

Watch Words

Donald W. Ingwerson,
Committee on Publication

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*We are having our annual assistant committee conference **Saturday, September 10th** at the La Mirada Holiday Inn and we encourage at least one representative from each church and society in our Southern California region to attend – if you can't make it then encourage another church member to attend. So save the date and we look forward to seeing you there!*

-Don Ingwerson

Religious Practice: Give and You Will Receive

by Don Ingwerson

When I was in college, I had a particularly hard time with one of my math courses. As I struggled through this class, one day I happened to meet my professor in the hall and told him the trouble I was having. I was expecting that he would make an effort to help me in some way so that I could more easily grasp the concepts and be able to use them.

But he didn't take the bait.

Instead, he told me that when he was going through the same class he too found it difficult. Like me, he also reached out to his professor, and his professor told him he needed to buckle down, study more, and make sure to do all of the homework. By doing so, the professor had said, he would experience a breakthrough and finally achieve understanding. And he did.

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ACTIVITY

Published Articles

- ▶ *Inspiration to Look Beyond Pain Medication* – San Gabriel Valley Examiner
- ▶ *Finding a Deeper Sense of Renewal* – San Gabriel Valley Examiner
- ▶ *Religious Practice: Give and You Will Receive* – LA Times Community Newspaper (Daily Pilot), Aliso Laguna News, Laguna Beach Patch, San Gabriel Valley Examiner

Media Contacts

- ▶ John Canalis – LA Times Community Newspaper (Daily Pilot)
- ▶ Leo Smith – Orange County Register
- ▶ Kimberly Guimarin – Inland Valley Daily Bulletin
- ▶ Jessica Keating – Redlands Daily Facts
- ▶ Mike Brossart – Inland Valley Daily Bulletin
- ▶ Daniel Tedford – Whittier Daily News
- ▶ Lilia O'Hara – San Diego Union Tribune (Hoy)
- ▶ Inday Moses – San Gabriel Valley Examiner
- ▶ Susan Espenschied – Aliso Laguna News

Media Visit

- ▶ Lilia O'Hara – San Diego Union Tribune (Hoy)

PLEASE DUPLICATE WATCHWORDS AND SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERS

465 Forest Avenue, Suite J • Laguna Beach, CA 92651 • 949.494.5071
CaliforniaS@compub.org • www.csinsocal.com • www.Twitter.com/SCalCS

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The message was clear. I had to buckle down, study more, and do all *my* homework! Perhaps it's also a message that needs to be heard in religious circles in our current society, since a recent [Pew Research Center Report on Religion and Public Health](#) concluded that, "Highly religious Americans are happier and more involved with family but are no more likely to exercise, recycle, or make socially conscious choices."

What this study suggests is that there is little difference between those who regularly attend worship services and practice religion and those who do not, when it comes to making outward lifestyle choices. And so it makes sense to me that religious attendance and practice is declining in every age group, education level, region, and gender in the US.

What I've found true over the years – just like with my math class – is that I need to study and actually *live* the spiritual truths that I find and understand. As I make these spiritual truths an integral part of every aspect of my life, my religion becomes vibrant and alive – and then a *necessary* part of my life. Over a hundred years ago, author [Mary Baker Eddy](#) and the founder of Christian Science wrote, "Mind-science teaches that mortals need 'not be weary in well doing.' It dissipates fatigue in doing good. Giving does not impoverish

us in the service of our Maker, neither does withholding enrich us."

Less weariness is not all that comes about from giving instead of withholding. The power of living itself can be upheld by constantly searching for spiritual truth. For instance, a [CNN poll](#) authored by Carina Storrs found that women nurses who attended religious services regularly had a death rate 33% lower than non church-going women. And there are those who are finding ways to encourage this spiritual search. In their book, *Essential*, Thom and Sam Rainer strongly recommend that churches not water down Scripture and instead search for ways to be relevant by making the gospel messages applicable to present culture.

The words and works of Jesus are indeed relevant to today's world, because the gospel message of God's love for all is as timeless as our need for healing. And that's why it is possible, perhaps inevitable, that the seemingly downward trend in current religious practice can be reversed – because the deepest life satisfaction comes through learning the value of what Eddy calls "the power of being magnanimous."

Or, as Jesus put it: "Don't hold back – give freely, and you'll have plenty poured back into your lap – a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, brimming over. You'll receive in the same measure you give."

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CHURCH WORKSHOPS

Many people are seeking answers to their health problems and as Christian Scientists, what we have to contribute is vital to this discussion and is a natural outcome of the healings we've experienced. Speaking from our own experiences - concisely and without jargon - is one of the most effective ways of sharing how Christian Science has benefited our lives.

The workshop is a great way to practice our communication skills, exchange ideas, and support each other in our ongoing quest to be better communicators. The topic of these workshops is *How to Discuss Christian Science from a Health Perspective* and are free!

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

Check with church for time before attending.

First Church, Covina
238 N Citrus Ave., Covina
Tuesday, July 12th at 7:45 pm

Corrective Work

An imposition in the June 10th Los Angeles Times Op-Ed article that expressed the notion of de-spiritualizing the Bible to call it a 'record of humanity' was responded to by my good friend Madelon Maupin. Here is what Madelon submitted:

The Times' recent piece ("[Atheists and believers are reading the Bible the wrong way](#)," June 10, 2016) finds its authors attempting to snatch the Bible from the jaws of either the New Atheists or evolutionary biologists. Yet evolutionary anthropologist Carel van Schaik and historian Kai Michel's efforts to re-classify the Bible as 'a diary of humanity' is like confiscating the stripes of a zebra while still calling it one.

I appreciate their attempt to reframe the Bible in a secular culture that seems underwhelmed by it. But what is getting lost in all these attempts at relevancy is the profound transformative nature of these 66 books that constitute the Old and New Testaments that make up the Bible, and have shaped Western Civilization and individuals for centuries.

Neither the natural nor social sciences can do justice to the spirituality that has distinguished the Bible for 2000+ years and kept generations of Jews and Christians returning to its poetry, narratives, parables and histories that are believed to be the Word of God.

The founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, declares what so many have proved for themselves that lifts the Bible out of a mere intellectual document to one that transforms and heals. "The Scriptures are very sacred. Our aim must be to have them understood spiritually, for only by this understanding can truth be gained. It is this spiritual perception of Scripture, which lifts humanity out of disease and death and inspires faith" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 547).

Op-Ed answer - Thank you for your submission to the Los Angeles Times OPEd page and Sunday Opinion pages. Unfortunately, we are unable to use your article.

We do appreciate your considering The Times and wish you luck in placing it elsewhere.

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