

B'NAI B'RITH DISTRICT ONE

CULT

CRISIS

COMMITTEE

THE MENACE OF THE CULTS -

MIND MANIPULATION OF OUR YOUTH

## DIRECTION AND PURPOSE

WHEREAS, B'nai B'rith is the oldest and largest Jewish service organization in the World and

WHEREAS, B'nai B'rith throughout the year has spoken out and defended all people everywhere from being hurt, harassed or discriminated against; and

WHEREAS, B'nai B'rith is a respected organization throughout the World and is consulted by people in all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, the threat of Cults has and is constantly depriving our young people from leading full and normal lives;

BE IT RESOLVED, that there be created a Special Committee to coordinate the action of all B'nai B'rith agencies to stop the spread of mind manipulation of our youth.

## WHO IS VULNERABLE?

Mostly college kids from middle and upper income groups - more recently some high school recruitment observed also. Idealistic youth who are looking for a way to make a better world. They are looking for a way out of today's technological and de-humanizing aspect of the world.

Other factors which have helped attract our youth to cults today are: 1. Increased mobility of our population. 2. Decline of established religions - leaving a vacuum. 3. Materialism. 4. Search for identity, search for self, love, acceptance, attempt to find meaning, need for commitment, search for security. 5. Youth coming from broken homes, feeling of insecurity, lack of heroes. 6. Youth looking for personal relationships. 7. Permissiveness, this has left them with a feeling of guilt. The rigidity of the cult groups give the new convert a feeling of security and a way of atoning. 8. Anxious to find instant answers and instant cures.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CULTS TODAY?

A terrible menace and nightmare has arisen in our country today, and also in other parts of the world, and if

not stopped, threatens to undermine our established churches and our free way of life.

We're talking about cults. EVERYONE should be concerned and take action against cults, not just the family and friends who have a son or daughter in one, because it can happen to anyone.

Millions of kids are caught up in over 5,000 cult groups today. They are attracted to the cult's zeal, love, friendly way, their claim to truth, and the answer to all questions.

These cults use mind-altering techniques to enslave their members. These pseudo-religious groups provide very few benefits to the members of our society. It is religion for profit. The converts, working from 15 to 18 hours a day without pay, collect millions of tax-free dollars which only line the pockets of the leaders.

Until Congress, the IRS, the Justice Dept. and the Immigration bureau do something to halt these crooks, the only thing the public can do is to warn people of their dangers through the media and public Cult Awareness Seminars.

These cults are using our First Amendment religious freedom to take away the freedom of mind of their converts, who are no longer able to think for themselves.

## WHAT IS A CULT?

The dictionary defines it, "Devoted attachment to, or extravagant admiration when regarded as a fad; a group of followers, etc. They dissent from established religion or culture."

After reading this, you might say, "Well, then, isn't Christianity a cult?" The important thing to remember is that Jesus Christ never forced anyone to follow him. Psychological kidnapping is never used by the TRUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH! GOD NEVER INTENDED US TO BE ROBOTS!

## WHAT TECHNIQUES ARE USED BY THE CULTS?

Most cults have several or all of these things in common:

1. Their main purpose is to raise money for the leader of the cult. The money collected does not go to helping the poor, the afflicted or the less fortunate.
2. They demand that all earthly goods be turned over to the cult. This includes: bank accounts, automobiles, personal property, inheritances, etc.
3. Many distort biblical truths or take direct quotes out of context from the Bible to further their cause.

4. Some teach alienation and hate of their parents and family. Converts are not allowed to visit home if parents have shown opposition.

5. The founder often requires complete allegiance to him (even to death). Often times converts end up worshipping the cult leader.

6. Converts are urged to drop out of school or quit their jobs in order to serve the cult full-time.

7. The most advanced mind control techniques are used to change normally bright people into persons whose minds are controlled. This is usually accomplished in several different ways:

- a. Isolation from loved ones
- b. Withholding and screening mail
- c. Communication with family is stopped
- d. Converts are usually moved around frequently and/or their names are changed
- e. Repetition of prescribed prayers and chants, etc.
- f. The buddy system is used to control stray members do everything and go everywhere in pairs or groups
- g. Only cult leaders are said to provide the "truth"
- h. To leave the cult will bring death or eternal damnation to themselves or their family members

- i. Lack of sleep - often converts will work 18 hour days collecting money for the cult
- j. Poor diet, low protein foods
- k. Some cults use sexual abuse, or physical or mental punishments for members who stray
- l. Often medical attention is out of the question for converts, even those with serious medical problems

In the final analysis, converts are controlled to the point where they will work 18 hours, day after day, collecting money for their leaders who live in luxury and splendor. There is no visible help given to those people for whom the money was allegedly collected, i.e. "ministry to the hungry", "drug rehabilitation program", area youth ministry", help for the aged", etc.

#### SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTS

1. Originated by one man.
2. Based on the Bible and one man's revelation.
3. The authority of the Bible is superceded by the leader's writings.
4. An implicit belief that the cult members are the only true followers of God.
5. Complete dedication to the "family" -- their one group, that is. A persecution complex is developed.

6. Followers are helped by fear -- this is inconsistent with their gospel of love and grace.
7. No outside teaching, literature or criticism permitted under any circumstances. Therefore there is no reality testing.
8. Ability to overlook striking inconsistencies in doctrine and practice.
9. The need to resort to "invisible" fulfillments of the prophecies or interpretations of the leader. No one can support their claims but them.
10. Demands for sacrifice of one's possessions time, body, soul, and even logic, cover for financial exploitation.
11. Cults teach doctrines - not how to live the Christian life.
12. The end justifies the means, so they can lie, cheat, steal and even kill for the leader if he says it is for God.
13. The system is usually denounced. That includes established religion, institutions of learning, medicine, government, banking systems and parents.
14. Many are secretive with their teachings until you are "hooked".

15. Most deny the deity of Christ and the Trinity.

16. Most cults recruit young people between 18 and 28.

17. Various techniques of mind control are used to enslave and hold members.

18. Deceptive recruiting tactics are used. You are not told what the teachings are until you've been caught in their trap.

#### DECEPTIVE RECRUITING TACTICS

1. INTRODUCTION: A very friendly, warm, subtle approach is used with much smiling and very strong eye contact!

2. PLACES OF OPERATION: Many times they infiltrate rallies, youth meetings and coffee houses -- singing, dancing, chanting, hand clapping, handing out literature, smiling, being friendly, offering instant cures and love, offering free retreats, Bible studies and fellowship, or just inviting you to drop by their center or wherever they meet. Some go door-to-door selling Bible courses. They never really tell you what they are teaching or doing until you are hooked. They don't answer direct questions. They try to be vague and evasive. Sometimes they just plain lie on the pretense to get you to come to their center or "fellowship" group. They will try to take control of the conversation, never

giving you much of a chance to ask real questions. All the time you are taken in by their interest and warmth. This technique has been called "Love Bombing". After you are hooked, the brainwashing techniques takes over.

### WHAT THE CULTS COST US

1. Minds enslaved - when that happens, you will see them out fundraising. They solicit money for their literature, candy, candles, peanuts, incense or study courses. Places of fundraising are busy street intersections, shopping malls, parking lots, parks, bus, train depots, school campuses, rock concerts, bars, and fairgrounds.
2. All this loss of money that should have gone to legitimate charity goes to cults, leaders and their groups.
3. All this money is tax-free.
4. Loss of education and careers.
5. Loss of future leaders for our country.
6. Loss of the converts cash and assets contributed directly to the group.
7. Death and heartbreak for the families involved.

8. Some members emerge with severe mental disorders after they have been programmed to do desperate things.

A GUIDE TO THE PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO  
THINK THEIR CHILD MIGHT HAVE BEEN TAKEN  
INTO A CULT

It is important for parents whose child is in a cult to know that their child has been brainwashed. What they say and do is completely directed by their leaders. They are unable to initiate independent reasoning!

DO NOT reject or condemn them. Avoid any course of action which may result in isolation. Parents need to continue to express their loving concern. In the meantime, the parents should make every effort to educate themselves about the particular cult their child has joined.

DO NOT feel guilty or alone! This is a common problem faced by thousands of parents all over the world. It affects families of all religions, economic and family backgrounds.

DEFINITELY DO NOT GIVE UP! Remember, your child is a product of your love, training, heredity and home environment. These influences can never be permanently eliminated by any techniques.

SEEK TO ESTABLISH association with an organized group of parents with similar problems.

CALL YOUR LOCAL B'NAI B'RITH, ADL OR  
BBYO OFFICE FOR SUPPORT, REFERENCES  
AND UNDERSTANDING

DO record all names, addresses, phone  
numbers of persons known to be associated  
in any way to your child's activities.

DO maintain a WRITTEN chronolog of events  
associated with your child's activities.

DO answer all communications from your  
child in sincere, firm but unrecriminating  
language.

DO collect related items from newspapers  
magazines and other sources.

DO keep your cool, avoid threats, be firm  
but open for communications at all times.

DO file a written complaint with our public  
officials.

DO NOT send money to your child or to the  
group; without economic support these groups  
would not survive.

DO NOT give original documents to ANY party  
unless required by law; provide copies only.

DO NOT be persuaded by "professionals" to  
spend large amounts of money for "Treat-  
ments or legal action, until you have ver-  
ified credentials and qualifications for  
handling your problem."

DO ALLOW US TO HELP YOU.

## What You Can Do ...

1. Urge your neighbors and friends to stop buying books, flowers, candy, tea, jewelry, etc. which are being sold in shopping malls, in the streets and door-to-door. Never, under any circumstances give money to any group or individual or organization without first checking into their background. While the cults continue to collect money for the poor, and for the other charities they claim -- these people never see a penny of the money.
2. Inform yourself, your family and your friends concerning what these groups are and what they represent. Remember, the "ministry" of the cults is aimed at you and your children. The name of the game is money and power.
3. Write your congressmen, senators, state and local officials. Tell them of your concern and ask for investigations into the activities of the pseudo-religious cults. Contact local officials and find out if solicitation permits are required. Also ask what conditions and limitations are outlined in local ordinances which pertain to collecting door-to-door, in shopping areas, on street corners, etc. If these are violated, call the police.

4. If your son or daughter or a friend's son or daughter begins losing interest in their studies, gets overly and uncharacteristically religious and talks of giving up everything -- school, family, even life -- for Jesus Christ or for a particular religious movement, or begins selling personal possessions and/or going through large sums of money. The chances are that a cult may have already made contact with them. DON'T WAIT - GET HELP.

5. READ: Those Curious New Cults  
by William J. Petersen, Pivot Books

**SNAPPING**

by Flo Conway and Jim Siegelman,  
Lippencott Press.

**"Let Our Children Go"**

by Ted Patrick & Tom Dullack  
E.P. Dutton & Co.

**ALL GOD'S CHILDREN**

Carrole Stone and Joanne Parke  
Chilton Book Co.