

## A Sermon on Narratives

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for June 19th, 2022 (and beyond)

This sermon is inspired in part by an e-mail received by the HEAL Mission on 5/14/22 from a self-identified survivor of institutionalized abuse that read in part “Your email below is not only downright rude, it’s damaging to the entire narrative and misconceptions surrounding this industry.” I’m going to include the entire message that party claimed was “downright rude” and “damaging to the entire narrative” below but redact any statements that may identify the survivor making those claims.

“Dear [Redacted],

Did you report [Redacted] to the proper authorities when you were released or upon your 18th birthday for any regulatory violations or crimes they committed against you? Many programs are permanently closed because their violations of existing laws were properly reported within the statutes of limitation for disciplinary action. You can see the dead programs page at [www.beyondbusiness.net/youarenext.htm](http://www.beyondbusiness.net/youarenext.htm) so you know existing laws are effective, but the violations have to be properly reported for disciplinary action to be possible because due process exists and we all have the right to due process.

We hope the fact that [Redacted] is permanently closed brings you some closure as well. No one else silenced you but your own fear once you were released from the custody of [Redacted] and/or emancipated when you reached age of majority. The regulatory and law enforcement bodies were immediately ready to take your complaint, statement, and initiate disciplinary action if the protocols were followed. That's still true for recent victims and still results in programs closing down when properly reported which again explains [www.beyondbusiness.net/youarenext.htm](http://www.beyondbusiness.net/youarenext.htm).

"Unsilenced Project, Inc" has our support as do you, but, we will not be working on legislation ever again because there are laws and regulations in place now sufficient that simply require victims to report it properly for disciplinary action to be taken.

Please see <https://www.heal-online.org/emancipationprep.pdf> and understand that the government needs people to volunteer to provide loving family homes to wards of the state, orphans, and sometimes adjudicated youth convicted of crime. Also understand that there aren't enough family homes willing to take in those children in need of services so the government looks for next best option with an opening where basic needs are met like housing, food, running water, and clothing. And, even if the extraordinary number of 500,000 youth and children in segregated congregate care were the statistic cited, there are 72 million children and youth under age 18 in the US right now. That 500,000 number was an estimate and an old one cited in Marcus Chatfield's book. But, the current or recent estimate (2019) is 55,000. Source: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/congregate-care-and-group-home-state-legislative-enactments.aspx>. That's 7 out of 10,000 children or youth placed in any type of segregated congregate care setting in the country at this time. That's 0.07%. That's an anomaly or otherwise very rare occurrence that is often illegal which is why victims can

successfully sue or press charges against their parents/legal guardians when placed without a court order in a segregated congregate care setting (see: <https://www.heal-online.org/provocases.htm> (specifically David Taylor's case) and <https://www.heal-online.org/parentalcrimes.pdf>). Minors have the ability to file for emancipated minor status. See <https://www.heal-online.org/emancipationprep.pdf> for more on that. And, being faith-based doesn't exempt one from criminal prosecution which is how many of the faith-based ones and some secular have been shut down. This includes RYA. See <https://www.heal-online.org/rya.htm> for more info.

So, we ask again, did you report [Redacted]'s misconduct and/or crimes to the proper authorities as soon as it was physically possible to do so as a result of your release from it? If not, it is permanently closed anyway as a result of free market choices or disciplinary actions because someone else reported it properly and before the statutes of limitation expired.

The legislative actions being taken by many survivors prove incompetence at law to those who are competent at law. Incompetence at law is the legal basis on which people can be involuntarily institutionalized in segregated congregate care. So, for those unwilling to learn, they are asking to do away with due process when it comes to stripping congregate care providers of their constitutional rights while stating the programs deserve it because they did it to the youth enrolled first. It is childish and stupid. And, also the rights violations are actionable at law but the parents/legal guardians would be co-defendants for enrolling their child/dependent in the first place without a court order. If you forgive your parents, they indemnified the programs and at law all is forgiven in such a case. If you sue your parents like David Taylor or prosecute like in the other referenced article of that paragraph, then that's one way to get justice and hold perpetrators accountable as is reporting crimes such as child abuse, rape, human trafficking, and kidnapping to law enforcement in the jurisdiction where the crime occurred.

We do hope you are having a good time and got a selfie with Paris Hilton. She's great, isn't she?

Best Wishes,

HEAL Missionary Team for COPE”

Recognizing that the complainant was dissatisfied after reviewing recent e-mails to and from the HEAL Mission, I e-mailed the complainant directly with the following message from my e-mail [rev@cope.church](mailto:rev@cope.church) with information again redacted that would otherwise identify the complainant:

“Dear [Redacted],

Hi! I'm the national coordinator and co-founder of the HEAL Mission as well as the founding mother of COPE Ministries that operates the HEAL Mission exposing fraud, human trafficking, and abuse in an effort of consumer advocacy.

I've had the opportunity to review the e-mail exchange between yourself and the HEAL Missionary Team for COPE and see you are dissatisfied with the responses you received.

Here's my understanding of your request for editing of the HEAL Mission site in the proper format:

Link: [Redacted]

Text/Quote: "If you were harmed (family or survivor) by [Redacted], please contact [info@heal-online.org](mailto:info@heal-online.org) if you remember the long-term employees and from which years. This will help!"

Request/Suggestion: (Quoting your message here) "Please remove your online request for survivors to contact you because it is clear you have some very, very inaccurate assumptions about what happens in these facilities and should absolutely NOT be in contact with any survivors."

As the webmaster for HEAL Mission and COPE Ministries, I believe your statement was completely out of context. I would recommend you review all the information at <https://www.heal-online.org> (and linked through that mission homepage), <https://www.heal-online.org/ebook.pdf>, <https://www.cope.church/goodshepherd.htm> (and information available through hypertext and hyperlinks on that page), <https://www.heal-online.org/10yrs.htm>, [www.beyondbusiness.net/youarenext.htm](http://www.beyondbusiness.net/youarenext.htm) , and <https://www.heal-online.org/solidarity.htm> .

I've attached the language of Initiative 999 which was a ballot initiative I filed in 2008 in hopes to expand youth rights so they would have equal authority in their own education and medical decisions if 13 or older. I used the right to seek mental health services without parental consent, driver's licensing, Mature Minor Doctrine, and the right to birth control/family planning services without parental knowledge or consent as the basis to support the change to the law. Unfortunately, we did not have enough volunteers collecting enough signatures to get it on the ballot. Other legislative efforts involving expanding youth rights rather than violating the rights of private companies or individuals are available at <https://www.heal-online.org/getsmart.htm> .

In addition, I've attached the letter my grandmother wrote to her congressman in 1989 about the abuse I suffered at Provo Canyon School the same year. But, that was not the right place to file a complaint. I've also attached the summary page and full legislative request I and Kentucky Mission Coordinator at the time Tim Brown took when we visited legislators in DC. After discussing the limitations on federal authority and the requests, we were advised to report crimes to the police, file consumer complaints in cases of fraud, and complain to the regulatory bodies that license or oversee companies that are the basis of any complaints.

If you have time, I'd like you to read both the Emancipation Guide at <https://www.heal-online.org/emancipationprep.pdf> and last Sunday's sermon at <https://www.cope.church/worldsermon.pdf>. If not, no worries, I understand.

I've been fighting institutionalized abuse since 1989 and officially with the HEAL Mission of COPE since 2002. I also graduated from the University of Washington and successfully completed my first year of law school. You can see all my credentials at <https://www.cope.church/credentials.pdf> and more at <https://www.cope.church/goodshepherd.htm>. For my medical records and psychiatric diagnoses, you can visit <https://www.cope.church/medical.pdf>. I live with severe depression and Post Traumatic Stress with no psychotic features/no delusions. I'm also a survivor of Provo Canyon School and more than qualified to run both the church and mission.

If you do know the names of any [Redacted] staff not currently listed at [Redacted] that you wish to be added, please let me know. That will be helpful and is in full context what the request to hear from survivors of [Redacted] said in full context though you didn't provide any staff names when you decided to reach out and left out the context when commenting further on that invitation to contact the HEAL Mission. One of the reasons we ask for the names or collect them is because sometimes staff committed crimes including raping and trafficking children or youth at a facility on our watch-list. See <https://www.heal-online.org/silverado.htm> for more info (Eric Glosson specifically). Glosson also reportedly worked for Provo Canyon School. There was an alleged rape in 2008 that was reported to police that occurred at Provo Canyon School. But, we didn't have his full name for a while. So, when survivors can provide the full name of any or all staff where others might not know the whole name, it can help identify a rapist so law enforcement has a better chance of tracking them down and arresting them before they rape again.

After many years of lobbying efforts at the state and federal level, I've found that more fruitless than not even with a few small victories for children's rights and due process. But, I've found reporting properly to the right enforcement bodies in a timely fashion results in much swifter resolution and closure of offending facilities. So, with 20+ years of experience and education, I'm confident in saying reporting properly works and legislation that is unconstitutional will not pass or will be overturned by the US Supreme Court. Reinforcing the US Constitution is the best legislative strategy and undermining it is the worst and doomed to fail. Everyone has the right to due process. When programs offend, reporting it properly to the correct enforcement body to handle the complaint is the first step in due process and justice for victims.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know. And, check out <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> and see what bonus blessings you are eligible to receive with your gift to the church (and HEAL Mission) and/or just for the asking depending on bonus blessing. You can also see earmarks to support specific services if you'd prefer to specify.

All My Best,

Rev. Angela Smith  
HEAL Mission National Coordinator/Founding Mother of COPE”

Oxford Languages via Google defines “Narrative” as “a spoken or written account of connected events; a story”, “in the form of or concerned with narration”, “the narrated part or parts of a literary work, as distinct from dialogue”, “the practice or art of telling stories”, and “a representation of a particular situation or process in such a way as to reflect or conform to an overarching set of aims or values”. So, for me the word “narrative” as employed by the complainant dissatisfied with their response was intended to subjugate me, HEAL Mission, COPE Ministries, and the entire survivor community to the narrative to which that individual subscribes. The complainant initiated contact and was misleading in stating the purpose was to have a conversation rather than to issue missives or directives to our independent church and mission. Our team responded conversationally and found inequality present which at minimum suggests hypocrisy.

COPE Ministries (including HEAL Mission) is always open to conversations where free expression is welcome and equality is respected especially where opinions may vary. But, we will not be subjugated and equality is not only a virtue espoused by our church but also written into the bylaws that govern all our actions. See <https://www.cope.church/bylaws.pdf>. So, attempts to subjugate violate the laws of the church and are met with resistance.

Some of my books are first person narrative and some are not. If you are interested in reading my books, see <https://www.cope.church/awe.htm> (two are free e-books downloadable from that page). For what I say about myself and what others say about me, my work, and/or the church/mission, see <https://www.cope.church/goodshepherd.htm> and <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm>. You may also wish to check out <https://www.cope.church/fellowship.htm> if you haven’t already done so.

Good luck finding subjects, but I suggest you do so outside the USA. This is a free country and we are all equal in the eyes of the law (including church bylaws if talking COPE Ministries). And, if you plan to use subjects without ever compensating them fairly for their work on your behalf or for your benefit, expect a revolt. #FirstAmendmentRevolution

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>