

CONVERSION PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT: AGAPE Boarding School in MO
By Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE (<https://www.cope.church>) Dated: 6/30/21

The HEAL Mission of COPE has received 54 complaints from individuals and families alleging mental abuse, physical abuse, homophobia, one survivor reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission "At least a few kids were horribly mis-treated for their supposed sexuality, "put on "faggot status", which included being required to touch their chins to their own chests 24hrs a day, and would be escorted by "buddies" who would announce loudly "faggot coming through!" EVERYWHERE they went. even just to get their meal. Everyone would scatter and make a path as if they were diseased, and if they accidentally got near someone, students basically had permission to beat their asses, although they would be very mildly punished for assault...Brian Clemensen, son of the owner, tried to make me invent punishments for them by making me a jr staff as a bribe(at a 2nd home he ran that has since "blown away in a tornado" they claimed. . I am proud to say I refused and was eventually punished for my refusal, which was just normal anyways. We would often be punished for no actual reason for days or more. Often when given a command, under a system called intervention (used in many other homes also) required one to say thank you when commanded to do something. Brian Clemensen would pretend the terrified student didn't comply, and this would lead to increasingly more severe punishments," coercive thought reform, one former staff reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission "The work hours at Agape were 72 hours a week (12 hours a day, 6 days a week) for very little pay for the amount of time devoted and the stress of the job. Would come home physically and mentally exhausted with little energy to devote to my wife or children. Unless they change their staff requirements I would not recommend anyone working there. By that, maybe 10 hours a day 5 days a week. The Bible speaks strongly of the HOME being the fundamental part of our lives and working their employees so hard, with verbal abuse from "alpha" staff, is not a way to run a family, especially minimizing the men in front of their wives and children. The verbal and mental abuse to the staff is ridiculous. They work long, hard hours to help the boys. When a staff member develops tries to develop a helpful relationships with a group of boys in order to show the love of Christ to them they are ridiculed and put down, given jobs to do that belittle them. I even sat in a meeting where the boss said "We are not here to befriend these boys, we are here to make them change their life around." Christ sat with the publicans and sinners and built relationships with them... why couldn't we? The boys that were shown the love of Christ the most have had a higher success rate then those put down consistently by yelling and threats by people such as Mr. Lenze. Giving people brown food for simply disagreeing with what he said (with no disrespect). The way to help is to show the love of Christ, not constant ridicule and verbal abuse," psychological abuse, one parent reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission "My son has suffered with ptsd from being at the school and he has had ongoing therapy for anxiety. I tried to do the right thing for my son by placing him in this school but I had no idea of the mental and physical abuse that is imposed on them under the guise of religion," another survivor reported via e-mail to HEAL Mission "I was never physically abused (directly by the staff) but definitly by the other kids and I saw all kinds and experienced horrible shit that my friends and family dont even want to hear about," another former staff reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission "I was beaten mercilessly in 98, and witnessed more of

the same as an employee. The agape cult forced me to marry another staff member in order to keep my job. They told me it was Gods will and if I wasn't going to follow Gods will then I couldn't be there. These people molded me into a violent intolerant individual. No learning takes place at this school," academic fraud, food deprivation, false imprisonment, communication blackouts/incommunicado (censored/monitored/disallowed communication with outside world), sexual abuse by staff/owner's relative, improper physical restraints, and labor trafficking at AGAPE Boarding School (AGAPE). 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 6/22/21 Rev. Angela Smith invited AGAPE victims (families and survivors) as well as staff whistleblowers to provide a guest sermon. That invitation read thus:

“Dear AGAPE Boarding School Survivors and Families,

AGAPE 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/agape.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 2018 (if you were abused later than that then you did not include the dates of your enrollment when you contacted the HEAL Mission) on AGAPE. 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 30th, 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 AGAPE 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/agape.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 November 30th, 2028, AGAPE Boarding School 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 AGAPE 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 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 AGAPE, 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/agape.htm> .