

July 29, 2007

Dear Norm,

I am writing to thank you for the anointing you put on my life more than three decades ago. I was in my 20's then I don't think you realize what you did for me.

I was young, inexperienced, and afraid. I had no confidence and no training and no knowledge. I had desire but really nothing else. I know you knew all this and therefore it is all the more remarkable that you befriended me and took up my cause.

You were the first one who believed in me. You were the first one who affirmed me. You were the first one who gave me a chance. You were the first one who modeled Christ following for me. You were the first one who showed me what sacrificial service looked like. You were the first one who lived a love for ministry in front of me. You were the first one who encouraged me to press on in ministry. You were the first man I saw who loved ministry more than money. You were the first man I knew who had great zeal for God and for His work and for His people. You were the first man I knew who loved lost people and made great sacrifices for them. You were the first guy who modeled selflessness for me—it was clear to me that personal fame and advancement were not in your heart.

In short Norm, you anointed me when I needed it desperately.

My only regret is that I did not write this before you died. This is my fault and I apologize for it.

I wish I could have been at your funeral. My sister said the line of cars going to the graveyard was more than a mile long. Years later I was in the courthouse and saw an aerial photo taken at dusk of your funeral procession. Pastor Norm, the cars with their headlights stretched from the graveyard back into town. It was a big-city traffic jam on a gravel road that usually got 8 cars a day. It was a testimony to how well you were loved and how many people you had helped. It was a visual declaration that I am not the only one you anointed.

Thank you my friend. You really helped me. You were the very first person who ever anointed me. I was 28 years old and needed that anointing desperately. God bless you for it.

Your grateful protégé,

Dave