

Friday, April 23, 1993

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Why Christians oppose Scientology...

IT SEEMS to me that those who defend Scientology fall into two categories: first of all, there are the Scientologists themselves, who will naturally present the acceptable face of Scientology; and then there are others, who through your columns have

pleaded for tolerance and understanding. Taking the second of these, I would point out that Christians, in their condemnation of Scientology, do not hate Scientologists. We hate the evil which the cult enshrines rather than those who are involved with it.

Many people are uninformed about Scientology and, whilst it might seem admirable to adopt a live and let live attitude, I think it would be downright unChristian and irresponsible not to seek by whatever means to prevent others from becoming involved.

On the question of responsibility, may I echo the thoughts of many others in thankfulness for the fair and fearless stance of the Courier in allowing all opinions to be expressed.

Beyond the opinions, however, we get to the realm of fact. There is a great deal of evidence to support the fact that Scientology is evil. In the process of trying to achieve total freedom, the

majority of recruits will become enslaved, often becoming physically and mentally ill.

They will be overworked and exploited, they will have been cut off from family and friends, they will get to a point where they no longer have any critical faculties, they will be powerless to make decisions. Is this total freedom? These are facts and this is why Christians will continue to speak out against Scientology.

The first category I mentioned — the Scientologists themselves — is made up of those who have survived.

They are the ones whose motivation is to be "on the bridge", they are the true disciples of Ron

Hubbard, who incidentally said: "The aim of Scientology is to make money, make more money, and make more money make money".

Ron may be dead, but his teaching lives on, and will no doubt be promulgated by the new Dianetics Information Centre.

There is much more that could be said about Scientology. At the end of it all, people must make up their own minds, but let's make sure that they do know exactly what they are letting themselves in for.

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... and Scientologists avoid religious conflict

JEFFREY Jones' letter (April 16) missed the point. The real point is that the Church of Scientology does not oppose any other religion; on the contrary, it supports other religions.

The planet has suffered too much from religious conflict. Currently, it is sickened by the conflict between Serbs and Muslims. And so it has been down the centuries: Arabs versus Jews; Turks versus Greeks; Protestants versus Catholics; Atheists versus Christians.

The general results of such conflicts have been death, disaster and bruised masonry. Times have got to change; the world is too dangerous a place for such conflicts to continue.

This planet has long since gone down for the third time. Its military arsenal has had, for 40 years, enough nuclear bombs to fry every man, woman and child.

An outsider, looking in on planet Earth, would be justified in thinking that he was looking at a madhouse — a dozen wars raging at any one time in different parts; a planet where the seventh biggest industry was the drug industry; a place where dishonesty was rewarded and crime statistics

were continuing to climb out of the roof; and a place where the governments of the world had accepted atheist philosophies (psychiatry and psychology) in the name of mental healing; and a place being polluted to such a degree that its survival over the next 100 years must be extremely doubtful.

War, insanity, sickness and starvation have been the lot of this planet, for as long as history has been recorded.

The key issues which have to be tackled to reverse the situation are: dealing with drug abuse, raising educational standards and raising moral standards. These are broad social programmes which are helpful to one and all.

The Church of Scientology has vigorously pursued these programmes over the last three to four decades. They attract and deserve the support of men of goodwill.

Its data is made freely available to others. It is time that religious groups worked together to reverse the downward spiral of planet Earth.

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Action needed on doubtful drugs

THERE has been a great deal of attention on the drug AZT, which is apparently not effective in treating AIDS. Yet another blunder, but this is not the first and won't be the last.

There are other drugs that should also be investigated. Prozac was introduced onto the market in 1988 and in America alone the Food and Drug Administration has received over 23,000 adverse drug reaction reports — more than any drug in the 22-year history of the FDA's adverse drug reporting system.

It has been found in many cases that this drug creates intense, violent, suicidal thoughts in persons taking it. In Scotland, Duncan Murchison, who has no prior history of violence, threatened to murder his girlfriend while on a mindless rampage precipitated by his use of Prozac.

During the six months he was on the drug, he became progressively more hostile and aggressive — symptoms which disappeared after he stopped taking Prozac. While on the drug he also attempted to commit suicide twice.

Another, more recent, case was that of a young woman who also experienced adverse reactions to this drug. She was suffering from an eating disorder and was prescribed Prozac. The result — violent outbursts towards her husband as well as allegedly committing armed robbery. (She was acquitted).

These are just two of many cases, and with these statistics

surely something should be done. The Citizens Commission on Human Rights is doing a great deal to expose this drug, but we are not the only ones concerned.

The Department of Health is also concerned and has included Prozac in its publication Current Problems, which reminds doctors to report adverse reaction to this drug.

Yes, there is a problem and we need to do something about it now.

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