

[BARRY DUKE](#), EDITOR WED 11 SEP / 26

Child-abusing Christian cult screams ‘persecution’ after police rescue 40 German children

AN OUTFIT called the The Twelve Tribes, which has a history of beating Jesus into children, has expressed outrage over a police raid in Bavaria that resulted in the removal of 40 children from parents who are members of the cult.

According to the cult’s [website](#):

On 5 September 2013 at 6 am in the morning, 40 children were taken away from the loving and nurturing parents of the Community of Believers in Wornitz and Klosterzimmern. Under allegations of abuse, custody was taken away from the parents. The believers in the Community do not practice abuse, but rather deeply and affectionately love their children, as the word of God, good sense, and love itself would command.

This is how “deeply and affectionately” they love their children: The little blond-haired boy is about four years old. He simpers as a middle aged woman drags him downstairs into a dimly-lit cellar and orders the child to bend over and touch the stone floor with his hands. Another little boy watches as the woman pulls down the first boy’s pants and then draws out a willow cane.

‘Say you are tired!’ commands the woman in an emotionless voice. The swoosh of the willow cane is audible as it strikes the screaming child’s bottom three times. The little boy refuses to say he is tired so he is hit again and again – a total of ten times – until, in floods of tears, he finally says ‘I am tired’.

Within the space of a few hours, six adults are filmed in the cellar and in an underground school central heating room beating six children with a total of 83 strokes of the cane.

The extract above is from a report in the [Independent](#) a day after the horrific scenes were shown on Germany’s RTL television. The footage was filmed by Wolfram Kuhnigk, an RTL journalist equipped with hidden video cameras and

microphones, who infiltrated a 100-strong religious community run by the fundamentalist sect in Bavaria earlier this year.

Kuhnigk claimed to be “a lost soul” to gain entry.

Seeing this systematic beatings made me want to weep, it made me think of my own two children

He collected 50 beating scenes on camera.

This despicable sect was established by a former high school

teacher and certifiable madman called [Elbert Eugene](#)

[Spriggs](#) in the early 1970s and has spread globally. It promotes the “divine” disciple of children by using rods.



Elbert Eugene Spriggs claims to have direct contact with God According to [this report](#), the German authorities said that 28 children were found at a farm at Klosterzimmern near Denningen, while the remaining twelve were located at a farm community in Wornitz.

Bavarian police have said that the Twelve Tribes sect is under investigation for the physical abuse of the 40 children aged between one-and-a-half and 17 years old.

Earlier reports stated that the rods that were used to discipline the children had been soaked in oil to render them more pliable. The children were reportedly beaten on their backs, arms and bare feet.

All of the children rescued have now been taken into custody by the German authorities and placed temporarily with foster carers, where they will remain until after a court inquiry takes place next week.

The police are reportedly seeking to press charges against the commune's leader, Detlef Markell, 54, who insists on his innocence.

Cult members strongly believe in using rods:

To inflict pain and not damage. Desiring to be good parents, we do not hit our children in anger, nor with our hand or fist ... we know that some people consider this aspect of our life controversial, but we have seen from experience that discipline keeps a child from becoming mean-spirited and disrespectful of authority.

This is by no means the first time that the Twelve Tribes have come under investigation. Back in 1984, one of the sects in Vermont was raided and authorities took away 112 children amid allegations of abuse. But a judge found the raid to be unconstitutional and had the children were returned to their families.

Founded by Spriggs in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the sect has also fallen foul of the law in Connecticut in 2000, when a couple from the group were found guilty of third-degree assault for cruelly disciplining their children with a thirty-inch rod, made of tough fiberglass.

Because of its beliefs, the sect refuses to put any of its children through the public school system as it works against the leader's teachings. As a result, Twelve Tribes has come under attack by the local authorities, who revoked its education license, because the Bavarian ministry for education found the Twelve Tribes at Klosterzimmern to be unfit to teach, thus forcing some of the children to attend state school by law.

One former member, who wishes to remain nameless, offered 89 reasons why he left Twelve Tribes. His 26th points out that while many parents punish their children as a last resort, the Twelve Tribes tend to do it as a **first** resort.

The parents strike their children on outstretched palms or bare buttocks with long thin flexible sticks. Foolishness, joke telling, laughing or making faces often results in 'discipline' for these young children.

Another father, who was reportedly made to watch his daughter being beaten for seven hours, eventually left the cult with his wife.

Spriggs' views are set out in *Execution of Justice Teaching*, a book in which he suggests that one who does not spare the rod must hate their child:

Unless your son had blue wounds, by this standard, you know what kind of a standard is in you – it is the spirit that hates your son. If one is overly concerned about his son receiving blue marks you know that he hates his son and hates the word of God.

Members of the sect are claiming that they are descended from early Christians. They also produce their own food and electricity and the females of the sect are subservient to the males.