

**ZABRINA COLLINS, 33,
BUSINESSWOMAN,
FROM DONEGAL**

How did you become a Scientologist?

From the age of 11 I had been looking into religions and philosophies. There are many wonderful and interesting religions but somehow I always found something within them I disagreed with. When I was 22, I walked into a Scientology organisation in Sydney, Australia. I read some books and did some courses and I found something I could agree with and that worked for me!

What has Scientology done for you?

Primarily it has given me tools to help other people. I actually always wanted to be a psychiatrist, since I was very small. I went to Queen's University, Belfast, to study psychology, with the idea of becoming a clinical psychologist. I have never been able to help someone with what I have learned on that subject. I have, however, helped hundreds of people with what I have learned, after only a few courses in Scientology counselling. I decided that I would become a volunteer in the Scientology organisation in Dublin because people really need help and I could do that.

Are you more prosperous/intelligent/successful as a result of Scientology?

When I first came into Scientology I was working as an office worker in a large travel company — basically just a cog in a big company. I now have my own very successful company with offices in the city centre. This I attribute to what I have learned in business administration in Scientology and the competence I have gained working as a volunteer in Scientology. I now have a means of financially supporting my family with a lifestyle that far surpasses what I would have had as a general office worker.

Are those who say bad things about Scientology lying?

I think there are definitely people out there that do not want others to get better. Luckily most people are not like that and when they find out what Scientology, is they agree that it is a good thing.

Why is there so much criticism of Scientology and, indeed, Scientologists?

I believe I answered that above.

Is Scientology a cult?

No.

What do you believe as a Scientologist?

What are your beliefs around this world and the next?

I believe that everybody can get better and achieve whatever they want in life.

Do you have any children? Are they Scientologists? How young can you become a Scientologist?

My husband and I have a little eight-year-old girl. She has studied some of the children's courses that are available in Scientology.



They include: *Learning How to Learn, How To Use a Dictionary, Grammar and Communication*, and the *Children's Communication Course*. As you can see, they are all aimed at her school education. I would like my little girl to get the best out of her education and these courses have done that. When she is older, she can decide if she would like to do more in Scientology or not, but that is her decision to make, not mine.

How does Scientology differ from other religions?

The main focus of most religions is spiritual freedom. I believe that you cannot be free if you have to follow a lot of rules, or are forced to believe

something that you don't agree with.

What I like with Scientology is that you can evaluate any data you read and decide if it is true for you or not — and that is absolutely your decision to make. Because of this, Scientology can be used by anybody of any background.

Have you ever given money to Scientology?

Scientology does quite a lot of fund-raising for international disasters like 9/11, the Australian bushfires, the tsunami disaster relief programme and recently the disaster in Japan, which we held a fund-raiser for last week. I make donations to these causes as and when I can.

Why is Scientology so popular among

those in Hollywood, such as John Travolta and Tom Cruise?

Scientology is actually very popular with millions around the world. Because some famous people use Scientology to help them, — and, obviously, it does help as they are excelling in their careers — doesn't mean we all have to be famous.

What is the one thing about Scientology you feel that people would be surprised to learn?

It actually works. It is very practical and does exactly what it says on the tin! Because it addresses life and the problems that life poses, one would think it would take a long time to learn and be very complicated. But Scientology is the simplest study you will ever do.