



Apr, 2015 (Jan, Feb, Mar 2015)

***"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:

Firm Foundations

"The main theme of the conversation was how to live what we were reading in the Bible and *Science and Health*. The men had great questions and great ideas that they shared. No matter where the conversation went, it always came back to living what we believe. I also discussed the importance of building one's individual spiritual foundation. One of the men really liked that idea and said he felt like he was doing that, working on building a strong spiritual foundation so that he could go out and help others."

Justice and Peace

"A newer fellow seemed eager to take a copy of the Christian Science textbook and start reading. All throughout the service he was thoughtfully nodding in agreement as he listened to the citations. It was a joy to watch some 'aha moments' as he considered ideas in brand new ways. After the service I asked him if he had grown up having a strong church influence. He said, yes, in Ferguson--which opened a door to a dialog about ways to find healing. He said he had been out on the streets the night of the rioting and that what unfolded was very disturbing. He appreciated discussing the importance of impersonalizing any error that needs healing. As we spoke about things that needed correction/lifting on both sides, he especially liked hearing that we can choose not to give evil/hate reality or be tempted to buy into

anger or violence. He was grateful to understand how we can pray for the authority of justice and peace, and that people or institutions can't interfere with God's infinite government. We talked about the phrase 'Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man' (*Science and Health*, p. 467)."

"Like as a Mother, God Comforteth His Children"

(Christian Science Hymnal 147)

"This man was hearing about Christian Science for the first time. He said he came because he is in need of getting closer to God. He has been most recently in the Pentecostal faith. He poured out his heart telling me of all the problems with his family including a young baby and his wife leaving him while he has been in prison. . . . He talked about his great anger and sadness about all of this, but vowed to do better as a man because of his daughter. We talked about God as his Father and Mother. He had a hard time thinking of God as Mother until we spoke of the qualities of Love expressed as a mother. I spoke of God as his friend. He said he really doesn't feel like he knows what it is to have a real friend. He listened and showed great interest in the healings I shared with him about God's protection and care. . . . He chose to take a copy of *Science and Health* and a printout of the Bible lesson when he left."

Overcoming Reaction and Anger

"We discussed the parable of the tares and wheat for a long time. One gentleman was so inspired to see how we are wheat not tares-and-wheat, and the wheat never turns into a tare. They both came up with qualities of thought that are the wheat and that need to be recognized. They also identified tares of anger, frustration and sickness that would try to 'poison' their pure sense of God's man. We looked at page 300 in *Science and Health* for how to separate the tares and wheat. One gentleman said that he was upset over something happening in the pod and had stopped to be quiet and not react. He was really trying to listen to God. At that moment the call for the Christian Science conference came, and he said that he was lifted right out of the situation and out of the anger. He was so grateful to be at the conference."

Peace, Calm, and Reverence

"One man spoke of learning to control his anger when cell mates criticized him for his interest in Christian Science. . . . There were two newcomers to our services. One was very eager to hear the message he told me as the next day he said he was heading to the penitentiary. He . . . took a copy of *Science and Health*. Another man who is reading *Science and Health* brought it with him, and when I noticed a bookmark in his copy he told me that it marks a page he refers to that includes a verse from Psalms that helps him.

At the beginning there was a little whisper of talking, and I gently reminded them that we were starting the service, and it was time to listen to how God was going to bless them today. The one man asked: 'how can you speak with such humility and not raise your voice with us?' I said because I am expressing grace and respect for you just as I expect you to treat me. They were all very attentive after that brief remark and sang out with joy. The solo was 'Feed My Sheep,' and . . . [we] mentioned a few ideas about sheep before we got started, reminding them that God is like a shepherd to us. There was a sense of peace, calm and reverence during the service, and at the end they expressed gratitude to us for coming."

First Conference for Women at MSI- Hall St. Medium Security Institution

"All were really receptive and appreciative of having someone take the time to reach out to them. It was like having an interchange in an established friendship. . . . No one had heard of Christian Science, but they had seen 'the book' in their pod. We talked about some underlying truths in the Bible and how we could turn to God for a solution to every answer. We discussed God's tender, constant, loving care for them--no matter where they are. After asking them about their familiarity with the twenty-third Psalm, I started reciting it; they joined in with conviction. We read through the Lord's Prayer and the spiritual interpretation (*Science and Health*, pp. 16-17); they particularly liked: 'give us grace for today, feed the famished affections.' We looked at the story in II Kings of Elisha and the women with her pots of oil. We talked about the prophet's question 'what hast thou in the house?' and considered how we could answer that through a spiritual lens and that this spiritual lens provided tangible healing answers. A number of them asked several earnest questions. Each chimed in with additional comments and nods of agreement. At the end when the correction officer came in to tell us our session was over she very abruptly spoke to one of the women and unkindly asked her why she was sitting so close to another inmate. The inmate and I both gently answered that she had moved closer to share the Bible reading. We had just been talking about the importance of looking for the Christ consciousness in ourselves and others. After the officer left, I pointed out that here this moment was an opportunity to see what was real and put into practice what they were learning. It was important for them to see that officer as God does--that we didn't need to bear false witness to a lie about His child. They all seemed very happy and willing to do this. I mentioned Mary Baker Eddy's statement: 'Never breathe an immoral atmosphere, unless in the attempt to purify it' (*Science and Health*, p. 452). They went off ready to do that."

All-Powerful Love

"While waiting to be allowed to leave, one fellow spoke to me about feeling that he had not been treated justly at his hearing. He had liked what he'd heard during our service about Love being all powerful and able to protect and guide no matter the obstacles. It was an inspiring service."

"This Is the Way, Walk Ye in It" (Isaiah 30:21)

"All three gentlemen who attended today have been to services/conferences in the past--two regularly and the third occasionally. One asked if he could read aloud from Psalms at the beginning--explaining that he was feeling unsettled by an earlier incident where several men had unexpectedly become aggressive over whether they had to take the tray he handed them (his assigned job) in the dining room. The Psalm he chose was about how God defends us from aggression, and after that we turned to the account of Legion to consider how Jesus healed a case of aggression. They loved the way that Jesus, with such simplicity and firmness, helped the man separate himself from the so-called demons of hatred etc. We also looked at what Mary Baker Eddy says in 'The Way' about self-knowledge, humility, and love as the essential stages for the growth of mortal mind out of itself and the way that Christ Jesus brought those three qualities out in the man. The remainder of the time was more generally about why Christian Science focuses on Mind as one of the key synonyms for God. They loved the passage from Isaiah: 'And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left'--especially its promise that we can know God's guidance each step of the way. All three were eager to give recent examples of hearing God's very specific direction. One spoke of being protected from reacting to a man who was provoking him; another (the one who has not attended conferences as often) indicated that he had felt inspired by God to come to this meeting today and was grateful that he had listened."

1st Women's Conference - Clayton Justice Center

"The entire group [of women] came ready to participate, listen, observe and learn something. It was a very active, multi-level discussion. I spent some time explaining Christian Science because most came in without having heard of it, and there were many misperceptions to address. . . . They had limited knowledge of Bible stories but a great yearning to understand their relationship to God and to accept the fact that we are children of God, complete and perfect. As an analogy to understand the effect of spiritual understanding we talked about the power of light and that darkness has no source."

Conformity with Christ

"At the end, one inmate came over before he left and directly asked me: 'Y'all DO believe a person can change for the good, right? That's what I got from what you read.' I assured him that God knows him as good NOW and that he can certainly bring his behavior into conformity with the Law of Christ immediately. He didn't have to have any memory of his former lawlessness - it couldn't have a hold over him or even be remembered if he has seen through its having any connection with his honest, good and real identity. He seemed relieved and said that's what he thought we believed."

Inspiration and Resurrection

"One gentleman wanted to know how to live the first commandment. We went through some of the events of the passion in which Jesus showed us how to demonstrate Love triumphing over hate and Life triumphing over death. We prayed the Lord's prayer together and then talked about how Jesus lived this prayer. . . . We looked at how often Jesus prayed and the very sweet sense in that week's Lesson-Sermon of God's presence in speaking to Jesus about glorifying God's name and providing angels to strengthen him. They really picked up on the need to not fall asleep and to pray, not to be led into temptation. [One] gentleman . . . said this was his first Christian Science conference. He had been reading *Science and Health* for four days and was amazed at how it was changing his life. He reported all the good that was happening to him, including opportunities opening up that he was not previously eligible for. He is on page 200 and said he was most impressed with that statement on page 199: 'The devotion of thought to an honest achievement makes the achievement possible. Exceptions only confirm this rule, proving that failure is occasioned by a too feeble faith.' He said he had come to conference to learn how to have more faith. Another gentleman was working through an appeal, and as we read pages 43-44 in *Science and Health* about 'the divine must overcome the human,' 'Love must triumph over hate,' and Life over death, he said he had to have a copy of *Science and Health*. He was especially touched by Mrs. Eddy's description that divine Love overrules betrayal and that we are under spiritual not material law. It was a very inspiring, resurrecting time together."



Christian Science Joint Institutional Committee of Missouri - Institutions Served

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

Men: Church service weekly Mondays 3:30 & **Women:** Conference 2nd Thursday each month

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

Men: Church service 6th floor: 1st, 2nd, 4th Sun & 3rd Sat 1-2:45 & Conference Thursdays 9-10:45

Church service 7th floor: 1st & 3rd Sundays 1-2:45 & Conference Tuesdays 9-10:45

Women: Conference Tuesdays 7-8:30 pm

We work with approximately 1,500 attendees a year, with 10 volunteers needed weekly.

How can I help?

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 MBL study guide.
- *Consider hosting a Christian Science lecture in a jail
- *Donate new *Science and Healths*, or *Quarterlies*
- *Collect newer used periodicals for distribution - preferably less than 1 month old.

Individual members:

- *Purchase *Science & Healths* 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. We just began working with the women in both facilities and hope to open doors with the youth!)



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

Please go to www.ChristianScienceMissouri.com or contact your local Rep for more information

St. Louis Area CSJIC Branch Church Reps

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