



Christian Science Institutional Committee for New York State

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Inspiration and Fruitage from our Annual Open Meeting 2017

The Annual Open Meeting for the Christian Science Institutional Committee is held in different zones of New York State every other year. On the alternate years it is held in the Metropolitan Zone. This year it was held at Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist, in New York City.

Ethel Ames Baker, CSB, of Buffalo, NY spoke at our last two meetings. Her entire talk, which was given at First Church of Christ, Scientist, East Rochester, in November of 2016, was printed in our Newsletter of January, 2017, and is available on our website csisnys.com. She compared the story of Zaccheus, who lived in Jesus's time, to the life of James, "Pappy," Martin, a former inmate who found Christian Science through this committee at Attica prison in the seventies.

We are including additional inspiration and fruitage from that meeting in this Newsletter.

Her message focused on these words of John the Baptist and Mary Baker Eddy.

"John the Baptist described Jesus as 'the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world' (John 1:29). *Science and Health* explains: '...the mission of Christian Science now, as in the time of its earlier demonstration, is not primarily one of physical healing. Now, as then, signs and wonders are wrought in the metaphysical healing of physical disease; but these signs are only to demonstrate its divine origin,—to attest the reality of the higher mission of the Christ-power to take away the sins of the world.'

"The Christ doesn't take away the inhabitants of the world. It takes away the sins of the world—the worldly-mindedness—self-centered, matter-based thinking. It does not destroy or even condemn or hurt the person. It expunges the sin. It corrects consciousness. It redeems individual lives and brings to light the true nature of man.

"How does it do this? It awakens individual thought to spiritual being, to one's actual nature and character as the son or daughter of God, divine Mind, Spirit. It makes one recognize their inherent innocence, perfection, honor, wisdom, strength, goodness, meekness, and loving nature. It makes one conscious of his/her complete and permanent inseparability from God, from Life, Love, infinite Truth. And such an awakening brings reformation and healing.

Let me tell you a story about this.

“There is a tribe in Africa where the birth date of a child is determined not from when they are born, or conceived but from the day that the child is a thought in its mother’s mind. And when a woman decides that she will have a child, she goes off and sits under a tree, by herself, and she listens until she can hear the song of the child that wants to come. After she’s heard the song of this child, she comes back to her husband and teaches it to him.

“And then, when the mother becomes pregnant, she teaches that child’s song to the midwives and the women of the village, so that when the child is born, the people around her sing the child’s song to welcome it. Then, as the child grows up, the other villagers are taught the child’s song. If the child gets hurt, someone picks it up and sings its song to it. Or perhaps the child does something wonderful, or goes through the rites of puberty, the people of the village sing his or her song. It is also sung when the person marries, has children of their own, and when they pass away.

“There is one other occasion when the villagers sing to the child. If at any time during his or her life, the person commits a crime or aberrant social act, the individual is called to the center of the village and the people in the community form a circle around them. Then they sing their song to them. The tribe recognizes that the correction for antisocial behavior is not punishment; it is love and the remembrance of identity. When you recognize your own song, you have no desire or need to do anything that would hurt another.

“In her Message to The Mother Church for 1902, Mrs. Eddy wrote: ‘Spiritual love makes man conscious that God is his Father, and the consciousness of God as Love gives man power with untold furtherance. Then God becomes to him the All presence—quenching sin; the All-power—giving life, health, holiness; the All science—all law and gospel.’ The silent, spiritual realizations cause one to change not only in attitude but in action. Words and deeds are ever products of thought. And so it is only as thought changes—as it is renovated to see the reality of good alone and to worship and know our true God, limitless Love—that words and deeds can become truly and lastingly elevated, humane, moral, civil, just, and spiritually based. Being good and doing good are always one. From this vantage point, the misdeed is never the real crime. The crime is sin itself—the belief that man, anyone, can be separated from God. The belief that we can miss the mark and so not share in the prize. The mistaken assumption that we are simply human. Until these sins, these false beliefs, are eradicated from human thought, crime can never be arrested, let alone prevented. And criminals will continue to be perceived as flawed and broken human beings, instead of what Science and Health makes plain: that the criminal is always ‘mortal mind,’ the mistaken sense that there is a mind apart from God, infinite, immortal, divine Mind.

“I’d like to call on all of us here today to make a commitment for the next twelve months to pray for five minutes each day for those in jail or prison, hospitals, psychiatric facilities, nursing homes, and youth detention centers. And if your prayers cause you to feel drawn to become actively involved as a Christian Science volunteer, providing church services or meeting with individuals to pray and study our pastor in one or more of these places, by all means follow that call! It can only do good. And the first one who will feel that—is you.”

“Someone who attended a similar talk I gave in upstate New York a year ago, began praying 5 minutes daily as just described. Just before Christmas in an email she wrote:

“When you talked about Zacchaeus, something in me moved. I asked myself: Could I love like Jesus? No judgment? Did I actually love my brother?’ In this case she literally meant her brother. She went on: ‘This sibling has for years had a very bad alcohol dependency problem. A few weeks later, it was this brother’s birthday. A very tender message asked me if I could text him with a birthday message and tell him I loved him. ‘Yes Father, I can do that’...later that week, I saw his car at another relative's house. The same gentle voice said, ‘Do you think you can go inside and have a conversation with him?’ ‘Yes, I can do that.’ And I did.” Then one morning after that, I had this revelation that there could be no inaction! If Spirit, God, is the source of all action and that action never stops, then every statement of Truth I have affirmed has to have an impact. Every statement I affirm is really the Word of God and it cannot ‘return unto Him void.’

“A short time later, my brother sought help for the first time for the alcoholism problem and he has remained clean since that time. I shared with a few co-workers about my brother. A few days later, I received an email from a fellow employee whom I will call ‘Bill.’ I’d never had any dealings with Bill. He had heard that I was a pray-er. He was fighting back tears when he met me and told me about his cousin ‘Tom’ who used to work for the same company. He had been let go because of heroin use. Tom was a heroin addict. Tom has 3 children—the mother lost custody of them, also due to heroin—6-year-old twins labeled autistic and a 7-year-old girl. Bill was so fearful for the kids. He explained that the 7-year-old was basically caring for the 6-year-old twins. County Child Protective Services (CPS) had been called many times. No action. Bill and his wife wanted to take these kids, had room for them, but could do nothing without action by the CPS.

“I said I would pray for the protection of these kids. (Coincidentally, the readings I felt strongly impelled to prepare as First Reader the previous Wednesday were on ‘protecting the children.’) I prayed and during my prayers the angel message said, ‘You know, the father could voluntarily give the children to his cousin.’ When I got to work the next morning, I learned that the father, Tom, had asked his cousin, Bill, the man who had asked me to pray, if he and his wife would take their 3 children. CPS did a home inspection the following night and Bill and his wife had the children the following day, and still do. Three days later, the dad, Tom, voluntarily entered a treatment program.

“God is so good. CS is so powerful... Working for my brother, before this coworker approached me, I had had this wonderful revelation concerning two statements from *Science and Health*: ‘Love IS reflected in love’ and ‘Principle and its idea IS one.’ I had a clear glimpse of the undividedness of the Original and its reflection, the inseparability of God and each one of His children. So, I see that institutional work is something we can do wherever we are—and it blesses us ALL.”

Volunteers are greatly needed

If you are a member of The Mother Church, a branch church of Christ, Scientist, have completed Christian Science Primary class instruction, and are looking to serve the Cause of Christian Science by bringing it to those who are unable to come to us, please contact us at 212-883-8875.

Please join us in witnessing God’s unconditional love for all His children.

A former worker and financial contributor writes:

“Dear Friends,
A little help for subscriptions!
Remembering with gratitude and joy the years in the 60’s and 70’s. My husband and I served in the Attica Prison—how protected members of the congregation were during the riot and the productive lives they lived after release.”

We wish to thank all New York State Christian Science Churches and Societies for their continued prayerful and financial support.

You have enabled us to serve those in the prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, mental hospitals, and youth facilities by offering services, one-on-one visits, and subscriptions to the Christian Science periodicals. We receive letters of gratitude weekly for the blessings this work has brought to the lives of those we serve.

We pray you will be led to join us in this wonderfully healing activity.



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