

WASHINGTON STATE INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE
ANNUAL FRUITAGE REPORT 2020



...ruled by
Love
alone.

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FORWARD

A brief history from Prison and Institutional Work on christianscience.com

Mary Baker Eddy supported and promoted work in institutions of reform throughout her life. Her interest in working with prison inmates began through an early connection with the Pilsbury family, well known for their humane and innovative methods of prison reform. Captain Moses Pilsbury, friend of the Baker family, was warden of New Hampshire's state prison in Concord (1818–1826 and 1837–1840). Her relationship with the Pilsburys deepened through her brother George's employment under Captain Amos Pilsbury at the Wethersfield, Connecticut prison, and her sister Martha's marriage to Luther Pilsbury, deputy warden in the New Hampshire State prison.

Christian Science branch churches around the world support institutional work through volunteer chaplain programs. Although the term chaplain is usually reserved for ordained clergy, many institutions rely on lay ministers to help address the spiritual needs of their inmates, patients, or residents.

INSTITUTIONAL WORK IN WASHINGTON STATE

Since 1955, Washington State has had dedicated volunteers ministering to folks in institutions. The Christian Science Committee for Institutional Work in the State of Washington was established to support and further this work.

All Christian Science Institutional work is entirely religious and conducted voluntarily. Its ministry is always conducted with respect and in accord with institutional rules and regulations. Its service is bestowed in the name of Truth and Love.

Thank you to all the Christian Scientists who support every part of this work – prayer, financial contributions, committees and visitations. And thank you to the staff of all the institutions served who accept and encourage the work of the volunteers. Every loving and unselfish volunteer is needed to provide the teamwork needed for success.

*And O, may we, God's children true,
God's healing love make known,
And see by faith all things made new
When ruled by Love alone.*

— William P. McKenzie

*Fruitage reports from our
dedicated institutional workers.*

Reports from
CLALLAM BAY CORRECTIONS CENTER

Susan Anderson, worker
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Bainbridge Island

I became a volunteer at Clallam Bay Correction Center as the result of visiting a former Sunday School student who was an inmate there, in 2012. At one of the visits, I asked the Chaplain what it would take to have a CS lecture there. He said, give him 2 – 3 months' notice. That led to contacting the Christian Science churches in Sequim and Port Townsend and, together with my church on Bainbridge Island, we sponsored a lecture with Josh Niles. It took another year and another lecture before the five of us who had applied, finally did the on-site training to become official volunteers. March 2015, we began monthly visits. We have had a lecture every year through 2019. We have had from 1 – 6 men come to our Bible Lesson study sessions. I accompany hymns on the ukulele.

Jo Yount from Port Townsend and I continue the monthly visits. Here are some notes on this last year's visits.

NOVEMBER 2019

A man who knew nothing about Christian Science was given a *Science and Health* by a friend who encouraged him to come to our sessions. He shared a lot about his background working for carnivals. He was a willing reader, has continued to attend, and now subscribes to the Full Text Quarterly.

Our three churches sponsored a Lecture with Phillip Hockley, "A New View of God." Many good questions came from attendees.

DECEMBER

In our sharing of something good, one man was very enthusiastic about the horticulture class he is taking and saving money for a gift for his nieces. When the second man couldn't think of anything good, I encouraged him to think of something. He shared that an appointment to get glasses came about sooner than he thought.

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Because it was December, I asked if either had memories of Christmas and the Christmas story. The first man remembered being in the chorus of a Nativity play. The second man said he didn't know the story. So we read it in Matthew and Luke and sang "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem." I also told them about the scene in the Mr. Rogers movie, "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" where Mr. Rogers asked the journalist to take a minute of silence to think of all the people who loved him. I gave the guys 30 seconds.

Both men meet with another inmate on Saturday to do a Bible study. They asked for another copy of that week's Bible Lesson to share with their friend.

JANUARY 2020

Three men came. A new attendee said he had found a *Science and Health* in his cell, began reading and got interested. The other two men are now receiving Full Text Bible Lesson subscriptions. When I asked about something good, the new man said he tries to keep a positive attitude.

In January, I attended a re-sentencing hearing for one of the regular attendees who has been studying Christian Science quite some time and has joined The Mother Church. That this hearing had come about at all was a direct result of his prayer. The man has changed his life as a result of this study. However, the judge on this case was the one who sentenced him in the first place and had obviously made up her mind ahead of time not to change the sentence. Afterwards, I wished I had known more about the case and the process and had prayed more about what to say. There was no mention of forgiveness, repentance or rehabilitation and I didn't either. The sentence was not changed. There is such a need for prayer for healing in the system.

FEBRUARY

The man who is reluctant to find something good, shared how two guys had tried to get him into an argument over a false accusation. He spent 2 days in his room to avoid them. One of the men came to his door and apologized. Since that time he has gotten a job in the kitchen in order to, as he says, "stay out of the fray."

The regular attendee, shared how, on his way to our study session, two young gang members asked him where he was going. He said, "Bible study." One said, "Oh, you're a Bible thumper." He said, "No" and explained about Christian Science in terms the young man could understand. The "dude" said that it was cool. This same inmate said he has been talking to a girl dealing with an abusive past. He explained, that if she was having a bad dream she would wake up from it and know it wasn't real.

MARCH

There were 4 men this time. Our regular man was happy the new man came. They had been having deep conversations. They each had good things to share. I told them about "Q-tips," which means, "Quit taking things personally." They liked that idea. I also shared briefly ideas from a book, "My Shadow Ran Fast," by a former inmate of San Quentin prison. I had sent 2 DVDs of lectures, Phillip Hockley's and Brian Kissock's, both of whom had given a lecture at the prison. The idea was that we would watch one at our next session to talk about it and they could invite friends. This was the last time we met in person so far this year.

In the meantime, I have been mailing Monitors and articles from the periodicals I hope are relevant to the three regular attendees.

In closing I would like to share a short letter than was given to me by one of the inmates after my husband passed on in 2018. This is why I do this work. There are so many blessings.

(Another inmate gave me the letter)

"These words were shown to me, I believe, not for me but to pass on. I am sorry I can't be at study today. I would like to read these words. "

"Your dear husband has not passed away from you in Spirit. He never died, only to your sense. He lives and loves and is immortal. Let this comfort you, dear one, and you will find rest in banishing the sense of death, in cherishing the sense of life and not death. Your husband is as truly living today as he ever lived and you can find rest and peace in this true sense of life. Mind not matter is our Life. Never let a "scalding tear" fall on your dear cheek."

Since we are not able to go to the prison, I continue to pray, almost daily, for the prison, seeing only justice, harmony and love embracing all inmates, staff and guards.

Nancy Martin, worker
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Sequim

Growing up, our mom served as a Christian Science Chaplain for a nearby Psychiatric Veterans Hospital. While it wasn't a traditional penal institution, most of the men were not from the area, and if placed on certain levels of mental challenge, were not allowed off grounds. So, in a sense, they were incarcerated. Later in college, I volunteered there as well, though not as a Christian Science worker. I believe that experience planted a seed.

Later when in college, my brother began a lifetime of service in various correctional institutions. Today, both he and his wife are Christian Science Institutional Chaplains, at times serving as many as 5 California facilities between them. I have come to admire and respect their work, as well as some in the Seattle area whom I have been aware of over the years, (Dave and Sabra Lowe, Mary Davis, Joy Emerson and Mary Minsk, to name a few.) After all the necessary background checking and vetting, it was an inspiring eye-opener to be allowed to assist my sister-in-law on a couple of occasions during her services at the largest women's prison in the country. (Fresno, California)

However, although very appreciative of workers and chaplains, I had not felt called to explore serving locally myself until last year. I live nearest to the Clallam Bay Correctional Facility, and Sue Anderson has spent time with me explaining her work. I applied and was accepted for the facility's orientation, but literally the week of my training, the Covid-19 issues cancelled it.

Prayerfully, I wait until the time the necessary training will allow me to join in this work.

Jo Yount, worker
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Port Townsend

I added my name to the list of participants at Clallam Bay thinking I would only be a substitute when needed. But as soon as I had an opportunity to drive out there I was hooked. Those fellows who attend are so inspiring. I find myself in awe of their striving and their successes, their care of one another, their appreciation of us. It is indeed a privilege to work with them. I am so grateful I signed up!

Reports from
KENT REGIONAL JUSTICE CENTER

Susan Alegria, worker
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Burien

Last year I began working or volunteering to visit prisoners. I only worked a few months before we were shut down due to the coronavirus. But I used my talent to speak Spanish well. One man who asked for one-on-one visits, said he had never read the Bible before. No one had ever explained its relevance to him.

By the time our visits ended, he had a copy of the Bible, *Science and Health*, several *Heraldos* and Lesson Sermons all in Spanish. He said he knew he'd be deported after serving time in jail. But he was anxious to let his family in Mexico know more about the Bible and Christian Science.

We had good talks about using Christian Science instead of violence to solve problems. He was very happy to learn.

I visited another man every Friday until the facility was shut down. He had good questions about Christian Science, and readily accepted the *Heraldos* and Lesson sermons. No other family member visited him. I will miss him since he was moved to prison after our meetings were stopped. I still think of him as God's perfect child.

We have read the lesson in English and Spanish. I have made 9 visits in November and December. I have given away one Bible, one *Science and Health* and 5 full text Bible lessons in Spanish, and 18 *Heraldos*.

I spoke to one man for an hour. He has requested the Bible and *Science and Health* and was scheduled to be released the following Tuesday. I assured him that God was with him wherever he went.

I am praying for another man for his sentencing. He will be placed where God needs him.

Merry Ann Peterson, C.S., worker
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Burien

I became interested in this work because of our branch church's representative to your committee. She reported at our quarterly meetings about the activities of your committee. Already a couple men had written to me who were in out of state prisons. They were not so interested in Christian Science—one wanted to write a book and needed a typewriter ribbon or something. Another ended up wanting money. At any rate, I knew some people who were involved in King County Correctional work and who were reading the Bible lesson in the downtown jail. I am not thinking of her name right now and she has moved back to Oregon. That is what I did at first, read the Bible lesson with someone else. Then I had the opportunity to visit one-on-one, and by myself.

Eventually the Regional Justice Center opportunity opened up to read the Bible lesson there as well. So, I went to both areas, and also visited there. A Spanish speaker became interested in Christian Science, and one of our church members is bilingual and she volunteered. One time, Frank Voorhees and I read the Bible lesson in English, while Sue Alegria read in Spanish to a couple fellas, in the same room. Sue continued visiting the Spanish speakers. Their faces lit up when they heard their own language—it was gratifying to see!

I am reading Bryan Stevenson's book now, "Just Mercy." I read another book by a Black woman lawyer, "From Jim Crow to Mass Incarceration." That was an eye-opener.

I visited seven people over the month of January 2020, gave out 2 full text quarterlies, 9 *Sentinels*, and 13 *Monitors*.

Two people asked for literature but not for visits the last time we read at RJC. So, I was not visiting them. However, I felt that one person did want and need a visit though he did not sign up for one. He was moved to KCCF and it kept coming to me to visit him. So, I did. He was SO pleased tears came to his eyes. He was delighted and continues to want me to come every week. I was so glad I listened to that intuition.

Report from
KING COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Brent Hirschman, worker
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Seattle

Monthly services for men and women were being held at King County Correctional Facility until March of this year. All services, window visits and chaplain access were suspended at that time due to the pandemic concerns. Several individuals were being visited prior to that time to read the Bible Lesson and address their spiritual needs. In September we were able to bring literature and Full Text Quarterlies (for September) to the lobby of the facility so that the administrator could take them upstairs for further distribution. No further change in accessibility is known at this time. We continue to pray for the safety, security and spiritual growth of all parties – inmates, officers, administration, families, lawyers, judges, and volunteers.

Report from
MONROE CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX

Herb Dresser, worker
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Bothell

I visit inmates at the Monroe Prison. In September I talked to an inmate who knew nothing about Christian Science. He was very receptive, and we talked about Mrs. Eddy and *Science and Health* and I showed him the spiritual interpretation of the Lord's Prayer, the definition of angels, and the definition of God. I told him about the Monitor. He took a copy of *Science and Health* with him. He said he was going to be transferred to a "camp" soon. We saw that as a step of progress.

In October I had a nice chat with a guy who was new to Christian Science and was very polite and receptive. I showed him the books and pointed out the spiritual interpretation of the Lord's Prayer, the definition of God, and the definition of angels. I learned he was going to be released soon and was able to give him information on the Principle Foundation's new program which gives released inmates an electronic way to find a job, housing, etc. It also gives them a cell phone to use to do these things. (Incidentally, I learned about this project at the State Committee's annual meeting last October.) The inmate took a copy of *Science and Health* with him.

In November I had a good talk with an inmate in one of the units at the Monroe Prison that I don't have regular permission to visit. He is familiar with Christian Science, and he is getting the Bible Lesson and the *Sentinel*. He asked for a hymnal and a copy of the *Manual*.

In December I had another good talk with this same inmate. He had received the hymnal and the *Manual* which I had sent via the institutional chaplain who can receive items and transfer them to inmates. The inmate reported a healing of a back problem. He said he would like a *Journal*. I later sent him the first half of a recent *Journal*. (We're not allowed to send the directory with contact information for practitioners.) He mentioned that he had introduced Christian Science to another inmate in his unit.

I have had many interviews with inmates over the years and it's been a real privilege to explain Christian Science to them. I've tried to remind myself that I am not "taking the Christ" into the prison, but am seeing it in each inmate.

Reports from
LARCH CORRECTIONS CENTER

Carol Phillips, worker
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Vancouver

I was inspired to begin doing institutional work by the work my husband was doing in the local prison. I would hear his stories of how those attending were changed by learning of Christian Science. It seemed like an activity worth doing.

It has been a joy to hear of an inmate's learning that God is Love, and that there was no need to hate others. To hear of their being free of cyclical illness in the cells. Of an inmate coming in saying, "Where is the book?" Looking for a copy of *Science and Health* as his copy—received at another prison had not made it back to his current facility with him. He had been sent to Shelton for a medical reason due to an eye injury. While there, he had come across *Science and Health*, read it, and was healed of the eye injury. He was so grateful to gain a sense of God being Love, as with so many other of our attendees. They have also loved the logic of Christian Science. It has provided answers to their many questions.

It has been a joy to be able to have Christian Science lectures at the facility, though this year's was cancelled due to the pandemic. Of the two times we have had lectures, we have mostly had new people come: 12-18 inmates, and the chaplain, who said he could not stay, but did stay at both lectures. We are looking forward to our next opportunity of holding a lecture. Of the new attendees, there has always been at least one who would begin attending our services.

James Phillips, worker
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Vancouver

Early on in my Christian Science church work, I admired those church workers that went to the prison and met with the inmates, but I thought I could never do that. What would I say to them, let alone, I would be meeting with criminals? The years passed and my understanding of Christian Science grew. In 2009, I moved to Vancouver, Washington where my career took a change and I was able to devote more time to my church. At this church I met an institutional worker who shared a lot of her stories about her work. She was able to answer a lot of my questions and address my concerns. In 2014, after a great deal of prayer, I felt God directing me to take up this activity and I volunteered to become a volunteer worker at the Larch Correction Center. It's been quite an adventure. It's given me a whole new perspective of Christian Science. To sit across from a man or men who have lost their freedom and want change so that they don't lose it again, gives you an appreciation of what Christian Science can offer them. It moves your heart. I've learned the power of our Bible Lessons to show they are loved. The years have passed and I have plenty of demonstrations to share with them to prove the healing power of this Science to help them. Our work provides them with the truths to help them and a sense of hope for their future.

Reports from
**WASHINGTON CORRECTIONS CENTER
SHELTON**

Joy Basse-Emerson, worker
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Lakewood

What inspires my institutional ministry? Love! Commiseration doesn't help; compassion does. Pity doesn't help; praise does. Seeing the institutionalized as in need of redemption doesn't help; restoration does. In *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy writes, "Love for God and man is the true incentive in both healing and teaching. Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way." (p.454:17-19) And in Matthew 25: 31-46, Jesus is reported as saying, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me..." later admonishing, "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me." Love has inspired me in this work, from my teens on, leading me to visits in mental institutions, youth detention centers, a facility for first offenders, prisons in different countries — as a visitor, teacher, pen pal, and Christian Science volunteer. This has blessed and uplifted and inspired me, maybe more than those visited!

Inmate's progress. Someone called our Christian Science Reading Room from Western State Hospital, in great distress, requesting to be visited. I at once agreed. After the visit it was made possible to pick the patient up on Sundays and Wednesdays for church services. I ended up visiting two patients there and reading the Bible Lesson with them. The patient who called was soon released. The men at Shelton Correctional Center love the *Christian Science Monitor* and the *Christian Science Sentinel*, sharing them among themselves and also recommending others to read *Science and Health*. We have lively and often deeply inspiring Bible study sessions, using the Full Text Quarterly. We share our healings through prayer and see how a light of understanding appears in their eyes. They ask searching questions and often find answers that speak to them. Some request and receive subscriptions to the periodicals.

Handling the work during the pandemic. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to visit at this time. Nor does State law allow volunteers to write to inmates. But no law can stop us praying for them and your Advisory Board has been meeting on Zoom every month, as usual. Progress is going on, and we will enjoy getting back to volunteering as soon as allowed! The concluding sentence to the paragraph on page 454 of *Science and Health* states, "Wait patiently for divine Love to move upon the waters of mortal mind, and form the perfect concept. Patience must "have her perfect work." We know it will!

Catherine Crossman, worker
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Olympia

I've been going to Shelton about 18 years or so. Very early on I thought, each of these men has a mother. And I thought about what it would be like to see your child go to prison. It seems like a heart-breaking situation and I became aware of the presence of the Mother Love that comforts and cares for each one. Since then that sense of Mother Love has always been something that I have felt when going to the prison, both the sense of God's love for each of them and my reflection of that love. In the chapter on Christian Science Practice, Mrs. Eddy tells us, "If we would open their prison doors for the sick, we *must* first learn to bind up the broken-hearted."

I have been aware of times when a light bulb goes on and of times when there's outward enthusiasm for a new way of seeing God and man. One man who said he had been arrested more than once for spouse abuse began to see women and men differently than he had before when I pointed out that God is the source of qualities and abilities for both of them. He started recounting the instances when his wife had kept the family running smoothly when he was being irresponsible.

On my long drive to Shelton, I like to remember that the Christ is already there and has been all along. That has helped me during the current situation when we aren't meeting with the men there. I meet those suggestions of lack of activity with the fact that the Christ is ever-present in human consciousness.

Jim Gold, worker
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Burien

A couple of years ago, a member of my branch church began giving testimonies of her Institutional work in the King County jails. I had often thought that there must be a great need in jails and prisons for hope, spiritual inspiration, and to be healed of feelings of guilt, hatred, and other harmful thoughts. So when I heard of the good work going on, I thought that I too would like to help spread the message of God's love and care for His children, in these places where that message might be most needed.

Jesus told us to love our neighbors, to give a cup of water in his name, and to preach the gospel. It was becoming clear to me that sharing the pure and healing message of Christian Science with those in prison would be a good way to follow Jesus' instructions. So at the invitation of volunteer worker

Mary Minsk, I began monthly visits to the Washington Corrections Center in Shelton in March 2019. And these visits have been so rewarding!

There is just one man at WCC that we meet with individually. Incarcerated for over 30 years for a non-violent offense, his purity of thought and his lack of animosity towards those responsible for keeping him there have greatly inspired me. He has been studying Christian Science diligently for years, thanks to an introduction to it by Sue Anderson, and has been able to rise above the attitudes of machismo and anger that are quite common in the prison. Instead he has learned the importance of expressing qualities like humility, brotherly love, and faith in God as ways to follow Jesus. I have also been grateful to witness spiritual qualities expressed in many of the men in our group Bible Lesson study sessions. Here I have seen so many men tear up with guilt and regret for what they have done, and feel unworthy of good. We have consistently assured them of God's unconditional love for each one of them, and that He only sees them as His perfect, upright, children. Often at these sessions I have shared a favorite Bible verse with them, and asked if any of them could share a verse meaningful to them. There are always some who share a verse—one man shared the entire 23rd Psalm! Most of the men we meet at these sessions are in transition at WCC. We see them only once. But we often see growth in just that one meeting. At one session a man shared that he thought he was absolutely nothing. I told him that is not how God sees him, nor how I see him: as a beloved and wonderful child of God, reflecting all of His goodness. He seemed to really appreciate that thought, and expressed deep gratitude for the session. During the pandemic, I've striven to recognize that we all have innate freedom from the influence of error, and are receptive to the thoughts of our Creator, in accord with this verse from Job: "There is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty gives them understanding." I've also denounced this virus as impotent, recognizing all power as in God, good. But very recently, I listened to a talk by Christian Science practitioner Chestnut Booth, who said that she felt the Golden Rule applies not only to our interactions with people but with all organisms; that our dominion is always over false belief, never over an organism; and that we can welcome these truly harmless beings into our experience. This made me think of a verse from Isaiah 11: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them." I realized that our dominion is not over individual forms of life, but over the lie that they can harm us. There are no harmful beings in the universe God created, but only harmonious interactions, and God has given us dominion over any suggestion to the contrary. This is something I can hold to each day.

Mary Minsk, worker
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Puyallup

I visit inmates at the Shelton Correction Center. It's fun and fulfilling to be able to share Christian Science with individuals who are searching for the Truth, and to see their thinking change for the better. Their receptivity is very inspiring.

Inmates often question how we can say there is no evil. I enjoy telling them the account of Albert Einstein when he was a student in the University of Vienna. One day the professor asked the class, "Did God create everything?" They said yes, he did. So the professor replied, "So, once again I prove the Christian doctrine false, for if He created everything, then he created evil!" Einstein asked, "Sir, may I ask a question?" "Of course," was the answer. So he asked, "Does cold exist?" "Of course. Haven't you ever been outside on a winter day?" No Sir. You can't measure cold, you can only measure heat. Cold is just a term we use to indicate the absence of heat. Does darkness exist?" Of course. If you turn out the lights, it would be dark." "No, you can only measure light. Darkness is just a term that indicates the absence of light. Does evil exist?" "Yes, look at all the sickness and sin around us." "No, evil is just the absence of good. It is the absence of God in our hearts."

This story often opens their thought to understanding the allness of a God that is only good.

One individual who had been reading S&H explained the idea of baptism in CS to the other inmates, that it is a continual spiritualization and purification of thought.

Another man was dealing with depression from having killed a man in the war in Iraq. I told him that I was insulted on the highway by another driver, and I chose to pray for that individual instead of reacting negatively. Then he felt a freedom from his depression.

During the pandemic, I feel the need to pray more regularly for the inmates.

A Testimony from England with permission from the writer

During last week's testimony meeting, a contributor from across the Atlantic spoke about the work she was doing to support men in prison in her vicinity. As someone who has been where those men are – albeit on this side of the pond – I wanted to express my gratitude to her and anyone else who has volunteered their time as a prison visitor or chaplain.

It is hard to overestimate how broken and lost I felt when I first entered prison. I was confronted very directly by the sin and hypocrisy that had brought me so low, not to mention the distress I had caused so many others. Most of the men I met inside felt similarly 'broken' in one way or another. The idea of ever feeling the peace of David's harp, never mind the peace of God's love, seemed impossible.

Aside from my immediate family and a Christian Science practitioner, I had very little contact with anyone in the outside world for many months. It threatened to be a very lonely and desperate time. And yet, I did begin to find hope and peace, and for that I must acknowledge the important role of the prison chapel and its volunteers. For example, while visiting the chapel in the week of my sentencing, a volunteer chaplain of my parents' generation saw my misery and cut through it with a prayer of such certain, unconditional love I thought she could have been reading from the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Later, in a second prison, our Sunday services were regularly visited by visitors from local churches, who gave up their mornings to work their way patiently through prison security so that they could sing hymns, pray and worship with us, then chat with us over a lukewarm cup of tea after the service. They greeted us with the same warm smiles they surely used with their own congregations, and simply by being there they reminded us of our humanity and our unity in God's love and forgiveness. It was a precious and life-saving gift, and I will never forget it.

Alongside my ongoing study and the prayerful support of a practitioner, these volunteers' unselfish expression of unconditional love was vital to my emerging discovery of peace and freedom, even while still behind bars. Now out of prison, and continuing my upward journey towards what Mrs Eddy calls "a higher and more permanent peace", I regularly thank God for those loving Christians of various denominations. They gave us a cup of cold water in Christ's name – not to mention a mince pie at Christmas – without ever being afraid of us. I'm very pleased to be able to use this opportunity to say 'thank you'.

VOLUNTEER INSTITUTIONAL WORKERS

Susan Alegria	Nancy Krussel
Susan Anderson	Mary Minsk
Joy Basse-Emerson	Merry Ann Peterson, CS
Catherine Crossman	Carol Phillips
Herb Dresser	James Phillips
Jim Gold	Frank Voorhees
Brent Hirschman	Jo Yount

Since the restrictions on visiting institutions, the following church members have volunteered to write to 13 inmates who requested correspondence with a Christian Scientist.

Christine Banko, *First Church, Vancouver*
 Liz Case, *First Church, Bremerton*
 Ralph Emerson, C.S., *First Church, Lakewood*
 Liza Halpenny, *First Church, Vancouver*
 Nancy Martin, *First Church, Sequim*
 Christine Osborn, *First Church, Lakewood*
 Julie Roe, *First Church, Sequim*
 Rex Rudee, *First Church, Bremerton*
 Mary Shank, *First Church, Bothell*
 Trinka Wasik, C.S., *First Church, Bainbridge Island*

Literature Subscriptions Given

Full-Text: 67 Monitor: 111 Sentinel: 14

HOW TO CONTACT THE STATE COMMITTEE

Martha Niemi, Secretary/Treasurer
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 Bellingham, WA 98228
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SUSTAINING CHURCHES/SOCIETIES

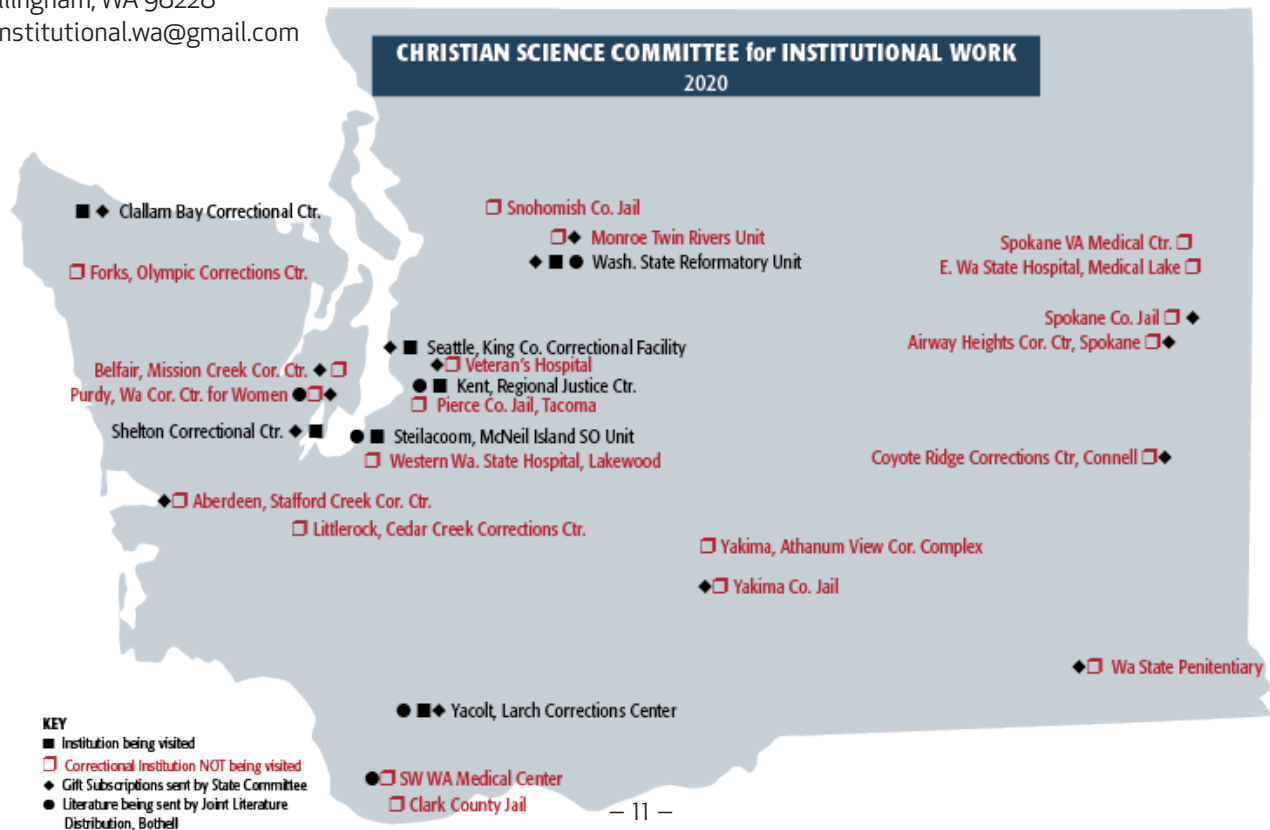
Bainbridge Island	Mount Vernon
Bellevue 1 st	Olympia
Bothell	Pasco
Burien	Puyallup
Camas	Redmond
Edmonds	Seattle 1 st
Enumclaw	Seattle 3 rd
Kent	Seattle 12 th
Lakewood	Vancouver
Mercer Island	West Seattle

CONTRIBUTING CHURCHES/SOCIETIES

Bellevue 2 nd	Port Townsend
Bellingham	Sequim
Chehalis	South Whidbey Society
Friday Harbor	

RESOURCES

CS Committee for Institutional Work: www.csciwa.org
 CS activities in Washington State: www.cswashington.com
 CS Institutional work information California: www.lightinprison.org



***“The rich in spirit help the poor in one grand brotherhood,
all having the same Principle, or Father . . .”***

Science and Health, p. 518:15-16 by Mary Baker Eddy

Christian Science institutional work is designed to follow the Christly admonition to visit the sick and come into the prison, to share the Truth that brings healing and the Love that enriches the nature and blesses the inmate.

Each church/society desiring to express interest or to actively participate in Christian Science institutional work in the State or Area Committee appoints one representative and one alternate to attend committee meetings and act as liaison between both the committees and his or her church/society. New volunteer religious workers are always welcome and encouraged to apply. Talk to your church’s representative, a worker, or call the Area Committee Coordinator, Brent Hirschman at 913-593-6221.

The primary differences between the State and Area Committees are outlined below. For detailed distinctions, see the Bylaws for each of the respective committees.

STATE COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

To create and maintain a statewide consciousness of Christian Science institutional work; provide a resource and liaison between Area Committees, churches/societies, and institutional workers; and to administer gift subscriptions of Christian Science literature to the institutionally confined and those in care facilities who don’t have a church connection nearby.

GOVERNMENT

State Committee Bylaws, under which a five member Advisory Board is elected to oversee gift subscriptions and funding of operations, assisted by an appointed Secretary-Treasurer.

REPRESENTATION

A representative of a Sustaining or a Contributing Christian Science church/society may be elected to the Advisory Board.

FINANCING

Income is provided by Sustaining church/society pro-rata payments, augmented by Contributing church/society and individual contributions.

MEETINGS

Meets every month online to conduct ongoing business. Annually the Board hosts a meeting to conduct business and share fruitage with members across the state. Requires a quorum present of member church/society representatives, and is open to all interested Christian Scientists.

AREA COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

To establish, coordinate, and support Christian Science religious activity in penal and care institutions in a defined area of the state, jointly organized and governed by the churches and/or societies in that area that choose to work together. Related to State Committee through sharing of fruitage, requests for CS literature, and for liaison with workers in other parts of the state.

GOVERNMENT

Area Committee Bylaws, under which four officers are elected to oversee and coordinate the operation and proceedings of the work and workers in the institutions.

REPRESENTATION

A representative of a member CS church/society may be elected to serve as an officer on the committee.

FINANCING

Operating expenses, mainly secretarial, are financed by the State Committee.

MEETINGS

Meets quarterly to conduct business and share volunteer worker fruitage. Requires a quorum present of member church/society reps or alternates; attendance includes coordinator, workers, and interested CS visitors. Usually held the third week of each quarter, starting with January, at a committee member church.