

# 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:

#### **Weekly Bible Lesson Brings Blessings**

"This week's Lesson was 'tailor made' for the inmates at Hall Street, . . . . I mentioned to them that the title of this week's Lesson - Everlasting Punishment - was going to teach us about God's unconditional love. (...one of the inmates ...mentioned that after David had committed adultery - he was challenged with battles until the end of his reign.) Also, while I was reading from *Science & Health*, he would quietly acknowledge some of the passages with an 'amen' or 'yes'...kinda like when we read to ourselves and come across something that fills our consciousness with light - (a mental Wow!). That was going on through the entire lesson, and the rest of the inmates were embraced in the Wow of this lesson. He also shared a healing with the men, that he felt was due to his study of the Bible & *Science and Health*. We were finished at 5:00 pm and they had time to sit and talk. I made a promise to them, that if they read, and studied their *My Bible Lesson* that they would receive angel thoughts that would help them. Only one *Science & Health* was picked up at the beginning, along with a few Monitors & Sentinels, but after the service all the literature, Bibles, as well as *Science and Health's* were taken."

#### **Depression Lifted**

"We started off talking about the last citation in *Science and Health* in the second section of this week's lesson. 'Step by step will those how trust Him find that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.'" What stood out to me when reading the lesson yesterday was the 'step by step' part. The two guys had expressed some anxiety over their future and so we brought it back to trust-

ing God step by step. We talked about "as the sowing the reaping" and being aware of what we are sowing. The [sense of] depression that [was apparent] when we started was definitely lifted and smiles were there at the end."

#### **Atonement**

"The Sermon on the Mount-- I mentioned it multiple times and discussed with them how Jesus teaches us how to live our lives in this sermon. If we follow what he says, our lives will become better, and we will be able to bless and heal others. We discussed how to help others in their pod. One man brought this up because his roommate was struggling with being in jail. We discussed how he could help his roommate and others. One of the new comers asked a handful of really good questions. One of his questions was about how one deals with past actions when they are trying to move forward and become Christian. The men were very interested in this question. We discussed how we must admit to our past actions, do everything thing we can do to atone for our actions (which might include some jail time) and then choose God each day, each hour, each moment... especially in the hardest moments when we are tempted to go back. All the men really related to this dialogue. Since the men came late, we were not able to meet as long . . . but the conversation was positive and deep. They were not wanting to leave. A few of the men reported they had been really working hard to keep themselves on the right path. Though they report 'falling off the wagon,' they are continuing to work hard to get back on. That is why they really liked the conversation about how to move forward from their past failings."

## How to Heal

"[We talked about how] Jesus taught us how to heal in the Sermon on the Mount. I shared a few of my own . . . healings [and] also discussed with him the other blessings that came with the prayer for the physical healings. He shared two times where he put his hand on a brother (friend) and healed them. He thought it was him putting his hand on his friends is what healed them. I then discussed with him that it had more to do with the prayer that he focused on then the touching; the relationship between himself, his friend(s) and God, is what healed. He found that quite deep."

## Dislocated Shoulder Healed

"Both men shared that they heard the call this morning for Christian Science and were prompted to get up even though they had originally resisted the idea of getting going this morning. Each of them were actively engaged in the discussion. Each shared healings they have had as a testament to their faith in the power of turning to God in prayer. One shared how he had fallen and dislocated his shoulder and how he promptly prayed to God and determined to hold his thought to God. He was able to continue participating in the activity. He said whenever his thought drifted from God the condition became painful. When he was aware of God, he was free. By the end of the day he was completely free. We covered several topics such as: man's spiritual individuality is the reflection of God; the importance of the model before thought; the demand to live our love for God and each other; and, how to grow spiritually."

## Cleansing Thought

"How can you work through feelings of guilt? We talked about some of the passages from last week's lesson -when David was confronted with his sins and repented and Psalm 51. They loved the idea of being cleansed and restored. We went through the Lord's Prayer line by line and they were truly touched by how the prayer meets every need. One gentleman saw so clearly why we must forgive others when we want to be forgiven. He saw how we did not want to harbor any hatred or resentment in our hearts. We want God to have full access to our hearts. I asked them to read page 19 in *Science and Health* about repentance and reform and the one gentleman who had been so troubled about guilt began to smile and said this passage about at-onement with God and reforming the heart was his answer. He was so happy! "

## A "Perfect Answer"

"He spoke of being utterly discouraged . . . about his case. We spoke of the divine order of God gov-

erning the universe (including every aspect of our existence) of God's law, Truth in total supreme authority and operation always. We talked about the fact that we had a choice to either bow down to the accusations of the Pharisees and Sadducees which is caught up in the letter and the literal meaning of law . . . OR we can follow the Way, the Christ, the Truth and bow down to no other God but Truth which is pure, perfect and destroys all suggestions of discord and dishonesty. We [also] spoke of the power of Truth and It's ability to speak for Itself as the only evidence ever supporting our life. We read Mrs. Eddy's article "The Way" and from *Science and Health*, p. 571: 'Know thyself and God will supply the wisdom and the occasion for a victory over evil.' [We] found examples in the Master's healings to show the activity of the Truth ever at work. We spoke of probation, and understood it to be a moment by moment "surrender to God," to Truth as opposed to a far off test and event. We spoke of squaring 'our account with God hourly. . . .' I reassured him that his life is not measured by calendar years. God doesn't punish His creation. God knows only perfection and goodness and sees man as His perfect reflection which is without blemish, without sin, sickness or death. To God there is nothing for man to prove. God is all in all. . . . He exclaimed several times how amazing it was that for every question he had there was a perfect answer in the Bible or *Science and Health*. He was especially grateful to learn about probation and the fact that God doesn't test us, because He already knows us as pure, perfect, upright and free as His image and likeness. He shared how much Christian Science had transformed his life and how it was his saving grace."

## Supporting Each Other

"The first man who came in looked so excited to be there. He greeted me with a warm smile and handshake. He said he had been in the hole for a while and was happy to be out and so glad to be able to attend. He said he had been really contemplating what was going to happen once he got out of jail. He was worried that no one was going to give him a job. We started discussing how God was going to provide everything for him, even if he had to do a little bit of proving himself. While we were talking, the second man came in and then they began discussing what happened to the first man. What was really neat to witness was that both men wanted to support each other, especially since other men on the unit were not supportive of their desire to grow spiritually."

## Demonstrating Patience

"One of the gentleman asked how to meditate when so much noise is going on. We turned to pages 14-15 of *Science and Health* and read what Mrs. Eddy says about entering the closet and closing the door.

The analogy made sense to them and the thought of the door kept coming up as we discussed the fruit of the Spirit: door shut on fruit of flesh and door open to fruit of Spirit. A question was asked about Palm Sunday and so we read that part of the lesson and then talked through the events of Easter week.

Once again, the discussion came back to how Jesus showed us through his example how to shut the door on hate and open it to Love, shut the door on matter and open it to Spirit, shut the door on death and open the door to Life. Both shared how they were demonstrating patience when there is so much that tries to get them to react: no communication from their attorneys; cutting in the breakfast line; taking others' time on racquetball court; fighting over the remote; and, other people jeopardizing privileges that they have gotten through good behavior. They talked about praying to be consistent in following Jesus."

### **Gratitude for Services**

"All came with receptive hearts, ready to listen, and had good questions after the service. One fellow, a regular, had just moved up from the 6th floor and reported that he was now starting work in the kitchen. . . . [He] was elated to share all the blessing and progress he had experienced since attending our services. He said he had prayed about his desire to work in the kitchen and then that opportunity opened up to him. He reported that Saturday night he had awakened in the middle of the night cherishing a Bible verse and wondering if he could be healed from an ailment and that he got up and decided to read some of the Sentinels that were shared with him. He said he read from cover to cover and loved everything he read. He felt inspired from reading of someone's healing of a broken arm and reached out to God to speak to him. . . . He happily related that others are seeing the change in him and that he's sharing the "good news" and they are asking him to pray for them. [After the service], we talked about the importance of religion being relevant to our lives and bringing healing, lifting thought, as we work moment to moment to welcome in the Christ thought. I read the definition of Church to them from the Glossary, which they all related to.

They also commented on the reading of Motives & Acts from the *Church Manual* and the duty to watch that thought is humbly in line with good. The kitchen fellow was thrilled to have his own copy of the *Science and Health* and start reading. He made a few notations of some of the passages I had referred to. The other guys also added their praise for the service and how they feel they are gaining an entirely new perspective that is so enlightening to them. It sounded as if each of the guys would come back for conference as the guards had to interrupt our discussion to send them back to their pods."

## **Christian Science Lectures**

### ***Christian Science Lecture by Jon Benson, C.S., at the Medium Security Prison at Hall St., sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientist, Town and Country***

"The Christian Science Joint Institutional Committee was blessed and grateful to have had an experienced chaplain in lecturer Jon Benson, CS, for the men at MSI/Hall Street on Monday, April 14. His topic, "Step out of your Story and into Healing" could not have been more relevant and well-received. [After setting up, we] asked to call both floors. . . . Eight men from the second floor arrived, and Mr. Benson started his talk. [A request for a second announcement was made], and the floor captain was called for approval; twenty minutes later he came and agreed to calling all floors. Twenty six more men poured in!

"Mr. Benson did a great job of including them and bringing the newcomers along. Maybe because it was 'mixed floors,' an officer came in and stayed for the whole lecture. We were in the chapel until 5:20! We are so grateful for the corrections staff at Hall Street for their cooperation! The men were attentive and responsive, occasionally asking thoughtful clarifying questions ("If God is infinite good, where does sin/evil come from?" Mr. Benson answered beautifully, even addressing the follow-up remark by one of the men, "God gave man free will and that's where evil comes from"). A few of the men had an initial tough exterior—by the end of Mr. Benson's dynamic and inspiring talk, all resistance had melted. His clear love for the men and for his message was felt by all; his lecture was structured with such loving logic, by the end, everyone went away refreshed, hopeful, inspired and enlightened. Mr. Benson posed questions throughout his lecture that the guys enthusiastically answered as they became more and more engaged.

Afterwards, one man asked for prayers for a shortened prison sentence; he was reminded to not invite God into his story, but to step out of his story and acknowledge instead his love for God and God's love for him. [One volunteer] pointed out to him in the statement in the *Science and Health* that he was taking with him: "What we most need is the prayer of fervent desire for growth in grace, expressed in patience, meekness, love, and good deeds" (p. 4). He appreciated these ideas, and we agreed to pray with him."

**Christian Science Lecture by Mary Alice Rose, C.S.B., at the Clayton Justice Center sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientist, St. Louis**

"The six men . . . who attended the lecture were all drawn in by the inspired ideas Mary Alice presented. Two of the men often attend the regular services and conferences. The other men were new to Christian Science but were nonetheless very engaged with the ideas shared.

One of the men appeared to be fairly despondent when he arrived. Holding his head in his hands when the talk began; however, when Mary Alice read a quote from the Bible that talked about healing the brokenhearted, at once, he sat up tall and gave his full attention to the message shared.

One of the first men who had come into the room for the lecture mentioned he had expected to spend the morning in his bunk because they had announced the facility was on lockdown. But a few minutes later, they announced the lecture and allowed the men to attend. We also were able to stay with the men for a full hour and a half. This was most unusual. But the men were very engaged the entire time.

After Mary Alice had completed her lecture, there were many good questions. The men also shared their own heartfelt experiences that coincided with the thoughts shared in the lecture. One of the men mentioned he was glad to learn about an alternative to medicine, because he didn't feel taking medicine all the time was a good idea. . . . [One volunteer pointed out] the paragraph (xi:9-15) where Mrs. Eddy refers to 'these mighty works' (of physical healing in Christian Science) as 'supremely natural.' He really liked hearing those words. . . . The group was a small holy group of men seeking and hearing the message. As is often the case, the men did their best to encourage one another with positive ideas they had tested out in their own lives."

Mary Alice Rose commented afterwards in an email to the lecture committee: "I feel good about the CJC lecture in every respect, and it is wonderful to be able to say that. Beforehand, I prayed on bended knee to be a complete transparency for Christ, to let them feel the Motherhood of God. I felt an honest connection with each of the six men there. . . . These men were hungry for answers. They wanted hope and a new way of seeing themselves and approaching life. And they were willing to seriously consider all the ideas we talked about. What a blessing it was to me to see this. . . . It was a holy experience. I felt as if lives were changed that day. I'm so grateful."



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

**Please go to [www.ChristianScienceMissouri.com](http://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](mailto: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)***



**St. Louis Area CSJIC Branch Church Reps**

<b>Brentwood</b>	Ben Snyder
<b>Clarkson Valley</b>	Melody King
<b>Creve Coeur</b>	Rob Nagel
<b>First Church, St. Louis</b>	Bonnie Wade
<b>Kirkwood</b>	Lauri Thompson
<b>Lafayette Square</b>	Andrew Frager
<b>St. Charles</b>	Jan Tussey
<b>Town &amp; Country</b>	Pamela Moulton
<b>Valley Park</b>	Joanne Otto