

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

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

VOLUME FIFTEEN / NUMBER TWO

WINTER 2002 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

PERSISTENT REPORT

The departure of Olga Chaffee and Paul Grimes from the Christian Science Board of Directors this past July 2001 was followed by a report received from multiple sources that they left as a result of a dispute over the funding of The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity. According to the story, the directors are finding it difficult to pay for the library and had decided to use restricted funds to pay for this project. It is already known that they are using money from the Restoration and Renewal Fund to meet expenses of the library even though the latter is officially separate from the church organization. It is said that the current chairman of the board desires unanimity from her fellow directors.

Olga Chaffee joined the board of directors in August of 1990 and Paul Grimes in April of 1999. Mrs. Chaffee's last day was July 1st and Mr. Grimes' was July 18th. It is further reported that employees of Olga Chaffee's office of the clerk were laid off or quit because of their loyalty to her.

MONITOR CIRCULATION FIGURES

The October 4, 2001, *Christian Science Monitor* gave the latest circulation figures as required by the U.S. Postal Service: 70,324. This represents a net loss of 2,755 subscribers in one year. The figures from 1989 until the present are listed below.

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
2001	70,324

Since 1989, the newspaper has lost 85,922 subscribers.

SCARY SKULLS

The *Christian Science Monitor* web site includes a "marketplace" of items for sale by various merchants. On October 11, 2001, one could find: "New! Scary Skulls. Our handcrafted wax skulls raise spirits and the hair on your neck. The large votive holder casts an eerie

glow for haunted house entryways." Ghost candles were also offered.

CIRCULATION OF THE NEW SENTINEL

The October 22, 2001, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel* gave the current circulation figures as required by the postal service: 48,899. This represents a net gain of 2,557 subscribers in one year or 3,904 since 1997. The compiled figures follow:

1997	44,995
1998	50,868
1999	53,290
2000	46,342
2001	48,899

The new format of the *Sentinel* began in January 1998.

OMEGA INSTITUTE IN C.S. JOURNAL

The September 2001 *Christian Science Journal* included a conference report titled, "Engaging with deep things of the universe". It goes on to say, "We thought our readers would be interested in highlights of a conference last spring, exploring the relationship between religion and science: the Omega Institute's 'The Spiritual Adventure: Using Wisdom Traditions for a Spiritual Life.'" (p. 12)

The Omega Institute for Holistic Studies offers workshops, spiritual retreats and wellness vacations in its catalogs. Some of the courses include: "Understanding Practical Dreamwork"... By inducing a *hypnagogic* state, it becomes possible to re-enter the dream as an imaginal environment and re-live it; Through the use of *identification techniques* the dreamer can experience the dreaming environment from the perspective of inhabitants of this dreamworld other than the dream-ego."

Another course: "Sensuality: Enhancing Pleasure in Everyday Life"... During our week together we tap into the six senses of touch, taste, smell, sound, sight, and intuition as we explore, experience and celebrate life's sensual pleasures."

Still another course: "The Bardic Gift"... The teachings of Druidry and the existence of a luminous other world comprised the spiritual belief system for millions of people throughout ancient Celtic Europe... In this writing retreat... renowned novelist Morgan Llywelyn introduces us to the Celtic belief system and its practical application to the writing process... We learn traditional practices used in her own process, including talking with trees."

Still another course: "The Pleasures of ContactYoga (TM)"... ContactYoga (TM) is the yoga of union, a kind

of yoga in which partners work together to develop flow, balance, grace, power, concentration, and intimacy... Gradually, we learn that in ContactYoga (TM) communication happens at the cellular level, using the purity of touch and movement and the expression of the fullness of our spirit." Famous people listed as having been trained in these yoga techniques include New York Senator Hillary Clinton, Robin Williams, Peter Gabriel, Demi Moore, Woody Harrelson, and Donna Karan. Some of Omega's other presenters include Thich Nhat Hanh who was featured in the August 2000 *Christian Science Journal*. This Buddhist monk advocates the merging of Christianity and Buddhism. (See Fall 2000 *Banner*). Another presenter is Iyanla Vanzant who was featured on The Mother Church's Spirituality.com web site. (See Summer 2001 *Banner*). It would seem that the directors are intent upon accommodating New Age and Eastern religious ideas within the pages of the Christian Science periodicals and conditioning readers to accept them. However reasonable the excerpts appearing in the *C.S. Journal* may seem to be, Orientalism and the New Age are right below the surface.

THE CHURCH OF TODAY

A story titled "Upheaval of Church Surprises Members" in the *Detroit Free Press* of November 1, 2001, stated: "[Marianne] Williamson, who became the [Church of Today's] spiritual leader in 1998, said she plans to break with the Association of Unity Churches and turn the church into an interfaith spiritual center, focusing less on religion and more on fellowship." While the Warren, Michigan, Church of Today has a membership of 2,300 members, Ms. Williamson put her proposed changes to a surprise vote at an October 28th meeting. Of the 281 members present, 250 voted for her proposals. The article continues: "She will announce that the Church of Today will be renamed Renaissance Unity, which she described as an 'interfaith spiritual fellowship and resource center'... 'Our interest here is in universal spiritual themes that aren't unique to any specific religion.'... Long considered a New Age guru to the stars, she counts Oprah Winfrey and Elizabeth Taylor among her supporters." An unnamed member described Williamson's surprise vote as a "hostile takeover".

A follow-up article in the *Free Press* dated November 14th stated: "At an Oct. 28 members meeting, 250 of 281 attendees voted to break with the Association of Unity Churches and rename the Warren church Renaissance Unity... But enough of the church's 2,300 members complained about being absent when Williamson presented the surprise plan that she and the church board decided to schedule a new vote Dec 2."

Christian Science board chairman Virginia Harris has spoken at Church of Today, most recently on September 27, 2000, and Joni Overton-Jung, a Christian Science

lecturer, taught a class on Christian Science at the same church during May of 2001. [At press time, there was no further report about the scheduled vote at Church of Today. This may indicate a postponement due to behind the scenes maneuvering.]

A FUTURE SCENARIO?

In view of the radical new initiatives taken by the directors in Boston including the new Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity, the subtle takeover of local reading rooms, the participation in New Age book fairs, mind/body conferences and seminars, Virginia Harris' talk at Thanksgiving Square in Dallas, the inauguration of spirituality.com on the internet, classes and talks given in New Age oriented settings such as The Learning Annex and the Church of Today, and the embracing of Buddhist, Hindu, and Islamic ideas in the Christian Science periodicals, one must consider the possibility that a Marianne Williamson-style takeover might be mirrored in The Mother Church. With branch churches closing in the field at a steady, seemingly irreversible, rate, and with many more just hanging on, it is conceivable that the following might take place:

Begin scenario. The directors would mail a letter to each member of The Mother Church stating: "Mrs. Eddy expected us to keep her church abreast of the times. We are living in a new century full of extraordinary challenges and wonderful opportunities. As old ways and means fall by the wayside, your board of directors has been prayerfully pondering and considering future directions for the Christian Science movement just as Mrs. Eddy would expect us to do. While some past initiatives were not successful, such as the Monitor Channel and *World Monitor* magazine, we nevertheless are profoundly grateful for the deep insights we gained into a new world of communicating the message of Christian Science to the world. As you may have noticed, we have been working tirelessly to promote *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* through the trade edition. We are reaching out, and the fruitage has been gratifying. Mrs. Eddy wisely advises: "When students have fulfilled all the good ends of organization, and are convinced that by leaving the material forms thereof a higher spiritual unity is won, then is the time to follow the example of the *Alma Mater* [the closing of Massachusetts Metaphysical College]." (Mis. 358:30-1) Your board of directors is convinced that the time for just such a move has arrived. As old material methods involving paper and ink, platform and pew take their place of honor in the past, we now look forward to a new electronic world of instant communication in which we can more effectively minister to the needs of mankind. Now is the time to close struggling branch churches and to pool all of our financial and spiritual

resources with your church family at the newly refurbished church center in Boston. We call on each, dearly beloved member of The Mother Church to rejoice in this fresh spiritual step and to join in this divine adventure, throwing off the fetters of outgrown organization and embracing the already emerging new order in the world. Our new Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity, our internet web sites, the award-winning electronic *Monitor*, our franchised reading rooms, -- all are ready to join in a new age of spirituality to bless mankind. We know that we can rely on your spiritual commitment to these vital future endeavors. Now is the time to embrace all spiritual seekers of whatever faith tradition and share the precious truths of Christian Science with a waiting world." End of scenario.

In this way, the directors could finally annul the *Church Manual* which they altered and then abandoned decades ago and freely expand their New Age contacts and formalize their ecumenical associations. Even now Christian Science healing is routinely referred to as spiritual healing, and Christian Science practitioners have been referred to as merely spiritual healers (see *Christian Science Sentinel* of November 26, 2001, [pp. 6, 7] The same *Sentinel* article never mentions Christian Science, *Science and Health*, or Mrs. Eddy. While some *Banner* readers may consider the above scenario alarmist, a review of the actions of the last twenty years in Boston suggests that it is not unthinkable.

Regarding the above quotation from Mrs. Eddy's December 1889 article "The Way", the future scene depicted by Mrs. Eddy certainly could not refer to our present era in which unchristian, spiritual counterfeits proliferate on every side to confuse the genuine seeker. In addition, it is worth noting that the Massachusetts Metaphysical College, which was closed on October 29, 1889, was "reopened... in 1899 as auxiliary to her church." (S&H, p. xii)

CHURCH CLOSING + SENECA FALLS

A comparison of the October and December 2001 issues of *The Christian Science Journal*, the following society closed: Forty Fort, Pennsylvania. In addition, the reading room at Seneca Falls, New York, which was sponsored by The Mother Church, was no longer listed as of the November 2001 *Journal*. The last Reading Room Conference conducted at this site was held on December 6-9, 2001. Henceforth, this facility will remain as an extension of the new Mary Baker Eddy Library. Since the count began in February 1987, **560** churches have closed, and **40** have opened.

DENOMINATIONAL OR NOT?

Since the inauguration of the new *Sentinel* and the publishing of the trade edition of *Science and Health*,

Mother Church officials have been referring to the Christian Science textbook as a nondenominational book. In fact the "Publishing Director of the Writings of Mary Baker Eddy" stated in the September 5, 1994, *Sentinel*, "It's a nondenominational book." However, Mrs. Eddy's own explanatory note introducing the Sunday lesson in the *Christian Science Quarterly*, read aloud by the First Reader every Sunday, refers to *Science and Health* as "our denominational textbook". Mrs. Eddy writes: "Our unity with churches of other denominations must rest on the spirit of Christ calling us together. It cannot come from any other source. Popularity, self-aggrandizement, aught that can darken in any degree our spirituality, must be set aside. (*Pulpit and Press*, p. 21:26-30)

THE MONITOR AND FAMILY VALUES

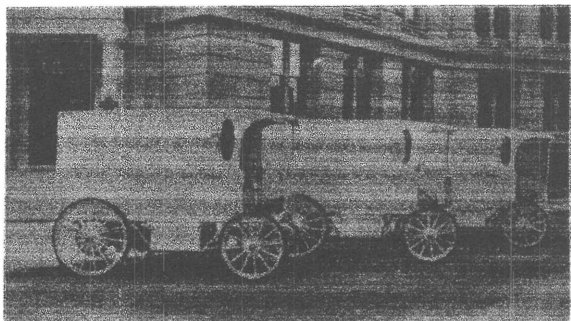
The October 24, 2001, *Christian Science Monitor* presented a review of the Fox television network program, "Malcolm in the Middle". The *Monitor* writer stated: "As edgy as the writing is, 'Malcolm in the Middle' sits squarely on a base of fairly traditional values." An early episode depicts the program's mother as topless walking around the house in front of her family, screaming and raving. Her back is always to the television audience, but not to the other characters. In the midst of all the chaos, a prim and very proper teacher from Malcolm's school rings the doorbell and is confronted by the topless mother who screams and raves some more. Media observer David Walsh is quoted in the article: "It deals with wholesome family issues, without coming off as wholesome." The *Monitor* assures us: "They don't 'do drugs,' there's not a drop of alcohol on the show, and as wild as things get, both Lois and Hal [the T.V. parents] lay down a firm line between right and wrong." Having strained out the gnats, everything else can be rationalized.

UNITED NATIONS FIXATION

The *Monitor* continues its relentless mantra for the U.N. On October 5, 2001, "Ties that bind: changing relations between US and UN." We are told that "the UN...quickly condemn[ed] terrorist attacks." Yet the UN proceeded to elect terrorist state Syria to its security council. October 15: "UN Gets Its Due (and Dues). "...it was time to proclaim that 'the only negotiable route to global peace and cooperation goes by way' of the UN." October 24: "The United Nations' daunting task" by John Hughes who said, "...success in Afghanistan could mark the UN's finest hour." October 25: "UN may be best equipped to rebuild Afghanistan." However, Long Island State University Professor of Criminology Harvey Kushner, a noted terrorism analyst, points out, "The UN provides cover almost the same way the Taliban does. It serves as the laboratory, the linchpin for legitimizing incendiary rhetoric." One

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would have to add that such rhetoric is directed against the West and the United States, in particular. November 14: "With or against us' war irks many UN nations... Faultlines deepened in the international coalition this week when President Bush informed the UN...that he intends to take the antiterror campaign beyond Afghanistan." November 21: "At a time of loss, 10 reasons to be grateful" by John Hughes. Number seven on the list: the UN. December 10: "The UN's soft-spoken champion... The quiet man [Kofi Annan]...shares the Nobel Peace Prize with the United Nations. The honor is deserved." In 1992, it was the UN which encouraged Muslim refugees in Bosnia to flee to Srebrenica where they were promised protection. They were disarmed by UN troops. When the pursuing Serbs arrived, the UN stood aside as over 4000 men and boys were killed. The last *Banner* recounted Kofi Annan's personal responsibility in the deaths of over 800,000 Tutsis in Rwanda at the hands of the majority Hutus. There was never any accountability for these massive, UN-directed foul-ups and tragedies. Finally the *Monitor* warned on October 19: "Watch out for America's own extremists." This turns out to be anyone who is wary of the "New World Order" or the United Nations.

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.

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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AFTER 1910

by

Andrew W. Hartsook

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VOLUME FIFTEEN / NUMBER THREE

SPRING 2002 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

CHURCH EXPENDITURES

The "Per Capita Progress Report for 2001" sent to Mother Church members in January 2002 contained a list of costs associated with the building of the Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity. The report states that new construction costs will be \$25 million and that \$1.2 million has been contributed so far. In addition it is estimated that annual operating costs will be \$5 million per year for the first several years. The report also states: "The Library will begin generating operating revenues next year." The accompanying per capita tax form suggested that members consider authorizing an automatic monthly money transfer via credit card to help pay for the library project.

Forbes magazine of December 15, 1997, reported that The Mother Church was losing \$11.5 million per year to support *The Christian Science Monitor*. Circulation for the newspaper in 1997 was 77,507. In 2001, it had dropped to 70,324 subscribers. The amount of support required to keep the *Monitor* afloat has almost certainly increased since the *Forbes* article was published. So the finances of the church and the decisions of the board of directors must be called into question once again.

COPYRIGHT LAW TO SUPREME COURT

The New York Times of February 20, 2002, reported, "The Supreme Court agreed today [Feb. 19] to decide whether the 1998 law that extended the duration of existing copyrights by 20 years was constitutional. The court's action took the world of copyright holders and users by surprise and held the potential of producing the most important copyright case in decades... As a practical matter, the consequences could be enormous, both for those with stakes in copyrights that are running out and for the growing community of people -- represented by the plaintiffs in this case [Eldred v. Ashcroft] -- trying to use the Internet to expand the boundaries of the public domain."

One of the main reasons for establishing the Mary Baker Eddy Library was to gain additional copyright coverage for Mrs. Eddy's unpublished writings without actually having to publish them. A June 6, 2000, letter from the directors of The Mother Church asserted that creating "a publicly accessible library...will fulfill the requirements of copyright law" and provide "an additional forty-five years of full copyright protection." The Eldred v. Ashcroft case before the U.S. Supreme Court could

drastically affect the directors' plans.

BOSTON GLOBE ARTICLE

An Alex Beam article in the December 4, 2001, *Boston Globe* stated, "A sharp-eyed reader spotted this advertisement in a recent issue of Publishers Weekly: 'Major Boston publisher is looking for a Senior Executive Editor to oversee the development of an editorial publishing plan for the published and unpublished material of an acclaimed 19th-century author [Mary Baker Eddy]. This senior editor will be the "editorial visionary" of the product line' etc., etc."

"The Eddy publishing project is part of a much larger marketing push that is the new jewel in the crown of the Mother Church. With great fanfare, the church is building a modernistic, \$50 million Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity... No grandiose Christian Science enterprise proceeds without its critics. Remember the \$400 million foray into cable television?... And the library has already become a rallying point for church members opposed to chairman Virginia Harris's aggressive marketing of Eddy and her message... Controversy? What controversy? Stephen Danzansky, the library's chief executive says he hasn't heard a discouraging word about the project. Rumors that the building has run over budget are not true..."

PERIODICAL EVOLUTION

Mrs. Eddy's motto chosen for the *Christian Science Sentinel* has been removed from the cover of that periodical. The motto was dropped from the December 17th, 24th, and 31st, 2001, issues. Then it was restored briefly on the January 7, 2002, cover. The editorial for that issue included the subheading: "The *Sentinel's* mission to watch". In addition the editor quotes an anemic modern Bible translation's version: "I tell everyone just what I have told you. Be alert!" The editor goes on to explain her concept of watching: "It's spiritual vision that sees the ultimate, inevitable reality of everything good and noble. And it acts on that vision. It makes a tangible, positive difference with that vision -- even in the face of hatred, violence, disease, cataclysm." (p. 29) Mrs. Eddy's concept of watching can be found in her article, "Fidelity" in *Miscellaneous Writings* beginning on page 339. She writes: "Let us watch and pray that we enter not into the temptation of ease in sin; and let us not forget that others before us have laid upon the altar all that we have to sacrifice, and have passed to their reward. Too soon we cannot turn from disease in the body to find disease in the mortal mind, and its cure, in working for God."

The *Sentinel* was originally named the *Christian*

Science Weekly when it was founded in September of 1898. When Mrs. Eddy renamed it in January 1899, the cover always carried Jesus' admonition, "What I say unto you, I say unto all -- WATCH." In addition, the cover always included two women holding steadily burning lamps as they symbolically watched the mental horizon. Only the motto survived a series of cover redesigns. With the advent of the current *Sentinel*, the motto was frequently camouflaged by the cover photographs. Now the motto has been permanently relegated to page three while the new motto "Watching the world from a spiritual perspective" takes its place on the cover. *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* defines motto as "a short expression of a guiding principle." The new *Sentinel* motto has entirely abandoned Jesus' meaning and Mrs. Eddy's purpose.

A cover problem occurred with the March 2002 *Christian Science Journal*. The cross and crown, which were always a prominent feature on the cover in Mrs. Eddy's day, appeared as an unreadable smudge. The publishing society sent out first class letters to all subscribers with self-adhesive stickers to place over the illegible symbol. Somehow every other element of the March *Journal* cover was clearly printed.

Mrs. Eddy's motto chosen for *The Christian Science Monitor* was, "First the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear." This was accompanied by an illustration of a sheaf of wheat. She wrote that all of these elements were to be placed on the cover of the newspaper in a letter she signed on August 3, 1908. Mrs. Eddy chose this motto from Jesus' words in the fourth chapter of Luke, verse 28. Jesus' words in the next verse complete the idea: "But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." This suggests that human history is a process leading to something, and not just endless begetting.

While Mrs. Eddy's first issue of her newspaper included the statement, "The object of *The Monitor* is to injure no man, but to bless all mankind", it was never her intended motto. The current editors' decision to substitute it for Mrs. Eddy's choice blurs the purpose of the *Monitor* even as the replacement of the *Sentinel*'s original motto obscures its purpose.

In *No and Yes*, Mrs. Eddy writes, "Let the Word have free course and be glorified. The people clamor to leave cradle and swaddling-clothes. The spiritual status is urging its highest demands on mortals, and material history is drawing to a close." (p. 45)

ISLAM RE-EXAMINED

The *Christian Science* periodicals have run several articles over the last few years emphasizing the peaceful nature of the Muslim religion and, by inference, exonerating it from all responsibility for terrorism. *The*

Christian Science Journal ran a favorable article in the December 2001 issue. The *Christian Science Sentinel* carried an interview, "To understand the Muslim world" in the October 15, 2001, issue. Another article and an interview appeared in the May 14, 2001, *Sentinel*: "God-fearing Muslims cannot be fanatic or extremist. Some media outlets say that Muslims -- or Islam -- teach violence, terrorism, and extremism. This is one of the biggest misconceptions about Islam because, in reality, violence and terrorism are anti-Islamic acts... There is no such thing as 'holy war' in Islam, as some mischievous or careless translators may imply. It is rather a loaded concept created by medieval crusaders. It did not come out of the Muslim community." (pp. 10-12)

An article written by a Muslim, Amir Taheri, for *The Wall Street Journal*, titled "Islam Can't Escape Blame for Sept. 11" presented a very different picture: "...to claim the attacks [on the World Trade Center and Pentagon] had nothing to do with Islam amounts to a whitewash. It is not only disingenuous but also a disservice to Muslims, who need to cast a critical glance at the way their faith is taught, lived and practiced. Even worse, the refusal to subject Islam to rational analysis is a recipe for further fanaticism... Anyone who follows the media in the Muslim world would know that the verbal version of the Sept. 11 attacks is an almost daily fare. ...Anyone listening to a sermon in virtually any mosque, including many in the West, would be shocked by the vehemence of the anti-Western, especially anti-American sentiments expressed." (Reprinted in February 2002 *American Legion Magazine*)

The Spectator (U.K.) of September 22, 2001, carried an article "Ground Zero and The Saudi Connection" by Stephen Schwartz, an expert on Islam: "What has so galvanised violent tendencies in the world's second-largest religion (and in America, the fastest growing faith)?" He goes on to describe an extreme sect of Islam called Wahhabism: "It is violent, it is intolerant, and it is fanatical beyond measure. It originated in Arabia, and it is the official theology of the Gulf States... In the US, 80 per cent of mosques are estimated by the Sufi Hisham al-Kabbani, born in Lebanon and now living in the US, to be under the control of Wahhabi imams, who preach extremism... [To] expose the extent of Saudi and Wahhabi influence on American Muslims would deeply compromise many Islamic clerics in the US.

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL MODEL

Several newsletters from around the country have reported that a CDC Model State Emergency Health Powers Act has been sent to legislatures of the fifty states in the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks. The draft bill was written on December 10 and then revised on December 21, 2001. *The Wall Street Journal*

of January 7, 2002, reported that the model bill was already being debated in several state legislatures. The proposed bill would give each governor the power to declare a public health emergency and to require physician administered drugs without regard to individual or religious objections. This brings to mind the members of the U.S. armed forces who objected to receiving anthrax inoculations because of their unproven safety. Under provisions of the bill, state legislatures would agree to refrain from interfering with a governor's actions for a period of sixty days. The proposed bill would give governors the broad power to seize private property, impose price controls, and even institute rationing. Christian Scientists and all other Americans should be aware of these sweeping proposals which would severely affect the freedom to practice one's religion. This proposed bill would violate the first, second, and fourth amendments to the U.S. Constitution contained in the Bill of Rights. Even the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons opposes this bill because of the unwarranted power it would give to governors to practice medicine and suspend constitutional rights, all in the name of unspecified emergencies.

REVELATION 12 AND THE LESSON

The lesson "Christian Science" for December 30, 2001, included the citations from the Bible and *Science and Health* alluding to Mary Baker Eddy's place in Bible prophecy for the first time since December 31, 1989. Another lesson for the same subject (March 8, 1998) included a very few citations, but did not really explore the subject satisfactorily. The directors have recently begun repeating Mrs. Eddy's letter to Edward Kimball:

"For the world to understand me in my true light, and life, would do more for our Cause than aught else could. This I learn from the fact that the enemy tries harder to hide these two things from the world than to win any other points. Also Jesus' life and character in their first appearing were treated in like manner. And I regret to see that loyal students are not more awake to this great demand in their measures to meet the enemies' tactics"

While the directors are now using this long suppressed statement to justify the construction of the new Mary Baker Eddy Library and the releasing of archival materials, the pioneer students of Christian Science knew that she was referring to her place in prophetic Scriptures.

SEVEN CHURCH CLOSINGS AND FOUR NEW SOCIETIES

A comparison of the December 2001 and March 2002 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* reveals that the following churches/societies have closed: Anaheim, California; Los Angeles (7th), California;

Evanston (1st), Illinois; Mishawaka, Indiana; Pittsburg, Kansas; Detroit (9th), Michigan; and Saranac Lake, New York. During the same period, the following societies have formed: Temecula, California; Cumming, Georgia; St. Albans (Queens), New York; and Mayfield Heights, Ohio. Since the count began in February 1987, 567 churches have closed and 44 have opened.

PRACTITIONERS AND TEACHERS

The Christian Science Journal of January 2002 revealed that there are 1,686 practitioners and teachers worldwide:

Practitioners Worldwide	
June 1951	10,503
Aug 1993	2,575
Dec 1997	2,045
Jan 2000	1,833
Jul 2000	1,797
Jan 2001	1,770
Jan 2002	1,686
Teachers (Still teaching classes*)	
Mar 1992	250
Mar 1995	239
Dec 1997	209*
Jan 2000	193*
Jan 2001	189*
Jan 2002	190*

MARKETING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Boxes delivered to branch church reading rooms in March 2002 from the "Reading Room Department" in Boston included copies of the new spiral-bound trade edition of *Science and Health* as well as posters and related materials. Also included were forms for co-op advertising/event opportunities. The Reading Room Department will give a 40% rebate for advertising in newspapers, magazines, outdoor billboards, subways, airports, and buses up to \$250. The Reading Room Department also offers 40% rebate for exhibit space at fairs, conferences, and expos up to \$400. All of this is a, perhaps, well-meaning effort to persuade local reading rooms to plunge into the current, aggressive effort to market Christian Science. However, it is wholly outside the provisions of Mrs. Eddy's 88th *Church Manual*. Mrs. Eddy wrote to the Board of Directors on February 27, 1903: "Never change the by-laws." She then crossed out the word "change" and wrote "abandon" in its place. She evidently knew that the literal words might remain between the covers of a book, but that they would be disregarded.

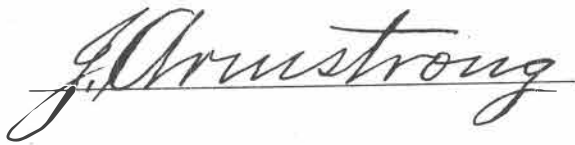
ECUMENISM CONTINUES

A Christian Science lecturer speaking in the far West neglected to mention Christian Science at all during his one-hour talk. When questioned afterwards, he stated that The Mother Church doesn't want to offend people who are opposed to organized religion.

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This was the same teacher who never mentioned Jesus, Mrs. Eddy, or Christian Science in his November 26, 2001, *Sentinel* article and who was described merely as a "spiritual healer" in the short biographical sketch accompanying the article.

The February 2002 *Journal* gave space to the new president of the National Council of Churches and her ecumenical message. (p.51) Spirituality.com (Dec.1, 2001) paid tribute to the late ex-Beatle George Harrison who had embraced Orientalism. "He embraced the idea that all faiths are essentially pointing to one omniscient Being." The *United Religions Initiative* (URI) (Issue 10, 2001) stated "Students came from various faith traditions, including Islam, Judaism, Catholicism, Christian Science" for a "conference exploring the media's role in conflict resolution on campuses." URI was established by radical Episcopal bishop William Swing who says he wants to create "something like the United Nations for all religions." Swiss theologian Hans Kung, a Swing protege, has stated in his Declaration of Global Ethic: "Self-determination and self-realization are thoroughly legitimate so long as they are not separated from...global responsibility, that is...responsibility for fellow humans and for the planet Earth."

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.

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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. Either or both books may be ordered from The Bookmark, P.O. Box 801143, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. Postage & Handling: up to \$10 is \$3.50; \$10.01-\$20.00 is \$4.00; \$20.01-\$30.00 is \$4.50. Phone orders: 1-800-220-7767

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THE BANNER

WAS LOVE *****

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

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THE BORT LETTER

The Christian Science Journal for April 2002 carried a "guest editorial" from Daniel C. Bort, General Counsel of The Mother Church titled "*The Church Manual* -- and mailing funds". Christian Scientists around the country assumed that this was just another denunciation of *The Banner* and the Mailing Fund. Even the *Boston Globe Magazine* of June 9, 2002, assumed that this was the editorial's purpose. Predictably, Mr. Bort states that the directors have total discretion in the management of the Mother Church and that individual church members' only recourse, if they are dissatisfied, is to pray. Mr. Bort even implies that Mrs. Eddy's provisions for confronting members who violate *Church Manual* By-laws do not apply to the board of directors if connected with their official duties since the board is the last resort in matters of discipline. In addition, Article XI, Sections 2 and 4, of the *Church Manual*, which implements "the Scriptural demand in Matthew 18:15-17" (to tell a brother his fault), does not mean that members should follow the instructions of verse 17 to take a case of unacknowledged trespass and "tell it unto the church." Mr. Bort states that this means that the board of directors is "the church" and, therefore, the last resort in any complaint, even if a complaint is against the same board.

MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE

It soon became apparent that the Bort editorial was an attempt at preemptive damage control. As is now well-known in the field, Elaine Natale-Davidson, C.S.B., sent the Christian Science Board of Directors a 144-page letter with accompanying documentation outlining serious violations of the *Church Manual* committed by the board, itself "over the past two decades". (p. 137)

The list of violations of church By-laws range from misrepresenting Christian Science as compatible with New Age activities, altering Mrs. Eddy's *Science and Health*, adulterating Christian Science literature and lectures, undermining the Bible lessons, subverting reading room activities, reinventing the Committee on Publication, displacing the C.S. Publishing Society, and rejecting Mrs. Eddy's leadership. It also condemns Bliss Knapp's *Destiny of The Mother Church*.

The complaint concludes that the board of directors is responsible for all of these violations and demands: "It is your *Manual* duty to replace yourselves in an orderly fashion with individuals who understand what is facing them and who are morally and spiritually prepared to

faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of these offices." (p. 138)

After a period of silence, Mrs. Davidson was finally given an audience with the board. Fellow teacher Joseph Eller accompanied her on March 7, 2002. In a follow-up letter to the board dated March 15, 2002, Mrs. Davidson and Mr. Eller described the meeting: "During the approximately forty-minute meeting, the Directors spoke for a total of about thirty-five of those minutes. Each of you spoke individually, reading directly from scripts that were in front of you. We responded briefly to questions, and we made a few comments here and there. We did not try to present any major argument to the Board, since everything that needed to be said already was in the complaint." The letter went on to state that the board did not find "a single valid charge in the complaint" and that "the entire complaint is comprised of Elaine's 'personal opinions' -- that it is not a compilation of any real evidence of any wrongdoing." In addition the two teachers were admonished not to share the complaint with other church members as "the Board would view this as disobedient, a serious *Manual* violation."

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Banner endorses, to a great degree, what Mrs. Davidson presents in her letter and accompanying documentation. In fact, most of the information has been presented to church members in the pages of *The Banner* for the past fifteen years: The dangers of Islam (Fall 1993); problems with the trade edition of *Science and Health* (Fall 1994); the board of directors statement of infallibility (Winter 1995); the ice machine in the basement of the Publishing Society building (Summer 1997); the end of the reading room lending library discount which signaled the "for profit" reading room initiative and the invasion of the old theological *Dorling Kindersley Illustrated Bible Series* for children (Fall 1997); use of The Mother Church Sunday school building for secular purposes (Winter 1998); Marianne Williamson (Winter & Spring 1999); Whole Life Expos (Spring 2000); a Christian Science "workshop" sharing the same venue with a porn star (Spring 2001); problems with "spirituality.com" (Summer 2001); the Omega Institute and the Church of Today (Winter 2002).

After being alerted by several readers of *The Banner*, the editor sent for a copy of the "Matters of Conscience" letter and documentation on May 4, 2002. An envelope postmarked May 15th returned his check, folded in a plain piece of paper with no explanation given. This did not come as a complete surprise since the Mailing Fund responded the same way a few years before.

Clearly, differences exist that neither the Mailing Fund people nor Mrs. Davidson are willing to talk about. There is no doubt that the issue of Mrs. Eddy's place in Bible prophecy is a major part of the their disagreement with *The Banner*. This newsletter certainly concurs with the view that the board of directors' decision to publish the Bliss Knapp book was motivated by money alone since the board at that time had already washed its hands of any assertion that Mrs. Eddy is mentioned in Bible prophecy. In the documentation section of Mrs. Davidson's "Matters of Conscience", a letter is included which approves of board chairman Harvey Wood's 1991 disavowal of the 1943 pamphlet "Mrs. Eddy's Place". (see p. 4A.10)

While a rehearsal of the Bliss Knapp controversy would be pointless at this time, the words of another of Mrs. Eddy's students can clarify the position held by most of the early workers. To quote from the Summer 1993 *Banner*: "When Mrs. Eddy left for Boston in 1908, she entrusted her house at Pleasant View to Hermann S. Hering and his wife. Prof. Hering wrote to his association on December 1, 1938: 'It is of first importance to see Mrs. Eddy rightly as the woman of prophecy referred to in the Apocalypse, as the one through whom the Comforter came, the second coming of Christ. Unless we see that this revelation came through Mrs. Eddy under divine inspiration, and see it as the inspired word of God, we are not seeing Christian Science rightly. Jesus and Mrs. Eddy were the two witnesses and must be seen as such. Just as Jesus in the flesh must be seen as the one who established the first coming of the Christ, back of whom was the divinely royal man, so Mrs. Eddy in the flesh must be seen as the one who established the second coming of the Christ, back of whom was the divinely royal woman, the God crowned woman of the 12th chapter of the Apocalypse.'"

Another point of disagreement is the suggestion that problems in the church go back just "two decades." (p. 137) The fact is that problems go back to 1910 and even before. The papers of Judge Septimus J. Hanna tell the story of Archibald McLellan, Clifford Smith, and William R. Rathvon wanting to replace Mrs. Eddy with an "advisory council to act in Mrs. Eddy's place if she were unable to give the necessary signature to actions proposed under the bylaws in question." (*Years of Authority*) Adam Dickey refused to present the idea to Mrs. Eddy. It was only when Judge Hanna came to town and heard about the plan, that he told Mrs. Eddy about it. In correspondence to Judge Hanna, she referred to the plan as "a cabal" and described it as a "triumvirate" in a letter to Ira Knapp. It was also at about this time that she dictated and signed her statement, "It took a combination of sinners that was fast to harm me." (November 28, 1910). Robert Peel alludes to this

situation in *Years of Authority*, page 346. In addition, a revised edition of the *Church Manual* (the 89th) was issued on December 17, 1910, just two weeks after the passing of Mrs. Eddy. None of the standard procedures announcing a subsequent edition in the *Christian Science Sentinel* was followed. No evidence proving Mrs. Eddy approved of the changes in her own handwriting has ever been produced. Board member John V. Dittmore stated to the *New York World*, "The death of Mrs. Eddy means little or nothing to us. It is as though any one of us had passed away -- nothing more. This church is run as a plain business proposition, and its future will be directed in accordance with plain business principles."

Albert Allen, publisher of the *Columbus* [Ohio] *News*, asked Archibald McLellan how the board of directors was going to function in Mrs. Eddy's absence. Mr McLellan replied, "How can we get the consent of a dead woman?" (*Christian Science After 1910*, pp. 3, 4)

Returning the church to procedures followed in the the 1980s, as Mrs. Davidson implies, would not solve the problem since the church was already in serious decline during those years. Christian Scientists must go back to 1910 and retrace their steps in order to correct every violation of the 88th *Church Manual*. Mrs. Eddy must be seen in her true light as Hermann S. Hering and other early workers repeatedly stressed.

To obtain a free copy of "Mrs. Eddy's Place", which was first published in the *Christian Science Sentinel* on June 5, 1943, please write to the editor of this newsletter.

FOURTEEN MORE CHURCH CLOSINGS

According to a comparison of *The Christian Science Journal* for March and June 2002, the following churches have closed: La Habra, California; Piedmont, California; Kewanee, Illinois; Gretna, Louisiana; Clinton, Massachusetts; Sturbridge, Massachusetts; McComb, Mississippi; Excelsior Springs, Missouri; North Kansas City, Missouri; Poplar Bluff, Missouri; St. Albans (Queens), New York; Lansdale, Pennsylvania; Galveston, Texas; and Barre, Vermont. During the same period, 10th Church, Kansas City, Missouri, and a society at Maple Valley, Washington, appeared in the *Journal* listings. Since the count began in February 1987, 581 churches have closed and 46 have formed.

U. N. AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

An article titled "With Folk Medicine on Rise, Health Group is Monitoring" appearing in *The New York Times* of May 17, 2002, stated, "Assigning itself a Herculean task, the World Health Organization [of the United Nations] took the first step today toward becoming the global watchdog over unconventional medicine... As defined by the W.H.O., folk medicine -- sometimes called traditional and alternative/

complementary medicine -- includes things from chiropractic care and fad diets in Manhattan to porcupine quill injections in South Africa, shamanistic trances in Siberia, Arabic unani medicine and faith-healing with chicken guts in the Philippines... There's no W.H.O. policy that says, 'You should regulate herbal medicine this way.'... But because it is the leading international health agency, its small initiatives tend to grow in importance."

UPDATE ON CHURCH OF TODAY

The winter 2002 *Banner* reported on two *Detroit Free Press* articles dated November 1 and November 14, 2001. The articles detailed how Marianne Williamson, who had become the spiritual leader of the Church of Today in Warren, Michigan, had proposed that the church break its ties with the Association of Unity Churches and rename itself Renaissance Unity. Only a fraction of the membership had been present for the surprise vote, and after protests from the majority of members who had not been present, a new vote had been scheduled for December 2, 2001. These reports were followed by a period of silence. Then the *Free Press* reported on February 1, 2002, that Ms. Williamson had backed away from "plans for independence after upset congregants threatened to sue to block a split from the parent church." Virginia Harris, chairman of the Christian Science Board of Directors has spoken at Church of Today as has Joni Overton-Jung, a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

MORE BLURRING OF PURPOSES

Marianne Williamson is featured in the July 2002 *Christian Science Journal* along with Islamic and Buddhist scholars. (pp. 30-32) In the same issue, contributing editor Margaret Rogers states: "...the *Journal* was one of the religious publications of the Church of Christ, Scientist, and that for many years it had been primarily a denominational magazine, but that now it is broadening its coverage of the spiritual dimension in the world." (p. 33)

TEMPLETON NEWSPAPER SLAMS C.S.

Research News & Opportunities in Science and Theology, a newspaper sponsored and funded by the Templeton Foundation, never attacks religious groups in its effort to reach a consensus among religious traditions and secular science. However, the issue of April 2002 made an exception in the case of Christian Science. In a "conversation" with Eugenie Scott, who describes herself as "a humanist or a nontheist" [i.e. atheist], she states: "My earliest religious experience was in Christian Science... I remember Sunday school being extraordinarily boring. They gave us Bibles, and we had to count the number of times the word 'love' appeared in it. That was just excruciating for me. My sister, who was about 10 years older than I am, decided that

Christian Science was not fulfilling and took all of us over to the Congregational church close to our house." p. 3) Apparently in response to encouragement from officials at The Mother Church, the Templeton Foundation sent sample copies of their newspaper to branch churches in 2001 with the offer of a free, six-month subscription. Notices are currently being received by churches to pay for a one-year subscription now that the free issue promotion is expiring.

BOSTON GLOBE MAGAZINE ARTICLE

The June 9, 2002, *Boston Globe Magazine* features Virginia Harris on its cover followed by a thirteen page article titled "The Gospel According to Virginia Harris" by Kimberly Blanton. The article recounts Mrs. Harris' life, healings, vision for the church, and the rationale and plans for the new Mary Baker Eddy Library. Among other things, "...computerized quotations from the world's great thinkers will emerge from a fountain and then drift on the water and swirl onto the walls."

"People working at the church say she has the qualities the board was looking for. First of all, this soccer mom seemed so, well, normal. 'Christian Scientists can be a bit eccentric, and Ginny did come across as being your average person,' says Willis Peligian, who worked at the Mother Church from 1988 through 1992.... Harris's charm and facile wit captivated her bosses, the board of directors. She is a keen listener, and what she calls her zest for 'living in the moment' draws attention to her even as she focuses on others.... Just one year after her arrival in Boston, she was promoted from head of Sunday school programs to the prestigious job of clerk. By 1990, she was on the board, and by 1992, she was chairman." Regarding the aggressive promotion of Science and Health: "One critic, who spoke only if he was not quoted, says he cannot fathom how it [*Science and Health*] could be used with the Koran or Buddha's teachings. 'This is a religion which is inherently centered on the gospel and the New Testament,' he says, 'and it's being flattened out to an extent it's compatible with anything.'... In a shrinking denomination, dissenters scattered in branch churches around the country represent a small, albeit significant, minority. But, so far, they seem to be losing the battle to a Christian Science board unafraid of asserting its authority. In April, the board approved an editorial that took aim at two newsletters popular among the disaffected in the branch churches: 'The Mailing Fund' carries thoughtful critiques on church policy; the gossipy 'Banner' [!?] created a buzz last winter by reporting that two board members resigned over serious concerns about the library. Not true, Harris says."

Regarding the report in the Winter 2002 *Banner* that Olga Chaffee and Paul Grimes left the board in protest, that article was carefully titled "Persistent Report".

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Whether the report is true or not, the editor has found that former officials will deny disputes. Time will tell.

**FOR THE RECORD: ANOTHER
CAUTIONARY TALE**

In a story which was bumped by other more pressing news, Alex Beam of *The Boston Globe* on January 18, 2001, reported that Eric Resteiner, a former *Journal*-listed practitioner, "and confederates 'have stolen [an individual's] entire retirement fund as well as the life savings of quite a few Christian Scientists,' an amount [that] could total \$30 million. 'It was Eric's connection with the Church that allowed him to scam people without their suspicion.' Resteiner lived in the Bahamas and left virtually no paper trail. An article published in last summer's *Bahamas Journal* reports that an investor, said to be Resteiner, sold the Christian Science church in Nassau for \$500,000 and absconded with the funds. The *Journal* quoted Daniel Bort, the Christian Science general counsel in Boston, to the effect that 'the money mysteriously disappeared. My understanding is that after they sold the church they gave money to someone who is active in international finance in some way,' Bort added." [<http://boston.com>]

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