

***** HIS BANNER OVER ME

THE BANNER

WAS LOVE *****

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

VOLUME NINETEEN / NUMBER ONE

FALL 2005 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

LETTER TO PRACTITIONERS

A letter dated August 15, 2005, to all practitioners with an email address was sent by the board of trustees of The Christian Science Publishing Society: "We're pleased to forward a special request by the Editor of The Christian Science Monitor, Richard Bergenheim, for prayerful support of the Monitor. While the specific occasion is notification of some upcoming changes in format and content, the larger issue, as you will see from Richard's letter, is the need for ongoing metaphysical support for the vitality of the Monitor and the fulfillment of its mission."

LAYOFFS ANNOUNCED

A previous letter dated July 11, 2005, from Mr. Bergenheim to "CSM Bureau and CSM Editorial" included: "As mentioned on my first day here, this year's budget requires a number of layoffs... As many know, a significant proportion of these people chose to leave as part of the self-select or early retirement program... Some will be looking for new positions, if you hear of any opportunities be sure to share them."

The list of layoffs includes: Christina McCarroll, Kim Campbell, Tom Toth, Elizabeth Lund, David Sterritt, Susan Sweetnam, Greg Palmer, April Austin, Tom Brown, Jim Bencivenga, David Francis, Alan Messmer, Ruth Walker, and Susan Leach. Not included on the list was the *Monitor's* Washington Bureau Chief, Godfrey Sperling, who also retired and wrote his last regular column in the September 6, 2005, *Monitor*.

NO C.S. IN METAPHYSICAL ARTICLES

Since the last report given in the Spring 2005 issue of *The Banner*, twenty-two (22) more metaphysical articles in *The Christian Science Monitor* have failed to include any quotations from *Science and Health* or other writings of Mrs. Eddy: April 22, April 26, April 27, April 29, May 3, May 6, May 19, June 2, June 17, June 27, August 1, August 15, August 16, August 18, August 19, August 23, August 31, September 1, September 12, September 13, September 14, and September 19. In addition, the title over the metaphysical article was changed from "Today's article on Christian Science" to "A Christian Science Perspective on Daily Life" beginning on August 19. The August 19th article did not quote Mrs. Eddy, but it did quote Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. The children's metaphysical article appearing on September 13 did not quote from Mrs. Eddy's writings, but did use the "Contemporary English Version of the Bible" for its

only scriptural quotation. The total number of metaphysical articles in the *Monitor* that have not included actual references or quotations from Mrs. Eddy now total 65 since the count began in April 2004. This is in clear violation of Mrs. Eddy's expectation that these articles express explicit Christian Science metaphysics. (See Winter 2005 *Banner*)

TREASURER'S REPORT

In a very brief report at Annual Meeting, as given in the September 2005 *Christian Science Journal*, treasurer Ned Odegaard asked Mary Metzner Trammell to "do the honors." "Trinka agreed, noting that the total funds on hand are \$281 million. Of this, \$58 million are in unrestricted funds. [Editor: Restricted funds would presumably be \$223 million.] Net expenditures for this last year have been \$69 million, and the Church's current indebtedness is \$157,000." The treasurer's report for 2005 ran only four lines of type. The report given in last year's September *Journal* was four-and-a-half pages long. Total funds on hand last year: \$252 million. Total funds this year: \$281 million. Unrestricted funds last year: \$46 million. This year: \$58 million. Restricted funds last year: \$197 million. This year's report did not mention restricted funds, but they are presumably \$223 million as noted above. Net expenditures in last year's report: \$46 million. Net expenditures for the 2005 report: \$69 million. Indebtedness reported at last year's meeting: \$467,000. This year's reported indebtedness: \$157,000. At the same time, last year's report did not mention the pension fund liability which was \$43,676,099. Likewise, this year's report did not include it either. (See Fall 2004 *Banner* for a complete breakdown of church finances as of the 2004 audit.)

THE DOLLAR PEOPLE

It has been reported that Mr. Odegaard called those church members who have been sending only the minimum dollar per capita tax as a form of protest against the policies of the board of directors. Mr. Odegaard urged each of those whom he called to reconsider and increase their donations to the church. In some cases, the treasurer was given a detailed list of grievances that he may not have expected to hear.

COST OF NATIONAL TOUR

The cost to branch church's for a visit from the board of directors seems to vary widely from venue to venue. *The Banner* reported that the cost was \$10,000 per visit in the Summer 2005 issue, but recent reports received indicate that the dollar amount is not always the same. The Birmingham, Michigan, church is hosting the board on October 23rd. No more than 400 people can attend

with admission set at ten dollars per person for a total cost of \$4,000. A church in the South expects the cost of a board visit to be between \$3,000 and \$5,000. Churches in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas metroplex expected the cost of their October 2nd town hall meeting to be \$7,700. Board member Mary Metzner Trammel is quoted in the September *Journal* as saying: "And bless their hearts," Trinka said. "They [the branch churches] all paid our way, too." (p. 39)

MALPRACTICE TODAY

The subject of malicious animal magnetism, also known as mental malpractice, has evoked much fear and too little understanding since the early days of Christian Science. Yet it has appeared in many forms over the centuries. In Proverbs 26, one finds a recognition of this: "...the curse causeless shall not come." Today one finds versions of this inside and outside of religious organizations. The Muslims have the *hutaba* which is used against those who convert to Christianity (See Fall 1993 *Banner*), the Roman Catholic Church has *anathema*, and secularists have secret warfare. Regarding the latter, *The Jerusalem Post* of November 7, 1987, included an article subtitled *Soviets use witchcraft against foes*. In this article, Israeli KGB expert Avraham Shiffrin is quoted: "The KGB has a para-psychology department located in Baku, whose members can kill people long-distance without the use of weapons." An interviewer observed, "Witchcraft is a matter of bygone ages." Shiffrin replied, "Not so, serious institutes in Russia and in the U.S. investigate these matters."

Of particular interest to Christian Scientists is mental malpractice as manifested within their own church. Regretably, this phenomenon still exists today and is actively used against those who oppose or dissent from the official program enunciated at church headquarters.

Reginald G. Kerry sent out a series of explosive letters to the Christian Science field from 1975 to 1990 which detailed a pattern of corruption and immorality which the directors of that era denied completely and which their successors still deny these many years later. One day Mr. Kerry was met on a Boston street by a very prominent former member of the Christian Science Board of Directors who stated, "We don't understand why you are still alive. We have one hundred practitioners working on you." Mr. Kerry's simple reply was, "I hate no man."

A practitioner, who was viewed as a troublemaker for having published a pamphlet without church permission, was summoned to see the head of the department of practitioners. This department head told the individual that his own regular business hours were from 9 to 5, but that his real work took place from 1 A.M. to 6 A.M. That night the verity of that statement was

demonstrated with full force as the individual awoke with clear indications of maliciously directed mental manipulation.

It would be useful for the reader to know the general indications of this demonic activity. Sometimes it is manifested in the target as intense mental pain without any seeming source. Other times, a specific vital organ is the focus. In other cases, a general sense of chaos is introduced into the individual's daily routine with no apparent cause. The classic desired effect is an automobile accident. For the most part, the mental work is crude and heavy-handed. Sometimes it takes place only at night. Other times it can last twenty-four hours a day for weeks. Occasionally, it can be very clever. One example gives some insight: For no apparent reason, an individual felt a very strong, overpowering sense of euphoria. He realized that it was not spiritually based and refused to embrace it. Rather, he observed it almost as a bystander. Within a few minutes, it was as if that material sense, like a soaring airplane, had been deliberately nosedived and crashed into the ground. The targeted individual mused about what might have happened had he gotten on that "airplane".

Malpractitioners, of necessity, must justify themselves. They reason: "We know that death is unreal. We are just moving people from here to there so that they cannot disrupt or cause harm to the church." Sometimes they reason: "This person had been mentally warned, ought to have taken the hint, and should have ceased his activity. Therefore his human death was his own fault. In any case, we know that death is not really real."

The reader should realize that mental malpractice is very hard work. Sometimes these people work in shifts. Other times they work alone. When the desired effect is not achieved, they do give up, and the target can actually sense the malpractitioner's fatigue and can literally mark the hour when the malpractice stops.

A genuine Christian Science practitioner receives spiritual benefit from every healing of his patients. A malpractitioner, on the other hand, clearly does not gain any benefit except the gratitude and material perquisites from his employer. He can only fancy that he is able to turn back to the books for solace with the erroneous conviction that he has been "working for church."

The reader should also know that mental malpractice, in one sense, can be used creatively by the targeted individual. It is possible to experience physical healing and achieve valuable mental self-correction (which are entirely recognizable and distinct from the false suggestions planted by the malpractitioner) in the midst of virulent m.a.m. In some cases when one is working out a problem in the midst of an attack, a healing will burst forth just as the malpractitioner gives up. As

Mrs. Eddy states: "The increasing necessity for relying on God to defend us against the subtler forms of evil, turns us more unreservedly to Him for help, and thus becomes a means of grace." (Mis. 115) Mrs. Eddy also gave a statement to her students. Daisette McKenzie recorded it: "When the winds of error blast, go down and down in humility like the grass to rise up unbroken after the storm. The winds are sin's revenge upon its destroyer."

Edward and Caroline Bates served Mrs. Eddy when the original Mother Church was built. It seemed impossible to complete the construction by the deadline of December 29, 1894. Mr. and Mrs. Bates remained at the site, resolving disputes and delays around the clock. The last, finishing touches were completed at the stroke of midnight. The first service, scheduled for the next day, was a communion service. Mrs. Eddy later met with these faithful workers and said, "We have built the church; it will be easy for branch churches to build their structures as we have cleared the way. If the Mother Church had not been finished at the time designated, it would have remained a monument to the error and my students would have died sudden and unnatural deaths. You have helped me to save them." Then, referring to church members in Boston, Mrs. Eddy asked, "Mr. Bates, are you prepared for what is to come? They will shun you; they will try to ruin you morally, physically, financially, and spiritually." Mr. Bates wrote in his memoir that he had ample evidence of this in the following days.

Mental malpractice is a form of "justified" hatred in which the malpractitioner feels justly ordained to undertake this action. However, Mrs. Eddy states, "Hate no one; for hatred is a plague-spot that spreads its virus and kills at last. If indulged, it masters us; brings suffering upon suffering to its possessor, throughout time and beyond the grave." (Mis. 12)

It is possible to overcome malicious animal magnetism. Students of Christian Science need to know that when m.a.m. is recognized for what it is, malpractice is defanged. Its deadly aspect is reduced from dangerous to disturbing. Sometimes there is deep water to be traversed, and the seeming fury of the storm may require much from us as we work our way through it. But the error *does give out* if we hold firmly to the Truth, and *persist* without wavering or doubting. Then we see that this erroneous phenomenon is much like the wizard of Oz. It turns out to be a pathetic creature behind a curtain with a megaphone booming and thundering with special effects as in a movie.

The only danger, then, is not to know all of this. Some people are entirely innocent of the workings of mortal mind. When a condition or claim does not yield to prayerful work that was successful in the past,

malpractice is usually the cause. Recognizing this leads to renewed healing. Mrs. Eddy states, "A knowledge of error and of its operations must precede that understanding of Truth which destroys error." (S&H 252) Over the past two decades, the editor knows of at least one individual who succumbed to mental malpractice. There are other cases that raise strong suspicions. If this activity is not reined in, *The Banner* is prepared to publish even more specific information on this subject.

RECOMMENDED BOOK

Christian Science and the Threat of Mind Control by Ann Beals is recommended for readers regarding malpractice -- how to recognize it and how to handle it. It is available for \$16.00 + \$5.25 postage and handling from The Bookmark, P.O. Box 801143, Santa Clarita, CA 91380

CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the June and September 2005 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* indicates that nine churches have closed during that time period: Granite City, Illinois; Dedham, Massachusetts; Sturgis, Michigan; Keyport, New Jersey; Teaneck, New Jersey; Floral Park, New York; Olean, New York; Dallas (Eugene Street Society), Texas; and Rhinelander, Wisconsin. At the same time societies have formed at Brookings, South Dakota, and Richland (Holiday Inn Express), Washington. First Church, Spokane, Washington, which was deleted from the listing in June, returned as of the August *Journal*. Hallandale, Florida, is listed as temporarily closed, and Westfield, New Jersey is still listed as temporarily closed. In addition, the editor has been informed that the Lansing, Michigan, church listed in the last issue as having been redesignated East Lansing, did, indeed close and its members transferred to the East Lansing church now identified as the "Greater Lansing" church. Since the count began in February 1987, 677 churches have closed permanently and 59 have opened.

DIRECTIONS TO NOWHERE

The September 2005 *Journal* included strange new entries such as: Marysville, CA. See Yuba City; Canoga Park, CA. See 24th Church, Los Angeles; Wofford Heights, CA. See Kern River Valley; Wilkes-Barre, PA. See Forty Fort; and Cave-Junction, OR. See Illinois Valley Cave Junction. In each case, the directions lead nowhere since the churches recommended no longer exist. It has been noted that the church listings have become increasingly chaotic with disappearing and reappearing churches as well as mistaken entries.

LONG-TERM EFFECT OF TOWN

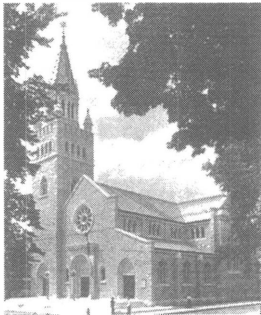
MEETINGS. AN EDITORIAL

The report of the Annual Meeting given in the September 2005 *Journal* reiterates the ideas imparted by the board of directors as they crossed the country.

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Comments given by those who attended the various meetings expressed disappointment and alarm as they heard wishful thinking, doubtful opinions, and a wholesale reversal of standards that have stood for more than a century.

Are smoking, alcohol, and drugs compatible with church membership? No problem: We can heal all that later. Practitioner listings? They are only advertisements. Mrs. Eddy's place in Bible prophecy? We can't seem to figure that one out (even though the 1943 Board managed very well) [Note: a free copy of *Mrs. Eddy's Place* from 1943, based on her own statements and those of the early workers who knew her, is available from the editor of *The Banner* for the asking.]

Since the time of the Kerry letters, the status of the Christian Science Board of Directors has been slipping. At one time they were viewed as all-wise metaphysicians. Their mystique shielded them from penetrating questions of ordinary church members. When they entered the Annual Meeting, everyone would rise. After services, they would gather in a semicircle at the Octagon Landing in the Extension to receive

greetings from the faithful. Now, at last, they are revealed to be mere mortals after all. It is high time for everyone to demand that Mrs. Eddy's Deeds of Trust and the by-laws in her *Church Manual* be restored and obeyed according to their *original intent* and not according to latter-day legal opinions that falsely claim that a hierarchical structure was Mrs. Eddy's intention. The church has been ruled long enough by selective applying and ignoring of by-laws. This is Mrs. Eddy's church. It is your church. Demand that it be restored according to Mrs. Eddy's original design.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AFTER 1910

by Andrew W. Hartsook

The complete account of how the directors took the thriving Cause Mrs. Eddy left us and turned it into the empty shell we see today. Hardcover \$24.95, Paperback \$12.95. Either may be ordered from The Bookmark, P.O. Box 801143, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. Postage & Handling: \$5.25 for orders up to \$20.00; \$6.50 for orders up to \$30.00. Telephone Orders: 1-800-220-7767

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

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

VOLUME NINETEEN / NUMBER TWO

WINTER 2006 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

CLASS INSTRUCTION FOR ANYONE

An interview of the current chairman of the Christian Science Board of Directors, Mary Metzner Trammell, appeared in the December 3, 2005, *Miami [Florida] Herald*. Mrs. Trammell is quoted as saying, "Mrs. Eddy's original idea was not to start a church. She felt she'd found a very practical science that got back to the most basic and fundamental kind of Christianity.... She figured that you as a Baptist, someone else as Jewish would take this science and utilize it to become a better Baptist or Muslim or Methodist or Christian or Episcopalian or whatever and then spread it among other members of your faith community." The article continued, "Despite her board duties, Trammell teaches a class in Christian Science instruction each summer, and 'there's been a larger and larger proportion of nonmembers, some who have been members of other churches, and sometimes they stay with those churches, and sometimes they don't. Sometimes you'll find Methodists and Baptists and what have you, or just people who have no commitment, and they'll say when they apply, 'I'm not going to join the church.' To me that's fine. So in a way I think this is a return to Mrs. Eddy's vision. There's very much a sense that each person follows his or her own spiritual path. We just can't be proscriptive of what that path is going to be. The important thing is that they keep following it.'"

APPLY FOR CLASS BY INTERNET

Another Christian Science teacher, Mario Tosto, formerly of Minnesota, and now of California, advertises Christian Science class instruction on the internet version of the *Boston Globe* and also on his own web site [www.tosto.com]. The web advertisement states, "A course in metaphysics. 12 lessons that can lead to a career as a spiritual healer... For over twenty years, my metaphysical healing practice and teaching have been based on *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy... My classes on Christian Science are held once a year in Danville, California... Available for live chat about spirituality via AIM screen... Author of over 150 articles or commentaries for spirituality.com... Contributing Editor, Christian Science Publishing Society."

Mrs. Eddy states, "Until the author of this book learned the vastness of Christian Science, the fixedness of mortal illusions, and the human hatred of Truth, she cherished sanguine hopes that Christian Science would

meet with immediate and universal acceptance." Also: "Committing the bare process of mental healing to frail mortals, untaught and unrestrained by Christian Science, is like putting a sharp knife into the hands of a blind man or a raging maniac, and turning him loose in the crowded streets of a city." (S&H 330: 2-8, 459:14-19)

BOSTON GLOBE ARTICLE CONTESTED

The October 13, 2005, *Boston Globe* ran a front-page article titled "Christian Science church may sell, lease properties." The article included, "Mark Maloney, director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, told the *Globe* that church officials informed BRA staff members this week that they were in the preliminary stages of developing a plan that could involve sale or lease of some of the church's vast holdings in the Fenway... 'They've already cut staff,' said one employee, who asked not to be identified because of the person's loyalty to the church. 'The primary thing they're looking at is what to do with these empty buildings. I don't know if the plan is to lease some of the places or sell them. Unless they're really in trouble, I don't think they would be selling them.'... Officials have been talking to a real estate services firm about trimming the cost of managing their real estate, according to a real estate consultant familiar with the church's holdings. The consultant said the church's reflecting pool has been leaking into an underground garage." In a letter to the editor, Phil Davis, Manager C.O.P. stated, "The church has no plans to sell any of its Boston properties, period... Also, the church's financial condition is strong, as a glance at audited financial records will show."

The previously cited article from *The Miami Herald* included: "Even with a budget of around \$110 million, the church has cut its work force by about a quarter over the past two years, 'and we needed to,' Trammell says. 'We were spending more than we were taking in. It's just like a family that realizes they've gotten into hot water with too many mortgages.' A few months ago, the nonprofit Christian Science Monitor began soliciting financial support from readers through its website, and Trammell says this administration tower, which looms over Boston's prime Back Bay, is less than 20 percent occupied. 'For every dollar that a member out in Boise or whatever gives, 25 cents goes to just maintaining this... lot with its buildings,' she says. 'We know that our members want as much of that dollar to go toward missions as possible, and so we are doing some grown-up thinking about our real estate, and probably there will be some changes. Don't know exactly, but we're working on it.'"

CHURCH FINANCES

Based on the annual audits of The Mother Church, the following figures are presented:

Total Net Assets

2001	\$681,406,293
2002	623,933,472
2003	534,024,056
2004	556,753,665
2005	576,143,606

Unrestricted Funds

2001	\$192,142,325
2002	217,450,486
2003	207,425,575
2004	165,437,291
2005	160,086,938

Temporarily Restricted Funds

2001	\$364,773,325
2002	280,081,991
2003	204,004,299
2004	239,512,567
2005	269,520,256

Permanently Restricted Funds

2001	\$124,490,643
2002	126,400,995
2003	122,594,182
2004	151,803,807
2005	152,536,412

Publishing

	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Net + or -</u>
2002	\$27,937,237	62,900,334	- 34,963,097
2003	29,687,631	58,909,418	- 29,221,787
2004	29,232,791	52,854,664	- 23,621,873
2005	27,974,979	43,012,948	- 15,037,969

Broadcasting

2002	\$65,993	1,624,604	- 1,558,611
2003	53,095	1,950,858	- 1,897,763
2004	52,068	1,950,251	- 1,898,183
2005	18,252	1,385,695	- 1,367,463

Mary Baker Eddy Library

2002	\$1,721,598	4,069,173	- 2,347,575
2003	4,392,109	9,675,912	- 5,283,803
2004	4,513,016	10,205,885	- 5,692,869
2005	1,852,058	8,087,882	- 6,235,824

Rental Property

2002	\$6,010,383	2,570,392	+ 3,439,991
2003	6,003,373	2,479,639	+ 3,523,734
2004	5,918,400	2,514,474	+ 3,403,906
2005	6,181,600	2,925,538	+ 3,256,062

Church

2002	\$138,070,488	74,902,502	+ 63,167,986
2003	103,980,583	79,186,385	+ 24,799,198
2004	83,389,947	94,272,565	- 10,882,618
2005	76,763,917	61,571,266	+ 15,192,651

Mother Church Reorganization Costs

2003	\$1,014,291
2004	10,245,157
2005	5,940,933

Unrestricted Funds

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Investments</u>
2002	\$42,524,446	52,304,995
2003	22,036,328	45,431,541
2004	39,379,718	6,312,832
2005	52,517,285	5,362,177

Pension Accrued Liability (Unrestricted Fund)

2002	\$35,395,865
2003	41,400,969
2004	43,676,099
2005	45,528,427

The very brief Treasurer's report given to Mother Church members at the annual meeting, and which subsequently appeared in the September 2005 *Christian Science Journal*, occupied only four lines of type.

CIRCULATION OF THE SENTINEL

The October 17, 2005, *Christian Science Sentinel* listed its latest paid subscription number to be 36,384 in a yearly published statement required by the U.S. Postal Service. This represents a loss of 16,903 subscribers since the subscription high point of the *Sentinel's* new, ecumenical format in 1999.

1997	44,995
1998	50,868
1999	53,290
2000	46,342
2001	48,899
2002	48,260
2003	45,047
2004	37,778
2005	36,384

The motto "What I say unto you, I say unto all -- WATCH' Jesus" last appeared on the cover of the *Sentinel* on January 7, 2002. The motto was chosen by Mrs. Eddy and had appeared on the *Sentinel* cover for over one hundred years since January 1899. The attempt to broaden the appeal of the *Sentinel* by downplaying or removing Christian references does not seem to be working.

TOWN MEETINGS CONTINUE

The directors continue to tour the Christian Science field. Some recent meetings, for which notes and audio recordings exist, include: Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, on October 2nd; 4th Church, New York City, on October 19th; and Troy, Michigan, on October 26th. Others are scheduled to follow in 2006. A question that is asked at almost every venue concerns "Matters of Conscience" that was presented confidentially to the board of directors by Christian Science teachers Elaine Natale-Davidson and Joseph Eller. After the directors declared that the

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OLDEST BIBLE?

The September 5, 2005, *Christian Science Sentinel* carried an article titled, "Oldest known New Testament text to be available online." The text in question is the Codex Sinaiticus which the article states is "believed originally to have been one of 50 copies of the Scriptures commissioned by Roman Emperor Constantine after he converted to Christianity." The facts are that this manuscript was discovered in the wastebasket of a monastery in Sinai in 1844 by a visitor. The discoverer of the codex noted at least 12,000 changes which had been made on that manuscript by others than the original copyist. This codex along with the Codex Vaticanus are written in classical Greek, whereas the original language of the New Testament was Koine Greek, the actual spoken language from New Testament times. There are some 500 words in Koine Greek which are used in the New Testament which cannot be translated into classical Greek. The King James Bible is based on the Textus Receptus which was assembled by the Dutch scholar Erasmus (1466-1537) and agrees with 90 to 95% of all known Scripture related manuscripts, numbering over 5000. The Codex Sinaiti-

cus and Codex Vaticanus are the basis of most of the modern translations of the Bible which omit almost 200 words and phrases that appear in the King James Bible. Interestingly, the only other Bible that agrees 100% with the Textus Receptus is Martin Luther's German New Testament. (See Volumes One & Two of *The Banner*)

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 \$5.25 for orders up to \$20.00; \$6.50 for orders up to \$30.00. Telephone Orders: 1-800-220-7767

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two volumes of facts and data did not contain a single valid point, Mrs. Davidson and Mr. Eller decided to "tell it unto the church" in accordance with the Matthew Code. (18:15-17)

At the Dallas meeting, board member Tom Black declared: "...you all know, as well as we know, that the effort is to get members to withhold their money, to put pressure on the directors by withholding the money, and to get us to change our decision on things, our vote."

This left the impression among those who attended the meeting that the directors see everything in terms of money only. The expressed concern about violations of the deeds of trust, the by-laws, the adulteration of Christian Science literature, the political system of rewards and punishments, the undermining of the Pastor Emeritus and the Bible lessons, and the long list of violations of Christian ethics seemed not to rise to the same level of consideration as cash flow and money.

MONITOR CIRCULATION FIGURES

The October 6, 2005, issue of *The Christian Science Monitor* published the figure of 54,726 as the current paid circulation for the newspaper in accordance with a U.S. Postal Service requirement. This represents a loss of 9,068 subscribers in one year or 101,520 subscribers since the *Monitor* adopted its current color format with limited advertising in 1989.

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
2004	63,794
2005	54,726

NO C.S. IN METAPHYSICAL ARTICLES

Since the last report given in the Fall 2005 issue of *The Banner*, twelve (12) more metaphysical articles in *The Christian Science Monitor* have failed to include any quotations from *Science and Health* or other writings of Mrs. Eddy: September 26, October 13 (only Mrs. Eddy's name was mentioned), October 18 (only quotation was from *The Message*, a modern Bible paraphrase), October 25 (an article for children), November 1 (an article for children), November 22 (an

article for children), November 28 (a reference only to calling a C.S. practitioner), November 29 (a quote from the Oprah Winfrey magazine and the "Gospel of Mary"), November 30, December 5, December 9 (article adapted from the *C.S. Journal*), and December 21. Since the count began in April 2004, metaphysical articles in the *Monitor* without actual references or quotations from Mrs. Eddy total seventy-seven (77).

CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the September and December 2005 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* indicates that the following seven churches have closed: Chicago (3rd), Illinois; Chicago (13th), Illinois; Bowling Green, Kentucky; Marquette, Michigan; Deming, New Mexico; New York (14th), New York, and Missouri City, Texas. At the same time a new society was formed at Brandon, Florida. The church at Seaside, Oregon, changed its name to Gearhart, Oregon. Also the society at Westfield, New Jersey, has re-opened. Since the count began in February 1987, 684 churches have closed, and 60 have opened.

PRACTITIONERS AND TEACHERS

The Christian Science Journal of January 2006 listed 1,501 practitioners worldwide including 168 teachers still teaching:

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
Jul 2004	1,462
Jan 2005	1,433
Jul 2005	1,484
Jan 2006	1,501

Teachers Worldwide (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*
Jul 2004	178*
Jan 2005	172*
Jul 2005	174*
Jan 2006	168*

"DISCOVERY BOUND" YOUTH MEETING

A meeting held on the weekend of January 14-16, 2006, in Laguna Beach, California, has raised a storm of disapproval in the Christian Science field and even some telephone calls to Principia.

In a seminar style series of meetings, Dick Davenport, teacher at the Principia Upper School, and former dean of men at Principia College, led discussions on spirituality and sexuality with young Christian Scientists potentially as young as twelve and as old as twenty-nine. The topic, as outlined on the hand-out, was "Spirituality and Sexuality: A Divided Life? A Breakout Presentation with Dick Davenport, Higher Ground Bible Conference." The purpose was "exploring the relationship between biblical and Christian models of spirituality and human sexuality. The goal is not to artificially come to 'neat' conclusions, but to open up a conversation that is very limited at present." Attendees were asked to respond to the following statement by Scott Peck, M.D., who wrote in *The Road Less Traveled*: "Sex is as close as many people come to having a spiritual experience." They were also asked to read two quotations from *The Message*, a popular Bible paraphrase that is being used in many Christian Science branch church Sunday schools and even in regular Sunday services for the "Scriptural Selection" in place of the King James Version. Use of this paraphrase version of the Bible is being done with the approval of the Christian Science Board of Directors as expressed at various town meetings held around the country. *The Message*, written by Eugene Peterson, includes additional verses of his own which expand on his personal opinions and impressions of the Bible's meaning.

The quotations for the youth to consider were two sexually charged paraphrases of chapters three and four from Song of Solomon. The students were then asked to speculate: "Why do you think this is in the Bible?" and "Does any element of it qualify as material through which the inspired Word of the Bible might make known the working of God?"

The reverse side of the hand-out had a photocopy of verses 6:16 to 7:9 from I Corinthians according to *The Message*: It begins: 16. "There's more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact. As written in Scripture, 'The two become one.' 17, 18. Since we want to become spiritually one with the Master, we must not pursue the kind of sex that

avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever -- the kind of sex that can never 'become one.' 19, 20. Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body." A comparison of these verses with the King James Version demonstrates just how far off a paraphrase can be from the actual Scripture and its true meaning. A comparison is recommended to the reader.

In harmony with the modern "sensitivity training" movement that now dominates workshops and seminar sessions in American business and education, words such as dialogue, consensus, community, break-out sessions, facilitators, theoretical models, teams, and empowerment are skillfully used to shape attitudes and create artificial belief systems that last for the duration of the meeting and are reinforced by additional sessions held periodically. Typically, people are not informed of the exact nature of the meeting and find out only when everyone is assembled, the door is closed, and the facilitator begins his subtle manipulation to create a group consensus and the desired target attitudes.

While some of the young people attending the Dick Davenport break-out presentations seemed to embrace the theme of the sessions with enthusiasm, other felt trapped and uncomfortable with what they considered to be views that were entirely opposed to Mrs. Eddy's chapter on "Marriage" in *Science and Health* that speaks so well to every individual wherever he might be in his own journey toward true at-one-ment. Interestingly, it is reported that the word marriage was never uttered during the break-out presentations. Some of the discussions became extremely graphic in sexual terms which suggested to attendees that the organizers of the meetings believed that sexuality and spirituality are indistinguishable.

In other sessions, students were invited to criticize the existing order of church services and to recommend improvements. A video from TMC Youth, a new Mother Church department, was used to initiate and frame the criticism session.

DAMAGE CONTROL?

The *Christian Science Sentinel* of March 13, 2006, carried the cover theme: "Sensualism. An Honest Look." It appears to be an effort to disavow the Dick Davenport breakout seminar and reclaim the higher ground. As in

the case of the gay marriage of former Christian Science teacher, Kathleen Clementson, the Board of Directors disavowed endorsement for the same-sex union after appearing to initially give it silent support. *The Christian Science Monitor* (6-24-04) had even shown the hands of the Clementson couple in a photograph for a story about Massachusetts Governor Romney and his reaction to the court ruling legalizing such marriages. The reaction from the field apparently made the difference. (See Summer 2004 *Banner*)

EUROPEAN UNION TRADEMARK APPLICATION APPROVED

Initial reports to *The Banner* indicate that the application by the Christian Science Board of Directors to trademark the words "Christian Science" in English throughout the European Union as a Community Trade Mark (CTM) has been approved by the Office of Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM). This means that the words Christian Science cannot be used by anyone without the approval of the Directors. It is being suggested that there will not be stringent enforcement of the trademark, but the question arises as to why the Board applied for it in the first place.

The Directors lost a similar bid when they failed to get court backing to deny Plainfield Christian Science Church (Independent) the right to use the words Christian Science as part of its name. In 1988, the New Jersey Supreme Court declared that the words Christian Science constituted a generic term that could not be copyrighted. The Directors decided not to appeal the decision to the United States Supreme Court.

As a writer from Great Britain recently commented: "If we agree that it would be impossible to trademark any science, then it follows that the Board's action is improper and tending in the wrong direction. Divine Science and Christian Science are synonymous terms. Can we trademark God's work? Can we trademark 'the atmosphere of God'? Can any group of people or an organization own truth, especially, spiritual, divine Truth? Surely we, as Christian Scientists, should resist this tendency if we support the true Science of Christianity. The future of the Cause of Christian Science is in the hands of Christian Scientists, is it not?" (For background on the trademark application, see Summer 1999 and Fall 2004 *Banners*.)

FORMER PRACTITIONER FOUND GUILTY

Former Christian Science practitioner, Eric E Resteiner was found guilty of operating a \$47 million investment scam according to PRNewswire of February 10, 2006. "...Resteiner, assisted by others, created and executed a scheme by which he defrauded more than 50 investors out of more than \$47 million through his operation and a purported high-yield international bank trading investment program." Resteiner promised "that

his trading program would pay an annual return of no less than 50 percent; and that the investors' principal would never be at risk because these instruments could be cashed in at the bank at any time." Mr. Resteiner used the funds "to support his own undeniably lavish lifestyle which included maintaining a significant home in Lyford Cay, Nassau, Bahamas; a 176-room villa in St. Mortz, Switzerland, a domestic staff, a 110-foot yacht, an airplane, a helicopter, two Rolls Royce motor cars, two Hummer vehicles, a Porche Carrera sports car and other assorted vehicles.... Resteiner faces up to 20 years' imprisonment, to be followed by three years of supervised release, and a \$1,000,000 fine on each count of mail and wire fraud. As Resteiner renounced his U.S. citizenship in 1995, he will be deported from the United States following any term of imprisonment. Resteiner has been in custody since his arrest in Singapore in February 2004. He has been in custody in the United States since June 2004."

According to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) at least two other individuals were involved in the Resteiner operation including Charles G. Dyer and Miles M. Harbur. The latter was a former chief financial officer of the Christian Science Publishing Society and continues to be a listed practitioner in *The Christian Science Journal*. (See Winter 2003 and Summer 2004 *Banners* for more background information.)

TMC DONATES MONEY TO FRAUD VICTIMS

Articles appeared in *The Boston Globe* on March 17th and in *The Wall Street Journal* of March 18th on the aftermath of the Resteiner trial. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, "The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston will donate \$2.3 million to help victims" of the Resteiner scheme. "The SEC said the church offered to hand over the money, which was donated to its building fund by Eric Resteiner, who bilked \$20 million from members of the Christian Science Church. Mr. Resteiner's donation was made before fraud charges were brought, and, even though the church spent the money and had no legal obligation to return it, it decided to make a gift in the same amount." It should be noted that the PRNewswire specified \$47 million as opposed to the WSJ's figure of \$20 million.

FIVE MORE CHURCH CLOSINGS

According to a comparison of the December 2005 and March 2006 issues of *The Christian Science Journal*, the following five churches have closed: Garden Grove, California; Tulare, California; Wichita (1st), Kansas; Newark, Ohio; and Baytown, Texas. At the same time two churches have reappeared in the *Journal*: Bowling Green, Kentucky, after a one month absence; and Aitkin, Minnesota, after a year's absence. Since the count began

in February 1987, 687 churches have closed, and 60 have opened.

MONITOR METAPHYSICAL ARTICLES

Since the last report given in the Winter 2006 issue of *The Banner*, only two metaphysical articles in *The Christian Science Monitor* have failed to include quotations from Mrs. Eddy's writings: December 23 and December 29, 2005. However, the article for January 23, 2006, quoted the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible; the January 24th article quoted the New English Bible; the January 30th article quoted the Koran; and the February 2nd article quoted the Revised English Bible. Since the count began in April 2004, 79 articles have failed to quote from Mrs. Eddy's writings.

ABRUPT CANCELLATION OF TALK

Margaret Foerster, CSB, of Los Gatos, California, had been invited to give an afternoon talk at First Church of Christ, Scientist, San Jose, on Sunday afternoon, April 2, 2006. It was then announced that she would not be speaking and that a substitute would replace her. When members asked the reason for the cancellation, they were told that she and two other Christian Science teachers (Ann Stewart and Jack Hubbell) are now forbidden to accept invitations to give talks. Apparently all three have been accused of promoting their class teaching through these talks. It should be noted that many people over the years have chosen a teacher after hearing a lecture or talk that met their needs. Mr. Hubbell had given a talk at the 75th anniversary of Arden Wood. Every seat in the auditorium was filled in contrast to most official lectures that draw very few listeners. Another general reason may have been given at the Directors' town meeting held at Eighth Church, New York City on November 19, 2005. In response to the question as to why popular lecturers have been dropped from the list, the answer was given that it was done to give others a chance to play as in football.

CHURCH INCORPORATION

A document dated September 30, 2002, has surfaced that raises more questions than it answers. It is recorded on The Commonwealth of Massachusetts letterhead, comes from the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and includes the official seal: "I, William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts constitutes a body corporate: i.e., a perpetual body or corporation, incorporated under the Laws of this Commonwealth. I further certify that so far as appears of record, said corporation still has legal existence."

The fact that Mrs. Eddy sought out an obscure statute of Massachusetts law (section one, Chapter 39) to re-establish her church on a voluntary basis indicated her wish to avoid state or public control through a formal

charter as she had done previously on August 23, 1879, when she established her first church organization.

Was this 2002 document sought as a legal reaffirmation of that fact, or was it done for some other purpose?

FOR THE RECORD: CASE CLOSED

Elizabeth Krauss, who died on March 1, 1998, left her estate of \$3.6 million to be divided equally among The First Lutheran Church in Boston, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, and the Boston Regional Medical Center, Inc. (BRMC) The latter was a charity hospital for indigent patients. The hospital continued to operate eleven months after the passing of Ms. Krauss and then went bankrupt. The two churches went to court to ask that BRMC be prevented from collecting its portion of the estate. The two churches asked that BRMC's share be divided between themselves. BRMC countered that the money was needed to pay its creditors who had provided goods and services in advance of payment and who would otherwise have to suffer significant financial losses as a result of their good faith dealings with BRMC. In essence, the churches argued that since the distribution of the estate took place after BRMC declared bankruptcy, it was not entitled to its share of the money and, consequently, BRMC's creditors should have to absorb the loss. The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts, Eastern Division, decided in favor of the Boston Regional Medical Center on August 14, 2003.

SENTINEL ANNOUNCES CHANGES

The January 2, 2006, *Christian Science Sentinel* announced that combine two issues into one in January and July. The combined issues would have a cover price of \$5.90 as compared to the usual issue price of \$2.95. In addition, the magazine will now accept outside advertising "to strengthen its financial condition."

DOLLAR EQUIVALENTS

When the by-laws in the *Church Manual* were written, United States currency was based on the standard of twenty dollars equaling one ounce of gold. Today's currency is regulated by the Federal Reserve, and money has no backing whatever other than the "full faith and credit" of the United States government.

Based on the recent price of gold, the amount of the per capita tax (\$1.00) would be \$26.00. Tuition for primary class instruction (\$100.) as well as the normal class (\$100.) would be \$2,610. The salary for the Committee on Publication (\$4000+) would be not less than \$104,400. The salary for members of the Board of Directors (\$2,500) would be \$65,250. When asked, the Directors have declined to reveal the current salary they pay themselves, but it is understood to be at least \$200,000 each.

In 1915, the then Board of Directors proposed to

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raise their own salaries to either \$8,000 or \$10,000 (\$210,000 - \$261,000 in today's dollars). This led to controversy among the Directors, themselves, and prompted a series of letters and memos to the Board from Mrs. Eddy's longtime, trusted lawyer, Frank S. Streeter, dated September 8, 1915: "In my opinion, the most serious legal question involved in the proposed action arises from the fact that when the Board of Directors undertake to vote an increase in their own salary, whether by amendment of the by-laws or by any other method, they will be acting as judges in their own case, and that such action, either by corporate directors, by private agents or trustees, or by anybody else who occupies a representative or fiduciary position, is forbidden by an elementary principle that has long obtained.... And in my judgment no action better calculated to create suspicion and adverse criticism could well be taken than for the directors to lay themselves open to the charge of using their official powers to advance their own pecuniary interest almost as soon as Mrs. Eddy's guiding hand has been removed...

"If any member thinks me impertinent or presumptuous in presenting these views, let me remind

him that my connection with the fortunes of this Church at highly critical periods, when its Founder, its doctrines and its property were viciously assailed and its fortunes seemed to hang in the balance, may afford some justification for my present desire that this organization shall not be disrupted, but shall be preserved to carry on the great work in accordance with the hopes and intentions of the Founder."

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: \$5.25 for orders up to \$20.00; \$6.50 for orders up to \$30.00. Telephone orders: 1-800-220-7767

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

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

VOLUME NINETEEN / NUMBER FOUR

SUMMER 2006 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

THE SALE OF MRS EDDY'S HOMES

An article in the April 14, 2006, *Christian Science Monitor* announced that Mrs. Eddy's homes at Lynn and Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, would be sold by the Christian Science Board of Directors after nearly a century of ownership. Board member Nathan Talbot is quoted as saying that the houses represent a distraction from the church's goal of healing: "And what is going to help us be better healers? Keeping a clear focus. And what is distracting from that focus -- well, there are several things, and we are setting them aside. And devoting so much of our resources to property management is one of them." The same article states: "The decision to sell Mrs. Eddy's homes was 'not driven by financial necessity.' [Church treasurer J. Edward] Odegaard said. 'We have taken significant and visible steps to address our financial picture. Our current position is stable.'" The same article stated that the church plans to lease the 26-story administration office tower and the Church Colonnade building.

The initial announcement was followed by an article in the May 15th *Christian Science Sentinel* titled "'The Majesty of Christian Science' and its imperatives for our time". Readers were asked, in an impassioned plea, to choose between material things and healing. At Annual Meeting, Director J. Thomas Black summarized the board's position to those gathered by declaring that Mrs. Eddy "is more than a hat pin!"

LONGYEAR ANNOUNCES PLAN TO BUY

The same day that the directors announced their intention to sell the houses (April 13), Longyear Museum sent a letter to its members and supporters asking for financial support to purchase both houses: "For over eighty years, Longyear has been preserving historic sites that promote appreciation and understanding of the history of Christian Science. Through these sites, people have learned more of our Leader's mission, her footsteps, trials, and triumphs. We now have a unique opportunity to acquire and preserve these important landmarks."

A follow-up letter (May 17) stated, "We asked The Christian Science Board of Directors if they would grant us a right of first refusal on the property [Chestnut Hill], and their counsel has advised them that by granting Longyear this right, the true value of the property could be distorted." The letter goes on to say, "A recent report on one of Boston's National Public Radio stations noted that 400 Beacon Street [Chestnut Hill] would be of great

interest to developers and to neighboring Boston College, a Jesuit university with an enrollment of twelve thousand undergraduate and graduate students."

On April 28th, *Powerful Prayer*, an internet radio program, featured "Holding on to God, not Traditions" with its guest, Phil Davis, Manager of Christian Science Committees on Publication for The Mother Church. Mr. Davis reiterated the directors' justification to sell Mrs. Eddy's houses and the new plan to "focus on the ways in which we can use our energies and resources to promote our mission of healing." One caller to the program asked that, if economics was not the reason for the sale of the homes, why couldn't the church donate them to Longyear Museum? Mr. Davis answered that the board of directors has a financial responsibility to get the best fair market value for the homes. He cited "wisdom, economy and brotherly love" as a further justification for this refusal.

While the directors have won some support for their position, they have also received much negative response. People asked why Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, George Washington's Mount Vernon, and Abraham Lincoln's home at Springfield, Illinois, were worth preserving, but the landmarks of Mary Baker Eddy were not worthy of similar preservation? Mrs. Eddy, herself, asks in her article "Obedience": Would you consent that others should tear up your landmarks, manipulate your students, nullify or reverse your rules, countermand your orders, steal your possessions, and escape the penalty therefor?" (Mis. 119) The Christian Science Publishing Society even published a book of photographs, *Landmarks from Bow to Boston*. In response to such questions, the suggestion has even been made that, perhaps, Longyear has not been straight with the board of directors.

MRS. EDDY'S WISHES

Mrs. Eddy's will stated that Pleasant View could be sold "at public auction or...at private sale..." Also, "Nothing contained in my will or codicil thereto shall be considered inconsistent with said Church purchasing said real estate, if the Directors may consider it desirable so to do." She gave these instructions on May 14, 1904 (See *Christian Science After 1910*, page 197)

In an letter dated November 20, 1910, Mrs. Eddy wrote, "Know all men by this protest that no change shall be made on the grounds that I own without my consent in writing." The grounds she owned were Pleasant View and Chestnut Hill. On November 28, 1910, just five days before Mrs. Eddy's passing, she dictated and signed a statement, "It took a combination

of sinners that was fast to harm me.”

The directors note in their already cited *Sentinel* article: “It’s also useful to consider that in 1917, a Christian Science Board of Directors comprised of five individuals who had served directly under Mrs. Eddy, elected to raze ‘Pleasant View,’ the one home she truly loved, in Concord, New Hampshire.”

The Boston Post of May 30, 1917, stated, “Pleasant View, for many years the home of Mrs. Mary G. Eddy,...is being destroyed in accordance with the terms of Mrs. Eddy’s will,” Josiah E. Fernald, one of the trustees under the will said tonight.” *The Boston Daily Globe* also of May 30th stated, “These facts became known today in the course of a controversy between the [Concord] city authorities and the contractors who are tearing down the house. The latter started several bonfires for burning up parts of the building as it was torn down without taking out the required permit from the Chief of the Fire Department.” *The Manchester Leader* of June 1, 1917, stated, “Josiah E. Fernald, the local trustee of the Eddy estate, informed Chief Green that the work was being done in accordance with instructions in Mrs. Eddy’s will, and that the good part of the building was to be used in the construction of a memorial to Mrs. Eddy. Mr. Fernald declined to say where the memorial is to be erected.”

After Pleasant View was torn down and burned, the grounds remained vacant until 1927 when a retirement home for retired practitioners and longtime church workers was completed. In 1976, the residents were moved out on short notice, and the entire estate was sold to the state of New Hampshire for \$2 million, even though the property was appraised at \$10 million. The facility was then turned into a state asylum for the criminally insane, complete with bars on the windows. Pleasant View was sold again in the early 1990s and then again in 1995 to Genesis HealthCare and is now known as Pleasant View Retirement. It was advertised most recently in the *Monitor* of June 22, 2006. The ad contains another fiction: “Upon her death, Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Science Church, deeded the property to the Church on the condition that it would build a retirement home for it’s [sic] practitioners.” (See *Mr. Young Goes to Boston* by Alan Young for an eyewitness account. [1998] available from The Bookmark)

OTHER QUESTIONABLE ACTIONS

Christian Scientist James F. Lord acquired the Mark Baker property at Bow, New Hampshire, and erected a large granite monument which was dedicated on the centennial of Mrs. Eddy’s birth on July 16, 1921. The directors urged people not to go to the dedication. In spite of that decree, many people from Concord did attend. In 1927, Mr. Lord deeded the property to The

Mother Church, and the monument appears in *Landmarks from Bow to Boston*. In 1962, the board of directors voted to dynamite the monument which had been the single largest piece of granite ever quarried in New Hampshire. Every fragment of the massive marker was carted away and buried.

Christian Scientist Mary Lincoln Beckwith willed “Hildene”, her Vermont estate, to The Mother Church with the clear wish that it be preserved as a memorial to her father Robert Todd Lincoln and her grandparents Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. In addition, Mrs. Beckwith left the church \$425,000. When she died in 1975, the church immediately put the 412 acre estate on the market even though they knew Mrs. Beckwith’s wishes. Prior to her passing, the directors gave no indication that they did not intend to comply with her clear expectations. Vermont residents were given ninety days to raise money to save the estate. Fortunately they were able to do so, and the Lincoln estate is now open to the public. [Tel: (802) 362-1788] (See *Christian Science After 1910*, pages 116, 133, 134)

Part of the reason for this quick sale was the financial difficulty the church found itself in after the construction of The Christian Science Center. The original estimated cost of the massive complex was \$6 million. But the construction firm was given the contract on a “cost-plus basis,” and the cost overruns were substantial. In 1971, people were urged not to attend the Annual Meeting that year and, instead, to send all the money they could to the church. As has become clear in the years since construction was completed, the project was overbuilt, not needed, and never fully occupied. Entire floors of the administration were not finished. The Church Colonnade was never fully utilized. The large park with grass and sculptured linden trees disappeared, and Boston lost another green space. The property has been a huge drain on church resources ever since. Now the attempt will be made to lease these buildings to outside interests.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Since the 1960s, the directors have had a huge appetite for expensive projects. Former board chairman, Harvey Wood, built his ill-fated electronic media empire for \$500,000,000. It was a massive failure, and there is absolutely nothing to show for it today. Virginia Harris had her “Summer Soulstice” parties on the plaza with free hot dogs, clowns, face painting, and boat rides on the reflecting pools for approximately \$68,000 each. The board under her chairmanship also built the Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity which, according to the annual audits, has lost \$19,560,071 since 2002. It is natural that the directors will look for ways to fill the breach caused by these questionable projects. It is most unfortunate they have decided to

target truly worthwhile and historic sites to make up for bad judgment and lack of foresight. The directors justify themselves by saying that the houses represent materialism while, by contrast, the directors wish to lead us on to spirituality and healing. These homes are, in fact, Mrs. Eddy's own life testimony and demonstration, exactly as she left them. The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity can only hope to display a parasol, a pair of gloves, or a hat pin in a showcase. By contrast, Mrs. Eddy's houses were homes for herself and her faithful workers where humility, humanity, Christianity, and mission offer silent lessons for those who will see. As Mrs. Eddy asks, "Do you know how much I love you and the nature of this love? No: then my sacred secret is incommunicable, and we live apart. But, yes: and this inmost something becomes articulate, and my book is not all you know of me. But your knowledge with its magnitude of meaning uncovers my life, even as your heart has discovered it. The spiritual bespeaks our temporal history. Difficulty, abnegation, constant battle against the world, the flesh, and evil, tell my long-kept secret -- evidence a heart wholly in protest and unutterable in love." (My. 133,134)

Readers of *The Banner* are urged to donate as much as they possibly can to Longyear Museum. Time is very short, and if Longyear is not successful in raising the needed funds, Mrs. Eddy's home at 400 Beacon Street, Chestnut Hill, will be lost forever. Please indicate that your contribution is for the house at 400 Beacon Street. The address: Longyear Museum, 1125 Boylston Street, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-1811 Telephone: 617-278-9000 Web site: www.longyear.org E-mail: houses@longyear.org

HARP AT TMC SUNDAY SERVICE

On June 4, 2006, the day before Annual Meeting, a harpist was featured at the Sunday service at The Mother Church. When people questioned the playing of a harp as a violation of the Order of Services established by Mrs. Eddy, one person was told, "David played a harp." When pressed about the *Manual* provisions, the comeback was, "We love the *Manual*!" Complaints continued to be made. A response from Nathan Talbot reveals the board's thinking: "It is understandable that there may be differences of opinions about the music in our Church. But it wouldn't be fair to call it 'a violation of the Church Manual' or a 'blatant disregard for the laws of our Church.' It is true that Mrs. Eddy requested 'organ only' but I believe [!?!] she was referring to not having a choir accompany the organ... Perhaps a larger issue is that we have a movement of many talented people. Some may look at the Manual with what would be described as a strict constructionist's perspective and others with a more liberal perspective. Both perspectives can come from honest, committed

Christian Scientists who love this revelation, love Mrs. Eddy's Church and love the Manual that guides it... I suspect our Leader would prefer that such honest thought go into such a decision than for members to accuse each other of 'blatant' actions."

TRAGEDY AT ANNUAL MEETING

Just moments before the start of the Annual Meeting on June 5, 2006, incoming Mother Church president, David Reed, collapsed and died. An ambulance and fire truck came to the plaza. No mention of Mr. Reed's passing was given to those in attendance, and outgoing president Heloisa Gelber Rivas conducted the entire meeting whose theme was "A Church of Healers". The *Christian Science Sentinel* mailed the week before, but dated June 5, included a chat between the outgoing and incoming presidents and also another chat among the five directors transcribed from a *Sentinel Radio* broadcast on June 3.

Mr. Reed was appointed president a month in advance of the Annual Meeting. The *Church Manual* states in Article I, Section 2: "The President shall be elected, subject to the approval of the Pastor Emeritus, by the Board of Directors on Monday preceding the annual meeting of the Church." One must ask if this is an example of a liberal interpretation of the by-laws. What is so difficult about obeying a simple, straightforward by-law with a fixed day of compliance? Mrs. Eddy writes, "A slight divergence is fatal in Science." (Rud. 17:1)

RESOLUTION OF AUGUST 6, 1993

As part of a resolution signed by then Clerk of The Mother Church, Olga Chafee, the board determined: "IT IS NOW HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that it is and has long been the determination of the Board both (a) that it is implicit in any decision of The Christian Science Board of Directors to take or refrain from taking any action that the taking or refraining from the taking of such action does not violate any provision of the *Manual of The Mother Church* and (b) that no determination of The Christian Science Board of Directors at any time that purports to apply the provisions of the *Manual of The Mother Church* either (1) can or does prohibit or invalidate any action thereafter taken by The Christian Science Board of Directors or (2) can or does prohibit or invalidate any subsequent determination of The Christian Science Board of Directors purporting to apply the provisions of the *Manual of The Mother Church* in a different manner, whether such subsequent determination be explicit or implicit."

It is clear from this resolution that the directors have established a doctrine of infallibility for themselves regarding the church by-laws.

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of Trust for The Publishing Society in great secrecy. Not even the Directors knew about it until it was a reality. William P. McKenzie, who was one of the original Publishing Society Trustees told a colleague that a Board member, who had considered himself to be McKenzie's mentor, wouldn't speak to him for two years after that. The contents of the Deed of Trust were not made public until 1918." (pp. 29, 30) The litigation, which began in 1919, successfully broke the separation of power Mrs. Eddy had carefully established between the church and the publishing society. The trustees became mere figureheads after that with total power residing with the directors. It is not clear what effect this belated restoration of publishing society functions will have after eighty-five years of complete subservience.

THE LESSON-SERMON CONTROVERSY

An announcement from the Board of Trustees of The Christian Science Publishing Society in Volume 6, Number 18 of E-Open Doors Bulletin to reading rooms (early May 2006) states: "Readers of the September 10, 2006 Bible Lesson on 'Substance' will find this Lesson contains five sections instead of the usual six. This is not a mistake. Rather it is the result of our deep desire to more fully demonstrate the spiritual potential and purpose of the Bible Lesson which Mrs. Eddy deemed so vitally important both to our Church and mankind that she referred to it as '...a lesson on which the prosperity of Christian Science largely depends.' (*Church Manual*, p. 31)... So, future lessons may vary in the number of sections, as well as in the length and number of citations within each section, as the Deed of Trust for the Publishing Society allows."

When the Lesson-Sermon was established in 1898 with the twenty-six subjects established by Mrs. Eddy, some of the lessons had as many as eight sections. By March 1904, they were standardized at six sections and have remained that way for over one hundred years.

Betty Ann Ridley, C.S.B., of Oklahoma City put out an open letter to the Christian Science Board of Directors dated May 30, 2006, in which she urged them to restore and maintain Mrs. Eddy's design for the lesson-sermon. In support of this plea, Mrs. Ridley refers to an article in the August 24, 1929, *Christian Science Sentinel* titled "Oil and Wine" which recounts the symbolism used in the tabernacle which God instructed Moses to build in the wilderness: "In the holy service of the tabernacle was included the shewbread. This was unleavened bread, and each Sabbath the priest brought into the tabernacle twelve loaves, which he placed on the table in two rows, six in each, sprinkling them with incense. These loaves remained on the table until the following Sabbath, when the incense was burned and the bread eaten by the priests. At this time

they brought with them new loaves. May not the *Christian Science Quarterly* with which we are provided to-day be likened to the shewbread?" An article appearing in the August 1964 *Christian Science Journal* reiterates the *Sentinel* article's points.

Mrs. Ridley observes: "If the twelve loaves of bread are in two rows, that must mean six pairs -- six pairs of two loaves each, side by side. The symbolism and its fulfillment is so obvious as to be unmistakable when we think of the Lesson-Sermon as Mrs. Eddy left it in six sections." She also refers to the expanded version of Irving Tomlinson's book, *Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy* which states on page 188: "As the work of the [Bible lesson] committee progressed, it was found that the best arrangement was to have six subtopics for each lesson, although it was not until March 1904 that six sections were uniformly adhered to." For those who would like to read Mrs. Ridley's entire letter, they may request a downloadable file which can be e-mailed to them. Send requests to: ridleycsbassoc@aol.com

The reaction to the announcement of the new, nonstandard lesson was immediate with some elected readers in branch churches announcing that they would not be serving on September 10. Letters flowing from Boston lamented the narrow-mindedness and lack of love among strict constructionists.

NEW BIBLE LESSON FOR YOUTH

The June 26, 2006, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel* announces "my Bible Lesson: a new 'full text' edition to engage youth." (p.18) The format of this new lesson uses graphics, pictures, and cartoons. Verses are interpreted and words are defined at the bottom of the pages and include other Bible versions and paraphrases including *The Message* that was discussed at length in the Spring 2006 issue of *The Banner*. People who have examined this new product have described it as the comic book version of the Lesson-Sermon. The July 2006 *Christian Science Journal* states that this new version is "specifically designed for teen and young adult readers." (p. 62) School teachers who have examined the sample lessons rate them at the interest level of fourth or fifth grade elementary students.

DICK DAVENPORT RESPONDS

Dick Davenport, founder and director of Higher Ground has requested the opportunity to respond to the lead article in the Spring 2006 *Banner* titled, "'Discovery Bound' Youth Meeting" which was held at Laguna Beach, California in January 2006. In the spirit of fairness, *The Banner* presents Mr. Davenport's explanation, and will leave it to the readers to evaluate:

"In my two decades of training and experience on three continents representing The Mother Church as a Chaplain in the United States Air Force, I came to have an ever deeper appreciation of the words of Mrs. Eddy:

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Feb. 27, 1903

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done graduate work in the Bible, are active in their local branch churches, and write often for the *Sentinel* and *Journal*. Each conference features multiple speakers and is free to young people up to age 30. If finances are an issue, I have waived the fee to attend for many people of all ages. Higher Ground is an honest, caring witness to our Leader's love for the Bible. Those of us involved in it are always learning how to do it better, but are committed to reaching people where they are and encouraging them through the study of the Bible to go deeper in their practice of Christian Science. That is Higher Ground." (End of Mr. Davenport's response.)

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