

*An Attempt to Mend a Broken Network
& Save the Cause of Christ from Reproach*

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Tommy Shelton's "Confession" to One of His Victims

[The best way for Tommy to confess and to display genuine repentance would be to do exactly what he was asked to do by May of 2003:

"A full disclosure of all victims and details should be made to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (Investigator Kevin Skurat, 618-435-8187). This disclosure should include pertinent incidences in other states as well as in other jurisdictions in Illinois in addition to Franklin County.

"Tommy should cooperate in the placement of his name and pertinent information on appropriate sex offenders lists, as the law may require in the state of his residence or in Illinois."

Failure to follow these simple, practical, and reasonable suggestions would suggest that there is still an unresolved problem.

Still, we do have in our possession the following "confession" by Tommy Shelton that must be considered. Is it a genuine confession? Or is it yet another attempt at manipulating a victim into silence by suggesting that the victim is a homosexual, thus keeping the victim from coming forward for fear that his own character might be brought into disrepute?

A victim of child molestation has provided us a critique of Tommy's "confession," which we provide on a separate page.]

Tommy's Confession

----- Original Message -----

From: [Seventh alleged victim to come forward in Illinois]
Subject: FW: Re: Hello
Date: Mon, 08 Jan 2007 17:24:24 +0000

It is with great heaviness of heart that I forward this email. Please be very conscientious about its use. I hope this can help bring a resolution to the horrible situation at hand.

From: "Tommy Shelton"
To: [Seventh alleged victim to come forward in Illinois]
Subject: Re: Hello
Date: Mon, 13 Jun 2005 20:53:09 -0500

Hi *****,

I received your e-mail a couple of days ago. I guess you sent it longer ago than that, but I am not home several days a week. It sounds like you are doing what makes you the happiest - being involved in Gospel music.

*****, I have spent the last several years trying to straighten my life out. As you well know, I had a big problem and should have gotten help years ago or got out of the ministry. To be honest, I really didn't know that I needed help then, but of course I know now. At the time, I knew that I loved God and wanted to help people, but my problem always got in the way.

You will remember that before I went to D.C. I apologized to you and told you that I wanted to make a new start and I have been trying to do that ever since. I've been honest with my wife, whom I almost destroyed with what I did.

I have been honest with her that some inappropriate things happened between you and me - all my fault - and I also told her that you resisted every attempt that I ever made. You and I both know that is true. I know now that I took advantage of how much you cared for me, and I am shocked that you will even speak to me.

Because of what I have done to Carol, you and others, it is not good for me or you to try to rekindle a friendship. Please understand, the last thing I want to do is hurt you more. I've hurt you enough for a life time. I'm sure that you have felt that I have abandoned you, and you are right, that was part of my sickness - run when things got hot. For all of this, ***** , I am so sorry.

If it would help you with some of the hurt you have experienced, Carol and I are both willing to sit and talk to you. Although Carol was very hurt at you for several years for continuing to be friends with me when you knew she didn't want us together, she too has been working on finding healing and has forgiven us both. Naturally she could never be comfortable with me having a one on one friendship with any one from the past, she is willing, however, to do what ever she can to help if you may be still carrying some scars from my relationship with you.

Carol may possibly write to you too, just letting you know that we do care what happens to you and if there is anything we can do together to help, or help make things right, we are willing to do. If you need to ask her anything, we share the same e-mail account.

I do thank you for the many years that you were a friend to me. I loved your mother deeply and cared for all of your family. It is unbelievable that I could make such a mess out of everything. I hope you can someday find it in your heart to forgive me - I am really trying to do right.

Tommy

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