

Shaylee Shannon

Tara Goodrich

English 3

February 10, 2020

### Inside Scientology

Scientology is recognized as a legal tax-exempt religion in the United States, South Africa, Australia, Sweden, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, and Spain. It is recorded to have between 25,000 and 55,000 active Scientologists even though the Scientology official website claims they have a growth of more than 4.4 million followers each year. This is a big deal either way considering the short amount of time its been around. It was invented in 1952 by American non-fiction author L. Ron Hubbard. The first church of Scientology only took two years to open in 1954 in Los Angeles.

Scientology is One of the most controversial new religious movements to have come about in the 20th century. The church is often characterized as a cult and it has faced harsh scrutiny for many of its practices which include brainwashing, routinely defrauding its members, as well as attacking its critics and perceived enemies with psychological abuse character assassination, and costly lawsuits. They believe that their soul, The Thaitan, is immortal in our lives and is not confined to this one single lifetime. They believe we are capable of anything even if we haven't been able to realize it yet. eight dynamics drive us forward including the urge towards infinity, which includes discovering God, The urge to protect animal life, the urge to exist as a peaceful community, and the urge to exist as one mankind across all races. once you are clear

meaning you've been cleansed of all traumatic memories and feelings you can climb the ladder to more powerful positions after clear comes a state called operating Thetan. According to Scientology the highest level that you can accomplish is an Operating Thetan or an OT. The OT is supposedly able to control or operate thought, life, matter, energy, space, and time Whether he or she has a body and mind or not. OT's can allegedly move inanimate objects with their minds, leave their bodies at Will and telepathically communicate with, and control the behavior of, both animals and human beings. There are 1–8 known levels to accomplish before reaching the ot level.

One of the first things Scientology has you do is something called auditing. An auditor takes an individual known as a pre-clear through times in their life and gets rid of any past or current Negative situations. They do this by taking you in a room and the auditor repeatedly asks you to repeat the story over and over again for ten hours while the story gets changed and altered into something completely different from what originally happened. It seems as though it brainwashes the individual into believing that the negative story was positive and didn't occur the way they once thought it did. According to the official Scientology website, auditing is meant to restore beingness and ability. This is accomplished by helping the individual rid of himself of any spiritual disabilities and increasing one's abilities.

They also believe that when you're going through the story and explaining to them what happened Your soul is going back in time to when the moment occurred. Not that you're just thinking about it and telling the story.

Scientology is very secretive and it's hard to find any solid information about what exactly takes place in the churches, their practices, and even how much money they spend on the regular to keep up with Scientology prices. What we do know is that it does cost a lot of money. It's estimated to have a book value of about 1.75 billion. Jeffery Augustine, the author of Scientology Money Project, estimates the church has an annual revenue of 200 million.

Once you're in the church it's very hard to leave. It took ex Scientologists to have to literally escape. Leah Remini was brought into Scientology at a young age by her mother. Over time she was exposed to the full truths of the so-called religion. Leah and her family agreed that they no longer wanted to be affiliated with the organization so they left. It wasn't easy. None of her family is allowed to contact any active Scientologists. It's not just them though it's everyone who leaves Scientology. After leaving the organization you would be called a suppressive person, or sp, and must be shunned by everyone in the practice.

Leaving isn't the only thing that will get you to be shunned by all their fellow Scientologists that you've been through the entire process with you for years. Even just talking bad about Scientology will get you kicked out and ignored. So will trying to get a Scientologist to leave the church altogether, supporting psychiatry and psychology, being a reporter, speaking against current management, communicating with a suppressive person, not making any progress or moving up in levels, picking and choosing bits of Scientology to believe and not believe, refusing to disconnect with any family or friends not in Scientology, or for even being anti-social. It seems like the list

could go on forever. At the drop of a hat, you could lose everyone you've ever known just because you made a slight misstep that the management in Scientology believes is wrong. You'd be ignored altogether and anyone that would disobey the rules to talk to you would be thrown out as well.

There are many celebrities in Scientology. Tom Cruise and John Travolta are two of the most well-known celebrity Scientologists. Tom Cruise claimed that he is on level III at least and Travolta as well. The church loves celebrities in Scientology because it promotes them and the things they shine more of positive light on the church. The new HBO film called Going Clear suggests that Scientology has so much dirt on high profile members like John Travolta they could never leave the church. It's unclear if the celebrities want to be associated with the church or if they're stuck.

David Miscavige is the current head of Scientology. He took over after L Ron Hubbard died in 1986. Miscavige's world is revolved around Scientology and made it known that anyone who goes against him pays a price and his list of victims may include his very own wife name Shelley Miscavige. In 2006 during Tom Cruise's wedding, which Scientology named the wedding of the decade, Shelley wasn't there which was weird considering how high profile the event was and how close Tom and David are. This is where Leah Remini first suspected that Scientology wasn't what it seemed to be. Shelley Miscavige filled several job vacancies without Miscavige's permission and hasn't been seen in public since. Scientologists fight very hard against anyone or anything it perceives as a threat. Operation Snow White with Scientology going above and beyond to defend itself against perceived enemies from the US

government. In the 1970s Scientology was being investigated by the FBI as well as its tax-exempt status being questioned by the IRS. In response, Scientologists all over worked to get government jobs at every level to whitewash information about Scientology. Operation snow white wasn't just a theory L. Ron Hubbard's wife and many other Scientologists went to prison for their roles in infiltrating the US government and illegally copying and passing along information. operation snow white was a worldwide effort but the focus was mostly on the US and its government agencies. With 5,000 undercover agents, Scientology accomplished the largest infiltration of the US government in history. They will seemingly stop at nothing to try and take over, no matter how bizarre and unbelievable their practices are.