



Summer 2025

Greetings fellow Branch Church Members!

Changes on the Executive Committee

We'd like to express our gratitude to Diahana Barnes for her dedicated service to the committee. After nearly three years serving on the Executive Committee, she has decided it's time to focus on other projects. She will continue as one of the team of Christian Science Practitioners who select articles for our weekly Christian Science Bible Lesson mailings, but we'll miss her fantastic reading selections at meetings and her artistic flair on the newsletters.

We're excited to welcome a new member to the committee. Margi Griffith answered the call during the July Volunteer Meeting. We're super grateful and can't wait to get to know her better.

We have room for up to two more volunteers to join the Executive Committee, so please consider serving in this capacity. We meet once a month on Zoom for an hour or less. Contact the Secretary for more information or to request a volunteer application.

Spanish Christian Science Bible Lesson

Several Spanish-speaking adults in custody (AICs) have been attending in-person sessions at Columbia River Correctional. To better assist them with their new study of Christian Science, we have subscribed to the Christian Science Bible Lesson in Spanish. Copies are currently being hand delivered by our Volunteer Chaplains but can also be mailed to AICs. We would love to include related articles from *El Heraldo de la Ciencia Cristiana*, so if you or someone you know speaks Spanish and would like to help us select articles, please contact the Secretary.

Current Stats

- 4 volunteers conduct in-person Christian Science Bible study sessions at 2 state facilities.
- 4 volunteer letter writers write to 5 AICs.
- 18 AICs and 17 Facility Chaplains receive the weekly Christian Science Bible Lesson and selected articles.
- 9 Returned community members (RCMs) continue to receive the weekly articles.
- 34 *Christian Science Monitor* and 41 *Christian Science Sentinel* subscriptions are sent to Facility Chaplains, libraries, and AICs.

Reports from In-person Sessions

An AIC said he has shared some of the ideas he's learning with his daughter. She likes what she's hearing, is reading *Science and Health*, and called a practitioner for help.

An AIC shared appreciation for the practitioners and letter writers and for having the Bible Lessons sent to him. He said he attends all of the church services offered and that "this is the most Christian of all of them."

When reading the citation about God preparing for them that love him, one of the guys said that God steps into his thoughts and guides him. He said we should all be open to listening.

One night our discussion began with concerns about crowded bunk rooms. The lack of space often causes frustration and anger. One AIC said that if someone bothers you, put yourself in their position and try to understand them. Another AIC said you can stop your anger and pray for that individual. Another idea was to ask yourself if you have ever been offensive.

One AIC said that Love stops war. Someone else commented about the importance of showing care and concern for others. Another powerful comment was, the more you understand what Love is and the power of Love, the more you grow. You become more equipped to not take the offense.

Paul's transformation inspired some of the AICs to begin thinking about how they can transform their lives. Like Paul, they are learning about the mistakes that they have made and are looking for ways to make changes.

We talked about God's amazing creation and that we are safe and beloved and we can rest on that. One of the AICs said that he speaks to God every night and though he feels tested at times, he hasn't lost hope.

We talked about the David and Goliath story and asked, "What is your Goliath?" Is it impatience, lack of humility, trust, defeat, fears or anything else that gets in the way of your spiritual progress?

One of the AICs said that we need to look for good in others and to ask God what we need to learn. We talked about the desire and acceptance of being spiritual.

Another man said that we should not just read the Bible but study it, then it keeps us grounded. We can't fall back on the body like a golden calf or make a god of food. We need to study, learn and explore our spiritual nature.

One evening we were told there had been a Covid outbreak that morning, and two of the units were on lock-down. Even though all the classes had been cancelled that day, no one asked us to leave and we were able to have our session with a new AIC.

The most inspiring part of our evening was a nice conversation with a guard. He asked about our session and shared his commitment to God, his prayer journey and his spiritual insight and love for God. We gave him a *What Is Christian Science* brochure and he seemed glad to get it. Even on chaotic days, God is there.

One of the guys asked, "How can I understand that I'm spiritual?" We talked about how understanding and practicing that is a challenge for all of us and that we can learn to accept it as we learn more about God.

We talked about "standing porter at the door of thought" and the importance of saying no to negative bullying thoughts. One guy, who is becoming a regular, took a printout of an article about "standing porter," as well as all six Monitors on display and wants more!



In-person Reports Continued

The men at our session had tons of questions. They asked about the meaning of necromancy, mesmerism, and animal magnetism. Since these words are hard to understand and overlap in meaning, one AIC came up with a simplified term: "someone is messing with your mind."

We talked about the importance of watching our thoughts and how to stop the false negative thoughts. We identified self-immolation as getting rid of false traits and seeing ourselves as loved children of God.

One of the AICs asked us if Christian Scientists study the 10 Commandments. We let them know that they are important to us. They all began reciting the commandments. It was an active and inspired evening with lots of discussion and interest about the lesson and ideas shared.

Facility Lectures

Nate Frederick, CS, gave his talk, "Learn to Pray and Heal: A Spiritual Adventure" at Columbia River Correctional in February. Eight men attended the lecture and were very engaged, asking questions and listening to the adventures and healing experiences Nate shared. Several expressed interest in attending the Friday evening Christian Science Bible Lesson sessions.

If your church would like to sponsor a talk for adults in custody, please reach out to the Secretary.

Embraced:Fully News

The Embraced & Empowered 3rd Annual Prison and Reentry Ministries Conference was held in May in Washington DC. replays will be available soon.

Watch the replay of the "Welcoming Returning Citizens" introductory workshop to learn more about welcoming those who have found Christian Science while incarcerated to your church.
<https://embracedfully.org/welcoming/>

Replays of additional interviews and workshops are also available on the videos page.

My favorite comment of the evening was when someone said, "My soul gets fed at Christian Science lesson sessions."

A new AIC seemed to get quite a bit out of the lesson. We had very productive discussions and he shared a little about his tumultuous life growing up. He was happy to participate with the reading from The Bible. Towards the end of our time together he shared how he tries to be a light to those around him by maintaining a positive attitude and being grateful for the food and the views. I sure hope we get to see him again!



“...where the spirit
of the Lord is,
there is liberty.”
II Corinthians 3:17

AIC Tablets

AICs are able to use tablets for digital communication and educational programming. The Mother Church has partnered with the nonprofit Edovo to make Christian Science literature available to AICs on these tablets. Currently, Oregon doesn't allow religious content on the tablets, but we are working on getting these resources approved for AIC access in Oregon. Your prayers in support of this goal are appreciated.



Financial Summary

We received a grant of \$5,981.37 in May from The Mother Church. This represents 40% of the cost of Christian Science periodical subscriptions and printing and mailing the weekly Christian Science Bible Lesson to AICs and Chaplains. We will apply for another grant for 2025 expenses in January.

Balances as of July 31, 2025:

3 CDs at \$25K each = \$75,000
Money Market = \$11,951.74
Checking Account = 13,901.60
Total Assets = \$100,853.34

Revenue and Expenses:

Income (including TMC grant) = \$15,291.24
Operating Expenses = \$22,076.13
Investment Income = \$2,678.18
Net Income = -\$4,106.71

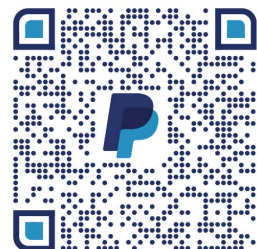
Please consider the standard per capita to be \$2.75. We consider the sending of the Christian Science Bible Lesson, Christian Science Sentinel, and Christian Science Monitor to each facility to be a significant outreach for our Oregon Christian Science community. Thank you for supporting that effort!

Other Ways to Donate

THANK YOU for your metaphysical and financial support for this important work!

Individuals may donate directly to this committee by using a credit/debit card and the "donate now" button at <https://csiscoregon.com/>, using the PayPal app by scanning the QR code with your smart phone camera, or sending contributions to:

Christian Science Committee for Institutional Service
PO Box 1233
Wilsonville, OR 97070



Abbreviations:

AIC = Adult-in-custody – does not imply guilt or innocence

CSCIS in OR = Christian Science Committee for Institutional Service in the State of Oregon

ODOC = Oregon Department of Corrections

RCM = Returning Community Member

TMC = The Mother Church

Interested in Helping?

We can always use more volunteers and there are many ways you can help. There are guidelines and mentors for every position. It is very rewarding and enlightening work. To volunteer, please contact us at csiscoregon@gmail.com and/or download the Volunteer Application from our website: <https://csisoregon.com>.

- * Serve on the Executive Committee
- * Serve inside a prison, jail, transition center, or other institution
- * Write letters to AICs
- * Serve on an Angel Team to help support a Returning Community Member (RCM)
- * Perform our annual financial review

Contact Us

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Executive Committee:

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