



## CPG Testimonies



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In the early days of the CPG, parents reported that their children had left for Mauritius to attend the CTMI "Bible School". This turned out to be an apparent deception. After a few classes the programme ceased and "pupils" were redeployed to the Trianon building site.

Late in 2012 we became aware that once again folks were being encouraged to "give up everything" and sign up for the Impact School of Ministry in Mauritius that would be starting in 2013.

We were suspicious about this being a means to secure "academic visas" to extend the stay of many foreign "visitors" to CTMI. We investigated and reported the following:

Initially there was no obvious link to CTMI. Their website <http://www.impactsom.org/> was established in October 2012 and they launched on Facebook on 1 January 2013. They have connected with some freelance distance academics and an institution in Florida called Vision International University. Their website (<http://www.vision.edu/>) says - *Vision International University USA is not accredited by a United States Department of Education Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) approved accrediting agency.*

The Founder, Dr Stan DeKoven, wrote on Facebook

*We are so delighted to be in partnership with Pastor Ithier and Impact School of Christian Ministries...preparing men and women for effective service for Christ to the nations.*

The address for Impact is CTMI's address and the website has the same look and feel as CTMI. Our contacts in Mauritius established that the advertised "campus sports facilities" are those of CTMI! The CTMI Botswana leader is officially listed as one of the academics. Local CTMI satellites had been promoting Impact SOM. The Facebook page has a photo from a CTMI conference in Madagascar.

We investigated further and **a highly placed academic in a prominent USA bible seminary commented:**

"A key sentence for me, taken from Vision International University's website is, "Those who share our spiritual identity will be generally familiar with the following terms, and will be able to fill in what is lacking." This comes right before their statement of faith! If you know anything about anything when it comes to what one believes, that level of sloppiness is a recipe for disaster.

I think some of these folks are good evangelical people. However, the institutions as such are not serious about giving their students a decent education.

Finally, it seems to me that the school in Mauritius is thoroughly in CTMI's pocket already. They are just avoiding the "tainted" name. It appears the students spend a lot of

time doing other things and the cost is ridiculously low.

Put differently, our seminary has just finished (with success) its latest ten-year accreditation process. It is a big deal. It takes a lot of work from everyone. I have had to change the way I do some things. That's what providing quality education is all about. People who aren't interested in accreditation want to do it the easy way and may persuade enough people to join them to make it economically viable. But that doesn't make them serious about Christian education."

**An informed ex CTMI member in Mauritius also commented:**

I think one of the main reasons CTMI has been making efforts to bring people to Mauritius is because they provide cheap and effective labour. CTMI members are a hardworking and trustworthy labour force not likely to claim their rights. Even better in this case it seems the labour force could be entirely free and actually paying them! I doubt they would make people come all the way to Mauritius to sit them in classes. They make that clear in the website. The course is competency based and there is an emphasis on community service.

*'Building strong character will be the goal of all training, not just an accumulation of knowledge. The indwelling life of Christ expressed and worked out in community will develop godly character.'*

*'The first three years of study are competency-based, meaning that the student is less required to memorize and repeat information, and more required to demonstrate that he or she is competent to perform essential skills for vocational ministry.'*

I think they could make community service mean anything from working on a building site to working in CTMI's various related NGOs and businesses. They might be beginning the construction of the village that they were planning to build next to the Trianon auditorium. Students will be taught that Ministry is about giving their lives, then given lots of opportunities to do so and assessed on how hard they work, how readily they die to themselves.

I think it would be good to make those who are planning to enrol think of whether they are likely to be exploited if they come to Mauritius. For example the latest project they worked hard on, the auditorium, is now branded as the Trianon Conference Centre. The 'vision from God' built and financed by CTMI members is now a business of its own. It is ideally located near the Ebene Cybercity where major companies are based and where a conference center business is very likely to flourish.

The website indicated in January 2013 that there were 40 enrolled for a February start.

Then there were messages about postponements.

More recent messages on the Impact Facebook page are adverts for random radio programmes on Nu Radio - entirely unrelated to the school. But at least the site looks busy!

The last reference to Impact School of Ministry is to ask for prayer for an accreditation review in early June.

We now have news that some folks are returning to South Africa as the school is most likely not starting.

Surely it is cavalier and inconsiderate to invite people to come to Mauritius at great expense to start an academic programme that as yet does not exist?

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 **Keith B**

Posted: Sun Aug 04, 2013 8:32 am



"Cowboys" comes to mind!

Or to use the word of God - "unruly, vain talkers and deceivers... upsetting families for shameful gain" (Titus 1:10-11) and "meddlers" (1 Peter 4:15). "Ravenous wolves" (Matthew 7:15)

Alienating children from parents in Christian families, marriages behind parents back, ruining memorial services, misleading congregations about use of funds, working illegally in foreign countries, misleading communities about the purpose of land development and then lying in the appeal hearing, shady business dealings, lying to customs officials, psychological abuse for those who question and challenge, refusing to apologise for acknowledged sexual abuse, empty "reconciliations" for the purpose of manipulation..... All from the same source.

I can hear the often repeated "shame - poor bitter and unforgiving person living in the past. Why can't you get over it and move on?"

Forgive and getting on with serving the Lord we are. Ignore all the above when the patterns persist and acknowledgement, repentance and reconciliation has been astutely avoided??

Any Christian who loves truth and who knows and has experienced all the above cannot put their head in the sand.

So we continue to speak the truth in love.