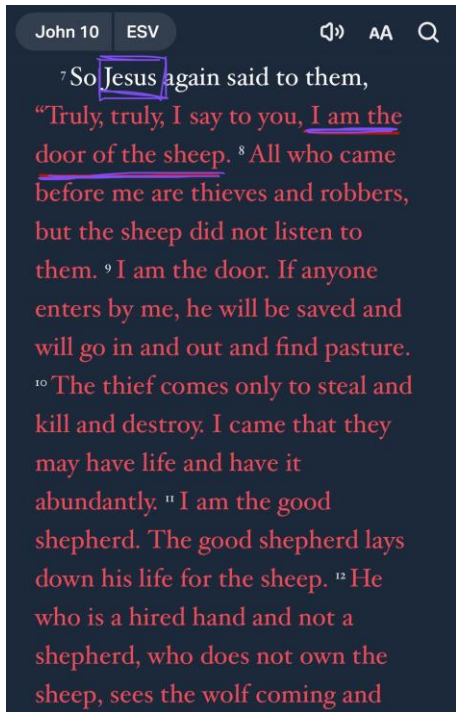


crickets a day ago Reply 4likes currently



wait for iiiiii a day ago Reply 3likes currently



o

It looks like you've managed to hack off a few other commenters but I'll address your question at face value. You've made the assertion that the only people likely to fall for a cult like this are uniquely foolish and or bad. I think that's a little simplistic, or as others have said, "binary." I think real life has way more "gray" in it than it can appear. It's certainly not fun to think of people, especially the ones who have hurt us deeply, as a mixed bag, but it's probably more accurate and honest.

I mean, is it super helpful to say that "my dad was super-dumb and also kinda bad and that's why he joined?" Not really. And, you seem to be pretty invested in being smarter than them (and us!) so let's be smart. A comprehensive view on this has to take into consideration that Norman James Sr was pretty good at this. Not great, but good enough to get about 300-500 people to give his whole family a living for about 55 years. That's not too bad. And -- this is one of the things we've seen you argue about but, this was really common. This is a bad cult, but it's still not one of the worst. A lot of guys were able to pull this off in that era. I've spent probably a decade looking around and, there are a lot of weird little places like this. Of course you don't hear about them for the same reason that you don't hear about Lakeview. They hide and keep a low profile. But once you're in the right (or, I guess, wrong) networks, you start to realize they were kind of everywhere.

Also, like, dude: of course you're not going to fall for this cult. You were already in it. And like you say, most people don't. But some do, and you share genetics with them. Where do you figure you're smarter and better than them with their upbringing and genes? And also, it's not much of a feather in our caps to say that we wouldn't fall for a 1960's era charismatic cult. But like, is there any route to humility here where we go, bro, we're all vulnerable. We're all broken, and we're all addicted to something. Why did these people join this cult? I mean we know. And we'll never know. Why are we both addicted to our phones. Why are we workaholics (or slackers). Why anything.

It's not like I want you to have empathy for your dad, the boomers enrage me as much as anyone. But it's just so unhelpful, and arrogant, to place ourselves, a generation later, in such higher regard. And it's not like you're in here only blasting away at your dad. You're sneering at the church members (they're dumb and bad!) the people who have left (also dumb! you were in there! what's broken about you!) people who tried to fix it while in there (still dumb! and bad! how dare you build that thing and then try to change it within!) Like. What's the point. Why the rage. Is there any chance you're addicted to trolling and raging about this place, sneering at each and everyone of us, who are, apparently, uniformly dumb and bad? Leaving, I guess...you. Why are you here? Why be the King of the Dummies What's the point of going into a place where everyone is dumb and bad except you and constantly reminding us of it. Do something positive.

Who is the greater fool 4 hours ago



•



What? Another page on shunning? Well, as long as they do it, we eschew it. Oh, and this update contains their written by-laws on shunning.



<https://www.antmquestions.com/an-update-on-the-practice-of-shunning>

ANTM ADMIN 5 days ago Reply 4likes currently



o

It's like they are trying to draw up their own cult version of an NDA without calling it that. For people who are supposed to be living in faith, they seem to be living in fear. Especially of differing opinions and people who don't agree with them.

That part about not suing or involving courts is extremely weird.

Grateful 5 days ago



o

As a former "average" member, I was unaware of this being in the by-laws, and I imagine anyone not in leadership probably has no idea of this official policy. Every time someone left the standard line of "they are in deception or rebellion (take your pick). It is spun differently from the pulpit. In addition, even the marriage commitment can be broken off if one party is acting in an abusive manner. They hang a lot on the "membership commitment". In retrospect, that doctrine is not found in the word. Yet another bright idea from NHJ.

Safely out 4 days ago



o

@ Grateful - What is weirder? That the church would put language in to protect themselves legally? Or that some fool would actually sign this stuff?

not a fool 2 days ago



o

I mean. It's not a legal document. So they aren't protected from anything legally because of this document or any that people have signed- people should know that. But I'm sure it causes some people to think it means that Lakeview is protected legally and that's why they are doing it. I don't think anything in those documents would be considered brand new information for people who sign them.

Grateful 2 days ago



o

Are you a lawyer, Grateful? How are you so sure about that?

not a fool 2 days ago



o

Yo it's almost Thursday and you haven't told us yet how you Can't See how anyone Could Stand joining a Cult Such As this one and only a Credulous Stupid person would join it. Definitely keep telling how Calculatedly Smart you sre 2 days ago



o

It's a meaningless piece of paper. Not drafted by a lawyer or disclosed as a legal agreement. To me- it's clearly just a piece of paper you are signing to agree to this groups rules, nothing about abdicating your right to sue. in fact, if you have left Lakeview and had to receive therapy to treat the trauma you may have suffered, I'd say you might have a case for a civil suit but this is IN NO WAY legal advice. You should get a lawyer and talk to one if you want to find out though.

Grateful 2 days ago



o

It amuses me how offended people get by my take on all of this. In truth, I don't think it's just weak-minded and stupid people that join cults. It's bad folks that like power and influence and being unkind. These people join also. And they play along happily until they themselves take some offense and then immediately they are now the victims. It's fascinating stuff really. And also terrifying. And at least I call it for what it is instead of just trolling like you.

I'm not trying to change anyone's mind. I just want the truth to be told.

But please, help me understand. Why did people join this place? Why were they ok with it and stayed so long? Did they not see it was evil?

I'd be interested in anybody's story that could help me understand. I'm not promising I'll buy your explanation. But I will try.

not a fool 21 hours ago



•

Obviously my "special person/special group" and desire for a parental figure as an adult takes aren't particularly nuanced. There are lots of different cults to study and people who joined them and their psychology.

Those are my personal theories for Lakeview and why people originally joined up there specifically. This is why you hear the members talk about Lakeview preaching the truth and wanting to follow God, with either the explicit or implicit follow up being that those things aren't just available anywhere to anyone. Special knowledge or special access to God through a charismatic leader are common tropes in cults.

And as for seeking out a parent figure- lots of people called the James mom and dad. And that wasn't just an affectionate title. Obedience was expected and there were consequences for displeasing mom and dad.

I will push back and maintain that I do not believe that mentally well, adjusted, healthy people join cults and get sucked in. These are people who are looking for what the cult has to offer- either because of trauma, mental illness, personality disorder, etc. Something that should be addressed by therapy. Especially if they subjected kids or other members to the mistreatment of the cult. It's not enough to just claim victimhood and not look within and root out what needs to be healed and address it.

Grateful 8 days ago Reply 2likes currently



o

Admin- please delete because I accidentally commented in the wrong place. Thank you.

Grateful 8 days ago



○

Hello and thank you for a mind hearted and well reasoned discussion. I think you and even some of our less savory commenters are all correct — most folks don't walk in there and go "I'm home." But I don't know think we have to stipulate to some clinical degree of brokenness. I genuinely think that the heyday of the church was brought about by, along with the underlying BB narcissistic tendencies, just a ghastly amount of naïveté. I think we have to consider that, for many of us, it's just unthinkable that something this, well, bad, can exist. And so you walk into a church, which you've been told is a categorical "good," and they start teaching from the Bible (ostensibly, but another categorical good) and all of a sudden you've got your head full of stuff. Mechanically, you see how it can happen and what a lack of experience and guile can do to you. There's also, of course, the equally valid other side: people who are racially and demographically cool don't turn on Rush Limbaugh in 1993. But they also, in listening to him, are further shaped and further changed downward into what they became. It's definitely a little of column A and a little of column B. For me.

look Ma no cults 8 days ago



○

I don't disagree with you. It's hard for me personally to be objective about it because I was raised in it. A lot of the conclusions I have come to have been the result of working through things with a therapist and largely focused on my parents specifically. Because they specifically lack the ability to empathize or put themselves in what it was like to go through all of that as a child or have introspection about their behavior. I'm sure there are members who feel torn about things or remorseful or guilty and I could see people like that being suckered in but then changing their mindset and gaining new understanding being more of a normal person. I do hope in our age of information and the internet that at least these high control religious groups and destructive cults will die out. Because they have thrived in darkness and the ability to silence and separate different points of view from being introduced. Grateful 8 days ago



○

You're right. Another thing I think about are the binaries of fascism and liberalism. Essentially, how do we perceive the world and how do we think it should work? There's way too much in between, and maybe the types of people are related, but there are people with a fascist bent who are attracted to "the strong man—it's essentially a touchstone of human nature, probably deep in our evolution—and it's to those people that someone like a Norman James— with his great learning and connection to God, and, at root, his answers for life's complexities and dangers—you can see the attraction. So to me it's way more about the clinical pathologist or upbringing or demographic as much as deep human nature. The Enlightenment, or whatever, I see as us attempting to put aside this nature. Gordon 8 days ago



•

<https://pca.st/podcast/613960d0-f0aa-0138-e811-0acc26574db2>

Brilliant podcast that discusses a different cult each week. While many of the episodes are not identical replicas of Lakeview. The COMMON thread within all the cults comes down to the separation and disowning from anything that challenges what the cult views as "the one true truth or god or being or higher power". One episode helps to break down physical/scientific component behind "why" those that are stuck within whatever form of cult they are in, are presented with FACTS but are still incapable of seeing what's occurring. Nutshell: our amygdala within the temporal lobe (processing center for emotions) becomes hyperactive and literally prevents these people from stepping back and being able to hear and comprehend logic/facts. Fascinating stuff folks.

The more you know 9 days ago Reply 2likes currently



o

Interesting. Do any of the episodes cover the types of people who actually choose to join cults? Anything about personality flaws or how some people are more susceptible to it than others?

I think that may be interesting than the same old “it’s the James’ fault” message regurgitated over and over.

The more TRUTH you know 9 days ago



o

Not research into anything cult specific but the boomer generation, aka the ME generation, which a lot of the original founding members are apart of, has been theorized to have suffered brain damage due to lead poisoning that causes personality disturbances and impairment to cognitive function. Which is interesting when you look at the correlation between the boomers coming of age and the hey day of cults in America (the 60’s and 70’s).

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/nearly-half-of-the-us-population-exposed-to-dangerously-high-lead-levels>

Grateful 9 days ago



o

@ Grateful - I didn’t do extensive research on this (and I don’t think it matters terrible how accurate I am), but there’s an estimated 5-7MM people in the US who have been involved in a cult. Out of over 330MM people. That means roughly 2% or less of the population has participated in one. Meaning it’s not very common. So I’m not sure pervasive brain damage is the cause here or else the numbers would be substantially higher.

No there’s something unique about this crowd that would make them think joining a cult is normal. Because it’s clearly abnormal.

The more TRUTH you know 8 days ago



o

Yeah except 80 million people have participated in a cult in this country. Is it a “cult”-cult? You tell me.

It’s the CAPITALS that make me smarter 8 days ago



o

The more truth- not to be pedantic but I don’t think they thought joining a cult was normal per se. I think they thought they were special people joining a special group. And the things that made the group difficult or weird or abusive, they viewed as challenges they could overcome to prove themselves worthy of being apart of this special group. I’d say a healthy dose of narcissism, and a desire to go back to a time in childhood when they were being guided and punished and praised by a parental figure. Just my opinion, as per usual.

Grateful 8 days ago



o

yeah, you're pretty smart, you smart Alec. How do you figure 80MM people have participated in a cult? because they have participated in religion?

That's quite a stretch. The ANTM was a pretty extreme experience that the vast majority of those 80MM will never experience.

I wonder if you say things like this to mask your own guilt... "80MM others have been fooled!"

Not ever falling for a cult makes me smarter... thanks 8 days ago



o

@ Grateful - I don't think you're being pedantic. I think you're just plain wrong.

There are very few people who would walk into the ANTM and not quickly see it for what it is. And those very few are the ones who joined.

the more TRUTH you know 8 days ago



o

Residual black and white thinking can lead people to believe that joining a cult is either because of "x" or because of "y".

The TRUTH is, the reason people join cults is on a spectrum and may reveal that completely "mentally normal" people in a vulnerable state can be recruited; people with a range of minor cumulative issues may create a "stew" that predisposes them to cult and also there are people who have a range of "mental health issues" that can be attracted to what these groups offer.

<https://www.apologeticsindex.org/265-who-joins-cults-and-why>

Consider this 8 days ago



o

To the snarky response who seems to think Lakeview was an extreme case: you are still exhibiting Lakeview "exceptional" thinking. It bears the marks of a cult, but is fairly run of the mill as far as these organizations go. I have encountered a dozen or so people in the last few years who were part of similar organizations, most in the greater pgh area. Whether 80m is a precise number or not is irrelevant. But your insistence that Lakeview is an extreme cult is curious-go read some books on extreme cult behavior. I propose that the average Laker is a gnostic-"were special, have an angle nobody else does" and this appeals to the seekers the initiates, and then participants. Assuming you have left, O Snarky One, you have carried this sort of thinking with you, as if The View is some extra bad cult. It's not. It wasn't special then, it isn't special now. It wasn't this amazingly good place under Senior, it's not an amazingly bad place now. It was unhealthy before, it's probably healthier now. Your handle makes no sense. Did you never fall for the cult? Then why does anyone give your opinions credence, and why are you wasting your time on this trolling everyone if you weren't an ex member? If you are a former victim, well, that sucks, but your handle is not portraying a person who is walking in truth. You need more exposure to life and less arrogance before you're going to be taken seriously, "Not Ever Falling."

There is no lake left at lakeview 8 days ago



o

We can all AGREE that TRUTH is one of the first generation because anyone on the internet knows only Les Boomerers dig into the all caps

look Ma no cults 8 days ago



o

Reminder. Please refrain from calling individuals out or this comment thread will be deleted.

ANTM ADMIN 8 days ago



o

There's like whole ass people on here who won't exist if you do that

Also the cult is 100% the Jameses fault

look Ma no cults 8 days ago



o

Obviously my "special person/special group" and desire for a parental figure as an adult takes aren't particularly nuanced. There are lots of different cults to study and people who joined them and their psychology. Those are my personal theories for Lakeview and why people originally joined up there specifically. This is why you hear the members talk about Lakeview preaching the truth and wanting to follow God, with either the explicit or implicit follow up being that those things aren't just available anywhere to anyone. Special knowledge or special access to God through a charismatic leader are common tropes in cults. And as for seeking out a parent figure- lots of people called the James mom and dad. And that wasn't just an affectionate title. Obedience was expected and there were consequences for displeasing mom and dad. I will push back and maintain that I do not believe that mentally well, adjusted, healthy people join cults and get sucked in. These are people who are looking for what the cult has to offer- either because of trauma, mental illness, personality disorder, etc. Something that should be addressed by therapy. Especially if they subjected kids or other members to the mistreatment of the cult. It's not enough to just claim victimhood and not look within and root out what needs to be healed and address it.

Grateful 8 days ago



o

Do it, admin. Burn it all down. If the fellowship hall gets rowdier than Becky likes, then the ones Becky doesn't like get punished. Its almost like were back at CCA! The arbitrary rules were almost as awesome as the crill togs

There is no lake left at lakeview 8 days ago



o

A lot of responses here, so I'll try to address a few:

- 1) @ Grateful - I thought it was lead poisoning or whatever that caused people to join. Now they're all mentally unwell? You're all over the place.
- 2) It was not all the Jameses fault. There were ole ty if guilty people who went along with it, treated kids/ex-members unkindly. It baffles me that anyone would actually think it is only the Jameses fault. It's almost like a defense mechanism. People don't want to own the part they play, so they deflect
- 3) You call me arrogant (it's interesting what the admins allow versus what they don't), and that's fine. I'm not trying to convince any of you. You're clearly very stubborn in your thinking (as am I). But I do want to make sure someone is speaking the truth and few of you do.
- 4) Someone said it's not an extreme cult. Are you trying to downplay what it was like to go there? In short, it sucked. It's not the sort of place that breeds happiness. Maybe you're implying there are worse cults (and I agree there are), but not too many. ANTM is in the top 10% of worst cults, I'm sure.
- 5) Someone said I am clearly not walking in truth. What does that even mean? Is that more of that foolish, religious jargon? Someone said I haven't learned anything and I still have that same thinking. I'd say any person still talking about "walking in truth" is more likely the one who has learned nothing.

BOOMtastic 8 days ago



o

I said that the correlation between lead poisoning in Boomers and the hey day of cults in America in the 60's and 70's was interesting. And lead poisoning resulting in cognitive impairment and personality disturbances is...directly related to mental health issues. Sorry if you found it hard to follow but I'd hardly say it's all over the place.

Grateful 8 days ago



o

Yes, they dive into the psychology of why people join these types of organizations. It also helps to define that this is not unique but more prevalent than you would have assumed.

The more you know 7 days ago



•

Thank you for this informative history.

The tyranny of it all sadly rings true in so many ways from my experience there for 3 years back in the mid-70's before I left.

Our group that left together were shunned immediately. Thankfully the Lord led me to a loving gracious church nearby to nurse me back from the trauma. PtL!

Prayers for all those involved. 🙏

DC 12 days ago Reply 3likes currently



o



Confused 10 days ago



So true



RevDaniel

@RevDaniel

It's not your Body or your Blood.
It's not your Table.
It's not your Church.
It's not your Invitation.

You are the servant.
You are not the Master.
You don't assemble the guest list.

You were appointed an ambassador
of the Good News, not a bouncer at
the door of Club Heaven.

10:36 AM · 22 Jun 21 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

True 15 days ago Reply 7likes currently



The church in Cleveland currently has no Pastor.

Brenda 15 days ago Reply 0likes currently



<http://northridgechristianlifechurch.org>

Not sure what to make of the existing website for Cleveland area church & listing of William Falk as pastor & Dennis Sinclair as assistant pastor. Never updated to include Collin Toomey when William Falk "retired"? Or, is this current status?

Perplexed 16 days ago Reply 0likes currently



o

I recommend you ask them.

ANTM ADMIN 16 days ago



hey site writer/admin you should probably go through all the pages and edit the names of the cleveland and maine churches to former churches (I specifically noticed the shrinking group of churches tab hadn't been updated but its probably worth going through everything just in case)

Lurker 19 days ago Reply 0likes currently



o

Good thought. Will review and update as time allows.

ANTM ADMIN 18 days ago



o

Corrected.

ANTM ADMIN 16 days ago



My favorite line that a high majority of current members use along with my parents is. "We are not told to shun its a choice made individually by each family". I'm not an expert at math equations but let's break down the number of us shunned by our families from Lakeview..... appears that a majority of the families are lock step in their decision to cut us off. However, we all know that when you are immersed within a cult reason and facts are never part of your equation.

SMEH 21 days ago Reply 2likes currently



o

I feel like it's one thing for them to gaslight themselves (not ideal, but, hey, it's a free country) and their eagerness to try to pass on their, and you'll forgive me, "reasoning" to you as if 6 months in the real world don't irrevocably change your ability to even remember how they think forever. It's nothing so much like children playing house and making up their own rules and then trying to impose them on you when you walk in the room.

That One Wiwrd 21 days ago



o

My parents told me this too at one point. Like I'd forget being raised in that BS for 21 years being taught to shun and seeing it happen myself to other people and families? Including my own friends who I was required to shun. And was punished for being sad when they left and I could never speak to them again, even to say goodbye. When I replied with that, they claimed it must have been something they had taught the kids and they were totally unaware of. It's just an attempt by Lakeview to pass the buck so they can't be held responsible for the shunning- because that's clearly been defined as cult behavior. It's just mind games upon mind games. I think it's exhausting and ridiculous. And I can't imagine why any sane person would feel that God would be behind any of that. Those Lakers seriously forget that the means to the end actually do count and nobody is fooled by their little games.

Grateful 21 days ago



o

Frankly, it's way worse to contend that shunning isn't required but our families chose it of their own volition..... There is no excuse for "following orders" when those orders are so hatefully contrary to the nature of God, but at least it leaves open the possibility that they still give a care about us..... However, the statement that they chose it is just shameful.

Gut Punch 19 days ago



o

Great pull. These clowns pulling a reverse "I was just following orders"

Normanberg Trial 18 days ago



•

Neither shunning nor blind obedience is scriptural.

Brenda 21 days ago Reply 3likes currently



•

I know of a family involved with this group and the heavy emphasis on shunning that they are dealing with. What I don't understand is whether the Bible is being taught correctly then this should not be an issue

Confused 22 days ago Reply 2likes currently



As someone who was encouraged to read about the events heralding a new day at Lakeview in October, I have been waiting in hope for my phone to ring with a call from any one of over 300 people who abruptly stopped talking to me on Oct 17, 2017. Alas, to this day, the phone has not rung.

And so I reached out on my own to family that is still in the churches. I sent texts, emails, and called them on their cell phones. No answer, no response.

I've reached out to former friends that I served with. No answer.

I even called Lakeview directly multiple times and it goes to voicemail.

Finally, I called Chris Otis and as with all the others, no answer.

So, from one person's vantage point, all I still hear is the sound of silence.

I invite anyone with a heart of compassion, with a soul that still stirs, with a mind that can look past the barriers of a now apparently recognized bad doctrine of shunning, to reach out and give me a call.

Vernon
440-822-8867
Vernon.burchfield@gmail.com

Vernon Burchfield 23 days ago Reply 6likes currently



o

isn't this your antm questions site?

confused 22 days ago



o

Call me and I'll let you know.

Vernon Burchfield 22 days ago



o



confused 20 days ago



o

If they really had changed, they'd take your calls.

Sad 19 days ago



o

Some things may be changing, but that does not mean that everyone will want to reconnect. They may only want to reconnect with someone if they feel that person is the same person they used to know. Many who leave the ANTM change drastically and that might keep current members from reaching out.

Anonymous 18 days ago



o

Maybe a hot take but if you aren't different after leaving a cult, then what is even the point of leaving? I'll spend the rest of my life growing and changing and evolving. If that alone prevents someone from wanting to be in my life, that's not a healthy person to be around anyway.

Personally, I think Lakers really struggle with taking accountability and admitting they were wrong. Imagine raising a child in a cult. Then that child grows up and leaves the cult. Is shunned by their friends and family. Works their whole life at overcoming that trauma. Then the friends and family don't want to connect because that person "changed." The lack of empathy or understanding is, as usual, shocking.

Grateful 18 days ago



o

So sad to hear of the continued shunning.

Imo this past October's change of Leaders after 50+ years of despotism looks to me like a simple opportunistic power play/coup and the legalistic phariseeism is still sadly in place.



DC 11 days ago



•

I am wondering if the church in Pittsburgh and in Columbus have officially cut of the remnant of the church in Cleveland? Was there any official statement yet from the church leaders about Cleveland church?

Wondering a month ago Reply Olikes currently



o

We are not aware of any official statements. It seems the people who are still attending in Cleveland are continuing to "pray about further direction". The large contingent that left a few weeks back are still gone.

ANTMQUESTIONS ADMIN a month ago



Late to discover this site but grateful for the validation and vindication I feel reading through it. Heartbroken to hear of the suffering of others in the system that I was not close to in spirit or geography. Further anguished to hear more about the agonies of those I did know and shared a place with under the beguiled adults who abandoned us kids to the co-op of indoctrination and initiation into the ranks of that bleak future named Calling. We were a generation destined to inherit the Earth via the teachings of our Apostle. Instead we were macerated until pleading for a forgiveness withheld. Love conditioned upon compliance. Existence not in and of ourselves, but awaiting our return to our heavenly corpus to become full. An awaiting that robbed us of precious time in our youth. An awaiting that it unfortunately seems some still hold out for.

To those of you who have made it out - congratulations for seizing back the reigns of your lives. Being a survivor is no badge to envy, but your fortitude is admirable in the face of the fear of losing the entire life system you initially chose or that you were born into. Courage was called upon to make such a change and it is to be fostered so that the new always has room to move in.

I, personally, have made it leagues beyond the reach of Lakeview and never looked back, and am proud of every single thing that I have done in my life despite the handicaps that ANTM saddled me with. I was to be a "Mighty Man of Gawd". Rebelliously, I found inner strength beyond the power of the divine that carried me into ventures full of joy, triumph and self actualization. *Baptism* by fire at times, but on my terms and, crucially, with my consent.

To this day, though, there are words that were spoken, whispered or bellowed, and acts that were committed against me that cling to my heels as I put further distance between myself and Lakeview. Words that struck fear, shame, desperation and guilt. Reminders of the pain of the errant, or flagrantly rouge swing of a massive paddle, drilled with holes for more speed. Echos of the intimidation and coercion that a room full of "envelope openers" had to offer. Would someone rid me of these meddling priests!?

Relief is accurate in describing my feelings upon hearing of the dissolution of the cult. It is like now, finally, after the death of the matriarch who beat me, the ouster of the heir apparent who emotionally and psychologically marred me, the detachment of congregations who ostracized and isolated me, and all of the leaders that stole me to the temple, I am able to unburden myself of the yoke of this past. Like a haunting has been lifted and a peace can reclaim the once shuddering house of my psyche.

This system of abuse seems to have finally met mouth to tail and is consuming itself. May it's appetite be whetted.

D. a month ago Reply 8likes currently



o

Ok, I am just going to to come out and say it.

This is by far, the most moving, thoughtful, reflective, heartfelt indictment against the ANTM that I have ever read.

The fact that our site would give validation to such an intelligent, self- aware writer is a compliment I regard as a high honor.

May you continue to live your life, on your own terms and take satisfaction in knowing that you are not alone and you are seen.

Finally, thank you for validating this writer in my personal sentiment that when bad people come to a bad end, it is a good thing.



to you D. !

ANTMQUESTIONS ADMIN a month ago



o

I'll leave it to the band A Perfect Circle to express my feelings on the matter. Being raised by abusive, narcissistic bullies for parents who groveled at the feet of leadership and happily laid their kids on the altar of sacrifice, I absolutely partake in the juicy schadenfreude of it all. They will of course be the first ones to tell that's wrong. The same ones who told you that they beat you because they love you.

Here's some lyrics from the song: Delicious by A Perfect Circle.

How inconvenient and unexpected
And harrowing for you
As consequences tend to be
For the rest of us
So delicious to witness your dread
Poetic justice consummate
Not unlike you to needlessly hoist away
Your small grenade
Arrogant and insolent
You don't give a damn
Collateral be damned
Not unlike you to hoist away
Hoist away your small grenade
Choice and bed be made, good night
Sleep tight
So delicious for the rest of us
To witness your dread
Poetic justice consummate
Not unlike you to heedlessly hoist my own vain petard
Wrong side of history
You don't give a damn
Collateral be damned
Not unlike you to hoist away
Hoist away your small grenade
Choice and bed be made, good night
Sleep tight

Grateful a month ago



•

Hope everyone is having a good day, God Is moving in the hearts of many it will take time but in the end He Wins

Outside lookin in a month ago Reply 4likes currently



o



Boo a month ago



o

There's like 8 BILLION people in the world (give or take).

And yet Ex-Lakers still trying to witness to other Ex-Lakers. SMH

BOOOO a month ago



o

The whole Boo family showing up here in the comments. I have to feel like "Boo" is the paterfamilias and SMH BOO is the vaguely disappointing scion who couldn't quite elevate the Boo Family Legacy the way his family always hoped. Notice how the old man just commented a simple emoji and the presumptive son kind of rambled on.

Comments Geneologist a month ago



o

What in the world are you talking about?
BooBerry a month ago



•

People asking where will the money go when the Maine building (and looks like maybe others) is sold.

"There are generally five key steps of choreography to keep an organization in-rhythm and on-beat during its last dance, including:

- 1) Hold a vote with the board of directors. The organization's board of directors should vote to dissolve the organization. This process should be done in accordance with the organization's articles of incorporation and bylaws — and be documented in official meeting minutes.
 - 2) Write and implement a formal "plan of dissolution." This plan is a written description of how the organization plans to distribute any remaining assets and address any remaining liabilities. A good plan documents action steps and assignments and includes a timeline to help maintain accountability throughout the dissolution process.
 - 3) Settle all liabilities and terminate The organization should address any liabilities, future commitments under contracts, and payment of taxes as applicable. It also needs to determine if it has any donor-restricted funds which may need to be returned to the donor.
 - 4) Distribute remaining assets. As required by law, a nonprofit organization that is ceasing existence is required to transfer all remaining assets to another tax-exempt organization or to the government. It is unlawful to give any property away to individuals - including board members, volunteers, staff, or beneficiaries. It is acceptable to sell the organization's assets only if they are sold at fair market value.
 - 5) Notify federal and state agencies of the dissolution. This step includes notifying the state agency that handles corporate registrations. Also, the IRS needs to be notified."
- Can't Take The Money & Run a month ago Reply 3likes currently



o

Question - once distributed to another non-profit organization, do these funds come in with restrictions to keep them from going to personnel with common control of both organizations? One Step Behind a month ago



•



And then there were... two?

Read the latest on:

<https://www.antmquestions.com/red-october-the-aftermath-2024>



ANTMQUESTIONS ADMIN a month ago Reply 6likes currently



To those still within the post-ANTM churches:

I ask with the utmost compassion -- what are you afraid of?

Is God so small that He can't catch you if you leave what you've known for so long? Is God so weak that He wouldn't move mountains to reach you where you are? Is the world so terrifying that God cannot cover you? Is your past that you've built greater than the call of God on your life? Is the past so heavy that you are afraid to lose it? Is God so heartless that He would refuse to heal your wounds?

"For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but My steadfast love shall not depart from you."

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear."

Lovingly, what are you afraid of?

Remaining in Prayer a month ago Reply 11likes currently



Big shakeup in Cleveland today. Multiple families leave. No pastors or elders remain. Future unclear. Will there be enough remaining for a church to continue? Many siding with team Otis. Wonder if mandated moves are in the future?



ANTMQUESTIONS ADMIN 2 months ago Reply 4likes currently



o

This addiction to drama is the hallmark of this group, not anything remotely about sharing Jesus with the world.

Lake(view) Effect Snow Forecast 2 months ago



o

Translation to "addiction to drama", news that may effect the status of remaining family members.

ANTMQUESTIONS ADMIN 2 months ago



o

Hey, Lake(view) Effect Snow Forecast. You are basically the person on the Titanic telling everyone in the lifeboats, " everything is perfectly fine. Why are you stressing out and being so dramatic?... Oh wow that water is COLD... drama queens! "

Safe in the lifeboat a month ago



Just pointing out that the (re) manufacturing of drama is what keeps people off balance enough to keep them "in" at these "churches"..... If there was ever an end to the constant chaos, people would realize there are no similarities between Lakeview and a healthy group of followers of Jesus..... That is all.

Lake(view) Effect Snow Forecast a month ago



@Lake(view) - when was any of it ever about Jesus?

The ANTM was never about Jesus. None that entered there are about Jesus. Even you...are you about Jesus?

If it's ALL about Jesus, why even comment here? Why not go focus on Jesus?

All About Jesus a month ago



Someone should start a class action lawsuit against Chris Otis and Jason Elliot. We need more proof of what they have been doing with the church's money, and it seems that since Chris Otis was the accountant..he is directly responsible. The people need their money due to negligence on behalf of Chris Otis and Jason Elliot.

Unknown 2 months ago Reply 6likes currently



Jason Elliott (2 t's by the way) isn't at Lakeview. Hasn't been for many years, so I fail to see how he would be responsible for money there. Just a little fyi

meg a month ago



MAINE CHURCH WEBSITE GONE AS WELL



ANTMQUESTIONS ADMIN 2 months ago Reply 3likes currently



MAINE CHURCH GOES UP FOR SALE.

https://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/1210-Main-St_Bowdoin_ME_04287_M93834-95060?from=srp-list-card



By Cheryl Haggerty with Haggerty Realty

VA Loans for Veterans: Check 2024 Eligibility | See how much home you can afford

● For sale

\$475,000 Est. \$3,158/mo

1 bed 0.5+ bath 2,880 sqft 3.08 acre lot

ANTMQUESTIONS ADMIN 2 months ago Reply 1likes currently



The absolute bloody hubris of naming your last church after your first one. The poetry is almost biblical and despite their insistent teaching (and savage example!) I cannot help but feel empathy for their dreams coming to dust in this dreary but richly deserved fashion.

Accidental Alliteration Sorry 2 months ago



Who gets the cash? Always follow the money.

The IRS 2 months ago



o

Potus and Elliot are collecting the cash. Ones an attorney, the other is an accountant. Their love of money is greater than their love for the Lord.

Unknown 2 months ago



o

Actually, they are both accountants.

ANTMQUESTIONS ADMIN 2 months ago



o

Well there we go, that's why they took over the church. It's about money, and controlling the people to follow blindly without question.

Unknown 2 months ago



o

Seems like a good deal. Any buyers here?

Show me the money 2 months ago



o

Looks like it might have sold

Wondering 2 months ago



o

The IRS, legally, they have to give all of the money to some sort of non-profit charity. Non-profits give to non-profits.

Doubting Thomas a month ago



•

Are the churches still shunning?

Former Member 2 months ago Reply 3likes currently



o

Len Sabo, what's the latest?

"...and I'll be on the inside lookin' out" 2 months ago



○

My family thats still in hasnt reached out, that's for sure...

Still Waiting... 2 months ago



○

Hey "Doubting Thomas", any info on shunning posture?

Curious Soul 2 months ago



○

"Curious Soul", I personally have no problem talking with those who have left the church. It is up to each person/family as to whether they feel comfortable talking to those who have left. That is what I believe and I don't care what we are told/not told about it from the pulpit... I know that's not the answer you were looking for, apologies.

Doubting Thomas 2 months ago



○

Thanks for responding. Could you share what is being said from the pulpit on this topic as of late?

Curious Soul 2 months ago



○

My guess: nothing is being said on this topic. It is not a forefront concern because "they don't shun." They think if they're nice when they run into you, maybe even say hi, maybe even send a birthday text, they are not shunning. It's a blatant disregard of word meaning, "deliberate & persistent avoiding or distancing oneself from another, including emotional distancing," is the actual definition & this is clearly practiced.

Some also fall into the category of saying nothing at all, grabbing groceries right beside you like you are invisible, etc. Unfortunately, the persistent narrative of "We're the ones who left THEM, so therefore we didn't want a relationship. Therefore, we are the ones who created the distance. Therefore, we are the ones who shunned them," seems to be the harder lie to break.

#IYKYK 2 months ago



○

Iykyk-you nailed it

Nope, no shunning here, I smiled and said Hi 2 months ago



o

From what I know, the associated churches do, but vehemently deny that they are. When I was in it, they would deny shunning because "they say hi." But they will stop reaching out completely, even if they claim to "love" you, and the conversations (if any) will be fake and very surface level. The excuse is: "Well, we just don't have anything in common anymore" or "There is nothing to talk about anymore." Which is incredibly sad when they are family members or people who were supposed to be your church family, and goes to show how shallow the relationship actually was. We knew before leaving that it was going to happen. But it still hurt when it actually did despite us trying to reach out. Everyone I used to know is now no longer in my life and it makes me wonder whether any of it was genuine.

On the brighter side, those who left before us have welcome us with open arms and we talk, cry and laugh together. We are grateful for reconciliation and renewed relationships.

I could go on and on about the shunning... it's the most telling thing about a cult.

Outsider 2 months ago



•

Sitting watching The Incredibles. Am I the only one that sees a close resemblance between POTIS and the character Gilbert Huph?

Mr. Incredible 2 months ago Reply 11likes currently



o

I remember being a kid in LCA when the Incredibles came out and literally everyy kid in school (including Kylie) thought this comparison was the funniest thing in the world.

Bort 2 months ago



•

OK, I'll play along... (To Mary's Boy Child)

Long time ago in Bridgeville, So Antmquestions said
Myrtle's golden boy, Norman James, Set up a cult one day
Hark, now hear the children weeping, Our parents won't talk today
And we'll be in therapy forevermore, Because of Norman James
While Norman 2 was loafing off And giving up kingdom ground.
Chris and his minions did collate, The naughty list of what they found.
Now no one knows What was on that list. And don't you ask they say.
Or you'll be on the outside too, With the others on Christmas Day.
Hark, now hear the shunned ones weeping, A coup occurred that day.
And Chris will be forevermore, The Grinch of Christmas Day

Either Cry or Laugh 2 months ago Reply 9likes currently



Pretty funny

Wondering 2 months ago



The Colin Toomey Memorial "No Questions" Version

Said the night wind to the little lamb:

"Do you see what I see?

Way up in the sky, little lamb

Do you see what I see?

A star, a star, dancing in the night

With a tail as big as a kite

With a tail as big as a kite"

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy:

"Do you hear what I hear?

Ringin' through the sky, shepherd boy

Do you hear what I hear?

A song, a song, high above the trees

With a voice as big as the sea

With a voice as big as the sea"



So what is the current Cleveland status? Is there a new pastor appointed? I can't imagine that the Falks would be ok with one of their own no longer being in power.

Anonymous 3 months ago Reply 4likes currently



The elders overthrew Colin with force, and gave no mercy. They also did this with the direction of POTUS to other members.

Unknown 2 months ago



I find it very interesting that no one has said anything about the fact that otis was the 2nd hand man or something like that for the whole time those 40 transgressions took place. Praying for eyes to be opened in the name of Jesus

The Grass is greener 3 months ago Reply 4likes currently



It's important to keep this in focus definitely. We did talk about it on the site.

<https://www.antmqquestions.com/something-does-not-add-up>

ANTMQ Assistant GM 3 months ago



Culture 101: THE ENABLER CAN NEVER BE THE FIXER.

That goes for C. Damon Otis and the entire eldership. Lakers, wake up!

"If you're not in the ark, then you'll be in the flood..." 3 months ago



o

To even realize that Otis is implicated in his own charges means you have to be analytical in a way that, by definition an ANTM member cannot be. To be analytical means that you are comparing situations and behavior to a set of principles. And I've gradually become aware of over the decades how basically unprincipled these kinds of people are. It's probably a human failing that "what my team does is good, what yours does is bad" and maybe it's just that our evolutionary roots are so tribal that none of this should be a surprise.

I spent years of my youth in Lakeview thinking in the back of my mind "this would be wrong if we weren't RIGHT." That applies to so many things we did. (I believe shunning remains the number one example.) But that core idea lies at the heart of many cults. You would never do or accept half the things you do, except, well, you found the Answers, or the Truth, or that Guy. It's only when you hold up the lens of your beliefs to all of your activities in a completely honest way that you realize that you've had your thumb on the scale for a long, long time.

30 years ago my voting community judged a man harshly for his sexual transgresses. Half the country based their frantic attempts to remove him from office on his infidelity. Two decades later that was forgotten, and in fact we saw those same people bending over backwards to promote their guy as being heaven sent. This was quite the flip from their earlier position. A pure and blatant example of lack of principle. I don't think it's unfair or irrelevant to point out that the ANTM community sits firmly and enthusiastically in that community of voters. The same twisted dynamics we see in this local situation have now come to characterize half the country. We're just tribal people.

ANTMQ Assistant GM 3 months ago



o

Yes he was the second in command, sounds like jealousy and greed drove him to what he's done. Obviously loving the Lord wasn't his objective.

Unknown 2 months ago



•

Hi. long time member here. ok I'll go along with this peaceful transfer of power, but wanna be clear at the start if they change the recipe for the bread I am done.

1st time leaker 3 months ago Reply 2likes currently



o

So what do you think about all of this?

ANTM ADMIN 3 months ago



o

This was peaceful?!?! Yikes, I'd hate to see your view of hustle.

Taco Tuesday! 3 months ago



o

Change the recipe? Like they've been doing for years? Church of Theseus at this point. Get out while you can, it's only going to get worse.

Fellowship Meal 3 months ago



o

Strangely, I would think that changing the recipe is the exact thing that is called for given the copious amounts of rotten fruit the previous recipe produced. Sadly, this illustrates the problem that is so prevalent at Lakeview. The problem, clearly stated, is that they think they are the truth establishers, rather than the truth seekers. May God save all those souls.

Rotten Chef Makes Rotten Food 3 months ago



•

Does it not bother anyone else that they are all elders, but the pastors are still keeping their titles? I am pretty sure that's not in the Bible, unless "He gave some as pastors, some elders..." doesn't give leadership roles. Have I been misunderstanding that passage my whole life? Also, what sense does it make to all be elders but still keeping the title of pastor make? Someone please explain this to me.

Doubting Thomas 3 months ago Reply Olikes currently



o

I'm a former member. What's the leadership structure like now?

What's going on? 3 months ago



o

Can you restate your question? Having trouble following.

1 Week to Christmas 3 months ago



o

It doesn't bother me at all.

It bothers me way more that anyone would ever commit to such a ridiculous place in any capacity (pastor, elder, deacon, MEMBER).

Instead trying to make sense of the senseless, ask yourself the real tough questions. Like, why did anybody ever join? Why did anybody ever stay? Why do they deny that it was anything other than evil from the start? What is wrong with they themselves that they would choose something so evil?

Speaking the truth and no one likes it 3 months ago



Why are ALL postings anonymous?

Some of you write well. Why not use your name?

Len Sabo

Len Sabo 3 months ago Reply 5likes currently



o

Some of us choose to remain anonymous because we have family inside of the post ANTM churches and we don't wish any backlash on them.

Remaining in Prayer 3 months ago



o

Why are you Len more concerned with writers real names than the crumbling facade of the "church" or in the false teachings there?

My name is anonymous 3 months ago



o

Because I don't want my words to be discredited because Lakeview has smeared my name to hell and back. I want to help people get out. I'm not afraid to say who I am. But I am not the focus here.

Grateful 3 months ago



o

Lenny,

Let me ask you. What's the scuttlebutt about the new Lakeview attitude vis-a-vis shunning. I'm hearing there is a thawing. And does that mean you'll be reaching out to your son soon?

Advantage Anonymous 3 months ago



o

I doubt that a thawing on shunning is happening since they used excommunication(supposedly) with the elders in Cleveland to boot Colin.

Sir Anonymous 3 months ago



o

1 of my favorite fairy tales...The Prodigal Father!!!

@ Lenny - curious about your intentions here. are you still steadfast in your commitment as everything you've fought for your whole life is crumbling? basically just trolling everyone?

or are you actually being open-minded?

TPS Reports 3 months ago



•

I wonder if the church in Cleveland will be closed just like the church in Maine. Will everyone who is still there be told to move to Pittsburgh or Columbus?

Wondering 3 months ago Reply 0likes currently



o

If wonder if that is the endgame too. Consolidate power only to POTIS-JAY.

All bad things must come to an end 3 months ago



o

If anything, it seems the church in Cleveland would continue on just without ties to Pittsburgh or Columbus. Personally I think this would be the best thing to happen for those in Cleveland. Colin could really turn that church around (in my opinion) if Otis weren't breathing down his back every second. Definitely worth praying for him and all those who remain in cleveland!

Sarcastic Sloth 3 months ago



o

Colin is no longer the pastor of the Cleveland church.

Brenda 3 months ago



•

Chris Otis is just as guilty as any of the James clan maybe the board is Lakeview should remove him as well.

Pat D 3 months ago Reply 5likes currently



o

Agreed. He's been there the entire time. Why is he only just now standing up for what's right and the truth? Because he was afraid of Becky James? Not the actions of a man of integrity or morals no matter the excuse. If

you have to lurk in the shadows and wait for the right time to strike, your motivations are almost certainly not altruistic.

Grateful 3 months ago



o

Maybe God is using him to bring about his judgement.

Wondering 3 months ago



o

I'm not one to claim to speak for God or know his means and motivations. But sometimes a mundane explanation is just the truth. Bad people started Lakeview and now more bad people have taken over. Out of the frying pan and into the fire. I do believe that god helps those who help themselves and once you realize that it's just selfish people claiming to have intimate knowledge of god for their own means and ends, it's time to cut your losses and salvage what's left of your life and soul.

It's never too late to do the right thing. And the sooner you do, the more grateful you will be.

Grateful 3 months ago



o

Many here are just as guilty as Chris Otis, if you really think about it. I mean, he was once a member just like you...right? Would you be any different if given the opportunity, I wonder?

Speaking the truth and no one likes it 3 months ago



o

I was raised as a kid at Lakeview and left when I was 21. Safe to say I was definitely different. I have my own kids and I'd never put them through Lakeview BS. And that's what I'm most concerned about with the Lakeview- kids going through it who don't have a choice. They are damned if they do and damned if they don't.

Grateful 3 months ago



o

@ Grateful - Where there's a will, there's a way. You got out at 21...yes? I got out even earlier than that.

It's about being intentional. If you have your doubts about all of it when you're young, then wait. Don't commit to the church. Don't get married. Leave as soon as you can.

Speaking the truth and no one likes it 3 months ago



o

Agree. But. Some people aren't just dealing with a cult. They have abusive parents too. I know I wasn't the only one. Everyone is just doing the best they can with what they have at the time. Getting married and having kids does complicate leaving but it's not impossible. But I'd like to take this moment to emphasize that spouses who leave have a huge advantage. Your kids are in a cult. Get a good lawyer and get custody. Lakeview doesn't love any legal involvement. And there will be red flags popping up if there are multiple cases in the court system regarding custody and kids in cults. Always stay humble. It's the antidote to cults and a lot of things.

Grateful 3 months ago



o

@ Grateful - Weren't all our parents abusive?

Like, sure, it is a spectrum. But mine were God awful. There was little kindness and never actual love. I guess I just got to a point where I was sick of it and come whatever may outside, it sure as heck was gonna be better than in there.

There's all kinds of crutches people can use to justify why they never leave.

I'm not sure how humility is the antidote to a cult. I think not joining a cult is the antidote to a cult.

Speaking the truth and no one likes it 3 months ago



o

Humility is the antidote because if you are very comfortable with maybe not being right and not having all of the answers, your EGO doesn't respond when places like Lakeview start stroking it. And I mean the language of "God's remnant", the people who are living the word, the inner circle of god, claiming to hear from and speak for god, being his chosen people, and on and on.

Cult is a word that roughly means abusive relationship in a group context. Therefore, having humility can greatly help you prevent abusive relationships of all kinds.

Hopefully you will realize with time and healing that it's not your place or business to judge how or when a person leaves a situation like that. You can tell yourself that you did it the best way but the reality is that it's in your best interest to focus on yourself and what you need to do to improve yourself.

Grateful 3 months ago



o

@ Grateful - not sure you're as humble as you think you are by that response. and look, clearly I am not. but I don't pretend. I'm not a fan of fakeness, a lack of authenticity. Be true to yourself. I'm guessing you're as genuinely "Grateful" as you are humble.

truthfully, I don't have much grace for any of the ANTM cattle and why should I? why do people try to convince themselves that they owe anything to any of them?

I truly do not understand (and never will) how people let themselves get into such an awful situation. Was that you that said earlier...God helps those who help themselves?

Maybe people should start to help themselves out of the situation. Only they can control their destiny.

Speaking the truth and no one likes it 3 months ago



o

@Grateful Wait, you're advocating for divorce as a solution for people getting out of there?
You are as wacky and out of touch as the James's if that's your stance. What immense hypocrisy.

Baffled 3 months ago



o

I'm not here to fight. No need to attack me personally. I'm grateful to be out of there.

I didn't advocate for divorce? But usually if one spouse leaves, Lakeview pushes for divorce. I'm telling parents who have left to use that to their advantage and push for custody.

The only thing I really care about at this point is this place crumbling so they can't hurt kids anymore.

Grateful 3 months ago



o

@ Grateful - you
want the place to crumble. will that solve the problem?

you seem to be mad at the Jameses (who are gone), Chris Otis, at your parents. Even at me.

But you should be mad at every parent who ever subjected their kids to that. Leave it at that.

I'm just a "kid" like you. I never subjected mine to that foolishness.

Speaking the truth and Grateful hates it 3 months ago



o

I'm not mad at you. But I don't appreciate you putting words in my mouth, saying I said things I did not say, telling me how I feel, how authentic or grateful I am and who I should be mad at and what opinion I should have.

I won't be responding to you again. Have a good night.

Grateful 3 months ago



o

@ Grateful - not following. what words did I put in your mouth exactly?

feel free to respond, but also, thanks if you don't.

Speaking the truth and no one likes it 3 months ago



<https://studyfinds.org/never-visiting-family-friend-death>

Let's not underestimate the harm that comes from shunning.

Shunning is a killer 3 months ago Reply 4likes currently



Does anyone recall the end of Lewis's *The Last Battle*? It features an epic, final showdown between true Narnians and the other guys -a hodge podge of Calormenes and Narnians who were never true to Aslan. And there were the dwarves, who huddled in a dark hut trying to stay out of the fray. When Peter shut the door to Narnia, the dwarves were actually in the new Narnia, but they never realized it. They remained blind, huddled in what once was a dark stable, failing to recognize that their shelter, and even their familiar surroundings, had changed. Kind Narnians attempted to open their eyes and were met with mockery and denial. "The dwarves are for the dwarves," they said. They believed their insular way was correct. Though they weren't condemned to die in the end of Narnia, they condemned themselves to never enter into the new one. For those loyal to the church claiming to be the last bastion of Latter Rain, who have been taught that those who decided for any reason to worship in a different local church were cast into outer darkness, and that both the world and the professing universal church are false....what are the chances that your "remnant" is the group self-selecting to huddle in the dark? What are the chances that, for all the dogma regurgitated about how others failed to move into the "kingdom," it is really isolated, stagnant groups like Lakeview et al that are the ones failing to press further up and further in? And I'm sure you'll say I must have it backwards, those who left are of course the naughty antichrists, but what did Aslan say to the dwarves, loyal to their own cause to a fault? He tried to give them small comforts and they rejected them, believing they had all they needed. Cf Laodicea-eye salve, white robe, gold.....

The tricky thing about deception is being able to recognize when it has captured you. Once you find the courage to take a few steps into the light, and your eyes adjust, all becomes clear. There is a tremendous mental cost to contemplating that you may have been wrong all those years...most people aren't willing to pay that price of challenging the groupthink, and Repenting.

Eustace Scrubb 3 months ago Reply 6likes currently



It's true, that metaphor for self-imposed (and maintained!) blindness is really just incredible. I was citing it to the ANTM Admin offline the other day.

See Ess? 3 months ago



Current members, you really need to look at scripture, and spend time in prayer, and ask does any of this behavior by leadership line up with scripture? The ANTM in whatever form it has now taken is still twisting scripture to support controlling behavior. It is clear that Chris and Jason are more worried about the integrity of the organization over the health and well being of the people. This is no different than what Norman Sr. setup, only now Chris seems to be ramping it up. God is not going to save any Christian organization or denomination, He will save believers individually. The church is the collective of individual people who are cultivating a relationship with and putting their trust in Him. It is clear Chris and Jason have prioritized ANTM (for lack of a better term) has placed the organization and their positions of power as their idol, rather than the Truth of God's Word. Current members you should be questioning what is going on, search the scriptures, FOR YOURSELF, and seek the Lord FOR YOURSELF. What you have been told by the leadership is NOT biblical pastoral behavior. I pray for you all who are soft hearted and questioning, seeking the truth, and knowing that leaving that organization will completely upend your life. I know because I walked that path 3 years ago. I will tell you this there are many hard days, but God has completely given us a new life and redeemed things in us we thought were long dead. I also caution you to not let this situation cause bitterness in you. Many who have left are angry and bitter, we made the conscious decision to forgive and move on. We looked to the Lord for His guidance, grace, and mercy. Do not let this cost your faith in God.

Safely Out 3 months ago Reply 8likes currently



o

Thank you for saying this and I'm glad you got out. Not trying to argue with you at all or disagree, but just want to add that it's ok to be angry also. Anger is a natural response to mistreatment. Especially for those of us who didn't have a choice about being there as kids and suffered abuse at the hands of our parents and leadership, I just want to say it's ok to be angry and don't let anyone make you feel guilty about that. You can only process your emotions as they come to you to work through them. Anger is teaching you that the way you were treated wasn't right and what can you learn from that situation in the future to protect or avoid a similar situation. Sorry- just wanted to add something I've learned in case it helps someone else or helps them not feel guilty about their emotions.

In the end, I hope everyone gets out. I hope the toxic cycle ends. And I hope the best for everyone.

Grateful 3 months ago



o

@Grateful, Totally agree. I am not saying there weren't moments of anger and frustration. There were many times we angry about how we were lied to, manipulated, gaslit, etc. Definitely normal human emotions as a part of the process. My point was more about setting course to work through it and move on, not to let anger and bitterness destroy you. That's all. At a certain point the past has to be the past.

Safely Out 3 months ago



If that's the reason they are voting Colin T out, that is just ridiculous. The kingdom of God is not supposed to be like this. We don't force people out because we don't like what they say. Come on, people. Think about what is happening here...brothers and sisters in Christ do not act like this.

Doubting Thomas 3 months ago Reply 3likes currently



o

Yeah, I'd be looking for the exit if I were you.

Shunning is a killer 3 months ago



•



CLEVELAND CHURCH ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN "FELLOWSHIP" OF CHURCHES SINCE THEY WENT ALONG WITH REMOVING COLIN TOOMEY.



ANTMQ ADMIN 3 months ago Reply 1likes currently



•



COLIN TOOMEY VOTED OUT AS NORTHRIDGE PASTOR AFTER MAKING DISPARAGING COMMENTS TOWARD LAKEVIEW LEADERSHIP.

CLEVELAND ELDER BOARD STRONG ARMED TO VOTE COLIN OUT UNDER THREAT OF EXCOMMUNICATION. UNCLEAR IF NORTHRIDGE WILL STILL BE DISFELLOWSHIPED FROM LAKEVIEW AND COLUMBUS, BUT AT THIS POINT, NO MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANYONE IN CLEVELAND, EVEN FAMILY.



ANTMQ ADMIN 3 months ago Reply 1likes currently



o

So much for the ANTM being defunct

Is this the 4th Reich? 3 months ago



o

It seems that interwoven family relationships between the churches proves to be a stronger trump card than a formal association with bylaws.

ANTMQ ADMIN 3 months ago



o

Threatening elders and members with losing their family is a strong tool. This looks more and more like mob hits.

The rise of the Otis and Elliott mafia

Is this the 4th Reich? 3 months ago



o

Sounds like a great time to leave. Chris is clearly setting the tone and making an example of what will happen to people if they don't kiss his feet properly. He's literally just a man and we have freedom of speech in this country so you can say whatever you want about him. For example, Chris is an angry little man who is far too sensitive for his own good. Feels great and my family is still intact.

Grateful 3 months ago



o

We should stop comparing this clown show to Nazi Germany it's an embarrassment

That Guy 3 months ago



o

I must say, Act One of the Otis Reign of Terror surprised me, but now this is getting all to "trumpishly predictable". What will be the Third Act??? How long until Otis turns the knife on Elliot?

It's Being Served Cold 3 months ago



o

Who is on the Cleveland Elder Board these days....all new kids like Lakeview?

(Not) Kool Kiddo 3 months ago



o

Hey "that Guy". Calling it the 4th Reich isn't comparing it to Nazi Germany. There was a 1st and 2nd Reichs before the Nazi third. Reich just means, realm, empire etc. the reference is referring to things going to a new monarchy or if you wanted to make a nazi reference a dictatorship. That's it.

Read this that guy 3 months ago



o

There's being pedantic gaslighting and then there's saying that a reference the 4th Reich isn't a Nazi reference. You're like the Hitler of defending Hitler references. If you're looking for a church that excellent at explaining away the obvious based upon technicalities and you're local to Pittsburgh or Columbus I have some great suggestions.

That Guy 3 months ago



<https://www.antmquestions.com/questions-for-chris>

We have tried asking similar questions, but we don't get straight answers from anyone. It is nice to know that we aren't the only ones with doubts.

Doubting Thomas 3 months ago Reply 2likes currently



o

Thomas,

Are you still currently a member at one of the churches? If so, you mean some of the questions listed have actually been asked?

Intrigued 3 months ago



Me: Please write a proposal for a church to stop shunning

ChatGPT: OK.

Title: Proposal for Fostering Inclusivity and Compassion at Lakeview

Objective: The primary goal of this proposal is to address and mitigate instances of shunning within our church community, promoting a culture of inclusivity, empathy, and understanding.

Introduction: Shunning, while rooted in certain religious doctrines, can have detrimental effects on individuals and the overall cohesion of our community. This proposal aims to shift the focus towards compassion, reconciliation, and fostering a supportive environment for all members.

Proposed Strategies:

1) Education and Awareness:

Organize workshops and seminars to educate members about the impact of shunning on mental health and well-being.

Provide resources that explore alternative interpretations of religious texts, emphasizing love, forgiveness, and acceptance.

2) Pastoral Counseling:

Establish a confidential pastoral counseling service for individuals experiencing conflicts or feeling isolated due to shunning.

Train pastoral staff to approach such situations with empathy, encouraging open dialogue and understanding.

3) Community Building Events:

Plan regular events that encourage interaction among members, fostering a sense of community and shared values.

Organize small group activities, such as study groups, where members can engage in meaningful discussions about

faith and values.

4) Communication Channels:

Implement a communication strategy that emphasizes transparency and openness regarding church policies.

Establish channels for members to express concerns or seek guidance without fear of judgment.

5) Reconciliation Initiatives:

Develop a structured approach for facilitating reconciliation between individuals who have experienced shunning and those involved.

Encourage forgiveness and provide support for those seeking to rebuild relationships.

6) Leadership Training:

Provide training for church leaders on conflict resolution, empathy, and effective communication.

Equip leaders to guide the congregation towards a more compassionate and understanding approach.

7) Evaluation:

Regularly assess the effectiveness of implemented strategies through feedback mechanisms, surveys, and open forums. Adjust approaches based on the evolving needs and dynamics of the community.

Conclusion:

By adopting these strategies, we aim to transform our church into a place where love and understanding prevail, fostering a sense of belonging for every member. Together, we can build a community that reflects the teachings of compassion found in our faith.

Even A Heartless Computer Gets It 3 months ago Reply 2likes currently



I heard the Christian Life Book is being rewritten due to heresy. This confuses me for a few reasons. Pastor Otis also taught these same "heresies" so how can anyone be sure what is written now won't also be wrong? And why do the congregations have to wait for things to be rewritten before they know what doctrine is right? Why don't people simply read the Word of God for themselves?

Brenda 3 months ago Reply 6likes currently



From what I've read in the CLC, it gives guidelines to how one should live and operate as a Christian. It is a formula for a culture. I found it ironic when Norman speaks of how denominations fight over interpretations and even speaks down about them but yet the entire book is essentially a outline for a denomination. When you formulate a certain type of culture, you can control the masses. And all new congregants have a culture to adhere to and follow - OR ELSE. Saw this umbrella of authority diagram and saw Bill Gothard use something just like it.

Kevin Kruse 3 months ago



o

This gets more and more suspicious every day. Is next Sunday going to bring a story of Otis having magic glasses and going behind a curtain to obtain revelation that was somehow missing from the last 30+ years of his ministry at Lakeview???? I don't think we've seen the last episode of this juvenile soap opera yet. It's sad and a shameful representation of the gospel of the kingdom.

As The Lake Burns 3 months ago



o

Great questions, but here are some even better ones:

- 1) Why did anyone ever join?
- 2) Why did anyone ever stay?
- 3) Why do people forget that THEY are a major reason the ANTM happened?

Asking the real ?s 3 months ago



o

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Luke 6:27-28: But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. The way the Kingdom advances is being kind to the ungrateful and wicked & forgiving. Forgiveness is the final form of love. With human beings it is impossible, yet with God it is possible & this is the mark of true spiritual maturity.

Tragically, this community continues to be spiritually immature, having nothing, because it is not marked by love that flows from God. An emphasis on passing along “skills” & “spiritual gifts,” as emphasized in CLC and MTS book creates an immature ungodly counterfeit.

Some things to consider: Balaam gets a revelation from God yet the NT calls him a wicked man, Saul was prophetic and anointed and ends up in witchcraft, Judas healed the sick, drove demons out, and preached. It's not about gifts or power flowing through us. It's about love, as qualified by loving the ungrateful and the wicked. So, the test to see if you are in the faith is this infallible mark, the evidence of God's Kingdom advancing is not gifts, externals, or power flowing through us, it is love.

The question is simple: is your community marked by love, gentleness, approachableness, patience, openness, honesty, forgiveness, discipleship in loving your enemies? Or, is it marked by beastly characteristics: prideful, unforgiving, irritable, unloving, jealous, boastful, suspicious, looking at the worst in people, judgmental, pushy, critical, offended easily, self absorbed, entitled, victimhood, quick to anger, controlling, discipleship in division?

#fruitdoesntlie 3 months ago



o

When I left, my family shunned me for leaving the 'Kingdom of God'. I think they want to feel more important than other people. That addiction can be fed with new doctrinal 'revelations'.

They might just tweak Norman Sr.'s mix of sketchy Pentecostal teachings. A new blend of doctrines would establish their own primacy over former leadership and feed their ego. It's Norman Sr.'s playbook with new people in charge.

Tun-de-la-bubba 3 months ago



Just curious is Norman II and David James have actually left the church in Lakeview or just been removed from leadership?

Wondering 4 months ago Reply 0likes currently



Are you serious, Clark?

All kidding aside, think about it for a minute. Why on earth would Norm and David hang around if they've lost all their power/income?

Oh that's right...some people cling to that false belief that there Lakeview actually is/was a good place at any time.

Clark Griswold 4 months ago



They are gone.

Lakeview is KJV no more 4 months ago



The KJV reference just made my day..... Thank you

(A)version 2 Corruption 4 months ago



Well, stop and ask. Why would they suddenly leave and all at once? Doesn't add up at all. Makes you think that Chris Otis and Jason Elliott had ulterior motives to remove the people that got in their way..

The truth will come out 4 months ago



WONDERING, It's a legitimate question because it relates to current propaganda at Lakeview. "THEY left & good riddance." It is much more palatable to members if people "choose to leave" vs they are kicked out. It's an easier justification and doesn't rattle their conscious as much...the nuances of true choice are rarely thought through. If I interpret your question correctly: when they were removed from leadership, did they have the option to stay? Did their children have the option to stay? And, if so, was that option really in good faith: Were there discussions about repairing & reconciling relationships (true righteousness in God's sight) & did they have opportunity for confession & repentance? Were they actually in good faith given the option to "take it before the congregation," with the aim of "restoring the brother?"

Not sure the truth comes out in this life 3 months ago



•

With the antm dissolving, did we just see the birth of 3 very tiny cults, instead of 1 small one?

Hail Hydra 4 months ago Reply 5likes currently



•

Just because the ANTM has been declared no longer active doesn't mean that the shunning and the harsh leadership will stop. The teachings and person of Jesus is still missing. Jesus is the source of reconciliation. Families are still torn apart. Jesus is the author of unconditional love. Performance is still expected. Until leadership recognizes the need for Jesus to be the One to emulate-nothing will change.

An Old Timer

An Old Timer 4 months ago Reply 7likes currently



○

If anything it's going to get worse for the people in the churches. The pastors now only have to answer to the local board of elders who are all yes men.

Middle aged timer 4 months ago



•

It reminds me of Acts of the apostles where the Sanhedrin approached the age old Gamaliel on concerns over this new movement centered around Jesus. In response he gave examples of those who were once notable and had gathered a following and eventually peters out into nothing. He said ' if it is of God , then there will no stopping it...if of man then it will not last' . Throughout history movements have come and gone which are built on the vision of one man. Sadly, this is yet another movement that has not passed the test of time.— that speaks of its legitimacy in the first place. So the ANTM is defunct now. God and man have spoken.

Kevin Flynn 4 months ago Reply 12likes currently



○

I think a lot of "churches" fall into the same trap. The organization becomes the focus instead of serving God. I firmly believe that the policies & procedures became the focus rather than serving God. Controlling people and situations was the focus, akin to social engineering. Perhaps it was started with right motives, but people who love rules and regulations became mesmerized with James Sr.'s firm ruling hand, and wanted in, namely Chris Otis and Jason Elliott. 50 years from it's beginnings it has become completely oppressive to people and families. The organization has become the "idol". It became what they claimed they never were, legalism.

Safely Out 4 months ago



o

Kevin, and they promptly rejected Gamaliel's advise, unless we think beating the apostles prior to releasing them is what he. had in mind.

Mike Langiewicz 4 months ago



o

And issuing documents to Saul to extend the persecution to Damascus.

Mike Langiewicz 4 months ago



•



ANTM is no more. Organization defunct. Will endure as simply 3 independent churches with 3 independent pastors maintaining voluntary cooperation. No apostolic oversight. Norman, Sr's dream is dead.



ANTMQ ADMIN 4 months ago Reply 7likes currently



o

What a banal whimper for an organization that wielded such power and pain over families to go out on...

Stunned disbelief 4 months ago



o

This is obviously a step in the right direction. However, the culture perpetuated in these religious groups, current and former, will need to change because of all the aforementioned concerns listed on this site. Culture changes with leadership leading the way. But leadership is presumably staying the same. Repentance is necessary, yes, and to know what to truly repent from may take years of deconstruction and detangling.

Skeptical 4 months ago



•

I think one of my favorite things about leaving Lakeview was realizing that it doesn't matter what other people believe or don't believe. It's none of my business and I stay in my lane.

I do speak up about Lakeview however because it's not a matter of faith- there is abuse taking place there in the guise of faith. If it was just consenting adults, I wouldn't care. But of course it's not because kids are [involved](#). So I'll continue speaking up until the shunning and abuse end for their sakes.

The sad part is that this is all done because of toxic egos and control and of course money. If you guys at Lakeview

really believe in God and heaven and hell, I have to believe that there will be hell to pay for what you have done to these innocent kids. You have left me with scars that will last a lifetime.

I only hope to continue healing for my kids and my our generations to come. There's no greater blessing in my life than knowing that I can love my children freely, unconditionally and there will never be an outside requirement from anyone or anything to abandon and disown them.

Followers of Lakeview- you are complicit in this abuse of your children until you make the right choice and leave. Choose what is right. Choose your family. If you believe God has given it to you, why would you treat it like garbage? Why would someone require that of you? Do they know better than what God has chosen as a family? Ask the hard questions and follow the thread and do the right thing please.

Grateful 4 months ago Reply 5likes currently



o

Heck yeah Yeah! 4 months ago



•

And then there are those of us, who not only considered that the antm was wrong, but then questioned whether any of it was based on reality and over time came to understand that there is no evidence to support the Jesus narrative as found in scripture or any evidence for a god, for that matter. As long as people are trying to use this platform to preach their new found "truth", I guess I'll toss in my 2 cents as well. It's all a fairytale meant to make sense of the chaos of life, and yes I've read all the apologetic books.

The Grinch Who Stole Jesus 4 months ago Reply 2likes currently



o

So it's wrong for people to come on here and talk about a restored or new relationship with Jesus but it's ok for you to come in and proclaim how much better, enlightened than them? Ok...

Hi Flynn 4 months ago



o

Never said it was wrong. Just saying there are different views out there. And, not Flynn.
The Grinch Who Stole Jesus 4 months ago



•

Those on the outside, please stop talking about Jesus. None of you REALLY know Jesus from what I can tell. You know words/catchy phrases/revivals. A few convenient scriptures. Remember how convinced you were of being in the right at Lakeview, 1 of God's select chosen?

What if you realize none of what you ever learned was true? Can you still be happy? Still be at peace?

Yes, you can. Much more so than desperately seeking something not achievable.

If you want to find Jesus, truly find him, best of luck to you. But please stop trying to impress everyone that you've REALLY found Jesus this time. If you find him, do it for yourself and keep it to yourself. Otherwise, it's just more senseless talk. Feels very familiar to growing up in the Lake where everyone "knew" Jesus.

The Real Slim Shady 4 months ago Reply 1likes currently



o

Hey "Real Slim shady" you're like the atheist version of Norman James Sr.

Hi Flynn 4 months ago



o

How am I like Norman Sr exactly?

Because I don't want to hear the screwed up people from my youth continue to ramble on and on about their AMAZING relationship with Jesus?

Not Flynn 4 months ago



•

Continuing to speak to those within ANTM: I was terribly stagnant when I was still a congregant of the ANTM and it took a terrifying step outside of those walls to finally see Jesus for Who He truly was (is!). I had no real understanding of God's grace and love or the true essence of Jesus. I fell backwards a few steps, but I had to do so, had to unlearn and relearn a few things, in order to then step forward, leap forward, hobble forward, and fly forward in Christ. The terrifying, scary, heart breaking, gut wrenching decision had to be made to look at the reality around me for what it actually was. I implore you, friend, to look at your reality -- are you growing and thriving in the Son-light? Or have you been walking the same road over and over again, while being told not to question it? One of my favorite verses is 1 John 4:18: "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment." God is absolutely in love with you! You don't need to strive for or earn His love! He is far more in love with you than you can ever dream. You're His child! The ANTM had us grasping and striving for perfection, clawing at the high wall we could never climb, afraid of the repercussions if we did not continue the struggle forward, with no space to sink into His grace. That is called legalism and it is rife within the ANTM. If you're reading this and you are part of the "second generation," we were raised to be excellent soldiers, but we lacked understanding of God's infinite love for us. We were not raised to be children, sitting at the Father's feet, resting our heads on His lap -- which is what our true identities need to be: sons and daughters. We understood sacrifice and obedience but couldn't quite grasp the understanding of true Love, and if we "do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal." I pray earnestly that you discover the strength to peer outside of the cage (the cage that have been around for 10/20/30/40 years!) and find that you can indeed find love and freedom in Jesus and that "like the eagles, high above all the earth...you will soar on the Wings of the Spirit" so that you can truly "rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy." (1 Pet.)

Remaining in Prayer 4 months ago Reply 13likes currently



•

Guys don't forget to participate in our ongoing contest to characterize this sad little cult in the most grandiose ways possible. Make sure you liberally lean on history's great despots for your metaphors (YES you can use *him*). Also we are sending out checks for use of 10 cent words so get in there and grind your thesaurus!

I 4 months ago Reply 2likes currently



The paranoia, hubris, arrogance, and shunning are ingrained in the theology and practice of LCLC. In most tyrannies second generation demagogues are just as rapacious but devoid of the charismatic charm of the founding Leader. There will be neither repentance nor reform, rather a doubling down accompanied by some PR window dressing.

The incalculable harm done to families will reverberate for generations as the legacy of the James, Otis, the board of elders, and those funded, supported, and remained silent.

The change in the Gulag's present leadership does not expiate the guilt of the perpetrators or the willing enablers.

Mike Langiewicz

Mike Langiewicz 4 months ago Reply 3likes currently



o

Yes hubris is off putting

Luka Namir 4 months ago



o

Harsh words from a former perpetrator and willing enabler 😊

The Real Slim Shady 4 months ago



o

Correct, Slim, I am. Not harsh words, though, just a fair reading of history

Mike Langiewicz (the abuser formerly know as Lange) 4 months ago



Purges often revitalize tyrannies: new enemies, internal and external are identified; hope is generated; increased opportunities appear; the "real" problem is disposed of through scapegoating; new thinking is touted; the expats come home; the New and Glorious Day dawns.

POTIS will move quickly to consolidate power by dispensing favors and rewriting the bylaws.

Phat 4 months ago Reply 2likes currently



Those still within the ANTM: Begin to read through the gospels, study Jesus' character and begin to compare it to your experience in the ANTM. If you are completely satisfied that you are walking in step with the Him, then continue on. If something doesn't seem right, study more. Keep reading. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your mind and your heart. Read with His eyes. Study Jesus. Is He at the forefront of the church? Is the ANTM looking to Jesus as it's example? Don't let yourself be so afraid of the world and of the Devil that you've lost your faith in God to catch you. Seek Jesus.

Remaining in Prayer 4 months ago Reply 10likes currently



Yes, Jesus is the way, truth, and life. However, we must be on guard of the deceptive tactics and information control from leaders. They tell white lies without hesitation because we are to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves". They subtly twist scripture. Look at their response to moral failures because it will tell you a lot about who they really are; do they hide information that will damage their reputation for the sake of remaining in power or do they confront the truth and walk it out? I find that someone can say good things and even preach truth from the pulpit but behind the curtains they are scheming, plotting, and controlling narratives all for their own glory. When a church confines you to a life within its four walls, then it surely has lost sight of the great commission. The antm churches is just the beginning. There are so many other churches who hurt and abuse. Quite sickening that families are being torn apart and people have been hurt for decades.

A passer by 4 months ago



Dear Remaining in prayer, this is very good advice!

Brenda 4 months ago



A Passer by, what you say is true.

Brenda 4 months ago



Matthew 23:12 For those who exalt themselves will be humbled...

The Lord will take care of this in his time.

Pat D. 4 months ago Reply 0likes currently



<https://www.antmquestions.com/an-appeal-to-chris-and-the-congregations>

A Serious Appeal To Chris



ANTMQ ADMIN 4 months ago Reply 3likes currently



I wonder if Chris is surprised at how easy this was for him to take over!

Brenda 4 months ago Reply 0likes currently



Appears that Chris took our advice and updated his church's website. Now if he would just come clean and post why the entire James family has been removed. After all - Eph 5:11 "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."



Our regular service times are **Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** and **Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m.**

Pastor

Christopher D. Otis

"Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to

ANTMQ ADMIN 4 months ago Reply 2likes currently



Three independent sources have confirmed that it appears the church in Maine will be closing its doors as a result of the events of the past month. No details on what current members will do or what will happen to the building and assets.



ANTMQ ADMIN 4 months ago Reply 3likes currently



Some members are purportedly moving to Otisville to join the circus, but not likely anyone with the name James. What will Team James do? I'm honestly shocked this has all gone down with no discernable response from the Brothers James and their father. The longer there is no substantive response the more conspiracy theories form in the outlying portions of my thoughts. Did N2 "fake his own overthrow" as his final act of selfishness???? Take the money and run???? All the more reason that remaining members should demand a full review of every dime spent, but from an outside investigation firm. Nobody in this scene can be trusted.

Captain Obvious 4 months ago



Looks like NJ1 holds copyright on MTS material.

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Association of New Testament Ministries
One Lakeview Place
Bridgeville, PA 15017

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References are taken from the *Master Study Bible, New American Standard*, copyright 1979 by Zondervan Publishers, unless otherwise noted. When Scripture references are taken from other versions, the following abbreviations will be used: KJV—*King James Version*, RSV—*Revised Standard Version*, TLB—*The Living Bible*, NEB—*The New English Bible*, NIV—*The New International Version*.

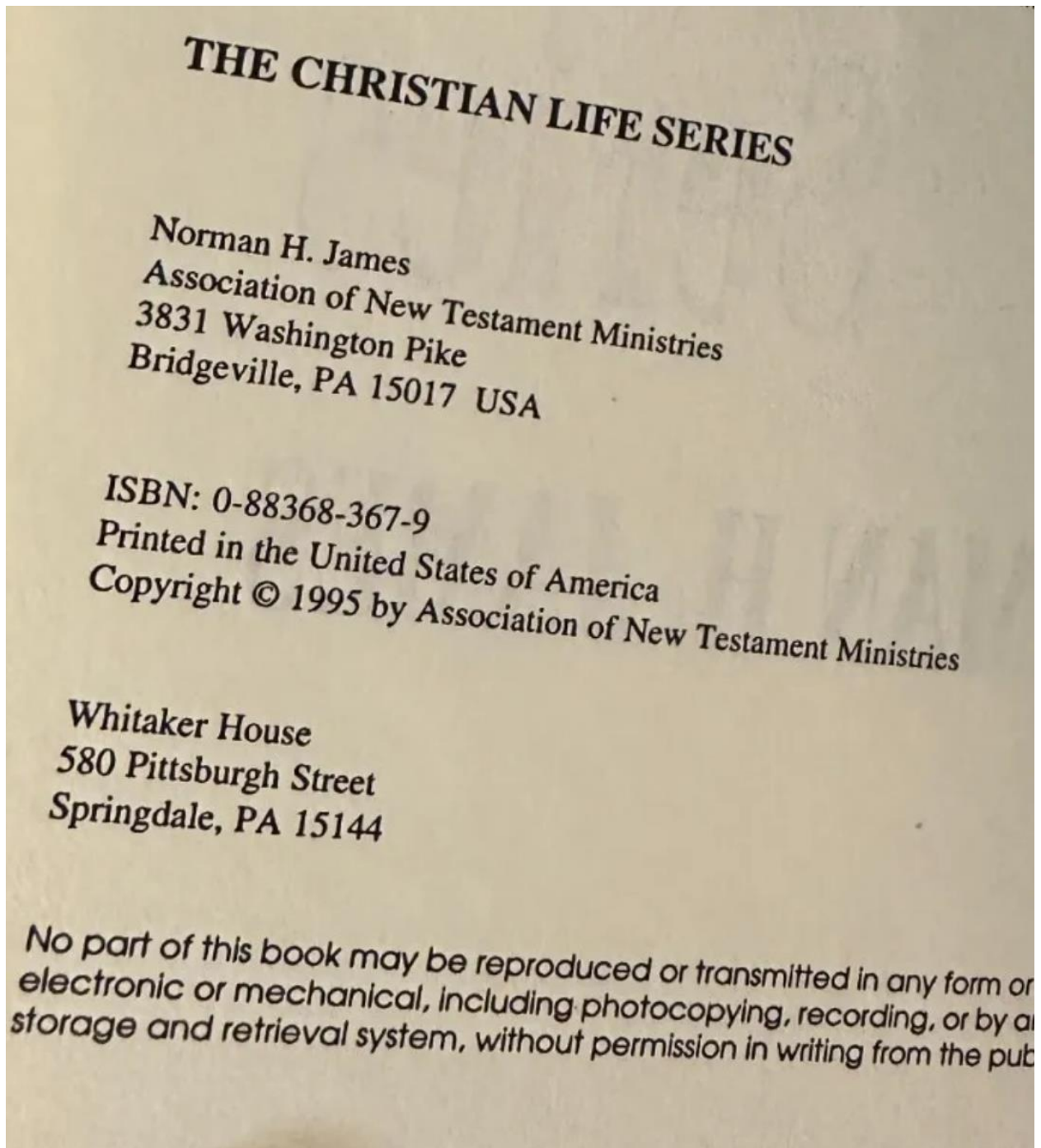
Grand Poobah Elliott 4 months ago Reply 1 likes currently



So if this was a purge of the James family, what will the use to indoctrinate new attendees? I'm sure they won't use the CLS book. POTIS already have a manuscript written up?



It appears that the ANTM, not Norman, holds the copyright.



ANTMQ ADMIN 4 months ago



o

I would be surprised if POTIS scraps the CLS for new material. It's not his style, which is more suited to tightening the screws on the pre-existing structure than throwing it out and building from the ground up. Plus, that would be a tacit admission that the material he taught for decades was flawed or wrong. No, I think we have an old fashioned purge here-like a good Commy who sees the system as advantageous but the guy before outlived his usefulness. You don't initiate a coup and then tell your state that Marx was wrong, we need a new manifesto: you tell them the last guy went off the rails and didn't follow his own teaching. And by keeping the material but cleansing the body he more firmly cements his control over the laity and the elders, all of whom have bought into their texts and would be more suspicious of ditching the leader, his family, and the founding manifesto than a purge of persons alone. As a side note, I wonder if the church's operating expenses go down thisl fiscal year...I'm sure there will be a reduction shown in overall expenses at the congregational meeting next year, but, hmmm, i wonder if some of that would get diverted into a raise, or a bonus, for the Big Guy? Probably not. But, hey, I mean he deserves it, after all the hard labors he's given recently, all the courage demonstrated. Maybe one of the young elders who is an accountant can become treasurer, so that any appearance of conflict of interest or wrongdoing can be minimized....

Twas a Red October 4 months ago



•

Seems that the Book of Norman has been mysteriously removed from Amazon

Hi Jason. 4 months ago Reply 5likes currently



o

Unfortunately, it appears to still be available.

The Christian Life Series: A Handbook of Christian Doctrine ...
- [Amazon.com https://www.amazon.com/Christian-Life-Handbook-Doctrine/dp/0883683679](https://www.amazon.com/Christian-Life-Handbook-Doctrine/dp/0883683679)

ANTMQ ADMIN 4 months ago



•

Yes, you are correct, I do remember! However, the leadership hasn't proven themselves to be very trustworthy with the apostle getting overthrown and all! Hoping people start to think on their own.

Brenda 4 months ago Reply 1likes currently



o

Hope is fair, but I think it more likely that there is a loyal core that will never leave. We saw a mass leave following black Sunday, but generally it is a few here and there. Most people who remain will continue to do so regardless of what goes down. Survival of the fittest, in a weird way. Of course the people who would ask questions have asked them, so with a very few exceptions, they moved on. Those who remain are, proportionately, less inclined to critically think and more inclined toward compliance in the first place. The numbers of independent thinkers or those courageous enough to ask questions dwindle down towards an asymptotic zero. But then there is the "but none go with me, still I will follow" effect-you watch others leave, and that strengthens your resolve to not ask questions, thereby repudiating your faith (sic). Perversely and ironically, enough, the "though none go with me" is actually groupthink, nothing more, so when your group comes through a purge like black Sunday, or even just a minor shakeup, you are bound more tightly together. And then, of course, is the "I've come too far to turn back now." I've heard this several times from an upper echelon fella, and it is very poor rationale for continuing your treacherous path. But rather than assessing things as a sunk cost and cutting your losses (Paul said forgetting what lies behind...considering all loss), it is easier-lazy thinking, really-to just let your momentum keep you going, or staying, as it were.

Just ass obedience 4 months ago



o

That guy could have been in a burning building and he'd still say "we've come too far to turn back again." Guess what you do when you find out you've gone the wrong way? You at least stop. And then you do go and figure out the right way. Because we've only got so much time to get to where we are going. And here's another thing: if you listen to the leaders who tell you where to go rather than using the brain god have you to at least have some input, then you are on somebody else's path of Christianity and not your own. It's supposed to be a personal relationship with Jesus. Not a wild goose chase with Chris Otis and friends.

Housefire Thisisfine 4 months ago



o

Those who remain gather more and more power and influence, especially if they blindly trade the Gospel of the Kingdom for the gospel of Otis (previously the gospel of James). There is a strange and sinister exclusivity that people feel when the numbers dwindle. What these people don't see is that if it can happen to N1 and N2 and their families, the machine can eat them too..... They all think they are good at playing the game but in the end, the point of the game is destruction and they don't even know it. Winning = losing.

Beenthere Donethat 4 months ago



•

And everyone is ok with this???? Is anyone asking questions?

Brenda 4 months ago Reply 1likes currently



o

We were frequently told that if we had questions after family talks to not discuss it among ourselves, even with spouses, but to ask questions of the benevolent leaders. Remember the routine? You know what happens when sheeple ask questions...and so do sheep. Most are unwilling to pay the price, and remain sheep (although there are a few asses in the flock). (If we continue the livestock metaphor, Norman was chosen by Chris as the scapegoat, sent out into the wild to bear the iniquities of the people, but I digress.) Questions, indeed...just do your damn "just as" and obey what your pastors say, delete your family and friends who became Antichrist, it will all turn out well in the end. Won't it?

Just ass obedience 4 months ago



•



BREAKING NEWS:

CLEVELAND PASTOR TIGHT LIPPED ON DETAILS, BUT SIDES WITH LAKEVIEW, WILL REMAIN IN ANTM.

NORMAN, NOW A REJECTED "APOSTLE" WITHOUT A CHURCH.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR MAINE?



ANTMQ ADMIN 4 months ago Reply 3likes currently



o

Don't touch the lord's anointed

Who's the remnant now brown cow 4 months ago



•

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=oj0ROpPFtCo>

My message to the Norman James without any effort on my part.

Esaulover 4 months ago Reply 5likes currently



A little more fun...



A Little Levity 4 months ago Reply 7likes currently



Just for fun...



A Little Levity 4 months ago Reply 6likes currently



Looks like Cleveland needs to update their website too...

Northridge Christian Life Church



OUR PASTORS

PASTOR

WILLIAM FALK

ASSISTANT PASTOR

DENNIS SINCLAIR



○

Are Falk and Sinclair out too?

Cult Survivor 4 months ago



○

[@cult](#) survivor, both Falk and Sinclair retired. Toomey is in charge now. Site is just outdated.

Sarcastic Sloth 4 months ago



•

Looks like Lakeview needs to update their website...

Our regular service times are **Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** and **Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m.**

Pastors

Norman H. James, II

Senior Pastor

Christopher D. Otis

Associate Pastor

David M. James

Assistant Pastor





Team Cleveland is heading to Lakeview this weekend to view the "evidence". Will they be convinced and the antm remain intact under potis, or will their be a split?

As the ANTM Turns 4 months ago Reply 4likes currently



With all of the things that have gone on with the James, and POTIS, the sad reality is that like all dysfunctional "church" organizations, it reflects poorly on Jesus because they operate in His name. I had grown up in the ANTM, and knew a lot about God, I never met Jesus until about 5 years ago. The funny thing is when I really began to walk with the Lord personally, that is when my eyes were opened to what was going on in the ANTM system was hard to see and understand at first, but the COVID shutdown gave us the separation to see more clearly. That was when it became clear that we had to leave. I haven't spoken to my brother in Columbus or my sister in Cleveland for more than three years(their choice). I also find that I don't have much in common with anyone who will still speak to me, that is still inside, even my own parents. What's more is that so many people who are out are angry and bitter, and understandably so. Some of the stories I have heard are terrible. My wife and I have made the decision to move on, and for our own sake to forgive them. It does not mean that what happened was ok, it just means that I do not carry around negative feelings that are damaging to me. This whole siltation is God's business. He will sort out the guilty and innocent, and judge those who are deserving. I pray for the people who really have a desire to serve the Lord, that they would see the way out for themselves. Until they do, there will be no convincing them, they have to see it with their own eyes!! If you are struggling to separate the love of Jesus, from the perpetration of sin in His name, I beg you to pray to God and ask Him for wisdom (James 1:5). Jesus said that many who did work in His name would be rejected when the day came because " ...'I never knew you; leave Me, you who practice lawlessness;....' Matt 7:23. Don't lose your walk with God because of these men and this organization. We have been out over 3 years. God moved us to a new city and a new church in Knoxville TN. We are a part of a great revival that is taking place in east Tennessee. So grateful to be walking with Jesus as my savior.

David Smith 4 months ago Reply 11likes currently



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Well said - don't let these bad actors ruin the best relationship you can ever have with your Savior.

Forgive Them Too 4 months ago



o



"Revival" - here we go again 4 months ago



o

We should be mindful to remember that we are all individuals and we all are free to make our own choices in life. It's good to respect each other, even if we have differing opinions. How we all choose to go about our business after we leave the cult should be our own personal decision. And it would be good to remember that we don't need to put others down to lift ourselves or our beliefs up.

Believe it or not- anger is a perfectly natural response to what most of us have been through. We don't want to tell other people how to process or feel their feelings. I personally have been shamed and demonized enough


for my feelings and emotions. I don't imagine that anyone likes it. We need to be able to vent and discuss to process. This is normal and healthy. Letting the wound fester is not.

Grateful 4 months ago



o

Yeah my comment was directed at ***** *****. There's nothing wrong with having faith and talking about it but I feel like when people act like it's the way everyone should live, it's a red flag to me. That's one of our great freedoms after leaving Lakeview- we are free to make our own choices and we are free to live and let live.

I think one of the greatest lessons that the cult taught me was that your faith, spirituality or lack thereof is your own. You can share similar beliefs with one other. But we shouldn't presume to know what is best or right for other people. We can only speak for ourselves after all. 

Grateful 4 months ago



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Guys, let's avoid name calling, vulgarities and specifically calling out people who post on here. We haven't wanted to have to gatekeep comments, but there is a line of decorum.

ANTMQ ADMIN 4 months ago



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Respectfully, we're all from a cult. Many of us endured control for our entire childhoods. It's absurd that you would demand some sort of decorum. Who are you? The new police? The new judge of what's right and wrong?

There's a lot of pent-up frustration. And when I see someone like you demanding decorum, it justifies why I can never be at peace with many of you. It's just more control.

Look, it's your site. Demand whatever decorum you want. But goodness is it absurd.

Decorum is for cults 4 months ago



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It is our view that the lowest possible bar of avoiding vulgarity is not too much to ask of any comment section. It's just common decency.

ANTMQ ADMIN 4 months ago



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The point of my comments were to to move on with your life. We all experienced a lot of negativity growing up there. Don't let the ANTM live in your head rent free. For me that was separating the men claiming to be doing God's work from the truth of God Himself. We are warned extensively in the New Testament about false teachers. It is unhealthy to dwell on the past. Move on, whether that includes God in your life or not. It's also cute how people jump out of the weeds to post anonymously. I at least identified myself.

David Smith 4 months ago



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DS, I congratulate you for your bravery. Obviously the other actor here is a sleeper agent if not POTIS himself. You can tell by how they retell narratives and their use of the narcissist's prayer, above.

That didn't happen. And if it did, it wasn't that bad.***And if it was, that's not a big deal.***And if it is, that's not my fault. And if it was, I didn't mean it. And if I did, you deserved it.

Better CAL SAul 4 months ago



o

Why the need to identify yourself? Is it so people know that you can quote a few scriptures? Is it so people can reach out to you to hear about this exciting revival in TN? Is it because you have such a common name that no one could ever identify you?

The Real David Smith 4 months ago



•

Heard Norman Sr was in town, wasn't able to meet with POTIS, but did meet with his family and went back to maine.

Don't Let The Door Hit Ya 4 months ago Reply 3likes currently



•

My oh my, look at all the birdies dance when the old nest is shaken.

I never looked back 4 months ago Reply 2likes currently



o

Many look back hoping for freedom for family, not idle intrigue.

Lighting a Candle 4 months ago



o

Ha yes the twin proclivities of the Former Member, trying to catch up on the latest and/or maintaining one's complete indifference to the entire thing usually through a vaguely agrarian metaphor.

I Literally Never Thought About Antm Again Until This Minute 4 months ago



To those inside the ANTM who are looking at this site with curiosity and wondering what life would hold for you outside of the group in which you've lived for so long: know that God is so much bigger, mightier, and more loving than you can even imagine and there is life and love everlasting. Hold fast to God and to your faith in Him. God will not forsake you. In fact, there is nowhere in this world where you can hide from His love. He is merciful and mighty and He will carry you through whatever fears you have, no matter where you find yourself seeking His face. There is life and life abundantly outside of the ANTM.

Remaining in Prayer 4 months ago Reply 9likes currently



This page is like porn for any current members who have managed to get this far. So wrong to read the comments, but.....just...can't...stop.....

Enjoy the glimpse into independent thinking while you can, but don't let your wife or older children see your browsing history, you naughty fellas. You know some of them would quietly report ya. That may lead to a very uncomfortable meeting with POTUS in his new office

Outer Darkness 4 months ago Reply 1likes currently



Bluffed Out Of Apostleship? — Did POTIS take a cue from a certain smooth-skinned shepherd and bluff Junior out of his birthright?

We are a week into this with no details of what prompted this sudden, uncontested removal and apparently a notably incurious congregation continues in their lack of need for basic inquiry.

Wondering if Junior is now waking up to the reality that whatever POTIS was “graciously” holding back from the congregation was poison to the very existence of the church itself. Do the math: we’ve got sexual predators in Cleveland, 2-3 churches falling to financial impropriety, local TV on the scent, falling numbers. POTIS knows he can’t take one more shot. The Jameses walked....but they didn’t have to.

McBluff the Crime Dog 4 months ago Reply 5likes currently



"a notably incurious congregation continues in their lack of need for basic inquiry." I am sorry to say it, but this phrase may be the most accurate, and most damning, thing written on this website, applicable to far more than this current situation, and no less sad than the abusive behavior conducted in the higher echelons

Outer Darkness 4 months ago



I'm so confused, who is in the remnant stream now? I guess I'll just renew my mind again.

Fresh Oil 4 months ago Reply 7likes currently



○

POTIS: The Remnant fluctuates, and it goes up and down with the markets and with attitudes and with feelings, even my own feelings, but I try.

ANTMQ: Let me just understand that a little. You said Who is in the Remnant goes up and down based upon your own feelings?

POTIS: Yes, even my own feelings, as to where the world is, where the world is going, and that can change rapidly from day to day ...

ANTMQ: When you publicly state a Remnant number, what do you base that number on?

POTIS: I would say it's my general attitude at the time that the question may be asked. And as I say, it varies

Elevator Boy 4 months ago



○

The comment above is not from ANTMQ

ANTM Fracturing 4 months ago



○

Hmmm...If the official position was that those who left the View are antichrists, but now Norm is gone, then does that make him part of the antichrist? And if he is part of the antichrist, and he supported the teaching that we are antichrist, then does that make the rest of us no longer part of the antichrist (since Beelzebub cannot cast out Beelzebub), but part of Christ again?

Outer Darkness 4 months ago



○

Let's not forget the famous phrase, the Antichrist of my Antichrist is my Friend? Is that it

Hizzenher Cadillacs 4 months ago



John 10:12-13 He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.

Now the Wolf is in charge. I feel for the sheep.

Pat D. 4 months ago Reply 9likes currently



There were two wolves vying for power, and one wolf ousted the other wolf. Or are you contending that a wolf chased out a hired hand? I hadn't considered that. There is no scriptural basis for an undershepherd (that is not, by the way, a uniquely Jamesian construct). [There are also no *ahem* "ancient paths" to seek, but One Way, the way of Jesus and His Cross.] There is only one Shepherd, and that is Christ Jesus.

Take hair when you bite and devour one another 4 months ago



I was a member of ANTM for over 25 years, and I want to see everyone healed and in a good relationship with Jesus Himself. It's quite sad to see the ambitions of men ruling over God's people, when it was never meant to be this way. Please, come out from under the ambitions of men, and come to God alone, and He will heal you all! Grace & peace to all of us! Scott

Scott 4 months ago Reply 10likes currently



Can someone please explain how this is different than the coup many of you staged years ago on "Black Sunday"?

A lot of judgement against POTIS and enough of you plotted a similar thing.

Laughing at the hypocrites 4 months ago Reply 0likes currently



I was just a kid when black Sunday happened. But I can say that I am a flawed human being who makes mistakes and doesn't do everything right. I can listen when other people have different opinions than I do or want to express that something I am doing is hurting them- can the leadership at Lakeview do the same? If I can't say that it's cruel to stab someone in the back immediately after their parent dies and that makes me judgmental or a hypocrite, then go ahead and call me that. I don't love Norman or any of the James family. They've caused me trauma and suffering that I've never asked for. But I'm not here for what Potis has done either. Did he take NJ jr aside and confront him in private first? And then take another brother and do the same together? Why didn't this happen before the counts stacked up to 40? Why did it happen after Becky died? Why was NJ only given 24 hours to respond and why did he have to sign an NDA? I'm asking because none of this is normal. And if you can't ask these questions then why is that?

Grateful 4 months ago



o

So you are proposing a more compassionate coup?



A takeover is rarely compassionate. And even if it is, does it somehow make it better? All is fair in love and war. The ANTM has always been a war between all the sick, demented people who were part of it. It continues to be a war. Alliances are formed and broken. Betrayal is prevalent.

Still laughing 4 months ago



o

By definition a coup is an unlawful seizure of power from a government. While LCLC is not a government entity, its structure is similar. Black Sunday was not a coup because there was not a takeover of leadership. Black Sunday was entirely about NJSr holding a kangaroo court against persons who he felt had threatened his power..... by having Bible studies and daring question iffy doctrines held. Laughing at the hypocrites, I don't know how old you were at the time of Black Sunday but I was there -shocked beyond measure. That very event was the beginning of my questioning of "should I be here?"

There was NO Planning to take over leadership, therefore no coup. That is why Black Sunday is different than what happened with CO, JE and the others.

You accuse many of Judgement - the ability to make considered decisions or come to sensible conclusions - based on the info that has come out about it appears to be a thoroughly thought out plan by CO who possibly waited decades to expose Improprieties. Based on that information it is logical to presume that CO et al plotted to take over leadership.

Cult Survivor 4 months ago



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You are obviously a current ANTM member and probably a LCLC member. I find it hard to believe you haven't been told from the pulpit to avoid this website like the plague as it's filled with falsehoods and lies and the work of the evil one. So you are either being a bad sheep by not listening to your pastor or you are a member of leadership doing damage control.

Curious observer 4 months ago



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I believe Black Sunday was a failed coup. It just wasn't organized and planned as well as what POTIS orchestrated (hats off to him). But had it been better planned and organized, I firmly believe there would have been an attempt to take over. It just failed.

Very common for ex-Lakers to modify the narrative just enough to appear innocent.

still laughing 4 months ago



o

Black Sunday was never a failed coup. Otherwise they would have just left and started their own church...and they didn't. They came to leadership with questions and concerns. On Black Friday they were supposed to have been given a platform to voice their concerns. Instead they were told to not let the door hit them in the ass on the way out if they didn't like how things were done. Potis front and center with that rhetoric too. Guess he didn't take his own advice on the matter.

You can think what you want but it doesn't mean you are correct. And you can laugh all you want. But all I see is that they still aren't allowing empathy or critical thinking skills at Lakeview.

Grateful 4 months ago



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Yes! to the thin-skinned, the unreflective, and the despotic, any attempt to engage in behavior change will be seen as a coup! That is exactly what happened that day and your sources are impeccable and your own rational processes do not need to be questioned.

Til the Iocaine Kicks In 4 months ago



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Dunno if this is true or not, so maybe someone can confirm. Didn't a group of people flock to Raleigh post-Black Sunday? Didn't they sort of (unsuccessfully) try to set up their own thing?

Also, what was the end game for Black Sunday. Like suppose Senior actually let folks ask questions. Suppose they didn't like the answers. Would they have just submitted to him at that point? Or would they have tried to take over?

I feel confident it is the latter. These people weren't just walking away.

Also, it was absurd to think he was going to welcome the dialogue. Like this elder, some of these long-time attendees, shoot even the kids knew deep down inside exactly how it was likely to play out. No one questioned Senior. If they did, there were consequences (church discipline up to and including termination). I'm not confident anyone actually believed it would work. And if they did, it was a poorly planned coup (as I stated).

Still laughing 4 months ago



o

Are you saying that the coup didn't happen because the leadership at LCLC didn't allow it? That's not how coups work. And you can't really take over in a situation like this when you don't have the brainwashed masses on your side.

They wanted to have a conversation and figured it was worth the attempt to at least try communicating. They got shut down. Norman literally said that if anyone disagreed with how things were done then they should leave. He only wanted loyal followers. If you can't see why that's a major problem in a pastor and evidence of power hungry, egotistical leadership, I don't know what to tell you.

You guys so badly want to be the heroes of your own story that you make villains out of anyone who doesn't agree with you. Otis was successful because he changed the by laws like a snake and filled the board of elders with people who are willing to lick his boots and hoarded a stack of blackmail against NJ jr. That's it. That's why he was successful. And you are right- the black Sunday people weren't successful. because they didn't stage a coup. They just left or were excommunicated.

I don't know anything about people going to Raleigh after BS other than the family that had already moved there prior. Anyone who went there was literally related to each other AFAIK.

Grateful 4 months ago



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The word “coup” is being bandied about a lot, but that assumes a legitimate government is being forcefully deposed. If indeed 40 counts of improper behavior was brought before the board, and NHJ Jr. accepted the terms of stepping down or face legal action, this was no coup. It was simply implementation of the by-laws of the corporation. As to the events of Black Sunday, I was in Japan at the time, but was accused of being in town, and colluding with the disgruntled members. I did however talk on the telephone with one of those folks that very evening, and it was clear that the intent was to air grievances, but no real opportunity to do so was given. Yet, the buildup to these strong emotions was clear, and not met with any real reconciliation, Many, myself included, spoke to Pastor James Sr. about what was obvious dynastic intentions, about very strict policies toward those who had decided to leave the fold, and pressing Pittsburgh church practices on churches in very different societies. These were seen as oppressive, even sinful, but all were dismissed summarily, though Biblical evidence was presented. I distinctly remember one of the early Ministry Training sessions, where NHJSr. quoted, “ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! Galatians 1:8“ and encouraged us to always be frank with him about what we saw and felt. Sadly, after a few years passed, this kind of honest conversation was strongly discouraged. I do not consider Black Sunday a failed coup, but a built-up tension that exploded, which was ruthlessly quashed. Not only that, but Scripture was twisted into a merciless religion of shunning and judgment. Communication with anyone outside the Association was forbidden, as was all dissent. This behavior is not in accordance with God’s commandments. My point is that the churches in the ANTM all need to repent, forsake complicated hyper-organized religion (specifically the ANTM), and become much simpler representatives of the Gospel message. I am convinced that the Holy Spirit is capable of doing this, were all willing to submit to His leading. In Christ Jesus, Randy

Randy Stafford 4 months ago



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After Black Sunday no one flocked as a group to anywhere. No one tried to "start a new thing". Most, if not all of us, who were impacted by Black Sunday truly did just walk away. (with varying degrees of hurt, trauma, family and friends left behind)

Care, Ask Questions, and Listen 4 months ago



o

@ Grateful - believe me. I see myself as no hero. I’m just a person seeking/aiming to tell the truth about it all. I’m merely a person that left.

If you want to talk about people thinking of themselves as “heroes”, look at the group that left on Black Sunday. They revolted. It failed. And that’s ok. That’s honorable, But the narrative is twisted to make them appear innocent and godly in it all. TBH, it’s maybe the weakest group I’ve heard leave...they needed the reassurance of others to be bold enough to take any action. I didn’t need that reassurance, so maybe I am a hero by comparison. But I don’t truly believe that. None from ANTM are heroes. It’s a sick place.

Still laughing 4 months ago



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Laughing- I think every person who leaves, no matter the circumstance, is doing an incredibly hard thing. There is no right way or wrong way to leave a cult, an abusive relationship of any kind, etc. I left alone, Without any friends or family. And I was still pretty young. The only thing I have to say on the matter is- get out. Now. Just leave. I don't care how or why or with who. The members don't understand the toxic soup they are living in until they get some space and perspective.

Grateful 4 months ago



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Former ANTM Pastor shares his thoughts:

<https://projectezrarising.blogspot.com/2023/10/musings-degree-of-separationand.html?m=1>



ANTM Fracturing 4 months ago Reply 8likes currently



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Beautifully written



Remaining in Prayer 4 months ago



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Norman Sr. is in town. I can't imagine this thing being over. The James' aren't ones to go quietly off into the night. I fully expect this to be settled in the courts. Neither side will have any credibility when this is all said and done. That's this former member's prophecy.

Fat Lady Hasn't Sung 4 months ago Reply 2likes currently



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From my child's juice box today -An African Proverb : "When elephants fight, it's the grass that suffers." Sadly I consider this the most likely outcome of the coup. God help the believers that may be at Lakeview.

Thirsting For Truth 4 months ago



Y'all are worried about what's happened on Sunday morning? Probably business as usual, maybe a prophecy about this being a "new day," etc. I want to know how Chris is liking his bigger office, replete with the growing cache of dossiers, his private Pastor's toilet, and whether he took the letter openers by force or whether Norman was allowed to keep them. (Perhaps he should divvy them up to his favorite elders, like Sauron and the magic rings?) It was a pretty badass collection that inspired fear in the hearts of many younglings, lest your sins be dealt with by a large man armed with sharp, shiny objects. Grownups knew the real threats were not to the body, but to the mind. Tools to rip open people so their contents might be read, gossiped about, and used against them, or against their families...a fitting centerpiece to the penthouse office.

Not returning from other parts of the building 4 months ago Reply 1likes currently



I ask God for infinite mercy on the souls of the "James", because they destroyed the church in Brazil, causing separations between brothers and family. God's justice is divine and sovereign, it would be tragic if it weren't so comical that he was expelled in the same way he did to so many people in the world. May our brothers find peace and a true place to worship God.

Sheep in Brazil 4 months ago Reply 2likes currently



Looks like the ANTM is still able to waste our time on Sunday mornings with all of us waiting to hear what is happening.

Sarcastic Sloth 4 months ago Reply 1likes currently



○ Touché except I'm doing my dishes.

Industrious Impala 4 months ago



○ I'm folding laundry

Busy banana 4 months ago



○ I'm watching pre-game. Nobody wasting my time no mo

Misk 4 months ago



o

I was traveling to the Blue Ridge Parkway to enjoy God's creation. Haven't thought about ATM (not a Freudian slip, but an accurate assessment I think) for years until this happened.

BB 4 months ago



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<https://i0.wp.com/stevenpdennis.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/image.jpg>

Live footage of congregational meeting has finally leaked

Evangelical Cat 4 months ago Reply 3likes currently



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Live audio: <https://youtu.be/z5rRZdiu1UE?si=mgnU7JOD-7hmKP-P>

Grateful 4 months ago



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It does almost seem that the passing of Becky James was symbolic to POTis in way. An end of the old guard. If you recall Julia Hyslop passed away a few months ago as well. I feel like she would have a very vocal opponent to this move. But slowly and surely all of Norms most loyal supporters are now dead or gone. With the death of Becky it was now the time to strike. The OG members are now too old and comfortable to really do anything. This was an extremely cold and calculated move both in scope and timing.

Free and clear 4 months ago Reply 3likes currently



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Well it's Sunday morning. We, at ANTMQ, have a few questions for current members to ask Chris Otis. Today's Sunday service may be your only chance to press him on this. Prepare for Black Sunday: The Sequel.

<https://www.antmqquestions.com/questions-for-chris>



ANTM FRACTURING 5 months ago Reply 4likes currently



I am curious as to why CO and his co-conspirators allowed Jr to resign rather than reporting his egregious theft of funds to law enforcement. Using that to recover those lost funds. While I suspect it was handled this way was not to draw undo attention to LCLC. Perhaps another investigation by Andy Sheehan of KDKA?

Cult Survivor 5 months ago Reply 5likes currently



A number of years ago this church had a mortgage burning ceremony because they paid off their building. After that was done and there was no requirement by their mortgage holder to have audits, they discontinued any external oversight of their finances and it was completely left up to the internal accountants. I'm sure this was spun as a cost savings measure and unnecessary because the leaders could be trusted. Oh what a grave mistake. That should have been the first sign that things were going down. Time to call in the IRS and FBI or whoever can prosecute for financial malfeasance.

Burning (Questions) Man 5 months ago



IMHO, those funds (if indeed they were siphoned funds) are going to be hard to recover. I'm sure the accountants knew that. I hope that getting the James family out was the goal, and clearing the way for the whole thing to become a church again. Calling the media in, who often dislike religion, would only hurt the people chance of a return to normal Christian faith. Same with IRS/FBI ... chances are the "baddies" will get off, and the folks would lose out.

Randy 5 months ago



Hey folks and ANTM "fans" 🤔. I can't help but notice a gap in the ANTM timeline, specifically April 15, 1997. The location was Yokohama, Japan, and leaders and pastors and good friends from Brazil, UK, USA, and Japan were invited to the 10th anniversary celebration of Kanto Christian Church. I personally financed this, using profits from my "tentmaking" endeavors, and just wanted to bless friends and coworkers, and share God's goodness. NHJSr and Becky could not come, But Junior did, and told me straightaway we would have a "pastor's conference, and he was in charge. I politely declined, and we had a wonderful Saturday and Sunday of celebration, until ... I got a call from "headquarters" saying we must gather the chosen leaders to watch a VHS video in a "private room with no interruptions." We were all given a pamphlet and watched a talking head video of NHJSr. introducing the (tada~) ANTM. Opening said pamphlet, there was a pyramid chart of the "membership," with you-know-who on top, then Becky, then Junior, then a widening group of "officers" ... then the bottom row was the international ministers. I was at the bottom right corner, if my memory serves. We broke up after that to continue our celebration (a bit less celebratory than I would have liked). I had rented two minibuses to take us out of town for a night, and I was told that the non-ANTM could not go. Well, I would have none of that, so the "Normies" went on one bus, and I went on the bus with the "riff-raff," lol. I'm afraid KCC was on it's way out from that day forward, but it took until just after Black Friday until we were officially disassociated. I don't regret any one of my decisions, and am very blessed to not be on that roster! There is quite a bit more to the story, but some folks may not want their names mentioned. As for me, I have no problem with publicly being ... Randy at KCC

Randy Stafford 5 months ago Reply 3likes currently



If David James was relieved of his position and duties, what were they? For what reason,?

RLN 5 months ago Reply 4likes currently



NEW PAGE LIVE Somethin' Doesnt Add Up

<https://www.antmquestions.com/something-does-not-add-up>



ANTM FRACTURING 5 months ago Reply 6likes currently



I was jut thinking that something doesn't add up. CO and other accountants say 40 financial improprieties. Jr has been in office for 25 years with CO being the financial officer. How is it that it took him this long to discover the issues? Or, in his long plan, did he "cook the books" to make it appear as such? Another thought - has he known all along but didn't say anything because of "the wrath of Becky" and/or Sr?

Cult Survivor 5 months ago Reply 3likes currently



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This coming on heels of Becky's death is incredibly suspicious. The congregation should demand outside/independent investigations and until they are resolved, all action should be on hold and the entire cast of "leaders" should be on leave. At the very least, they were derelict in their duties, but sadly, I suspect there was a concerted effort to deceive the people until "just the right time" and then strike hard and fast to trigger the coup. Its no surprise when evil is running the show.

Look Over there Not Here 5 months ago



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Or he is as complicit as the James family and this is just a power grab. CO is a master manipulator and I can recall his sermons on why we should shun those that ask questions. I can't imagine that he has had a "come to Jesus moment" as his manipulation of church by-laws years ago sounds premeditated. Neither one is to be trusted. Just listen for the voice of Jesus and follow His direction. Sit back and watch God work on this mess as vengeance is His and the fall from grace is dealt with appropriately.

Imbeliever 4 months ago



"I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another."

The words of Jesus 5 months ago Reply 6likes currently



The only god Norman and Chris have ever worshipped is power. That's all this is about - two ungodly men fighting over power. The thing Norman Sr. built has been steadily dwindling for decades, and there is simply not enough power to be shared anymore. We all must move on and find a place where the Spirit is worshipped instead of an idol fashioned in the form of a man.

Courage & Faith 5 months ago Reply 8likes currently



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The thing Senior built was flawed and egotistical from the start, a quixotic attack on the Catholic Church by a slighted man. Hundreds of families were ruined because of the egos of all these men.

Senior Sucked Too 5 months ago



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I guess you don't believe that Senior had a cervantes heart after all, "Senior Sucked Too"

Obstinate and Playa Bowl 5 months ago



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"The foolish remarks of rich men pass for wisdom in the world."

Nacho Panda 5 months ago



I think it's going to be interesting to note which biblical analogy each side uses to support their actions. Norman might say he is Rehoboam and Chris is Jeroboam after all of this, or that Chris is Korah. Chris might in turn point to Gideon's remnant of fighting-ready men, or the Lord continuing to winnow away the chafe.

They'll find a comparison to a biblical story, fit it to their situation, and say it is the "Holy Spirit" speaking to them. After all, they're accustomed to giving the Holy Spirit credit for basic analogizing and pattern recognition skills. Then they're able to tell people God is alive and speaking in their churches, how quaint.

Incoming spin 5 months ago Reply 7likes currently



o

Korah's rebellion is a popular one, isn't it? The twisting and manipulation of scripture, using "touch not God's anointing" has been used often to intimidate and bully people who have legitimate concerns or who wish to just leave. Of course, they don't look to other verses and examples such as Saul losing his anointing or the verse about "do not lord over your flock." I am sure the narratives are already in place.

Outsider 4 months ago

•

NEW PAGE
"THE GREAT DIVIDE"
IS UP

<https://www.antmquestions.com/the-great-divide>



ANTM FRACTURING 5 months ago Reply 9likes currently



•



The ANTMQ team is aware of recent developments regarding leadership changes in the ANTM and Lakeview specifically. We are working with multiple sources from all churches to establish a correct timeline and accurate narrative of events. As always our credibility and commitment to determining the truth remains our highest priority. As events unfold and we are able to confirm we will update our history site via a link from this page. And as always we welcome any input which we will be happy to include once we can confirm.



ANTM FRACTURING 5 months ago Reply 3likes currently



o

Any clue what the false doctrine claims were?

Curious observer 5 months ago



o

Does anybody know if there was any pushback from the congregation? It's just hard to believe that they all accepted this entire situation from the very group that enabled it all this time, the elders and pastors.

Eyebrows Raised 5 months ago



Oh look at that Norm, you reap what you sow fat ass. Maybe you can trade in your letter opener collection and get a real job. 😁

Norm's Hemorrhoid 5 months ago Reply 9likes currently



Junior @ exit interview at Lakeview: But I'm still gonna be able to communicate with the daughters I haven't shunned yet, right?

James 5 months ago Reply 9likes currently



Chris always wanted power. Literally a dictator. I have no doubt he's turned on by this control.

Norman is such a loser and has zero life skills. Where would he even work? Arrogant clown with 2 knee replacements and not qualified for anything. He can't even go work at another church because this one wasn't real and he burnt every bridge believing only his cult was the way. Not to mention no real training.

Does Ann get talked into leaving him? Do they go to trial? Making popcorn.

ICHABOD 5 months ago Reply 11likes currently



NORMAN JR OUT AT LAKEVIEW. REMOVED BY BOARD AFTER COUP FROM ASSISTANT PASTOR.



What goes around.. 5 months ago Reply 11likes currently



Just Norman? Golden parachute awarded?

Not Shocked 5 months ago



Becky James died 9/6/23.

Goodbye 6 months ago Reply 8likes currently



love the website!... it feels like stripping naked, greasing myself up, and wiggling down the rabbithole of my deliberately buried nightmare childhood memories... what a treat!!... how i indulge myself, monsieurs and madames... watch me digDIGGYdig!!!

mike mays 9 months ago Reply 2likes currently



Thank you to those who put in the hard work for this site. If you are reading this and experienced the spiritual abuse and control in a similar system, my plea to you is please don't give up on your faith in Jesus. This is the fault of man and not God. Study His character, find the truth, and if possible find a community that will love you and help you on your journey of healing. There are healthy churches out there. Damaged people will damage people.

Jesus calls us into freedom by the work that has been finished.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/mat.11.28-30.NIV>

Kevin Kruse a year ago Reply 12likes currently



Avon man indicted on rape charge

The Chronicle-Telegram

May 11, 2022

Ryan Falk, 44, was booked on the first-degree felony charge Tuesday morning and posted bond about two hours later, according to records.

The allegations came from a former member of a North Ridgeville church and were a delayed disclosure situation, according to the Lorain County prosecutor.

DEFENDANT WAIVES STATUTORY TIME FOR SPEEDY TRIAL PURSUANT TO R.C. 2945.71 ET SEQ. PRETRIAL HAD. AT THE DEFENDANT'S REQUEST, FINAL PRETRIAL SET FOR: 1/20/23 AT 8:30AM. JURY TRIAL IS SET FOR 5/24/23 AT 8:30AM.

Site Admin a year ago Reply 2likes currently



damn!... Ryan got #MeToo'd!! lol

mike mays 9 months ago



I grew up in an ANTM church that was excommunicated but continue to practice almost all of the harmful practices listed here.

I've been told to shun family, to choose between them and the church for my wedding / family birthdays, to lie to them (it was ok to lie because the Old Testament people did that), share my husband's finances to ensure he tithes, ask permission on every little thing in our lives whether it is a couch, car, or buying a home, dating, and our lives were devoted to "serving" the pastor's family. I've asked for forgiveness from my family and friends that we've hurt and I know even though I was young and naive, those were still my choices.

We are thankful to be out and attending a healthy church that lives out God's love and grace with good balance with repentance. But I struggle daily with the cultish mindset and the spiritual abuse we experienced. I pray for everyone still in these churches and hope they are able to find freedom in Jesus. When I was in that church, my relationship with the Lord was nonexistent because I had a pastor "mediator" to tell me what to do. What joy it is to know I don't need someone in between me and God!

Thankful to be out 2 years ago Reply 11likes currently



ANTM

I have watched, from afar, this unfold over the past 30-40 years.

I grew up in the Columbus church that was swallowed up by the Norman James cult. It was fairly easy for Norman to effect this take-over as we were well schooled in authoritarian leadership heavy on "submission", and most simply accepted the new 'foundations' courses introduced and didn't rightly judge the content and false teachings therein. My parents were pretty quickly shunted aside in the way that all cultish leaders focus their special attention on those they sense are vulnerable. We left with the introduction of re-baptism in the name of Jesus only.

Previous, prior to the James takeover, we were very close with people who became part of Norman's close inner circle (Donnell/Schalk/Wilson variety). These were people whom I knew to be intelligent and thought to be spiritually wise. There are multiple points at which Norman James' teaching treads into the realms of heresy. God will not look kindly upon his warping of God's message. Jesus died to redeem the souls of those that Norman James has toyed with for his own personal earthly financial and "spiritual" success, for this reason the Bible is clear that ministers are held to a higher standard. Norman will have to account for all the damage he has caused. Norman thinks he has carved out a 'special' place in heaven, without repentance though, Norman won't be there.

The minute you think you are some how God's special elect, please know that you've lost the plot. Go back and understand who Jesus really is.

Once you have introduced heretical ideas into your theology, you are no longer serving God. You are serving the God *YOU* made up. Norman is no less than Eve in the Garden of Eden and that question that we all face. Do I want to know God? or eat the fruit, 'know', and be my own God.

The fruit of Norman's life is sorrow, brokenness and ultimately death.

May God be merciful to those he lead astray, may they seek the REAL Jesus, and may God have mercy upon his soul.

Not afraid to use my own name,

Susan (Smith) Duncan

Susan 2 years ago Reply 7likes currently



One of the elders in the Cleveland, Ohio church (Northridge Christian LC) was just indicted by a Grand Jury with 1st degree felony rape of a former member there. The elder worked with the youth at the time. Stay away from that place. Click the story below.

Avon man indicted on rape charge | Chronicle Telegram

Watch Out 2 years ago Reply 1likes currently



o

I wonder who knew what and when..... I hope there is a full and complete investigation with public reporting. So sad, so tragic, so unnecessary
How.The Cult Crumbles 2 years ago



o

Just imagine being any parent who chose to keep your kid in the ANTM all these years, knowing deep inside your soul that the place was evil. It's just awful to think about and remember.

proud_to_never_have_raised_kids_in_antm 2 years ago



I attended an ANTM church (not Lakeview) for my growing up years and into my early forties. I was raised to think that no one outside the influence of the James' had the truth. It took my children in the school, being put through what went through as a student, and the madness of control surrounding COVID for my wife and I to see the damage that was being done to us.

We made the difficult decision to leave almost 2 years ago. We have moved out of state and the Lord has given us a new life. We have a wonderful church family and have plugged ourselves in.

If you are thinking about leaving here are some thoughts from our experience

1. It will be painful at first, and it will take time to heal. It is surreal for the first year and even now we still have trouble believing we left. I believe that is the result of psychological conditioning.
2. You will be shunned. It is not pleasant. We have had one current member who we were close to, tell us we were "in deception." It about broke my wife.
3. SEEK GOD. We were determined to find out the truth of God for ourselves. We read the word and prayed a lot. We were determined not to lose our relationship to Christ. SO many who leave the ANTM forsake their relationship to God in the process and that is heartbreaking.
4. Take your time finding another church. Be patient. ask God for direction. There are good ones out there.
5. Pray for, don't hate current members and/or leadership. They are conditioned like you are/were and have not had a breakthrough moment. The Bible is clear about forgiving people who have wronged you. If you become bitter about the situation it only hurts you and they are blissfully unaware that you are angry. It is like lighting yourself on fire and hoping they die from smoke inhalation. Just pray for them and move on.

Seek help from those of us who have left. We are here to lend an ear to listen and a shoulder to cry on if you need it. God will redeem your situation if you press into Him, I promise.
You are loved.

DMS 2 years ago Reply 9likes currently



As a former member. It is a cult. We did things that we thought would bring us closer to heaven, but really were antithetical to all that God stands for. So, I was/am estranged from my family. We did not want to believe it was a cult and because James Senior defined what a cult was in his own material then he was able to conveniently place his organization outside the definition of a cult. My advice to all existing members who might read this.

1. Look at the decay of membership.
2. Ask yourself whether you are asked to truly love or hate the people who leave
3. Then look at your current spiritual accounting. It is contrived. Once or twice a year.... revival is preached and in the following week or two in an expected "move of the spirit" happens then you go back to normal.
4. The 'prophets' speak nothing of the future. Just about current spiritual death and reawakening. Plus they regurgitate platitudes of the Old Testament as if they were "new prophecies".
5. Where are the dreams and visions. Ask your pastor and he will tell you that they are very unreliable. Which is directly contradictory to the Word.
6. Then Revelation 12:11... ask your senior Pittsburgh leadership about their sins and what is their full testimony. Once you have been lied to about the full context of their sins. You may need to ask around, but you will find that they do not fit the context of biblical elders or deacons as defined by James Senior. If you need a reference for questions to ask. Go find out about the sons of Eli. They fit the mold for these sons too well and YES all of the rest of the 'pastors' know of it.
7. Start asking yourself where the money is going and why cash payments are so prevalent as gifts and are handled by a senior elder in undisclosed amounts not attached to the yearly bookkeeping documents.
8. Look to your Bible and pray. The H.S. will convict you of many other injustices.
9. Ask yourself why your pastor CONTROLS everything in the lives of many of the people around him and is the final/only authority for all that goes on. And then ask yourself if God CONTROLS his children or if he asks gently for submission and sent His son to bring Freedom to the world.
10. In Jesus there is FREEDOM, HOPE and LOVE

Finally, when you decide to leave. Do it quietly, quickly, and don't leave in great hate and try to make waves. Just leave. If you need a support group, others who have left can help, but you don't have to only rely on them... build a new better life with new people. Yes, the Lord made every person on earth and there are many good people. And find a new better church. They are out there and they do have good doctrine. The ANTM may having you feeling hopeless and helpless, but you are far from hopelessness. The Lord will give you what you need if you seek Him.

Anonymous 3 years ago Reply 6likes currently



Still trying to convince people the only option is to find another church...huh?

Ironically, many of the churches ex-members have found themselves in are not much less cultish than Lakeview. What sort of authority do you think you have to tell people there are better churches out there and they should find them? Or are you just a hopeless ex-Laker who never gave up on their identify of being "special"?

noneyabz 2 years ago



o

I am not special. My regional locale was never “Laker”. I was a peon then... I am a peon now... and I choose to stay that way.

I did not leave quietly. Looking back, it made it harder too heal the wounds for they took a dagger and stuck it in my back and twisted during my exit interview... that is my experience.

What authority do I have? I found a couple good ones. And I didn’t look too hard.



It is true there are other “churches” much like the ANTM(mostly because James lifted every section of his theology from someone else), but it is for each person too individually decide for themselves what their free will version of freedom will be. If they choose a path without a church? So be it. I honestly seem too remember stating that the world is full of good people. I did not use the words “church people” on purpose.

Now that I’ve addressed your individual points, let’s understand one thing. The entirety of your response comes from a place of hurt and hate. Neither of which are good and both of which will eat you alive. Let it go and stop bludgeoning the people around you the same way the ANTM does. I left because I am better and I want better for my life than they could offer. My testimony is that I came through trials and have found my hope.

Anonymous 2 years ago



o

Oh, so you weren’t a “Laker”. You were part of one of the even more pathetic branch-offs? Congrats, I guess?

What did you say? You found a couple good churches and it wasn’t that hard? If it wasn’t that hard, then how did you ever find yourself inside of ANTM? Why did you ever stay at the ANTM? The only thing that is HARD is to fall for the ANTM ruse. As you said, it is so easy to find something better than the ANTM simply because the ANTM is so bad. Conversely, it is hard to actually find and attach to something like the ANTM. It takes a whole kind of stubborn, arrogant person.

You lecture me on hate and hurt and yet you literally just spelled out your 10 grievances against the church, it’s decay, etc. Unreal.

It always amuses me how people try to pass off the truth as being “the same way the ANTM does.” I’m simply calling out the real cancer of the ANTM...the people just like you who never realize the part you played. You pass it off as if you were just a puppet on strings, but if you ever looked up, you’d see there were no strings the whole time...

And for that, you’ll never be anything more than a Muppet

noneyabiz 2 years ago



o

We will leave this comment and similar ones up, but this is not a place to harrass others. You can be both an abuser and the abused at the same time. Show a little grace. Belligerence doesn't help anybody.

Site Admin 2 years ago



A cult, pure and simple. My family was there for 12 years. I was a Sunday School Teacher, a Home Meeting Leader, Ministry training School Graduate, and a member of the Apostolic Company. A very good Nazi, by all accounts, I slowly woke up to the spiritual abuse of the church and the adjuvant abuse I delivered to my kids.

The cult has a terrific veneer that can appeal to the serious seeker. But the shunning, cleverly masquerading as church discipline, is the obvious tip-off.

One of my proudest accomplishments is being instrumental in inspiring the exodus after Black Sunday, which, evidently, I was the "brother not with us this morning with a few question". When Doree and I got back from Toronto, Rachel was ready to move in with another church family. Good times!

Hell really is too good for the James.

Michael Lange

Michael Langiewicz (formerly, Michael Lange) 3 years ago Reply 4likes currently



o

You must be so proud for being so instrumental in Black Sunday. lol

I remember you being quite unbearable on the inside. Here's something to be even prouder of...never having anything to do with Lakeview. Never subjecting your kids to such abuse by YOUR choice. Imagine how proud you could feel. Can you feel that kind of proud, Mike Lang?

noneyabz 2 years ago



o

We will leave this comment and similar ones up, but this is not a place to harrass others. You can be both an abuser and the abused at the same time. Show a little grace. Belligerence doesn't help anybody.

Site Admin 2 years ago



I am not a member of this church, but I find friendly relationships with members to be so difficult.

anon 3 years ago Reply 3likes currently



This website is truly amazing. The interview with Ann Beall is a welcome surprise and a real hoot. I was born and raised in this church. I left when I was 21 and was shunned. Sometimes I think that the trauma that I've endured at Lakeview will haunt me forever but reading here has shown me how far I've come. I'd like to tell current members that one of the most important things in life that we are blessed with is our family. I'm a mother of 2 little ones. It's vital as parents that we don't live our lives in a way that harms or traumatizes our children. It's our responsibility and greatest contribution to society to raise our kids to be happy and healthy and you can't do that at Lakeview in my humble opinion. I think one thing that I realized after leaving was how early and often the leaders of the church pull kids away from the parents and the parents may not even be aware what they are teaching the children. That may be more or less specific to the first generation of children but in retrospect, the level of predation on naive children is really shocking. I left Lakeview long before I had my kids but I literally can't fathom having children and not leaving that place.

I look forward to more updates on the website and thank you for your hard work! 😄

Grateful 4 years ago Reply 9likes currently



Great Site, well written.

The ANTM bomb was dropped in Japan, on a mostly unsuspecting group of folks that came to visit us for our Tenth Anniversary celebration. We were handed out a little pamphlet with an organization pyramid chart ... my name was all the way at the bottom, lol! Most of those gathered were not too happy about it, even though we watched a talking-head video by NHJSr explaining the reasoning behind it. Junior was trying to run the show, calling it a "Pastor's Conference," but it was my turf, so most of us kept celebrating the goodness of God and fellowshiping. The ANTM was "born" at that time, but soon became an almost entirely US thing, shriveling up to it's present hard and callous state. (IMHO) Junko and I were very blessed to be able to say "God is high above, and the Tsar is far away." It's a Russian proverb I read in a Loius L'Amour novel, but very apropos to our situation. We were able to build the church in Japan with little input from Pittsburgh, and NHJSr never interfered until that fateful day. Most folks know we were made persona non grata soon afterward. It was a bit lonely, but we were relieved.

The only comment I could add would be that my five years at South Hills Christian Center were wonderful! I was not in any ministerial position, even though we were included in the first Ministry Training School class. I learned much those five years, and cannot dismiss ALL the teaching we received then. Surely, every Christian is responsible to confirm the teaching in the Word and in the Spirit. That said, we certainly came to Japan at a good time ... before the building of that huge building that pumped egos and infused Pride. The "Multi-purpose" room with basketball hoops was great!

FYI, our own meeting room here is a multi-purpose room, and I have no plans whatsoever to build more than we really need. <https://www.charisjapan.com>

Again, thank you for this site, and we continue to pray for freedom of those bound in oppressive man-made religion.

Randy and Junko

Randy Stafford 4 years ago Reply 9likes currently



I was there that Sunday morning when it was proclaimed on the platform, “God is pleased when we sacrifice relationships with our families. It’s like a fragrant offering to Him.” This is the heart of the mindset of the ANTM, give up everything for the church. I was heavily involved with NCLC and its affiliated churches my entire adult life. I served as a preaching elder, youth group leader, camp speaker, worship leader and treasurer during my 26 year affiliation with these churches. I attended many board meetings, elder’s meetings and counseling sessions. My review is legitimate. I will speak in general terms of things I observed as a congregant and things I did - no hearsay.

Over the years I followed the written and unwritten (but understood) policies of the church, and so as any leader would, I recommended family members shun their kids who left the church. I asked a brother to quit talking to his brother who left. I supported divorces because one spouse decided to stop attending. For 10 years, I even shunned some of my own family that opposed this church, causing them great pain. I saw parents refuse to attend their kid's wedding. I saw children who left this group of churches being prevented from going to the funerals of their parents.

None of this kind of stuff happens without a hundred or so people backing the authority, and I was one of them. I was part of the system. I caused families pain. I was wrong and despise what I became there. I have asked God and those I wronged to forgive me for what I did to them in His name. I am so sorry.

I had concerns about the church for years, but always pushed those thoughts aside as “attacks of the enemy”. I met with the church's pastor about my concerns and at first I was mocked, then my motives were questioned and finally I was threatened that if I went down that “path of deception”, I would “lose everything”.

I was also watching the Leah Remini Scientology series on A&E at the time, which further caused me to question many of NCLC's practices. I saw many similarities between NCLC and other cults like Scientology.

- They both use fear, control, and intimidation.
- They train you to avoid reading online criticisms of the church.
- They enforce shunning to keep remaining members in line.

Realizing that it's the behavior of a church that makes it a cult, not just strange doctrines (although NCLC has some), led our family to leave on 10/17/17. Immediately we were shunned, even by family that still remains in the church to this day. All of my kids’ friends quit speaking to them. I soon received a certified letter reminding me of a supposed Non-Disclosure Agreement that I signed that remained on file and I was told to keep quiet about things I saw there. That was their “goodbye” to me and it makes you wonder what they don’t want getting out. Perhaps it is their exorbitant salaries; perhaps it's their misogynistic view of women; perhaps it's diverting funds to people no longer qualified for compensation. They know their reasons.

All I can say to those considering attending NCLC, avoid this place. You will not become closer to God by going there. It’s like a twisted religious reality show of ‘Survivor’ - seeing who will leave, who will get kicked off the island and who will remain until the end. You will become a proud religious person, comparing yourself to others based on arbitrary standards set by the leadership. You will run all of your life’s major choices by the pastor. You will turn over your tax returns annually (and they keep them forever) so your kids can go to the church school. If you disagree with any practice or policy you will be verbally bullied into submission for the sake of “unity”. Or worse, as the system takes root in your mind and you stop thinking for yourself, you will self-censor any negative thoughts or alternative opinions you have, so you aren't “deceived by Satan”. The pastor won’t even have to say a word. He’s now controlling you from within your own mind.

To the people of NCLC, many whom I still care a great deal about, I remind you: Jesus said in Matt 9:13 “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’” - Quit sacrificing your families, thinking it pleases God. It's the enemy that comes to steal (relationships), kill (loving family bonds) and destroy (lives).

So, members of NCLC, Lakeview, and the rest of the ANTM, please stop giving yourselves 5-star reviews on Google and go talk to your shunned families.

Vernon Burchfield 4 years ago Reply 15likes currently



This is really bad advice and a mistake far too many make as soon as they leave the ANTM ... “The best thing by far for anyone leaving this group of churches is to find a healthy church where they can feel the love and acceptance of God's people.”

Find yourself. Heal yourself. Once you've done that, try to sort the other pieces out.

The rash decision of finding a new church A.S.A.P. is the same foolishness that convinced many of you Norman James had the answers. Don't be a fool twice!

Forget About It 4 years ago Reply 1 likes currently



Once There

I dont see where anyone said ASAP. Of course time to heal, know yourself and see what drew you to Lakeview in the first place is important.

But, for many, each in their own time and own way, finding a good Christian community where principles of love, grace and humility are molded can be hugely productive in one's recovery. Let's not shoot the wounded.

Forget About It

ASAP is implied and you know it. We all can appreciate the psychological manipulation the ANTM puts people through. So often people tend to think “I need to find a church ASAP so I don't lost my eternal inheritance. And maybe I'LL be the one to show the ANTM it CAN work.”

Guaranteed that conversation runs through many minds as they leave. You can continue to deny if you like. Also, a Christianity may not ever be the answer, but it's hard to see that when you're forever broken.

“Wounded”. Now there is an interesting term because it implies that we were all victims. I witnessed plenty of nasty people inside the ANTM who were all too happy to play their wicked part until it all impacted them personally. Let's not all play the role of victim here. In too many cases it is just plain untrue.

Once There

You are making alot of assumptions.

Forget About It

And you are making a lot of excuses. :)

I genuinely want people to find peace and part of that is finding truth. Part of that is searching deep within ourselves to find how each one of us was part of the problem. It's easy to blame the Jameses. It's easy to classify ourselves as “wounded”. It's much harder to look inside ourselves and realize that we may be just as guilty. I want real change. I want real healing. But some just want to feel sorry for themselves.

Once There / Forget About It 4 years ago



It's probably a good idea for people to take a breath and pause between leaving a church like this and finding a new one. But the heart of what is important to tell people, in my opinion, is that they are fully capable of making the best decision for themselves in their life as they think is right. These people have been told for far too long that they can't think or make their own decisions and they should be encouraged to do so.

Grateful 4 years ago



I can't believe what this place still does to families. It looks like it is getting worse. How do these "pastors" sleep at night?

So Sad 4 years ago Reply 7likes currently



About 30 years ago, I was associated with someone who belonged to Lakeview. The cult was fairly new at that point, and the building was in the process of being built. They built most of the building, but one side was a removable wall to allow for future expansion. I asked if there was going to be a steeple. I was told no, since a steeple represented a certain part of the male anatomy in a certain position. Fast forward 3 years. After repeated efforts to get me to join the cult, I broke ties with this person. I still have occasion to travel the road in front of Lakeview. I see now, 30 years later, that the building has been completed, and has a steeple that is quite tall. I know this is a small example, but it goes to show how Norman James changes his mind, and the mind of everyone in the cult, any time the desire hits him. I wish I knew if the person I used to associate with was still in the cult. I hope they managed to escape. I hope ALL the members manage to escape. Thanks for hosting this site. All the best.

Gizmo 4 years ago Reply 6likes currently



I want to thank you for all the time & effort you have put into this web site. For former members, this kind of info helps them to know they are not crazy. It will validate feelings that they long ago suppressed while trying to "get with the program".

The best thing by far for anyone leaving this group of churches is to find a healthy church where they can feel the love and acceptance of God's people. Good Biblical teaching is important, but I found I mostly had to sort through the garbage of false teaching by myself. The two things that have helped me most was to understand Godly grace and to understand who God really is. The reality is that we are totally accepted by God exactly as we are. His love is unconditional and complete. It's a simple concept but has taken years for me to really get it deep into my soul where it can minister to me no matter my circumstances. In God's eyes, no one is a second class citizen, no one is more valuable than anyone else.

The kind of information in your web site along with recent news stories are like putting up a blockade around the church. Hard to believe that anyone would make it through all the negative information and still go through the doors. These days most everyone uses the web to check out everything.

Norman Sr. ruled by intimidation, both physically and by the things he said. You were never sure exactly what you did that got you on his bad side, nor were you sure exactly what you could do to get back into his good graces. And nobody was safe, not even the elders. He could turn on anyone at any time...

In reading your comments about shunning, I recall Norman always had something bad to say about everyone who left. We only ever heard his side of the story, and since we had faith in him, we began to believe that there must have been something drastically wrong with all those people. After we left, we found that these "escapees" were normal God-fearing Christians who somehow got on Norman's bad side. One effect of the shunning was that those who were still in the church never got the real story. We who left were so burned that we just wanted to put it all behind us. It has only been recently that people have had the courage to speak out, and we admire this site for doing so.

Once There 4 years ago Reply 7likes currently



I am a former member of the mother church, LCLC. My family and I left in 1992. Things were bad then and things have gotten much worse ever since. I don't know how these places can still profess to be Christian. While they give lip service to the Bible and profess Jesus Christ as their saviour, all resemblance to real Christianity ends there. They use the word grace but have no idea what it really means. Their god looks very little like the God I have come to love and know intimately since leaving there.

So many former members started attending there because they were looking for a place to learn about and serve God but ended up serving a man and the distorted image of God that he put forth. Look up the verses about wolves in sheep's clothing. The verses are not talking about people outside the church, but about people who profess to know God and lead people astray, in this case the leaders of ANTM churches. I have been in contact with a great many former members and I am happy to say that the vast majority are still serving the Lord. But there are scars, lots of them. Not just the friends and family they left behind who won't have anything to do with them, but also the scars from the emotional abuse they suffered at the hands of the leadership.

There are many churches out there, some very good and some not so good. But you would have a hard time finding one as bad as these with ANTM.

John Gaynor 4 years ago Reply 9likes currently



Having just stumbled on your website, I am overwhelmed with the similarity to the church I used to attend: Calvary Temple in Sterling VA. It is as if Star Scott (the pastor, yes, that's his real name) used the same guidelines and rule book.

This link:

<https://mycalvarytempletacticscommentary.blog/vip-links-page-all-ct-internet-content>

will lead you to the many blogs and news articles as well as media coverage about CT. As I go through all your content, searching for something to possibly help us recover our own lost family members and friends, perhaps some of our experiences will help you. It is sad to say that there is a large group of us here in Sterling that can truly say we know what you have gone through and continue to go through.

Ellen 4 years ago Reply 5likes currently



I recall the first time I read Chapter 7 of Plato's The Republic... Intuitively, I immediately drew a comparison in my mind of Socrates' allegory of the cave to my personal experience of leaving THAT place...

"Great religious leaders are born, not made..." Aaaah... There thou sayest true... I used to whisper that into the ear of the great man during his rare moments of self-doubt... We were building a brand from the ground up... merchandising relentlessly... and, ok, you're gonna break a few souls in the process, right?... You try to make an honest dollar in this economy!!!!

I for one appreciate the on-the-job crash course education in exploiting and/or manipulating people that being born and raised in said cult-like religious community afforded me the undeserved privilege of experiencing... Now with that being said, allow me the opportunity to ever so subtly pivot this depressing conversation in a more interesting, lucrative and marketable direction... Norman H. James Sr.: self-proclaimed apostle/prophet or under-appreciated startup small family-owned-and-run business founder & CEO/entrepreneur?... Hmm and hmhhh... You HAVE got me there, friend... But, you know... I for one... Me, myself... I wanna go with the latter... It rings true to my immortal soul, you might say... "Cui Bono" in Latin, right?... let's discuss the self-created wealth this human being has created for himself... Making something out of nothing... Preying on the intellectually weak and lazy minded peoples of his spacial-temporal position... In a word... if I had to answer you... and you pressed me hard... hard-pressed as you find me to be thus... NORMAN H. JAMES, SR.... INSPIRING!... And the three sons don't come near the old man... how infinitely disappointed he must be with them... no instincts, the lot of 'em... anywho.

Mike Mays, Former NHJ, Sr. Public Relations Spokesman 4 years ago Reply 0likes currently



There's a ton of work that's gone into this and it doesn't go unnoticed. The more truth that exists, the more there is for someone who is looking to find. Whether that's today or down the road

Shun Connery 4 years ago Reply 5likes currently



- This site is the epitome of a presentation regarding the ANTM. Hopefully it will enlighten and warn curious readers. For those already in bondage, may this site have the keys to be used by the fettered.

Leaving The Light On 4 years ago Reply 6likes currently



- After looking through the site and reading the content, I was amazed how much what I read I had thought about while I was still in the group. A lot of times, I was very conflicted and actually repressed my thoughts labeling them 'rebellion' or an 'attack' of the devil to cause me to doubt. Now when I see these same phrases and thoughts I know that they are neither. They are honest questions that demand me to answer them. Thank you for such a site as this it really helps me to sort out and I hope others still inside will do the same

Delivered 4 years ago Reply 7likes currently



- I am so thankful that this site exists. It validates the pain that I have experienced in the group personally. Hopefully others will be helped as well. 🍷