

Watch Words

Office Closure

*The office will be closed on Monday,
January 21st in observance of
Martin Luther King Jr. Day.*

“It shall be the duty of the Committee on Publication to correct in a Christian manner impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science...” Church Manual, Article XXXIII, Section 2

WELCOME NEW COMMITTEE!

A Message from the Committee on Publication for Southern California:

Thank you for the warm welcome I’ve received from the field. Your support for this office and the Cause of Christian Science inspires and ripples out with blessings. Being a small band of disciples who do great things, we compassionately nurture each other’s success, which fortifies the vitality of our healing practice that humanity longs to experience.

It is my goal to touch base with each Assistant Committee to dialogue on how to best assist each other. I am also continuing Don’s visits to the churches with the theme this year of how healing impositions on public thought clear the way for the public to come to the churches. This healing activity also intimately supports our own healing demonstrations. It is my hope that the incredible partnership our wise Leader formed between branch churches and the Committee on Publication office will continue to be fostered in our mutual work of healing within our communities.

Let’s start by addressing together the imposition claiming a burdened sense of trying to hold up the “structure of Truth and Love.” This magnificent spiritual idea of church is holding each of us up within its structure. “Lean on the sustaining infinite” and let the Biblical promise be renewed in our hearts in this new year that God blesses His saints. Each *Watch Words* will take on an imposition in public thought to pray and ponder together. I invite your church members and regular attendees to join in this collective prayer. Please share your inspiration and fruitage with the Committee Office, and we will post them in the next newsletter. In thinking about the imposition of burden, I view this as a reflection of impersonal world thought, especially regarding organizations. Christ lifts up and heals, by enlivening us with Love’s purpose and power. See citations below to help counter this mere suggestion with specific, scientific Truth.

I remember a small band of disciples centuries ago who, with unselfish poise and courageous diligence, spread the good news of Christ’s healing message in the barbaric world of the Roman Empire. This is God’s work, and our role is witnessed through the power of God, reflecting His Love. He gave the world churches as a vessel for His saving grace to be known and experienced. And every day He gives and guides each of us, his sons and daughters, to what is needed today on our watch as He fulfills His purpose.

Please contact the Committee office if you would like to schedule a meeting at your church.

Citations: SH 583: 12-19; SH vii 1-21; Matt 18:19-20; Matt 11: 28-3; SH 249:1, 6-9, 12-20;

Mis 98:16-23; ’01 31:11-12.

Warm regards,

Anne Cooling

Committee on Publication for Southern California

ASSISTANTS' CORRECTIVE WORK**Thousand Oaks – Assistant Committee****Anne Stearns Condon*****Originally published Ventura County Star Interfaith Column***

"These are times that try men's souls." This famous statement was made by Thomas Paine during the American Revolutionary War theovember 8, 2018 proved to be such a day in the Conejo Valley when violence erupted in the shootings of innocent people at a local restaurant. The morning news recounted the senseless tragedy as our community mourned together. In the afternoon savage fires began to consume the area, reaching far beyond the Thousand Oaks area from the mountains to the sea.

The immediate out-pouring of love, compassion, and help from caring neighbors, family, and friends represented the best of our humanity, counterbalancing the evils of wrongful deaths and horrific disaster. Prayers were offered in abundance for those suffering loss of homes and loved ones.

In such a challenging time turning to the Bible eases troubled thoughts with the solution of inner peace. These verses from Psalms 62 calmed my fears: "Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation. My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from him" (verses 1, 5). Calm diminishes panic, enabling one to find the underlying harmony in seeming chaos.

When Elijah, the first great prophet of the northern Kingdom of Israel, was discouraged and depressed because the idolatry and immorality of the people and the great hatred of the rulers seemed insurmountable, he requested that he might die. But

the word of the Lord came to him in this message: "Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, ... but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice" (I Kings 19:11, 12). This gentle stillness, a divine force, was mightier than all the turmoil Elijah had just witnessed, as if the Lord had directly asked, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God" (Psalms 42:11).

The Scriptures offer sound guidance and loving solace through the words of noble Bible characters. Listen to David, the shepherd boy and future King David of Israel: "The Lord is my shepherd; ... He restoreth my soul." (Psalms 23:1, 3). Despite our burdens it is possible to be enlightened with hope and move forward in trust. The words of Christ Jesus resound in all listening hearts: "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4).

As we welcome in a new year, is it possible to think of it as a fresh start, rising above the ashes of an old decaying world of materialistic living? To progress, the answer must be yes. The fearless prophet Jeremiah spoke of a new covenant between God and His people. It wasn't to be legislated upon them, but through their open hearts, a willingness to obey God's eternal laws – to love Him supremely and to love our fellow sisters and brothers with esteem and respect. Our happiness in the New Year depends upon it.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18 - 25

Christians around the world will be joining in this ecumenical activity. For more information, please go to christianscience.com member resources/committee on publication/circle of faith. This is wonderful opportunity to remove impositions in prayer. Unity does not mean sameness, but it heals the divisive tactics of the carnal mind and enhances our practice.

PLEASE DUPLICATE WATCHWORDS AND SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERS