

CONVERSION PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT: ABM Ministries AKA ABM
Family Preparatory AKA Lighthouse Christian Academy in Missouri (& TN)
By Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE (<https://www.cope.church>) Dated: 6/23/21

The HEAL Mission of COPE has received 29 complaints from individuals and families alleging physical abuse, food deprivation, sensory deprivation, psychological abuse, one survivor reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission “The punishments that were felt out were never consistent. Some times you would have to write sentences, hard labor, physical attack, humiliation, peanut butter for toast for all three meals, or something else that was thought of at the time. The consequences for our actions were random. What would be encouraged one day would be highly offensive the next. Also it depended on the mood of the faculty as to punishment you got...I remember when my sweet grandma died while I was there. I was allowed to talk to my mom. She told me what happened and I was sad but knew if I started crying I would be humiliated. So I tried to hold it in, but it was obvious that I was sad. Carmen came up to me and told me to cheer up that she didn’t care who died. I have also heard her say that she could get rid of students and just say they ran away...Attending ABM has left me with social anxiety, PTSD. I often wake up in cold sweats and have repeating dreams of where I am back at that place and trying to escape”, another survivor reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission “Mr. Larry made his very own paddle just for my bare ass (I’m a girl) and wouldn’t stop until I was purple and couldn’t walk. Because I broke down and cried. Mr. Craig raped several girls a couple feet from me...We were forced to participate in strenuous physical activity (exercising, running, even had a drill Sargent come in and wear us down, digging fence posts) for hours on end. Several previous students have committed suicide. I was withheld food and made to sleep on a wooden board without a pillow or sheet during the winter months. I was forced to stand entire days and I remember the solace I found when we’d go on bathroom breaks because finally I could sit for a minute”, multiple suicides of “alumni”, one parent of a survivor reported to HEAL Mission via e-mail “We have a 21 year old daughter (redacted) that went to ABM for almost two years. She witnessed incredible things, and also was forced to do the unthinkable. Food and sleep deprivation, forced torturous exercises, mental manipulation and brainwashing, and basically treated like a slave during this time. Humiliation was part of the protocol”, medical neglect, trauma, emotional abuse, one parent reported to the HEAL Mission "Thank you for your help. For the record, I called very late on Wednesday, October 26th. I don’t remember who I left a message with. I left the next day to go get my son. He thanks you profusely for your site, as it was the catalyst for my decision to go get him. All of his letters were so happy and positive, but I found out after that they made him rewrite those letters to their satisfaction. I look forward to talking with others to compare stories, and I may very well consult a lawyer", coercive thought reform, deceptive marketing/fraud, and sexual abuse at ABM Ministries AKA Lighthouse Christian Academy FKA ABM Family Preparatory (ABM). Some of these complaints are referenced online and others remain confidential and on file with the church. With the intention of providing an opportunity for closure, clarification, and potentially peace, on 6/15/21 Rev. Angela Smith invited ABM victims (families and survivors) as well as staff whistleblowers to provide a guest sermon. That invitation read thus:

“Dear ABM Ministries/Family Prep AKA Lighthouse Christian Academy Survivors and Families,

ABM Ministries/Family Prep AKA Lighthouse Christian Academy (ABM) is on the HEAL Mission watch-list (of fraudulent and abusive programs) and enrolled in the COPE Conversion Program based on your reports to the HEAL Mission alleging fraud, abuse, and/or other violations. You can learn more or refresh your memory at <https://www.heal-online.org/thelist.htm> and/or <https://www.heal-online.org/abm.htm> .

The HEAL Mission and COPE Conversion Program (for Conversion Programs) has updated our protocols to provide entities populating the watch-list and/or enrolled in the COPE Conversion Program three ways off the watch-list or out of the program. Death and/or closure remains one way after which they will be buried at <http://www.beyondbusiness.net/youarenext.htm> with the others who didn't make it off the list or reform in time. Programs enrolled in the COPE Conversion Program/placed on the watch-list are also eligible for graduation if they meet the minimum Honesty In Marketing Standards described and/or provided via hypertext link at <https://www.cope.church/standards.htm> . The third option is merciful release. Merciful releases are determined by date of last directly reported to the HEAL Mission complaint (date of incident(s) of abuse), whether those incidents occurred prior to when by custom or law the requirement to retain such records has expired, and whether Sponsors (you) are actively participating or maintaining interest in holding your program accountable.

The most recent complaint the mission has received occurred in 2016 (if you were abused later than that then you did not include the dates of your enrollment when you contacted the HEAL Mission) on ABM. The custom is to retain such records for 10 years in Missouri. So, the requirements for merciful release have not been met. This is an invitation for you to provide a guest sermon no later than Wednesday, June 23rd, 2021 at 8pm Pacific if you wish to provide one rather than have a progress report posted at that time. For sermons (including guest sermons), see <https://www.cope.church/sermons.htm> and for progress reports see <https://www.heal-online.org> . Here's how to participate:

1. In the body of an e-mail message write out your complete sermon and include answers to the following questions:

Did you report fraud or other unlawful actions to the proper authorities? If not, why? If so, what happened with the reports? (So, 2 part question)

Why do you believe ABM/Lighthouse Christian Academy should remain enrolled in the COPE Conversion Program?

2. Send that guest sermon to me at rev@cope.church with your first and last name (full) and notify me if you wish for your contact information to be included or for all feedback to be handled by the mission and/or church. Your full first and last name will be shared along with your sermon as written and provided by you. It will be posted as a Guest Sermon at <https://www.heal-online.org> , <https://www.heal-online.org/abm.htm> , and

<https://www.cope.church/sermons.htm> .

If no one provides a guest sermon and there are no new complaints received by the HEAL Mission by December 31st, 2026, ABM/Lighthouse Christian Academy will receive a merciful release.

Thank you in advance for participating. And, please learn more about how to value your contributions at <https://www.cope.church/givetoday.pdf>.

In Solidarity,

Rev. Angela Smith

HEAL Mission National Coordinator/Founding Mother of COPE "

Now, there was a vote on whether ABM should remain on the watch-list initiated on April 2nd, 2020 where all Sponsors of that program's placement in the COPE Conversion Program were invited to participate. The Sponsors unanimously voted against merciful release or the equivalent at that time. HEAL Mission and the COPE Conversion Program recognize participation in the vote in April as recent enough participation even if Sponsors prefer more time to consider, write, and/or provide any guest sermon. While we understand this may be disappointing for ABM, it is the hope that this progress report helps explain the reasons for the continued enrollment/placement in the COPE Conversion Program. Additional or continued participation by Sponsors, including providing guest sermons or participating in future votes will impact whether or not the program qualifies for merciful release or remains enrolled. Lack of participation by Sponsors, where all other criteria for merciful release are met, will result in merciful release of the program.

Similar invitations will be going out to all survivor/victim/whistleblower e-mail lists regarding their respective programs placed on the watch-list. It may take some time to get through the entire list especially if enrollments pick up. But, we are working on it and everyone can submit Feedback at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> at any time regardless of position regarding program placement or enrollment.

To close, I remind everyone that there are remedies at law. Labor trafficking, rape, fraud (misleading marketing/false advertising), false imprisonment, kidnapping, battery, assault, and any crime or tort you could name are actionable at law. The HEAL Mission of COPE is prepared to assist all victims by providing reporting resources and information for the sake of justice and we appreciate all Sponsors who selflessly contribute content for the sake of informing the public to help those exercising due diligence avoid becoming a victim. Reporting Guide Available at: <https://www.heal-online.org/report.htm> and <https://www.heal-online.org/abm.htm> .