



*Christian Science Committee*  
**FOR INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE**  
IN THE STATE OF OREGON

*Bringing light and healing within the setting of Oregon's penal institutions*

Greetings Fellow Branch Members:

The following includes our meeting schedule, fruitage and needs from our Chaplain reports.

**HELP NEEDED**

There is a specific need to have someone visit Columbia River Correctional Institution. Our current volunteer has been seeing 5-13 residents there and plans to retire soon. Recently, some residents were released, and others joined the group. This is definite proof of our light shining. The Chaplain Application is on the website and enclosed/attached. Please contact us to talk about this opportunity to share Christian Science.

We again need two Executive Committee members as we only have three and would like five. We are having working meetings once a month via phone conference to update all the guidelines to be in accord with the new ByLaws and current practices. The Executive Committee application is also on the website and enclosed/attached. Please contact us to talk about this opportunity to serve the Christian Science movement.

**NEXT MEETING**

Our next Executive Committee business meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at the Salem church. All branch church members are welcome.

**IN THE NEWS...National Interfaith Call for Criminal Justice Reform**

Last year, as an observing member of the National Council of Churches, The Mother Church invited Institutional Service Committees to send representatives to the "Ecumenical Advocacy Days" conference. The focus was on criminal justice reform. We thought it important to keep you informed of developments. The following is an excerpt from a recent email. No one on our committee participated in the call mentioned below, but the metaphysical ideas suggested are being used.

"On behalf of Ecumenical Advocacy Days and the Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition, we invite you to join a timely discussion with the White House on the status of national legislation to reform the criminal justice system and what the faith community can do to make a difference.

"Good bipartisan leadership and hard work led to consensus on legislation that would reduce harsh sentences and the unjust incarceration of many thousands of men and women in federal prisons. [Organizations] endorsed the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act (S. 2123)

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because it marks a critical turning point in the movement to reform the nation's criminal justice system.”

“Our beliefs direct us to protect the dignity and well-being of everyone impacted by the criminal justice system. That commitment extends to people who are victimized by crime, as well as to those who commit offenses. Just punishments never extinguish hope but instead nurture rehabilitation and restoration.”

## **Feb 5 Criminal Justice ... Today's View - CS Monitor**

Prisoners across the United States are being exonerated at a record rate. In 2015, the University of Michigan’s National Registry of Exonerations says, 149 prisoners – behind bars on average 14 years – were freed, more than double the number in 2011. Roughly three convictions a week are being overturned because confessions were coerced, eyewitnesses or physical evidence was untrustworthy, or police misconduct occurred. The registry estimates that there are “tens of thousands of false convictions each year across the country, and many more that have accumulated over the decades.”

The exoneration movement began in the early 1990s with the Innocence Project at New York’s Yeshiva University and spread nationwide to law and journalism schools and public defenders offices. A growing number of prosecutors have now established “conviction integrity units” to reexamine cases – a recognition, says the report, that “convicting the innocent is a serious public problem that requires proactive government attention.”

Going the extra mile – and the mile beyond that – is necessary, not only to spare the innocent from unjust imprisonment but to safeguard public trust in the justice system.

John Yemma

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**FRUITAGE**

In 2015 lectures were given at TRCI and EOCI in eastern Oregon and CRCI in Portland. CRCI also had two music events by Christian Science musicians. All appreciated the presentations.

*From a volunteer in June 2015*

“Prayer is a wonderful active remedy to all that one is presented with. ...a young man who had visited a few weeks before joined us in a very depressed and downtrodden mood. He decided to come back and give us a try. I responded that I was glad that he did and he could be healed right now and walk out with a spring in his step. We talked about God being the only Cause and Creator. That God did not create suffering nor cause anyone of his precious children to suffer. The educated human opinions/labels caringly expressed to him he did not have to accept. He did have a choice. No one could mess with his thoughts unless he allowed it and he had dominion over his thinking. We talked at great length about God’s power and that the same power was given to him freely. He was not subject to mood swings, but to the harmony, the unalterable, unchangeableness of Truth and Love which was capable of meeting every human need. When he left he said he felt so much better and now knew he could stop the suggestions of depression with the expression of God’s power. He has not returned, but the other participant said that when they left together he was so happy he had decided to come.

“The regular participant has also had proofs of God’s loving care. He loves to do landscaping and has obtained his Master Garden Certificate while confined. He has of his own desire and with the permission of his boss, but in a new lawn in the area where they work. He has also planted strawberry plants which are producing an abundant crop which he acknowledges is from the love he sows into them and God’s watchful eye. This resulted in him being asked by one of the counselors to prepare another parcel of ground for the planting of grass which he meticulously did. When he was waiting for the right time/temperature to plant, he was removed from the project and another person was assigned. He was a little upset due to the fact he had done all the work and now someone else (whom he knew from previous experience did not manifest the love toward his job) was assigned. We talked about Love could not be unrewarded nor could his expression of that love be replaced from doing what appeared to be a God-directed plan. God could not be misplaced, replaced or displaced and neither could His idea. The government of this situation was in God’s hand and we could expect justice. Next week he came back all smiles. The person who asked to have the job done, and was not consulted about the change went to bat for him. She also added to the project with the request for flowering plants and asked for his recommendation. Since this incident I too have been able to see the grass and flowers come up and bloom from the window as I go down the stairs. God’s law adjusts when the need arises. Right now we are working on “place”. He wants to move to a different section

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so as to avoid loud, disruptive, aggressive noise and actions around him. We talked about making sure we were not running away from the problem, but that God was directing his actions and that he could not be out of place. The paperwork was submitted and we are awaiting approval. Our waiting is knowing that God leads, directs and motivates man from motives made pure and from the expectancy of God's encompassing Love.

“Oh, if only others of the Christian Science community who are searching for a way to make a difference in the world could tap into this bountiful field of searchers who know not what they are exactly looking for until they find it in a random visit to a Christian Science Bible Study Group.”

#### *From Volunteers Oct-Dec 2015*

One of the nicest bits of fruitage is that yesterday a resident said she shared ideas that we'd discussed the week before with another resident. This meant the healing ideas shared reached her in ways she then made her own and passed on to others! We are so grateful.

During our cold winter, a volunteer was offered lodging overnight by a fellow Christian Scientist so the volunteer did not have to travel over a potentially difficult mountain pass. The volunteer (and Executive Committee) is sincerely grateful for this loving thoughtful church member.

One of the residents told about sharing some Christian Science literature on business with another man on his unit and the other man read all the literature and showed his appreciation for being given the literature.

“...the men are putting Christian Science to use and to the test and are finding ‘It works!’ It's mostly relationship issues because they are in close quarters with others who are not in the best frame of mind. They are finding when they control their own thinking through focusing on God and remind themselves of the truth of God's infinite love and care, than problems are prevented or simply dissolve. It gives them joy to put this into practice and it is building their confidence in God, Good.”

A new resident came in before anyone else and asked if the start time of the service could be changed because in thirty minutes he was going to have to leave because he had a dialysis treatment. After a little discussion to discern where his thinking was regarding his relation to God, and what he might entertain about manifesting Divine Life, the volunteer told him that consideration would be given to changing the start time, but suggested they work to heal the situation instead. This caught the resident by surprise, but he listened carefully about healing in Christian Science. When he left, he

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reiterated his appeal to have the time changed, but also eagerly took Dec and Jan Full Text Quarterly to learn more.

“I can see transformation happening in each of the guys, not only from week to week, but even within the course of a single evening. The Golden Rule and love characterize our meetings, and they are supportive of one another – not in competition and each-man-for-himself as is typical in the population at large. Thankfully, the Bible Lesson speaks for itself, so I’m not in the position of preaching to them. Most of them are very familiar with the Bible, so they check what S&H says and realize that CS takes them deeper into what the Bible means than they had been able to see. And it’s wonderful to see the flashes of insight they get, that bring smiles to their faces and a light to their eyes. They are acting on what they newly understand, and tell me the next week what triumphs they have won. They’re withstanding illnesses and temptations and loving the sense of quiet dominion it gives them.”

### *From Volunteers Jan-Mar 2016*

One thing a resident “shared was a summation about loving our enemies from another church group. It was a beautiful and practical re-telling of Jesus’ teaching from the Sermon on the Mount.”

There are “safe rooms” at Oak Creek where residents are sent or can request solitary. Our volunteers listen for the names of residents they have visited that may be there and visit in accordance with procedure at the time. Recently, they reminded a resident with suicidal tendencies of “valuing her worth as a child of God and giving attention to learning who she is as God knows her. Valuing our worth doesn’t mean she’s better than anybody, but no one can take her place, she’s a unique idea of God, needed. She nodded and accepted this more than she has before and got off the bed to sing for us before we left.”

“One who has just been released said he never liked music or singing, but he’s had a change of heart because he likes the Christian Science hymns we sing. He said, ‘I even like the sound of my own voice.’ I think this is significant, because Christian Science enables us to love ourselves again – or to find out we have been loving all along. And it was demonstrated to him in this way. He also said he’s been getting along with people better and likes them better than he ever did before, and he gives God the credit.”

### *Ideas from residents*

- “Right ideas do make a difference”

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- “Grateful to be recognizing three important precepts: don’t react, we don’t have to have the last word, know how to ask for help”

### **TESTIMONY OF HEALING FROM MALE INMATE**

“I have been putting off writing this testimony for some time. After I had this healing my health was very good for awhile then came some bad pain and my body was not showing what God had made. So I put this off. I thought that if I was not putting forward what God had made, it would not be right to talk about something that God had showed if I was not showing forth all of God now. But a friend came to see me and told me that anytime is a good time to talk about the allness of Good.

“So here goes. I am in prison and have over thirteen years of clean conduct, so I was moved into a dorm with eleven other guys as a reward. Everything was going good. But after shift change, that happens every six months, I started to have mental problems. I had no energy and dark thoughts, like I should not be alive. It was about as low as I have been since I first came to prison. My work in Christian Science in the past has worked fast without long treatments but this was different. I did my Bible lesson everyday as usual but no help came.

“One morning the guy on the top bunk said to me that he noticed that the guard was hovering over my bunk at night. The guys across the room then said that they had noticed it too and thought that she was too close to be right. I thought it was funny at first but then it scared me; guards are not supposed to be in my personal space and I am not supposed to be in theirs. I couldn't say anything because it would be my fault.

“So I read Animal Magnetism Unmasked. The first line of text that helped was pg. 101:28-29. This was not an idea that I needed to be close to. I needed to move it as far away from me as possible. There was no way that this could be in my reality. The next day my bunkie told me that when the guard was hovering over me a sergeant walked in and saw her. I do not know what happened but the guard stopped coming into the dorm. And after that, the bad thoughts were gone and have not come back in any way.

“Not only that but now that I have been working on this the health errors have stopped. The Truth is always there it is sometimes hard to see but you should not stop looking .  
With love.”

### **CHALLENGES NEEDING YOUR METAPHYSICAL SUPPORT**

- Chaplains and Chaplain’s Assistants volunteers
- Executive committee volunteers
- Prayerful support of update of guidelines and the website
- Prayerful support and mentoring of those transitioning back into the community

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

APPLICATION for Nomination/Appointment

PO Box 1233, Wilsonville OR 97070

(503) 320-1915 email: [csiscoregon@gmail.com](mailto:csiscoregon@gmail.com)

Website: http: [www.csisoregon.com](http://www.csisoregon.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long have you been a student of Christian Science? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you a member of The Mother Church? \_\_\_\_\_ Year Joined? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Have you had Primary Class Instruction? \_\_\_\_\_ What Year? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are you a branch church/society member \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Positions served in branch church?

\_\_\_\_\_ Reader: 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ Reading Room Staff

\_\_\_\_\_ Sunday School staff

\_\_\_\_\_ Executive Board

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. Describe any education, training or experience you have relating to institutions such as jails, prisons, mental and VA hospitals and youth detention centers (lack of experience is NOT a disqualifier) :

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Are you able and willing to attend meetings of the Executive Committee approximately four times each year in either Portland, outlining areas or electronically like SKYPE? \_\_\_\_\_

I have reviewed the ByLaws of this committee (located on the website) and agree to abide by them.

Applicants Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER  
APPLICATION for Nomination/Appointment

To be completed by the governing board of the applicant's branch church/society:

The governing Board of \_\_\_\_\_ hereby nominates (applicant name) \_\_\_\_\_ to be appointed as a member of the Christian Science Committee for Institutional Service in the State of Oregon, and confirms that he/she is a member in good standing.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_



INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE VOLUNTEER/CHAPLAIN APPLICATION

PO Box 1233, Wilsonville OR 97070

(503) 320-1915 email: [csiscoregon@gmail.com](mailto:csiscoregon@gmail.com)

Website: http: [www.csisoregon.com](http://www.csisoregon.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long have you been a student of Christian Science? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you a member of The Mother Church? \_\_\_\_\_ Year Joined? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Have you had Primary Class Instruction? \_\_\_\_\_ What Year? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are you a branch church/society member \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Positions served in branch church?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Reader: 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>                      \_\_\_\_\_ Reading Room Staff
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday School staff                      \_\_\_\_\_ Executive Board
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. Describe any education, training or experience you have relating to your qualifications to serve in: jails, prisons, mental & VA hospitals, or youth detention facilities (lack of experience is NOT a disqualifier). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Are you willing to be photographed and fingerprinted by State officials? \_\_\_\_\_

I have reviewed the ByLaws of this committee (located on the website) and agree to abide by them.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE VOLUNTEER/CHAPLAIN APPLICATION

To be completed by the governing board of the applicant's branch church/society:

The governing Board of \_\_\_\_\_ hereby nominates (applicant name) \_\_\_\_\_ to be appointed as a member of the Christian Science Committee for Institutional Service in the State of Oregon, and confirms that he/she is a member in good standing.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_