



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!

March 2020

We are alive well and active during this time. We are working on how to “reach in” to the AICs and you will hear the results in the next newsletter.

Thank you all for your contributions – metaphysical and financial to this work! AICs are having healings because they have access—paid for by this Committee—to Christian Science Practitioners. We have two lovely testimonies to share with you today. First, read about this repaired relationship, with the aid of a practitioner.

Repairing a Relationship – a testimony from an adult-in-custody

For the last six and a half years I've been estranged from my little brother (not biological) mainly because of my lifestyle choices. I was living the fast life, embezzling large amounts of money, doing drugs, not staying in one place for very long so he didn't ever really know where I was. I felt it was safer for everyone. What I didn't know was that my choices were pushing everyone I love and care about out of my life to the point nobody wanted anything to do with me. After getting caught and ending up with a 100-month prison sentence, I had time to think and really reassess what I want in life. It has been a real wake-up call realizing I had no one there for me except my Aunt.

I had my Aunt contact my little brother's mom and ask her for his phone number and address to no avail. She said she'd ask him. A few months passed and nothing. No answer, no number, no address. I had my Aunt make contact again. She said Richard is still mad at Shane (me) but here is the address. It literally took four and a half years to get an address. Finally getting the address I thought, OK, I'll just write and get a response. Wrong. I probably wrote five letters over a 14 to 18-month period and no response. I started my Christian Science journey about eight to nine months ago. Mind you I hadn't written a letter to him for at least a month or two prior to starting my Christian Science journey. I stated to my practitioner that I'd really like to start working on my relationship with my little brother, gave her the information about the situation and she said, "I'll pray about it." About three to four weeks later I'm sitting at my bunk and something tells me "you should write Richard." It's around Christmas/New Year. I wrote and about a week later I got an amazing letter back

*and it starts out “What’s good Big Bro, Jesus forgives me for my wrongs, I forgive you for yours.” I thought what an amazing statement. It’s almost like God personally delivered my letter to him. I received the letter on Jan 8th 2020. For almost six years, I’ve been trying to get in touch with Ritchie on my own. With my faith in Christian Science my message was delivered. I’m in the process of rebuilding a relationship with my little bro.
Sincerely, CSM*

What has the Institutional Committee done with your contributions to make this healing possible?

- We have provided access to Telmate, the prison phone call service—for both AICs and practitioners, so AICs can ask for treatment and discuss Christian Science between chaplain visits
- We maintain a list of Journal-listed Practitioners that AICs may choose from to call. Practitioners must agree to work pro bono and in accordance with ODOC rules

Would you like to help more incarcerated people be able to find Christian Science so they, too, can know the Comforter? Send us an email at csiscoregon@gmail.com

Some of the suggestions that needed correction in order for this healing to take place are: separation and rejection by family and friends; worthiness of the AIC to be forgiven; ability of the AIC to change; trust; change of heart, mind, soul. We know you can identify more. These are common suggestions in prisons, and your prayerful support in seeing through these impositions will make a difference for all AICs.

Did you realize that when you pray for “the congregations collectively and exclusively” that, along with CS churches and societies around the world, you’re also praying for the informal congregations in our correctional facilities—and that their “collective and exclusive” prayers are including your congregation? It is a bond of mutual love and support. As they pray for us, please consider expressing your thanks through joining the IS Committee so that we can continue to offer the services, and more, that are listed above.

What things are happening in the Christian Science Committee for Institutional Service in Oregon (CSCIS in OR)?

- THANK YOU to Marilyn Winn for years of volunteer service at Santiam

Correctional Institution (SCI), chair of the committee, representative on the committee, outside mentor to someone released. When you see her, give her a big hug for all she has done for those incarcerated in the name of this Committee. She is one of those who has helped to make CSM's testimony above possible.

The next testimony came in the form of a letter to us from an AIC—with a most cherished financial contribution!

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please accept this donation in appreciation of materials and services provided to assist me in my study of Christian Science.

Though the materials and services have come from several sources, I hope this donation will be of value to all areas since connected to The Mother Church.

Thank you,

LG

We are so grateful for this wonderful proof of our good work. It is a lovely proof that the AICs who use our services take care of each other, they also take care of us!

What are some of the ways in which we support each other?

- Our Chaplains are professionals—They are all class-taught Christian Scientists. We don't send people to simply pat hands or provide some company—as valuable as those services are. We expect healing from the services they provide, and they deliver, as these testimonies demonstrate. So a huge shout-out to our Chaplains.
- We lend them support through providing access, when they want it, to the Bible Lesson and Sentinel. All of the State Prisons have a Monitor subscription, so all AICs have access to our Missionary. And they are read, studied, and healing results, as the letter from LG shows.
- Ask any Chaplain or Practitioner; they receive countless blessings from being involved in this work.

Your contributions make it possible to provide the printed copies of the Bible Lesson and other magazines that support the work our volunteers on the inside provide. They also help pay to help defray the costs of driving to the prisons—often several hours of driving in a day. And contributions help to pay our secretary/treasurer, who

keeps our books and records in fine shape. Our secretary/treasurer is our only paid staff. Your prayers are also invaluable.

If you would like to be on a chaplain's prayer team, just let us know. Prayer teams support the Chaplains when they go into an institution and are there to also support the Chaplain when facing obstacles to doing the work such as lack of access, low turnout, interruptions to Bible Study time, and so forth.

- A volunteer is now printing and mailing the myBibleLesson to adults-in-custody! Thank you! All supplies are provided or reimbursed by the committee. The printer is owned by this committee. The Secretary provides the list of AICs each print cycle and handles the exceptions.

WE NEED HELP! and a mentor is available for these positions.

- Executive Committee Members (2-3) – attend video/phone calls one or two times a quarter to discuss financials, procedures, activities, questions, build knowledge; handle email between meetings
- Volunteers in institutions. The following institutions have people receiving the weekly BibleLesson, but have no volunteer to talk to:
 - Oregon State CI
 - OSP in Salem

Do you know someone that is incarcerated?

Usually the first stop for those incarcerated in Oregon is a county jail. Jails are not typically set up for religious services except by the facility chaplain. However, individuals can receive materials and visits. Be aware that individuals may spend their entire time incarcerated in a jail and never go to a state prison. Here are the ways we know to help and it depends on the person and the jail:

- Send BibleLesson one week at a time OR a full text (we can help find the rules for that institution)
- Arrange for weekly visits to give Christian encouragement
- Arrange for calls to a Christian Science Practitioner
- Walk beside the family as they navigate the judicial system – which leads to the question – Do YOU need help/perspective because you know someone who is incarcerated?

As a church member, remember that the person incarcerated is similar to a sick person,

the caretaker(s) and, usually, ALL family members also need metaphysical AND practical support beginning with knowing that each person involved is a child of God.

The facilities in the Oregon Department of Corrections (aka prisons) are set up for “Bible Study” but it depends on the facility chaplain, space, how many AICs have identified Christian Science as their religion, availability and number of Christian Science religious volunteers.

Where do we have volunteers?

Salem – Mill Creek Correctional Facility (MCCF) 2nd and 4th Tues 5:45-7:15PM, Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP) – on hold for now due to volunteer availability, Santiam Correctional Institution (SCI) – every Friday 8-9:30am

Portland – Washington County Jail (WCJ) - weekly, Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRCI) Friday nights

Umatilla – Two Rivers Correctional Institution (TRCI), 3rd Saturday

Pendleton – Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI) – medium, 3rd Saturday

Bend – Deer Ridge Correctional Institution (DRCI) – minimum and medium, every Wednesday morning as weather permits

Albany – seeking to re-enter Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility (girls and part of the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA))

See <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/about/pages/prison-locations.aspx> for more information about the prisons in our state.

Informational video/phone calls via Zoom

Any interested individual can join us on the volunteer and representative calls via Zoom. There is always time to ask questions. The next one is **May 17, 2:15-4:15pm.**

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/5569652476>

OR call in +1 646 558 8656; **Meeting ID: 556 965 2476.**

A separate communication to churches, volunteers, and known representatives will be sent with the agenda about May 1. Contact Barb at 503-320-1915 or csiscoregon@gmail.com with questions, concerns, items you would like to hear about.

Individual donations requested

This committee is a church activity and we receive regular donations from branch churches and societies all over the state of Oregon. The number of AICs we are reaching is expanding, the number of volunteers we are supporting is expanding.

THANK YOU for your metaphysical and financial support for this important work!
Contributions should be sent to
CSCIS in OR, 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