

# Watch Words

Committee on Publication  
for Southern California

*“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*

## FROM THE MANAGER’S OFFICE

In advance of a gathering of the worldwide Committees on Publication last fall, we asked the Committees to study *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, highlighting the passages that applied to their work as Committees. Many said they highlighted almost the entire book! This statement in particular stood out to me: “The advancing century, from a deadened sense of the invisible God, to-day subjects to unchristian comment and usage the idea of Christian healing enjoined by Jesus; but this does not affect the invincible facts” (SH 55:2).

When faced with public claims that Christian Science is irrelevant, archaic, or unwise in a modern world, the description of the facts of Science as “invincible” — invulnerable, unshakeable, indefatigable, dauntless, secure, safe — turns this notion of irrelevance on its head and instead shows the inevitable promise and relevance of Christ healing, which the world deeply needs today.

The invincible facts of God’s power and presence were certainly evident in this worldwide Committee on Publication meeting, when examples large and small were shared of the inspiring healing seen throughout the year as Committees on Publication lifted impositions from public thought with great Christly love. Rather than a claim of shrinking churches being imposed on our thought, we realized we were witnessing the vital promise of the Son of Man, which Mrs. Eddy explains from Revelation 1:17, 18: “I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead [not understood]; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, [Science has explained me]” (SH 334:24-28).

It was also especially heartening to hear from the Christian Science Board of Directors of the renewed vitality and blessing they are seeing in our churches and across our movement as “signs following.” One Director made the thought-provoking statement: “There is no better time than now to be part of the Christian Science movement.” Although human logic may say that times past were easier or more vibrant, the Director explained that we are in God’s hour, and therefore without need or desire to return to a previous so-called “Golden Age.” Now, more than ever, everyone is essential, with more awareness of the need for individual commitment and collective working together, and more gratitude for those willing to serve. More thought being given to our various church activities rather than doing them by rote, more listening about the deeper meaning of our *Manual* bylaws. In sum, we are more awake to how needed we each are and to how we can keep our own light burning.

Across the world, the Committee on Publication is also hearing from members who are experiencing this commitment and renewal, and we’re seeing evidence that the world feels it, too. Thank you for what your healing practice and your dedication to church is contributing to the Committee activity, to church, and to the world. Each member of our Committee on Publication family returned home with this message from the Directors for all church members: “You are needed, you are essential, you are loved.” We trust you feel it.

Warm regards, Kevin E. Ness, Manager, Committees on Publication

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

The Committee office is settling into our new location. The new address is now on the bottom of *WatchWords*. Please change your records in the clerk's office and with your treasurer and ACOM.

Starting April 1st, ACOM reappointments will be made. I will then begin contacting each ACOM to touch base. I am looking forward to this opportunity to talk with each of you!

After almost two decades of dedicated work for the Committee office, our dear Leslie Martindale is retiring as of April 1st. Her two part time jobs often grow into two full time jobs and both she and her husband want to spend more time enjoying retirement. Leslie shared with me when I came on board that we needed to find someone who could back her up on vacations and in the office. After hiring Inge, Leslie now feels comfortable that the Committee office is in good hands and she can hand over the reins so she can enjoy her grandkids and horseback riding more, not to mention catch up on her clerk work for her church! To say that this Committee and Southern California is grateful for Leslie's watchful stewardship over this office would be an understatement. She will be missed, but being a horseback rider in my younger years, I understand the draw! At this point, the Committee office will not be replacing Leslie. Inge's hours will be expanded.

In continuing our monthly joining together in prayer to support the Church's success, this month, the invitation is extended to prayerfully address the imposition regarding Christian Science that Christian Science is dangerous to children. The recent vaccination debate needs prayer to calm the heated fears of the nation and other public commentary touching on this issue. Our deep prayerful response to heal the fears and hearts of our community through "the mind of Christ" will usher in the healing transformative nature of Christ to do its work in the world. A Committee on Publication shared that "Sunday School is God's gift to the community." The child-like thought is not vulnerable. It is the essential answer to the stirring in mortal thinking, bringing it back to its native innocence and purity in order to spiritualize the world (see the passages in the citation list below to support your prayers).

Isa 11:1-6; Mark 10:13-16; SH 513:26-515:10; SH 236:23-22; SH 130:15; SH 619:9-17np;  
Mis 109:28-12; Mis 145:18-30; My 4:14-30; My 344:21-6; Po 69:1-12

**CHURCH WORKSHOP AVAILABLE**

If your church would like to hold a church workshop with the Committee on Publication, please contact the Committee Office. This year's workshop is titled, "Healing Impositions: Healing the Way the Public Sees our Churches."

**CAPITOL HILL DAY 2019 FRUITAGE REPORT**

By Jeanine B. Lambert

What an incredible privilege and blessing it was to be one of six to represent Christian Scientists from California in Washington D.C., for the "Christian Science on Capitol Hill Day" the week of February 25, 2019.

Roughly 40 Christian Scientists from all over the country came together to thank our Congressmen and Senators for their support of the Equitable Access to Health and Care (EACH) Act, which passed on October 24, 2018 (as well as introduce ourselves to newly elected officials and maintain contact as the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is still in conversation on the Hill).

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**CAPITOL HILL DAY 2019 FRUITAGE REPORT (Continued)**

The passing of the EACH Act was critical to correct the lack of religious liberty in the ACA that required Christian Scientists to pay for medical insurance which does not pay for our preferred health care practice.

The passing of this exemption took the work and prayer of many Christian Scientists and our Committees on Publication over a period of eight years - emailing and meeting in person with our representatives to bring attention to it on a regular basis. At one point, it was estimated to have just a 2% chance of passing. Certainly much prayer was poured in by all concerned.

One prayer/hymn stood out to me over the time of working on this Act. Mary Baker Eddy's poem/hymn "Satisfied" which was published in 1900. It was the last of seven poems of Mrs. Eddy's to be included in our hymnal.

The following quote from the December 1993 *Christian Science Journal* article titled, "Mrs. Eddy's Hymns" by Jeanne Steely Laitner sums it up.

"Quite simply, Mrs. Eddy says no matter what our circumstances, Love is present to guide us. Whether we are in stormy or good times, divine Love establishes 'pure peace'

...In 1900 she added the Manual By-Law providing for a single member Committee on Publication.

[Her] last hymn reminds us that "stones or tyrants' thrones" cannot prevent the seed of Truth from germinating in both the thought and deeds of God's faithful followers. How convinced our Leader was of God's goodness, and of His ability to care fully for His offspring!

...In the last verse of this thought-provoking hymn we're told that the centuries themselves break. All the accumulated ignorance of the world dissolves as we are lifted and loosed by Love, Life, God. The hymn also tells of the awakening of the "earth-bound" - the thought that is asleep in the dream of substance in matter."

The EACH Act passed with bi-partisan support, including over 200 representatives who co-sponsored the bill. What a healing, unifying result this Act illustrated of demonstrating true government.