

Letter 456
Shakespeare's Van
2016-03-28

Dear Dan,

In 1997, sometime after receiving my settlement, and before returning to work, (M) and I took a trip to the Medford, Oregon area. We stayed in a motel in Medford, but the purpose of our trip was to accompany (M)'s uncle Ray to Ashland, just a few miles away, where he had a lifetime pass to the Ashland Shakespearean Theater.

We caravanned down in cars along with (P5) and his Wife, and (M)'s Mom and Dad. Three vehicles in all. We had already purchased tickets to see our chosen plays. I saw King Lear, and Timon of Athens.

I think we stayed in Medford for at least three nights, after which it had been decided from previous planning that (M) and her mom would drive down to (L3) in our Intrepid to visit (M)'s sister and her family. (M)'s Dad and I would drive his car back home. We had our little dog, Asta, with us, but at this point I don't remember if she went with (M) or back home with me.

The evening before we were all to get ready to leave, before dinner, I took Asta outside for a bit of a walk. There was a rather large parking lot to the rear of the motel. Across the parking lot from the motel was what appeared to be an abandoned strip mall, so the parking lot was vacant, except for a van that was parked in one of the stalls. I remember it was an older, brown full size Chevy or Dodge van.

We returned to the motel room, and I put Asta in her portable kennel, then (M) and I walked over to the close-by restaurant for dinner.

After waking the next morning, I let Asta out of her kennel and got ready to take her outside for her morning walk.

We walked out to the same area, and while Asta was sniffing around on her leash, I noticed the same van parked in the same spot as the night before. But this time both side doors were opened, and a young woman, who appeared to be in her twenties, was sitting on the edge of the floor.

I got an idea at that point. I had in my pocket either a "Jesus Loves You" pen, or a business card with the same message. So I walked up to the lady with my little dog, offered her the pen or card, and said:

"THIS IS FOR YOU".

While I was doing this, I noticed a young man sitting inside the rear of the van, shrouded in shadow. The Lady said "thank you" with a smile as she received the gift, and Asta and I

walked away.

As soon as I got back to the motel room, another idea occurred to me. I looked in the phone book yellow pages, and found and wrote down the names and addresses of about four or five local Churches.

My thought was that maybe I could get one or more of the churches to minister to the couple in the van. So, when Asta and I got home from the trip, I typed up a letter to the Churches in the Medford area, and sent them with next day post delivery.

But all the way on the drive home, I had the strangest thing happen to me.

I became sexually aroused, with no apparent reason. I don't have a problem with lust, nor had I been thinking about my wife, nor had I taken in any adult entertainment shows or pornography. But all the way home, riding and sometimes driving with my father-in-law in his van, I had to practice a whole lot of self control.

This didn't just go away. I continued to have this, uh, problem, until after (M) got back home. So I dealt with it as best I could, under the circumstances.

Now here is the interesting part.

Much later, after I met angels Gabe and Gabriella, Gabe informed me that the couple in the van was in fact themselves, in human form.

When Gabe told me that I began to wonder why the Lord took to such a maneuver. Especially since I sent letters to churches that didn't even know who I was, asking them to visit a couple in a van I couldn't guarantee would even be there.

On the trip home I speculated on who the couple were. A homeless family? Honeymooners on vacation? A prostitute and her pimp? I really didn't have a clue.

And on many levels I am still scratching my head.

P. S. At the time I was writing and sending the letters to the Churches in the Medford/Ashland area, The Gift of Knowledge informed me that the Lord was going to use this as a means to build unity in the Churches.

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus