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FEATURED

The End of Our Attempted Transition: Does CollapseNet Have A Future?



Posted by [Wesley Miller](#) on Monday, 01 December 2014 in [CollapseNet Free Blogs](#)

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December 1, 2014 – Lake Oswego, OR – I have been dragging my feet on this issue for as long as I could, but it is time for a “come to Jesus” sort of moment regarding the future of this website.

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Since we attempted this transition to TrackerofTruth.com, some limited financial support came in and several folks volunteered to help in various capacities, but that support has just not been enough to revitalize our website. More important is that it has been unable to provide any income for any staff, and all of the remaining staff are forced to find other work in order to support our families. We simply can't keep working for free, no matter how much we care about this project that MCR and I co-founded.



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I feel it is also important, and appropriate, to let our long-time readers know a bit more of the truth regarding the situation Mike left us in, and the continuing fall-out from it. Mike liked to tell interviewers or claim on his PRN show that he left CollapseNet and Sebastopol having paid all his debts. That simply was not true. All of the while he ran CollapseNet, he refused to pay any income taxes or payroll taxes on his pay because he refused to “give this criminal fucking government one more dime.” That works for someone who doesn't plan to live much longer, but it created one Hell of a burden on me and the company.

Mike left the company with over \$12,000 in tax debts to pay off, and those debts do not go away for the remaining corporate officers (meaning me alone) if the company fails. When Mike left CollapseNet, our memberships and revenue dropped off a cliff, to the point where I have had to put money into the company on many occasions just to keep the website running. Since Mike left CollapseNet, I have been paying down that debt as best I can; however, a little over half of that tax debt remains and I simply can't fund this website and pay off Mike's taxes on my own. I have to move on – I owe it to my family.

My intention following Mike's suicide was to re-birth and re-build this company, and then hand the entire company over to interested staff members as soon as practicable. Well, that only works if the company has sufficient revenue to pay the bills and provide an income for those staff members, which has completely failed to materialize.

Another factor has been the amount of time and effort that I have had available to contribute to re-building the website. Unfortunately, I have been relatively limited in my ability to contribute more because of other circumstances and obligations that have come up since Mike's death. One of the major issues came up upon my return from Calistoga last April. At about the time I was planning MCR's memorial service, I found out that my brother was diagnosed with the worst form of MDS (“myelodysplasia”). He's 36 with a wife and a very precious 2 year old daughter. The disease hit him very aggressively, requiring countless blood and platelet transfusions, as well as various chemo treatments. By the Fall, he was completely hospitalized, as the disease had progressed to AML (“acute myeloid leukemia”). The man lost about 50 pounds during a grueling agonizing 46 days of hospitalization that included intensive chemo, and there were many miserable complications. The only good news has been that a transplant donor match was found and a transplant date has been set for later this month.

This morning, I found out that he went missing overnight. Apparently my brother sneaked out of the house some time before 4:30 AM, leaving his wallet (minus his DL) and cell phone, and locking up the house behind him. Nothing like that has ever happened before, and he is still in bad shape medically. Although he was pretty depressed for a while, he appeared to be improving recently. Now my family is trying hard not to panic as we go to the police and news media to get the word out and try to find him. It is very difficult not to fear the worst right now...

There have been other traumas and dramas that have hit me along the way (some related to MCR, some not) that have made our efforts at this transition even more difficult, and without the generosity of our members or donors to provide sufficient revenue, the task has become impossible for us. I am now left with three choices:

- 1) sell the website:

Founder's Corner



Mike Ruppert

148 post(s)

"Founder of CollapseNet"

Mike Ruppert to make first public appearance as Tracker of Truth, July 4th

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