



April 2023

Greetings Fellow Branch Members!  
Our last newsletter was August 2022. So what is happening?

## Inside the Prisons

**Volunteering in a prison** takes consecrated prayer, patience and perseverance. Each of our volunteers works through unexpected circumstances every visit. They each have "call out" sheets from the facility that list the names of adults-in-custody(AICs) that have signed up for the service. Sometimes the AICs show, sometimes not. Could be because of a lockdown (recently lockdowns are mainly due to COVID in the unit) or work or simply not realizing what time it is. Some facilities allow announcement of the service. Some allow those not on the list to attend. Each facility is different even though most our volunteers are in Oregon Department of Corrections facilities in minimum security units.

This committee has permission to print the Christian Science Bible Lesson each week for those incarcerated and we report to CSPS how many we use on a periodic basis. We have a group of volunteers that choose articles from the [Christian Science Sentinel](#) and [Christian Science Journal](#) to send with the Bible Lesson.

We send 20 pages of material each week to all the AICs on our list. The lesson and one article is sent to each facility's chaplain/religious services group. We email the articles to those released that have requested them. Last year the average number of Bible Lessons used per week was 39, and now it is 52 per week as a few facility chaplain(s) have starting printing the lesson for those that request it!

### ***Introducing Embraced: Fully***

This is a two year old organization whose vision is to coordinate Christian Science volunteers across the nation to enable us all to work more effectively when helping those incarcerated to transition to successful citizens. They do not provide people or money, but expertise in the form of fellow volunteers.

Understanding what worked and what did not work in specific circumstances is huge. They have two meetings a month – one interview and one Angel Team meeting.

Conference: 19-20 May, 2023 in San Juan Capistrano. Barb Weiser will be attending as a speaker. For more information go to [embracedfully.org](http://embracedfully.org)

## UPDATES FROM THE FIELD



Two wonderful volunteers from the Bend church visit two times a month. They have a good relationship with the facility chaplain. With their permission, their first report is enclosed/attached separately. It is an example of barriers easily overcome 😊 by prayer and perseverance. Great job!

- One to two AICs usually on the call out sheet – prayer that they and others overcome barriers to be at the service.
- Prayer needed – Room is often different than assigned and needs negotiating
- Prayer needed – Now need an officer to unlock room to be used
- Introduced Christian Science to three men
- Answered questions like
  - “what is meant by God being a ‘jealous’ God and also being the ‘God of gods’
  - Do Christian Scientists have dietary restrictions?
  - How can things that we can see and touch be unreal?

A volunteer visits each Friday and is encouraging other volunteers to join her. The process is a bit different than the past and no one is allowed in without some training. Quoted items are from the volunteer’s reports.

- Resumed services July 29, 2022 and served weekly when possible since
- Started with 5 AICs, now regularly 7-9
- Nine AICs receive the Bible Lesson packet this committee sends upon request
- Some of the AICs are in contact with a volunteer corresponding chaplain
  - Prayer needed – recruitment of more people willing to write to AICs
- Applications to Embraced:Fully (see above item) and information about The Principle Foundation’s help for AICs and released individuals were sent to AICs that requested them.

One volunteer has been visiting two facilities for several years and round trip each month is 365 miles (reimbursed at 30cents a mile). We are VERY grateful to and for this very dedicated volunteer.

- Resumed monthly services Sept 2022
- Our prayers to find an additional CS religious volunteer for Two Rivers and Eastern Oregon correctional institutions are greatly welcomed.
- Volunteer was very pleased to see a man who has had very sporadic attendance come. He has always shown interest and appreciation for Christian Science, but some of the concepts required to embrace Christian Science are a little too radical for him, but still every great while he shows up.

When reading the Bible lesson, passages that provided an example of how to behave, the men would say how they incorporated the lesson of behaving rightly. On those passages where instruction was given on how to heal or it was a story of Jesus doing a healing, the men said they did not incorporate it into their thinking patterns and either they didn’t give the healing story any thought as a way to use it for healing, or they weren’t even sure the healings of Jesus were true. However they still felt Christian Science was useful, especially when they were feeling anxiety they would read the CS literature and it would help them feel at peace.

## PRAYERS NEEDED



*Room is often different than  
assigned and needs negotiating  
Now need an officer to unlock  
room to be used  
Overcome obstacles to attending  
services*

## UPDATES FROM THE FIELD



- We had a returnee from before the pandemic. He has been a long time student of these services and it was nice to have him back. He dropped out when physical problems became so serious he saw as his recourse the medical route as offered by the prison system. He stopped attending the Christian Science services because he had taken the medical route and felt since he was no longer relying on CS, he best not attend. I had requested a one-on-one with him the month before and was so happy that he accepted my request to see him. I assured him he could not disappoint any of us. We welcome all interested even those currently undergoing medical care. Our visit did not focus on religious thoughts but on how our lives had been going. But he was very grateful that we had met. So I was most gratified that he came to the service this month.
- There was a new attendee who was excited to read Mrs. Eddy's insights and understanding because he had experiences verifying what was being read in Science and Health (we read the Soul and Body week's lesson). He spoke of hearing our thoughts and how he discerned that the thoughts that came in as his thoughts were not one and the same as himself but seeing them as a thought is something coming to us. This is not necessarily discriminating between divine thoughts from mortal thoughts, but it is to realize thoughts, whichever they maybe, are not automatically of us. This allows for watching our thoughts, when we can impersonalize them.
- Another man expressed how Jesus didn't die for our sins, but for our belief in sin, which I thought exposed the inherent element that is a belief in death as well.

Three facilities received our Bible Lesson packet via email. That saves us printing and postage. This option has been offered to all facility chaplains. At last report Oregon State and Snake River chaplains were printing five copies of the Bible Lesson each week per AIC requests.

## PRAYERS NEEDED



*Our prayers to find an additional CS religious volunteer for Two Rivers and Eastern Oregon correctional institutions are greatly welcomed.*

*One attendee pointed out why the prison system and society fails the prisoner, because on the whole there is no allowance for the idea that a prisoner becomes totally free from having a criminal mind. Even though a prisoner may fill his/her sentence, when released he/she is still treated as if they were a criminal, by having difficulty finding jobs, renting a place to live, being integrated with other people, etc. So the released prisoner thinks why should I try to be a good person when it's apparent most people in society will not recognize me as being redeemed.*

## ***VOLUNTEER REPORTS - from AICs***



One AIC said "his grandfather always talked with him about the importance of prayer. He told us that during his incarceration he was meditating about God and had an overwhelming sense of being loved and cared for by God. He encouraged everyone to try just sitting quietly and listening for this sense of God's presence. He said that he had read through the Bible twice. He also requested a "Science and Health"\* which was provided.

An AIC "from Kenya is usually very quiet and seems a bit shy and uncomfortable but at this session he spoke for several minutes about our spiritual nature and was very clear. What he shared was very much aligned with Christian Science. It was wonderful because often the attendees share ideas that include concerns about the devil and evil. When these ideas come up, I usually respond by clarifying the Christian Science perspective and they seem to appreciate it."

One of the AIC's, who talks a lot and knows the Bible well, shared his ideas about the need to repent and accept God in order to get to heaven. Then the AIC from Kenya, who is often quiet, said that we are already perfect and can experience heaven now. He said that he loved this teaching from Christian Science and knew that it was right. He said that he is learning to turn to God more and more as he comes to the sessions and is hearing the still small voice. It was inspiring to the others.

One of the new AIC's shared his situation. He said he was wrongly accused and was very angry but is turning to prayer to help him forgive. Another AIC said that his situation was similar. The others attending were very supportive and compassionate. We talked about prayers and ways to think differently. It was a moving discussion.

The lesson about humility was very helpful to them and they all were very supportive of each other. Several of them talked about going to religious services daily. I was humbled by what these guys are going through. They definitely need our prayers and support.

A few AIC's lingered and we talked about the prison system and how AIC's needed more support. An inmate told us a bit about his past and that he felt he deserved the punishment. He seemed to be struggling with guilt. Previously he has talked about being perfect children of God. I can see that Christian Science is meeting his need to feel free from guilt. It's wonderful to see how all those attending are finding prayers that help them.

They enjoyed the lesson and had lots to say about Jacob and Esau. We talked about wrestling with an angel. During our discussion, one of the AIC's said something that hurt someone's feelings. He walked out and the one who made the remark, went immediately to make apologies. It was a bit like wrestling with an angel. Several of them said they had similar experiences and understood Jacob's struggle.

They all enjoyed learning that their intelligence is unlimited and comes directly from God. One of the AIC's is talking weekly with a practitioner and really appreciates that opportunity. There was lots of discussion and ideas shared. We're all learning about God's care for us.

The lesson was clear about the Bible basis of man's spiritual nature and it was helpful to those in attendance. I am grateful to have the opportunity to meet with these sincere seekers and support them in their desire to learn more about God and Christian Science.

\*referring to *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*  
by Mary Baker Eddy"



# Financials Sheet – March 2023

For our 2021/22 fiscal year we applied for a grant from The Mother Church that may reimburse us for 40% of subscriptions cost. In February of 2023 we paid for most of our *Christian Science Monitor* subscriptions to make it easier to gather the materials to submit for the next grant cycle. Saving us time and money!

We also changed bookkeeping software from Quickbooks to Xero.

## **October 2021 – Sept 2022**

- Balance in checking = \$11,175.12
- Balance in Money Market (no CDs) = \$98,411.84
- Income Oct 2021 – Sept 2022 = \$19,354.15 incl \$9118.50 in special donations
- Expenses Oct 2021 – Sept 2022 = \$20,807.49
- Net ordinary income Oct 2021 – Sept 2022 \$-1453.34
- Interest income Oct 2021 – Sept 2022 \$319.70; Net income \$-1133.64

Oct 2021 - Sept 2022 financial report is attached/enclosed (Fiscal year)

## **October 2022 - March 2023**

The Christian Science Sentinel subscriptions were paid in March. We plan to submit a grant application for our 2022/23 fiscal year as soon as the current grant cycle is complete.

Oct 2022 – Mar 2023 financials by quarter are being included separately with Fiscal year budget information

## **CHURCH MEMBERSHIPS**

THANK YOU! Many of you increased your donations and/or made special donations this year. THANK YOU for your recognition of the work done. Please consider the standard per capita to be \$2.75. We consider the sending of the Bible Lesson, Christian Science Sentinel and Christian Science Monitor to each facility a significant outreach for our Oregon Christian Science community. Thank you for supporting that effort.

## **Individual donations requested – PayPal or...**

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

Please consider donating funds to this committee. There is a “donate now” button to allow donations via PayPal or debit/credit card at:

<https://csisoregon.com/>.

OR send 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

**CSPS** = Christian Science Publishing Society

**DOC** = Oregon Department of Corrections

**RCM** = Returning Community Member

**TPF** = The Principle Foundation



## *Interested in Helping?*

We have volunteers in several different roles. There are guidelines and mentors for every position. It is very rewarding and enlightening work:

- Write letters
- Serve on the Executive Committee
- Serve inside a prison, jail, transition center, or other institution
- Help those just released (1st 48hours, 1st 2 weeks, ongoing as Christian Science mentor – could be by phone, ongoing transportation/job/resume/whatever)

## **Contact Us**

The Christian Science Committee  
for Institutional Service in the State of Oregon

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Wilsonville, OR 97070

[csisoregon@gmail.com](mailto:csisoregon@gmail.com)

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

**Executive Committee:** Diahana Barnes (Medford), Judith Hillend (Gresham), Dave Myers (Beaverton),

Have questions about our work or any of our open positions? Feel free to contact the Secretary, Barb Weiser