



*“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:

Sincere Seeking

“A newcomer asked. . . .about forgiveness. He spoke of his love for God, and his desire to be forgiven and to forgive those who had betrayed and hurt him. There was great humility and honesty in his sharing, and we spoke at length of the various ways our Master, Christ Jesus, taught forgiveness. We read various passages in the Bible and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. We saw correlations between forgiveness and salvation and the importance of seeing his true identity as uninterrupted and unblemished by human history. We spoke of the past as not what defines him; instead the way he will rise from it will reveal his true identity. We spoke of salvation as the restoration of our true selfhood as God's precious children. . . . He also mentioned having struggled with a long-standing illness, and I shared with him the divine possibility for complete healing. We read a few of the testimonies in the chapter entitled "Fruitage," pointed to more recent ones in copies of the *Sentinel*, and [discussed] their correlation to Christ Jesus' healings in the Bible. . . . He was elated at hearing this news. He left with a Bible, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, and five copies of the *Sentinel*.”

Let There Be Light

“As six men came in, I mentioned that I know they appreciate being near the window - that we all sought the light to feel the lift-- and that was what we were going to be doing today in our session as we let the spiritual light come in and brighten our consciousness and experience. They all agreed and really related to this. The Responsive Reading was right in line with this: "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of the darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God" (II Cor 4:6). I also read them the opening line in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*: "To those leaning on the sustaining Infinite, to-day is big with blessings." We talked about the word 'sustaining', and they all agreed that the things that would tempt us as being wonderful -- money, sex, drugs-- aren't sustainable, but instead trick us with a temporary lure. Those things don't bring the desired true lasting satisfaction. The men recognized it could only come through reliance on God, good. One fellow shared how he came to realize what a false sense of satisfaction it was when he'd hang out in the bars, and friends were attracted only when he had money to spare. Much gratitude was expressed as they noted how differently they see things with a spiritual perspective and how it is blessing their lives.”

Protective Prayer

“One of the men had come another time that I served but had left before the conference started. This time he was there to interact, however, he clearly wanted to argue his points about what he has learned about God while in prison After he left one of the men who stayed explained that the fellow who had left has come to conferences before, and he has been very talkative and rough with those who have been there. He went on to explain he was praying to know that the fellow would not be mean to me. This man continued by telling me he was impressed that I was able to defuse the situation for the moment and not let the other fellow take over the whole conference time. . . . I loved that this man was defending me in his thought.”

"I Will Make Man More Precious than Fine Gold" (Isaiah 13:12)

“Two of the men spoke of their children and one exclaimed that he had been grieving since Sunday as he had just found out his eight-year-old daughter had passed away He was on the verge of tears. We took a quiet prayerful moment and then let him know how sorry we were. We all shared inspiration with him. We also read together the ninety-first Psalm, and they loved it. The man was greatly comforted. I asked them if they thought God was challenging us and testing us, and they all said yes. This opened a great discussion about the nature of God and His love for us. We spoke of salvation, restoration, healing, and sin. The men were all on the edge of their seats asking questions and sharing their thoughts on God. We spoke of the seeds of greatness in them and their divine inheritance as children of the Most High. It was extremely healing to the men to hear this new understanding of God. The regular attendee was eager to share the names of the seven synonyms for God with the others. . . . I let the men know several times that they were valuable, precious and irreplaceable, and we read many of the scriptural texts supporting that.”

Effective Prayer

“We had twelve very respectful and attentive gentlemen, who were very engaged and asked many questions after the service. Finally they

couldn't wait to sign up for conferences They seemed to like the way a Lesson-Sermon on "Everlasting Punishment" would be so full of mercy, Truth, and Love. I think this encouraged them to feel the possibility of redemption and healing of physical ills, as well. After the service, we split up to handle all the questions, and we were able to share [our own] healings in answer to the queries and encourage them to take available resources back with them. . . . We left feeling elated at the positive, even joyous feeling of the whole service and agreed that praying each day before the service about its effectiveness really helped support it.”

“The Babe of Christian Healing”

“Two men came in together--one who'd attended before and one a newcomer. For the benefit of the newcomer, I told about Mary Baker Eddy's discovery of Christian Science after her "falling apple" healing and explained its foundational teachings in terms of Genesis 1. The newcomer, who had been very attentive at first, later appeared to be falling asleep. He explained that he'd been given a pain-killing drug for an abscessed tooth and would like to know how to address this condition through prayer in Christian Science. We began with the definition of God on page 587 and then worked with pages 475-476 to learn more of his true being as man. We also inserted his name into many of the statements about man. During some of this time, he had difficulty remaining alert, but observed that even when he couldn't follow what was being said, he felt surrounded by God's love. By the end of the conference, he was participating actively. He told us that he'd been up at 4:00 a.m. studying his Bible and taking notes. He said he was so grateful to have *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, too, because he knew it would enhance his study of the Bible. He said he plans to study it, beginning with the chapter called "Fruitage." He referred to the other man as his spiritual "big brother," and I assured them that they could do a lot to support one another's spiritual progress. They were both so sincerely receptive to Truth that to me it was a privilege to spend time with them. It just occurs to me that I've been giving much thought lately to why and how we are to cherish the babe of Christian healing (*Miscellaneous Writings* p. 370), I don't think it's a coincidence that this opportunity came today.”

The Perfect Man

“Both of the gentlemen who attended the conference have been regularly coming to services and conferences. Both talked about how grateful they were just to know about Christian Science and how it has made prayer and reading the Bible understandable. (Neither had even heard of Christian Science before their time in prison). Both also returned several times throughout the conference to the "theme" of how learning about Christian Science has felt so natural to them. One explained how ashamed he was of the crimes he had committed, but realized in looking back that he had never felt "at home" in the world of addiction and crime and that everything he had done during that period of his life had always felt "forced"--not natural. So we spent a good deal of the conference in looking at how the qualities of the "perfect man" (Psalms 37:37) are both natural and protected. They valued the qualities that the Hebrew word for perfect brings out (e.g. wholesome, sound, gentle, dear, plain, undefiled, complete). And as we compared the two creation accounts in Genesis 1 and 2--noticing how the first is effortless, expansive, and God-centered and the second is contrived, confined, and man-centered--they talked about how in looking back they could see that it was the times when they thought they were "in charge" that most often caused them to hit "a wall" of some sort. And then one said that those were the times when he first began to turn to prayer, gratefully adding, "I know about praying without ceasing now--that's what I do." Both also were grateful to read the account of the healing of the woman in the crowd. They observed that if Jesus had not insisted that the woman step out of hiding, her healing would not have been complete--or as one of them said, she needed to acknowledge "that the kingdom of heaven was within her"--because the healing was not about fixing something but about the fact that she already had the faith, as Jesus pointed out, that God had made her whole and perfect.”

Silent Prayer

“Everyone was quiet and attentive during the service. They did not join in much on the first hymn but by the last hymn most were singing out. One of the men left at about ten minutes before the hour, politely explaining that he had a visitor coming. After the service one of the regular attendees indicated that the one who had left early had attacked him in the prison, adding that he had wondered how he was going to pray for everyone in the congregation when we asked them to do so during the silent prayer. Then he said that during the prayer he found himself able to forgive the man. Since he has a copy of *Miscellaneous Writings*, we encouraged him to read the article "Love Your Enemies." He went on to talk about how Christian Science has helped him feel free of any desire to return to a life of addiction.”

Sharing Healings

“They are all beginning to come more regularly because they feel a greater sense of peace after our services. . . . One . . . fellow immediately after the service pulled his chair closer to the table and asked several great questions and was eager to share of his new found love of the Bible. Two others listened carefully and contributed to the conversation with nods of interest and agreement. He first asked if we could share a testimony of healing-- mentioning he appreciated hearing one the previous week. It was a great time to highlight our *Sentinels* and Wednesday testimony meetings. I shared a healing of having closed my hand in the sliding van door and being immediately free of any pain as my little three year old son assured me that "God loves you, mommy." I had felt the sweet loving-care of God and claimed my identity as His spiritual idea. I reported that within the next day there was full use of the hand, with no side effects. . . . They loved that Christian Science heals and blesses one's whole self. “

"Nor the Smell of Fire had Passed on Them" (Daniel 3:27)

"These men were so attentive and asked good questions along the way. One was a newcomer. They all signed up for conferencing. They each expressed sincere appreciation for the service. My Scriptural Selection was the story of the three Hebrew boys who were put in the fiery furnace and came out without the smell of smoke on them. One of them said that he felt it was like going through hell and coming back. It was pointed out that no matter where they found themselves that the Christ is always with them. I felt they were like these three Hebrew boys and told them so. After the service one of these men shared that he had been in jail for eighty-four days and had finally broken the heroin habit. It was his birthday and he was very grateful to see God working in his life. He is eager to get out and live a clean life. He feels he can do it with God's help."

"Let Thine Eyes Behold the Things that Are Equal" (Psalms 17:2)

"I started the session by giving a brief history of Christian Science and Mary Baker Eddy. Both new men had some deep questions to ask. I ended my description with letting them know that the foundation of Christian Science is Love. . . . We discussed the definition of man, the first and second chapters of Genesis, what it means to be Christian, the crucifixion and how we see it as Jesus proving eternal life, sin as missing the mark, and how we can then get back on track, and so much more. What was really neat was to watch a man realize the equality of men and women, male and female. Between reading the definition of man and reading it with the first chapter of Genesis, one of the men saw how men and women are equal and valuable to God. He kept thanking me for helping him understand that. . . . Towards the end, the man who regularly attends the conferences shared about how much he valued our services. He said he loves our readers and how happy they are. It was funny, he said, that our happiness is different-- [so] genuine and loving . . . much deeper than most. . . . He said that what stood out to him the most was the fact that no matter what was pre-

sented to Christian Scientists, they never got mad and they never judged. . . . Also one of the men who was new thanked me because he really valued the fact that . . . Christian Science was practical. . . . He asked if he could take a *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and did so."

Receiving Christ

"One gentleman shared that while he was in jail, he thought of all the people who had wronged him, and he had made a "hit list." He said as he began to study the Bible and learn more about God that he shredded his hit list and flushed it down the toilet. We talked about how releasing hatred gives us more room to receive the Christ. This led us right into looking at the Christmas story in Matthew and Luke and identifying the qualities of thought that allowed Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, and Wise Men to be ready to receive God's gift. It was so powerful to hear them talk about these qualities and then think through how to live them in their own lives. We also focused on how angel messages come to us."



"Pilgrim on earth, home and heaven are within thee,
Heir of the ages and child of the day.
Cared for, watched over, beloved and protected,
Walk thou with courage each step of the way.

Truthful and steadfast though trials betide thee,
Ever one thing do thou ask of thy Lord,
Grace to go forward, wherever He guide thee,
Gladly obeying the call of His word.

Healed is thy hardness, His love hath dissolved it,
Full is the promise, the blessing how kind;
So shall His tenderness teach thee compassion,
So all the merciful, mercy shall find."

Christian Science Hymnal, hymn 278

(WALLOG H. Walford Davies)



**Christian Science Lecture
“Not Guilty” by Julie Ward, CSB
Hall Street Medium Security Institution
Sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scien-
tist, Town & Country**

“Imagine hearing for the first time in your life that God is good and He loves you. Imagine hearing it while you are serving time, and after you've been on lockdown for twenty-two hours.

That's what happened to ten women . . . yesterday when Julie Ward, assured them in her lecture "You're Not Guilty" . . . that they are not guilty of disappointing God, not guilty of creating their own problems, and not guilty of being spiritually ignorant.

One woman, upon entering, was very angry and let everyone know it. "I did not sign up for this!" she yelled repeatedly. . . [Yet] as soon as Julie asked for questions at the end of her . . . lecture, the woman was the first to speak. In tears, she admitted she was full of anger, and she didn't want [to be angry] any more. She apologized for her outburst and expressed her sincere gratitude for our coming. By the time she walked out, she was grasping *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* to her heart and saying over and over with tender affection, "I love this book, I love this book."

The women asked to pray together, so after Julie went over the Daily Prayer with them, we distributed copies of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, . . . and Julie pointed them to the Lord's Prayer, which we all said out loud while Julie read the spiritual interpretation. They *loved* it. Everyone took [their copy] with them, and one woman took three for her friends back in her pod. She told the other volunteer that one was for a seventeen-year-old girl, who'd just been arrested for murder. Her friend was thrilled to be able to give the girl *Science and Health*. . . All the questions were about praying and if we can please come pray with them again."

**Christian Science Lecture by Josh Niles, CS
Hall Street Medium Security Institution
Sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scien-
tist, St. Louis**

“Twelve men attended Josh Niles' lecture "A Life Transforming Love: Never Too Late." They were very engaged, asked good questions and appreciated Josh's answers. Josh shared an experience about [being] healed of the effects of combat and the need to carry a gun after [serving] in Iraq. This really connected with the men. After the lecture we had nearly an hour to continue to talk with the men one on one. I enjoyed showing the men the Lord's Prayer and its spiritual interpretation in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. Two of the men got so absorbed reading and thinking about this, they nearly forgot I was there, . . . Josh had some wonderful exchanges during the extra time we were allowed, and talked with several men. Twenty-nine copies of the *Sentinel* were taken and all the gentlemen took copies of the textbook except for those men who already had one.”



“The Christian Scientist has enlisted to lessen evil, disease, and death; and he will overcome them by understanding their nothingness and the allness of God, or good. Sickness to him is no less a temptation than is sin, and he heals them both by understanding God's power over them. The Christian Scientist knows that they are errors of belief, which Truth can and will destroy.”

Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures
450:19





Our Work: We currently serve two men’s jails (MSI - Medium Security at Hall St. and CJC - Clayton Justice Center), weekly, providing 3 church services, along with two conference periods (like Sunday School). Many of the men attend regularly and are earnestly studying and seeking. Between the two institutions we serve approximately 1,400 attendees a year, with 8 volunteers needed weekly. Both the attendee number and the volunteers needed will increase in the next months as we start to minister to the women in those two facilities.

How can I help?

Branch Churches:

- *Please consider appointing a CSJIC Rep from your membership 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 MBL study guide.
- *Consider hosting a Christian Science lecture.
- *Donate new *Science and Healths*, or *Quarterlies*
- *Collect newer used periodicals for distribution-preferably less than 1 month old.

Individual members:

- *Purchase *Science & Healths* donate to our committee
- *Prayerfully support our work, and check out our website: ChristianScienceMissouri.com
- *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 (both Youth and Women))



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.

***“And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, 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

Brentwood	Andy Mehring
Clarkson Valley	Melody King
Creve Coeur	Rob Nagel
First Church, St. Louis	Bonnie Wade
Kirkwood	Fabienne Warrick
Lafayette Square	Andrew Frager
St. Charles	Jan Tussey
Town & Country	Pamela Moulton
Valley Park	Lynn Tarnow