

***** HIS BANNER OVER ME **THE BANNER** WAS LOVE *****

A NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS *** ANDREW W. HARTSOOK, EDITOR

VOLUME FOURTEEN / NUMBER ONE

FALL 2000 *** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

THE VIDEO AND WHAT IT TOLD

A recent video celebrating the proposed "Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity" was sent recently to members of The Mother Church. It consists of an introduction by Virginia Harris and John Lewis Selover followed by a virtual computer tour of the proposed building. There are two well prepped discussion groups with biographers Nenneman and Gill as well as a Harvard and University of Pennsylvania professors and the archivist of the church. A former archivist of the United States and an historian were also in attendance and will act as advisors on the library project. In addition there were dramatic readings from Mrs. Eddy's letters by Horton Foote and his daughter. Furniture from Chestnut Hill was transported to the Extension for dramatic effect. Every seat appeared to be taken which proves that the directors can fill the church at least once a year at annual meeting time. There were some technical problems with the videotape. Some have reported that the sound was very uneven and others that the images fluttered on the screen and did not respond to the tracking control on the videotape player.

Anyone watching the tape would see that there was nothing new to be learned and no metaphysical gems imparted from the "unpublished writings". The documents quoted provided only historical framework for the 1860s, 1870s, and 1880s. No metaphysics. Repeatedly Mrs. Eddy was referred to as "a citizen of the world". Reference was made to all of her investigations and hard work, but there was not one reference to revelator or revelation.

The audience in attendance applauded and gave the directors a standing ovation.

DESTINY OF THE THE MOTHER CHURCH

Someone trying to purchase a copy of Bliss Knapp's *The Destiny of The Mother Church* from Amazon.com and Borders was informed that the book was unavailable. This prompted a call to the toll free telephone number in Boston to try to order the book directly from the publishing society. The individual was told that the book was out-of-print, but that a new printing was anticipated in the future.

The last will of Bliss Knapp specified, "...said book shall be maintained for sale at a reasonable price...in substantially all Christian Science Reading Rooms until such time, if ever, as a full calendar year shall have expired without there having been any demand whatsoever for said book during such year." (page 5)

The track record of the board of directors suggests that they would be happy for a year without any demand for the book since *Destiny* presents Mrs. Eddy as revelator -- a view that they condemn. As is widely known, the directors published the *Destiny* book in order to get the Mabury sisters' money. This was at the time when church bankruptcy was a real possibility during the Monitor Channel fiasco which drained the treasury of 500 million dollars. It might be well for students of Christian Science around the world to make formal request to purchase the *Destiny* book in writing to the publishing society in order to preclude its cancelation and disappearance for ever.

HARVEY WOOD

The Banner notes the passing of former board member and teacher, Harvey Wood. Mr. Wood was appointed to the board in June of 1977 and served until March of 1992, just as the electronic empire he had fostered came crashing down. During his tenure in office, the board of lectureship was substantially altered as videotaped presentations were emphasized. It was under Mr. Wood's chairmanship that "Mrs. Eddy's Place" was repudiated in a memo to teachers on January 21, 1991. Mr. Wood's *Journal* listing disappeared from the directory of practitioners and teachers in the October 2000 issue of *The Christian Science Journal*.

VIRGINIA HARRIS & CHURCH OF TODAY

The computer web site for "Church of Today", a Unity church in Warren, Michigan, listed Virginia Harris as presenting "Spiritually Transforming Your Life". "Society's search for answers is growing at an ever-increasing rate. Virginia Harris, publisher of *The Writings of Mary Baker Eddy*, and chairwoman of the Christian Science Board of Directors. She will discuss how spiritual solutions, including spiritual healing, are relevant today." "Wednesday, September 27, 7:30 p.m."

The popular minister for this Unity church died, and, while New Age writer and lecturer Marianne Williamson is not a Unity minister, she is temporarily serving as Church of Today's "Spiritual Leader" and "senior minister". In her book *Illuminata*, Ms. Williamson states, "...Jesus is truth, the Torah, is truth, Mohammed is truth, Krishna is truth, Buddha is truth, and so on... The New Jerusalem means unification of the world's spiritual traditions." (p. 30)

OHIO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The annual report from the Committee on Publication for Ohio for June 1999-May 2000 stated, "In October 1999, The Committee received official recognition from the Ohio Council of Churches (OCC)

as an observer. The C.O.P attended a retreat where he met, among others, "the youngest president of the World Council of Churches, Rev Kathryn Bannister, who is a Methodist minister."

It has been the view of *The Banner* that all of this activity is a prelude to other state C.O.P.s joining their state councils of churches. This would be followed by the eventual, formal application by the directors for admittance into the National Council of Churches, and ultimately the World Council of Churches. Both of these organizations advocate socialism and world government. See the spring 1999 *Banner* for details.

BUDDHIST MONKS IN THE JOURNAL

Buddhist monk, Thich Nhat Hanh was featured in the August 2000 *Christian Science Journal* (page 19). He openly proclaims his wish to merge Buddhism and Christianity. Former Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev invited Thich Nhat Hanh to lead a special half-day Buddhist meditation at the "State of the World Forum" held in San Francisco in 1995. The major themes at the forum included "global governance" (i.e. world government) and bringing together the world's religious traditions. The May 2000 *Journal* featured a review of the Dalai Lama's book, *Ethics for the New Millennium* (page 5). He is, of course, the leader of Tibetan Buddhists. In addition to the Buddhists, the editors of the *Journal* published the views of Mohandas K. Gandhi about Jesus (August 2000, page 15). Needless to say, Gandhi was a Hindu, and Hinduism is pantheistic.

A 1972 pamphlet from The Christian Science Publishing Society titled, *Christian Science and Eastern Religions* states: "A comparison of the major religions of the world may seem to reveal more similarities than differences in their explanations of human life, of what God is, and man's relations to God. The purpose of this pamphlet is to elucidate those similarities, while setting forth the fundamental and crucial differences between Christian Science and Eastern religions." Regarding Buddhism, the pamphlet states: "In Buddhism, the final goal of the religious man is to escape from existence into nonexistence -- nirvana, a state of spiritual harmony and peace, in which all worldly desires, pain and suffering have disappeared. Meditation, as practiced in the Orient, contrasts totally with prayer as we know it in Christian Science, in that it involves an effort to find relief from human problems by eliminating all consideration of them, creating what amounts to a vacuum into which the infinite flows... Prayer as we know it in Christian Science is something very different. It is not basically a petition as customarily conceived in orthodox Christianity. Nor is it a refusal to face problems. It is, instead, a positive affirmation of man's spiritual relationship to God, a proving that evil cannot

exist in a universe created by an all-loving Father."

So the question is: Why are the crucial differences not noted in these recent issues of the *Journal*, and why are these quotations included at all? Mrs. Eddy was meticulous about drawing distinctions between Christian Science and Eastern religions. It would seem that the recent moves toward ecumenism and convergence in Boston have eliminated all concern about this issue.

C.S.P.S. AND THE U.N.

A letter to branch churches and societies from The Christian Science Publishing Society stated: "The one hundred eighty-five member nations of the United Nations (UN) have proclaimed the year 2000 as the International Year of Thanksgiving. The UN is encouraging the sharing of messages of gratitude and thanksgiving among all peoples of the world." After promoting the full text edition of the Christian Science Thanksgiving service for this year, the managing publisher and marketing manager return to say: "In response to the United Nations proclamation this year we are enlarging our thanks by inviting all branches and members worldwide...to extend this message of thanksgiving and joy to the widest possible circle." Nowhere was there any mention of the pilgrim fathers or the deep religious foundations of the holiday in American history, -- just the United Nations and its purely secular version of thanksgiving.

THE MONITOR & THE UNITED NATIONS

The Christian Science Monitor continues to beat the drums for convergence and global governance. In the January 10, 2000, issue we find "Another 'American century'?" Included in the article: "The advent of the euro [the new European Union currency] points to a need for a world currency uniting the dollar, euro, and yen..." "This would be the ideal solution for the West, gradually sublimating its leadership into a worldwide system...Early in the next millennium, humanity will have developed a worldwide federal government for managing its global problems." (p.11)

On March 27, the *Monitor* editorial "Causes Without Borders" asks: "Who's in charge when so many issues are global?" The United Nations, no doubt? (p.8)

On June 21, former *Monitor* editor John Hughes discusses proposals for a U.N. army as a means of conflict prevention. After discussing various viewpoints he states: "Nobody believes the UN should acquire its own army." At least not for now. Apparently some people do think the time is right for a U.N. army including Massachusetts representative James McGovern who, on May 15th, proposed an embryonic 6,000-man U.N. force to be paid for by U.S. taxpayers.

On September 14, a *Monitor* opinion piece titled "Can the UN perform?" discusses the dismal record of U.N. peacekeeping missions and suggests "such

missions need to have effective and unambiguous leadership from the political echelon [the U.N. security council]." (p. 11) The *Monitor* has also come out in favor of the International Criminal Court, which, if ratified by the U.S. Senate, would effectively remove the protections guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The *Monitor's* unwavering support for just about every proposal toward "global governance" has a long history dating back to 1917 when the seed for this viewpoint was originally planted on the Board of Directors. (Sec spring 1999 *Banner*.)

MONITOR CIRCULATION

The latest circulation report appearing in the October 4, 2000, *Monitor* lists 73,079 subscribers. This report is taken from a required U.S. Postal Service statement which is printed every October.

1989	156,246
1990	116,709
1991	115,117
1992	107,652
1993	103,607
1994	96,352
1995	86,479
1996	85,679
1997	77,507
1998	77,093
1999	72,498
2000	73,079

The 2000 year figure represents a net gain of 581 subscribers over this same time last year. Still, the total circulation is less than half what it was in 1989. *Forbes* magazine of December 15, 1997, stated: "Faced with \$11.5 million in annual losses from the *Monitor*, church leaders are said to have given the paper until the year 2000 to stanch the bleeding. If the losses can't be stopped, the church will cut the daily back to a weekly." (p. 14) It would appear that the *Monitor* has just passed this test, if only barely.

6 CHURCHES CLOSE; 2 NEW SOCIETIES

The following churches/societies have closed according to a comparison of the July and October 2000 *Christian Science Journals*: Palatka, Florida; St. Petersburg (3rd), Florida; Logansport, Indiana; East Tawas, Michigan; Hobbs, New Mexico; and Peekskill, New York. At the same time two new societies are listed for England, Arkansas; and Beaufort, South Carolina. Since the count began in February of 1987, **529** churches/societies have closed and **39** have opened.

FOURTEENTH YEAR

This issue of *The Banner* marks the beginning of its fourteenth year of publication. There are subscribers in all fifty states of the United States, Canada, Mexico,

Central America, England, Scotland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, South Africa, Kenya, India, Australia, New Zealand, and Hong Kong. Subscriptions are free to any address in the world.

EDITORIAL

The continuing effort by the board of directors to stop the distribution of the Carpenter writings and the so-called unpublished writings of Mary Baker Eddy brings several questions to mind: They say they are doing this to protect these writings. They have never explained after fifty years or more of unhindered distribution what harm has been caused. How is locking these writings up until the year 2047 protecting these already widely distributed writings? How will this action benefit Christian Scientists in the field when only those who venture to the new library in Boston will be able to see them? How will any visitor to Boston be able to see any more than a fraction of these writings on a typical visit? What, in fact, is the *real* reason for this suppression of Mrs. Eddy's demonstration of Christian Science? To maintain dependency of the field on Boston?

Viewing the videotape (summarized at the beginning of this newsletter) brought to mind a possible explanation for the catastrophic decline in the number of practitioners and healings over the past fifty years. The audience enthusiastically applauded the announcement of the new library. They gave a standing ovation. Some even cheered. Blind enthusiasm and unquestioning support of the board were evident in every view of the crowd. Yet, Mrs. Eddy says in her *Message to The Mother Church, 1901*: "...follow your Leader only so far as she follows Christ." (p. 34) Yet today it would seem that many Christian Scientists are not scientific thinkers in the true sense of the word. Mrs. Eddy states: "In Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and English, *faith* and the words corresponding thereto have these two definitions, *trustfulness* and *trustworthiness*. One kind of faith trusts one's welfare to others. Another kind of faith understands divine Love and how to work out one's own salvation, with fear and trembling.' 'Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief!' expresses the helplessness of a blind faith; whereas the injunction, 'Believe...and thou shalt be saved!' demands self-reliant trustworthiness, which includes spiritual understanding and confides all to God." (Science and Health, p. 23) Today we find "the helplessness of blind faith" which does not want -- and does not know how -- to handle animal magnetism. The old canards "We mustn't voice error!" and "Just know the truth about it." are parroted to silence one's own doubts and those who note the obvious decline in the church, the clear disobedience to the 88th *Church Manual*, the annulling of Mrs. Eddy's deeds of trust, and the obliteration of her landmarks and waymarks. Mrs. Eddy

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asks: "Do men whine over a nest of serpents, and post around it placards warning people not to stir up these reptiles because they have stings?... The wisdom of God, as revealed in Christian Science, brings the serpent out of its hole, handles it, and takes away its sting... He who has faith in woman's special adaptability to lead on Christian Science, will not be shocked when she puts her foot on the head of the serpent, as it biteth at the heel. (Misc., p. 210) Where is that self-reliant trustworthiness today? Without it, and the ability to "beard the lions in their dens", one cannot demonstrate or heal in Christian Science. In "The Trial" in *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy describes Christian Science: "his words flashing as lightning in the perturbed faces of these worthies, Scholastic Theology, Materia Medica, Physiology, the blind Hypnotism, and the masked Personal Sense." (p. 439) On page 6 regarding Jesus, she repeats, "His rebuke [of error] is fearful." "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7) Resist means to take a stand, to counteract, to defeat. As Bicknell Young said of error: "I know what you are, and you know that I know what you are, and *I know that you know* that I know what you are!... Get thee hence!

MANUAL OF THE MOTHER CHURCH
88TH EDITION

by
MARY BAKER EDDY

This edition of the Church Manual was the last one authorized by Mrs. Eddy. The hard cover edition is true to the original with gold leaf edges. All of the text is a razor sharp photographic reproduction of the original and is not a new typesetting. It is printed on acid-free paper.

Hard cover edition \$15.95

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AFTER 1910
by

Andrew W. Hartsook

This book, written by the editor of *The Banner*, is a complete account of the calculated grab for power by the Directors and their subsequent micromanagement of every phase of Christian Science in Boston and in the field which has almost completely suffocated all spontaneity and inspired thinking. Today we see the empty shell of a once great movement. Hard Cover \$24.95 Paperback \$12.95

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VOLUME FOURTEEN / NUMBER TWO

WINTER 2001 ** ZANEVILLE, OHIO

MORE ON THE COPYRIGHT CASE

Since the initial letters from the general counsel of The Mother Church went out to sellers of the so-called "unpublished writings" of Mary Baker Eddy on November 5, 1999, an exchange of views has continued for the better part of a year with no resolution or clarification of the issues in sight. Some specific requests for information by the sellers have been ignored repeatedly or side-stepped by Boston's in-house attorney. In some cases silence and long delays by The Mother Church's lawyer have left the book outlets or internet sites with nothing but Boston's repeated opinion with little substantiation as to what the copyright laws mean. The implied threat that legal action would follow if the specified books or web pages were not withdrawn led to recipients hiring their own lawyers. In some cases, the decision has been taken by the booksellers to put the Carpenter material and other "unpublished" writings of Mrs. Eddy back on the active list of publications for sale.

The next move would seem to be Boston's to make. Past cases, such as that of Ralph Spencer and his pamphlet, *The Overwhelming Evidence*, would suggest that the directors will take no action beyond the written warnings already issued. [See the spring 2000 *Banner* for details of the Spencer case.] The Mother Church directors must decide whether to let the Carpenter materials go, or expose their own unsubstantiated claims in a court of law.

THE ROLE OF THE CARPENTER BOOKS

It has been said that *Science and Health* and *Prose Works* comprise Mrs. Eddy's revelation. The Carpenter materials constitute her demonstration. These latter materials consist largely of Mrs. Eddy's written notes to members of her household, unpublished articles, her dictated statements, as well as the recollections of students who were in frequent contact with Mrs. Eddy. Members of her household soon learned that, in addition to their duties, they were privileged to receive the divinity course. This was not a formal plan of instruction, but consisted of lessons learned through daily experience and demonstration. It was Christian Science lived and made practical. Thus, these writings have been viewed as a unique opportunity to understand how Mrs. Eddy demonstrated what she had revealed.

Much has been said in criticism of Gilbert Carpenter and his son over the years. But when the senior Carpenter completed his term of service at Pleasant View

in 1906, Mrs. Eddy said, "Gilbert, you have not committed a single moral offense."

One good example of the value of these collected writings involves Mrs. Eddy's statement in *Science and Health* (page 393:6, 7) regarding "the predisposing, remote, and exciting cause of all bad effects". *Divinity Course and General Collectanea* presents an elaboration of this theme by Mrs. Eddy on pages 210 and 211. There are numerous examples of a seemingly cryptic statement in *Science and Health* being clarified in the Carpenter materials.

LATEST CIRCULATION FIGURES OF THE NEW SENTINEL

When the new format of the *Christian Science Sentinel* made its debut in the January 5, 1998, issue, it was announced that subscriptions were up "sharply". It was hoped that the new look with photographs, graphics, snippets, interviews, and articles geared to a different audience would lead the way for the other periodicals. The subscription figures initially suggested that this might be true, but the numbers in the postal statement in the October 23, 2000, issue of the *Sentinel* indicate otherwise:

1997	44,995
1998	50,868
1999	53,290
2000	46,342

The downturn represents the loss of almost 7000 subscriptions in one year.

LETTER TO FIELD ABOUT NEW LIBRARY

In September 2000, a letter written by Theodora A. Wise of Belmont, Massachusetts, was sent to branch churches. In its twelve pages, the writer expresses concerns and doubts about the purpose and longterm effects of the new "Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity": "The Church's current emphasis on Mrs. Eddy's person, seen in the placing her portrait on buttons and posters, leaves us especially vulnerable to the charge that we are a cult... In a variety of ways over the past few years, The Mother Church, through promotional or instructional materials regarding work for lectures, Reading Rooms, and assistant Committees on Publication, has created the perception that Mrs. Eddy was one of the first individuals to make mind-body connections. One wonders how our Leader would view this diminution of her God-propelled life-purpose." (pp.4, 5) "Not all of the individuals who are to serve on the newly formed Board of Trustees or to

serve in an advisory capacity are Christian Scientists. For advisory assistance regarding the concept of the library, Church officers had even been engaging a currently popular medical doctor [Herbert Benson] who has directed mind-body conferences for well-being. His books advocate what Christian Scientists would define as auto-hypnotic techniques." (p.9) While the author of the letter objects to making any of Mrs. Eddy's "unpublished" writings public, she does state: "Church officers seek to gain copyright control of these papers [MBE's letters in private hands], but it is questionable whether our Church should or can legally gain copyright control on this privately owned correspondence." (p. 10) Finally, the letter writer urges church members to get in touch with Mother Church officers to express their objections to the library project.

FOUR MORE CHURCH CLOSINGS

According to a comparison of the October and December 2000 issues of *The Christian Science Journal*, the following churches/societies have closed: Ness City, Kansas; 8th Church, Cleveland, Ohio; Lyndhurst, Ohio; and Chandler, Oklahoma. Since the count began in February 1987, 533 churches have closed and 39 have opened.

EINSTEIN AND CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

For many years stories have circulated regarding Albert Einstein's familiarity with, and high regard for, Christian Science. To a great degree, these accounts have remained in the realm of unsubstantiated lore. A Christian Scientist in California has undertaken a project to document Einstein's connection with Christian Science. Those who may have information on this subject are encouraged to communicate with this researcher. The following notice is offered to readers of *The Banner*:

"What did Professor Einstein say to one who wrote a pamphlet critical of Mrs. Eddy? When and where did the professor become deeply interested in Christian Science? What did he say to friend Elizabeth Bergner about *Science and Health* when she laid the book on his desk? This and much more is answered in the booklet *Professor Albert Einstein on Religion, Math, And Life in General*. This compilation is still available free from Robert Hough, 335-B Beach Road, Alameda, California 94502."

THE JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION

"The John Templeton Foundation was established in 1987 by renowned international investor Sir John Templeton to encourage a fresh appreciation of the critical importance -- for all peoples and cultures -- of the moral and spiritual dimensions of life... It is the Foundation's purpose to stimulate a high standard of excellence in scholarly understanding that can serve to encourage further worldwide explorations of the moral

and spiritual dimensions of the universe and of the human potential within its ultimate purpose." [From Templeton Foundation brochure] The foundation is well known for awarding an annual prize to those who have contributed to "progress" in religion. At the September 2000 State of the World Forum (an annual event), the Templeton Foundation "hosted four key sessions which bring theologians and scientists together to examine pervasive global problems such as poverty and racial and ethnic strife, and to posit some solutions." (undated press release) While the objectives seem noble enough on the surface, there are clear indications that this yearly event promotes the melding of the various religions of the world and the United Nations all in the name of peace. Audrey E. Kitagawa who "help[ed] coordinate the effort of the State of World Forum in the move of its annual conference from San Francisco to New York City" is described in a pamphlet distributed at the forum as follows: "Audrey is a devotee of Divine Mother, who embodied the teachings of the Avatar, Sri Ramakrishna... In 1992, before Divine Mother left her body she chose Audrey to 'carry Sri Ramakrishna's Light to the world' for her." The same pamphlet begins with a prayer by Swami Pramananda and contains quotations praising Deepak Chopra as the "poet-prophet of alternative medicine."

The Christian Science Monitor of August 3, 2000, carried an advertisement of John Marks Templeton's book *Worldwide Worship* which "begins with prayer drawn from such sources as Celtic, Native American, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions, among others... From this rich mixture of prayer, song, and poetry comes a confirmation of the life-affirming universality of the human spirit. The universal sphere of worship that is evident when these works are read in relation to one another bridges the gaps between religions, cultures, and peoples." Interestingly, it is reported that the wife of Sir John Templeton is a Christian Scientist.

As reported in previous issues of *The Banner*, the directors of The Mother Church have endorsed the placement of quotations from Buddhists and Hindus in the periodicals which outwardly seem compatible with Christian Science. They advocate the presentation of Christian Science at various book fairs and conferences which have a pronounced New Age presence. Read almost any biography of Mrs. Eddy to see that she vigorously disapproved of such practices.

A CAUTIONARY TALE FROM HAWAII

The *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* of October 10, 2000, contained the story of Carmen Corrine Herbert, a wealthy Christian Scientist who seemed to have left her \$2 million estate to a 26-year-old "student and surfer from Ontario, Canada, [who] had worked as a gardener

and handyman for Herbert and several of her neighbors, and had known Herbert for less than three years." Foul play was suspected. The hastily drafted, and previously unknown, will was contested by Mrs. Herbert's original beneficiaries. "Under terms of a settlement [approved by the Supreme Court of Hawaii], the Shriners Hospital received 25 percent of the amount remaining after payment of specific bequests to several of Herbert's personal friends, with the remainder -- valued at more than \$1 million -- to go the Honolulu's First Church of Christ, Scientist."

THE MONITOR'S MORAL NEUTRALITY

The December 22, 2000, *Christian Science Monitor* presented a 16-page "Sixth Annual Monitor Mega Movie Guide". One review for the movie *American Psycho* included the following helpful information: "Sex/Nudity: 13 scenes, including 2 graphic sex scenes and porn videos playing the the background. Violence: 7 scenes, including a shooting spree, a scene with dead bodies, and murder with an ax. Profanity: 47 expressions, mostly harsh. Drugs: 13 scenes with alcohol, 10 with tobacco, 5 with hard-drug use or implied hard-drug use." *Monitor* film critic David Sterritt gave the movie a rating of fair while the *Monitor* panel gave it a rating of fair to good.

From time to time, the *Monitor* states that such information does not constitute an endorsement of such "entertainment" and that they are only providing a service to readers.

In 1974 and 1975, parents in Kanawha County, West Virginia, were protesting the introduction of cursing, swearing, and the liberal use of four-letter words in their children's school textbooks. The *Monitor* ran a story on April 9, 1975, titled "Far right upsurge seen in pressure on schools" which stated that the parents had "over-reacted."

A concerned reader wrote to *Monitor* editor John Hughes: "I feel that some of the [textbook] excerpts in question should be published in order that uninformed readers may make individual judgments. I have enclosed, for your convenience, a variety of the controversial materials... I am a mother and a teacher, neither right wing nor left wing, who stands with Mary Baker Eddy in the following view, 'Children should be allowed to remain children in knowledge, and should become men and women only through growth in the understanding of man's higher nature.' (S&H 62: 16-19)" A full-page, newspaper size, list of specific references from the textbooks was included for Mr. Hughes examination. To this day, the *Monitor* would not be able to print these excerpts because of their blasphemous, filthy, and otherwise objectionable nature. The mother and teacher who wrote to Mr. Hughes received a letter from the *Monitor's* American News Editor who said: "We intended to take no side on the merits of the dispute. We

in the American News Department would leave that to our Editorial Page." The editorial page never took a stand on the issue. Ultimately, the West Virginia parents lost their battle. Today such objectionable materials can be found in most public schools. Many teachers, who are responsible for distributing "Reading is Fundamental" books to their students, routinely screen these free books for this type of material and throw the offensive paperbacks into the trash can.

The January 18, 2000, *Monitor* ran a lead editorial titled "TV Viewers, Beware". It was not, however, a warning about the seductive and morally subversive nature of most television programs, rather it was a warning about the voluntary inclusion of anti-drug themes in television programming at the urging of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. And What was the *Monitor's* concern? "It's a practice with a noble purpose and no official censorship. But it undermines the creative independence of a major commercial media and violates a trust with TV viewers."

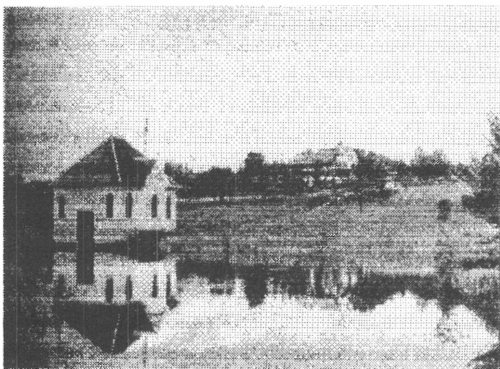
The July 7, 2000 issue of the *Monitor* ran a front-page commentary "Behind the curtain of TV voyeurism". It was not a warning to viewers, but rather a rationalization and endorsement of voyeurism as exploited in *Survivor* and other such programming: "Voyeurism isn't just peeking, it is a form of privilege, enabling us to see what had been proscribed. Part of voyeurism's appeal is the thrill of subversiveness, the wicked kick of peering through the keyhole. Watching these programs is a way of safely exercising mischievousness in a society that allows few opportunities to do so. They allow us to be moral outlaws... Americans have increasingly become disengaged from one another... Though television is often cited as one of the sources for the decline in such interaction, the millions of viewers of these shows are, in fact, forming their own community... In the final analysis, reality programming is about the power of ordinary individuals, about the appeal of reality, and about the desire for community, even jerry-rigged community." The *Monitor's* editorial response? Nothing.

Jonathan Rosenblum wrote in *The Jerusalem Post* of August 13, 1999: "Lifestyle abhors all moral judgment, with its potential for limiting our unfettered freedom. 'Criticize not in order that thee not be criticized by others' might well serve as the first commandment of the lifestyle generation. Parents imbued with the lifestyle ideology find themselves at a severe disadvantage when it comes to saying no to their children or imposing any standards on them at all. Having elevated the pursuit of pleasure to a supreme value, they sense their own vulnerability to the charge of hypocrisy when they attempt to limit their children's

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freedom to do the same... Confronted with this rot, we cannot even call it by its name. Those who have been pummeled with the message that self-expression is the highest societal value are loathe to pass judgment on how others exercise that right. So we are left with only trivial technical solutions that utterly fail to address the sources of the abhorrent behavior that we seek to cure. School metal detectors and student searches are offered as the solution to school violence, instead of worrying about the images of violence that flood our children... But as long as lifestyle reigns supreme, we have, as a society, nothing to offer but such Band-Aids."

One must ask: When was the last time you ever saw anything in *The Christian Science Monitor* which vigorously took to task the moral evils which litter the mental landscape today? Is the lack of such moral courage just another case of not wanting to "voice error", or is it fear of offending potential subscribers at a critical period in the newspaper's history? One cannot help but recall that those who maintain their neutrality in the midst of a moral crisis have a place reserved for them in Dante's inferno.

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by
Andrew W. Hartsook

This book, written by the editor of *The Banner*, is a complete account of the calculated grab for power by the Directors and their subsequent micromanagement of every phase of Christian Science in Boston and in the field which has almost completely suffocated all spontaneity and inspired thinking. Today we see the empty shell of a once great movement. Hard Cover \$24.95 Paperback \$12.95

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***** HIS BANNER OVER ME

THE BANNER

WAS LOVE *****

A NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS *** ANDREW W. HARTSOOK, EDITOR

VOLUME FOURTEEN / NUMBER THREE

SPRING 2001 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

THE HOUSTON MEETING

A meeting titled "Demand-Response: 21st Century Spiritual Seeker" was held in Texas from July 20th to the 25th last year. It was organized by The Mother Church department known as The Writings of Mary Baker Eddy headed by Virginia Harris. Over three hundred people were in attendance including North American committees on publication, members of the board of lectureship, bookstore representatives, and reading room representatives. At least four letters have circulated in the field describing this meeting. These letters were prompted by the troubling nature of the gathering which included fresh disregard for the Church Manual and a determination to work around branch churches rather than with them. The accounts given in these letters project an eerie resemblance to the artificial enthusiasm generated by the now defunct Monitor Channel project of 1988-1992. Like the previous television fiasco, this new project appears to be the Boston board's effort to drag Christian Scientists "kicking and screaming" into the new millennium. Even the members of the board of directors sense that the church is in decline, and this latest campaign would seem to be their effort to turn things around. To do so they appear ready to ignore or circumvent Mrs. Eddy's by-laws by creating new departments to promote the trade edition of *Science and Health* by all commercial means possible. "Reading Room representatives" and "Science and Health coordinators" are Boston-appointed field workers who are to train, coach, and organize local reading room personnel to be better and more aggressive sellers of the textbook on their own premises and also at mind-body seminars, bookfairs, etc. "Receptive" branch churches will be included. Reading room librarians are being told that the reading rooms are separate entities which should make their own decisions, have their own funding, sponsor their own lectures, and host their own bookstore talks. The practical result is that local reading rooms will be under the control of The Mother Church. The branch churches are, at best, on the fringes of this new vision for reviving interest in Christian Science. C.O.P.s are being told that they are not representatives of the Church of Christ, Scientist, but rather of the "Science of the Christ". The new MBE library is being described by Virginia Harris as "its own entity, separate from The Mother Church".

A new internet web site (spirituality.com) has been created with its own articles, links, and agenda. There is

no directory of branch churches. Instead, it will give dates, times, and places for spirituality seminars, book talks, mind/body/spirit events, and New Age style fairs complete with crystals, talismans, spiritualists, motivational speakers, and financial advisors. "Chat rooms" will also be featured on the web site along with a "thought for the day". One of the letter writers states, "Those in Boston feel they have the vision and know what is best for the Field and for the world. And if the Field won't go along, the Field will just be pushed aside and left behind as Boston marches forward into areas that belong to the branches."

Another writer quotes Gary Jones, Manager of the Committees on Publication, as saying, "Don't resist. Don't analyze what you are being told. Don't resist the changes. Just accept them. Be open to them. Don't discuss this among yourselves. Just listen and be receptive." The same writer describes the Houston meeting as follows: "The overtone of the conference was one of a new age Amway business. Respecting others' journeys, partnering the seeker, we must be on fire about the book [the trade edition]... There seems to be a very refined crafting of the specifics of the Manual when they want them and a total disregard for the Manual when it is inconvenient."

After Virginia Harris had given her keynote address to the conference, she "announced that we were all being given our own copy of the new 'life-companioning' version of the Trade edition. She picked up the book and started waving it over her head. As people were given their books, they joined the wave and eventually the room [was] silently filled with people following Ginny in waving their trade editions. (It was very spooky.)" ... Later, "we were all given a baseball cap with the words 'seeking practical spirituality' embroidered on it as well as the trade edition image embroidered with Science & Health...(with Key to the Scriptures indefinable). Gimmy picked up her cap and started the wave again. Approximately 314 others picked up their caps and joined the wave. (Spooky)." At a regional meeting of the new team, one of the letter writers was asked, "since you would know from your practice' who are the folks who are resistant to this new approach and who is for the new approach?" ... Then I was asked, 'well, but you are the CoP, so you would know which branch churches are pro Mother church and which are resistant. So, tell us.' ... And the CoP from Connecticut said, 'well, if you are having trouble with someone in the churches in my territory, just call me. I can help you get around them...or get them to change their tune.'"

GEORGIA C.O.P. FIRED

In an open letter, Clifton Irby, C.O.P. for Georgia, describes the manner of his firing by Gary Jones, Manager of Committees on Publication in Boston. Mr. Irby wrote one of the letters quoted in the previous article. The letter had unintentionally reached a much wider audience than Mr. Irby intended, and, as one might expect, a copy reached The Mother Church. Gary Jones called Mr. Irby on January 4th of this year to express his displeasure, and then again on February 15th. The next day Mr. Jones arrived in Atlanta and "...Gary informed me that I was being removed as Committee on Publication for Georgia effective immediately and that appointing Readers would be getting such notice later that day. In accordance with Article XXXIII, Section 5, of the Church Manual, they would be asked -- expected-- to formalize my removal and appoint another Committee of the CSBD's choosing. That choice is Don Griffith, a fine man whom I know and respect...Because of prior commitments on Don's part, though, I was told that he would not be able to be in the office right away; therefore the Manager and CSBD were asking David Smith, COP for Louisiana, to 'caretake' the office until the new Committee returned, then to help with transition and training... The Readers handled their responsibilities expeditiously, and I received a letter of removal from them on Saturday, February 17, less than 30 hours after I first was informed about the action of the Manager and the Board... [T]his incident once again demonstrates how determined The Mother Church is to stifle dissent and assert control. It also shows that, regardless of one's heart and history, he still can be branded, in effect, an enemy of the church."

SIX MORE CHURCHES CLOSE

According to a comparison of the December 2000 and March 2001 *Christian Science Journals*, the following churches have closed: Denver (society), Colorado; Margate, Florida; Waycross, Georgia; Homewood, Illinois; Omaha (3rd), Nebraska; and Wimberley, Texas. A new society for Meridian, Idaho, was listed during this same time period. Since the count began in February 1987, **539** churches have closed and **40** have opened.

NORMAL CLASS 2000

The triennial class to prepare teachers for the Christian Science field was held in December 2000. The teacher chosen for the class was Mrs. Geraldine Schiering of Atlanta, Georgia. She became ill three days into the class and was taken to the benevolent home where she died. Ruth Elizabeth Jenks of Chicago was brought in to finish the class. The following nine people were in the class: Mrs. Janet L. Benson of Henderson, Nevada; Mrs. Diane P. Dailey of West Hollywood, California; Mrs. Pamela P. DeBolt of Danville, California; Mrs.

Jane Dickinson-Scott of Exeter, Devon, England; Mrs. Sarah G. Hyatt of Charleston, South Carolina; Mrs. Heloisa G. Rivas of Boston, Massachusetts; Mrs. M. Rosalind Twinn of Nottingham, England; Mrs. Judith Weisz of Brighton, England; and Mrs. Irmela Wigger of Hamburg, Germany.

THANKSGIVING SQUARE

The March 5, 2001, *Christian Science Sentinel* carried an article titled "The implications of being grateful". (p.4) Pictured along with the article were the "Chapel of Thanksgiving" in Dallas, Texas, which is in the shape of a Babylonian ziggurat and a spiral stained-glass window inside the chapel. Both the chapel architecture and the window have occultic New Age meanings. The February 2001 *Christian Science Journal* also carried an article titled "Thanks-giving Square". It consisted of the text of a talk given by Virginia Harris at the chapel in November 2000. In her talk, Mrs. Harris paid tribute to the United Nations and its declaration of the year 2000 as The International Year of Thanksgiving. She also had other words of praise: "The words of futurist Dee Hock, spoken at a conference held in this very room last week, held an unusual sense of urgency -- a sense that these oppressive, and ultimately *mental*, walls must give way to individual and institutional transformation." (p.45)

Who is this futurist named Dee Hock? He is the founder of "The Chaordic Alliance" whose web site states: "The Chaordic Alliance works to develop, disseminate and implement new concepts of organization which more equitably distribute power and wealth, release human ingenuity, and are more compatible with the biosphere." Also: "Our goals and objectives reflect our convictions about what is needed to facilitate massive institutional change."

Elsewhere one finds: "The Chaordic Alliance [is] a global institution linking people and organizations throughout the world in a concerted effort to develop, disseminate and implement new, more effective and equitable concepts of commercial, political and social organization." This is clearly a goal in consonance with the United Nations and the push for world government.

The word "Chaord" comes from the first three letters of the words chaos and order. To quote the web site again: "Many leading scientists believe that the principal science of the next century will be the study of complex, autocatalytic, self-organizing, non-linear, adaptive systems, usually referred to as 'complexity' or 'chaos theory.' They believe that such systems, perhaps even life itself, arise and thrive on the edge of chaos with just enough order to give them pattern, but not so much to slow their adaptation and learning."

Also at this web site was the announcement that on June 26, 2000, "the global United Religions Initiative

was born to strive for enduring, daily cooperation for peace among people of faith all over the world." The URI is headed by radical theologian the Rt. Rev. William E. Swing. The event included "a roll call founding Cooperation Circles with representatives from many of the nearly 80 groups around the world, demonstrating URI as a locally rooted, globally connected organization." Elsewhere URI's purpose is described: "To promote enduring, daily interfaith cooperation, end religiously-motivated violence and create cultures of peace, justice, and healing for the Earth and all living beings."

Church members may remember the giddy atmosphere during the Monitor Channel campaign when another futurist, Peter F. Drucker, (author of *The New Realities* [1989]) was widely quoted and praised at headquarters in Boston. At that time "synergy" was the buzzword on everyone's lips.

At the Houston conference, already discussed above, Mrs. Harris is quoted as saying: "We are in the middle of the second wave of great mental change. We are only 20% into this change and the next 80% will be coming even faster. There is a third wave of change that will take place with such speed and force that most people won't know it has even hit." The notetaker at the conference comments, "None of the people I spoke with understood what Mrs. Harris was saying but she seemed to think this was very significant." One suspects that Dee Hock *would* understand what she was talking about.

It should also be noted that two other futurists, Alvin and Heidi Toffler, wrote a book, *Creating A New Civilization: The Politics of the Third Wave* (1994) to which Mrs. Harris may have been alluding when she mentioned "the third wave". In their book, the Tofflers state: "...the Constitution of the United States needs to be reconsidered and altered..." (p.90) In fact they state that all institutions and even society itself must be reinvented.

Continuing with the description of Mrs. Harris' talk: "She spent two hours setting us up to accept the coming program. She again told us to 'not resist. Don't resist. Don't judge. Don't react. Just accept it and be open. Great things were going to happen.'"

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Since the beginning of the Harvey Wood era in Boston, the Christian Science Board of Directors has sought to find a sense of direction and method from secular prophets whether they be efficiency experts, management consultants, or futurists. When the Monitor Channel project collapsed, and Harvey Wood resigned from the board, there was never any repudiation of this approach to find answers to church problems in the secular world. Actually, all problems in the church go back to 1910 when the directors altered the *Church*

Manual and issued the spurious 89th edition with its subtle changes. This was followed a few years later by the "Great Litigation" which broke Mrs. Eddy's 1898 Deed of Trust for the Christian Science Publishing Society. At that point, the directors assumed total power over every aspect of Christian Science in Boston and in the field. The by-laws and the careful checks and balances which Mrs. Eddy left for the governance of her church were effectively annulled. Since the 1920s, the *Manual* and the by-laws have received powerful lip-service, but the directors have disregard them whenever it suited their own purposes. These actions strongly suggest that the directors believe that Mrs. Eddy may have done well in her role as discoverer, but that she failed miserably as founder. It would be difficult to conclude otherwise from all of their actions these past ninety years. By now, the directors have so strayed from the form of government Mrs. Eddy labored to establish for her church, that metaphysics can offer them no aid. So they grasp at every new fad and follow every futurist in the secular world. It is only when the directors and all Christian Scientists return to Mrs. Eddy's 88th Edition of the *Church Manual* and discover the precision and purpose of every by-law,-- and actually obey the letter and spirit of each one, -- that Christian Science can prosper.

Mrs. Eddy established *institution*, not *organization*.

FURTHER EXAMPLE OF THE PROBLEM

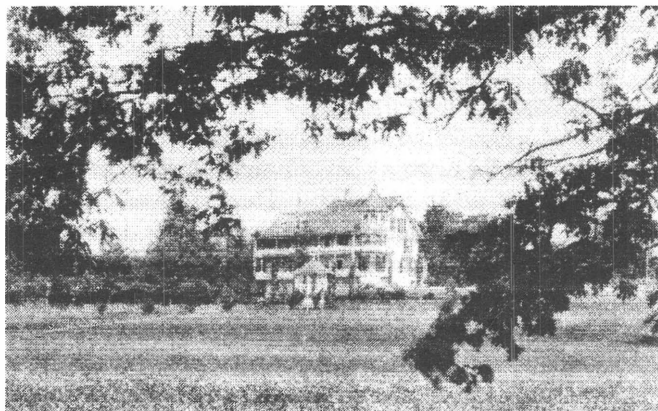
A catalogue from San Diego, California, titled *The Learning Annex* includes thirty-nine pages of courses on a wide variety of subjects. What would be interesting to Christian Scientists is that Reed Harris, husband of the Chairman of the Christian Science Board of Directors is conducting a course on May 8th under the auspices of *The Learning Annex* titled "Spiritual Healing: Explore the Science of Spirituality and the Teachings of Mary Baker Eddy." Some of the other courses offered in the same catalogue include: "Heal Yourself with Crystals & Stones", "Self-Hypnosis for Mind/Body Healing", "How to Lose Weight Through Hypnosis", "Talking to Heaven: How to receive Messages from the Beyond" with "Internationally renowned spiritual medium James Van Praagh", "How to Make \$\$ in the Adult Entertainment Business", "Energy Medicine: Where the Worlds of Science and Spiritual Healing Meet...Discover How doctors and alternative healers can work together...", "Using Oracles to Find Guidance and Illumination", Exploring Fetish, Fantasy & Taboo", "Belly Dancing", and "How to Break into Adult Video...with Porn Star Nina Hartley".

The current push to present Christian Science indiscriminately along side every popular fad, fraud, and depravity brings with it a peril which may not immediately appear. Can anyone say that Mrs. Eddy

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would approve of this method of advancing the Cause of Christian Science?

WORTHY OF YOUR SUPPORT

Christian Science Society of Saint Petersburg, Russia, has purchased space for its auditorium, reading room, and Sunday school. There were many obstacles to overcome to reach this long awaited day. Services in the new facility were held on October 1, 2000. In *Pulpit and Press* (1895), Mrs. Eddy states that her book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, had found its way into the public libraries of Russia along with other countries she names. The revolution of 1917 interrupted the development of Christian Science there, and now Christian Scientists have the opportunity to support these important, first steps. Those who wish to give financial support may send contributions to: Committee to Support the St. Petersburg Church, 6507 Arnesen Lane SW, Olympia, WA 98512-2802. Checks should be made out to: The Association of the Students of Hildegard Arnesen. Mrs. Arnesen spends seven months of the year in Russia where she is practitioner and teacher.

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***** HIS BANNER OVER ME **THE BANNER** WAS LOVE *****

A NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS *** ANDREW W. HARTSOOK, EDITOR

VOLUME FOURTEEN / NUMBER FOUR

SUMMER 2001 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

WORLD'S OLDEST FRANCHISE?

As reported in the last issue of *The Banner*, the July 2000 meeting in Houston, Texas, launched a new approach to spreading the message of Christian Science to the world. Among other things, the meeting left the impression that reading rooms were entities more or less separate from their branch churches, having a separate agenda and budget. In fact, Virginia Harris told Larry King in her most recent interview with him on C.N.N. (May 4) that Christian Science reading rooms were the world's oldest franchise. According to *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, a franchise is: "The right or license granted to an individual or group to market a company's goods or services in a particular territory." The 88th *Church Manual* states: "Each church of the Christian Science denomination shall have a Reading Room..." (p. 63) Mrs. Eddy's single use of the word franchise in her published writings refers to voting. It is doubtful that any literature issued from Boston over the past hundred years has ever used the word franchise in describing reading rooms. Mrs. Harris would seem to be reinforcing the impression given at the Houston meeting that reading rooms have an overriding contractual relationship with the Christian Science Publishing Society, or more exactly these days, with the Science and Health coordinators and other members of the new promotional team sent out from The Mother Church. Branch churches are neglected in this picture even though the *Manual* states that the reading rooms belong to the churches which formed them.

ELECTRONIC PERIODICAL

O The *Oprah Magazine* carries advertisements for the trade edition of *Science and Health* and also for The Mother Church's internet periodical, *spirituality.com*. The advertisement for the latter states, "We're always striving for harmony between our careers, our relationships, our bodies and our minds. And often, we exhaust our emotional resources trying. Perhaps the answer lies in finding a new source of guidance and inspiration; a source of fresh perspectives on everyday life; a source like *spirituality.com*. A different kind of online search." (from the December 2000 issue of *O*) Regarding the Oprah Winfrey connection, a *Washington Post* article (6-26-00) was titled: "Our Lady of Perpetual Help: with a subtitle of 'In the Church of Feel-Good Pop Psychology, Spiritual Rebirth Means Starting at *O*'"

Spirituality.com's "Wellness Article" for February

2, 2001, consisted of a quotation from a Yoruba priestess named Iyanla Vanzant who is a frequent guest on the Oprah Winfrey television program. *Spirituality.com's* quote from her book *Until Today!* begins, "Emergency! Emergency! Emergency! It is time for a search-and-recovery mission! It is time to recover your Selfhood!" The article continues for a page. While one might argue that at least some of the ideas expressed in the article are vaguely reminiscent of Christian Science, an examination of Iyanla Vanzant's statements in another of her books, *Acts of faith: Meditations for People of Color* clearly are not: "Talk to the elements instead of other people. Ask for help. Try asking a tree, 'I need to be strong like you,' or tell a rock, 'I need my foundation strengthened.' If you feel in need of spiritual assistance, go within yourself... Honor your ancestors. Recognize their traditions. By honoring those who have gone before us, we keep their light alive." In just a few short sentences we find pantheism, animism, and Confucianism which are totally incompatible with Christian Science.

A website devoted to Iyanla Vanzant states that she "recently spoke at the [Unity] Church of Today to a sell-out crowd." Virginia Harris spoke at this same Unity church in Warren, Michigan, on September 27, 2000, and Joni Overton-Jung, member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship, taught a class on Christian Science titled "Spiritual Healing and the Power of Prayer" at the Church of Today on three consecutive Fridays (May 4 through May 18, 2001)

Another internet website (home.talkcity.com) states, "As you may know, in her teaching Iyanla draws on the doctrines of the Unity Ministry." Still another internet site (innervisionsworldwide.com) highlights Ms. Vanzant's philosophy and further states, "The Inner Visions Institute for Spiritual Development is another link in the chain of networks, institutions, and committed individuals dedicated to teaching humanity, the essence of eternal truth. What we teach is not new. It has been taught for centuries by the Masters from Buddha to Jesus; Mohammed to Gandhi, who all offered a universal prescription for living which is commonly confused with religion."

In 1993, at the time of the centennial of the Parliament of the World's Religions, a letter from another organization stated: "...numerous organisations throughout the world are coming together to sponsor celebrations of interreligious cooperation and understanding. Such efforts can contribute to the forming of the new world religion, which will not

dispense with the rich variety of the world's religious traditions but which will emphasise the fundamental truths all religions share in common and the power of united spiritual approach to divinity." This quotation, which seems just like all the rest, comes from Lucis Trust, which is the umbrella organization of the Theosophical Society founded by Helena Blavatsky. The name Lucis is a disguised form of Lucifer.

Mrs. Blavatsky wrote: "In this case it is but natural...to view Satan, the Serpent of Genesis, as the real creator and benefactor, the Father of Spiritual mankind. For it is he who was the 'Harbinger of Light,' bright radiant Lucifer, who opened the eyes of the automaton created by Jehovah, as alleged; and he who was the first to whisper: 'in the day ye eat thereof ye shall be as Elohim, knowing good and evil; -- can only be regarded in the light of a Saviour.'" (*The Secret Doctrine*, Vol II, p. 243)

While people in Boston would vehemently protest any suggestion that they would knowingly associate with Theosophists, it is into that very confused and murky milieu of nondescript "spirituality" that the Boston organization has plunged. The literature found in the New Age and spirituality movement shows an openness to reconsider Lucifer ("so misunderstood") or witches ("nice people using herbal remedies and ancient folk traditions to heal"). The audience which is buying into this rapidly burgeoning fad is very naive and vulnerable, and Christian Scientists should not be a part of anything which might contribute to leading them further astray.

An interview in the July 2001 *Christian Science Journal*, contains -- unwittingly, no doubt -- a succinct description of the current effort to tap into the "spirituality" craze: "...one of the disturbing things about some contemporary trends is the aspiration toward spirituality without religion, toward the emotional consolation of being in touch with powers higher than oneself without having to bear any of the responsibility of living according to a moral code that might require painful reforms in the way one lives." (p. 14)

SHORTWAVE RADIO

The *Christian Science Sentinel* -- Radio Edition is carried on Merlin Communications (9430 kHz shortwave) on Saturdays. Right after the *Sentinel* program is New Dimensions Radio. Their literature features none other than Iyanla Vanzant. An effusive endorsement from Dee Hock, founder of the Chaordic Alliance, is prominently included. Mr Hock was praised by Virginia Harris at Thanksgiving Square in Dallas, Texas. [see spring 2001 *Banner*]

FIFTEEN MORE CHURCHES CLOSE

A comparison of the March and July 2001 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* indicates that the

following churches/societies have closed: Tucson (2nd), Arizona; Alhambra, California; Bellflower, California; Kern River Valley, California; Reedley, California; Chicago (Rogers Park society), Illinois; Leavenworth, Kansas; Liberal, Kansas; Vicksburg, Mississippi; Ship Bottom, New Jersey; Artesia, New Mexico; Grand Forks, North Dakota; Galion, Ohio; Bowie, Texas; and Chelan, Washington. Since the count began in February 1987, 554 churches have closed and 40 have opened.

MOVIE REVIEWS

The April 30, 2001, *Christian Science Sentinel* carried its first ever review of a movie, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*: "It is refreshing to see a movie in which women play the main roles and are more than able to hold their own alongside men... The men, too, aren't afraid to get in touch with their feminine side, so to speak, as these warriors reveal great tenderness for others." (p. 19)

The Christian Science Journal followed suit by reviewing *Chocolat* in the June 2001 issue. Regarding this film, the *Journal's* movie reviewer states: *Chocolat* is truly an Easter story. It reminds us of the life-affirming spirit of resurrection and renewal that results from living in accord with the kindness and inclusiveness of the Christ-spirit." Veteran movie reviewer for the *Chicago Sun Times*, Roger Ebert, had a different view on the film: "*Chocolat* is about a war between the forces of paganism and Christianity, and because the pagan heroine has chocolate on her side, she wins. Her victory is delayed only because, during Lent, a lot of locals aren't eating chocolate." (www.suntimes.com/ebert)

MORE ABOUT THE NEW CAMPAIGN

A branch church member reports, "After our bookshop talk last Wednesday, the lecturer was interviewed by our local community radio station. Among several questions, he asked her about [our] branch church, and she refused to acknowledge we existed and changed the subject back to the textbook. Our Science and Health coordinator...says that our church on the internet and the spirituality.com is the important thing now and for the future of C.S."

The *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books held on April 28th and 29th included a newspaper supplement with features about book displays and advertisers. There was one advertisement for the trade edition and another:

Christian Science Reading Room..[booth] #438
Retail stores throughout So. California
www.spirituality.com

Offering science & health books

At least one lecturer is telling his audiences that "Key to the Scriptures", as part of the title of the *Christian Science* textbook, does not refer only to the Bible, but also to the sacred texts of other religions too,

such as Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism because the word "Scriptures" is in the plural. Perhaps, in accord with this, the May 14, 2001, *Sentinel* carried two sympathetic articles showcasing Islam which included almost seven pages of photographs and text.

PAYING FOR THE NEW LIBRARY

When the Restoration and Renewal Program was announced in 1991, five areas were listed as part of the project: The Original Edifice and the Extension; The Christian Science Publishing House; Sunday School, Colonnade, and Administration Buildings; three former homes of Mrs. Eddy; and public spaces and visitor information. "All contributions will be used solely for the purposes of the Restoration and Renewal Program as described in this booklet and in future descriptive materials... Borrowing from the Fund is not permitted." (1997 *Restoration and Renewal* booklet) Since then, it has been decided to turn the publishing house into the Mary Baker Eddy library. Presumably, the publishing activities will be permanently quartered in what were to be temporary offices in the Colonnade Building. Mrs. Harris announced at the July 20-25, 2000, meeting in Houston, Texas, that the new Mary Baker Eddy library would be "its own entity, separate from The Mother Church." It was announced in the June 6, 2000, *Monitor* that \$25 million to prepare the library will come from "a restoration project at the church's headquarters." Since contributors to the original fund were told that the publishing house would be refurbished for editing and publishing of the *Monitor*, *Journal*, *Sentinel*, and *Herald*, it would seem that the diversion of funds to the proposed, "separate" library would violate the original promise made to contributors.

When, in 1892, contributions for the construction of the original Mother Church were being collected, Mrs. Eddy discovered that a circular letter issued by the trustees included "the call...for money to build a church which would include publishing rooms in the same edifice... The inclusion of publishing rooms in the church building was contrary to the provision in the deed... [Mrs. Eddy] was convinced that the money must be returned to the contributors..." (Knapp, *Destiny of The Mother Church*, p. 86)

THE MONITOR, THE U.N., & THE C.F.R.

The fall 2000 *Banner* reported that former *Monitor* editor, John Hughes (C.F.R. member), had written an opinion piece in the June 21, 2000, *Monitor* discussing proposals for a United Nations armed force as a means of conflict prevention. He states that the concept is a good one, but he concluded, "Nobody believes the UN should acquire its own army." Less than a year later May 30, 2001, the *Monitor* carried an opinion piece which said, "Military forces [from UN member nations] are ill-suited to peacekeeping. The US should support a standing UN

police force." On June 19th, the *Monitor* carried a letter titled, "A separate UN policing force needed." In this way an unpopular idea is subtly introduced incrementally until it seems reasonable, even desirable and necessary. The *Monitor* has been at the forefront of major American newspapers in its call for a strengthened United Nations and, ultimately, a world government. This has been the unwavering position of the *Monitor* since the 1930s in spite of a regular turnover of editors in the last seventy years. This suggests that the impetus for this position lies with the Christian Science Board of Directors. It is contrary to Mrs. Eddy's position. (See *Miscellany*, p. 282:3-9)

The *Monitor's* lead article for June 13, 2001, was titled: "Why Bush abroad is like Clinton." While the newspaper suggests that national interest drives foreign policy, it quotes James Hoge and Russell Mead who are members of the Council on Foreign Relations (C.F.R.) to reinforce this point. Journalist Richard Rovere described the Council on Foreign Relations as "a sort of Presidium for that part of the Establishment that guides our destiny as a nation" (*Esquire*, "The American Establishment" May 1962) Historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. calls the Council "the front organization [for] the heart of the American Establishment." (*A Thousand Days*, p. 128) *Newsweek* magazine has called it "the foreign policy establishment of the U.S." (Sep. 6, 1971) Richard Harwood in the Washington Post (Oct. 30, 1993) said that the Council's "members are the nearest thing we have to a ruling establishment in the United States." Thirteen of the last fourteen U.S. Secretaries of State, including the current one, have been C.F.R. members. The Council's goal since its founding in 1922 is to bring about the relinquishment of national sovereignty in favor of, first, the League of Nations and now the United Nations. Ultimately a one world government is their goal, and *The Christian Science Monitor* has been their number one cheerleader.

SPIRITUAL FUTURISTS

The April 2, 2001, *Christian Science Sentinel* carried an interview with Sherry Ruth Anderson and Paul H. Ray who have written a book, *The Cultural Creatives: How 50 Million People are Changing the World*. Mr. Ray said: "We are now seeing a third, truly inclusive, synthesizing kind of spirituality starting to appear. And that is starting to outgrow the old religious boundaries and deal with the universal human experience."

MORE ON EINSTEIN AND C.S.

The booklet, *Professor Albert Einstein on Religion, Math, and Life in General* is being expanded as new information is located. Signed statements of those who had direct contact with Professor Einstein are included. At some point in the near future there will be a

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A NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS *** ANDREW W. HARTSOOK, EDITOR

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FALL 2001 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

READING ROOM LIBRARIAN WORKSHOP

Reading room librarians from across the country have been invited to attend three-day meetings at Seneca Falls, New York, titled "This is Woman's Hour" It would appear that the purpose of these meetings is to re-educate librarians about the purpose of the reading room. Elements listed as *not* essential included: the bound volumes of *The Christian Science Journal* and *Christian Science Sentinel*, a room for quiet study, a lending library, and marked books in the window. Attendees are told that reading rooms should focus on sales talk and the selling of products. Bound volumes and study rooms take up valuable space which should be used for displaying products for sale. Librarians are urged to get out into the community and to familiarize themselves with the women's movement and be ready to explain Mrs. Eddy's role in it. They are urged to schedule one of the current traveling displays made available by The Mother Church. At such an event, librarians should not mention God, Christian Science, or church. *Science and Health* should be described as a book about an alternative healing method. When talking to doctors or nurses, librarians should say, "We are in the healing business too." The Seneca Falls trainers attend services of other denominations and go from church to church because the nearest Christian Science church is an hour away. They feel this gives them an opportunity to meet more people such as city officials, businessmen, ministers, doctors, and nurses. Attendees are urged not to tell too much to their branch board of directors. They are urged to gradually implement the changes learned at Seneca Falls since, otherwise, opposition might spoil the new initiatives.

JUST LIKE OPRAH

An indication that the new initiatives in Boston are having the intended effect was illustrated by a letter to the editor of the *Sentinel* for August 27, 2001. The letter writer stated, "About a month ago I started watching the Oprah Winfrey show... the only time I get to relax and watch some TV. It suddenly struck me how much her programs were covering the same subjects as the *Sentinel*."

MORE TEMPLETON INITIATIVES

Branch churches and societies were the recipients of an expensive mailing from the Templeton Foundation in July of 2001. This was followed by another mailing which included a copy of *The Hand of God, Thoughts and Images Reflecting the Spirit of the Universe* and a

copy of a catalogue of the Templeton Foundation Press. Their brochure states: "The mission of the John Templeton Foundation is to pursue new insights at the boundary between theology and science through a rigorous, open-minded and empirically focused methodology, drawing together talented representatives from a wide spectrum of fields of expertise..." On page three, one finds this statement: "Scriptural truth is not logos but mythos..." On page seventeen, it states: [Harold G. Koenig, M.D.] notes, neither religion nor medicine on their own will comprehend the mysteries of healing -- but as each field draws upon the richness of the other, mystery will gradually be replaced by understanding." In a section about "The Freedom Project, it quotes a political science professor: "I particularly like the nonideological focus of the Templeton program-- looking at competing visions of freedom and not focusing just on a libertarian view, or a more collectivist view, or a simple Lockean view." (p. 31) A biographical sketch of John Templeton states, "His mother was a Cumberland Presbyterian -- a group famous for their independence -- who was also interested in the Unity Church, which he says tries to avoid having fixed opinions. Placing the Unity Church in a more familiar context, he notes that 'Unitarians are reasonably open-minded, but not nearly as much as the Unity Church. Unity is more my style.'" (p. 40) The same sketch states, "Templeton was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1987 and decorated a Knight of St. John in 1995. Tennessee-born John Templeton stylizes himself in all his literature as "Sir John Templeton" even though the use of titles is forbidden for American citizens by Article 1, Section 9, of the U.S. Constitution. Other Americans have been presented with an honorary knighthood, but they do not put "Sir" in front of their names.

The catalogue of the Templeton Foundation Press lists a variety of books in harmony with their stated mission. Of particular note are books written by John Templeton and his son. *Worldwide Worship* by John Marks Templeton "begins with prayer, drawn from sources such as Celtic, Native American, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions, among others." John Templeton wrote *Pure Unlimited Love: An Eternal Creative Force and Blessing Taught by All Religions*. The recurring theme would seem to be an emphasis on "the fundamental truths all religions have in common and the power of [a] united spiritual approach to divinity" as has been defined by the Theosophical Society [see summer 2001 *Banner*].

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The current push in Boston to mix, highlight, and emphasize all of the supposed similarities of Christian Science with non-Christian religions, philosophies, and health care systems brings to mind the lines from the Book of Revelation: "And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood." (Rev. 12:15) One would hardly have expected that officialdom in Boston would be helping to open the floodgates of orientalism, Theosophy, and the New Age through Mrs. Eddy's own periodicals and church. The only possible result would be to dilute, -- if it were possible, -- the revelation of Christian Science as taught by Mrs. Eddy and to confuse the sincere seeker. Mrs. Eddy writes: "The doom of the Babylonish woman, referred to in Revelation, is being fulfilled. This woman, 'drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus,' 'drunk with the wine of her fornication,' would enter even the church, -- the body of Christ, Truth; and, retaining the heart of the harlot and the purpose of the destroying angel, would pour wormwood into the waters -- the disturbed human mind - - to drown the strong swimmer struggling for the shore, -- aiming for truth, -- and if possible to poison such as drink of the living water." (My. 126:29-7)

FASCINATING COINCIDENCE

Author Gary Kah, in his book, *The New World Religion*, quotes Patricia Dane Cota-Robles, president of the New Age Study of Humanity's Purpose, who stated in her March 4, 1987 newsletter: "There are many indications from ancient calendars and present day inner guidance that August 17, 1987 is a day of utmost significance. We have been guided from within to organize a global activity at that time that will serve as a vehicle through which Light Workers from all over the world can come together to meet each other and form a unified cup. This activity will be held with the force-field of Peace and Harmony that pulsates at Diamond Head in Hawaii."

Interestingly, "On August 17, 1987, a secret, all-day videotaped meeting was held during which a decision was made to discontinue *The Christian Science Monitor* as a newspaper and transform it into an electronic medium." [*Christian Science After 1910*, p. 162]

Mr. Kah also quotes an organization named "Harmonic Convergence" of Boulder, Colorado: "Harmonic Convergence is a conscious bonding of people to support an evolutionary shift from separation to unity and from fear to love. At the core 144,000 people will gather at sunrise on August 16 [1987] at sacred sites around the globe. They will join at the Earth 'acupuncture points' to create a resonating link between Universal Energies and the Earth" [Gary Kah,

Chapter 5 titled, "The Harmonic Convergence"]

On September 24, 1987, Harvey Wood, chairman of the Christian Science Board of Directors, hosted the "Global Lecture Preparatory Meeting" which transformed Christian Science lectures into the largely watered-down pep-talks we have today. "[At this meeting] it was decided to 'close the door' on past ways and means of presenting Christian Science to the public." [*C.S. After 1910*, p. 162] Worth noting is the fact that The John Templeton Foundation, with its links to the Unity Church, was also founded in 1987. Virginia Harris has spoken at Unity's Church of Today in Michigan twice, and lecturer Joni Overton-Jung has given a class on Christian Science there as well.

FIVE MORE CHURCH CLOSINGS

According to a comparison of the July and October 2001 issues of *The Christian Science Journal*, the following churches have closed: Albany, Georgia; Albert Lea, Minnesota; Fergus Falls, Minnesota; Mount Jackson, Virginia; and Seattle (6th Church), Washington. Since the count began in February 1987, **559** churches have closed and **40** have opened.

APOLOGY IN THE SENTINEL

An interview in the August 27, 2001, *Christian Science Sentinel* included the following quotation: "And so often the guy who gave you endless cr*p about everything was the one you knew was engaged." (p. 14) The October 2nd *Sentinel* included the following statement: "In a recent article, the person being interviewed used language that we would not normally publish. We apologize to our readers for this intrusion in our customary usage. In the future we will be more careful to screen such quotes." (p. 2)

MOVIE REVIEW

The September 28, 2001, *Christian Science Monitor* carried the following evaluation of a movie titled "Jeepers Creepers." The movie's characters "encounter a hideous and evil creature that's part bird, who likes to sniff laundry, spread his huge wings, and eat people. Many scenes caused this reviewer to laugh out loud." "Sex/Nudity: 1 scene of naked dead bodies... Violence: 10 including bloody scenes of bodies torn apart, and head decapitations... Profanity: 40 expressions, sometimes harsh." (p. 14)

ICE MACHINE AT PUBLISHING HOUSE

The summer 1997 *Banner* reported that The Christian Science Publishing Society had leased over 30,000 square feet of the publishing house building for a huge ice machine to be built by First Northwind Boston LLC "which would produce nearly 3,000,000 pounds of ice in the building's basement at night when the electric rates are cheaper....The ice will be melted to 34 degrees the following day and pumped through underground pipes to subscribing downtown office buildings for their

air conditioning systems.” *The Boston Globe* of September 7, 2001, reported: “NStar is considering pulling the plug on a \$19 million air conditioning project that a joint-venture subsidiary opened two years ago at the Christian Science Church complex in the Back Bay, officials confirmed yesterday. The project located in space at the church’s publishing house formerly occupied by printing presses for the Christian Science Monitor newspaper, has failed to attract business from any of the nearby office towers...”

MORE ABOUT THE MBE LIBRARY

The October 2001 *Christian Science Journal* includes an article by Robert Townsend Warneck about “The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity.” According to Mr. Warneck, “I also found that while Mrs. Eddy’s correspondence is filled with solid metaphysical ideas, none of these ideas would be new to the student of Christian Science, because they’re in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, which contains the full statement of Christian Science... The value of Mrs. Eddy’s letters, to me, lies not in their metaphysics, but in the beautiful qualities that shine through so vividly.” (p. 53) In like manner, one might argue that the four Gospels of the New Testament contain the complete statement of Jesus’ Christianity and that the letters of Paul, John, Peter, James, and Jude should not be read for their metaphysical content. Rather we should confine ourselves to admiring the “beautiful qualities” of those apostles. Anyone who has read *Divinity Course and General Collectanea* (The Blue Book), *Essays and Other Footprints* (The Red Book), or any of the books published by the Carpenter Foundation knows that the metaphysical treasures they contain are not meant to be a substitute for Mrs. Eddy’s long published writings. Rather they give invaluable insights and elaborations on metaphysical points. The reader returns to the Bible, *Science and Health*, and Mrs. Eddy’s other writings with a deeper clarity. One cannot help but suspect that one of the library’s main purposes is to suppress the metaphysics. As the July 1999 *Journal* stated, the library “will fulfill the requirements of copyright law” and “provide an additional forty-five years of full copyright protection.” In this way, the directors hope to keep these materials out of the hands of serious students of Christian Science in the field. Only historical researchers would have the time to delve into the collection, and they would not be interested in metaphysics in any case. The directors’ claim to forty-five more years of copyright ownership is not yet legally proven.

A NEW WORLD ORDER?

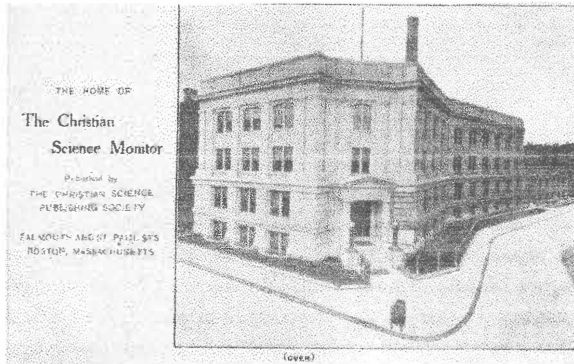
On September 14, 2001, three days after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., *The Christian Science*

Monitor ran in bold headlines “A New World Order?” with the sub heading “Bush team sheds its unilateral approach as it rallies the world against terrorism.” The *Monitor* has always abhorred the idea that the president of the United States might act merely in the interests of the country whose constitution he has sworn to uphold. In fact, the United States has always been generous with enemies in defeat and countries around the world that have suffered natural disasters. The U.S. has been supplying food relief to drought-stricken Afghanistan for two years. However, the *Monitor* never approves of anything done unilaterally because of the editors’ longstanding fixation with world government through the United Nations. Whenever war or crisis looms, the *Monitor* hauls out the New World Order phrase. On December 31, 1974, the *Monitor* ran an editorial titled, “1975: a new order?” “Can mankind put together a new order in the world in the wake of the bewildering changes that have swept the globe this past year?... The world has no choice but to live together and we, its citizens, will have to change our habits, our attitudes and perhaps our institutions.” The editors do not specify what institutions need to be changed, but their opinion and editorial articles over the years have suggested that the U.S. Constitution be scrapped in favor of a parliamentary system which would be more easily merged in a world government. (See page 156 of *Christian Science After 1910*) Many who advocate world government through the United Nations point to its apparently admirable democratic set-up. However when the majority of those voting are representing dictatorships, tyrannies, and totalitarian regimes, the results can hardly be called just or democratic by Western standards. In two entirely democratic votes, the United States was removed from the U.N. Human Rights Commission and the International Narcotics Control Board. The U.S. was replaced by Sudan and Libya. Both of these countries sponsor terrorism. The Muslim government of Sudan has waged a long and murderous campaign against its Christian population. Sudan tolerates, and even encourages, slavery of these same Christians. So much for democratic votes. In 1994, the Canadian commander of U.N. peacekeeping forces in Rwanda was Lt. General Romeo Dallaire. He warned Kofi Annan (the current U.N. Secretary-General who was then in charge of peacekeeping operations) that the majority Hutus were about to massacre the Christian Tutsis. Annan ordered the U.N. forces to “assist in the recovery of all weapons distributed to or illegally acquired by civilians”. This amounted to disarming the intended victims. Several hundred thousand Tutsis were subsequently killed. It is reported that the General Dallaire was so despondent, that after returning to Canada, he took his own life.

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Such events mean very little to those visionaries who stubbornly dream the dream of world peace and world government through the United Nations. Their fervently held convictions amount to a religion and theology unto itself. While they imagine that millennial peace will be achieved by well-intentioned human effort, what they are really creating is a Frankenstein's monster stitched together of some of the most brutal regimes the world has ever known. What does Mary Baker Eddy say on this subject? "The crudest ideals of speculative theology have made monsters of men; and the ideals of *materia medica* have made helpless invalids and cripples." (*The People's Idea of God* 3:3-5) "I believe strictly in the Monroe Doctrine, in our Constitution, and in the laws of God. While I admire the faith and friendship of our chief executive in and for all nations, my hope must still rest in God, and the Scriptural injunction, -- 'Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth.'" (*Miscellany* 282: 3-8) While we have learned the identities of the hijackers on the four commercial aircraft on September 11th, we still do not know for certain who or what has hijacked Mrs. Eddy's church and newspaper.

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