



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

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Seeking Verification About

The Tommy Shelton Child Molestation Allegations

As Requested by Dr. Walt Thompson

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On November 27, 2006, Dr. Walt Thompson cited Danny Shelton as the only named source for certain erroneous information about the Tommy Shelton child molestation allegations. Walt closed his email with a request to Bob to verify that information, a request that came after Walt's being put on notice that these communications would not be kept confidential.

This was the second attempt to verify Walt's information, as well as clarify other details concerning the Tommy Shelton child molestation allegations.

What was peculiar was the uncharacteristic silence from Danny since he received the previous email in this series on November 29.

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

From: Bob
To: Danny Shelton
CC: Walt Thompson, Elder Ken Denslow
Subject: Some additional verification needed for Walt Thompson's statements.
Date: Tue, 05 Dec 2006 06:14:06 -0600

Greetings, Danny.

I trust that you received my email attached at the end, which was sent six days ago as a follow-up to the suggestion of Dr. Walt Thompson, your board chairman, that I verify what he had told me. As I have pondered it all, I see some further questions that I need clarification on in order to do just that, and so I will add below to my original five questions what I wrote out over the weekend.

Walt Admits: No
Evidence

Added on 3/16/2007
Pregnancy Test

Added on 3/15/2007
Dan & Brandy
Abused You?

Must Read:
Mom in Pain #1

I'll first say that I really hope to hear from you soon, since there are many, many people eager and anxious to hear your side of the story, and see you and Tommy cleared of these allegations being brought by a pastor and members of the Church of God, by members of your own community, and, not maliciously and a bit indirectly, your own board chairman. It is highly critical that there be as little delay as possible.

Dr. Thompson wrote:

"The allegations against Tommy were made about 30 years ago."

Frankly, this was the first time I had heard of any allegations of 30 years ago. The oldest allegations I have heard about were the ones that led to the revoking of Tommy's ordination in Illinois in or around 1985, which I have thought were therefore about 20 years ago rather than about 30. Thus,

Question 6: What exactly were these 30-year-old allegations that Walt referred to, and when and in what locality or localities did the alleged events take place?

I have one more chronology-related question. One of your employees, one of the O'Briens, informed me indirectly, maybe a month ago or so, that Pastor Dryden's May 2003 letter to Walt was a rehashing of something that had already been hashed around in the '90's. At the time I thought that someone must have gotten the dates mixed up somewhere, and that the '80's was really what was intended to be or what should have been said, but something Gailon told me last week makes me wonder if there might be another possibility. Gailon wrote:

"Bad news...the 3ABN board in the mid 90's took up the issue of Tommy Shelton as he was working in production at the time. The board clearly determined it was best that Tommy not be working at

3ABN based upon an investigation of the allegations against Tommy at the Ezra COG. Shortly after this decision, Tommy received a call to the Dunn Loring COG and moved to Mannassas, finally into the parsonage."

I wouldn't even mention this at all since I have no evidence of myself to this effect, but since one of the O'Briens indicated, unless something got garbled in transmission or recollection, which is always possible, that there was some sort of discussion in the '90's, I'll ask the following:

Question 7: Did the 3ABN board determine in the mid-1990's that it was not best for Tommy to work at 3ABN; and if so, on what basis was there a later reversal of their position; and if not, how can I get copies of the board minutes leading up to Tommy's departure so that I can post them and put to rest once and for all this allegation?

You may be tempted to pick out some sort of trivial detail that isn't quite absolutely correct and concentrate on that to the exclusion of everything else, so I would simply suggest that, while you may need to correct some minor errors, you also ensure that you put to rest the major points of concern as well.

Walt wrote to me the following:

"Based upon my understanding [obtained from Danny Shelton] that Dryden had had a long standing feud with Tommy over factors unrelated to the above accusations, it did not seem indicated to approach the boys in question directly, having been informed that no case had ever been filed with the courts or legal disposition made."

I think it would be extremely helpful to know more about Dryden's alleged feud with Tommy. This is especially true

given the following facts:

- Walt said that the allegations were about 30 years old.
- Pastor Glenn Dryden says that he did not meet Tommy until somewhere around the early '80's or about 1985 when Tommy's ordination was revoked.
- Dryden says that he first became associated with the Dunn Loring, Virginia, church in 1974, served as an assistant pastor from 1983 until 1993, at which time he moved to Illinois.
- He claims that he had a good pastor-to-pastor relationship with Tommy after meeting him.

Question 8: Did Walt mean to say that Dryden was the cause of the original, 30-year-old allegations; is it true that Tommy did not meet Dryden until at the earliest the early '80's; and if both these points are correct, how is it that the allegations were caused by a feud between two men who had not yet met; or, if this is not what Walt meant, what exactly did he mean?

Since I have no evidence at this point that would indicate that either Tommy or Dryden had achieved celebrity status, I think the following question is in order.

Question 9: Are Dryden's details regarding his states of residence correct (as well as the date of the revoking of Tommy's ordination), and if so, what was the nature of their feud that would have motivated Dryden to promote allegations of child molestation against a pastor who lived 800 miles away from him?

Walt wrote:

"The picture that was painted by that leader of the Church was exactly as portrayed earlier by Danny. Dryden was jealous of Tommy and was out to get him - a jealousy that has continued to the present."

Here is an area that becomes a little more nebulous, for it gets into the area of he said, she said, something I prefer to

avoid. But it should be mentioned that Dryden denies that this was the case, and claims that there has been no opportunity for jealousy to arise. And frankly, since Dryden arrived in Illinois in 1993 and Tommy left for Virginia in 1995, according to Dryden's chronology, it would seem that there was precious little opportunity for jealousy to arise. Thus,

Question 10: What exactly about Tommy was Dryden jealous of, and during what periods of time and in what ways was this jealousy manifested?

Dryden also claims that Tommy has used this jealousy argument as a smokescreen, but with this variation: He claims that Tommy told the folks in Virginia that allegations had been raised against him because churches around him were jealous of both him and the success he was having. Thus,

Question 11: Is it true that Tommy told the folks in Virginia something even remotely akin to this and if so, what was the nature of the success that Tommy had that surrounding churches of his own denomination would make false accusations against him of such a serious thing as child molestation?

Dryden also claims that Tommy never informed the folks in Virginia regarding what the nature of the allegations against him were. Thus,

Question 12: Who specifically in Virginia did Tommy tell about the exact nature of the allegations against him, and how can I contact them to obtain a signed statement to this effect?

Walt wrote:

"Except for pastor Dryden's personal accounts, there are apparently no other records of the allegations."

Dryden claims that in early 2003, Roger Clem of West Frankfort confided in him that he had been victimized by

Tommy, and that Roger subsequently shared openly about this in his church and about the community.

Question 13: Is it true that a member of your small community did indeed share openly his claim that your own brother had victimized him, and if so, a) when did you first become aware of these new allegations, b) how did Walt arrive at the opinion that there are no other accounts of these allegations than Pastor Dryden's, and c) how is it that you never corrected Walt on this major discrepancy?

Dryden claims that after Roger came forward, that,

"It was within a week or less that Tommy called me."

In that conversation Tommy told Dryden, according to him, something along the lines of, "I have something to read to you. Maybe you don't want to even talk to me. It's difficult." Dryden, thinking this was part of Tommy's damage control efforts and that there might be an attempt at manipulation, told him their conversation would need to be face to face and in the presence of another member of the congregation. Dryden had prayer with him, and he claims the meeting never took place.

Dryden then claims that Tommy called up someone who was a pillar in the church and read his statement to them, which convinced them of his guilt.

Dryden says that Tommy has made statements like, "I made some mistakes," and "I have regrets," and has said such for damage control purposes, but has never made a meaningful apology to his knowledge, nothing like Ted Haggard's confession, and that Tommy has been unwilling to be subject to church discipline. Thus,

Question 14: Did Tommy in fact call Dryden and the other individual in the church in early 2003 and make statements to this effect, and if so, how can we get a copy of what he wrote and read at that time, and if not, what evidence or testimony to this effect can be produced?

Question 15: Is it true that Tommy was unwilling to be subject to church discipline even though Walt claims he did apologize for some unspecified thing; and if so, for what reasons was he unwilling; and if not, who can I contact to confirm that he indeed was subject to church discipline?

I would want nothing more than to see you personally vindicated, and to see some sort of plausible explanation for not just one or two or three of the perceived inconsistencies, but for every last one of them. This issue of the allegations against Tommy is only one of many swirling around you and/or 3ABN, and I would take great delight in seeing each one of those issues decided in favor of you.

But I think we clearly need to get the air cleared of this one as soon as possible. It is absolutely crucial that we demonstrate that your word is utterly dependable, or else the court of public opinion as well as that of ASI will be less inclined to accept solely your testimony and the testimony of the 3ABN board about Linda's alleged guilt of the sin of adultery.

And, as a loyal Seventh-day Adventist church member, a member in the middle of nowhere who is but a lone voice without any actual say-so, I must say that I am a bit concerned because of the potential liability issues that could arise if there ever was a problem in the future. I certainly hope that the apparent way this was all handled would never be used in a court of law as a justification for compromising the financial security of the Illinois Conference, which I understand, from websites affiliated with the church or its leadership, voted to move part of their Academy operations to Thompsonville.

Perhaps this is what concerns me most of all, that somehow in all of this God's cause and my church could be brought into reproach, and we as a people could be blamed for the very type of things that we so ardently oppose, through no fault of our own or because of innocent mistakes on the part of some, all because of the not-so-innocent mistakes on the part of others.

Danny, in all sincerity, I pray that God grant you clear discernment of what is right and what is wrong, and what He wants you to do at this hour. May you stand for the right though the heaven's fall, whether it be for the first time or

the millionth time.

And may 3ABN and its ministry be truly blessed by the Spirit of God in the days ahead in proportion to its fulfillment of the conditions laid out by the Lord for the reception of the latter rain

Bob

P.S. I really need ASAP the name and contact info from the Church of God leader Walt referred to but did not name. I don't know who else to contact to hear another side of the story, and talking to him or her may help quite a bit.

Also, Pastor Dryden has expressed personal concern for Tommy, indicating that he wishes that we would all pray for his health during the stress of all this, and that he do the right and appropriate thing.

God bless.

Bob

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***"Truth invites examination & needs no defense.
Lies hide in darkness & blame everyone else."***