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**MARGINAL RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND SECTS IN
THE UNITED STATES – AN ANALYSIS OF THEIR
ROLE IN AMERICAN SOCIETY IN THE 21ST
CENTURY**

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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracoval(a) samostatně a použil(a) jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Bachelor thesis is concerned with marginal religious groups and sects in the United States. The objective of this thesis is to introduce five chosen marginal religious groups which are creating an important role in the lives of many people in the USA. As this is an extremely broad topic, for the purposes of this thesis, only the following groups were chosen: Druidry, Wicca, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Amish and Scientology. As these groups are often depicted in popular culture in a negative light and are generalised, the author of this thesis decided to learn more about them. It is also important to research the topic from points of view different than those obtained only from the media. Some of these religious groups are becoming more powerful and at the present time they are attracting a large quantity of followers. The question is why people decide to follow some particular religion, with the exception of the Amish, who are usually born in an Amish community and 90% of them decide to get baptised and stay in the community. One of the reasons why people join these groups is that the world is changing. They want to stop problems such as wars, famines, violence and many others, they want "to save the world". Many people think that today's world is really complicated. They are looking for easy answers to all their questions. They think that they can obtain these answers in religious groups.¹ Other reasons can be: desire to belong somewhere, idealism, spiritual-meaning and other. The process of obtaining new members is changing. Formerly it was easier to recognise the process of obtaining new members. Sects and cult members stand on the street with pamphlets in their hand and waited for people who they thought would be easy to obtain as their followers.²

This Bachelor thesis is divided into fourteen main chapters containing *introduction, overview of the religion in the United States* that

¹ BÜCHNER, Co máme vědět o sektách, p. 12-13

² Ibid., p. 14-15

describes numbers conducted by two surveys, made by the websites; religions.pewforum.org and gallup.com. The following chapters introduce *Neo-paganism* and two branches of this movement, such as Druidry and Wicca. The next chapters provide information about two Christian denominations: *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, including brief history, information about temples, missions, organisation, sacred text, sub-groups and opinions of the worshippers and *Amish*, history, customs and practices, which brings information about family life style, clothing, Rumspringa, education... The next section describes a movement of personal growth or development: *Scientology*, the brief history, ideology, the question of criticism, organisation and the question whether Scientology is actually a religion at all.

The next chapter shows Amish, Mormons and Scientology themes used in *popular culture*, the next section analyses some *problems of marginal religious groups* that appeared in the international news, such as health problems within Amish communities, hate crime, problems with farmland, sexual, mental abuse and underage polygamous marriages within the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS) or HBO's documentary film *Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief*. It has revealed inside thing happening in the Scientology communities. Then, *statistic data* showing the numbers of Wicca, Amish, Mormons, including geographic distribution, age, gender, family structure, racial structure and information about education, in the USA. This thesis also contains *conclusion, glossary of the whole work and bibliography*. During the work on this thesis printed sources were used for basic information and internet sources were used for more detailed information and statistic data, which can be reached on the internet websites, some surveys made by religions.pewforum.org, gallup.com, American Religious Identification Survey 2001 are described. The next part of this thesis is a *summary and appendices*. It includes statistic tables used in this thesis,

and two maps showing geographic distribution of Mormons and Amish in the USA.

This Bachelor thesis is aimed at anyone from the general public who wants to see basic overview of religion in the United States and learn about the history, beliefs, opinions organisation structure and other of marginal religious groups. It also tries to point a critical light on these religions and analyses them in a modern light. The glossary of terms, with the pronunciation from Oxforddictionaries.com, which are important in this topic and were used during the thesis, is included.

2 OVERVIEW OF THE RELIGION IN THE UNITED STATES

The United States is different from other societies because there can be found many diverse religious groups or communities. The scale of religious groups, communities, sects and cults is very various and diverse. Through people's denomination can be created unique cultural groups, networks or social organisation.³ According to George D. Chryssides, about 3,000 new religious movements can be found in the United States.⁴

The internet website religions.pewforum.org decided to conduct an extensive religion survey. This survey was conducted from May 8 to August 13, 2007. This website wanted to explore U.S. religion. During this survey more than 35,000 Americans age 18 or older were interviewed. According to this survey, it was shown that religious affiliation in the U. S. is both very diverse and fluid. More than 28% of Americans age 18 or older have left their faith, the faith in which they were raised. They decided to switch their faith in favour of another religion or no religion at all. In 2007, 16.1% of adults said that they are not affiliated with any particular religion.⁵

The majority of Americans identify themselves as Christians (78.4%), 51.3% of all Christians are Protestants. In general the Protestant faith consists of three main branches: evangelical Protestant churches (26.3%), mainline Protestant churches (18.1%) and historically black Protestant churches (6.9%).⁶

The next religious denomination with a large number of believers is Catholicism (23.9%). *"According to the survey, Catholicism has experienced the greatest net losses as a result of affiliation changes. One-in-three Americans (31%) were raised as Catholics and today only fewer than one-in-four (24%) describe themselves as Catholic."*⁷

³ PERSELL, Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology, p. 403

⁴ Lexikon světových náboženství, p. 440

⁵ <http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>, 26. 1. 2015

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ <http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>, 26. 1. 2015

Another representation of the Christian faith are Mormons (1.7%). The most Mormons belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) and it contains 99% of all Mormons. There are numbers of fundamentalist sects that still practice polygamy, for example, the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS Church) and the Apostolic United Brethren (AUB). With (0.7%) follows Jehovah's Witnesses Churches.⁸

Another internet website [gallup.com](http://www.gallup.com) conducted two surveys in 2011 and 2012 to compare the results. The aim was to reveal the changes of religion in the USA. Gallup.com asked more than 326,000 people of the age 18 or older. The survey was conducted by daily tracking phone interviews conducted between January 2 and November 30. From the results can be seen that number of Protestants/Other Christians and Catholics decreased, and numbers of Mormons increased. In 2011 there was 52.5% and in 2012 the numbers of Protestants changed to 51.9%. The numbers of Christians in 2011 were 23.6% and in 2012 23.3%. The numbers of Mormons were in 2011 1.9% and in 2012 2.1%.⁹ Full table can be seen in Appendix 2, page 80.

According to the survey, made by religions.pewforum.org there are (0.6%) of the Eastern Orthodox Church. The Orthodox Church consists of different groups and it is classified by national origin: Greek Orthodox (less than 0.3%), Russian Orthodox (less than 0.3%) and other. 4.7% of Americans believe in different religion than described above. The denomination with the most members is Judaism (1.7%). Judaism is divided into different branches as well: 0.7% Reform, 0.5% Conservative, less than 0.3% Orthodox and the other 0.3%. There are about 0.7% people who are Buddhist, less than 0.3% of all Buddhists are Zen Buddhist, Theravada Buddhist and Tibetan Buddhist living in the USA. 0.6% of

⁸ <http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>, 26. 1. 2015

⁹ <http://www.gallup.com/poll/159548/identify-christian.aspx>, 26. 1. 2015

people followed Islam. Islam is divided into branches, 0.3% of Muslims in America were Sunni. Less than 0.3% were Shia and other. About 1.2% Americans profess other religions, 0.7% are Unitarians and other liberal faiths, 0.4% New Age and less than 0.3% believe in Native American religion. About 16.1% of all Americans are unaffiliated to any religion. 1.6% of unaffiliated people consider themselves to be Atheist, 2.4% Agnostic. In the USA also live people that do believe in nothing in particular, it is about 12.1% of all interviewees.¹⁰ This summary is an overview of the main religion groups in the USA. The table can be found in Appendix 1, page 79.

After giving this brief data on religious groups in general in the USA, we will now analyse and explore other, more marginal religious group that have been selected for this thesis. The views, beliefs, sacred text and history will be introduced. These groups are called marginal religious groups, because they are not the main denomination. A large number of religious communities can be found in the USA, because in America occurs many different types, branches of religion. That is enormously different from religion in the Czech Republic. About 59% of the Czech population answered during the 2001 census, that they are unaffiliated to any religion.¹¹ According to a census, taken in the Czech Republic in the years 1991 there was 43.9% religious people, 2001 32.1%, 2011 20.8%.¹² As seen above, some of the marginal religious groups are becoming more powerful these days and many people start to follow them.

¹⁰ <http://religions.pewforum.org/reports>, 26. 1. 2015

¹¹ <http://www.nationmaster.com/country-info/compare/Czech-Republic/United-States/Religion>, 26. 1. 2015

¹² <https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/20551795/17022014a01.pdf/1dc65aec-0fb6-4513-ab65-d3beb0141b35?version=1.0>, 26. 1. 2015

3 NEO-PAGANISM

Neo-paganism is religion which is going back to the roots of people. The basic principles are connection of people to the nature. The nature is considered to be the creator of life. The nature has important role in lives of pagans. Their celebrations take place there. As a creator of life, it should be respected. The respect is very important for pagans. Pagans should respect the Earth and other people, individuality. They respect different opinions. It is a peaceful spiritual path. The motto of all pagans is: *"If it harms none, do what you will."*

3.1 Introduction

The word pagan has many various connotation in English, according to context and use. The English word *"pagan"* has its origin in the Late Latin word *"paganus"*, the meaning of which is in classical Latin *"villiger, rustic; civilian, non-combatant"*.¹³ *"It was originally used by the early Christians in the 1st century and it meant "non-Christians", because Christianity was basically an urban movement in the Mediterranean area. This word became later connected with pejorative meanings, such as "non-civilised" or even "satanic"*.¹⁴ If this pejorative aspect is removed, it means a person who believes in the old religion of his country, not in any of imported religion.¹⁵

No founder or originator of Neo-paganism is known. However, the founder of today's Wicca is known, it was established in the 1940s in Great Britain by Gerald Gardner.¹⁶ While Oberon Zell thinks that the origin of Neo-Paganism in the United States is very different, he thinks it was created in

¹³ <http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=pagan>, 26. 1. 2015

¹⁴ KEMP, ABC světových náboženství, p. 110, translated by the author of this thesis

¹⁵ BARRETT, Sekty, kulty & alternativní náboženství, p. 273

¹⁶ CLARKE, Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements, p. 436

the 1960s and it was influenced by hippies – sex, drugs, communes, long hair...¹⁷

According to Hugh P. Kemp, Neo-paganism is looking for answers listed below:

1. *"What relationship towards the Earth should we have?"*
2. *"What relationship towards other human beings should we have?"*
3. *"What relationship towards supernatural should we have?"*

Answers to those questions subsequently:

1. *"We are looking for close relationship towards the Earth, because we are affiliated with the nature. We respect life power and perpetuating life cycle in the nature, the death and the rebirth in the nature. We recognise that life is matted with the nature."*
2. *"We accept positive moral towards other human. Every person is responsible for recognising its own nature with harmony with other people and the world. Our motto is, "If it harms none, do what you will.""*
3. *"We believe in the deity, which have male and also female features. We worship goddesses and we see female features also in the nature. We do not speculate about the nature of the God."¹⁸*

Within Neo-paganism many different groups exist, such as Wiccan covens, Druidry, Heathen Hearts... Some of those groups may practice magic, use rituals, and almost all make use of myth, celebrating *"The Wheel of the Year"*. The festivals belonging to *"The Wheel of the Year"* are written below, page 11, chapter 3.2.2 Festivals.¹⁹ The dates of rituals are given. However, they are not fixed. For many groups is often easier to celebrate the festivals on a set day, usually weekends, which are the closest to the original date. Some of the smaller groups or

¹⁷ BARRETT, Sekty, kulty & alternativní náboženství, p. 273

¹⁸ KEMP, ABC světových náboženství, p. 110, translated by the author of this thesis

¹⁹ CLARKE, Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements, p. 437

individuals can wait for specific sign given by the nature (e.g. first snowdrop for Imbolc) and celebrate on that day.²⁰

3.2 Druidry

The word "*druid*" is traditionally derived from the Greek word "*drus*", Irish word "*daur*" and Welsh word "*derw*", with English meaning "*oak-tree*" and it is also derived from Indo-European word "*vid*", in the meaning of some knowledge. One theory states that druid was originally a person, who allegedly understood the oak-trees. Oak-trees represent nature as a whole. Druids have an intense relationship with nature, their divine service takes place in groves and they think that oak-tree is a symbol of wisdom and stability. However, Philip Shallcrass, Chief of the British Druid Order, said in his personal correspondence that many scholars have refused this connection to the word oak-tree. They prefer the derivation from the early-Celtic prefix "*dru*", in the meaning of "*very wise*" or Indo-European root "*dreo*" in the meaning of "*true*", the meaning is than real expert or expert of truth.²¹

*"Very little is known about the original Celtic Druidry. It was an oral tradition celebrated mainly in the nature. The Druids themselves seem to have combined the roles of priest, prophet, healer, philosopher, and lawgiver. There is always affiliation with the nature, magic, forest groves, stone circles..."*²² Because so little is known about the religion due to the majority of its history being oral, not written, people today often connect druidism to magic and other occultist practices. This is possibly one reason for its return in popularity.

According to druidy.org, it is "*A spiritual way and practice that speaks to three of biggest human desire: creativity, to be fully creative in our lives, wisdom, to gain access to a source of profound wisdom, communication,*

²⁰ CLARKE, Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements p. 438

²¹ BARRETT, Sekty, kulty & alternativní náboženství, p. 287

²² CLARKE, Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements, p. 168

*to commune deeply with the world of Nature.*²³ Druidry encourages to love Nature, lands, animals, Earth, stars and also peace. Druids were traditionally considered to be peacemakers. They often open their ceremonies with peace prayers, such as Druid's Peace Prayer.²⁴ There are three types of Druids: *Bards* are vocal artist, they should protect traditions, tell stories, poetry and myths. *Ovates* are trained to be prophets to predict events and they are shamans of the movement. *Druids* are usually older, more experienced members, they are teachers, mentors, lawgivers, and they are more philosophers than priests.²⁵

The largest group is The Order of Bards Ovates and Druids (OBOD), it was founded in 1964 by Ross Nichols and it is based in England. The largest group in America is; Ár nDraíocht Féin: A Druid Fellowship (ADF).²⁶ According to ARIS 2001, there were approximately 30,000 Druids in the United States and about 50,000 worldwide.²⁷

3.2.1 Beliefs

The word druid today often evokes mystery. Individuals participating in rituals, practicing magic in the nature, wearing hoods and capes. It is difficult to know what exactly they did, but according to modern source, Druidry is a movement without any fixed set of beliefs or practices, because it is more like spiritual way, there is no "*sacred text*", therefore beliefs are more like agreed set of beliefs among the Druids. However, there are many beliefs and ideas the most of the Druids follow.

*"Druids share a belief in the fundamentally spiritual nature of life."*²⁸

Some of the Druids can consider themselves to be animist (the belief in existence of individual spirits that inhabit natural objects and

²³ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/what-druidry>, 2. 2. 2015

²⁴ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/druid-beliefs>, 2. 2. 2015

²⁵ BARRETT, Sekty, kulty & alternativní náboženství, p. 290

²⁶ <https://www.adf.org/about/basics/adf-and-obod.html>, 2. 2. 2015

²⁷ <http://commons.trincoll.edu/aris/publications/2001-2/aris-2001-report/>, 2. 2. 2015

²⁸ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/druid-beliefs>, 2. 2. 2015

phenomena)²⁹, pantheists (belief in and worship of all gods)³⁰, polytheists, monotheists or duotheists.

"Druids that consider themselves to be monotheistic believe in one deity, which can be both God or Goddess, or a Being that is better to be called Spirit or Great Spirit to remove association with particular gender. While duotheists believe that deity exist as pair of forces or beings. Polytheists believe that there are many gods and goddesses. Animist and pantheists believe that deity is not one or more particular personal gods, they believe deity is present everywhere, in all things and it is everything. It does not matter who believes in what, the Druids accept diversity and are tolerant to other life opinions. They will participate in ceremonies together, they realise that the truth of every human being is subjective, and there is nothing like absolute truth and they think that this diversity is both natural and healthy."³¹

As it was already described nature is really important for Druids, they do not believe only in nature of the world we live in, they also do believe in *Otherworld*, which exists beyond the psychical senses. Druids see *Otherworld* as place when you travel after your death or you can visit this place during your dreams, meditations or trance-state. On the one hand, Christian Druids do believe that human is born only once, and on the other hand Druids, who are not Christians, believe in some form of reincarnation. They believe that human soul can be reincarnated into human, animal, trees, or something affiliated to nature, even rock.³²

3.2.2 Festivals

Modern Druids and Wiccans celebrate eight festivals per year, it is also called *"The Wheel of the Year"*, see Appendix 3, page 80. Those festivals are always organised outside in the nature within a circular sacred

²⁹ <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/animist>, 2. 2. 2015

³⁰ <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/pantheist>, 2. 2. 2015

³¹ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/druid-beliefs>, 2. 2. 2015

³² *Ibid.*

space, which is called "*nemeton*". The festivals take place either in woodland groves or among prehistoric stone monuments, for example, Stonehenge, which some people believe it is a work of Druids (although the monument predates the Celts by a thousand years).³³

Four of these festivals are solar and four of them are lunar. These are solar:

1. *Winter Solstice*, the Sun is at its southernmost point. These days are the shortest of the year. Ancient people were scared, because they saw that days are getting shorter. The thought ritual is needed to revert the course of the sun. They used for this festival great stone circles and buried ground.³⁴ The winter solstice is usually on the 21st or 22nd December in the northern hemisphere and the 21st or 22nd June in the southern hemisphere. It is the shortest day of the year.³⁵
2. *Spring equinox*, is an astronomical event, when day and night are equal. Druids see life in all living things, such as trees, flowers, rivers, even rocks. The beginning of spring is for Druids time of celebration, because life is returning back to the Earth. It is time of balance, and fertility. One of the inner mysteries of Druidy is the Druid's egg, which is protected by hare. The hare is a symbol of Alban Eilir (Druidy word for the Spring equinox). This egg is life-giving, and it is still present by Easter bunny giving Easter eggs.³⁶ The spring equinox is usually on the 21st or 22nd March in the northern hemisphere and the 21st or 22nd September in the southern.³⁷

³³ CLARKE, Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements, p. 169

³⁴ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/teaching-and-practice/druid-festivals/winter-solstice-alban-athan>, 3. 2. 2015

³⁵ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/teaching-and-practice/druid-festivals>, 3. 2. 2015

³⁶ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/teaching-and-practice/druid-festivals/spring-equinox-alban-eilir>, 3. 2. 2015

³⁷ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/teaching-and-practice/druid-festivals>, 3. 2. 2015

3. *Summer Solstice*, occurs on the longest day of the year, it is usually 21st or 22nd June in the northern hemisphere and 21st or 22nd December in the southern hemisphere.³⁸
4. *Autumn equinox*, *"It is the balance before the darkness overtakes the light. Druids thank to the Earth for the harvest the Mother and Giver gave them."*³⁹ Autumn equinox is usually on the 21st or 22nd September in the north and the 21st or 22nd March in the south.⁴⁰

Lunar festivals, these are not affiliated to the astronomical events:

5. *Imbolc*, occurs around the 1st February in the northern hemisphere and around the 1st August in the southern. It can be seen as one of three spring festivals (Imbolc, spring equinox, Beltane). It is the first sign of the winters end, the green begins to grow. Imbolc can be celebrated on 1st or 2nd February, or when first Snowdrops show themselves.⁴¹
6. *Beltane*, occurs around 1st May in the northern hemisphere and around 1st November in the southern. Beltane can both represent the summer's beginning and the spring's end. It is the time of fertilisation.⁴²
7. *Lughnasadh*, is celebrated around the 1st August in the north and around 1st February in the south. It is the harvest festival, for example, corn field are beginning to be cut.⁴³
8. *Samhain*, is celebrated around or on the 31st October in the northern hemisphere and on the 1st May in the southern. *"It is a festival of dead also called Hallowe'en, festival to remember and honour our departed friends and relations, a night full of magic and wonders."*⁴⁴

³⁸ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/teaching-and-practice/druid-festivals>, 3. 2. 2015

³⁹ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/teaching-and-practice/druid-festivals/autumn-equinox-alban-elfed>, 3. 2. 2015

⁴⁰ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/teaching-and-practice/druid-festivals>, 3. 2. 2015

⁴¹ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/teaching-and-practice/druid-festivals/imbolc>, 4. 2. 2015

⁴² <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/teaching-and-practice/druid-festivals/beltane>, 4. 2. 2015

⁴³ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/teaching-and-practice/druid-festivals/lughnasadh>, 4. 2. 2015

⁴⁴ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/teaching-and-practice/druid-festivals/samhain>, 4. 2. 2015

3.3 WITCHCRAFT, WICCA

Modern witches claim that the belief in witches is the oldest religion in the world, it should be about 35,000 years old. They consider themselves to be a part of proto-religion renaissance of the *"the Great Mother"*. Large number of Wiccans worship the Goddess Diana, which is the Goddess of the hunt, virginity and childbirth. They usually do not consider Wicca to be religion, they rather talk about their traditions. During a period in time many branches were created, such as Druidry, Wicca or Romany traditions. However, contrary to popular belief, none of them worship the devil. The wish of modern witches is especially the reconnection of the people with nature, to obtain the sense for the nature and also natural elements. Some movements of modern witchcraft are influenced by feminism.⁴⁵

The Wiccan rituals are understood as magical rituals, which tend to awake perceptions and human spirit strengths, which have been forgotten. Unified ritual books do not exist. However, all rituals are for every movement binding. The Book of Shadows, which was written by Gerald Gardner in the late 1940s or early 1950s, and Grimoire may be considered as guides. The use and effects of herbs can be found in these books, Wicca rituals, planet rituals, invocations of the elements... Rituals begin with creating of the *"magical circle"*, invoke Goddesses are called and they are awakened in every person participating.⁴⁶ According to Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements, *"Wicca is a religion in which divine is immanent. Humans, nature and deities are all regarded as interconnected and sacred."*⁴⁷ The circles of witches are called covens, these covens have up to 13 members. They are as well as particular witches free and independent in practicing magic, doing rituals...⁴⁸ Some Wiccan believe, if someone is right for Wicca, which includes the practice of magic in its

⁴⁵ BLEY, Malý slovník sekt, p. 24-25

⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 25

⁴⁷ CLARKE, Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements, p. 683

⁴⁸ BLEY, Malý slovník sekt, p. 25

rituals, holds nature to be sacred and others, will find his way to the specific coven, the coven he belongs to.⁴⁹ To be accepted to particular coven the Wiccans must go through the "*initiation*". The covens are led by the High Priestess, which should be the oldest in the coven.⁵⁰ The High Priestess should be advanced Wicca, she should plan Wiccan rituals, coordinate the events, teach other Wiccans...

3.3.1 Festivals

The Wiccan calendar has 31 holidays and festivals and they also celebrate different women's festivals, such as Feralia (= to honour the dead) or Lupercalia (= to celebrate fertility).⁵¹ The Wiccan celebrate "*The Wheel of the Year*" as Druids. The dates and principles are the same, only different names are sometimes used. These festivals are called Sabbats, there are four minor Sabbats, these are solar festivals, Yule (Winter Solstice), Eostara (Spring Equinox), Litha (Summer Solstice), Mabon (Autumn Equinox), and four major Sabbats, which are lunar, Bridgid (Imbolc), Beltane, Lammas (Lughnasadh), Samhain.⁵² The table can be seen in the Appendix 4, page 81.

3.3.2 Beliefs

Wiccans follow only small number of beliefs. "*The Wiccan Rede*" is the highest: "*If it harms none, do what you will*", it comes from the older version "*An it harm none, do what thou wilt.*" There are many ways, how to harm someone, such as manipulation, domination, attempts to control and it may be harm of emotional, psychical, financial, spiritual and many others character. The harm is forbidden. Wiccans believe in "*The Law of Threefold Effect*", it means that any action that some person commit, will return to that person threefold. "*The Wiccan Rede*" and "*The Threefold Law*" are a part of Wiccan Credo, which is a Wiccan poem. There are two opinions,

⁴⁹ CLARKE, Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements, p. 683

⁵⁰ BLEY, Malý slovník sekt, p. 25

⁵¹ Ibid., p. 25

⁵² <http://www.wicca-spirituality.com/wiccan-holidays.html>, 5. 2. 2015

when the Wiccan Credo was created. Someone says it was written circa in 1910 by Adriana Porter. Other Wiccans suggest, it was written in the early years of Gardnerian Witchcraft during 1940s and 1950s. According to Wiccan Credo, *"The Wiccan Rede"* is a poem: *"Eight words the Wiccan Rede fulfill: An' it harm none, Do what ye will. Blessed Be to thee."* And *"The Threefold Law"* *"Mind the Threefold Law you should, Three times bad and three times good."*⁵³

3.3.3 Modern history, founders

Wicca appeared in the 1940s in Britain. It was natural venerating, polytheistic, magical, ritualistic and religious system. This system used techniques, which came from the East and operated within the western framework. It was influenced by Margaret Murray, she was British anthropologist, Egyptologist and folklorist. Her ideas strongly effected Gerald Gardner. *"Murray proposed that witchcraft was a remains of a pre-Christians, which worshipped a horned god and it almost disappeared thanks to the Great Witch Hunt of the early modern period."* These ideas were developed by Doreen Valiente. Thanks to Garner's love to the public media, Wicca became during the 1950s very popular. Wicca attracted many people and was exported to the Northern America in the early 1960s. Gardner died in 1964, traditional Gardnerian Wicca was established. In the USA many derivations were created, such as Faery Wicca, Dianic Wicca, founded in the 1970s by Zsuzsanna Budapest, where only female goddesses are worshipped or Seax Wicca.⁵⁴

In 1968 the Church and School of Wicca was founded. The founders were Gavin and Yvonne Frost. This organisation was established near to St Louis. It was established, because the founders thought that the practice and form is a little bit different from the Gardnerian Wicca. The Frosts were both members of a coven. Yvonne claimed descent from two lines of

⁵³ <http://www.religioustolerance.org/wicrede.htm>, 5. 2. 2015

⁵⁴ CLARKE, Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements, p. 683

witchcraft. The Church moved in the 1970s to North Carolina and in 1996 to West Virginia.⁵⁵ The school teaches many different courses, such as Essential Witchcraft Course, Astral Travel, Astrology, Prediction, Psychic and Herbal healing...⁵⁶ The church also sponsors Neo-pagan festivals and publishes an official journal called *Survival*. In 1972 the Witchcraft was formally recognised as religion. In 1985 it was recognised as equal to any other church by a federal appeal court.⁵⁷

3.3.4 God

The Wiccans worship two gods. They worship one God and one Goddess, both male and female aspect is represented. Wiccans are united by practice not belief, not all Wiccans think the same deity is calling them. The selection of god talking to them can appear in two ways. Traditionalist follow the same gods as the coven, they belong to. Eclectics says the god found them, they think they understood to the call. The variety, how to name the gods is very large. Some Wiccans call them the God and Goddess, because they did not find a suitable name for them. There are two terms adopted by early Traditionalist writers to represent their gods. These terms are not names. They only describe the features of the gods, nevertheless some Wiccans accepted these terms. They use these terms as names for their gods. These terms are *Triple Goddess* and the *Horned God*. The Triple Goddess is a moon goddess, with three phases of the moon waxing, full and waning, these moon phases represent childhood, adulthood and old age.⁵⁸ The phases can also be named as *the Maiden, Mother and Crone*.

The Maiden is connected to the waxing phase of the moon, it is affiliated to creativity and discovering own personality. She represents innocence, the joy of living, lack of worries. The Maiden is adherent with

⁵⁵ CLARKE, *Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements*, p. 682

⁵⁶ <http://www.wicca.org/courses/cmcourses.html>, 6. 2. 2015

⁵⁷ CLARKE, *Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements*, p. 682

⁵⁸ <http://wicca.cnbeyer.com/who-we-worship/>, 6. 2. 2015

the spring, there is also association with animals, such as owl, deer or other wild animals. The Maid is represented by pink and white colours and wild, white flowers.⁵⁹

The Mother represents the full moon and fertility or maternity. There are many examples, how the Mother can be named. Gaia, occurring in Olympics mythology, she represents the Earth and she was the one, who gave birth to the Titans. Isis, in the Egyptians mythology, she was called the Great Mother Creatrix and Giver of Life. There was some connection to the Nile which was important for agricultural life. The Mother is represented by red colour and her animals are cats, doves and dolphins. She is the patroness of the harvest and she is watching over the nature and women's, animals' fertility.⁶⁰

The Crone represents waning phase of the moon. She is the guardian during the last phase of human's live. She is getting them ready for a big change. She is the reign of the souls of dead, who are waiting to be reborn again. In the ancient cultures she was the reign of the Underworld. It was a rest place for souls that waited for a big change, to be reborn again. She is represented by black, deep blue and deepest purple colours, her animals are the owl, wolf, crow and raven. Her seasons are winter and Samhain, festival of the dead.⁶¹

The male aspect is represented by *the Horned God*. The Horned God is the ancient god of fertility, the god of forests, fields and of the hunt. He is dualistic. On the one hand, he is the Lord of Life, and on the other hand Lord of Death, he is a hunter, but also hunted. He is the patron of vegetation. He dies with the last harvest. His pieces are buried in to fields, to give them the fertility. In spring new vegetation is ready to grow again. He is the Goat-foot God with a human torso and head. He has goat horns.

⁵⁹ http://whisperingworlds.com/wiccan/wiccan_goddess_maiden.php, 6. 2. 2015

⁶⁰ http://whisperingworlds.com/wiccan/wiccan_goddess_mother.php, 6. 2. 2015

⁶¹ http://whisperingworlds.com/wiccan/wiccan_goddess_crone.php, 6. 2. 2015

Some members of other churches think that he is the "*Devil*". "*He can be understood as "Devil" only by people, who reject nature, powers of life and human sexuality and spirit.*"⁶²

The Wiccan use many different names for their gods, such as Aphrodite, Greek goddess of love and beauty, Artemis, Greek goddess of hunt, virginity and childbirth, Athena, Greek Goddess of wisdom, defensive and strategic wars, Cybele, Greek Earth mother, Luna, Roman goddess of the Moon and many others. And many different titles, such as Earth Goddess, which are Gaia, Demeter, Moon Goddess, such as Luna, Artemis, Star Goddess and others.⁶³

⁶² http://whisperingworlds.com/wiccan/wiccan_god.php, 6. 2. 2015

⁶³ <http://www.wicca-spirituality.com/wiccan-goddesses.html>, 6. 2. 2015

4 CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (LDS CHURCH)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, sometimes referred to as the Church of Mormon, is a new-age religion originating in the United States. Although the religion is based on Christian beliefs, many Christians and atheists consider it to be a sect. From a general point of view, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is also often considered by non-members to be a polygamous religion. This is actually not true; the practice of polygamy was renounced in 1890 in Manifesto of *Wilford Woodruff*. LDS church is one of the religion which started as a small group and with time it became more powerful with more than 15,000,000 members worldwide. The members follow four scriptures and also The Word of Wisdom, which instruct the members to follow some rules, such as not drinking alcohol, hot beverages and other. The members often think that the church have change their lives. That is the reason, why they serve missions, even if their do not get any salary. They want to introduce their church, because many of them believe it can be life-changing to join the church.

4.1 History

The founder of the LDS Church – Mormons, Joseph Smith, claimed to have a vision during the spring of 1820. He claimed to see the God and Jesus Christ. He asked them which religious groups should he be connected with. Jesus Christ said to Smith that none of already existing religion is acceptable for him, because all of them are misguided. On the 21st September 1823 Smith had the second vision. During this vision he beholden a Christian angel Moroni. Moroni said to him about a book written on the golden plates.⁶⁴ The plates were hidden at the hill nearby ⁶⁵ A part of this plates should be information about ancestry of the Americans.⁶⁶ "He

⁶⁴ BLEY, Malý slovník sekt, p. 69

⁶⁵ ENROTH, Průvodce sektami a novými náboženstvími, p. 101

⁶⁶ BLEY, Malý slovník sekt, p. 69

*declared that he had been visited by a Christian angel named Moroni, who showed him an ancient Hebrew text that had been lost for 1,500 years. The holy text, supposedly engraved on gold plates by a Native American prophet named Mormon in the fifth century A.D., told the story of Israelite peoples who had lived in America in ancient times.*⁶⁷ There were also two stones in silver breastplate, these stones were Urim and Thummim. Through these two stones received Smith prophetic abilities, he was able to translate the golden plates. As a result The Book of Mormon was translated. The Book of Mormon was published in 1830. On the 2nd May 1838 Moroni took back the golden plates and prophetic abilities. This is the reason why there is no tangible evidence that the golden plates have ever existed. On the 6th April 1830 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was founded by Joseph Smith and 5 other men. Smith and his brother Hyrum were taken into the prison, because of the reports speaking about the presence of polygamy within the community. They were murdered by inmates on the 27th June 1844. The community leadership was taken over by Brigham Young (1801 – 1877). Young was later named new prophet and president of the church. In 1847 Brigham Young and 15,000 followers went to the Great Salt Lake and settled. The territory of Mormons was founded with Salt Lake City as the capital city. In 1852 the polygamy was stated by Young and it became officially renounced in 1890.⁶⁸ He was named the first governor of the U.S. territory of Utah in 1850 by the president Millard Fillmore. This territory of Utah was relatively autonomous. *"However, Washington heard the reports that Mormon leaders were disrespecting the federal law, the practice of polygamy were publicly sanctioned. Young was no longer the governor, at that time he had 20 wives, he was degraded by the president James Buchanan in 1857. James Buchanan sent troops to Utah to establish federal authority. Young died in Salt Lake City in 1877 and the new president of the church became John Taylor. There was*

⁶⁷ <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/mormons-settle-salt-lake-valley>, 12. 2. 2015

⁶⁸ BLEY, Malý slovník sekt, p. 69-70

*continuing tension between Utah and the federal government. In 1890 new president of the Mormon church, Wilford Woodruff, issued his Manifesto, this Manifesto renounced the practice of polygamy and reduced the domination of the church over Utah communities. In 1896 Utah entered the Union as the 45th state.*⁶⁹

4.2 Temples

There are thousands regular chapels and meetinghouses that are being visited by the members of the LDS Church for Sunday worship. However, the temples are not regular places for Sunday worship. On the one hand, the meetinghouses can be visited by everyone regardless of religion, but on the other hand the temples can be visited only by the members of the Church. The temples are sacred places, which are considered to be *"houses of the Lord"*. The members of the LDS Church have to observe basic principles of the faith and it must be attested every two years by the local leaders to have the possibility to enter the temple. The temples are considered to be places of holiness and peace. In the temples occur the highest sacraments, such as marriage and the *"sealing"* of families for eternity. It means that the family will be connected also after death.⁷⁰ When children are born, after their parents have married in the temple, they are automatically sealed to their parents. However, if the children are born to parents that have entered the Church later or have not been married in the temple, there is an opportunity to be sealed in the temple later. *"The sealing can be also performed for the dead, thus binding families together across generations."*⁷¹

Since 1984, the LDS Church has been collecting and sharing genealogical record such as birth, marriage, death records. Thanks to the cooperation with the Government, archives, or libraries, the Church created the greatest collection of family records. It comprises information about

⁶⁹ <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/mormons-settle-salt-lake-valley>, 12. 2. 2015

⁷⁰ <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/topic/temples>, 13. 2. 2015

⁷¹ <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/sealing>, 13. 2. 2015

3 billion deceased people. This project was originally run by the Genealogical Society of Utah, nowadays the information can be reached at the internet website familysearch.org or the world-renowned Family History Library in Salt Lake City.⁷² There are 144 operating temples around the world, 5 of them are being renovated, 13 are under construction, 13 announced.⁷³ On most of the temples is the golden statue of Moroni with a long horn pressed to his lips.⁷⁴

4.3 Missions and missionaries

The LDS Church have 84,000 missionaries that take part in 406 missions and 15 Missionary Training Centers all around the world, for example, Argentina – Buenos Aires, England – Preston, United States – Provo.⁷⁵ Missionaries can be single people, men between 18 and 25, women older than 19 years or the second options, who can be missionary are retired couples. During the missions the missionaries cooperate as partners with the same gender, exception are retired couples, who work together. Single men serve missions for 2 years and single women for 18 months. The missionaries are sent by the Headquarters to countries, where is possible for the Church to operate. They do not know, where they will be serving. They spend some time in one of 15 training centres to learn, how to teach the gospel and to study language. The title "*Elder*" are used for males and "*Sister*" for females. The missionaries are not paid for their services. During the missions the contact with family is reduced, they can send letters and make sometimes phone call, the missionaries should avoid to have entertainment.⁷⁶

4.4 Organisation

The highest body of the Church is the *First Presidency* consisting of three functions. The most senior apostle is the President, currently

⁷² <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/topic/genealogy>, 13. 2. 2015

⁷³ <https://www.lds.org/church/temples/find-a-temple?lang=eng>, 13. 2. 2015

⁷⁴ <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/topic/temples>, 13. 2. 2015

⁷⁵ <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/facts-and-stats>, 12. 2. 2015

⁷⁶ <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/topic/missionary-program>, 12. 2. 2015

Thomas S. Monson. The president selects two apostles to be his counsellors. The second-highest body is the *Quorum of the Twelve Apostles*. This two main bodies oversee the entire Church. The apostles travel frequently, during their travelling they meet with local leaders, encourage and speak to members and also interested non-members. Another governing body of the Church is the *Presidency of the Seventy*. The Presidency of the Seventy is made up of seven members of the First or Second Quorum of the Seventy. There are currently eight Quorums of the Seventy. Each quorum may have up to seventy members. These members called seventies help to Twelve Apostles, some of the seventies have administrative function in headquarters, however, most of them live and serve all around the world.⁷⁷

"The leader of local congregation is called a bishop, his administrative "parish" is called a ward. A group of wards forms a stake, and the leader is the stake president. This term cannot be found in the New Testament. This term comes from the Old Testament, where the term "tent" is used. The "tent" is held up by supporting stakes." These leaders are unpaid. Bishops usually serve about five years and the stakes presidents about nine years.⁷⁸

There are two types of degreed priesthood: The Aaronic Priesthood and the Melchizedek Priesthood. In the Aaronic Priesthood the male-member of LDS Church can become: deacon, at the age of 12, teacher, at the age of 14, priest, at the age of 16. The ordination is made by the bishop.⁷⁹ Then it is possible to be ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood and become elder, seventy, high priest, patriarch and apostle.⁸⁰ This

⁷⁷ <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/topic/organizational-structure-of-the-church>, 12. 2. 2015

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ <https://www.lds.org/handbook/handbook-2-administering-the-church/priesthood-ordinances-and-blessings/20.7?lang=eng#207>, 17. 2. 2015

⁸⁰ BLEY, Malý slovník sekt, p. 70

process is made by the stake president, however, the bishop usually initiates it.⁸¹

4.5 Sacred texts

There are four standard scriptures: 1. The Holy Bible – The Old and New Testament, 2. The Book of Mormon, 3. The Doctrine and Covenants and 4. The Pearl of Great Price.

1. Holy Bible, most of the articles are not different than articles of faith of any other Christian churches, there are two exceptions, according to Mormons the Articles of Faith 8, Chapter 1 says:⁸² *"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."* And the article 10: *"We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory."*⁸³

Mormons believe that America is Promised Land.

Mormons believe that the original manuscripts were the exact record of the word of God. However, they think thanks to incorrect rewriting and translations some mistakes has been made. According to this affirmation, they do not follow some important parts of the Holy Bible, because they do not correspond to their doctrines. They describe them as incorrect. This situation has changed in 1979, because the King James Version Bible has been published. In this version the footnotes have been written, they clarify all important corrections in the translation of Joseph Smith. In 1830 Joseph Smith began with revision of the Holy Bible and the most of the work was finished until 1833. However, he continued his work until his death in 1844.

⁸¹ <https://www.lds.org/handbook/handbook-2-administering-the-church/priesthood-ordinances-and-blessings/20.7?lang=eng#207>, 17. 2. 2015

⁸² BARRETT, Sekty, kulty & alternativní náboženství, p. 81

⁸³ <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/pgp/a-of-f/1.8?lang=eng>, 17. 2. 2015

The Mormons of Utah claim that if Smith had lived longer, he would have published the whole revision and more changes would have been made. In addition to this claim, they are not willing to accept the unfinished revision.⁸⁴

2. Book of Mormon, the additional title is Another Testament of Jesus Christ. Joseph Smith, the creator of the Book of Mormon, stated that it is "*the most precise and the truest*" of all scriptures that the Mormons follows. However, according to Tanner (Changing World, page 128-129), around 4,000 corrections of the text since 1830 have been made.⁸⁵

The Book of Mormon comprises fifteen main parts. These parts are considered to be books, only one part is exception. These books are named after the main character or leader. There are: 1. *The Plates of Nephi*, two kinds, the small and the large plates. The small plates, there are six books from Nephi to Omni.⁸⁶ The history begins in Jerusalem about 600 BC. It describes the journey of Lehi, his family and many others from Jerusalem to America. The community was divided into two groups the Nephites and the Lamanites.⁸⁷ The Lamanites fought against the Nephites a destroyed them, as a result they were cursed by the God, their skin turned dark. Their descendants are today's Native Americans. The last prophet of the Nephites was Moroni.⁸⁸ Between the small and the large plates there are the Words of Mormon. It is shorten introduction to the following part written by Mormon. The large plates consist of five books from Mosiah to fourth Nephi, it includes the history from Omni to Mormon. 2. *The Plates of Mormon*, shorten version of the large plates with commentary, additional information of the history of Mormon's life are included. 3. *The Plates of*

⁸⁴ ENROTH, Průvodce sektami a novými náboženstvími, p. 105-106

⁸⁵ Ibid., p. 107

⁸⁶ <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/explanation?lang=eng>, 20. 2. 2015

⁸⁷ <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/1-ne?lang=eng>, 20. 2. 2015

⁸⁸ ENROTH, Průvodce sektami a novými náboženstvími, p. 107

Ether, the history of the Jaredites, shortened and commented by Moroni.⁸⁹ It is about the journey of the Jaredites from the Tower of Babel to America.⁹⁰ 4. *The Plates of Brass*, were brought by Lehi from Jerusalem about 600 BC. It contains information about Jews and five books of Moses.⁹¹

3. Doctrine and Covenants, were published in 1833, the original name was A Book of Commandments. In 1835 the name was changed and 71 parts were added. Harry Ropp in the Mormon Papers says that there are 13 doctrines, which are not a part of the Book of Mormon, for example: 1. The organisation's structure of the church, 9. The Word of Wisdom and others.
4. The Pearl of Great Price, is a collection of translation, narration and revelations of Joseph Smith. It was published in 1851 in Liverpool, England.⁹² It includes: Selections from the Book of Moses (a piece of Genesis, translated by Smith), The Book of Abraham (translation of the writing of Abraham made after Smith obtain some Egyptian papyri), Joseph Smith-Matthew, Joseph Smith-History, and The Articles of Faith.⁹³

4.6 Sub-groups

There are many Mormon sub-groups, some of them are movements with thousands of members and some of them are groups with only a few members. As it was already stated the largest denomination is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, founded by Joseph Smith, with 15,000,000 members worldwide.⁹⁴ After Smith's death Brigham Young became the president of the church. It was a reason for Smith's brother William to start a new group. Another group was created by a friend of

⁸⁹ <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/explanation?lang=eng>, 20. 2. 2015

⁹⁰ <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/ether?lang=eng>, 20. 2. 2015

⁹¹ <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/explanation?lang=eng>, 20. 2. 2015

⁹² ENROTH, Průvodce sektami a novými náboženstvími, p. 108-109

⁹³ <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/pgp/introduction?lang=eng>, 20. 2. 2015

⁹⁴ <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/facts-and-stats>, 20. 2. 2015

Smith, Sidney Rigdon, in 1860 these two groups were recreated into one.⁹⁵ This sub-group is the second largest group with more than 250,000 members. It is based in Missouri and from 1872 to 2001 the name was the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS Church). In 2001 the RLDS Church was renamed to the Community of Christ.⁹⁶ After the Manifesto in 1890 the practice of polygamy was renounced. However, there are fundamentalist groups of Mormons, which are still practicing polygamy and plural marriage. The first fundamentalist group was established in the 1930s in Short Creek, Arizona. It was the Council of Friends. The founder was Lorin C. Woolley. Many fundamentalist groups are split off the Council of Friends, for example, the Apostolic United Brethren or the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS Church).⁹⁷

4.7 Opinions

The LDS Church members follow the Word of Wisdom, which is a law of health. It is recorded in the section 89 of the Doctrine and Covenants. The Word of Wisdom was revealed by the God to Joseph Smith. These words should let to physical and spiritual benefit of the followers.⁹⁸ Mormons are forbidden to drink alcohol, use drugs and tobacco, drink hot beverages, such as coffee or tea, if it is not recommended by a doctor as a stimulant, and consume Coca-Cola. Mormons do not have to be vegetarians, however, they should consume meat only occasionally. The LDS Church claims that thanks to the Words of Wisdom white Mormon men living in California live approximately eight years longer than the other, which do not follow the words. Strong emphasis is put on moral and behaviour. Sex before marriage and infidelity, as well homosexuality are considered to be a sin.⁹⁹

⁹⁵ BARRETT, Sekty, kulty & alternativní náboženství, p. 85

⁹⁶ CLARKE, Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements, p. 125

⁹⁷ BARRETT, Sekty, kulty & alternativní náboženství, p. 85

⁹⁸ <https://www.lds.org/topics/word-of-wisdom?lang=eng>, 17. 2. 2015

⁹⁹ BARRETT, Sekty, kulty & alternativní náboženství, p. 84

In the past the LDS Church was often accused of racism. Many early leaders have claimed that African-American are less than white people. In the 1960s the leaders appealed to their followers to fight for the rights of African-American, however, African-American was not allowed to become a priest or to visit temples to the 1978. The LDS Church also fights for women's emancipation, however, only men can belong to the priesthood.¹⁰⁰

One of the biggest differences between Christians and Mormons is their faith in the Holy Trinity. Christians believe in unity of the Holy Trinity. God occurs as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. However, Mormons believe that they are three different beings which create council of the universe. The Father-Elohim, the Son-Jehovah, the Holy Spirit.¹⁰¹

¹⁰⁰ BARRETT, Sekty, kulty & alternativní náboženství, p. 84

¹⁰¹ ENROTH, Průvodce sektami a novými náboženstvími, p. 113

5 AMISH

When the word Amish is mentioned, many people will often imagine people wearing plain, old-fashion dress, not using cars, driving horses with buggies that visit the society only rarely. However, there are also "New Order" Amish which are using technologies. The most important thing in lives of Amish communities is family. The men works at home to be close to their children, the children help the family with farming. Amish do not believe in infant baptism. They believe that the person have to choose to get baptised and become the member of the community. The whole life happens inside the community. Amish do not have official churches. Their services are held every other Sunday in homes of the members. They follow "*the Ordnung*", which is different in every community, because it is voted by the members of the community. The following chapter will provide some further information on the origin and history of this American brand of faith.

5.1 History

The founder of the movement was Anabaptist Jakob Ammann. Anabaptism, meaning the baptism of adults who have been already baptised as infants in Catholic or Protestant church. Ammann was born in 1644 in Switzerland. "*The beliefs and practices of the Amish were based on the writings of the founder of the Mennonite faith, Menno Simons (1496-1561), and on the 1632 Mennonite Dordrecht Confession of Faith.*"¹⁰² Ammann initiated the split from other Mennonites in 1693, because he thought that Mennonites are not disciplined enough and the reform was needed. Amish and Mennonites are Anabaptist Christian denomination, they believe that church should consists only of baptised believers and infant baptism is rejected. In the beginning of 18th century Amish started to immigrate to North America, they wanted to avoid religious persecution and compulsory military service. They originally settled in Pennsylvania. There

¹⁰² <http://www.religioustolerance.org/amish.htm>, 24. 2. 2015

were the traditional "*Old Order Amish*" and the "*New Order*" in 1850. The "*New Order*" Amish do follow the traditional practice. However, they accept new technologies, innovations.¹⁰³ According to National Geographic, there are more than 250,000 Amish living in the USA.¹⁰⁴

5.2 Customs

As it was already mentioned Amish reject infant baptism. They believe, the person has to choose to get baptised. This correspond to many other Protestant-branch religions, Jehovah's Witnesses etc. It is possible to be baptised from 18 to 22 years, an 18-week introduction period before baptism is necessary. Only after the baptism the Amish are allowed to marry. When the Amish ignore the beliefs and the rules of the Amish society, they can be shunned from the community.¹⁰⁵ The beliefs and rules are a set of unwritten rules called The Ordnung (German for "*order*"). The Ordnung has many variations, because the members of the individual congregation vote every year about this agreement. The information included in the Ordnung can be: education of children, dressing, which clothes are acceptable, length and colour of women's dress, use of modern technology and many others.¹⁰⁶ However, if the members decide to leave the community before the baptism, the community should respect it, because it is the voluntary decision to join the Church. The Amish do not build any churches. The services are held every other Sunday in homes of the members. The areas with large numbers of Amish work on a rotation basis.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰³ <http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/denominations/amish.htm>, 24. 2. 2015

¹⁰⁴ <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/amish-out-of-order/articles/amish-out-of-order-facts/>, 24. 2. 2015

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.exploring-amish-country.com/amish-culture.html>, 24. 2. 2015

¹⁰⁷ <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/amish-out-of-order/articles/amish-out-of-order-facts/>, 24. 2. 2015

5.3 Practices

Shunning: caused by not following the Ordnung. There are many reasons, why the person can be shunned, such as moral offense or use of modern technology and others. The member will be separated from the rest of the community. The shunning can be very painful for the shunned person, because the community already live in the separation from the rest of the outside world. According to Jakob Ammann, members are not allowed to eat, sleep, buy from or sell to a shunned person, even if it is a close relative of the member.¹⁰⁸

Rumspringa: "Running Around", is the period before the young Amish get baptised and married. The teenagers over 16 are allowed to have some freedom and experience of the outside world. They may be allowed to date, go to the parties, wear jeans or drink alcohol. The aim of the Rumspringa is to give to young Amish the choice to decide, if they want to be part of the Church and get baptised or not.¹⁰⁹ The opinions on those, who decide not to get baptised or join different community are very different, depending on the community. On the one hand, some communities will say, if the young man decided to join the Mennonite church or less exacting religion, "He got his hair cut." or "went English", when the person left the church. However, they will still have close relationship with them. On the other hand, some communities will shun the person.

Electricity: is not used by Amish communities. The electricity could connect them with the rest of the world, which could bring temptation. There are some exceptions, such as milking equipment, or electric fences to contain cattle. Gas is usually used to get lightening. Amish are not allowed to own or use automobiles. Instead of automobiles they use horses and

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/denominations/amish.htm>, 24. 2. 2015

¹⁰⁹ <http://www.religioustolerance.org/amish4.htm>, 24. 2. 2015

buggies for their transportation.¹¹⁰ They are not allowed to have phones in their houses. However, in some communities is allowed to share a phone among more households, the phone has to be in barn or shack. Another aspect of modern technology is *photography*. Amish do not take photographs or do not want to be photographed. However, some of them think, there is a difference between posing for a picture and natural setting. According to this, they allowed to be filmed or photographed, if is evident that they are not taking poses.¹¹¹

Education: Amish children get their education in one-room schools. These schools are run by communities and it is eighth-grade educational system. The eighth-grade system was accepted in 1972 by the U.S. Supreme court.¹¹² After the eighth grade parents do not send children to another school. Children learn farming technique, homemaking skills. Girls learn how to cook.¹¹³ Amish usually use German dialect called *Pennsylvania Dutch*, during the worships High German is used. English is learnt at school. Pennsylvania Dutch is a mixture of High German, German dialects and English.¹¹⁴

Politics: Amish do not vote and do not serve in military.¹¹⁵ They think there is a primacy of the Word of God over the rule of government.¹¹⁶ They are usually not insured, because they reject social securities. They will visit doctors, only in necessary cases.¹¹⁷

Organisation: the community is divided into independent congregations, every congregation has its own leader. There are usually

¹¹⁰ <http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/denominations/amish.htm>, 24. 2. 2015

¹¹¹ <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/amish-out-of-order/articles/amish-out-of-order-facts/>, 24. 2. 2015

¹¹² <http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/denominations/amish.htm>, 24. 2. 2015

¹¹³ <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/amish-out-of-order/articles/amish-out-of-order-facts/>, 27. 2. 2015

¹¹⁴ <http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/denominations/amish.htm>, 27. 2. 2015

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/amish-out-of-order/articles/amish-out-of-order-facts/>, 27. 2. 2015

¹¹⁷ <http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/denominations/amish.htm>, 27. 2. 2015

75 baptised members. There has to be not such a large number of members, because of non-existence of churches.¹¹⁸ In addition to that there is no formal national head office. Women cannot represent any of church offices. There are four church offices: 1. Bishop, the leader of the congregation, he performs marriage, baptism, excommunication and other, 2. Minister, assist of Bishop in preaching and teaching, usually two of them in a congregation, 3. Full Deacon, rare in North America, guardian of doctrinal orthodoxy, 4. Deacon, reads from the Bible in services. Candidates are selected by voting.¹¹⁹

Music: playing a music instrument is considered to be a way of self-expression, which brings accumulation of pride and primacy, because of this reason Amish do not play them. Allowed is a mouth organ. Church songs are derived from the Ausbund. It is a song book written in High German, which was published in 1564. There are no musical notes and the tunes go from one generation to another.¹²⁰

Family life: Amish cannot marry a person outside the faith.¹²¹ The marriage is allowed only to baptised members. Bride and groom do not exchange rings. The grooms start to grow their beards after the marriage. The engagement is kept as a secret. It is announced four to six weeks before the marriage during a church service. It is called "*publishing the engagement*".¹²² The couples are married during November or early December in one of their homes.¹²³ Brides sew their own wedding dress, they are usually blue or purple. They attend Sunday church in this dress after their marriage. After the death Amish women are usually dressed in their wedding dress, cape and apron. The Amish women take family,

¹¹⁸ <http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/denominations/amish.htm>, 27. 2. 2015

¹¹⁹ <http://www.religioustolerance.org/amish4.htm>, 27. 2. 2015

¹²⁰ <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/amish-out-of-order/articles/amish-out-of-order-facts/>, 27. 2. 2015

¹²¹ <http://www.religioustolerance.org/amish4.htm>, 27. 2. 2015

¹²² <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/amish-out-of-order/articles/amish-out-of-order-facts/>, 27. 2. 2015

¹²³ <http://www.religioustolerance.org/amish4.htm>, 27. 2. 2015

church and community needs, before their own needs. They take care of their homes, cooking, helping neighbours.¹²⁴ They sew the clothing for the entire family. They are teaching their daughters, how to cook, take care of the household, to be prepared to have their own household. They respect their husbands, and support their decisions. Men are supposed to do all important decisions about family, farm and household. In the past the Amish families got their income, mostly from the farming. Nowadays, in some areas less than half men farm for living. They are looking for alternatives to get income, such as bakery, clock and watch repair shop and many others. The men usually work at their homes to be available for their children. Farming and home business is supported by the church. Average Amish family tend to have six children. The children help the family with farming. Amish families celebrate traditional Christian holidays, such as Christmas, Thanksgiving. When the family settles, they usually stay for life or live nearby to their relatives. Because of the tendency to have a large number of children, the grandparents usually have from thirty to fifty grandchildren.¹²⁵

Clothing: Amish clothes can express separation and non-conformity to the outside world, humility, simplicity. Wearing the same dress is a sign that the community is united. The clothing is sewn by Amish women.¹²⁶ Men wear broad-brimmed black hats, dark-coloured suits, and straight-cut coats without lapels.¹²⁷ The suit cannot have collars and pockets, ornaments. The pants are without pleats, cuffs and belts loops, because belts are not allowed.¹²⁸ They also wear suspenders, solid-coloured shirts, black socks and shoes. Shirts are allowed to have buttons, but coats and

¹²⁴ <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/amish-out-of-order/articles/amish-out-of-order-facts/>, 27. 2. 2015

¹²⁵ <http://www.exploring-amish-country.com/amish-family.html>, 27. 2. 2015

¹²⁶ <http://www.exploring-amish-country.com/amish-clothing.html>, 27. 2. 2015

¹²⁷ <http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/denominations/amish.htm>, 27. 2. 2015

¹²⁸ <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/amish-out-of-order/articles/amish-out-of-order-facts/>, 27. 2. 2015

west have hook and eyes.¹²⁹ There is difference between the appearance of married and unmarried Amish. Married men wear a beard, but no moustache. The moustache is consider to be the sign for the military. Unmarried men have clean-shaved face.¹³⁰ Women usually wear bonnets, dresses with long sleeves, capes over the shoulders, aprons, black shoes and stockings. Their capes and aprons are fastened by pins. Amish women do not cut their hair.¹³¹ Under the bonnets hair in a braid or bun are worn. Jewellery and dresses with patter are not allowed.¹³²

Beliefs: "The Amish believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, that He died for their sins, and that He is the way to salvation." However, the security of salvation is not believed by Amish. They think it is possible to lose salvation in the cases of path strayed.¹³³ Amish are pacifist, avoiding to military services.¹³⁴

¹²⁹ <http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/denominations/amish.htm>, 27. 2. 2015

¹³⁰ <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/amish-out-of-order/articles/amish-out-of-order-facts/>, 27. 2. 2015

¹³¹ <http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/denominations/amish.htm>, 27. 2. 2015

¹³² <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/amish-out-of-order/articles/amish-out-of-order-facts/>, 27. 2. 2015

¹³³ <http://www.gotquestions.org/Amish-beliefs.html>, 27. 2. 2015

¹³⁴ <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/amish-out-of-order/articles/amish-out-of-order-facts/>, 27. 2. 2015

6 SCIENTOLOGY

Scientology is often target of criticism, because it is not considered to be religion by many. It is also criticised for taking fees. As mentioned in many books and documentaries, the founder Lafayette Ronald Hubbard once said that the easiest way to make money and become rich is to start one's own religion. Everyone criticising Scientology is considered as a Suppressive person. During many documentaries ex-members said that Scientology claims everything good that happened in lives of members, was the result of following Scientology and all bad thing were the fault of individuals not the Scientology.

6.1 History

The founder of Scientology was Lafayette Ronald Hubbard (1911-1986). He was the writer of sci-fi and fantasy literature. At the end of 30s his earnings came from writing sci-fi stories for magazines, such as *Astounding or Unknown*. He published in 1950 in magazine *Astounding Science Fiction* important article about dianetics, which was the forerunner of Scientology. He created the complex piece called *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*.¹³⁵ The life of Hubbard is full of controversy and conflicts. Hubbard's statements about his life are completely different that his opponents claim to be. While Hubbard claimed to travel the world and to be researcher or to have at least two doctorates. His opponents claimed that he travelled, but he was not a researcher, the doctorates were bought for 20 pounds from "universities".¹³⁶ In 1950 the *Hubbard Dianetic Research Foundation* was established. In 1952 the foundation went bankrupt, in addition to that Hubbard sold his shares including copyright of Dianetics to Purcell.¹³⁷ Later Hubbard established *International Association of Scientologists*.¹³⁸ Hubbard began to be at law, because of Purcell's use

¹³⁵ COWAN, Sekty a nová náboženství, p. 31-32

¹³⁶ BARRETT, Sekty, kultury & alternativní náboženství, p. 340

¹³⁷ Ibid., p. 342-343

¹³⁸ BLEY, Malý slovník sekt, p. 104

of Hubbard's ideas. In 1954 the rights were returned to Hubbard. In 1955 the *Church of Scientology* was registered as a non-profit organisation. Three year later the *International Revenue Service* (IRS) tried to take away tax allowances and the arguments between the Scientology and IRS have begun.¹³⁹ Hubbard was married three times, he had two children with his first wife Margaret Grubb. He left her, married bigamously her friend Sara Hollister and they had one daughter. His last wife was Mary Whipp, they had four children together. Hubbard was father of seven children and four of them estranged from family.¹⁴⁰

6.2 Ideology

The Church of Scientology use mainly two techniques, they are called *Scientology and Dianetics*.¹⁴¹ Scientology is defined, according to scientology.org as "*the study and handling of the spirit in relationships to itself, to universes and to other life.*" Thanks to practice of Scientology it is possible to realise own immortality. Dianetics is focused mainly on human body. It is defined as "*what the soul is doing to the body.*" Dianetics is used to uncover and heal illnesses, pain, unreasonable fears, emotions, psychosomatic illnesses...¹⁴²

According to that, the individual is created of three parts: *body, mind, thetan*. Thetan is the most important, it is a creator of things. "*Without the thetan, there would be no mind or animation in the body. While without a body or a mind, there is still animation and life in the thetan.*"¹⁴³ Mind is further derived into two parts: *Analytic mind*, it is a part of mind, which is used to think, remember, and resolve problems. It is the part of mind, where all experiences and perceptions are saved. The second part is *reactive*

¹³⁹ BARRETT, Sekty, kulty & alternativní náboženství, p. 343

¹⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 340

¹⁴¹ BLEY, Malý slovník sekt, p. 104

¹⁴² <http://www.scientology.org/faq/background-and-basic-principles/what-is-the-difference-between-scientology-and-dianetics.html>, 3. 3. 2015

¹⁴³ <http://www.scientology.org/what-is-scientology/basic-principles-of-scientology/the-parts-of-man.html>, 3. 3. 2015

mind, here are saved all painful emotions and physical pain. When the individual is conscious the analytic part of mind is used, if there is some pain, shock, it causes that the reactive takes over.¹⁴⁴ How it was already mentioned reactive mind saves all the bad experiences that ever happened to the individual, these experiences are called "*engrams*". Even if an individual already have forgotten bad experience, it is not in the analytic mind anymore, but it is still saved in the reactive mind. According to Hubbard, these engrams are already created during the time in the mother's womb. It is possible to delete them. It can be deleted during so called "*auditing*" with E-meter (electro-psychometer), which measures electromagnetic conduction and skin resistance.¹⁴⁵ The auditor (one who listens) is minister or minister-in-training of the Church of Scientology. He ask a set of questions and directions. The individual taking the auditing is called a "*preclear*" - "*a person not yet Clear.*" The aim of auditing is to find and destroy the engrams saved in the reactive mind, to improve the conditions of the receiver.¹⁴⁶ When the process is finished and the "*preclear*" do not have any engrams in reactive mind, he becomes the "*clear*". The participators absolve many different courses, levels, which are known as "*rundowns*". If those rundowns are finished, the participators can move on in the table, which name is "*The Bridge to Total Freedom*" or "*Bridge*". The first milestone in this "*Bridge*" is the "*clear*". When the participators are "*clear*" they can continue to become the "*Operating Thetan*" (OT).¹⁴⁷ According to scientology.org, Operating means "*able to act and handle things*", Thetan "*the spiritual being that is the basic self.*" "*An Operating Thetan, then, is one who can handle things without having to use a body of physical means.*"¹⁴⁸ During this process there are gradient

¹⁴⁴ <http://www.scientology.org/what-is-dianetics/basic-principles-of-scientology/the-parts-of-the-mind.html>, 3. 3. 2015

¹⁴⁵ BARRETT, Sekty, kulty & alternativní náboženství, p. 334

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.scientology.org/faq/scientology-and-dianetics-auditing/what-is-auditing.html>, 3. 3. 2015

¹⁴⁷ COWAN, Sekty a nová náboženství, p. 37

¹⁴⁸ <http://www.scientology.org/faq/operating-thetan/what-is-ot.html>, 6. 3. 2015

levels, usually the auditing in this phase is done by participator himself. He asks himself questions and answer them. The aim is to get real nature, which was during the life influenced by reactive mind.

6.3 Profits, criticism

The Church of Scientology is often criticised for high costs. However, the Church is saying proudly that less than two per cent of their members are on the dole. (Church of Scientology International: What is Scientology..., p. 467) According to opponents, it is logical, because these individuals cannot afford their services. The auditing courses are offered in churches, which are called "*orgy*". They are working on the franchise basis, because they receive fee for practicing it. In many countries this fees for services must be considered as gifts, because the Church of Scientology is exempt from taxes. The Church claim that they are non-profit organisation. Participating in auditing can cost hundreds and even more dollars per week. The participators absolving the "*Bridge*" may spend hundred thousand dollars. However, not all of the members pay the same fee. They are often encouraged to learn, how to be auditors. After becoming auditors they can offer their auditing services one another, it can decrease their costs. It is possible to join the orgy and work full-time or part-time for the Church, the auditing can be part of the premium.¹⁴⁹ In the USA on 1st October 1993 was the status of church given to the Scientology by Internal Revenue Service (IRS) again. It means that the church is considered as non-profit organisation and it is exempt from the taxes. However, in many countries the Church of Scientology applied to be registered as religious body, but it was denied. For example, in England and Wales the application for charity status was rejected in 1999. In some countries it is not considered as religion, but it is taken as charitable organisation, such as in The Netherlands (2013), Norway.¹⁵⁰ From the late

¹⁴⁹ COWAN, Sekty a nová náboženství, p. 38

¹⁵⁰ Ibid., p. 30

90s the Scientology was considered to be dangerous in some countries, for example, the Germans were appealed to boycott the films with Tom Cruise starring, as the best known Scientology member. In 2000 the Scientology was classified as dangerous cult in France.¹⁵¹ Some opponents claim that the life in the Sea Organization was difficult for the members. If someone fulfilled the order little bit different than Hubbard said, the punishment followed. The members were closed in underdeck, also shackles were used. According to formal members, the shackles were used even for children. After Hubbard's death there was order, forbidding the members to have children. Pressure was put on women to have abortion. However, according to Public Relations Officer, Anton Selfe, the story is completely not truthful.¹⁵² Another point of criticism is that Scientology order the members, how to behave. The commission will decide, if the misbehaviour was mistake, defiance, crime or heinous crime.¹⁵³ These crimes can led to person to be consider as Suppressive person (SP) and to be expelled. SP is an enemy for the Scientology members, SP cannot be in touch even with his/her spouse.¹⁵⁴

6.4 Organisation

There are many different types of organisations in the hierarchical structure of the Church. At the top of the hierarchy stand *Flag Land Base*. It is the headquarters based in Clearwater, Florida. In 1975 it was single property, however, nowadays it is a complex of 50 buildings. In 2009 the new *Fort Harrison* was after the 11 month-long restoration process reopened. It is a hotel with 11 stories, 220 rooms, which is connected by a skywalk to the Flag Building.¹⁵⁵ Since 1988 the Church dispone with 440-foot motor vessel called "*the Freewinds*". It is good environment for the

¹⁵¹ COWAN, Sekty a nová náboženství, p. 30

¹⁵² BARRETT, Sekty, kulty & alternativní náboženství, p. 346-347

¹⁵³ Ibid., p. 347-348

¹⁵⁴ <http://www.scientology.org/faq/scientology-attitudes-and-practices/what-is-a-suppressive-person.html>, 10. 3. 2015

¹⁵⁵ <http://www.scientology.org/churches/flag-land-base.html>, 6. 3. 2015

higher levels of auditing and courses.¹⁵⁶ The church also run different social services projects. They are based on the teaching of Hubbard. Examples are I HELP, which provides a large scale of consultant services, Narconon, which is rehabilitation and prevention for drug addicts. It was founded in 1966, it teaches the participators, how to overcome negative effects, which are leading to drug usage and relapse.¹⁵⁷ *The Way to Happiness: A Common Sense Guide to Better Living* is brochure written by Hubbard, the distribution of it is done by The Way to Happiness, which are programmes to restore honour and self-respect. It is a moral and ethical codex that should cure the crises of today's world. It was published in 1981, according to scientology.org 100 million copies have been distributed.¹⁵⁸ Important is *Sea Org*, which was created in 1967. In this organisation congregate the most loyal members and it dispone with numbers of ships. They know the most secret teaching of the Scientology and only they can offer the highest levels of auditing. The members of Sea Org signed the contract, in which they promise to dedicate their lives to support Scientology. The contract is signed as a one-billion-year contract.¹⁵⁹ *Religious Technology Center (RTC)* was created in 1982, its main aim is to protect the Church of Scientology. RTC is the owner of all Scientology and Dianetics trademarks and service marks.¹⁶⁰ There are three main functions: 1. assurance of all Scientology and Dianetics services, to be provide according to instructions given by Hubbard, 2. taking legal actions, if someone is misusing the trademarks or copyright, 3. protection of the integrity and religious technologies. There is a system of reports, controls of practicing and international nets of general inspectors.¹⁶¹

¹⁵⁶ COWAN, Sekty a nová náboženství, p. 40

¹⁵⁷ Ibid., p. 40-41

¹⁵⁸ <http://www.scientology.org/how-we-help/way-to-happiness.html>, 6. 3. 2015

¹⁵⁹ COWAN, Sekty a nová náboženství, p. 42

¹⁶⁰ <http://www.scientology.org/faq/church-management/religious-technology-center.html>, 10. 3. 2015

¹⁶¹ COWAN, Sekty a nová náboženství, p. 42

6.5 Is Scientology religion?

The Scientology is often discussed, if it is religion or not. There are four main reasons of the discussion: 1. *Appearance*, the Church of Scientology is missing the typical features of religion. The Church of Scientology do not dispone with specialised religious buildings, temples. It does not have deity to worship. Many of scientologist visit divine services only sporadically. 2. *Costs*, as already mentioned, page 40, chapter 6.3 Profits, criticism, 3. *Uncertainties*, there is no barrier between secular therapy and religious practice. 4. *Secrecy*, Even if some of the materials were already revealed during trials, many of the inner functions and materials are still kept secret.¹⁶²

¹⁶² COWAN, Sekty a nová náboženství, p. 46-48

7 POPULAR CULTURE

As the numbers of followers are increasing, marginal religious groups are becoming a very interesting theme in popular culture. For example, BBC have done many documentaries about Amish, Scientology and Mormons. This topic have been used in individual episodes of many television series, such as *Grey's Anatomy*, *Banshee*, *Cold Case* and films, for example, *Witness* or *Amish Grace* and others. It was also used in books. There are fiction literature with Amish as main characters. Which are becoming very popular. Autobiographic books dealing with leaving the community were written. Carolyn Jessop wrote the book called *Escape*, telling the story of her escape with eight children from FLDS, or Saloma Miller Furlong's, *Why I left the Amish: A Memoir*. As the numbers of followers are increasing, it is possible that the topic of marginal religious groups will be used more commonly in the popular culture. The following chapters will provide an analytical overview of the chosen religions and sects in popular culture and media.

7.1 Amish

In the 21st century many documentaries, such as *Trouble in Amish Paradise*, *Amish: Out of Order* were made. These documentaries usually follow youth during their Rumspringa or members of communities, which have left the community and were shunned. In 2012 reality television series *Breaking Amish* was made. It follows Amish and Mennonite youth experiencing New York. The show was claimed not to be so truthful, because cast members were already living outside the Amish community.¹⁶³ The fiction literature with Amish as main topic is becoming very popular these days. Valerie Weaver-Zercher, author of *Thrill of the Chaste: The Allure of Amish Romance Novels* said: "*Readers of Amish fiction frequently told me that the novels provide "escape" or transport away*

¹⁶³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amish_in_popular_culture, 13. 3. 2015

from their daily lives." This interview was made in 2013 and she predicted that the Amish fiction will have a great future. "*From all appearances, Amish fiction is going strong! Twenty-three new series began in 2012 alone.*"¹⁶⁴

7.2 Mormons

Mormons characters have been also often used in TV series. An example can be show *Big Love* produced by HBO. The main character is a man, modern-day polygamist, who has three wife, seven children and lives in suburban Salt Lake City. On the one hand, numbers of commentators stated that polygamy was renounced and it is against law in Utah and claimed the family not to be Mormons. On the other hand some commentators simply said it is a Mormon family. Even the LDS Church released an official statement, saying that the LDS is concerned with the still-continuing practice of polygamy. It is a serious problem and this matter should be not subject of entertainment. Another controversial work is the film *Latter Days* with LDS missionary as a main character. The missionary felt in love with young men. This film was banned in one cinema chain. However, it was successful at some festivals, where the standing ovations were included. In 2011 the satire musical *The Book of Mormon* was opened on Broadway.¹⁶⁵

7.3 Scientology

In many works, such as *The Master* (2012), the features of Scientology are used. In addition to that many similarities can be found. However, the Church of Scientology is not named, the name of organisation is "*the Cause*". The topic was used in successful theatre plays: "*Jesus Hopped the "A" Train*" and 2004 Obie Award winning "*A Very Merry Unauthorized Children's Scientology Pageant*."¹⁶⁶

¹⁶⁴ <http://blogs.christianpost.com/amish-principles-for-families/plain-talk-about-the-amish-why-is-amish-fiction-so-popular-16283/>, 13. 3. 2015

¹⁶⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latter_Day_Saints_in_popular_culture, 13. 3. 2015

¹⁶⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientology_in_popular_culture, 13. 3. 2015

8 PROBLEMS OF MARGINAL RELIGIOUS GROUPS

According to news, many problems can appear in communities of religious groups. One of the largest problems of Amish communities are health problems. For example, there was polio outbreak in 1979, because children were not vaccinated. Fortunately the emergency vaccination campaign was successful. Another problem in Amish communities are *generic diseases*. Jose Luis Rosa, from Bellvitge Institute for Biomedical Research said: "*In these communities there are high rates of inbreeding, making homozygous recessive diseases more frequent than in the general population. (Homozygous refers to inheriting an identical genetic trait from both parents.)*"¹⁶⁷ According to Mellissa Hendricks, teacher of John Hopkins University and award-winning writer, the Amish in Lancaster Country are descendants of only 200 Swiss Anabaptist. Because not marrying outsiders, the community has been closed generic population for more than 12 generations. This fact leads to form of dwarfism, mental retardation and metabolic disorders.¹⁶⁸

In the fall of 2011, 16 members of Amish community in Bergholz, Ohio, attacked five times members of other Amish communities. During the attacks the beards and hair were cut and the attackers let the victims bleeding. The leader of these attacks was Samuel Mullet, Sr. – the bishop of Bergolz community. It happened, because Bishop Mullet and his followers were practicing the religion differently than other communities. Mullet thought that it is a big problem, because those communities were against him and interfered him. In 2012 a jury decided, it was federal *hate crime motivated by religion*. Mullet was sentenced to 15 years in prison and other defendants received shorter prison term.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁷ <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/amish-gene-mutation-mental-retardation-developmental-delay-445578>, 13. 3. 2015

¹⁶⁸ <http://pages.jh.edu/~jhumag/1194web/barndoc.html>, 13. 3. 2015

¹⁶⁹ <http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2013/february/16-sentenced-in-amish-beard-cutting-case/16-sentenced-in-amish-beard-cutting-case>, 23. 3. 2015

Another crime that happened in Amish community appeared on October 2, 2006. Milk truck driver, who was not Amish, Charles Carl Roberts entered the Amish school in rural Pennsylvania. He sent all the boys and male teaches out of the classroom. After that he opened fire. He killed five girls from the age of 6 to 13 and five more were injured, after that he shot himself. After *the massacre*, the school was demolished and a new school was built few hundred yards away. The school was named the New Hope Amish School.¹⁷⁰ The Amish families do not normally accept charity, but in this case they did. With the given donations the medical cost of hospitalised girls were paid. In 2010 television film *Amish Grace* premiered. It is about the massacre and also about forgiveness of the Amish community members.¹⁷¹

The members of Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS) believe that a men should have at least three wives. The church was claimed for *sexual, mental abuse and underage polygamous marriages* of Mormon females. Although practicing polygamy is illegal, it is said to be more than 30,000 people practicing it in Utah, Idaho, Montana and Arizona. There was in 2013 polygamy scandal in Utah. In Hildale, Utah and Colorado City, Arizona is a small police force called the Marshal's Office. The twin towns were claimed for holding women as captives. Mohave County Sherriff Tom Sheahan said: "*They are corrupt and work only for the FLDS and Warren Jeffs.*" The leader, Warren Jeffs, was jailed for life in Texas after conviction on child sex and bigamy charges.¹⁷²

In 2015 the HBO's documentary film *Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief* had its premiere at Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. The film is based on the book released in 2013 *Going Clear:*

¹⁷⁰ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2439492/Amish-school-massacre-shooters-wife-Marie-Monville-says-Charlie-Roberts-getting-Lord.html>, 17. 3. 2015

¹⁷¹ <http://lancasterpa.com/amish/amish-school-shooting/>, 17. 3. 2015

¹⁷² <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2267003/Police-investigate-claims-Mormons-kept-wives-escaping-Utah-town.html>, 17. 3. 2015

Scientology, Hollywood, and the Prison of Belief written by Lawrence Wright. It is two hours documentary, which includes the stories of ex-members, celebrities' interaction with the church and a lot of other information. The critics of Scientology supported it, according to them it presents the false claims of Scientology. A part of the documentary is footage of ex-members, which have been harassed and also the presence of surveillance. All the critics are considered by the Scientology to be criminals.¹⁷³ As one of the reactions the church posted some short films, which attacked the filmmakers and ex-members. The titles were, for example: *"Mike Rinder: The Wife Beater,"* or *"Sara Goldberg: The Home Wrecker."*¹⁷⁴ Scientology also criticised the director Alex Gibney for refusal to interview some members, which were suggested to him by the church. Jason Bailey of Flavorwire wrote that *"pretty much every critic who wrote about Going Clear"* got an email from Karin Pouw, Director of Public Affairs for Church of Scientology International. Here is an example of email, which received Elizabeth Spiers, editorial director of Flavorwire. *"Dear Ms. Spiers, The above article concerning Going Clear, Alex Gibney's film, was posted without contacting the Church for comment. As a result, your article reflects the film which is filled with bald faced lies. I ask that you include a statement from the Church in your article. There is another side to the story which has to be told. Do not be the mouthpiece for Alex Gibney's propaganda."*¹⁷⁵

¹⁷³ Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief, 2015. , [documentary]. Alex Gibney

¹⁷⁴ http://laist.com/2015/03/13/going_clear_alex_gibney.php, 17. 3. 2015

¹⁷⁵ <http://flavorwire.com/502163/exclusive-alex-gibney-on-the-church-of-scientologys-war-on-film-critics>, 17. 3. 2015

9 STATISTICS

9.1 Numbers of Wicca in the USA

In 2001 extensive survey was made by the American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS). More than 50,000 respondents participate, they were interviewed on the base on random digit dialling and the survey was conducted through International Communication Research. Approximately 50 surveys were made and they were aggregated and weighted to reflect the religious situation in 2001 in the USA, followed are information about the Wiccan situation in the USA.¹⁷⁶

TABLE 1: ARIS 2001 STUDY

Number of Wiccan found by ARIS:	134,000 adults
Number of Pagans found by ARIS:	140,000 adults
Total Wiccans and Pagans:	274,000 adults
Less estimated Pagans who are not Wiccans:	-70,000 adults
Total Wiccans:	204,000 adults
Estimated num. of Wiccans who refused to disclose religion	204,000 adults
Total Wiccan adults in the U.S.	408,000 adults
Total Wiccan Families (adults + children)	750,000 people

Source of table 1¹⁷⁷

Nevertheless, according to religioustolerance.org it is possible that some errors can occur. For example, 134,000 Wiccans were estimated and 140,000 Pagans. However, large number of Wiccans consider themselves to be Pagans, therefore the number of Wiccan in the USA may be larger.¹⁷⁸

On the 20th of October 2009 religionlink.com published report, where comparison of 2001 and 2008 ARIS was made. They stated: "*Specifically, the number of Wiccans more than doubled from 2001 to 2008, from*

¹⁷⁶ <http://commons.trincoll.edu/aris/surveys/aris-2001/>, 6. 2. 2015

¹⁷⁷ http://religioustolerance.org/wic_nbr3.htm, 6. 2. 2015

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

134,000 to 342,000, and the same held true for neo-pagans, who went from 140,000 in 2001 to 340,000 in 2008." "Experts say the growth reflects not only increasing numbers of neo-pagans, but also a rise in the social acceptability of paganism. As a result, more respondents would be willing to identify themselves as followers of some pagan tradition."¹⁷⁹

9.2 Numbers of Mormons in the USA

"Mormonism is often regarded as America's most successful indigenous religious movement, rising from just six original members in 1830 to over 6 million U.S. members today." (Deseret News 2012 Church Almanac, p. 324)¹⁸⁰ "At the end of 2008 the LDS Church claimed 5,974,041 members or 2% of the U.S. population." (2009 Church Almanac)¹⁸¹ However, ARIS numbers of Mormon population are slightly different. In 1990 there was 2,487,000 and in 2008 3,158,000 Mormons in the USA. However, it was steady 1.4% of the U.S. population. (ARIS numbers are smaller, because only adults were surveyed).¹⁸²

According to the mormonnewsroom.org, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has 15,082,028 members worldwide, which are members of more than 29,000 congregation.¹⁸³

9.2.1 Geographic distribution

According to U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, conducted by Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life in 2007, the Mormon population in the USA can be found mainly in the West (76%). One third of all American Mormons live in Utah (35%), California (13%), Idaho (7%), Nevada (5%), Oregon and Arizona (4%). Only 12% of all American Mormons live in the South, 7% in the Midwest and 4% in the Northeast.¹⁸⁴

¹⁷⁹ <http://www.religionlink.com/source-guides/pagans-go-mainstream-wiccans-and-druids-and-goddesses-oh-my/>, 6. 2. 2015

¹⁸⁰ <http://commons.trincoll.edu/aris/publications/2008-2/mormons-in-the-united-states-1990-2008-socio-demographic-trends-and-regional-differences/>, p. 1, 13. 2. 2015

¹⁸¹ Ibid.

¹⁸² Ibid.

¹⁸³ <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/facts-and-stats>, 13. 2. 2015

¹⁸⁴ <http://www.pewforum.org/2009/07/24/a-portrait-of-mormons-in-the-us/>, 13. 2. 2015

Full table can be seen in the Appendix 5, page 81. The geographic distribution can also be seen in the map, Appendix 6, page 82.

9.2.2 Age, gender and family structure

According to survey already mentioned above, Mormons tend to be slightly younger than the general population. 66% of all Mormons are younger than 50, to compare 59% of the general population is younger than 50. A majority of Mormons are women (56%).¹⁸⁵ See Appendix 7, page 82. According to ARIS 2008, 25% of Mormon women work full time, 23% part time, 16% is retired, 26% are housewives and 10% other. The number of housewives in Mormon community is doubled than in the general population, only 13% of women are housewives. The number of Non-Mormons women working full time is also different 39%.¹⁸⁶ The numbers can be seen in Appendix 8, page 83. 71% of all Mormons are married, in the general population 54% are married. 83% of Mormons married couples are married to a spouse of the same faith. Mormons tend to have large families, about half of all Mormons (49%) have children under age 18 living at home and 21% have three or more children at home.¹⁸⁷ Full table can be seen in the Appendix 9, page 83.

9.2.3 Race

According to pewforum.org, 86% of all Mormons are white, 71% of the general population is white. 3% of all Mormons are African-American and 7% are Hispanic. Only 7% of all Mormons were born elsewhere than in the USA, 12% of general public were born outside the USA. The full table can be seen in the Appendix 10, page 84. To compare with other religion in the USA 95% of Jews are white, members of mainline Protestant churches (91% white) and Orthodox Christians (87% white). For example, 65% of all Catholics are white and 29% are Latino. The Jehovah's

¹⁸⁵ <http://www.pewforum.org/2009/07/24/a-portrait-of-mormons-in-the-us/>, 13. 2. 2015

¹⁸⁶ <http://commons.trincoll.edu/aris/publications/2008-2/mormons-in-the-united-states-1990-2008-socio-demographic-trends-and-regional-differences/>, p. 6, 13. 2. 2015

¹⁸⁷ <http://www.pewforum.org/2009/07/24/a-portrait-of-mormons-in-the-us/>, 13. 2. 2015

Witnesses are the most racially diverse, less than half of members are white (48%).¹⁸⁸

9.2.4 Education

According to pewforum.org, 60% of all Mormons have at least college education, compared with 50% of general population.¹⁸⁹ Full table can be seen in the Appendix 11, page 84. The LDS Church thinks that education is very important. They have 4 universities and colleges, 397,007 seminary students and 359,828 institute students.¹⁹⁰ All universities and colleges are under Church Educational System (CES). The universities and colleges are following Brigham Young University (BYU), Utah, Provo, bachelor and graduate degree programs, BYU – Hawaii, BYU – Idaho, Rexburg, four-year university, LDS Business College, Utah, Salt Lake City. *"Seminary is a four-year educational program for high school students of all faiths. The students spend the whole educational program by studying scripture: Old Testament, New Testament, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants. The students visit seminary during their "released time" from their proper high school or after/before their school or they can study in home study program."*¹⁹¹

9.3 Numbers of Amish in the USA

In 2012 many news about Amish population booming were published. Ohio State University (OSU) made census showing increasing numbers of Amish people and settlements. In 1989 the Amish population was about 100,000. In 2012 there were nearly 251,000 Amish people in America and Canada. In addition to this fact analysts see no reason, why this trend should slow down. In about 21 years it is expected the numbers of Amish people to reach 500,000.¹⁹² OSU, with the census leader Joseph

¹⁸⁸ <http://www.pewforum.org/2009/07/24/a-portrait-of-mormons-in-the-us/>, 13. 2. 2015

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.

¹⁹⁰ <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/facts-and-stats>, 13. 2. 2015

¹⁹¹ <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/topic/education>, 13. 2. 2015

¹⁹² <http://www.citylab.com/politics/2012/08/exploding-amish-population-bubble/2795/>, 19. 3. 2015

Donnermeyer, professor of rural sociology, predict that shortly after 2050 Amish population could reach 1,000,000 and 1,000 settlements.¹⁹³ The main reasons are: staying with the religion and high birth-rate. About 90% of children raised as Amish get baptised and start their own families. Amish families live in settlements, which are groups of 20 or 30 families. The numbers of settlements are also growing. In 1990 there were 179 settlements in the USA, by 2012 OSU counted 456 settlements.¹⁹⁴ Donnermeyer said, *"They're doubling their population about every 21 to 22 years, primarily because they produce large families and the vast majority of daughters and sons remain in the community as adults baptized into the faith, starting their own families and sustaining their religious beliefs and practices."* Not only the numbers of settlements are growing, also the geographical reach. The traditional place, where Amish communities live are Holmes County, Ohio, with the highest percentage of Amish 42% (nearly 30,000 Amish), the second is Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. *"Ohio is home to the most Amish community members - 60,233 - and Pennsylvania is a close second, with 59,078 Amish residents. Indiana has 44,831 Amish citizens. The 456 settlements contain a total of 1,868 Amish church districts of the "Old Orders.""* The communities are spreading from the Midwest and Great Lakes region to other parts of the USA.¹⁹⁵ The strongest growth of settlements is on the east coast with New York on top. *"There are 47 in New York, and 18 have been founded since 2009. New York is now the hotspot."* Donnermeyer said.¹⁹⁶ The community migration is caused by lower prices and changing agricultural economics. A lot of Amish buy farms from formal farmers. Buyouts of dairy farms in Wisconsin and or tobacco in Kentucky can be seen. This buyouts can be seen on the numbers of settlements. Before 1990 there were 17

¹⁹³ <http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/amishpop.htm>, 19. 3. 2015

¹⁹⁴ <http://www.citylab.com/politics/2012/08/exploding-amish-population-bubble/2795/>, 19. 3. 2015

¹⁹⁵ <http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/amishpop.htm>, 19. 3. 2015

¹⁹⁶ <http://www.citylab.com/politics/2012/08/exploding-amish-population-bubble/2795/>, 19. 3. 2015

settlements and 46 in 2012 in Wisconsin.¹⁹⁷ Donnermeyer stated that he thinks in 15 years the Holmes County in Ohio, will be the first county with the majority of Amish population living there.¹⁹⁸ A census report published on dailymail.co.uk says: *"By 2050 the census predicts the population will exceed 1 million Amish and 1,000 settlements, having economic, cultural, social and religious effects to the communities' surrounding areas."* It means that Amish men will have to look for other options, because there will be no free farmland. They will look for work in woodworking or constructions trade. This could affect the price for land and support local economies, because new business will be started.¹⁹⁹ Geographic distribution of Amish can be found in Appendix 12, page 85.

¹⁹⁷ <http://www.citylab.com/politics/2012/08/exploding-amish-population-bubble/2795>, 19. 3. 2015

¹⁹⁸ <http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/amishpop.htm>, 19. 3. 2015

¹⁹⁹ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2180228/Census-reports-Amish-population-booming-U-S-new-settlement-founded-nearly-month.html>, 13. 3. 2015

10 CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that religion plays an extremely important role in the lives of the majority of Americans. While the majority of Americans are of traditional Protestant faiths, a growing number are turning to alternative religions like some of those mentioned in this thesis. As these groups are often depicted in popular culture in a negative light and are generalised, the author of this thesis decided to learn more about them. It is important to research the topic from points of view different than those obtained only from the media.

This Bachelor thesis aims to briefly describe five chosen marginal religious groups occurring in the USA. During the work statistical data were used. The first chapter provides a brief overview of the religion in the United States. A part of this chapter are the surveys conducted by religions.pewforum.org and gallup.com. The numbers conducted are commented and briefly compared with numbers received during 1991, 2001, 2011 census taken in the Czech Republic.

The next chapter deals with Neo-Paganism. The first part of this chapter describes the origin of the word "*pagan*" and the answers to three questions, which are the most important for Neo-Paganism. These answers are basically the principles and beliefs of Neo-Paganism worshippers. In the next part of this chapter, two main branches are analysed. Druidry and its origin, in which the connection with nature can be seen. It is a spiritual way, which is answering on three main human desires, creativity, communication and wisdom. The beliefs, which are not fixed beliefs will be introduced. "*Druids share a belief in the fundamentally spiritual nature of life.*" Which leads to the fact that some of the Druids consider themselves to be animist, some of the polytheists... Druids do not see the difference as a problem, they accept diversity as healthy and natural. Both modern Druids and Wicca celebrate so called "*The Wheel of the Year*", which are four lunar and four solar festivals. The names and

dates of the festivals will be given. The second main branch is Wicca. The history will be briefly described and the modern founder Gerald Gardner will be introduced. The wish of modern witches is especially the reconnection of the people with nature, to obtain the sense for the nature and also natural elements. Unified ritual books do not exist, as the guardian *The Book of Shadows* and *Grimoire* can be used. Rituals and covens are really important. For Wiccans the most important is their Wiccan Credo with two main parts "*The Wiccan Rede*" and "*The Threefold Law*". In the 1950s Wicca became more popular in the UK, because Gerald Gardner loved publicity. Later Wicca was exported to the Northern America and many derivations were created. The Wiccans worship two gods, they are duotheistic. They worship one God and one Goddess, both male and female aspect is represented. Wiccans are united by practice not belief, as the result not all Wiccans believe in the same deity. Traditionalist writers used terms Triple Goddess and Horned God. The Triple Goddess refers to moon phases: waxing, full and waning moon. Both the Triple Goddess and Horned God will be described.

The next chapter describes the Christian denomination, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church). The founder, Joseph Smith and his visions, which led to the creation of the Book of Mormon, will be introduced. The role and numbers of LDS temples and also missions and missionaries will be given. The Church organisation and the functions will be described. The LDS Church has four standard scriptures: 1. The Holy Bible – The Old and New Testament, 2. The Book of Mormon, 3. The Doctrine and Covenants and 4. The Pearl of Great Price. The content will be described briefly. After the death of the founder many different sub-groups were created. In 1890 practicing of polygamy was renounced, but there are still existing fundamentalist groups still practicing it. The LDS Church members follow the Word of Wisdom, which is a part of the Doctrine and Covenants. Mormons are forbidden to drink alcohol, use drugs and tobacco, drink hot beverages, such as coffee or tea.

The next chapter will describe Amish and the history of the split from the Mennonites initiated by the Swiss Jakob Ammann. Amish customs are very specific, they reject infant baptism and live in distance from the rest of the society. Amish follow the Ordnung, which can be different in every community. The practices will be introduced. For Amish one of the most important thing is family life, which is diametrically different that the life of other society members. To express separation from the rest of the society Amish wear same dress within the community. The clothing is sewn by the mother and it is very plain.

The next section will describe Scientology, the history of founding by Lafayette Ronald Hubbard. Two techniques Scientology is using, are: Scientology and Dianetics. Three main parts creating the human being are: body, mind and thetan. The Mind is derived in two parts, analytic and the reactive mind. In reactive mind engrams are saved. It is possible to delete engrams during the process called auditing. Auditing consist of three levels "*preclear*", "*clear*", "*Operating Thetan*". The Church of Scientology is often criticised for taking fees from the members. It is the reason, why Scientology was denied to be registered as a religious body in many countries. The question of Scientology being religion is still discussed.

In the next chapter few examples of marginal religious groups occurring in popular culture will be given. An example can be documentaries Trouble in Amish Paradise, Amish: Out of Order. Amish communities are becoming popular in fiction literature. In 2011 the satire musical The Book of Mormon was opened on Broadway.

Another chapter will describe some of the news that appeared in internet newspapers. These news describe problems of religious groups, such as genetic diseases, problems with farmland, or hate crime, polygamous marriages and others. In March, 2015, Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief had its premiere. During this

documentary ex-members of Scientology talked about the interaction with the church and revealed much information.

The last chapter deals with statistical data. The numbers of members of Wicca, Mormons, Amish will be given. The source of numbers of Wicca is ARIS 2001. The source of Mormons numbers is a report, Mormons in the United States 1990-2008: Socio-demographic Trends and Regional Differences, based on ARIS 2008. Thanks to www.pewforum.org, geographic distribution, age, gender, family structure, race and education will be described. The numbers of Amish community were conducted in 2012 by Ohio State University. The numbers are showing the increasing numbers of Amish and settlements. And predicting the 1,000,000 members in 2050. It is also showing the geographical reach.

It is the author's hope that this thesis could be useful and helpful for people who are interested in religious groups that can be found in the United States of America, and also for people, who want to research the topic from points of view different than those obtained only from the media.

11 GLOSSARY

Overview of the Religion in the United States

Catholic /'kaθ(ə)lɪk/ = katolík

Christian /'krɪstʃ(ə)n/ = křesťan

denomination = vyznání, náboženská denominace

faith = víra, náboženské vyznání

Jehovah's Witnesses /dʒɪ'həʊvəz/ = Svědkové Jehovovi

marginal religious groups = okrajové náboženské skupiny

orthodox /'ɔ:θədɒks/ = ortodoxní, pravoslavný

Protestant /'prɒtɪst(ə)nt/ = protestant

religious affiliation = náboženská přidruženost

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints = Církev Ježíše Krista Svatých posledních dnů

unaffiliated to any church = nepřidružený k žádné církvi

Neo-Paganism

coven /'kʌv(ə)n/ = sabat čarodějnic

deity /'deɪti/ = božství

Neo-Paganism /ni:əʊ'peɪgənɪz(ə)m/ = novopohanství

perpetuating life cycle /pə'petʃueɪtɪŋ laɪf 'saɪk(ə)l/ = neustálý životní cyklus

rebirth in the nature = znovuzrození v přírodě

to worship goddesses /'wə:ʃɪp 'gɒdɪsɪz/ = ctít bohyně

Druidry

bard /bɑ:d/ = bard

Beltane /'bɛlteɪn/ = Májový den

divine service /dɪ'vɪn 'sɜ:vɪs/ = bohoslužby

divinity /dɪˈvɪnɪti/ = božství, božstvo

druid /ˈdruːɪd/ = druid

Druidry /ˈdruːɪdri/ = druidismus, druidství

fertilisation /ˌfɜːtɪlaɪˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/ = oplodnění, zúrodnění

harvest /ˈhɑːvɪst/ = sklizeň, žně

healer = léčitel

heathenism /ˈhiːð(ə)n, ɪz(ə)m/ = pohanství

Imbolc /ˈɪmbɒlk/ = Hromnice

Lughnasadh /ˈluːnəsə/ = 1. srpen

ovate /ˈɒvət/ = ovat

priest = kněz

prophet /ˈprɒfɪt/ = prorok

Samhain /saʊn/ = začátek keltského roku

snowdrops = sněženky

spring equinox /sprɪŋ ˈiːkwɪnɒks/ = jarní rovnodennost

to revert the curt of the sun = navrátit slunci kurs

winter solstice /ˈwɪntə ˈsɒlstɪs/ = zimní slunovrat

woodland grove /ˈwʊdlənd grəʊv/ = lesní háj

Wicca

proto-religion /ˈprəʊtəʊ-rɪˈlɪdʒ(ə)n/ = pranáboženství

The Book of Shadows = Kniha stínů

The Crone /krəʊn/ = Bohyně Stařena

The Great Mother = Veliká Matka

The Horned God /hɔːnd gɒd/ = Rohatý bůh

The Maiden /'meɪd(ə)n/= Bohyně Panna

The Mother = Bohyně Matka

The Triple Goddess = Trojitá bohyně

The Wiccan Rede /'wɪkən ri:d/ = Wiccanské rede

underworld = podsvětí

waxing, full and waning /waksɪŋ, weɪnɪŋ/ = fáze měsíce, dorůstající, úplněk, ubývající

Wicca /'wɪkə/ = náboženství Wicca

Wiccan = přívrženec Wiccy, wiccanský

LDS Church

"stakes" = "kůly"

A Book of Commandments /kə'mɑ:ndməntz/ = Kniha přikázání

Aaronic Priesthood /ɛ:'rɒnɪk 'pri:sthʊd/ = Áronovo kněžství

apostle = apoštol

bishop /'bɪʃəp/ = biskup

clergy /'klɜ:dʒɪ/ = kněžstvo

congregation /kɒŋgrɪ'geɪʃ(ə)n/ = sbor, náboženská obec

counsellors = poradci

deacon /'di:k(ə)n/ = diákon

Elder = starší

First Presidency = První předsednictvo

high priest = velekněz

indigenous religion /ɪn'dɪdʒɪnəs/ = vlastní, původní náboženství

infidelity /ɪnfɪ'dɛlɪti/ = nevěra, cizoložství

Jehovah /dʒɪ'həʊvə/ = Jahve

Melchizedek Priesthood /mɛl'kɪzɪdɛk 'pri:stʊd/ = Melchisedechovo kněžství

Mosiah = Mosiáš

ordination = vysvěcení

parish /'pærɪʃ/ = farnost

patriarch /'peɪtriɑ:k/ = patriarcha

Presidency of the Seventy = První sbor sedmdesátníků, sedmdesáti

priest = kněz

profanity /prə'fanɪti/ = rouhání se

Promised Land = Země zaslíbená

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles = Rada dvanácti apoštolů

revelation /rɛvə'leɪʃ(ə)n/ = zjevení

sacraments /'sækɾəm(ə)nt/ = svátosti

scripture /'skɪptʃə/ = písmo svaté, posvátné knihy

sealing of families for eternity /ɪ'tə:nɪti/ = zpečetění rodin na věčnost

Stakes presidents = kůloví prezidenti

teacher = učitel

temple = chrám

The Book of Mormon /'mɔ:mən/ = Kniha Mormonova

The Doctrine and Covenants /'dɒktrɪn 'kʌv(ə)nəntz/ = Kniha nauk a smluv

The Father = Otec

The Holy Bible /'həʊli 'bɪɪb(ə)l/ = Bible

The Holy Spirit = Duch svatý

The Jaredites /'dʒɛədɑɪts/ = Jaredité

The Lamanites /'leɪ.mʌn.aɪt/ = Lamanité

The Nephites /'ni:fartz/ = Nefité

The New Testament = Nový zákon

The Old Testament /'tɛstəm(ə)nt/ = Starý zákon

The Pearl of Great Price = Drahocenná perla

The Plates of Brass /brɑ:s/ = Desky z mosazi

The Plates of Ether /'i:θə/ = Desky Eterovy

The Plates of Mormon = Desky Mormonovy

The Plates of Nephi /'ni:faɪ/ = Desky Nefiovy

The Quorum of the Seventy = Rada sedmdesátníků

The Son = Syn

The Word of Wisdom = Slovo moudrosti

to renounce the practice of polygamy /pə'liɡəmi/ = zřít se praktikování polygamie

Urim and Thummim /'jʊərɪm 'θʌmɪm/ = Urim a Thummim, kameny

Amish /'amɪʃ/

apron = zástěra

baptism /'baptɪz(ə)m/ = křest

belt loops = poutka na pásek

bonnet /'bɒnɪt/ = čepce

braid = cop

broad-brimmed hat = širák

bun /bʌn/ = drdol

cape = pláštěnka, kapuce

collar /'kɒlə/ = límeček

cuff /kʌf/ = manžeta

humility /hju'mɪlɪti/ = skromnost, pokora

non-conformity /nɒn-kən'fɔ:mɪti/ = nepřizpůsobení se

pin = špendlík, sponka

pleat /pli:t/ = puk na kalhotách

shunning /ʃʌnɪŋ/ = odsunutí, ignorace

straight-cut coats without lapels /lə'peɪz/ = rovně střižená saka bez klop

to baptise = pokřtít

to stray /streɪ/ = zbloudit, zavést na scestí

Scientology /saɪə'nɒlədʒi/

animation of the body = živost těla

Auditing /'ɔ:dɪtɪŋ/ = auditing

auditor /'ɔ:dɪtə/ = duchovní

be on the dole /dəʊl/ = pobírat podporu

body = tělo

Clear = čistý, očištěný

defiance /dɪ'fɪəns/ = poklesek

Dianetics /,daɪə'netɪks/ = Dianetika

electromagnetic conduction /ɪ,lektre(ɪ)mæg'nɛtɪk kən'dʌkʃ(ə)n/

= elektromagnetická vodivost

e-meter (electro-psychometer) = e-metr

experience = prožitky

Flag Land Base = Vlajková servisní organizace

heinous crime /'heɪnəs/ = těžký zločin

Internal Revenue Service, IRS = Federální daňový úřad

mind = mysl, rozum

non-profit organisation = nezisková organizace

Operating Thetan, OT = Operující Thétan

perception /pə'seɪʃ(ə)n/ = vjem

Preclear, PC = předočištěný, PC

Religious Technology Center, RTC= Centrum náboženské technologie

Sea Org = Námořní organizace

secrecy /'si:kɹɪsi/ = utajování

shackles /'ʃak(ə)lz/ = okovy, pouta

skin resistance = rezistence kůže

Suppressive person, SP = utlačující osoba

surveillance /sə'veɪl(ə)ns/ = neustálý dozor, kontrola

The Bridge to Total Freedom = Most k naprosté svobodě

Thetan /'θeɪtən/ = nesmrtelná duše

to be exempt from taxes = být osvobozený od daní

to expulse = vyloučit, vyhnat

to interfere /ɪntə'fɪə/ = vměšovat se, obtěžovat

trial /'trɪəl/ = soudní proces

uncertainties /ʌn'sə:t(ə)nti/ = nejasnosti

womb /wu:m/ = mateřské lůno

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13 ABSTRACT

This Bachelor thesis is written in order to introduce to its readers an overview of the religion in the United States of America and briefly introduce five chosen marginal religious groups. This thesis focuses on Neo-paganism and its two main branches Druidry and Wicca, two Christian denominations such as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Amish, and one movement of personal growth or development, Scientology. A part discussed in this thesis is the theme of marginal religious groups used in popular culture and some reports from internet websites, reflecting some problems that can occur in religious communities. In this thesis statistics are analysed. The tables and maps with providing data can be found in the appendices. This thesis is divided into several chapters, with a logical structure and it is written even for readers without any deep knowledge of the theme. The statistic data were used mainly from the internet sources.

14 RESUMÉ

Tato bakalářská práce je napsána za účelem představit svým čtenářům přehled náboženství ve Spojených státech amerických a stručně představit pět vybraných okrajových náboženských skupin. Tato práce se soustředí na novopohanství a jeho dvě hlavní odvětví druidismus a Wiccu, dvě křesťanské denominace, což je Církev Ježíše Krista Svatých posledních dnů a Amišové, a jedno hnutí osobního růstu nebo rozvoje, Scientologii. Jedna část diskutovaná v této práci je tematika okrajových náboženských skupin použitá v populární kultuře a několik zpráv z internetových stránek, odrážející některé problémy, které se mohou objevit v náboženských komunitách. V této práci jsou analyzovány statistiky. Tabulky a mapy poskytující data mohou být nalezeny v přílohách. Tato práce je rozdělena do několika kapitol s logickým uspořádáním a je napsána dokonce i pro čtenáře, kteří nedisponují žádnou hlubší znalostí tohoto tématu. Statistické údaje byly použity zejména z internetových zdrojů.

15 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Overview of the religion in the United States

Appendix 2: Religious Preference in the United States

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Appendix 11: Educational structure of Mormons in the USA

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Appendix 1: Overview of the religion in the United States

Major Religious Traditions in the U.S.	
<i>Among all adults...</i>	
	%
Christian	78.4
Protestant	51.3
<i>Evangelical churches</i>	26.3
<i>Mainline churches</i>	18.1
<i>Hist. black churches</i>	6.9
Catholic	23.9
Mormon	1.7
Jehovah's Witness	0.7
Orthodox	0.6
<i>Greek Orthodox</i>	<0.3
<i>Russian Orthodox</i>	<0.3
<i>Other</i>	<0.3
Other Christian	0.3
Other Religions	4.7
Jewish	1.7
<i>Reform</i>	0.7
<i>Conservative</i>	0.5
<i>Orthodox</i>	<0.3
<i>Other</i>	0.3
Buddhist	0.7
<i>Zen Buddhist</i>	<0.3
<i>Theravada Buddhist</i>	<0.3
<i>Tibetan Buddhist</i>	<0.3
<i>Other</i>	0.3
Muslim*	0.6
<i>Sunni</i>	0.3
<i>Shia</i>	<0.3
<i>Other</i>	<0.3
Hindu	0.4
Other world rel.	<0.3
Other faiths	1.2
<i>Unitarians and other liberal faiths</i>	0.7
<i>New Age</i>	0.4
<i>Native American rel.</i>	<0.3
Unaffiliated	16.1
Atheist	1.6
Agnostic	2.4
Nothing in particular	12.1
<i>Secular unaffiliated</i>	6.3
<i>Religious unaffiliated</i>	5.8
Don't Know/Refused	0.8
	100

Due to rounding, figures may not add to 100 and nested figures may not add to the subtotal indicated.

* From "Muslim Americans: Middle Class and Mostly Mainstream," Pew Research Center, 2007

Source: http://religions.pewforum.org/img/major_religious_traditions.gif, 22. 4. 2015

Appendix 2: Religious Preference in the United States

Religious Preference in the United States

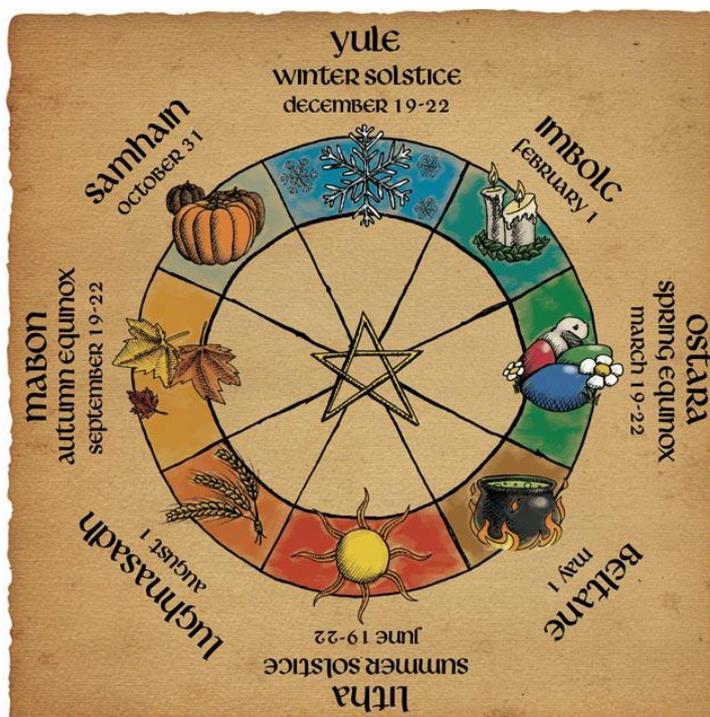
	January-November 2011	January-November 2012
	%	%
Protestant/Other Christian	52.5	51.9
Catholic	23.6	23.3
Mormon	1.9	2.1
Jewish	1.6	1.7
Muslim	0.5	0.6
Other non-Christian	2.4	2.6
No religious identity	15.0	15.6
No response given	2.5	2.2

Gallup Daily tracking

GALLUP®

Source: http://content.gallup.com/origin/gallupinc/GallupSpaces/Production/Cms/POLL/gwatov89_0s9162ebni3qq.gif, 22. 4. 2015

Appendix 3: The Wheel of the Year



Source: <http://www.pacificelements.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/wheeloftheyear.jpg>, 22. 4. 2015

Appendix 4: Overview of Wiccan Sabbats

WICCAN SABBAT	ALT. NAME	ASSOCIATED HOLIDAY	EARTH EVENT	DATE	OCCASION
Samhain		Hallowe'en	15° Scorpio	Oct 31	Pagan New Year, Honouring the Dead, Cleansing and releasing
Yule		Christmas	Winter Solstice	~ Dec 21	Rebirth, Life triumphs over death
Bridgid	Imbolc	Candlemas	15° Aquarius	Feb 2	Purification, Initiation, Dedication
Eostara	Lady Day	Easter	Spring Equinox	~ Mar 21	Conception, Regeneration, New Beginnings
Beltane	May Day	May Day	15° Taurus	May 1	Passion that fuels Life, Joy, Fertility
Litha	Midsummer		Summer Solstice	~ Jun 21	Transition, Planning
Lammas	Lughnasadh	First Harvest	15° Leo	Aug 1	Gratitude, Abundance, Fruition
Mabon		Thanksgiving (Second Harvest)	Autumn Equinox	~ Sep 21	Giving thanks, Reflection

Source: <http://www.wicca-spirituality.com/wiccan-holidays.html>, 22. 4. 2015

Appendix 5: Geographic distribution of Mormons in the USA

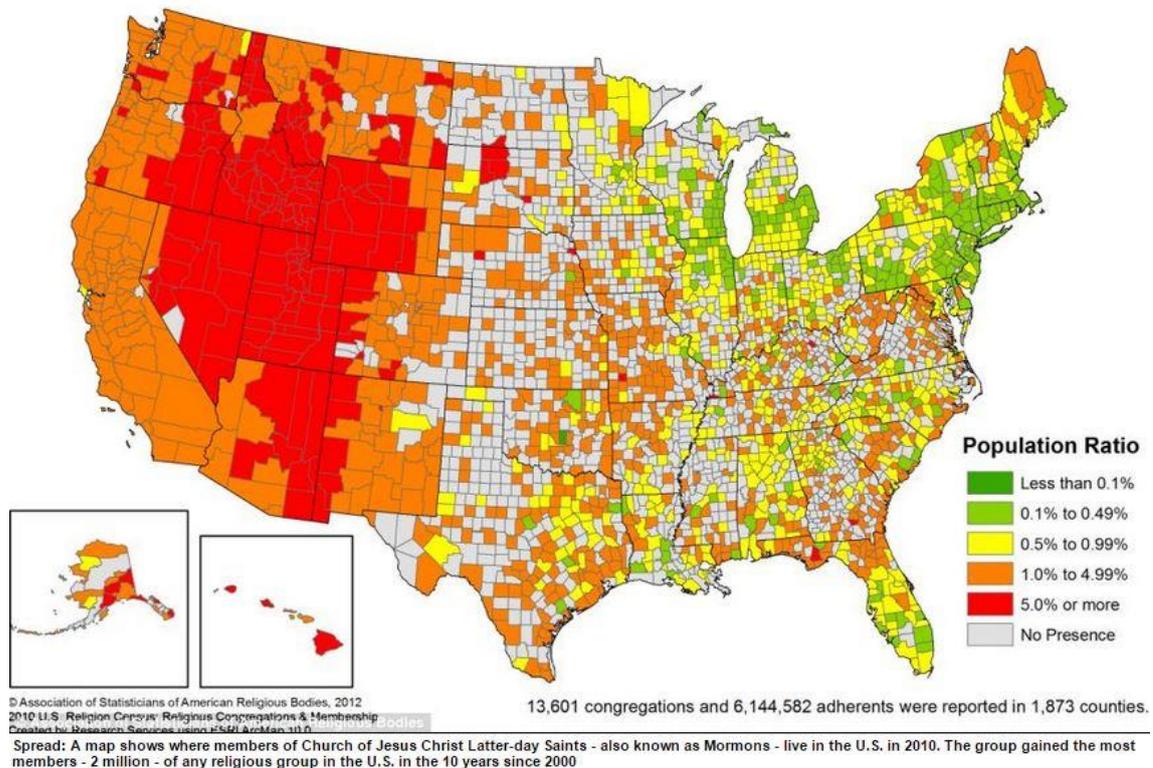
Geographic Distribution in the U.S.		
	Mormons	General Population
	%	%
Northeast	4	19
Midwest	7	23
South	12	36
West	76	22
Utah	35	1
California	13	11
Idaho	7	1
Nevada	5	1
Oregon	4	1
Arizona	4	2
(N)	(581)	(35,556)
Margin of error	4.5%	0.6%

Throughout this report, unless otherwise indicated, the sample size is 581 for Mormons and 35,556 for the general population.

Source: <http://www.pewforum.org/files/2012/07/Mormons2revised.gif>, 22. 4. 2015

Appendix 6: Geographic distribution of Mormons in the USA

Population Penetration, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Adherents in the United States, 2010



Source: <http://i.huffpost.com/gen/615005/thumbs/a-MORMON-PENETRATION-640x468.jpg?4>, 22. 4. 2015

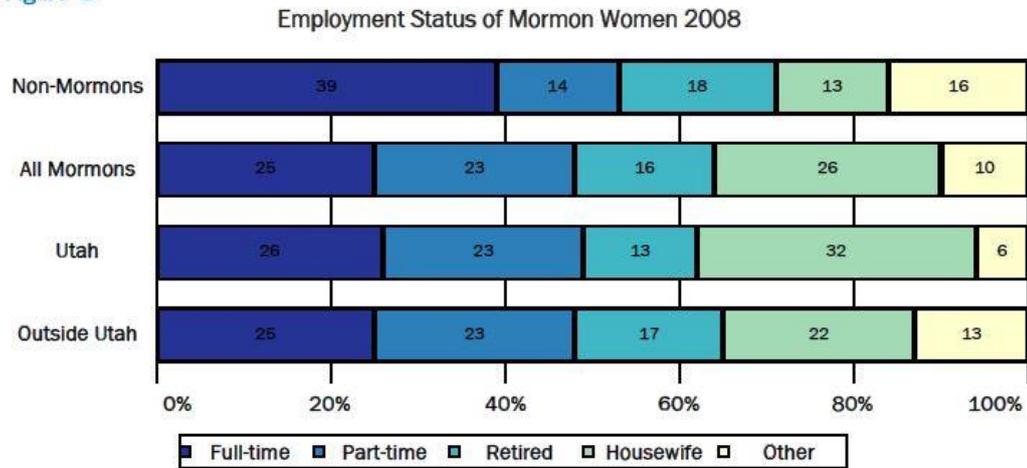
Appendix 7: Age and gender structure of Mormons in the USA

Age and Gender		
	Mormons	General Population
	%	%
Ages 18-29	24	20
30-49	42	39
50-64	19	25
65+	15	16
(N)	(565)	(34,695)
Male	44	48
Female	56	52
(N)	(581)	(35,556)

Source: <http://www.pewforum.org/files/2012/07/Mormons31.gif>, 22. 4. 2015

Appendix 8: Employment Status of Mormon Women 2008

Figure 2



Source: <http://commons.trincoll.edu/arisp/publications/2008-2/mormons-in-the-united-states-1990-2008-socio-demographic-trends-and-regional-differences/>, p. 6. 22. 4. 2015

Appendix 9: Family structure of Mormons in the USA

Family Structure		
	Mormons	General Population
	%	%
Married	71	54
Living w/partner	3	6
Divorced/Separated	9	12
Widowed	5	8
Never married	12	19
(N)	(576)	(35,308)
Spouse has same religion	83	63
Spouse has diff religion*	17	37
(N)	(433)	(22,183)
<i>Number of children at home</i>		
0	51	65
1-2	28	26
3+	21	9
(N)	(581)	(35,556)
*Based on all married respondents and those living with a partner.		

Source: <http://www.pewforum.org/files/2012/07/Mormons4revised.gif>, 22. 4. 2015

Appendix 10: Racial structure of Mormons in the USA

Race, Ethnicity and Nativity		
	Mormons	General Population
	%	%
White, non-Hisp.	86	71
Black, non-Hisp.	3	11
Other non-Hisp.	5	6
Hispanic	7	12
(N)	(571)	(35,101)
U.S.-born	93	88
Foreign-born/Refused	7	12
(N)	(581)	(35,556)

Source: <http://www.pewforum.org/files/2012/07/Mormons5revised.gif>,
22. 4. 2015

Appendix 11: Educational structure of Mormons in the USA

Education and Income		
	Mormons	General Population
	%	%
Less than high school	9	14
High school grad	30	36
Some college	32	23
College grad	18	16
Post grad	10	11
(N)	(578)	(35,298)
<\$29,999	26	31
\$30,000-49,999	21	22
\$50,000-99,999	38	30
\$100K+	16	18
(N)	(512)	(29,435)

Source: <http://www.pewforum.org/files/2012/07/Mormons6.gif>,
22. 4. 2015

