

The Christian Science Institutional Service Committee for the State of Oregon

January - March 2015



"Each day I pray: "God bless my enemies; make them Thy friends; give them to know the joy and the peace of love."

My 220:21

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Current Openings

3 Executive Committee Members
Executive Secretary
For information log onto
www.csisoregon.com

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

Andrea McCormick, C.S.

will be speaking on this topic

April 25, 2015 from 10:00 - 4:30

(lunch included)

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Salem

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

*This committee would like to express its
gratitude to each Volunteer,
Branch Church & Society,
along with all the Representatives
for their continued metaphysical
and financial support this past year.*

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Human And Divine Justice

The Monitor's cover story about minors in the US justice system reminds me of an experience I had as a practitioner of Christian Science healing. I was asked by a concerned father on the other side of the country to visit his son in jail, in the same town I lived in. I agreed to do so and requested to meet with this young man at the prison. The prison guards brought him to me shackled in chains – apparently concerned about his mental stability and the potential for violence. Although I didn't feel our visit went well, I decided to see him the next week.

Through prayer I tried to gain a strong sense of God's justice. The Scriptures inform us that God is supremely good, merciful, and just and that divine justice is the highest law there is. The action of divine justice in our human consciousness destroys sin and frees the individual to express his or her true nature as God's spiritual likeness. When I began to see this young man as already existing in and reflecting God, good, I saw hints of a positive response in him. So we began weekly meetings.

One day as I was sitting on the cement floor of his cell across from the thin pad where he was lying, I closed my eyes and began repeating aloud some words from the writings of Mary Baker Eddy , who discovered and founded Christian Science. He started following by picking up on some of those words that he had remembered in the short time he spent in a Christian Science Sunday School as a boy. This is the first I recall him speaking in all the time we'd had together. Real progress began to take place. In fact, his advancement was so rapid and unusual that the authorities at the prison asked to visit with me about it. We agreed that he was exceeding all expectations. He became a model inmate, and he was released in about a year – far earlier than anticipated. He quickly found productive employment and a fresh start in life. (continued pg 3)

Transparency For Good

It was a beautiful sunny day and the girls were in the courtyard when we arrived, so we began singing and getting to know two of the new girls until we were all called in. Once in, they started sharing how they were really beginning to feel God's presence and reality, more than ever before, trusting God to provide the right timing and place when they would be able to leave. We talked about going to God with our hearts every day, and about the prodigal son, the "good news" of God's unconditional love and our worthiness as God's image and likeness. Several girls shared their favorite Bible passages, and we discussed II Cor 13, how seeing "through the glass darkly" led to a talk about being a better transparency. We handed out the synonyms and attributes for God page, telling them that any thought or feeling that wouldn't go on this page doesn't really belong to us as God's image and likeness. Prayer that lets go of ungodlike thoughts and feelings (resentment, hurt, etc) each day makes us better prepared for a successful day and promotes spiritual progress. They really liked this and could see how helpful this would be.

Finding Christian Science

We continue to grow in our understanding of Christian Science and how to practice it in everyday life. The individual that continues to come each week has been working on a story of his thirteen years in prison. He has written about seven pages and give it to me to edit and then I hand it back to him with these edits/suggestions. He is wanting to present this at his release with his family. What has been interesting to me in this process is how he has attributed what he has experienced with God's direction. With his permission I will share his beginning experience in the system and his finding of Christian Science.

When he was first brought into the system, he was in the hole with a very small window and another individual. On the small window ledge there was a book and he asked the other person what it was and was it his. The reply was: no, it was not his, he wouldn't touch it, it was a Bible. So he took it off the window ledge and started reading it. He had not opened a Bible in 40 years. He could not stop reading it. However, in about two weeks, he was moved to another location and could not take the Bible with him. The next place he was moved to, he immediately looked for a Bible and found none, not even in the library. One day, as he was sitting at a table in the cafeteria, a fellow he did not know walked up to him and asked did he want a Bible. He responded, they don't have one here. He was asked two more times. In his last reply he said you're not listening, they don't have one. The other fellow responded, no, you are not listening, my mom and grandmother both sent me one, I don't need two, do you want one? and, of course, he replied; yes. What was so special to him was, that of all the people in the whole cafeteria, this fellow came to him with what he needed. God was watching out for him, and he was impressed. This is also where he signed up for a religious service called Christian Science, which he knew nothing about.

What happened next? I'll continue in next month's report.

(Continued from Pg 2)

Mrs. Eddy once wrote, "Let Truth uncover and destroy error in God's own way, and let human justice pattern the divine" ("Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," p. 542). One of the significant lessons I learned from this experience was that the doors of opportunity can be opened more widely if we begin by letting human justice pattern the divine. Christ Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). He proved by healing disease and reforming the sinner that perfection is the actual reality of man. That's true justice! When we acknowledge that our true spiritual being, and that of others, is innocent, we can begin living innocence more consistently, and we can help lift others into the understanding of their own innocence. When we humbly recognize God's reign of divine justice – and we trust that it prevails – we begin to see it governing people's lives more fully, as it did that young man's. This action of God's justice is a divine law we can trust.

Nathan A. Talbot
A Christian Science Perspective,
The Christian Science Monitor 2-18-15

“The motive for undertaking this work is not to “spread” Christian Science or enlarge church membership, but to respond to those reaching out for the truth that makes free, that reforms, heals, and uplifts.”

Core Concepts

We have begun a list of “core concepts” and Bible passages to go with them the young girls we work with. We make sure to cover and repeat and reinforce each time we meet with them the list below and add to this list during each visit.

1. Original innocence: Gen 1:27
(therefore self-worth)
2. God is Love and other synonyms and attributes
(prodigal son shows God’s unconditional love)
3. Basic Christianity: forgiveness, peacemaking,
love enemies, moral courage
4. Love God, self and neighbor: Ten Commandments,
Sermon on the Mount, Two Great Commandments.
5. We can choose our thoughts and choosing Christly
thoughts transforms our lives.
6. Basics of prayer: Lord’s Prayer,
God-centered prayer.
7. Sin is healed through Christ,
end of sin = end of punishment

After Mrs. Eddy’s Discovery of C.S. Sentinel 6/1938

“The message of Christian Science is essentially a message for the poor and afflicted. By services, lectures, and Christian Science literature, gratuitously given, it enters state institutions in various parts of the world, reformatories, hospitals, prisons for men, women, boys, to help and heal. The whole mission of Christian Science is to heal mentally and physically, to cure the pains and sorrow of the world, and never to ignore them.”