



JULY 2024

Greetings Fellow Branch Members!  
Our last newsletter was March 2024. Here is what's new!

## Thank you, Karen!

Karen Riener is stepping back after serving this committee and adults-in-custody (AICs) in eastern Oregon for over 20 years. She helped us build strong relationships with Chaplains in Pendleton and Umatilla and devoted countless hours and energy to mentoring the men who attended her in-person sessions.

We are grateful for her contributions, and so are the AICs. One wrote to us after he was transferred out of one of Karen's facilities:

Thank you for the continued support that I have received from you since I became involved with Christian Science in the spring of 2013. I appreciate the weekly Bible Lessons and Christian Science Monitor subscriptions that you have been sending. ... Regretfully, my transfer happened so quickly I was unable to inform the volunteer, Ms. Riener, of my leaving. Please pass on my appreciation for her visits and her time over the last eleven years.

### ***REPORTS FROM IN-PERSON SESSIONS***

**A discussion on** the subject "Substance" included definitions of substance, how substance can be defined as physical and also as spiritual substance, the importance of the 7 Synonyms, and how they are substantial in helping us understand the many facets of God. An AIC shared some profound statements. He said, "God gives us that divine relationship. His love endures forever. He gives us light and the ability to have hope, knowing that we have a Father that made us whole."

**15 AICs attended a lecture** in March by Melanie Wahlburg. An AIC shared that the lecture was awesome and that it really spoke to him. He said that he was concerned about his approaching release. He only had one option for housing and was supposed to have three options. He wasn't doing well in his release classes and was feeling a bit defiant and arrogant. At the lecture he decided to try praying about each of these concerns. He said he felt uplifted. First, his housing situation worked out for him. Second, he began to study for his classes and now is doing extremely well. Finally, he is feeling a strong sense of humility. This AIC was very grateful for the lecture. It really helped him make some important changes.



## UPDATES CONT'D

**One particularly active** session included discussion of the Good Samaritan and the importance of expressing love to others. One of the most enthusiastic AICs (who keeps bringing people on Friday nights) was very impressed with this quote from Science and Health (p. 518:15-19). "The rich in spirit help the poor in one grand brotherhood, all having the same Principle, or Father; and blessed is that man who seeth his brother's need and supplieth it, seeking his own in another's good." After we read that, he said, "That's a simple and profound counsel of an inspired writer."

**Other AICs have shared** how they are using Christian Science in their daily activities.

One guy was feeling worried and depressed. He realized that this was a moment with God and the feelings lifted. He knew it was alright and he felt better. The thoughts tried to return in trickles. His work, activities, and listening to God kept him from more negative thoughts. He knew that, "sorrow was not the master of joy."

Another AIC said that he had passed by a guy who flicked him with a comb. He said in the past he would have gotten angry and it would have involved a fight. Instead, he calmly said, "Don't do that." He said that he felt like he was a new creature in Christ.

An AIC shared about his roommate who was standoffish and didn't talk to him much. He really prayed about it. Now his roommate has warmed up, and they have coffee and watch the news together every morning. This young man has filled out the lengthy Embraced:Fully application and is really crediting Christian Science for his changing sense of self and attitudes toward others.

Another man said that Christian Science is giving him new tools to help him "grapple with concepts to dissociate with material error." He said, "If you weren't here, I'd probably just be watching TV. I have such a feeling of peace now."

At a lively Friday night session, one of those attending said that we need God's strength to shine through our weaknesses. Another AIC pointed out that our challenges produce progress. We also talked about how our "efforts are crowned with success" and are powerful. One of the AICs said that thinking about a Bible verse helps him relax.

**Another active session** included reading the story of the Pharisee and the publican. One of the guys pointed out the importance of not judging others because we don't know what they have been through. A couple of AICs said that other AICs are asking them for prayers. We talked about how God unifies and blesses each of us.

We are so grateful for the ongoing in-person sessions and all the growth these AICs are experiencing!



## ***EMBRACED FULLY NEWS***

The Embraced and Empowered 2nd Annual Prison and Reentry Ministries Conference held in May was a great success. Attendees from around the country (and the world!) met in person in Dallas, Texas and remotely on Zoom. The program, "Witnessing Character Transformation and Healing" included reports from State Institutional Committees, active Religious Volunteers, and Returned Community Members who are making a difference. Those attending heard inspirational talks, music, and practical information about helping those in custody and those returning to their communities. Event recordings will be available soon.

## ***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 [csiscoregon@gmail.com](mailto:csiscoregon@gmail.com) or visit <https://csiscoregon.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.

## ***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.

## ***SENTINEL SUBSCRIPTION REQUEST***

We've started 5 of the 10 *Christian Science Sentinel* subscriptions recently requested by one of the facility chaplains. Thank you to the Gresham Church for sponsoring subscription #6! Support from YOU will help us with the remaining 4.



# Financials Summary Sheet

October 2023 - May 2024

- Balance in checking = \$6,625.20
- Balance in Money Market = \$53,142.51
- Balance in CDs (if go to term) = \$45,000
- Income = \$11,379.29
- Expenses = \$19,181.13
- Net ordinary income \$-7,801.84
- Interest income \$5,131.77
- Net income \$-2,670.07

In early June we took another \$25,000 from the Money Market and put it into a CD. Spreading out the CDs allows us income throughout the year.

In April, we received a \$4,117.54 grant for 2023 from The Mother Church. We are grateful for this program, and for the continuing financial support from churches and societies in Oregon and Idaho. THANK YOU!

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIPS

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 this work!

## 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/> or by 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

**CSPS** = Christian Science Publishing Society

**DOC** = Oregon Department of Corrections

**RCM** = Returning Community Member

**TPF** = The Principle Foundation



## *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](mailto:csiscoregon@gmail.com) and/or download the Volunteer Application from our website: <https://csiscoregon.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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for Institutional Service in the State of Oregon

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**Executive Committee:** Diahana Barnes (Medford), Barb Weiser (Wilsonville), Dave Myers (Beaverton)

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