

# Watch Words

Donald W. Ingwerson,  
Committee on Publication

## QUARTERLY UPDATE

### A Message from the Manager

Hymn 196 DAY OF REST  
James W. Elliott

Now is the time approaching,  
By prophets long foretold,  
When all shall dwell together,  
One Shepherd and one fold.  
Now Jew and Gentile, meeting  
From many a distant shore,  
Around one altar kneeling,  
One common Lord adore.

Let all that now divides us  
Remove and pass away,  
Like shadows of the morning  
Before the blaze of day.  
Let all that now unites us  
More sweet and lasting prove,  
A closer bond of union,  
In a blest land of love.



As we enter the last quarter of 2016, I find much comfort in this hymn. There are forces of belief that would persistently attempt to divide mankind, in families, in communities, in nations, among nations.

Our work is like this hymn. Committees are praying, listening, and correcting impositions on the public in regard to mortal mind's attempt to divide all of us from the healing Christ, the spiritual sense of love of good and love of all mankind. But our work is designed to discern this error and enrich the affections of all mankind, realizing God's government. We are united in this Manual mission.

With gratitude,

Rich Evans  
Manager, Committees 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. This Committee on Publication shall be responsible for correcting or having corrected a false newspaper article which has not been replied to by other Scientists, or which has been forwarded to this Committee for the purpose of having him reply to it.*

Article XXXIII, Section 2, Church Manual of The First Church of Christ, Scientist

**PLEASE DUPLICATE WATCHWORDS AND SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERS**

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*Wishing You A Wonderful  
Christmas Season  
&  
A Joyous New Year!*

### **ACTIVITY for Assistant Committees**

*(Assessing the visibility of Christian Science in the Community)*

Looking for ways to support the Committee office – and in turn help in the community? Here are some very helpful field projects you can work on:

1. Check with county, city, and high school libraries to see if they have Christian Science literature such as *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and *The Christian Science Monitor* in stock.
2. Contact local interfaith groups to find out if Christian Scientists are members and/or if the Christian Science church has had the opportunity to be introduced to the group.
3. Meet with news editors and federal/state legislators to put a face to the Christian Science presence in the community. This is an opportunity to let them know that you have community lecture events sponsored by your church. Keep in mind that many times meeting a staff member is as helpful as meeting the legislator!
4. Correct “fake news” and other impositions about Christian Science that you may encounter on social media – especially Facebook.

Your efforts and support are vital to this important work. Thank you in advance for this outreach – and let me know if you have any questions either by email or phone. And I look forward to hearing your reports as often as you can send them in!

### **CHURCH WORKSHOPS**

These workshops for our Bible-based religion are a great way to practice our communication skills, exchange ideas, and support each other in our ongoing quest to be better communicators. The workshop covers correcting impositions in regard to Christian Science in the topics of health, theology, and from matter-based science.

Have your assistant committee contact me if your branch church or society would like to host a workshop in 2016/2017.

*Check with the church for time before attending.*

First Church, Hemet  
875 E. Acacia Ave.  
**Saturday, December 10, at 1 p.m.**

First Church, Rancho Santa Fe  
6165 La Flecha  
**Saturday, February 11, at 10 a.m.**

Second Church, Newport Beach  
3100 Pacific View Dr., Corona del Mar  
**TBD**

## Is the Truth Actually Out There Somewhere?

by Don Ingwerson

When individuals, alone, or as part of a company, political party, or government present untrue or inaccurate information to the public through the media or other avenues, inevitably there is damage - individuals hurt, jobs lost, economies damaged, communities destroyed. The most recent example being the German car manufacturer, Volkswagen, and the individuals within it who were willing to lie about the Company's vehicles meeting the emissions needed to be sold in certain countries. Not telling the truth damaged the company's reputation and prosperity, public safety, and the economy in communities where Volkswagens were manufactured and sold.

You and I may not have been damaged in any way by this scandal, but every day we are challenged to discern if what we are being told is the truth - in the media, at city council meetings, by a salesman, by our kids.

What is truth? How we discern and understand it is explored in a *Christian Science Monitor* article (August 8, 2016) with the headline: ["Keeping Facts in the Idea Zone."](#) The article includes this profound statement by Daniel Patrick Moynihan, "You are entitled to your own opinion. But you are not entitled to your own facts," - reminding the reader not only to analyze how the presenter gathered his or her facts but also to analyze what was presented as fact a little more thoughtfully than often happens today.

Like others, I've found that my view of truth matters. I find that my view of a person, issue, or event is developed and held in light of my level of information, how I view the ethics surrounding the situation, and the moral philosophy of the person I am viewing. As the credible information level builds, facts become more stable and reliable. Reflecting on the different beliefs and theories in

all situations allows a person to navigate life with more clarity and consistency.

But is there something even greater than human reasoning and evaluation that is needed to bring us to the heart of truth? I've found that spiritual discernment is another important aspect of evaluating the information presented to me.

One experience I had some years ago is a good example of how this approach can result in outcomes where the truth of a murky situation becomes clear. My wife and I were engaged in a real estate transaction for a new tract home in Southern California. We had just signed all the papers and given our down payment. But as we prayed further and engaged in more in-depth research into the transaction and the contractor/developer, we found honesty had been lacking in the information he had presented to us. Further prayer led us to request a late Saturday evening meeting with him and ask for our money back and to cancel the transaction. He agreed to our requests, and once the papers were negated, we had a peaceful evening at home. The next morning the media reported that the developer had been in violation of real estate law and had left the country just after meeting with us.

This active listening and prayer, instrumental to the harmonious progression and outcome of any situation, is summed up so concisely in Proverbs: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Perhaps one of the biggest areas in our lives where we are looking for truth is in what we read, hear, and see about how to maintain or restore our health. Over one hundred years ago, Mary Baker Eddy, a devout Christian who had experienced prolonged illness, financial insecurity, and homelessness, searched the Scriptures for years for clarity about her relationship to God to find

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healing to address these issues. The truth she found was that God was all, God was good, and man was the reflection of this infinite, all-powerful God. This conclusion didn't come from evaluating the hard "facts" around her – how much money she had or how long she'd struggled with an illness. It came from time spent in communion with God, where a new view of reality emerged.

When she later reflected on what she experienced and wrote about this discovery, she stated, "...when I practiced its precepts, healing the sick and reforming the sinner, then I learned

the truth of what I had written." In other words, she had discerned truth in her prayers, then she tested the truth she had found to determine if it had a tangible healing impact. When it did, she felt she could trust this truth.

Finding trustworthy facts continues to be important to me in every aspect of my life. As we each seek truth amid the information and misinformation coming at us from all quarters, spiritual discernment can definitely help any one of us find a secure path to something as big as our health or as minor as a real estate transaction.

## ACTIVITY

### Media Contacts

- ▶ John Canalis – LA Times Daily Pilot
- ▶ Susan Espenschied – Aliso Laguna News
- ▶ Inday Moses – San Gabriel Valley Examiner
- ▶ Lilia O'Hara – Enlace (Hoy)

### Office Closure

The office will be closed from Monday, December 26, 2016 thru Monday, January 2, 2017 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

### Other

Traveled to Boston for a meeting with Committees Manager, Rich Evans.

### *Recently published Committee articles from around the world:*

#### [Christian Science and dentistry](#)

Leroy Gatlin, Oklahoma

*Dentistry IQ* (national online dentistry magazine)

#### [L'attitude du scientifique Chrétien face à la loi, la vaccination, et les maladies contagieuses](#)

(Part 2: Christian Science: The Attitude of the Christian Scientist before the Law, Immunization, and Communicable Diseases)

Makengo Ma Pululu, DRC, Africa

*L'Observateur*

#### [Our Belief In Hell Is One Helluva Belief!](#)

Tony Lobl, UK

*Huffington Post UK*

#### ["Orar" es algo más que "pedir"](#)

(To "pray" is more than to "ask")

Elizabeth Santángelo, Argentina

*Armstrong y Región Web*

#### [Glauben Sie etwa an Wunder?](#)

(Do you believe in miracles?)

Michael Seek, Germany

*Augsburger Allgemeine*

#### [Inner Truth: Raising Sons](#)

Annu Mattai, India

*DNA India*

Read more on the [Press Room](#)