

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

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

VOLUME SEVENTEEN/ NUMBER ONE

FALL 2003 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

E-MAIL AND COP RESPONSE

On July 7, 2003, an e-mail rapidly found its way into the electronic mailboxes of Christian Science computer owners around the United States: "The following comes from notes made by one who attended a conference at The Mother Church in Boston from June 22-25 [2003] for new Christian Science Committees on Publication, regional representatives, and departments at The Mother Church, including legal, Committee on Publication, technical and support services, both managers and staff. Many staff members were not Christian Scientists.

"Sessions were conducted mostly by The Mother Church's Committee on Publication, Gary Jones. Virginia Harris, Chairman of The Christian Science Board of Directors, gave an hour talk.

"These were among the points made. 1. In 15 years there would be no more Christian Science branch churches. 2. The Christian Science Church as we know it will no longer exist. 3. The phrase 'Key to the Scriptures', which is largely left out of production materials, refers to all sacred writings, not exclusively the Bible. 4. Words such as 'Church,' 'Bible,' 'Christianity,' and 'Christ' are no longer part of the 'lexicon' of Christian Science Committees on Publication. 5. Christian Science is neither a religion nor a denomination. It is a universal science or truth and belongs to the whole world. It is a 'healing system.' 6. Henceforth, the full-text weekly Christian Science Bible Lesson will be referred to as a 'study-guide'. 7. Christian Science Committee on Publication legislative work will be done for all spiritual healers, not just Christian Scientists." END QUOTE

In response, Gary Jones stated: "1,2,3,4, and 6 have no basis in fact and are unsupportable. Neither Virginia Harris, any Committee staff member, nor I, made those statements, directly or indirectly." While this may or may not be true, other documents and publications strongly suggest that these are Board viewpoints and even policies. The "20 Year Template for Christian Science Reading Rooms Worldwide" used by an instructor to train *Science and Health* coordinators and Reading Room representatives listed the following projections and expectations: In 1999 there were 2200 reading rooms worldwide. In 2002 there would be 2000; in 2004, 1900; in 2009, 1500; and in the year 2019, 800 reading rooms. The template makes no mention whatever of the branch churches, whose reading rooms

these are, according to the *Church Manual*. This represents a projected loss of 1400 reading rooms and, presumably, the same number of branch churches. Therefore, one would have to conclude that the directors envision the demise of branch churches.

Regarding point two and the statement that "Key to the Scriptures" does not refer exclusively to the Bible", *The Christian Science Journal* of November 2002, states, "...one day it occurred to me that Mrs. Eddy didn't name her book *Science and Health* with 'Key to the Bible,' but 'Key to the Scriptures.'... I realized that what Mrs. Eddy gave to the world was not the 'key' to one particular Scripture, but the key to all Scriptures... The truth that is stated in this book is beyond any one human category. It is omni-denominational and is in harmony with the supreme teachings of all great religions." (p. 33) The author of this *Journal* article specifically mentions the Hindu Vedas and Sutras as well as the Koran by name as examples of religious texts he finds to be in harmony with Mrs. Eddy's textbook when, in fact, they are antithetical to true Christianity and Mrs. Eddy's textbook which is based exclusively and thoroughly on the Bible. An article does not get published in the *Journal* without editorial approval. The editor of the *Journal* and the *Sentinel* is Mary Metzner Trammell, a member of The Christian Science Board of Directors since July 18, 2001.

Regarding point four and the assertion that words such as church, Bible, Christianity, and Christ are no longer in the vocabulary of COPs, one can say that they are no longer firmly established in the lexicon of Christian Science lecturers. Instead of vigorous references to Jesus and Christian healing, one now hears generic talk about "spiritual healing" and reaching out to all spiritual "seekers", whether New Age, Wiccan (witch), Kabala, or whatever. One suspects that COPs would adopt the same policy as their Board approved lecturer brethren.

Regarding point six and the claim that the Full-text C.S. Bible lessons will be referred to as a "study guide", the fact is that the Bible lessons are already called exactly that on Spirituality.com. So whether these statements were made at the June meeting or not, they do accurately reflect the Board of Directors's new party line.

Regarding point five which states that "Christian Science is neither a religion or a denomination", the Board approved promotion of *Science and Health* states that it is a non-denominational book when Mrs. Eddy refers to it as "our denominational textbook" on page two of *The Christian Science Quarterly*. It would

logically follow that point seven's assertion about COPs working for all spiritual healers would be in harmony with the Board's current policy as well.

LECTURE PREPARATION

At least one church has developed a strategy to ensure that the lectures they sponsor will conform to the standard set by Mrs. Eddy:

"We have come to the point regarding lectures that we have written prospective lecturers asking them seven questions. 1. How their lecture fulfills the Manual requirements. 2. How it addresses our ~~Leader's~~ expectations stated in [*Miscellany*], page 248. 3. Whether it is clearly Christian and biblical in its emphasis. 4. Whether it gives a clear introduction to the theology of Christian Science and 5. Whether it explains how Christian Science heals, distinguishing it from other 'healing' methods. 6. We ask, regarding form, with what approaches they would be comfortable and 7. What they expect of the sponsoring church.

"We were turned down by several Lecturers, but most never bothered replying. We feel, therefore, that we have fulfilled the Manual requirement, Art. XXXII, Section 4, 'The Mother Church and the branch churches shall call on the Board of Lectureship annually for one or more lectures.' We have 'called on' them to give us a genuine CS lecture. If they are not willing to do so, then we have fulfilled our obligation. Mrs. Eddy, we think wisely, did not say 'have' but 'call on'."

A CASE IN POINT

A "lecture" scheduled for September 7, 2003, deviated from the Manual provisions by substituting the exclusive presentation of Christian metaphysics with a panel discussion to include seven speakers from seven different faiths including Bahai, Muslim, Buddhist, Congregational, Quaker, as well as Christian Science. The "master of ceremonies" was scheduled to be Reed Harris, husband of Board Chairman Virginia Harris. The Christian Science Society of Acton, Massachusetts, declined to participate in the "Cathedral of the Pines lecture held yearly in Rindge, New Hampshire, after many years of support: "For many years, our church has been pleased to contribute toward the annual Christian Science lecture at the Cathedral of the Pines. We have always considered it an important and worthwhile occasion to present the unique perspective of Christian Science. And so it is with regret that we must decline to contribute this year. The reason is, quite simply, that the proposed activity, a panel discussion, does not rise to the level of a Christian Science lecture, as Mary Baker Eddy envisioned it in the Manual of The Mother Church.... Indeed, we find nothing in Mrs. Eddy's inspired plan for the government and activity of her Church that suggests that the Church of Christ, Scientist, should ever provide a forum for authors and

speakers who do not staunchly adhere to the science she discovered."

AUDIT IMPLICATIONS

The annual audit of Mother Church finances for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2003, was completed by the accounting firm of Ernst and Young and became available in August 2003. According to the report, *The Christian Science Monitor* lost \$19.4 million. The other religious periodicals lost \$2.2 million, and the other publishing activities lost \$7.5 million. Also losing money were the broadcasting activities at \$1.9 million and the new Mary Baker Eddy library at \$5.2 million. Mother Church rental properties made \$3.5 million. Income to The Mother Church Administrative Operations has dropped 25%. In 2002 it was \$138 million, and in 2003 it was down to \$104 million. At the same time administrative expenses increased from \$75 million to \$79 million. Net assets dropped 8.4% in 2002 [\$681 million to \$624 million] and in 2003 they dropped 14% [\$624 million to \$534 million]. In other words \$57 million was lost in 2002 and \$90 million last year.

During the Annual Meeting, the Treasurer of The Mother Church said that there was no indebtedness. However, the audit shows an Accrued Pension Liability in 2002 of \$35 million, and it increases to \$41 million in 2003.

The report also states that "The Mother Church established a noncollateralized discretionary line of credit of \$2,500,000 with a bank on May 12, 2003. No line of credit existed at April 30, 2003 or 2002."

The failed Northwind chilled water project housed in the basement of the former Christian Science Publishing Society building paid The Mother Church \$5.3 million to "facilitate adapting or replacing Northwind facility to meet the Church's air conditioning needs."

It would appear that, if net assets were to continue to fall \$90 million per year, and if there is only \$534 million now, that within six years, there will be nothing left.

LIBRARY SALARIES

As a tax exempt organization, "The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity, Inc." must make its revenue, expenses, and assets information available for public inspection. The Internal Revenue Service Form 990 for the period ending April 30, 2002, revealed total expenses to be \$4,067,018. Of that amount, salaries accounted for \$1,109,569. Harvey Wood's daughter earns \$150,577 annually as executive manager. The operations officer earns \$125,481; the executive administrator makes \$105,121; The senior executive assistant \$83,646; and the web producer \$82,269. The total number of other employees paid over \$50,000 is four. Under the category for

"Contributions, gifts, grants..." \$25,960,360 was listed and was presumably given, in large part, by The Mother Church.

The IRS Form 990 for the period ending April 30, 2001, listed the "Summer Soulstice - program running June 2000 to August 2000 reaching hundreds of Boston-area young people. Providing educational and entertaining performances on the Christian Science plaza" as costing \$187,218.

Even though The Mother Church is a tax exempt organization, it is not required to publicize its financial information because it is a church. However, it has been reliably reported that the members of The Christian Science Board of Directors pay themselves \$100,000 per year, not including pension benefits. The current chairman of the Board of Directors has, therefore, earned more than \$1 million since her election to the board in December of 1990. The \$2500 annual salary listed for the directors in the *Church Manual* (p. 29), even if adjusted for inflation, would be approximately \$25,000 in today's dollars.

THE MAILING FUND CEASES

In a letter to supporters dated July 12, 2003, The Mailing Fund announced that it "will cease its mailings with the sending of this letter to you. Your loving concern and prayerful work for our Church certainly must continue! But expectations of future mailings and financial contributions to the Mailing Fund should now cease."

BRANCH CHURCH VOTE

The summer 2003 *Banner* reported that a branch church in the midwest was scheduled to vote on the following motion: "It is moved that this branch provide prayerful, financial and practical support for the activities of The Mother Church and the Christian Science Board of Directors, unconditionally." The motion failed to pass at the meeting of members.

ROTATION IN OFFICE LETTER

Also in the summer 2003 *Banner* was a letter from another branch church to the Christian Science Board of Directors urging them to obey Mrs. Eddy's call for rotation in office. Mrs. Eddy makes this clear in *Miscellany*, page 255 and 256.

The answer received by the branch church from Boston made no mention anywhere about rotation in office, which was the main concern of the branch church, and, instead, focused on the "cabinet style" format of the directors who resumed the pre-1917 practice of also filling the positions of clerk, treasurer, editor, etc.

MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE

A new mailing dated February 10, 2003, from church workers supporting Matters of Conscience includes letters from the Christian Science field to the Christian Science Board of Directors in support of Elaine Natale

Davidson and Joseph Eller. There are fifty-eight letters besides those of Mrs. Davidson and Mr. Eller. Of those, fifty are from Christian Science practitioners, five from Christian Science nurses, and three from Christian Science teachers. After Mrs. Davidson and Mr. Eller were placed on probation and had their associations dissolved, Mrs. Davidson wrote to the board: "Out of the blue, with no attention whatsoever to the Matthew requirement of Article XI, Section 4, and without providing 'sufficient reasons' as specifically required by Article XII, Section 1, your Board has simply leapt over our Leader's directives. By this very act of refusing her *Manual* requirements, your pronouncement is without any real or enforceable authority... Your letter never actually made it clear what the charges are against me... What does justice mean if punishment is doled out without specific charges, without heeding the *Manual's* 'Preliminary Requirement,' without a fair hearing or opportunity to appeal? Such 'discipline' has no meaning. Therefore for conscience' sake I must decline to conform to the Board's notion that I'm on probation and that my association is dissolved. I'll be continuing in the full-time practice, teaching Christian Science, and holding association meetings just as I have been."

Mr. Eller responded to the board: "You have stated publicly that the church welcomes 'lively discussion' among its members of vital church issues. The orderly distribution of 'Matters of Conscience' -- with its firm restriction 'for Mother Church members only' -- should surely qualify as part of this 'lively discussion.' The spirit of Christianity and of Christian Science includes on the most fundamental level our God-bestowed freedom of thought and action." The last page of the mailing states: "As of February 10, 2003, no responses have been received from The Christian Science Board of Directors."

CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the June and September 2003 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* indicates that the following six churches have closed: Auburn, Indiana; Mission Prairie Village, Kansas; Monroe, Louisiana; Ypsilanti, Michigan; Glen Cove, New York; and Altoona, Pennsylvania. Since the count began in February of 1987, 613 churches/societies have closed, and 53 have opened.

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO PROGRAM

The July 23, 2003, "All Things Considered" program included "Profile: Future of the Christian Science Church." "The seeds of change were planted in 1992 when Harris became chairman. She and the four other board members went on a retreat with nothing more than the church manual, or constitution, written by Mary Baker Eddy." Virginia Harris voice: "We asked ourselves the basic question: What if Mary Baker Eddy,

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the founder of this church, handed us the church manual and said, 'Here, I want you to build a church'? What would we do?... We had to strip away what existed. We had to strip away the good, the bad and the ugly." [Banner editor's note: Mrs. Eddy wrote to the directors on February 27, 1903: "Many times a single By-law has cost me long nights of prayer and struggle, but it has won the victory over some sin and saved the walls of Zion from being torn down by disloyal students."] Reporter: "Other changes have followed. For example, a recent journal article suggested that people who smoke and drink, long a taboo in Christian Science, may join the church -- and just in time. This month Val Kilmer, an actor and reader in his local church in Santa Fe, New Mexico, told InStyle magazine that one restaurant wanted to name his favorite margarita after him, but, quote, 'I couldn't choose just one.'... Rumors are rampant that the board hopes that all local churches will close in the next 15 to 20 years. The church vigorously denies that. But when asked about her vision for the church, Virginia Harris seems to choose her words carefully." Virginia Harris: "I see in 20 years Christian Science being a very key component of the public dialogue around the world. And because of that, I would hope that the institution that's charged with making that available -- the Church of Christ, Scientist -- would be a vital institution."

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VOLUME SEVENTEEN / NUMBER TWO

WINTER 2004 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

ONE HUNDRED THOUSANDTH VISITOR

A letter dated September 19, 2003, from Stephen I. Danzansky, Chief Executive Officer of The Mary Baker Library, to "Friends of the library," stated: "About a month ago, the one hundred thousandth visitor walked into The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity."

Commenting on the first anniversary of the library was writer Jon Keller in the September 26, 2003, *Wall Street Journal*: "On one recent Friday at the height of Boston's summer tourist season, the doors opened to a meager morning turn-out of 10 people, all but a reporter over age 50... Computer terminals invite one to play 'My Quest' and offer a menu of questions. We clicked on 'How can I achieve health and wellness?' and were told: 'More and more people are recognizing that spirituality contributes to physical and emotional well-being.' This is perhaps more vague than Mrs. Eddy might have wanted... According to an Eddy biography on the library's Web site, on her sickbed [1866] 'she asked for her Bible and while reading an account of Jesus' healing, found herself suddenly well. Eventually, she referred to this as the moment she discovered Christian Science.'... But the museum exhibit prominently displays a 1907 interview with Dr. Alvin Cushing, her attending physician, who says he treated her injuries just prior to her recovery with a 'new medicine.' Visiting Mrs. Eddy immediately after her striking recovery, the doctor recalled: 'I don't remember that she said anything of prayers having cured her.'... If this seems puzzling, it's consistent with the confusion that the church manifests in its halting efforts to connect with the wider world. For decades before the renovation, healthy numbers of tourists came to visit the building's Mapparium, a giant stained-glass globe that visitors could walk through. But the Mapparium was closed for several years during the rehab work, and local tourism experts say that visitor traffic hasn't returned for a tellingly secular reason: Admission, now \$5, was once free..."

RESURRECTING A MYTH

Why bring back the empty campaign of Frederick W. Peabody and his Next Friends' Suit against Christian Science and Mrs. Eddy? Mr. Peabody's 1907 lawsuit included many curious and sensational charges. One was a statement elicited from Dr. Alvin M. Cushing who had attended Mrs. Eddy right after the February 1866 accident. Cushing's belated testimony, thirty-three years

after the fact, included: "[Mrs. Eddy] left me and was treated by Dr. Quimby, who came to see her in either Lynn or Boston." (p. 231, *MBE: Years of Authority* by Robert Peel.) Peel goes on to state that Dr. Quimby had died seven months prior to his alleged visit to Mrs. Eddy and two weeks before Mrs. Eddy's February 1866 accident. This, along with other inconsistencies and memory lapses, negated the Cushing testimony. The question remains, why does the library give credence and credibility to false statements and then present them to a target audience that has no familiarity with the truth?

CHURCHES WITH ASSETS TARGETED

Some members of Christian Science churches that have significant membership or valuable real estate believe that their branch churches are the focus of special attention by The Mother Church. Typically, a local member, who has close ties to Boston, will submit proposed by-laws as if they originated with him when they were really drafted in Boston. Typical by-law changes include: "Should _____ Church ever cease to function as a Branch or Society of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, then all the assets and property of _____ Church becomes the property of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston. Another typical by-law change states: "Each member shall be devoted to The Mother Church, adhere to its *Manual*, and be loyal to its Board of Directors." In still another submission, newly elected branch church members "must be supportive of the Board of Directors of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts."

In the past, *The Christian Science Journal* has run notices suggesting that any branch church considering updating its by-laws could submit them to Boston for guidance and suggestions. Invariably, the branch church was urged to transfer its assets to The Mother Church in the event of its disbanding. This latest effort represents a more aggressive approach. [See summer 2003 *Banner* for another example of suspected Boston meddling.]

SPIRITUALITY.COM

The Boston Globe of October, 5, 2003, carried an article headlined, "Spiritual but not religious? On a church-sponsored website, Christian Science goes New Age." The article states, "...if you go into the new Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity, with its projected quotations from historical figures from Plato to Helen Keller and electronic kiosks showing ordinary people talking about their various 'spiritual journeys,' you might forget there is a religious group anywhere in the vicinity." The executive editor

of Spirituality.com states that the web site "was created for a 'community of readers' who 'belong to any faith community or no faith community, wherever they are on their spiritual journey.' She boasts about the popularity of the site's e-cards, the gist of which, she says, is simply that 'Today will be good.' Concerning Mrs. Eddy's writings, Spirituality.com's director continues, "Adopt whatever you want to adopt from it. Incorporate whatever you want to incorporate." She notes, 'We see that a lot on the site.'"

Editor's note: In response to this forlorn, cafeteria style approach to spirituality and religion, -- an approach that insures failure --, Mrs. Eddy states, "Divine Science derives its sanction from the Bible, and the divine origin of Science is demonstrated through the holy influence of Truth in healing sickness and sin... Divine metaphysics is now reduced to a system, to a form comprehensible by and adapted to the thought of the age in which we live. This system enables the learner to demonstrate the divine Principle, upon which Jesus' healing was based, and the sacred rules for its present application to the cure of disease... Although this volume contains the complete Science of Mind-healing, never believe that you can absorb the whole meaning of the Science by a simple *perusal* of this book." (S&H, pp. 146, 147)

CIRCULATION OF THE NEW SENTINEL

The October 13, 2003, *Christian Science Sentinel* reported its latest circulation and subscription information according to U.S. Postal Service regulations: 45,047 paid subscriptions. This represents a loss of 3,213 subscriptions since last year, or a net loss of 5,821 subscriptions since the *Sentinel* began its new, ecumenical version in January of 1998. The compiled figures for the seven most recent years follow:

1997	44,995
1998	50,868
1999	53,290
2000	46,342
2001	48,899
2002	48,260
2003	45,047

MONITOR CONTENT

In *Miscellaneous Writings*, Mrs. Eddy states, "At this date, 1883, a newspaper edited and published by the Christian Scientists has become a necessity... It is not alone the mission of Christian Science to heal the sick, but to destroy sin in mortal thought. This work well done will elevate and purify the race... Looking over the newspapers of the day, one naturally reflects that it is dangerous to live, so loaded with disease seems the very air. These descriptions carry fears to many minds, to be depicted in some future time upon the body. A periodical of our own will counteract to some extent this

public nuisance; for through our paper, at the price at which we shall issue it, we shall be able to reach many homes with healing, purifying thought. (pp. 4, 5)

During a three day period, the *Monitor* carried articles with questionable content. An otherwise informative article about Tantric witchcraft in India, included the unnecessarily lurid detail of people bathing in a sacrificed child's blood. (p. 7, 12-3-03). The next day, a reporter who covered the recent placing of a statue of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin in a Siberian village included an unedifying detail: "Just as we were leaving, a dog came by and lifted a leg. My interpreter and taxi driver couldn't contain their laughter over the pooch's irreverence." (p. 6) The December 5th newspaper carried an article titled: "What women really want: massages" complete with a picture caption: "Ahh This feels great". (pp. 13, 14) One must ask if this trend of appealing to the lowest common denominator has paid off.

MONITOR CIRCULATION FIGURES

The October 7, 2003, issue of *The Christian Science Monitor* listed 72,463 paid subscriptions for the latest report required by the U.S. Postal Service. This represents a loss of 4,847 subscriptions since last year. The circulation figures for the fourteen most recent reporting years follow:

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
2002	77,310
2003	72,463

The *Monitor* began its current, scaled-down color format in January 1989 when all advertising was eliminated from its pages. Almost overnight, the advertising committees in branch churches, that had supported the newspaper by obtaining lucrative regional advertisements, were disbanded. When the paper once again began soliciting advertisers, it was too late. The net loss of subscriptions since 1989 is 83,783.

EIGHT MORE CHURCH CLOSINGS

According to a comparison of the September and December 2003 issues of *The Christian Science Journal*, the following churches/societies have closed: Globe, Arizona; Julian, California; New London, Connecticut; Skokie, Illinois; Muncie, Indiana; La Grande, Oregon;

Harlingen, Texas; and Yoakum, Texas. Since the count began in February 1987, 621 churches have closed and 53 have opened.

PRACTITIONERS AND TEACHERS

The Christian Science Journal of January 2004 listed 1,507 practitioners and teachers worldwide:

Practitioners Worldwide

Jun 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
Jul 2002	1,642
Jul 2003	1,546
Jan 2004	1,507

Teachers (Still teaching classes*)

Mar 1992	250
Mar 1995	239
Dec 1997	209*
Jan 2000	193*
Jan 2001	189*
Jan 2002	190*
Jul 2002	183*
Jul 2003	169*
Jan 2004	166*

The June 1951 figure of 10,503 practitioners was announced at the 1951 annual meeting and published in the July issue of *The Christian Science Journal* of that year.

RELIGIOUS WAR

An article in the December 5, 2003, *International Jerusalem Post* reported, "In post-Christian Europe, a new cult of 'Palestinianism' has been created, said Egyptian-born and Swiss-based [Bat] Ye'or, who is the world authority on dhimma, literally 'protection,' the status of inferiority imposed by Islamic civilization on Jews and Christians. From the moment the average European gets up in the morning and turns on the radio he is bombarded by the message that the world revolves around Palestine -- not on the Muslim-perpetuated genocide in the Sudan, with its two million Christian and Animist victims, or any other ongoing atrocity of a similar scale... On the theological front, Christianity is being detached from its Jewish roots as the Jewish Jesus is replaced with an Arab Palestinian one, emphasizing the traditional Muslim view that Jesus was a Muslim prophet. Yet the dialogue of this Christian-Muslim symbiosis carefully hides the Islamic belief that Jesus will come back to destroy the Christian faith, said Ye'or. Ye'or added that Europeans feel that by declaring war on terrorism after September 11, Bush endangered their own policy of buying off Islamic terrorism by complying

with Arab demands... According to a *Financial Times* [of London] story last month, the [European Union's] racism watchdog has refused to publish a report on anti-Semitism that said Muslims and pro-Palestinian groups were behind many attacks on Jewish sites [in Europe]." [www.jpost.com/International]

EDITORIAL

Osama Bin Laden's Islamic terrorist apparatus is commonly identified by the press as "al-Qaida," a word that literally means "the center". The actual name of the organization is "The World Islamic Front for Jihad Against the Jews and Crusaders." Strangely, this true title is very rarely mentioned by the media and *never* spoken by any world leader. Perhaps the reason for this avoidance is to protect those Muslims who are not involved with terrorism. Or maybe it is the desire to avoid alarming people. However, because of the reluctance to state the true name of this terrorist organization, the people of the West are being kept in the dark as to the true dimensions of the current battle. Westerners tend to believe that religious wars are a relic of more barbaric times in the distant past. We are, however, in such a war today. Thus far, only militant Islamists know this. They believe it is their religious duty to eradicate both Judaism and Christianity and impose Islam. Immigration by Muslims to Western countries proceeds at a steady rate. Today in London, more people attend the mosque every week than go to church. The Muslim population of France is approaching twenty percent. Assimilation of these people into Western culture is seriously in doubt. Christians should know that Muslims view Jesus as a flawed prophet who was punished by Allah for referring to himself as the Son of God. Christianity, as it exists in the West today, is in a very weakened condition after decades of gradual abandonment of Christian morality and conduct. Fewer people today even identify themselves forthrightly as Christians. At the same time, secularism is being aggressively extended by intellectual atheists and agnostics, who simply cannot conceive of anything more intelligent than themselves. Nominal, non-practicing Christians and others, who simply identify themselves as "nice, spiritually-minded" consumers, are not morally or dispositionally prepared to defend Western civilization. It behooves alert Christian Scientists and all other Christians to do this. In a letter written by Mrs. Eddy to Frederick Dixon, dated April 11, 1909, she urged him "to return immediately to defend England against the increasing onslaught of animal magnetism pouring into her borders." Might not a similar call be made to alert Christian Scientists everywhere today? See *Miscellaneous Writings*, page 177: 1-20.

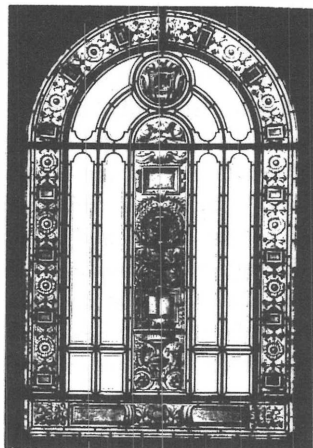
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Eugene, Oregon, wrote to subscribers, "In early March of 2002 I received a letter from Daniel C. Bort, General Counsel of The Mother Church." [Mr. Bort's letter stated that the service "appears to us to violate the copyright of The Christian Science Publishing Society..."] Mrs. Onley-Parrish continues: "I was astounded, since Boston has known about our publication since it began in 1988... Rather than respond personally, it seemed wise to retain an attorney which I did... There didn't seem to be any resolution -- without the potential for huge legal fees (with no guaranteed outcome) -- so I instructed the attorney to close my file... I declared bankruptcy -- for myself and the business."

2003 NORMAL CLASS

The normal class for 2003 was taught by J. Thomas Black of Birmingham, Michigan. There were fifteen pupils: Mrs. Georgia Powers Bullock of Houston, Texas; Alessandra P. Colombini of Sao Paulo, Brazil; Mrs. Christine Jenks Driessen [daughter of Elizabeth Ruth Jenks, C.S.B.] of Wausau, Wisconsin; Mrs. Barbara M. Fife of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; Mrs. Lesley E. Gort of Stockport, Greater Manchester, England; Don L. Griffith of Decatur, Georgia; Joni Overton-Jung of Toronto, Ontario, Canada [pupil of Virginia Harris]; Mrs. Josephine Hillyard of Winchester, Hampshire, England; Giulia N. Plum of Redding, Connecticut [pupil of Virginia Harris]; Elizabeth

L. Schaefer of McLean, Virginia [wife of Congressman Lamar S. Smith]; Mrs. Fujiko T. Signs of Boalsburg, Pennsylvania and Japan; Mrs. Sabrina Stillwell of Ogden, Utah; Robert Townsend Warneck of Burlington, Vermont; Mrs. Judy L. Wolff of Arlington, Virginia [daughter of Mrs. Jacklyn J. Williams, C.S.B.] The identity of the fifteenth member of the class was not available at press time.

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by Andrew W. Hartsook

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

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

VOLUME SEVENTEEN / NUMBER THREE

SPRING 2004 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

SIX SENIOR MANAGERS FIRED

A letter from Virginia Harris dated January 29, 2004, addressed to "All Employees of The Mother Church and The Christian Science Publishing Society" announced: "The Christian Science Board of Directors is taking steps to reorganize our collective response on a more cohesive, effective, and sustainable path to serve humanity and meet today's burgeoning spiritual demand... Next week, we will share our plans and next steps for this organization at an essential meeting for all Mother Church and Publishing Society employees... In the meantime, we would like to publicly express our deepest gratitude for several senior Managers who have contributed significantly to the mission of this organization, and are going forward to new chapters."

The six fired managers include: Julia Bandrapalli and Diane Bailey of The Writings of Mary Baker Eddy; Shirley Schwaller, Executive Manager for the Office of the Clerk; Casey Wright, Managing publisher for The Writings of Mary Baker Eddy and Manager of College and University Activities; Dan Bort, General Counsel of The Mother Church; and Ken Raymond, Manager of Site Services, who oversaw the "completion of the Restoration and Renewal program... and construction of The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity."

FEBRUARY 4TH MEETING

The promised employees' meeting was held on February 4, 2004. Virginia Harris asked, "How do we realign our resources and energies to accomplish Mary Baker Eddy's vision?" Mrs. Harris introduced Mother Church Treasurer Walter Jones who was given the task of discussing how The Mother Church (TMC) and the Christian Science Publishing Society (CSPS) would move forward in the 21st Century. He emphasized that the old way of doing things through departments was outmoded since the root word for department means to divide. He suggested that a new structure was needed to unify and integrate the organization by functions. This would require flexibility, cooperation, giving up "territorial" thinking in order to streamline and consolidate operations.

Mr. Jones also stated that while TMC's assets remain strong at over \$500 million, TMC has had to subsidize CSPS since 1960. The online version of *The Christian Science Monitor* has not yet translated into subscriptions. Mrs. Eddy expected CSPS to turn over profits to TMC. Expenses outpace revenues, and the

ongoing costs from the unrestricted funds amount to \$67 million. The Christian Science Board of Directors is requiring greater accountability by the Boards of CSPS and the new Mary Baker Eddy Library. The CSPS is being called upon to break even by 2008 and to make a profit by 2009. The MBE Library will require financial support from outside friends as well as from contributions from TMC members. It needs to establish a model that is self-sustaining.

It was also announced that The Christian Science Board of Directors had set up a "transitional structure" of eight senior managers who will operate around function, not department: 1. Carol Hohle, Writings of MBE and editorial CSPS activities; 2. Ned Odegaard, making financial needs known to local and global activities; 3. Karen Craft (resigning absentee trustee of CSPS) manager of CSPS; 4. Victor Westberg replaces Craft as CSPS trustee and remains as director; 5. Steve Danzansky remains as CEO of MBE Library; 6. Karen Manden and Gary Jones are to consolidate communications group; 7. Chris Raymond (operations) and Barbara Burley, consolidate financial planning; 8. a new executive office will be created to help the board of directors.

It was also announced that three other senior managers would take up new positions: Bill Dawley, editor of CS publications; Mary Metzner Trammell, editor in chief of the CS religious publications; and David Hohle, CS college organizations. It was emphasized that expenses must be brought down to current levels of contributions, anticipating future increases. At this point of the meeting, the employees broke up into smaller groups so that they could ask managers questions about the reorganization plans.

Subsequently, Virginia Harris returned to announce June appointments: Lyle R Young of Ontario, Canada, is to be the new First Reader and Suzanne M. Cowin of Boca Raton, Florida, will be Second Reader. These readers will conduct two English services and one Spanish service on Sundays and Wednesdays. Cynthia Alyce Neely of Chicago, Illinois, has been appointed as new President of The Mother Church. She will reside in Boston and will be "interactive" with the local and global community. [This account of the employees' meeting is based on notes of one who attended.]

BOSTON GLOBE

Donovan Slack of *The Boston Globe* attended the meeting and reported on February 5th: "The church plans to review the operations of the printed edition of the Christian Science Monitor newspaper and may begin

charging for subscriptions to the online version, according to church officials and an employee at the Monitor. The online edition records 4 million unique site visits per month, while the print edition, published five days a week, has about 70,000 subscribers...

"According to figures published in the *Christian Science Journal*, the church's overall capital, not including fixed assets, dropped from \$360 million in 2000 to \$236 million in 2003. Yesterday, church officials said that number, which includes holdings with restricted uses, rose to \$247 million at the end of 2003. Operating capital dropped from \$143 million to \$67 million from 2000 to 2003, according to the *Journal* figures. Harris said in the interview that the church has been drawing down the bank account balance 'by design.' 'Now,' she said, 'we must take a look at the rate that we're drawing it down and assess whether we want to continue at that rate.'" More ominously, the *Globe* reported: "During yesterday afternoon's meetings, attended by one *Globe* reporter and monitored through an audio feed by another reporter, several church officials mentioned electronic publishing as an alternative for reaching readers. Jones said that using the Internet might allow the church to save money and reach more people." Also: "Production and distribution of [the CS religious periodicals] will be contracted out to other companies, Harris said. The full-text printout of the Weekly Bible Lessons may be discontinued, and the monthly Herald probably will move its operations out of Boston." The church's subsidy of the Publishing Society has risen from \$4 million annually to more than \$20 million. Mr. Slack also reported: "The church has about 800 employees and 2,200 branch churches around the world, church officials said."

C.O.P VS. BOSTON GLOBE

Gary Jones sent out a "corrective" memo to all COPs stating that the *Globe* article contained three errors. According to Mr. Jones, the full-text lessons will not be discontinued. Production and distribution of the periodicals will not be contracted out to other companies, but rather other countries, and the subsidy by TMC for the Publishing Society has not grown from \$4 million to \$20 million, but has ranged from \$4 million to \$12 million.

When asked about these alleged mistakes by an assistant Committee on Publication member in a branch church, Donovan Slack responded: "Thank you SO MUCH for letting me know about this. If the article truly had errors, Harris would have demanded corrections from the *Globe*. There was no such request, not even a phone call to complain." Regarding the statement that the full-text lessons would be discontinued, Mr. Slack maintained, "This was stated as fact by Karen Craft at the Publishing Society's smaller group meeting -- which

I attended -- after the general meeting." Regarding the alleged error that production and distribution of publications would be contracted out to other companies, Mr. Slack indicated, "This was stated by Harris in an interview with the *Globe* -- Here's a direct quote from Ms. Harris: 'We publish magazines monthly and quarterly in 12 to 16 languages. Those are written in the field, sent here, edited, and shipped back, and mailed from there. You can imagine what that costs. It will be done in remote locations. Those will be some cost savings.'" Regarding the statement in the *Globe* that TMC's subsidy of CSPS has grown from \$4 million to more than \$20 million, Mr. Slack replied, "That was stated as fact by Karen Craft at the Publishing Society's smaller group meeting -- which I attended -- after the general meeting."

Interestingly, an article about this same employees' meeting in the February 5th *Wall Street Journal* confirms Mr. Slack's version of the disputed facts regarding the discontinuation of the full-text Weekly Bible Lessons and the contracting out of some publications to other companies.

SENTINEL ARTICLE

The *Christian Science Sentinel* of February 23, 2004, carried an article announcing the sweeping changes, but few details were given. Walter Jones is quoted as saying "This is a time for Christian Scientists everywhere to be more prayerfully and financially engaged in the mission of Christian Science."

SUBSIDIZING THE PUBLISHING SOCIETY

Donovan Slack's *Boston Globe* article, based on his attendance of the February 4, 2004, Mother Church employees' meeting, stated: "Church officials said the subsidy [of The Christian Science Publishing Society] has grown from \$4 million annually to more than \$20 million." COP Gary Jones subsequently disputed these figures: "For each of the last four (fiscal) years, the subsidy has ranged from about \$4 - \$12 million."

Forbes magazine of December 15, 1997, reported that *The Christian Science Monitor* was losing \$11.5 million per year at a time when there were 77,507 subscribers to the newspaper. A March 8, 2004, advertisement soliciting donations for support of the *Monitor* stated, "The Monitor's funding comes mainly from three sources: subscribers (30 percent), advertisers (5 percent), and donors (60 percent). If subscribers alone had to foot the bill, a year's subscription would cost \$500 instead of the current \$199." The latest figures give 72,463 subscribers. [See Winter 2004 *Banner*] At \$500 per subscription, the overall cost to the Publishing Society would be \$36,231,500. The revenue from paid subscriptions would be \$14,420,137 leaving \$21,811,363 to be covered by subsidy and donations (60 percent), and advertising (5 percent). These are

approximate figures since the numbers and percents given in the advertisement do not add up to one hundred percent.

THE FUTURE OF THE MONITOR

The announced demand at the employees' meeting that the Publishing Society break even financially by the year 2008 and show a profit by 2009 leaves the *Monitor* with a very uncertain future. The February 5th, *Wall Street Journal* article regarding the employees' meeting stated, "The online edition [of the *Monitor*] records 4 million unique site visits per month, while the print edition has about 70,000 subscribers. 'What that suggests to me is a whole lot of people like what they get from the Christian Science Monitor, and those people are reading it online,' Harris said. 'We have to take a look at how people are getting their news and want to engage with Monitor journalism.'" Also: "The church may begin charging for subscriptions to the online version of the Christian Science Monitor, according the church officials and an employee at the Monitor."

The *Monitor* changed its format from the standard, full-size newspaper page to tabloid size in 1975. Church members were assured that this represented the wave of the future and that other major newspaper would follow the *Monitor's* lead. None did. Then in 1989, the *Monitor* was further reduced to a smaller version with color pictures, and no advertising. Secret meetings at the time, which excluded the *Monitor's* editor, Kay Fanning, discussed the possibility of discontinuing the newspaper altogether, but word of the discussions leaked out, and the plan was abandoned. Subscriptions plummeted along with revenues. (See page 167, *Christian Science After 1910* by *Banner* editor) It would seem probable that the print edition of the *Monitor* will cease publication, perhaps, later this year if the directors hope to attain their goal of "break even" by 2008. It should be noted that no legitimate publication that has attempted to sell subscriptions to online versions on the Internet has been able to make a profit. This would be one more step towards the total demise of *The Christian Science Monitor*.

CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the December 2003 and March 2004 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* indicate that the following six churches/societies have closed: Holmes Beach, Florida; Antioch, Illinois; Setauket, New York, Tulsa (5th), Oklahoma; Carlisle, Pennsylvania; and Pigeon Forge-Gatlinburg, Tennessee. At the same time a new society has formed in Providence, Rhode Island. Since the count began in February 1987, 627 churches have closed, and 54 have opened.

ABSENTEE TRUSTEES

The recent news from Boston confirmed that the

Deed of Trust for The Christian Science Publishing Society is effectively null and void. Neither of the recently resigned Publishing Society trustees, Karen Craft and Nathan Talbot, resided in Boston. Ms. Craft lived in California, and Mr. Talbot lived in Idaho. The January 28, 2004, *Monitor* noted that Mr. Talbot would be moving to Boston to assume his duties as the newly elected member of The Christian Science Board of Directors. The Deed of Trust of the Publishing Society states, "Said trustees shall energetically and judiciously manage the business of the Publishing Society on a strictly Christian basis... Also Mrs. Eddy required "...the agreement by the trustees to honestly and faithfully do and perform all things to be done and performed by them within the terms, objects and purposes of this instrument." It would be impossible to fulfil these terms of the Deed of Trust while residing two or three thousand miles from the daily business operations conducted in Boston. It is said that the original three trustees included a metaphysician, an English scholar, and a businessman, thereby insuring the integrity of the Christian Science publications. This is certainly not the case today.

TOMORROW'S GOD

Neale Donald Walsch, a guest on The Mother Church's web site, Spirituality.com, in July of 2002, has a new book titled *Tomorrow's God*. An advertising blurb for the book states, "This extraordinary new book by Neale Donald Walsch contains a startling prediction: the human race will create a new God in the next quarter century." In his previous series of books titled: *Conversations with God*, Mr. Walsch stated that the Bible was not an authoritative source for learning about God, and he urged readers to "Listen to your feelings." He also stated that "Hitler went to heaven... Hitler didn't hurt anyone. In a sense, he didn't inflict suffering, he ended it." In introducing Mr. Walsch for Spirituality.com, the Mother Church spokesman stated, "Conversing with God can bring us comfort and tangible results in these uncertain times... Join Neale Donald Walsch in an interactive dialogue to discuss how a real, working relationship with God -- and with ourselves -- can change every notion we ever held about who we are and how we live." [See Fall 2002 *Banner* for details.]

THE MONITOR'S RELIGIOUS ARTICLE

A summer 2003 e-mail, sent out to prospective freelance contributors to the *Monitor's* daily religious article on the The Home Forum page, stated: "This is a column in the newspaper where spiritual topics are freely discussed. The goal is not to promote Christian Science but to offer readers from various backgrounds a thoughtful perspective on how God relates to the issues and problems of the day... We look for lively writing that isn't preachy. You don't have to be a member of

Andrew W. Hartsook
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the Christian Science Church to contribute to this column. At the same time, the articles need to be consonant with the basic tenets of Christian Science..."

DOOR TO DOOR

An article in the February 2004 *Christian Science Journal* titled "Sharing Science and Health -- one neighbor at a time" advocates selling the Christian Science textbook through door to door solicitation.

Interestingly, Mrs. Eddy rejected an initial version of the *Christ and Christmas* picture "Truth versus Error" that depicted the woman carrying a book precisely because it suggested door to door solicitation. The picture was revised to show the woman holding a scroll instead.

KEY NOTE VERSUS GOLDEN TEXT

The compact disc and video versions of the Christian Science Bible Lessons now use the term "Key Note" rather than "Golden Text" as specified by Mrs. Eddy.

XEROXED HYMNS

One of the three hymns sung in The Mother Church is now selected from hymnals of other denominations and handed out to members of the congregation in xeroxed form.

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

VOLUME SEVENTEEN / NUMBER FOUR

SUMMER 2004 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

MONITOR LOSES LIBEL SUIT

A Reuters news story dated March 19, 2004, with a dateline of London states: "Labour MP George Galloway has accepted libel damages from an American newspaper over a story which alleged he took \$10 million to support former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein." The story titled "Newly found Iraqi files raise heat on British MP" appeared on the front page of the April 25, 2003, issue of *The Christian Science Monitor*. After being alerted to the probability that the documents on which the story was based were forgeries, the *Monitor* apologized to Mr. Galloway in the June 20th issue. Letters from *Monitor* readers chided the newspaper's poor judgment in the June 26th issue. As part of the court settlement, the *Monitor* agreed to pay "substantial, undisclosed damages," make a public apology in court, and pay Mr. Galloway's legal costs. The only other known account of this court action was carried by *The London Daily Telegraph* of April 25, 2004. That newspaper is also being sued by Mr. Galloway "based on a different set of documents." That case is due to be heard in November of this year.

This libel case received almost no press coverage in the United States, and it is believed that no disclosure of it has been made by any official source of The Mother Church. Since the amount of damages paid by the church is unknown, --but is said to be substantial--, it is possible that the anticipation of this negative judgment in the libel suit was the trigger for the draconian firings and cost cuts announced by Virginia Harris in her letter to Mother Church employees dated January 29, 2004, and in the employees meeting which followed on February 4th. (See Spring 2004 *Banner*)

CONTINUING FINANCIAL CRISIS

An April 3, 2004, article by Donovan Slack and Beth Healy of *The Boston Globe* revealed that The Mother Church has fired nearly one-quarter of the church staff, terminated tours of Mrs. Eddy's homes owned by the church as well as tours of the church edifices. "Behind the majestic facade of the world headquarters in the Back Bay lies an organization reeling from an ambitious \$100 million spending spree that has spurred its worst financial crunch in a decade... In addition, the *Globe* found \$60 million in accounting errors in the public financial filings of the church and its affiliates, mistakes officials said they were unaware of until the *Globe* brought them to their attention. Subsequently, church officials blamed them on their auditors at Ernst & Young." The church brought in Wall Street executive

Edward J. Odegaard last fall "to help with fund-raising and last month was put in charge of its day-to-day finances." Another accounting error was the listing of \$80.5 million as the amount spent on the new Mary Baker Eddy library. "But church officials said that the \$80.5 million was an error; in fact, less than \$30 million had been spent at that point. Their outside auditors signed off on the error, which was not caught by their own accountants... To some church employees and members, the auditing errors are a reflection of poor financial management of the church... The last time the church faced significant financial difficulties was in the early 1990s, after a failed effort to build a television and radio empire. The church lost \$327 million on its cable TV venture alone, and the losses sent shockwaves through the church, resulting in a large number of layoffs and the resignation of its chairman, Harvey W. Wood. His successor, Virginia S. Harris, remains chairman of the church and its 2,000 branches in 80 countries." (*The Boston Globe*: www.boston.com)

THE FUTURE OF THE MONITOR

Recent reports indicate that the budget for *The Christian Science Monitor* has been placed on a month to month, rather than yearly basis, and the budget has been cut by twenty percent. For now, each issue will have twenty pages. The last edition having twenty-four pages appeared on February 9th. Information received indicates that the newspaper may be cut by two more pages. Voluntary resignations are being urged and accepted. The April 3rd *Globe* article stated: "The travel budget at the newspaper has also been slashed, curtailing reporters' abilities to gather news, according to a *Monitor* employee. Paul Van Slambrouch, editor of the *Monitor* acknowledged the belt-tightening. 'We at the *Monitor* realize we're facing really steep numbers here,' he said. 'We're going to do our best to grow our way out of this, rather than cut our way out of this.'"

The *Monitor* of March 26th ran a commentary extolling the virtues of newspapers printed on actual paper as opposed to virtual, on-line computer versions. The April 26th *Christian Science Sentinel* ran an article praising the on-line version: "Number of visitors surge at *The Christian Science Monitor*'s website." Unfortunately, internet versions of newspapers do not make a profit or even pay expenses. Newspapers use them as adjuncts to their print editions. With the demand that The Christian Science Publishing Society break even by 2008 and show a profit by 2009, the future of the print *Monitor* seems very much in doubt. The current yearly subsidy for the paper is \$20 million.

GAY MARRIAGE OF C.S.B.

The Associated Press of May 20, 2004, ran a story, complete with photographs, of a wedding between Kathleen Clementson, C.S.B. and Suzanne Nightingale of Cape Coral, Florida. The marriage was performed in Brewster, Massachusetts, in accordance with that state's Supreme Judicial Court ruling last November legalizing same-sex unions. The AP story included photographs of the couple embracing and drinking champagne in celebration of their wedding. Ms. Clementson claims that leaders of the church in Boston and in Cape Coral support her. Ms. Clementson, in addition to being a teacher of Christian Science, has been a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship. She was also a guest on The Mother Church's Spirituality.com, but the transcript of her May 9th "chat" titled "How Can We Make A Difference In The World?" has apparently been removed from the website archives. The story of the wedding was repeated around the country and even in France. Not all of the stories, however, noted Ms. Clementson's association with Christian Science.

Committees on Publication from around the country were besieged with telephone calls from branch church assistant committees and by ministers from other denominations asking for the church's position. Requests for guidance from the CoP in Boston were met with initial silence. An inquirer sent an e-mail to the church's website <info@churchofchristscientist.org> asking for the board's position on same-sex marriage and if Ms. Clementson would be allowed to keep her name in the Journal and continue as a teacher. The less than direct response from the "Communications Office" stated, "The recent developments in Massachusetts have raised important legal issues which we are carefully reviewing. Lots of prayer, spiritual searching, compassion, and precious love are at the heart of this church and you can be sure they will be very much a part of the ongoing consideration given this issue." It was reported elsewhere that Ruth Elizabeth Jenks, C.S.B. of Chicago (stationed in Boston) has stated that the board of directors has asked Ms. Clementson to contact newspapers that reported her marriage to tell them that the board did not, in fact, support the marriage.

Four days after the Associated Press article was published and widely reported in Massachusetts, the May 24, 2004, *Monitor* carried a story titled "Romney rides volatile issue onto US stage." The article about the Massachusetts governor's response to the Supreme Judicial Court's same-sex marriage ruling included a photograph of two hands of a recently married couple. The fringed sleeves of the two people and the sprig of lilies of the valley that the hands are holding match exactly the photographs appearing in Associated Press stories which clearly show the faces of Kathleen

Clementson and Suzanne Nightingale. Also, Elise Amendola, the photographer for the *Monitor*'s picture is the same one who took the other photographs of the couple appearing in various stories around the country. An article from a North Carolina newspaper with a story titled "New market opens for gay wedding apparel" shows Clementson and Nightingale again with the same outfits and the same lilies of the valley taken by the same photographer.

It is reported that the newest board member and clerk, Nathan Talbot, informed Ms. Clementson that her name was being removed from *The Christian Science Journal* and that her association of pupils was being dissolved. Gary Jones, Committee on Publication, is quoted as saying that the church never supported the marriage. In response, Ms. Clementson is said to have resigned her membership in The Mother Church. This was all concluded by the end of the week of June 13th.

The sequence of events calls into question the directors' original position on this subject. Would Ms. Clementson have stated openly that she had the board's support if, in fact, she did not? She had been in touch with church officials as recently as May 9th for her appearance on Spirituality.com. Would the *Monitor* knowingly print the photograph of Ms. Clementson's and Ms. Nightingale's hands in their May 24th article if the board had disapproved? Would the inquirer to The Mother Church's Communications Office have received a "wait and see" response if the board's position was unambiguous? It is reasonable to conclude that the board was initially open to Ms. Clementson's action, but that the disapproval from the Christian Science field was too strong to ignore or resist. With all their other problems, this was one controversy too many.

FORMER PRACTITIONER INDICTED

The *Boston Herald* of March 26, 2004, reported, "One of those believed to be the mas terminds of a scam that bilked more than \$30 million from investors, many of them Christian Science Church members, was indicted yesterday on 18 counts of wire fraud, money laundering and mail fraud. But officials aren't sure if Eric E. Resteiner, 44, arrested in Singapore last month and awaiting extradition to the United States, has any of the loot left. He allegedly helped scam about 50 church members and others in Massachusetts, around the United States and the Bahamas. An indictment handed down yesterday said Resteiner used some of the investors' money to 'support a lavish lifestyle' featuring a swank Swiss villa, yacht, airplane and helicopter and cars including two Rolls Royces, two Hummers and a Porsche." (<http://business.bostonherald.com>)

The website of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission also reports, "The court had previously entered judgments by consent against two other

individuals involved in Resteiner's fraudulent investment scheme, Charles G. Dyer and Miles M. Harbur [formerly chief financial officer of The Christian Science Publishing Society and currently a *Journal*-listed practitioner], and against two entities controlled by Dyer, Resource F, LLC and Bunker Hill Aviation, LLC."

(<http://www.sec.gov/litigation/litreleases/lr18648.htm>)

The Banner had previously reported Mr. Resteiner's and Mr. Harbur's activities in the Summer 2002 and the Winter 2003 issues.

SENTINEL MOTTO CHANGED AGAIN

The Spring 2002 *Banner* reported that Mrs. Eddy's motto for the *Christian Science Sentinel* "What I say unto you I say unto all, WATCH." -- Jesus" was removed from the cover of her periodical effective with the January 14, 2002, issue and replaced with "Watching the world from a spiritual perspective." The motto has undergone yet another change. As of May 17, 2004, it now reads: "Exploring the world of spirituality and healing." (See Spring 2002 *Banner* for details.)

CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the March and June 2004 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* reveals that the following eight churches have closed: El Cajon, California; Minneapolis (6th), Minnesota; Ocean City, New Jersey; Highland Heights, Ohio; Lakewood, Ohio; Del Rio, Texas; Port Angeles, Washington; and Waupaca, Wisconsin. During the same period one new society has formed at Belgrade, Montana. Also during this period, Second Church, New York City, has assumed the name First Church of Christ, Scientist, New York. Since the count began in February 1987, **635** churches have closed and **55** have opened.

HISTORIC BUILDING FOR SALE

The Christian Science Pavilion for the 1965 New York World's Fair is for sale. After the closing of the fair, the building was dismantled and moved to California where it has served as First Church of Christ, Scientist, Poway, California. The building is in the shape of a sevenpointed star and was designed by Edward Durell Stone who was also architect for the NYC Museum of Modern Art and the JFK Center for the Performing Arts. The building is approximately 4100 squarefeet, and the price, terms, and conditions are listed as negotiable.

IN DEFENSE OF DIRTY WORDS

In an opinion piece for the April 30th *Monitor* titled, "When everybody sounds like Tony Soprano," the writer states, "I write in defense of the expletive. Every language needs its dirty words. They are the cayenne pepper of speech, available to communicate uncontrollable fury, irreverence, or vulgar insolence... Raw language -- intruding once or twice, used in the right way by the right character -- once had a liberating

and electrifying effect." The writer flippantly complains that the use of these words has become too frequent: "Is there any chance we might prevail upon the Writers Guild to establish a quota: three uses of each major expletive per movie? Or perhaps a moratorium: no dirty words for the next five years?"

REPORTING OR ACQUIESCENCE?

The June 9th *Monitor* printed over four pages, -- which is more than twenty percent of the newspaper's available space, -- to an article titled, "What is a kidney worth?" While a story reporting on the phenomenon of organ trafficking might be newsworthy, this article was longer than any other in recent memory, complete with a website address in bold type for organ transplants in as few as ten days and also unscientific quotes such as, "God gave each of the body we use when we're alive." All of this goes beyond factual reporting into the realm of quasi-approval of practices and beliefs that are distinctly at odds with Christian Science.

An article in the June 17th issue "Strange food for thought" seems to accept the premise that the brain is, in fact, the source of thought. The article asks, "The brain-gain revolution is already under way. But will these 'neural enhancement' drugs turn us into Einsteins or Frankensteins?" Another article from the November 26, 1999, *Monitor* included a story about the brain including photographs and a description: "On the left, two neurons in the brain have one connection, or synapse. On the right, a second one has appeared after the formation of a new memory." (Winter 2000 *Banner*)

DAILY RELIGIOUS ARTICLE

The last issue of *The Banner* reported that an e-mail was sent out in the summer of 2003 by the publishing society to prospective freelance writers inviting them to submit compositions for the daily metaphysical article that appears in each issue of *The Christian Science Monitor*. Writers were told: "The goal is not to promote Christian Science but to offer readers from various backgrounds a thoughtful perspective on how God relates to the issues and problems of the day." Even though the daily articles are titled "Today's article on Christian Science," the following recent ones do not mention Christian Science or refer to *Science and Health* or to its author. Some of them do not even mention Christ Jesus: March 19, April 19, May 7, May 19, May 26, June 9, and June 10.

Since January 1997, the subtitle of the daily religious article has been: "Bringing a spiritual perspective to daily life." Previous to that, it read: "Bringing a spiritual perspective to world events and daily life." In earlier times there was no subtitle.

WORDS FOR THESE TIMES

Mrs. Eddy writes: "It is important to know that a malpractice of the best system will result in the worst

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form of medicine. Moreover, the feverish, disgusting pride of those who call themselves metaphysicians or Scientists, -- but are such in name only, -- fanned by the breath of mental malpractice, is the death's-head at the feast of Truth; the monkey in harlequin jacket that will retard the onward march of life-giving Science, if not understood and withstood, and so strangled in its attempts." (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 233: 3-11)

"In Christian Science the midnight hour will always be the bridal hour, until 'no night is there.' The wise will have their lamps aglow, and light will illumine the darkness... I pray that all my students shall have their lamps trimmed and burning at the noon of night, that not one of them be found borrowing oil, and seeking light from matter instead of Spirit, or at work erroneously, thus shutting out spiritual light. Such an error and loss will be quickly learned when the door is shut. Error giveth no light, and it closes the door on itself.

"In the dark hours, wise Christian Scientists stand firmer than ever in their allegiance to God. Wisdom is wedded to their love, and their hearts are not troubled.

"...No evidence before the material senses can close my eyes to the scientific proof that God, good, is supreme. (*Miscellaneous Writings*, pp.276, 277)

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 may be ordered from The Bookmark, P.O. Box 801143, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. Postage & Handling \$4.75 for orders up to \$20.00; \$5.25 up to \$30.00

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