

Subject: Response to allegations by Mike Abbaduska & various elders dated Oct. 22.
 To whom it may concern: "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil." (Ex. 23:2)
 A multitude of accusers, no matter what their titles or positions, does not make for the Truth, or for establishment of facts. The 4-page diatribe does not constitute fact or finding, but careless invective/unsubstantiated accusation.

1. Not one of the signatories are eyewitnesses of the things which they accuse (in all but 95% of the allegations), and

2. Mike A. and the others had numerous opportunities to take the time to afford me a formal hearing, but deliberately chose to sidestep this critical, all-important procedure, called due-process. Even the Romans practiced quasi-scriptural (Deut. 17:8-12, 19:16-20) due-process:

Acts 25:16--"It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have license (Gr. word means 'place' or 'opportunity') to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him.

3. One cannot expect/obtain unbiased opinions and incontrovertible facts from a man's enemies/accusers, neither of whom knew me very well.¹ Any prosecuting district attorney worth his salt goes to the man's friends as well, so he will know what he's up against. Character references like Richard Poudrier of Portland, OR, my roommate for almost two years, knows very well how I used my time, esp. my nights and weekends. And so does Shirley Selleck, of Albany, OR., subject of Pt. #2, pg. 1.

Mike A. made no effort to gather dissenting opinion on the life and ministry of one Philip Todd Derstine because he had already made up his mind about the person. Therefore, he gathered only that evidence which suited his purposes, which had little to do with establishing any objective reality about the man. He was NOT valiant for the Truth

Of course, we know that the motives of the 'church authorities', as Mike and the others are wont to refer to themselves, are always above board. But Truth must come before motive can be pure. The road to hell is paved with ministerial good motives. The assemblies and churches busy themselves doing lots of 'good' works in His Name, but exercise little diligence in BEING RIGHT, either Biblically or attitudinally or any other way, except what will wash with the sheep and appear right.

But then the evil of sloth has caused all of us to 'play church', and relegate the 'dirtywork' of ministering to a select few 'ordained'. We like to leave matters of judgment and disfellowshipping to the elders, whereas Matt. 18:17, I Cor. 5, 6:1-4 and I Sam. 14:43-45, et. al. show it was a congregational responsibility.

1. Except John Trescott, perhaps. I've had no contact whatsoever w/ Geo. Garner, no private, intimate discussion with Forest Deason, who has never had anything but kind, praiseworthy words for my messages and music at his congregation.

My wife Karen and I, aided and abetted by Yahweh's Holy Spirit, did our level best to inform church leadership and feast attendees of proper, Biblical due process for ascertaining facts and investigating moral turpitude en route to disfellowshipping someone. We spent almost a week prior to leaving for the Feast of Tabernacles putting together a 6-page, scripture-packed, thoughtful presentation of Biblical disfellowship procedure, as well as a four-page elucidation of each person's right to prophesy or teach under the moving of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 14: 29-31, 39, Num. 11:29, I Cor. 12:7, etc.). These papers also documented the scriptural warnings of Yahshua and Paul and John against the abuse of church authority. Malcolm Heap of Midnight Ministries, Aylesbury, England, lent some timely and hearty endorsement, without reservation, to the principles contained in those papers, and quickly, prior to the Feast, mailed Mike and John Trescott, of Anadarko, OK. much detailed scriptural corroboration of what we had written, along with caveats about falling prey to their own agendas and deceitfulness. Dave Schwingel of Arlington Hts., Ill., and Elder Dearl McClure, Elder Orlando J. Smith of TN., Elder Norman Kellers of Davenport, Stephen Meyer, and several others gave their endorsement to the two festival letters.

They contained no accusations, no names of anyone; yet Mike labeled them an attack on the festival elders. In Abbaduska's 8-page festival packet (which I collated and stuffed in about 175 envelopes myself during its mailing), he said at the Feast there would be "AN OPEN SPEAKER POLICY." Four months later, on Aug. 30th he again told his mailing list "there will be an open pulpit for ones to present a message--let the rest judge." He had from May until Sept. to prepare a rebuttal against my prophetic 16-page paper proving that saints will tabernacle in HEAVEN during the plagues of Revelation 8 to 16. In late April I spent 2 weeks helping Mike, and had opportunity to detail scripturally some facts about Revelation which most of the Church knows nothing about--he was impressed with my views, and told me I seemed to have scriptural support for the 2nd Coming being at the 6th seal, as well as for the idea of skenooing, or tabernacling in heaven. Mike, however, after I left, must have reverted to the sabbatarian dogmatism against going to heaven, because in Sept. I heard from Rene Close that he was calling it a doctrine of devils, behind my back, of course, without telling me in the requisite courteous, detailed, scriptural manner. If he has scripture to refute my views, let's have it.

Instead, on Sept. 9th Mike calls me for the express purpose of tempting my attitude--as he himself states--will I be content to come to the Feast and allow Mike to renege on his stated open pulpit policy, excluding me, of all people--one of his chief helpers and financial and name/address list contributors over the previous 6 months!? He allows in his letter that it might have been provocative on his part. On the phone Sept. 9th I quote him I Cor. 14:29-31, 39; but he says that doesn't apply to everyone in the church (which is contradicted by vss. 24-25 of the same chapter, and by 12:7 and Num. 11:29 and Ro. 12:5-8). Defiantly, I insist that it does (otherwise where did he come up with his open pulpit policy in the first place?), which he interprets straightway as rebellion against his 'church authority'. He tells me I am not welcome there; I reply that I've invited friends not a few to fellowship with me at Bennett Springs, and that it would take Matt. 18:16-17 to get me out [I was later proved wrong; all it took was Caiaphas Abbaduska and his collusion with the Roman eagle--the Missouri State Park police. It took no disturbance on our part whatsoever, which we had no intention of anyway. Folks, when has Todd Derstine EVER disrupted one of your church services? Never!] And now you understand the origin of Mike's vendetta against Todd Derstine.

Folks, I finally get to have a hearing before a handful of interested parties in St. Louis this weekend (Nov. 19-20), to answer the charges in Mike's letter. But, of course, Mike won't be there to defend his allegations. But his ex-wife Nancy will be there--courageously, I might add. She was willing to take the time and expense to call some of my positive references mentioned on page 1, and to object to same kind of abuses of authority which wracked their marriage relationship for 8 years.

Page 1, Accusation #1

[Todd's purpose for going to W. Canada in 0-40° below weather from Dec.-Ja.'91, was to exhort Bruce to love and prophetic good work (Heb. 10:24). Civil and legislative leaders throughout Canada need to be warned of impending economic and social collapse, and the dangers to liberty posed by the New World Order. He was not up there on a pleasure trip.]

Opportunities for ministry were too numerous to mention. Quite simply, Bruce Gorovenko turned on me treacherously simply because I told his scornful father that he would need to have "a Job experience" before he could come forth into the New Covenant beatitudes. His spiritual life was one of almost complete isolation due to

extreme prejudice towards others who were not of the same doctrinal persuasion. It also included racial prejudice, and a strange fascination with the spiritless, ruthless Muslim religion, which he'd been reading books on [this, understand, was a 2nd generation sabbath/holy day keeper and sacred namer!] He justified Muslim justice practices, such as chopping off hands for thievery. I told him that the Torah lays a curse on any one of us [who should know better] who ADD TO or TAKE AWAY FROM HIS LAW. I was reserved in my manner of expression with him--like most Englishmen--because I knew he was the same age as my father, and we are told not to rebuke an elder.

If you want a more detailed account of what transpired in Canada, I have copies of a letter sent to Elder Tim Martin of Edmonton, ALB. with whom I stayed for two weeks. It has a thorough defense. In short, Bruce attacked me, not the other way around. Bruce repeatedly lied about me using my fists, which falsehood he admitted to before the 15 people gathered at the hearing of Nov. 17th, 1991. When Bruce saw no need of making retractions and apologies before the hundreds of sacred name brethren he sent his scurrilous letters to, Shirley Selleck confronted him in a 3-pg. letter. But Bruce was also guilty of "putting his hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness". (Ex. 23:1) Bruce raised a false report from Wm. Wanchaluk of Calgary, a rank heretic who was originally responsible for dozens of sabbath-keepers in W. Ca. coming into the truth of using the Names Yahweh and Yahshua. But 3 or 4 yrs. ago he fell away reading some Phariseeic commentaries on the New Testament, and ended up throwing out not only the validity of the N.T., but also Yahshua and our dire need for blood atonement. A widow with whom I stayed briefly in Witas-kiwin, ALB., set up a meeting for me with this subverted soul, so that I could rebuke his dark, sinning spirit (see Titus 3:10-11), BIND or FORBID him from speaking any more in Yahweh's Name, lest he lead any more brethren astray. His poor wife, who clearly desired to continue contact with believers such as the widow lady, was forbidden to do so by her reprobate husband. As far as I know, she still needs our prayers. To be quite honest, I would have recommended her departure from the man. I met him at the bus station in Calgary, quickly discerned his spirit, and began to unload my spiritual artillery on his ears. Bruce later believed Wanchaluk's report that the police had to come and get me out of his house. I never saw his house!

Bruce caught a few scratches on his face in the process of his putting a choke hold on me--but I did not try to scratch his eyes out. He came close to choking the life out of me. I warned him beforehand, "Bruce, you can't be a striker and a brawler and be an elder (I Tim. 3:3) at the same time." Maybe these facts and others in my other letter to Tim Martin tell us why Mike calls him an ACTING MINIS-

TER, ie. a hypocrite (originally one who put on a mask to appear on stage).

HOW ABBADUSKA AND THE SIGNATORIES TO HIS LETTER COULD PRESENT SUCH A ONE-SIDED AND OBVIOUSLY SLANDEROUS STORY AND HOPE TO RETAIN HONOR AND DIGNITY BEFORE THE ELECT BAFFLES THE IMAGINATION. I've just spent a page and a half, and have the other 8-pager covering everything Bruce found fault with.

Page 1, Accusation #2

The hearing of Nov. 17 was a hearing to ascertain facts, not a TRIAL, as no sentence was ever rendered, and was not told by presiding elder Pastor Jerry Pederson that was not welcome at the Marion COG7th Day. Stealing was NOT discussed, because Bruce did not accuse me of theft; and my relationship with Shirley Selleck was not at issue, but rather Bruce's allegations based on my ministry activity in W. Canada. It was also established that Bruce had attacked my body space, not the other way around, and had lied about my using fists on him. Contact David Henion, or Shirley Selleck, 1805 Laura Vista Dr. NW, Albany, OR 97321. Only 6 falsehoods under one item, seven if you count "left [Shirley] alone". Just write to her! She remains to this day one of my most ardent and loyal supporters as a man of faith and integrity with Yahweh. She just made a very immature decision to not follow thru.

Bruce was green with envy that no less than five brethren donated unsolicited love offerings to support Yah's ministry through me. Jamgochian (225.00), Martin (100.00), Noland Macdonald (50.00), Leah Peck, a widow (40.00), who said to me: "I'm giving this donation as unto Yahweh." In fact, before any of this was given, Yahweh blessed my little impromptu furnace cleaning and repair service with 450.00 worth of business with 3 or 4 customers, before Bruce & I headed over to the youth retreat of COG7th day in Acme, Alb. Even Bruce acknowledged Yahweh's favour upon me. But it would take a chapter in a book to cover the wonderful opportunities Yahweh afforded me to preach, prophesy, heal, and counsel. (Some of that is in the other letter)

Richard Poudrier, 6208 SE 70th St. Portland, OR 97206 could give a detailed and impartial account of exactly what transpired between Shirley and I over a period of almost a year. His phone: (503)771-3224.

Page 2, Accusation #3

I have in my possession a 2-pg. letter written by John Trescott--who supplied Abbaduska with the info on this pt.--to Dr. Bakos of Cleveland Psychiatric--urging my release on the basis that there were no charges against me, that I had not harmed or intended to harm anyone, that 3) "anyone with any intelligence could see that marriage of Ron & Martha Friedman was a total fraud", and 4) "a doctor clearly noted late Aug. of 1988 that Martha's hymen had not even been punctured."

END OF MY COPY WRITTEN BY TODD DERSTINE