

When
you invest in
Church Extension,
you make possible
a church,
a school,
a baptism,
a first communion,
the gospel proclaimed.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
1333 South Kirkwood Road
Saint Louis, MO 63122

Come join the ministry.

For complete information, call:

1-800-843-5233

LUTHERAN WITNESS

A magazine for the lay people
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
JULY 1991 (ISSN: 0024-757X) VOL. 110 NO. 7

FEATURES

- 1 **Beware the Cults!**
Eldon Winker
- 4 **Tightening the Belt**
Stephen B. Wenk
- 7 **'Your Father Died This Morning'**
Kurt J. Krueger
- 8 **Learning to Be at Ease in Prayer**
David E. Wiesner
- 10 **Memories of a Missionary Kid**
Dustin Kunkel
- 12 **Overcoming Shyness**
Lonni Collins Pratt

COLUMNS

- 13 **National News**
- 15 **Dateline: Washington/
Family Counselor**
- 16 **Lifeline**
Mark Jensen
- 17 **Searching Scripture**
Richard P. Lieske
- 18 **Letters**
- 20 **Notices**
- 21 **In My Opinion**
Paul D. Doellinger
- 24 **Q & A/Shedding Some Light**
- 25 **From the President**
Ralph A. Bohlmann

Official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
through the Board for Communication Services, Rev. Paul
Devantier, executive director, Rev. Norman E. Waller,
chairman.

Staff: Rev. David L. Mahsman, executive editor; Rev. Ste-
phen B. Wenk, assistant executive editor; David L. Strand,
managing editor; Paula Schlueter Ross, news editor; Ed-
ward Q. Luhmann, art director; Dave Rawlings, advertising
sales; Carla Haeblerle, coordinator, district editions; Charlie
Zekert, editorial assistant. Editorial Office: 1333 S. Kirkwood
Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122-7295. Published monthly by Con-
cordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis,
MO 63118-3968. Subscriptions: Subscription \$7.50 per
year. With District edition, offered at reduced rate if sub-
mitted through local churches. Third-Class postage paid at
St. Louis, Mo. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
the LUTHERAN WITNESS, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St.
Louis, Mo. 63118-3975.

Member: Associated Church Press

Cover photo by Lawrence Manning, Black Star

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Beware the Cults!

People don't join cults; cults recruit people. And cults are growing as fast as ever. Any one of us can be vulnerable at one time or another.

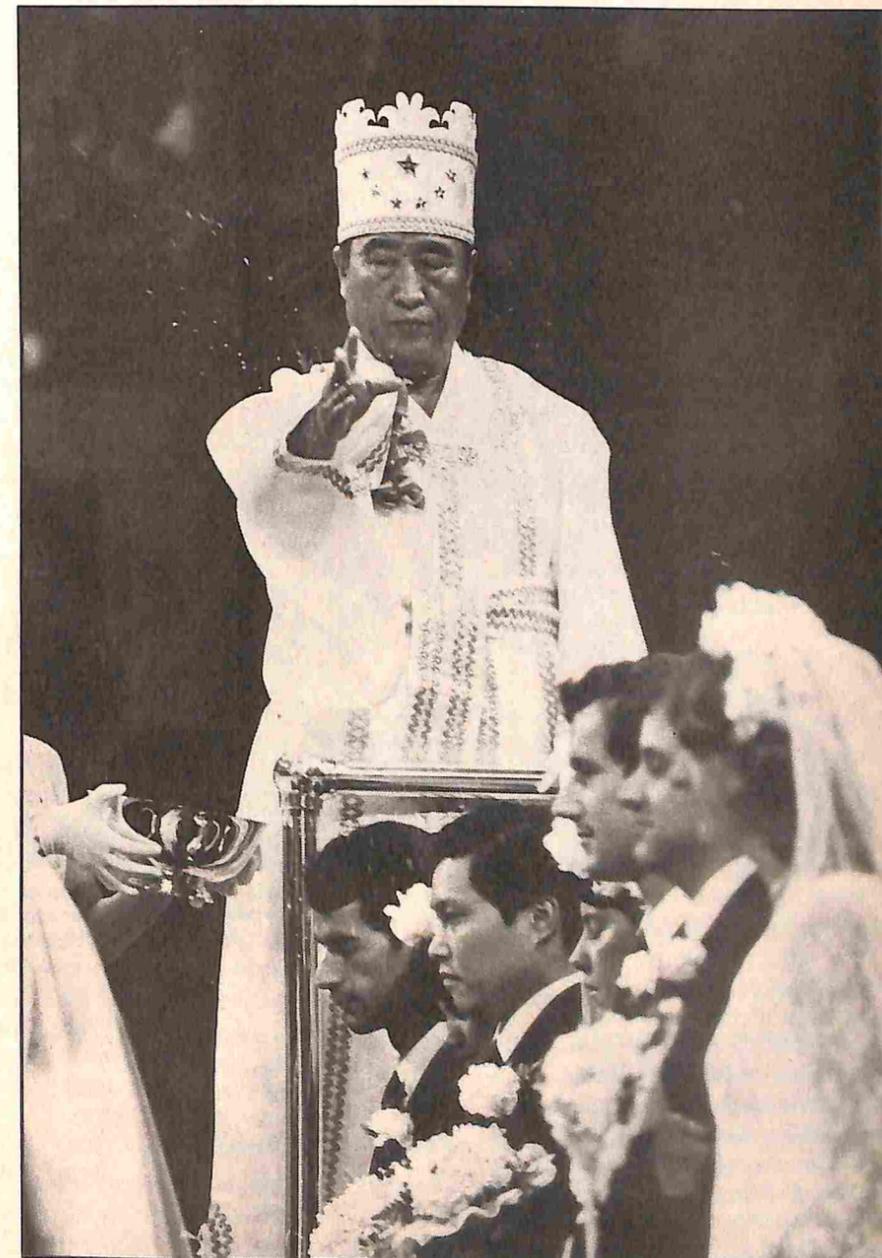
by Eldon Winker

Time magazine's May 6 cover story, "Scientology: The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power," reported that former members of the cult had been mentally and physically abused by the intimidating tactics of Scientology. In addition, they had been bilked of vast sums of cash and property by this "ruthless global scam."

Together with a friend, 14-year-old Robin George visited a Hare Krishna temple. After repeated visits, she became a member. Krishna leaders convinced her that her parents were demons. They told her it was okay to deceive them and other nonbelievers. And they persuaded her to run away from home to a Krishna hiding place. It took her parents more than a year to find her. Robin finally fled the cult, but not before a Krishna lawyer had instructed her to lie about the circumstances of her indoctrination.

Elderly Catherine had just buried her husband. At the urging of a "friendly" neighbor, she joined a religious group with the hope of learning how to prepare her own soul for death. The neighbor moved in with Catherine in order to "care for her." She immediately began exerting control over Catherine by forcing a starch-heavy diet on her and depriving her of sleep. She warned Catherine that harm would come to her and her family if she dared to leave the group.

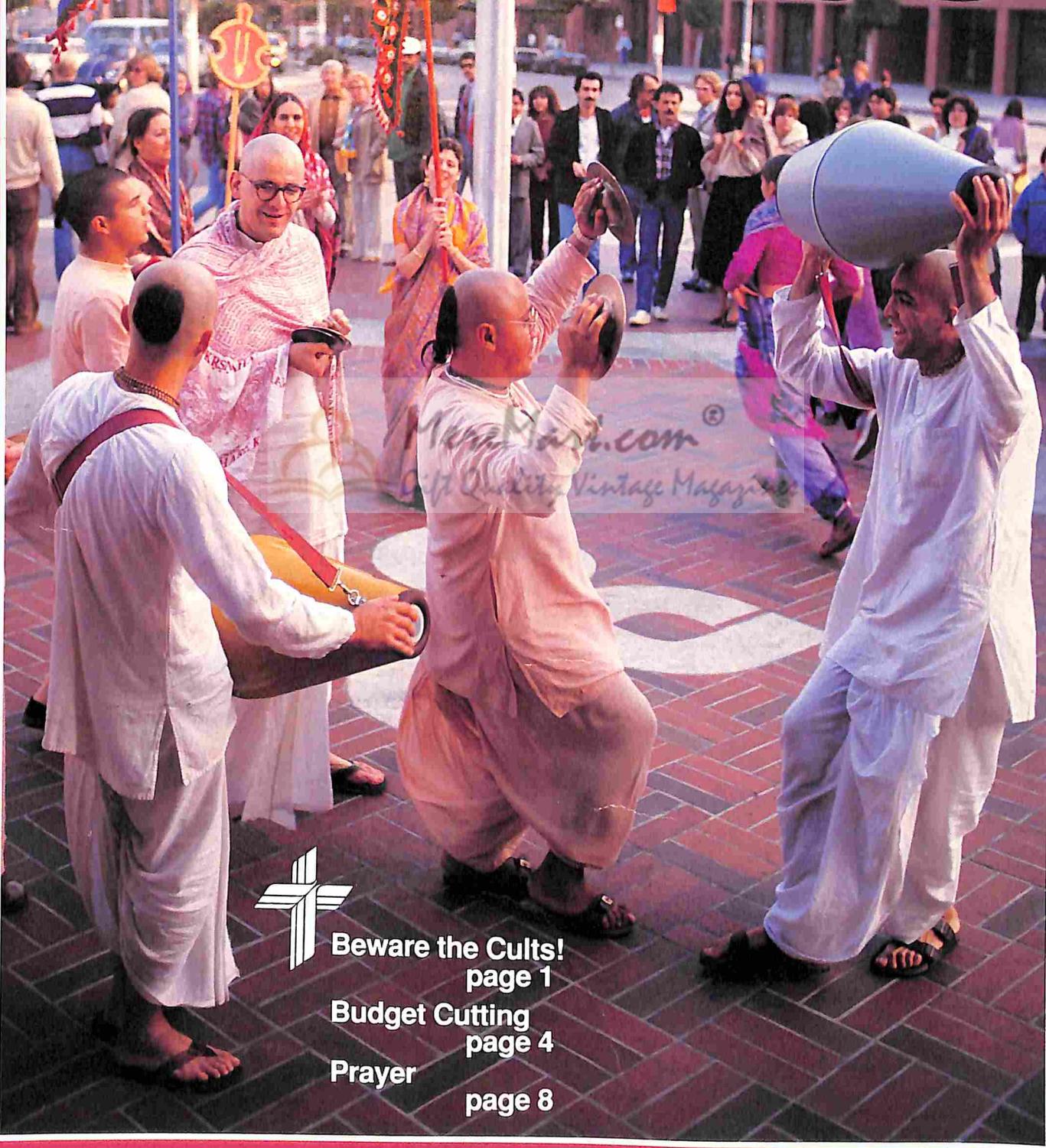
Susan, Catherine's daughter, noticed that her mother had lost weight and become withdrawn. Catherine had liquidated all of her assets and taken thousands of dollars out of savings. The day before her planned move to the group's headquarters in a neighboring state, she suffered a nervous breakdown. Susan rushed her to the hospital.



In 1982, 2,100 "Moonie" couples (members of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church) were married in a mass wedding in New York's Madison Square Garden. Moon himself (shown here sprinkling "holy water" on some of the brides and grooms) personally decided the matchup of each couple.

Photo by Diego Goldberg, Sygma

WITNESS



Beware the Cults!
page 1

Budget Cutting
page 4

Prayer
page 8