

My son -13 y old

CRIMES

NOT BELIEVING IN THE TT'S DOCTRINES (ALL THE WHILE SUBSERVIENTLY OBEYING THEM), DESIRING TO AND ON OCCASION RIDING A BIKE

WANTING TO WEAR CLOTHING A BIT DIFFERENTLY.

PUNISHMENT

TREATED AS A TRAITOR, AN APOSTATE...WITH DISTRUST, CONTEMPT AND OSTRACISM.

My husband

CRIMES

- ± DISAGREEING THAT CHILDREN SHOULD BE PHYSICALLY PUNISHED FOR TALKING WITH OTHER CHILDREN.
- ± DISAGREEING WITH THE RULE OF NEEDING PERMISSION FROM THE LEADERS TO LISTEN TO OUR OWN TT MUSIC.
- ± STRUGGLING OVER THE FACT THAT LEADERS HAVE ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER YOUR FAMILY THROUGH THE PARENTS , CONTRARY TO WHAT THEY PREACHED AND PROFESS TO BELIEVE WHICH IS THAT PARENTS HAVE ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY OVER THEIR OWN CHILDREN.

PUNISHMENT

REDUCED TO MENIAL WORK, BEING A TRADESMAN CARPENTER HE WAS ASSIGNED TO WORK DOING PRODUCTION WORK IN THE BAKERY WITH OUR SON BOTH FOR AROUND 80 HOURS A WEEK. ALSO BEING A PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN HE WASN'T ALLOWED TO PLAY MUSIC.

If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear. --[Deuteronomy 21:18-21](#)

This was quoted at a public announcement made by a leader of the TT. The leader went on to announce to everyone, and unexpectedly for me that my husband and son only 13 years old then were officially "cut off" which is a state of disgrace. He explained **that in the**

communities of the TT we don't stone but we declare this person being in Death.(He actually said those words).

I was shocked and started to cry.

What followed were 3 years of ostracism, punishment, banishment. Our family of 5 got split in 3. My husband when at home was confined to our room and my son to the room he had been assigned to live with a few single men. They were not allowed at the regular meetings, meals, special events and this to understand is within the context of life in the community which does not allow for participation in anything in the outside wider world. They were later moved from one community home to another and eventually away from the community but still under the supervision and control of the leadership. They were sent away to NZ where my husband is from. My son was then 16 and after only a few months he was advised to leave him to fend for himself and return to the fold which he refused to do. They took 7 months to send me and my daughters to visit. When in NZ we discussed leaving the TT.

We no longer saw them as the caring loving people that uphold conscience and family values that we believed we had been part of all those years. We realized the leaders priorities and ideas on families were wrong and we knew it would not change.