

Letter 147
The Father's Chastening
2012-10-17

Dear Dan,

In 1983 I obtained employment with (G1), where I worked for seven years, met my wife, and received the "Ghostbusters" balloon. During that time I saw most of the people I knew from the Jesus People Church (U1) marry, have kids, and merge into the world to be salt and light thereto.

But my friend (CB1) never married. Upon returning from Vietnam he started working as a janitor, and did that line of work until just recently when he retired and started getting Social Security. But over the course of that time he was always active with some part of the Body of Christ, especially home fellowships and Bible study groups. He really did (does) have an eldership anointing upon his life.

One of the Bible studies he helped to lead in the mid 1980s was held at a home in Redmond. The house was located on a dairy on property now occupied by the UPS hub. One of the dairymen at the farm got saved and started a home fellowship at the farmhouse that he lived in. He was a biker, and soon many of his biker buddies started attending the meetings and getting saved.

The House Church and its weekly meetings lasted for many years. Because of my close connection with (CB1), and that he and I and many of the house church brethren all frequented the same 24 hour diner (G18) in Redmond, I got to know several of the biker Christians that were part of the Body. At one point in time the Holy Spirit began to convict some of the men in the Home Church about rebellion in their hearts. The Lord wanted them to cut their hair, which was long. Most did. But one, who also worked on the farm, did not, and said at one of the meetings that he would not cut his hair.

One day not long after his statement, that same Brother was out in one of the pastures with a tractor. The tractor had a power-take-off shaft at the rear. He went to check on a noise or something on the spinning shaft, and while he leaned over to get a closer look, his hair began to wrap around the shaft. Part of his hair and scalp was removed rather forcefully at that time.

Later, after his scalp had mostly healed, I saw the same brother at (G18), and since his hair was a lot shorter than the last time I saw him, I asked what happened. That's when he told me his true story, which I have now documented. It reminds me a little of the story in Acts of Ananias and Sapphira. Just not quite as lethal.

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus