



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!

September 2019

Thank you all for your contributions – metaphysical and financial to this work!

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

- Ken Bennett (Bend) has joined the Executive Committee. Thank you!
- We have two new volunteers badged and volunteers in two more facilities!
- THANK YOU to Merry Peix-Sherman for almost 20 years of volunteer service at Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRCI)! She mentored two people to replace her as she retires to Massachusetts, closer to family.
- Two lectures are scheduled for Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities this season. In addition, a branch church attempted unsuccessfully to schedule another at a facility that has not had one. That attempt led to a request for books for the facility library and a *Christian Science Monitor* subscription. At the request of yet another branch church, a volunteer attempted unsuccessfully to schedule a lecture, but was able to enrich the relationship with the facility chaplain and begin visiting two Adults-in-custody (AICs) whose requests had been previously unheeded.
- Committee has been contacted by church members whose family members have been incarcerated. Please encourage that contact! The percentage of people incarcerated indicates that 1 in 7 people are or have been incarcerated so most of us know someone who is or has been incarcerated.
- THANK YOU to all donations and a special thank you to Oregon City for remembering this committee when distributing funds due to closing.

- Next representative/volunteer meeting is planned for **November 17, 2:15-4pm**. All are welcome. Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/5569652476>; by phone +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 556 965 2476. A separate communication to churches, volunteers, and known branch representatives will be sent with the agenda about November 1. Contact Barb at 503-320-1915 or csiscoregon@gmail.com with questions, concerns, items you would like to hear about.

Where do we have volunteers?

Salem – Mill Creek Correctional Facility (MCCF) as of 2019, Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP) as of Aug 2019, Santiam Correctional Institution (SCI)

Portland – Washington County Jail (WCJ), Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRCI)

Umatilla – Two Rivers Correctional Institution (TRCI)

Pendleton – Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI) - medium

Bend – Deer Ridge Correctional Institution (DRCI) – minimum and medium

Albany – Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility (girls and part of the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA))

All the places visited are minimum security except where noted. Yes, where we visit at OSP is a minimum security area, though it does have the only maximum security area in the state. See <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/about/pages/prison-locations.aspx> for more information about the prisons in our state.

Known needs for volunteers and metaphysical support

Salem – Oregon State Correctional Institution – one man moved there in August and would like visits from a volunteer. Once approved by DOC, a volunteer can develop a service there. Contact the secretary to inquire csiscoregon@gmail.com or PO Box 1233, Wilsonville OR 97070. A mentor is assigned to new volunteers.

Executive Committee members. Meetings are electronically via Zoom once a quarter the month before a volunteer/representative meeting. Sometimes additional meetings are needed. This is the governing body for the Institutional Committee. It handles financial items and oversight of volunteers going into facilities. Contact the secretary to inquire csiscoregon@gmail.com or PO Box 1233, Wilsonville OR 97070.

How do we distribute literature?

- Mail copies of MyBibleLesson to those adults-in-custody (AICs) who request it

(institutional services agreement with CSPS). This started in February 2019 with 12 copies and has grown to 25 copies per week as of 1 September 2019. Also support subscriptions to full-text or citation *Christian Science Quarterly* depending on the need and the request.

- Subscriptions to the *Christian Science Sentinel* and *Christian Science Monitor*
 - o For chaplain or chapel in most DOC facilities, veterans' hospital, Oregon State Hospital in Salem
 - o Individual AICs upon request and recommendation of volunteer
 - o One year to returning community members (RCM) aka those newly released that contact us after release. None on the current list.
 - o Special pricing through the Christian Science Publishing Society (CSPS), also do first year through Salem church's fund for Christian Science Monitor
- *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* (purchased in bulk at special price from CSPS), *Bible*, other books are distributed by volunteers, usually given to the facility chaplain to give to the AIC.

Snippets of good reported by Volunteers

- Funds appeared so family could attend Thanksgiving in facility with AIC.
- Door lock that had been broken for a long time was brought to staff attention and fixed quickly.
- AIC moved to another facility and though it took three months, volunteer was able to schedule a visit and AIC brought a friend who has watched the change in AIC since he started studying Christian Science and wants a part of that!
- Continue to mentor an RCM who is almost off supervision*. Many parts of his case have been moved along with prayer and his sincere practice of Christian Science.
- AIC is receiving Full Text subscription and Monitor subscription and is VERY GRATEFUL.
- AIC is now able to request *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* from jail library and have it in cell - yay!
- Couple letters from AICs answered with gratitude for all the good happening as their thought is changed.
- Discussed "perspective" in order to better understand that what we may think is reality is actually "perspective" and how to use perspective better to see reality.
- Gratefully welcomed newcomers to lectures and their attendance at Christian Science Bible Study later in the month.

*off supervision means that the person no longer checks in with a parole officer and has

completed his/her tasks to return to the community without restrictions.


Ideas for correction

- Life has to be both good and bad, contain opposites, because if we just know God then life loses its diversity, it is static, uncreative, boring.

Developments at Oregon Department of Corrections

From the DOC website...

“After a significant multi-year effort by the Visiting Rule Workgroup, Policy and Business Services, and Inmate Services, the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) [Visiting Rules \(291-127\)](#) have received some important updates. These efforts would not have been possible without valuable input from both DOC employees and our visitors. The changes are meant to simplify daily operations for visiting, and support connections between adults in custody and their loved ones.

“We have outlined some of the changes below, and the  [Rule Change Summary document](#) provides a side-by-side comparison of the previous and new rules. We also suggest you take some time to read all of the rules to better understand the changes.

- Adults in custody are now permitted an unlimited number of approved visitors on their visiting lists.
- Approved visitors will automatically be placed on the AIC’s visiting list. The individual needs to respond only if they want the visitor removed from their list.
- Visitors who have not visited in the past 2 years will be removed, and the visitor will need to submit a new application.
- Dresses, skirts, jumpers, culottes, and shorts are permitted if they are worn at knee level or lower when standing.
- Visitors can bring in \$20 in change or bank cards if authorized by the institution for the vending machines.

Family connectivity is part of DOC's primary business strategy, and research shows this connectivity is vital to an individual’s success after they are released from prison. As an agency, we continuously work on improvements and enhancements to increase those connections, while maintaining the safety and security of our institutions. We believe these changes reflect that work.

Please feel free to read our [Visiting Guidelines](#) page or [contact your facility](#) with any questions.”

These may not seem like significant changes, but they indicate a change in philosophy

to make visiting easier and letting more visitors that encourage building a supportive community before an individual is released. Visiting could be in-person, but also via phone and video using the Telmate/Getting Out system. This is making it a little easier for our fabulous Christian Science Practitioners to give requested support to AICs.

Consider other outreach in your church

Your state committee focuses on Oregon DOC and OYA facilities for its work. Branch churches and societies have the opportunity to focus more locally or support an individual member that wants to volunteer their time. We encourage you, as individuals and branches, to look at local needs like a jail, a veterans' facility, a hospital with a chapel or facility chaplain, a state institution not currently supported. Can you take literature there? Can you have an informal group there? Perhaps a lecture could be hosted there?

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 **November 17, 2:15-4pm**. Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/5569652476>; by phone +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 *November 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