

Christian Science Committee for Institutional Work in the State of Washington

14 June 2019

Quarterly Fruitage Report

Back in March we offered a church service at the KCCF (King County Correctional Facility) for the men. At these services we offer the inmates the Bible, Science and Health, Full Text Quarterly, Sentinel and Monitor and one-on-one visits.

One of the men who attended the service asked for a one-on-one visit and when I visited him he told me that he went to the church service just to get out of his cell. He hated religion and wanted nothing to do with it. But then he heard the word “science” and he was intrigued and wanted to know more—thus the visit. He began reading the Bible again and Science and Health for the first time and was getting a lot out of what he was reading. He also began studying the Bible Lesson.

Each week we would read some or all of the Bible Lesson together. He always chose to read the Science and Health part. I found that a bit unusual. It seems in my experience most people want to read the Bible as they are more familiar with it.

About the third visit he came in very angry! In fact he was raging. He couldn't even sit down he was so mad. He had been falsely accused and he was not only angry at his accuser but he was angry because it was recommended that he plead guilty so he could be set free even though it would mean a strike on his record. He knew that he would have to do more time if he didn't plead guilty but he refused to plead guilty to a crime he did not commit.

I was of course praying to know what to say to comfort him and I told him of God's great love for him. I said it with conviction and confidence. He began to calm down and sat very close to the window listening to every word I spoke of God's love for him and his innocence and purity. By the time he left he was calm.

The next visit he looked like a completely new man. Not only was he clean shaven his demeanor was much calmer and gracious. He looked brighter where as before there was a darkness to him. Each week we talked about forgiveness, Jesus Sermon on the Mount and his instruction to “love our enemies” and them that spitefully use us—forgiving the false accuser and realizing that the only one who could suffer from hatred was the one hating.

For several months we met each week and read the Bible Lesson and shared ideas. He was waiting for his case to go to trial and it was taking quite a long time for that to happen. He was a bit frustrated that he had to do more time as an innocent man than if he had pleaded guilty. He told me that he was getting closer and closer to forgiving the false accuser and loving them and himself. The next time I went to visit he had been released without going to trial.

Another young man had come to jail having forgotten about God. Didn't really need God that much. When he got into his cell, he flipped over his bunk to find a CS Sentinel. He was sure it was God telling him to inquire about Christian Science. He requested a visit and he began receiving the Sentinel, the Monitor and the Full Text Bible Lesson, a Bible and Science and Health. He had been in prison before and was familiar with the Bible but he felt he needed help understanding it so he prayed for a better understanding and he said that's when he discovered Christian Science and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures.

We met weekly for several months. This man was very anxious and concerned about his sentencing. He was told that he may be sent away for life. As we worked with the Lesson Sermon every week and talked about man's perfection and innate innocency this man became more confident of God's love for him. Then he was told that the judge felt he had not been in his right mind when he committed the crime and was going to be given psychiatric help.

We continued our weekly visits and then he was given some choices about sentencing. He was very concerned about what choice he was to make—would he make the right one? We talked about God's as the one Mind and that he reflected this Mind. No missteps. Mrs. Eddy talks about no mistakes. Even if we seem to make a mistake we needed to go that direction to get us to the next right step. We looked to Psalm 37 for guidance and its great promises when we commit our way to God. We also talked about him not needing to know what decision to make at that moment but that he would know when he needed to know—he could remain in the “now” not look to the future. Referring to Jesus guidance in Matt 6: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you. ...do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself” (AMP).

A few weeks later he told me that he had been given two choices equally good having to do with sentencing. He made a choice and was so relieved when he did! A huge weight was lifted from his shoulders! He ended up being sentenced to 3 years with work release. The 8 months that he spent at KCCF will be subtracted from that time.

He spoke of the people who came in and out of his cell during his 8 months at the jail and how he was able to “mentor” and share his love for God and the Bible and what he was learning. He was especially grateful for a young man who had been a gang member and how he was helping him pray. He would open Science and Health and just begin reading to this young man. And it was always appreciated and seemed to be just what this young man needed at that time.

He is looking forward to going to prison to continue his studies and to grow in his relation to God and to help as many as he can in their discovery of God through the Bible and Christian Science. He feels God has a plan for him to share and serve others in a way he had never thought of before. He expressed gratitude for the visits and how much it meant to him to be supported in his spiritual journey.

Recently we had a church service at KCCF for the women. There were 4 who came, fully engaged and very sure of themselves! When we sang—no holding back! Loud and robust. The Lord's Prayer—again, not too fast as is sometimes the case but loud and with confidence! Responsive Reading, same thing. Really quite refreshing to me. And they sang the hymns with the same vigor and confidence!

There were a few questions and some good discussion and sharing of testimonies with the group. We all came away very inspired.

Much much gratitude is given to all who support the institutional work by giving metaphysical support. If we could all give just 10 minutes a day to this work think of how it will uplift and free those receptive hearts in the prisons and jails. Thank you all!