

# Chaplains' and Workers' Reflections

One worker related how easy it is to speak spontaneously about Christian Science. When a group of inmates wanted to know more about Mary Baker Eddy, he thought of God putting the words in Moses' mouth when he went to speak to Pharaoh. He realized that God supports the work and is right there with each one, meeting individual needs in just the right way.

A worker commented how the divine nature in each person shines through because that's all there really is. To God there is no criminal. There is only a child of God, innocent, trusting, pure. The way in which "innocence and truth overcome guilt and error" is evident in the shining faces smiling back during the services.

One worker explained that the blessings from the consecrated, prayerful work of Committee members extend beyond the inmates to their families, the guards and the other denomination chaplains, as well as the Christian Science workers themselves. God's Word doesn't return unto Him void. It accomplishes what it sets out to do, showing man his original goodness and purity. We go to rejoice with the inmates in that great fact!

The boys at the probation camps read their Bibles on their own time, and say that they understand the spiritual meaning of the things they read sometimes, but they get REALLY excited to come to class and hear

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

things explained in such a way that the deeper spiritual meanings are revealed. They love unlocking the scriptures, and they are so hungry for the spiritual food that they find there; they just gobble it up!

A Chaplain shared, "So often, when we arrive on the floor where we are going to give a service we will see inmates walking around with a copy of the Christian Science Sentinel under their arm, and we will hear comments like, 'Hey, Christian Science is here!' and 'Thank you – You're doing great things!' In regard to *Science and Health*, inmates often make statements like, 'Wow! I've never heard anything like that before, it makes so much sense.' In their eagerness to get their own copy of the textbook, inmates will ask that we reserve them a copy even before the service has started. After the service, they'll sometimes cut in line to try to make sure that they will get one. Once an inmate has their own copy of *Science and Health*, stories often get back to us about other inmates hearing about the textbook when their roommate shared helpful ideas that they were learning about. Then, of course, that inmate wants his own copy too!

A Chaplain reported that "One Saturday, after being at the facility a total of seven hours, I packed up – and there were still people that wanted to see the chaplain! There is so much good work going on through this committee."

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've read about in the previous pages. Thank you one and all for your loving charity and constant prayerful support.

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

- 7 Christian Science services per week
- 4 Bible classes per week
- 1 Spanish service per month
- 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*

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Total receipts \$29,246.92  
Total disbursements \$30,241.39

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Tom McElroy, Chairman  
Sharon Sinclair, Vice-chairman  
Julia Bandrapalli  
Mike Guyer  
Karla Jeffers  
Stacey Palmer  
Peter Schneider

## MEETINGS

A General Meeting for branch church Representatives and all interested in this healing work is held on the fourth Friday of most months at 8:00 pm at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Pasadena, 80 South Oakland Avenue (at Green Street) in the Sunday School. Chaplains and workers share their fruitage and inspiration. All are welcome!

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

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# "Come, ye blessed of my Father"

-Matthew 25:34

# ANNUAL REPORT 2005

## 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.

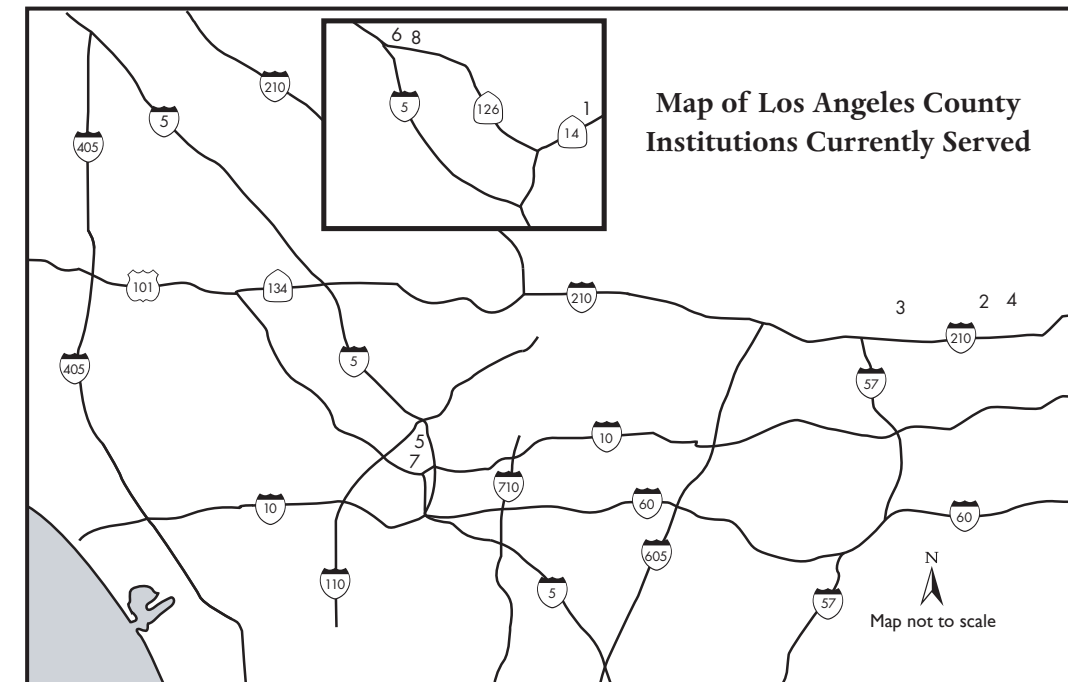
## Facility Profiles

The following are descriptions by the chaplains of some of the facilities where they serve.

**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.

**Twin Towers Correctional Facility** is across the street from MCJ. Twin Towers consists of Tower I, the men's facility, and Tower II, for women. Here there is no chapel. Services are held on each of the floors in a large meeting area adjacent to the inmate's living quarters. Attendance at the services varies from 5 to 45. One-on-one interviews are held after the service.

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|--|---|
| 1. Acton Drug Rehabilitation Center, Acton | 6. North County Correctional Facility, Castaic                |
| 2. Camp Afflerbaugh, La Verne              | 7. Twin Towers I -- Men, Twin Towers II -- Women, Los Angeles |
| 3. Camp Glenn Rockey, San Dimas            | 8. Wayside Maximum East, Castaic                              |
| 4. Camp Paige, La Verne                    |   |
| 5. Men's Central Jail, Los Angeles         |   |



**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.

**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.

## In This Report

Fruitage

Workers' Reflections

Literature Distribution Tally

# Fruitage

Following is some of the fruitage that chaplains have reported from this work, helping individuals meet health, financial, legal and relationship problems through spiritual means.

## Learning to Pray

A woman who had been attending services for a number of months said that she was able to pray and help others. When there was an angry altercation, she became fearful and decided to pray about the situation until she felt peaceful. The next day she told the woman who had caused the incident that she had been praying. The woman apologized and tried to do something kind for the woman she had threatened.

## Hemorrhaging Stopped

A woman said that she had been reading *Science and Health* for the past two weeks. She said that the week before she had felt sick and started hemorrhaging heavily. She became scared, but decided to think about what she'd been learning and how uplifted and free she felt after the service and an interview with the Chaplain. She said that the pain and hemorrhaging just stopped.

## Father-Mother God

An inmate shared a lovely insight into the Lord's Prayer. She said that when the women speak the lines of the prayer given by Jesus, it's as though the Father is speaking. And when the Chaplain reads the Spiritual Interpretation by Mary Baker Eddy, it's as though the Mother is speaking. Then everything comes together at the end as one complete idea.

## Relying on the Word

One inmate was concerned about taking psychiatric medication and spending the majority of his waking hours heavily sedated. In order to remain alert, attend Christian Science services and receive the Word of God, he stopped

taking the medication. The Chaplain gave him a Bible and Christian Science literature to read. He was able to continue coming to services without medication and had faith that the Word of God had healed him and eliminated the need for medication.

## A Young Healer

A young man in one of the youth camps wanted to help his father overcome alcoholism. He had attended class for over five months and was beginning to see how to support his father and his family in prayer.

## Toothache Healed

One woman had a toothache so severe that she was unable to sleep or function normally. The throbbing dissipated and disappeared during a prayerful session with the Chaplain.

## Foe Turned Friend

An inmate related that she had been afraid of one of the women in her pod who had been intimidating and threatening her. Each time she was confronted, the inmate would try to appease the perpetrator and get out of her way, but she hadn't always been successful. The Chaplain talked about being safe not only herself, but also that everyone was safe in God. She encouraged the woman to memorize something from Psalm 23 or *Science and Health*. The woman later reported that the other inmate stopped the taunts, and that they had started talking and were now friends.

## Fidelity Found

An inmate related that she had become addicted to romance novels, which had led her to an online relationship outside her marriage. Someone in jail loaned her a copy of *Science and Health*, and she was completely healed of the sensuality by reading it.

## Group Relief

During one service a lot of women were coughing and sneezing. One of them said, "We're all sick." The Chaplain suggested that they remember that they are the image and likeness of perfect God, encouraged them to listen to what the lesson was telling them about their real condition, and told them to expect healing. By the time the service was over, the "sick noises" had ceased.

## Hearing the Christ

One woman said that she was hard of hearing and relied on reading lips. Even though she had been sitting in the third row during the service, however, she heard every word.

## Transformation

During an interview, an inmate kept insisting on the reality of evil, seemingly fascinated with necromancy, witchcraft and magic. The Chaplain knew that it is not human logic that heals, but the Spirit that bears witness with the Christ in each individual. At one point, the man's demeanor completely changed, and the conversation took a new direction. The man was completely freed from the mesmeric condition.

## Depression Lifted

A woman came up after a service smiling with gratitude and told the Chaplain that she had been depressed lately, but what she had heard in the readings totally lifted her out of the depression.

## Receptivity

An Assistant Chaplain prayed about receptivity. On one occasion, the women gathered for the service didn't appear very interested, but he continued to affirm that, no matter what, they could hear God and would get what they needed. As the service progressed, the attention and interest grew. When the readings from the Bible ended with "Amen", all the women responded with an enthusiastic "Amen!" The Assistant Chaplain's own listening improved, too, and he has found it easier not to drift in and out of paying attention in church.

## Gratitude

One Chaplain spoke of the expressions of joy and appreciation that follow the services. The women make spontaneous, heartwarming comments like "That was wonderful!" after the Lord's Prayer with its spiritual interpretation, and "How beautiful!" after singing Mrs. Eddy's hymns, showing that they recognize and appreciate the spiritual gifts which are being shared with them.

## A Spiritual Solution

An inmate came to a Chaplain asking about healing schizophrenia. The Chaplain discussed God's allness, man's relationship to Him, and the importance of learning to see himself as perfect, in the way God sees him. The Chaplain told him that recognizing the problem for what it is, as powerless before God and nothing but a lie about his true, spiritual sonship, was three-quarters of the solution. If he could hold to that, God would take care of the rest. The man was very calm and grateful when he left.

## God's Promise

One inmate was very frightened that God would not forgive her. The Chaplain spoke with her about God's unconditional love for her. She explained that God's covenant throughout the Bible states that, when we obey the commandments, He supplies our every need, regardless of how formidable the need or foe may appear or what we've done in the past. Sincerely "putting on the new man" deletes the old man and his ways. The woman understood the importance of watching the suggestions that come to thought and checking them against the Ten Commandments. She left the interview uplifted and happy to know that she included the spiritual intuition to do right. She was already the "new man".

## Testimonial

A young man shared a healing in front of other inmates. He said he had come to the Bible class with a headache and flu symptoms, but felt fine when he got back to the dorm.

## "Peace, Be Still"

One girl patiently waited to go up to the literature table after the service was over and the rest of the inmates had headed over to get what they wanted. The chaplain, having seen this girl once before, made a comment to her that he noticed that she was always the last to go, at which point she exclaimed, "You do remember me!" She then reminded the chaplain how, when they had talked last time

after the service, the chaplain had shared with her the scripture, "Be still and know that I am God." The inmate was very excited to tell the chaplain how much that scripture had meant to her and said that that conversation and scripture had "made her a nicer person." She also stated that she loved the service and was happy that this time she had been able to receive her own copy of *Science and Health*.

## New Perspectives

The majority of kids in the probation camps are there for gang related activity. So, one evening, we discussed Jesus' command to turn the other cheek, no more 'eye for an eye.' At first the boys causally agreed that that sounded good, but when I pointed out that the two concepts are polar opposites and that you can't mix the two, and so you have to decide which one is right and which side you agree with, it came out that no one thought it was practical to attempt to live by the 'turn the other cheek' standard. "If you never fought back," they said, "you'd end up getting beat up all the time, and you'd get no respect from anyone." I asked them if they thought that that was the end result Jesus intended for those who followed his command. They weren't sure. I asked if a good parent would want his child to be broken and disrespected. "No," they answered back. "Then that probably isn't what is expected of us either," I said. "Is it possible that Jesus expected us to follow his command without necessarily having to experience those negative results? Can we expect that that, if we follow his command, we can still maintain our health and honor?"

The boys started to get the picture. "You must know," I told them, "that when you follow Jesus' commands, you have the power of God, good, with you. It is human reason that tells us that the 'eye for an eye' philosophy is practical, but it's wrong, because, if you think that your health, honor, or supply is in anyone else's hands but God's, you're breaking the first commandment. Jesus gave us this difficult command because he knew reacting to hate and fear with love had healing power. This healing power not only saves you, but ends up healing your enemy as well." I could see that light beginning to shine in their eyes. Suddenly, they were on the edge of their seats with the recognition that, when they give up their faith in their own strength and the laws of the street and, instead, trust in God with the understanding that God is the only source of good, an immense amount of spiritual power is available to them, and that spiritual strength can conquer anything that might work against them.

The looks on their faces were priceless. "Wow! What a trip," one boy said. "I get it; it's amazing!" said another. "It's so powerful," I reaffirmed, and they all quietly nodded, and I let them just sit quietly for a moment as they all thought about it.