

# Watch Words

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Committee on Publication

## PBS DOCUMENTARY

*I thought church members would be interested to know about a documentary on spirituality in medicine that includes Christian Science healing. Former Christian Science lecturer Christine Driessen, C.S.B. was interviewed for the documentary.*

*She had this to say about the documentary:*

A couple of years ago, PBS asked filmmaker Gerald Krell to do a documentary on spirituality and healing. Among the doctors and religious people he interviewed, he also interviewed a few of the authors of the book, “Soul of Medicine—Spiritual Perspectives and Clinical Practice,” which included a chapter on Christian Science.

The documentary, “[YOUR HEALTH: A SACRED MATTER](#)”, will be shown in its two-hour form (with a section on Christian Science) on PBS’ World Channel twice: on Friday, July 7 from 7-9 pm e.s.t. and again on Saturday, July 8 on the west coast from 9-11 pm p.s.t. on over 100 stations.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Update:** The 2017 Annual Assistants Committee Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn La Mirada! Hotel plans to begin a refurbishing project has been postponed until after the holidays.

**Save the Date:** Saturday, September 9, and plan to attend an all-day event for assistant committees and church representatives. We encourage at least one representative from each church and society in our Southern California region to attend — if you can’t make it, please encourage another church member to attend and email the office the information. So save the date, September 9th. Details for the conference will be sent out in July.

-Don Ingwerson

**The Committee’s office will be closed  
Tuesday, July 4th, in observance of  
Independence Day!**



## Celebrating Freedom this Independence Day

by Don Ingwerson

July 4th has always been special to me, not only because of the freedom America was celebrating, but also for the memories of an earlier America. I vividly remember one special July 4th in Glenview, Ky - on the banks of the Ohio River where the paddle wheel Louisville boat was chugging up the river loaded with passengers and the Calliope was playing Dixieland music. Two hundred people with dogs, horses, and buggies gathered on the grassy river bank, wearing straw hats and holding American flags, while the high school band played Stars and Strips Forever. Everyone was a neighbor and the ice cream social kept everyone cool and pleasant. What a fun memory!

*Celebrating Freedom cont'd on page 2*

*Celebrating Freedom cont'd from page 1*

Perhaps that's why we need to remember the founding of our country. So that we are reminded of how it is possible for people to come together in neighborly camaraderie to celebrate today the freedoms our forefathers struggled to attain for us.

As we celebrate the 241st anniversary as an independent nation, we do have many things to celebrate and to be thankful for. One of the bedrocks of our country, which many other nations tragically lack, is the commitment to religious freedom we have maintained through the years. Yet I have learned such commitment requires fresh renewal with each successive generation. We can't take for granted that all of our citizens will understand and appreciate this crucial component of our history, nor recognize how vital it is that it should continue.

That being said, it's important to note that America has always been a religious country and today more than half of the American people still attend a place of worship each week. At the heart of religion is prayer, with even more Americans praying than going to church. And according to composite surveys, 85% to 94% pray regularly. So as Independence Day approaches, we can assess the progress gained by having the First Amendment's freedom of religion clause and encourage policymakers working on solving America's social problems to remember the

positive effects the practice of religion has had and continues to have on our nation.

One such positive effect is shown in the life of [Mary Baker Eddy](#), a New England woman who found such spiritual strength through her understanding of God that she was able to found a church even before women were allowed to vote. She perhaps had an even deeper sense of religious freedom, including a conviction that a right understanding of divine Love could itself free the individual from all kinds of injustice, including ill health. Her book, [Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures](#), is full of messages of finding freedom - especially from fear which can cause sickness. It says "We should master fear, instead of cultivating it" because "Sickness, disease, and death proceed from fear." By contrast, she says of God that: "Only the action of [divine] Truth, Life, and Love can give harmony."

Many thousands have been healed by prayerfully pondering thoughts like these that elucidate the inspired writings of the Bible and the healings demonstrated by Jesus.

It seems to me that July 4th is a great time to rekindle that deep appreciation for freedom, which our forefathers gave to us, and to also value freedom's deeper, spiritual promise. As Eddy encouraged us to realize, now is the time to "...accept the 'glorious liberty of the children of God,' and be free!"

## REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

### Thousand Oaks – Assistant Committee Anne Stearns Condon

Anne has been active with her local interfaith group for twelve years. The Buddhist in the organization writes the interfaith column, a column she prays about and its purpose to uplift and inspire the community with a spiritual perspective. Gradually his articles have grown to reflect that goal. Another member of the organization is a medical nurse who is a Christian. Her early pieces for the interfaith column were heavily on the medical side, but that has lifted to a more spiritual outlook.

Anne reports: "It takes a while to build these kinds of relationships, but I can say today that it has been worth it. I'm reminded of Mrs. Eddy's words in *Science and Health*: Through Christian Science, religion and medicine are inspired with a diviner nature and essence; fresh pinions are given to faith and understanding, and thoughts acquaint themselves intelligently with God."

**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 matter-based science.

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

*Check with church for time before attending.*



First Church, Manhattan Beach  
1130 Manhattan Beach Blvd  
**Saturday, July 15th at 10:30 a.m.**

First Church, Laguna Niguel  
29012 Aloma Avenue  
**Saturday, August 12th at 10:30 a.m.**

First Church, San Juan Capistrano  
31897 Del Obispo Street #120  
**Sunday, August 13th at 11:15 a.m.**

Twenty-eighth Church, Los Angeles  
1018 Hilgard Avenue  
**Saturday, October 28th**

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

*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**