



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!

May 2021

In the last newsletter I reported that we had helped someone by posting the bail of \$2000, his aunt took on the rest of the obligation. He now has a job, a car, a lease on an apartment, and has finished his court obligations! Now he can breathe. He still has up to two years of parole and is doing very well. Based on several incidents that happened with the court, he and his volunteer are convinced that had this committee not posted bail, he would still be incarcerated, the attorney would not have pushed his case, the parole officer would not have seen how committed he is to being a responsible citizen. The bail money was a loan and is expected to be paid back by the end of 2021.

- Oregon Department of Corrections closures – article explaining -

<https://www.salemreporter.com/posts/3525/why-salems-mill-creek-correctional-facility-will-be-shuttered-by-july>

- Mill Creek Correctional Facility in Salem is scheduled to close July 2021 (though may be later this summer according to an officer at OSP).
 - The facility chaplain received permission from us to move the Christian Science books and literature to Oregon State CI (also Salem). The subscriptions to the Monitor and Sentinel were moved to Eastern Oregon CI whose facility chaplain has a list of those that read the Monitor.
 - The men on our list to receive Bible packets have been moved to Santiam CI (Salem) or will release before the facility closes.
 - Shutter Creek CI (SCCI) in North Bend (think Coos Bay) is scheduled to close Dec 2021. The EC is considering where the books and subscriptions should go and make the request to the facility chaplain. None of the men on our list are at SCCI.
 - Warner Creek CF in Lakeview is scheduled to close July 2022. None of the men on our list are at WCCF and redistribution of the literature will be decided after the other two facilities close.
- **Adults in custody (AICs)** – no volunteers giving services yet, though there is a pilot at OSP. Our list is shrinking, but they are moved to the RCM list when they give us an “outside” address. Three to be released in 2021, two in 2022, three in 2023, then

significant gap for the other seven on our current list. Eight of them are in contact with a Journal-listed Christian Science practitioner a couple times a year if not every month.

- One volunteer sends information to the facility chaplain to copy
 - One volunteer sends audio tapes to the facility chaplain to share
 - Portland Christian Science Lecture Series continues to send DVDs to one facility of the public lectures given.
- **Returning Community Members (RCM)** – aka previously incarcerated
- Our secretary is attending the meetings of Embraced Fully (EF), see EmbracedFully.org for details on the organization at this time. They are taking a break in May to work with The Principle Foundation (TPF) to set up a 501(c)3 entity within TPF so it can receive grants on behalf of EF. 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. This group is currently all Christian Scientists but likely to grow organically to include people regardless of religious affiliation as needs grow.
 - Secretary sends Bible lesson information to seven returning community members. Once the committee has an “outside” address, the RCM is eligible for one year to receive Full text Bible Lesson, Bible Lens, articles – similar packet printed for AICs. Three will “graduate” by August. TPF sponsored subscriptions for one to the Full text Bible Lesson and *Christian Science Sentinel*. Two more of our AICs are on TPF’s list for subscriptions, cell phone, \$250 cash, \$250 cash card upon release.
 - A volunteer leaves cheerful spiritual phone message with four RCMs each week and sometimes there is a conversation. The attitude is that we “walk” with them as long as they are willing and let them know we are here when they want to connect. Please contact our secretary, Barb Weiser, if you are interested in mentoring or working with a returning community member in some capacity.

Executive Committee (EC) members

Thank you! Wendy Giersdorf (Bend) and Dave Myers (Beaverton) for joining the Executive Committee in the last quarter. We have five members including Judith Hillend

(Gresham), Joyce Merritt (Salem) and Barb Weiser (Lake Oswego). According to our By-Laws, Barb will complete her time on the Executive Committee 6/18/. So ONE MORE PLEASE! Go to the following website, scroll to the bottom to find the application: <https://csisoregon.com/join-us>

Volunteer letter writer/mentor - HELP NEEDED!

There is a young man who needs some TLC and tough man/dad love. We have guidelines, but the basics in this case are “you are loved and worthwhile.” Please contact our secretary, Barb Weiser if you are interested in participating in this way. Go to the following website, scroll to the bottom to find the Volunteer application, just ignore the “facility” part of it: <https://csisoregon.com/join-us>

Financial Summary – details sent in same email

As of March 31, 2021

Balance in checking = \$5,823.1

Balance in Money Market and CDs = \$103,023.56

Income Oct 2020 – Mar 2021 = \$4186.35 (budgeted \$8500)

Expenses Oct 2020 – Mar 2021 = \$18,172.35 (budgeted \$28,033) most subscriptions are already paid for and no additional lecture activities, so as expected.

Net income \$-13,986 (budgeted \$-15,000+)

Church memberships, please consider increasing your contributions to this committee to \$2.50. *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 **May 16, 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!
Contributions should be sent to: Christian Science Committee for Institutional Service,
PO Box 1233, Wilsonville, OR 97070

Or use our “donate now” button at <https://csisoregon.com/>. You can use a debit/credit card OR if you have a PayPal account, you may be able to “give to a friend” and incur no fees to us by putting csiscoregon@gmail.com when it asks for an email.

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