

I came to know the Lord in a very powerful way in 1977. He changed my life completely and I went on to serve him under Michele Cassidy at Africa Enterprise. A few years later I had the honour of going to Bible College in Newcastle, South Africa under Trevor Yoko's ministry. What I am trying to tell you is that I was a strong Christian, bible based and going for the Lord.

After bible college I returned to Kwazulu Natal and joined Durban Christian Centre. Pastor Fred Roberts was the head pastor at the time. I was actively involved with the youth and helped lead one of the youth home group cells with my future husband. We married in 1986 and continued to minister together. In 1990 we felt that God was calling us into full time ministry and believed that God was leading us to YWAM in Europe. We applied and my husband handed the application forms etc to Audrey Hardy, who was meant to post them in town for us. As you probably can guess, this never happened and before i know it she had convinced my husband to return to Mauritius his place of birth.

I felt uneasy about this and everyone in our home group did not witness with it. I tried to convince my husband not to go, but it fell on deaf ears. So we sold our house and shipped our belongings to Mauritius in 1990. The weekend we were to fly out one of my mothers intercessory prayer partners told me that God wanted to warn me " Di, you will be going into a very dark place. Do not be afraid, I will be with you. You will see a tiny light at the end of the tunnel, hold onto this, I will make a way and you shall be lead out to safety the other end". Little did I know how I would hold onto this word at times where I knew I was walking through the valley of the shadow of death! The psalms gave me such comfort at this time.

Audrey had promised my husband a business of hers but when we arrived I discovered it was in debt and she expected us to take over and sort out the debt! When I questioned it she became indignant and offended and told me who was I to reject a gift from God! I told her straight to her face, "I am sorry but my God does not give gifts like this! I then quoted from Mathew 7:8-12. Verse 11 says "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, HOW MUCH MORE SHALL YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN GIVE GOOD THINGS TO THEM THAT ASK HIM?" She was furious, stormed out of the house and told everyone in the room "Here comes trouble"! I was shocked at her attitude.

The next thing I was told was that I had to forget everything I had learnt in South Africa regarding spiritual things. I refused to. How could I forget my powerful conversion, my deep love for the Lord. How could I forget seeing the blind receiving their sight, the lame being healed and walking and leaping out of wheel chairs. The teachings from humble and anointed men of God in SA and the mighty teachings I had got from them. I could not turn my back on these experiences and had no intention of doing so. I began to hear about all these rules and regulations e.g how to dress etc to me **every woman was a carbon copy**

**of Audrey.** They looked the same, talked the same, etc. The men looked like Miki. My husband was told by Audrey and pressurized into shaving his moustache off, because at the time she believed men of God should be clean shaven!

I kept justifying all these strange things, like the time my husband was phoned at 4am and told by Audrey to go and give a message to a brother in the North of the Island! Why could it not wait until a decent hour? My husband said no he must go now because Audrey was testing him to see if he was faithful and prepared to serve the Church (more likely to serve her unconditionally). I found them to be odd but could not put my finger on what it was. Later friends and family visited the Island and said the same thing. The longer we stayed the longer God began to reveal to me all the subtle errors of the truth, the manipulations, the lies (which they called “Godly wisdom”) the difference in Christian terminology. Nothing they said related to my teaching and understanding of certain topics. I cannot go into this now but look out for an general topic later.

We became more and more isolated with the outside world. **We were taught not to trust anyone outside this church.** It got worse and worse and finally they even came between my husband and I causing division, arguments and pain in our relationship. The close friendship and respect for each other began to erode away . I was always been told “you don’t understand, you’re evil, you’re an enemy of the cross. Before I knew it they were teaching that wives must be totally subservient, that children must be disciplined by spanking until the rebellion was thrashed out of them.....and so abuse entered the church and was justified, accepted and encouraged by the leaders. When the leaders got caught out over a legal matter or a spiritual one they would quickly change the teaching or cover up things that were said. Confusion reigned. Marriages began to fall apart, leaders were having break-downs. People were suffering financially because everyone was told to give at least 60% of their salaries to Audrey and Miki, who lived like Kings! Life was hard for many of their followers. They even encouraged people to hand over signing powers to their bank accounts- and one had to get consent if you wanted to go on holiday etc.

I kept waiting for my husband to get out with me but this never happened. Finally the worst happened on the 1st July 1992 my youngest child was so badly beaten for not picking up a banana he dropped that I had to rush him to the doctor. My husband and a deacon of the church physically held me down trying to stop me from going, I broke loose and got to the doctor. Reality hit me as she warned me not to go back - I had too as I had left my one son behind. She warned me that this was indeed child abuse and that if I did not protect the children, she would be forced to intervene.

When I arrived home, my husband had left to speak to Audrey and Miki. He returned and whisked me off to see them. I was severely reprimanded and Audrey literally said “Shaun deserved it I would have done the same”! The doctor the next day phoned and spoke to

my husband and we went for counselling. Everything was covered up. The medical report became my strongest evidence in court two years later.

I left the church and joined the Baptist Church in Curepipe. I tried to keep the marriage together but it was getting harder and harder. I was punished for not attending the same church as my husband. I wasn't allowed to use the car when shopping. If the children got sick there was no money for them, yet my husband would help everyone else in the church. He had forgotten one of the strongest teachings in the true church found in 1 Tim 5:8 "If anyone does not provide for his relatives and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever"! Life became a living hell and I realised I would not survive much longer. For the safety and care of my children and myself I had to flee. In December 1993 by a total miracle I was given permission by the Hardy's and my husband that I could fly to SA for Christmas. I packed three bags knowing I could never return.

My husband joined us later for the holiday and it was then that I went into hiding and the police handed him a court order preventing him from coming near the three of us. I wept, my heart had been shattered into a thousand pieces. I loved my husband and longed for us to reconcile, to live normal, happy lives. Free from the clutches of the church in Mauritius. He agreed to return to Mauritius to tell the church he was leaving but Audrey and Miki got hold of him, removed him so not even his blood family knew where he was and by the time we found out where he was, he had changed his mind! I waited, prayed, begged God for three years but finally accepted it was over. I filed for divorce in June 1996. The same year he remarried. A woman he had met on a French trip in 1992 whom Audrey had introduced him to. God began to heal the three of us but it was along and lonely road. Seventeen years later I can stand with my head held high- God was faithful. He kept his promise- He did lead me out of the valley of the shadow of death and gave us the strength to forgive and live in victory !

Diana Bradford

Recent Post from Di on CPG Forum

[How I made the decision to leave ctmi](#)

Post by [Diana Bradford](#) » Wed May 15, 2019 2:24 pm

This was not a quick decision and took 3 years waiting, praying and hoping that my husband, at the time, would get out with me. I had come to realize that trying to convince the leaders that they were in error fell on deaf ears and only caused persecution and isolation towards me. In another post I will discuss what they were teaching in 1993 as it is important for people to know some of their doctrines changed but some are still prevalent today.

One of the first things I noticed with this group was that they had no peace or joy. In 1 John 1:3 & 4 it tells us that our fellowship with one another is with the Father and with Jesus and that it should bring us JOY. This was not the case with the meetings held at the Christian Church of Curepipe, now called ctmi. In fact the results were stress, anger (with some), frustration, striving and fear that God would punish if one didn't attend a meeting, obey leaders etc. My mum sent me a book called "Faith that hurts, Faith that heals" by Steph Arterburn and Jack Felton, I highly recommend it. This book really helped me to understand and come to a conclusion that I needed to get out as the gospel and teachings they were teaching were unhealthy and were hurting the boys and I. This is what I learnt.

**Dominant Leaders:** They are the source of guidance for others and believe that they are the only ones who hear from God.

**True Leaders:** They believe that God is the source of guidance and encourages each person to hear from God themselves.

**Dominant Leader:** Emphasize the rights of his leadership whilst a True Leader emphasizes the responsibility of each leader within his church.

A Dominant Leader seeks to control people's actions whilst a true leader encourages people to depend on God and take responsibility for their actions.

A Dominant Leader sets his leaders apart from the congregation with special privileges with him being the sole provider whilst a true leader emphasizes the body of Christ to serve one another in love with Jesus being the center and that God is the provider.

Dominant leaders use rules and laws to control people and force them to conform to a mold, whilst a **true leader** provides an atmosphere of trust and grace to encourage spiritual growth and encourages his congregation to become like Christ (not like him).

**Dominant leaders** confront sin on the level of outward actions, humiliation and group conformity whilst a true leader confronts sin, one on one, then if they don't listen before elders and the worst would be to ask them to leave the church. The Leader would lead that person to repent before Jesus and pray for them. Dominant leaders judge others on how that person sees things from his view point and would discourage diversity of thought or actions. True leaders won't judge and gives each person the freedom to grow and mature in every area of their lives.

Finally it was my praying mother and her group of intercessors that paved the way for me to leave. My mother had a strong faith and believed "nothing is impossible with God"