

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

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Tommy Shelton Victim: Duane Clem

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Background

How did Duane Clem find the material about Tommy Shelton that had been posted at BlackSDA.com and Maritime SDA Online?

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

From: Duane Clem
Subject: Re: Glenn Dryden, Tommy Shelton, etc.
Date: Tue, 02 Jan 2007 02:06:53 +0000

...

I found them quite by accident. Truthfully, I did a Google search on "Tommy Shelton" to see if I could find any information on what he was currently doing, since I have not talked to him in over a year. That led me to BlackSDA and from there I started digging around and eventually came across both my brother's and Glenn Dryden's names.

Seeing his brother, Roger Clem, referred to by name and the following interchange was just too much for Duane. He realized that he was going to have to face things he had hoped he could forever forget. He was in shock.

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

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

...

[Roger] 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?"

And the following comments about his mother did not lessen his distress:

Mr. Clem's mother was a staunch defender of Tommy, and it was only after she died in late 2001 that he felt he could come forward.

Tommy's ordination was revoked about 1985, but his defenders would not relent, and that portion of the congregation that sided with him left their denomination, the Church of God, Anderson, in consequence. Tommy remained their pastor until maybe 1990 or 1991, with a one-year absence to Kentucky, according to the recollections of several individuals.

Since Mr. Clem says that he was abused at the age of 16, he is placing the abuse around 1988, which would be after Tommy's ordination was revoked for similar allegations involving perhaps three alleged victims. In other words, according to Mr. Clem's account and chronology, it was because so many believed Tommy rather than the alleged victims and those who had caught him doing his misdeeds that Mr. Clem himself became an alleged victim.

If he had only come forward long ago, would other victims have been spared the pain he endured?

An easy question to ask, and a hard one to answer, for only one who has been a victim of clergy abuse, only one who has been manipulated into silence, only one who has experienced the shame that these young men felt, only that one can truly understand what it means to come forward either then or now.

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