



The Christian Science Institutional Service Committee for the State of Oregon

Message From The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is ever mindful of the many institutions located far away from the embracing arms of a local church family. In effect, each of these institutions is a closed community without the services of Christian Science. As we remain alert to unfolding practical solutions, we must affirm the universal availability of church. We invite your prayers to join ours to expand church services to all Oregon's institutions.

Present Order of the Services in The Mother Church and Branch Churches

The perfect Pastor is prepared.

Love ushers in the Christ.

The congregation enters expecting to witness Principle in action.

A hymn opens the services with a promise: "In Thee, O Spirit, true and tender, I find my life as God's own child."

The gentle voice of Truth offers a Scriptural Selection as an appetizer to a feast of healing.

Divine Mind directs the congregation's silent prayer to the unfolding grace of The Lord's Prayer.

A joyous hymn reminds us all: "Who walks with Love along the way, Shall talk with Love and Love obey."

Brief announcements speak of good to embrace community outreach.

A solo demonstrates the beauty of Soul and "Thought soars enraptured, fetterless and free."

The Weekly Lesson-Sermon - "a pearl of great price" - is introduced and read. Divine light shines on substance.

Reflected light enhances individual transparency, Enlightenment heals.

Grateful hearts give and receive the infinite riches of substance.

The closing hymn affirms for all mankind: "O captive, rise and sing, for thou art free."

The Scientific Statement of Being and Correlative Scripture confirm: "Man is the expression of God's being."

A Benediction mounts consciousness on the "wings of eagles." Uplifted thought is prepared to witness "new views of divine goodness and love" during the week to come.

Amen

References:

The Manual of The Mother Church pg 120

The Bible KJV: Math 13:46

Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy; pgs 468, 470, 66

Christian Science Hymnal: 154, 139, 64, 202, 26

Dian Reed

Walk With God

One of the young women we work with shared some of her background and mental health claims placed on her. Together we went over her God given qualities and how nothing can never be taken away from her. We talked about her individual walk with God, her permanent connection with him and her need to keep her thought open to God. We talked about acknowledging God every day, being aware of his guidance and direction, and listening for the angel thoughts. She loved listening to us share how God was a part of her life. She asked for a Bible and was thrilled when we gave her a *Science and Health* as well. She is a sweetheart. What a privilege to be part of this outreach.

Christly Nature in Action

One girl I'm working with has only been in the facility a short time and desires a change of heart so that she'll stay on the right path when she is released. We worked with the first chapter in Genesis, the definition of God in *Science & Health*, and the Sermon on the Mount, emphasizing that if she is the image and likeness of God, it's vital to know what God is. It soon became obvious she needed her own copy of the Bible and *Science and Health* and we marked with color tabs the references we had been talking about. Soon two other girls joined us and shared a wonderful healing they had had with an issue in a math class they had resolved together. It was wonderful to see their lovely Christly nature in action. Each girl was encouraged to read the chapter on Fruitage for wonderful accounts of healing. We talked about how each one of them is needed in the world today and that no one can take their place. They asked for passages on issues they felt they needed to work on, self-confidence, and beauty. One girl said she wanted to be a happy religious person like us!



*We Look Forward To Seeing You At Our
2010 Annual Meeting
Healing Anger Through Spirituality
and
Charater Development
April 17*

*Check out our web site
www.iscsoregon.com/annualmtg
for more details
(registration taken at the door)*



Living Right

One girl expressed some concern with a situation at home. We talked about listening for God's direction each step of the way. If Jesus said, "I can of mine own self do nothing" then that's our model too. She explained that she knows the difference when God is talking and when her thoughts are not from God. When God talks to her, she feels it in her heart. Both girls talked about their grandmothers and how they are trying to honor them by living right each day. One of the girls wanted to sing "In His Eyes" and part way through, she left, sat down next to the wall and started crying. The other girls went over to comfort her. They affirmed her worth and addressed the fear of being rejected by others. We talked about how everyone is complete in God and that God's love is unconditional. Each is needed and no one can take another's place in God's creation. Afterwards, there was lots of hugging and thank you's. Before we left the girl with the concerns about home came over with her *Science & Health* and told me that when she gets out she and her mother will begin reading it together. She also told us that "you guys have really helped me." We certainly did feel the Comforter there with us all tonight.

Forgiveness

The previous week, the individual I was visiting had a "blow up" and he felt he handled it very well, even though he had felt deeply hurt by what seemed to be personal malice. I could see a glow in his face, knowing God was being supportive of him. And while we were talking, the two who were speaking badly of him came in and apologized. There were tears and confessions, apologies given and apologies accepted. Self-recrimination was not accepted as he insisted that bygones be bygones and that we all see each other as the loved children of God. It was a holy time! I was very touched and grateful to be a part of this beautiful working out.

Claiming Their Heritage

We only met with two girls, which allowed us to really talk with them. One had been in detention for fighting and so on. She described things other girls had been doing to unsettle her. We talked about the kingdom of heaven within and her ability, with guidance from God, to stay in the kingdom regardless of what the other girls do or say so that she doesn't react with anger and violence. The other girl said she had done some really bad things and did ask if we think she had a chance of getting into heaven. We assured her that she did, but added that "the belief in sin is punished so long as the belief lasts." We encouraged both of them to change the model they have of themselves by spending a few moments each morning before they get out of bed claiming their heritage as God's creation: healthy, safe, intelligent, beautiful... one of the girls then added kind and graceful to the list. We ended with a hymn and the Lord's Prayer.



Asked For Prayer

After working with the activities director for an upcoming lecture, she shared that she felt buried in responsibilities, unfinished work and difficult decisions. She asked me to pray for her and said that she prays all the way to and from work each day, asking for direction and guidance. At one point I quoted a line from *Science & Health* "Thoughts unspoken are not unknown to the divine Mind. Desire is prayer; and no loss can occur from trusting God with our desires, that they may be moulded and exalted before they take form in words and in deeds." She liked this and asked me to repeat it. She also shared that she has seen many evidences of God's work in her life and wonderful opportunities have opened up for a project at her facility.

Original Innocence

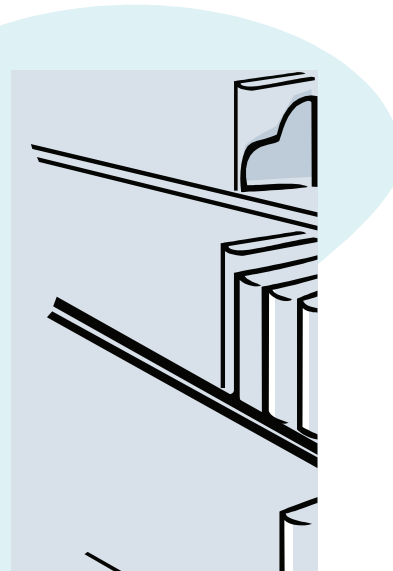
One of the girls had a big smile and joyful face when she entered the classroom, so different from her very sad face last week. She said this was because church had come! We began by singing "In His Eyes" and "Open the Eyes of My Heart". After silent prayer and the Lord's Prayer, they wanted to read the fifth section of the Lesson Sermon which spoke about resurrection and its significance for the disciples and for us. One girl shared that she prays every day not to be drawn into disagreements with the other girls. As always, original innocence, and the fact that we each are perfect, unique and beloved in God's eyes were basic themes.



Unconditional Love

While talking with a young girl tonight she shared how much she missed her family and young daughter. She expressed sorrow because she had more time to serve. A couple of times she remarked "I really need God." How wonderful to be able to assure her that God is here, and she is unconditionally loved. We spoke of the two great commandments, and that living these commandments is a good way to feel God's presence. We worked with the seven synonyms reinforcing that because God is good and perfect she is also good and perfect as his image and likeness, and could live this right now. She asked me to pray for her and together we did. I assured her that she would be in my prayers during the week.

*Our bookshelves
are getting empty.
If you would like
to donate any
Science & Health
or Bibles, please
let us know.
Thank You*



THOUGHTS FROM VOLUNTEERS



Never give up

It is important to remember Mrs. Eddy's words "you have begun at the numeration-table of Christian Science, and nothing but wrong intention can hinder your advancement. Working and praying with true motives, your Father will open the way." S&H p326:18-21. Through the years I have experienced a different situation each time I have volunteered in a prison. So now each time I pray to know that Love has already gone before me and has prepared the way. God knows who needs us and our message. We must know we will be brought together and nothing and no one can prevent it.

Often times we have started with no students and with no administrators seeming to know who we are or what we believe or what we do. But step by step patience and prayer have won out. Our Christian Science study group was the first group to be asked to do religious study when a new youth facility opened up! The activities director at the time, told me that our way of teaching and its content is right in line with the facility/school's teaching objectives. That winter we had a lecture with approximately 120 youths and staff attending voluntarily. Studying with the students afterward, they remembered every word the lecture spoke! Our visits include diversity. One time I spent almost the entire two hours in the yard at a picnic table discussing Christian Science with a guard. That was where the need was. I didn't study with any of the students that day, but they saw me on campus as they walked by or looked out the windows. Our presence on campus is the consistency that's so important. These youths are extremely alert and notice every person on campus including what they are wearing, where they are, and what they doing. You really can't hide anything because they see every move you make and hear every word you say even though it sometimes doesn't seem like it. Thus the importance of establishing that you live and move and have your being in God so they see only good. You are a role model to them whether you are male or female, young or old. And they trust you because you are volunteering your time visiting them instead of being at home comfortable with other activities. The more you visit, the more you gain their trust. Whether we visit with one or eleven or forty-eight a night, what matters is that those you do study with feel the genuine Christ and recognize that this Science Jesus taught is here for them to practice today. They can make their own and bring healing into their lives. It's important to know that truth is attractive.

When participants are few, we always ask God to direct our outreach. We say hello, start simple conversations and personally invite new youths to join us. We also ask those in our group if they have other friends with humble hearts who want to learn to do better. We keep asking because eventually they always think of someone who is trying to do good and they will join with their friends

Humility

One of my friends who comes to the session each week is quite a deep thinker and seems very receptive to the logic and truths that we talk about. We have some real "ah ha" moments on both sides. These sessions are usually 1 - 2 hours long. We talk about the Bible lesson and read selected Bible passages that support the subject or issues that may have surfaced in our discussions. In two particular instances, I have come away with quite a sense of accomplishment and felt that I really did a good job. What's wrong with that? I had to ask myself "Where is God in the process?" I hadn't acknowledged and thanked God for being present and supplying what was needed. I had forgotten that I was not there to nurture myself, but to nurture, build up, and bless the ones God had sent. The week that followed those two instances, no one showed up. Not only was that a wake up call but also a humbling experience. Once that was uncovered, my prayer before each session as I climb the stairs is to be mentally alert to do God's will, follow God's plan, and listen to God's voice. Yes, we are back on track. Thank You Father!

