



Jan 2016 (Oct, Nov, Dec 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 Institutional Committee Weekly Fruitage Reports:***

#### **Practical Instruction from a Parable**

We talked about understanding Christ Jesus' parable of the tares and wheat as a clear instruction for tending thought. All agreed that identifying and rejecting disruptive suggestions (any thought that draws us away from God) requires constant work. But they also agreed that we all have the ability to do this. We talked about the scientific basis for rejecting the false belief that we have ever been placed in matter. We have divine authority for objecting to every claim that we have been put into circumstances either against our will or through the actions of others. As the very expressions of divine Love, we are the wheat of God's sowing. All three men took a copy of the *MyBibleLesson* vowing to ponder more deeply the practical instruction in the tares/wheat parable, and one also took a copy of our textbook *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy.

#### **Turning to the Bible as Pastor**

One woman came in with her Bible and reported that she loves just letting her Bible open at random and then finding verses that often speak exactly to what she needs to hear. She also commented that she loves the book of Job. Even though it could seem discouraging to some, she finds such comfort in watching Job look through the difficulties and stay strong. We talked about the importance of being still so that we can listen for God, infinite good to direct us.

#### **Big with Blessings**

At some point, I had shared one of my challenges with one of our children and one of the men looked at me with a big smile on his face and said "no, that's not possible; your child can't be like that. The kingdom of God is in that child, and there is nothing you can do about that." He shared how he had learned many years ago with his own children that he had to stop trying to fix them or guide them or instill anything in them. He said he learned from his mother that the most important thing was to be honest and live what you say--always. He said that he could not remember one time when his mother had ever lied or acted differently from the way she spoke. He said: "You can only do God's will and obey God. No matter what a child is doing, if you obey God, the child will eventually follow. You can't change your child, because God is their King. He's the boss." The other one added that if God is King, then God is in charge, not you, and if the children don't obey, He will correct them." The men saw the impact their words had on me, and they were so touched. I thanked them both. The man who had spoken was so happy he had made a difference. It was a holy moment. The Christ surely was in operation in each of the lessons that they voiced. Their words were so simple, so clear, and so heartfelt.

## **Immanuel or "God with Us"**

What a joy to spend this time with eight sincere, spiritually hungry women! Three had attended a previous conference, and the others were new to Christian Science. We got clear right away that this was not Scientology, and I gave a little background on Mary Baker Eddy and her discovery, healing work, writing, and leadership in founding the Christian Science church. As the focus, we turned to Genesis 1 to understand how God sees his creation. A lot came pouring forth: One told of her struggle with addiction and how grateful she was to be where she could step back and get in line with God. She also spoke of her desire to love and forgive her mother for the influences that led to her bad start in life and her yearning to be a good mother to her own daughters. Another shared the realization that she needed to apologize to her step-father, who had only been playing the role of "bad cop" to protect her mom from some of her own immature behavior. I told them I considered it a privilege to hear of the beautiful healing work already going on in their thought. I stressed the importance of focusing on God and shared the definition of God from the glossary in *Science and Health* and talked about how to bring it into their prayers and Bible study. I also pointed out the importance of recognizing God as the one true parent and not accepting negative traits in human parents as part of their own or their children's heritage. Some of them were called out and while there were only a few in the room, a young woman who had come to a previous conference told of an experience she had had a couple of days ago. She wakened quite early and tried praying but had difficulty focusing. Then she began to read the chapter entitled "Prayer" in *Science and Health*. It was so different from the way she'd always thought of prayer--herself down here asking a God up there for what she needed. Suddenly, she said, it was as though God were right there beside her, and she was one with Him. It was truly a holy experience, and hearing her tell about it was thrilling. The women expressed such gratitude for my being with them tonight. Three of them wanted to give me a hug. "My cup runneth over!"

## **"I Know No Life Divided O Lord of Life from Thee"**

During the service, the men were very attentive and enjoyed going through the Bible Lesson on "Probation After Death." We noticed as we were repeating the Lord's Prayer that no one was speeding

through it as some do. The men really enjoyed singing the hymns, too, with the guitar accompaniment and the lower voice of our Second Reader leading them. They enjoyed the rhythm of the 447 tune as they were singing the words from the Hymnal. But one man particularly enjoyed the selection of 135; I love sharing that hymn to remind them that they are never separated from God. When we were done singing it, he asked if we could sing it one more time, so we sang both verses again joyfully!

## **Peace**

She was grateful to report how much Christian Science helped her recently. Even though another inmate hit her twice on the chin, knocking her over, she said that what she has been learning in Christian Science allowed her to forgive. Later when the same inmate came screaming down the hall, she prayed, asking God what to do; when the inmate approached, she said she intuitively put her hand up to make a peace sign and just said the word "peace." The other inmate stopped yelling, said "peace" back, and apologized. She reported that the swelling on her chin faded quickly and that she was not in pain. The gesture of "peace" has become a regular practice on the hall. She also said that had this occurred before she started studying Christian Science, she would have resorted to anger and frustration; instead Christian Science is allowing her to bless and be blessed.

## **God's Voice of Good**

None of the women had heard of Christian Science. We discussed central themes in the Bible, talking about the verses or accounts that have brought them inspiration. One said the message of the Bible is freedom. She has been in and out of jail for twenty years and only now is finding her sense of peace and is grateful. She marveled that she could feel such a sense of calm without drugs and in jail. She is excited about being able to share that message of hope with her granddaughter who has no parents and to encourage her to love the Bible and its blessings. It was comforting to her to know that she could pray to know that God as Mind is always speaking directly to her granddaughter and that her granddaughter can listen to and recognize His voice of good.

## **"Can Prayer Be Effective in Healing?" Lecture Sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientist, Town and Country**

The lecture was delivered by a member of the Board of Lectureship, Brian Kissock, CSB, of Belfast, Ireland and San Diego, California. All of those in attendance were new to Christian Science. He had served as a Chaplain in a California prison for seven years and consequently seemed very much at ease. Just before the lecture a man came up and asked Brian how to interpret a citation in the Bible, which he was wondering about. It was an interesting and sweet exchange because of the obvious desire by the questioner to understand the passage. Brian began the lecture by defining Christian Science and explaining the Christ in terms of light, mentioning that each of us is an expression of this light. He spoke of man as idea and then asked, "How can an idea be limited?" Several examples of healing were shared within the forty-five minute talk. He stressed the kingdom of heaven is within -- so we lack nothing. Also, he emphasized that the Bible illustrates laws of protection and "these laws apply to you!" He was matter-of-fact in saying we sometimes ruminate about the past but that we have the antidote for this -- the only thing we possess is this moment. The men were attentive and receptive.

## **Giving Gratitude**

The woman who attended this week attended last week also. She came with gratitude for getting to know her Bible better since having been in jail. She talked about jail as a wakeup call. She longs to be home with her two children and wants to be a good mother to them. We discussed the third tenet of Christian Science, God as Father and Mother, I Corinthians 13 (on love), and what it means for us that God is Mother Love. We also identified man as God's image and likeness. Then we went on to consider the fact that we express the same motherly qualities that are in the best possible Mother/God, and how this truth applies to her relationship with her own mother as well as with her children. As it is the Thanksgiving season, it was easy to introduce the idea of gratitude and how it helps us act with motherly kindness. She left saying she thinks she is going to start every day with a gratitude list.

## **Addressing the Claim of Addiction**

Two of the women had attended before and brought a friend along. All were claiming addiction issues and believe that man has free will. We began to discuss the idea of I AM, one Mind, and man being governed by Mind. This was an opportunity to dispel the hopelessness of free will and share the divine Law that is all and that governs man--along with the fact that God gave man dominion. All said they would be back next week.

## **Choosing Good**

One of the four was completely new to Christian Science, so I encouraged the three who have been coming to share their observations about Christian Science. They emphasized that Christian Science is Christian--and not to be confused with Scientology. (Afterwards the newcomer told me that he had planned on leaving the room if what he encountered wasn't Christian, and he added that everything he heard in the conference was "completely" Christian. He took a copy of the textbook--he especially loved the definition of the Kingdom of Heaven-- and several *Sentinels* with him.) Then, drawing on the lesson, we spent quite a while comparing Genesis 1 and 2. They noticed the qualities of order, light, purposefulness, and completeness in Genesis 1; in the second chapter, they noticed chance, disorder, confusion, and deviousness. One opined that if Genesis 2 wasn't in such a prominent place in the Bible then maybe people wouldn't pay as much attention to it. But then we considered how the Bible as "our sufficient guide to eternal Life" provides clear/sharp contrasts so that we can be alert and able to "choose good."

## **Witnessing the Activity of the Christ**

The questions during the conference included: If God wants us to please him, (I Thessalonians 2:4) how do we do this? How does God see us? Are Genesis 1 and 2 God's will? Or just Genesis 1? How do we follow God's will only? What is this other voice leading us into temptation? How does Revelation explain the Christ and the end of this world? How did Jesus overcome temptation from ego? How can we understand the Trinity and what is the Holy Ghost? What is sin? All these were answered through opening our Bibles, and the men were very eager to share their renewed understanding with each other, pushing each other to grow spiritually. It was a joy to be there with them and witness the activity of Christ.

## **Inspiration Shared after a Service**

After the service, one man talked about really “feeling” the truth of an idea in his life when reading a scriptural passage he may have read many times before. That feeling comes when he reads it again and something deeper registers as more real and more true, and more spiritually honest. All of them recognized when something hits them with new insight and the light dawns. They saw this as the dawning of the Truth in their thought, guiding their thinking.

## **God's Guidance**

One woman said she was on her way to another meeting but was delayed from attending because the doors were locked too quickly. Then a few moments later she heard the call for "Christian Science" and knew that was where she needed to be. Recently she began reading a copy of *Science and Health* she found on the bookshelves in her pod. She read the first chapter on prayer and loves what she is learning. She attributed it all to God guiding her.

## **Sharing *Science and Health***

Three women attended the session. One had a copy of *Science and Health* with her; she had seen it was a "Key to the Scriptures" and wanted to make sure it was Christian and not Scientology before investing time in reading it. She stayed for the first half of the session and participated freely, taking *Science and Health* with her when she left. The other two women stayed for the whole session. They each had open hearts and a real desire to know God, as well as an acknowledgement of God at work in their lives. The concept of God as Father/Mother was shared and pondered, along with the twenty-third Psalm. Both women needed to heal the fear of leaving the jail only to repeat the same mistakes attached to drug addiction. We also gave a copy of *Science and Health* to the Watch Officer, who asked for clarification as to what Christian Science is.

## **No Retrograde Step**

At one point one of the men said that he was pretty sure that he would be going to prison; then he added that even though he had gained a lot over the course of his study of the Bible, he was thinking of letting it go until he got out. This led into a very deep discussion about how once we start down a path that God has asked us to follow, going back doesn't work. We cannot go back. We must continue forward. There were many tangents to this conversation, but by the end, the man said he realized that he cannot let go of the things he has learned, and that he needs to keep learning even if he doesn't always know what to say. He says he struggles with that. I let him know that change is hard for everyone, but if you stick with it, you will be able to transform from the old man to the new man. He seemed to like that thought. He said he was grateful that he came.

## **The Basic Need to Know God**

Right away one who had never been to conference before asked why he always got into trouble. The group started talking about the need to listen to God and the basic need to know God. One man said you would not want to be left alone with a father you never knew you had. You need to get to know God and then you trust God and listen to His voice. One man said he had not read much of the Bible and did not know how to pray deeply. We dug into the Lord's Prayer and made lists on the dry erase board of what the prayer reveals about what God is (Father, holy, supplier), what God does (gives, forgives, leads, delivers), what belongs to God (kingdom, power, will, glory), and what we learn about man (he is the child of God, in heaven, his purpose is to honor or hallow God's name or nature). We looked at the definition of God in *Science and Health*, and several of them commented "Who could disagree with this?" They loved working with this, and one asked to have a *Science and Health* after reading the definition.



## 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 - 6th fl: Sunday, *Church service* 1-2:30 pm (and preceding Sat of 3rd Sunday)

Thursday, *Group Conference* 9 am

Weekly - 7th fl: Sunday, *Church service* 1-2:30 pm 1st/3rd Sundays & 3-4:30 2nd/4th Sundays

*Group Conference* Tuesdays 9-10:30 am

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

**~Youth Development Work-**

**Missouri Hills Home for Girls**

**Hogan St. Medium Security for Boys**

**~Missouri Dept of Health Psychiatric Center -weekly visits**

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



How can I help? 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 the Bible, *Science and Health*, Christian Science Periodicals, and the weekly *MyBibleLesson* study guide.

\*Consider hosting a Christian Science lecture in a jail

\*Donate new paperback *Science and Healths*, or *Quarterlies* or *Words Only Hymnals*

\*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](http://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](mailto:CSJICMO@gmail.com)**

**Brentwood  
Clarkson Valley  
Creve Coeur**

**First Church, St. Louis  
Eight Church, St. Louis**

**Kirkwood  
Lafayette Square, Society  
St. Charles**

**Town & Country  
Valley Park**

**Andy Mehring  
Melody King**

**Lois Marquardt  
Bonnie Wade**

**Andy Matthys-Pearce  
Fabienne Warrick**

**Andrew Frager  
Jan Tussey**

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