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BlackSDA _ 3ABN _ Money, Money, Money

Posted by: sister Oct 18 2006, 08:49 PM

For the last few years Danny has made and continues to make the following statement, "I receive the same salary as a pastor."

Well, lets do some research on this subject. All of the following figures come from copies of IRS records that can be found on the internet for non-profit organizations.

In 2003 Danny received a salary of **\$53,695.00**, not including perks.

In 2004 Danny received a salary of **\$59,294.00**, not including perks.

In 2005 Danny's salary jumped to **\$70,944.00**, not including perks. That is quite a substantial leap. At the time he was still stating that he receives the same salary as a pastor. I am sure we have pastors on BSDA who could confirm the facts about salary levels. What is the base salary for an SDA pastor?

Now taking into consideration Danny's salary history of 2003-2005, I wonder what he is paying himself in 2006 and which pastor's salary he is comparing his salary with at this time? Of course most pastors do not have company supplied private jets at their disposal...

Now I do not question the right of Danny to choose to give himself any salary he desires, but the facts do not correspond with his statement. I believe that could be considered an example of *purposeful deceit* or what some folks call a *bold faced lie*. If this is indeed *purposeful deceit*, than in what other areas is Danny willing to "bend" the truth to serve his own purposes?

Taking into consideration the president of the Illinois Conference is on the 3ABN board, I am sure that he could supply Danny with the facts concerning the current salary of a pastor. Or perhaps I am wrong? Are SDA pastor's receiving a base salary of \$70,944.00 and raising each succeeding year?

Just a small point to chew on while waiting for PrincessDrRe to share some fried meaty bits...

Posted by: sister Oct 18 2006, 09:45 PM

The next highest paid salary at 3ABN is for Larry Ewing. His name is probably new for most of you, he is the head of the accounting department for 3ABN and is also a member of the board. His wife is also a paid employee of 3ABN.

In 2004 Larry Ewing's salary was **\$60,729.00**

In 2005 Larry Ewing's salary was **\$68,365.00**

I wonder what his salary is for 2006?

Posted by: sister Oct 19 2006, 11:35 AM

What about Mollie Steenson? Her husband Hal also works in the pastoral department of 3ABN.

Her salary for 2004 was **\$44,166.00** for secretarial work.

In 2005, after Linda was removed from 3ABN, Mollie received a substantial raise with a salary of **\$56,729.00**

I wonder what she is getting paid in 2006?

Posted by: tall73 Oct 19 2006, 12:03 PM

I don't know what Danny made, or what he claimed.

But I can speak to the pastoral issue, being a pastor.

Some of the pay is actually mileage, which is reimbursing an expense.

At the upper end it can cost up to 60 k to keep a pastor in the field--that is the cost to the organization. It would include things like mileage, health insurance, retirement, help with tuition at schools, continuing education etc.

Those are just the figures we heard at one of our constituency sessions. There was no breakdown of the numbers.

If you count just salary (since this was comparing without perks) and take out the mileage, it is around 45-46 k gross salary or so looking at my pay statement.

It is also interesting that pastors are considered to be self employed by the IRS, even though in the case of Adventist pastors we are not really. So we pay both sides of the Social Security tax as well. So that takes out an additional 7.65 percent or so.

There is also adjustment to the base for cost of living in some areas, etc.

As to raising every year, the GC does vote cost of living raises around once a year. However, not all conferences have the money on hand to actually give the raise. So you may or may not get a regular raise, but usually there is a small percentage every year.

Posted by: Clay Oct 19 2006, 12:42 PM

I don't begrudge anyone their money... and I am surprised at how low that figure is for Danny and others.... had you listed 6 figures for Danny then maybe, but they aren't making a whole lot..... as Tall pointed out when you include taxes or whatever its not as much as you think.....

The perks are a different issue..... but again, its his business to run as he wishes.... if people don't like it then they need to speak with their actions....

Posted by: simplysaved Oct 19 2006, 01:10 PM

I agree here. People SHOULD get paid well in the ministry....I like the way Joyce Meyers put it when she began her ministry. She told God and then her employees that they would be paid salaries comparable to what they would make in Corporate America.

If you are Abraham's Seed because of accepting Christ, you may not be called to be a millionaire, but you certainly do not have to be "broke" either.

Posted by: watchbird Oct 19 2006, 01:34 PM

QUOTE(simplysaved @ Oct 19 2006, 01:10 PM)

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Perhaps the real question is not how 3abn executives' salaries compares to SDA ministers' salaries.... but how do the salaries of the rank and file workers at 3abn compare with those of the top executives.

Posted by: seeshell Oct 19 2006, 02:27 PM

Yes, if the employees are expected to work for "sacrificial" salaries, it would seem only fair that the top brass participate as well or else raise the employees' wages. \$50,000 - \$70,000 may not be extremely high, but it's not exactly "sacrificial" either. It's considerably more than my husband and I make.

I would be interested to know what the going wage is for a 3ABN employee not in the top echelons.

At the same time, I agree...if I were an employee unable to make it on 3ABN wages, I would be looking for other employment and let my feet do the talking!

Posted by: simplysaved Oct 19 2006, 03:16 PM

Believe it or not....the SDA Presidents of the LOCAL CONFERENCES make a SIGNIFICANTLY higher salary than the local pastor at your church.

The bigger issue is what do the employees AGREE to work for....if their paycheck says something different, then that is something to be about ready to (in the Spirit of course) about.

QUOTE(watchbird @ Oct 19 2006, 01:34 PM)

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Posted by: calvin Oct 19 2006, 03:40 PM

QUOTE(watchbird @ Oct 19 2006, 02:34 PM)

Perhaps the real question is not how 3abn executives' salaries compares to SDA ministers' salaries.... but how do the salaries of the rank and file workers at 3abn compare with those of the top executives.

I am chairperson of a nonprofit organization and serve on the Compensation Committee. We are members of the National Council of Nonprofit Associations. <http://www.ncna.org/>

We use the NCNA annual compensation survey results as a guide to ensure we are in line with the market. Below is from the 2006 Nonprofit Organizations Compensations Survey for the Midwest (Nebraska, Iowa, MN), for Executive Directors/ President / Chief Executive Officer

Category - Number of Employees:

51 to 160

Avg. Salary 112,499, Low Salary 68,681, Median Salary 110,000, High Salary 165,880

Category - 2007 Estimated Budget in Dollars

6,000,000 and greater

avg. Salary 113,583, Low Salary 65,000, Median Salary 105,000, High Salary 165,880

So Danny's salary is low, underpaid according to his peers but then most Nonprofit CEO's don't fly around in private jets either.

Posted by: tall73 Oct 19 2006, 04:45 PM

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I know that their mileage is handled differently and there is a small raise, but I am wondering if you have some numbers on that. I don't recall it being that much higher.

Posted by: princessdi Oct 19 2006, 05:07 PM

Yeah, I have been watching this one. I ain't mad at all about Danny's salary. Whatever we think of his methods, he built the ministry from ground up. He talks about his salary because as Adventist, we really want our pastors and leaders to " receive their blessing in heaven" so to speak. So to say that he takes a meager salary, was inessence tickling our ears, it was pleasing. Fact is, he can and deserves a much higher salary. Even though he does it with little or intergrity, it takes a lot to build a ministry, and it is a more than fulltime position.

Yes, I was talking to an former conference President not long ago about this. I think it is a little

higher, and they get a few more perks, but it is not that much higher. In a failed attempt to discourage those who are called from those who just came, we have "modest" salaries.

QUOTE(tall73 @ Oct 19 2006, 02:45 PM) □

I know that their mileage is handled differently and there is a small raise, but I am wondering if you have some numbers on that. I don't recall it being that much higher.

Posted by: sister Oct 19 2006, 05:33 PM

QUOTE(watchbird @ Oct 19 2006, 02:34 PM) □

Perhaps the real question is not how 3abn executives' salaries compares to SDA ministers' salaries... but how do the salaries of the rank and file workers at 3abn compare with those of the top executives.

Good question. Many of the 3ABN employees receive minimum wages or just slightly more. Danny also stated that he is disappointed that more of these employees do not donate more financially to 3ABN. If you compare the sacrificial salaries of the rank and file, to the privileged few, it takes on a different perspective.

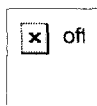
Posted by: watchbird Oct 19 2006, 05:50 PM

QUOTE(sister @ Oct 19 2006, 07:33 PM) □

Good question. Many of the 3ABN employees receive minimum wages or just slightly more. Danny also stated that he is disappointed that more of these employees do not donate more financially to 3ABN. If you compare the sacrificial salaries of the rank and file, to the privileged few, it takes on a different perspective.

Do you have any figures in what "minimum wages" translates into in terms of the amount of their gross paychecks? I'm not even sure what minimum wage currently is, but I am sure it would be stated in amount per hour. Do employees actually punch a time clock? Or do they receive a stated amount per week or per month? And if the latter, about how many hours are they expected work per week?

Posted by: caribbean sda Oct 19 2006, 06:01 PM

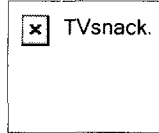


The 3ABN Phoenix has arisen from the proverbial ashes...



I now return you to

your regularly scheduled program



Posted by: Freedom Oct 20 2006, 08:21 AM

QUOTE(seeshell @ Oct 19 2006, 03:27 PM)

Yes, if the employees are expected to work for "sacrificial" salaries, it would seem only fair that the top brass participate as well or else raise the employees' wages. \$50,000 - \$70,000 may not be extremely high, but it's not exactly "sacrificial" either. It's considerably more than my husband and I make.

I would be interested to know what the going wage is for a 3ABN employee not in the top echelons.

At the same time, I agree...if I were an employee unable to make it on 3ABN wages, I would be looking for other employment and let my feet do the talking!

The pay for other 3abn employees is low, very low for comparable work done in corporate America. Some employees are paid such low wages they qualify for WIC, reduced rates on telephone service and electrical bills!

Yet, 3ABN management can keep taking such huge pay raises each yr. and tell the other employees that it's "a ministry for the Lord". That 3abn doesn't have lots of money.

UMM, the figures speak for themselves!

Lets, throw out another pay issues at 3abn: what about not giving equal pay for the same position/job title because of ones gender?

QUOTE(calvin @ Oct 19 2006, 04:40 PM)

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So Danny's salary is low, underpaid according to his peers but then most Nonprofit CEO's don't fly around in private jets either.

Wow and to know that some 3abn employees were paid under \$24,000.00 a yr!

Posted by: Brother Sam Oct 20 2006, 09:09 AM

Under \$24,000!!!

How about under \$15,000 a year!

Posted by: sister Oct 20 2006, 11:37 AM

QUOTE(Brother Sam @ Oct 20 2006, 10:09 AM)

Under \$24,000!!!

How about under \$15,000 a year!

Around \$15,000 or less is closer to what the majority of 3ABN employees make per year.

Posted by: caribbean sda Oct 20 2006, 11:40 AM

QUOTE(Brother Sam @ Oct 20 2006, 11:09 AM)

Under \$24,000!!!

How about under \$15,000 a year!

How does one survive on \$15,000 per annum...I imagine it's rather difficult...

Posted by: sister Oct 20 2006, 12:25 PM

QUOTE(caribbean sda @ Oct 20 2006, 12:40 PM)

How does one survive on \$15,000 per annum...I imagine it's rather difficult...

It is more than difficult, especially for those with kids, in fact it is impossible. That's why there are families at 3ABN on welfare programs, they shop at the Goodwill and the Dollar store; while Danny pays himself and his cronies well, including perks that the rank and file never get. Danny lives in

luxury and flies around in his private jet, while his workers live in unnecessary poverty. The workers live sacrificially, so Danny, Mollie and selected others can live high on the hog. I do not think this is what God intended...or is there any way that Danny's excesses can be justified in the sight of Heaven. Sooner or later the gravy train will stop, once donors realize where so much of their money is ending up...in the deep pockets of Danny and his cronies.

Posted by: SandyColorado Oct 20 2006, 12:37 PM

Does anyone know if Brandy is still on the payroll and how much she makes a year? If so, what does she do to earn this money?

Posted by: Panama_Pete Oct 20 2006, 12:49 PM

QUOTE(sister @ Oct 20 2006, 12:25 PM)

It is more than difficult, especially for those with kids, in fact it is impossible. That's why there are families at 3ABN on welfare programs, they shop at the Goodwill and the Dollar store; while Danny pays himself and his cronies well, including perks that the rank and file never get. Danny lives in luxury and **flies around in his private jet, while his workers live in unnecessary poverty.** The workers live sacrificially, so Danny, Mollie and selected others can live high on the hog. I do not think this is what God intended...or is there any way that Danny's excesses can be justified in the sight of Heaven. Sooner or later the gravy train will stop, once donors realize where so much of their money is ending up...in the deep pockets of Danny and his cronies.

This is the only place I've found that mentions an "hourly cost" for flying a private jet plane, like the one you mentioned here.

The following posting is about *The Tulsa Airmen and Their Magnificent Flying Machines*. They use the word "Tulsa" because the "private jet" phenomenon mentioned is part of the Pentecostal - Charismatic culture that seems to emanate from there.

<http://wittenburgdoor.com/archives/airmen.html>

"With the high cost of jet fuel and the cost of regular FAA inspections, typical operating cost runs between \$2,000 and \$3,500 per hour."

I would have to suspect this knowledge would have a crippling effect on the morale of the typical employee working for sacrificial wages.

Posted by: Panama_Pete Oct 20 2006, 01:03 PM



QUOTE(sister @ Oct 20 2006, 11:37 AM)

Around \$15,000 or less is closer to what the majority of 3ABN employees make per year.

Perhaps you could mention that 3ABN retirement plan for the employees' old age.

I heard there was none. Is that correct?

Posted by: Clay Oct 20 2006, 01:47 PM

 you not paying me much, there is no reason for me to stay... especially when I see you living large and in charge.... where is the common sense? Rule one..... if a job is stressing you, quit, find something else.... don't complain, make a plan to escape.... 

Posted by: sister Oct 20 2006, 01:52 PM

QUOTE(Panama_Pete @ Oct 20 2006, 02:03 PM)

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
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The retirement plan for 3ABN workers is as follows:

You work as hard as humanly possible to get out the good news of Jesus Christ and you get on your knees and pray whole heartedly that Jesus comes before you are old enough to retire, other wise you will have to depend upon the mercy of the Lord to deliver your daily food by raven as he did for a prophet or you are going to starve. There is no retirement plan for the average 3ABN worker.

Posted by: caribbean sda Oct 20 2006, 02:26 PM

QUOTE(Clay @ Oct 20 2006, 03:47 PM)

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...that's what I'm trying to understand. If I am being paid next to nothing and my bosses are living well, what is the rationale for me to stay in the employ of 3ABN? We have a saying in the Virgin Islands and I do hope it's not the case at 3ABN. "We like it so." I cannot see anyone "liking it so." However, I could be wrong. Honestly speaking...exactly what is the magnet that draws these workers and I would imagine they would have to be faithful to work for those wages...and be on welfare programs...what keeps them there? Is it that they are so committed to 3ABN and it's charge in spreading the gospel or is it that there is nowhere else for them to go...just what is it?

Posted by: sister Oct 20 2006, 05:11 PM

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Let me try to explain...individuals that choose to work in supporting ministries of the church come in knowing that they probably will not be paid at the same rate as they would doing the same job elsewhere. But if necessary, they are willing to take a cut in pay in order to have a job where they can serve the Lord more directly and not just work 40+ hours a week before they can get involved in ministry. Many are very dedicated workers and when they join a particular ministry it is because they believe in spreading the gospel message through the type of program the ministry uses to accomplish these goals.

Until recently, the knowledge of what went on behind the scenes at 3ABN, was limited to an extremely small group of individuals. The majority of whom either choose not to speak, because they believed to air the dirty laundry of 3ABN would cut off an important route of taking the gospel to a large groups of people, or those that did choose to blow the whistle were hounded by Danny Shelton and his lawyers, finding it impossible to be employed by the organized church or in most supporting ministries. Many have had their reputations ruined to such a degree that it is difficult to recover from the experience. Unfortunately, there is seldom a paper trail left behind to prove what Danny and his minions have been doing, that is until now...

The average employee does not know what others individuals receive for hourly or salary wages, or all the perks included for "special employees" and the administration. In the beginning you believe everything you are told, and why not, this is a gospel ministry. No one comes up to you the first day and says, "By the way, things here are not as they appear and Danny is a liar." But in time one begins to see discrepancies and starts looking for answers to questions that they are told should never be asked. And remember there are many who have left over the years and a few that have been fired for standing up to Danny. Then there are the ones who love what they are doing and choose to bury there heads in the sand in order to remain. Like the three monkeys, "they hear no evil, see no evil and speak not evil." But at what cost to their conscience?

Posted by: lurker Oct 20 2006, 07:08 PM

I believe that I was told that 3ABN provided Danny and Linda with the use of new cars or trucks each year. I am wondering if this is still being done for Danny and/or Brandy? Has this changed? If I remember correctly, ET and her husband also had the use of an apartment for a very reduced amount. Does John Lomacang pay rent or does he get his housing provided? Which substantial contributors, trustees, directors, officers, creators, **key employees** or members of their families are provided with goods, services or facilities as well as higher wages than the less favored lower paid workers?

Posted by: husbandoftheyear Oct 20 2006, 09:03 PM

I was once behind a new employee when they were getting things situated with the accounting department when I heard the accounting person tell the new employee that they should go and get Public Aid since they would qualify. This was a person who had just started the job!

A couple of years ago Tommy Shelton did some research on 3ABN jobs compared to corporate America and began trying to even out the wages. That didn't last long. Now, to avoid paying more, administration won't give the "titles" to go with the responsibilities. The employees may do the work, but they don't have the title and therefore no pay...go figure.

Posted by: Johann Oct 21 2006, 10:23 AM

Is Psalm 52 appropriate in this context?

Why do you boast, O mighty man,
of mischief done against the godly?
All the day you are plotting destruction,
Your tongue is like a sharp razor,
you worker of treachery.
You love evil more than good,
and lying more than speaking the truth. Selah
You love words that devour,
O deceitful tongue.

But God will break you down for ever;
he will snatch and tear you from the tenth;
he will uproot you from the land of the living. Selah

The righteous shall see, and fear,
and shall laugh at him, saying,
"See the man who would not make God his refuge,
but trusted in the abundance of riches,
and sought refuge in his wealth!"

But I am like a green olive tree
in the house of God.
I trust in the steadfast love of God
for ever and ever.
I will thank thee for ever,
because thou hast done it.
I will proclaim thy name, for it is good,
in the presence of the godly.

Posted by: Johann Nov 10 2006, 03:05 PM

Our Lord answered the great foe with words of Scripture.

Are there other words from the Bible that are appropriate?

Posted by: husbandoftheyear Nov 12 2006, 03:25 PM

QUOTE(Panama_Pete @ Oct 20 2006, 02:03 PM)

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Absolutely correct.

Posted by: Ralph Nov 12 2006, 06:32 PM

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If a person happens to be young and single and has no sense of loyalty to the present employer, it may not be difficult to just up and leave, but consider this:

To find a new job, a person probably has to lose work while he is looking. It is seldom with the blessing of the employer. References will be needed and maybe there will be some phone calls made.

Assuming that a person is able to find an employment elsewhere, there are other considerations. Most apartment managers ask for a month's rent as a damage deposit plus the upcoming rent payment. If a person has a damage deposit returned from their previous landlord, it won't arrive until about the 15th of the following month. Besides this, there is the expense of closing accounts and then opening accounts at the new location for bank and utilities. Some utility companies require a down payment from a new customer. There is the expense of transporting household belongings from one place to another and the added expense of buying household goods where the old ones just don't fit the bill.

Then there are emotional ties. Both wife and husband are going to be torn away from close friends that they have made. The children will be torn away from their school friends. That is not easy.

I can only imagine that employees could feel that they are traitors to the ministry and may wonder if they are selling their souls by opting out of the Lord's work

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