

## Printable Version of Topic


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### BlackSDA \_ 3ABN \_ Maybe, It Is More Smoke Than Fire?

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Posted by: sdaguy Jun 6 2007, 06:07 PM


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I know I am new here and have lots to learn, but I am a big supporter of the GC and NAD, true at times they are slow, but still I support them, and I am sure many others here do also.


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Posted by: watchbird Jun 6 2007, 07:10 PM

QUOTE(sdaguy @ Jun 6 2007, 08:07 PM) 

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 welcome.gif

sdaguy. There is a lot of information on this site... and you sound as though you were beginning with a mind that is open to learning.

You can learn much if you will just take your time, start with the pinned items at the top of the menu... work your way through all of them carefully.... and when they point to other threads, go there and read also. At some point in time, try to go back to the beginning and see how things have developed over the last three years.


You will find that many of us began by sharing heartily in the same thoughts as you express... especially when it comes to the role that GC and NAD might have played as soon as the first indications of problems began to be seen. But that is not the way that it happened.


As you read, it will be well for you to keep in mind that "truth is stranger than fiction". And it will also be helpful if you will keep in mind that even on this board, there is only a small fraction of the story that has been told.

You will find fire. You will find smoke. Proceed with caution.

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Posted by: Artiste Jun 6 2007, 07:48 PM

QUOTE(sdaguy @ Jun 6 2007, 04:07 PM) 

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I know I am new here and have lots to learn, but I am a big supporter of the GC and NAD, true at times they are slow, but still I support them, and I am sure many others here do also.

So glad you believe in the efficacy of DUE PROCESS. However I wonder that you have such confidence in your choice of a proper forum to decide this case, especially since you indicate that you have neither seen 3ABN on TV, nor had experience with persons connected with 3ABN as many of the rest of us on this forum have.

Many of us here do support the GC and NAD in theory and would be happy if they were to handle this matter expeditiously. That has not happened so far.

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Posted by: LaurenceD Jun 6 2007, 07:50 PM

QUOTE(sdaguy)

I just believe in the U.S. Constitutional way, the "presumption of innocents!" It is DUE PROCESS I am defending.

You're too late, guy. They needed you on board back when the accused one (LS) was determined guilty w/o a fair hearing.

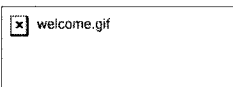
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Posted by: Snoopy Jun 6 2007, 08:43 PM

QUOTE(LaurenceD @ Jun 6 2007, 07:50 PM) □

You're too late, guy. They needed you on board back when the accused one (LS) was determined guilty w/o a fair hearing.

Agreed, Laurence, and nice to see you back! That being said.....



.....sdaguy!

I came here with similar sentiments as yours....then I started to read....and read....and read....well, you get the idea. When I first came here, I thought I'd gotten through most of the 3ABN postings...and then I discovered the little page buttons that go with each topic!! Turns out I'd only read the most recent pages, and many topics have many, manypages! Matter of fact, I'm still reading and trying to catch up!

Like Watchbird says, keep an open mind and be willing to dig through a lot of information to form your own opinions. You can still keep the faith, but you might find your perspective changing as you read.

~~Snoopy~~

Posted by: SoulEspresso Jun 7 2007, 09:09 AM

Don't forget, [www.save3abn.com](http://www.save3abn.com) is still running too.

Posted by: Noahswife Jun 7 2007, 10:07 AM

QUOTE(sdaguy @ Jun 6 2007, 08:07 PM) □

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3abn is not the only not for profit that is raising eyebrows and associated with the SDA Church.....

Maybe DS should hire Florida Hospital's PR Department?

### Pastor Orville Parchment

Revisiting statements of Pastor Orville Parchment the #2 ranking official of the 7th Day Adventist Church in North America.  
Published: September 29, 2005

On July 1st of this year, Pastor Orville Parchment the 2nd ranking official of the 7th Day Adventist Church in North America apologized to the mother of young Rodney Vega, the son of a 7th Day Adventist Pastor who allegedly was turned away from 7th Day Adventist not-for-profit Florida Hospital simply because he was uninsured. That day he prayed for young Rodney Vega to live a long life, and implied he would look into the matter.

On August 22 Pastor Parchment was quoted in the Washington Post as saying he did not have time to "dig deeply" into the charges.

Well when just one of the 7th Day Adventist not-for-profit health systems is raking in \$715.3 MILLION in profits over a 4 year period you have to question why Pastor Parchment doesn't have time to "dig deeply" into charges of price gouging the uninsured.

Is his church benefiting from this un Christian like behavior?

### Rodney Vega is in a better place today.

Description: The passing of young Rodney Vega.

Published: December 11, 2006

He is with God, having arrived in heaven yesterday (Sunday).

Full of life and love for friends, especially KB Forbes, family, especially his loving mother, and the people who worked to save his life, and make the end less painful.

Rodney deserved better than he got.

There is an Amber alert, there is Megans law, it's time for Rodney's law.

The son of a Seventh Day Pastor who was denied care by not-for-profit Florida Hospital which is owned and operated by Adventist Health System, a part of the worldwide organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, simply because he was uninsured.

I wish God could explain to us why these Seventh-day Adventists acted as coldly and cruelly as they did.

Was it just that they wanted to protect their bottom line.

Over the past five years (2000-2005) this hospital reported making a profit of over 376 MILLION DOLLARS!

Do you believe Thomas Werner, the Pres/CEO of Adventist Health System Sunbelt, a man who received a \$1.4 million increase in total compensation in just one year (bringing his total to just over \$2.5 million) will be anything but glad to have this PR nightmare start to fade?

Or what about Pastor Orville Parchment who in a PR move knelt and prayed with Rodney's mother, and vowed to investigate what happened.

That promise was made over a year and a half ago.

It's been more than a year since Pastor Orville told the Washington Post, he hadn't had time to look into the matter.

Do you think he'll absolve his guilt by remembering Rodney in prayers.

It should be noted that Rodney passed away in a for profit hospital that has covered all of his expenses.

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"We are responsible to communicate through caring service that God is a loving, gracious and protecting Father who places infinite value on every individual and is worthy of our admiration, affection and willing commitment."

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**A personal note.**

Description: Religious hospitals. Published: January 12, 2007

You can become numb when day after day you look at the profits being made by not-for-profit hospitals, and the excessive compensation being taken home by hospital executives, but I cannot get out of my mind the fact that when it comes to making health care more affordable, America's religious leaders are duplicitous. Sister 'half my brain is a clinking cash register' Keehan is the embodiment of duplicity.

It's been almost 2 years since I spoke to Cardinal George about these issues and asked him to provide the moral leadership needed to end the abuses of the lay people who now run Catholic health care systems.

Last August I wrote, "It has now been 373 days since Pastor Orville Parchment, the 2nd highest ranking member of the 7th Day Adventist Church in North America knelt and prayed for young Rodney Vega whose mother alleged had been turned away for treatment by a not-for-profit 7th Day Adventist hospital simply because he was uninsured.

"What made this story particularly appalling was the fact that Rodney's father was a pastor in this church. After kneeling, he promised Rodney's mother to investigate her claims.

"It has now been 291 days since Pastor Orville Parchment told the Washington Post that he had not had the time to 'dig deeply' into the charges."

You can add another approximately 150 days to both those numbers-and Rodney is in heaven, while Pastor Orville does nothing to prevent any more abuses.

These are not the only ones, but if religious institutions are not going to act compassionately, they shouldn't be called religious institutions, and if they are not-going to act like not-for-profits, it's time to TAX THEM!



nw  
C:"

**Posted by: Clay Jun 7 2007, 10:17 AM**

sobering info NW... the kicker of course will be that if the move is made to tax these not for profit church run institutions the cry will be heard "they are persecuting us...." The fact is some stuff we might bring on ourselves... as my grandfather often said, "if you give a man a stick and he hits you in the head with it, don't cry..."

**Posted by: Clay Jun 7 2007, 10:30 AM**

**QUOTE**

I have been so caught up in reporting the disgraceful conduct of this so called faith based system with regards to Rodney Vega, that I realized that I don't believe I have ever reported the profits for this entire system for 2005.

Well, according to the annual report, profits for year end 12/31/05 were \$251,400,000!

Just over a quarter of a billion dollars.

Profits in the three previous years came in as follows.

2002--\$170.6 MILLION.

2003--\$203.1 MILLION.

2004--\$236.2 MILLION.

Add them together, and you will see that in just four years, this not-for-profit hospital has made \$861.3 MILLION in PROFITS!

You could see how they might have felt that caring for Rodney Vega the son of a Seventh-day Adventists Pastor, might have been too expensive.

They will tell you that "Today, our mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ depends not only on our commitment to Christian ideals but on our efforts to provide nothing less than extraordinary compassionate care."

<http://wherethemoneygoes.com/newSearch.php?SearchString=adventist+health+system&Submit=Search+WTMG>

**Posted by: erik Jun 7 2007, 10:41 AM**

**QUOTE(Noahswife @ Jun 7 2007, 09:07 AM)**

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PLEASE can someone tell how our health message got this warped, that we can have that much money being made and we still can help the unfortunate around us.

I am noticing the connection is that we are much more worried about building the SDA kingdom on earth then we are at building god's kingdom( which is the whole reason we even exist has a church.)

I pray that god sends his vomit out message to full fruit very soon so we can stop embrassing him.

Erik

**Posted by: Clay Jun 7 2007, 10:51 AM**

**QUOTE(erik @ Jun 7 2007, 11:41 AM)**

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**QUOTE**

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wonder what his observation would be now...

---

**Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Jun 7 2007, 11:18 AM**

The exclusion of young Rodney Vega from treatment in our Florida SDA hospital for lack of insurance reminds me of another exclusion for an equally absurd reason from another of our SDA hospitals back in the first half of the 20th century.

**From an article "The Beginning of Regional Conferences in the US III" dated Tuesday, September 5th, 2006:**

*"One of the impetuses for the petition was the tragic case of Lucy Byard. Byard was a light-skinned Black SDA from Brooklyn who was admitted to the SDA owned and operated Washington Sanitarium and hospital based on her appearance. When her true racial identity was discovered from her admittance forms, Byard was wheeled into a hallway without examination or treatment, while a place in another hospital was sought for her. She was eventually taken to Freedman's Hospital where she died shortly after of pneumonia. While it is impossible to ascertain, it is often stated that her condition—at the very least—worsened due to the time spent in the drafty hallway of Washington Sanitarium."* <http://h0bbes.wordpress.com/2006/09/>

While it was unconscionable for an SDA hospital to deny service, one question that was not adequately clarified in the articles about Rodney Vega is the timing. How did the denial of treatment on July 1, 2005 contribute to the young man's death on December 10, 2006?

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**Posted by: YogusBearus Jun 7 2007, 11:27 AM**

**QUOTE(Clay @ Jun 7 2007, 10:51 AM)**

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Yes Clay, one might wonder that. It appears that there are now some rather material reasons to be involved in the "work." Reading about some of the compensation being paid the "workers" now is downright unbelievable.

Try searching "Adventist Health System" at <http://wherethemoneygoes.com/newSearch.php?SearchString=adventist+health+system&Submit=Search+WTMG>

-bear

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**Posted by: Noahswife Jun 7 2007, 11:55 AM**

**QUOTE(PeacefullyBewildered @ Jun 7 2007, 12:18 PM)**

While it was unconscionable for an SDA hospital to deny service, one question that was not adequately clarified in the articles about Rodney Vega is the timing. How did the denial of treatment on July 1, 2005 contribute to the young man's death on December 10, 2006?

PB, I have not yet traced the entire Rodney Vega story but that is not what my post is about.

I personally resent how many in this country hijack issues in the name of their brand of Christianity. However, the spin here by the NAD is interesting to me and I can't help but wonder what the ultimate follow up was? I am also angered by the salaries paid to the CEOs and others in our institutions when I know many older SDAs have been forced into early retirements to avoid the payment of benefits after years of "service" to this church. They were replaced with younger workers with minimal accrued benefits. An example of this was my own father who in his early 60s was a gardener at one of our renowned SDA medical centers who was always the first to be called in the middle of the night to plow the snow.  I also personally know that one of those mentioned on this site hires illegals to do much of his home maintenance.

I also wonder how many of these CEOs are ASI members?

Just an inquiring mind and two more cents.

nw  
C"]"

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**Posted by: Jnana15 Jun 7 2007, 12:17 PM**

Thank you NW for this enlightening information. This just sickens me to my stomach! I have heard more stories like this over and over. I guess sometimes we "are" like Israel of the old testament.  Then we start snotin' and cryin' to God for deliverance from the messes we create from following the examples of the world in being the tails and not the heads. JMHO

This scripture comes to mind:

"No man can serve tow masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matt. 6:24 KJV

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**Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Jun 7 2007, 12:25 PM**

NW,

I get your point! Will there be those successful CEO's, ASI members and otherwise, who will be expecting a plush ride to heaven but will instead hear solemn words below echoing in their ears on that day?

**Matthew 7:21 - 23:**

**21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"**

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**Posted by: Observer Jun 7 2007, 12:56 PM**

Folks, I would like to share some concerns regarding some of the posts that I am reading here. These are simply my personal opinions and concerns. Of course they probably are not 100 per-cent correct.

1) This section has served a noble purpose well. A diverse group of people have gathered here in BSDA united in a central focus--3-ABN, Danny Shelton, and Linda Shelton. I will suggest that we are an example to the world of a very diverse group of people who have generally worked together while maintaining that central focus. We have not split off into splinter groups who have attacked each other.

2) Throughout the history of the development of our denomination, we have seen sin, disregard of God's instruction, challenges, and the working of God. Those who know our history certainly have sin and corruption to point out. It is there. I am concerned that a focus on some of this in that past, may serve to splinter us, and to take us away from our central focus.

There are some events that I personally believe we should never forget. I spent a week at the General Conference Headquarters in May. During that time the group I was with toured the REVIEW. Several of us used that opportunity to remind the leadership who was taking us on that tour of the time when an African American employee of the General Conference could not eat in the GC cafeteria, with the rest of the employees, and of the death of the African American due to refused medical treatment at Washington Sanatorium. There are part of our history that should never be forgotten.

However, I do not have the emotional energy to involve myself in every scandal and misdeed that I have been aware of during the past 50 years in the Church. If I were to do so today, it would divert my time and effort from my present central focus.

In addition, I will suggest that an increased focus on some of these past issues will serve to divide us.

3) As I read some of the posts that have been made, I find that I often have agreement with them, but, often I do not agree with every point that is made. I do not believe that every representation is accurate. Yet, I do not want to divide the effort that I am putting into this 3-ABN mess to some of these other issues.

4) Here is what may be happening: With the legal order to impound the records, some may feel that we are in a holding pattern. In one sense we are in a holding pattern. With this in mind, some may have the energy to fight other dragons. I will suggest that the holding pattern is only temporary. We will again need our energy for whatever direction this battle takes. Let us use this time to regroup.

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**Posted by: YogusBearus Jun 7 2007, 01:06 PM**

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However, I do not have the emotional energy to involve myself in every scandal and misdeed that I have been aware of during the past 50 years in the Church. If I were to do so today, it would divert my time and effort from my present central focus.

In addition, I will suggest that an increased focus on some of these past issues will serve to divide us.

3) As I read some of the posts that have been made, I find that I often have agreement with them, but, often I do not agree with every point that is made. I do not believe that every representation is accurate. Yet, I do not want to divide the effort that I am putting into this 3-ABN mess to some of these other issues.

4) Here is what may be happening: With the legal order to impound the records, some may feel that we are in a holding pattern. In one sense we are in a holding pattern. With this in mind, some may have the energy to fight other dragons. I will suggest that the holding pattern is only temporary. We will again need our energy for whatever direction this battle takes. Let us use this time to regroup.

Gregory, if your point is that it might be better to have discussion tangents such as the Rodney Vega/Adventist Health System fiasco discussed in a different thread, I have no argument. If you are suggesting that we don't collectively have the resources or the interest to look at abuses other than 3abn, I absolutely disagree. I'm sure we all have our pet issues that we feel are most worthy of support. I just don't think we need to limit the scope of our interest and/or discussion.

I apologize in advance if I've misread your post.

-bear

---

**Posted by: watchbird Jun 7 2007, 01:18 PM**

**QUOTE(YogusBearus @ Jun 7 2007, 03:06 PM)**

Gregory, if your point is that it might be better to have discussion tangents such as the Rodney Vega/Adventist Health System fiasco discussed in a different thread, I have no argument. If you are suggesting that we don't collectively have the resources or the interest to look at abuses other than 3abn, I absolutely disagree. I'm sure we all have our pet issues that we feel are most worthy of support. I just don't think we need to limit the scope of our interest and/or discussion.

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new. And this is true no matter how great the urgency or how trivial the light-hearted comments.

The admins here have been quite cooperative in moving much of the distractive material. I hope they will soon see this block of posts and move them to an appropriately titled thread in an appropriate forum so that those who are interested in these topics may have access to them and be able to continue discussing them, and those who come to find information about 3abn will be able to do so more easily.

Thanks much admins!

---

**Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Jun 7 2007, 01:19 PM**

**QUOTE(YogusBearus @ Jun 7 2007, 12:06 PM)**

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I apologize in advance if I've misread your post.

-bear

Plus, it would be a mistake to shrug it off if one has the burden to tackle that particular dragon, wherever the thread might be located.

PB

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**Posted by: Snoopy Jun 7 2007, 01:19 PM**

**QUOTE(Noahswife @ Jun 7 2007, 12:55 PM)**

PB, I have not yet traced the entire Rodney Vega story but that is not what my post is about.

I personally resent how many in this country hijack issues in the name of their brand of Christianity. However, the spin here by the NAD is interesting to me and I can't help but wonder what the ultimate follow up was? I am also angered by the salaries paid to the CEOs and others in our institutions when I know many older SDAs have been forced into early retirements to avoid the payment of benefits after years of "service" to this church. They were replaced with younger workers with minimal accrued benefits. An example of this was my own father who in his early 60s was a gardener at one of our renowned SDA medical centers who was always the first to be called in the middle of the night to plow the snow.  I also personally know that one of those mentioned on this site hires illegals to do much of his home maintenance.

I also wonder how many of these CEOs are ASI members?

Just an inquiring mind and two more cents.

NW  
C:"

I totally agree with you, NW, and share your indignation without a doubt.....

---

**Posted by: YogusBearus Jun 7 2007, 01:26 PM**

**QUOTE(watchbird @ Jun 7 2007, 01:18 PM)**

I would say not only in another thread, but also in another forum. I agree with Gregory. This forum was created for the purpose of containing information on the 3abn Saga in one place where those who wished to learn what has been said could come and read. And the more we add unrelated topics in this forum, the more it is unnecessarily made cumbersome and difficult for new comers to find material relative to 3abn and difficult for old-timers to be able to review and compare old material with new. And this is true no matter how great the urgency or how trivial the light-hearted comments.

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Thanks much admins!

I have no disagreement with your points about placement Watchbird. I am a little uneasy with the implication that the 3abn scandal is the only thing that people are or should be interested in. Some may find the downside potential of what used to be a church controlled health system run amok, even more frightening than the 3abn debacle.

-bear

---

**Posted by: Artiste Jun 7 2007, 01:34 PM**

**QUOTE(watchbird @ Jun 7 2007, 11:18 AM)**

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Thanks much admins!

I agree, Watchbird, and have spent countless hours myself over the last 6 or 8 weeks reading the material on this forum, as well as on save3abn.com. So it continues to serve its purpose.

Having a very personal interest in seeing certain problems/people with 3ABN being served justice, I appreciate so much what is being done here at this forum!

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**Posted by: princessdi Jun 7 2007, 01:36 PM**

Ok, I know this has been said before, sometimes the thread wanders, topics intersect, especially as we see that the topics have some facts and principals in common---3ABN, ASI, AHS, GC..... As we see this has already been spun off into it's own thread, and I am sure this will wander back to 3ABN in due time. There is no need to move the post, especially since they have been copied and quoted, etc.

---

**Posted by: YogusBearus Jun 7 2007, 01:37 PM**

QUOTE(watchbird @ Jun 7 2007, 01:18 PM) □

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Thanks much admins!

Problem Solved!

see there is a thread started in Adventism: Theology and Related Subjects addressing these issues. Off topic bear moving in there. Wait! It was just seen leaving the Sista Talk" section heading for "Aging Gracefully"....

bear

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**Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Jun 7 2007, 01:58 PM**

Perhaps we need a forum where we could discuss and discover:

"Which SDA Organization Shows the True Face of Adventism?"

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**Posted by: Observer Jun 7 2007, 02:03 PM**

QUOTE(YogusBearus @ Jun 7 2007, 12:06 PM) □

Gregory, if your point is that it might be better to have discussion tangents such as the Rodney Vega/Adventist Health System fiasco discussed in a different thread, I have no argument. If you are suggesting that we don't collectively have the resources or the interest to look at abuses other than 3abn, I absolutely disagree. I'm sure we all have our pet issues that we feel are most worthy of support. I just don't think we need to limit the scope of our interest and/or discussion.

I apologize in advance if I've misread your post.

-bear

bear:

may not have been clear. My dear wife occasionally (?) tells me that is the case with me.

thank you for helping me to clarify it.

do not have a problem with any discussioning that subject, or others. Each can make their own decision as to where they spend their emotional energy.

My wish was to do it somewhere other than in this 3-ABN section.

Thank you,  
Gregory Matthews

---

**Posted by: Jnana15 Jun 7 2007, 02:37 PM**

QUOTE(PeacefullyBewildered @ Jun 7 2007, 02:58 PM) □

Perhaps we need a forum where we could discuss and discover:

"Which SDA Organization Shows the True Face of Adventism?"



Amen Sista! Let me know when you find one.

**Posted by: Noahswife Jun 7 2007, 02:51 PM**

**QUOTE(princessdi @ Jun 7 2007, 03:36 PM)**

Ok, I know this has been said before, sometimes the thread wanders, topics intersect, especially as we see that the topics have some facts and principals in common--3ABN, ASI, AHS, GC..... As we see this has already been spun off into it's own thread, and I am sure this will wander back to 3ABN in due time. There is no need to move the post, especially since they ahve been copied and quoted, etc.

### For the Record:

Before posting on this thread, I first posted in another subforum:  
<http://www.blacksda.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=3604&hl=>

After some discussion, it was decided that an off topic post would be made in the 3abn forum and this thread was not chosen without thought. If there is anything of significance regarding 3abn on this thread for potential newbies please point it out if you would. THE POST IS CLEARLY MARKED OFF TOPIC.

However, many of us are looking at more than just 3abn as we watch how the GC and NAD and other related SDA organizations conduct themselves consistent with their stated mission statements or not.

As is pointed out, a new thread has also be started here:  
<http://www.blacksda.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=13763&hl=>

I am not aware that discussion of 3abn issues is objected to so quickly and so vehemently in other areas as linkage is often seen cross threads and cross sub forums. I thank the admins for their patience and independence.  than

nw  
C"j"

**Posted by: mikell Jun 7 2007, 02:55 PM**

**QUOTE(PeacefullyBewildered @ Jun 7 2007, 01:58 PM)**

Perhaps we need a forum where we could discuss and discover:  
"Which SDA Organization Shows the True Face of Adventism?"

Good question, if answered, let me know,

**Posted by: Artiste Jun 7 2007, 03:01 PM**

I am sure there is something...somewhere...

\*\*\*\*\*

**Posted by: Snoopy Jun 7 2007, 03:14 PM**

**QUOTE(princessdi @ Jun 7 2007, 02:36 PM)**

Ok, I know this has been said before, sometimes the thread wanders, topics intersect, especially as we see that the topics have some facts and principals in common--3ABN, ASI, AHS, GC..... As we see this has already been spun off into it's own thread, and I am sure this will wander back to 3ABN in due time. There is no need to move the post, especially since they ahve been copied and quoted, etc.

Amen, Sista!! And thank you for that. I totally agree!

I appreciated the other stories, and as a 3ABN supporter I personally don't want to look at the 3ABN situation in a vacuum. It is all I can do to keep up with this forum, so if NW had not placed the extraneous information here, I would have missed it. I saw some very distinct parallels in the non-3ABN material provided today, and it was actually beneficial to me in helping to visualize the overall framework (or lack of) that has enabled the 3ABN soap opera to evolve to its current condition. Not only do I want to see resolution and an end to the (alleged) scandal, I want to know what broke down to allow it to happen in the first place and how it can be prevented from happening again. In the overall process of problem solving, a good investigator will take a step back and ask "what was the environment that allowed this to happen?" BTJM...

~Snoopy~

**Posted by: mozart Jun 7 2007, 03:58 PM**

Gregory,  
may I recommend that we start a forum called "Dragons" ?

i'd also like to suggest that when we speak of Adventist Organizations that we make it clear that we are talking about organizations and not SDAs all inclusive as in "SDAs are building their kingdom here instead of in Heaven" type posts. i know we know what we mean (most of the time) but others who view here may get the impression we are putting down our church (group of individuals-church). just as with DS, MS, GMc, etc. not being 3ABN but individuals. can we maybe use the term "org." when we are referring to those situations? just a suggestion so we are not mis-preceived.

NW,  
I appreciate your posting all that info. sometimes I'd rather crawl in a cave than know some of this stuff, but it is important that we do know and hopefully we will use the information to make a difference.

To Most,  
you are very bright and I'm glad to be here to discuss things that matter and even those that don't.

QUOTE(Observer @ Jun 7 2007, 02:03 PM) □

Bear:

I may not have been clear. My dear wife occasionally (?) tells me that is the case with me.

Thank you for helping me to clarify it.

I do not have a problem with any discussion on that subject, or others. Each can make their own decision as to where they spend their emotional energy.

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Thank you,  
Gregory Matthews

Posted by: Clay Jun 7 2007, 06:03 PM

QUOTE(watchbird @ Jun 7 2007, 02:18 PM) □

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Thanks much admins!

ummmm not quite.... discussions wander, as this one does.... and since there is really no new information as well as some information known only to a select few and they can't say what they know, then a tangent here and there is fine.....

This sub forum was reluctantly created to keep all the 3abn discussion in one place... that some people have found it helpful because all the stuff is in one place is a by-product of its creation.... as for moving the posts relating to the hospital stuff, to me its related so for now it can stay where it is..... its not like people can't multitask... I am sure folks can keep track of multiple thoughts....

Lastly, those who are interested in the information here need to join and participate in all areas of BSDA and not just 3abn.... but that's just me....

Posted by: Fran Jun 7 2007, 09:06 PM

QUOTE(YogusBearus @ Jun 7 2007, 01:26 PM) □

I have no disagreement with your points about placement Watchbird. I am a little uneasy with the implication that the 3abn scandal is the only thing that people are or should be interested in. Some may find the downside potential of what used to be a church controlled health system run amok, even more frightening than the 3abn debacle.

-bear

### To whom it may concern;

**WARNING! WARNING! This post is not for everyone. If you are sensitive or get you feeling hurt over others opinions, please do not read past this line of this post.**

Bear;

I totally, unequivocally agree with you and Noah's wife. I am a free thinker and can think about more than one thing at a time.

Gregory;

I have deleted this post about 4 times. This is my chilled/watered down version of a response to your objection over Noah's wife's post about Vega.

I am so glad the Vega event was posted; you know, out of sight, out of mind.

Yes, we are concerned about 3ABN! However, I also feel that there was gross abuse in the Vega situation also! The father was a Seventh-day Adventist preacher for goodness sake!

There are times I need help in doing what I cannot do. Do I look to my church? No way. They would take no action and then say no! I trust in the world for these things. Shame, huh?

When I am hospitalized, I pass by the local SDA Hospital! I have seen my daughter in agony in that hospital. She was there for about 4 months. At least 3-4 times a week, she was not delivered a meal. She was a vegetarian, but they would always bring her meat. They never got that right. The meals they just forgot, bought Dinty Moore stew as a substitute. I called them and they said, "If she wants to eat, she better eat what she is served!" None of my family will go there again!

Just because a poster posted about another case of abuse that maybe could have saved a life, there is no need to attack or disagree with the poster because of how you or Watchbird personally feel. This is not your forum, nor is it mine! Just because you let us know, at every given opportunity, that you are better informed than most of us, does not mean we are not able to read/ignore the matters we want/don't want to see. We should decide this without hearing your displeasure/pleasure about the post or where it should be located.

I would strongly suggest that we that can "Walk and chew bubble gum at the same time," read what we please and ignore what we choose to ignore.

Are you a moderator here? Shouldn't these suggestions and decisions come from a BSDA moderator?

Freedom of choice is why I come here now instead of parking at Club Adventist. I do not fit into their mold any longer. Please do not try to bring that subculture over here. Club Adventist is known for the moderators taking bites out of members/people. When I get bit, I tend to bite back! Right?

You are correct, we are diverse, praise God. In my opinion, I like to see things from as many views as possible. I am able to make decisions on my own. I am in the group and do not need to regroup!

I feel Vega is important! It is about Administrative abuse; So is 3ABN! The similarities are overwhelming. Both are important. I can gasp both and not let my thinking about 3ABN to wave.

If you desire we continue to be united, then stop saying we might be swayed away by other information! This is sort of like the JW's telling their people they are not allowed to read this or the other!

I believe our past experiences have made me see red at your post. I am sorry. I also believe you owe Noah's wife and apology. Your first comments were uncalled for.

The Vega post has not caused any splitting off the objective in any permanent way. We ARE United without being treated like children. Sorry for being so blunt. That is me, right; A bull dog that never lets go? Shock and Awe; and all that other garbage.

I also believe we are well aware that the battle has not been won. No need to point that out either. Please allow us to be free thinkers and decision makers. Stop trying to chase me away, because I am here for the duration!

Watchbird;

I am praying you will understand the emotions of some who are grieving for 3ABN and members of the SDA Church. We are so different. I believe another poster made the comment that a previous post of yours about emotions was "Cold". I agree 100%

Now, I am finished with my opinions and will turn everyone back to the regularly scheduled program.

---

Posted by: calvin Jun 7 2007, 10:41 PM

QUOTE

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We the administrators always welcome suggestions and often act positively on them.

---

Posted by: Jnana15 Jun 8 2007, 01:44 PM

QUOTE(Fran @ Jun 7 2007, 10:06 PM) □

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Now, I am finished with my opinions and will turn everyone back to the regularly scheduled program.

Thank you my brave Sista/Brother. I am right by your side.

Posted by: Shepherdswife Jun 8 2007, 08:16 PM

QUOTE(Fran @ Jun 7 2007, 11:06 PM) □


[b]

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know this has been stated over and over, but I have a question--not aimed at Fran, just put it here because she mentioned it again.

SDA pastors' sons have very good insurance. Why did this kid not have any? Unless his dad was a lay pastor? Something about this story smells funny to me...

I am appalled as well as you all are when injustice happens, but if some of the facts don't sound right, it makes me at least not take everything the article says for granted.

OW, I don't always believe everything I read--which is why I fit in here so well, I think! 

shepherdswife

Posted by: princessdi Jun 8 2007, 08:23 PM


I was wondering the same thing, I actually was assuming that he might have been grown.

QUOTE(Shepherdswife @ Jun 8 2007, 07:16 PM) □

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shepherdswife

Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Jun 8 2007, 08:43 PM

QUOTE(princessdi @ Jun 8 2007, 06:23 PM) □

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A Google search of images brought this up yesterday. Rodney was not an adult. The outrage is totally justified, IMO! (I hope the link below works - it was huge!)

<http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://media.washingtonpost.com/wp-lyn/content/photo/2005/08/21/PH2005082101011.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-lyn/content/article/2005/08/21/AR2005082101010.html&h=190&w=146&sz=13&hl=en&start=3&sig2=v9hTMGBeKOJvcwEFQzo0w&tbnid=FFC4z9D4Xg5JaM:&tbnh=103&tbnw=79&ei=EhJqRtdF5YggPjkZHqAg&prev=/images%3Fq%3Drodney%2Bvega%26gbv%3D2%26svnum%3D10%26hl%3Den>

shepherdswife,

It definitely is a good quality not to believe everything we read,  but we must take the next step and check it out to see if it is true before we consider dismissing it because of perceived inconsistencies.

---

**Posted by: Observer Jun 8 2007, 09:00 PM**

**QUOTE(Shepherdswife @ Jun 8 2007, 08:16 PM)**

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IOW, I don't always believe everything I read--which is why I fit in here so well, I think!

shepherdswife

You have raised a very good question.

I got involved in it some time back. As I looked into it, I discovered that some of the claims made were not all that they were said to be. I.e. found there was in some cases partial truth, and partial error.

As a bottom line, I remained on the side of the child and the parents. I felt that there were some major points that were valid in regard to how he was treated.

But, my memory and sources of facts has failed in the time that has passed. So, I will not pontificate on them now.

On a technical point: SDA pastors have a good medical plan. I question whether it will typically qualify as insurance, under the laws that govern insurance. However, as I have not been on a denominational payroll for many years, it may be that they are now covered by an insurance plan.

---

**Posted by: princessdi Jun 8 2007, 09:04 PM**

Ok so why was he not covered under his father's insurance?

**QUOTE(PeacefullyBewildered @ Jun 8 2007, 07:43 PM)**

A Google search of images brought this up yesterday. Rodney was not an adult. The outrage is totally justified, IMO! (I hope the link below works - it was huge!)

<http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://media.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/photo/2005/08/21/PH2005082101011.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/21/AR2005082101010.html&h=190&w=146&sz=138hl=en&start=3&sig2=v9hTMGBekoJvcvwEFQz0w&tbnid=fFC4z9D4Xg5JaM:&tbnh=103&tbnw=79&ei=EhJqRtadF5-YggPjk2HgAg&prev=/images%3Fq%3Drodney%2Bvega%26bv%3D2%26svnum%3D10%26hl%3Den>

Shepherdswife,

It definitely is a good quality not to believe everything we read,  but we must take the next step and check it out to see if it is true before we consider dismissing it because of perceived inconsistencies.

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**Posted by: Clay Jun 8 2007, 09:14 PM**

**QUOTE(princessdi @ Jun 8 2007, 10:04 PM)**

Ok so why was he not covered under his father's insurance?

as if insurance covers everything?  maybe he was under-insured?

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**Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Jun 8 2007, 09:46 PM**

**QUOTE(princessdi @ Jun 8 2007, 07:04 PM)**

Ok so why was he not covered under his father's insurance?

Does the denomination provide insurance for every pastor's family in every country? The Washington Post article portrays the family as Venezuelan and the father as an Adventist minister:

**QUOTE**

Rodney's parents are practicing Adventists; his father, a Venezuelan, is here on a special visa granted to religious ministers. Yet each time the family sought care at Florida Hospital, one of 38 owned by Adventist Health System, they say the hospital demanded money up front -- tens of thousands of dollars the family does not have.

Was Rodney deemed to have been an acceptable sacrifice to maintain the Florida Hospital's bottom line just as the alleged victims of some of Sabn's leadership have appeared to be acceptable sacrifices to maintain the ministry image and bottom line?

There appear to be some striking parallels that bring one to wonder what the true missions of these organizations actually are.

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Posted by: roxe Jun 8 2007, 11:23 PM

QUOTE(Fran @ Jun 7 2007, 09:06 PM) □

To whom it may concern;  
**WARNING! WARNING! This post is not for everyone. If you are sensitive or get you feeling hurt over others opinions, please do not read past this line of this post.**

Bear;

I totally, unequivocally agree with you and Noah's wife. I am a free thinker and can think about more than one thing at a time.

Gregory;

I have deleted this post about 4 times. This is my chilled/watered down version of a response to your objection over Noah's wife's post about Vega.

I am so glad the Vega event was posted; you know, out of sight, out of mind.

Yes, we are concerned about 3ABN! However, I also feel that there was gross abuse in the Vega situation also! The father was a Seventh-day Adventist preacher for goodness sake!

There are times I need help in doing what I cannot do. Do I look to my church? No way. They would take no action and then say no! I trust in the world for these things. Shame, huh?

When I am hospitalized, I pass by the local SDA Hospital! I have seen my daughter in agony in that hospital. She was there for about 4 months. At least 3-4 times a week, she was not delivered a meal. She was a vegetarian, but they would always bring her meat. They never got that right. The meals they just forgot, bought Dinty Moore stew as a substitute. I called them and they said, "If she wants to eat, she better eat what she is served!" None of my family will go there again!

**Just because a poster posted about another case of abuse that maybe could have saved a life, there is no need to attack or disagree with the poster because of how you or Watchbird personally feel. This is not your forum, nor is it mine! Just because you let us know, at every given opportunity, that you are better informed than most of us, does not mean we are not able to read/ignore the matters we want/don't want to see. We should decide this without hearing your displeasure/pleasure about the post or where it should be located.**

I would strongly suggest that we that can "Walk and chew bubble gum at the same time," read what we please and ignore what we choose to ignore.

Are you a moderator here? Shouldn't these suggestions and decisions come from a BSDA moderator?

Freedom of choice is why I come here now instead of parking at Club Adventist. I do not fit into their mold any longer. Please do not try to bring that subculture over here. Club Adventist is known for the moderators taking bites out of members/people. When I get bit, I tend to bite back! Right?

You are correct, we are diverse, praise God. In my opinion, I like to see things from as many views as possible. I am able to make decisions on my own. I am in the group and do not need to regroup!

I feel Vega is important! It is about Administrative abuse; So is 3ABN! The similarities are overwhelming. Both are important. I can gasp both and not let my thinking about 3ABN to wave.

If you desire we continue to be united, then stop saying we might be swayed away by other information! This is sort of like the JW's telling their people they are not allowed to read this or the other!

I believe our past experiences have made me see red at your post. I am sorry. I also believe you owe Noah's wife and apology. Your first comments were uncalled for. The Vega post has not caused any splitting off the objective in any permanent way. We ARE United without being treated like children. Sorry for being so blunt. That is me, right; A bull dog that never lets go? Shock and Awe, and all that other garbage.

I also believe we are well aware that the battle has not been won. No need to point that out either. Please allow us to be free thinkers and decision makers. Stop trying to chase me away, because I am here for the duration!

Watchbird;

**I am praying you will understand the emotions of some who are grieving for 3ABN and members of the SDA Church. We are so different. I believe another poster made the comment that a previous post of yours about emotions was "Cold". I agree 100%**  
Now, I am finished with my opinions and will turn everyone back to the regularly scheduled program.

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thank you Fran for your very kind words. i agree with you 100%, and have wished i could have said similar things at times - but refrained cuz i didn't want to start WW3,4,5&6!

boldings above in the quoted post are mine...

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Posted by: watchbird Jun 9 2007, 04:29 AM

QUOTE(roxe @ Jun 9 2007, 01:23 AM) □

thank you Fran for your very kind words. i agree with you 100%, and have wished i could have said similar things at times - but refrained cuz i didn't want to start WW3,4,5&6!

boldings above in the quoted post are mine...

I'm surprised and dissappointed, roxe, that you would call those words that you bolded "kind words". As for my understanding the emotions of those "grieving" for 3abn and the church.... I don't think you understand the grieving process that I have been going through for the last three years as I learned of more and more victims of abuse.... and as one after another of my illusions that the church would step up to what i see as their responsibility as shepherds of the flock have been swept away.

Nor do you understand my emotions as I saw person after person come on BSDA and attack those who were attempting to expose evil where ever it might be found... trying... and in some cases succeeding... in building guilt complexes in those who were being thus attacked.

Nor do you understand my understanding as to how severe will be the trauma for those who either are not exposed gradually to the things we have learned.... or who have denied that such things exist.... when they finally are forced suddenly to face the facts of what lies behind the facades of those they have watched and adored and felt they knew intimately because of the frequency which they "visited" their living rooms.

Had you been here from the beginning, you might have recalled that I was one of the first ones to call attention to the reality of this grieving process that would have to be faced by many... and urged this as one of the important values in having an open site like BSDA so as many as possible could be warned ahead of the eventual exposure time.

Grieving ... and even being torn between love for the abuser and pity for the abused.... is a natural and necessary part of being a sensitive loving person. But when this is spoken of publicly in ways which do not give positive recognition to those who make some moves toward righting the wrongs... then it becomes... not merely an expression of warmth and caring... but one more blow on the already wounded psyche of the abused... who need and should be allowed to express an emotion of rejoicing that deliverance and vindication may be "just around the corner". And when it moves on to fostering "guilt" for having that anticipatory joy in the prospects of freedom

from fear... then my own sensitivities are aroused and I feel for and with the abused rather than for those who must grieve for their lost illusions.

And my mind goes to scripture... way back to the story of Absalom... who sat in the gate, winning the hearts of the people away from his father, David, the King of Israel... and who organized a revolt that drove David from his throne and into exile.... and to the faithful warriors in Israel who stayed loyal to David, followed him into exile and then fought... some giving their very lives... to put down the rebellion and return David to the throne.

Picture with me the scene as a messenger brings David the news that his army has been successful.. and his rebellious son has been slain.. And David breaks out into a lament for his son.... Oh Absalom my son.... but read it in 2 Sam 19....

1 Joab was told, "The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." 2 And for the whole army the victory that day was turned into mourning, because on that day the troops heard it said, "The king is grieving for his son." 3 The men stole into the city that day as men steal in who are ashamed when they flee from battle. 4 The king covered his face and cried aloud, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

5 Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, "Today you have humiliated all your men, who have just saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters and the lives of your wives and concubines. 6 You love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that the commanders and their men mean nothing to you. I see that you would be pleased if Absalom were alive today and all of us were dead.

The wise man has said... there is a time for rejoicing and a time for weeping. And the time for weeping is not as a response to news that there is progress being made towards routing out the evil from the camp. Nor did it prove that David was "cold" when he heeded the words of Joab, and went out to thank his returning men for the victory they had achieved.

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
**Posted by: Rosyroi Jun 9 2007, 11:42 PM**

**QUOTE(VogusBearus @ Jun 7 2007, 11:37 AM)**

Problem Solved!

I see there is a thread started in Adventism: Theology and Related Subjects addressing these issues. Off topic bear moving in there. Wait! It was just seen leaving the "Sista Talk" section heading for "Aging Gracefully"....

-bear

After getting all that smoke in my eyes, YogusBearus I needed that...   Thanks!!

Rosyroi

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**Posted by: Whitey Jun 10 2007, 01:49 AM**

"Maybe it is more smoke than fire?" seems to be the initial sentiments of sdaguy who started this thread. The subject is the Shelton ongoing drama. He admitted to being a novice on sizing up the allegations toward DS and org for misconduct, injustice done against others, misappropriation of donated moneys, and breaking the adultery law.

Good advice was given by experienced ones to read and read all these topic threads pertaining to ongoing discussion of the 3ABN saga. It is a good 'ole patriotic American attitude to approach a matter with "I just believe in the U.S. Constitutional way, the "presumption of innocents!" It is DUE PROCESS I am defending." Those of us having read all the threads have had a process shown us of fair hearings of Eyewitnesses who have spoken on this Forum from both sides about the fire amidst the smoke. Documents have been brought forth on this Forum for all to read to inform why this is fire is now flaming from years long smoldering embers. Those who are in the know have spoken on this BSDA Forum. The grassroots of Adventism have expressed their dismay and grief at what has been going on and as yet not been healed.

Gregory and Watchbird are sound minded equitable reporters who have stabilized discussions that were going off into personal emotional eruptions many a times. The Rodney Vega story warrants it's own forum thread and just distracts from the Sheldon travesty, even though the issue of merciless injustice are to be found in both cases. I missed the link from whatever Gregory and Watchbird mentioned that triggered off Fran's intense reaction of defending her right to grieve over the Sheldon drama abuse. However, .... it was done for a good cause. It showed up in Fran a reflection through words of what hundreds of us grassroot SDA's are feeling presently. We could read, rejoice and respond with a 'Yes, that's it' and feel understood in some minute way. Thank you Fran for being passionate and being a fighting defender.

Now it was Watchbird who just came through our monitor and talked out from her heart to us. The strength of her words mirrored the strength of her soul's agony about this issue that has oppressed the Church.... of which we are living stones who feel too about all this in a bad way. W-bird is one of deep feelings as we see by her candid epistle. Obviously because of years of sanctified growth in self-control she needn't act the foolish ways of unrestrained sentimentalism in crisis problems. Her words are weighed before entering her arsenal of verbal campaigns. Let's avoid any indications that she be a cold fish toward what goes on in our Church. I for one appreciate her and her actions.



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**Posted by: PeacefullyBewildered Jun 10 2007, 09:14 AM**

Whitey,

While our opinions differ slightly on the value of bringing the AHS in to this discussion briefly, I stand and applaud all of your other observations!

Nicely put! 