

## Quarterly Report from Advisory Board – Third Quarter:

In accordance with our Bylaws (Article IV. B), we currently have three Advisory Board members and are considering an amendment to the Bylaws to increase that number to “up to 5.” We meet via phone conference for working sessions and in person once each quarter. If you or someone you know would be interested in working on the Advisory Board, please contact the secretary at [csinstitutional.wa@gmail.com](mailto:csinstitutional.wa@gmail.com).

We are excited to share our news through this website. We welcome your input at any time. You can send updates or information to the committee through the “Contact” section on the website, or by sending an email to the secretary at [csinstitutional.wa@gmail.com](mailto:csinstitutional.wa@gmail.com), or by calling the secretary at 360-739-6521. We believe that the more we share our thoughts and fruitage, the stronger will be our organization and our ability to reach out to those who need Christian Science. We also expect that folks who are not currently a part of this committee will be excited to join us.

There is currently a need for workers at the following institutions. Each of these Washington sites have inmates who are receiving our periodicals and do not have a Christian Science worker visiting.

Airway Heights Corrections Center – Airway Heights

Coyote Ridge Corrections Center – Connell

Washington State Penitentiary – Walla Walla

## Worker’s Fruitage Reports

### Washington Corrections Center Shelton – Ralph Emerson, CS – Worker

I had heard one of the Chaplains say he thought Christian Science and his Lutheran religion were opposites. We were chatting, and I pointed out many points of agreement. He acknowledged that he had had some misconceptions. He had healed people. He is very spiritually minded, and I explained that his spirituality was the reason, that one’s religion makes no difference.

One man likes Christian Science, but says some words need updating. Using *Science and Health* with the Bible makes sense.

As with many of the men, a very open-minded attitude characterized my next visitor. He had studied Buddhism and other belief systems and seemed very confused. Our talk seemed to give him a lot of relief. He said “wow” a number times, and said the talk helped.

Another man said he just wants out of prison. I told him to think instead of what good he can do here, because helping others makes you happy, and everyone wants to be happy.

A lot of the men say they already have *Science and Health*. They’ve found it in the prison or gotten it from other inmates. They all say it’s good. So many of them are quite intelligent and open to new ideas. It’s a blessing to see the mistaken thoughts of these people changing to clearer more spiritual concepts.

We see men come to the literature table and take Sentinels and Full Text Bible Lessons. And the Monitors are the first place most of the men head when they come in. As one of the trusty attendants said, “The Monitors go like candy.”

### Larch Corrections Center – James Phillips – Worker

The volunteers from the Vancouver church are continuing to meet with inmates at the Larch Correctional Center every Monday at 6:30 pm. Most of the time there is only one inmate but occasionally one or two other

inmates join us. The Vancouver church remains committed to this effort. We hope to sponsor a lecture at Larch next year.

### **Clallam Bay Corrections Center –Dorothy Hensey, CS – Worker**

On Saturday, April 29, 2017, I had the pleasure of accompanying Heloisa Gelber Rivas, C.S.B. to the Clallam Bay Correctional Center to give her lecture titled, “You Deserve Respect.” The lecture was sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientist, Port Townsend.

When we arrived at the prison chapel there was a preacher from another denomination already at the podium ready to preach. He felt it was his assigned time. The guard in charge nicely informed him that it was our time slot and he graciously yielded the podium to Heloisa. In the harmony of that moment, Heloisa invited him to stay to for the lecture, as he was already there. He decided to stay and remained for the entire lecture, leaving with a ‘thank you.’

Seven inmates attended the lecture. For several it was there first time coming to any of our gatherings. Each was given a *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy and a handout with a brief description of the talk. Everyone was very attentive. One left the room in the middle of the lecture to get some paper and a pencil to take notes. All were very appreciative afterward and looked forward to coming to our monthly meetings on the first Thursdays. One gentleman, after the lecture, was very enthusiastic to relate to Heloisa how he had been healed of lung cancer by reading the copy of *Science and Health* we had given him at one of our meetings. When he went for a follow up x-ray, there was none of the previously evident cancer. He took several *Science and Health’s* to share with his “cellies.”

My favorite point in Mrs. Rivas’ lecture was about honey. She spoke of how she had seen a program about how archaeologists had opened a many thousands year old Egyptian pharaoh’s tomb and found honey that had been buried there. The honey was perfectly viable. It had not decayed or spoiled at all over that very long period of time. It was still honey that one could eat and enjoy. Apparently honey has a very unique characteristic, it does not react to anything. It doesn’t have a chemical reaction to the atmosphere around it so it does not spoil as do other foods, it does not change its chemical property. Heloisa asked all present to be like honey, to not react to anything that might present itself, such as aggression, blame, provocation, but to rather be the pure and sweet, the unspoiled child of God.

“Evidences of progress and of spiritualization greet us on every hand.”

*Science and Health 158:24-25*

### **Clallam Bay Corrections Center –Susan Anderson – Worker**

Back in May, the Port Townsend church sponsored a lecture by Heloisa Rivas. Two of our regular guys were there with several others. Our two reported how inspired they were by it.

At the beginning of the lecture, a minister of another faith was already in the chapel, thinking he was having a session but none of his men were there. Heloisa invited him to stay for her talk and he did. Afterwards, one of our men got to talking to this minister. It turned out the minister knew the inmate’s family and had come from his neighborhood. Our friend had applied to the Clemency Project and this contact with the minister gave him hope.

Another of our regular guys, at our session, the following Thursday after the Lecture, shared a healing he had. He slammed a finger in his heavy cell door. At first he was feeling and saying how painful it was. The he just put his hand behind his back to not look at it and declared to himself there are no accidents in God’s kingdom.

When he got in his cell, his roommate was reading "As a Man Thinketh," by Roscoe Drummond. The two of them got to sharing ideas together and he forgot about his hand. The next day he was using it and there was no swelling or ugly bruise. This experience confirmed his faith in the Truth.

In July, Jo Yount and I had to wait a half- hour because of a lockdown in one of the units. A new young man joined us. He had been invited by one of our regulars who couldn't be there because he was in the unit that was locked down. As part of our explanation of Christian Science one of our regulars said that *Science and Health* is like a banana. You peel back the surface and it reveals the meat of the Bible. At the end of that session, there was a problem with the computer that regulated the locks on the doors. We went out into the yard and I started playing hymns on my guitar. We were told we had to go back into the Chapel. One of our men was still there. He sang a song to us about how much he values our sessions together. It was very touching.

### **King County Corrections Facility – Linda Lewis --Worker**

It was very inspiring as an inmate burst through the door into the glassed-in booth where we have been meeting weekly for over a month now. He beamed from ear to ear and stated before he sat down, "I had a Christian Science healing this morning!!" This dear man requested one on one visits, without having been to one of our recent services. He shared that he had been given a copy of *Science and Health* awhile back, on an earlier incarceration, and that he had not read it. He had once attended a local Christian Science church Sunday service when he got out and found it very enlightening. He tried to get others to go back to another service, but all declined, so he did not return.

For the past several months, he has been requesting copies of the Monitor and had been enjoying them. When the request for a one-on-one visit a month ago, I offered to visit him. How uplifting and rewarding it has been to share with such a receptive heart. In the last two weeks, besides studying and underlining the Full Text he had been sent, he has been reading *Science and Health* and was on about page 245 when we first met and has continued to about page 450. (Last week, page 484.) He said one day he went back to his cell and decided to pick up our text book and he said when he read the chapter on Prayer that he couldn't put it down. He held up his *Science and Health* and said, "This is the most profound book that was ever written and I want to share it with everyone. I don't understand all the words, but I just keep reading and underlining meaningful passages. Then I come to our visits and you answer questions I have had." In pointing to his head, he said, "This is not where our thinking comes from, it's just a brain, not true substance. A brain can't think. Our true thoughts come directly from God. Mrs. Eddy has made that very clear. It is so powerful." He went on to say he is now reading the Trial and that it is so plain to him that sickness is not real, has no power and Mrs. 'Baker Eddy' really has 'nailed it'.

He went into detail about the healing he had had that morning. He said he woke up with what he felt was like a headache coming on. He said he firmly said, "This ain't from God! This ain't from God! It is not real! God ONLY gives us good. It is no part of me because I am God's spiritual likeness!." Then he said the suggestion of the headache just went away.

As we finished our hour together, going over his underlined statements in his Full Text Quarterly, he said, "God sent me back to jail so I could find Christian Science. I want to share it with others. Someday I want to be sitting where you are, sharing this great truth!"

**NOTE:** (When I read this testimony to the inmate to get permission to share it, he added to what I wrote in his healing, "My mortal mind was telling me about a headache. My immortal Mind was saying it was not real.") He followed it up by saying, "Some people might say it would have disappeared anyway, but I KNOW it was a Christian Science healing!!"

## King County Corrections Facility – Renée Alton, CS --Worker

I have been asked if I am “scared” when I go to KCCF to visit inmates. I try not to laugh but I have to say it’s been the opposite for me. I don’t think anything brings me greater joy than to offer a Christian Science church service to the men and women at KCCF. They are always so grateful and, for the most part, very attentive. I’ve never felt afraid or threatened but I have asked myself, why are these people in here? They seem so good!

One man brought his Bible to a Sunday service thinking he was going to follow along. I told him the citations were outlined in the Quarterly, but it would be difficult to follow since I had them marked. I would be reading them faster than he would be looking them up. As we were reading the Lesson I noticed a little bit of tension with this man. He didn’t sing the hymns and didn’t seem to want to engage in the service. I knew he was from a different faith tradition and I supposed that his beliefs were being challenged listening to our service. After the service I mentioned to him that I was aware that the ideas we shared were probably new to him. I told him I was grateful that he didn't disrupt our service even though he may not have agreed with what was being read. That seemed to be an invitation for him to spout out his beliefs. It was so interesting that when he started doing that the other inmates talked above him thanking us for coming and offering our service. They were alert to what was going on and they silenced the adversary. That left an impression on me. No! I am absolutely not at all afraid to go to bear witness to “God’s perfect man where sinning mortal man appears to mortals.” (SH 476).

Two years ago I was asked to visit a young man at KCCF. He seemed rather down and a bit depressed. He had spent a lot of time in jail even though he was barely over 20 years of age. He was moved to Airway Heights where I wrote to him and he was sent a copy of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and the Weekly Bible Lesson. After initial contact with this young man when he was moved to prison he wrote me back asking for various publications, evidently favorites of those who are in prison. I wrote him back and told him I was only authorized to send him Christian Science literature and if he wanted those other publications he needed to find another way to receive them. We wrote a couple more times and then I never heard from him again.

Fast forward to this spring, I received a kite asking for a visit from this young man who was again at KCCF. I went to see him a couple of times only to hear him say how he was so grateful for all of those who were helping lift him to a better and clearer sense of himself. There was a great change in his mental quality, much more uplifted. It was obvious he had matured and was ready to accept help from all of the resources offered him. He spoke of his concern not having housing once he was released and we talked about Jesus promise, “In my Father’s house there are many mansions, I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2). The next week he said he was on the list for housing. He was especially grateful to me for my spiritual support and was looking forward to digging deeper into Christian Science once he was released which was only a few weeks later. I am no longer allowed to be in touch with this young man but I know that the seeds have been planted and I trust we will see him one day at the Metro Seattle Reading Room.