

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:30
PM

The Glenn Dryden and related Documents

Pastor Glenn Dryden is a Church of God minister who has pastored/pastored in two different churches where Tommy Shelton, Danny Shelton's brother, used to pastor.

Pastor Dryden brought allegations against Tommy of child molestation to the attention of Dr. Walt Thompson, 3ABN board chairman, in May 2003. He was consequently threatened by a 3ABN attorney, I assume a reply that was authorized by someone other than Dr. Thompson.

What follows are a number of the documents that pertain to this question. The correspondence with Dr. Thompson in which he essentially admits that Danny misled him regarding the nature of these allegations appears elsewhere.

I will quickly add that Pastor Dryden and I share the same concerns and regrets, namely, that such things have happened in the name of religion, and in situations connected with our faiths. These type of allegations bring reproach upon the cause of God, and upon the beliefs we hold dear.

I assure you that neither the Churches of God nor the Seventh-day Adventist Church approve of child molestation, nor do they approve of efforts to cover up such sins and avoid proper justice being served.

At the same time that we hate the sin, we love the sinner, and we would encourage all regardless of what they have done to turn to the Lord Jesus in honest and full confession and repentance, seeking to make restitution wherever possible.

To those who follow this course, the Word of God promises pardon, cleansing, victory, and eternal life in the earth made new, a place where every tear will be wiped away, where there will be no more sorrow or crying or pain.

As John said in the closing verses of Scripture, "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:32
PM

Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents

----- Original Message -----
Subject: Re: 3ABN special request
Date: Mon, 14 Aug 2006 14:00:00 -0400
From: Glenn Dryden

Following is the text of my letter on Ezra Church of God letterhead to Dr. Thompson as well as "Action Items" suggested for Tommy Shelton by the congregation I formerly served. These were sent to Dr. Thompson by certified mail and I suppose it was his wife who signed for the letter on May 16, 2003.

Pastor Glenn Dryden

May 14, 2003

Dr. Walter Thompson

*** **

*** **, **

Dear Dr. Thompson:

Greetings in the holy name of our Lord Jesus!

It is my understanding that you serve as chairman of the board of directors of Three Angels Broadcasting Network. From 3ABN's web site it appears an invitation to minister has been extended to this congregation's former pastor, Tommy Ray Shelton.

Constrained by an ethical, if not legal, obligation, I am compelled to advise you that Tommy Ray Shelton is not in good standing with either of the two associations by which he was first presented with ministerial credentials. At least six boys in our community were sexually abused by Tommy Ray Shelton during the periods he served as pastor of this congregation.

Some of these young men and some parents are willing to corroborate the information I am giving you, if necessary. Please contact me for their phone numbers that I may alert them to a pending call. I also will put you in touch with the two associations referenced above.

Either I or members of this congregation's leadership will answer any questions you may have regarding this correspondence.

In our Lord's service,

Pastor Glenn Dryden

ACTION ITEMS SUGGESTED FOR TOMMY SHELTON

Expediency recommended :

Senate Bill 1035 extending statute of limitations goes into effect as soon as signed by Governor Blagojevich. This could be within the next thirty days.

Note <http://www.legis.state.il.us>

Tommy should retain an attorney to represent him as well as to serve him in contacting victims and their families, all at Tommy's expense.

A full disclosure of all victims and details should be made to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (Investigator Kevin Skurat, 618-435-8187). This disclosure should include pertinent incidences in other states as well as in other jurisdictions in Illinois in addition to Franklin County.

Tommy should cooperate in the placement of his name and pertinent information on appropriate sex offenders lists, as the law may require in the state of his residence or in Illinois.

Tommy should agree to reimburse any of the victims or their family members for the expenses of counseling they have received. He should further agree to pay for any future counseling required by any of the victims or their family members. Contact should be made by his attorney with the victims through their parents if necessary. Pastor Glenn Dryden of the Ezra Church of God (***.***.****) should be consulted as to the victims of whom he is aware and as to which of these may be contacted directly. Other victims may wish to maintain anonymity. Apart from necessary contact by law enforcement personnel, their wishes should be respected.

Tommy should issue written apologies over his signature to all victims and to their parents. Again, contact with victims should be made through their parents if necessary.

Tommy also should issue written apologies over his signature for his deceit, as well as inappropriate behavior, etc., to the congregation of the Ezra Church of God, West Frankfort, Illinois, the congregation of the Community Church of God, Dunn Loring, Virginia, the state office of the General Assembly Of The Church Of God In Illinois and to the Ministerial Council of the Church of God headquartered in Virginia.

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:32
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

----- Original Message -----
Subject: blacksda.com POSTING
Date: Fri, 1 Dec 2006 19:42:46 -0500
From: Glenn Dryden

Greetings from Pastor Dryden,

I have taken the opportunity to read the postings at blacksda.com. Assuming you are the author of the message to Dr. Thompson of 26 Nov 2006 11:07:44, I would like to commend you for the logic in your plea to him.

I think Dr. Thompson must be a good and well-intentioned man and I hope he will soon take heed to your logic.

Glenn Dryden

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:43
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

----- Original Message -----
Subject: Re: blacksda.com POSTING
Date: Sat, 02 Dec 2006 18:17:05 -0600
To: Glenn Dryden

Thank you so much for your encouragement, Pastor Dryden.

...

Many Adventists will feel skittish about meeting this thing head on, because they fear that the cause of God will have reproach brought upon it, and thus there might be a negative effect upon evangelistic efforts. Of course, I share that concern, and thus I want to deal with this very carefully. It is a delicate balance. I covet your prayers for the wisdom of God in the days ahead. I know you must have wrestled with these very same thoughts, since it certainly was not good PR for your faith.

Having said that, ... I wonder if you would allow me the privilege of quoting what you wrote below, attributing it to either yourself explicitly, or perhaps better yet to simply a pastor of another faith. For our people to read such encouraging words from a pastor of another faith would help calm their fears.

...

Thanks so much for your prayers, and we will pray for you as you work further with the situation there.

Bob

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:43
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

----- Original Message -----
Subject: Re: blacksda.com POSTING
Date: Sat, 2 Dec 2006 20:25:25 -0500
From: Glenn Dryden

Dear Bob,

I am sure we share similar emotions regarding this matter. Perhaps an argument may be made for the criticism you have received regarding the e-mail postings, but I should tell you that they have served to make me comfortable communicating with both you and Mr. Joy and if they serve to put pressure on Danny and Tommy, you may carry the criticism as a badge of commendation.

You should know that I have FAXed to Mr. Joy a copy of Mr. Riva's letter to me dated June 13, 2003, along with excerpts from my reply to Mr. Riva.

As to the skittishness we all **suffer**, I find a remedy in a Biblical principle. That principle perhaps may be best expressed "The truth shall set you free!"

Too many for too long in too many venues have feared reproach and negative effects. The number of victims has increased as a consequence. Though a foul path, we should shod our feet appropriately and march forward and attack the issue head-on! Ultimately, less will be lost by a full disclosure and honesty than by cover-up and

deceit. Not the path of least resistance, but does not this path seem more like the one Jesus would take?

You may quote me by name on anything *except the fact that I am personally aware that Tommy Shelton molested a young man here in Virginia in the mid to late 1990s. Give me until after the meeting here Sunday and then check with me regarding that.*

You may make public my 2003 letter to Dr. Thompson and action items (which were compiled by the congregation of the Ezra Church of God) and may note that the action items were also sent to Mike Riva, Tommy's attorney, with my reply to his letter of June 13, 2003. You may note that I gave you my permission to do so.

In early 2003 Roger Clem first confided to me his victimization by Tommy Shelton. It was within a week or less that Tommy called me. **Please give Roger the courtesy of a call and do not make public his name unless he gives you permission.** If necessary, call me and I will call Roger ahead of you that he might feel comfortable speaking openly with you.

This is a divisive issue here and our Board of Trustees and I welcome your prayers in advance of our meeting tomorrow afternoon.

Pastor Glenn Dryden

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:44
PM

Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents

The importance of this question will not necessarily immediately be seen.

Bob

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

Subject: Quick question on '80's chronology of your state of residence

Date: Sat, 02 Dec 2006 19:19:34 -0600

To: Brother Glenn Dryden

Looks like I have one vague area in my chronology.

I have you definitely in VA from the late '80's until 1993. You first met him in the early or mid-1980's, maybe around the time when his ordination was revoked in 1985. And you've had a working relationship since then.

Where were you located when you first met Tommy, and what were you doing? I'd like to fill in the gray area from the early '80's until the late '80's.

Thanks much.

Bob

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member

Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents

(MSDAOL)
12/04/06 11:44
PM

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

Subject: Re: Quick question on '80's chronology of your state of residence

Date: Sat, 2 Dec 2006 20:37:54 -0500

From: Glenn Dryden

1974 - first associated with Community Church of God, Dunn Loring, VA, while serving in the U.S. Army, Military District of Washington

1983-1993 - Assistant Pastor of the Community Church of God (bivocational - employed in the field of court administration, Fairfax County, Virginia, Circuit Court)

1993 - 2005 briefly associate pastor to Pastor Arnold Edmondson and then pastor of the Ezra Church of God, West Frankfort, IL

Dec. 2, 2005 to present - Senior Pastor of the Community Church of God, Dunn Loring, VA

I was here in Virginia when I first met Tommy in the early or mid-1980s. Ministerial relationship (most of the time from a distance) from that time until approximately late 2000.

Hope this helps.

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:45
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

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

Subject: FROM PASTOR DRYDEN

Date: Sun, 3 Dec 2006 21:03:14 -0500

From: Glenn Dryden

Statement of Pastor Glenn Dryden

Three instances of misconduct on the part of Tommy Shelton while he served as pastor at the Community Church of God, Dunn Loring, Virginia, have been reported to me in the brief time I have served as pastor of this congregation.

The most egregious of these instances involved a male who was a minor at the time.

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:46
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

Again, the importance of these questions may not be immediately seen.

Bob

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

Subject: Three quick questions
 Date: Mon, 04 Dec 2006 05:19:37 -0600
 To: Glenn Dryden

Pastor Dryden,

I could use some clarification on these points:

- What year did you first hear of any allegations of this nature regarding Tommy Shelton? After moving to Illinois or exactly (or about) when before?
- When did you first hear of allegations of this nature arising from Tommy's time in Virginia? I presume prior to your 2003 letter? And can you specify, in a vague way if need be, how you heard about them while still living in Illinois?

I tried several times last night to get a hold of Roger and could not do so. You might want to give him a quick call I did leave a message Saturday night, and he hasn't returned my call at this point.

Thanks so much.

Bob

Bob Pickle
 (1000+ Member
 (MSDAOL))
 12/04/06 11:46
 PM

Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents

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

Subject: Re: Three quick questions
 Date: Mon, 4 Dec 2006 07:59:59 -0500
 From: Glenn Dryden

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. Also in the late 1980s there was mention of "allegations" at the time of his receiving ministerial credentials from the Ministerial Council of the Church of God, Inc., but assurance was given by Council leadership that there was no substance to these allegations. No indication of their nature was given either - not to me at any rate. 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.

It was not until after Tommy Shelton left the pastorate here at the Community Church of God, Dunn Loring, Virginia, in 2000, that while vacationing my wife and I were spending some time with a former "confidant" of Tommy's in the congregation in Virginia and this individual informed us of misconduct on Tommy's part while serving at the Community Church of God. This alleged misconduct was believable but unsubstantiated and is unrelated to the three instances which have been brought to my attention in the past year.

Pastor Glenn Dryden

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:47
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

I will pause to say two things.

1) Dryden claims that Tommy claimed that he was being persecuted. This is exactly what Danny claimed was happening to him on the August 10, 2006, 3ABN Live broadcast. I find that troubling.

2) Roger Clem informed me of the very same allegation before I had a chance to read this email, namely, that a lady caught Tommy with some boy in a house other than Tommy's, that Tommy claimed it was his son, and that the woman then drove to the school and saw Tommy's son at the school.

The additional detail Clem added to the story is that the woman then returned to the house and saw a red-faced boy leaving the house, trying to cover his face.

Roger Clem gave me permission to use his name.

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:47
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

I will also add that Pastor Dryden has an interest in Tommy's well being. He encourages all of us to pray for him, especially that he act appropriately at this time.

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:47
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

I quote from 3ABN's Illinois Tax Case:

Quote:

Appearances: Mr. Kent R. Steinkamp, Special Assistant Attorney General for the Illinois Department of Revenue; Mr. Nicholas P. Miller, Sidley, Austin, Brown, Wood, L.L.C., Mr. Lee Boothby, Boothby and Yingst, and **Mr. D. Michael Riva for 3 Angels Broadcasting Network;** Ms. Merry Rhodes and Ms. Joanne H. Petty,

Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton and Taylor, Ltd. for Thompsonville Community High School District 112.

D. Michael Riva is therefore an attorney who works or has worked for 3ABN.

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:48
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

D. MICHAEL RIVA
ATTORNEY AT LAW
226 E. Main Street
WEST FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS 62896
(618) 937-2404 • FAX: (618) 937-2405

June 13, 2003

Pastor Dryden
1345 Ezra Street
West Frankfort IL 62896

Dear Pastor Dryden:

Please be advised that I represent Tommy Ray Shelton and have been directed to contact you concerning actions you have taken against him which are slanderous and libelous and calculated to deprive him of his right to earn a living. We are aware that you have been talking to and sending letters to various individuals in which you state with certainty that he has committed certain felonious acts.

You are putting yourself and the Ezra Church of God in a position of legal jeopardy by your actions as you have used church letterhead in your attacks on my client.

Even if the actions occurred, there is no criminal jeopardy as the statute of limitations has long since passed. Senate Bill 1035 does not, nor could it constitutionally if it actually stated so, place a person in legal jeopardy after a statute of limitation had already run. The courts of Illinois have addressed this question. A few of those cases are: *People of the State of Illinois v. Coleman*, 1993 5th District, 245 Ill.App.3d 592, 615 N.E.2d 53, 185 Ill.Dec. 758; *People v. Berg*, 277 Ill.App.3d 549, 660 N.E.2d 1003, 214 Ill.Dec. 296; *People v. Massarella*, 80 Ill.App.3d 549, 660 N.E.2d 436, 36 Ill.Dec. 16.

These cases are enclosed for your review and to prove to you that no State's Attorney will charge my client with any criminal offense because the statute of limitations had already run and any new legislative bill cannot put him back in a position of criminal jeopardy.

I have discussed this legal point and cases with an attorney in the State of Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's office and an Illinois State's Attorney. There is no disagreement on this legal point.

Any action to encourage an individual to discuss any of the alleged acts with the State's Attorney's office will never result in a criminal prosecution for the alleged offense and will put the Ezra Church of God and yourself in further jeopardy.

You are best advised to cease all of your activity regarding Tommy Ray Shelton. To continue, will place your church, Ezra Church of God, and yourself in legal jeopardy for no good reason.

Very truly yours,

D.Michael Riva

DMR:pys

xc: _____

Board Member

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:48
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

Three points may be considered:

- 1) He ended the letter with "Very truly yours," which sounds sort of friendly like.
- 2) The threat of legal action found in paragraphs 1, 2, 6, and 7 appear to my untrained, non-attorney brain to be based solely on:

Quote:

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

Even if the actions occurred ...

Even if the actions occurred ...

Even if the actions occurred ...

Even if the actions occurred ...

I just question the wisdom of the attorney of the network that preaches the undiluted three angels' messages using this logic to threaten a non-Adventist minister with legal action in order to shut him up regarding his concerns over alleged child molestation.

- 3) I think a legitimate question is whether Mr. Riva performed his services for Tommy Shelton pro bono, or whether Tommy paid for them out of his own pocket, or whether Danny paid for them out of his own pocket, or whether 3ABN covered the cost.

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:49
PM

Fax from Pastor Glenn Dryden of the Church of God to G. Arthur Joy on December 2, 2006.

The following is from the cover sheet.

Bob

Mike Riva's letter to me dated June 13, 2003, follows. Below are the first three paragraphs and the closing paragraph of my reply dated June 20, 2003.

I received your letter dated June 13, 2003, upon my return last evening from a two week trip out of state. It is my prayer that you will assist Tommy Shelton in taking measures which will satisfy his victims, their families and the congregations involved and serve to bring some closure to him as well as them.

Your letter, particularly the next to last paragraph, serves better to incite rather than intimidate. Consider the scenario of three victims pressing charges in an environment of intense interest from news media with state-wide or national influence. Any State's Attorney anticipating re-election certainly would give serious attention to prosecution.

I urge you to counsel Tommy to take the initiative by making a full disclosure of all victims and details to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and by pursuing the additional "Action Items" enclosed. Doing so would put him in a far better light and more advantageous position than would circumstances similar to the scenario contemplated above.

...

Finally, Mr. Riva, I am disappointed that you did not exercise due diligence to obtain the name and address of the chairman of our board of trustees or other board member. Sending a copy of your letter to one of our parishioners was entirely inappropriate.

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/04/06 11:51
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

Now I know you are all saying, "Thanks so much for not posting everything tonight. Any more would be too much."

Would you say it looks like we have a severe problem here? Do you have any suggestions for Danny how he can clear the air once and for all regarding these allegations?

But consider the implications: Do you in your wildest dreams think that senior management other than Danny isn't involved in some sort of cover-up too, if that's what we have here? For example, how could these kinds of things be going on in a

small community and the 3ABN General Manager not know anything about it?

And remember, this is only one issue. Gailon has interviewed a lot of people. There are a lot of things I'm simply not in the know about.

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/05/06 07:20
AM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

----- Original Message -----
Subject: Re: Three quick questions
Date: Mon, 4 Dec 2006 15:06:17 -0500
From: Glenn Dryden

I just spoke with Roger. I am satisfied that he has no qualms about your using his name and leaving it on his letter.

Clarification: In the spring of 2003 I mailed out no more than 5 or 6 letters to leaders of Church of God camp meeting associations with essentially the same content as my letter to Dr. Thompson.

Pastor Dryden

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/05/06 07:25
AM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

Internal evidence as well as Mr. Clem's recollection has this undated letter being written around the spring of 2004. 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.

Mr. Clem's testimony that Tommy Shelton's brother made threatening phone calls in order to hush things up is particularly disturbing.

Bob

Mr. Shelton,

I am writing this letter in regards to last year's phone conversation. I told you then I was confronting you about what you did to me so I could deal with my feelings about it. I did not then, nor will I now, make any apologies [to] anyone who might be upset with me. My attitude has changed towards this situation. I thought I could just handle this and go on with my life, but now I realize I cannot. You ruined the better part of 15 years of my life. I was afraid to date anyone, I let people walk all over me, and I felt lower than dirt. The years you destroyed should have been some of the best years of my life. While everyone was out doing what they enjoyed, I was constantly working to try to take my mind off what happened. You destroyed my self-esteem and that I'm still battling today. I have no confidence in myself to accomplish major tasks in life. It kind of makes me wonder about the other guys that you abused. All of the ones that I know about have had failed marriages. Doesn't it make YOU wonder what they are going through, or do you even care? You were supposed to be someone people could put their trust in and look up to, and here you were doing some of the most disgusting and immoral things you could do. While you were preaching to everyone how they should honor their marriage vows, you were cheating on your own wife, and with who, teenage boys. We had our whole lives ahead of us and you put us through hell on earth. I don't know how you could look yourself in the mirror, let alone get up and preach to people about how they ought to live. 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? 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 heard (I don't know for sure) that the reason for the letter was to protect your livelihood. What about my livelihood? I feel like I don't have the confidence to achieve the things that I want to in life. I know this letter seems hateful, I Don't Care. I'm tired of not saying anything just so I won't upset people. Guess what, it gets better. I have been checking the laws on reporting sexual abuse. There was a new law passed that extends the age that you can report abuse to age 38, I'm 32. So here is what I'm going to do. I'm going to let you decide what you should do to make amends for what you did. 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.

Roger W. Clem

Bob Pickle

(1000+ Member)

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

(MSDAOL))
12/05/06 07:32
AM

Quote:

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.

We need some sort of reply from Danny on this one, don't you think? Honestly, did he really do this?

When we first secured Pastor Dryden's 2003 letter, he gave us permission to only share it with responsible individuals in leadership position. Why? Because he was afraid that some of his relatives who work at 3ABN might have repercussions. That was disturbing, for it seemed to support some of the allegations out there that Danny will resort to those kind of tactics.

I told him the other day that I didn't think that should be a concern, since, after all, Danny's smart. He knows about such allegations against him, and if he were to fire those relatives, even if he had just cause, his critics would only have more ammunition to use against him. So they should have quite a bit of job security at the moment.

7Trumpets
(New Member
(MSDAOL))
12/05/06 11:35
AM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

Bob and anyone else reading,

After reading this latest round of revelations, it is clear that Tommy and Danny do know that the charges have substance, they do know that the actions were recent and they do know that there are serious implications for their careers.

To that end, I would recommend that you continue to press the line for

- full disclosure
- repentance, apologies, etc
- all withdrawal of threats of legal action
- compensation by Tommy (ALONE, not 3ABN) to the victims
- Tommy providing the means for the victims to receive professional help
- the removal of Tommy from any ministry where he has contact with children (including teens)

We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. Only God can really measure the true grievousness of sins and make comparisons. Yet the one who abuses a little child, especially a church goer, must certainly remember Jesus' words about a millstone

- *And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better*

for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Matt 18:5, 6; Mark 9:41, 42; Luke 17:2

Never give up this pursuit. It has been reasonable and it seeks for honesty. It is clear to me that Tommy has not repented, for if he had, having done these sins which became public, he would have made public apologies which would be something to his credit.

To use hiding, silence, threats and intimidation by his brother is not going to let it go away, the rumors and gossip will only swell until the whole world knows. What a fall that will be!

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/05/06 12:28
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

Thank you, 7Trumpets.

Jesus said that would be better. Better than what? Better to sink to the bottom of the sea with a millstone around your neck than to float in the lake of fire.

That's how much He and His Father treasure the little ones.

7Trumpets
(New Member
(MSDAOL))
12/05/06 02:35
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

I wish to add I find no pleasure in this mess. I love 3ABN. I wish this thing would go away. Yet hiding my head (or anyone else hiding their heads) in the sand will not make it go away.

Instead, by the time we take our heads out of the sand we would have been totally encircled by the predators and provided a tasty meal for someone.

Daryl Fawcett
(16000+
Member
(MSDAOL))
12/05/06 03:02
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

I also find no pleasure in this mess.

I was excited when I learned about 3ABN right up to the separation and subsequent civic divorce of Danny and Linda Shelton, which was the catalyst, or Pandora's box, that opened up all these other things.



Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/31/06 06:32
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

What follows is the 1985 letter that was sent to Tommy Shelton alerting him to the fact that his ordination had been suspended.

Several points may be noted, which answer some questions people have had:

- This letter was sent to Tommy by an Illinois Church of God organization 8 years before Pastor Glenn Dryden moved to the state. Thus, the information it contains has nothing to do with Pastor Dryden.
- This letter was sent 17-18 years before Roger Clem came forward in West Frankfort, and thus the information it contains has nothing to do with Roger Clem.
- "In the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word shall be established." We thus have at least three witnesses.

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/31/06 06:38
PM

Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents

General Assembly of the Church of God in Illinois
George L. Newton
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

Phone: (XXX) XXX-XXXX

P.O. Box J
Mt. Zion, Illinois 62549

October 25, 1985

Reverend Tommy Shelton
Route # 1 Box 189-B
West Frankfort, Illinois 62896

Dear Tommy :

On October 25, 1985, the Illinois Ministerial Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of God in Illinois met in regular session at the Church of God State Office building at 4225 South Camp Warren Lane, Decatur, Illinois at Camp Warren. In concern for your best interest and the Church of God, the following action was taken:

"The ordination of Tommy Shelton has been suspended immediately until further notice pending the results of the official police investigation concerning criminal sexual abuse charges against him. This action is effective this day, October 25, 1985."

This action was taken for the following reasons:

- 1.I mproper counseling procedures followed by you and admitted by you.
- 2.Numerous c harges of misconduct reported to this committee.

3. We have been advised that an investigation is underway by the West Frankfort Illinois Police Department concerning criminal sexual abuse charges against you.

4. Controversy surrounding your ministry and personal lifestyle.

Tommy, you are advised to surrender your Ordination Certificate to this office in the enclosed self addressed envelope and to cease all activities related to ministries of the Church of God until you are further advised by this committee.

Be assured this was not an easy decision for this committee to make. We will be praying for you and your family that God's complete purpose will be accomplished in your life.

If we can be of help in any way, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

[signed]

George L. Newton
Executive Secretary

[signed]

Tom E. Smith
Committee Chairman
GLN/TES: jn

Copy Furnished: Keith Huttenlocker, Division of Church Service; Edwin R. Beasley, State Chairman; Pastors - Southern Illinois District Churches of God

"Illinois Ministries... Striving for Excellence"

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
CHURCH OF GOD IN ILLINOIS

October 25, 1985

Reverend Tommy Shelton
Route # 1 Box 389-B
West Frankfort, Illinois 62894

GEORGE L. HEWSON
Executive Secretary
Phone 618/363-2362
PO BOX 1
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-0001

Dear Tommy:

On October 25, 1985, the Illinois Ministerial Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of God in Illinois met in regular session at the Church of God State Office Building at 4325 South Camp Warren Lane, Decatur, Illinois at Camp Warren. In concern for your best interest and the Church of God, the following action was taken:

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Sincerely,

George L. Hewson *Tom E. Smith*
George L. Hewson Tom E. Smith
Executive Secretary Committee Chairman

CIN/YEB:jn

Copy Furnished: Keith Huttenlocher, Division of Church Service
Edwin S. Beasley, State Chairman
Pastors - Southern Illinois District Churches of God

"Missis Ministries... Striving for Excellence"

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
12/31/06 07:12
PM

 **Re: The Glenn Dryden and related Documents**

On November 27, 2006, 3ABN Board chairman Dr. Walt Thompson wrote me and said:

Originally Posted By: Walt Thompson

Subsequently, after this issue has been brought back to the forefront ... I contacted the only person from the Church of God that I could find that knew about the situation, and who had been present and witness to the events. ... The picture that was painted by that leader of the Church was exactly as portrayed earlier by Danny. ... I have been informed that the Church of God is a congregational type or organization with different jurisdictions in different states and **that there was no higher authority that I could speak with** to resolve the issue further. It was not entirely clear to me how that worked. I was also told that **one leader pestered Tommy over and over again** until Tommy voluntarily gave up his ministerial license. These are the facts as I have been able to sort them out.

The natural assumption is that everything in the above came from the unnamed

source, not Danny, but that could be wrong.

Four questions remain:

- Who was this unnamed source, and how did Walt just happen to get that particular name?
- Did Walt contact the General Assembly of the Church of God in Illinois and get his information from them, something he was invited to do in Pastor Dryden's 2003 letter, or was this unnamed source not even a past or present officer of the General Assembly?
- Who led Walt to believe that "**one** leader pestered Tommy" when the letter announcing the suspending of Tommy's ordination was signed by **two** individuals, and was the result of an action taken by **an entire committee**?
- In what sense at all can these circumstances be considered a "**voluntary**" surrender of his ministerial license?

Of course, it is always possible that Walt was referring to a different revoking of Tommy's credentials, not the 1985 one. Yet even then, what he was led to believe would constitute a serious distortion of reality.

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
01/04/07 06:53
PM

Testimony of Pastor Brad Dunning

The seventh victim that has just come forward gave me the name of Brad Dunning, a gentleman who is now a United Pentecostal preacher. I contacted him and he has given the following written account of his own experience. It appears that Pastor Dunning may have been the first to make complaints of sexual misconduct on the part of Tommy Shelton at the Ezra Church of God, complaints that eventually led to the revoking of Tommy's ordination in 1985.

Four points were given for that 1985 action, one of which was:

Originally Posted By: Illinois Ministerial Credentials Committee

1. Improper counseling procedures followed by you and admitted by you.

I asked the seventh victim what that might have been. He said that what he had heard at the time was that there was a boy at the school trying to get other boys involved in homosexual activity, and that Tommy had tried to bring it out into the open by propositioning the boy.

I asked the seventh victim which he had heard of first, the boy's problem or Tommy's "counseling" procedure. He said he heard of them at the same time. I suggested that it is possible this was a way for Tommy to explain away what he had really done.

Of course, it seemed important to follow up on this and see if maybe Tommy was almost in the clear after all. This is why I contacted the boy turned preacher, Pastor Brad Dunning. I told Dunning about how it has been said that Tommy was trying to bring his deviant behavior out into the open. He said that that was the first time he had ever heard of that.

I have mixed feelings posting this one, since it does describe exactly what Tommy said to young teenager Brad, and it doesn't make for pleasant reading. But what do you do?

It is hard to imagine that this could have been the first time something like this happened. People don't just wake up one day and say things like this out of the blue, do they?

Pastor Dunning would love to see Tommy behind bars. It burns him up to see him on the air. He said that because of all he knows about what goes on at Three Angels Broadcasting Network, that around his home they call it Three Devils Broadcasting. I assured him that Seventh-day Adventists don't tolerate this kind of thing, and he realizes that every group, including his, has its renegades.

Walt Thompson said:

Originally Posted By: Walt Thompson

The allegations against Tommy were made about 30 years ago. They were reported to the proper authorities. No physical actions ever occurred. **Tommy apologized to the kids** and offered recompense. The DA said there was no case. No restrictions were ever imposed.

I asked pastor Dunning if Tommy had ever apologized. He said, "No."

I trust that whatever the seventh victim writes will be much more pleasant reading.

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
01/04/07 06:55
PM

 **Re: Testimony of Pastor Brad Dunning**

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

Subject: RE: Here's my email, Pastor Dunning.

Date: Thu, 4 Jan 2007 16:09:11 -0600

From: Brad Dunning

Dear Bob,

Here is my follow up email from our telephone conversation yesterday January 3rd, 2007.

The purpose of this communication is to give you a personal account of how I was assaulted by Tommy Shelton, then Pastor of the Ezra Church of God.

I believe it was in the 1982-83 school year. I was a student in the Ezra Church of God Christian School. I was an honor student and a member of the basketball team.

On the day of my encounter with Tommy Shelton, here is what took place.

I was in the gym playing basketball one afternoon by myself. I had extra free time as I was an "E" privilege student.

Ricky Shelton came to the gym and told me that his dad wanted to see me in his office. So I left the gym and went to the Pastors office. Tommy invited me in and closed the door. He sat behind his desk, I sat on the couch.

He began to tell me that he was really embarrassed to talk about this, but he needed my help. He said that he had a problem with his testicles. It was a medical condition that was causing them to bleed. I asked him if he had been to the doctor. He replied that he was too embarrassed to be seen by the nurses and that he would not go.

He said that he had prayed about it, and God showed him how that he could be healed. He told me that God showed him that if he could apply the sperm of another man, that the proteins would heal his testicles. He then asked me if I would be willing to help him by applying my sperm to his testicles.

Being in shock, I told him that I had to think about it and left his office. I went home that afternoon and told my mother all that had gone on.

I did not return to school. My Mother, my grandfather and I, went back to the school and confronted Tommy. He denied everything and told my Grandfather that no one would believe us and he would win.

We then went to the West Frankfort Police department and filed a formal complaint. To my knowledge, no charges were brought against Tommy. Our family suspected that Tommy was being protected by State Police officers who were members of his congregation.

My mother and I moved to Houston, TX shortly after that.

A few years later, we were told that Tommy had been caught with other boys. Some who were personal friends of mine while I was at Ezra.

One of the boys later apologized to me for not speaking up when I did.

My mother received an official written apology from the Church of God. I had not had any communication with Tommy Shelton since that event took place.

If I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Because of Him,

Brad Dunning
<http://www.facs4u.com>

Bob Pickle
 (1000+ Member
 (MSDAOL))
 01/04/07 07:48
 PM

 **Re: Testimony of Pastor Brad Dunning**

I guess what disturbs many is the apparently repeated offenses over so many years, with no apparent repentance or heartfelt apologies, and the cover ups that Danny has himself apparently been involved in in this matter.

May Tommy fall on the Rock and be broken. May he come clean before men and in the eyes of God. May he be washed in the blood of the Lamb, that blood that can cleanse every spot, and straighten every wrinkle.

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
01/08/07 01:07
AM

 **Letter from Scott Clem, brother of Roger Clem**

Here is another letter from the other brother of Roger Clem, and brother of the seventh victim.

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

Subject: In Response To Your Message....

Date: Thu, 04 Jan 2007 12:15:17 -0600

From: Scott Clem

Hi, Bob!

I am contacting you in response to your telephone message of Wed., Jan. 3. My apologies for being so long in getting back with you.

...

First of all, I want to make you aware that I know a little about who you are, having read your posts at Maritime SDA Online. I want you to know that I fully support your efforts to clean up the mess at 3ABN, and that my prayer is for successful results for the good of 3ABN and it's viewers, and most importantly, for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I wish to make it clear that, though I am Southern Baptist, I hold nothing against the Seventh Day Adventist Church, any of it's members, or 3ABN personally. My problem, as I am sure is the same with you, is the un-Christian conduct so rampant at 3ABN. Such conduct serves no purpose but to undermine the original intended objective of 3ABN and to embarrass the SDA Church. Those responsible for this misconduct must be exposed and dealt with, and I applaud your efforts to do just that.

As you now know, both of my brothers are victims of past molestation by 3ABN vice president Tommy Shelton, who served as our pastor at Ezra Church of God at the time that the molestations took place. There is also evidence that my brothers are not the only victims. While I have never been a victim of any type of sexual abuse, I am greatly enraged by such actions, particularly as such a despicable act has been perpetrated on my brothers by someone in whom our entire family had placed so much trust and confidence for so many years. Few things in life have cut me so deeply as this situation, and the human side of me wants to see Tommy Shelton fall to the most harsh and swift justice known to man in response to his devilish actions. It is my feeling that the Lord, though he still loves Tommy, also desires that he pay for his actions. Tommy's conduct is clearly not of God.

I am equally pained by the fact that our late mother, who died of cancer on Dec. 1, 2001, left this world never having known that two of her children were victimized by

Tommy in this way. She remained steadfast in her support of Tommy due to this lack of knowledge. At the same time, I consider everyone involved in this ordeal, with the obvious exception of Tommy, to be completely blameless. Mom never knew the truth, and I can guarantee you that if she had, she would have turned on Tommy in the blink of an eye. As well, while I cannot say that I truly understand what my brothers went through, I can somehow understand why they waited so long to come forward. Feelings of guilt and embarrassment are commonplace with victims of sexual abuse for many years after the abuse has taken place. I also know that my brothers were fearful of hurting Mom or other family members by coming forward with this information, and/or of what might happen in the aftermath. Our family is hurt and angered by this, but this pain and anger is not directed at, nor is it the fault of, my brothers. I am just glad that they have both realized the importance of coming forward, as it will be a major step on their road to recovery and toward bringing Tommy to justice for what he has done. Simply put, it is my observation that, of all the numerous people involved in this terrible situation, the blame for it's entirety rests solely on one person, and that would be one Tommy Shelton. May God, in this situation, forego His endless mercy and leave Tommy to face the consequences that he really deserves!

As for the other information that I may provide for your continuing investigation, [What follows is a legal matter that I would like to verify before posting.]

Again, I state that I have nothing against 3ABN personally, but I support and applaud your efforts to get a stranglehold on the situation as it stands now. I wish to see 3ABN become a great powersource for the furtherance of God's Kingdom, but I can no longer believe that this will happen under the leadership of Danny and Tommy Shelton. It appears to me that, in order for 3ABN to move forward as a ministry, Danny and Tommy must be ousted. While we should continue to pray for them, it is clear that the situations in which they have placed 3ABN will necessitate their removal. Otherwise, 3ABN will surely fall, and I really do not believe that it has to come to that.

On an added note, some of these situations, if placed for investigation by the federal government, could result in the revocation of 3ABN's licenses. Perhaps the best course of action would be to recommend to Dr. Walt Thompson that steps be taken in the very near future to remove Danny and Tommy so that 3ABN will have a fighting chance to save it's authority to broadcast. At this point, it could be in serious jeopardy.

To tell you the honest truth, I would very much welcome an opportunity to work with 3ABN in whichever ways ..., but I will not even make an attempt at such an arrangement as long as 3ABN is under the facist thumb of Danny Shelton and his child molester brother Tommy. God does not honor such things, and I refuse to do so as well. As a past volunteer at 3ABN, I would love to re-establish a friendship with the network, and my hope is that, in the foreseeable future, I will be able to do so. As things stand right now, this just cannot happen.

Again, my best to you and those working with you to bring back some order to 3ABN. It is my hope and prayer that your investigations will bring Danny and Tommy and all other guilty parties to justice and restore 3ABN to her former self for

the glory of God. If you need anything else from me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Christ,

Scott Clem

Daryl Fawcett

(16000+

Member

(MSDAOL))

01/20/07 08:31

PM



Re: Letter from Duane Clem

The following was received by Gailon Arthur Joy AURporter:

Read and weep; This is number seven of what is now ten and counting. Notice many contacts came while Tommy was at 3ABN late 80's and early 90--91. Think we will find others in the contemporary period? Wonder if there are more in Dunn Loring?

This has been extremely hard to do, but I think it had to be done.

--- statement follows ---

It has taken me a long time to get to the point where I felt I could write this. In light of recent events and allegations brought forth by other parties, I feel it has become necessary to compose this statement.

Let me begin by saying that I am not writing out of a spirit of vengeance or animosity. I had never planned on sharing what happened with anyone else. I was prepared to take this to my grave. I had forgotten, or at least pushed back, the feelings of shame and resentment I had about this situation, but in recent days a lot of that has been brought back. I do not, however, blame anyone who has been DIRECTLY affected by this for coming forward.

Tommy Shelton was my pastor for many years at the Ezra Church of God in West Frankfort, IL. I began attending with my mother, sister and 2 brothers around 1974 or so, and my father became a Christian and began coming with us shortly after I graduated high school in 1984. Tommy and I were never really close until I began attending the Christian school our church operated. Over the next few years, we would spend a lot of time talking, as I was dealing with depression issues and he was counseling with me.

When the General Assembly of the Church of God in Illinois decided to suspend Tommy's ministerial credentials in 1985, I was one of several who wrote a letter in his defense. I was also questioned by a detective at the West Frankfort Police Department. I had been on a few overnight trips with him, and gave testimony that nothing had happened that would substantiate the allegations being made against him. At the time, this was true. It was, unfortunately, about to change.

Sometime in late 1985 or early 1986, Tommy came to me and said he had an unusual medical problem and asked for my help. I was shocked. I had previously been told by two other young men that he had said the same thing to them, but I could not believe that they were telling me the truth, even though they told me identical stories at 2

different times. Now, I was hearing these words from my pastor. I felt trapped. I wanted to say something right then, but I didn't. I had vigorously defended him against allegations in the past, and had even lost friends because of it. I had written a letter saying nothing had happened to me. I had told the police nothing happened. Now, here I was, 19 years old, with NO ONE I felt I could talk to about it.

Over the next few months, Tommy and I would meet at his house, the church, the original 3ABN building and even one night on a back country road, anywhere he thought no one would see us. There was a lot of inappropriate touching, but nothing further. He wanted much more out of it, but I couldn't let it happen because in my heart I knew it wasn't right. I was wrestling with thoughts like "What if someone finds out? What will happen to the church...his family...my family? Who would believe me anyway?"

Whenever he would be touching me, I would get muscle spasms in my back. I guess it was because I was so tense. More than once he sensed that I was in pain, and a couple of times he even accused me of "faking it" because I didn't care or didn't want to help him. I really started questioning if I was in the wrong. It was constant mental and emotional turmoil.

On one occasion, I had been hired by a television and appliance rent-to-own company as an assistant manager, and was to travel to the main office about an hour away for 2 days of training. The company said they would get me a motel room so I wouldn't have to drive back and forth. When Tommy found this out, he decided that it would be a good opportunity for him to come down to my room and no one would ever know the difference. I paid very little attention to my training all day long because I was dreading what was going to happen that night. Finally, as the supervisor was going to reserve the room, I told him that "something had come up" and I was going to have to drive back home, so I wouldn't need the room after all. I lied. I don't remember what excuse I gave Tommy for not staying the night down there, but I know I lied to him also. I really didn't want to drive back and forth, but I hated the thought of another "meeting" worse. I loved my pastor and didn't want to hurt him, but I didn't know how much longer I could keep this up. I was now lying to try to avoid it.

Finally, he said he realized that I was uncomfortable and decided we shouldn't be doing this. It was like a thousand pound weight was gone. I felt free. The problem is that I felt such a release that I didn't consider the fact that this had already happened before, or so I had been told. I never told anyone. It is because of my silence, I feel, that others have been harmed. That is one of my big regrets and I will carry that guilt for the rest of my days. There is nothing I can ever do to change that. I only hope that in some way, speaking out now will help put an end to it once and for all.

I am happy to say that God has been with me through it all. I am still attending church faithfully, and have been working with teens at church for the past 10-12 years. I was ordained as a General Baptist minister in September of 2005, and have served as a youth pastor and Sunday School teacher at churches I have attended previously. I am pleased to be able to say that I do NOT have any homosexual desires or tendencies as a result of my experience. If anything, it has made me abhor and detest it even more than I ever did before. In addition, it is very possible that I

will be dealing with a young person in the future facing similar issues, and God may have allowed me to go through this so I would know how to help them. All things DO work together for good to those who love God!

In conclusion, I want to say that I do NOT hate Tommy Shelton, nor do I want to see him or his family destroyed. I grew up with the Shelton kids. They're almost like family to me. I hope that my coming forward doesn't end our friendships, although I'm sure it will never be the same from this point forward.

I ask all who read this to please pray for all those who have been directly involved, our families, our churches and yes, for Tommy Shelton also. It is my opinion that he needs to be out of the ministry right now, but he also needs the Lord's leadership as he deals with past issues. Our God is a God of judgment, but He is also a God of forgiveness and restoration. I want that restoration for Tommy and everyone else who has been affected by this. Snide remarks and hateful comments won't solve anything or bring healing to anyone, only God's touch can do that.

Thank you for your prayers and thoughts as we all try to put this behind us. God bless.

Duane Clem

Bob Pickle
(1000+ Member
(MSDAOL))
01/26/07 10:32
PM

Mom in Pain #1

Taken from <http://www.save3abn.com/tommy-shelton-victims-family-mom-1.htm>.

Broken-Hearted Mother #1

[As alleged victims of Tommy Shelton talk to their old friends, yet more are coming forward. Just yesterday a new one came forward, one who remembers well an incident that allegedly occurred when he was eight years old.

He called his mother first and told her his story before he called us. Can you imagine what it must be like to be a mother and get a phone call like that?

Read her statement below and feel her pain as she unburdens her soul.

It should be noted that she confirms that Tommy did excuse his propositioning of around 14-year-old Brad Dunning by saying that he was trying to expose Brad's own homosexual activity.

- This was a story previously told to us by Duane Clem, which he said that he was told back in the early '80's when Brad and his family complained about what Tommy had done.
- Yet when we asked Duane whether he had heard anything about such problems with Brad prior to Tommy getting into trouble, he said that he had not.
- When we asked Pastor Brad Dunning about this story, he told us that that was the first time he had ever heard of such a thing.

Thus, unfortunately, we have here evidence that Tommy Shelton was not beyond slandering someone's reputation in order to escape getting into trouble over serious allegations. We hope that this apparent tendency does not run in the family.]

Her Letter Arrives

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

Subject: Re: Discussion Yesterday

Date: Thu, 25 Jan 2007 19:42:55 -0800 (PST)

Bob,

As promised yesterday, I am sending you a letter from a broken-hearted mother. To keep *****'s confidentiality at this time, I would rather you didn't use my name. ... I check the website everyday and am impressed with all the new information posted.

Thanks,

***** *****

Letter of a Mother of an Alleged Victim of Tommy Shelton

Dear *****,

I cannot begin to tell you the grief and heartache I feel right now. If I start at the beginning, I can tell you my husband and I were staunch supporters of Tommy Shelton for all the years he ministered at Ezra Church of God. My family attended there when it was a small, one room building with an outhouse. Tommy performed our wedding ceremony in that small church. We continued as part of his following into the new building across the street. That building, by the way, was built by his brothers (Shelton Construction) and is one foot shorter on one side than the other. Danny, evidently, had not found his true calling at that time.

I worked closely with Tommy for all those years, and each time allegations would arise, he would call me into his office and recite the cover-up story he had carefully planned. He personally told me about Brad Dunning and the mistake he (Tommy) admitted making by trying to meet with him alone to find out if he had indeed made advances to the other boys in school. He again called me into his office when he was caught with another student from school in a bald-faced lie. He was very convincing to be sure. As I said, I stood against his accusers because I thought there was no way any of this could be true. The students had grudges against him and other people misunderstood the situation, excuses he spoon-fed his followers and we regurgitated at appropriate times.

As a mother, I will never forgive myself for my own absorption and mindless following of Tommy's plight that I missed clues within my own family. For that reason, it took 25 years for my own son to admit that he, also, had been abused by Tommy. The scabs that had covered his own pain for so many years were ripped away this week when new allegations arose and more of his friends broke their long, overdue silence. A dam broke when he was forced to step back to that dark place he

had sealed up so long ago. His only excuse was that he knew I hadn't believed all the other boys, and he didn't think I would believe him either. Because of this simple statement, I will live with my own guilt and regret for the rest of my life.

Also, in hindsight, I blame Carol as much as Tommy. How could you, as a mother, turn a blind eye to what you knew he was doing? You were condoning it by keeping your silence. How could you rob us mothers of the opportunity to help our sons grieve and help them begin their healing? You turned your cold heart to us and allowed Tommy to continue with his sickness clear across the United States. You did him no favors by "forgiving" him, when what he needed was help to get well. Instead, he kept infecting others and you stood at his side and helped him. As far as I know, you stand there today with the same blood on your hands.

Professionally, I have a Master's degree in Social Work. When I look back at the church in those years under Tommy's leadership, I see that the black seed of his sin was at the very core. I see the many families he split in two because of his lies and cover-ups. Some of these never recovered. When I look at the lives of the boys he abused and see where each of them is today, I know that many have internalized the abuse and are still living with the guilt he placed on their heads. The guilt that forced them to face their feelings alone as they kept their silence against the man placed before them in a position of power and authority by their own parents. The boys who have never worked through the process of grieving over what they lost. There should be a special punishment for a person who abuses the trust of children and shatters their dreams; a special punishment for the man who ripped the joys and pleasures of childhood from young boys and changed their self-perceptions forever.

Moreover, can anyone imagine the guilt and regret of the mothers who failed to be there when their children needed them the most? Mothers who will always feel they failed at the job God blessed them with by not doing enough to protect their children against this evil.

Anyone still protecting him, Carol, Danny, 3ABN, or the attorney who keeps spouting about statute of limitations, your hands will also be held accountable for the evil you work to cover up. There is no "statute of limitations" on the pain and suffering these boys feel—it doesn't go away after a set number of years—it's there for the rest of their lives. Come forward now and get him the help he needs. He admits to having a "sickness" and you have failed him as we have failed our children. Help the healing begin for everyone involved before any more time goes by.

From a mother's heart.

Daryl Fawcett
(16000+
Member
(MSDAOL))
02/02/07 07:54
PM

Re: Mom in Pain #1

Here is an interesting letter taken from the Save3ABN site:

<http://www.save3abn.com/tommy-shelton-victims-family-judy-woods-1.htm>

January 18, 2007



Dear sir:

The subject I am about to approach absolutely boggles my mind! I cannot comprehend, even to this day, how one person, Tommy Shelton, with his deviate behavior, and all the while declaring that it was not true, could almost destroy our little church. We are, now, a handful of people at Ezra Church of God, that have sat here for decades with a black cloud over our head that seems as if it can never be removed. This type of situation only happens somewhere else, not here!

Why did we, as a congregation, allow it to come to this? Why did I not see what was happening, after all I was Sunday School superintendent? I was in a position where I could observe many of his interactions with the young people. Also, why did the young victims not report the fact that they were being molested to their parents or some authority figure? I know that one young person did go to city hall and made a statement to the police, but nothing happened! Did someone intervene on Tommy's behalf? I don't have the answers to these questions!

As I look back, I quickly realize that hindsight is 20/20. It was a time of chaos that overwhelmed me. I had Sunday School teachers quitting because of the accusations that were running rampant. Many had believed such accusations and left the church. Our church was literally falling apart! At this time, I decided to stand with the pastor. Did I ever question his innocence at this time. Yes, only to switch back to no almost immediately. The fact is that at this point I simply chose not to believe the accusations for, you see, I didn't want to believe them. After all, he was preaching holiness and musically talented. How could there be a dark side?

But, what is probably the key factor is Tommy has a way with words that can convince you that black is white. Any situation that arose that didn't seem kosher, I went directly to Tommy and questioned him on such. He always had an answer that made me say to myself, why did I ever ask!

But, I still had many questions along the way. One young man stood out in particular. He and Tommy were caught alone in a certain residence. Tommy lied and said that it was his son there. Not so! This same teenager would go along on family vacations with the Sheltons. Tommy would also tutor this boy in his office in the evenings.

In the past, other teenagers were used to drive him different places; for example, he would go to a recording studio quite regularly in Flora, IL, and, most always with a young driver.

These are just a few examples of what went on at Ezra.

In situations where Tommy needed to stand and fight for himself, he was always incapacitated, mostly nerve issues-- nervous breakdown, removing himself to California to escape the "heat," even admitting himself to a mental hospital in Centralia. Others in the congregation would try to fight his battles!

During his entire pastorate at Ezra, I stood by him and tried to help him even though I had questions. I suppose I was naive and blinded to a certain extent as to what was

really going on.

What about today? Scripture says, "Be sure your sin will find you out." This is exactly what happened when the pieces of the puzzle fit perfectly into place leaving no doubt in my mind that Tommy is guilty of molesting teenagers.

The young man that has already been mentioned came to my house and told me exactly what Tommy did to him. This was during all the chaos at the church. No, at this point, I did not believe him. I confronted Tommy as to what he said. Tommy blamed the boy's parents for forcing him to tell this. Tommy told me that when the boy turns 21 years old, he would come back and tell me the "truth." I haven't seen the boy since!

Some years have now passed, and I spoke to a mother of another of Tommy's victims. She was talking about her son and Tommy. I ask her if her son had ever said what Tommy did to him. She proceeded to tell me what he said----which turned out to be exactly what the young man said that had come to my house some years before. This was the piece of the puzzle that completed the picture of guilt. These two boys were not in any way connected--not by age, locale or friendship!

My feelings, today, are of betrayal, being lied to over and over, and just, in general, being "used." But how I "feel" does not compare to the torment, agony, and embarrassment that the victims must endure for a lifetime! Only God knows how many victims there are!

By the way, this is not the end of the saga. Since the ruination of Ezra, which included many victims, Tommy has continued to pursue young men to victimize, one of which is Roger, a relative. He then moved on to the Community Church of God in Dunn Loring, VA, leaving more victims there! Only God knows just how many victims there are! This type of behavior must be stopped!

A big "thank you" to the SDA and the CCG for your pursuit of the truth. Please be persistent in your efforts. Tommy must be held accountable for his actions!

The thought that the situation at Ezra had been dealt with 30 years ago, is simply not true! We will know Tommy has repented of his sin when he bows on his knees before each of his victims and begs their forgiveness. Then he must stand before the congregations at Ezra and Dunn Loring and apologize for the agonizing devastation he has caused each church!

I close with some advice directed at Tommy----why don't you stand up and be a man for once in your life! Admit to what you've done and are doing! Stop the cop-out of a nervous breakdown, etc., when you're cornered! Stop hiding behind your fancy lawyer, which I am certain has never been told the real truth. If he had been, he would never have written the (2) threatening letters in an effort to protect a child molester. Stop hiding behind your wife and Danny, who have become your enablers, or, in other words, accessories! Your wife should never have allowed such behavior! Danny should never have put you on staff at 3ABN, nor should he have allowed you on camera, except it does show the world what a child molester looks like! Real godly sorrow and heartfelt repentance are in order, without which hell awaits! Then,

after you've done all this, extreme long-term counseling would be the next step!

Perhaps, if all this were accomplished, maybe the black cloud over Ezra would slowly begin to dissipate!

Thank you

Judith Woods

(***** Note, the one at the Save3ABN link was a signed letter - Daryl *****)

Daryl Fawcett
(16000+
Member
(MSDAOL))
02/06/07 06:49
PM



Re: Mom in Pain #1

Here is another signed letter from the Save3ABN site:

<http://www.save3abn.com/tommy-shelton-victims-family-mom-2.htm>

Broken-Hearted Mother #2

Letter of Charlotte Hopper, Mother of Greg Houseworth
Greg Houseworth is one of the alleged victims of Tommy Shelton. His mother, Charlotte Hopper, unburdens her heart below.

February 3, 2007

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter to tell you that I am the mother of one of Tommy Shelton's victims.

First of all, I want to commend the boys, now young men, that have come forward. I know that it was not easy, and for the ones that haven't yet spoken out publicly, God bless each one of you! Whichever group you belong to, you have nothing to be ashamed of. What was done to you lies on the shoulders of Tommy Shelton!

I, like many others in the beginning of this mess, believed Tommy Shelton. He had a way of manipulating people, both young and old, and still to this day, seems to have that power over some people.

When one of the boys came forward, I remember asking my son if it had happened to him. At that time he told me "no," but he said, "Mom, ***** is not lying about it!" As time went on, my son finally came to me and told me that it had happened to him, and with some details of what was done. As a mother, I was angry and, even more, I was sick to my stomach! To think that someone you trusted could do something like this!

I then started to look back and recall things that had happened. I remember when things began to heat up for Tommy Shelton, he came by our home and asked my son to come outside and talk. Later, I learned that he had told my son that if he told anyone, Carol Shelton would kill herself. Not only did he use his wife, but also his

daughter as a pawn. This was not his only threat against my son. I won't write what the other threats were that were made at this time, but they would make you sick!

As for Carol Shelton, all along she has covered up for Tommy. One time at church, she asked me to go down to the teenage girls' classroom. There she asked me if Tommy had done anything to my son. I, not wanting to hurt her and her children, told her "no." At a later date she asked my son to meet her at McDonalds restaurant in West Frankfort. She asked him the same question. He, not wanting to hurt her, answered her in the same way.

It's funny how she never worried about all the boys in their hurts and fears! I wonder when Carol Shelton stands before the Lord, [page 2] what will her answer be then!

As far as Danny Shelton is concerned, he has always covered this up. He did not want this all to come forward as it would be an embarrassment to him and his ministry. He had a growing ministry in 3ABN and did not want to jeopardize it, no matter what the cost. He should have known that what Tommy was doing would affect him and his ministry. I would like to know what he will say when he stands before the Lord!

Now, let us get back to Tommy Shelton. I am sure you have heard, if it walks like a duck, looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's a duck! At one time, I was told that Tommy Shelton was a homosexual. Let's get real, he is not a homosexual! I believe that a homosexual would not think of molesting a child! How many times on the news media, do you see where a child has been molested by a homosexual? So back to my "duck story," let's call Tommy Shelton what he is, a child molester, sex offender, pedophile, etc.!

He always said he had a vision for a Christian school. That's why he encouraged the folks at Ezra Church of God to start one. Looking back, I wonder if he was not planning this so he would have access to a lot of young boys!

I am the mother who went to Pastor Dryden when I learned Tommy Shelton was going to Dunn Loring. Pastor Dryden listened to what I had to say, but at that time he had no idea that my son was one of Tommy's victims. In fact, up to that time, he believed the story Tommy Shelton had given. This shows the deception that Tommy Shelton held over lay persons and other pastors! I explained to him my concerns for the young men at Dunn Loring. I did not want the same abuse my son experienced to happen to them. Pastor Dryden did what any pastor should do, and that is to advise the church at Dunn Loring about the allegations. The church had this information, and yet they fell victim to Tommy Shelton's deception. I feel that the folks at Ezra Church of God and Pastor Dryden did all they could at that time in warning them about this matter. They chose to believe Tommy Shelton and allowed him to destroy some more young men there!

I have lived with this for 23 years, and, it has eaten away at me daily for all these years! I hurt for all those other young men, but no one knows the hurt I have for my own! This should not happen to any child! We that have never had this happen to us cannot comprehend the pain and anguish that those young men have [page 3] suffered.

I want to know where the justice is! I know that God can forgive, but Tommy needs to pay for what he has done. He needs to be put where he cannot harm another child! I don't want to see him have another fake breakdown or health problem. Justice needs to come forth. He has devastated two churches and hurt countless young men and their families. These are the few we know about. There may be, and probably are, others. He may fool some people, but he cannot fool God!

To broken-hearted mom number one and all the other mothers who know that their sons were molested, I understand your anguish and pain.

Charlotte Hopper

(***See the actual signature at the Save3ABN site - Daryl***)

P.S. If Tommy Shelton would like to have his attorney send me a threat of legal action, all I can say is go for it! I would like nothing better than to be in the same courtroom with him! The truth then would be free!