

CONVERSION PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT: 20 Peaks AKA Mountain Meadow Youth Ranch in MT

By Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE (<https://www.cope.church>) Dated: 8/25/21

The HEAL Mission of COPE has received 11 complaints from individuals and families alleging alienation of affection, censored/monitored/restricted communication with outside world (held incommunicado), abusive, unqualified, food deprivation, exposure to the elements (forcing kids to sleep outside in Montana in Winter), solitary confinement/isolation rooms, forced political campaigning, labor trafficking, one survivor reported via e-mail to the HEAL Mission “Paul Clark utilized some of us kids to do door to door political campaigning on his behalf. We were given the choice to either do his political campaigning or to do hard labor on his Montana property... Joe and Marilyn Frields ran a for profit archery shop and wild game butcher shop located in Trout Creek, MT. When they first started keeping kids from the Galena Ridge summer program they were doing it out of these shops (prior to the purchase of the manufactured home and way before the ranch). They would utilize us in their for profit businesses and send us to the local high school in Thompson Falls. I never lived in the archery shop or wild game shop but am familiar with both of these businesses as I was forced to work there.”, and deceptive marketing/fraud at 20 Peaks AKA Mountain Meadow Youth Ranch. 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 8/17/21 Rev. Angela Smith invited 20 Peaks AKA Mountain Meadow Youth Ranch Sponsors (families and survivors) as well as staff whistleblowers to provide a guest sermon. That invitation read thus:

“Dear 20 Peaks Ranch AKA Mountain Meadow Youth Ranch Survivors and Families,

20 Peaks Ranch AKA Mountain Meadow Youth Ranch (MMYR) 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/mtnmead.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 2017 (if you were abused later than that then you did not include the dates of your enrollment when you contacted the HEAL Mission) on 20 Peaks AKA MMYR. The custom is to retain such records for 10 years in Montana. 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, August 25th, 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 20 Peaks AKA MMYR 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/mtnmead.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 of COPE by December 31st, 2027, 20 Peaks AKA MMYR 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 20 Peaks AKA Mountain Meadow Youth Ranch should remain on the watch-list initiated on April 3rd, 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 20 Peaks AKA

Mountain Meadow Youth Ranch, 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/mtnmead.htm> .