



Christian Science Institutional Committee for New York State

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FRESH INSPIRATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES

Christian Science Institutional Workers from around the world convened on July 2, 2018, in the Christian Science Publishing Society building in Boston, Massachusetts. This meeting was also available via the Internet allowing for international participation.

The format for the meeting differed from that of previous years and included an inspirational talk by Emilio Castroman, CS, reports from the field and from the Christian Science Publishing Society, plus a time for attendees to spontaneously share fruitage from their work, and ending with remarks by Rick Evans, CSB, a member of The Christian Science Board of Directors.

Cara Cusak-Theodule, Institutional Liaison to The Mother Church, presided over the meeting, which began with readings by Brian Abbott, an institutional worker from Vermont, from our Pastor, The Bible and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy. Cara then presented a photo collage of workers from different countries which showed the scope of our mission worldwide.

Emilio Castroman began his talk by asking, “What does institutional work have to do with the theme of Annual Meeting, ‘If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit’?” He then explained that it means being Christlike, and healing the sick and the sinning. He illustrated his point by telling the story of Peter, from the book of Acts, who was released from prison due to the unceasing prayers of the church. He referred to this group as being the very first Institutional Committee and asked the audience how they would pray today to achieve the same results. He cited Mary Baker Eddy’s definition of “Church” in *Science and Health*. He pointed out that there is a connection between institutional work and the work of church to “elevate the race,” and to “cast out error and heal the sick,”—that our prayers help all that are in and out of



(continued on page 2)

prison find freedom from sin, disease, loneliness and fear. He then told of the recovery of a man who was experiencing symptoms of withdrawal from drug addiction and how this quick healing gave him the moral courage to end criminal activity. Emilio ended with the inspiring thought that institutional work helps everyone live and walk in the Spirit.

Cara then read a letter from **Lawrence Musheba Kuseka, a committee member in Zambia**, who was introduced to institutional work while serving as First Reader. He was asked by the Prison Fellowship group to continue a Bible study group done by another Christian Scientist who was not able to continue. As no one else in his church could make this commitment, he took it on. He said he entered the facility for the first time with the thought that he was not entering a prison filled with sinners, but Paradise filled with the perfect children of God. He held to what Mary Baker Eddy says on page 477 of *Science and Health*, “Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Savior saw God’s own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick.”

He told of healings experienced by the inmates, and said that two men joined his church after they were released from prison. When asked what inspired him the most, he said that metaphysics inspired him, citing a favorite passage from *Science and Health*, page 15, “Christians rejoice in secret beauty and bounty, hidden from the world, but known to God.” This “secret beauty” I have found in Christian Science and I want to share it with others. He closed by saying that we all desire a world without crime and need to join together in freeing our brothers and sisters from sin, disease and death.

The Christian Science Organization at Principia College in Elsah, Illinois, has added institutional work to its outreach activities. Three students reported on their contact with Pere Marquette, a youth center in Grafton, Illinois. They each spoke of the joy they felt in sharing the truths of Christian Science with the young men with whom they met, and how receptive they were to the idea that they are worthy of God’s love. Each student wishes to continue with institutional work after leaving college.

Time was then provided for **attendees to share fruitage** from their activity.

Then **managers from The Christian Science Publishing Society**, including Mark Sappenfield, editor of *The Christian Science Monitor*, spoke about providing the periodicals for our work, and copies of the Bible and *Science and Health* for inmates who request them by mail.

Rich Evans, CSB, in his closing remarks read from Isaiah 42:6-7, “I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.” He told of a man who found Christian Science in a California prison, who was so “on fire” with Christian Science that, when released, he joined a church in his former community bringing his family, friends, and neighbors. Rich said, “Don’t underestimate the work you are doing,” and emphasized the fact that institutional work is church work. ■

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Nine active zones across our state are serving an average of thirty-five men, providing our periodicals and visiting one-on-one whenever possible. The Chaplains in their facilities receive at least one copy of *The Monitor* which they share with their men. Some Chaplains receive more and a few receive *The Christian Science Sentinel*, as well.

Adirondak Zone: We presently have five men who receive the Bible Lessons, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *The Christian Science Sentinel*, and another five who receive *The Monitor* only. Three of them correspond with us frequently and are very grateful for Christian Science. All of them are grateful for the subscriptions.

We received a request for four additional subscriptions to *The Monitor* from the Chaplain at Franklin Correctional Facility, in Malone, NY. He said that it is so hard to find a newspaper that doesn't incite arguments between prisoners. He said, "You guys really have it right when it comes to that Newspaper."

Central Zone: There are eleven men who now reside in the correctional facilities in Central New York. Nine of them are at Marcy Correctional, in Marcy, NY, and two are at Mohawk in Rome, NY. A man who was in hospice care said to a worker, "You know, you are saving lives and I know you have saved mine." He passed away shortly after, assured of his eternal life and looking forward to the future. He so inspired his care-giver that he has asked for our literature and a visit from a worker.

Three new men have asked for *The Monitor* due to the gratitude which another prisoner expressed for what he is receiving. This man loves Christian Science and is sharing it with his fellow inmates.

Metropolitan Zone: We are sad to announce that Horizon Juvenile Facility, Bronx, NY, where we have served twice a month for ten years, has closed. Reverend Miguel Diaz, the Chaplain there, has moved to Crossroads Juvenile Facility in Brooklyn. There is no space for us there at present. We are most grateful for the time we spent with those dear young people and continue to keep them in our prayers. We are actively looking for a new place to share the healing message of Christian Science.

Services continue at Manhattan Detention Center, in downtown Manhattan, as well as one-on-one visits with inmates. Those we see are eager to hear about what we have to offer. Each Service and visit is a joyous occasion with much gratitude expressed for our being there.

Suffolk Zone: The Suffolk Zone continues to thrive and grow, adding another worker from Bay Shore Society, who has enthusiastically taken up the work. We have two men attending at Riverhead Jail. One of them attended before, when serving time for a previous arrest, and is so happy we are still there. Both men take the periodicals along with the Bible and *Science and Health* to share with fellow inmates. We are grateful for the chance to serve and comfort those who come to us. ■

For over seventy years, the Christian Science Churches and Societies of New York State have been supporting the healing work of this committee. We encourage you to visit our website, csisnys.com. Here you can read previous newsletters and find out more about the workings of our committee.

We are grateful for your prayerful and financial support and hope you will join us at our next **Annual Open Meeting in the Fall of 2018**. Date and location will be announced soon.

Again, we thank you with all our hearts.



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