



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!

August 2021

From an Adult in custody (AIC) via a Christian Science Practitioner – This AIC called asking for some prayer about a couple things. He is really looking forward to CS volunteers coming again, though he has no word when visitors will be allowed. Meanwhile he said, “getting the lessons weekly has been such a blessing.” He said he’ll be a bit down and the packet will arrive and getting it completely lifts his spirits and keeps him going.

He thanks all the volunteers for all the work those weekly packets entail.

He has moved to a different section of the facility and is having a bit of a fresh start. He still finds himself ostracized a bit for embracing Christian Science rather than other Christian theology.

Please pray to witness the leaven of Truth just as much at work in our prisons as everywhere else.

The prison facilities are slowly **opening for visits** to be scheduled. As of this writing, one of our volunteers successfully held a Bible Study:

This is my first time back into the prison for 20 months. ...They had a hand washing booth outside the entry doors for all to use, then just inside were posted guidelines: social distancing, mask wearing, etc. and then there was a machine you stood in front of and placed your face within an outline and it read your body temperature. If your temperature was normal you were allowed in.

Four men signed up to attend, two showed up. Both were new. ...Both men were very attentive and were appreciative of much that Christian Science taught. The two creation stories, chapters 1 and 2 of the Bible, were brought up, showing, in juxtaposition, two very different creations. One is “very good” and in the other man is cursed, enmity is imposed, sorrow is his bread, and his substance is dust unto dust. Since the Bible is our trusted guide, why are both of these creation stories included? Is it not to show how the Adam and Eve story tells of the origin of duality and the concept of separation of Man from God? We discussed this and it did appear to have the effect of some mental inquiry.

They did have quite a problem with the concept that Satan/Devil/Lucifer wasn't real. The Lucifer story, Isa.14:12, was discussed with the point that Lucifer was a heavenly being and that he fell because he adopted this concept of personal self, separate from God. And that this concept is what's called Satan/Devil. Old theology was being put up for questioning.

I took a bunch of CS *Monitors* and Full-text Bible Lessons for distribution and they took some of each. I encouraged them to leave them in their own unit's distribution counters when they were done with them.

Historical note: Mrs. Eddy had a chair that was made by grateful inmates of the New Hampshire State Prison. "Set free the captive": Mary Baker Eddy and prison reform - <https://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/research/prison-reform/>

Update on Prison closures – Mill Creek Facility is now listed on the ODOC website as "permanently closed". Shutter Creek Correctional Facility in North Bend (Coos Bay) is set to close Jan/Feb 2022. Warner Creek will stay open through the rest of Kate Brown's term. None of the adults-in-custody on our list are at these facilities, but we have books at Shutter Creek that we are working to be placed at another facility.

Requests for materials from facilities!

In February we started sending the *Christian Science Bible Lesson* and an article (usually from the *Christian Science Sentinel*) to facilities that we had volunteered in. Immediately one of the chaplain email'd that she was making three copies each week. By May every facility's religious services department was receiving the lesson and an article. In July a facility chaplain email'd that they had made six copies each week since early June and wanted 25 subscriptions to the *Christian Science Monitor* and *Christian Science Sentinel*. WHAT?!?

HELP! We would LOVE to have the funds to send 25 subscriptions of each *Christian Science Monitor* (\$2225) and *Christian Science Sentinel* (\$2475) to the one facility – the largest in the state – Snake River (SRCI) in Ontario, as they have requested. We have redirected a subscription of each magazine from Shutter Creek to Snake River recently and are looking into help from The Mother Church. It would be a bulk subscription.

But as seen below we are already operating at a significant loss so please help us metaphysically and financially to fulfill this request.

Returning Community Members (RCM) – aka previously incarcerated

EmbracedFully.org is now an entity under The Principle Foundation (TPF) working with Christian Scientists across the nation to help those previously incarcerated that are interested in Christian Science. There is an application for an adult-in-custody to fill out to have help upon release. If you would like to listen in or participate, contact Barb at csiscoregon@gmail.com and she'll send you the next meeting link. One Thursday a month there is a speaker or interview and one Thursday a month is the "angel teams" giving updates/encouragement. An angel team is a group of volunteers helping a previously incarcerated person get reconnected with community in a "pro-social" way.

Our local committee has four returning community members actively receiving the Bible Lesson. We support subscriptions/printing for up to a year and only provide what is asked for. We've been using Full Text edition of the Bible Lesson that were used for one of our facilities so we would be prepared at any time to restart visits. It has been a well-used resource. One RCM is receiving regular visits. Another calls a volunteer and checks in at a local Reading Room.

Interested in helping?

We have volunteers who write letters, serve on the Executive Committee, serve inside a prison, and help those just released. There are guidelines and mentors for every position. It is very rewarding and enlightening work.

Financial Summary – details sent in same email

As of June 30, 2021

Balance in checking = \$12,530.31

Balance in Money Market and CDs = \$98,064.62

Income Oct 2020 – Jun 2021 = \$8595.82 incl \$1729.50 in special donations (budgeted \$8500)

Expenses Oct 2020 – Jun 2021 = \$20,875.22 (budgeted \$28,033)

Net income \$-11,723.25 (budgeted \$-15,000+)

Church memberships, please consider increasing your contributions to this committee to **\$2.75 per capita**. Individuals, please consider giving to this committee. There is a "donate now" button to allow donations via PayPal or debit/credit card at <https://csisoregon.com/>. If you have a PayPal account, you may be able to "give to a friend" and incur no fees to the committee by putting csiscoregon@gmail.com when it asks for an email.

Informational video/phone calls via Zoom aka volunteer/rep meeting

Any interested individual can join us on the volunteer and representative calls via Zoom. If you want to add a topic to the agenda, let us know at the beginning of the call. Please ask questions any time during the call or contact us later. The next Zoom call is **Sunday, November 21, 2:15-4:15p**. Link is usually live at 2pm.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: [Zoom meeting link](#)

OR call in +1 646 558 8656 OR 253 215 8782 (there are more if needed)

Meeting ID: 556 965 2476; password 123

Contact Barb at 503-320-1915 or csiscoregon@gmail.com with questions, concerns, or items you would like to hear about.

Individual donations requested

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

Use PayPal on our website OR send contributions to:

Christian Science Committee for Institutional Service

PO Box 1233

Wilsonville, OR 97070

Abbreviation legend:

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

OYA = Oregon Youth Authority

RCM = Returning Community Member