

I wish for the letter to be published in it's entirety as I believe my life may be at risk and I believe the context lends support to it's veracity.

As the some of the events happened almost 30 years ago and the exact minute, hour, day and week may not be perfect... they all preceded Martin Richling's incarceration for corruption.

For the record I believe brother Phelps is a saved man. I fundamentally disagree with some of his interpretations and application of the Bible. Truth be told I align myself with Richling's but not his execution of those truth's. Some of the beliefs Martin espouses I taught him.

Again these events followed his salvation and preceded his incarceration where he claims his "salvation"!

I met Martin at the Shorewood Bible Church around 1985. I was disheartened by the legalism I encountered in a Baptist church I joined after my salvation... April 1, 1980. I started to find the truth not in legalism but in grace. It led me to meeting Charles Richard Jordan at the Chicago based Berean Bible Society. He had been called up from the south to be the next President of the Society. While up here he acted as the interim pastor at Shorewood till one could be chosen.

I met Martin who at the time was a night security guard, he had been recently saved because his uncle had consistantly challenged his Roman Catholic beliefs. Finally the Lord broke him down and he trusted Christ death as payment for his sin.

Martin had been married twice prior his salvation, one resulted in a child he completely walked away from (this will happen again after his salvation an just pre his incarceration)

I met Martin one Wednesday night at Bible study and hit it off. Martin was outgoing and extremely charismatic. His job (behind a desk) allowed him plenty of time to read through his KJV as his job was at night.

He and I grew to become friends. Our conversations were mainly Biblical in nature. One evening I remembered learning that in the KJV that the middle book, the middle chapter the middle verse middle 2 words are "the Lord" AMAZING!!!

Being an Acts 9 dispensational church I joked with him saying "Your not going to believe what the middle word in Paul's epistles" (not book, chapter, verse, words were) he spent nearly 3 hours counting words before I called him back to tell him it was a joke. He was truly a devoted saved Bible believer.

During our stay at Shorewood Martin had written numerous salvation tracks, had led many folks to Christ. From roughly 1986-88 our church would spend a Saturday passing out tracks and street preaching. It was during this time that we came across a tract that

Jordan ok'ed that was passed out which was a Lordship salvation tract. The young man which brought it forward (who was fairly new to Grace but had a zeal for souls was shocked when he really saw what the tract said.) This young man would eventually step forward marry, and adopt the the 3 children Martin would marry and sire and abandon later.

Martin tired of his job with security and came to work for me. I was a painting contractor studying for the ministry. He worked for me for roughly 7 months. Towards the end a new pastor was found for Shorewood. Jordan was going to need all his resources for the Berean Bible society. Jordan would need a assistant. Martin had continued to grow in his knowledge of the KJV and grace.

Richard Jordan was a strong proponent for the Mid-Acts (which I believe is correct) and KJV(which I believe is preserved...not inspired). There was a "revolt" in the Mid-Acts movement away from the KJV only stand at the Bible Society and it's financial supporters. Martin overheard a compromise struck between the then presiding president C.R. Stam and the soon to be Richard Jordan to cut back on the KJV rhetoric. The proof was evidenced in a Sept..Oct..Nov. 1988 Berean Searchlight Magazine where Jordan compromised his KJV stance that it was "adequate" (sufficient for the purpose) (really...God's word sufficient or super abounding). To his credit Martin called Jordan on it with folks at conferences and at Shorewood that Jordan had to make a descision. To his great credit... Jordan chose the truth. They both lost their jobs and curiously... The Berean Bible Society has expunged that period of history from their Society. If you dig hard enough... you'll find what I'm saying is the truth.

My wife at the time had a best friend whom we introduced to Martin. They soon wed and in time had 3 lovely daughters, 2 of them twins. After his dismissal from the Berean Bible Society his wife through connections her father knew got him a job as a policeman in Melrose Park. He had been training his Rottweiler Boris. He was able to incorporate him into his job. He began training on the side. It was during this time he began training my neighbor's Akida. It was during this period of time that Martin started fornicating with my neighbor's girl friend. It was discovered and culminated in a plan to run off with her and desert this family. I don't remember what stopped it but his wife forgave him and they went on. While on the force he told me of the corruption there and that he had been approached by the FBI to be a snitch. He refused. His brother-in-law was also on the force... a genuinely good guy. After several years I noticed a change in him. He wasn't speaking about the Bible nor giving the Gospel out as much. He started purchasing things a "new" cop couldn't afford. I found out later he'd (through his job) had met and fornicated with over 50 women some to get out of tickets. He'd also been shaking down traffic stops, in particular illegals. on Friday... payday. He said they didn't like banks so they would keep large amounts of cash either on them or at home. He said he could spot them driving because they had on cowboy hats. When the money was exchanged no words were exchanged for he feared wires. A gesture... rubbing his thumb across his fingers.

Towards the end he started fornicating with one of the cops wives. Several of the

shakedowns went bad and he and his partner were busted. During this time he moved in with this girls and left his wife and kids. The husband of the wife he now was with testified against him... Martin confided in me later he wasn't... Poetic Justice... he got immunity. He was rightly convicted and was jailed. Not sure if he married this new girl but after he went to prison she left him.

There were many things I left out for brevity sake as this isn't the easiest thing to do drudging up the past. These are all true.

Steve Bruni