



March 2024

Greetings Fellow Branch Members!  
Our last newsletter was July 2023. So what is happening?

## We Need You!

**We currently have two openings on the Executive Committee (EC).** If you would like to contribute to Institutional Services (IS) by serving on the EC, please contact the Secretary at [csicoregon@gmail.com](mailto:csicoregon@gmail.com) or visit <https://csisoregon.com/join-us> to download our Volunteer Application. The EC meets once a month on Zoom to review IS activities. Meetings last about an hour.

### ***THANK YOU JUDITH!***



Judith Hillend has resigned from the Executive Committee after many years of volunteering for Institutional Services. We would like to thank her for her work and wish her many blessings in her move to Texas.

### ***IN-PERSON SESSIONS ARE GOING STRONG.***

We are so grateful for our five visiting Chaplains (including our newest who started in November!) who provide in-person Christian Science services in four of the state facilities.

In the words of one Adult in Custody (AIC) who attends regularly, "I'm finding something I've never found before. These meetings are hitting home every time."

One of our regular Volunteer Chaplains shared this about the weekly sessions: "Christian Science really speaks to these men. We start with prayer, read the lesson, answer questions, and if we have time, sing a hymn."

### ***OUR TEAM OF CORRESPONDING CHAPLAINS IS GROWING.***

We are grateful to have new letter writers joining our team of volunteers. We currently have three volunteers writing to five AICs.

One man who regularly attends the weekly in-person sessions shared recently that the inspiring letters from his Corresponding Chaplain helped to break the mesmerism of discouragement he had been struggling with.

One AIC mentioned that he would sit on his bunk and reread these letters day after day to get the positive messages they contained.

## ***WE'RE BUILDING A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY.***

There used to be a rule that AICs attending services with an in-person Christian Science Chaplain couldn't have a Corresponding Chaplain too. Now they can have both. We've seen the connection and strength of having both. An AIC that transferred to a facility with a Visiting Chaplain also had a letter writer. He would bring the letters to share at the in-person sessions. He was so excited. A lot of AICs have no one to support them. We're forming a community for them with in-person visits, a letter writer, and contact with a practitioner.

## ***SENTINEL SUBSCRIPTION REQUEST.***

A facility chaplain just requested 10 more subscriptions to the Christian Science Sentinel. In order to fulfill this request we need more support from YOU! We will apply for a grant from The Mother Church and can get 40% of the subscription paid for. Can you help us with the other 60%? on an annual basis?

## ***VOLUNTEER MEETING.***

Our next Volunteer meeting will be held on Sunday, March 10, at 3 pm on Zoom. If you're interested in learning more about what the Committee does, please join us: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5569652476?pwd=YXNFS1ROaEY2OUcxaFV2eUk4NDZNUT09&omn=81218566728>

## ***FINANCIAL REVIEW***

We are looking for someone to do our annual financial review for the fiscal year from 10/2022 to 9/2023. Please contact the Secretary at [csiscoregon@gmail.com](mailto:csiscoregon@gmail.com) if you are willing to help us in this way.

## ***BIBLE LESSON MAILINGS.***

We send the Bible Lesson and related articles from the Christian Science Periodicals to AICs on our mailing list and to 16 facility Chaplains. The number changes frequently as AICs request to be added to the list or are released. In 2023 we had between 53 and 65 copies of the lesson going out each week. Many thanks to the five Christian Science Practitioners who select the weekly articles and to the volunteer who helps with the printing!

## ***EMBRACED: FULLY CONFERENCE***

You are invited to attend the Embraced & Empowered Prison and Reentry Ministries Conference, May 3-4, 2024 in Dallas, TX or on Zoom. This year's theme is "Witnessing Transformation Together." Visit <https://embracedfully.org/conference/> for more information and to register. An early-bird discount is available through March 15 for in-person registrations.

## ***ANGEL TEAMS***

We have several previously incarcerated in our local communities with links to Christian Science. Each time someone is released, if they are not already connected, we notify the local church to watch for them and welcome them. Are you interested in helping someone get reconnected to the positive side of their community? Contact us at [csiscoregon@gmail.com](mailto:csiscoregon@gmail.com).



## ***FROM A VOLUNTEER RE: A RELEASED INDIVIDUAL'S GRATITUDE***

One I am a forever friend of a previously incarcerated person whom I met while serving as a religious services volunteer (aka Christian Science chaplain). Once he was released I chose to not return to serving inside prisons. I've conversed with my friend for over seven years and watched an awesome transformation. He has had many confirmations of God in his life since I first started talking with him. Here I give you one incident/testimony and reflection.

Over six months ago my friend started a trucking business, transporting things with a 26 foot box truck. About four months ago he was in a remote spot near Grants Pass. He got his truck stuck after a delivery. The road was not intended for his size truck and there was no way for him to know that. He knew he needed something, but what? and how? He saw a house nearby and thought perhaps he could use their phone as he had no cell service. An older man from the house walked up and asked if he needed a truck jack (and this is where I started to smile on the phone as he told me the story). YES! That's what I need. The man got his truck jack (who has one of those?!) and as quick as a wink my friend was on the road again. Thank you, God! my friend repeated often that day and most days.

My friend told me that story when it happened and it comes up often like a touchstone. But when it came up this month: "That was God! right there in that person! That was God!" Yes, there are angels everywhere and sometimes in people showing God's protection and guidance for each of us. He is so excited learning new perspectives. My friend won't be up on that hill again. He asks more questions before making deliveries and has learned many things about trucking, but most of all...God is with him everywhere in every moment guiding and guarding and leading.

My friend says thank you to me and to God every time we talk. There is always something to report, some new thing discovered and some we discover together. God is GREAT!

One note: Angel Teams were not official things when this man released, but that is what I am, his Angel Team.



grateful

***“EVERYONE FROM THE  
LEAST TO THE GREATEST  
PAID CLOSE ATTENTION  
TO HIM, SAYING, “THIS  
IS WHAT WE CALL THE  
GREAT POWER OF GOD!”***

***ACTS 8:9-11 ISV***

# Financial Summary

## **October 2022 - September 2023**

Balance in checking = \$7427.04  
Balance in Money Market = \$5010.51  
Balance in CD's (if go to term) = \$95,000  
Income = \$20363.00 (incl \$ from TMC grant)  
Expenses = \$24,111.08  
Net ordinary income \$-3748.08  
Interest income \$1598.90;  
Net income \$-2149.18

## **October 2023 - January 2024**

Balance in checking = \$12166.85  
Balance in Money Market = \$4237.93  
Balance in CD's (if go to term) = \$90,000  
Income = \$3424.50 Expenses = \$5684.69  
Net ordinary income \$-2260.19  
Interest income \$1227.42;  
Net income \$-1032.77

We now renew all the Christian Science Monitor and Christian Science Sentinel subscriptions for the facilities at the same time. It reduces the workload and allows us to quickly turn in the grant application to The Mother Church. March 1, 2024 those subscriptions cost \$6976. The grant reimburses up to 40%. Our reimbursement from 2023 has not yet arrived.

## **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://CSISOREGON.COM/](https://csisoregon.com/) OR BY SENDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE COMMITTEE FOR INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE  
PO BOX 1233  
WILSONVILLE, OR 97070

## ***GRATITUDE FOR BRANCH CHURCHES***

THANK YOU for your recognition of the work being 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 to be a significant outreach for our Oregon Christian Science community.

Thank you for supporting that effort.



## *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

PO Box 1233

Wilsonville, OR 97070

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

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

**Executive Committee:** Barbara Weiser (Lake Oswego), Diahana Barnes  
(Medford), Dave Myers (Beaverton),

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