



***“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 Institutional Committee Weekly Fruitage Reports:

Holy Work

Most of our time was spent focusing on the story of Nehemiah, which several of the men did not know. We focused on how Nehemiah turned to God in prayer every step of the way. We also looked at the tactics of the enemy to mock, ridicule, interfere, oppose, and stop the work and Nehemiah's response. They could identify those tactics in their own lives and saw how the story could help them not to come down from the wall--their work for God, their unity with God. Each time the men brought up other scriptural passages that might help in handling evil, we found that they were already in the lesson (such as bringing every thought "into captivity" to Christ and not being the "servant" of sin.) At the end of the session, each one shared what holy work they felt God had given them to do and what temptations they needed to be alert to.

Immediate Healing

We started off our meeting with a healing! On Thursday she woke up with discomfort from cramps. She still joined the Christian Science conference meeting that day. After the meeting she said she returned to her room to read the Bible Lesson, still in discomfort. As she was

reading, she felt all pain completely dissipate and vanish. She knew that this was healing. She was completely free and rejoicing in the power of spiritual inspiration and divine Love. We discussed the scientific law that makes healing permanent because it is Truth brought to light and acknowledged.

Out of Darkness

We started by sharing a prayer of gratitude to God. Each took a turn sharing gratitude to God for the peace, wisdom, clarity, understanding, guidance, protection . . . etc. received. The sharing evolved into a discussion about freedom--freedom from being dependent upon people, governmental support, material things and from seeing ourselves as needy. One was led to share his understanding of the Genesis 1 concept of tilling the ground. It was wonderful to see the men wrestle with ideas and come to their own understanding of reality. I was really grateful for their strong sense of brotherhood and their gracious appreciation of Christian Science. One, on his way out, told me he felt Christian Science opened his eyes to reality itself. He said that in the past his life was full of darkness and confusion but that now he is finding answers for his questions--answers that are satisfying him unlike anything else.

"The Healing Power of Stillness"

by Larissa Snorek-Yates, CS

*Sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientist
Creve Coeur*

Because of the posters advertising the lecture, the men from the seventh floor of the Clayton Justice Center arrived already thinking about "stillness." At least two of the eight were brand new to Christian Science, with one having been "dragged" there, as he put it, by a long-time attendee. They all asked questions with clarity and sincerity, showing wonderful spiritual depth. Lori made the comment both to the men and to us afterward that she'd given many jail and prison talks, but she had never run into such depth of heartfelt questions, which showed the degree of their sincere desire to know God better. She said she felt the depth of the preparation those men had enjoyed in our services by the kinds of things they asked and by their response to her answers. Even though the lecture was only planned to be an hour, she stayed for an additional half hour answering questions. The men barely moved; they were so riveted on her every word. One man said he was not a religious man, but that everything she had said was so logical and reasonable and what he'd always believed in his heart. He restated some of her deeper thoughts shared with them. She spoke from her own experiences, constantly sharing many different healings, so that they could see how prayer is practical. Everyone felt comfortable in her presence, and one man even asked if she would pray for him. She explained that that is what she does for a living, but that anyone in the room could have one free treatment with her if they so desired. She and this man chatted after her talk was over. They felt her absolute authenticity and honesty in her study and practice and use of the Bible that most of them know well. One serious student of the Bible who attended, even though he apparently had NEVER wanted to attend one of our services when his cellmate raved about them, was almost crying with joy over the whole experience.

Untouched

When a woman came in, I asked her what brought her, and she told me that she was seeking to find and experience God's joy. She said she has been a victim of many kinds of abuse, and she read in the Bible that she could be "unviolated." I shared the parable of the tares and the wheat and then showed her page 300 in *Science and Health* where Mrs. Eddy affirms that the tares never touch the wheat. We also discussed the first section of the Bible Lesson on forgiveness and the power of Love that enables us to forgive. We both felt that this was holy time and that God had brought us together.

"Be Ye Transformed"

Tuesday's guest was a newcomer who arrived just after the call was made. She shared that while she would normally go to another conference with her friends, she felt like God was telling her to come hear about Christian Science instead. She talked a lot at the beginning, sharing how God has been showing her his power and blessings recently, teaching her to be patient and less reactive. She said the battle is not hers but God's, that she feels she was not "arrested" but "rescued," and that even in prison, she knows God has a plan for her and important work to do. I showed her where to find the story of Joseph, who also did important work in prison, and she mentioned Peter being saved from prison by God. We shared many Bible verses, and she especially loved the verse from Romans that states, "be ye not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12: 2). She commented, "That says it all right there. You don't have to say another word." We also talked about prayer and looked at the spiritual interpretation of the Lord's Prayer, which she loved. This was a holy, uplifting time, and I am in awe of how our Pastor meets the needs of all sincere seekers of truth.

"God's-Eye View of You"

Fujiko Signs, CSB

Clayton Justice Center

*Sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientist
Valley Park*

All seven of the women who came to the lecture were new to Christian Science. Several appeared to have fairly skeptical attitudes at the beginning. But as Fujiko began to talk about healing and God's unconditional love for His ideas, their faces noticeably softened and their questions grew more thoughtful. She responded fluidly to questions and comments, but grounded her remarks in a few key points--the first two lines of the Lord's prayer--our Father and our oneness with that Father. Fujiko then shared a healing about a Korean family who reached out to her as a Christian Science practitioner when the head of the family was told by the hospital staff that his hip cancer was terminal. She talked about how Jesus's declaration--"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light" (Matthew 6: 22)--guided her prayers and how the man on her first visit with him asked to walk, to the astonishment of the hospital staff, and how his harsh character was transformed at the same time. At the end, everyone came up wanting to thank Fujiko and embrace her. One woman started to leave without a copy of the textbook, but came back and asked to have one, talking with great sincerity about how she knew that what she had heard was something very "special." Another woman who had been moved to tears by the healing account, initially said that she had made a prayerful commitment to use her time in jail to study the Bible only, but by the end of the lecture decided she wanted to take a copy of the textbook as well.

Truth Seeking

These women came in anxious to share and talk to each other. One brought her Bible and *Science and Health*. I started by asking who had attended the talk last Tuesday and four raised

their hands. I asked would they be willing to share what they appreciated about Fujiko's message. They spoke of thinking of themselves as a spiritual idea and the innocence of being God's child. One shared the healing that Fujiko shared about healing a man who had not been able to walk. They told me they talk about religion with each other, and they came with many questions about Christian Science, including: "Is it a real Christian faith?" and "Do you stand alone as if you are God when it comes to healing?" They had some odd misunderstandings about Mary Baker Eddy, which I addressed. They asked about the seal on the cover of the textbook, which gave me the opportunity to explain the role of the textbook as a "key to the scriptures" and talk about how central the Bible is to our practice of Christian Science. I told them everything Mrs. Eddy wrote in *Science and Health* she had to prove. We read a couple of the testimonies from Fruitage that they chose. They asked me to share healings that I had. This I did, and they were very attentive. We talked about some approaches to prayer including the importance of stillness. We reviewed the Lord's Prayer and its spiritual interpretation. Afterwards several shook my hand and gave me a sincere thank you for coming to be with them. There was such an uplifting atmosphere of true brotherhood and simple seeking for the Truth evidenced in that room.

"God's-Eye View of You"

Fujiko Signs, CSB

Hall Street Medium Security Institution

*Sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientist
Valley Park*

When we arrived at the Hall Street Jail, we were first ushered into the office of the superintendent who wanted to meet Fujiko and acknowledge the good work of the Christian Science Joint Institutional Committee. He explained that he had been impressed by a statement by Fujiko, quoted on the posters advertising the Hall Street lecture: "Jesus often asked his followers to repent. Repent means, 'to

re-think'; in Greek 'metanoia' is 'to think from different perspective.' Jesus asked us to become like a little child. Repent, could mean to think like or from a child-like perspective. How can we, like a child, feel God as Love without limit and Life without fear?" The superintendent said that one of his current initiatives for Hall Street was to provide more support/volunteer activities for the women inmates; he saw our lecture as part of that initiative. When we got to the chapel, we discovered thirty-plus inmates from both pods waiting for the event. (Usually only nine from one pod are allowed to attend conferences. They do not mix pods out of concern for inter-fighting.) And we learned later that even inmates with murder charges had been included, which rarely is permitted. There were about four women who have visited our conference sessions, who expressed much gratitude for being there. Fujiko began with the question, "Who wants to be a healer?" She spoke about a healing of terminal cancer, emphasizing our simple, inseparable relationship with our Father-Mother God. Throughout the talk the women listened attentively, sometimes clapping in appreciation for ideas that touched and lifted. One was so moved at the end of the talk that she asked if she could thank Fujiko with a song. The short, a cappella, gospel solo that she offered was stunning. Both pods of women expressed wonderful sisterhood and appreciation for this woman's sharing. A number of others asked to form a prayer circle to close the event. And then a large number of women came up to ask individual questions on topics ranging from addiction to relationship issues to fears about life on the outside. Everyone took something from the literature bench; all but four took a copy of the textbook.

Respect and Receptivity

The first man to arrive introduced himself as a member of a born-again Christian Church who had felt inspired to go to whatever Christian activity was announced. I told him we were not here to convert him but to share a book that is a great help in understanding the Bible, a book that he might like to have in his spiritual toolkit (which he did take). I told him briefly about Mrs. Eddy and her discovery, and by this time our two regulars had joined us. We embarked on a discussion of the Bible Lesson and the Bible in general, and I was so grateful for the newcomer's respect for and receptivity to the ideas being expressed. We spoke of the Old Testament as an honest chronicle of a people's search for God and of Jesus as the one who really lived out for us man's relationship with God as revealed in Genesis 1. We noted that the first effect of Adam and Eve's disobedience was self-consciousness--a consciousness of themselves as material and shameful and separate from God. We noted the absence of self-consciousness in the woman who washed Jesus' feet and of how her unselfed devotion to the Christ is held up by Mary Baker Eddy as a model for those who would practice Christian Science. We also noted that what Jesus asked the blind man to wash off was the same substance of which material man was supposedly created in Genesis 2. We spoke of the importance of keeping the man of Genesis 1 always before our thought and not being drawn away into the belief that material knowledge has more to offer and agreed that that could do more to help us overcome sin than trying to follow hundreds of rules. Living, as Jesus did, from the basis of Genesis 1 tears down the barrier between God and man, as the curtain concealing the Holy of Holies was torn in two on the day of Jesus' self-sacrifice.

Christ, "the True Idea Voicing Good"

A precious woman came in--completely disheveled--and from the material picture, one could have presumed all sorts of limitations preventing this conference from bearing any fruit. I described Christian Science to her right away, and the two words were like a light bulb. She explained she had been reading a book she had found in the pod about the unity of faith and science. She said she was loving the ideas in that book and could not believe those were the ideas again being presented to her. I gave her a copy of *Science and Health* and explained how this book shows how God's love heals. She shared much of her life, including years of drug addiction, family troubles, suicide attempts, and incarceration. She began to ask questions about God as Love, and it came to me to read with her some Psalms (23, 91, 139) verse by verse, and we saw that the God described was tender, loving and wanted peace and safety for man. She absolutely lit up with each verse as if they were speaking to her directly. We spoke of her own nature as loving and how God was loving her unconditionally and what that meant to be loved this way. I was then led to open *Science and Health* to the platform on page 330. We read one at a time and clarified any words that were unfamiliar. She was riveted, and I could see she understood every single word and every idea so perfectly. I continued to read each one, and she would often sigh or appear touched by the power of the ideas she was gleaning. It was amazing! I could see God revealing Himself to this precious woman. She stopped me a few times to quietly "digest" the new insights. It is as if I was watching a child see a rainbow for the first time. She was in awe. I too, could feel the Comforter, breaking the bread apart for our communion with God. I was reading it all too, as if for the first time, and found such profound revelations. The woman who was now in front of me, was calm, quiet, peaceful, joyful, satisfied. I asked her how it felt to be clear-minded, and she said it felt good, but she was afraid this would now make her think of her past

and go back to drugs. I explained that clarity of thought would actually bring her peace in contrast to the drugs. I told her how grateful I was for her deep understanding of these ideas, and she said she used to love books and loved everything we had read together. She said she saw God in a whole new light and realized this new understanding was her way out of addictions and sickness. She said that she saw clearly that God had meant for her to come to conference and could not believe how perfectly this was answering her questions. She said she plans on coming next week. The Christ is ever at work. "Christ is the true idea voicing good, the divine message from God to men speaking to the human consciousness" (*Science and Health* P. 332).

Turning to Psalms

As we were reading and discussing part of this week's lesson the newcomer in the group asked if we could read his favorite verses from the Bible, Psalm 51 where David asks for forgiveness. This man has struggled with a drug addiction for twelve years. He expressed so much gratitude for having the opportunity to learn about Christian Science. Then we discussed other Psalms, including the 91st, which opened up a thoughtful discussion about how to stay in the secret place of the Most High. There were questions about how to interact with some of the younger men who seem to have no understanding of the importance of God in their life. They realized that their actions serve as models and that they can speak to the younger ones to help them think for themselves. They often re-read some of the citations more than once because they wanted to let the idea sink in. At one point, one of the men teared up, stating that what he is learning in Christian Science has given him more freedom than he ever had when he was outside of the jail.

Not Taking Sides

The main focus of our conversation was how to work through challenging situations and how to pray for issues that seem to divide, like politics, religion and other hot topics. I discussed with them that these issues distract us from what we really need to be doing, focusing on our relationship to God. As we do that, we are then able to think clearly... not in a human "take sides" way, but in a way that rises above the issue and leaves God to unfold right solutions for all. At first the men were a little frustrated that I would not take a side; then as I continued to talk with them about how we need to pray and showed them steps we could take, they all started not only listening but also helping others do the same. It was a great transformation to witness!

Angel Thoughts

After the third call, a young woman came for the conference. She was so receptive, drinking in the truths shared and loved the idea of standing porter at the door of thought--letting the angels in and shutting the door on thoughts that would try to convince us of evil's reality or power. We touched on the prodigal son and Genesis 1. This woman was so happy to think of herself as made in God's image instead of the image of a sinful mortal. I had printed a wonderful article from the *Sentinel* titled "Out of the Darkness of Addiction," which we read together. It brought tears of connection and gratitude for the possibility of healing and redemption. She spoke of how she felt she was waking up to God's messages, including hearing the final call for tonight's conference. She took many notes on specific passages from the Bible and *Science and Health*, and thanked me many times for coming and for waiting for her to come. I also shared Mrs. Eddy's article on angels from *Miscellaneous Writings* that I had printed; she commented: "This is so beautiful!"



Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day:

Psalms 139: 7-12

Christian Science Joint Institutional Committee of Missouri

Institutions Served

St. Louis City Medium Security Institution (MSI) 7600 Hall Street, Saint Louis, MO

Men: Weekly - Monday, *Church service* 3:30 pm

Women: Monthly - 2nd Thursday, *Group Conference* 9-10:30 am

St. Louis County Justice Center (Clayton Justice Center) 100 S Central Ave, Clayton, MO

Men: Weekly - Sunday, *Church service* 1-2:30 pm; Tuesday & Thursday, *Group Conference* 9-11am

Women: Weekly - Tuesdays *Group Conference* 7-8:30 pm

Youth Development Work-

Missouri Hills Home for Girls

Hogan St. Medium Security for Boys

Missouri Department of Health Psychiatric Center -weekly visits

- We work with approximately 1,500 attendees a year, with 10 volunteers needed weekly. Come join us!

We encourage you to participate in this rewarding and far-reaching work that blesses all!

Branch Churches:

- Please consider appointing a CSJIC Rep from your branch church if you have not already done so.
- Budget a monthly contribution to CSJIC to help cover costs of distributing copies of *Science and Health*, the Bible, Christian Science Periodicals, and the weekly *MyBibleLesson* study guide.
- Consider hosting a Christian Science lecture in a jail.
- Donate new paperback copies of *Science and Health*, or *Quarterlies* or *Words Only Hymnals*
- Collect newer used periodicals for distribution - preferably less than 1 month old.

Individuals:

- Purchase copies of *Science & Health* to donate to our CSJIC
- Prayerfully support our work, and check out our website: www.ChristianScienceMissouri.com
- Not sure that you are ready to volunteer in the jail? Come support the work through special projects
- Talk to your branch church representative and consider serving as a volunteer! (Once a month helps fill our current commitments and we are opening doors to work with additional Institutions.)

Contact your local Branch Church Representative or CSJICMO@gmail.com

Brentwood	Andy Mehring	amehring@gmail.com
Clarkson Valley	Melody King	melodiarey@gmail.com
Creve Coeur	Rob Nagel	incenticoinc@gmail.com
First Church, St. Louis	Bonnie Wade	bonnie.wade@gmail.com
Eight Church, St. Louis	Andy Matthys-Pearce	andymp7@gmail.com
Kirkwood	Fabienne Warrick	fabiennewarrick@gmail.com
Lafayette Square Society	Andrew Frager	andrew.frager@gmail.com
St. Charles		
Town & Country	Pamela Greiner-Moulton	pamelamoulton@gmail.com
Valley Park	Lynn Tarnow	ljht88@sbcglobal.net