

# Watch Words

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Committee on Publication

*"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*

## Church Workshops

### **"Healing Impositions: Healing the Way the Public Sees our Churches"\***

- Sunday, June 9th, 12:30-2. 28th Church, Los Angeles
- Sunday, July 21st, 12-1:30, 1st Church, San Luis Obispo
- Sunday, September 8, 12-1:30, 5th Church, Long Beach
- Sunday, October 6th, 2-3:30pm, 4th Church, San Diego (La Jolla)

## **FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION**

First, a housekeeping update -- If you were an **email subscriber** to our website, this automated process is no longer available. Instead, please check the website regularly, as we will be adding new information every week. If you need the password for the website "Member Page," please contact your Assistant Committee, who is being given this information during our reappointment calls.

In response to **last month's** praying about the imposition (or area of promise) in public thought that Christian

Scientists don't care about public health, news of measles outbreaks in Southern California raise awareness of a statement by **Mrs. Eddy**: "At a time of contagious disease, Christian Scientists endeavor to rise in consciousness to the true sense of the omnipotence of Life, Truth, and Love, and this great fact in Christian Science realized will stop a contagion." (My. 116:2). This is a powerful handling of any suggestion of contagion, and will provide an immediate response to suggestions of contagion for ourselves and our communities.

Also, below is a **wonderful testimonial** shared with our office that counters this false belief about Christian Scientists. I love that this mother's prayer included all the children in the school and city: "This year, pertussius (whooping cough) was experienced in our kids' school, so the school sent out many notes, and the city health department got involved. They started sending any child home who seemed ill, and the children had to get tested. One day when our son wasn't feeling well at school, the health officer called me to pick him up. I called the doctor I knew at Ralph's grocery store, where I had the immunizations done for my children and although he didn't give the test, he gave me the name of a local pediatrician, and I called them. The whole office was pleasant and the doctor was lovely. She gave him the test, and although we had to wait 3 days for the lab results, (which were "negative and normal", thank the Lord,) she indicated that she didn't think it was pertussius. Throughout this experience, as usual, the thing that I had to shut down was fear. I continued to be grateful for all of the people who were caring. It also came to me clearly that I could not just pray for my son and know that he was safe and exempt; I had to include all of the children - in the school and city! - in those prayers of innocence and exemption from so-called material law, chance, or contagion. Although our son didn't like staying home for 3 days, it was a good time of peace, caring, and healing love. Right after our appointment, I called the health officer to check in, and told her that the doctor didn't think it was pertussius. She said, "Good, just let me know when the results come in." When we got the results, I immediately called her and emailed her the certificate. I also thanked her for the care of our son. She was so grateful and wrote back, "Thank you so much for your attitude—so refreshing." We were grateful for the kindness experienced on all fronts, and for the harmonious resolution."

This month, the Committee office invites church members to **join in prayer to heal a news article presenting Christian Science as a religion in decline**. Clarke's Commentary of the Bible states, "Fear not; the smallness of your number cannot hurt you, for omnipotence itself has undertaken your cause." If error repeats itself over and over again in order to get people to believe it, it tries to then mesmerize itself into truth. The key is we need to be aware of error's attempt to repeatedly present our religion in certain ways and not take those thoughts in ourselves. Mrs. Eddy wisely counsels about this in Mis. 220, "...people believe that a man is sick and knows it, and speak of him as being sick, put it into the minds of others that he is sick, publish it in the newspapers that he is failing, and persist in this action of mind over mind, it follows that he will believe that he is sick, --and Jesus said it would be according to the woman's belief; but if with the certainty of Science he knows that an error of belief has not the power of Truth and cannot, does not, produce the slightest effect, it has no power over him. Thus a mental malpractitioner may lose his power to harm by a false mental argument; for it gives one opportunity to handle the error, and when mastering it one gains in the rules of metaphysics, and thereby learns more of its divine Principle." She later states Truth as the remedy.

If we look at the leaven that is taking place in science, theology and medicine, divine Science is winning the day and it is our grand privilege as churches to lead the way, be ready, defend this work through Truth and Love, and not be surprised by the stirring of thought of mortal mind. We are an organization for good prayerfully, specifically and actively addressing what appears to be organized error. Here are some additional citations to springboard our prayers:

Man 42:4, My 128:30, My 151:12-14, My 236:24, My 237:13, SH 442:30, SH 458:23-24, SH 341:17-1.

## **TWO ADDITIONAL REPORTS FROM THE FIELD:**

A church member was recently led to write a letter, with the support of the Committee office, to a radio show host who mentioned Christian Science in a stereotypical and derisive way after the passing of popular actress Georgia Engel:

Dear ,

I've been listening to you every weekday for a long time and love your show.

Last week, I heard you characterize Christian Science in your comments about Georgia Engel in a way that saddened me.

I've been a Christian Scientist for over 50 years. I started studying it so I could "save" a friend from this "dangerous" religion . . . and was shocked to find that it was amazingly effective in healing, and profoundly honored God.

It might surprise you that Mary Baker Eddy (who founded the Church of Christ, Scientist) recommended having children vaccinated when required, as a practice of the Golden Rule. In my experience—and despite the stereotypes—there has never been any church interference—or intrusion—in any of my family's health care decisions.

During decades as a Christian Science nurse, I saw many healings through the conscientious practice of this Christian teaching—of cancer, stroke, disability, paralysis, sports injuries, childhood diseases, broken bones, (including several quite senior folks who came straight from the hospital with X-Rays in hand). . . and pain overcome as well.

And I have found the practice of Christian Science beneficial in meeting my own health-care needs.

Knowing your integrity and desire "to get it right," I thought you might be interested in the first-hand experience of one of your Christian Scientist listeners.

Sincerely,

**From Mike Ingram**

I sporadically serve on the Upland Interfaith Council. The group has representatives from Catholic, LDS, Buddhist, Islamic, Methodist, Unity, B'hai and Jewish faiths. CS has been graciously accepted with this group for many years. It seems to be the best vehicle currently to keep CS in the forefront in this community, as it has been especially embraced by good friends from LDS, one who is the President of the council. He has a deep respect for Mrs. Eddy and her writings. Recently a newer attendee from the LDS faith told me how the CS Monitor was in his house growing up. I was happy to hear this and it shows the universality of thought the CSM has for all who read it.

**Assistant Committee (ACOM) Ginny Nilsen Shares:**

At a recent meeting of the **Monrovia Interfaith Council**, we discussed how to let the community know about the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2nd. Beside flyers, emails and social media notifications, one of the Council members shared about her TV program called "Excellence in All Things" on KGEM and would we want to have her interview some of us on her program? Five of us were available; the moderator, a Bahai; the Rector from St. Luke the Physician Episcopal church; an active Muslim in a few of the local Mosques; a Roman Catholic Deacon; the Director of Admission at Foothill Unity Center; and myself representing First Church of Christ, Scientist, Monrovia. The central question asked, "Why did you choose to join and participate in an interfaith council?" We each took turns and the dialogue took off from there about the respect, understanding, clarity and desire to utilize a community interfaith council in supporting and strengthening the welfare of our city. We all agreed the council is a role model for all the good an interfaith council can be and I mentioned the power of prayer on which we've always relied. I also shared Mary Baker Eddy's quote (S&H 20), "The truth is the centre of all religion." Many of us have known one another for years, we meet regularly once a month to plan and hold a Thanksgiving service as well as a National Day of Prayer Program in May each year. We have become personal friends and speak and listen easily and compassionately with one another. Announcements at our regular council meetings allow us to attend each others events (such as Ramadan breaking-fast programs, dinners, evensong concerts, Christian Science lectures). One time, I was asked to speak to about ten nuns and a priest on the six Tenets from *Science and Health* (one of the nuns noticed it on the wall of our Reading Room.) A few of the counsel members have been asked to give prayers or readings from the Bible and other sacred scriptures at the Monrovia Mayor's Community Prayer Breakfast each year. These activities and other experiences shared together have strengthened the understanding of God's universal love and the power of spirituality and prayer to make the Monrovia Interfaith Council a viable and effective contribution to the thriving community Monrovia is.

**MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDARS**

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**Annual Assistant Committee on Publication Meeting  
Saturday, September 14th at 9am - 3pm  
at the Holiday Inn in La Mirada**

The Annual Meeting this year is open to ACOMs (or an alternate) and a guest who is a member of their church. It is also open to Christian Science practitioners and teachers in Southern California and members of the Committee on Publication Financial Support Committee.

\*Please contact the office if you are interested in hosting a church workshop for you and your neighboring Christian Science Churches. Workshops are for church members and regular attendees.