the highest teachings in the Buddhist tradition of Tibet, rigpa has a deeper connotation, 'the innermost nature of the mind'. The whole of the teaching of Buddha is directed towards realising this, our ultimate nature, the state of omniscience or enlightenment – a truth so universal, so primordial that it goes beyond all limits, and beyond even religion itself.”<sup>501</sup>

Inspired by the word rigpa, Sogyal gave this as the name for the 'style' of Buddhist practice he was developing to serve the Buddha's teaching in the Western cultures. Sogyal was six months old when he entered the monastery of his spiritual master Jamyang Khyentse in the Kham province of eastern Tibet. In 1954, Sogyal escaped with his family to India (five years before the Dalai Lama fled the country) so to escape the horrors of the Chinese genocide of Tibet. Sogyal attended university in India and England. It was at Cambridge University where Sogyal noticed Westerners thirst to learn about spirituality. 'He soon assumed the title 'Rinpoche' (meaning "Precious One") and began establishing himself as a teacher, finding a receptive audience among young Westerners searching for the kind of spiritual enlightenment Buddhism seemed to offer.'<sup>502</sup>

Sogyal studied Vajrayana Buddhism from childhood. It demands a person to give total obedience to the teacher - no matter how unreasonable or irrational the teacher's behaviour might seem - in order to 'slip off the shackles of the ego' and ignorance. 'This ignorance related to the ego's perception that reality was solid and permanent when – according to Buddhist precepts – the opposite was true. Everything was impermanent – thoughts, feelings, judgements, opinions, life itself – and it was only through training the mind that the true nature of reality could be discovered and suffering ended.'<sup>503</sup> "Crazy Wisdom" is the name given to this form of instruction, in which a guru would challenge a student's ego by utilising strange and bizarre tactics. Since Sogyal launched his Buddhist "teaching" career in 1973, witnesses and spiritual colleges have reported that "there was just this continuous stream of seductions. He didn't even hide it in those days. He was absolutely flagrantly promiscuous. He would pick girls up – usually vulnerable, needy – and entertain them for a short while and then dump them."<sup>504</sup> When Sogyal released his book *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* in 1992, he became a spiritual celebrity overnight. Sogyal sold more than three million copies worldwide and was translated into 34 languages in 80 countries, and ultimately made him a multi-millionaire. Sogyal even starred in Hollywood films such as Bernardo Bertolucci's movie in 1993 titled *Little Buddha* – with more movies to follow.<sup>505</sup> Sogyal then began travelling the world first-class establishing new centres for Rigpa, the organisation he'd set up under the patronage of the Dalai Lama. "Mindfulness" and "Buddhism" become the new buzzwords of the 1990s

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<sup>500</sup> 'About Rigpa', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (10 March 2019), <[https://www.rigpawiki.org/index.php?title=About\\_Rigpa](https://www.rigpawiki.org/index.php?title=About_Rigpa)>.

<sup>501</sup> Ibid.

<sup>502</sup> Leser, D., Sogyal Rinpoche and the abuse accusations rocking the Buddhist world, *Sydney Morning Herald*, (1 December 2017), <<https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/sogyal-rinpoche-and-the-abuse-accusations-rocking-the-buddhist-world-20171115-gzm7ra.html>>.

<sup>503</sup> 'Buddhist studies', *Rigpa Australia*, (2019), <<https://www.rigpa.org.au/meditation/buddhist-studies>>.

<sup>504</sup> Leser, D., Sogyal Rinpoche and the abuse accusations rocking the Buddhist world, *Sydney Morning Herald*, (1 December 2017), <<https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/sogyal-rinpoche-and-the-abuse-accusations-rocking-the-buddhist-world-20171115-gzm7ra.html>>.

<sup>505</sup> Finnigan, M., 'Lama sex abuse claims call Buddhist taboos into question', *The Guardian*, (1 July 2011), <<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2011/jul/01/lama-sex-abuse-sogyal-rinpoche-buddhist>>.

which saw hundreds of people flocking to its Buddhist “Practical Wisdom” retreats organised by Rigpa International cult. Sogyal enjoyed being ‘new darling’ of the wealthy, famous and elite in society – all clamoring to get into his social circle, to hear his teachings about the destruction of greed, cynicism and personal grandstanding and the need for more compassion throughout the world. Thanks to an outpouring of donations, The Rigpa International cult had raised \$12 million and built Lerab Ling, its headquarters situated in L’Hérault, France. It is considered to be the largest Tibetan Buddhist temple in the West.<sup>506</sup>

However, allegations of Sogyal’s manipulation, physical attacks, psychological abuse, sexual assaults, rape, and intimidating teaching methods as well as Rigpa International’s cult-like structure began surfacing in the 1990s. Students (mainly females) have described Sogyal’s habitual physical abuse, which “left monks, nuns, and lay people with serious injuries and permanent scars”. Witnesses state that Sogyal had used his role as a teacher “to gain access to young women, and to coerce, intimidate and manipulate them into performing sexual favours”.<sup>507</sup> Females had been lured into the relationship by being told they were engaging in consort practice, ‘karmamudra’.<sup>508</sup> In fact, Victoria Barlow (a former student) miscarried Sogyal’s child when aged 22 in 1976.<sup>509</sup> Sogyal manipulated his student’s to believe that it was necessary to receive the barrage of punishments and on-going abuse due to their imperfections of the ego. His reasoning for the relentless torment - was to ‘fast-track’ his students’ path to enlightenment. Students were systematically manipulated and psychologically abused so that they considered a physical assault by Sogyal as ‘a blessing’ from their Master.<sup>510</sup> Sogyal intimidated the students so much that almost all were reluctant to criticise the Vajrayana master even privately, let alone publicly or in print.<sup>511</sup> In doing so would dissolve the ‘samaya’ (the sacred spiritual bond between student and teacher). These behaviours had contributed to a culture of fear and guilt. Threats were routinely used to produce unquestioning obedience, devotion and group conformity<sup>512</sup> at the Rigpa International cult. Sogyal also embraced a “lavish, gluttonous and sybar-itic lifestyle”, which had been kept secret from the cult followers, and financed from the donations of students “who believed their offerings were being used to further wisdom and compassion in the world”.<sup>513</sup>

The stream of accusations against Sogyal finally made international news headlines. In November 1994, a \$10 million civil lawsuit was filed against Sogyal Rinpoche and the Rigpa International cult by an anonymous plaintiff, who was given the name “Janice Doe” to protect her identity. The complaint alleged she suffered the infliction of emotional distress, breach of fiduciary duty, assault and battery. In 2014,

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<sup>506</sup> Brown, M., ‘Buddhism’s bad boy: the fall of Sogyal Rinpoche’, *South China Morning Post*, (4 October 2017), <<https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/long-reads/article/2113877/buddhisms-bad-boy-fall-sogyal-rinpoche>>.

<sup>507</sup> Ibid.

<sup>508</sup> Dyson, D., and Newland, T., ‘This Is Abuse’, *Tricycle*, (15 July 2019), <<https://tricycle.org/trikedaily/rigpa-abuse>>.

<sup>509</sup> Leser, D., Sogyal Rinpoche and the abuse accusations rocking the Buddhist world, *Sydney Morning Herald*, (1 December 2017), <<https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/sogyal-rinpoche-and-the-abuse-accusations-rocking-the-buddhist-world-20171115-gzm7ra.html>>.

<sup>510</sup> Dyson, D., and Newland, T., ‘This Is Abuse’, *Tricycle*, (15 July 2019), <<https://tricycle.org/trikedaily/rigpa-abuse>>.

<sup>511</sup> Leser, D., Sogyal Rinpoche and the abuse accusations rocking the Buddhist world, *Sydney Morning Herald*, (1 December 2017), <<https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/sogyal-rinpoche-and-the-abuse-accusations-rocking-the-buddhist-world-20171115-gzm7ra.html>>.

<sup>512</sup> Newland, T., ‘Is Rigpa a cult?’, *What Now?: In the Wake of Spiritual Abuse in Rigpa*, (2018), <[https://whatnow727.wordpress.com/2018/01/18/is-rigpa-a-cult/?like\\_comment=3756](https://whatnow727.wordpress.com/2018/01/18/is-rigpa-a-cult/?like_comment=3756)>.

<sup>513</sup> Brown, M., ‘Buddhism’s bad boy: the fall of Sogyal Rinpoche’, *South China Morning Post*, (4 October 2017), <<https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/long-reads/article/2113877/buddhisms-bad-boy-fall-sogyal-rinpoche>>.



Marion Dapsance reported on her seven-year investigation of Sogyal Rinpoche detailing the sexual and psychological abuse she and her fellow-attendants had endured. These findings were published in 2016 in *I/Obs*.<sup>514</sup> In 2015 the President of Rigpa France, Olivier Raurich, resigned. In his final statement he said: “I had come for teachings on humility, love, truth, and trust, but instead found myself in a quasi-Stalinist environment with permanent double-talk.”<sup>515</sup> Television documentaries have since been produced examining the allegations of abuse against Sogyal, titled “*In the Name of Enlightenment*” (Canadian) and a Dutch News Program ‘Brandpunt’ episode called “*Abuse in the Buddhist Community: This Victim Tells Her Story for the First Time*.”<sup>516</sup> On 3 August 2017, the French Buddhist Union (L’Union Bouddhiste de France) suspended the membership of Rigpa France and its Rigpa Lérab Ling Centre.<sup>517</sup> Sogyal was finally forced to resign after a group of senior Rigpa insiders wrote a letter accusing him of sexual assault and violence in 2017.<sup>518</sup> Sogyal was then investigated by law firm Lewis Silkin. In 2018, the report of Lewis Silkin confirmed that i) students of Sogyal had been subjected to serious physical, sexual and emotional abuse by him; ii) there were senior individuals within Rigpa International cult who were aware of at least some of these issues; and iii) senior individuals within Rigpa International cult failed to address them, leaving others at risk. Lewis Silkin recommended i) for Sogyal to leave the organisation; ii) not to have contact with Rigpa’s students; and iii) that the Rigpa international cult should take steps to disassociate itself from Sogyal.<sup>519</sup> Currently, legal action in France and a statutory inquiry in Britain is underway focused on the allegations against the organization. However, the Rigpa International cult has tried to carry on regardless of the enormity of the accusations against its founder and long-time leader, Sogyal.<sup>520</sup> The cult is now a global organisation with 130 centres in 41 countries, including Australia, relying mainly on the generous donations of his growing legion of students.<sup>521</sup> The Rigpa International cult no longer has the support of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.<sup>522</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>514</sup> ‘Sogyal Rinpoche’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sogyal\\_Rinpoche](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sogyal_Rinpoche)>.

<sup>515</sup> Brown, M., ‘Sexual assaults and violent rages... Inside the dark world of Buddhist teacher Sogyal Rinpoche’, *The Telegraph*, (21 September 2017), <<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/men/thinking-man/sexual-assaults-violent-rages-inside-dark-world-buddhist-teacher>>.

<sup>516</sup> Ibid.

<sup>517</sup> ‘Sogyal Rinpoche’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sogyal\\_Rinpoche](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sogyal_Rinpoche)>.

<sup>518</sup> Hines, N., ‘Inside Tibetan Buddhism’s ‘rape’ and abuse scandal’, *The Daily Beast*, (17 July 2019), <<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/crime/inside-tibetan-buddhisms-rape-and-abuse-scandal/ar-AAEtF6H>>.

<sup>519</sup> ‘Lérab Ling’, *Rigpa France*, (2019), <<http://france.rigpafrance.online>>.

<sup>520</sup> Hines, N., ‘Inside Tibetan Buddhism’s ‘rape’ and abuse scandal’, *The Daily Beast*, (17 July 2019), <<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/crime/inside-tibetan-buddhisms-rape-and-abuse-scandal/ar-AAEtF6H>>.

<sup>521</sup> Leser, D., Sogyal Rinpoche and the abuse accusations rocking the Buddhist world, *Sydney Morning Herald*, (1 December 2017), <<https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/sogyal-rinpoche-and-the-abuse-accusations-rocking-the-buddhist-world-20171115-gzm7ra.html>>.

<sup>522</sup> Newland, T., ‘Is Rigpa a cult?’, *What Now?: In the Wake of Spiritual Abuse in Rigpa*, (2018), <[https://whatnow727.wordpress.com/2018/01/18/is-rigpa-a-cult/?like\\_comment=3756](https://whatnow727.wordpress.com/2018/01/18/is-rigpa-a-cult/?like_comment=3756)>.

## Satyananda Yoga Ashram cult

The Satyananda Yoga Ashram cult was established in the Central Coast region near Gosford, N.S.W, during the 1970s. The ashram (on an enormous 99ha property at the foothills of Mangrove Mountain)<sup>523</sup> was an international branch of India's 'Bihar School of Yoga (B.S.Y) and led by Swami Satyananda Saraswati'.<sup>524</sup> The B.S.Y in India was founded in 1964 by Swami Sivananda Saraswati to impart yogic training to householders and sannyasins alike.<sup>525</sup> Satyananda was a student of Sivananda, and in 1956 was sent away to spread yogic and tantric meditation techniques throughout the world. Satyananda eventually settled in the New South Wales area and established his cult. Members of the isolated Satyananda Yoga Ashram were always dressed in faded orange robes and adhered to a strict daily routine in accordance to B.S.Y. Parents sold their houses to join what they thought was a "Utopian community" in the 1970s and 80s.<sup>526</sup> Days were spent practising and teaching yoga, constructing communal buildings and tending to the ashram's organic farm. The 120 adults and 30 children living in the community had no money, no news, radio or television. Alcohol and smoking were banned and everyone adhered to a strict vegetarian diet.<sup>527</sup> However, the ashram members would later discover that their children were being routinely drugged, raped and beaten by the guru.<sup>528</sup> Most of the alleged abuse occurred at the hands of Satyananda's disciple, Swami Akhandananda Saraswati, a convicted paedophile and sadist who was masquerading as a peace-promoting, celibate leader of the Mangrove Mountain spiritual community.<sup>529</sup> At least 11 children had been abused while living at the ashram. In December 2014, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse examined allegations into the Satyananda Yoga Ashram cult (Mangrove Yoga Ashram), and of child sexual abuse by one of the ashram's former spiritual leader Akhandananda in the 1970s and 1980s.<sup>530</sup> Some of the former female members described what life was like in the ashram as a young girl, in the Child Sex Abuse Royal Commission. They stated that they had no idea about coping in society or the use of basic everyday items 'such as kitchen cutlery or wearing a bra'.<sup>531</sup> The former cult followers said that children were sent out on sex patrols at night to catch any adults breaking the celibacy rule. They would sneak through the bush and down to the riverbanks and report the copulations. The adults didn't really like the kids much. Akhandananda and Shishy fostered that divide between the kids and adults.<sup>532</sup> Yet while

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<sup>523</sup> Verrender, J., 'Mangrove Mountain yoga retreat infamous for sex crimes for sale', *News.com*, (17 May 2018), <<https://www.news.com.au/finance/real-estate/sydney-nsw/massive-mangrove-mountain-yoga-retreat-infamous-for-sex-crimes-is-for-sale/news-story/>>.

<sup>524</sup> Ibid.

<sup>525</sup> '1963-2013 Yoga from shore to shore', *The Bihar School of Yoga website*, (2019), <[www.biharyoga.net/bihar-school-of-yoga/1963-2013-yoga-from-shore-to-shore/](http://www.biharyoga.net/bihar-school-of-yoga/1963-2013-yoga-from-shore-to-shore/)>.

<sup>526</sup> Verrender, J., 'Mangrove Mountain yoga retreat infamous for sex crimes for sale', *News.com*, (17 May 2018), <<https://www.news.com.au/finance/real-estate/sydney-nsw/massive-mangrove-mountain-yoga-retreat-infamous-for-sex-crimes-is-for-sale/news-story/>>.

<sup>527</sup> Browne, R., 'Paradise lost: Satyananda Yoga Ashram is the subject of royal commission hearing', (28 November 2014), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/paradise-lost-satyananda-yoga-ashram-is-the-subject-of-royal-commission-hearing-20141127-11v3rl.html>>.

<sup>528</sup> Fifi-Yeomans, J., 'Haunting images hide Mangrove Mountain Ashram child abuse shame', *The Daily Telegraph*, (3 December 2014), <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/haunting-images-hide-mangrove-mountain-ashram-child-abuse-shame/news-story/>>.

<sup>529</sup> Crocker, L., 'Australia's underage yoga sex cult: The survivors speak out', *The Daily Beast*, (12 September 2014), <<https://www.thedailybeast.com/australias-underage-yoga-sex-cult-the-survivors-speak-out>>.

<sup>530</sup> 'Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (23 May 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\\_Commission\\_into\\_Institutional\\_Responses\\_to\\_Child\\_Sexual\\_Abuse#Mangrove\\_Yoga\\_Ashram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Commission_into_Institutional_Responses_to_Child_Sexual_Abuse#Mangrove_Yoga_Ashram)>.

<sup>531</sup> Crocker, L., 'Australia's underage yoga sex cult: The survivors speak out', *The Daily Beast*, (12 September 2014), <<https://www.thedailybeast.com/australias-underage-yoga-sex-cult-the-survivors-speak-out>>.

<sup>532</sup> Fifi-Yeomans, J., 'Haunting images hide Mangrove Mountain Ashram child abuse shame', *The Daily Telegraph*, (3 December 2014), <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/haunting-images-hide-mangrove-mountain-ashram-child-abuse-shame/news-story/>>.

that was happening, Akhandananda was having sex with his partner (known as Shishy) and raping some of the teenage girls. Akhandananda told victims that having sex with him was “for their own spiritual growth”, and abuses had often taken place in the company of Shishy, a follower who had begun a sexual relationship aged 16 with Akhandananda after he moved from India in 1974. A female witness stated that during her first sexual assault she screamed due of the pain. Akhandananda covered her mouth with his hand and told her that the pain was her “Kundalini (Sanskrit = “source of the life force”, at the base of the spine symbolised by the Red/Root Chakra)<sup>533</sup> energy rising”.<sup>534</sup> Akhandananda would also beat children with a wooden stick and threaten them with death or exile if they told anyone of the abuse.<sup>535</sup> Cult followers noted that double standards were evident throughout the ashram. Sex and alcohol are meant to be banned in accordance to the teachings of B.S.Y, and yet Akhandananda and Shishy had hot showers, champagne and whisky, a hot tub, television, and comfortable beds. The rest of the ashram had to deal with cold water, no amenities, poorly equipped ‘bush-kitchen’, no privileges, and slept on thin yoga mats.<sup>536</sup> Akhandananda was sentenced to prison for more than two years in 1989 for sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl at the ashram. The conviction was overturned in 1991 due to legislative changes at the time (being outside the 12-month time laid down by statute to bring the charges on a person), and Akhandananda was released.<sup>537</sup> He died from excessive alcohol consumption in 1997.<sup>538</sup> By the early 1990s, a number of residents had left the Mangrove ashram and several centres had closed. The premises later re-emerged as the Satyananda Yoga Academy Pty Ltd (S.Y.A) between 1994 and 1996, and the Yoga Association of Mangrove Mountain (Y.A.M.M). The Mangrove ashram organised retreats, lifestyle and other yoga and meditation courses (separate from S.Y.A) during 2013 to 2015<sup>539</sup> before selling the property to a private owner. The Commission noted that B.S.Y.’s response to the past abuses did not properly prioritise the welfare of survivors over the interests of the ‘brand’ of Satyananda yoga.<sup>540</sup> Satyananda Yoga Ashram is operating as “Rocklyn Yoga Ashram” in Victoria, Australia. It is run by the Yoga Association of Victoria Inc. and continues teaching the tradition of Satyananda Yoga. There is also a splinter group in New Zealand operating under the name of “Anahata Yoga retreat” based in the small township of Takaka on the South island. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>533</sup> ‘What is the Root Chakra?’, *Chakras.info website*, (2019), <<https://www.chakras.info/root-chakra/>>

<sup>534</sup> Fifi-Yeomans, J., ‘Haunting images hide Mangrove Mountain Ashram child abuse shame’, *The Daily Telegraph*, (3 December 2014), <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/haunting-images-hide-mangrove-mountain-ashram-child-abuse-shame/news-story/>>.

<sup>535</sup> ‘Sects in Australia: Fringe religious groups that have left their mark on the nation’, *The Daily Telegraph*, (5 August 2015), <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sects-in-australia-fringe-religious-groups-that-have-left-their-mark-on-the-nation/news-story/>>.

<sup>536</sup> Ibid.

<sup>537</sup> Verrender, J., ‘Mangrove Mountain yoga retreat infamous for sex crimes for sale’, *News.com*, (17 May 2018), <<https://www.news.com.au/finance/real-estate/sydney-nsw/massive-mangrove-mountain-yoga-retreat-infamous-for-sex-crimes-is-for-sale/news-story/>>.

<sup>538</sup> Crocker, L., ‘Australia’s underage yoga sex cult: The survivors speak out’, *The Daily Beast*, (12 September 2014), <<https://www.thedailybeast.com/australias-underage-yoga-sex-cult-the-survivors-speak-out>>.

<sup>539</sup> Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, *The response of the Satyananda Yoga Ashram at Mangrove Mountain to allegations of child sexual abuse by the ashram’s former spiritual leader in the 1970s and 1980s*, (Report of Case Study No: 21, April 2016), <<https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/file-list/Case%20Study%202021%20-%20Findings%20Report%20-%20Satyananda%20Yoga%20Ashram.pdf>> p 72.

<sup>540</sup> Acharya, M., ‘Swami Akhandananda Saraswati sexually abused and raped children at Australia’s oldest yoga ashram, Royal Commission finds’, *SBS News*, (15 September 2016), <<https://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/hindi/en/article/2016/09/15/swami-akhandananda-saraswati-sexually-abused-and-raped-children-australias-oldest>>.

## Seventh-Day Adventist Church cult

The Seventh-day Adventist Church cult was founded by Ellen G. White and formally established in 1863. The denomination grew out of the 'Millerite' movement in the United States during the mid-19th century at the time of the Second Great Awakening period of protestant church revivals.<sup>541</sup> White claimed to have experienced prophetic visions of the Lord God. The 'visions' seemed to occur just before her seizures that White experienced regularly. At the age of nine, White was hit in the face (left temporal lobe region) with a large stone while she attended school at Portland in Maine. White's immediate loss of consciousness followed by a lucid interval and a subsequent prolonged loss of consciousness is typical of the presence of a cerebral haemorrhage, specifically an epidural hematoma. This type of head injury is usually associated with extensive cerebral oedema (swelling), bruising and laceration of the brain, or an intra-cranial haemorrhage. Sometimes people who suffer such a severe head injury develop a seizure disorder. The incident left White in a coma for several weeks.<sup>542</sup> When she did recover, it was noted by physicians at the time that White had reoccurring seizures. Modern medical research has determined that White had been experiencing Partial-Complex Seizures. These seizures occur only in a brain that has been injured and, thus, are not an inherited trait in families as is other types of seizures. Besides a loss of consciousness that happens during most seizures, but there are several unique characteristics of partial-complex seizures that occur during the altered consciousness and these include: i) eyes being open, staring, and frequently turned upwards; ii) automatisms; iii) hallucinations; and iv) various psychic phenomena.<sup>543</sup> All these unique characteristics were present while White had her 'prophetic visions'. During the 1840s at the age of twelve, White claimed to have received visions that were soon accepted as God-given revelation. The small Adventist movement gradually strengthened in numbers as people believed that White had a 'gift', and she quickly became a leader among them.<sup>544</sup> White continued to receive 'prophetic visions' (over 2000 during her lifetime). The messages received from her Partial-Complex Seizures assisted White in becoming a prophetess and forming the Seventh-day Adventist Church cult. Even though White's 'visions' are at times in opposition to the Bible, the Seventh Day Adventists believe: that peoples' sins will ultimately be placed on Satan; that Jesus is Michael the Archangel; Jesus entered the second and last phase of his atoning work on October 22, 1844; in 'Investigative Judgment' - the fate of all people will be decided based upon this event in the future; Jesus will return in the millennium to establish a New Kingdom; Baptism is only by complete body immersion; that there is a sanctuary in heaven where Jesus carries out his mediatorial work; religious worship must be done on Saturday (the Sabbath); that death is only a "peaceful pause before the resurrection"<sup>545</sup> and the soul is in a 'sleep-state'; evil people are annihilated; and that Ellen G. White, the "founder" of Seventh-day Adventism, was a messenger from God gifted with the spirit of prophecy.<sup>546</sup> Over her lifetime Testimonies for the Church expanded from a mere sixteen pages to nine full volumes. In 1863 she received a 'vision' from God about human health and her followers soon

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<sup>541</sup> 'Ellen G. White', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (13 April 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen\\_G.\\_White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen_G._White)>.

<sup>542</sup> Hodder, D., 'Visions or Partial-Complex Seizures', *Evangelica*, (1981), <<https://www.nonegw.org/egw79.shtml>>.

<sup>543</sup> Ibid.

<sup>544</sup> 'The False Teachers: Ellen G. White', *Tim Challies Blog*, (16 March 2014), <https://www.challies.com/articles/the-false-teachers-ellen-g-white/>>.

<sup>545</sup> 'Crazy Christianity: Seventh-Day Adventist', *Common Sense: If More People Had It More People Would Be Atheists*, (11 June 2013), <<https://commonsenseatheism.net/2013/06/11/crazy-christianity-seventh-day-adventist/>>.

<sup>546</sup> 'What does Seventh-day Adventism teach?', *Religious Movements*, (2019), <<https://carm.org/religious-movements/seventh-day-adventism/what-does-seventh-day-adventism-teach>>.



adopted her health regulations as part of their practice, rejecting meat, coffee, and medication in favour of natural remedies.<sup>547</sup> The Seventh-Day Adventist Church cult formed companies which practised their health philosophies – in Australia the *Sanitarium Health* and *Wellbeing Company* are examples of these businesses.<sup>548</sup> The Seventh-Day Adventist Church cult also believe that the Holy Spirit has blessed God’s people with the ‘gift’ of prophecy (and speak of Ellen G. White as a prime example). They claim that this ability is written in the Biblical Scriptures.<sup>549</sup> Cult members also participate in the continuous recruitment of people to increase the organisation’s numbers. The cult members recite the Biblical passage, ‘Jesus said: “Go and make followers of all people in the world” (Matthew 28:19)’. Known as “the Great Commission,” these words motivate Seventh-day Adventists.<sup>550</sup> Missionaries are able reach a lot of people and indoctrinate the vulnerable through their charity work during natural or man-made disaster efforts. Due to this style of recruitment, the Seventh Day Adventists are one of the fastest growing religions in the world because of its missionary efforts in developing countries (mostly in Africa, South Pacific, and in the Central and Southern Americas).<sup>551</sup> The cult operates over 7500 schools including over 100 post-secondary institutions, numerous hospitals, publishing houses, and humanitarian aid-organizations known as the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (A.D.R.A),<sup>552</sup> Seventh Day Adventist Welfare Service (S.A.W), and the Adventist Community Services (A.C.S). Ellen White died on 16 July 1915, at the age of 87. During her lifetime she had preached countless times and had written some 5000 articles and 40 books. By the time she died, the Seventh-day Adventist Church cult had a worldwide membership of nearly 140 000.<sup>553</sup> Today, the cult has grown to 21 million members around the world and maintains a ‘missionary’ presence in over 215 countries and territories. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>547</sup> ‘The False Teachers: Ellen G. White’, *Tim Challies Blog*, (16 March 2014), <https://www.challies.com/articles/the-false-teachers-ellen-g-white/>.

<sup>548</sup> ‘Profits for charitable purposes’, *Sanitarium*, (2019), <<https://www.sanitarium.com.au/about/sanitarium-story/profits-for-charitable-purposes>>.

<sup>549</sup> ‘The Gift of Prophecy’, *Seventh Day Adventist Church website*, (2019), <<https://www.adventist.org/en/beliefs/church/the-gift-of-prophecy/>>.

<sup>550</sup> ‘Message to Share’, *Seventh Day Adventist Church website*, (2019), <<https://www.adventist.org/en/service/missionaries/go/-/12/>>.

<sup>551</sup> ‘Crazy Christianity: Seventh-Day Adventist’, *Common Sense: If More People Had It More People Would Be Atheists*, (11 June 2013), <<https://commonsenseatheism.net/2013/06/11/crazy-christianity-seventh-day-adventist/>>.

<sup>552</sup> Seventh Day Adventist Church, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (9 May 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventh-day\\_Adventist\\_Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventh-day_Adventist_Church)>.

<sup>553</sup> ‘The False Teachers: Ellen G. White’, *Tim Challies Blog*, (16 March 2014), <https://www.challies.com/articles/the-false-teachers-ellen-g-white/>.



## Soul Freedom cult

The Soul freedom cult is a compound situated in Mount Morgan, Queensland. The cult compound is managed by Andrina Aleksander who claims to be a reincarnation of Jesus Christ, but in female form. The Soul freedom cult is a branch of the American-based Inner Peace Movement cult which was founded in 1964, by Dr. Francisco Coll.<sup>554</sup> The Inner Peace Movement cult believes in the presence of Angels, Spirit Guides, and Demons. They also believe that people can acquire 'higher spiritual and psychic' abilities, and communicate with Angel Guardians by sending and receiving psychic messages.<sup>555</sup> The cult believes that the only way people can acquire such a skill is by enrolling in a series of education programmes crafted by the non-profit learning centre of Inner Peace Movement cult. Each learning session can cost upwards to \$100 AU. Lesson topics include: "Dynamics of Reincarnation in Personal Relationships"; "True Nature of Spirit Guides - Your White Light Messengers"; "Impact of Karma and Past Lives in Your Current Lifetime"; "Three Dimensions of Life After Death"; "Discover the Four Types of E.S.P that Affects Your Life: Prophecy, Clairvoyance, Clairaudience, and Feeling"<sup>556</sup> to name a few. The Soul Freedom cult followers also provide services in the form of: Angels and Spirit Guide Reading; and release from Entity Attachments (Haunting, Implants and Demonic Possession). In 2007, the Inner Peace Movement founder Dr. Coll, made a few attempts to have the cult's spiritual educational program materials trademark registered in Australia, but all applications have been opposed and denied approval.<sup>557</sup>

The Soul Freedom cult often attend, present and/or exhibit at the Mind Body Spirit festivals that regularly occur in Brisbane,<sup>558</sup> and at Psychic festivals on the Sunshine Coast, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, and Cairns. Interested people wanting to learn more about 'psychic abilities' are enticed to join the compound under the guise that they will successfully attain supernatural gifts a become a "spiritual advisor".<sup>559</sup> There at the cult compound, followers are expected to commence each day by waking at 04:00hrs for 'regrouping' activities. These activities primarily consists of ritualistic worship, holding of hands to form the 'security circle', and prayers<sup>560</sup> for the cult's Angel Guardians. The remainder of the day is spent tending the property's fruit and vegetable gardens, and continuing with their 'spiritual studies'. Any finances or assets that the new cult follower may have is to be directed to the Soul Freedom cult so to sustain the living expenditures of the cult compound. It has been reported by former cult followers that adults and their children are often underfed and made to sleep in rat-infested, derelict caravans.<sup>561</sup> The Soul Freedom cult followers also rejects the use of modern medicine in favour of "angel healing".<sup>562</sup> This ideology has had fatal results. Marlene Harbottle, a Soul Freedom cult member persistently refused all medical treatments for her diagnosis of cancer. Harbottle had faith

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<sup>554</sup> 'About Us', *Inner Peace Movement Groups*, (2013), <[innerpeacemovementgroups.com/about.html](http://innerpeacemovementgroups.com/about.html)>.

<sup>555</sup> 'Classes', *Inner Peace Movement Groups*, (2013), <[innerpeacemovementgroups.com/classes.html](http://innerpeacemovementgroups.com/classes.html)>.

<sup>556</sup> 'New Spiritual Horizons classes', *Inner Peace Movement Groups*, (2013), <[innerpeacemovementgroups.com/instructor/durango.html](http://innerpeacemovementgroups.com/instructor/durango.html)>.

<sup>557</sup> 'Trademark Details', *Intellectual Property Australia*, (2016), <[www.ipaustralia.com.au/applicant/estate-of-francisco-coll-monge-francisco-d-coll-ex/trademarks/1214227/](http://www.ipaustralia.com.au/applicant/estate-of-francisco-coll-monge-francisco-d-coll-ex/trademarks/1214227/)>.

<sup>558</sup> 'Psychic readers', *Mind Body Spirit Festivals*, (2019), <<https://www.mbsfestival.com.au/psychic-readers/48/>>.

<sup>559</sup> 'Cult tried to ruin my life', *The Morning Bulletin*, (7 March 2006), <<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/apn-cult-tried-to-ruin-my/66011/>>.

<sup>560</sup> Carne, L., 'Soul Freedom: Fears for mum who joined 'angel worship' sect', *Cult Information and Family Support Inc. sourced from the Courier Mail*, (23 June 2007), <[www.cifs.org.au/underfed.php](http://www.cifs.org.au/underfed.php)>.

<sup>561</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>562</sup> 'Mum warns of cult', *Daily Mercury*, (24 March 2006), <<https://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/apn-mum-warns-of/75809/>>.

that her "Angel Guardians"<sup>563</sup> would inevitably find a cure and restore her to good health. Harbottle's family was denied visitation access, and their ability to remove their mother from the cult and into palliative care. Harbottle did not see her family, children or grandchildren during the final stages of her life. In August 2005, Harbottle died from her long-term battle with bone cancer.<sup>564</sup> Similar cases have involved cult followers being instructed: i) to stop taking prescribed medication; ii) not to attend medical appointments; iii) not to attend pathology or health investigative procedures; and iv) to avoid contact with people who request the need to use orthodox medical treatments.<sup>565</sup>

Other controversies involving the Soul freedom cult concerns a missing cult member (who was a former Queensland Police Officer). Geraldine Kilfoyle and her two daughters - Sarah and Alex - joined the cult in 2004, after attending several "spiritual workshops" in Townsville. Kilfoyle gave the cult \$100 000 and her property. She changed her name to Bree Jones, and travelled the country as a 'spiritual adviser' and recruiter for the Soul Freedom cult.<sup>566</sup> Kilfoyle made Andrina Aleksander, the legal guardian of her children while she was away from the cult compound. The last contact anyone has received from Kilfoyle was in March 2007 – an phone message to her mother from New Zealand stating that she was dying from cancer. Her daughter Sarah left the Soul Freedom cult in August 2006, but left her younger sister, Alex, behind in the compound. According to a Child Safety Department spokeswoman, concerns over Alex's legal guardianship is to be dealt with by the Family Court. Even though welfare checks on Alex have been done, a Queensland police statement said that "there is no evidence to constitute any criminal offence has occurred."<sup>567</sup> The Inner Peace Movement cult has branches in the United Kingdom, U.S.A and Australia. Today, most of the Soul Freedom cult followers connect online and/or through social media sites. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>563</sup> 'Cult tried to ruin my life', *The Morning Bulletin*, (7 March 2006), <<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/apn-cult-tried-to-ruin-my/66011/>>.

<sup>564</sup> Ibid.

<sup>565</sup> 'Mum warns of cult', *Daily Mercury*, (24 March 2006), <<https://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/apn-mum-warns-of/75809/>>.

<sup>566</sup> Carne, L., 'Soul Freedom: Fears for mum who joined 'angel worship' sect', *Cult Information and Family Support Inc. sourced from the Courier Mail*, (23 June 2007), <[www.cifs.org.au/underfed.php](http://www.cifs.org.au/underfed.php)>.

<sup>567</sup> Ibid.

## South Australian Satanists cult

The South Australian Satanists (S.A.S) cult is an Australian branch of one of many Satanic Sects that had evolved from Europe. Members of the group are closely linked with The Lilith Children, particularly in the areas of paedophilia, producing child exploitation material, child pornography, snuff movies, animal and human sacrifices, bestiality, and cannibalism. The S.A.S cult is often practiced by members of various Bkie Gangs, criminals, and paedophile rings. They also have links with criminal organisations abroad. According to modern Satanists, the Devil is not evil but stands for a 'spirit of change'. They believe Satan represents opposition and balance. It means simply becoming the Devil Advocate, looking at different ways of conducting oneself,<sup>568</sup> and ensuring that the pendulum doesn't swing too far towards 'goodness' in society.<sup>569</sup> The concept of a Devil Worshipper generates many stereotypical descriptions within the population, most untrue. Not all Satanists walk about in public wearing black robes, horned headwear, or necklaces made of bones. There are three categories of Satanists. Firstly, there is "organisational" Satanism, which has a structure with high priests and temples. Second, "generational" Satanism, where children were brought up in a Satanic cult. Lastly. Finally, people known as "wannabes", "try-hards" or "dabblers" who are mainly outwardly seeking attention by wearing a T-shirt adorned with a devil's image or dressing in black attire. The people that fall into final category are usually not heavily into Satanism itself.<sup>570</sup> The S.A.S cult target people that are vulnerable with mental illnesses, or isolated from family and friends. The members pretend to be police officers, social workers, welfare officers and entice victims by the gesture of assistance to those desperately needing help. The offer of free food, free shelter and friendship is enough to convince the susceptible victims to move into the cult's home. If the newcomer refuses to be involved in their satanic rituals, selecting victims for human sacrifice, or acts of cannibalism, then they become a 'host'. A 'host' is a person whose physical body is used by the cult for their specific ritual purposes (ie: blood is drained from their body for Sabbat ritual). A 'host' is usually held captive, raped, tortured, and often killed. Some of the S.A.S cult members have been known to acquire jobs within the hospital sector. They are cleaners, nurses, doctors, administration staff, and hospital board members. They can gain access (often illegally) to the hospital blood bank supplies. The Satanists select the blood supplies that are past their 'expiry date' (or close to expiration) for safe transfusion.<sup>571</sup> The blood is needed for their Satanic rituals. S.A.S cult members are also known to work in hospital morgues and funeral centres. Cult members (with access to these zones) will sometimes hold their Satanic rituals and engage in acts of necrophilia. If any of the S.A.S cult rules or regulations are broken, the recruit is severely punished (by becoming a 'host'), generally resulting in death.<sup>572</sup> It is unknown the exact figures of practising Satanists in Australia as it is a part of their *Code of Practice* to 'never reveal'.<sup>573</sup> Investigative reports state that the cult is growing particularly in the State and Territories prison system. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>568</sup> Barry, D., 'Sympathy for the Devil: story of Satan', *Woolly Ways – Blog*, (11 September 2007), <<https://nebuchadnezzarwoollyd.blogspot.com/2007/09/sympathy-for-devil-story-of-satan.html>>.

<sup>569</sup> Ibid.

<sup>570</sup> Goldstone, C., 'In the grip of 'Satan'', *IOL Independent Online*, (30 August 2008), <<https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/in-the-grip-of-satan-414440>>.

<sup>571</sup> 'Vampire Cults', *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/questionsanswered.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/questionsanswered.html)>.

<sup>572</sup> Ibid.

<sup>573</sup> Tuohy, W., 'Speak of the Devil', *Sunday Herald: Sunday Life*, (15 July 2001), <[www.haunted.com.au/news/age03.html](http://www.haunted.com.au/news/age03.html)>.

## Sukyo Mahikari cult

The Sukyo Mahikari cult was formed in 1959 by Japanese military leader, Yoshikazu Okada, (better known as "Sukuinushisama," which translates to "salvation master").<sup>574</sup> Apparently, after five days of being in an unconscious state with a high fever, Okada received a revelation from Su-God. Okada claims that was given a healing mission, and God had said to him: "The time of Heaven has come. Rise. Your name shall be Kotama. Raise your hand. The world shall enter severe times."<sup>575</sup> Okada also states that the voice of God told him to go forth and heal/spiritually purify souls by 'raising his hand'. According to Okada he 'raised his hand' to a blind dog and was miraculously restored to good health.<sup>576</sup> After this incident, Okada began his religion called Sekai Mahikari Bunmei Kyodan (shortened to Mahikari). The word "Mahikari" means "True (真, ma) Light (光, hikari)" in Japanese.<sup>577</sup> Okada then claimed to be a new-aged Messiah, God's only representative on Earth, and the new King of the World. The 'Star of David' is the Mahikari symbol and is emblazoned upon their temples every cult centre.<sup>578</sup> People who joined his cult (known as 'Kumite' or Kotama's followers) were told that they were God's chosen children and that by offering okiyome (spiritual purification) to others, they would be able to heal ailments as well as spiritually purify souls, erasing sins and impurities in the process.<sup>579</sup> The only way for a person to do this was to become a Mahikari member, be devoted to the current spiritual leader, and to stay spiritually connected by paying a 'donation' to the cult organisation. The more money a person donates, the more they are 'truly blessed' and considered a Mahikari role model.<sup>580</sup> Cults followers are expected to always bow before the statue of their founder, Okada upon entering a Mahikari cult centre. Cult followers also believe that world history has essentially revolved around Japan. According to them, the ancient Japanese ruled a global Utopia which included other civilizations such as Egypt and Mesopotamia; and that their emperor even taught the Jews how to speak Hebrew. They also believe that their mission now is to reunite all the races and religions and create a Japanese paradise on earth to be ruled by their emperor.<sup>581</sup> Okada taught that all other religions are only partially true, and should be discarded. The Mahikari teachings are considered the only true ones.<sup>582</sup> New cult followers must take a three-day class called Kenshu in order to understand the 'Truth' and discard their previous beliefs. Kenshu introduces such elementary aspects of the practice as body points, karma, reincarnation, and transmigration.<sup>583</sup> Upon completion of the Primary Kenshu, the cult followers receive a holy locket called the omitama. They are told that their omitamas connect them to God through the current leader of Mahikari. Strict

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<sup>574</sup> Elliot, A., 'What is Sukyo Mahikari?', *Amanda Elliot Shows You The Light*, (2 December 2009), <<https://amandaelliot.blogspot.com/2009/12/sukyo-mahikari-is-japanese-spiritual.html>>.

<sup>575</sup> 'Mahikari', *Let Us Reason Ministries*, (2009), <[www.letusreason.org/WorldR1.htm](http://www.letusreason.org/WorldR1.htm)>.

<sup>576</sup> Kennedy, A., 'What makes Mahikari a Cult?', *Revealed 1001 Blogspot*, (26 April 2006), <<https://revealed1001.blogspot.com/2006/04/what-makes-mahikari-cult-on-mahikari.html>>.

<sup>577</sup> 'Mahikari', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (18 June 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahikari>>.

<sup>578</sup> Greenwood, G., 'The Mahikari Agenda', *All The Emperors Men.com*, (2 June 2019), <[alltheemperorsmen.com/mahikari\\_agenda.html](http://alltheemperorsmen.com/mahikari_agenda.html)>.

<sup>579</sup> Kennedy, A., 'What makes Mahikari a Cult?', *Revealed 1001 Blogspot*, (26 April 2006), <<https://revealed1001.blogspot.com/2006/04/what-makes-mahikari-cult-on-mahikari.html>>.

<sup>580</sup> 'The time I almost joined a Japanese cult', *Medium.com*, (29 October 2014), <<https://medium.com/@wanderlustme/the-time-i-almost-joined-a-japanese-cult-aa615d44d78b>>.

<sup>581</sup> Marc, V., '10 bizarre Japanese cults you've probably never heard of', *List Verse*, (7 November 2013), <<https://listverse.com/2013/11/07/10-bizarre-japanese-cults-youve-probably-never-heard-of/>>.

<sup>582</sup> 'Mahikari', *Let Us Reason Ministries*, (2009), <[www.letusreason.org/WorldR1.htm](http://www.letusreason.org/WorldR1.htm)>.

<sup>583</sup> Elliot, A., 'What is Sukyo Mahikari?', *Amanda Elliot Shows You The Light*, (2 December 2009), <<https://amandaelliot.blogspot.com/2009/12/sukyo-mahikari-is-japanese-spiritual.html>>.

rules surround the care of the omitama (ie: the locket cannot touch bedding or become wet, and it will be confiscated if monthly donations are not paid on time, etc.). New members are warned that if these rules are ever violated, they risk having their connection to God “shut off”.<sup>584</sup> Cult followers are also expected to make financial donations to the Mahikari centre after the death of a loved one, believing that the deceased person may be suffering in “the other world”.<sup>585</sup> Due to cult followers monthly donations and payments for regular Training Courses, seminars and workshops, each Mahikari cult centres have become financially self-sufficient. This system of donations has also made it possible to build their large headquarters in Takayama, Japan.<sup>586</sup> The Mahikari cult expects its cult followers to perform ‘okiyome’ (Sessions of Light) - the giving and receiving of light energy, and appears similar to Japanese Reiki Healing. This light energy is supposedly concentrated within the Mahikari cult members. It is transmitted when members hold their palm to the recipient’s forehead (where they believe the soul resides) and anywhere a person is experiencing pain. This light is not only believed to purify the body, but the physical world as well.<sup>587</sup> During the ‘okiyome’ spiritual purification process, cult followers chant a prayer called Amatasu Norigoto.<sup>588</sup> The giver then holds his or her hand approximately 30 centimetres from the receiver's body. It is claimed that the person receiving the ‘light energy’ would start convulsing, and have involuntary body movements. Accompanying this behaviour is violent contortions of the body, crying, laughing and glossolalia<sup>589</sup> - this shows that the body is ridding its toxins and becoming purified. The practice of ‘okiyome’ usually last anywhere from 10 to 50 minutes.<sup>590</sup> Each month, members attend the “Monthly Thanksgiving Ceremony” held at Mahikari centres. Non-members are invited to come and receive light, while being encouraged to join the cult. Mahikari members are expected to receive the Holy Teachings known as Mioshie-the Mahikari gospel. They teach that suffering results from “dust” that accumulates on the soul (the dust teaching is similar to another Japanese religion - Tenrikyo, where they call thoughts that differ from God as dust).<sup>591</sup> Mahikari cult followers avoid hospitals and refuse treatments if they have a disease, illness or injury. They believe health professionals perform tests only for financial gain, and that any prescribed medication would be seriously harmful for a person’s health. Mahikari cult followers also believe medicine is a synonym for poison, both for the body and mind.<sup>592</sup> The Mahikari cult also promotes the practice of yoko agriculture. The practice of yoko agriculture involves organic agriculture combined with the use of positive words and attitudes to help people to cultivate respect for nature and restore soil to its pure and fertile condition<sup>593</sup> - in other words, they talk to plants. In 1985, Okada established the Yoko Civilization Research Institute (Y.C.R.I). Okada claimed

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<sup>584</sup> Kennedy, A., ‘What makes Mahikari a Cult?’, *Revealed 1001 Blogspot*, (26 April 2006), <<https://revealed1001.blogspot.com/2006/04/what-makes-mahikari-cult-on-mahikari.html>>.

<sup>585</sup> ‘Christiane in Belgium’, *Mahikari Exposed*, (2015), <[www.mahikariexposed.com/christiane.htm](http://www.mahikariexposed.com/christiane.htm)>.

<sup>586</sup> Elliot, A., ‘What is Sukyo Mahikari?’, *Amanda Elliot Shows You The Light*, (2 December 2009), <<https://amandaelliot.blogspot.com/2009/12/sukyo-mahikari-is-japanese-spiritual.html>>.

<sup>587</sup> Ibid.

<sup>588</sup> Kennedy, A., ‘What makes Mahikari a Cult?’, *Revealed 1001 Blogspot*, (26 April 2006), <<https://revealed1001.blogspot.com/2006/04/what-makes-mahikari-cult-on-mahikari.html>>.

<sup>589</sup> Greenwood, G., ‘The Mahikari Agenda’, *All The Emperors Men.com*, (2 June 2019), <[alltheemperorsmen.com/mahikari\\_agenda.html](http://alltheemperorsmen.com/mahikari_agenda.html)>.

<sup>590</sup> ‘Sukyo Mahikari’, *Forbidden Symbols.com*, (2014), <[www.forbiddensymbols.com/sukyo-mahikari/](http://www.forbiddensymbols.com/sukyo-mahikari/)>.

<sup>591</sup> ‘Mahikari’, *Let Us Reason Ministries*, (2009), <[www.letusreason.org/WorldR1.htm](http://www.letusreason.org/WorldR1.htm)>.

<sup>592</sup> ‘Christiane in Belgium’, *Mahikari Exposed*, (2015), <[www.mahikariexposed.com/christiane.htm](http://www.mahikariexposed.com/christiane.htm)>.

<sup>593</sup> ‘Sukyo Mahikari’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (22 July 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sukyo\\_Mahikari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sukyo_Mahikari)>.



that the world was approaching a time of great upheaval, "baptism by fire," in which humanity will be cleansed through abnormal weather, social turmoil, conflict and economic problems. He emphasized that humanity had entered this period in earnest from 1 January 1962. Okada said an increase in what he called the "spiritual energy of fire" would result in phenomena such as flooding, cold snaps, and potable water would become increasingly scarce. He said humankind needed to work hastily to develop techniques of turning sea water into drinkable water.<sup>594</sup> The Institute's aim is to find 'solutions' to today's problems (namely environmental issues) by having leaders in different fields sharing their acquired wisdom at the cult's forums.<sup>595</sup> After Okada's death, his group split off into two branches: One branch retained the original name and was led by one of Okada's male leaders, while the other one changed its name to Sukyo Mahikari and is currently led by Okada Keishu, his adopted daughter. Sukyo Mahikari members have been involved in charity and social services around the world as a recruitment strategy. In 2000, Sukyo Mahikari co-sponsored the U.N Millennium Summit of World Religious Leaders. In 2009, Mayor Mufi Hannemann of Honolulu presented Sukyo Mahikari with a certificate declaring September 27 as Sukyo Mahikari Day in Honolulu, and celebrated by participating in the cult's beach and park clean-up activities. Since 2016, Sukyo Mahikari has been granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E.C.O.S.O.C) of the United Nations.<sup>596</sup> The Sukyo Mahikari cult has centres in 75 countries worldwide, with their headquarters in Takayama, Japan. The cult centres in the Australia-Oceania Region consists of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea, with the Region's headquarters located in Canberra, Australia. The worldwide membership is about 2 million, with approximately 2000 members in Australia.<sup>597</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>594</sup> 'Mahikari', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (18 June 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahikari>>.

<sup>595</sup> 'Sukyo Mahikari', *Forbidden Symbols.com*, (2014), <[www.forbiddensymbols.com/sukyo-mahikari/](http://www.forbiddensymbols.com/sukyo-mahikari/)>.

<sup>596</sup> Ibid.

<sup>597</sup> Greenwood, G., 'The Demon in the Protocols', *Cult Education Institute sourced from Exposure Magazine*, (1998), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/1038-sukyo-mahikari/13033-the-demon-in-the-protocols.html>>.

## Teal Swan cult

Teal Swan spiritual ideologies which she has sprouted since 2011,<sup>598</sup> has created worldwide attention and given her a cult following. The Teal Swan cult has arisen based on Swan's unorthodox therapy treatments and healing methods for people experiencing various psychological ailments, including suicidal thoughts and repressed traumatic experiences. Swan's spiritualistic therapy methods have emerged from Swan public talks about her own childhood and alleged personal trauma involving child sexual abuse, physical assaults, and suicide ideations.<sup>599</sup> Swan claims that she was raised in a small cabin in the woods by parents who both worked as Forest Rangers. She alleges that she had been ritualistically abused for 13 years in Idaho by a local veterinarian – who is her best friend's father and an acquaintance to her parents. Teal Swan claims that during the 13 years she: i) was inducted as a child into a local Satanic cult; ii) had 3 abortions; iii) lived in a hole in the ground of the abuser's backyard; iv) was subjected to torture, exploitation, and multiple rapes; and v) was led to believe that her abuser was her real father and her biological parents were foster parents.<sup>600</sup> The fact is, Swan was born in New Mexico and grew up in North Logan, Utah where her parents worked as school teachers.<sup>601</sup> It was noted by her parents that Swan struggled with mental illness. Throughout her childhood and adolescence, Swan displayed diagnostic features of Borderline Personality Disorder<sup>602</sup> as evident by her frequent suicidal ideations, self-damaging impulsive behaviours, acts of self-mutilation (wrist cutting), and dissociative symptoms.<sup>603</sup> In 2005, her parents took Swan to see a psychotherapist, Dr. Barbara Snow, in Salt Lake City.

[Dr. Snow has a reputation for implanting false memories into her patients' heads.<sup>604</sup> The children she interviewed became convinced that they had been abused in satanic rituals, incestuous acts, military testing, and practised cross-dressing behaviours.<sup>605</sup> When investigators looked into the matter, she allegedly provided them with 'doctored notes' of those therapy sessions. Dr Snow has also been involved in the prosecutions of a numerous child sex abuse cases in the 1980s. One man she testified against was granted a new hearing after the Utah Supreme Court questioned her credibility.<sup>606</sup> In January 2007, Dr Snow was placed on professional probation for violating Utah codes of professional conduct and ethical principles defined by the National Association of Social Workers.<sup>607</sup>]

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<sup>598</sup> Scofield, B., 'The Gucci Guru: Inside Teal Swan's Posh Cult', *The Guru: Exposing Cults and Tantric Abuse*, (26 Dec 2018), <<https://gurumag.com/the-gucci-guru-inside-teal-swans-posh-cult/>>.

<sup>599</sup> 'Teal Swan', *Wiki Global*, (2016), <<https://www.wiki-global.org/teal-swans/>>.

<sup>600</sup> Ibid.

<sup>601</sup> Anderson, J., and Clark, C., 'The complete interview of Teal Swan's alleged childhood abuser', *The Truth About Cameron: Blogspot*, (31 October 2015), <<https://thetruthaboutcameron.blogspot.com/2015/10/the-complete-interview-of-teal-swans.html>>.

<sup>602</sup> 'Borderline Personality Disorders: DSM-5 Personality Disorders', *Psychology Charts*, (2013), <[www.psychologycharts.com/personality-disorders-dsm5.html](http://www.psychologycharts.com/personality-disorders-dsm5.html)>.

<sup>603</sup> American Psychiatric Association, 'Borderline Personality Disorder: Personality Disorder', *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 4<sup>th</sup> Ed - D.S.M-IV*, (American Psychiatric Association, Washington DC, 1994), p 650.

<sup>604</sup> Anderson, J., and Clark, C., 'The complete interview of Teal Swan's alleged childhood abuser', *The Truth About Cameron: Blogspot*, (31 October 2015), <<https://thetruthaboutcameron.blogspot.com/2015/10/the-complete-interview-of-teal-swans.html>>.

<sup>605</sup> Franklin, K., 'Recovered memory therapist placed on probation', *In The News: Forensic Psychology, Criminology, and Psychology-Law*, (22 February 2008), <<https://forensicpsychologist.blogspot.com/2008/02/recovered-memory-therapist-placed-on.html>>.

<sup>606</sup> Anderson, J., and Clark, C., 'The complete interview of Teal Swan's alleged childhood abuser', *The Truth About Cameron: Blogspot*, (31 October 2015), <<https://thetruthaboutcameron.blogspot.com/2015/10/the-complete-interview-of-teal-swans.html>>.

<sup>607</sup> Rosetta, L., 'Embattled therapist agrees to probation', *The Salt Lake Tribune*, (22 February 2008), <<https://archive.sltrib.com/article.php?id=8332832&itype=NGPSID>>.

In 2003, Swan developed an opioid addiction, which exacerbated her mental health illness. Swan reported her alleged 'attacker' to the police in 2006. To date no charges have been ever been filed against her parents' acquaintance.<sup>608</sup> Swan also has a fixed-false belief that she is destined for world domination. Swan believes that aliens exist and publicly states that she 'is a multi-dimensional Arcturian alien working with 11 other aliens in an intergalactic "Green Peace-type" of organization.'<sup>609</sup> Teal Swan claims she was born with a range of extrasensory abilities, including clairvoyance, clairsentience, clairaudience, and x-ray vision. She also believes that: i) she can 'inject' herself into people's brainstems to revive them, ii) her pet cat called 'Cosmos' is holographic soul projection from the planet Sirius; iii) she can hear the Earth's tectonic plates moving;<sup>610</sup> iii) she is a reincarnation of Cleopatra and the Indian spiritual master Sai Baba of Shirdi; iv) she has been a victim of Satanic ritual abuse from the ages of 6-19 performed by people trying to 'cure' her of her extrasensory abilities; v) she was a member of the United States Telemark Ski Team; and v) that she has modelled in *Playboy* magazine.<sup>611</sup>

Swan began writing books (three in total) about her alleged childhood abuse, trauma, and spiritual journey to recovery. To expand her audience she started a You Tube channel to spread her ideas and spiritual message.<sup>612</sup> Her books and workshops discusses various issues, including spirituality, relationships, law of attraction, and life's purpose. Swan's ideas are influenced heavily by Eastern religious traditions, including Hinduism and Zen Buddhism.<sup>613</sup> Swan reaches her followers via her website, online vlogging sites, social media sites, spiritual retreats, leadership forums, and her published books.<sup>614</sup> Swan has now become renowned for her controversial beliefs about depression, suicide and her 'therapeutic' treatments of suicidal people. During the therapy sessions she baits followers to commit the horrific act<sup>615</sup> and/or involve participants in imagining their own deaths, occasionally by suicide. Swan states that suicide is "pushing the reset button."<sup>616</sup> Currently two people have committed suicide as a direct result of Swan's ideology and therapy methods. Teal Swan is not a registered Psychologist, Therapist, Counsellor and health practitioner. Nor has she ever attended University to study the fields of Behavioural Science, Health Science, or Social Welfare. World medical, health and social welfare experts have nicknamed her "The Suicide Catalyst". One of the deceased clients from Swan's spiritual retreats

'committed suicide after telling [Swan] that she did not want to live and was "not committed to life." Swan gave up on helping this client, and [the person] took her own life. In addition to that, Swan talks about her client with no sign of empathy. Swan has named this client numerous times

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<sup>608</sup> Anderson, J., and Clark, C., 'The complete interview of Teal Swan's alleged childhood abuser', *The Truth About Cameron: Blogspot*, (31 October 2015), <<https://thetruthaboutcameron.blogspot.com/2015/10/the-complete-interview-of-teal-swans.html>>.

<sup>609</sup> Scofield, B., 'The Gucci Guru: Inside Teal Swan's Posh Cult', *The Guru: Exposing Cults and Tantric Abuse*, (26 Dec 2018), <<https://gurumag.com/the-gucci-guru-inside-teal-swans-posh-cult/>>.

<sup>610</sup> Ibid.

<sup>611</sup> 'Teal Swan', Wiki Global, (2016), <<https://www.wiki-global.org/teal-swans/>>.

<sup>612</sup> Ibid.

<sup>613</sup> Scofield, B., 'The Gucci Guru: Inside Teal Swan's Posh Cult', *The Guru: Exposing Cults and Tantric Abuse*, (26 Dec 2018), <<https://gurumag.com/the-gucci-guru-inside-teal-swans-posh-cult/>>.

<sup>614</sup> 'Teal Swan', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (22 August 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teal\\_Swan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teal_Swan)>.

<sup>615</sup> 'Suicide is totally fine', *Teal Swan Exposed*, (2018), <<https://tealswanblog.wordpress.com/suicide/>>.

<sup>616</sup> 'Suicide is a reset button', *Teal Swan Exposed*, (2018), <<https://tealswanblog.wordpress.com/suicide/>>.



in her videos and has spoken in detail about the person's conventional psychiatric treatment – which by U.S law, should remain confidential for fifty years post death.<sup>617</sup>

In 2012, Swan established a company called Teal Eye LLC.<sup>618</sup> The company aims states that it hopes to 'create changes in several different areas: alternative education, reforms in the global food industry, justice, animal rights and spirituality.'<sup>619</sup> On her official website page (tealswan.com) she increases her finances via the online store which sells New Age/spiritual products, books and clothing. Swan also operates the Philia Centre, a spiritual retreat centre in Atenas, Costa Rica which hosts numerous spiritual and pseudo-therapeutic multi-day courses. Interested students are expected to pay \$2000 U.S to become a "Completion Process Practitioner".<sup>620</sup> This 4 day course is designed to teach followers ways to a person can heal from old personal traumas. The students learn a technique devised by Swan called 'Emotional Integration Process' which enables a person to feel stop resisting suppressed negative emotions, reclaim and acknowledge the trauma, and integrate qualities of their 'former self' back into their life.<sup>621</sup> Swan's cult followers - called 'Tealers' or 'Teal Tribe' - consider her to be a spiritual healer and show their devotion by tattooing their bodies with the Swan cult's symbol<sup>622</sup> (which is the tattoo on Teal Swan's left upper arm that resembles the much like the 'illuminati eye').<sup>623</sup> In Watkins *Mind Body Spirit* magazine (Spring issue, No: 57), Swan was ranked #19 on the Watkins' 2019 list of the *100 Most Spiritually Influential Living People* – spiritual teachers, activists, authors and thinkers that change the world.<sup>624</sup> The Swan cult has nearly a half million followers and YouTube subscribers worldwide. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>617</sup> 'Santa Fe Synchronization Workshop, Part 1, *Teal Swan*, <<https://youtu.be/d77oXBadM> (53:48)>.

<sup>618</sup> 'Teal Swan', *Linkedin.com*, (2019), <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/teal-swan/about/>>.

<sup>619</sup> 'Teal Swan', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (22 August 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teal\\_Swan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teal_Swan)>.

<sup>620</sup> 'Become a practitioner: The Completion Process', *Teal Swan.com*, (2019), <<https://tealswan.com/completion-process-book-teal-swan/>>.

<sup>621</sup> Dürschner, C., 'The Completion Process', *Completion Process: Switzerland*, (2019), <[completionprocess.ch/](https://completionprocess.ch/)>.

<sup>622</sup> Scofield, B., 'The Gucci Guru: Inside Teal Swan's Posh Cult', *The Guru: Exposing Cults and Tantric Abuse*, (26 Dec 2018), <<https://gurumag.com/the-gucci-guru-inside-teal-swans-posh-cult/>>.

<sup>623</sup> 'I Changed My Mind', *Teal Swan Blog*, (26 May 2014), <[https://tealswanblog.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/i-changed-my-mind-e28093-teal\\_s-blog-e28093-medium1.pdf](https://tealswanblog.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/i-changed-my-mind-e28093-teal_s-blog-e28093-medium1.pdf)>.

<sup>624</sup> 'Watkins' Spiritual 100 List for 2019', *Watkins Magazine: Mind Body Spirit*, (18 February 2019), <<https://www.watkinsmagazine.com/watkins-spiritual-100-list-for-2019>>.



## The Covenant of the Serpent and Star cult

A branch of one of many Satanic Sects arising from Europe since the mid-1500s AD. It has the same beliefs and practices as The Lilith Children. The cult worships the 'serpent' as it symbolises fertility and procreation, wisdom, death, and resurrection (due to the shedding of its skin, which is not akin to rebirth).<sup>625</sup> Their symbol the 'star' denotes the guiding pathway towards the Devil/Satan. The Covenant of the Serpent and Star cult target people that are vulnerable with mental illnesses, or isolated from family and friends, and/or the homeless. Recruiting starts by telling people basically whatever they want to hear, through the online forums, private messaging, email, and websites. The online 'community' (using fake names) makes people believe they are becoming part of something special.<sup>626</sup> The phony website comprises of the 'Satanic Priests' and other members (aspiring to be called priests) all using different names on multiple different forums and websites, to make the group appear to be a lot larger than it is. The offer of free food, free shelter and friendship is enough to convince the susceptible to move into the cult's home. This involves bloodletting rituals and drinking blood from the recruit. Once done, it is the cult's belief that the vampire who drank the recruit's blood is forever responsible and 'owns' the person that they have converted.<sup>627</sup> As described by an Australian Satanist: "Homo sapiens are herd animals, after all! Allow their children no real prospects of success, inhibit their natural drives, particularly their sex drives; limit their options, coarsen their choices and society (such as it still is) quickly falls apart into predetermined categories. No families, just weak individuals free to do as they are told. Satan is a wonderful 'systems man.'"<sup>628</sup> If the newcomer refuses to become a participant of their cultish activities, then they become a 'host'. A 'host' is a person whose body is used by the cult for their specific ritual purposes (ie: blood is drained from their body for Sabbat ritual). The cult regularly practises 'the Black Mass', an "inverted" Catholic Mass celebrated on the body of a naked woman serving as an altar, where Satan was invoked in order to obtain money, fame, fortune or power.<sup>629</sup> Human sacrifices are the principal characteristic traits of Devil-worship. In addition, other Satanic ritualistic behaviours are based on the idea that the Devil takes delight in witnessing torture, rape, cannibalism, which, as anthropology teaches us, is not due to scarcity of food, but can always be traced back to some religious superstition, especially the notion that s/he who partakes of the heart or brain of their adversary acquires the courage, strength, and other virtues of the slain person.<sup>630</sup> A 'host' is usually held captive, raped, tortured, and often killed.

Those seriously involved in the cult may practice one or more of the following: blood-drinking, sleeping in coffins, avoiding daylight, performing occult rituals, taking drugs, wearing fangs or having their dental incisors sharpened (using metal emery files), animal cruelty, human sacrifice, orgies, and B.D.S.M.<sup>631</sup> Some police investigations and court case file examples include: i) a teenage girl, who was impregnated during a previous satanic ritual, had her nearly full-term baby forcibly delivered, and then made to ritually

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<sup>625</sup> Sisowath, K., 'Tracing the origins of the Serpent Cult', *Ancient-Origins.net*, (3 December 2014), <<https://www.ancient-origins.net/myths-legends/tracing-origins-serpent-cult-002393>>.

<sup>626</sup> 'Vampire Cults', *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/vampirecults.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/vampirecults.html)>.

<sup>627</sup> 'The New Code', *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/thenewcode.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/thenewcode.html)>.

<sup>628</sup> Makhov, H., 'Australian adept unveiled world Satanic control', *Henry Makhov: An Oasis For The Awake*, (22 May 2016), <[https://www.savethemales.ca/australian\\_satanist\\_exposes\\_wo.html](https://www.savethemales.ca/australian_satanist_exposes_wo.html)>.

<sup>629</sup> Introvigne, M., *Satan the Prophet A History of Modern Satanism*, (13 April 2017), <<https://www.cesnur.org/2017/satanism.pdf>>.

<sup>630</sup> Carus, P., 'Devil Worship', *History of the Devil*, (1900), <[www.sacred-texts.com/evil/hod/hodo4.htm](http://www.sacred-texts.com/evil/hod/hodo4.htm)>.

<sup>631</sup> 'Vampirism, Vampirism and Vampire Cults', *Apologetics Index.org*, (10 February 2018), <[www.apologeticsindex.org/243-vampire-cults](http://www.apologeticsindex.org/243-vampire-cults)>.

kill the child and eat its heart as cult members watch;<sup>632</sup> ii) mother of six was abducted, killed by ritual sacrifice and had inverted pentagrams carved into the palm of both hands with a knife;<sup>633</sup> iii) a small child was sewn inside the cavity of an exenterated animal and “rebirthed” by her cultic captors as a part of a Satanic ritual<sup>634</sup> - the “Awakening of the Animas Ceremony” (which symbolises the acknowledgement and acceptance of one’s internal “Animas” - spirit of the beast/animal); iv) a young girl is thrown into an electrified cage with wolves and ritually tortured to deliberately produce a “wolf personality”;<sup>635</sup> and v) a Satanic cult follower abducted a girl aged 11, and sucked the young victim’s blood after cutting her thumb with a special “bejewelled knife”. The schoolgirl was held down by another cult follower and raped by her abductor.<sup>636</sup> Some of The Covenant of Serpent and the Star cult members have been known to acquire jobs within the nation’s hospital sector. They are cleaners, nurses, doctors, administration staff, and hospital board members. They can gain access (often illegally) to the hospital blood bank supplies. The satanic cult members select the blood supplies that are past their ‘expiry date’ (or close to expiration) for safe transfusion.<sup>637</sup> The blood is needed for their Satanic Sabbats rituals. If any of The Covenant of the Serpent and Star cult rules or regulations are broken, the cult member is severely punished (by becoming a ‘host’), generally resulting in death.<sup>638</sup> The Covenant of the Serpent and Star has international connections to many wealthy and powerful people found working within government departments, specialist agencies, charitable organisations, political parties, and celebrity circles.<sup>639</sup> It is unknown the exact figures of practising Satanists in Australia as it is a part of their *Code of Practice* to ‘never reveal’.<sup>640</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>632</sup> ‘The Hard Facts About Satanic Ritual Abuse’, *Survival News*, (29 December 2018), <<https://survivalnews1.wordpress.com/2018/12/29/the-hard-facts-about-satanic-ritual-abuse/>>.

<sup>633</sup> Knox, P., ‘Sacrificed to Satan: Mum, 42, butchered in ‘satanic ritual’ by ‘devil worshippers’ who carved stars into her palms and left body by chilling message’, *The Sun News Group England*, (7 May 2018), <<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/6229111/mum-42-butchered-in-satanic-ritual-by-devil-worshippers-who-carved-stars-into-her-palms-and-left-body-by-chilling-message/>>.

<sup>634</sup> ‘Hell Minus One – signed verified confessions of satanic ritual abuse’, *Stop Mind Control and Ritual Abuse Today: S.M.A.R.T.*, (2019), <<https://ritualabuse.us/ritualabuse/survivor-stories/hell-minus-one-signed-verified-confessions-of-satanic-ritual-abuse/>>.

<sup>635</sup> Napolis, D., ‘Satanism and Ritual Abuse Archive: Juvenile, Family, Civil and Criminal Courts Cases’, *End Ritual Abuse*, (1 January 2007), <[endritualabuse.org/satanism-and-ritual-abuse-archive/](http://endritualabuse.org/satanism-and-ritual-abuse-archive/)>.

<sup>636</sup> Harris, N., ‘Convictions’, *Beast Wing 666 – Ritual Abuse in the UK*, (20 January 2017), <<https://nathanieljharris.wordpress.com/2017/01/20/beast-wing-666-ritual-abuse-in-the-uk/>>.

<sup>637</sup> ‘Vampire Cults’, *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/questionsanswered.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/questionsanswered.html)>.

<sup>638</sup> Ibid.

<sup>639</sup> Knapton, K., ‘Jimmy Savile’s youngest victim was aged two’, *The Telegraph*, (2 June 2014), <<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/jimmy-savile/10868480/Jimmy-Saviles-youngest-victim-was-aged-two.html>>.

<sup>640</sup> Tuohy, W., ‘Speak of the Devil’, *Sunday Herald: Sunday Life*, (15 July 2001), <[www.haunted.com.au/news/age03.html](http://www.haunted.com.au/news/age03.html)>.

## The Family cult

The Family cult was founded in the mid-1960s by yoga teacher and LSD advocate, Anne Hamilton-Byrne (born Evelyn Edwards)<sup>641</sup> and renowned physicist Raynor Johnson.<sup>642</sup> Hamilton-Byrne claimed she was the female reincarnation of Jesus and preached about a pending Biblical Apocalypse along with a combination of Buddhism, Hinduism and Christianity. The cult group was also referred to as the 'Santiniketan Park Association' and the 'Great White Brotherhood'.<sup>643</sup> Members were recruited by Johnson, who referred them to Hamilton-Byrne's yoga classes which were conducted at his home in Melbourne's outskirts. Johnson and Hamilton-Byrne recruited doctors, lawyers, architects. They only recruited the wealthy or people with status and skills they needed. They were also sourced through Newhaven Hospital (a private psychiatric hospital) owned and managed by Marion Villimek, one of Hamilton-Byrne's disciples.<sup>644</sup> Many of its staff and attending psychiatrists were also members of the cult.<sup>645</sup> Some of the cult beliefs include: i) aliens were going to invade the earth to cleanse the world of evil; ii) no one should intervene if children were suffering because they should not interfere with God's plan; iii) that Hamilton-Byrne died for a few minutes and rose from the dead (to prove her power to a sceptical psychologist); and iv) miracles were delivered during yoga practices.<sup>646</sup> During an LSD trip, Hamilton-Byrne allegedly had a revelation that she was to collect children to raise and protect them harm while the world endured the Apocalypse. Between 1968 and 1975, Hamilton-Byrne gathered children which were obtained either by illegal adoptions or from followers who choose to 'hand-over' their own offspring to the cult.<sup>647</sup> Hamilton-Byrne called the group of children 'The Family' and believed they represented the 'Master Race'. The children were kept in seclusion and home-schooled at 'Kai Lama' (or 'Uptop'), a rural property at Taylor Bay on Lake Eildon<sup>648</sup> in Victoria's Central Highlands. The children had to address Hamilton-Byrne as 'mother' and 'Messiah'. Dressed in identical outfits, many with their hair dyed blonde (or red, Hamilton-Byrne's natural colour), they were denied almost all access to the outside world. The children were subjected to a discipline that included frequent, severe beatings – often for little or no reason – and starvation diets by Hamilton-Byrne and the "Aunties" (adult cult followers).<sup>649</sup> The children were frequently dosed with the psychiatric drugs (fluphenazine, diazepam, haloperidol, chlorpromazine, nitrazepam, oxazepam, trifluoperazine, carbamazepine, or imipramine). On reaching adolescence, the children were compelled to undergo an initiation involving

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<sup>641</sup> 'Growing up with The Family: inside Anne Hamilton-Byrne's sinister cult', *The Guardian*, (November 2016), <<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/nov/20/growing-up-with-the-family-inside-anne-hamilton-byrnes-sinister-cult>>.

<sup>642</sup> Dunk, T., 'The Family: How a survivor helped to bring down the infamous cult', *The Australian Women's Weekly*, (12 March 2019), <<https://www.nowtolove.com.au/news/real-life/the-family-cult-abc-54586>>.

<sup>643</sup> 'The Family (Australian New Age group)', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (23 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Family\\_\(Australian\\_New\\_Age\\_group\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Family_(Australian_New_Age_group))>.

<sup>644</sup> Dunk, T., 'The Family: How a survivor helped to bring down the infamous cult', *The Australian Women's Weekly*, (12 March 2019), <<https://www.nowtolove.com.au/news/real-life/the-family-cult-abc-54586>>.

<sup>645</sup> 'The Family (Australian New Age group)', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (23 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Family\\_\(Australian\\_New\\_Age\\_group\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Family_(Australian_New_Age_group))>.

<sup>646</sup> Drill, S., 'Read the secret diary that reveals the bizarre beliefs of aliens, super-human powers and twisted child mind control inside The Family cult', *Herald Sun*, (22 August 2014), <<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/law-order/read-the-secret-diary-that-reveals-the-bizarre-beliefs-of-aliens-super-human-powers-and-twisted-child-mind-control-inside-the-family-cult/news-story/>>.

<sup>647</sup> Dunk, T., 'The Family: How a survivor helped to bring down the infamous cult', *The Australian Women's Weekly*, (12 March 2019), <<https://www.nowtolove.com.au/news/real-life/the-family-cult-abc-54586>>.

<sup>648</sup> 'The Family (Australian New Age group)', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (23 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Family\\_\(Australian\\_New\\_Age\\_group\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Family_(Australian_New_Age_group))>.

<sup>649</sup> Dunk, T., 'The Family: How a survivor helped to bring down the infamous cult', *The Australian Women's Weekly*, (12 March 2019), <<https://www.nowtolove.com.au/news/real-life/the-family-cult-abc-54586>>.

LSD: it was Hamilton-Byrne search for enlightenment on their behalf.<sup>650</sup> While under the influence of the drug the child would be left alone in a dark room, apart from the occasional visits by Hamilton-Byrne or one of the psychiatrists from the cult.<sup>651</sup> The cult remained under the radar until 1987. Sarah Moore (one of the children) revealed the extent of the abuse to police, after her 'expulsion' from the cult for being too argumentative.<sup>652</sup> The Australian Federal Police raided the commune at Lake Eildon house and found 28 children living in an abusive and neglectful environment. Hamilton-Byrne and her third husband, Bill Byrne (an Englishman who has set up businesses in Traralgon), fled Australia after the Lake Eildon house was raided by police. They had property in Kent, near London, and the Catskills (in New York state U.S.A) and were eventually found there after Victoria Police's Operation Forest joined forces with the FBI.<sup>653</sup> Victorian Police Detective Lex de Man, (who had been investigating The Family cult), helped track her down in the Catskill Mountains and had her extradited back to Victoria in 1994.<sup>654</sup> A number of the "Aunties" faced criminal charges and were eventually convicted of fraudulently obtaining money from the Department of Social Security. In 1990, former group solicitor Peter Kibby started co-operating with police and confessed to forging birth records on orders from Hamilton-Byrne. Former "Auntie" Patricia McFarlane provided information to police about the adoption scams.<sup>655</sup>

'Due to extradition conditions, as well as complex legal and moral issues, the cult followers faced only minor fraud charges in Melbourne, leading to \$5000 in fines. Police and prosecutors did not pursue potential charges of kidnapping, administering drugs and assault, after deciding the vulnerable former cult children should not face cross-examination by Q.C, John Winneke'<sup>656</sup> who was representing Hamilton-Byrne and Bill Byrne during the trial.

In 2001, Hamilton-Byrne along with some of her cult followers established a charity that assists stray and unwanted animals, titled 'Life for All Creatures Ltd (A.B.N 16 096 549 003). It is currently registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (A.C.N.C), and has been endorsed for Income Tax exemption, Goods and Service Tax Concession, and Fringe Benefit Tax rebate.<sup>657</sup> It is estimated that Hamilton-Byrne's fortune could be as much as \$20 million.<sup>658</sup> Hamilton-Byrne while diagnosed with dementia, died in a nursing home on 13 June 2019, aged 98. **The cult is no longer functioning.**

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<sup>650</sup> Drill, S., 'Read the secret diary that reveals the bizarre beliefs of aliens, super-human powers and twisted child mind control inside The Family cult', *Herald Sun*, (22 August 2014), <<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/law-order/read-the-secret-diary-that-reveals-the-bizarre-beliefs-of-aliens-super-human-powers-and-twisted-child-mind-control-inside-the-family-cult/news-story/>>.

<sup>651</sup> 'The Family (Australian New Age group)', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (23 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Family\\_\(Australian\\_New\\_Age\\_group\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Family_(Australian_New_Age_group))>.

<sup>652</sup> 'Sarah Moore (The Family)', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (21 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah\\_Moore\\_\(The\\_Family\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Moore_(The_Family))>.

<sup>653</sup> Johnston, C., 'Little sympathy for evil family cult leader Anne Hamilton-Byrne as health wanes', *The Age*, (11 February 2017), <<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/little-sympathy-for-evil-family-cult-leader-anne-hamiltonbyrne-as-health-wanes-20170210-gugtm7.html>>.

<sup>654</sup> Ibid.

<sup>655</sup> 'Sarah Moore (The Family)', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (21 March 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah\\_Moore\\_\(The\\_Family\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Moore_(The_Family))>.

<sup>656</sup> Johnston, C., 'Little sympathy for evil family cult leader Anne Hamilton-Byrne as health wanes', *The Age*, (11 February 2017), <<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/little-sympathy-for-evil-family-cult-leader-anne-hamiltonbyrne-as-health-wanes-20170210-gugtm7.html>>.

<sup>657</sup> 'Life for All Creatures Ltd.' *ABN Lookup*, (9 April 2019), <<https://abr.business.gov.au/ABN/View?abn=16096549003>>.

<sup>658</sup> Johnston, C., 'Notorious cult 'Lodge' in legal battle', *Sydney Morning Herald*, (7 April 2015), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/notorious-cult-lodge-in-legal-battle-20150403-1me12e.html>>.





## The Lilith Children cult

The cult originated around the Spanish/French border early 1500s AD, during the era of the Spanish Inquisition. Fear of being arrested forced the Cult members to go 'underground' to hold its' meetings and rituals in secret. It was formed by a group of people wanting to practice 'Majick of the Black Arts' and sinister pagan rituals without being witnessed or imprisoned by the Catholic Spanish/French religious authorities of Renaissance period. Cult followers idolise and worship the dark female demon Lilith and the Devil/Satan. Lilith is one of the oldest known female spirits of the world. Lilith's name comes from the Sumerian word "lilitu", which meant a 'wind spirit or a female demon of the night'.<sup>659</sup> The demon Lilith is connected to the spiritual aspects of lust, sexual liberty and perversion, decay, destruction of values/morals, and terror. The story of Lilith stems from the famous Epic of Gilgamesh, but she was also described in the Bible and the Talmud. In Jewish tradition, she is the most notorious demon, but in some other sources she appears as the first woman created on Earth.<sup>660</sup> According to Midrashic literature, in the first Genesis account God created Adam and formed his first wife who was not Eve but a woman named Lilith.<sup>661</sup> The only difference between the first male and female was that God used pure dust to create Adam but included used filth and residue to create Lilith.<sup>662</sup> Lilith refused to be dominated or suppressed by Adam, and wanted to only to indulge in pleasure, temptation, and perversion. Only when Lilith rebelled and abandoned Adam did God create Eve, in the second account, as a replacement. The angels continuously searched for Lilith until they finally located her living in the caves of the desert, which ran along the shore of the Red Sea.<sup>663</sup> It was there, in those caves, that Lilith spent her time having sex with animals and demons. She gave birth, day after day, to hundreds of demonic babies that were known as 'Lilim'. The angels tried to reason with Lilith, but Lilith refused to listen to reason, so the angels then began to threaten her. That threat had little or no effect upon Lilith, who insisted that she would never return to Adam. She then continued, by telling the angels that her primary purpose in life was to harm young children, especially infants, and to eat the flesh and drink the blood of men.<sup>664</sup> Lilith also

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<sup>659</sup> Klimczak, N., 'Lilith: Ancient Demon, Dark Deity or Sensual Goddess?', *Ancient Origins*, (17 May 2016), <<https://www.ancient-origins.net/myths-legends/lilith-ancient-demon-dark-deity-or-sex-goddess-005908>>.

<sup>660</sup> 'Lilith', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (21 March 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lilith>>.

<sup>661</sup> Witcombe, C., 'Eve and Lilith', *Eve and the Identity of Women*, (2000), <[witcombe.sbc.edu/eve-women/7evelilith.html](http://witcombe.sbc.edu/eve-women/7evelilith.html)>.

<sup>662</sup> Klimczak, N., 'Lilith: Ancient Demon, Dark Deity or Sensual Goddess?', *Ancient Origins*, (17 May 2016), <<https://www.ancient-origins.net/myths-legends/lilith-ancient-demon-dark-deity-or-sex-goddess-005908>>.

<sup>663</sup> Ibid.

<sup>664</sup> Klimczak, N., 'Lilith: Ancient Demon, Dark Deity or Sensual Goddess?', *Ancient-Origins.net*, (17 May 2016), <<https://www.ancient-origins.net/myths-legends/lilith-ancient-demon-dark-deity-or-sex-goddess-005908>>.

became a major Qabalistic deity due to the branching of the Qliphothic Left Hand Path which concerns the Qabalistic tree of life, 'Sepiroth'. Usually a person would aspire to slowly traverse up the Sephiroth to reunite with God (or enlightenment, in Eastern terms). In the Left Hand Qliphothic path, the goal is not to ascend the tree of life Sepiroth, but the shadowy flip side of the tree, the Qliphoth and eventually unite with Lilith.<sup>665</sup> Throughout the Middle Ages, blaming Lilith or other demons for a wide variety of offences became a very common thing to do, and Lilith's offspring, the Lilim, quickly became identified with 'succubae' (male) or 'incubi' (female)<sup>666</sup> which are blood sucking, raping demons. There is a relief sculpture depicting Lilith crafted in c. 1210 AD. The sculpture is situated at the base of the trumeau, left portal, West Façade, of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.<sup>667</sup>

Today, The Lilith Children is still an 'underground' cult. It has now evolved to practise a fusion of Devil Worshipping ceremonies, animal and human sacrificial rituals, bestiality, gang-rapes ('Fuck-Fests'), incest, production and exploitation of child pornography, snuff movies, vampirism, cannibalism, and necrophilia.<sup>668</sup> The Lilith Children cult target people that are vulnerable with mental illnesses, or isolated from family and friends, and/or the homeless. The members pretend to be police officers, social workers, welfare officers and entice victims by the gesture of assistance to those desperately needing help. The offer of free food, free shelter and friendship is enough to convince the susceptible to move into the cult's home. If the newcomer refuses to become a vampire, then they become a 'host'. A 'host' is a person whose body is used by the cult for their specific ritual purposes (ie: blood is drained from their body for Sabbat ritual). A 'host' is usually held captive, raped, tortured, and often killed. Some of The Lilith Children cult members have been known to acquire jobs within the hospital sector. They are cleaners, nurses, doctors, administration staff, and hospital board members. They can gain access (often illegally) to the hospital blood bank supplies. Vampires select the blood supplies that are past their 'expiry date' (or close to expiration) for safe transfusion.<sup>669</sup> During Blood Bank opening hours, the cult member pretends the supply is for several patient transfusions and transport the supplies back to their ward/unit according to hospital protocol. Upon returning to the ward, the cult member instead enters the staff kitchen and place the blood supply into a large, opaque-coloured lunch box labelled with a staff member's name. (When the Blood Bank is closed, the members who have jobs as hospital cleaners will perform this action). The blood is needed for their Vampire/Black Witchcraft Sabbats rituals. If any of The Lilith Children cult rules or regulations are broken, the recruit is severely punished (by becoming a 'host'), generally resulting in death.<sup>670</sup> The Lilith Children cult is often practiced by members of various Biker Gangs, criminals, and paedophile rings. They also have links with criminal organisations abroad. It is unknown the exact figures of practising Lilith Children in Australia as it is a part of their *Code of Practice* to 'never reveal'. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>665</sup> Vishnu M., 'Female Demon Lilith: Sigil & Invocation of Primal Femininity', *Tantric Pagans*, (14 January 2019), <<https://www.tantricipagans.com/female-demon-lilith/>>.

<sup>666</sup> Jenks, K., 'Lilith – Demon Goddess of Eden', *The Green World Oracle*, (2013), <[www.angelfire.com/journal/ofapoet/lilith.html](http://www.angelfire.com/journal/ofapoet/lilith.html)>.

<sup>667</sup> Witcombe, C., 'Eve and Lilith', *Eve and the Identity of Women*, (2000), <[witcombe.sbc.edu/eve-women/7evelilith.html](http://witcombe.sbc.edu/eve-women/7evelilith.html)>.

<sup>668</sup> 'Vampirism, Vampyrism and Vampire Cults', *Apologetics Index.org*, (10 February 2018), <[www.apologeticsindex.org/243-vampire-cults](http://www.apologeticsindex.org/243-vampire-cults)>.

<sup>669</sup> 'Vampire Cults', *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/questionsanswered.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/questionsanswered.html)>.

<sup>670</sup> Ibid.

### The Little Pebble cult (now called The Order of St Carbel)

During the early 1980's, a priest named William Kamm founded 'The Little Pebble', a religious community first known as the 'Marian Work of Atonement' and later 'The Order of St Charbel'.<sup>671</sup> The community was situated near Nowra, NSW. The order claims to be part of the Roman Catholic Church, but the Maronite Church and the Holy See do not regard the group as being part of Roman Catholicism. Kamm has practised as a deacon, but he was never ordained under the Roman Catholic church and rejected clerical celibacy. He prophesied that he would succeed Pope John Paul II and take the name Pope Peter II. In 1983, he allegedly received a revelation from the Virgin Mary to populate and educate the earth with his chosen 84 mystical wives. Kamm claimed to have received advice from the Virgin Mary that the girl should be chosen as one of 12 queens and 72 princesses who would all become his wives, with whom he would spawn a new human race after the world was cleansed and burnt by a ball of fire. Kamm himself continues to defend his polygamy ('sister-wives'), claiming to believe that Mary has instituted him to be the "new Abraham" spawning a numerous people.<sup>672</sup> Media reports speculate that Kamm is believed to have fathered more than 20 children during his days as a cult leader. In 2005, William Kamm was convicted of a string of sexual attacks including aggravated sexual assault against a girl aged 15. He defended his action by claiming that she was one of his 84 'mystical' sister-wives. He served nine years and was granted parole in November 2014. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>671</sup> Yeomans, P., 'The Little Pebble Cult Leader and Child Sex Offender', *Australian Police Journal*, (1March 2013), <[https://apjl.com.au/articles/the\\_little\\_pebble\\_cult\\_leader\\_child\\_sex\\_offender](https://apjl.com.au/articles/the_little_pebble_cult_leader_child_sex_offender)>.

<sup>672</sup> 'William Kamm, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (15 Feb 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Kamm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Kamm)>.



## The New Tantra cult

The New Tantra (T.N.T) cult was established in 2010 by Alex Vartman (real name Sandford Perrett), a former Economics graduate from the Adelaide University.<sup>673</sup> The cult claims 'to provide a modern interpretation of tantra for the 21st century by creatively integrating Eastern and Western approaches'<sup>674</sup> to sexual activities. Thousands of people have taken T.N.T courses (Advanced Sex™ programs) in the following countries: Netherlands, Norway, Mexico, Sweden, Germany, Bali, Egypt, Denmark, New Zealand, Ibiza, Australia and Portugal. The Advanced Sex™ programs make people pay as much as \$700 per level to learn to 'become a better lover'. There are 11 levels in total and each course has between 40 to 80 students. Traditional use of the term tantra is defined as 'a set of traits, such as rituals or pujas, worship of deities (which are seen as an aspect of the one all-pervading Awareness), use of mantras, and understanding and working with the human body.'<sup>675</sup> However, T.N.T ideology deviates from the original spiritual meaning of 'tantra' and makes false declarations that the Advanced Sex™ programs will provide sexual improvements. Vartman claims that the courses can: cure erectile disfunction; assist a person achieve multiple orgasms; help couples stay attracted long term to a person; have sex for unlimited amount of time; deal with sex addictions; have 'full-body' orgasms instead of 5 second orgasms; learn to 'de-armour' the vagina to remove pain and increase sensitivity; have G-spot orgasms; achieve naturally delayed ejaculations; and have cervical/womb orgasms.<sup>676</sup> Vartman also states that the 5-10 second peak orgasm which occurs during regular sex causes the brain to acquire "Post-Orgasm-Dopamine-Disruption"<sup>677</sup> and claims that his courses can help alleviate the 'problem'. He also believes a person would be "safe" from sex addiction if they refrain from orgasms.<sup>678</sup> T.N.T website states that 'it is the only sexual education school in the world that can safely and consistently raise sexual energy in the spine (kundalini energy) in one weekend. Vartman states that 80% of T.N.T Level 1 students experience a permanent opening of this energy and a life-changing sexual initiation.'<sup>679</sup> Before commencing the workshops participating students need to sign a 'Non-Disclosure' agreement thereby preventing anyone discussing any details about T.N.T organisation or activities without being sued by Vartman. A former T.N.T senior staff member is convinced that Vartman has profited millions from The New Tantra business as it has a tax free status due to being an offshore company. The T.N.T assistants (known as Bodyworkers) are not paid wages or reimbursed for the housing and travel costs to the workshops. The Bodyworkers are required to perform sex work and pay royalties on what they earn. Vartman structures trainings so that local organizers in the host country take in the money and tax burden. He is then paid as an independent contractor and funnels the money abroad.<sup>680</sup> Besides dubious financial dealings, numerous former students and staff are speaking out about sexual, verbal and physical abuse inflicted by T.N.T founder Vartman. They describe a sex cult environment that has

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<sup>673</sup> 'Alex Vartman Contact Details', *Zoom Info*, (2018), <<https://www.zoominfo.com/p/Alex-Vartman/>>.

<sup>674</sup> 'The New Tantra', *Facebook Page: About*, (2019), <<https://www.facebook.com/pg/TheNewTantra/about/>>.

<sup>675</sup> 'Tantra vs neo-Tantra', *All Things Tantra*, (13 February 2019), <<https://allthingstantra.com/tantra-vs-neo-tantra/>>.

<sup>676</sup> 'The New Tantra: Blog', *Weebly*, (10 July 2016), <[darkbrotherrm.weebly.com/blog/the-new-tantra](http://darkbrotherrm.weebly.com/blog/the-new-tantra)>.

<sup>677</sup> Vartman, A., 'The New Tantra – 21 Day Challenge', *Get Tutorial and Training: Tut4DL*, (14 November 2018), <<https://tut4dl.com/the-new-tantra-the-21-day-challenge/>>.

<sup>678</sup> Domonic, B., 'Behind the scenes in The New Tantra', *The Medium Corporation*, (9 December 2018), <<https://medium.com/@beadomonic/tnt-23fbd13bca3d>>.

<sup>679</sup> 'The New Tantra: Blog', *Weebly*, (10 July 2016), <[darkbrotherrm.weebly.com/blog/the-new-tantra](http://darkbrotherrm.weebly.com/blog/the-new-tantra)>.

<sup>680</sup> Scofield, B., 'The Mad Hatter: Inside Alex Vartman's "The New Tantra"', *The Guru: Exposing Cults and Tantric Abuse*, (27 December 2018), <<https://gurumag.com/the-mad-hatter-inside-alex-vartmans-the-new-tantra/>>.



left people severely traumatized, and that the leader has been preying upon genuine seekers and abusing the word “tantra” for his own ends.<sup>681</sup> Vartman believes all humans are bisexuals. Both men and women need to participate in the workshops which may consist of group orgies, people blindfolded performing sexual acts on each other, break out groups exploring a shared interest such as fisting, anal sex, bondage, or men getting penetrated by female students with a strap-on. During the workshops followers claim that Vartman uses verbal, physical and sexual abuse, psychological manipulation, drugs and energetic practices to break people down and control them.<sup>682</sup> Former members also report that Vartman would direct students to have sex with other students, break up couples, tell people they were gay, and shame those who practice monogamy.<sup>683</sup> Vartman also demands female followers be subservient, and recruit straight men to join T.N.T so Vartman (dressed as a female) can personally give the new male members a “tantric imprint” and make them better lovers. The female followers are expected to go to the local nightclubs and bars offering their ‘sexual services’ to the male patrons - but only after they have joined T.N.T cult.<sup>684</sup> Vartman believes that the role of women is ‘to be beautiful, radiant, horny and available. Women should surrender to the men.’<sup>685</sup> Cult followers also hold mass orgies while children played in another room within the same premises. Former T.N.T cult followers have stated that there were times when verbal consent and safe-sex methods were not enforced during the Advanced Sex™ programs. Many students have left the cult with kidney and bladder infections; sexually transmitted diseases; drug addictions; unwanted pregnancies; trauma; and several allegations of rape and pack-rape. Vartman believes that he has not raped anyone and that he is the one being ‘used’. Vartman states “I don’t have sex with them, they have sex with me. The ethics don’t apply because they are fucking me.”<sup>686</sup> Vartman has instead incorporated the “Victim Blaming” tactic, and accused the students for transforming T.N.T into a cult and creating the cult-like environment centred around him.<sup>687</sup> In 2015, a former T.N.T member started a Facebook group called “Tantra Not Trauma” (as a play on the T.N.T initials). The group is designed to be a space to speak out and get support about abuse within The New Tantra.<sup>688</sup> Currently, T.N.T promotes their sex education and workshops schedules via their website, Facebook page, radio sessions, webinars, You Tube videos, and podcasts. T.N.T has an active global community of more than 400 ongoing students that practice Advanced Sex, and a public Facebook group with over 3500 members.<sup>689</sup> **This cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>681</sup> Fuelner, N., ‘De-Coding the Romantic Dream’, *E-zine Articles*, (3 July 2014), <<https://ezinearticles.com/?De-Coding-the-Romantic-Dream&id=8600127>>.

<sup>682</sup> Domonic, B., ‘Behind the scenes in The New Tantra’, *The Medium Corporation*, (9 December 2018), <<https://medium.com/@beadominic/tnt-23fbd13bca3d>>.

<sup>683</sup> Fuelner, N., ‘De-Coding the Romantic Dream’, *E-zine Articles*, (3 July 2014), <<https://ezinearticles.com/?De-Coding-the-Romantic-Dream&id=8600127>>.

<sup>684</sup> Scofield, B., ‘The Mad Hatter: Inside Alex Vartman’s “The New Tantra”’, *The Guru: Exposing Cults and Tantric Abuse*, (27 December 2018), <<https://gurumag.com/the-mad-hatter-inside-alex-vartmans-the-new-tantra>>.

<sup>685</sup> Domonic, B., ‘Behind the scenes in The New Tantra’, *The Medium Corporation*, (9 December 2018), <<https://medium.com/@beadominic/tnt-23fbd13bca3d>>.

<sup>686</sup> Scofield, B., ‘The Mad Hatter: Inside Alex Vartman’s “The New Tantra”’, *The Guru: Exposing Cults and Tantric Abuse*, (27 December 2018), <<https://gurumag.com/the-mad-hatter-inside-alex-vartmans-the-new-tantra>>.

<sup>687</sup> Domonic, B., ‘Behind the scenes in The New Tantra’, *The Medium Corporation*, (9 December 2018), <<https://medium.com/@beadominic/tnt-23fbd13bca3d>>.

<sup>688</sup> Scofield, B., ‘The Mad Hatter: Inside Alex Vartman’s “The New Tantra”’, *The Guru: Exposing Cults and Tantric Abuse*, (27 December 2018), <<https://gurumag.com/the-mad-hatter-inside-alex-vartmans-the-new-tantra>>.

<sup>689</sup> ‘Who is Alex Vartman/The New Tantra?’, *Whoa Lotta Info: A Blog with A Bit of Everything*, (21 February 2015), <<https://woahlottainfo.blogspot.com/2015/02/who-is-alex-vartmanthe-new-tantra.html>>.

## The Southern Cross Vampyres cult

A branch of one of many Satanic Sects arising from Europe since the mid-1500s AD. It has the same beliefs and practices as The Lilith Children, but with more focus on vampirism, blood-letting rituals (“Blood Fest” parties and “Goth Balls”), and the Dark Arts/Black Majick (as practiced by the Black Witches). The Southern Cross Vampyres cult target people that are vulnerable with mental illnesses, or isolated from family and friends. Recruiting starts by telling people basically whatever they want to hear, through the online forums, private messaging, email, and websites. The online ‘community’ (using fake names) makes people believe they are becoming part of something special.<sup>690</sup> The phony website comprises of the ‘vampire elders’ and other members (aspiring to be called elders) all using different names on multiple different forums and websites, to make the group appear to be a lot larger than it is. The offer of free food, free shelter and friendship is enough to convince the susceptible to move into the cult’s home. It is within the cult’s home where the vampires entice the recruit to be ‘turned’ (or converted) into a vampire. This involves bloodletting rituals and drinking blood from the recruit. Once done, it is the cult’s belief that the vampire who drank the recruit’s blood is forever responsible and ‘owns’ the person that they have converted.<sup>691</sup> If the newcomer refuses to become a vampire, then they become a ‘host’. A ‘host’ is a person whose body is used by the cult for their specific ritual purposes (ie: blood is drained from their body for Sabbat ritual). A ‘host’ is usually held captive, raped, tortured, and often killed. Those seriously involved may practice one or more of the following: blood-drinking, sleeping in coffins, avoiding daylight, performing occult rituals, taking drugs, wearing fangs or having their dental incisors sharpened (using metal nail emery files), and engaging in orgies and B.D.S.M sex acts.<sup>692</sup> Some of The Southern Cross Vampyres cult members have been known to acquire jobs within the hospital sector. They are cleaners, nurses, doctors, administration staff, and hospital board members. They can gain access (often illegally) to the hospital blood bank supplies. Vampires select the blood supplies that are past their ‘expiry date’ (or close to expiration) for safe transfusion.<sup>693</sup> The blood is needed for their Vampire/Black Witchcraft Sabbats rituals. If any of The Southern Cross Vampyres cult rules or regulations are broken, the recruit is severely punished (by becoming a ‘host’), generally resulting in death. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>690</sup> ‘Vampire Cults’, *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/vampirecults.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/vampirecults.html)>.

<sup>691</sup> ‘The New Code’, *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/thenewcode.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/thenewcode.html)>.

<sup>692</sup> ‘Vampirism, Vampyrism and Vampire Cults’, *Apologetics Index.org*, (10 February 2018), <[www.apologeticsindex.org/243-vampire-cults](http://www.apologeticsindex.org/243-vampire-cults)>.

<sup>693</sup> ‘Vampire Cults’, *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/questionsanswered.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/questionsanswered.html)>.

## Thule Society cult

The Thule Society, (originally the *Studiengruppe für germanisches Altertum* "Study Group for Germanic Antiquity"), is a German occult and 'völkisch' group which was established in Munich immediately after World War I. It was named after a mythical northern country in Greek legend. The cult's membership list reveals many early Nazi sympathizers and leading figures in Munich, including Rudolf Hess, Alfred Rosenberg, Hans Frank, Julius Lehmann, Gottfried Feder, Dietrich Eckart and Karl Harrer.<sup>694</sup> The society is notable chiefly as the organization that sponsored the *Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (D.A.P.; German Workers' Party)*, which was later reorganized by Adolf Hitler into the *National Socialist German Workers' Party (N.S.D.A.P or Nazi Party)*. The primary focus of the Thule Society was a claim that concerned the origins of the Aryan race. The Thule Society supported the development of the "Germanic Order" within the Bavarian region. Members had to sign a special "blood declaration of faith" concerning their lineage. The oath states: "The signer hereby swears to the best of his knowledge and belief that no Jewish or coloured blood flows in either his or in his wife's veins, and that among their ancestors are no members of the coloured races."<sup>695</sup> Because the Thule Society had paved the way for the rise of Adolf Hitler and his beliefs, Bavarian law in 1933 ruled that esoteric organisations were to be suppressed (including völkisch occultists). Many German cults sprouting 'Aryan Race' sentiments were closed down by the country's anti-Masonic legislation in 1935. Although laws have been passed to dissolve racist beliefs, The Thule Society still lingers today but in the form of various Neo-Nazi groups and White Supremacist organisations. Their website states that they "emphasize the benefits and unique accomplishment of Adolf Hitler in breaking Jewish power"<sup>696</sup> and willingly offer support to other Neo-Nazi groups. The most well-known groups are 'Golden Dawn' (Greece), 'Third Position' (U.S.A), 'Esoteric Hitlerism' (Chile), 'National Front' (Britain), 'American Nazi Party' – now called 'New Order' (U.S.A), 'Fascist Forge' (Britain), and the 'Aryan Nations' (U.S.A).<sup>697</sup> These Neo-Nazi groups: i) deny the magnitude of the Holocaust; ii) hold extreme anti-Semitic views; iii) believe that the genocide in World War II was faked by a Jewish conspiracy to advance a Zionist cause; and iv) are responsible for many attacks against immigrants and/or non-Caucasian people every year.<sup>698</sup> The Thule Society now has developed links to Islamic extremists and terrorists groups,<sup>699</sup> Satanic and Vampire cults,<sup>700</sup> The Dark Web,<sup>701</sup> Black Metal music, and criminal organisations dealing in human trafficking and/or paedophile rings. The 'Southern Cross Hammer Skinheads', 'Australia First Party', 'National Action' group, 'Stormfront Down Under' group, 'Rise Up Australia' group, the 'Kangaroo Reich', and the 'World Church of the Creator' groups have embedded their racist beliefs within Australian States and Territories. **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>694</sup> 'Thule Society', *Crystalinks*, (2012), <<https://www.crystalinks.com/thule.html>>.

<sup>695</sup> 'Thule Society', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (7 Mar 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thule\\_Society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thule_Society)>.

<sup>696</sup> 'Philosophy', *Thule Society: Thule Contemplative Society of Hitler*, (2019), <<https://thulesociety.nfshost.com/>>.

<sup>697</sup> Thomas, J., '10 Deplorable Neo-Nazi Organizations', *List Verse.com*, (21 March 2013), <<https://listverse.com/2013/03/21/10-deplorable-neo-nazi-organizations/>>.

<sup>698</sup> Ibid.

<sup>699</sup> 'David Myatt', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (13 June 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_Myatt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Myatt)>.

<sup>700</sup> 'Order of the Nine Angels', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (21 June 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order\\_of\\_Nine\\_Angles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_Nine_Angles)>.

<sup>701</sup> Hern, A., 'The dilemma of the dark web: protecting neo-Nazis and dissidents alike', *The Guardian*, (23 August 2017), <<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/aug/23/dark-web-neo-nazis-tor-dissidents-white-supremacists-criminals-paedophile-rings>>.



### Transcendental Meditation Movement cult

The Transcendental Meditation Movement cult was founded by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, who belonged to the Kayastha caste (a subcaste of scribes and administrators) of the Hindu religion.<sup>702</sup> In 1939, Mahesh Prasad Varma<sup>703</sup> decided to join a 'Jyotir Math' (Indian monastery in Advaita Vedanta tradition of Hindu Dharma) in Uttarakhand<sup>704</sup> and become a disciple and personal assistant of Swami Brahmananda Saraswati<sup>705</sup> (also known as 'Guru Dev'). Mahesh studied in the Jyotir Math for fourteen years while completing his Masters of Physics degree at India's Allahabad University in 1942. Although a devoted disciple, assistant and close confidante of Swami Brahmananda Saraswati, Mahesh discovered that he could not be spiritual successor of the Jyotir Math because he was not born into the Brahmin caste. Swami Brahmananda Saraswati ultimately assigned the leadership onto Swami Swaroopananda. After the death of Swami Brahmananda Saraswati, Mahesh relocated to Uttarkashi, in the Himalayas and lived as a recluse for two years. It was there Mahesh developed his Transcendental Meditation (T.M) ideology and made plans to travel the world teaching the practice of T.M. - and establish his 'Spiritual Development Movement'<sup>706</sup> (later called the 'Spiritual Regeneration Movement' then changed to the 'Transcendental Meditation Movement'). He also added the titles 'Maharishi' (= "great sage or great seer") and 'Yogi' (= "practitioner of yoga")<sup>707</sup> to his known name. The T.M technique involves the cult follower to go beyond the thinking process into a state of restful awareness and tap into areas of energy and creativity – a state of transcendence.<sup>708</sup> T.M training also includes 'Yogic Flying'. The practice of Yogic Flying primarily involves the cult follower to: i) sit in the lotus position, ii) commence deep meditation, and iii) then start 'butt-hopping' and bouncing while meditating on rubbery cushions.<sup>709</sup> This bouncing action is the reason why T.M is mockingly referred to as 'Tigger Meditation' (a reference to the character Tigger from *Winnie the Pooh*) or 'The Lotus Hoppers'.<sup>710</sup> From 1955 to 1957, Maharishi

<sup>702</sup> 'Maharishi Mahesh Yogi', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (24 May 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi\\_Mahesh\\_Yogi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi_Mahesh_Yogi)>.

<sup>703</sup> Idib.

<sup>704</sup> '4 Major Mathas in 4 Regions of India', *Walk Through India*, (2021), <<http://www.walkthroughindia.com/divinity/4-major-mathas-4-regions-india/>>.

<sup>705</sup> 'Swami Brahmananda Saraswati', *GurusFeet.com*, (4 July 2008) <<https://www.gurusfeet.com/guru/swami-brahmananda-saraswati>>.

<sup>706</sup> Dubey, S., 'Maharishi Mahesh Yogi — The Science of Being and Art of Living', *Shashi Dubey: The Stories of Shashi's Works - Spiritual Practices*, (14 February 2021), <<https://shashidubey.net/maharishi-mahesh-yogi-the-science-of-being-and-art-of-living/>>.

<sup>707</sup> 'Maharishi Mahesh Yogi', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (24 May 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi\\_Mahesh\\_Yogi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi_Mahesh_Yogi)>.

<sup>708</sup> Alfonsi, D., 'How to Do Transcendental Meditation: Step-by-Step Guide', *Life Hack*, (19 April 2021), <<https://www.lifehack.org/848704/how-to-do-transcendental-meditation>>.

<sup>709</sup> Kinnes, T., 'Flying in the Air and Levitation', *The Gold Scales*, (2019), <<http://oaks.nvg.org/levitation.html>>.

<sup>710</sup> Slade, T., 'Yogic Flying - or The Cult of the Lotus Hoppers', *Cults: The Guru Trip Is Over*, (12 September 2019), <<http://www.terryslade.com/flying.htm>>.



travelled around India for two years teaching his ideologies and T.M techniques to paying audiences, and greatly improving his wealth.

During 1958 until 1968, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi embarked on global tours to fulfil 'Guru Dev's' vision to end human suffering and teach the T.M technique across the world.<sup>711</sup> The tours encompassed India, Myanmar, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Kenya, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, U.S.A, United Kingdom, and countries throughout Europe, South America and Africa. During media conferences and TV interviews, Maharishi would often laugh - this habit gave him nickname 'The Giggling Guru'. His new Western devotees began to call Maharishi 'His Holiness'.<sup>712</sup> People believed Maharishi's claims that his practical approach to meditation could be easily adopted by anyone. His quick and simplistic teaching technique appealed to thousands of Westerners, especially the rich and famous celebrities. At his first lecture in Los Angeles, Maharishi's opening statement was: "Mankind was not born to suffer, mankind was born to enjoy. The Purpose of life is to expand happiness." These words appealed to all those with hedonistic values, and happy to devote a mere 20 minutes twice a day<sup>713</sup> to sit and raise their consciousness just by meditating. During his global tours, Maharishi: i) opened the International Meditation Society in San Francisco; ii) developed the Transcendental Meditation Teacher Training Course; iii) published a book *The Science of Being and Art of Living*; and iv) founded the Students' International Meditation Society (which established centres within "over one thousand campuses", including Harvard University, Yale University, and U.C.L.A).<sup>714</sup>

After his global tours, Maharishi returned to his ashram in Rishikesh, India to teach local students - and Western celebrities willing to travel to northern India – about T.M technique. Late in 1968, Maharishi decided it would be far more conducive for the Transcendental Meditation Movement cult to establish multiple numbers of T.M Universities throughout the Western countries. Maharishi stopped all public activities and instead shifted his focus on the training of T.M teachers at his new global headquarters in Seelisberg, Switzerland.<sup>715</sup> Maharishi also convinced American universities to adopt a 'supplementary subject' called 'Science of Creative Intelligence' (S.C.I) which is described as "a new science that would offer a complete, systematic understanding of consciousness."<sup>716</sup> Within a year, 25 Universities in the U.S.A offered (S.C.I) as a part of its courses structure, which is linked to the T.M technique.<sup>717</sup> Due to the wide acceptance of the S.C.I course, Maharishi decided that the time was right to establish his own university, based on the "development of human consciousness" and the ideologies of the Transcendental Meditation Movement cult. In 1973, the Parsons College closed in Fairfield, Iowa, and its 110 hectare campus went up for sale. With the help of wealthy private benefactors, Maharishi was able to purchase the campus.<sup>718</sup> The buildings were designed in accordance to Maharishi Vastu

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<sup>711</sup> 'His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi', *His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi*, (2020), <<http://maharishimaheshyogi.in/>>.

<sup>712</sup> 'Maharishi Mahesh Yogi', *Project Gutenberg Self Publishing Press: World Library Foundation*, (2021), <[http://self.gutenberg.org/articles/Maharishi\\_Mahesh\\_Yogi?View=embedded%27%27](http://self.gutenberg.org/articles/Maharishi_Mahesh_Yogi?View=embedded%27%27)>.

<sup>713</sup> Dubey, S., 'Maharishi Mahesh Yogi — The Science of Being and Art of Living', *Shashi Dubey: The Stories of Sashi's Works - Spiritual Practices*, (14 February 2021), <<https://shashidubey.net/maharishi-mahesh-yogi-the-science-of-being-and-art-of-living/>>.

<sup>714</sup> 'Maharishi Mahesh Yogi', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (24 May 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi\\_Mahesh\\_Yogi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi_Mahesh_Yogi)>.

<sup>715</sup> Ibid.

<sup>716</sup> 'History of MIU', *Maharishi International University*, (2021), <<https://www.miu.edu/about-miu/history>>.

<sup>717</sup> Kinnes, T., 'Maharishi in a Hollywood Home', *The Gold Scales*, (2019), <<http://oaks.nvg.org/olson.html>>.

<sup>718</sup> 'History of MIU', *Maharishi International University*, (2021), <<https://www.miu.edu/about-miu/history>>.

Architecture (M.V.A) – architecture based on the fortune-telling ability of “ancient Sanskrit texts”.<sup>719</sup> In the summer of 1974, the first student intake for the Maharishi International University (M.I.U) occurred. Today, the M.I.U currently provides courses in T.M, Sustainable & Regenerative Living, S.C.I, Maharishi Vastu Architecture, Ayurveda & Integrative Health - along with other standard degrees in Law, Arts, Business, Science, Maths, Computer Science, and Cinema & Media.<sup>720</sup> The M.I.U has been accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.<sup>721</sup> A children’s school (preschool to Yr 12) called ‘Maharishi School of The Age of Enlightenment’<sup>722</sup> has now been added to the University complex. Maharishi also extended his higher education centres in India and Europe - by establishing the ‘Maharishi Ved Vigyan Vishwa Vidyapeetham’ in the city of Uttar Pradesh, and the ‘Maharishi European Research University’ (M.E.R.U) in Vlodrop, Netherlands.<sup>723</sup>

During the 1970s & 1980s, Maharishi approached potential benefactors within the business and celebrity community via an organisation called the ‘American Foundation for Science of Creative Intelligence’ (A.F.S.C.I). The objective of A.F.S.C.I is to eliminate stress for professionals working in the business and movie industry.<sup>724</sup> At this stage, Maharishi structured his T.M.M cult to emulate a multinational corporation. The money generated from dealings with business tycoons and movies stars enabled Maharishi and the T.T.M cult to accumulate a large property portfolio – the English mansions, European castles, Franciscan monastery, several American resorts and hotels, and huge parklands<sup>725</sup> are now used as retreats or centres for T.M training schools. Maharishi also devised a health food product range called ‘Maharishi Ayurveda Products’. Throughout the 1990s, Maharishi moved into politics and founded the Natural Law Party (N.L.P). The N.L.P advocated the need to use T.M technique “as tools to enliven natural law and reduce or eliminate problems in society”.<sup>726</sup> The N.L.P had political parties in 74 countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and the United States.<sup>727</sup> The N.L.P was dissolved in 2004. Maharishi also created a subscription-based, satellite TV channel, called *Veda Vision* - which is broadcasted in 22 languages and 144 countries.<sup>728</sup> *Veda Vision* assists in gaining new recruits for the T.M.M cult. In the 2000s, Maharishi formed the ‘Global Country of World Peace’ (G.C.W.P) – a not-for-profit organisation that promotes world peace, Yogic Flyers, and T.M training programmes.<sup>729</sup> Maharishi died in February 2008, and a received a state funeral in India. Maharishi leaves behind in trust an estate conservatively said to be

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<sup>719</sup> Kinnes, T., ‘About TM, Buddhism and Vastu’, *The Gold Scales*, (2019), <<http://oaks.nvg.org/purole.html>>.

<sup>720</sup> ‘Degree Programs’, *Maharishi International University*, (2021), <<https://www.miu.edu/academic-programs>>.

<sup>721</sup> ‘About MIU: Accreditation of Maharishi International University’, *Maharishi International University*, (2021), <<https://www.miu.edu/about-miu/>>.

<sup>722</sup> ‘Murder, Suicides & Missing Persons at Iowa’s Maharishi Campus’, *Corey’s Digs*, (3 November 2018), <<https://www.coreysdigs.com/new-world-order/murder-suicides-missing-persons-at-iowas-maharishi-campus/>>.

<sup>723</sup> ‘Introduction’, *Maharishi Ved Vigyan Vishwa Vidyapeetham*, (2018), <<http://www.mvvvvp.org/>>.

<sup>724</sup> ‘Maharishi Mahesh Yogi’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (24 May 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi\\_Mahesh\\_Yogi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi_Mahesh_Yogi)>.

<sup>725</sup> Ibid.

<sup>726</sup> ‘What is the Natural Law Party?’, *Natural Law Party: A Reason To Vote*, (2000), <<http://www.natural-law.org/>>.

<sup>727</sup> ‘Natural Law Party’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (31 May 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural\\_Law\\_Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_Law_Party)>.

<sup>728</sup> ‘Maharishi Mahesh Yogi’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (24 May 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi\\_Mahesh\\_Yogi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi_Mahesh_Yogi)>.

<sup>729</sup> ‘Overview: A consciousness-based approach to world peace’, *Global Country Of World Peace*, (2018), <<https://www.globalcountry.org/wp/overview/#>>.

worth some \$3.69 billion,<sup>730</sup> which includes a multitude of properties, an opulent 200 room mansion, a few helicopters, dozens of luxury cars, and a huge campus university in Iowa.<sup>731</sup>

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and his T.M.M cult have been involved in numerous controversies since its commencement in 1955. The most notable scandal concerned the UK band – The Beatles. In 1967, George Harrison’s wife, Pattie Boyd, introduced The Beatles to the benefits of T.M after noticing how exhausted, and emotionally depleted<sup>732</sup> the band members were from their music commitments. The Beatles first attended Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's T.M seminar in Bangor, Wales. However, their meeting was cut short after they learned about the death of their band manager, Brian Epstein.<sup>733</sup> In February 1968, George Harrison and John Lennon - the two most committed to Maharishi's ideologies – were eager for the entire band and their entourage to travel to India and stay at The Maharishi's International Academy of Meditation (also called Chaurasi Kutia ashram) in Rishikesh.<sup>734</sup> However, Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney and their partners returned to the UK early after only one month in the ashram. Later in April the two remaining Beatles swiftly left Rishikesh in disgust upon hearing that the actress “Mia Farrow fled the Maharishi's cave in tears, claiming that the supposedly celibate Swami had grabbed her in his hairy arms and tried to make advances towards her”.<sup>735</sup> Other females in the ashram also claimed that Maharishi had groped them and been sexually inappropriate on many occasions.<sup>736</sup> After the band’s return from Maharishi’s ashram in Rishkesh, John Lennon, George Harrison and Paul McCartney were “three very different personalities who seldom saw eye-to-eye anymore”.<sup>737</sup> Tensions amongst the band members were high while recording their *White Album* (which included many songs that had written while staying at The Maharishi's International Academy of Meditation in India). Observers noted that the band members’ need for “self-exploration through meditation and before that, LSD, led to each of them adopting a more individual focus, at the expense of band unity.”<sup>738</sup> Many fans of The Beatles believe that the fateful visit to Maharishi’s ashram in India “was the tipping point for the band, which infamously broke up two years later”<sup>739</sup> in 1970. The Maharishi's International Academy of Meditation in Rishikesh was eventually abandoned in 2001.<sup>740</sup>

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<sup>730</sup> Webster, N., 'Maharishi inspired Beatles but died leaving £2b and rape rumours', *The Mirror UK*, (27 January 2012), <<https://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/maharishi-inspired-beatles-but-died-leaving-292433>>.

<sup>731</sup> Jones, D., 'Lennon was right. The Giggling Guru was a shameless old fraud', *Daily Mail Australia*, (6 February 2008), <<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-512747/Lennon-right-The-Giggling-Guru-shameless-old-fraud.html>>.

<sup>732</sup> Katzman, S., 'How a Mind-Bending Trip to India Changed The Beatles Forever', *Musicoholics: Backstage Stories*, (2021) <<https://musicoholics.com/backstage-stories/how-a-mind-bending-trip-to-india-changed-the-beatles-forever/>>.

<sup>733</sup> Ibid.

<sup>734</sup> 'The Beatles in India', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (18 April 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Beatles\\_in\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beatles_in_India)>.

<sup>735</sup> Jones, D., 'Lennon was right. The Giggling Guru was a shameless old fraud', *Daily Mail Australia*, (6 February 2008), <<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-512747/Lennon-right-The-Giggling-Guru-shameless-old-fraud.html>>.

<sup>736</sup> Webster, N., 'Maharishi inspired Beatles but died leaving £2b and rape rumours', *The Mirror UK*, (27 January 2012), <<https://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/maharishi-inspired-beatles-but-died-leaving-292433>>.

<sup>737</sup> Mankotia, A., '50 years of The Beatles split: Why even the gods couldn't prevent it', *Daily O: Arts and Culture*, (24 November 2020), <<https://www.dailyo.in/arts/the-beatles-break-up-rock-band-john-lennon-paul-mccartney-ringo-starr-george-harrison/story/1/33895.html>>.

<sup>738</sup> 'The Beatles in India', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (18 April 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Beatles\\_in\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beatles_in_India)>.

<sup>739</sup> Katzman, S., 'How a Mind-Bending Trip to India Changed The Beatles Forever', *Musicoholics: Backstage Stories*, (2021) <<https://musicoholics.com/backstage-stories/how-a-mind-bending-trip-to-india-changed-the-beatles-forever/>>.

<sup>740</sup> 'Maharishi Mahesh Yogi', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (24 May 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi\\_Mahesh\\_Yogi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi_Mahesh_Yogi)>.

The Maharishi International University has not evaded controversy however. On 1 March 2004, Shuvender Sem - an undiagnosed schizophrenic - stabbed John Killian in the face with a pen<sup>741</sup> during a 'Teaching for Enlightenment' lecture.<sup>742</sup> Killian needed seven stitches as a result. The morning incident was not reported to the police. Later that afternoon, Sem stole a knife, entered the Dining Hall, and fatally attacked Levi Butler by stabbing the undergraduate four times in the chest area.<sup>743</sup> Investigations revealed that Sem was told to by T.M trainers to stop taking his medications prescribed by an orthodox Medical Doctor, and instead use a herbal remedy which the M.U.I staff believed would cure him<sup>744</sup> of his mental illness. Maharishi is reported to have blamed the violence on "U.S foreign policy",<sup>745</sup> but former cult members believe "that transcendental meditation may exacerbate existing psychological problems in students."<sup>746</sup> Also, world physicists have been concerned about distorted facts in Maharishi's physics and mathematical teachings. Dr Heinz R. Pagels has publicly dismissed Deepak Chopra claims that T.M "has the ability to assist modern scientific discoveries of quantum physics." Pagels also said "that this is nonsense... There is no known connection between meditation states and states of matter in physics...To see the beautiful and profound ideas of modern physics so wilfully perverted, provokes a feeling of compassion for those who might be taken in by these distortions".<sup>747</sup> Another outspoken critic of Maharishi's teachings is Swami Swaroopananda. Swaroopananda is the chosen successor of the Jyotir Math after Swami Brahmananda Saraswati retirement. According to Swaroopananda, the Maharishi: i)"was responsible for the controversy over Shankaracharyas",<sup>748</sup> ii) brought shame to the Jyotir Math, and iii) has discredited their long-held traditions. Swaroopananda's states that Maharishi was "a member of the trader class and has no right to give mantras or teach meditation" due to his birth caste. Swaroopananda states that "Gurus don't sell their knowledge, they share it."<sup>749</sup>

Throughout the decades, the T.M.M cult has been accused of fraudulent financial dealings and tax evasion by former cult followers and Government agencies in several nations. Examples include the \$13.19 trillion plan to end poverty through organic farming throughout impoverished countries and a \$13 billion plan to use meditation groups to end world conflict.<sup>750</sup> Wealthy business magnates,

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<sup>741</sup> 'Maharishi University of Management stabbing', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (22 March 2020), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi\\_University\\_of\\_Management\\_stabbing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi_University_of_Management_stabbing)>.

<sup>742</sup> Barnett, A., 'Trouble in transcendental paradise as murder rocks the Maharishi University' *The Guardian*, (2 May 2004), <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2004/may/02/usa.theobserver>>.

<sup>743</sup> Ibid.

<sup>744</sup> 'Murder, Suicides & Missing Persons at Iowa's Maharishi Campus', *Corey's Digs*, (3 November 2018), <<https://www.coreysdigs.com/new-world-order/murder-suicides-missing-persons-at-iowas-maharishi-campus/>>.

<sup>745</sup> Barnett, A., 'Trouble in transcendental paradise as murder rocks the Maharishi University' *The Guardian*, (2 May 2004), <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2004/may/02/usa.theobserver>>.

<sup>746</sup> 'Murder, Suicides & Missing Persons at Iowa's Maharishi Campus', *Corey's Digs*, (3 November 2018), <<https://www.coreysdigs.com/new-world-order/murder-suicides-missing-persons-at-iowas-maharishi-campus/>>.

<sup>747</sup> 'TM's Deceptions: extract from "Maharishi Ayur-Veda: Guru's Marketing Scheme Promises the World Eternal 'Perfect Health,'" *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, Oct. 2, 1991, pp. 1741-45, 1749-50.", *Cult Education Institute*, (2021), <<https://culteducation.com/group/1195-transcendental-meditation-movement/20580-tms-deceptions.html>>.

<sup>748</sup> Maharishi Mahesh Yogi', *Project Gutenberg Self Publishing Press: World Library Foundation*, (2021), <[http://self.gutenberg.org/articles/Maharishi\\_Mahesh\\_Yogi?View=embedded%27%27](http://self.gutenberg.org/articles/Maharishi_Mahesh_Yogi?View=embedded%27%27)>.

<sup>749</sup> Simon, A., 'David Wants to Fly: Film Review', *Variety Magazine*, (14 February 2010), <<https://variety.com/2010/film/reviews/david-wants-to-fly-1117942181/#!>>.

<sup>750</sup> 'Maharishi Mahesh Yogi', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (24 May 2021), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi\\_Mahesh\\_Yogi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharishi_Mahesh_Yogi)>.



philanthropists, and celebrities donated to Maharishi's plan – which never happened. The monies raised were apparently absorbed by 'administration costs' of the T.M.M cult. Also, investigated are the multiple allegations of sexual assault, rape, and inappropriate behaviour towards women by Maharishi, numerous 'Yogic Flyers', and several T.M trainers.<sup>751</sup> There has been many arrests – and regrettably, many suicides by victims whose claims were disbelieved or overturned in court. Between 2008 and 2014 there were 20 suicides in the small town of Fairfield, Iowa alone. Many attribute the deaths to be in connection with the large numbers of sexual assaults. The T.T.M cult has been known to impede victims' recovery process by shifting the blame onto the victims thereby making them feel ashamed.<sup>752</sup>

In Australia, the T.M technique is taught by members of the Maharishi Foundation Australia Ltd, which claims to be a not-for-profit, educational charity.<sup>753</sup> The public are offered T.M teaching sessions to learn the 'correct way' to meditate. A three-day T.M induction course delivered by the cult's 'Ministers' costs \$1500.<sup>754</sup> During the course the new recruits are "initiated, given a "secret" mantra (which ex-cult followers say is a fake), and encouraged to meditate for 20 minutes a day."<sup>755</sup> Former cult members claim that the meditation classes are a starting point to recruit people into the cult. Newcomers think that they are learning how to relax, but end up paying several thousand dollars for classes in developing 'supernatural powers' such as levitation.<sup>756</sup> Also, the T.M.M cult has managed to acquire the support and financial patronage of many Australian celebrities and business tycoons including: Huge Jackman, Naomi Watts,<sup>757</sup> and James Packer.<sup>758</sup> In 2016, the Maharishi School (K-12) in Reservoir, Melbourne came under investigation after a number of complaints. It was revealed that the school was selling students alternative medicines to treat their anxiety, behavioural issues and learning difficulties.<sup>759</sup> Over half of the students had left before the year had finished due to high stress levels, lack of physical activity, and the teachers disregard for educating<sup>760</sup> the students in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. The T.M.M cult has one million members, and has taught T.M to over 10 million people worldwide<sup>761</sup> In Australia, the T.M.M cult has one Maharishi School, and forty T.M training centres located in every State with one in the A.C.T.<sup>762</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>751</sup> 'Indore: Maharishi group of schools chairman held on rape charge', *DNA India*, (30 December 2013), <<https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-indore-maharishi-group-of-schools-chairman-held-on-rape-charge-1942794>>.

<sup>752</sup> 'Murder, Suicides & Missing Persons at Iowa's Maharishi Campus', *Corey's Digs*, (3 November 2018), <<https://www.coreysdigs.com/new-world-order/murder-suicides-missing-persons-at-iowas-maharishi-campus/>>.

<sup>753</sup> 'About us', *Transcendental Meditation*, (2021), <<https://tm.org.au/about-us>>.

<sup>754</sup> 'Pricing', *Transcendental Meditation Program in Brisbane*, (2021), <<https://meditationbrisbane.org.au/pricing/>>.

<sup>755</sup> Hassen, S., 'Meditation, Yes! But Please Be Careful and Do Your Homework Regarding Transcendental Meditation (TM)', *Freedom Of Mind Resource Centre*, (4 November 2016) <<https://freedomofmind.com/meditation-yes-but-please-be-careful-and-do-your-homework-regarding-transcendental-meditation-tm/>>.

<sup>756</sup> Kellett, J., 'Falling down the TM rabbit hole', *How Transcendental Meditation Really Works, A Critical Opinion*, (8 March 2008), <<http://suggestibility.org/>>.

<sup>757</sup> 'Famous people who meditate, from A to Z', *TM Home*, (10 August 2017), <<https://tmhome.com/experiences/famous-people-who-meditate/>>.

<sup>758</sup> Pyne, I., 'The broken billionaire: Inside James Packer's tough mental health battle', *Now To Love*, (20 June 2019), <<https://www.nowtolove.com.au/celebrity/celeb-news/james-packer-2019-56494>>.

<sup>759</sup> 'The Guardian: David Feeney criticised for supporting \$500,000 grant for school under investigation', *Parents of Maharishi School Reservoir*, (31 May 2016), <<https://maharishischoolreservoir.wordpress.com/>>.

<sup>760</sup> 'Murder, Suicides & Missing Persons at Iowa's Maharishi Campus', *Corey's Digs*, (3 November 2018), <<https://www.coreysdigs.com/new-world-order/murder-suicides-missing-persons-at-iowas-maharishi-campus/>>.

<sup>761</sup> 'About us', *Transcendental Meditation*, (2021), <<https://tm.org.au/about-us>>.

<sup>762</sup> 'Transcendental Meditation – TM', *Transcendental Meditation: Maharishi's Global Administration Through Natural Law Australia*, (2016), <<http://admin.tm.org.au/pages/where-to-learn-transcendental-meditation>>.



### Truth Fellowship cult

The Truth Fellowship was established by Simon Kadwell (known to his followers as “Si”)<sup>763</sup> in the late 1990s. Originally it was an internet-based New Age Religious cult and had 40-50 followers who met using an online forum called ‘The Gateway’.<sup>764</sup> The cult followed the teachings of a doomsday books called *Servers of the Divine Plan* and the *New Call* which Kadwell had written.<sup>765</sup> In the book Kadwell had prophesied the birth of a new world of higher consciousness after a 75 000-year cycle and is based around the idea of people becoming ‘servers’ who travel to different places on Earth to prepare for the impending Apocalypse.<sup>766</sup> Kadwell had gathered followers online, and a few moved to an isolated rented farmhouse near Nannup in Western Australia. The small group consisted of his partner Catherine McDougall, their daughter Leela (aged 5), and a 40-year-old flat mate Antonio Popic.<sup>767</sup> The families of the cult members had feared that Kadwell had brainwashed them, and became concerned when McDougall told her parents that they were all taking a trip to Brazil together. Kadwell had mentioned of a suicide pact online shortly before he and his small group of cult followers went missing in July 2007. Searches have been conducted. There is no evidence that the group had ever left Australia for Brazil via New Zealand, nor has there been a paper/digital trail since the date of their disappearance. Police investigations did reveal that Kadwell had stolen an identity when he moved to Australia from England.<sup>768</sup> While in Australia he had been using the names Simon Kaddy, Simon Kadwill and Simon Kadwell. His real name is Gary Feltham.<sup>769</sup> To this day none of the group have ever been found. **The cult is no longer functioning.**

<sup>763</sup> Pearce, L., ‘The bizarre disappearance of Chantelle and Leela McDougall who left town with a cult leader 10 years ago’, *Huffington Post*, (11 September 2017), <[https://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2017/09/11/the-bizarre-disappearance-of-chantelle-and-leela-mcdougall-who-left-town-with-a-cult-leader-10-years-ago\\_a\\_23203732/](https://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2017/09/11/the-bizarre-disappearance-of-chantelle-and-leela-mcdougall-who-left-town-with-a-cult-leader-10-years-ago_a_23203732/)>.

<sup>764</sup> ‘Forum: Truth Fellowship’, *Cult Education Institute*, (2008), <<https://forum.culteducation.com/read.php?12,59673,page=1>>.

<sup>765</sup> Ibid.

<sup>766</sup> ‘The 2007 Disappearances of the “Truth Fellowship” Cult: Simon Kadwell, 45, Chantelle McDougall, 27, Leela McDougall, 6, and Tony Popic, 40’, *Unresolved Mysteries*, (26 July 2017), <[https://www.reddit.com/r/UnresolvedMysteries/comments/6pnbgj/the\\_2007\\_disappearances\\_of\\_the\\_truth\\_fellowship/](https://www.reddit.com/r/UnresolvedMysteries/comments/6pnbgj/the_2007_disappearances_of_the_truth_fellowship/)>.

<sup>767</sup> ‘Forum: Truth Fellowship’, *Cult Education Institute*, (2008), <<https://forum.culteducation.com/read.php?12,59673,page=1>>.

<sup>768</sup> Foote, M., ‘The Trail Went Cold – Minisode 24 – The Truth Fellowship’, *The Trail Went Cold*, (26 July 2017), <[trailwentcold.com/2017/07/26/the-trail-went-cold-minisode-24-the-truth-fellowship/](http://trailwentcold.com/2017/07/26/the-trail-went-cold-minisode-24-the-truth-fellowship/)>.

<sup>769</sup> ‘Forum: Truth Fellowship’, *Cult Education Institute*, (2008), <<https://forum.culteducation.com/read.php?12,59673,page=1>>.

## Twelve Tribes of Israel cult

The Twelve Tribes of Israel was founded by former carnival showman Elbert Eugene Spriggs (known as “Yoneq” by cult followers) in Tennessee during 1972, after splitting from the Jesus Movement cult. The cult attempts to recreate the Biblical 1<sup>st</sup> Century society and church moral standards as described in the Book of Acts - literally. This is because the cult does not agree with modern teachings or interpretations of the Bible and have denounced Christianity as the “whore of Babylon”.<sup>770</sup> Their website states: ‘The Twelve Tribes is a confederation of twelve self-governing tribes, each composed of self-governing communities. [They] are disciples of the Son of God whose name in Hebrew is Yahshua. [They] follow the pattern of the early church in Acts 2:44 and 4:32, truly believing everything that is written in the Old and New Covenants of the Bible and sharing all things in common’.<sup>771</sup> The Australian branch of the Twelve Tribe cult was established in the early 1990s by two American cult followers.<sup>772</sup> Their website portrays the Twelve Tribes cult as a ‘Utopian and community-driven way of life’. It targets those who feel displaced by mainstream society, the homeless, backpackers and W.W.O.O.Fers (World-Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms).<sup>773</sup> Their website states that visitors are welcome to “show up” and stay at any of their properties for undisclosed periods of time.<sup>774</sup> In Katoomba, the cult purchased “Balmoral House” a two-storey heritage-listed Victorian guesthouse built in 1876,<sup>775</sup> situated close to the Katoomba Railway Station in the Blue Mountains. For any weary backpacker, “Balmoral House” appears to be an enticing place to stay when traveling throughout Australia. The cult also runs the Katoomba’s “Yellow Deli Café” which offers backpackers and the vulnerable an opportunity to find work and/or accommodation. The Twelve Tribes cult are quick to “love-bomb” lone customers with love and affection and make them feel like a part of their family.<sup>776</sup> Internationally, The Twelve Tribes cult is well known by their “Yellow Deli cafes”. The Twelve Tribe cult owns at least 24 businesses worldwide. In America, the cult operates furniture stores, kids' clothing outlets, a printing press, leather shops, soap factories, wholefood outlets, cafes, bakeries and several multimillion-dollar construction firms, the biggest of which is the Builders of Judah which specialises in nursing homes and historic restorations. The cult also operates a maté farm (a tea-like herb) in Brazil and makes a large annual profit.<sup>777</sup> In Australia, the cult operates the “Yellow Deli Café” (Katoomba), “Common Ground Café & Bakery” (Picton), “Peppercorn Farm” (Picton), house painting business, and demolition crews.<sup>778</sup> The cult also has its “Common Ground” coffee stall which regularly features at various markets throughout Sydney

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<sup>770</sup> ‘Sects in Australia: Fringe religious groups that have left their mark on the nation’, *Daily Telegraph*, (5 August 2015), <<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/lifestyle/sects-in-australia-fringe-religious-groups-that-have-left-their-mark-on-the-nation/news-story/>>.

<sup>771</sup> ‘Community in Katoomba (Balmoral House)’, *Twelve Tribes website*, (2019), <[twelvetribes.com/community/katoomba-balmoral/](http://twelvetribes.com/community/katoomba-balmoral/)>.

<sup>772</sup> Elliot, T., ‘Secrets of the family’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, (18 December 2013), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/secrets-of-the-family-20131209-22oot.html>>.

<sup>773</sup> Ibid.

<sup>774</sup> Wang, J., ‘Just over an hour's drive from Sydney, is the home of a dark, Australian cult’, *MamaMia.com*, (15 March 2019), <<https://www.mamamia.com.au/yellow-deli-cult/>>.

<sup>775</sup> ‘K023: Balmoral House’, *Office of Heritage and Environment: New South Wales Government*, (2019), <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1170393>>.

<sup>776</sup> Weir, J., ‘An eerie night inside Blue Mountains sect the Twelve Tribes’, *News.com*, (9 June 2018), <<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/true-stories/an-eerie-night-inside-blue-mountains-sect-the-twelve-tribes/news-story/>>.

<sup>777</sup> Elliot, T., ‘Secrets of the family’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, (18 December 2013), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/secrets-of-the-family-20131209-22oot.html>>.

<sup>778</sup> Wang, J., ‘Just over an hour's drive from Sydney, is the home of a dark, Australian cult’, *MamaMia.com*, (15 March 2019), <<https://www.mamamia.com.au/yellow-deli-cult/>>.

and each year at the State government supported Woodford Folk Festival in Queensland.<sup>779 780</sup> In Australia, the Twelve Tribes cult has also established their organisation as a religious charity called "The Community Apostolic Order Incorporated". It has been approved and listed on the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission (A.C.N.C) registry of charities. Their charity's Australian Business Number (A.B.N) is 37797586736.<sup>781</sup> The cult lists assets worth \$5.64 million and seven businesses, all of which receive GST concession, fringe benefit tax rebate and income tax exemption.<sup>782</sup> In 2015, the Twelve Tribes' businesses produced an annual trading income of \$3 million.<sup>783</sup> The cult's businesses act as front to recruit new followers. When members join the Twelve Tribes, they're asked to sell their property or possessions and give all their earnings to the tribe.<sup>784</sup> Community life is strictly regimented. Cult followers must rise at 06:00hrs after been woken by the "shofar", or ram's horn (except on Saturday, the Sabbath, when they rise at 07:00hrs). There is a morning gathering, or "minchah", which includes prayers and singing, followed by work, either in the farmhouse, kitchen or fields.<sup>785</sup> Wives must submit to their husbands and are encouraged to have at least seven children. Condoms and the contraceptive pill are forbidden.<sup>786</sup> The cult also forbids tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate, television, media, internet use, and voting in elections. Hypocritically, the cult does have a website for recruitment purposes. The Twelve Tribes cult teaches their followers that "black people are destined for slavery" and "homosexuals should be put to death".<sup>787</sup> The cult's Elders also condone a culture of systematic child abuse, subjugation of women, and psychological torment. Media reports have unveiled a community committing acts of child labour and corporal punishment. Former cult members claim that the Twelve Tribes cult endorse the beating/spanking (called "correcting") of children and believe it is an 'act of love'. Cult followers 'beat children into submission from an early age, so the individual does not question things when they get older'.<sup>788</sup> Spanking as punishment begins when the child turns six months of age, as stated in the Twelve Tribes child rearing book *Our Child Training Manual*. The manual encourages parents to use the "wisdom of the rod".<sup>789</sup> Other concerns expressed by former cult members were: i) children's reading material were forbidden, replaced by stories based on the Old Testament; ii) if children were sick, prayers and homeopathy were the preferred treatments (to avoid a Doctor's scrutiny); iii) children are not enabled to develop independent thinking, play make-

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<sup>779</sup> 'Festival Food Stallholders: Woodford Folk Festival 1999/2000 Programme', *Queensland Folk Federation Inc.*, (Go Print publishers, Brisbane, 1999), p 72.

<sup>780</sup> 'Festival Food Stallholders: Woodford Folk Festival 2019/2020 Programme', *Woodfordia Incorporated*, (Go Print publishers, Brisbane, 2019), p 122.

<sup>781</sup> 'Search for a charity', *Australian Charities And Not-For-Profit Commission website*, (2020), <[https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity?name\\_abn%5B0%5D=The%20Community%20Apostolic%20Order#search](https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity?name_abn%5B0%5D=The%20Community%20Apostolic%20Order#search)>.

<sup>782</sup> McNally, G., 'Secretive Twelve Tribes religious sect 'cashing in on charity status'', *The Sunday Telegraph*, (7 September 2019), <[question12tribes.com/secret-sect-accused-of-using-slave-labour-to-run-their-cafes/](http://question12tribes.com/secret-sect-accused-of-using-slave-labour-to-run-their-cafes/)>.

<sup>783</sup> Ibid.

<sup>784</sup> Weir, J., 'An eerie night inside Blue Mountains sect the Twelve Tribes', *News.com*, (9 June 2018), <<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/true-stories/an-eerie-night-inside-blue-mountains-sect-the-twelve-tribes/news-story/>>.

<sup>785</sup> Elliot, T., 'Secrets of the family', *Sydney Morning Herald*, (18 December 2013), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/secrets-of-the-family-20131209-22oot.html>>.

<sup>786</sup> Ibid.

<sup>787</sup> O'Neil, L., 'Twelve Tribes: The Church Preached Child Abuse & Slavery', *The Daily Beast*, (7 December 2017), <<https://www.thedailybeast.com/twelve-tribes-the-church-preached-child-abuse-and-slavery>>.

<sup>788</sup> Hadgraft, B., 'What is it like in the Twelve Tribes Cult?', *The Australian Women's Weekly*, (18 October 2018), <<https://www.nowtolove.com.au/news/real-life/twelve-tribes-cult-51635>>.

<sup>789</sup> Wang, J., 'Just over an hour's drive from Sydney, is the home of a dark, Australian cult', *MamaMia.com*, (15 March 2019), <<https://www.mamamia.com.au/yellow-deli-cult/>>.



believe games, or do homework. They do not have the ability to rationalise, research and exercise critical thought; iv) children have constant adult supervision (called “covering”); and v) children must engage in under-age work on the compounds’ farms and building sites (in Australia), or on the production line for the U.S.A-based cosmetic company ‘Origins’ range.<sup>790</sup> The cult followers are convinced that negative feelings from the public (police, media, welfare services etc.) is due to Satan’s influence,<sup>791</sup> rather than concerns regarding their brutal work regime, allegations of child abusive, racist beliefs, and unethical lifestyle practises. In March 2020, Detectives from the New South Wales Police Service commenced an investigation into the Twelve tribes cult titled ‘Strike Force Nanegai’. Officers from the Blue Mountains Police Area Command executed search warrants at Peppercorn Creek Farm on Remembrance Driveway (1375 Old Hume Highway) and a property on Bigga Road, Bigga.<sup>792</sup> The Detectives acted upon allegations of child abuse, and the need to search for the bodies of stillborn babies<sup>793</sup> that have been buried for numerous years on farming properties owned by the cult group.<sup>794</sup> One of the properties in question is used as a ‘punishment area’ for exiled cult members after they had questioned the Elders of the Twelve Tribe cult about the organisation, its practises, and belief system. The 78.5-hectare property that is being searched has no running water or electricity. This places the Twelve Tribe cult group in breach of laws and legislations concerning the deceased. In Australia, it is illegal to bury a body without registering the death with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Also, Local Council permission must be obtained before burying a body on private property.<sup>795</sup> New South Wales Police investigations into the cult and its practices are ongoing. The Twelve Tribe currently has a worldwide membership between 2000 to 3000 cult followers. The cult has approximately 50 communities in nine countries.<sup>796</sup> There are currently four cult compounds located in Katoomba, Picton, Bigga and the Coledale areas of N.S.W. nearing 200 members.<sup>797</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>790</sup> Wang, J., Just over an hour's drive from Sydney, is the home of a dark, Australian cult', *MamaMia.com*, (15 March 2019), <<https://www.mamamia.com.au/yellow-deli-cult/>>.

<sup>791</sup> Elliot, T., 'Secrets of the family', *Sydney Morning Herald*, (18 December 2013), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/secrets-of-the-family-20131209-22oot.html>>.

<sup>792</sup> Osborne, K. and Sparks, H., 'Police establish crime scenes at Twelve Tribes properties in Picton and Bigga', *Illawarra Mercury*, (3 March 2020), <<https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/6658826/police-establish-crime-scenes-at-twelve-tribes-properties-in-picton-and-bigga/?src=rss>>.

<sup>793</sup> Noble, F., 'Dig for stillborn bodies at controversial sect headquarters in NSW', (3 March 2020), *Nine News.com*, <<https://www.9news.com.au/national/twelve-tribes-cult-nsw-police-search-for-bodies-of-stillborn-babies-at-picton-bigga/5c1e9d2f-cb35-498d-9eeb-fgadb16of707>>.

<sup>794</sup> Karp, C. and Chain, B., 'Headquarters of secretive religious sect 'Twelve Tribes' is raided by police as investigators dig for the bodies of stillborn babies at two of its properties', *Daily Mail*, (3 March 2020), <<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8067079/Headquarters-secretive-religious-sect-Twelve-Tribes-raided-police.html>>.

<sup>795</sup> Ibid.

<sup>796</sup> 'Twelve Tribes', *Apologetics Index*, (23 Jan 2016), <[www.apologeticsindex.org/2702-twelve-tribes](http://www.apologeticsindex.org/2702-twelve-tribes)>.

<sup>797</sup> 'Locations: Australia', *Twelve Tribes.org*, (2019), <[twelvetribes.org/locations/Australia](http://twelvetribes.org/locations/Australia)>.

## Two by Two cult (also known by various names)

The Two by Two cult was founded by a quarry master William Weir Irvine in Tipperary County, Ireland, of August, 1897.<sup>798</sup> The cult is also known as "The Black Stockings", "No-name Church", "Cooneyites", "Workers and Friends", "Go Preachers", "Tramp-Preachers", "Pilgrims", "No Name Preachers", "No-Secret Preachers", "Nameless House Sect", "Secret Sect", "Irvinites", "Carrollites", "Reidites", "Dippers", "Christians Anonymous", "Les Anonymous" (France) and "Die Namenlosen" (Germany).<sup>799</sup><sup>800</sup> The cult's registered names include "Christian Conventions" (U.S.A), "Assemblies of Christians" (Canada), "The Testimony of Jesus" (U.K), "Kristna i Sverige" (Sweden), and "United Christian Conventions" (Australia). These organization names are used for registration purposes only.<sup>801</sup> The Two by Two cult claims it can trace its roots to the birth of Jesus (rather than to William Irvine in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century).<sup>802</sup> The group models its ministry approach on Jesus' words spoken to his disciples in Matthew 10:8-16 and similar passages, such as Mark 6:7-11. In the latter passage Jesus sends his disciples out two by two, which is why 'Friends' (followers) and 'Workers' (ministers) travel in pairs.<sup>803</sup> Before embarking on this path, 'Workers' are expected to give up their jobs, their property, and their possessions, hand them over to the cult. 'Workers' must commit themselves to living a life of poverty and celibacy. 'Workers' travel from place to place within their 'Field' (a geographical region to which 'Workers' have been assigned),<sup>804</sup> staying in people's private homes as missionaries<sup>805</sup> for the cult. The host family is expected to provide all essentials for the 'Worker' this includes meals, clothes, the use of the motor car, as well as a bed to sleep in. They are expected to do this for as long as the 'Worker' decides to stay – which can be a few days to a few months.<sup>806</sup> The Two by Two cult has no permanent structures for religious worship or gatherings and so hold Sunday meetings in their homes. Strict attendance is urged at all of their gatherings with no excuse for absenteeism except extreme illness.<sup>807</sup> Cult followers refer to their religious teachings as "The Truth" or "The Way". "The Truth" rejects the idea of the Holy Trinity and believe the only path to salvation is by earning it, through simple living and the teachings of a 'Worker'. According to the cult, an individual cannot save their own soul.<sup>808</sup> The new members are required to convert to the 'Jesus Way' of life and must to sever all connections with former religious affiliations. The Two by Twos cult believe that preachers of all religious groups (other than their

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<sup>798</sup> Paul, W., 'They Go About "Two by Two"', *Telling the Truth.info*, (17 January 2007), <[https://www.tellingthetruth.info/publications\\_index/go2x2.php](https://www.tellingthetruth.info/publications_index/go2x2.php)>.

<sup>799</sup> 'Two by Twos', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (30 April 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two\\_by\\_Twos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_by_Twos)>.

<sup>800</sup> van Leen, A., 'Two by Two equals danger', *Lookout Ministries: Christian Faith website*, (2019), <<https://christianfaith.com/lookout/two-by-two-equals-danger>>.

<sup>801</sup> 'Two by Twos', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (14 April 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two\\_by\\_Twos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_by_Twos)>.

<sup>802</sup> Paul, W., 'They Go About "Two by Two"', *Telling the Truth.info*, (17 January 2007), <[https://www.tellingthetruth.info/publications\\_index/go2x2.php](https://www.tellingthetruth.info/publications_index/go2x2.php)>.

<sup>803</sup> 'Former 'Two by Twos' sect leader faces abuse charges', *Religion News Blog*, (23 September 2013), <<https://www.religionnewsblog.com/27418/two-by-twos-chris-chandler-charges>>.

<sup>804</sup> 'Two by Twos', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (14 April 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two\\_by\\_Twos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_by_Twos)>.

<sup>805</sup> 'Former 'Two by Twos' sect leader faces abuse charges', *Religion News Blog*, (23 September 2013), <<https://www.religionnewsblog.com/27418/two-by-twos-chris-chandler-charges>>.

<sup>806</sup> van Leen, A., 'Two by Two equals danger', *Lookout Ministries: Christian Faith website*, (2019), <<https://christianfaith.com/lookout/two-by-two-equals-danger>>.

<sup>807</sup> Paul, W., 'They Go About "Two by Two"', *Telling the Truth.info*, (17 January 2007), <[https://www.tellingthetruth.info/publications\\_index/go2x2.php](https://www.tellingthetruth.info/publications_index/go2x2.php)>.

<sup>808</sup> Martineau, K., 'Farm plays host to a low-profile sect', *Cult Education Institute*, (14 July 2000), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/1204-the-two-by-twos-cooneyites/23637-farm-plays-host-to-a-low-profile-sect-.html>>.

own), are 'false prophets' and 'hirelings' that preach merely for the financial gain they receive.<sup>809</sup> The Two by Two cult is an extremely fundamental organisation that prohibits followers from: i) owning books, jewellery, newspapers, magazines, radio, television; ii) engaging in dancing, smoking, swearing, drinking alcoholic beverages; and iii) participating in sport, going to the movies/entertainment, or vote in elections.<sup>810</sup> Female members must wear long skirts, and are forbidden from cutting their hair.<sup>811</sup> Cult followers are also warned against working for the Defence Force, legal institutions, political departments or "involving the Police with their personal concerns".<sup>812</sup> 'Workers' have taught cult followers about various consequences if they should show any disregard or make complaints about the Two by Two ideology. Punishments include i) shunning of members; ii) threats and fear of excommunication; and iii) fear of being condemned to live in Hell. Punishments delved by 'Workers' are not held to account as 'Workers' are considered 'above the law'/'separate from law'.<sup>813</sup> The controversies that have dogged the cult concern the: i) buying up properties and 'overtaking' small secluded country towns (causing concern to the local residents); and ii) many reports and legal cases highlighting the 'rampant sex abuse of children'<sup>814</sup> within the cult. Known Australian paedophiles - Noel Harvey, Ernie Barry, Chris Chandler, Cecil Blythe, and Greg Aylett – have been 'Workers' of the Two by Two cult. For years they have stayed at various cult followers' homes and sexually abused their hosts' children. Due to 'Workers' narcissistic belief that they are 'above the law', and that adult cult followers believe the Holy word of the 'Worker' over that of their children, there are usually no consequences for the perpetrators actions.<sup>815</sup> One child abuse case was reported by an Australian *60 Minutes* journalist and highlighted New South Wales inept legal system and court punishments. It was revealed that a 'Worker' had pleaded "guilty to eight counts of child sexual abuse. However, the judge gave him a suspended jail sentence – he did not spend one single night in jail. The judge blamed the crimes on the man's sexual immaturity as a result of his conservative upbringing in The Truth. He also believed there were no other victims and accepted the crimes weren't violent."<sup>816</sup> The Court of Criminal Appeal in N.S.W issued a suppression order to stop the naming of a convicted paedophile. Today, the Two by Two cult continues to support the nameless convicted paedophile, and others like him.<sup>817</sup> Since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the "Two by Twos" cult has spread its religious teachings world-wide, expanding its cult followers to about 200 000 members.<sup>818</sup> There is approximately 10 000 members in Australia.<sup>819</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>809</sup> Paul, W., 'They Go About "Two by Two"', *Telling the Truth.info*, (17 January 2007), <[https://www.tellingthetruth.info/publications\\_index/go2x2.php](https://www.tellingthetruth.info/publications_index/go2x2.php)>.

<sup>810</sup> van Leen, A., 'Two by Two equals danger', *Lookout Ministries: Christian Faith website*, (2019), <<https://christianfaith.com/lookout/two-by-two-equals-danger>>.

<sup>811</sup> 'Cult-like religion allowed 'paedophiles back into its congregation', *Sask News Now.com*, (22 April 2019), <[www.sasknewsnow.com/cult-like-religion-allowed-paedophiles-back-into-its-congregation-14654.html](http://www.sasknewsnow.com/cult-like-religion-allowed-paedophiles-back-into-its-congregation-14654.html)>.

<sup>812</sup> 'Former 'Two by Twos' sect leader faces abuse charges', *Religion News Blog*, (23 September 2013), <<https://www.religionnewsblog.com/27418/two-by-twos-chris-chandler-charges>>.

<sup>813</sup> Langdon, A., 'Exposing secretive cult-like Truth Church', *60 Minutes Australia*, (21 April 2019), <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hE76OINwIOs>>.

<sup>814</sup> 'Cult-like religion allowed 'paedophiles back into its congregation', *Sask News Now.com*, (22 April 2019), <[www.sasknewsnow.com/cult-like-religion-allowed-paedophiles-back-into-its-congregation-14654.html](http://www.sasknewsnow.com/cult-like-religion-allowed-paedophiles-back-into-its-congregation-14654.html)>.

<sup>815</sup> Langdon, A., 'Exposing secretive cult-like Truth Church', *60 Minutes Australia*, (21 April 2019), <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hE76OINwIOs>>.

<sup>816</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>817</sup> 'Cult-like religion allowed 'paedophiles back into its congregation', *Sask News Now.com*, (22 April 2019), <[www.sasknewsnow.com/cult-like-religion-allowed-paedophiles-back-into-its-congregation-14654.html](http://www.sasknewsnow.com/cult-like-religion-allowed-paedophiles-back-into-its-congregation-14654.html)>.

<sup>818</sup> 'Two by Twos', *Apologetics Index*, (August 2002), <[www.apologeticsindex.org/t17.html](http://www.apologeticsindex.org/t17.html)>.

<sup>819</sup> Langdon, A., 'Exposing secretive cult-like Truth Church', *60 Minutes Australia*, (21 April 2019), <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hE76OINwIOs>>.

## United Pentecostal Church International cult (Oneness Pentecostalism)

The United Pentecostal Church International (U.P.C.I) cult is a branch of the Pentecostal faith which stemmed from America in the late 1920s. They are also known as the “Jesus Only” churches, “Apostolic Pentecostals,” The “Oneness Movement” and the “Jesus Name” Movement.<sup>820</sup> The Pentecostal religious movement emerged in America and Britain during the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century spurred on by the radical evangelical revival movements. It is generally regarded to have begun in 1901 in a chapel prayer meeting in Topeka, Kansas, led by Charles Parham, a teacher at Bethel Bible College. A few years later, in 1906, the Pentecostal experience of “speaking in tongues” burst on the scene during a revival in a African-American Baptist church in Los Angeles, California. Pentecostalism was universally Wesleyan in nature until it started to split into several branches. ‘In 1913, R.E. McAlister of Toronto, Ontario, began teaching that the Trinity doctrine was untrue, and that baptism should be done correctly in Jesus’ name only – not in the traditional Trinitarian formula’.<sup>821</sup> Though the Holiness Pentecostalism continued to predominate in the southern parts of the United States, a group of ministers began to adopt McAlister’s teaching methods and chose ‘to unite around the teaching of the Oneness of God and water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ’.<sup>822</sup> Due to their beliefs more than 160 Oneness ministers were expelled from the Pentecostal’s Assemblies of God churches in 1916. This act enabled them to form their own alliances to promote their heretical doctrines as the U.P.C.I cult.<sup>823</sup> The U.P.C.I cult believes that The Bible is the only authority given by God to man (though they prefer to use the *King James Bible* version). The cult followers believe in the One-Person God figurehead and not the Holy Trinity. The U.P.C.I cult followers claim that “the only real “person” in the Godhead is Jesus. They state that God exists in two modes, as the Father in heaven and as Jesus the Son on earth. Nevertheless, they are the same person, not two separate persons. The Holy Spirit is not regarded as a person at all, merely a manifestation of Jesus’ power or a synonym for Him.”<sup>824</sup> It is also common for Oneness ministers to claim revelations from God that are regarded by their followers as inspired. The U.P.C.I cult followers insist that salvation comes by grace through faith in Christ, coupled with obedience to his command to be “born of water and of the Spirit”; hence, no good works or obedience to laws or rules can save anyone.<sup>825</sup> They claim that there is no salvation outside of the U.P.C.I cult and cite The Bible passage: “there no salvation outside of Jesus Christ, not a church”. (John 1:12; 3:1-8, Romans 10:8-13). The U.P.C.I cult believe repentance, baptism in Jesus’ name, are also essential elements of salvation. The cult followers claim that repentance is necessary before baptism to make the ordinance valid, and receipt of the Holy Spirit manifested by speaking in other tongues is necessary afterwards, to complete the work of baptism. This differs from other Pentecostals, along with evangelical Christians in general, who see only repentance and faith in Christ as essential to salvation.<sup>826</sup> The U.P.C.I cult followers also believe that the ability to

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<sup>820</sup> Davis, T., The hidden cult of Oneness Pentecostalism’, *Market Faith Ministries website*, (2011), <[www.marketfaith.org/the-hidden-cult-of-oneness-pentecostalism/](http://www.marketfaith.org/the-hidden-cult-of-oneness-pentecostalism/)>.

<sup>821</sup> Ibid.

<sup>822</sup> ‘United Pentecostal Church International’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (15 June 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Pentecostal\\_Church\\_International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Pentecostal_Church_International)>.

<sup>823</sup> Davis, T., The hidden cult of Oneness Pentecostalism’, *Market Faith Ministries website*, (2011), <[www.marketfaith.org/the-hidden-cult-of-oneness-pentecostalism/](http://www.marketfaith.org/the-hidden-cult-of-oneness-pentecostalism/)>.

<sup>824</sup> Ibid.

<sup>825</sup> ‘United Pentecostal Church International’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (15 June 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Pentecostal\\_Church\\_International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Pentecostal_Church_International)>.

<sup>826</sup> Torell, J., ‘Cults: United Pentecostal Church’, *European-American Evangelistic Crusades website*, (2019), <[www.eaec.org/cults/unitedpentecostal.htm](http://www.eaec.org/cults/unitedpentecostal.htm)>.



Speak in tongues is a necessary indication of a valid religious conversion. "No 'Speaking in Tongues' means no salvation."<sup>827</sup> Pentecostals look to 1 Corinthians 14 for instructions on the proper use of the spiritual gifts expressing prophecy, especially vocal proclamations. They believe the gift of tongues can be prophetic, in which case the believer delivers a "message in tongues" a prophetic utterance given to a congregation.<sup>828</sup> Religious 'Speaking in Tongues' is better known as 'Theopneustic Glossolalia' - speech in an unknown "language," during a state of religious ecstasy when the message being transmitted through the speaker is believed to be a message from a celestial spirit or from God. It has been deemed by Mental Health professionals as a healthy means to maintain a deep connection with their faith, and release stress or negative energy. (Unlike the D.S.M-V definition of 'Glossolalia' which determines the behaviour of speaking non-sensical gibberish, unrelated to a religious gathering, to be a symptom of schizophrenia.) The U.P.C.I cult emphasises five values to its followers. The first is individual experience, which emphasizes the Holy Spirit's personal work in the life of the believer. Second is orality, a feature that might explain Pentecostalism's success in evangelizing nonliterate cultures. The third is spontaneity; members of Pentecostal congregations are expected to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, sometimes resulting in unpredictable services. The fourth value is "otherworldliness" or asceticism. The final and fifth value is a commitment to biblical authority, and the literal reading of scripture.<sup>829</sup> The U.P.C.I cult officially forbids its members from engaging in "activities which are not conducive to good Christianity and Godly living," a category that includes mixed bathing, unwholesome radio programs, visiting theatres of any kind, owning a television and all worldly sports and amusements.<sup>830</sup> Female followers of the U.P.C.I cult are forbidden to wear any clothing or accessory that might "incite a man to lust". This includes low-cut shirts, makeup and jewellery and having short haircuts.<sup>831</sup> Wearing pants is also banned for women as the rule declares "that pants make the contours of a woman's lower body clearly visible".<sup>832</sup> The U.P.C.I cult also enforces compulsory 'tithings', and strict gender roles and maintains that in all matters women should be submissive to their husbands. Former cult followers have stated that men often demean women, and sabotage their free thought. Cult followers are unable to defend 'Holiness Standards' either biblically or historically, have no scriptural depth, little education, and are full of egotistical aspirations.<sup>833</sup> The U.P.C.I cult are openly opposed to homosexuality.<sup>834</sup> The U.P.C.I cult actively practises exorcisms on their followers. The ministers do not regard exorcism as an elaborate ritual but rather an intense gathering which involves prayer and laying hands on the afflicted. Many conservative protestants see the Devil as an active force in the everyday lives of people and feel that exorcism is the natural way to deal with it. They

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<sup>827</sup> Torell, J., 'Cults: United Pentecostal Church', *European-American Evangelistic Crusades website*, (2019), <[www.eaec.org/cults/unitedpentecostal.htm](http://www.eaec.org/cults/unitedpentecostal.htm)>.

<sup>828</sup> 'Pentecostalism', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (1 July 2019), <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentecostalism>>.

<sup>829</sup> Ibid.

<sup>830</sup> Herrington, B., 'Rules for Pentecostal women', *Our Everyday Life.com*, (10 October 2017), <<https://oureverydaylife.com/rules-for-pentecostal-women-12082439.html>>.

<sup>831</sup> 'I have been so sheltered from the world', *Cult Education Institute*, (1 July 2006), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/1213-united-pentecostal-church-international/21714-i-had-been-so-sheltered-from-the-world.html>>.

<sup>832</sup> Herrington, B., 'Rules for Pentecostal women', *Our Everyday Life.com*, (10 October 2017), <<https://oureverydaylife.com/rules-for-pentecostal-women-12082439.html>>.

<sup>833</sup> Franklin, J., 'United Pentecostal Church International cult', *Cultbusters Galactica website*, (2 March 2009), <<https://www.tapataalk.com/groups/cultbustersgalactica/united-pentecostal-church-international-cult-t100.html>>.

<sup>834</sup> 'Fear, fear, fear', *Cult Education Institute*, (July 1999), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/1213-united-pentecostal-church-international/21688-fear-fear-fear.html>>.

might undergo several exorcisms (also called a "deliverance") a month.<sup>835</sup> The U.P.C.I cult also expects its followers to recruit new members, particularly targeting Third World Nations or impoverished regions. On their website the U.P.C.I states that their Global Missions exists to take the "whole gospel to the whole world, by the whole church." Their mission is that every person on earth will know the name of Jesus.<sup>836</sup> However, the U.P.C.I cult followers are only offering humanitarian services and aid (development of education centres, providing school teachers and resources, assistance with social welfare and health supplies) on the condition that the villagers become members of the United Pentecostal Church. Cult followers believe that they are not impending on the integrity of a nation's culture but are following the word of God, citing the Acts of the Apostles. The U.P.C.I cult claims that their overseas missionaries are encouraging and promoting greater evangelization of the world, especially in unreached areas.<sup>837</sup> The U.P.C.I cult has its headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A. It has now grown to almost 42 000 churches, 40 000 credentialed ministers, and a total worldwide membership of around 4.9 million.<sup>838</sup> **The cult is still active in Australia.**



<sup>835</sup> Libaw, O., 'Exorcism thriving in the U.S, say experts', *Religious Studies Forum: Blog Spot*, (4 March 2012), <<https://religiousstudiesforum.blogspot.com/2012/03/exorcism-thriving-in-us-say-experts.html>>.

<sup>836</sup> 'Who we are', *Global Missions: United Pentecostal Church International website*, (2017), <<https://www.globalmissions.com/>>.

<sup>837</sup> 'Overseas Missions', *United Pentecostal Church of Australia website*, (2019), <<https://www.upca.org.au/overseas-missions.html>>.

<sup>838</sup> 'United Pentecostal Church International', *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (15 June 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Pentecostal\\_Church\\_International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Pentecostal_Church_International)>.

## Universal Knowledge cult

Universal Knowledge cult (formerly known as Life Integration Programmes), was founded in the mid-1990s by self-styled metaphysical guru Natasha Lakaev, a woman formally qualified in agricultural science.<sup>839</sup> Lakaev believes she was the Queen of Atlantis, a reincarnation of Jesus Christ, and one of 12 members of the Intergalactic Council of the Universe.<sup>840</sup> Lakaev created a series of courses which were based on "cellular memory" which 'allows participants to access memories from their descendants dating back thousands of years'.<sup>841</sup> It also incorporated a fusion of New Age ideologies and therapies, and an end-times philosophy based on environmental disaster.<sup>842</sup> Lakaev claimed her courses could heal people affected by H.I.V and other diseases.<sup>843</sup> People would be recruited into Universal Knowledge cult at the Mind Body Spirit Festivals which tours Australia each year.<sup>844</sup> The cult offered 20 courses ranging in price from \$275 to \$16,500 with 80 to 100 participants attending. The courses were conducted on a Northern N.S.W properties known as "Omaroo" (owned by Lakaev),<sup>845</sup> and "Boolabinda" (a rented holiday farm near Glen Innes).<sup>846</sup> Activities on these 'camp courses' included: participants stripping naked in front of a group and having their bodies scrutinised; following a strict vegan diet; watching pornographic movies; collecting cow and horse dung by hand; walking across hot coals in bare feet; sleep deprivation; enduring "punishments" (such as holding a rock above their head if they are caught falling asleep); videotaped while being questioned about their most intimate secrets (which would later be used against the participants during the "humiliation exercises"); "genital rubs"; group starvation; a daily nude group swim in a farm dam; and "accessing" their cellular memory.<sup>847</sup> One participant spent thousands to attend a "personal mastery" course only to quit the program after he was offered cannabis<sup>848</sup> by Lakaev's 'counsellors' so they could study the effects of drugs on humans. All of the Life Integration Programme courses were supported by the University of Queensland and had attracted participants aged between 18 to 60 years. Lakaev also offered a course for children.<sup>849</sup> Some of the participants would be coerced to stay on the Lakaev's property for years paying hundreds of thousands of dollars, either by purchasing useless courses or giving direct payments to the cult leader.<sup>850</sup> Lakaev even managed to convince one follower (Carli McConkey) that she was an unfit

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<sup>839</sup> Brown, A., 'Cult' leader now a psychologist', *Gold Coast Bulletin*, (20 November 2010), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/1084-universal-knowledge-omaroo/15575-cult-leader-now-a-psychologist.html>>.

<sup>840</sup> Bachelard, M., 'Universal Knowledge: Alleged leader of cult works as psychologist', *Cult Information and Family Support*, (17 October 2010), <[www.cifs.org.au/vulnerable.php](http://www.cifs.org.au/vulnerable.php)>.

<sup>841</sup> Brown, A., 'Cult' leader now a psychologist', *Gold Coast Bulletin*, (20 November 2010), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/1084-universal-knowledge-omaroo/15575-cult-leader-now-a-psychologist.html>>.

<sup>842</sup> Bachelard, M., 'In thrall to a cult: how the unwary fall victim to mind control', *Religion News Blog*, (16 October 2010), <<https://www.religionnewsblog.com/25223/how-people-fall-victim-to-mind-control>>.

<sup>843</sup> Morton, R., 'Autism psychologist once ran New Age cult', *A4: Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia*, (27 October 2018), <[a4.org.au/node/1883](http://a4.org.au/node/1883)>.

<sup>844</sup> 'Ex-alleged cult members 'sleep well' with court case over', *The Northern Star*, (11 October 2014), <<https://www.northernstar.com.au/news/former-alleged-cult-members-sleep-well-court/2415350/>>.

<sup>845</sup> Morton, R., 'Autism psychologist once ran New Age cult', *A4: Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia*, (27 October 2018), <[a4.org.au/node/1883](http://a4.org.au/node/1883)>.

<sup>846</sup> Griffith, C., 'Camp Hell', *Sunday Mail*, (7 March 1999), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/1084-universal-knowledge-omaroo/15572-camp-hell.html>>.

<sup>847</sup> Brown, A., 'Cult' leader now a psychologist', *Gold Coast Bulletin*, (20 November 2010), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/1084-universal-knowledge-omaroo/15575-cult-leader-now-a-psychologist.html>>.

<sup>848</sup> Griffith, C., 'Camp Hell', *Sunday Mail*, (7 March 1999), <<https://www.culteducation.com/group/1084-universal-knowledge-omaroo/15572-camp-hell.html>>.

<sup>849</sup> Ibid.

<sup>850</sup> Bachelard, M., 'Natasha Lakaev's evidence 'deliberately untrue', says judge', *Sydney Morning Herald*, (13 October 2014), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/natasha-lakaevs-evidence-deliberately-untrue-says-judge-20141013-1157wp.html>>.

mother to her sons, and needed sterilisation.<sup>851</sup> The cult is currently listed as a registered business (an Australian proprietary company, limited by shares) and operates under the name of Universal Knowledge Consultancy Pty Ltd (A.B.N 55 165 614 611), operating from Tweeds Heads, NSW.<sup>852</sup> Though no longer the Universal Knowledge's director, Lakaev and her children still own about 75% of the company. Lakaev has instead obtained multiple qualifications in Psychology. During her thesis work she devised the 'Lakaev Academic Stress Response Scale' (L.A.S.R.S), a tool to effectively measure academic stress response. The results of her thesis, which focused on the L.A.S.R.S, were published in the Australian Journal of Psychology and Counselling.<sup>853</sup> Lakaev is listed on the website of Monash University as completing a PhD on the topic of student stress, promised participants of "the next evolutionary step" that they would develop telepathy and "multidimensionality".<sup>854</sup> In 2008, Lakaev registered as a Clinical Psychologist in Queensland (ID: PSY0001614674)<sup>855</sup> with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (A.P.R.H.A). She has no conditions or reprimands on her eligibility to practice. Lakaev is currently working as a government-employed psychologist<sup>856</sup> with vulnerable patients at the Ashmore Community Mental Health Service near Surfers Paradise in Queensland.<sup>857</sup> She has been accepted into Australian Psychological Society College of Clinical Psychologists and is an approved contractor with A.T.A.P.S (Access To Allied Psychological Services). Lakaev is also a registered Clinical Psychologist in the United Kingdom. She is also a Medicare approved provider for War Veterans and approved with the A.P.S as a provider for clients with Autism or Pervasive Development Disorder.<sup>858</sup> Lakaev also runs a private practice titled 'Natasha Psychology',<sup>859</sup> which is listed as an approved provider for autism support under the Federal Department of Social Services' Helping Children With Autism (H.C.W.A) package.<sup>860</sup> Lakaev hosts four day workshops (\$880 per person)<sup>861</sup> titled 'Resolving Vilification' throughout Australia and the United Kingdom, and conducts webinars courses. She claims that 5% of the income generated will be used to establish her 'Vindication Assistance Fund' for health professionals.<sup>862</sup> **The cult is still active in Australia.**

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<sup>851</sup> 'Ex-alleged cult members 'sleep well' with court case over', *The Northern Star*, (11 October 2014), <<https://www.northernstar.com.au/news/former-alleged-cult-members-sleep-well-court/2415350/>>.

<sup>852</sup> 'Universal Knowledge Consultancy Pty Ltd, A.C.N 165 614 611', *Connect Online: Australian Securities & Investments Commission*, (2019), <[https://connectonline.asic.gov.au/RegistrySearch/faces/landing/panelSearch.jspx?searchText=165614611&searchType=OrgAndBusNm&\\_adf.ctrl-state=as2clkgt\\_15](https://connectonline.asic.gov.au/RegistrySearch/faces/landing/panelSearch.jspx?searchText=165614611&searchType=OrgAndBusNm&_adf.ctrl-state=as2clkgt_15)>.

<sup>853</sup> 'Natasha Lakaev: Summary', *Linked In*, (2019), <<https://www.linkedin.com/in/natashalakaev>>.

<sup>854</sup> Morton, R., 'Autism psychologist once ran New Age cult', *A4: Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia*, (27 October 2018), <[a4.org.au/node/1883](http://a4.org.au/node/1883)>.

<sup>855</sup> 'Natasha Lakaev: Registers of Practitioners', *AHPRA website*, (2019), <<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registers-of-Practitioners.aspx?name=Lakaev&p=Psychologist>>.

<sup>856</sup> 'Find a psychologist', *Australian Psychological Society*, (2019), <<https://www.psychology.org.au/Find-a-Psychologist?first-name=Natasha&last-name=Lakaev&drop-list-1=5&state=QLD&Page=0>>.

<sup>857</sup> Bachelard, M., 'Universal Knowledge: Alleged leader of cult works as psychologist', *Cult Information and Family Support*, (17 October 2010), <[www.cifs.org.au/vulnerable.php](http://www.cifs.org.au/vulnerable.php)>.

<sup>858</sup> 'Natasha Lakaev: Gold Coast', *About Me website*, (2019), <<https://about.me/natashalakaev>>.

<sup>859</sup> 'Home Page', *Natasha Psychology website*, (2019), <[www.natashapsychology.com.au/home/](http://www.natashapsychology.com.au/home/)>.

<sup>860</sup> Morton, R., 'Autism psychologist once ran New Age cult', *A4: Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia*, (27 October 2018), <[a4.org.au/node/1883](http://a4.org.au/node/1883)>.

<sup>861</sup> Lakaev, N., '4 Day Workshop', *Resolving Vilification website*, (2016), <[www.resolvingvilification.com/home/4591988670](http://www.resolvingvilification.com/home/4591988670)>.

<sup>862</sup> Ibid.



## Universal Medicine cult

The Universal Medicine (U.M) cult was founded in 1999 by Serge Benhayon. Benhayon was once a tennis coach but after an unpaid lease on a Sydney tennis centre in 1998 he filed for bankruptcy.<sup>863</sup> He had a revelation about starting the cult after receiving (what Benhayon described as) an "energetic impress" whilst sitting on the toilet.<sup>864</sup> From his home base in Lismore, Benhayon began selling "Esoteric healing" products, music, publications, workshops and courses based on Eastern sutras, Western philosophies, and the ancient teachings of Hermes, Zarathushtra, Krishna, Buddha, and Jesus.<sup>865</sup> Benhayon refers to himself as 'The Teacher', 'Ascended Master' or 'One of The Hierarchy' and a health practitioner, but he has no medical, health science, psychology, education, philosophy or theology qualifications. None of his healing modalities are evidence-based or has been proven effective by scientific research.<sup>866</sup> "The Teachings" are classified into meditation, self-care, nutrition, exercise, music, reincarnation, psychological wellbeing and the esoteric, and are supported by audio, books, and online lectures.<sup>867</sup> Benhayon devised the U.M's healing practices based on the belief that disease is caused by "energetic disharmony" resulting from ill choices made in this and previous lifetimes. Benhayon believes he is the reincarnation of Leonardo Da Vinci, Pythagoras, theologian Alice A. Bailey, ancient Egyptian chancellor Imhotep, and Saint Peter.<sup>868</sup> He also believes his daughter is the reincarnation of Winston Churchill. He declares that people have experienced at least 2300 lives each.<sup>869</sup> Benhayon states that people who abused their authority, such as dictators and corrupt politicians, are reincarnated as disabled children.<sup>870</sup> During a "Sacred Esoteric Healing course - Level 1", Benhayon mentioned that 'the Roman emperor Nero continues to reincarnate as an autistic child, while other authority abusers reincarnate as children with Down syndrome or other disabilities.'<sup>871</sup> Benhayon also urges his cult followers to adhere to a strict diet, sleep regime, as well as sex.<sup>872</sup> In addition, Benhayon founded 'The College of Universal Medicine' in 2011, and is marketed as a charitable educational institution and philanthropic work by Benhayon.<sup>873</sup> Healing techniques include "esoteric breast massages", "chakra punctures", and "ovarian readings" which are taught by and performed by Benhayon and his female followers.<sup>874</sup> Benhayon has claimed his religion doesn't "keep

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<sup>863</sup> Robertson, J. & Walsh, L., 'New age 'medicine' of Serge Benhayon leaves trail of broken families', *News.com.au*, (8 September 2012), <<https://www.news.com.au/tablet/new-age-medicine-of-serge-benhayon-leaves-trail-of-broken-families/news-story/>>.

<sup>864</sup> 'Universal Medicine, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (14 May 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal\\_Medicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Medicine)>.

<sup>865</sup> 'All Courses', *The College of Universal Medicine website*, (2017), <<https://www.coum.org/all-courses/>>.

<sup>866</sup> Robertson, J., 'Cult' Universal medicine practices promoted by researchers, UQ launches investigation', *ABC News*, (2 May 2018), <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-16/uq-researchers-accused-of-promoting-dangerous-cult/>>.

<sup>867</sup> 'Universal Medicine, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (14 May 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal\\_Medicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Medicine)>.

<sup>868</sup> Whitbourne, M., 'Self-styled healer Serge Benhayon leads 'socially harmful cult': jury', *Sydney Morning Herald*, (15 October 2018), <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/self-styled-healer-serge-benhayon-leads-socially-harmful-cult-jury-20181010-p508ux.html>.

<sup>869</sup> Deutrom, R., 'Universal Medicine cult founder exposed as charlatan', *News.com*, (18 February 2018), <<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/universal-medicine-cult-founder-exposed-as-charlatan/news-story/>>.

<sup>870</sup> Scheikowski, M., 'Reincarnation evidence given by NSW healer', *Western Advocate*, (6 September 2018), <<https://www.westernadvocate.com.au/story/5630505/reincarnation-evidence-given-by-nsw-healer/>>.

<sup>871</sup> 'Universal Medicine, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (14 May 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal\\_Medicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Medicine)>.

<sup>872</sup> Ibid.

<sup>873</sup> 'History', *The College of Universal Medicine website*, (2017), <<https://www.coum.org/about/history-of-the-college-of-universal-medicine/>>.

<sup>874</sup> 'Self-styled healer Serge Benhayon leads 'socially harmful cult': jury', *Sydney Morning Herald*, (15 October 2018), <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/self-styled-healer-serge-benhayon-leads-socially-harmful-cult-jury-20181010-p508ux.html>.

people in a compound” or “lock the doors”, but he does demand extreme devotion from his members in return for the “Ageless Wisdom” he imparts. Instead, the 2000 followers have chosen to live close to his sprawling northern N.S.W estate.<sup>875</sup> Benhaydon has even managed to tarnish the University of Queensland (U.Q) reputation. This is due to the 2018 investigation for research studies published that were allegedly unethically driven by Universal Medicine (U.M), an institution that touts unproven treatments.<sup>876</sup> The Canadian-based Journal of Medical Internet Research is considering the extreme step of withdrawing the U.M-related articles from publications.<sup>877</sup> Disgruntled former followers and clients of U.M health therapies have developed a website (*Universal Medicine Cult Exposed: Countering Serge Benhayon Propaganda with Facts*) which exposes the names of ‘shonky’ health practitioners associated with the Universal Medicine cult.<sup>878</sup> In 2018, a NSW Supreme Court jury described the Universal Medicine cult leader, Serge Benhayon, as a “charlatan who preys on cancer patients”<sup>879</sup> after Judith McIntyre (one of Benhayon’s wealthy devotees), died following a three-year battle with breast cancer. A month before her death she made a Will giving her daughter and son \$250 000 each, with the remainder to go to go Benhayon. The estate is estimated to be worth about \$1.1 million.<sup>880</sup> Over the years Benhayon has taken millions of dollars from families.<sup>881</sup> Also, the N.S.W Supreme Court jury found Benhayon had an “indecent interest in girls as young as 10, whom he causes to stay at his house unaccompanied”<sup>882</sup> and had done so since the 1990s. The Supreme Court jury found Benhayon led a “socially harmful cult”, “intentionally indecently touched” clients and made “bogus healing claims”.<sup>883</sup> Former cult members and clients state that Benhayon is “delusional” and had allegedly “groped the anus and vulva of various females under the guise of treating them”.<sup>884</sup> The cult is principally located in Goonellabah and Wollongbar, near Lismore, N.S.W, Australia. Its European headquarters are known as “The Lighthouse” and is situated between Tytherington and Frome, Somerset, England.<sup>885</sup> U.M. is a multi-million-dollar enterprise with 700 mostly women followers in 15 countries.<sup>886</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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<sup>875</sup> Deutrom, R., ‘Universal Medicine cult founder exposed as charlatan’, *News.com*, (18 February 2018), <<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/universal-medicine-cult-founder-exposed-as-charlatan/news-story/>>.

<sup>876</sup> Robertson, J., ‘Cult’ Universal medicine practices promoted by researchers, UQ launches investigation’, *ABC News*, (2 May 2018), <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-16/uq-researchers-accused-of-promoting-dangerous-cult/>>.

<sup>877</sup> Ibid.

<sup>878</sup> ‘UniMed cult cartel – naming names – Australia & NZ’, *Universal Medicine Cult Exposed: Countering Serge Benhayon Propaganda with Facts*, (2019), <<https://factsaboutuniversalmedicine.wordpress.com/unimed-cartel-naming-names/>>.

<sup>879</sup> Deutrom, R., ‘Universal Medicine cult founder exposed as charlatan’, *News.com*, (18 February 2018), <<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/universal-medicine-cult-founder-exposed-as-charlatan/news-story/>>.

<sup>880</sup> Hall, L and Elliot, T., ‘Universal Medicine’s Serge Benhayon to inherit bulk of devotee’s million-dollar estate’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, (28 December 2015), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/universal-medicines-serge-benhayon-to-inherit-bulk-of-devotees-million-dollar-estate-20151228-glvl7u.html>>.

<sup>881</sup> Deutrom, R., ‘Universal Medicine cult founder exposed as charlatan’, *News.com*, (18 February 2018), <<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/universal-medicine-cult-founder-exposed-as-charlatan/news-story/>>.

<sup>882</sup> Ibid.

<sup>883</sup> Whitbourne, M., ‘Self-styled healer Serge Benhayon leads ‘socially harmful cult’: jury’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, (15 October 2018), <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/self-styled-healer-serge-benhayon-leads-socially-harmful-cult-jury-20181010-p508ux.html>>.

<sup>884</sup> Ibid.

<sup>885</sup> ‘Universal Medicine’, *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, (14 May 2019), <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal\\_Medicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Medicine)>.

<sup>886</sup> Robertson, J., ‘Cult’ Universal medicine practices promoted by researchers, UQ launches investigation’, *ABC News*, (2 May 2018), <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-16/uq-researchers-accused-of-promoting-dangerous-cult/>>.



### Vamp Wytch Bitches cult

A branch of one of many Satanic Sects arising from Europe since the mid-1500s A.D. It has the similar beliefs and practices as The Lilith Children, but membership is exclusively all-female. The Cult focuses on primarily on vampirism, blood-letting rituals (“Blood Fest” parties and “Goth Balls”), and the Dark Arts/Black Majick (as practiced by the Black Witches). The Vamp Wytch Bitches cult target people that are vulnerable with mental illnesses, homelessness, or isolated from family and friends. Recruiting starts by telling people basically whatever they want to hear, through the online forums, private messaging, email, and websites. The online ‘community’ (using fake names) makes people believe they are becoming part of something special.<sup>887</sup> The phony website comprises of the ‘vampire elders’ and other members (aspiring to be called elders) all using different names on multiple different forums and websites, to make the group appear to be a lot larger than it is. The offer of free food, free shelter and friendship is enough to convince the susceptible to move into the cult’s home. It is within the cult’s home where the vampires entice the recruit to be ‘turned’ (or converted) into a vampire. This involves bloodletting rituals and drinking blood from the recruit. Once done, it is the cult’s belief that the vampire who drank the recruit’s blood is forever responsible and ‘owns’ the person that they have converted.<sup>888</sup> If the newcomer refuses to become a vampire, then they become a ‘host’. A ‘host’ is a person whose body is used by the cult for their specific ritual purposes (ie: blood is drained from their body for Sabbat ritual). A ‘host’ is usually held captive, raped, tortured, and often killed. Those seriously involved may practice one or more of the following: blood-drinking, sleeping in coffins, avoiding daylight, performing occult rituals, taking drugs, wearing fangs or having incisors sharpened, and engaging in unusual sexual practices.<sup>889</sup> Some Vamp Wytch Bitch cult members have been known to acquire jobs within the hospital sector. They are cleaners, nurses, doctors, administration staff, and hospital board members. They can gain access (often illegally) to the hospital blood bank supplies. Vampires select the blood supplies that are past their ‘expiry date’ (or close to expiration) for safe transfusion.<sup>890</sup> The blood is needed for their Vampire/Black Witchcraft Sabbats rituals. If any of the Vamp Wytch Bitch cult rules or regulations are broken, the recruit is severely punished (by becoming a ‘host’), generally resulting in death.<sup>891</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

<sup>887</sup> ‘Vampire Cults’, *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/vampirecults.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/vampirecults.html)>.

<sup>888</sup> ‘The New Code’, *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/thenewcode.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/thenewcode.html)>.

<sup>889</sup> ‘Vampirism, Vampyrism and Vampire Cults’, *Apologetics Index.org*, (10 February 2018), <[www.apologeticsindex.org/243-vampire-cults](http://www.apologeticsindex.org/243-vampire-cults)>.

<sup>890</sup> ‘Vampire Cults’, *Vampire Website.NET*, (2010), <[www.vampirewebsite.net/questionsanswered.html](http://www.vampirewebsite.net/questionsanswered.html)>.

<sup>891</sup> Ibid.

### World Church of the Creator cult (now called The Creativity Movement)

Rockhampton (Queensland), is home to a branch of the World Church of the Creator (aka The Creativity Movement).<sup>892</sup> The cult was established in the U.S.A "for the survival, expansion and advancement of the white race exclusively".<sup>893</sup> The Creativity Movement was founded by Ben Klassen in 1973 with its original name, Church of the Creator. Klassen described the group's ideology as a replacement for 'Judeo-democratic-Marxist' values, based upon the foundation of race.<sup>894</sup> The group's foundational teachings are a list of sixteen 'Commandments of Creativity', each of which deals with loyalty to, and proliferation of, the white race. Klassen offered his own set of moral teachings, all tied to race. At its core is the belief that actions that benefit the white race are inherently right, and the greater the benefit, the more valuable the action. Conversely, actions that are detrimental to the white race are reprehensible and, in Klassen's doctrine, constitute as sin.<sup>895</sup> The group denies the existence of the Holocaust, rejects interracial marriage, and works to promote the advancement of white individuals and institutions in all phases of life. Violence is a primary tool used by the organization. Murder, arson, instigating assassinations, inciting racial riots are a part of the World Church of the Creator repertoire. The cult has links with the K.K.K, Neo-Nazi groups and White Supremacists organisations. Klassen's ideology has attracted white racial loyalists across the globe. There are approximately 3000 members from the U.S, Canada, Sweden, Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Australia and South Africa.<sup>896</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**



<sup>892</sup> 'Killing raises Ku Klux Klan link in Queensland', *The Courier Mail*, (May 14, 2010), <<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/killing-raises-ku-klux-klan-link-in-queensland/news-story/23b2d6f9a64a04747c828ae4f4101d53>>.

<sup>893</sup> 'Survival, Expansion And Advancement', *The Creativity Alliance*, (19 April 2012), <<https://creativityalliance.com/survival-expansion-and-advancement/>>.

<sup>894</sup> 'White Man's Bible by Ben Klassen', *Internet Archive*, (2016), <<https://archive.org/details/WhiteMansBibleByBenKlassen/page/n1>>.

<sup>895</sup> Gale, T. 'World Church of the Creator, Extremist Groups: Information for Students', *Encyclopedia.com*, (2006), <<https://www.encyclopedia.com/politics/legal-and-political-magazines/world-church-creator>>.

<sup>896</sup> 'White Man's Bible by Ben Klassen', *Internet Archive*, (2016), <<https://archive.org/details/WhiteMansBibleByBenKlassen/page/n1>>.





### 11:11 Doorway cult

This New Age cult is 'facilitated' by a person named Solara living in the Hawaiian Islands. Solara claims she is a visionary, and 'teacher of the Invisible'. She currently believes that events linked to the time 11:11 (on the clock) appears more often than can be explained by chance or coincidence and is an example of synchronicity. Some followers claim that seeing 11:11 on a clock is an auspicious sign and believe that 11:11 signals an Angel or spirit presence.<sup>897</sup> The cult followers believe that the 11:11 is an 'insertion point' for 'Greater Reality' to enter the present moment. Since 1987, Solara has given numerous talks, workshops, Master Classes, Star-Borne Reunions, and 11:11 Gate Activations - teaching the 11:11 Sacred Dances and activating the One Being.<sup>898</sup> According to their website, The Doorway of the 11:11 has opened and closed, and now humans are entering the 'descent into the matter'. It was believed that the Doorway was opened on January 11, 1992.<sup>899</sup> The Omega Point was located at the Great Pyramids in Giza, Egypt and the Alpha Point in Queenstown, New Zealand. Solara has facilitated the 11:11 Planetary Activation in 1992 in which well over 144,000 people participated worldwide. According to Solara, the purpose of the 11:11 Activation was to open the Doorway of the 11:11. Within the Doorway there are 11 Gates. This Doorway is the transition zone or bridge between two very different evolutionary spirals; our old one which is anchored in duality and the new evolutionary spiral of Oneness. Each evolutionary spiral is aligned with different Great Central Sun Systems. During this activation a series of Unified Movements and Sacred Dances were performed at three preordained times. The participants wore white to symbolize the purity of our inherent Oneness. and closed on November 22, 2012. The cult followers believe that human have 20 years in which to 'complete duality and make our ascension into Oneness'. Many Australians believed 2012 would bring with it the end of the world, and the Activation of the Eleventh Gate came in November of that year according to this cult. Members of the 11:11 Doorway cult also believe that people may also be 'activated' by super Master Numbers such as: 111, 222, 333, 444, 555, etc. According to cult followers, these numbers have unique resonance which affects and 'activates' humans on deep cellular levels.<sup>900</sup> **The cult is currently active in Australia.**

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