

Interviews were with Allan Davis, Greg and Josie Mason, Sophie Mason (20 yrs old), and Joel Mason (18 yrs old).

Allan Davis:

Being an Exclusive Brethren to me means, means everything to me, means absolutely my whole life. We've got a system that's Christ like - it cares for people, it, it's a support system, it, it's got everything we ever need.

We regard television and cinema as evil, because they're only mans imagination. I mean, it's fiction isn't it - you see we don't believe in fiction, it's the mans wild imagination.

I protect my children because I love them. I wouldn't put them in areas that would harm them. You see we don't have to go into evil to find out what it's like. You talk about cinemas - you talk about these things, I mean that's what I protect them from, where man's world and imagination is rife.

"I do not demand that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them out of the evil". We understand we have to go through the world, we understand that, but we want to keep ourselves from the evil that is in the world.

Regarding Bruce Hales:

He means everything to us currently, right oh, because he's the closest we have to Christ you know, he's not voted in, it's spiritually manifested who the Man of God is.

Regarding Shutting-Up:

"But if anyone obey not our word by the letter, mark that man and do not keep company with him". It's what's used for them to refocus themselves, to get right, so they get right and get back amongst us. I mean it's only for them to get right you see.

Life out of the fellowship for me would be absolutely terrible and the fact is I wouldn't have all the persons that I love and adore. We have a scripture that says "How can two walk together unless they be agreed". In Christianity it's Christ or the world isn't it, I mean you can't have licorice allsorts, you can't have it all muddled up you know. You're either true to Christ or you want to go a worldly way which will only bring you into sorrow.

Withdrawal is only the very, very, very last thing we do. It's hard to get out of fellowship, we don't want to put anyone out of fellowship, it's only when there is excessive evil that we cannot go on with, and it's evil that the world would even realise is wrong.

The rapture - we don't know the day or the hour and nobody knows, but the Father knows. But it's getting closer. The Father of the Righteous is as a shining lamp going on and brightening until the day be fully come. You see I think we're actually going to get brighter. Some of us as Christians are pretty dull, you can see that, but we, we're going to get brighter. And it's going to be brighter when the Lord comes, it'll be beautiful.

GREG MASON:

So we believe in separation from evil - separation from the world. That doesn't mean we live in a monastery - we don't live behind a wall, we live in the world but not of the world.

We believe that man should not live by bread alone, but by every word that goeth out of God's mouth, so that means we are completely and utterly guided by the Scripture for every facet of our lives.

Yes it came apparent to us in the 90's that our children, because we were having to take them out of classrooms where there was a lot of I.T. and it was becoming more and more prevalent in the public system, that to prevent disruption for the schools and ourselves it seemed wiser for us to set our own schools up. They're registered schools, registered with the government, fully recognised and they get audited by the ERO like any other school, and they run just like any other private school. We're very pleased with the results - the children are doing very well.

We recognise the fact that universities have a valuable place to fulfill, but we feel that for a Christian they cause a narrowing of the mind and they cause a questioning of God's thoughts for us. We believe that the true Christian is the most broad minded of persons - and that's true.

Men and women are equal before God - there's an equality there. But we follow the divinely set order of God, Man, Woman. Is that right?

Josie: 100% correct. Yes, I'm happy to be third in line, but I mean we work together as a team really well don't we? I mean, I don't feel suppressed, I don't feel as if, hey I can't do anything

without my husband wielding a big stick or anything, it's not like that at all. It's a really happy relationship isn't it.

Greg: Yes that's right.

Exclusive Brethren really is a large family, and persons that go away, that leave, it is painful for them, but it must be remembered it's painful for us as well. I have members of my family that have left and gone their own way and it is painful and we carry them, we pray for them, we follow them, we would follow them in prayer and we would love to get them back.

JOSIE MASON:

I come from a long line of Exclusive Brethren - we've been in fellowship for years and it's great, really good.

We came to the Brethren school so they would be apart from the world. We didn't want them involved with worldly activities, there's, I mean schools now, I mean there's drugs, there's all sorts, so we just wanted to take them out of that atmosphere I 'spose you could say. They do the ordinary curriculum subjects - the maths, english, science, social studies. They are all brethren children there with outside teachers - worldly teachers. I do usually vet the books they read - they are usually junior fiction books - we don't generally go in for, like adult fiction books. Novels - don't like them reading novels.

My role in the household - it's, um, get up in the morning, get the kids breakfast, get them off to school and then just the general cooking, washing, shopping (always a big one), then maybe help the kids with their homework after school, and usually that's about it.

SOPHIE MASON:

We don't miss TV or anything because we've never had it so we don't have the desire to go to do that sort of thing. We've never ever done it so I don't really miss it. I don't want to do it because I know that it's a sin.

Well I wouldn't want to have friends that aren't Exclusive Brethren because I don't need them, I couldn't really trust them because I don't know them.

I go out with my friends on Saturday's - we go shopping, we go out as a family, on outings sometimes we go to the beach, do bushwalks, or yeah I spend some time with my friends. I don't wonder what life is like out there because I've got no desire to. I'm within my church and I don't really want to know about the world, probably because I've never been part of it.

JOEL MASON:

I mean I don't want to have any friends that aren't Exclusive Brethren because I have got plenty of friends in the, in the church, and to have any friends outside the church it sort of goes against my conscience because you sort of feel like you are almost betraying the church.
