

"...THE LORD COMMANDED THE BLESSING," ANNUAL REPORT 2008

PSALMS 133:5

COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE WORK IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY INSTITUTIONS

GRATITUDE FOR HEALINGS OF PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL ISSUES

"A FAITHFUL MAN SHALL ABOUND WITH BLESSINGS:"
Prov. 28:20

The Chaplains report physical healings, as well as healings of fear, ignorance, anger, hardness of heart, hopelessness, and discouragement. They also tell of corrections of misinformation regarding Christian Science. Lives are being healed every time the Bible Lesson is read in the county jails, which is at least 7 times a week. (The Bible Lesson includes readings from the *Bible* and the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy.) A Chaplain was told by an inmate that he had been attending anger management classes but felt this [the Bible Lesson] was the best "therapeutic message" he'd ever heard.

Chaplains have reported the following specific healings this past year:

- An inmate remarked, "two months ago you gave me *Science & Health*. My module hasn't been called out again for your service until today. I'm diagnosed a diabetic. After reading *Science & Health*, I stopped taking the meds. They're monitoring me and my count is fine. This book is what I have been looking for and it's what I was put in here to find."
- A deputy requested that the Chaplain talk with a young woman who appeared to be having a nervous breakdown. The woman was hovering in a corner of the exercise room crying uncontrollably. The Chaplain started talking to her about God's everpresent and unconditional love. Within half an hour, the woman suddenly said with joy, "I'm free. I'm not afraid anymore. I feel fine. I'm healed." She started to cry again but said these were "tears of joy."
- Another inmate said that he has been very upset, ill, nervous and depressed because his wife is leaving him. During the Bible Lesson he realized that those were negative suggestions and that he didn't have to take them in. He said that he felt a burden lift and that all feeling of illness left him.

**"I'M FREE. I'M
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I'M HEALED."**

- During Elise Moore's lecture at the women's facility, two of the women spoke right up with praise to God for healings they'd had. One was a healing of a serious eyesight problem and the other was of a woman whose child had been in the hospital with a very serious diagnosis. With tears in their eyes, each individually told that the Chaplain prayed with them and of the wonderful healing results.

- Another inmate whose child had been killed in a recent automobile accident, said she found her peace after she and the Chaplain prayed and read from the Bible. She thanked the Chaplain for helping her through this difficult experience.
- A woman reported a healing of severe anxiety attacks. After having Christian Science treatment at a service several weeks prior, she expressed gratitude for the healing and the prayerful support she received. She wanted the other women to know that "knowing the truth" does heal, because she was living proof and could validate that "prayer heals."

- Prior to a church service, a woman eagerly testified to a healing of an arm that she couldn't move without pain. After praying about it she felt a greater sense of freedom and mobility. At that same service someone else reported that she was experiencing "water on her leg." After the first woman shared some ideas with her that she had been learning about Christian Science, the second woman reported that "her leg was fine."
- One evening, a Chaplain received four urgent written requests from one inmate for *Science & Health*. The inmate had been reading his cellmate's copy but wanted his own. He told the Chaplain, "I'd only read five pages of this book when I had an epiphany. I'm not saved just because I say I accept Jesus Christ into my heart. I'm not saved until I stop doing what I've

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been doing!” Some weeks later, he told the Chaplain, “I’ve been healing.” The man said he’d had psoriasis on both arms all of his life. He showed the Chaplain that it was gone, and told her he’d also healed his cellmate of a hernia. Another cellmate affirmed the two healings and said he had come to the service that evening for healing, as well.

- At the Youth Camp, as we started the class, one young man spoke up and said to me, “Do you know you healed someone? Do you know you transformed this young man’s life?” Then he pointed to a student who has been attending the class for several months. He went on, “He’s changed. He doesn’t gangbang, swear, get into arguments or fight anymore. He’s kind, loving and calm.” The other students confirmed this young man’s changed behavior, as he just sat quietly. I immediately reminded everyone that a person never has power to heal or transform. It is Truth that heals. The first young man spoke up and said, “Yes, but you’re speaking the Truth that frees.”

THE TRUTH HEALS INMATES FROM ALL RELIGIONS AND CULTURES

“AND ALL THESE BLESSINGS SHALL COME ON THEE,”
Deut. 28:2

Often those coming to the Christian Science services say that what they’re hearing at the services is “what they’ve always believed.” Our Chaplains are continually pointing out man’s true nature as a sinless, beloved child of God, as promised in Genesis 1:26. This merciful fact turns lives around.

- One man told the Chaplain, “I’m Ethiopian and a Christian. I’ve been to all the Christian services in the jail, and this was by far the best. He asked for a copy of *Science and Health* and wanted to know when we would be returning.
- An inmate remarked to the Chaplain, “Healing is the result of understanding the laws of God and not just Christian tradition or miracles.”
- At the Youth Camp, students told the Chaplain they’d heard others criticize Christian Science. “The students made the comment that I never criticize or speak unkindly about any other religions. They like that.”
- A deputy came to the Chaplain one day asking about the difference between Christian Science and another

Christian religion. The Chaplain answered that she “preferred to think about how they are alike. We both believe in God and the teachings of Christ Jesus. The Chaplain gave him a copy of the *Christian Science Sentinel* focused on the topic “I Can Learn to Heal.”

- Two Youth Camp students had just left a Protestant Bible class and came over to our Chaplain’s class. One asked, “where does evil come from?” The Chaplain responded, and then another young man in the class said, “You can’t find a source for a lie.” The two inquiring students found the answers to this and their other questions to be satisfying.
- Occasionally, the majority of the inmates who attend the church services are Spanish-speaking and English is a second language for them. They always get a lot of good from the lessons however, and never fail to take the Spanish literature provided, particularly, “God’s Law of Adjustment.”

NO ONE IS SEPARATED FROM GOD’S HEALING LOVE

“. . . THERE SHALL BE SHOWERS OF BLESSING.”
Ezek. 34:26

At the maximum security unit in Twin Tower 2, we are not allowed to give services. But every 2 weeks, through the glass walls of their cells, the men recognize us when we arrive with our cart full of either 900 copies of *The Christian Science Monitor* or 900 stapleless *Sentinels*. That provides one copy for each inmate. Some will bang out a welcome on their doors and wave. Others call out, “thank you!” We point out that the *Sentinel* articles give proof of God’s daily provision for them. If we are delivering copies of *The Christian Science Monitor*, we show them where to find the metaphysical article and explain that we’ve given them 30 different issues, one for each day that month. Each copy of the newspaper has an inspiring article with a fresh approach and explanation of how God’s law of goodness works in their lives. Sometimes they’re just like children at Christmas, “Oh, thank you!” they’ll reply. “God bless you!” A deputy stated, “thank you for bringing those newspapers. The men love reading them. I see them in the cells reading them all the time.”

As a result of giving out copies of the *Sentinel* on a regular basis, we are now receiving requests for copies of *Science & Health* in this maximum security area.

CHAPLAINS ARE ALWAYS READY TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS

“ . . . AND A GOOD BLESSING SHALL COME UPON THEM,”

Prov. 24:25

At Twin Towers, a deputy told me, “Chaplain, we need a couple of *Bibles* on floor xx.” This is a floor we’ve never served. I said I’d deliver them the next day. Then in the Chaplain’s Office I found a written request for the “Christian Science volunteer” to bring some reading material and a *Bible* to floor xxx, another floor we don’t serve. The next day, when I arrived on floor xxx, I found it to be a medical facility with nursing stations. I showed the deputy the inmate’s request and asked permission to take the literature and books to him. The deputy hadn’t seen me before and asked to see the literature. He picked up our textbook and read out loud, “*Science and Health*. Oh. . . this sounds good!” and started leafing through the pages, reading a little here and there. One of the nurses asked if it contained both the Old and New Testament. I said that it wasn’t the *Bible*, but a companion to it which explains how the laws of God given in the *Bible*, are applicable to our lives today and bring healing. Now, two nurses and the deputy were interested. I showed them the Chapter on “Fruitage.” None of them had heard of Christian Science and they asked many questions. I told them about Mrs. Eddy, her healing and teaching work and gave them information about our services. The deputy seemed reluctant to put the book down and said that he needed to read it. When I offered it to him, he gratefully said, “Oh, yes, I’d like to have it!” It was only now that they looked at the inmate’s name and told me he’d been transferred to floor xxxx.

So I went to floor xxxx, found the inmate who greeted me with a big smile. I asked how he knew about Christian Science. I was so grateful to learn that he had been previously housed in Twin Tower 2, the high-security tower where we’ve been allowed to pass out copies of *The Christian Science Monitor* and stapleless *Sentinels*. He said how much the literature had meant to him, and now that he’d been transferred out of high security he wanted to know more about Christian Science. I offered him the *Bible* he’d requested, a copy of *Science and Health*, *Sentinels* and a full-text *Quarterly*. He happily accepted all of it.

My last trip was to floor xx in response to the request made by the deputy on the previous evening. I learned that the inmates here were considered mental or suicidal. I asked the deputy on duty if I could bring *Sentinels* for them to read. He directed me to the senior deputy in charge of the floor. I was told that this senior deputy was never there on Saturday, but just happened to be working that day. When I located him, I introduced myself and told him about the *Sentinels*. He explained that the men weren’t allowed to have reading material in their cells, but that every day the mental health workers brought a portable library for the men who requested something to read. He was very kind and said, “Yes, I think that what you’re offering would

THE GIFT OF A LECTURE - BRANCH CHURCHES BLESSING JAILS

“ . . . AND PROVE ME NOW HEREWITH, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS, IF I WILL NOT OPEN YOU THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN, AND POUR YOU OUT A BLESSING, THAT THERE SHALL NOT BE ROOM ENOUGH TO RECEIVE IT.”

Mal. 3:10

Where can branch churches give lectures where most all of those in attendance have never heard of Christian Science before? . . . where the seats are filled and there are an abundance of “unprejudiced minds?” . . . where there has been much soul-searching and longing for changed lives? The answer is: your Los Angeles County jails.

At a lecture given this year by David Stevens, approximately 93 inmates attended the lecture on “Spirituality, Self-esteem and Freedom.” In his lecture Mr. Stevens included healings that spoke to the issues confronting many of the inmates, including anger and gang activity. Afterward, the lecturer wrote, the men “were thoughtful, responsive and genuinely grateful for the message of their true status/worth as children of God.” One inmate said “it’s what Jesus himself said, but I never heard it explained that we can experience that healing power and presence. This is wonderful!”

We invite the branch churches of Los Angeles County to give the gift of a lecture for those who can then re-enter each of our communities with transformed lives.

be good for them, but the staples will have to be removed.” He told me to put the *Sentinels* on the cart and that he’d let the workers know that he’d approved them. I was so grateful that I went right back to the Chaplain’s Office and got copies of stapleless *Sentinels* and took them up to floor xx. I introduced myself to the mental health workers and we had a lovely talk about the *Sentinels*. They too, had never heard of Christian Science before and were very receptive. They said that the men needed to read literature like that. They said that I could bring copies of the *Bible* and *Science and Health* for their cart.

(A special “thank you” to those who regularly remove the *Sentinel* staples for us, including our literature preparation committee, several branch church literature distribution committees and some individuals.)

AND SOMETIMES THE ANSWER ARRIVES BEFORE WE DO

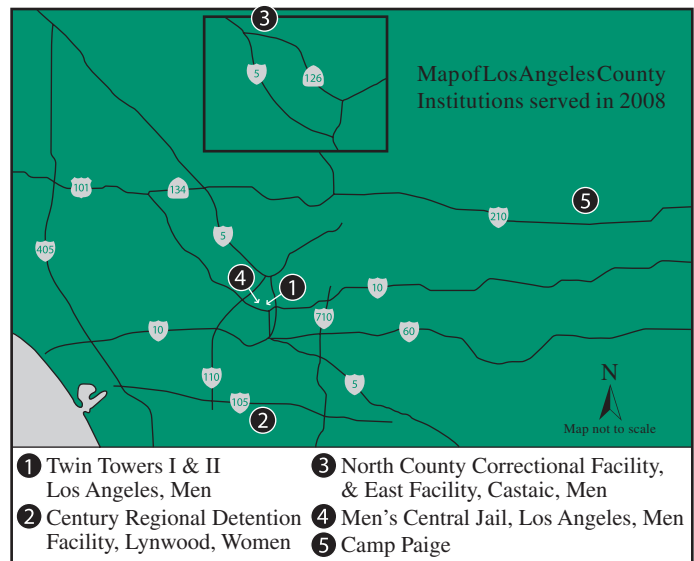
“... BEFORE THEY CALL, I WILL ANSWER; AND WHILE THEY ARE YET SPEAKING I WILL HEAR.”

Isa. 65:24

Many times those who come to a Christian Science church service in the jail are somewhat familiar with the teachings because they have found a *Science & Health* or other literature that has been left behind or shared by another inmate.

- At the women’s jail, as the Chaplain was reading a passage from *Science and Health*, a young woman asked if it was from the Chapter on “Marriage.” It was. She said she had just been reading it on her bunk before the Christian Science service was announced. She had found the book in her shared living area.
- A woman had just picked up a copy of *Science and Health* from the library shelf when she heard a call for interviews with the Chaplain. She readily arrived and wanted to know all about Christian Science. ■

General Meetings for branch church Representatives and all interested in this healing work are held at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Pasadena • 80 S. Oakland Avenue (at Green St.) in the Sunday School Room. (See the website or your branch church clerk for a calendar). Chaplains and workers share their fruitage and inspiration. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



FINANCIAL REPORT

Total receipts: \$23,783.65

Total disbursements: \$29,105.28

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

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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*