Watch Words

Donald W. Ingwerson
Committee on Publication

ANNUAL COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

Opening & Readings
“Let us feel the divine energy of Spirit, bringing us into newness of life...” (SH 249:6-7) This was the inspiration – as quoted in Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy – that guided our September 9th Assistant Committee Conference. When this energy is felt, we can't help but shine with Christ’s light in all aspects of our lives.

Erich Marthaler, assistant committee for Cambria Society, started off the meeting with readings by stressing the idea that we all, as practicing Christian Scientists, can shine our light in our lives. This is our beautiful purpose, to "let your light so shine" with our fellow man and woman. What follows is healing sin and sickness through God's infinite power and by our understanding of Divine Science.

Manager’s Message
After the readings that prepared our thought for the day, Kevin Ness, Manager of Christian Science Committees on Publication worldwide, shared by Skype a few thoughts about the direction of the Committee work. He emphasized the need to view Committee work as healing work, and as such to see the Article XXXIII Church Manual bylaw instruction "to correct in a Christian manner impositions on the public" as the work of prayer and the collective demonstration of church rather than mere human effort. This spiritual effort includes actively establishing in thought together “the divine energy of Spirit, bringing us into newness of life and recognizing no mortal nor material power as able to destroy” (S&H 249:6-8), which lifts the false imposition that Christian Science or our branch churches lack vitality and reveals this Science and our branches as a "city set on an hill" giving light to the world.

Correcting Impositions: Our Challenge and Opportunity
Amanda Kiser, Content Leader for the Manager's Council then spoke about the impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science that would try to keep the Christ idea hidden from humanity. As we become more alert to the specific false claims in public thought (Christian Science is outdated, Christian Science doesn't heal, etc), we can address them as cases in our practice. Alfred Farlow once said: “It certainly does require a mighty effort to carry out what the Publication Committee has undertaken; indeed, we have undertaken what would be called impossibilities, and we are doing impossible things every day, but we know in Science that with our understanding of the omnipotent power we can do what we have failed to do in the past and would be impossible to from the human standpoint.”

Often these claims try to manifest themselves in our church experience (see Misc. 220:23-221:2), so our primary job is to watch and pray. Christian Science cannot be squeezed into the world’s models or defined by its limited views. The love of Christian Science in our hearts, and our bearing witness to all that Christian Science represents, is indeed strong enough and real enough to bring healing to public thought in regard to Christian Science. Our motivation for this work is our love for humanity, and we can expect to see this having a direct impact on our churches. It is essential that we do this work together as Church, for church is where true power lies. To follow along with responses the Committee on Publication has made to specific impositions – false claims on Christian Science – Amanda told us to keep an eye out for the new "Dialogue with the World" column in the Sentinel.
What’s the Difference between Interfaith and Ecumenical Work? —and Why Does it Matter?

Madelon Maupin further developed the challenges and opportunities of correcting impositions on Christian Science by addressing the distinction between ecumenical and interfaith efforts. She clarified that ecumenical efforts involve only Christians, while interfaith efforts involve those of any faith, such as Muslim, Jewish, etc. She shared that Jesus prayed for the unity of all followers, “And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.” (John 17:11) She also shared that the writer of Ephesians underscored the basis of unity that is at the heart of ecumenical efforts in Eph 4:3-5: “Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all.”

Madelon has realized that reaching a harmonious dialogue within interfaith outreach, where many differing religions are represented, is usually considerably easier, as opposed to ecumenical dialogue, where everyone is Christian. Therefore, her knowledge of the Bible texts and the history behind the Bible have become a bridge. She shared Biblical examples of Peter and Cornelius as well as Philip and the Eunuch, all brought together by the Holy Spirit. She was also able to share that the gift of healing is the gift Christian Scientists can bring to the ecumenical conversation and cited the example of a recent meeting when it seemed right to share a healing of blood poisoning that was a result of gaining a more spiritual sense of hope and what it is grounded on.

Food for Thought

Lona Ingwerson gave us spiritual food for thought about protection from harm in a storm right before lunch when she read “Wonderfully Sustained by Truth” by Mary Christie in the December 6, 1900 Christian Science Sentinel.

https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1900/12/3-14/wonderfully-sustained-by-truth

Correcting Impositions on the Public Regarding Christian Science in Law

Ken Bemis, the Government Relations Counsel for Committees on Publication, gave an in-depth talk after lunch about the healing nature of the work when human laws and expectations seem to conflict with the practice of Christian Science. He shared how this isn't anything new, and was prevalent not only in Mrs. Eddy's day, but even further back in history throughout the course of the Bible. However, he reminded us that the corrections come not through human ways and means, but through quick and whole healing, and that our best work happens when we use our metaphysical tools to address these issues.

Eric Nelson, Committee on Publication for Northern California, continued the conversation on correcting impositions on Christian Science by providing updates on legislative efforts pertaining to the unimpeded practice of Christian Science. He shared how important it was to correct any impositions “in a Christian manner” and how doing so has created an atmosphere of respect in legislative offices where meetings have taken place.

Church Workshop

Twenty-eight Church Los Angeles
1018 Hilgard Avenue
Saturday, October 28th
Lighting a Thousand Candles

After an inspiring day filled with spiritual insights about light, hope, unity, and healing, Lona Ingwerson recited “A Better Way” by Louise Knight Wheatley Cook in the October 1, 1912 Christian Science Journal. [https://journal.christianscience.com/issues/1912/10/30-7/a-better-way](https://journal.christianscience.com/issues/1912/10/30-7/a-better-way) Here’s a portion of this poem:

> A woman was given a candle, And she hid it away on the shelf. It is all I have, she murmured, And hardly enough for myself... Another was given a candle, And she stepped out into the night. It is all I have, she murmured, I must make the most of its light...

The question each of us can take away from this profound poem is whether we will hide our unlit candles, or light the way for truth, thereby inspiring the illumination of the world.

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Stay tuned to next month’s WatchWords to hear what individual assistants shared at the conference in their efforts to let their light shine!

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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