



3ABN Defended by Board Member

By Dr. Walter Thompson

It is true. We the members of the board of 3ABN are only human and it is true we are not many in number. While some might consider this a deficiency, our board is efficient, flexible and able to respond to opportunity and need-an advantage many larger boards might envy. Brother Schwisow may be correct in noting that some critics interpret our governance as compliant with Danny's heavy-handed control. So be it! In fact, any board that functions according to the dictates of its critics is already in trouble. The truth is that 3ABN and Danny have an excellent working relationship. We do not micromanage-by design. We have perceived our role as giving him room to move as the Spirit of the Lord directs-having a common understanding that with the free reign there is also responsibility for action. We are listened to and heard when we have advice and counsel, and are available to him when he has needs and concerns. It is difficult for me to conceive a better model for success than this. In addition, Danny has a number of other counselors whom he consults frequently-though unofficial, these serve much as an advisory board might serve.

The article makes note of Danny's exorbitant salary-exceeding the salaries of even the highest paid administrators of the Adventist church. In fact, we have patterned 3ABN salaries after the church with the exception we do not provide most of the benefits the Adventist church provides for its workers. Three of our board members are administrators within the organized church and can vouch for this fact. It is also a fact that many of the royalties on music and publications made by the Sheltons are donated to the ministry. During the hearings regarding taxing 3ABN properties at the State last year the prosecution pressed the defense very hard attempting to find evidence that Danny and Linda were hiding something about their income-like many other TV ministers. They found nothing; in fact, they expressed amazement with the economy with which 3ABN and its administration operate.

Finally, the last point I wish to make, and the one triggering the article: the commercial jet. My comments will be short. The board has been involved in all of the discussions and planning regarding the planes. Our discussions and decisions have been deliberate. Our board has only one objective, i.e., to be faithful to the proclamation of the Three Angels Message to the world in preparation for the return of Jesus. We believe God has called us to this ministry and is faithful to his promises to his servants. We have not made our decisions carelessly, nor without divine petition for wisdom. I believe the board would agree with me in saying that God is not generally governed by public opinion, nor is He limited in his provisions. Furthermore

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