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Scientologists Are Solving The Problems of Drug Abuse

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In early 1984, the Church of Scientology submitted documents to the Canadian Minister of External Affairs and to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) revealing that the Canadian, U.S. and British psychiatric communities had received funds from the U.S. and Canadian governments to carry out secret and brutal "mind control" experiments. These experiments were conducted on unwitting Canadian citizens with such mind-bending drugs as LSD.

Canada was chosen as the site for these tests as Canada, at that time, had no Charter of Rights to protect its citizens from such abuses. At the time of the Church's submission, nine victims of these savage experiments were suing the CIA for \$1 million apiece for the harm they had sustained at the hands of the psychiatrists.

The Church asked the Canadian government to investigate and prosecute the actual criminals — the psychiatrists who had taken the payments and then brutalized innocent people. No investigation has occurred, however, to date.

The "treatments" used by the psychiatrists included drug-induced "deep sleep" periods lasting up to 60 days, during which the unwitting and often unwilling subjects were given numerous devastating electro-convulsive shock treatments. Subjects were also given repeated applications of mind-altering drugs such as LSD, often against their will.

The Church has also exposed the reckless testing of deadly chemical substances on unwitting American citizens by the CIA and by other U.S. government agencies. These exposés have detailed, for example, how some 1,000 U.S. fighting men were used as human guinea pigs in "mind control" experiments with LSD and other even more powerful mind-bending drugs at the Army's Edgewood Arsenal and elsewhere from 1954 to 1975.

Irresponsible actions such as these by our own government help to explain why drug abuse in America has been allowed to reach such alarming proportions.

According to recent estimates, the United States has some 32 million marijuana users, more than 30 million people who take psychiatric drugs, 492,000 heroin addicts, and more than 12 million cocaine users.

While the federal government estimates that an incredible \$53 billion are spent by Americans on illicit drugs each year, there is remarkably little government effort to handle drug problems, and still less work to prevent them.

For nearly 35 years, the Church of Scientology has seen that drugs are a destructive influence in life, and has helped tens of thousands of individuals recover from their damaging effects.

The Church's work in the prevention and reduction of drug abuse and drug-related crime expanded greatly in 1966, when a heroin addict serving time on his fourth sentence to Arizona State Prison, Willie Benitez, found that his 19-year drug addiction problem, which had forced him into a life of crime, resolved through his studies of the works of Scientology Founder L. Ron Hubbard.

Determined to help his fellow inmates with similar drug problems, Benitez founded an organization called Narconon. The word comes from "non-narcosis," meaning freedom from the stupor produced by drugs.

Narconon grew, spreading beyond the Arizona prison's walls as men and women found they could live a new, happier and more prosperous life — without drugs.

Narconon today is thriving, with hundreds of staff operating dozens of centers in the United States and in many countries overseas. With nine new centers opening in the United States, Holland, Spain and Italy in 1984, Narconon is the fastest growing drug rehabilitation program in the world.

As the Church of Scientology itself has expanded, its work has improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. With its strong emphasis on the value of drug education, the Church has been diametrically opposed to massive government support of programs which foster drug use, including the billions spent each year on psychiatric drugs.

Although the effectiveness of our technology in salvaging people from the damaging influence of drugs and our exposés of brutal government-funded psychiatric experiments have met with opposition from vested interests who stand to profit from a drugged America, our work in making these abuses known and freeing people from drugs will continue.

The Church of Scientology, in its continuing war against the harmful effects of drugs, is daily bringing about the miraculous freeing of individuals from these toxic substances. "Success stories" by the thousands have poured in from people all over the world.

The Church has observed, in case after case, that an individual who has been freed from the numbing effects of drugs is better able not only to help himself, but to take greater responsibility for others around him, and for the society as a whole.

An individual thus freed is more himself and is better able to pursue his own true goals in life, unclouded by the fog of drugs.

The Church of Scientology will continue to expose those who would betray their fellow man for the personal profit to be had in peddling drugs. The Church is committed to freedom for the individual, and freedom from drugs must be part of this.

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