

Harold Bennett removed from ministry and Parma convention

Jun 14

Harold Bennett has been asked to leave the Parma convention grounds and removed from the work, due to decades of grooming behavior toward young men. Harold has labored in Montana, Oregon, and Idaho. He was the overseer of Oregon and South Idaho for a number of years.

Concerns were taken to senior leadership in the surrounding area years ago;. Known conversations happened in the 90s and early 2010s.

Leadership addressed included Harold Bennett himself, Dean Bruer in Montana (recently exposed for numerous incidents of sexual abuse of children and adults), Mark Huddle (recently removed from the work due to numerous allegations of child sexual abuse), and Dale Shultz (currently facing legal ramifications for alleged mishandling of child sexual abuse allegations).

Harold was removed from the oversight around 2013 and the decision was made he would no longer be with young coworkers, but grooming behavior continued .

After the revelation of Dean and Mark came to light, this issue was brought again to Doyle Smith and surrounding overseers. More conversations were had, and the decision was ultimately made to remove Harold from the work.

Harold Bennett has also had a long history of several alleged cover-ups of child sexual abuse.

Attached is one public example. The article is from 21 August, 1996, p 3A- Cottage Grove Sentinel (Cottage Grove, Oregon).

We do not know if Harold will be attending fellowship meetings in the future.

****This information has been collected and compiled by Abbi Prussack and Kari Hanks****

All statements are true to the best of our knowledge, although some inaccuracies may exist due to lapses in communication. You may want to confirm details with your local workers.

Woman accuses sect of ignoring abuse

■ *Former member
plasters Saginaw
convention with fliers*

MARK BOWDER
Sentinel Editor

A religious sect's annual gathering in Saginaw this month is being met with claims from a Springfield woman that group leaders turned a blind eye to her sexual abuse.

Rebecca Ginestar, a former member of the little-known Christian sect that calls itself "the Truth," said she was repeatedly molested while growing up by a member of the organization.

No charges have been brought against Ginestar's alleged abuser — she says she had kept silent so long the statute of limitations has expired — but she said she has been pressing

leaders in the group to discipline the member and alert others to his alleged tendencies.

"I believe it's my moral obligation to warn parents and grandparents about this," said Ginestar. "My main goal here is I want children protected."

Ginestar said she has met with group leaders and presented them with a possible policy for handling such cases in the future, but made little headway. She said Harold Bennett, the sect official responsible for the group's activities throughout Oregon, did not attend the meeting.

The proposed policy included requirements that group officials pass on reports of molestation and incest

to legal authorities and press for those responsible to repent and confess to their victims and fellow members, provide restitution to victims and their families and submit to counseling.

Ginestar, who left the group in January and is writing a book about her experiences, also posted fliers with the photo of her alleged molester around the Saginaw farm where the group is holding an annual convention. She said the fliers were removed as quickly as they were posted.

Bennett, contacted by phone at the convention site, had little to say about Ginestar and her activities.

"That person has been causing us a lot of difficulties, so we're not interested in anything connected to her," Bennett said. "I wouldn't care to comment on it. She has a problem. We're not interested in any kind of article or any kind of association with her."

Bennett then said, "thank you very much," and hung up.



Ginestar