

A Sermon on Bearing Bad News

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for March 5th, 2023 (and beyond)

On January 30th, 2023 the HEAL Mission of COPE Ministries received an all too familiar request from an accredited post-secondary degree college/university hoping the mission could help with getting the school transcripts from an entity currently or formerly on the false prophet watch-list/enrolled in the COPE Conversion Program (for Conversion Programs). The entity had been closed permanently since 2018 after relocating last in 2013, but multiple times both in and out of US jurisdictions. One of the victims of the entity now closed was seeking to enroll, but has neither transcripts nor diploma from the now closed entity, which was never accredited and has been outright rejected by the University of Alabama. Admissions at the University of Alabama in regards to the academics in question stated: “Good morning Angela, I hope your weekend went well. After checking with our Enrollment Management team, it looks like we would not be able to accept credit from this institution based on the accreditation concerns.”

The duty is on the legal guardians/parents to make sure their children are not truants. If children are truants, parents can be fined and/or imprisoned. One mother died in jail after being unable to pay fines because her child was truant. Source: <https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/2016/jul/6/pennsylvania-woman-dies-jail-while-serving-sentence-truancy-fines-and-court-costs/> When minors are suspended or expelled, it is up to the parents to find any school that will accept the enrollment so they avoid penalty for truancy and the like. Of course, some children who’ve not had any issue with truancy nor unlawful or disruptive spells may end up in foster care or otherwise with incompetent and/or abusive legal guardians/parents who take a private K-12 school's claims on blind faith and trust any accreditation claimed is from a legally recognized academic accrediting body and not just a membership organization of some sort that claims to be an officially recognized accreditation body.

A court of law may recognize enrollment in an unaccredited K-12 as not meeting the legal requirement for minors to attend school and recognize enrollment in such as evidence of negligence, neglect, and/or incompetence resulting in the minor potentially ending up in the foster care system and placed in an unaccredited boarding school where no family homes nor better alternatives are available. As such, there is potential for a minor or adult where the statutes of limitation have not expired on any action against their legal guardians/parents for negligence in choosing a school who would still need to find an accredited school and/or pay for completion of that or the equivalent in any settlement on damages. For example, if you did not earn your high school diploma in WA State before reaching age 19, you will have to prepare for the exam and/or pay (\$120) to take the exam or pay more to attend an accredited school or college to now earn (or prepare you for the test) that which will help with employment. For more info on the GED, see: <https://www.shoreline.edu/testingcenter/ged.aspx> Therefore, minimum recovery on educational neglect would be \$120 with the above example and potentially treble damages (triple for pain/suffering and recovery if only \$120 in actual damages would total \$480) or funds to cover preparation for the GED exam.

The saddest part to me is that people looking to better themselves are under the impression that entities on the watch-list that they reported as abusive, sometimes involved in human trafficking, and worse are still keeping meaningful records and issuing valid diplomas. For me the whole situation is #TaoFu because the entities themselves when closed credit the HEAL Mission of COPE at times with their demise and therefore leave no way to even get a bogus transcript that may or may not be accepted depending on the college or school to which one has applied. And, even though many recognize they were frauds as well as criminals of various sorts, some of the victims hold on to a smidgeon of hope that their time in such a hellish environment wasn't for nothing. But, all too often it was just that and any work goes unrecognized still. The parents could sue for fraud within the statutes of limitation and get much of their money back depending on the terms of the contract. The parents have a choice of admitting they didn't read the contracts or didn't understand them if read and signed anyway or admitting they co-conspired in the truancy of their own child through academic negligence by enrolling them in an unaccredited K-12 school, academy, or program. None of that helps someone looking to enroll in a qualified and accredited school, college, or university.

If the frauds admit in bold print that their credits aren't transferable and diplomas are bogus, they could graduate the COPE Conversion Program and receive a Honesty In Marketing Standards (HIMS) certificate which comes with the right to say they've met COPE's HIMS standards and are no longer on the watch-list/enrolled. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/standards.htm> . No one has yet graduated, but more have been permanently closed and buried in the virtual graveyard at www.beyondbusiness.net/youarenext.htm . Some have been mercifully released after qualifying for that as well because their sponsors didn't provide a guest sermon nor evidence they properly reported violations of the law to the correct law enforcement body within the statutes of limitation. But, no graduates.

There is no pre-crime unit and that's not how business licensing and regulation works in part because the US Constitution requires the law/government treat everyone as innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in criminal cases and by a preponderance of the evidence in civil/personal injury cases. Some formerly accepted and recognized K-12 accrediting bodies no longer exist, but their names were purchased or adopted by third-parties that are merely membership organizations that claim to accredit. Some of those have been shut down after civil suits, but there are more out there. It can be very difficult for someone not familiar with how to shop for academic services because sometimes they hire an educational consultant that accepts kickbacks from unaccredited programs for each minor they refer that enrolls. And, sometimes accreditation looks legitimate, but upon further investigation is bogus. In other cases, some don't claim to be accredited and I find the lack of said claim to be closer to meeting the Honesty In Marketing Standards than those who claim bogus accreditation. So, buyer beware.

The admissions office assisting the survivor in January referenced in the opening of today's sermon replied to being notified of the program being closed and not accredited with the following: "This all helps immensely in my hunt. I agree too, this is not my first

closed religious school and they usually disappear with their records. Thank you for the fast reply!!!"

If you are a victim of such a program, are you happier if they close or if they remain open so you might get your records when requested depending on record retention standard and there isn't one for private schools, only public? Either way, if you are or were such a victim, you and/or your legal guardians at the time of graduation should have requested copies of all of it the day you left or before any statutes of limitation expired in regards to potential recovery.

This hurts everyone and that's why the HEAL Mission matters. #TaoFu.

For those interested in starting #TaoFu Self-Defense Exercises, please see <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> and begin at any time.

There are opportunities to send messages, receive mystery bonus blessings, and more with or without donating available now on our "Pass the Basket" page at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> . Thank You.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> . For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.

For More About COPE and the HEAL Mission, see:

<https://www.cope.church> and <https://www.heal-online.org>