

Letter 20
Overcoming Masonry
2011-09-18

Dear Dan,

Sometime during my recuperation, very likely in mid 1997, I went to the small store front Church (U4) which I believe you were and maybe still are a part of. I don't remember how I heard about (U4), but I found it somewhat fascinating that one of the co-founders was someone who I had known earlier from the small Jesus People house church (U1) I went to as a kid.

In any event, I remember going to a Sunday night prayer service and there being a time of prayer requests and laying on of hands. I went forward to have the elders lay hands on me and pray. Prior to this time I had been thinking about the various problems and sins in my family, juxtaposing that concept against the scripture that says, "...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation*." (Numbers 14:18).

Now, my two younger brothers and I are generation number four according to that verse, what I call the transitional generation. In fact in my family there is a photographic portrait of sons, each the eldest, each at eight years old. Our Great Grandfather, Grandfather, Father, and Me.

The family story is that our Great Grandfather emigrated from Ireland as a young man, and that he came from a family of criminals and brigands. At least that's what my dad had stated to his sons.

Our grandfather was an alcoholic, and could be verbally abusive to his wife, especially when drunk. But he could also be nice at times. I remembered though something I knew as a child that gives me many clues now as to one of the vectors of evil in our family. Grandpa had an unusual portrait that hung prominently in the dining room. It was strange and fascinating at the same time. It showed a multi-tiered pyramid with various drawings of men ascending up the pyramid. Some seemed to be wearing a sort of hat like a Fez.

And then there was his ring that had the interesting symbol with a diamond in the top middle. It was the Compass and Square symbol of the Freemasons. And the picture? I'm sure now that is was a diagram of the various degrees of Freemasonry and how to attain them. When I went forward for prayer, I remember it was Pastor (CB2) that laid hands on me and prayed. I mentioned something about the verse from Numbers, and that I was generation number four. But he did something interesting. Instead of praying back four generations like I thought he would do, he went back ten.

So, it is the Lord that delivers, even back to the tenth generation.

Blessings...