



Greetings Fellow Branch Members:

June 2018

Your committee has four volunteers actively visiting adult facilities, two couples visiting a youth facility, four other volunteers in contact with adults in custody via phone or letter, and several people helping those who have been released. In these ways we are directly serving one youth facility (Corvallis) and five adult facilities (Umatilla, Pendleton, Portland, Salem, Bend), and we are on track to directly serve one more adult facility in the next quarter.

This quarter's focus is on literature. Next quarter's focus will be lectures. This information is also available on our website: csisoregon.com under "Healing and Progress". As you visit our website, let the secretary know if something seems out of date or out of place: csiscoregon@gmail.com

Abbreviations used:

- AIC - Adult in custody – this term is used rather than "inmate" to reduce the context of "you're forever guilty" given the number of overturned convictions across the country.
- HFG - Home for Good is a volunteer organization sanctioned by the Oregon Department of Corrections to mentor those that are released. Besides giving specific training to volunteers who wish to mentor, being a member allows a volunteer actively visiting a facility to also mentor someone that came from that same facility.
- YIC - Youth in custody
- Amy, Bob – fake names used

Many of those we meet ask for and are given Science and Health with Key to Scriptures, which we buy in quantity from the Christian Science Publishing Society at a special rate. Some ask for more literature and are given *The Church Manual*, *Prose Works*, biographies, and concordances. Often, we can send/take in used books. Sometimes we are required to ship new ones. All books are sent to the facility chaplain and a note inside the package tells the facility chaplain who the books are intended for. We do have to stay in contact with the facility chaplain to be sure the books get to the right place ☺.

We maintain the following annual subscriptions to facilities:

21 *Christian Science Monitors* (two go directly to AICs in an area where it is difficult to access the library copy)

16 *Christian Science Sentinels* (one goes directly to an AIC in an area where it is difficult to access the library copy)

1 *Citation Quarterly* (sent upon request to a serious student who likes to look up the citations)

18 *Full-text Quarterlies* (volunteers take to the facilities for their sessions)

The following edited comments are from volunteer reports, and include experiences from persons whom the volunteers serve.

Experiences related to volunteer chaplains from AICs and YICs:

Re: *Citation Quarterly*: “I really enjoy weekly, actually almost daily, the weekly lessons forcing me to look them up and write them out rather than simply reading them. [Too] easy to just move on without reflection. “

From Volunteer Chaplains:

We listened to a short segment written by Martha Wilcox that discussed handling sin, what Mrs. Eddy classified as sin, and how to pray to know our spiritual identity as God’s and not pray at the problem. We then started reading the Bible Lesson, **used the *Christian Science Sentinel’s* “Bible Lens”** feature for this week’s lesson for historical context, and discussed how to use what we were reading.

I was unable to get to the facilities due to difficult weather so I mailed the ***Full Text Quarterlies*** to the facility chaplains to distribute to the regular attendees providing their names and SID numbers. I have responded to requests for CS practitioner help briefly writing to two. I have connected one with a *Journal*-listed practitioner willing to serve our attendees pro-bono.

A Chaplain’s clerk (AIC) asked if I could get “large print” Bibles as no other group was willing to bring them in and many of the men needed larger print type than the typical Bibles that are given away. After verifying the need with the facility chaplain and checking prices, I borrowed a paperback **Sterling Bible** and a Large Print Bible from a Reading Room. I asked the chaplain’s clerk what would be preferable, then verified with the facility chaplain. They both indicated that the lesser priced Sterling would be wonderful as the print is twice the size they usually see. I got permission from the IS committee to purchase five and took them to the facility Chaplain to distribute appropriately. Last time I was in his office there were still three on the shelf and he was VERY grateful.

Amy began talking about Mary Baker Eddy and attendees were very interested in Eddy's story. Amy showed them [Science and Health](#), and one of the girls began reading it **and took a copy with her**. It was one of those Sundays when you feel how important institutional work is, hearts touched and seeds sown.

One of the chaplain’s clerks (AIC) is assigned to maintain the religious library. He has been rearranging the books to put similar things together, especially by religious preference. He showed me that he moved our books to the same shelf as the *Christian Science Monitor* and *Christian Science Sentinel* copies, then said “Surely she wrote more than that!” and asked if I **could fill a shelf with books about Christian Science**. Once I verified the request with the facility chaplain, I requested used biographies from the Jointly Maintained Reading Room (JMRR) and took books in a couple at a time to give to the facility chaplain for approval and placement in the religious library. I also raided the back room of another Reading Room to fill the shelf with *Prose Works*, *A Century of Christian Science Healing*, and

others. The new-to-them books were always there the following week when I visited. There has been a change in the chaplain clerks, but the shelf is still there.

A chaplain's clerk was putting copies of the *Christian Science Sentinel* and *Christian Science Monitor* in the various living areas. I got the feeling they were not welcome since they all eventually came back, though all have obviously been read 😊. I put the full text Bible Lessons that were not previously taken on the stack of *Sentinels*. They were gone the next week.

We've had several visits that felt important, healing, and helpful for the girls. But we've also been addressing a sense of being marginalized, that Sundays are for lazing around with a movie in each unit, or out in the courtyard if the weather is nice, and that no one is interested. Several times -- including last week when we had a couple of wonderful sessions!--a staff member said, you probably won't find anyone interested today. We've been so busy, so it's been tempting to think, "OK, fine, we'll go home and have a lazy afternoon ourselves!"

But these girls don't have access to branch church services, Reading Rooms, public lectures, or even the wonderful online content at christianscience.com. Institutional volunteers are literally bringing church, Sunday School, and contact with Christian Scientists to these places.

Remembering this has made me dig a little more in prayer and listen for ways to be more than helpful and encouraging, important as that is, but also to be sharing the *Science* of the Christ more effectively. One way has been not to **bring a stack of *Sentinels*** (staples removed), but just 4 or 5, chosen for their topics relevant to perceived needs. Last week all we met with took all the *Sentinels* and, because each wanted to read them all, they decided how to share them amongst each other as they went out the door. These people have time to read! It's been coming to me to let our *Sentinels* show them the bigger picture of what Christian Science is and does, to consciously support our *Sentinels* at the facility in thought and prayer.

One man whom I hadn't seen in a while came in. He has another group he goes to instead of Christian Science, but he said he's been reading *Science and Health*. It makes him feel peaceful -- more at peace with himself as well as quiet inside because he doesn't feel God is against him -- and at the same time it's mentally stimulating. He has to **use a dictionary** for the meaning of some of the words. Then he likes to try to use the words in a sentence. The last word he looked up was "pernicious" (from S&H 38:4). He said he got into trouble for using that one in a sentence. I think it was because the group leaders didn't know what it meant. He told them he had "a pernicious view of himself" that he was seeking to overcome, yet they called him "arrogant." I don't know how that comes across as arrogant unless they didn't know what "pernicious" meant. I encouraged him to keep on doing as he was led, following his highest sense of right, but also to be aware of how others are taking him, to be considerate, and to try to explain himself, in a quiet way, whenever necessary and possible. As it was, he handled it well, didn't get upset, but he thanked me several times for "listening" to him. Sometimes just listening can mean a whole lot.

We studied our way through the lesson, putting a special focus on the spiritual and symbolic meanings in the Bible passages. This brought closer attention to **Mrs. Eddy's glossary**, showing words having

meanings other than the physical. I also brought in photocopies of Jack E. Addington's glossary from "The Hidden Mystery of the Bible" which does the same thing.

Bob is loving these get-togethers as they help him to keep his thought spiritual. It was interesting that when I got back from vacation, he remarked he had forgotten to bring his previous *Quarterly*, because he had something in it he marked that he liked. He said he would bring it next time. Guess what he did, two weeks later he **shared with me the citation from S & H pg. 4:5-9 "To keep the commandments of our Master and follow his example, is our proper debt to him and the only worthy evidence of our gratitude for all that he has done."** and 17-32, which starts out "Simply asking that we may love God will never make us love

Him: . . ." He has been endeavoring to live these ideas.

Dear Reader,

Once our AICs and YICs see the articles from the *Sentinel* and *Monitor*, they really appreciate their value. We share articles separately or as a whole, whatever seems appropriate at the time.

If you would like to contribute specifically to helping provide more subscriptions to more facilities, please donate to our "Literature" fund by sending a check to

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