

Brother Jones: Child Molester

JournalsPast:

Twelve Years Ago
Feb. 4, 1998
Vol. 18, No. 2

A 67-year-old minister has been charged with several sex offenses.

Rev. James L. Jones, minister of the Spoken Word Tabernacle in Camp Verde, was arrested and charged with six counts of sexual abuse and one count of sexual assault on Jan. 29, according to the Camp Verde Marshal's Office.

Jones' crimes reportedly occurred from 1984 to 1996 and involved five different female victims ranging in age from 14 years old to an adult.

All the alleged victims were church members at the time of the offenses. Jones could appear for his arraignment and make a plea in the next few weeks, according to Deputy County Attorney Jim Landis.

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On day two of the Rev. James L. Jones trial, five former female members of his congregation testified that it was the scripture which initially drew them to the Spoken Word Tabernacle Church and manipulation of the scripture which kept them there after being victimized by the minister.

The 68-year-old Camp Verde minister is being charged with groping, fondling and molesting five female members of his church including two teenagers.

The state's case, presented by Yavapai County Deputy Attorney Jim Landis, depends on proving the sexual advances were not consensual, and that because of Jones' fear tactics, free choice did not exist.

Camp Verde Journal, Nov 10 2010

Message Pastor Accused of Child Molestation, Mind Control

A Northern Arizona sect leader may spend time in prison, if he isn't raptured first. James L. Jones, 62, pastor of the Spoken Word Tabernacle in Camp Verde, Ariz. was indicted on charges of child molestation but says God will vindicate him.

Two teenage girls were allegedly involved in sexual misconduct with Jones. According to former members, Jones admitted in a sermon in October 1991 to committing adultery. He was arrested shortly thereafter and is now

free on \$100,000 bail. His trial is set for February 1993. Two hundred members left since his confession, but about 80 remain, including the girls and their parents.

The Spoken Word Tabernacle had been located in Glendale, Ariz. before Jones relocated it to Camp Verde. Jones was in Copper Canyon near Camp Verde when he saw a rock that resembled a loaf of bread. He heard a voice tell him to break open the rock,

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and when he did he found his initials inside the rock. This event is what Jones said prompted the relocation.¹

Former members are speaking out against Jones and have been picketing his church. Ken Leake, a former member said, "Jones could inspire church members to act. He's saying it's the Lord's will for this to happen."² Leake is afraid of retaliation from Jones and his church, since leaving because Jones "prophesied" his house would burn down.

Last year Jones said he would be "vindicated" and "free from Egypt" (the world) by December 25, 1992. Some former members interpreted it to mean he was predicting the rapture. Others feared he would trigger the rapture by poisoning members during their Christmas communion service. Similar to the mass suicide of the infamous Jim Jones of the People's Temple. Over 900 followers died when they drank cyanide-laced Kool-Aid in Jonestown, Guyana in 1978.

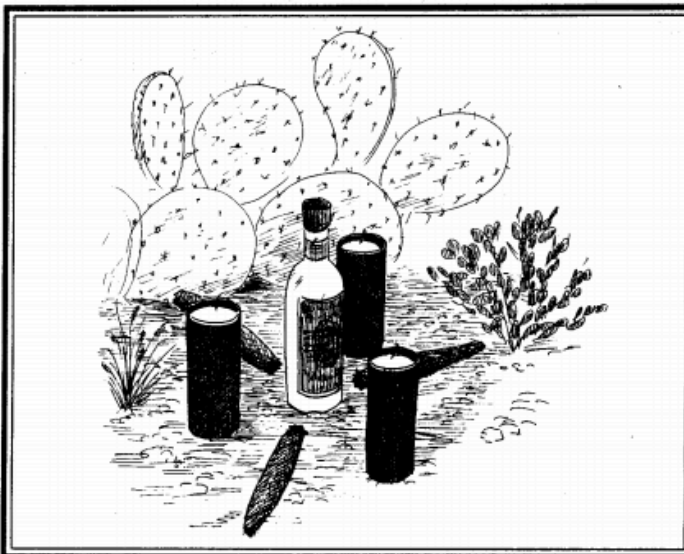
But church-goers weren't raptured and no one was poisoned at the other Jim Jones' church in Camp Verde this past Christmas. Jones' church is not typical of Message churches, but both have similarities in theology.

Branham is called Elijah and the prophet of Malachi 4:5, 6. Similarly, Jones claims he has the spirit of Joshua and is the prophet mentioned in Zechariah 5.³ Both have also claimed angelic visitations.

Fear is also a part of Jones' church. "I'm a prophet of God. Touch not God's anointed lest you perish," Jones is reported to have screamed at his congregation. Karen Thomas, a member for 14 years, said "I've been deceived. He uses fear and brain washes you."²

Public Safety Officer, [redacted], allegedly perished because she gave Jones a traffic ticket. Two months after citing Jones, [redacted] died. The police officer shot and killed her children before turning the gun on herself in a tragic homicide-suicide over a divorce.

Jones thanked God from the pulpit for her death. "Thank you, Lord! Vengeance is mine, sayeth the Lord."³



Santeria Altar Discovered in Tucson

Three red votive candles around an unopened bottle of St. Thomas Rum (from the Virgin Islands) with three cigars comprise this simple offering to a Santeria spirit. This altar was found in the desert by a CAF member. Santeria is a type of witchcraft found on Cuba and other Caribbean islands. It has been called a cross between Voodoo and Catholicism because it is occultic, yet worships Catholic saints.

Some sects of Santeria sacrifice animals and humans. A sect called, "Palo Mayombe" was responsible for sacrificing a dozen Texas college students in Matamoros, Mexico in 1989. Another Santeria sect called the Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye, has sued the city of Hialeah, Fla. for preventing them from practicing animal sacrifices (usually chickens). This case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court.

According to experts, cult leaders often install fears that God or other members will retaliate against members that defect. This technique keeps many people in these sects from leaving, because they fear for themselves and their families.

NOTES:

1. Winton, Ben, "Fear of 'rapture' massacre grows." The Phoenix Gazette. Dec. 2, 1992
2. Escoffier, Wendy, "Spoken Word Tabernacle came to area 3 years ago." Verde Independent. Dec. 4, 1992.
3. Winton, Ben. "Preaching Vengeance." The Phoenix Gazette. Dec. 10, 1992

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Winter 1992: The Message of William Branham part 1, Cult Update: LDS-Satanic Conspiracy, Adventist Splinter Group, Boston Church of Christ, In the Beginning.

September 1992: Biosphere 2- Space Age or New Age?, New Agers Converge On Sedona, So. Baptists Study Freemasonry, The Message of William Branham part 2.