

***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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[Recovering from the initial shock of it all, Duane Clem types out the following apology.

Notice particularly how Duane continues to maintain that Pastor Glenn Dryden was jealous of Tommy. Yet he acknowledges that Dryden's jealousy could have nothing to do with the molestation allegations that led to the 1985 suspension of Tommy's ministerial ordination.

And more was to come.]

Duane Clem's Apology

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

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

Mr. Pickle and Mr. Joy:

I sincerely want to thank both of you for your cordial responses. This has been a big shock to me since discovering it on the message boards last week. I have probably reacted in a non-Christian manner toward both of you, and for that I do apologize. I also understand that you were both operating under the assumption that I was a "3ABN operative" for lack of a better term. I can understand as well why you would think that. I was fired from 3ABN myself back in the late 80's for a "bad attitude", so I have my own feelings about 3ABN, but that's a different issue altogether.

I am going to respond to your questions as best I can. There are some things I simply cannot comment on for various reasons, and I think you can understand why. I will quote the portions of your emails I am referencing, and my responses will follow.

"How was Dryden jealous of Tommy to the point of instigating child molestation allegations against him as late as 1985, when he had just recently met him and lived 800 miles away until 1993?"

You are correct in thinking that Glenn Dryden had nothing to do with the 1985 allegations. That was a totally separate set of circumstances, and was also when the Ezra Church of God (which I attended at the time) severed ties with the Church of God, Anderson. We became an independent Church of God and shortly thereafter Tommy received ordination from another Church of God organization, and according to their website is still listed as a minister with them. (<http://www.churchofgodcv.org/addresses.aspx/>) Glenn Dryden never had the success at Ezra that Tommy saw as pastor, and I believe that is where the jealousy has come from. Tommy also began attending Ezra for a while when Dryden was pastor, and Dryden did not like it. He was very instrumental in Tommy taking the pastorate at Community Church of God in Dunn Loring, VA and even made the statement to me personally shortly after it was announced, "Well, it looks like the Sheltons will be out of here soon."

...

"Can you explicitly state that you do not know of a single instance where Tommy engaged in inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature with a minor?"

Obviously, with my brother sending the letter to Tommy and the letter's subsequent circulation on the boards, I cannot comment at all on this question. I'm sure you can understand that no matter what I would say, it could cause me major trouble on either side of the issue.

...

Thank you

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