

---

“...what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”  
-Mark 13:37

---

# ANNUAL REPORT 2007

COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE WORK IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY INSTITUTIONS

---

Since 1927, Christian Science branch churches and societies in Los Angeles County have brought the healing ministry of Christian Science to jails, juvenile camps, health care and drug rehabilitation facilities operated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Committee members assist the Chaplains as Second Readers, ushers and metaphysicians. All Committee workers are class taught, active members of a local branch church.

---



This Committee would like to express its gratitude to everyone who has given freely to support the healing progress that is being made in the County institutions every week. From the chaplains and workers that provide church services and one-on-one interviews in the facilities, to the branch church assistance that is

given to help purchase the Bibles and copies of *Science and Health* that are shared with the inmates, all contribute in their own way to help bring about the practical results that you will read about in the following pages. Thank you one and all for your loving charity and constant prayerful support.

## In This Report

Literature  
Distribution Tally

Reflections from  
Lectures

Fruitage

Chaplains' and  
Workers' Reflections

Facility Profiles

LA County  
Institutions Map

### MEETINGS

General Meetings for branch church Representatives and all interested in this healing work are held at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Pasadena, 80 South Oakland Avenue (at Green Street) in the Sunday School Room. (See WEB site or your branch church clerk for calendar). Chaplains and workers share their fruitage and inspiration. **All are welcome!**

During the past year the Committee was involved in the following activities:

- 7 Christian Science services per week
- 4 Bible classes per week
- 8 Christian Science lectures sponsored by branch churches

Distribution of literature:

- 1200 English Bibles
- 400 Spanish Bibles
- 1200 English *Science and Health*
- 500 Spanish *Ciencia y Salud*
- 100+ copies Spanish *El Heraldo*
- 2000+ copies *Christian Science Sentinel*
- 500+ copies *The Christian Science Journal*
- 5000+ copies *The Christian Science Monitor*

# Fruitage

## Reflections from Institution Lectures

About 60 men attended each of the lectures (Spanish and English)...At both lectures the men listened with complete attention as they were introduced to the goodness and completeness of God's nature....After the English lecture, the first question from an inmate was, "Did God create evil as the Bible says?" The lecturer answered, "Would God create something to destroy Himself?" And referring back to his earlier explanation of the difference between Genesis I and II, he said, "Either we accept that everything was made good, or that it was made of dust – take your pick!" You could see the light dawn in their eyes. At one point a man summarized, "What you are saying is that God is not the author of error!"...About 40 copies of *Science and Health* were given out at each lecture.

At the jail there were many of the women who expressed sincere gratitude for our message of innate goodness as children of God. Their questions were questions of clarification about Christian concepts, vocabulary definitions, and prayer. One woman said, "I've read these things, but this is the first time I've felt it. It's so powerful. How can I make sure I don't lose it?" We had a few more moments to talk about that. Almost all of the 38 women took copies of *Science and Health*. Clearly this lecture was blessed by the good work of the County Institutions Committee, too. When we went to announce the "special talk" in the pods, twice someone said, "Oh is this Christian Science? We've been waiting for you!" The whole world is waiting.

## Gratitude for Healing of Racial Tension

Our Thanksgiving service led to a very impressive sharing. One man's remarks were particularly moving. He expressed deep gratitude for the fact that conflict between Blacks and Latinos had subsided. He remarked that we are all children of God. And that brought out an enthusiastic round of applause and many "Amen's" from the audience, which included both Blacks and Latinos. For them it was probably a unique opportunity to give voice to these heartfelt sentiments.

## Gratitude for Quiet Time and a Sense of Freedom

One day women from two of the four modules were already in the classroom when we learned that the other two modules...would be late to the service. We decided to wait for them and to pass out a *Sentinel* to each woman already in the classroom and invite them to quietly read until the others arrived. It was wonderful! The room was quiet – it was like a Christian Science Reading Room. One of the women remarked that they don't ever get quiet reading time, and this meant so much to her. A woman reading one of the *Sentinels* for children kept looking up and saying, "Oh! This is good!" During the service she exclaimed, "Oh, I just felt this heavy weight fall off me. I feel so free – all over!" All the women were glued to the service, and afterwards,

there were lots of expressions of gratitude. One woman said, "You don't know how much these services help. They get us through the next week. We are so blessed by them."

## Understanding of Innate Goodness

One woman, who had received a copy of *Science and Health* at a previous service told me today that she'd just finished reading it. She said that it has given her faith in God, and finally she can understand that she herself is good, as God created her.

## God's Channels for a New Perspective of the Universal Christ

One inmate, who told me he was a Muslim, expressed how excited he was to have his own copy of *Science and Health* and said that he really liked our service. He commented that he loved the way that we spoke about the laws of God as universal and also said that he finally understood that the Christ is for everyone! He said that this new perspective of the universal Christ, Truth, really opened his eyes and is helpful to him even in his own faith tradition.

## Light of Freedom

At a service an inmate asked the chaplain if he could sing a solo. So at the end of the service he stood and, with a very lovely voice, sang a gospel song on the subject of choosing this day whom you will serve and not waiting for tomorrow. It obviously touched several of the men. As I looked around the room, I saw inmates straining to hold back tears. It's always inspiring to see the channels God uses to bring the light of freedom to the darkest places of fear, hatred and despair.

## Confusion Healed

When the inmates were let out of their pods to gather for the service, it was apparent that one of them was struggling with a sense of confusion. He sat down in the front row and began talking to himself. As the service began and his talking continued, the growing irritation from many of the other inmates threatened to disrupt the entire service. I began to pray as the chaplain worked to calm the situation. I remember thinking about the absoluteness of God as the only Mind. I thought of true communication as being like a one-way street. It only goes in the direction of God to man. It seemed logical that confusion and anger didn't stand much of a chance. As the situation quieted and we proceeded with the service, the young man got up and moved to the back row. He never stopped talking to himself, but the confusion stopped, and I heard one word repeated for the rest of the service – "Amen". Who could argue with that affirmation of God's Word? After the service, this man came up and apologized for the disruption. I reassured him, "God brought you here." He said, "God bless you," took a few *Sentinels* and disappeared into his pod. It was truly a sanctuary moment where I didn't see a sick, confused mortal. Instead, I saw only the child of God.

## "I've Found What I've Been Looking for"

A woman came up after one of the church services with tears in her eyes and said, "I've been attending different church services looking for the right one for me. When you said that Christian Science is based

upon the laws of God, I knew right away I'd found what I'd been looking for." She went on to say that the church service was wonderful, inspiring, and that the message was "clear and easy to understand." And she left comforted and inspired. I gave her a Bible and *Science and Health*.

## Drawn by the Inspired Word

At the close of the service a Sheriff's Deputy came up and asked, "Who discovered Christian Science?" A brief explanation was given him, and he took a copy of *Science and Health* to read. The inspired Word being read is like a magnet and draws people to come and find out more.

## Freedom from Concern

One of my first interviews that day was with a young man who didn't seem sure if there was anything I could do to help him and expressed his concern particularly for his mother and family members who were very worried about him being in jail, especially with all the rioting that was going on at the time. We turned to the 91st Psalm and read it line by line, applying it to each of the various tempting thoughts that might try to convince him that he or his family were somehow out of God's care. He really loved it. With teary eyes, he expressed gratitude for those ideas, which were bringing him comfort and confidence.... After we were done, he seemed much more expectant and peaceful, and he kept thanking me all the way back to his pod.

## Chaplains' and Workers' Reflections

The real fruitage is in ourselves, as well as in the inmates. As we go about this work, we see how ideas open and change thinking, and we find evidence of spiritual receptivity in the faces of the inmates and in their eager acceptance of literature – the Full Text editions are especially good for reading in their bunks. They begin to see themselves in a new light. I remember seeing a man come in, sit down in the front row with his arms folded across his chest and leaning back sort of insolently as if to say, "Show me." Some time later, as we went on with the lesson, I noticed him leaning forward with his arms on his knees, listening intently. At the end he had tears in his eyes.

I feel that the services we provide are bringing that sunlight of Truth, which is uplifting and full of hope and brightens the morning or afternoon with a sense of God's absolute, unconditional love for everybody. And each individual is seen as unique, beautiful in her (his) own way, whether it is in their smiles, shouts of "Amen," or the way they harmonize the hymns that we sing.

Thanks to all the workers in the library, who prepare the books and literature for the chaplains; to all the workers who answer the call to serve as a Second Reader and to all the Representatives who attend these fruitage meetings and keep their branch church members informed of the fruitful work of this committee and who invite their members to become active workers on the Committee.

How far reaching is this jail ministry? None of us will ever personally know. Probably all of our churches and Reading Rooms have been visited by inmates. One Reading Room librarian told me recently they have three inmates at different times that have identified themselves as having found Christian Science in the County jails. She says they come in and read the literature, sometimes until closing time....The seeds of Truth are being planted regularly in mortal thought, raising it and redeeming it, and at least allowing men and women to get glimpses of their true spiritual nature.

## Facility Profiles

Men's Central Jail (MCJ) is the oldest facility in Los Angeles. MCJ has a large chapel where services are held. The men are released from their cells on different floors and brought to the chapel by deputies. Depending on conditions on a particular day, attendance can vary from 20 to over 150. Trustees (inmates who are entrusted to assist) help the Chaplain and Second Reader set up for the services. After the service the Chaplain conducts one-on-one interviews, which range in number from about 5 to 35.

North County Correctional Facility (NCCF) has four wings where both English and Spanish services are given. Before the service, workers pick up and prepare literature in the Inmate Services room. The senior then assigns one of 4 dayrooms where the service is to be held. Regardless of what building the service is in, workers are able to walk freely through the corridors and enter other buildings to distribute literature to other inmates unable to attend the service that day.

Twin Towers Correctional Facility is across the street from MCJ. Twin Towers consists of Tower I and Tower II. Here there is no chapel. In Twin Towers I services are held on each of the floors in a large meeting area adjacent to the inmates' living

quarters. Attendance at the services varies from 5 to 45. One-on-one interviews are held after the service.

Twin Towers II is a maximum security facility housing high-security inmates. No programs or religious services are allowed. However, the Committee has received permission to make available to the men throughout the facility copies of the *Christian Science Monitor* and with staples removed *The Christian Science Sentinel*.

The Probation Camps provide confinement for minors ranging in age from 8 to 18. The average detention period is 20 weeks. The camps generally have barracks style living quarters and classrooms and yards much like a school. A Christian Science Camp Chaplain conducts weekly Christian Science Bible classes which are generally held in a conference room in the administration building or in one of the classrooms. Any minors who wish to attend the Bible class may do so.

Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF), the facility for women, is located in Lynwood. One service is held on each of the 3 floors each Saturday. Attendance varies from 30 to 80 per service. Two chaplains serve at CRDF. One-on-one interviews are held after the services.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Total receipts  
\$36,905.38

Total disbursements  
\$25,918.62

## Executive Board

Mike Guyer, Chairman  
Peter Schneider, Vice-Chairman  
Karla Jeffers  
Howard McAloney  
Stacey Palmer  
Berna Scott  
Pam Willoughby

If you are interested in supporting the activities of this Committee or becoming involved in our healing ministry, please contact:

Nanci Newman, Secretary/Treasurer  
Committee on Christian  
Science Work  
in Los Angeles County Institutions  
P. O. Box 393  
Los Angeles, CA 90078

Telephone/fax: 323.664.4910

E-mail: [cs\\_la\\_ci@yahoo.com](mailto:cs_la_ci@yahoo.com)

Web:

<http://christianscienceinfo.com/institutions/index.htm>

## TO SUPPORT INSTITUTIONAL WORK

- Attend a General Meeting
- Pray for our services
- Become a Chaplain, worker or rep
- Prepare literature - remove staples
- Donate money to buy copies of the Bible and *Science and Health*
- Help draft our Annual Report
- Propose update to our website

