

CONVERSION PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT: ALABAMA TEEN CHALLENGE
By Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE (<https://www.cope.church>) Dated: 6/25/20

The HEAL Mission of COPE has received 23 separate complaints from individuals and families alleging false imprisonment, fraud, physical abuse, emotional abuse, psychological abuse, and labor trafficking at Alabama Teen Challenge locations (also referenced as Teen Challenge of Alabama in this report). 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, Rev. Angela Smith invited Teen Challenge of Alabama 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 and a public notice published on Twitter regarding the opportunity on June 20th, 2020. That invitation read thus:

"Dear Alabama Teen Challenge Representatives, Survivors, Families, 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, Teen Challenge of Alabama 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, all 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 June 28th, 2020. Please RSVP via reply to this message no later than Thursday, June 25th, 2020 at 11pm Pacific. The round table discussion between voluntary participants will begin at 12am Pacific Friday and officially end at 12am Pacific on Saturday. 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 June 25th, 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 June 26th and 12am Pacific Saturday June 27th 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 June 28th, 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. Alabama-based Teen Challenge 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, June 26th, 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 June 26th 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"

Twitter Notice Link: <https://twitter.com/heal247/status/1274496732550709248>

No one RSVP'd by the deadline. The reasons may be obvious. But, some of the survivors and families still live in fear of Teen Challenge because they reasonably believe based on their experiences that it is a labor trafficking cult disguised as drug treatment though the documents say it is a discipleship program only. And, so while comfortable reporting to our virtual victim sanctuary and mission what Teen Challenge allegedly did, still too intimidated to make official complaints with proper authorities or confront Teen Challenge directly and publicly in most cases. And, Teen Challenge 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. Teen Challenge Alabama belongs on the watch-list and enrolled in the Conversion Program at COPE and 2. Teen Challenge Alabama 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 Teen Challenge Alabama for reinforcing the fact that it is normal to avoid those who try to forcibly convert you and to

prefer that to being confronted even verbally via e-mail by an angry mob even if moderated by activist/clergy.

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. Alabama Teen Challenge has individuals sign "Civil Rights Waivers" which they use as evidence that those who complain against them signed away their rights to complain upon enrollment. The courts may see that as a matter of contract law and likely voidable at law due to being unconscionable or illegal. So, it is still worth reporting crimes to law enforcement in the proper jurisdiction in a timely fashion for the sake of justice. And, it is still addressable in tort if contract terms are voidable due to being unconscionable or illegal. Some of those enrolled in Teen Challenge programs have been adjudicated and/or are residents of Teen Challenge as a group home or halfway house situation. Illiteracy rates among US convicts is at a high estimate of 75% according to this article: <https://observer.com/2017/07/prison-illiteracy-criminal-justice-reform/#:~:text=The%20Literacy%20Project%20Foundation%20found,percent%20of%20the%20prison%20population.> So, it is highly likely those signing away their civil rights don't understand what they are signing. But, if they revealed that at law might be found incompetent. This presents a Catch-22 that is exploitable by false prophets for false profits. And, may also explain some of the trust issues in assisting the residentially challenged/homeless population. This is why tutoring and literacy outreach is part of COPE's strategy for stopping institutionalized abuse. The more you know....