

*Christian Science Institutional Service
for the State of Oregon*



Oct - Dec 2014

2015 Annual Meeting

Andrea McCormick, C.S.
will be discussing

*What is your **Christian** role in
Institutional work as a member of
a Christian Science Church?*

Discover the history of this work back to Mrs. Eddy's time,
and why it is appropriate for us all to be engaged in it today.

April 25, 2015

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Salem
10:00 to 4:30 including lunch

For more information please visit:
www.csisoregon.com/annualmtg

Control Belongs to God

One of the men I am working with attends consistently and is eager to glean whatever is offered. We are praying about place and placement along with seeing the institution and its employees as fair and just. He has had many challenges with seeing certain guards as children of God when they treat him and others as inferior. We are working together on respect, not human, but spiritual respect, including that all are equal in the eyes of God; we all have the same Father and nothing, no action, nor inaction can separate us (including the guards) from the love of God. There is only one Supreme Being and that is God who is Lord over all. The guards are not lord over inmates, they cannot take the place of God. God cannot sin, be unjust, unloving, or unseen therefore man, including the guards, cannot do or be what God is not, because we all are His exact image. Control belongs to God not to man. He is endeavoring to look up words he finds in the lesson he does not understand and we discuss what he has found and how to apply it.

“Most of the guys are there for a reason. They’ve committed a crime. The first time we were very intimidated, and then we started singing, & then I remembered this is a son, a husband, and a father.....”

Timothy’s Gift, Acapella Choir

All in God’s Time

One individual in our group on his own prepared, cultivated, tended and cared for the planting of a lawn in front of the building where he works using his enhanced landscaping skills he learned from a class on landscaping in which he received a certificate. A lady in the building next door one day asked him if he could plant a lawn in front of her building. Upon asking his boss, the answer was, No. He went back to the lady and informed her his boss had said no but not to worry it would work out some way. He just kept knowing that this was a right idea and the supply and demand came complete, and it was certainly a desire on his part to express love and bring joy and beauty to this situation. This was two months ago. Last week the lady was still remarking about his beautiful lawn and even look a picture of it. He asked her if she would take a picture of him with the lawn in the background, which she did and he had a copy of the picture by the end of the day. Within two days his boss quit so he approached his new boss with the lady’s request and his response was Yes, just let me know what you need, and I will see that you get it. An absolute turn around, he was so excited to get started. He says that it just shows when an activity is right, God has a way of bringing it about.

Prayer in a Juvenile Facility

We had three new girls in our group so we gave them the synonyms for God and the list of qualities that express the synonyms. Then we reminded them that because we are each the image and likeness of God, those qualities belong to each of us as well and it's powerful to look at the list and claim right qualities each day in our prayers. We all agreed that the "serpent voice" would claim we always make mistakes, but this is the liar and not the voice to heed. One girl remarked that some girls say prayer doesn't work. We replied that sometimes what this means is that in moments when things are really going wrong it's tempting to pray and ask to be spared the consequences of our actions. But if we only care about ourselves, not about God, it's not really much of a prayer. Prayer isn't using God to get out of fixes or get what we want, it's worship and obedience and from the standpoint finding that God is "an ever present help in trouble."

Fruitage

One individual shared the following "I started working and mortal mind opened up with whatever it could come up with, and I say this figuratively. Everything past, present, future, outside, and inside of me. It came at me so hard and fast that it was funny. Something is there that mortal mind doesn't want me to realize so I am on the right track. I am working with one thing in this week's Lesson more than the rest. It's in *Science and Health* page 108:19. One of the things I have found out studying Science is when something seems important I go with it. It's like a good computer, when it says to push a key you push the key and don't ask why. The outside has stopped but the inside is still doing it's best to stop me. So I have stepped up my studies and less TV. Right now it's hard to understand the good that is at the end of this tunnel but I can see one or two photons so I know the light is there. When the understanding comes it will be better than anything I have had before. Like digging a ditch the harder you work the deeper the ditch."

The Commandments

We started the girls off with reading Matthew chapter 5 aloud. This led to a discussion about the Beatitudes having a lot in common with the Ten Commandments, except the focus is on the blessings from right thought and action instead of "thou shalt not." This led to finding and reading the Ten Commandments together and some good discussion about what each one meant for us today. One girl knew that the Second Commandment meant not to make anything more important than God, not just about physical idols of gods; and all were pretty sure not committing adultery meant being faithful to our spouses; so good to clarify. There were big nods when we commented that if everyone obeyed these things, the world would be a much smoother and happier place.