

Watch Words

"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, September 8, 12-1:30
5th Church, Long Beach

FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION

ACOM reappointment letters were emailed to correspond with the beginning of Fiscal Year 2019/20. Individual calls with each ACOM have begun; what a joy to connect and communicate in this way! It is proving to be helpful and informative. Please email or call this office of available dates and times to schedule the call.

On Tuesday, April 9th, I joined my Northern California counterpart, Eric Nelson, in Sacramento for a **meeting with the Governor's office** regarding health care bills being considered this year. We also sat in on the State Assembly Health Committee hearings for proposed bills.

Thank you for your embracing the invitation to pray monthly with a different imposition in the public regarding Christian Science. Last month, we took up the work correcting the false belief that Christian Science is dangerous to children. The citations included Mrs. Eddy's counsel on vaccinations. What struck me in praying with her counsel is that she was more concerned with healing the fear in public thought than the vaccination itself. Both sides of the vaccination/anti-vaccination heated debate in this country is primarily based on fear. I realized that **Christian Science is the answer to the fear** of these human arguments. All contagion is fear, and illness is driven by fear alone in whatever way mortal mind maps out the way whether through a substance called a vaccine or the illness itself. This is the need of our neighbors and I thank you for responding with healing prayer. Cherish that we not take in the contagion of fear or the divisiveness of animal magnetism from either of these human positions, but be about our Father's business in healing the fear behind them both. Here is where the belief of "sides" and fear will dissolve in the oneness of Christ and its healing presence speaking to the human consciousness. We also share the post "Stopping the Measles Outbreak" written by Evan Mehlenbacher and posted on April 12, 2019 on his web blog, spiritview.net.

With this in mind, the **next month's prayer watch invitation is to address the public imposition that Christian Scientists don't care about public health.** I was a witness to how the one Mind opened an opportunity for this corrective work through dialogue with a Senator's office during my time in Washington DC. We were thanking the Senator's office for their support co-sponsoring the EACH Act.

We were thanking the Senator's office for their support co-sponsoring the EACH Act. We were aware that the EACH Act was attached to the opioid bill and the exact amount of funding needed for the opioid bill (which supports helping those with opioid addiction) was achieved in revenue with the EACH Act, making the two laws revenue neutral. We were discussing how Christian Scientists read *The Christian Science Monitor* as a way to be aware of what is taking place in the world so we can pray for the problems in

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*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.

the world. I shared how much this meant to me that the EACH Act inadvertently helped support, through revenue neutrality, those struggling with opioid addiction; because the opioid issue has been in my prayers. So it warms my heart to see this mutual blessing. The face of the Health Legislative Administrator was so struck by this comment that was natural to me, but appeared to speak to her of the compassionate unselfish nature of our religion. As we pray to correct these impositions specifically, opportunities will come into our experience for this corrective work to take place in all corners of our communities. Here are citations to support your prayers:

I John 3:16-18; My 226:25-228:10; My 223:26-14; Mis 135:5; Mis 50:27-3; OI 30: 1-18np; Hymns 30, 178 and 217. The following **Letter to the Editor** was published in the *Daily Pilot* both online and in print in response to an article:

Response to death was atypical

Re “Source of great county stories has one of her own,” (Feb. 4): Many people respond to the loss of loved ones by sealing off their memories, as Jill Lloyd’s father evidently did. I’d simply like to add this isn’t a Christian Scientist’s normal response to grief.

One’s first response, as a Christian Scientist once wrote, may be “to feel the very heavens should open and weep...” But that doesn’t close the story, as the article itself shows. God’s love and grace heal the heart in surprising ways. Those we’ve loved are cherished all the more for what they have given, not forgotten or their lives denied.

For Christian Scientists, the humanity expressed by Jesus is the model for living. Rather than glossing over death or the new life seen in his resurrection, it is the practical following of his teachings — loving others, humility, and gentleness opens the door for true healing here and now.

Anne Cooling

Christian Science Committee on Publication for Southern California / Aliso Viejo

FIELD REPORT:

Randal Craft, Chula Vista ACOM: I appreciate your sharing an imposition topic each month in WatchWords and was praying on your latest topic that Christian Science is a danger to children. I was serving in our Branch’s Reading Room at the time and always like to embrace our community in prayer. I prayed that man, as God’s idea, is never susceptible to a mortal, material belief of any kind. Man is not the victim of material belief but the object of God’s love. And, since children represent innocence and purity, receptivity and openness of heart, they can certainly only experience the blessings these Godlike qualities represent. It wasn’t long before a couple of individuals entered the Reading Room. They were interested to learn more about Christian Science and so I talked about Mary Baker Eddy and how Christian Science came to be. Some periodicals were also given to them. After they left, I realized how they had expressed such childlike qualities—a willingness to learn and open-mindedness. This experience reinforced for me that it is truly these kinds of qualities that can help to dissolve fear and thereby facilitate any needed healing of this imposition.

Then, I also wanted to mention that I’m continuing to attend the periodic gatherings of The San Diego Interfaith Collaborative, a community based interreligious network whose purpose is to promote and facilitate cooperation among religious communities and related organizations within the San Diego region. The topic of their recent meeting was: Challenges and Opportunities for Law Enforcement In Building Community Relations. It was encouraging to see a least a dozen or so police officers present as well as a Chief of Police as the guest speaker. And I think it was very positive for our denomination to be at the “table” — to be represented at an event like this in which community issues are addressed from interfaith perspectives.