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BlackSDA _ 3ABN _ How Did You Keep Your Faith?

Posted by: Ralph Aug 27 2006, 10:22 PM

I have watched the development of this crisis since Linda lost her job. Linda is made of pretty good stuff to have survived the turmoil, and still kept her faith.

I can only guess at the pain that has been experienced by writers on this forum who have had connections with 3ABN in the past.

What did it do to your trust? How did you keep your faith?

Posted by: PaperTigers Aug 27 2006, 10:41 PM

to be completely honest, i stopped going to church for awhile, while i was working there... i saw everything that was going on and thought i really don't want any part of this in my spiritual life... so i started treating it like just a job. it took a little bit of time, i think i was out of church about 4 months, before i realized that i didn't want to get my spiritual food from where i worked... so i started going back to church to try and reestablish what i had previously had...

it's rough, because you go into it thinking that "this is a christian ministry, it's going to be different" and then when you realize it isn't... it kinda throws you for a loop, or at least it did me...

but i'm much better now.. either despite or because of what i went through there!!

Posted by: Ralph Aug 28 2006, 12:58 PM

Thanks, PaperTigers for being so honest in telling your experience.
Would you mind expanding on the quote below?

QUOTE(PaperTigers @ Aug 27 2006, 09:41 PM)

it's rough, because you go into it thinking that "this is a christian ministry, it's going to be different" and then when you realize it isn't... it kinda throws you for a loop, or at least it did me...

What was it that made you come back to the church, even after tough times? What was your anchor that held you?

Posted by: PaperTigers Aug 28 2006, 01:50 PM

i went into it thinking that i was going to get a spiritual blessing just working there... then after i saw all of the petty things that went on and all of the political bull crap... some people had to jump through hoops and others just had to sit there... i just got very discouraged... and honestly it wasn't really anything spiritual that brought me back, it was my friends.. i realized that i needed that connection, and since i lived so far away from everyone, the only time i got to see some of the was on saturdays... so that's why i started going back to church... then i started reevaluating

everything again and realized that although i worked in a "christian ministry" i needed God to be more personal for me again...

shrug just my thoughts

Posted by: sonshineonme Aug 28 2006, 05:51 PM

QUOTE(PaperTigers @ Aug 28 2006, 12:50 PM)

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shrug just my thoughts

been there, done that, just not at 3abn.

Posted by: Clay Aug 28 2006, 06:04 PM

QUOTE(PaperTigers @ Aug 28 2006, 01:50 PM)

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shrug just my thoughts

reading this thread reminded me of one of my favorite quotes.....

QUOTE

Show me a man or a woman alone and I'll show you a saint. Give me two and they'll fall in love. Give me three and they'll invent the charming thing we call 'society'. Give me four and they'll build a pyramid. Give me five and they'll make one an outcast. Give me six and they'll reinvent prejudice. Give me seven and in seven years they'll reinvent warfare. Man may have been made in the image of God, but human society was made in the image of His opposite number, and is always trying to get back home." - Glen Bateman, The Stand (C&U), 3rd paragraph of Chapter 42.

the things we do to each other....

Posted by: husbandoftheyear Aug 28 2006, 09:54 PM

My faith in God sustains me...

Faith in the human race requires faith in God...

Which makes me question my faith...

Like a riddle isn't it?

Posted by: Ralph Aug 29 2006, 12:05 AM

I know that there are sincere people working at 3ABN. I hope that there are some sincere people on the board. There are thousands of sincere Christian listeners who accept 3ABN as their gospel. What is going to happen to the faith of these people when things crack open?--for that will surely happen.

Will people lose their faith, or will they be able to take something like this in stride? It concerns me for there have been times when my faith was shaken with events in the church that were of a much smaller magnitude than this. But I have lived enough to put my trust in God, regardless of what happens.

Posted by: watchbird Aug 29 2006, 04:35 AM

QUOTE(husbandoftheyear @ Aug 28 2006, 09:54 PM)

My faith in God sustains me...

Faith in the human race requires faith in God...

Which makes me question my faith...

Like a riddle isn't it?

Indeed it is and even more so than what you have said, for it is also true that faith in God requires faith in the human race. For like love, if we cannot have faith in our brother whom we have seen, how can we have faith in God whom we have not seen. Jesus asked whether, when the Son of Man returns, will He find faith on earth. And I think we think too shallowly if we think that meant only faith in Him and in His Coming.

Our world runs on faith. We cannot drive on the highway without it. We cannot fly in a plane without it. We cannot even send our children to school without it. And increasingly our faith is being stretched to the breaking point as crazy drivers, terrorists, and random shootings multiply.

It is indeed pious..... and even correct to say that God is enough, that we can have faith in Him even when people betray our trust. But it is just as correct to recognize as fact the necessity of our human contacts and of being able to trust our fellow humans.

QUOTE(Ralph @ Aug 29 2006, 12:05 AM)

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Will people lose their faith, or will they be able to take something like this in stride? It concerns me for there have been times when my faith was shaken with events in the church that were of a much smaller magnitude than this. But I have lived enough to put my trust in God, regardless of what happens.

You bring up good points, and I think this thread will become increasingly important as the revelations of the perfidy of those whom many have trusted as leaders becomes apparent to all who have worshiped at the 3ABN shrine.

The biggest problem may be that of "transference" that is, transferring the loss of faith in those leaders to ALL leaders in similar positions. I remember well the experience I had some years ago of losing respect for certain leaders in a local situation.... and finding that increasingly I was transferring my disdain for them to all leaders in comparable positions even to those I had never met and had no reason to distrust. When I recognized what I was doing, I knew it was time to get out of that local situation and make a complete break with those who had demonstrated their lack of integrity. It still took time and specific effort towards becoming acquainted with other leaders.... to restore my ability to have faith in humans serving in positions of leadership.

And one thing that was extremely helpful to me in this "recovery" time, was the sharing that others did of how they had handled similar situations and came out of the faith crisis, not only with stronger faith in God, but also with the ability to put appropriate faith in their fellow human beings....

So hopefully, just as BSDA has been a place where we could begin to make the revelations public, it will continue on to be a place where those whose faith has been shaken can come to share their faith recovery, and thus a place of healing for those who need that recovery.

Posted by: husbandoftheyear Aug 29 2006, 03:44 PM

If people let their faith rest in Dan rather than God, then we know it is likely to falter. As the story goes...build your house upon a rock, not on the sand.

Posted by: princessdi Aug 29 2006, 04:40 PM

As Re! would say....."Dead on pernt!"

QUOTE(husbandoftheyear @ Aug 29 2006, 02:44 PM)

If people let their faith rest in Dan rather than God, then we know it is likely to falter. As the story goes...build your house upon a rock, not on the sand.

Posted by: husbandoftheyear Aug 29 2006, 04:57 PM

QUOTE(princessdi @ Aug 29 2006, 05:40 PM)

As Re' would say....."Dead on pernt!"

You crack me up!



Posted by: rwelchcrs Aug 29 2006, 05:31 PM

QUOTE(husbandoftheyear @ Aug 29 2006, 04:44 PM) □

If people let their faith rest in Dan rather than God, then we know it is likely to falter. As the story goes...build your house upon a rock, not on the sand.

You remind me of an EGW statement about "leaning on the arm of flesh". I hope that one of the positive outcomes of this scandal is that we as a church will take a good look at ourselves to examine the real focus of our faith. Is it the "stars" in our church, the great preachers/writers/evangelists? Or is it God Himself?

Posted by: husbandoftheyear Aug 29 2006, 05:39 PM

QUOTE(rwelchcrs @ Aug 29 2006, 06:31 PM) □

You remind me of an EGW statement about "leaning on the arm of flesh". I hope that one of the positive outcomes of this scandal is that we as a church will take a good look at ourselves to examine the real focus of our faith. Is it the "stars" in our church, the great preachers/writers/evangelists? Or is it God Himself?

I couldn't agree more!

So many times, we hear from the preachers/speaker and "stars" not to put our faith in them - which is sometimes exactly what they want us to do.

Posted by: Treniece Jan 27 2007, 04:24 PM

It has not shaken my faith that much because I am not one to put human beings on pedestals.

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