

We have managed to secure and translate the following testimony of Patrick Monasie, a previous pastor in CTMI. He was interviewed on the Carte Blanche programme. Only his sad separation from his family was flighted.

His heartfelt testimony below highlights other deeply concerning experiences.

No doubt we will hear the usual - "lies, "enemies of the cross", "disgruntled former member with an agenda", "twisted hearts" response from CTMI.

While Patrick's story makes us weep afresh - to those who have been researching and experiencing CTMI for many years - there are sadly no surprises here. The patterns of evidence from a wide variety of sources over an extended period is clear and entrenched. Only the blind cannot see.

My time with Eglise Chrétienne

(translated from the French)

I write this testimony as a person who has had a long history with Eglise Chrétienne. I have been a pastor in the church and worked for two of its related Non Governmental Organisation: APSA(an association for the promotion of health) and Ti Rayon Soleil(for helping the poor and needy people). I also left the church twice due to the things I had seen, but was lured back again until leaving for good in 2009. I take responsibility for my blindness in going back and regret very much the pain this has caused my family. Today I am estranged from my wife and children who have not yet forgiven me for the last time I made the choice to re-join the church over keeping us together as a family. I have asked for their forgiveness and trust the Lord to restore.

I cannot explain fully why I went back, but I want to encourage others who may be considering leaving or who have regrets about rejoining the church. I see now that I was confused thinking that I had to choose between my love for the Lord (which in the church is the same as serving the Hardy's) and anything else – including the family He had given me.

The beginning

I had a wonderful conversion to the Lord Jesus in 1979. In 1982, I got married to Christiane and we both wanted to serve the Lord. In 1983, Miki and Audrey Hardy came back from SA and took the leadership of our fellowship, "Centre Chrétien." Division started and some left. Audrey asked me to leave my job at Hotel Continental and work full time for the church, and I accepted. In 1984 I was sent to the village of Rose Belle as a pastor and I depended on the offerings of the people did not have much themselves and sometimes I received nothing.

During this period I witnessed the public humiliation of 4 leaders who were thrown out of the church because they were questioning unconditional submission to Miki and Audrey. Manipulation and control took place. I witnessed pastors of other churches being seduced to join them with their churches. It caused great problems and some of them saw their churches divided. I was not happy with all that was going on and left the church in 1986.

I came back in 1988 until 1997. During all those years, I was not at peace but could not get out, as I felt guilty at the thought of leaving the Hardy's. In 1988, I was sent to Rodrigues Island as pastor to start a church. I enjoyed the ministry but pressure started to come from Mauritius. Young people were encouraged to leave their families to go and live with leaders of the church.

They were supposed to be under training .There were strange things like if someone did not like any sort of food, this particular food was served to him or to her and he or she was forced to eat. One of the leaders in Mauritius took a young girl (18) from Rodrigues to live with her in Mauritius, the reason was that her mother was not enough committed to the church. Fortunately the mother persuaded her to come back to her home in Rodrigues and she did.

My wife Christiane was planning to work at home to make handmade bags. When Audrey came to Rodrigues and heard about it, she told Christiane that she was not supposed to work for money but only for the Lord. However we could not provide for our family with the very small salary that we were receiving. Meanwhile Miki and Audrey themselves were very much involved in businesses in Mauritius and in Rodrigues Island. I saw much suffering in the families in Rodrigues because of all the manipulation and many are still suffering the consequences. Following all that, I started questioning and was then called back to Mauritius in 1992. I was told that I was not submitting to their authority and was sidelined. I started to be very depressed.

It was at that time that Audrey strongly encouraged several couples amongst the leaders to get sterilized so that we would be more free to serve the church and receive people to live with us. To be accepted again by them I persuaded my wife to get sterilized, which she did along with others. Everything was organized by the church. This has been bad for our marriage and to this day she holds me responsible for forcing her to do it. (Christiane's testimony was in a local newspaper in 1997.)

During those years I witnessed Christians working without salaries to build the Hardy's house at St Clement Street, Curepipe, and their beach cottage at Black River. I heard Audrey accusing a brother of being materialistic because he said he had to go and find a job to provide for his family. She said, "You should follow the example of the other brothers who work for me faithfully even if their families have nothing. They will be blessed by the Lord!!"

Once about 15 of us were brought to their beach cottage at 11pm to steal sand from the beach to use on the construction. At about the same time, two people who had volunteered on the construction site for two years were "rewarded" by the Hardy's by being made "elders of the church." One day at church Audrey approached quite a few Christians to give them an "opportunity to be blessed and to invest and plant a seed" in giving a contribution for a gift for the "apostle." She asked me for Rs 500 when my salary was often less than Rs 2,700 a month. From this money I had also to pay tithes and offering, and of course I gave it to her. On Miki's birthday we were all asked to go to their beach cottage to offer him his speed boat. The same day my sister was getting married and I missed her wedding to go with the others to present to Miki his speed boat. All this because I was afraid to be rejected and to this day I am so sad for what I did to my sister and family.

APSA

In 1997, after the judgment when Judge Boolell gave custody of the Alladee children to their father (following their mother's death) those who were in charge of APSA and who were also members of the church were called to a meeting at Audrey's house in Curepipe at 7 p.m. She gave us the following instructions: "If the police or the journalists come to question us, you must deny that there are any connection between APSA and Eglise Chrétienne." I was shocked and told Audrey that I was indeed a manager of APSA and also a pastor of the church and was registered at the Registrar of Associations. She answered: "If we have to bribe someone to remove your name, we will do it!" The next day, we were asked to destroy all the documents concerning the Alladee children and all evidence of any link between the church and APSA. I saw big bags full of documents being removed to be destroyed.

I realised that it was a very serious situation and tried to warn some of the leaders without any success. Audrey had already sent the Alladee children to Zimbabwe without the knowledge of their father and they were all less than 18. I was very scared and went to see a lawyer who advised me to get out immediately from APSA and Eglise Chrétienne. I followed his advice which seemed the right thing to do.

Return to the church

In 2007 a lady from Eglise Chrétienne was sent by the leadership to see me. She told me that things have changed in the church and that they would be happy for me to come back and that many people had come back. I believed her, forgave and went back. I found out later that nothing had changed – rather the contrary.

I was offered a job on the building site at Trianon. Once more I witnessed Christians being used by Miki and Audrey for another building. I saw Mauritians and foreigners working very hard. I remember the son of an African pastor so tired that he was crying in front of a big concrete machine. I also saw a young South African walking from Trianon to Curepipe after a long day's work because he did not have 18 rupees to pay for his bus fare. One day, an elder of the church who was in charge of the building site cursed a Christian worker who was working with his own machine at a special price. He finally paid him after having said: "I curse you as Miki does." During a Sunday morning service at the Curepipe church about 10 brothers were asked to go immediately to work at Trianon as there were not enough workers. They did not have the choice.

Meanwhile, while everybody was urged to work every spare moment on the building site, Miki and Audrey were often travelling, and it was discovered that it was not only for ministry but to watch their two grandchildren playing in international tennis championship in Europe and USA.

To fundraise, we were sent all over the island to solicit items to be sold in the church's flea market. We told them that it was for helping poor people in India and Kenya. People gave very generously: clothes, jewellery, furniture, books, CDs, rolls of material, etc. The truth is that all this was sold and the money used for paying for air tickets for pastors.

Ti Rayon Soleil

I was asked by Audrey in 2008 to start organizing a NGO called "Ti Rayon Soleil" to help poor families. I approached the government for finances and they were ready to help. The idea was to organize a food bank and clothing for the poor. For that project in March 2009, one government ministry gave 50,000 rupees, and up until I left in October 2009, the project had still never seen that money. The wholesalers of Port Louis had given rice and sacks of beans to "Ti Rayon Soleil," however, orders were given to send all to the building site at Trianon, to feed the volunteer workers. The EU, with other organizations, had offered a van to "Ti Rayon Soleil" to help bring poor children to school and different projects at Black River. Often I was refused the van for the needs of our poor because the church leaders needed it for themselves or their children. We were supposed to give work to the needy people as part of a project financed by the EU. Instead Audrey gave the available jobs to her own people from the church.

I realised that the NGOs were a means to raise funds for the church's expenses. I even saw old storage facilities misrepresented to donors and government authorities as being offices of Ti Rayon Soleil. I also heard Audrey ask for statistics of Ti Rayon Soleil in order to divert funds meant for the poor to the church's needs. I saw and heard Audrey ask a woman from the church to get a van driver's license from the police for someone who had not passed the test. She was furious not to have been able to get it.

In 2008, Ti Rayon Soleil received boxes of clothing from Paris meant for poor children. Upon Audrey's instructions, these clothes were sold at the church's flea market in order to finance pastors' travelling costs.

Summary

In summary, what I have seen in the CTMI churches in Mauritius, Reunion and Rodrigues, before leaving in October 2009: broken families, even those of pastors; and discouraged Christians and pastors, even to the point of turning their backs on the Lord. The church has financially benefited through their programs and businesses to the detriment of Christians who were sincere and who wanted to serve the Lord Jesus and win souls for Him.

Within the church, I sensed an atmosphere of fear, competition amongst the leaders, fear of man, dishonesty, lies and total submission to man's authority. There was also the practice of encouraging members to commit themselves to raising more money for the church. There also exists a sense of superiority over other Christian churches as if they are the only ones to have the truth and revelation of the gospel. Now I understand it is exactly the opposite. I remember one incident that occurred while I was on mission in Zimbabwe. One of the "sons in the house" grabbed my Bible which I had been reading that morning. He said to me, "you are still religious! Why do you need to pray and read your Bible?"

I find it amazing that Miki says CTMI has nothing to do with politics when, in 1995, they had sent me (when I was a pastor) to help a candidate on his electoral campaign in Dubreuil. I also remember that Audrey told us from the pulpit for which party we must vote.

Following all this, I couldn't stand the lies anymore and I left for good. God, in His grace, opened my eyes on all of these things which stand contrary to the gospel. I realise that I am partly responsible for causing others' suffering and I want to ask them to forgive me. I have repented before the Lord and have come back to my first love for Jesus. The Lord has set me completely free from depression and I have once again found the joy of serving the Lord in fellowship with brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.