

March 12, 2008

Dear Branch Church Members,

We are current and former Readers in Christian Science branch churches, societies, and college organizations from various parts of the field who share a love for The Mother Church and its branches. We are concerned about the introduction of a version of the Bible other than the King James Version in the Golden Text and Responsive Reading in the May 12-18 Bible Lesson, as printed in the *Christian Science Quarterly*.

In the spirit of Christian fellowship, we invite you to consider with us the consequences of the plan (announced by the Christian Science Board of Directors and Board of Trustees of The Christian Science Publishing Society) for the occasional use of Bible translations other than the King James Version in the Golden Text and/or Responsive Reading. As you may know, some branch churches, as well as The Mother Church, have used other Bible translations for the Scriptural Selection and Benediction in their Sunday services. A few have been using other Bible translations for Wednesday readings. We believe this deviates from Mrs. Eddy's intention with regard to our Pastor.

In order for Christian Scientists to be familiar with our Leader's direction about the use of the King James Bible, we have enclosed the following:

- Historical research that provides evidence of Mrs. Eddy's instruction for using the King James Version in church services.
- Two official statements issued by earlier Christian Science Boards of Directors in 1938 and 1980/1984 that explain why "the King James Version should be the exclusive translation that English-speaking branches use in services and Sunday Schools"

Our Leader tells us that the Sunday lesson is "a lesson on which the prosperity of Christian Science largely depends" (*Church Manual*, p. 31). It is our conviction that branch churches and individual members will be helped by considering the enclosed information as they arrive at their own conclusion as to whether the King James Version will be the exclusive Bible used in all their church services. We unite with you in giving our deepest prayerful thought to honoring Mary Baker Eddy's leadership with regard to the voice of our Pastor.

Lovingly,

Jackie Dixon, *Odon, Indiana*
William Gough, *Toronto, Ontario, Canada*
Joyce A. Hood, *Matthews, North Carolina*
Kenneth Hufford, *Lone Tree, Colorado*
Eleanor G. Moller, *Ryde, California*

Donald Morton, *Barrington, Rhode Island*
Nancy Sheldon, *Napa, California*
Ronald Smith, *Monticello, Wisconsin*
Alice Stanley, *Esher, Surrey, England*
Stephanie Trick, *Ballwin, Missouri*

We are not representing our respective congregations. We are representing ourselves as individual members of The Mother Church who are serving, or have served, in the sacred office of Reader. This mailing was sent to the memberships, First and Second Readers, Sunday School Superintendents, and Reading Rooms of all English-speaking branches and societies. It was also sent to all *Journal*-listed practitioners, teachers, nurses, and Committees on Publication in these areas. This letter along with its enclosures may be downloaded from www.csandthekjv.com. The cost of this mailing was covered by contributions from members in the field.