

## QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM THE 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, injustices done Mrs. Eddy or members of this Church by the daily press, by periodicals or circulated literature of any sort.” Church Manual, Article XXXIII, Section 2*

### ***Message from the Manager of Committees on Publication***

When giving a gift, it can be helpful to think of the other person. It is thoughtful to consider their likes and dislikes, and to know their interests, hobbies, and tastes. I’ve found that the best gift-givers pay attention with a marvelous spirit of selflessness.

There’s a beautiful example of this in the Book of Acts in the Bible. On their way to the Temple, Peter and John come across a man asking for gifts. Lame from birth, this man was carried daily to beg outside the gates, hoping to appeal to the piety of those going to worship. The Bible doesn’t tell us how successful this man was in his begging, but we do have a hint in Peter’s words, “Look on us.” And this is where the real gift-giving begins.

Amidst a bustling scene, this man is crying out for alms, hoping for someone to pay attention and toss him a coin. He must have been eager to see what Peter had to give him that morning, and his hopes may have quickly fallen when he learned that Peter didn’t have any money either. And yet, from a place of genuine selfless love, Peter’s words, “Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee,” are imbued with the authority of the Christ that lifted the man, literally, out of the depths of despair and disability.

Committees on Publication strive to exemplify this spirit of giving with each corrective opportunity. Whereas it may be tempting to respond to the issues that seem readily apparent on the surface — whether in a request for information or a posting of misinformation about Christian Science — each inspired response is the outgrowth of their prayerful practice and spiritual discernment that goes to the heart of the issue and brings forward healing.

Whether talking with a family member, a neighbor, or a new friend on the street, there may be times when any of us is asked to speak about our faith or even bring lift and healing to an imposition on public thought about Christian Science. So often the answers we give may not, at first, be what our inquirer was asking for. Indeed, sometimes we may feel we’re not up to the task. But it’s worth considering the true silver and gold that we have to share with those individuals — the spirit of love, care, and compassion for our neighbors, along with our deep gratitude for the blessing of Christian healing.

This spirit is expressed daily by Committees on Publication, and the fruitage below is one example of a corrective healing conversation. Preparing for these types of conversations is important, and the Committee did some substantive research to be well-informed. More important, however, is the spiritual preparation that helps ensure each response goes beyond intellectualism to the healing heart of our corrective work. Peter’s example speaks to this as does this reminder from our Leader in the textbook, “All that really exists is the divine Mind and its idea, and in this Mind the entire being is found harmonious and eternal. The

straight and narrow way is to see and acknowledge this fact, yield to this power, and follow the leadings of truth" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* 151:26).

Sincerely,



Scott C. Shivers, C.S.  
Manager, Christian Science Committees on Publication

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### ***Fruitage***

An academic journal article made incorrect connections between Christian Science, Mrs. Eddy, New Thought, and P. P. Quimby. In consultation with the Manager's office, a Committee on Publication was led to reach out to the professor to offer a more accurate perspective on Christian Science and its Founder than how they were portrayed in the article. After a thoughtful email exchange, the professor and the Committee enjoyed an engaging and corrective virtual meeting to further discuss the topic.

The Committee's report on this interaction included the following:

There was quite a bit of research involved ahead of time and it was Mary Baker Eddy's simple encouragement to "Let Truth uncover and destroy error in God's own way" (*Science and Health* p. 542) that ultimately provided the most important preparation required to make the call and solidified my conviction that my one and only purpose was to heal.

It was also helpful to be reminded that I couldn't be made to say something I shouldn't or forget to say something I should. The spiritual work along these lines brought the assurance that I wasn't being asked to present a finely crafted counter argument to the mistaken notion that Christian Science originated with Quimby but rather to bear witness to Christ's revelation of Truth – a revelation that's both available and appreciable to one and all and not just Christian Scientists. Along with this came the certainty that such a revelation wouldn't just be about "setting the record straight" in terms of the Quimby-Eddy question, but also bringing a genuine sense of healing to the conversation, whatever that may look like.

Although the professor is well-versed in the history of Christian Science and Mary Baker Eddy, he readily offered that he had only a surface understanding of the Quimby-Eddy question. He was very open to my sharing a brief summation as to why it's not correct to say that Christian Science was born of Mrs. Eddy's relationship with Quimby.

I was grateful for the professor's receptivity to alternative perspectives and I felt that it was a hugely productive conversation that provided an opportunity to address, at least in some measure, the primary imposition regarding Quimby's influence on Mrs. Eddy and to lay the foundation for an on-going relationship.

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### ***Inspiration and updates from your Committee on Publication***

As I reflect during this season of gratitude and giving, I have enjoyed bearing witness to the outpouring of love to our state after the hurricane earlier this year. As the Western NC branch churches rallied in their communities, other churches banded together to contribute metaphysically and financially. Some contributions were local; some from other states. This generosity of spirit is more than a gift, it proves that divine Love meets human needs and is the reality of man's being as the beloved child of God.

As I studied and prayed alongside our fellow members, I began pondering a question posed in *Miscellaneous Writings* by our dear Leader, Mary Baker Eddy:

*Is man's spiritual sonship a personal gift to man, or is it the reality of his being, in divine Science? (Miscellaneous Writings p. 181:3-4)*

Through my study I have learned that while we have many gifts bestowed upon us as a byproduct of this sonship with God, the sonship itself is not a gift. It is simply inevitable since man is inseparable from his divine origin, God. With that admission, man has boundless inspiration of thought and action, and is dauntless in the face of adversity.

Acknowledgement of this fact can bring a sense of levity to the Committee work. I've found that claiming the inevitability of man's unity with God can remove any personal sense attached to this work and allow for a natural and thorough correction when needed. It can eliminate any siren call of an "us vs. them" mentality, and restore a sense of peace and order where doubt and angst would try to enter in.

*In seamless gratitude I weave  
A silent, healing prayer,  
With shining threads of ceaseless joy;  
For man is God's great heir.  
(Christian Science Hymnal, No. 146:1, 4)*

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season filled with love, joy and inspiration.

Warmly,

Renee McCardell

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