

I have just had the privilege of reading an excellent book called "**THE SUBTLE POWER OF SPIRITUAL ABUSE** - Recognizing and Escaping Spiritual Manipulation and False Spiritual Authority" by David Johnson and Jeff van Vonderen.

This book has received high praise on various evangelical sites.

“This book is one of the top two or three on the topic, and I highly recommend it to others. It's insightful, timely, and has plenty of examples to help "shine the light" on bad situations. I know it's effective, too: we receive hundreds of messages every year from those who have read the book and now feel liberated to love God again. In no way does the book encourage parishoners to villify their pastors, or go looking for occasions to "feel abused." It does, however, help expose an all-too-frequent phenomena of pastors who, in the name of God, abuse their authority to achieve their own destructive desire

As one who has personally experienced the trauma of spiritual abuse, I applaud Johnson and Van Vonderen for their outstanding presentation of a topic about which too little has been written. The authors reveal an obvious understanding of the problem; and, more important, they are attempting to do something about it by making others aware of its reality and shocking prevalence.

The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse offers a Biblical perspective for Christians who have been hurt, and provides critical understanding for secular helping professionals (and laypersons) who might otherwise have difficulty understanding the plight of a victim of spiritual abuse.

But this book by Johnson and Vanvonderen is different. Drawing upon years of ministry experience as pastor and counselor (respectively), they examine the fine line between Biblical leadership and abuse. Without mentioning groups or demonizing those involved, they discuss how well-intentioned leadership can have abusive effects. This approach is highly helpful in identifying some of the critical factors that have led to harsh and harmful leadership in churches.

“I hope one of the books that you have, or are going to read, is The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse. I think this is the best book in describing the way the abusive system works; I underlined about every word in the book!”

Another ex-Way person recommended this book to me, and you would have thought that the authors had been in The Way themselves, although they never were. What they share in this book will help you on the road to deliverance from spiritual abuse and manipulation and help you recover. I have recommended it to all my friends who were former Way folks.

Sadly as I read this book I felt like the last reviewer who mentioned "The Way". It was as if these guys had been in CTMI!

EXAMPLES

In a piece entitled **Victims Struggle in These Areas** the following are examples:

"lack of living skills"

Spiritually abusive systems can produce a lot of college educated common labourers. The bunker mentality keeps people isolated from "the world". This is naive at best and probably more dangerous.

"a hard time admitting abuse"

You are told you are the problem for noticing there is a problem.... even **thinking** that what you experienced was abuse, let alone admitting it out loud, feels like you are being disloyal to family, to church, even to God" (pg 48-49)

We know of CTMI members who have honours or master's degrees who gave up their lives to lay bricks, wash dogs, do menial admin tasks or work in CTMI organisations for slave wages. We also know of others with straight A matric results who either gave up planned studies or dropped out of University and years later are still "common labourers". And all sincerely believing they are doing this to please God. It is more likely that they have been manipulated by leaders.

Testimonies on this forum have often repeated the abuse experienced when a member dares to raise an issue that is in any way critical or highlighting a real problem. "Leave the guilty one to God - rather repent of your own twisted heart". CPG have been given this advice by many!!! Our objective letters and appeals for engagement have been ignored with public accusations of "lies and persecution" with warnings to beware - to attack them means attacking God!

"Anything that has the potential to shame those in authority is ignored or denied. Interaction with people and places outside the system threatens the order of things. The system defines reality. Consequently you cannot find out what "normal" is. Problems are denied, and therefore they remain. (Pg 58)

In a chapter entitled "**Identifying the Abusive System**" the following characteristics are identified:

1. Power Posturing

"Leaders spend a lot of time focused on their own authority and reminding others of it. This is necessary because their spiritual authority is not real it is postured. (Pg 63)

Audrey's pages and pages of reports on her and Miki's every move during visits and conferences with Miki's name mentioned more than double that of Jesus is a prime example! Special food, gifts, attention (massages!) and demanding the main bedroom when visiting are further examples. Bright

members consulting leaders over almost all their decisions - even whether or not they can visit with parents!!! Other pastors, elders and "responsibles" seem to take on the role of "praise singers"!

2. Performance Preoccupation

“Obedience and **Submission** are two important words often used. Do we come to church to be encouraged about trusting Jesus or to be pressed to try harder. Out of context obedience to leaders looks like good theology ... however it is only appropriate to submit to leadership when their authority is from God and their stance consistent with his.

Followers sometimes obey or follow orders to avoid being shamed, to gain approval or to keep their spiritual status or church position intact. (Pg 65 & 66)

20 minute to half hour speeches from Audrey "to perform better" in terms of giving money! Performance based "keeping a pure heart theology" with Miki making the point every time he speaks that God can only bless and be pleased with those whose performance means they have pure hearts. (With Audrey's infamous "No need for the blood of Christ" comment on TBN!)

3. Unspoken Rules

“When you find unspoken rules by breaking them unintentionally (eg questioning leadership) you will then suffer one of two consequences: either *neglect* (ignored , overlooked, shunned) or *aggressive legalism* (openly questioned, shamed or censured).

The most powerful of unspoken rules is the "can't talk" rule. This rule blames the person who talks and the ensuing punishments pressure questioners into silence... which means the perpetrator will never be held accountable for his behaviour. And the victim will have to "freeze up" the pain and anger of being spiritually abused. (Pg 67-69)

Ex members have written extensively of this dynamic e.g. sitting in tears on a park bench wondering why everyone has withdrawn fellowship and ignores you; of sitting in services and taking public abuse from a leader; of being told to have nothing to do with so and so if you want to keep your heart pure. (Even husbands and wives told to withdraw from spouses !)

But the most awful case is clearly that of the sexual abuse testimony of Catriona on this site. She was rebuked by Audrey for bringing this abuse to the attention of leaders and the perpetrator with witnesses. **The can't talk rule!** The whole thing was covered up and Catriona had to "freeze up pain and anger" for years! To this day the perpetrator (a senior CTMI elder) has not made acknowledgements and not begged for forgiveness and is known to have exhorted another member (now an ex-member) - "make sure you only mix with people who have pure hearts" !!!

I have experienced the "**can't talk rule**" extensively from my own family. Five official appeals over 18 months from me personally and also from whole extended family for discussion have been turned down with "leaving it to the Lord", "discussion is fruitless". Yet its fine for us to rush to meet with them on their request and terms. And fine to take their sad distortions public on blogs (All launched at the same time???) and not allow any comments.

4. Lack of Balance

“ Another manifestation of lack of balance is the extremely subjective approach to the Christian life. What is true is decided on the basis of feelings and experiences, giving more weight to them than to what the bible declares. In this system people cannot know or understand truths until the leaders "receive them by spiritual revelation from the Lord" and "impart" them to the people. In the name of some "higher enlightenment" by the Holy Spirit, you may be withering under a teacher with a limited reality who wont be taught by anyone else. (Pg 70 - 71)

We have written extensively of the "put the book aside and let God speak to your heart" teaching in CTMI! "Apostolic anointing and revelation" rules and "this gospel cannot be taught - it is a revelation" to be "caught" from Miki - preferably in Mauritius! And Miki certainly has "a limited reality" - he attends no outside conferences - mixes with no outside evangelicals (other than at leaders conferences arranged by himself with the stated purpose of drawing leaders into the CTMI fold), apparently reads very little or no scholarly Christian literature and criticizes pastors for using commentaries!

When asked by Carte Blanche when he will speak to CPG, Miki Hardy replied "When I **feel** peace in my heart from the Lord to do so"

When Basil O' Connell Jones was asked how he could conclude other local church leaders he did not know were "pathetic pharisees" his answer was "I can **feel** it".

5. Paranoia

“ In an abusive system there is an assumption that 1) what we say, know or do is a result of our being more enlightened than others; 2) others will not understand unless they become one of us; 3) others will respond negatively. **Persecution sensitivity builds a case for keeping everything within the system.** Why? Because of the evil, dangerous, or unspiritual people outside the system who are trying to weaken or destroy "us".

This mentality isolates the abusers from scrutiny and accountability and makes it difficult for people to leave because then they will be outsiders too!

While it is true that there is evil in the world... people are misled into thinking that the only safety is in the system.

Rhetoric like "We must be getting really close to what God wants us to do because Satan has renewed his attacks against us through the evil secular media!" is used. (Pg 73-74)

The CPG have been called "group intent on evil", "diabolical", "enemies of the cross", "twisted", "liars", "attackers", "pathetic pharisees", "hearts veiled by religion", "trapped in prisons of law", guilty of "persecuting our children" and "driving a wedge in our families", "consumed by bitterness and unforgiveness", "full on nonsense", this forum is "a deadly and poisonous cocktail of gossip,

tittle-tattle, exaggeration, fabrication, insinuation, and innuendo, which can develop into nothing else except slander and calumny", "hardness of hearts", "strayed far from the heart of God" and "Pride and self-righteousness, bluster and indignation, anger and arrogance, hypocrisy - scoundrels", "unending, opinionated waffle and twaddle", guilty of a "Josef Goebbels type propaganda campaign" etc etc

(And all the above without one example or shred of specific evidence!? Classic "Ad Hominem" - attack the messenger not his/her message. CPG have repeated so many times that they are ready to apologise and repent if any such evidence is provided)

This forum has frequently commented on the **persecution complex very clearly evident in CTMI**. Keegan O' Connoll Jones posted "The Glory of Persecution" very soon after we launched this forum. And Miki Hardy's comments on his blog:

“When we are bearing fruits for the Kingdom of God, the enemy, the devil, will not sit and do nothing. He will certainly attack us in many ways, through persecution for example.

There is a simple way to know if as a christian or as a church, we are bearing fruits in our christian walk !! If we preach the right gospel, and we identify our lives with Christ, we will be persecuted.

Are we so lukewarm and comfortable in our christian walk that the enemy is not so worried about us? Or are we challenging the kingdom of darkness because our lives are being transformed by the true gospel of Jesus Christ?

And the response from a key CTMI member - a "daughter in the house" when an ex member asked "how are things going in the church?"

“It's actually really exciting Brad. Persecution has been rife for over a year now and unfortunately and sadly, many untruths are coming out . . . When you look at the life of Jesus in the Bible, who persecuted Him and attacked (verbally) His life and who He was? Was it the people in the world? No, of course not, they don't care . . . but it was the religious people, the Pharisees (the church) and when I look at that and see how it is happening with us, **I am encouraged that we must be doing something right** to have the same response from some churches today that Jesus had in His day.

And from Louise Brown's blog

“I know that as Christians following the life and example of Jesus, persecution is to be expected. Let's be honest, I am not saying that I enjoy being persecuted. As much as it has been a time for growth and unity in the body of Christ, I have also seen the damage it is causing in the lives of the persecutors and their families. The fruits speak for themselves...when I recently had contact with those who are connected with the Concerned Parents Group, what shocked me most was just how bitter, angry and miserable they have become. It grieves me deeply to know the poison being injected into people's hearts by this group.

(Investigation showed no-one in CPG had any contact with Louise. It seems a complete misunderstanding of the reason for Stuart's Gran's tears when she phoned Lou was the only basis for this utterly distorted impression. But the impression is in keeping with leadership's agenda of trashing opposition! Private explanations and queries to Louise yielded a "no comment" response. The "no talk" rule again!)

And Hayley Goddard:

“ I know that when we serve the Lord and desire to give Him our whole lives as a living sacrifice then persecution WILL come. “Yes, and all those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” 2 Timothy 3:12. **The enemy cannot stand by and do nothing when someone wants to live their life completely for the Lord.** So when I look at my life and CTMI, Grace Gospel church and even Eglise Chretienne, and all the false things that are being said, in my heart I feel so privileged to be a part of what the Lord is doing and to be counted worthy to suffer persecution for Him. Whether the persecution be in my life, or the church, it doesn't matter, as we all form part of the same body, and when one part suffers, we all suffer with them. I can testify that through this it brings such a unity amongst the body of Christ, what a joy, truly, to suffer for Christ! The Lord is not confused!

Is there a pattern here? (Notice Hayley using the same words as Miki about the devil) Christian parents asking legitimate questions, raising concerns based on scripture and appealing for engagement is re-framed as lies and persecution to reinforce the "bunker mentality" - and reinforce the correctness of leadership's agenda!!

So we see how it seems these authors had made a study of CTMI

We are still **Identifying the Abusive System** and have noted with just a few examples how clearly CTMI fits the characteristics identified by these authors.

6. Misplaced Loyalty

“ We are not talking about loyalty to Christ but loyalty to a given organisation, church or leader. A common way this is accomplished is by setting up a system where **disloyalty to or disagreement with the leadership is construed as the same thing as disobeying God.** This makes the walls around the system thicker and makes it more difficult to leave.

Members must remain in the system if they want to be "safe" or not to be viewed as wrong or "backslidden" because "we alone are right".

We have counselled many Christians who, after deciding to leave their church, were told horrifying things - "God is going to withdraw His Spirit from you and your family". "God will destroy your business". This is spiritual blackmail and its abuse. And it does cause people to stay in abusive places. (Pg 76-77)

All CPG family members who left home claimed the reason was because we opposed their church and its leaders. The Pharisee Gamaliel has often been quoted to us! He warned against charging the disciples in case "you might even be found opposing God". (Acts 5:39) So, exactly as these authors point out, when clear and verified lies, arranged marriages, rape, breaking up homes and false doctrine are pointed out - we are opposing God Himself!!!??? And more recently (from public statements by Miki, Gilbert Grant and Louise Brown) there is the warning that we will face the judgement of God. Opposing the organisation and its leaders is opposing God for which we will face judgement!

We also see an **unnatural adulation for the church and its leaders** who have shown members the way and who live such "broken" and "given" lives. Here are some examples:

“ With the example of our Pastor, Miki Hardy, and all the team of elders across the CTMI churches, I believe I am in the right place to be led by their example.

Over the past few months, in so many of the CTMI churches, we have seen things we could not imagine or conceive of before.

And this is why so many young people, sick of hearing powerless gospels which change no one, are so excited when they hear the truth being shared by Miki Hardy, Basil O’ Connell Jones and other CTMI leaders.

From my first meeting with Basil O’ Connel Jones, and other men of God, I have been amazed at the love and very presence of Jesus which they carry. I am so grateful to have examples before me who have allowed the Lord to take all of their lives. For the past year I’ve had the privilege of living with men of God here in Mauritius. This has been a really special time getting to better know these wonderful men, their wives and families.

“I completely submit myself to you and the elders” (e-mail to Miki Hardy)

These men of God, with their servant hearts, have been such an example to us. The gospel they live and preach has changed all our lives.

Pastor Miki Hardy, along with hundreds of pastors forming part of the CTMI Network, men like Basil O’Connell-Jones and Neil Martin of Grace Gospel Church in Durban, and so many others, lead open lives of example before their congregations, and they live what they preach... the pure, undiluted message of the Cross of Christ. Having known many of them for over 12 years, I can testify to that, because I’ve stayed in their homes and travelled with them on many occasions.

I bless the Lord that he has revealed the power of His cross to Miki and the elders of the church, who have chosen to take a narrow road and participate in the sufferings of Christ for many years, so that we the church may rejoice with them. The power of their ministry is the very lives that they live. What they preach behind the pulpit is a demonstration of the work of the spirit in their hearts, as they bring the reality of the cross to the church with anointed authority. In person they are meek, uneloquent and unimpressive, but the testing of their faith has developed perseverance under trial and produced wisdom that is pure, submissive, impartial and sincere. This is what wins the hearts of men to God.

Neil recalls how Miki's visits to Bulawayo were a lifeline to him. "I don't know where I would be, whether I would still be in the ministry, and what state my marriage would be in today..." He is so grateful to Miki for having been there all through the years.

One of Miki's pastors praised him publically at a family camp for bringing apostolic anointing at just the right time; — "Miki coming to put things straight was exactly what was needed. We are not orphans anymore."

When Miki Hardy preaches, I never cease to be amazed at how he brings across the heart of the Lord.

I love Miki hardy and Basil O' Connell Jones and I trust them with all my heart, because of the investment of Christ they have brought to my life.

I've come to learn that I may have 10 000 instructors in Christ, but to have fathers in Christ is a very rare thing.

I am so grateful for men like Basil O'Connell Jones and Miki Hardy who have stood for such a powerful gospel in an uncompromising way.

Misplaced Loyalty? An ex member who still has contact with members told me he is tired of hearing more about Miki and Audrey and Basil than about Jesus!!

A number of ex members have testified that when they were in the process of leaving they were labeled as "twisted and "backslidden". They were also told "where will you go?" "where else will you find this gospel?" and "be careful of coming out from under the protection of this gospel". The Durban "mother in the house" predicted that a brother who is carrying on strongly in the Lord by grace "would go back to his evil ways" when he left CTMI. Recently ex members who experienced trial were tempted to think "maybe this is happening because we left them?".

When did the Apostles in the bible ever recommend that the Ephesians had it more right than the Galatians who were one up on the Romans and be sure to avoid the Corinthians!! And the best elders closest to God are Fred and Michael from the church in Crete!!!

NO!!!

Paul and Barnabas freaked when crowds treated them like gods in Acts 14 (Acts 14:15 *"Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them".*)

And the Corinthians were soundly rebuked for following spiritual heroes!! (1Cor 1:11-16)

The word of God is clear - loyalty is to God alone not men.

Col. 3:23

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.

The last characteristic of an Abusive Spiritual System:

7. Secrecy

“When you see people in a religious system being secretive - *watch out!* People don't hide what is appropriate; they hide what is inappropriate.

One reason spiritually abusive churches are secretive is because they are so **image conscious**. People in the system cannot live up to their own performance standards so **they have to hide what is real**. Some believe they must do this in order to protect God's good name. So how things look and what others think becomes more important than what's real. They become God's "public relations agents". The truth is, he's not hiring for that position. (Pg 78)

Relationships and even marriages kept secret to the last minute (and until after the fact with the Goddards!).

As soon as Heather and Steve Goddard made it clear that they wanted to meet Levi before marrying their daughter - everything went secret! The "can't talk" rule kicked in! Hayley could not be contacted so Steve got on a plane and, when he found her, was not allowed to meet with her alone. Then the civil and church marriage dates were kept secret!!

Kathy leaving Basil was kept secret for some time before folks wondered where she was. Very little information forthcoming but when a member met with Kathy he was strongly and aggressively rebuked by Basil.

The guy who faithfully opened and closed the hall at Pinetown Boys High where GGC (CTMI in Durban) worshipped was not told that the school had terminated the arrangement. He was surprised and upset when the school asked him for the keys! (And reality kept secret from school in Pietermaritzberg - headmaster told CTMI left Pinetown voluntarily)

Members glowed about Basil's handling of Stuart Brown's funeral but it was a secret that he was rebuked by Miki and Basil "cried before the brothers in Mauritius".

Miki risked posting lies to Carte Blanche on his website to keep the faithful from the secrets about "select committee", "sterilisations", "what is really said about degrees", about "the police being called in the Goddard case" etc.

The real reasons for The Martin's leaving the USA and a number of young folks leaving Mauritius kept secret from even closest friends. Hayley and Levi's return to Hillcrest kept secret from parents until someone else saw them and told Steve and Heather! Meanwhile to maintain image of "bad parents" vs reality of "bad church" other members said "can you believe Hayley's parents have not even contacted them since they got home"!!

The truth of what Peter Rasmussen announced publicly from his pulpit ("they are misguided") kept secret from members. Rather they were led to believe and informed us parents and wrote in e-mails that "HCF stands with us". Peter gave permission to post the reality (vs "the image") on this forum. (See Post "HCF IS NOT ON YOUR SIDE" viewtopic.php?f=7&t=205)

Visits to key people instructing them to not talk with and about (keep secret!) people who were considering leaving.

Travis Chaplin's whereabouts after he "disappeared" kept secret from his parents prompting them to employ the CIA to discover he was in Zimbabwe with Basil O'Connell Jones. Basil's daughter denied knowing this. Barry Slemment did not return calls. A web of secrecy.

Brown family kept in the dark until after their son's death about why Stuart and Louise left their home.

Truths on this forum kept secret from members who are instructed not to "waste time" or risk losing "pure hearts" by reading anything from CPG.

And a leading elder and the sexually abused victim and family carrying an awful secret all these years??

And plenty of **evidence of image consciousness!!!** Miki and Audrey going on radio and arranging a flood of positive calls from adoring, obedient members. An instruction sent out to all members to send positive messages to TBN after some negative publicity. Miki calling press conference to paper over cracks by announcing they are "transparent, open, love families and are part of millions strong protestant movement". Followed by an open day inviting the public to music and glowing testimonies. This shortly after all the negative publicity over the Goddard affair! Well known that Basil O' Connoll Jones was livid with his wife over her arranging a "worldly song" to be sung at his birthday party. Only problem was Miki and Audrey arrived as a surprise! Not a good impression!!

Further Examples of Match Up with CTMI

In a chapter entitled **Abuse and Scripture** the authors lay a foundation by observing that most abusive churches have a low view of scripture. Instead of verse by verse "expository preaching", leaders use scripture to "power posture" for themselves - repeatedly using "proof texts" (usually out of context) to cause religious performance on the part of members which then proves that they and their theology are right. (Wow! Uncanny insight! How often does Miki use "changed lives" to prove his "apostolic anointing and revelation of this gospel"? It's his standard defence!)

“ Because this is the method the leaders use, it is the method the followers learn to use. Consequently there is little if any opportunity to become capable of "rightly dividing the word of truth". (Pg 83)

The authors then give typical examples of abuse of scripture. The most telling and relevant being "**Self Denial**"

“ We have seen many people who have taken on the burden of trying to die daily. **They become preoccupied with themselves, always looking to see if something needs to be denied or fixed.** Verses like 1 Cor 15: 31 "I die daily" and Matthew 16:24 - "let him deny himself and take up his cross" have been misused in order to place a performance weight on people in the name of self-denial. This usually turns out to be an attempt to get followers to take up the agenda of leadership. (Pg 87)

Surely these guys have been reading Miki Hardy and listening to his sermons!!??? Surely they have attended meeting after meeting with more and more repentance and testimonies about being "confronted". Self denial is at the heart of "this gospel" which is at the heart of their smug and exclusive separation from the rest of "sick", "powerless", "backslidden", "prosperity focussed" Christendom.

“The Christian life does not begin and continue with this kind of self denial... It is only available on the basis of the cross of **Christ**. If *that* cross is not our cross, **if our own cross (behaviours and denials) is what we bear, we are in deep trouble.** (pg 88)

We say Amen and Amen to that!!! The very deep trouble of a **False Gospel!**

Final in summary of "**The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse**"

Another chapter which struck me as particularly significant is "**Straining Gnats, Swallowing Camels**"

The chapter opens with the case of a well known and respected pastor of a large church which had grown significantly for 15 years being found out molesting a young adolescent boy. After the first revelation more and more followed.

"A crack had opened the wall of secrecy and now the water of truth, dammed up for fourteen years, was pouring out for all to see.

Among the disclosures that followed were these troubling realities: First, many elders had knowledge of his behaviour. Second, a conscious choice was made to keep it quiet in hopes it would simply blow over. "Its not that big a deal". "We don't want to damage the ministry." Both were lies. It was a big deal; the ministry was already damaged.

What's ironic, even tragic, about this choice to ignore devastating transgressions was how firm this church was known to stand on matters of far less consequence. For instance much was made of over issues such as proper attire in church...

What is revealed by such upside-down values? **While strong stands were being made on issues of little or no spiritual importance, issues of grave consequence were being ignored.** Jesus called this "straining gnats and swallowing camels", (Page 140)

Once again, a very similar trend can be noted in CTMI.

Most would consider the following as very significant issues "of grave consequence". Big things like camels!

* **Claiming a unique revelation of a gospel to Miki Hardy which is NOT the gospel of scripture.** In addition the true gospel has been in scripture and has been faithfully preached since the days of the early church. Consequences of a false gospel are serious according to the Apostle Paul. ("Let him be accursed")

Yet when this is pointed out, Miki takes it lightly - saying we are just arguing over words and then for the public trots out vague generalities like the gospel is "the bible from first to last page". (when "this gospel" in CTMI is very specific and preached at every opportunity). At the same time he accuses the church at large for false teaching and heresies!

* **Undermining God's family unit** by alienating people from their families, conducting secret and arranged marriages against the will of parents, ignoring parents' objections and requests for discussion, advising members to leave non conforming spouses etc. Many have shared testimonies of the long term consequences of pain and alienation resulting from these leadership driven actions.

Yet Miki brushes marriages he conducted like between Hayley Goddard and Levi Page aside with comments like "If they desire to, it's their will if they fall in love – wonderful - what am I to say anything about it?" and "if they ask us to marry them we marry them. That's what it's all about." And Audrey says we only meet with people with "genuine hearts" and Miki says he will meet with grieved families when God gives him "peace in his heart".

* **There has been no reconciliation/apology/ repentance for sexual abuse by a leading CTMI elder.** The teenager concerned was rebuked for reporting the abuse the way she did. Hardy to date refuses to answer questions on this issue.

* There are **verified allegations of a number of dubious activities** like work permit irregularities in the USA, sterilizations, instructions to lie to immigration officials, misuse of donated funds, instructions to shred evidence and public lies to Carte Blanche. Yet these are glibly written off as "lies and persecution" from people who are "full of nonsense". Or in some cases there is acknowledgement but "we do this for the sake of the gospel!" ("End justifies the Means")

Yet despite these very serious issues, Miki takes potshots at the lukewarm church at large and makes rules about dating, worship music (Hillsong will lead to sexual immorality!), celebrating Christmas, reading outside books, use of Facebook, dress code for camps (girls suitcases inspected), Harry Potter and whatever else Miki considers "worldly" or likely to twist "pure hearts". Some of these issues may well have some merit. However the point is why focus on these when much more weighty issues are denied or ignored!?

Matthew 23:23

*"For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. **These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.**"*

Straining at gnats while swallowing a camel without even noticing!