

## A Sermon on Economic Realities

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for January 30th, 2022 (and beyond)

I was last gainfully employed outside of COPE Ministries (including HEAL Mission) in 2008. My last employer outside of the church and mission (GOD) notified me the branch office I worked for was being closed due to downsizing and the parent company later folded. I was notified of the closure when I called to say I wouldn't be making it back to the office from assigned location because I had been hit (while in my vehicle) by a Peterbilt double-decker fully-loaded truck. My car was totaled. My face suffered 1<sup>st</sup> degree chemical burns from the explosion of the air-bag and I suffered other injuries as well, some that exacerbated pre-existing conditions. My attorney in that case told me the settlement offered was the maximum the insurance would cover and to recover more damages I'd have to sue the driver. The driver, Mark Swan, was (and likely still is) a hard-working family man that appeared to me to have a wife and three children based on a photo in his wallet that I saw after I regained consciousness and spoke with law enforcement. The driver ran a stop and took full responsibility for the accident with law enforcement. So, I forgave the rest that I likely would have recovered or been granted in damages had I chosen to sue the driver beyond the insurance recovery.

On December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009, while I was still recovering from the injuries and on temporary hiatus from law school (which has become permanent because I'd have to start over since I didn't finish within the 7 year window required for the degree to be recognized or granted) while still running the HEAL Mission, Provo Canyon School AKA UHS of Provo Canyon filed a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP suit) against me and the mission. More information on that is available at <https://www.heal-online.org/healsuit.htm> . I used all my remaining tuition money for law school to pay a lawyer to defend my rights and the rights of over 300 other victims of Provo Canyon School at that time to free speech via consumer advocacy.

During the lawsuit, my Mom was evicted from her home after being defrauded but she forgave it even though an attorney we consulted said she could recover about ½ of what she gave to the fraudster. I sold my car to buy the house where we both currently live now because she was in serious financial trouble. And, even with all this strife, my commitment to the church and mission hasn't waned. As a result of an unfortunate sequence of events, I've had the blessing of doing good works in good faith fairly unabated.

The last two jobs (outside of the church and mission) I applied for that resulted in interviews I was interviewed for in September and October of 2021. The September interview is the only one that might still pan out sooner or later, but the prospective employer was robbed the week I was interviewed and is still recovering from that while showing interest in hiring me once they've recovered from that loss. The October interview wasn't a good fit all around. But, I was willing to accept the challenges of that one.

That being said, as you know most of the church and mission services are virtual and provided by internet and phone. To help you understand the operating cost (which is taken out of the \$12,750 minimum fundraising goal of the church and mission each year), I've provided a sampling of monthly expenditures for the internet and phone services (with exception to internet access from Comcast/Xfinity which we would maintain for strictly personal use with or without the church and mission) below (volunteer e-mail accounts are \$2/volunteer/month for virus protection add-on alone):

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
12/19/21 3 Weeks Ago	1&1 Domain Names Bill Pay Withdrawal	-\$14.49	\$261.74
12/13/21 4 Weeks Ago	1&1 Domain Names Bill Pay Withdrawal	-\$12.14	\$187.10
11/19/21 1 Month Ago	1&1 Domain Names Bill Pay Withdrawal	-\$14.36	\$372.78
11/13/21 1 Month Ago	1&1 Domain Names Bill Pay Withdrawal	-\$18.73	\$193.07
10/24/21 2 Months Ago	1&1 Domain Names Bill Pay Withdrawal	-\$29.33	\$221.80
10/15/21 2 Months Ago	1&1 Domain Names Bill Pay Withdrawal	-\$174.64	\$61.90
09/19/21 3 Months Ago	1&1 Domain Names Bill Pay Withdrawal	-\$14.36	\$53.07
09/14/21 3 Months Ago	1&1 Domain Names Bill Pay Withdrawal	-\$12.14	\$119.19

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3 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			
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3 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			
08/19/21	1&1	Domain Names	-\$14.36	\$706.65
4 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			
08/14/21	1&1	Domain Names	-\$18.73	\$824.56
5 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			
07/31/21	1&1	Domain Names	-\$12.00	\$730.39
5 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			
07/20/21	1&1	Domain Names	-\$29.33	\$621.87
5 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			
07/14/21	1&1	Domain Names	-\$74.22	\$425.12
6 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			

07/14/21 6 Months Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names	-\$74.22	\$425.12
06/19/21 6 Months Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names	-\$49.52	\$521.02
06/14/21 7 Months Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names	-\$12.14	\$409.24
05/19/21 7 Months Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names	-\$14.36	\$811.35
05/14/21 8 Months Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names	-\$18.73	\$908.05
04/20/21 8 Months Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names	-\$17.23	\$686.88
04/14/21 9 Months Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names	-\$8.83	\$735.90
03/14/21	1&1	Domain Names	-\$8.83	\$636.74

6 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			
06/14/21	1&1	Domain Names	-\$12.14	\$409.24
7 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			
05/19/21	1&1	Domain Names	-\$14.36	\$811.35
7 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			
05/14/21	1&1	Domain Names	-\$18.73	\$908.05
8 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			
04/20/21	1&1	Domain Names	-\$17.23	\$686.88
8 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			
04/14/21	1&1	Domain Names	-\$8.83	\$735.90
9 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			
03/14/21	1&1	Domain Names	-\$8.83	\$636.74
10 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			
02/14/21	1&1	Domain Names	-\$55.42	\$330.94
11 Months Ago	Bill Pay Withdrawal			

Date	Description	Category	Note	Amount	Balance
01/20/21 11 Months Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names		-\$29.96	\$735.72
01/14/21 12 Months Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names		-\$43.83	\$886.15
12/20/20 1 Year Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names		-\$14.99	\$510.06
12/14/20 1 Year Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names		-\$8.83	\$371.92
11/20/20 1 Year Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names		-\$70.30	\$454.48
11/14/20 1 Year Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names		-\$15.42	\$288.02
10/20/20 1 Year Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names		-\$14.97	\$288.48

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digital.wsecu.org/banking/accounts/my-accounts/account-history?id=469292c0710106de01713d054eec07aa

05/21/20 1 Year Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names	-\$70.30	\$1,640.16
05/14/20 1 Year Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names	-\$13.21	\$1,723.10
04/20/20 1 Year Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names	-\$35.14	\$2,200.68
04/14/20 1 Year Ago	1&1 Bill Pay Withdrawal	Domain Names	-\$6.62	\$2,845.66
01/02/22 1 Week Ago	MCAFEE Bill Pay Withdrawal	Electronics Software	-\$142.73	\$100.92

Posted 01/02/2022 08:48am

Details MCC 5968  
MCAFEE \*WWW.MCAFEE.COM 866-622-3911 TX  
#\*100093

Note + Add Note

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FreedomVoice is the toll-free service (Some seeking assistance from the church and mission are homeless or use landlines):

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digital.wsecu.org/banking/accounts/my-accounts/account-history?id=469292c0710106de01713d054eec07aa

Apps Law section Amazon.com: Onlin... Free Online Games... History Battleship (free onli... Trip Planner - Bus S... Reading list

12/20/21 3 Weeks Ago	<b>FREEDOM VOICE SYSTEMS</b> Bill Pay Withdrawal	Home Phone	-\$31.89	\$229.85
11/20/21 1 Month Ago	<b>FREEDOM VOICE SYSTEMS</b> Bill Pay Withdrawal	Home Phone	-\$31.79	\$324.46
10/20/21 2 Months Ago	<b>FREEDOM VOICE SYSTEMS</b> Bill Pay Withdrawal	Home Phone	-\$31.89	\$30.01
09/19/21 3 Months Ago	<b>FREEDOM VOICE SYSTEMS</b> Bill Pay Withdrawal	Home Phone	-\$32.98	\$83.65
08/20/21 4 Months Ago	<b>FREEDOM VOICE SYSTEMS</b> Bill Pay Withdrawal	Home Phone	-\$31.79	\$674.86
07/20/21 5 Months Ago	<b>FREEDOM VOICE SYSTEMS</b> Bill Pay Withdrawal	Home Phone	-\$31.79	\$651.20
06/20/21 6 Months Ago	<b>FREEDOM VOICE SYSTEMS</b> Bill Pay Withdrawal	Home Phone	-\$32.13	\$452.04
05/19/21	<b>FREEDOM VOICE SYSTEMS</b>	Home Phone	-\$32.09	\$779.26

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My mobile/cellular phone with cheapest plan to make sure I'm reachable whenever needed:

Date	Merchant	Description	Amount	Balance
12/26/21 2 Weeks Ago	TRACFONE	Mobile Phone Card Withdrawal	-\$17.04	\$235.19
12/31/20 1 Year Ago	TRACFONE	Mobile Phone Card Withdrawal	-\$16.75	\$677.03
11/26/21 1 Month Ago	TRACFONE	Mobile Phone Card Withdrawal	-\$17.04	\$307.42
10/27/21 2 Months Ago	TRACFONE	Mobile Phone Card Withdrawal	-\$17.04	\$108.89
09/27/21 3 Months Ago	TRACFONE	Mobile Phone Card Withdrawal	-\$16.80	\$99.34
08/28/21 4 Months Ago	TRACFONE	Mobile Phone Card Withdrawal	-\$16.83	\$378.51
07/29/21 5 Months Ago	TRACFONE	Mobile Phone Card Withdrawal	-\$16.83	\$742.39
06/29/21	TRACFONE	Mobile Phone	-\$16.83	\$359.40

My mother does give me \$300 every time she receives a paycheck from her primary employer Boeing. This is to be saved to restore the car I sold to buy the house as well as cover incidentals while I pray for gainful employment and actively seek it. However, due to ongoing financial issues she continues to suffer, basic necessities are often taken out of that \$300 as well as all expenses for the church and mission not covered by donations/gifts to the church. Here's an example of that:

Date	Merchant	Category	Amount	Balance
04/07/21	SAFEWAY	Groceries	-\$9.99	\$492.33
03/06/21	SAFEWAY	Groceries	-\$46.19	\$345.57
12/22/20	SAFEWAY	Groceries	-\$43.99	\$466.07
12/15/20	SAFEWAY	Groceries	-\$7.19	\$323.36
12/13/20	SAFEWAY	Groceries	-\$50.96	\$380.75
11/23/20	SAFEWAY	Groceries	-\$62.20	\$294.57
11/23/20	SAFEWAY	Groceries	-\$51.39	\$356.77

To reduce costs this year, COPE is phasing out use of the secured mailbox in Burien/Seattle and will solely be using the Everett location (which also has a secured mailbox) for all correspondence going forward. This will save approximately \$500/year. And, we also updated the telephone plan for the toll-free number to reduce confusion and costs this year.

As of January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 there have been no monetary gifts to the church and mission this year. Though the last sale of one of my books was in November, 2021, I've not yet received the revenue because it hasn't met the minimum threshold for payment (\$5) to me at this time. I did a royalties deal on my books and only get paid in royalties when my books sell. You can find them at <https://www.cope.church/awe.htm>. Many titles and genres to choose from and all related in some way to my work at the church and mission. As far as revenue from sales through Amazon links on the recommended reading page at <https://www.cope.church/reading.htm> and bake sale page at <https://www.cope.church/bakesale.htm>, we've earned \$2.42 this year. But, even with that the minimum threshold for gift card payment is \$10 and the total stands at \$9.27 as the current unpaid balance coming our way sometime this year.

The in-kind support for the church and mission is overwhelming and service recipients as well as sponsors number over 29,000 and counting. Church congregants number over 1,000 right now. If half of those receiving services of any sort gave \$1 each, we'd exceed the minimum fundraising goal for the year and have the funds to improve quality of

service and accessibility. The great thing is when you help fund the church and mission you qualify for even more bonus blessings you can keep or pay forward as listed and described at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> and donations are tax-deductible.

I truly appreciate all who give in-kind and/or by funding church and mission services. But, if I have a stressful tone or attitude at times, the above helps explain what my PTSD and reasons for it don't, right? If not, #WhatCheneySaid. I hope you enjoy the art of the church and mission, please give today or assume vanishing acts or other changes are a result of misunderstanding what a vow of poverty means in light of the poverty-line which is \$12,750/year in the US. The church and mission will continue in some form as long as it is sustained with love, support, and understanding of economic realities.

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>