

## A Sermon on Practicality

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for July 30th, 2023 (and beyond)

Like many of my sermons, this is a meditative one covering practical matters worth contemplating with each matter followed by a corresponding meditative question for all to ponder.

Topic: Medical Doctors

Facts: In the United States, there are 938,966 total licensed medical doctors with varying specialties. Source: <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/workforce/data/active-physicians-us-doctor-medicine-us-md-degree-specialty-2019> While licenses can be revoked, often they are not even where the physician has been guilty of malpractice. Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/08/20/doctors-licenses-medical-boards/2655513/> Even though there is 1 medical doctor for every 353 people in the US, some are specialists as stated. There are 118,198 general/family physicians licensed to practice in the US. And, that amounts to one for every 2,808 people in the US. Doctors are human too and also have their own health issues and social commitments. The average time devoted to one patient per doctor's visit is 2 hours by the doctor. If working 50 hours per week on average (which multiple online sources claim), that would suggest the ability to treat 25 people per week on average. That's 1,300 patients per year assuming the doctor never takes a vacation. So, that's less than half the people who may actually need to schedule an appointment. There are 154 accredited medical schools in the US. 96,520 total medical students in accredited medical schools in 2023. Source: <https://www.aamc.org/news/nation-s-medical-schools-grow-more-diverse> Between 7-9% flunk out of medical school and another 15-18% drop out. Source: <https://financialresidency.com/dropping-out-of-medical-school> And, on top of that, "In 2021, for instance, there were a record-setting 42,508 active applicants for residency programs — 3,741 more than in 2020 — but only 35,194 first-year positions, according to the National Resident Matching Program. Although the number of residency spots has been creeping upward in recent years, the growth has not been fast enough to close the gap." Source: <https://www.vox.com/22989930/residency-match-day-physician-doctor-shortage-pandemic-medical-school> "More than one in three physicians, 34 percent, have had a medical liability lawsuit filed against them at some point in their careers, says one of three trend reports published by the AMA's Division of Economic and Health Policy Research. The longer physicians are in practice, the likelier it is that they will have experienced a lawsuit." Source: <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/sustainability/1-3-physicians-has-been-sued-age-55-1-2-hit-suit>

Question: How would you guarantee universal quality healthcare from qualified physicians for all US citizens/residents and do you believe it can be done?

TOPIC: Global Economy

Facts: Global Gross Domestic Product in US dollars per capita in 2023 is \$13,383.46. This means that in 2023, if the entire world were economically communist each person

would be allotted \$13,383.46 gross for 2023 regardless of employment, age, gender, nationality, or any other demographic qualifiers, which would be an equal redistribution of annual global gross income. Net income on that amount is \$8,030.07 per person when considering the entire global human population. Source with citations provided at: <https://twitter.com/heal247/status/1670280193393717248> Everyone in the USA regardless of income, benefits from the transportation system, including roads and highways. Even those reliant on food banks need the food to be trucked to their area and donated for their local use. The trucks rely on the roads and highways. In 2020, the amount spent in the US by the government to maintain roads and highways was \$204 Billion. Source: <https://www.urban.org/policy-centers/cross-center-initiatives/state-and-local-finance-initiative/state-and-local-backgrounders/highway-and-road-expenditures> That's \$614.64 per capita/person expense for that year alone. To give some perspective, the country of Burundi has a Gross Domestic Product of \$308 per capita/person. Source: <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/worlds-poorest-countries-2023-gdp-per-capita/> But, our government spends double the annual arguable household income of one Burundi citizen on making sure roads and highways are accessible so everyone's needs can be met regardless of income.

Question: Do you believe a person selling pet rocks they painted faces on should be valued as economically equal to someone who cures cancer and would you support equal division of Global Gross Domestic Product to all people regardless of demographic or employment status?

Topic: Gratitude

Facts: All of the above. And, the US Government reportedly spends \$19,343 on each citizen per year. Source: <https://usafacts.org/articles/how-much-money-does-the-government-spend-per-person/> The \$614.64 is just the tip of that iceberg.

Question: You have what you need, now what do you want? DIY.

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.