

Quarterly Fruitage Report



CHRISTIAN SCIENCE *joint* INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE *of* missouri

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***“If we would open their prison doors....we must first learn to bind up the broken-hearted.”
(Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures, 366: 30-31).***

The mission of this committee, as stated in its Bylaws, is: “...to share the healing and regenerating truths of Christian Science with inmates and/or patients in local, county, state, and federal penal, correctional, juvenile, mental health, veteran, and other institutions in the state of Missouri” (Article II.1).

Excerpts from FRUITAGE FROM INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE WORKERS:

•“We had a crowd of men on Monday....They had questions about the punishment of sin. There were so many good references in the Lesson-Sermon for them to ponder about reforming the sinner. We spoke about sowing and reaping. We didn't have time to finish the Lesson or the last hymn but they had new ideas shining in their eyes.”

•“Two honest seekers came today. One man has been attending regularly for months. The other was new to our conferences, but had read about 1/4th of *Science and Health*, and been "blown away" by Mrs. Eddy's insights about God. He was very pleased to receive a copy of the textbook for himself, along with a Bible. Most everything we spoke of related to gaining a clear understanding of who we are by gaining a clear understanding of who God is (I had brought my copy of the 11/4/13 *Sentinel* with the wonderful article 'The Starting Point').... We saw that that understanding applied to everything from recidivism, which is a cycle they both wish to end, to physical healing.... We referred so often to the importance of the heaven within us, that it came to me to share with them the Daily Prayer. They both loved it, and we spent some time going over it and discussing its implications for our lives. Time flew.”

•“One fellow stated he knew nothing about Christian Science but he felt led to come this morning and was ready to listen to something new since he is earnestly searching....As we spoke he related that the ideas shared all made so much sense to him and that this was what he was looking for. He said he thought he didn't think he could agree with organized religions since he saw so much hypocrisy. He

liked the definition of 'Church' in the glossary. He also appreciated the synonyms for God and said that this was how he thought of God, so he was very inspired. He eagerly took a copy of *Science and Health* and said he was looking forward to start reading. He asked several sincere questions and listened intently as we discussed various Bible verses and stories.”

•“We discussed the story of Saul to Paul and how God speaks directly to each one of us in a way we can understand. This led us to look at the definition of God. We spent time sharing ideas by expanding on the all-seeing, all-acting, all-loving, all-wise nature of God. This man is very earnest about praying to see and understand that God is directing and controlling his life. He will be attending the service this Sunday.”

•“One attendee seemed very happy with what he is learning through his study. We noticed a real intensity to those listening, indicating a real desire to learn and understand. Also, a large number were very glad to receive the literature we brought for them.... Judging from all the comments of appreciation at the close of the service, the thoughts of good we brought were reflected back many times over.”

•“One man was eager to claim his first copy of the textbook, and talked with us about how to get started with it and about which Christian Science church he'd like to visit when he gets out in February. He commented that he loves the joy with which we come to them, knowing and appreciating that we take time out of our lives to do so. We replied that

loving our neighbors isn't time out from our lives but a very important part of our lives."

•"One attendee grew up in a different denomination, but never had owned a Bible until he got to jail....He is loving what he is reading - accepting it in his heart and feeling it changing his life. His mother and grandmother have now purchased Bibles for their own homes and have started reading the Bible, too."

• "We took the Lord's Prayer line-by-line, so that we truly understood what the words meant, how Jesus lived the prayer at Gethsemane and in his ministry, and how we are to live this prayer. Everyone got a lot out of thinking more of the closet image and what it means to shut out the 'devil,' distractions, and materialism and be completely open to God. They also liked the thought of being quiet and listening to God speak....One man was truly overcome (in a completely positive way) by the inspiration that filled this meeting....One gentleman asked how to forgive. He shared that in the past his heart felt so heavy when he did not forgive. He was touched by the powerful healing of self-righteousness that I shared from the recent *Sentinel*. He was so grateful for understanding the unselfish nature of praying to 'Our Father' to deliver us and forgive us. And he was relieved to hear the forgiveness is not a personal effort but has its source in God and is all the action of God. It went right along with our discussion of letting God's will be done in us and praying to see it being done in others."

•"Three men came in, all of whom I had met at least once before at our services. Mostly they just listened attentively to what God was giving me to share with them, but the comments they did make were supportive and helpful. We covered a lot of ground....Before leaving they all helped themselves to the literature, and the only one who did not yet have a textbook took one with him. This was really a holy morning."

•"Only one of the men had been to one of our services before and he commented that Christian Science is about spiritual healing....There was one fellow who came up just before leaving, after the 5 textbooks had already been taken, and asked if we had more because he really had liked what he had heard and would like to have one to read. I encouraged him to come to another service at which we always have some to give, and I also showed him the label on the back of the *Sentinel* that he'd taken and told him he could write to the committee and request a textbook be sent to him. It was a lovely, inspiring, peace-filled service!"

•"We had an outstanding visit....We talked about the meaning of being spiritually poor vs. spiritually rich. They really loved understanding this. We read from

Paul's letters to the Romans on being spiritually minded. The men were extremely engaged and insightful....One of the inmates stated out loud that he could not comprehend how anyone could come to our Christian Science conference and not see that this is the Truth. He said that not one of our workers had ever said anything that did not make perfect sense to him....and that Christian Science spoke more to him than anything else. They all shared healings they have had and the men left inspired, excited and signed up for Sunday!"

•"Two of the men attending were new to Christian Science and the third man regularly attends the church service.... Wonderful ideas were shared and genuine desire for spiritual growth and understanding was felt."

•"It was a great session. Four men came....three had never been to a conference or Sunday Service, yet all three were familiar with the textbook. They were very interested to hear Mrs. Eddy's background and what led to her healing and writing of *Science and Health*. One of the fellows had walked in with his own textbook and said he was halfway through reading it and that he was loving it. He said he had previously struggled making sense of the Bible, and had launched into all types of study - Koran, Yoga, New Age, and various metaphysics - but that he turned a corner in thought as he read, gaining an appreciation for Christian Science and its authority in the Bible. He commented how clear and simple and 'right on' Mrs. Eddy is in her writings of Truth. He asked many earnest questions and also shared some deep inspirations with the others. He related that when he was young he remembers his mom challenging a doctor's prediction of what to expect with a condition, and that he became aware at that point how important one's thought is to their experience. We talked about the importance of recognizing that it is divine Mind that we are yielding to, not merely mind over matter.... Another fellow was saying that he had been encouraged by a cellmate to turn to his Bible and to start reading at the beginning all the way to the end. He voiced some confusion about the Bible not all lining up. It was encouraging to hear the fellow who was halfway through the textbook suggest that he read *Science and Health* to give him a spiritual view of the Bible, and that he found deeper meaning as a result."

•"One young man in particular said he came because his brother [in Christ] - another attendee to whom he pointed - loves what he's learning about Christian Science and encouraged him to come....He mentioned how much lift and light he was feeling from the service that made him feel happy. We talked about the 'Truth that makes us free.'"



•“One of the men said at one point that he was SO very grateful for these conferences. He said he gained so much by coming and talking. He said it helped him with learning about how to use what he was learning in the Bible. At one point this man was enjoying our conversation so much that he said, ‘Someone has really brought the Spirit into this room. Can you feel it? It is just making everything so bright and good!’ I then said he could take this Spirit everywhere he went because God is everywhere he goes and He is the Spirit, the good that he feels. The man liked that a lot....There were a lot of great conversations that went on.”

•“The inmate who attends regularly reported that he just keeps having to confront things that he has to keep plowing through. We talked about the importance of watching thought consistently in all that we do as the statement implies and that we can expect and feel that blessing and lift in our lives. He appreciated thinking of God as Principle, seeing that he can look for that governing Principle in his activities and relations with others, and that he can claim and see Mind expressed by all his children. Both gentlemen seemed lifted to approach the next week with a heightened view and come back ready to report inspiration/blessings. The second attendee said he grew up familiar with the Bible, and that now he is ready to listen and think spiritually.....He said he usually sleeps until about noon...but that he awakened and heard the call for the Christian Science conference, and that he didn't know why he came but he felt impelled to come. He expressed much gratitude for being in the session and was really looking forward to reading the textbook and the *Sentinel*.”

•“All the men were quiet and attentive during the entire service.... One man told us he had recently heard from his wife that their baby had died. He was so grateful for the message that had come to him through the Lesson-Sermon today - that man's true substance is spiritual and that no good can ever be lost. The message was equally meaningful to two others who'd lost loved ones to cancer. We had the *Sentinel* that focused on healing cancer with us and were able to share it. One young man told us he'd started using ‘crack’ when he was nine. More recently he has made progress and said he prays for others. We pointed out that it's also very important for him to pray for himself in order to understand his true nature as God's likeness so he can clearly see that ‘substance abuse’ is not at all attractive to him.”

We encourage you to participate in this far-reaching and rewarding work.

Please go to www.ChristianScienceMissouri.com for more information about how you can expand your practice of Christian Science through the work of this committee. You may also contact the chairman, Pamela Moulton, at csjicmo@gmail.com.

Financial contributions help cover the substantial cost of the many Bibles and Christian Science books given away throughout the year, and are greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS COMMITTEE AND ITS WORK!

**“And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every many his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more”
(Jer. 31: 34)**



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Brentwood	Ben Snyder
Clarkson Valley	Melody King
Creve Coeur	Rob Nagel
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