

CONVERSION PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT: Teen Challenge in AZ and AR
By Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE (<https://www.cope.church>) Dated: 10/8/20

The HEAL Mission of COPE has received 2 separate complaints from individuals and families alleging deceptive marketing, fraud, deceit, academic fraud, food deprivation, extortion, kidnapping, communications censored/monitored (including 30 day blackout period), excessive physical restraint, physical abuse, and undue influence at Teen Challenge locations in Arizona (AZ) and Arkansas (AR). 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 AZ and AR 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 October 2nd, 2020. That invitation read thus:

"Dear Arizona and Arkansas Locations Only 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 in Arizona and Arkansas are 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 October 11th, 2020. Please RSVP via reply to this message no later than Thursday, October 8th, 2020 at 11pm Pacific. The round table discussion between voluntary participants will begin at 12am Pacific Friday October 9th, 2020 and officially end at 12am Pacific on Saturday October 10th, 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 October 8th, 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 October 9th and 12am Pacific Saturday October 10th 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 October 11th, 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. Arizona-based and Arkansas-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, October 9th, 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 October 9th, 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

PS All victims/survivors of Teen Challenge locations that have reported are currently consolidated on one e-mail list. If you are not a victim/survivor of the Arizona or Arkansas locations, please disregard this message."

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 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 belongs on the watch-list and enrolled in the Conversion Program at COPE and 2. Teen Challenge 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 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 an angry mob even if moderated by activist/clergy.

That being said, at this time it appears Teen Challenge in Arizona and Arkansas qualify for a merciful release from the COPE Conversion Program. The reasoning behind the merciful releases follow. The complaints regarding Teen Challenge in Arizona are from 2012. In Arizona similar files need only be maintained for 6 years. Though, the survivor most recently participated at the mission in June, 2020. The latest complaints regarding Teen Challenge in Arkansas are from May, 2010 from a parent. In Arkansas, similar files need only be maintained for 10 years. So, the primary criteria for merciful releases include most recent participation by Sponsor(s), time-frame of complaint about incident(s), and whether the complaint falls outside the state requirement for maintaining records.

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.