

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

A Message from the Manager:

Mary Baker Eddy writes in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*: “The Revelator represents the Son of man as saying (Revelation i. 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]’ (p. 334:24–28). The marginal heading for that sentence is “Eternity of the Christ.”

At times, it can seem that Christian Science, our church, or our Leader are misunderstood, diminished, or no longer considered relevant by the public, or that our own enthusiasm and inspiration for church can feel exhausted or run dry.

But included in that passage is an established truth we can declare for ourselves and our churches that address these impositions: “I am awake and alive for evermore! — ‘Science has explained me.’” Science — the Science of the Christ — has “explained” for all-time our churches as ever-vital and as “the structure of Truth and Love”; explained that we are each the upright, whole, and free sons and daughters of God; explained that our Leader was a selfless “scribe under orders” and shared this Science with humanity to bless all. Every aspect of our church is known, understood, and actively serving its holy purpose today and “for evermore,” even when the false evidence of the material senses tries to suggest otherwise.

In the work of the Committee on Publication to correct an imposition in a Christian manner, it can seem on the surface as if this is accomplished through human “explaining” — in the form of correspondence with journalists and others, conversations with legislators, etc.

But Committees have found that this *Church Manual*-based work is more effective — and full of inspiration and joy — when we each realize it is not one human mind explaining something to another human mind, but instead Science explaining itself — “the ‘still, small voice’ of Truth uttering itself” (*Science and Health*, p. 323:29-30). And this message can come through clearly to reveal the enduring vitality of our church and its members.

We’re grateful each day for the communications that unfold from Committees’ prayerful listening, a few of which were recently shared in the Christian Science periodicals as referred to below. And we’re grateful for each of our church’s members who live this Science that “explains” — reveals — the true spiritual nature of each of us.

Sincerely,
Kevin E. Ness, C.S.B.
Manager, Committees on Publication

Fruitage

Our Committee on Publication responses strive to follow Mary Baker Eddy's counsel to her students "to be charitable and kind, not only towards differing forms of religion and medicine, but to those who hold these differing opinions" as well to "be faithful in pointing the way through Christ, as we understand it, but ... also [to] be careful always to 'judge righteous judgment,' and never to condemn rashly" (*Science and Health*, p. 444:13-19). Here are two recent articles in the Christian Science periodicals which share a few examples of Committees' responses:

A recently published book *To Baptize or Not to Baptize*, written by a Lutheran pastor and author of several other books and more than 200 articles, included a scenario involving a couple seeking baptism for their baby. The mother is from a Christian Science background, and brief as this case is, it includes several substantial impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science, including the statement, "Despite its name, 'The Church of Christ, Scientist' is not a Christian church." Included in the article below, recently published in *The Christian Science Journal* is a letter to the author of this book from the Office of the Committee on Publication, which resulted in a gracious and thoughtful response from the author recognizing the value of Christ's blessings as evidenced in the letter.

[Allowing our Christianity to shine](#)

The Christian Science Journal, May 2022

Excerpt:

... I also wanted to offer a few words about the meaning and practice of baptism in Christian Science. I loved reading about your own experience and ever-deepening understanding of baptism in "Still Life with Baptism," and I appreciated the pithy quotes from Martin Luther woven throughout. One of these particularly resonated with my experience of baptism as a Christian Scientist: "Thus a Christian life is nothing else than a daily baptism, begun once and continuing ever after." I realize that the words "begun once" refer to a physical act involving water, but surely the continuing, daily baptism takes place in the private sanctuary of one's heart.

Christian Scientists seek to live in alignment with the words of Jesus, as recorded in John: "But the time approaches, indeed it is already here, when those who are real worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Such are the worshippers whom the Father wants" (4:23). For us, baptism is not a one-time event involving water, but a purification of the heart and of consciousness—a cleansing from sin and spiritual complacency so as to enter into communion with God and to feel more deeply the sanctifying and transformative influence of God's holiness and grace. This profound inward meeting with Christ through his Word is something we endeavor to experience as a continuing, core element of Christian life.

In the words of one of my favorite Christian authors, Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Every morning God gives us the gift of comprehending anew his faithfulness of old; thus, in the midst of our life with God, we may daily begin a new life with him."

During the pandemic, Committees on Publication have had numerous opportunities to share with the media and others the Christian Science perspective on vaccination and public health, two of which were included in the *Christian Science Sentinel* earlier this year.

[Responses to the press on vaccination](#)

Christian Science Sentinel, January 31, 2022

These articles convey our enduring respect for, and conscientious obedience to, the laws of the land—a commitment that has always been accompanied by the vital, demonstrable, leavening impact of Christian Science healing throughout the world.

Inspiration and updates from your Committee on Publication:

Hello everyone! I am pleased to introduce myself to all of you as I embrace our amazing church family and dive in to Committee work. My name is Renee McCardell and I am so grateful for the opportunity to do this meaningful work 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)

In praying about this vital component of church, I have been thinking and praying deeply about healing. Mrs. Eddy asked us all to do it, as she did, and take up our own daily practice of Christian Science to change the world for the better. This Christianly scientific practice will bring the public forth - healing is what we offer the weary world, begging for relief from the struggles of mortal existence. In reading *Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer*, by Yvonne Caché von Fettweis and Robert Townsend Warnek, these passages stood out to me:

“I started this great work and *woke the people* by demonstration, not words but works. ..Healing is the best sermon, healing is the best lecture, and the entire demonstration of Christian Science. The sinner and sick healed are our best witnesses.” (p.189)

“To know there is but *one* God, one Cause, one effect, one Mind, heals instantly. Have but One God, and your reflection of Him does the healing.” (p.167)

As dedicated students of Christian Science, we are all working together to bring the light of Truth to every circumstance. I look forward to meeting with you in the coming year and would be delighted to hear from you anytime!

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