

Date: Tue, 16 Mar 1999 01:10:31 +0200

Subject: Re: The Hissssssssstory of Responsible Journalism!

CHRISTIAN GROUP?: I never told anyone People! was a Christian group. In fact I have always specifically said that they were not. There were two Jews, one Mormon, One Catholic, and one undecided, and none of the guys went to church or knew much about their doctrines.

SCIENTOLOGY?: When we did the first album the group was not in Scientology. They joined it around the time that I left. They wanted me to stay and join it with them, but I was looking for a sign so I could leave the group, knowing that they would break up after I left. Capitol Records changed things on the album without letting me know. The day it came out I left the group. The actions of Capitol and the orientation of the band toward Scientology was a clear sign that now I was free to go, and I wouldn't be responsible for the failure of the band. (They were my friends and I didn't think I should destroy the band without God's timing being involved.)

GOD'S FINGERPRINTS?: Don't other Christians usually get more than a single confirmation when they have been praying for direction? I find that the simplistic overviews of fans in analyzing my crossroad moments means they are either not used to praying for direction, or not paying attention when God gives them multiple signs.

THE ALBUM COVER?: The title of the album was "We Need A Whole Lot More Of Jesus, And A Lot Less Rock And Roll." That's why there's a drawing of the band with Jesus standing in the center. I didn't tell the artist to put a guitar in his hands. When I saw the artwork they said it couldn't be changed. Which was not true. Capitol made the artist do the album artwork again with a different album title.

DID I GET INSPIRED BY AGAPE?: I wrote "Hard Luck Bad News Blues," and "Born To Be Unlucky," and other songs when I was 13, 14, and 15. I wrote others when I was younger. My sisters sang these songs with me before Charles was born. My mother has the tapes of these songs. In fact, Capitol has copyrights for a lot of my songs, going back to 1966.

WAS I FIRST?: I don't care if I WASN'T the first person to do this music because my inspiration came from 200 years before. The slaves originated this music. "Hard Luck" and "Born To Be Unlucky" are black songs, not from my personal white experience.

IS IT A BIG DEAL TO ME?: No. The reason I wrangle with David about this is because he likes to tell me that I started writing my songs after I met Agape. And David quotes the youth pastor at the Presbyterian Church, Don Williams, for verifying this change in musical direction. David seems unaware that just because something is in print doesn't make it accurate.

SLOPPY JOURNALISM: I didn't even meet Don Williams until 1969 and it might be far more cogent to ask my mother about my music than the youth pastor at a church whose coffee house I played in, for free, so I could invite street kids I was witnessing to, as a place to continue my ministry to them, in music, in addition to the words I spoke to them on Hollywood Boulevard. I've tried to enlarge David's knowledge of those times, but he wants to rely on printed material from those who were musical onlookers instead of those who were there doing it.

PLOWMAN WAS EVEN MORE SLOPPY: As a matter of fact you should read Edward Plowman's book about the Jesus Movement and you'll get a completely different story about my life. Neither Plowman nor Don Williams ever asked me about my life in depth. Don Williams never did. Plowman did over the phone for maybe 15 minutes. And if I knew he was going to put it in a book I would have asked to see it first. Why don't I trust journalists??? Do I have to even say? I think the stuff you can read in CCM is obvious enough. So as for David's resources, of Williams and Plowman, they just assimilated a stereotypical caricature about me, and other kids I knew, in their mad dash to become writers, and didn't get much of it right. Sloppy journalism.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WRITE: I am so careful to research things and talk to the people themselves, whenever possible, when I am doing a story. When I wrote the liner notes for "Streams Of White Light" there were a lot of details which were unknown at the time. Over the years most of, but not all of, what I wrote has become more commonly known. And my information stills holds up as being accurate, even after the additional observations of other, more well connected, writers.

BUT STILL, I LOVE HIM: It all seems so silly. I actually love it that David has gone on record about these things. The fact that he has put things in print only brings into question his expertise on other "facts" that he has bandied about. He wants to be my enemy, but he wants me to be his friend; a very difficult tightrope to walk. Here's how it works. Because I am nice to David and care about him, he is nice to my face. But then behind my back he is not so nice. Then when I call him on it and confront him, we have this strained relationship for a few months or years until he realizes that I do love him, and then he's glad he didn't alienate my affection for him despite the maliciousness he has undertaken.

ZEAL WITHOUT WISDOM: He's just a young kid, trying to make his way in the world. If he holds on to Godliness and acts in a Biblical way he will be blessed and be advanced by God. If he continues to be double-sided then he will fall by the wayside. And he will have no control over it. It is decreed by God that we either obey Him or we begin to experience the outworkings of our actions.

THE LOG IN MY OWN EYE: Just because I can see the faults in others does not mean I can't see even more clearly all the multitudes of faults in myself. I know why Paul said he was the least among the other Christians. Because when you know yourself well and cannot remove the thorn from your flesh you realize how pitiful you are as a

human being...which leads you to pray more for deliverance and rely upon God more deeply. So Paul, for all his sorrow over his own sinful nature, still did good for others while carrying his bag of bones and flesh around with him.

WOAH. IT'S 1:10. BYE

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