



**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 yet another attempt to verify Walt's information, as well as clarify other details concerning the Tommy Shelton child molestation allegations. It ends with a fairly strong, spiritual appeal.

ASI Willing to ...

Alleged Illegal Activities

- Danny's Apologists
- Leonard Westphal
- Litigation, etc.
- Letters of Support
- News Releases
- Contact Us

Added on 4/1/2007  
Furniture

Added on 3/28/2007  
Defy the Board  
Board Action

Added on 3/22/2007  
Book Deals  
Emails  
Financial Aff.

Added on 3/20/2007  
The Lost Bet

Added on 3/17/2007

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

**From:** Bob  
**To:** Danny Shelton  
**CC:** Walt Thompson, Elder Ken Denslow  
**Subject:** Final questions for now on Tommy Shelton allegations.  
**Date:** Wed, 06 Dec 2006 11:48:57 -0600

Hi Danny.

I think this may be the last email I send you regarding the Tommy Shelton child molestation allegations, and I will try to end it on an encouraging note.

Again, I want to just say that you and I initiated this discussion one week ago because your board chairman, Dr. Walt Thompson, gave me some information and said:

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 would like to request ... that you ... verify [this letter's] contents."

The following is what I can thus far come up with regarding some of the allegations against Tommy:

- Walt claims that there are allegations of some sort against Tommy regarding children that are 30 years old.
- Tommy's ordination with the Church of God, Anderson, was revoked around 1985 because of allegations of child molestation arising from his pastoring the Ezra congregation in West Frankfort, Illinois.
- Roger Clem claims that he was molested at the age of 16, which would be about 1988, while Tommy was pastoring the breakaway Ezra congregation that had sided with him and against the previous alleged victims.
- Tommy pastored a Church of God congregation in Dunn Loring, Virginia, from 1995 to about 2000, and then left apparently because of the surfacing of some sort of sexual misconduct allegations against him.
- Just now in late 2006 we have a new allegation of child molestation coming to light in Virginia at the Church of God congregation where he used to pastor.

Gailon has talked to quite a few individuals on this matter. As of this point, I have only spoken to Walt Thompson, Church of God pastor Glenn Dryden, a member of the board of the Dunn Loring congregation who wished to remain anonymous, and alleged victim Roger Clem.

Walt wrote:

"Based upon my understanding that Dryden had had a long standing feud with Tommy over factors unrelated to the above accusations ...

"Dryden was jealous of Tommy and was

out to get him - a jealousy that has continued to the present."

Both Roger Clem and the Dunn Loring board member I spoke with made it very plain that there was no malice, no feud, and no jealousy between the two men. The board member said that they had known Dryden and his family since 1990, and that they first heard rumors two years ago, which was a year or more before Dryden returned to Virginia. (Why did they hear about it only two years ago? They said they had had a lesser position and thus would not have been privy to such allegations.)

**Question 21:** Do you believe that the above scenario(s) and time line painted by these four individuals is fairly accurate, and if so, why did you essentially tell Walt Thompson, as he claims, that there were no new allegations for the last 30 years, and if not, how many more individuals do you think I should interview before concluding that the above time line is essentially correct?

Walt wrote:

"No physical actions ever occurred."

Pastor Dryden, based on what alleged victims have confided to him, and Roger Clem, based on his own experience, both declare that this is false. Thus,

**Question 22:** Do you personally believe that no physical action occurred, and if not, what way would you propose that we establish that none indeed occurred?

Soon after Clem came forward in 2003, Tommy phoned him. Clem says that it was somewhere around a year later when he sent a letter to Tommy. That letter ended with the following:

"I will tell you up front, if I get a letter or phone call from your brother or an attorney that in any way appears threatening, I will immediately go to the sheriff's office and file charges against you. This has gone on long enough with nothing being done. This is Not a threat. It all rests on you Tommy, let your conscience be your guide. I will not wait long before I will decide what action is best to resolve this."

Clem says that before Tommy had a chance to open and read the letter, Tommy's wife had opened it, even though it was addressed to Tommy, and read it to their daughters, and was calling Clem about it.

**Question 23:** Is there any tendency among Tommy's family to try to cover for him when these sort of allegations come up?

Clem had stated clearly, "I will not wait long before I will decide what action is best to resolve this," and he claims that Tommy called him the next day, this second phone call taking place a year or so after the previous one, and said,

"What do you want me to do?"

Clem replied,

"Register as a sex offender."

Clem claims that Tommy replied,

"Well, that's just not going to happen. I've dealt with it with my family. I've

dealt with it in counseling. That's all I feel I should have to do."

Thus,

**Question 24:** Do you believe that Tommy did indeed make this much of an admission verbally and/or made anything akin to this kind of reply, and if so, a) do you agree that all that's necessary for someone to do who has had allegations of child molestation leveled against them for so many years is to deal with it in their family and in counseling, and b) can you please describe for us the nature, timing, and duration of the counseling Tommy obtained?

I touched on the next one previously. Walt wrote:

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

Clem has two brothers. In one of the two calls Tommy made to Clem in 2003 and 2004, Clem asked Tommy,

"Did the same thing happen to my brother that happened to me?"

And, according to Clem, Tommy replied,

"Which one?"

Other things that Clem claimed were that people caught Tommy with boys doing things that he shouldn't have been doing on back roads and such. He claims that abuse happened at church, at Tommy's house and in his car, and right down the road from the first building of "3 Angels."

Dryden wrote:

"In the summer of 1993 as my wife and two teenage sons and I were preparing to relocate from Northern Virginia to West Frankfort, Illinois, Tommy Shelton again was visiting in Virginia and asked to meet with my wife and I. During this meeting he alerted us that we may 'hear some things' when we got to Illinois. He also informed us at this meeting that he had been caught in a lie during his pastorate at the Ezra Church of God, intimated extenuating circumstances and said he had sought and received forgiveness. Indeed we did hear some things after arriving in West Frankfort, Illinois, in mid-1993, including the circumstances surrounding the lie (He was found alone with a young man in a home to which he had access and when challenged said the young man [who was out of view] was his son when in fact he was not. The individual who came upon him confirmed this by immediately driving to the church school Tommy's son attended and finding his son there.). It was not until another victim's mother spoke with me in early 1996 that I fully realized that not only was sexual abuse of adolescent boys the nature of the allegations but that there was substance to these allegations as well."

Clem told the same story without being asked, and added this one detail: The lady from the congregation after seeing Tommy's son at the school drove back to the house and saw a red-faced boy leaving it, trying to cover his face.

After Clem came forward in early 2003, he claims that Tommy called him shortly thereafter. Clem was very open about everything in his church and community, and told me by name about two ministry leaders or pastors of two

different faiths, individuals who had backed Tommy previously, whom he approached and informed that the allegations were true after all because it had happened to him. One of those men said, "You don't know how much that disturbs me."

**Question 25:** Would you consider that these accounts are essentially correct, and if so, why did Walt think there were no other accounts of allegations except for Dryden's, and if not, which precise points would you dispute and which ones would you not?

Clem claims, as Dryden did, that Tommy has never given a meaningful apology. He also says that Tommy has never apologized in writing and is manipulative. In his letter sent around 2004 to Tommy, Clem wrote, among other things,

"When someone would confront you about what you did, you would try to take the attention off of what you did by having some sort of health problem (loss of memory, heart problems, nervous breakdown). It seemed odd to me that you recovered quick when you realized that you were in the clear. You really disgust me. It makes me sick to realize how many lives you damaged and the only time that you feel the need to apologize is when it all comes back up again. Then you put on this POOR PITIFUL ME act (how you wish it didn't happen, the reason you do this is because you were abused as a child, you would take it all back if you could, and the all-time favorite, please don't put my family through this again). What about what you put all of us through?"

**Question 26:** Is there any truth to the allegation that Tommy resorted to manipulative behavior, such as having transient health problems and/or trying to create sympathy in order to hush up the accusers; and can you give us examples of when and to whom Tommy apologized either

before a big public spectacle took place, or when he apologized in writing, or both?

In the same letter, Clem writes:

"Then what makes me mad is when your brother calls to try to scare people into not saying anything or when the church receives a letter from Mike Riva telling us to stop saying anything. ... I will tell you up front, if I get a letter or phone call from your brother or an attorney that in any way appears threatening, I will immediately go to the sheriff's office and file charges against you."

Similarly, the board member I spoke with from Dunn Loring, Virginia said that whenever allegations would arise, you would "execute a lot of pressure," and "make them go away."

**Question 27:** Is it true that you called people who were raising allegations, and what exactly did you say that might have given them the idea that you were trying to pressure them into silence?

Your Illinois Tax Case lists as one of the attorneys present,

"Mr. D. Michael Riva for 3 Angels Broadcasting Network."

On June 13, 2003, Riva issued a letter that appears to be a reply to Pastor Glenn Dryden's letter of May 14, 2003. In that letter of seven paragraphs, paragraphs 1, 2, 6, and 7 contain language threatening legal action against both the Ezra Church of God and Pastor Dryden. From what I can tell, and I am not an attorney, the only legal basis he gives for such a potential lawsuit appears in paragraphs 3-5, and consists of supporting arguments after the following sentence:

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"Even if the actions occurred, there is no criminal jeopardy as the statute of limitations has long since passed." (bold added)

**Question 28:** Do you think that it was wise for an attorney who does or has served the network that preaches the undiluted three angels' messages to use this sort of logic to threaten a non-Adventist minister with legal action in order to shut him up regarding his concerns over alleged child molestation?

Since the attorney who sent this threatening letter does or has served 3ABN, this question appears in order:

**Question 29:** Did Mr. Riva perform his services for Tommy Shelton pro bono, or did Tommy pay for them out of his own pocket, or did you pay for them out of your own pocket, or did 3ABN cover the cost, and what sort of documentation can you provide to substantiate your answer?

Pastor Dryden writes:

"Tommy vaguely alluded to the allegations in Illinois at times in his preaching when invited by our founding pastors to minister at the Community Church of God in the late 1980s. He did so by speaking not of the allegations but of the '**persecution**' he and his family suffered as a consequence. He was successful in drawing sympathy thereby as he spoke of hardship suffered by he and his family." (bold added)

Now let us consider the following facts:

- A special 3ABN Live telecast on August 10, 2006, claimed that you and 3ABN were receiving "**persecution**" and that "lies" were being told about

- you.
- Shelley Quinn in that broadcast, to all appearances, compared you to John the Baptist, Linda to Herodias, and Salome to Linda's daughter.
  - Before Shelley identified the daughter she was speaking of as being Salome, she described her as one who had become "entangled in the web of deceit," when the Bible story does not indicate that there was any deceit involved in regard to Herodias and Salome.
  - Linda's daughter had previously issued a signed and confidential statement alleging that you had sexually assaulted her.

Thus it appears that that broadcast was particularly attempting to call Linda's daughter's allegations a lie and "**persecution**," even though throughout the broadcast the claim was repeatedly made that you and the others would not be defending yourselves.

**Question 30:** Would you have any comment to make about this apparent similarity between how Tommy (according to Dryden) and you have both related to allegations of sexual misconduct?

On November 4 you wrote to me and said, among other things,

"I will just say this, ... I have done nothing legally wrong in my administration with 3ABN."

According to what Hal Steenson and John Lomacang told me, I'm uncertain that this is true. But I won't go into that now.

I want to end by sharing with you a story from the Spirit of Prophecy, a story from a sermon given by Ellen White in Minneapolis in 1888 and from an 1888 letter, that is hard for me to read without getting choked up. I was talking to my family about it yesterday, and even though it's been a long time since I read it through, it still got to me. And while formatting it for this email, I could not refrain from weeping.

If any of the more serious allegations against you, Tommy, and anyone else are true, I invite you and them to consider following the example of the man she referred to, and just see if perchance there may be a possibility that you will reap similar results of blessings and good will, and that the cause of God will advance with much greater power.

"We have seen of the grace of God since we met you last. ... I was at the Selma camp meeting. During my stay there I was introduced to a tall man--over six feet tall--and well proportioned. When he took my hand he seemed much affected and said, 'I am so glad to meet you; I am thankful that I can speak with you.' After going into the tent a brother came in and said, 'That man has a history.' Then he went on and told how a year before he had been converted; how he had once kept the Sabbath but had gone back, and how he claimed that he never had been converted. Then after he gave up the truth he went back into the company of hard cases, and Satan took complete possession of him. Two or three were linked with him in his wickedness--men who would not want it to be known that they were in such business. They stole and did wickedness in every way.

"He was not a licentious man; he had a wife and he respected her. She was a Sabbathkeeper, and he would not allow a word to be said against her. This was the position he took; he loved her, but not enough to stop his evil course. He did not care for the spoil of his robberies, but did it for the enjoyment he found in it. Well, Elder [E.P.] Daniels was holding meetings, and he was speaking on confession. What was said seemed to take hold of this man's mind, and he could not resist. He seemed to turn

white, and then left the tent. He could not stand it. He went out and then he came back again. This he did three times; he looked as if he were going to faint away.

"After the meeting had closed he said, 'I must talk to you, sir.' He told Elder Daniels his condition and said, 'Is there any hope for me? I am a lost man; I am undone; I am a sinner. Will you pray for me? I dare not leave this place to go home for fear the Lord will cut me down in my sins.' He said he could not stay in the tent, and went out again and again, but did not dare remain outside for fear the power of the devil should fasten on him and that would be the last of him.

" 'They prayed for him, and the man was converted right there. The defiant look was gone; his countenance was changed. 'Now,' said he, 'I have a work to do. I stole thirty-one sheep from that man in Selma, and I must go and confess to him.' Elder Daniels was afraid to have it known for fear they would shut him up. He said he would rather go to prison and stay there than to think that Christ had not forgiven his sin. So he started, with a young man who before this was engaged with him in thefts, to go and see the man. He met the man on the road and stopped him. The man commenced to shake like an aspen leaf. He was an infidel. Well, he got on his knees before them in the road and begged to be forgiven. The man asked, 'Where did you get this? What has brought you into this state? I did not know that there was any such religion as this.' They told him that they had been down to the camp meeting, and heard it preached there. 'Well,' said he, 'I will go over to that

meeting.'

"They confessed to having burned houses and barns. And they went to the grand jury and confessed to having stolen here and there. Mind, they confessed to the authorities. They said, 'We deliver ourselves up. Do with us as you see fit.' So the case was considered in court, and they had a council over the matter. One suggested that they better put those men through. The judge looked at him and said, 'What, put him through? Put a man through that God is putting through? Would you take hold of a man that God is taking hold of? Whom God's forgiving power has taken hold of? Would you do that? No, I would rather have my right arm cut off to the shoulder.' Something got hold of those men so that they all wept as children.

"The report of that experience went everywhere. People thought that there was a power in this truth that was in nothing else--a power that shows that Jesus lives. We have seen the power of His grace manifested in many cases in a remarkable manner." (*1888 Materials*, pp. 81, 82)

"Brother Will Smith is a man that was converted last year. He was in the truth years ago, but for some reason gave it up, and the devil took possession of him, and he became a desperado. His wife kept the Sabbath. He is a tall, well developed, powerfully built man. He went into all sorts of lawlessness, stealing, and tried to kill, but his victim did not come in just when he was prepared to kill him. Last year at Fresno under the labors of Elder [E.P.] Daniels he was powerfully wrought upon, and he

repented with another backslider who had gone with him in all his wickedness. Then commenced the work of confession and restitution. One man they went to see and met him in the road and down they went in the very dust and dirt on their knees, weeping and confessing, and the infidel wept like a child. 'Now,' said they, 'We want you to forgive us, and we do not ask you to arrest us for stealing your sheep, but we ask pardon; we will pay every cent of the cost of the sheep.'

"The man who had been wronged said, 'What has wrought upon you to make this confession?' Said they, 'We have been attending the campmeeting, and the spirit and power of God and the religion of Jesus Christ have taken hold upon us.' 'Well,' said the man, 'If the work done there is of this order I must go there,' and he did go, and he did tremble under the sharp arrows of God. The influence of these confessions made to many others who have been wronged, is as far reaching as eternity. This man in his wickedness had nothing, but since his conversion the Lord has blessed him greatly with means, and he is using it in making restitution and in advancing the cause of truth. He is free, generous to a fault, he is humble as a child, sitting at the feet of Jesus, ready and willing to do anything. He takes 150 Signs and distributes. He has done more missionary work alone the past year than the whole Fresno Church together." (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 6, pp. 150, 151)

May God grant you, Tommy, and the rest by His grace the courage to right every wrong, whether that wrong be small or great.

Bob

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