

Combined Voice Message Transcript

Cleaned for readability while preserving the speaker's meaning and tone

Document Type	Transcribed voice message
Prepared For	Oklahoma Child Wellbeing working documentation
Note	This transcript is based on a voice-message transcription provided in chat. Names and claims should be independently verified before public use.

Transcript

Hi. So I'm at work, but it's too much for me to type, so I wanted to send you a message and tell you a little bit of the backstory.

My parents moved to Rhema in 2000, a couple of months after I was born, because my dad wanted to go to school there. I think my mom ended up going too.

Throughout their marriage and their time at Rhema, up until I was about 16 and they got a divorce, my dad was actively cheating on my mom, addicted to pornography, and doing different things. We even moved away at one point, and Rhema actually prayed over us in front of the whole congregation before we left. Then we ended up moving back about a year later.

My dad still went into ministry while actively living a double life.

As an adult, I look back and think, if you knew someone was actively involved in pornography and cheating on his wife, why would you pray over him and send him off into ministry? It's just crazy.

My dad was actually an usher for a while. Eventually he became the head groundskeeper because he'd worked in the grounds department for years.

He got fired from Rhema because, [REDACTED], he had employees under him, and he slept with one of his employees. It's not funny, but it had kind of become a running joke among people there because everyone thought something suspicious was going on between him and this girl.

[REDACTED] because [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] saw them flirting and acting inappropriately. They were allegedly doing things at work.

Eventually it got back to Pastor Hagin. My dad was fired. She was fired too.

Then I look at what's happening now and think, you'll do that to people who aren't related to you, but when someone who is related to you is involved, you won't?

There are just a lot of things you're exposing.

I grew up at Rhema. I knew Wesley and Trevor. I wasn't close friends with them. They were closer to my [REDACTED] but I knew them.

I remember you, and I remember Britney. Britney and I weren't extremely close, but we'd sit together and hang out during youth. I actually really liked her. I knew her sisters too.

When the affair became public, my dad lost his job, she lost her job, and [REDACTED]. She's [REDACTED].

They moved away, and later I [REDACTED]

There were also different things in leadership. Like when Keith and Brent Bailey left, I never knew why. I was younger then.

I also remember camps at Rhema where the girls were really cliquish.

I grew up with an emotionally, mentally, and psychologically abusive mother who could get on stage at Rhema, sing, and appear to be the perfect Rhema person, but behind closed doors she treated us terribly.

Then I had a dad who was emotionally unavailable because he was too busy cheating on my mom and too busy avoiding being at home. That left my mom to take all of her anger out on us.

Rhema was basically where I grew up.

I remember going to Denise one time as a teenager because I was struggling with depression. I told her I wasn't happy. We sat in her office for maybe ten minutes, and basically her advice was to quote Scripture, write down as many verses as possible, and have more faith.

Honestly, it felt pointless and like a waste of my time.

There was nobody there who really saw me, cared about me, or had any spiritual discernment about what I was going through.

The beliefs I was raised with were so extreme that after I finally got out, it took me a long time to understand who God really is.

God isn't my genie. He's not here just to make me feel good or give me money. It's not, "If I just pray hard enough and have enough faith, then God will give me whatever I want."

But that's legitimately what we were taught.

I was basically bred and taught to be an entitled, spoiled brat.

The ironic thing is, we weren't rich. My family was very poor.

We gave all our money to Rhema expecting some kind of magical return from God.

I've sown into so many ministries and different things that turned out to be nothing more than an illusion — just people saying whatever they needed to say to get money.

It took me a long time to come to terms with the fact that I had been in a cult.

My parents were wrapped up in it too. I'm not saying it was all my dad's fault. I think both of my parents played a part, but that's not really the point right now.

I just feel like I was set up to fail, but God had mercy on me.

After I left, He really showed me who He is.

I felt like I wanted to serve God again. I thought, "Oh my God, I need to go back to Rhema." I went there for the first year, and I realized this was not right.

Because all of us there were living double lives — me included — but as long as you went to class, showed up, gave them money, and went to church at Rhema, nobody seemed to care.

I remember thinking, "This is a load of crap."

After I left, I studied more about Word of Faith and these different things, and I realized, "Oh my God, I was in a cult my whole life."

Long story short, I just want to say thank you so much for what you're doing.

It was never put on my heart to say my part in what happened or talk about things. I didn't know about any of this Craig stuff. I just knew his class was boring.

I tried to pay attention because, like you said, the Hagins are like celebrities there. Even when Miss Lynette would walk in, everybody reacted like, "Oh my..." It was that kind of thing.

But I could never really get connected. I was struggling. I was working a full-time job at  call-center work, which is a whole other story.

That was when I also started thinking Christianity was not what I had been told, in the sense that when pastors are [REDACTED] it goes to different call centers. Some people may have legitimate ones with good people, but mine was not.

There were very famous names you could think of, and we would have a [REDACTED]. We would just read off the script. They didn't care if you were Christian or non-Christian. They just cared if you could read the teleprompter, sell the product, and get the money.

I thought, "This is insane."

I felt like I wasn't supposed to go back to Rhema. I thought it was good attention, but it was bad. Still, I learned a lot and saw a lot.

I'm rambling, and I'm trying not to ramble, but what I'm trying to say is this: my dad was in a high position at Rhema, had an affair, and was fired immediately. Craig can allegedly do all of this, and it seems like he gets away scot-free.

It's insane.

All the stuff coming out is crazy. I didn't know the extent of it. I knew it felt like a Ponzi scheme. I knew it felt like an MLM. I knew Word of Faith wasn't good, and I hope people come to see that. I pray for that.

I do remember when Craig was in trouble for taking kids to a bar or whatever. I was very, very young, but I remember that.

It's so corrupt.

I've had severe issues because of the way I was taught to view God, come to God, and understand God.

I was taught that He is this specific kind of God, and it has taken me a long time — and I'm still unlearning every single day. Sometimes I regress. I act like an entitled, spoiled brat and think, "Why isn't my life like this? I serve You. I follow You. Why don't I have this? Why won't You give me this?"

But it was never about that.

I have to retrain my brain and realize that suffering is part of following Jesus. Look at the apostles. They suffered. It was not about getting whatever you want.

The whole entitled, spoiled idea that God is here to serve you — that if you pray enough, give enough money, get someone's anointing, get their power, or receive their impartation, then you'll get what you want — that was what we were taught.

I've gone to God and backslid, gone to God and backslid, over and over. A lot of it is my fault because I want things my way, when I want them, and how I want them. That goes back to not having self-control and not submitting that part of myself to God.

But it also comes from this mentality I grew up in, where God is supposed to serve you and your life is supposed to look how you want it to look. If it doesn't, then you're doing something wrong.

Sometimes you're living in the consequences of your own actions, and God is still there for you, but you have to live that out.

I have serious issues [REDACTED] I have serious issues with the way I see myself because of going to that church, being in that cult, and having parents who were equally living double lives and were double-minded.

They were completely different at church than they were at home. That messes with your brain. It really does.

I'm not good in relationships. Everything was very transactional. I would come to God like I was trying to bribe Him. That's how they teach you.

What I'm trying to say in all of this is thank you again for what you're doing, and for advocating for Mia and Missy.

That was what I was going to say. I knew because my mom had told me, "He was cheating on her and left her." I was very young, and I don't know if that was appropriate to tell me, but I remember when all that happened.

I grew up where people living double lives was normal. I knew it wasn't right, but I also knew it was normal there. Eventually I developed a very skewed view of God, which He has worked with me on.

Sometimes I still seek comfort and safety in very toxic, terrible men, toxic relationships, self-sabotage, and a victim mentality.

They really emotionally stunt you there. They don't teach you how to grow up. They don't teach you how to lean on God as a Father in a healthy way. A father walks you into maturity.

They don't teach you that. They don't teach you those fundamental things you need to know, especially if you didn't really have a father or mother growing up. I mean, they were in the house, but you weren't actually taught certain things.

So yeah, I'm saying all this just to say thank you again, and that's been my experience. It was just insane.

I know you're hearing a lot of stories, and I don't really have any tips or anything especially damning. I just knew it was a cult. I knew they had favorites. They had a hierarchy. I knew there were things that weren't right.

If this is how they're teaching and this is how they're operating, then something isn't right.

When I came to understand more about what the movement actually was, I realized they were obviously unscrupulous.

I didn't really know who these people were. Going through that kind of cognitive dissonance — realizing this is reality and this is what I had actually been living through — was overwhelming.

I don't want to make this too long, but I hope you're having a really good day.

I don't really have anyone to talk to about this. One of my girlfriends who also went to Rhema and I have talked about it. We both came to the conclusion that it was a cult. We'd say, "This is crazy. They're all hypocrites. They only care about appearances, the popular people, and status." That was just something we both recognized.

But it's nice to know someone else understands what I've been through, someone who loves truth, loves justice, loves God, and is willing to acknowledge that there's something deeply wrong.

I'm struggling with being trapped in the past and trapped in anger.

At the same time, I'm trying to accept who God really is and accept that things are going to happen in my life that I can't control, change, bribe God into fixing, or beg Him to change.

Even if He says no, or my life doesn't turn out the way I expected, that doesn't mean He doesn't love me.

Even if I put myself in a bad situation, that doesn't mean He abandons me.

Everything I learned growing up felt very conditional.

That's how I understood love.

If I was good, then I was loved.

If I was bad, then I wasn't.

That's how I viewed God's love too.

So I'll do really well for a long time, then I'll regress, and now all of this that's coming out is bringing everything back up again.

I thought I had moved past it.

I had accepted that I had been in a cult and that so much of what I had been taught was wrong.

Now it's all resurfacing again, and it's frustrating because I'm realizing I'm still dealing with many of the same issues.

I'm thinking, "Wow, I'm still struggling with this."

I don't know.

Could you please just pray for me?

That's really it.

I didn't want to reach out for anything else. I just wanted to say thank you.

It's nice to know somebody else understands what I'm going through, sees things for what they really are, and recognizes how corrupt that place is.

I probably have more I could say, but I don't want to overwhelm you or keep talking.

Okay. I'm going to go.

Thank you.

Response to Deborah

Draft reply prepared by Tracie

Deborah,

First, thank you. I know sharing something this personal isn't easy, and I want you to know how incredibly brave it was to trust me with your story.

As I listened, what stood out to me wasn't just the pain you experienced—it was your honesty, your self-awareness, and your desire to make sense of what happened. That takes courage.

One thing I hope you know is that you are not alone.

Since beginning this work, I've heard from many people whose experiences share common themes: growing up around double lives, feeling unseen, believing love was conditional, struggling to separate God from unhealthy religious systems, questioning themselves after leaving, and spending years trying to relearn who God really is. While every person's story is unique, you're certainly not the only one carrying these kinds of experiences.

Your willingness to speak may become part of someone else's healing. There are people who are silently wondering if they're the only one who experienced these things. Reading or hearing someone like you say, "You're not crazy. I struggled too," can be the first step toward freedom.

One thing I encourage you to remember is that healing isn't usually a straight line. Many people think that because they understood something intellectually, they'll never struggle with it again. But healing often comes in layers. Sometimes old memories resurface—not because you're moving backward, but because you've reached a place where you're finally able to process another layer of what happened. That can be painful, but it can also be part of moving forward.

Please don't be too hard on yourself when you recognize old thought patterns. You spent years learning them. It takes time to replace them with healthier ways of thinking.

Continue surrounding yourself with people who value truth, humility, accountability, and grace. Healthy relationships help retrain our understanding of trust. Give yourself permission to ask questions, continue studying Scripture for yourself, and remember that your relationship with God doesn't have to look like the system you grew up in.

I also want you to know that many of the women who have shared their stories with me are on Facebook. I think you would find tremendous encouragement in connecting with others who understand what you've walked through. There is something powerful about realizing, "I'm not the only one." I believe they would be grateful to hear from you, and I think your story would encourage them just as much as theirs could encourage you.

Thank you for praying for me. I truly appreciate that.

And yes—I will absolutely be praying for you.

My prayer is that God continues to untangle every false belief that was attached to His name, that He brings peace where there has been confusion, and that He reminds you that your value has never depended on your performance, your status, or whether you fit into someone else's circle. I pray He continues to reveal Himself for who He truly is and that your future is defined more by His faithfulness than by the experiences of your past.

Thank you again for trusting me with your story. Your voice matters. Your experience matters. And I truly believe your willingness to speak honestly will help other people find the courage to begin their own healing.

You're not alone.

Tracie