

QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION

“It shall be the duty of the Committee on Publication to correct in a Christian manner impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science, injustices done Mrs. Eddy or members of this Church by the daily press, by periodicals or circulated literature of any sort.” Church Manual, Article XXXIII, Section 2

Message from the Manager of Committees on Publication

When giving a gift, it can be helpful to think of the other person. It is thoughtful to consider their likes and dislikes, and to know their interests, hobbies, and tastes. I’ve found that the best gift-givers pay attention with a marvelous spirit of selflessness.

There’s a beautiful example of this in the Book of Acts in the Bible. On their way to the Temple, Peter and John come across a man asking for gifts. Lame from birth, this man was carried daily to beg outside the gates, hoping to appeal to the piety of those going to worship. The Bible doesn’t tell us how successful this man was in his begging, but we do have a hint in Peter’s words, “Look on us.” And this is where the real gift-giving begins.

Amidst a bustling scene, this man is crying out for alms, hoping for someone to pay attention and toss him a coin. He must have been eager to see what Peter had to give him that morning, and his hopes may have quickly fallen when he learned that Peter didn’t have any money either. And yet, from a place of genuine selfless love, Peter’s words, “Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee,” are imbued with the authority of the Christ that lifted the man, literally, out of the depths of despair and disability.

Committees on Publication strive to exemplify this spirit of giving with each corrective opportunity. Whereas it may be tempting to respond to the issues that seem readily apparent on the surface — whether in a request for information or a posting of misinformation about Christian Science — each inspired response is the outgrowth of their prayerful practice and spiritual discernment that goes to the heart of the issue and brings forward healing.

Whether talking with a family member, a neighbor, or a new friend on the street, there may be times when any of us is asked to speak about our faith or even bring lift and healing to an imposition on public thought about Christian Science. So often the answers we give may not, at first, be what our inquirer was asking for. Indeed, sometimes we may feel we’re not up to the task. But it’s worth considering the true silver and gold that we have to share with those individuals — the spirit of love, care, and compassion for our neighbors, along with our deep gratitude for the blessing of Christian healing.

This spirit is expressed daily by Committees on Publication, and the fruitage below is one example of a corrective healing conversation. Preparing for these types of conversations is important, and the Committee did some substantive research to be well-informed. More important, however, is the spiritual preparation that helps ensure each response goes beyond intellectualism to the healing heart of our corrective work. Peter’s example speaks to this as does this reminder from our Leader in the textbook, “All that really exists is the divine Mind and its idea, and in this Mind the entire being is found harmonious and eternal. The

straight and narrow way is to see and acknowledge this fact, yield to this power, and follow the leadings of truth" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* 151:26).

Sincerely,



Scott C. Shivers, C.S.
Manager, Christian Science Committees on Publication

Fruitage

An academic journal article made incorrect connections between Christian Science, Mrs. Eddy, New Thought, and P. P. Quimby. In consultation with the Manager's office, a Committee on Publication was led to reach out to the professor to offer a more accurate perspective on Christian Science and its Founder than how they were portrayed in the article. After a thoughtful email exchange, the professor and the Committee enjoyed an engaging and corrective virtual meeting to further discuss the topic.

The Committee's report on this interaction included the following:

There was quite a bit of research involved ahead of time and it was Mary Baker Eddy's simple encouragement to "Let Truth uncover and destroy error in God's own way" (*Science and Health* p. 542) that ultimately provided the most important preparation required to make the call and solidified my conviction that my one and only purpose was to heal.

It was also helpful to be reminded that I couldn't be made to say something I shouldn't or forget to say something I should. The spiritual work along these lines brought the assurance that I wasn't being asked to present a finely crafted counter argument to the mistaken notion that Christian Science originated with Quimby but rather to bear witness to Christ's revelation of Truth – a revelation that's both available and appreciable to one and all and not just Christian Scientists. Along with this came the certainty that such a revelation wouldn't just be about "setting the record straight" in terms of the Quimby-Eddy question, but also bringing a genuine sense of healing to the conversation, whatever that may look like.

Although the professor is well-versed in the history of Christian Science and Mary Baker Eddy, he readily offered that he had only a surface understanding of the Quimby-Eddy question. He was very open to my sharing a brief summation as to why it's not correct to say that Christian Science was born of Mrs. Eddy's relationship with Quimby.

I was grateful for the professor's receptivity to alternative perspectives and I felt that it was a hugely productive conversation that provided an opportunity to address, at least in some measure, the primary imposition regarding Quimby's influence on Mrs. Eddy and to lay the foundation for an on-going relationship.

Inspiration and updates from your Committee on Publication

Dear Friends,

This time of year is always a wonderful time to pause and reflect upon the many blessings received. The Connecticut Committee has found much to be grateful for this year and much more to look forward to in the upcoming year.

I'm especially grateful for the metaphysical growth we have witnessed. Daily metaphysical work for the State of Connecticut has become our central practice, as we learn more to turn to God and humbly recognize His leading hand in every aspect of this work. Hymn 258 highlights the importance of this type of progress:

New occasions teach new duties,
Time makes ancient creeds uncouth;
Them must upward still and onward
Who would keep abreast of Truth,
And serenely down the future
See the thought of men incline
To the side of perfect justice
And to God's supreme design.

And so, with heartfelt gratitude, we share with you our "gift of gratitude," our appreciation of your loving support of the work of this office. Please join me in this mission by being alert to and prayerfully addressing impositions on the public about Christian Science, our Leader, and our fellow members.

Enjoy the holiday season!

Kristina Schwarz