

MOTHER'S ANGUISH OVER 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL LOST TO SINISTER SECT



CHILDREN OF GOD: The treasured picture of Celeste, and recruiters Mark and Vicky at work in a hamburger restaurant

Alarm as evil child sex cult

THE grainy colour photograph never fails to prompt a flood of tears.

It is Rebecca Jones's prized possession, a solitary picture of her 15-year-old daughter Celeste.

Tall, pretty, with long auburn hair, Celeste would make any parent proud.

But for Rebecca, the picture

mounted a High Street recruitment drive.

They even established a school of their own in Hertfordshire to educate around 30 sect children.

It is activity they fund with illegal street collections and by selling music cassettes and videos, bearing the brand names Aurora Productions and Kiddie Viddie.

The Metropolitan Police have launched an investigation into the sect, which has been known

brings only guilt and pain.

For the two have not met in 11 years. They are a mother and child separated not by official authority, but by one of the most sinister religious cults ever formed.

Rebecca has lost her daughter to the notorious Children of God.

This is a group that even now, when so much is known about the horrors of child abuse, retains its ability to shock.

It advocates paedophilia and promiscuity under the guise of evangelical faith, preaching that children can sleep with adults — any adults, so long as they belong to the sect.

Bizarre

Inquiries by The Mail on Sunday have established that once again, the sect, and its guru David 'Moses' Berg, has a foothold in Britain.

I traced recruiters for the Children of God by writing to the Central London box number, BM Box 8440.

They telephoned and arranged to meet me in the Marble Arch branch of McDonald's hamburger restaurant.

I met Vicky, a 30-year-old Swiss woman with shoulder-length brown hair, and Mark, a tall, muscular Australian with a receding hairline and a slight American accent.

'We don't believe in buildings,' Vicky said. 'McDonald's can be our church.'

'We want to have a few personal sessions with you, maybe another meeting here at McDonald's. Then you can perhaps come and meet the rest of us,' said Mark. 'It takes some time, but we get to everyone in the end.'

He explained the Ten Commandments were purely advisory and said free love was implicitly sanctioned by the scriptures.

Experts say the security-conscious group conceal their bizarre

returns to UK

Special investigation by HUGH MUIR

doctrines from recruits for at least six months.

And, after each meeting, the smiling duo disappeared using an elaborate combination of cars, buses and tube trains to ensure they were not followed by me or the police.

Berg formed the group in California 21 years ago. He soon moved to Bromley, Kent, and began ordering followers to use their bodies to get recruits, a practice he named Flirty Fishing but which gained them the label Hookers For Jesus.

Further edicts followed, ordering female members to 'satisfy' the men and sanctioning sex between adults and small children.

But disgruntled followers spoke out. Fearing a backlash, Berg

ordered sect members to leave Britain for Japan, Thailand, India, Indonesia and Australia.

Rebecca Jones was recruited by the sect aged just 15 after members were allowed into her school in Maidstone, Kent.

Worried

Following Berg's teachings, she went Flirty Fishing and conceived six children. The identity of four of the fathers is unknown.

When she left the group in India last year, to set up home in the North of England, she took five of her children with her. But Celeste's father, a senior sect official, refused to let her go. All Rebecca has is the photograph and five letters posted from Hong Kong.

'I am so worried about Celeste,' said Rebecca, 33. 'If they stick to Berg's teachings, she may be forced to start having babies if I don't get to her first.'

'It's only now I realise how horribly I was manipulated and brainwashed by them. It was impossible for me to see that until I left.'

'My children will always be a reminder of that. I will always bear the scars.'

In 1988 officials in the Far East began refusing to renew the visas of suspected sect members.

Unabashed, their leaders ordered them back to Britain.

More than 5,000 — mostly Americans, Indians and Europeans — have returned to safe houses in London, Manchester and Birmingham.

Using a series of false names, they have been allowed access to schools, mainstream churches, university campuses, and have

as the Family of Love, Mission South, and Music Ministry, and is now using the title Heaven's Magic.

Members posed as businessmen to rent houses where the cult set up communes.

And last Christmas an American couple rented a secluded farmhouse in Cuffley, Hertfordshire, for use as a school.

Search

But in September their plans went awry when 14-year-old Swiss-born Samuel Markos arrived at Ramsgate ferry port in Kent.

He had no passport, just a carrier bag in which immigration officers found sect literature.

Police obtained a Place Of Safety order on Samuel and called in Kent Social Services.

As they questioned him, he revealed he was a member of Heaven's Magic and gave the farmhouse address. A few days later his mother arrived from Switzerland to take him home.

Social workers rushed to the farmhouse but already the 30 children Samuel told them about had gone. The sect had cleared out.

Today the search for their new base continues.



HAND OF EVIL: The cult's school in Hertfordshire and some of its distinctive propaganda