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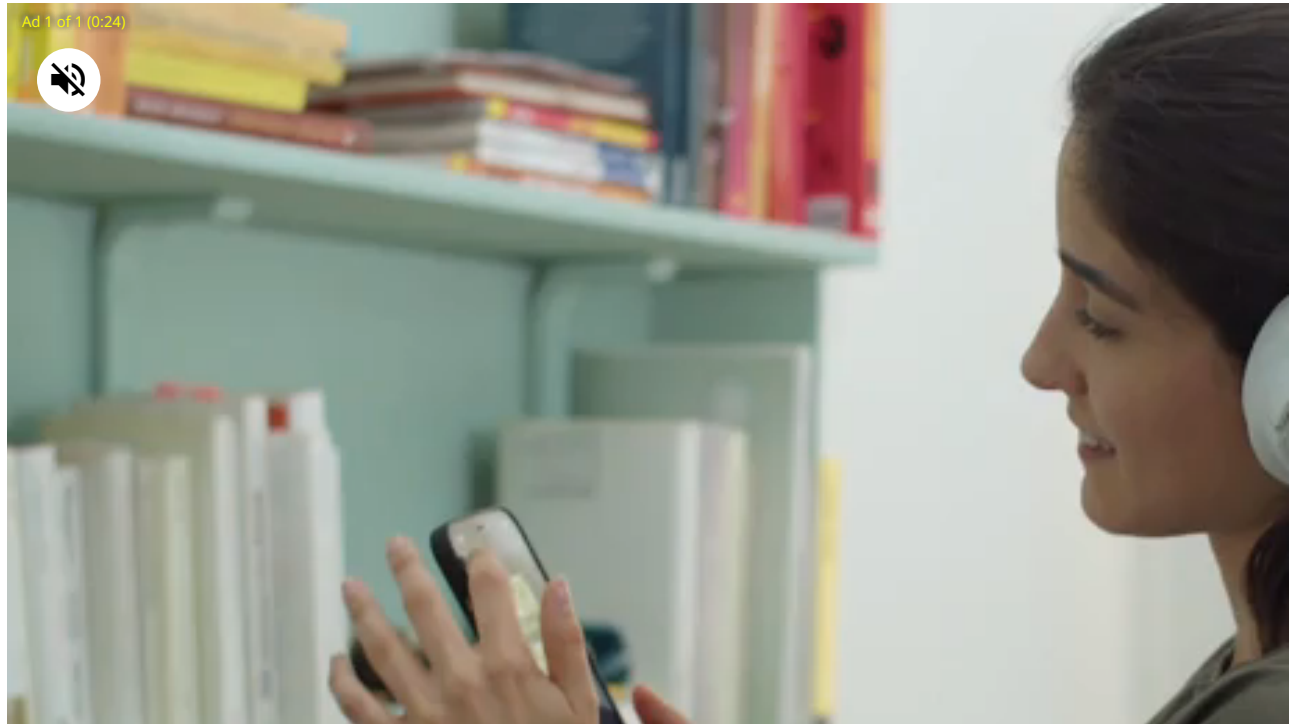
THE 9 SURVIVORS: THEY ALSO LOST MUCH IN THE FLAMES

By New York Times News Service
Chicago Tribune • Apr 21, 1993 at 12:00 am



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WACO, Texas — They gave him their daughters and wives, ate only popcorn and nuts for days on end, and they parted with him only as the flames consumed their home on the Texas prairie.

Little else is known about the nine surviving members of the Branch Davidian sect. But it's enough to begin peering into the relationship between a band of followers and David Koresh, who they are certain was the Messiah.



On Monday, after the sprawling wooden compound was engulfed in flames, one woman with her clothes ablaze resisted a rescuer and tried to re-enter the burning building.

Two of the four burn victims, including 30-year-old Marjorie Thomas, the woman who fought to rejoin the dying Davidians, are in critical condition at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. A third survivor with burns is also at Parkland, and the fourth is at a Waco hospital.

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Five other cult members—all pale, emaciated and stunned—were taken from the McLennan County Jail to the federal courthouse in Waco for preliminary hearings Tuesday.

With handcuffs on their wrists and chains on their ankles, the prisoners, in bright orange jumpsuits, took their places in the courtroom. One, Jaime Castillo, a 24-year-old musician from El Monte, Calif., has been charged with conspiracy to murder federal agents, the most serious charge made so far against any of the survivors. The others are being held as material witnesses.



Castillo, who played drums in Koresh's rock group, joined the cult about 18 months ago, his lawyer, Jeff Kearney, said Tuesday. "He is devastated, very sad, very worried about what's going to happen to him," Kearney said.

Castillo also maintains that federal agents started the fire. "I am satisfied that there was not a mass suicide," Kearney said, but he refused to discuss it further with reporters.

David Thibodeau, 24, who is being held as a material witness, was visibly angry and upset as he appeared before federal Magistrate Dennis Greene. "I'm going through a lot right now," he said.

Thibodeau, who was born in Bangor, Maine, graduated from Bangor High School in 1987 and lived with his mother in Portland and Bangor after his parents were divorced. Thibodeau moved into the compound about 18 months ago and called his uncle, Robert Ganem, about once a month.

"He was very positive about it all, doing what he wanted to do, which was playing music," Ganem said. "He was not very religious. David Thibodeau would not die for Koresh. He told his mother yesterday: 'I didn't do anything wrong. I didn't do anything illegal, and I haven't done anything I am ashamed of.' "

His mother, Belinda Ganem, wept in the courtroom. "It's indescribable, the joy I feel right now," she told The Associated Press. "But 85 to 90 of the closest people in his life are dead, so it's a very difficult joy to celebrate. Families are going through their own personal hell right now."

Graeme Leonard Craddock, 31, a teacher from Australia, and Remos Avrram, 29, from Britain, were also being held as material witnesses.

Chrystella Kyriacou, the sister of Avraam, said on BBC television in London on Tuesday that her brother was "completely brainwashed" by the Branch Davidians. She did not elaborate.

As he entered the courtroom, Avraam blamed federal agents for setting the fire. "The fire was not started by us," he told reporters. "There was no plan for a mass suicide."

Derek Lloyd Lovelock, 37, told the federal magistrate that he had only

four years of education but that he could read and write. Lovelock, who appeared in court with a bandage on his right arm, is also being held as a material witness.

Yvonne Lovelock, a sister who lives in Manchester, England, said on GMTV, a London television station, that she became concerned about her brother some time ago because he had stopped his usual practice of quoting the Bible in letters. "I just felt there was something wrong," she said.

In Dallas, 90 miles north of Waco, Thomas—who tried to re-enter the burning compound—struggled to survive with burns on 50 percent of her body.

Clive Joseph Doyle, 52, also arrived at Parkland in serious condition with second- and third-degree burns on one hand. On Tuesday the hospital upgraded his condition to good.

Doyle survived Monday's inferno, but his 18-year-old daughter, Shari, and several grandchildren apparently did not. Doyle, who did odd jobs around the compound, was one of Koresh's first followers.

Doyle's former wife, Deborah Brown, who left the cult and now lives outside Waco, has told reporters her marriage to Doyle in 1970 was one of convenience arranged by cult leaders. She said she was 16 at the time and that the sole purpose of the union was to provide a legal way for Doyle, an Australian printer, to live in this country.

The Doyles had two daughters, Shari and Karen, who is now 21. Karen has been living in the Branch Davidians' house in LaVerne, Calif. Shari became one of Koresh's "wives" and bore his children.

On Monday night, Karen Doyle blamed federal agents for the fire and said God would seek revenge. "I believe God has everything under control and that he will take care of them," she said. "I mean, those will pay for

what they have done."

Misty Ferguson, 17, of Florida, is in critical condition at Parkland Hospital with second- and third-degree burns on her right arm and face.

The last survivor, Ruth Ellen Ottoman Riddle, 29, of Ottawa, Canada, had joined the cult with her family and married another cult member, Jimmy Riddle. Riddle apparently did not survive the fire. Her mother, Gladys Ottoman, voluntarily left the compound during the 51-day standoff and is now in federal custody here as a material witness.

Riddle is in stable condition at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Hospital in Waco with first- and second-degree burns on less than 5 percent of her body; her shoulders, arms and hands are most severely injured. She also suffered from smoke inhalation and a broken ankle.

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