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10 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
11 IN AND FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

12 In Re the Marriage of:)

13 Petitioner: GRACE LUCY STOEN)

No. 719-147

14 and)

PETITIONER'S DECLARATION
PURSUANT TO RULE 8.2:64

15 Respondent: TIMOTHY O. STOEN)

16 I, GRACE STOEN, declare the following under penalty of
17 perjury.

18 I am the mother of JOHN VICTOR STOEN, d.o.b. J. 25,
19 1972. As set forth in my declaration of August 11, 1977, I have
20 been attempting to secure the return of my son since I left the
21 PEOPLE'S TEMPLE in July, 1976. Unless this Court acts immediately
22 psychological, moral, and possible physical harm will continue
23 to be done to JOHN.

24 I base my allegation on the following facts:

25 A common method of discipline within the PEOPLE'S TEMPLE
26 is the beating of members before the assembled membership.
27 Microphones are placed near the mouth of the person beaten so that
28 the intensity of their screams will not be lost on the audience.

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1 Children are not excluded from watching the public beatings. In
2 fact, they are encouraged and sometimes required to watch them.

3 While I was a member of the TEMPLE, JOHN and I
4 were present at many public beatings. On one occasion, a girl
5 of seven was beaten well beyond the point at which she began to
6 scream. On another occasion, a girl of eleven was straddled
7 spread-eagled and beat seventy-five to one hundred times. On
8 still another occasion, a young woman was beaten until both of
9 her eyes were swollen shut.

10 The above is by no means an exhaustive list of public
11 beatings which took place during my time in the TEMPLE. The
12 majority of the members of the TEMPLE were "brought up" before
13 the membership for punishment at some time. Not all of the
14 beatings caused serious injuries. Some merely served to degrade
15 a selected member because of an alleged wrong. Members who did not
16 say "Thank you, Father" to the REV. JONES at the conclusion of a
17 punishment directed by him were beaten more.

18 Before the assembled membership, REV. JONES claimed at
19 various times to be the reincarnation of Buddha, Jesus Christ,
20 and Lenin. On several occasions when JOHN was present, the
21 REV. JONES exhibited bloody hands, which he instructed the
22 congregation were stigmata. REV. JONES consistently and
23 incessantly presented himself as our ultimate moral authority.
24 Anyone who questioned this premise was "brought up" for
25 punishment.

26 REV. JONES worked effectively and persistently to
27 indoctrinate the children of TEMPLE members to believe in his
28 moral authority and fear his power to impose horrifying punishment.

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1 JOHN and other children were present when a fifteen year old
2 youth passed out after being beaten; they saw a young girl vomit
3 after her punishment required her to enter a boxing match with a
4 far more skilled opponent; they frequently heard threats of an
5 instrument known as the "Blue Monster" which would administer
6 shock treatments to the unworthy; they were required to be in and
7 ridicule members selected for public humiliation under pain of
8 being punished themselves.

9 I do not believe that JOHN has any direct knowledge of
10 the coercive and fraudulent means which the TEMPLE has used to
11 secure transfers of land and money. Nor do I believe he has
12 direct knowledge of the fact that money received by the TEMPLE
13 for care of the aged is diverted for other projects; leaving
14 the aged poorly cared for. However, the twisted sense of morality
15 which authorizes these acts cannot have escaped him.

16 The twisted moral code which REV. JONES imparts on
17 members of the TEMPLE may be summarized as follows: REV. JONES ad
18 vocates social justice, racial equality and the brotherhood of
19 man. He is the incarnation of a host of divinities from other
20 ages. It is his mission to search out and eradicate loathsome
21 traits within members of congregation, even though they may not
22 always wish his help. The severe beating of a young child for
23 a minor infraction becomes an act of divinity.

24 Members of the TEMPLE including minors are frequently
25 required to sign statements authorizing physical punishment of
26 themselves and their children. These statements are in turn
27 used by the TEMPLE as license for intimidation and degradation.

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I respectfully and urgently request that this court act at once to remove my son from the physical custody of REV. JONES to prevent further psychological, moral, and emotional harm and possible physical injury from happening to him.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct except as to those matters stated on the information and belief and as to those I believe them to be true.

Executed this 18 day of August, 1977 at San Francisco, California.

Grace Lucy Stoen
GRACE LUCY STOEN

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