

CONVERSION PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT: John Volken Academy (HQ
Canada, also with Washington State, and Arizona locations)
By Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE (<https://www.cope.church>) Updated: 5/27/21

The HEAL Mission of COPE has 3 [the original number of 22 was a typo and should have read 2] separate complaints from individuals and families alleging communication and information access blackouts and restrictions, emotional abuse, psychological abuse, medical negligence, human trafficking/labor exploitation (including forced/coerced uncompensated labor), wrongful death, one survivor reported in April, 2021 to the HEAL Mission "I was not allowed access to a phone or any outside persons. Any negative talk about the facility or attempt at exposing or revealing plans of leaving resulted in punishment and further isolation. I have debilitating PTSD from that place. Every single person I know that has escaped or "graduated" has suffered incredible emotional and psychological trauma. 99% of "students" leave with a higher inability to function in society and can't handle the transition back into society resulting in worse drug and alcohol abuse than prior to attending the work camp. My first week I was forced to work extreme manual labor while withdrawing from alcohol, outdoors in 120 degree heat with no breaks and no sitting down or "excessive water"...The amount of psychological abuse within the structure, as well as human rights violations and forced indigent servant status. There was money laundering and tax evasion. And murder by the 3rd degree" and smuggling at John Volken Academy. [It is my belief that by "indigent servant" is meant indentured servant and that by "murder by the 3rd degree" is meant murder in the third degree. This was reportedly a restraint death.] Some of these complaints are referenced online and others remain confidential and on file with the church (and mission). With the intention of providing an opportunity for closure, clarification, and potentially peace, Rev. Angela Smith invited John Volken Academy representatives and the victims (families and survivors) as well as staff whistleblowers to participate in an e-mail Round Table discussion for publication to the site. The invitation was sent via e-mail on August 20th, 2020. That invitation read thus:

"Dear John Volken Academy Representatives, Survivors, and Whistleblowers,

I am the co-founder of the HEAL Mission and founding mother of the Church Of Philosophical Exploration (COPE) Ministries. As many of you may recall, HEAL works to expose and stop institutionalized abuse, fraud, cults, human trafficking, and child exploitation. And, John Volken Academy is on the False Prophets Watch-List at <http://www.heal-online.org/thelist.htm> as well as enrolled in the COPE conversion program which you can learn about at <https://www.cope.church/conversion.htm> .

Due to COVID-19, most of COPE's church services are currently being provided online. To view past Sunday Sermons, visit <https://www.cope.church/sermons.htm> . This is an invitation for you to participate in the Sunday Sermon for August 30th, 2020. Please RSVP via reply to this message no later than Thursday, August 27th, 2020 at 11pm Pacific. The round table discussion between voluntary participants will begin at 12am Pacific Friday (August 28th, 2020) and officially end at 12am Pacific on Saturday

(August 29th, 2020). If you'd like to participate, here are the rules and potential participant demographics:

1. You must RSVP to this message by the 11pm Pacific August 27th, 2020 deadline to participate.
2. By submitting your RSVP expressly indicating your desire to participate in this round table discussion you agree to have the entire discussion via e-mail with full disclosure of anything contained in your messages (such as your name and/or e-mail address) during the 24 hour window between 12am Pacific Friday August 28th and 12am Pacific Saturday August 29th to all parties or participants to the discussion as well as printed to .pdf to act as Sunday's Service and Sermon for COPE on Sunday August 30th, 2020. All sermons remain available in .pdf on the site at time and perpetually after the first reading.
3. I, Rev. Angela Smith will be moderating, observing, possibly asking questions, and commenting when warranted.
4. John Volken Academy has been invited to participate and will have equal access and welcome to participate in this round table discussion (sermon).
5. Former clients and/or captives as well as former staff have also been invited to participate and will have equal access and welcome to participate in this round table discussion (sermon).
6. CAPS SHOULD BE AVOIDED OR USED SPARINGLY SO NO ONE FEELS AS IF THEY ARE BEING YELLED AT BECAUSE THIS IS INTENDED TO BE A CIVIL THOUGH VERY LIKELY SOMEWHAT HEATED EXCHANGE.
7. Once the round table discussion begins at 12am Pacific on Friday, August 28th, there will be no possibility to remove anyone who changes their mind from the e-mail list as shown when printed to .pdf for Sunday Service. You will be able to leave the e-mail discussion, but, to whom the first message in the discussion is addressed will be made public as well as who leaves if the e-mail list changes during service. If you initially RSVP that you will participate, you will need to renege on that or notify of your change of mind prior to 12am Friday August 28th, 2020 to avoid involuntary participation.

I look forward to hearing from you and truly hope you choose to participate.

All My Best,

Rev. Minister Angela Smith
HEAL Mission Co-Founder/Founding Mother of COPE "

No one RSVP'd by the deadline. The reasons may be obvious. The reasons likely include serious trust issues and concern about whether participation would be more helpful or harmful depending on participant demographics. The survivors, victims, and

whistleblowers are comfortable reporting to our virtual victim sanctuary and mission what John Volken Academy allegedly did, but still too intimidated to make official complaints with proper authorities or confront John Volken Academy directly and publicly in most cases. And, John Volken Academy has volunteered to be on "No Talk" (restricted communication status) or that's what we're getting from the lack of response at the Conversion Program to the invitation to participate. For these reasons, we assume the following to be true: 1. John Volken Academy belongs on the watch-list and enrolled in the Conversion Program at COPE and 2. John Volken Academy prefers "No Talk" to a "Group Confrontation". This simply reinforces that people often prefer silence to heated confrontation particularly where they have not assumed nor been recognized as an authority. So, we thank John Volken Academy for reinforcing the fact that it is normal to avoid those who try to forcibly convert you (through aversive behavior modification or religious conversion) and to prefer that to being confronted even verbally via e-mail by angry victims even if moderated by activist/clergy. This is also likely because participation in such a discussion could re-open the statute of limitations for those victims who may otherwise at this time be barred from pursuing a claim because said time for filing complaints has expired.

Similar invitations will be going out to all survivor/victim/whistleblower e-mail lists and 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. For reporting resources, see <http://www.heal-online.org/report.htm> for directory of law enforcement and regulatory bodies throughout the USA. There is also a reporting guide specific to John Volken Academy available at <https://www.heal-online.org/volken.htm>.