

***** HIS BANNER OVER ME

THE BANNER

WAS LOVE *****

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

VOLUME TWENTY-ONE/NUMBER ONE

FALL 2007 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

DEVELOPMENTS AT PRINCIPIA

In the wake of the resignation of George Moffett as president of Principia College, controversy continues to swirl on the campus and among alumni.

On July 10, 2007, a Resolution Committee, called for by the Board of Trustees and composed of two representatives from each of the constituencies from both campuses, made its initial report to the community: "Our Resolution Committee has met for many, many hours since we first came together last February... We have also relied on the services of Jim Reeves, a facilitator who acted as a fact finder and consultant for our group in how to sort through difficult issues... Our committee considered deeply and prayerfully what recommendations we could offer regarding Stuart Jenkins and his position as CEO. We considered a number of options as to how Stuart should be addressed. A majority of the committee voted for one of the options that involves Stuart leaving the CEO position." Out of fourteen committee members voting, seven wanted Jenkins to leave the CEO position and Principia. One wanted him out as CEO, but eligible for another position at the college. Five wanted him to remain as CEO with a probation/mentoring/action plan for specific changes. None of the committee members voted to have Jenkins remain as CEO without at least some changes in his management style.

The committee also recommended: "Until the Governance study is completed, the person holding the CEO position should be removed from the Board of Trustees effective immediately." The report made other recommendations regarding hiring and firing procedures and strategic planning. It also indicated that it would continue to work on a number of other concerns.

TRUSTEES RESPOND

On July 16, 2007, the Board of Trustees issued a letter acknowledging the work of the Resolution Committee as well as responding to the controversy that has embroiled the Principia campus since the previous year when two trustees (Gary Krisel and Traci Bliss) resigned their positions to protest the confidential 47% pay raise for CEO Stuart Jenkins and the widely perceived mistreatment of the college president.

The letter began: "Over the past several months, the Board of Trustees has remained largely silent while working to support the healing of turmoil and unrest in our community... We are grateful to the Committee for their service and commitment to this five-month project

and for their dedication to helping Principia move forward... We regret the manner in which we accepted [George Moffett's] resignation and take responsibility for the breakdown in communication between the Board and the College President... We recognize the need for greater transparency in the setting of salary levels at both campuses -- particularly with regard to the most senior posts -- and are committed to determining how best to accomplish this... We appreciate the spirit in which their [the Resolution Committee's] recommendations have been made and find we are able to accept many -- but not all -- of them... Even while we work to continue resolving our differences, we are united in our support and love of Principia... In our view, and consistent with the findings of the independent fact-finder, Stuart Jenkins has fulfilled the duties of his office with great courage and directness and has contributed to necessary changes at Principia... Occasionally, we would have wished that his directness had been softened with more tact. We would have liked to see him better communicate his goals and ideals to the entire community. Yet, in the past, we have to confess that too much emphasis on avoiding any hurt feelings has delayed needed correction in many instances... We thank the Committee for its work and willingness to serve the school and respectfully decline their offer to lead the governance study. The Committee's work is complete in terms of bringing the issues forward, moving the community toward understanding the facts, and presenting its recommendations... For his part, Stuart [Jenkins] will engage a management-training consultant to address the style issues highlighted in Mr. Reeves' report. Some members of our community may not agree with the choices represented by the Trustees' decisions and will turn to growth opportunities elsewhere... [W]e have asked Stuart Jenkins to remain in his post as CEO... We have accepted his resignation as a Trustee, effective on the date that we are able to elect a successor Trustee... The CEO will be invited to attend all regular Board meetings in their entirety, except when the Board goes into executive session or holds Trustee elections."

With this letter, the resignation of George Moffett was affirmed, Stuart Jenkins was retained as CEO, the Resolution Committee was dismissed, and unhappy employees were invited to look for "growth opportunities elsewhere."

NEW CONTROVERSY

The *Saint Louis Post-Dispatch* of August 29, 2007, ran an article titled, "Private school's desire to develop its park-like campus stirs dismay." "We have a vision

of development that is a positive, not a blight for anyone.' [Principia CEO Stuart] Jenkins said. 'Granted, most would love to keep it an open field, but keeping it an open field costs Principia millions of dollars a year.' School officials are exploring how much revenue could be generated by building retail, residential or a mixed-use development in those fields." The plan is reminiscent of the Christian Science Board of Directors' announced intention to build commercial buildings on the church plaza in Boston. Principia's plot of land is located in the residential community of Town and Country, Missouri. "The 175-acre parcel of property could be worth \$300,000 to \$500,000 an acre, real estate developers say, with a total price tag upward of \$80 million. Jenkins says the school has no plans to sell the property and would like to hear ideas from the community about the possibilities for development... Some residents along Mason Road plan to put yard signs opposed to any zoning change for Principia. The dispute has turned longtime supporters of the school into vocal critics... Jenkins said the school hopes to have some tentative plans in writing within the next three to four months. He warned that a stalemate in the community may force the school to sell the property." One resident wrote to Mr. Jenkins saying, "This wrongheaded approach of seeking financial security for your institution by becoming a commercial developer seemingly conflicts with Item 20 of your policies and practices, that is, to always follow the Golden Rule."

BUILDING IN WASHINGTON, D.C., SOLD

The *Washington Business Journal* of April 17, 2007, reported that the Christian Science Monitor building in the nation's capital has been sold to IGC Properties. "The property at the corner of 16th and Eye streets NW, includes a 30,000 square-foot office building at 910 16th Street, a 52-space underground parking garage and a building occupied by Third Church of Christ, Scientist, a branch of the Boston-based church. The church will stay in its building." The selling price for the property has not been disclosed.

NO COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE

Retired employees of The Mother Church received a letter from the plan administrator of the church's pension fund dated July 26, 2007: "Cost of Living Adjustment clause -- The plan will no longer provide cost of living adjustments. Previously, the plan stated that cost of living adjustments would be considered from time-to-time. Some of you know that we have given adjustments in the past, but have not done so since 1996. Going forward, we have decided to eliminate this provision after giving the issue careful consideration. In making this decision we reviewed the past and potential future impact of cost of living increases on overall funding of the plan as well as current industry

practices for private pension plans. After considering these points, we determined that continuing to provide such adjustments was neither fiscally responsible nor in accord with current best practices."

At the height of the Harvey Wood era at The Mother Church, expenses for the ill-fated cable TV Monitor Channel venture, shortwave radio, *World Monitor Magazine*, a local Boston television station (WQTV), and the World Monitor news program on the Discovery Channel were consuming huge amounts of money. Twenty million dollars was borrowed from The Monitor Endowment Fund, and The Mother Church employee pension fund was drawn down by \$41.5 million to help pay for the overextended projects. In subsequent years, the principle was repaid to a substantial degree, but the interest that would have accumulated was lost. It would appear that retirees are paying for those excesses today. (See Fall 1992 *Banner*)

SIX CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the July and September 2007 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* reveals that the following churches have closed: Brooksville, Florida; Second Church, Miami, Florida; Waukegan, Illinois; Highland, Indiana; Fort Dodge, Iowa; and Cumberland, Maryland. At the same time, a new society has been listed for San Francisco, California. It has the same address as Ninth Church of San Francisco. Since the count began in February 1987, **738** churches have closed and **67** have opened.

The Summer 2007 *Banner* listed Jefferson City, Missouri; Albany, New York; Bismarck, North Dakota, and Pierre; South Dakota as state capitals which no longer have a church presence. An alert reader notes that there are two other state capitals without churches: Dover, Delaware; and Lansing, Michigan. This brings the total to six.

MARIO TOSTO LEAVES CHURCH

Mario Tosto, former video-lecturer and authorized teacher of Christian Science, has left the church and has apparently declared himself to be an atheist. Mr. Tosto came to prominence in the church when he starred in one of the first video-lectures in 1987 after Harvey Wood's Global Lecture Preparatory Meeting held on September 24, 1987. That televised meeting marked the end of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship as it had been known since the early days of Christian Science. Mr. Tosto's lecture took place in a beauty parlor as he walked among the hair dryers and buckets of curlers. His star quickly rose in Boston, and he was included in the 1988 Normal Class. He resided in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He was named as a defendant in the Ian Lundman child care case in 1991. More recently, he has resided in Danville, California. He requested a sabbatical from the Christian Science Board of Directors which was

granted. Subsequently, he made his rejection of belief in God known to the directors. His name last appeared in the November 2006 *Journal*. He left the church, and his association of pupils was dissolved. As late as July 15, 2007, Spirituality.com continued to include an account of a musical play by Mr. Tosto titled "Who is my neighbor?" His website features an open letter and poetry, one of which talks about leaving the "eddy". There are also links to atheist and agnostic websites. (www.tosto.com)

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SENTINEL: LOVE, IDENTITY & SEXUALITY

The June 18, 2007, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel* headlined a series of articles directed at young people which purported to present the Christian Science perspective on the subject. Lecturer and practitioner Ginny Luedeman answered questions in one article in which she stated, "I love to think that Christian Science isn't a 'don't do it' religion -- it's a 'look and see how wonderful you are' way of thinking. It shows us how 'in love' we all are right now! And in that sense of love, we know how to love each other, naturally." (p.9) Another article included postings from the TMCYouth.com website and reprinted a dialogue among young people. Lyra 1000 opined: "I don't think premarital sex is a bad thing -- if it is done with love instead of lust, with a mutual respect for the other person and an understanding of it being a physical expression of an emotional bond." (p. 14) Epeos 80 wrote: "I would argue that whether a person decides to have sex should be based on the spiritual stance of their relationship and not whether or not the couple has registered with the State as a married couple. (p. 15) Inge (a sociologist) apparently served as the group facilitator. She summarized the postings: "Lastly, the issue of judging and holding people to absolute standards. To me *Science and Health* and Christian Science aren't about creating a set of human laws to abide by -- it is about following the Spirit, abiding by our highest sense of right in the best way that we know and are inspired to do." (p. 15)

As in all "dialogue to consensus" groups, authoritative sources are *never* quoted, though they may be named deferentially in passing. To the group, there is no right or wrong. It is up to the group to decide what is right, and the result is invariably a corruption of first principles. The carefully unquoted authority in this case is Mary Baker Eddy who writes: "Infidelity to the marriage covenant is the social scourge of all races, 'the pestilence that walketh in darkness,... the destruction that wasteth at noonday.' The commandment, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery,' is no less imperative than the one, 'Thou shalt not kill.' Chastity is the cement of civilization and progress. Without it there can be no

stability in society, and without it one cannot attain the Science of Life." (*Science and Health*, pp. 56, 57)

The effort to retain or attract youth to Christian Science by pandering to the lowest social norms will not result in increased numbers nor lead young people to the individual spiritual progress for which they yearn. Since 1999, the *Christian Science Sentinel* has lost 18,517 subscribers. (See also Spring 2007 *Banner* article, "Dialogue to Consensus")

FORMER PRACTITIONER SENTENCED

"The Securities and Exchange Commission announced today [6-28-07] that the federal court for the District of Massachusetts sentenced Eric E. Resteiner for criminal charges based on his operation of a fraudulent investment scheme through which he raised more than \$30 million. Resteiner was a defendant in a previously filed SEC fraud action based on the same conduct. The sentence, handed down on May 16, 2007, ordered Resteiner to serve 87 months in incarceration, followed by two years of supervised release, and to pay restitution in the amount of \$33.9 million. Resteiner renounced his U.S. citizenship in 1995, and will be deported from the United States following his term of imprisonment. The criminal indictment alleged that Resteiner created and executed a scheme by which he defrauded approximately 50 investors, many of whom were members of the Church of Christ Scientist (Christian Science Church), out of more than \$30 million through a purported high-yield, international bank trading program... The court also entered judgments by consent against two other individuals involved in Resteiner's fraudulent investment scheme, Charles G. Dyer and Miles M. Harbur [former 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."

(www.sec.gov/litigation/litreleases/2007/lr20170htm)
(See Winter 2003, Summer 2004, Spring 2006, Summer 2007 *Banners* for additional details.)

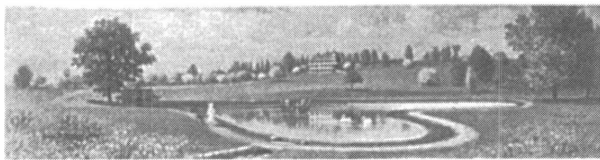
A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME

In 2006, Longyear Museum purchased Mrs. Eddy's former residences in Lynn and at Chestnut Hill for \$729,000 and \$13.3 million respectively. The houses were acquired debt-free because of the generous donations of Christian Scientists around the world. As it turned out, none of the furnishings were included in the sale. They were all removed and placed in storage by the Christian Science Board of Directors. Longyear Museum had to pay \$8000 for a few pieces of furniture for the Lynn house. They paid \$156,000 for five of Mrs. Eddy's carriages, a few pieces of furniture, and some rugs for the Chestnut Hill property. The Mother Church has indicated that some more artifacts

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may be available for purchase by Longyear at a later date. Meanwhile, all of the remaining furniture is in storage, unseen and uncared for by conservators. People visiting these historic sites expect to see the furnishings that give significance to events in the life of Mrs. Eddy and the history of Christian Science.

What is missing? Mrs. Eddy's spiritual viewpoint. Paintings. Original drawings for *Christ and Christmas*. Rare depictions of Jesus. Sculptures such as the "White Student" in Mrs. Eddy's study which was a gift from the Sunday School of Second Church, Kansas City, Missouri. The portraits of Dr. Asa G. Eddy and Mary Baker Eddy over the mantel in the Pink Room. The meticulously organized desk in her study. The painting "Isle of Wight" which inspired a poem of the same name. Mrs. Eddy's simple bedroom with its engraving of "Daniel in the Lion's Den". All of these, and many more, deserve to be seen. These empty houses are, technically her former residences, but they are not the "homes" she occupied if they do not illustrate the mental atmosphere she inhabited. Viewpoints expressed from around the world believe that The Mother Church should give the furnishings to Longyear as a legacy for all.

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 Christian Science Board of 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. Hardcover \$24.95 Paperback \$12.95. Either or both books may be ordered from The Bookmark, P.O. Box 801143, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. Postage & Handling: \$5.95 for orders up to \$19.95; \$7.95 for orders from \$20.00 to \$59.95. Telephone Orders: 1-800-220-7767.

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VOLUME TWENTY-ONE / NUMBER TWO

WINTER 2008 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

JENKINS RESIGNS AS PRINCIPIA CEO

In an October 18, 2007, letter addressed to "The Principia Community", the Board of Trustees announced the resignation of Stuart Jenkins as Chief Executive Officer and Trustee of Principia: "His deep love for Principia and his concern for its capacity to move forward under the current circumstances have led him to this conclusion. We agree with his concern and have accepted his resignation. The Board is very grateful for his unwavering commitment to finding solutions to entrenched issues that need to be resolved."

The same letter announced: "The Board has appointed David J. Anable to fulfill the interim role as Chief Executive of Principia. Accordingly, David will defer taking office as a Trustee [elected 9-3-2007] until this assignment is complete... Stuart and David plan to work through the transition next week." David Anable was a journalist for two decades for *The Christian Science Monitor* and was managing editor of the newspaper from 1985 to 1988.

PARTING SHOTS FROM STUART JENKINS

On November 24, 2007, former CEO Stuart Jenkins addressed an open letter to individuals he blames for many of Principia's problems: "Allow me to remind you that on several occasions I have sent you letters, the last on Tuesday, which provided data and called for you to return to our community's religious and spiritual value system. Since those messages seem to have fallen on deaf ears, let me try a more direct approach, one which I had hoped to avoid up until now... Firstly, I am tired of your sanctimonious letters!... There is an audacious disconnect between your overtly polite letters dripping with spiritual codes and innuendos and the wicked reports of your words which filter down from those who have shared your company... You inherited a Principia that had an enviable record as a rigorous institution committed to Whole Man character education that produced a competent citizenry of alumni. But you left in your wake a school committed to serving as a safety net for underperforming adults who often imposed nearly inhuman consequences on kids when they made mistakes."

Then Mr. Jenkins proceeded to enumerate alleged offenses by those same individuals including the failure to report a sex crime against a high school student by a teacher, the taking of money and other benefits from major donors for personal use, pressuring the college president to graduate children of rich donors who

otherwise would not have qualified, the stealing of documents, and a corruption of the fact-finding process. Mr. Jenkins continues: "In some ways, your letters have proven to be a badge of honor for me as I would never want to be associated with your approach, phoniness, embrace of mediocrity, cult of personality, selective morality, general incompetence and pharisaical approach to Christianity... The hate that you have encouraged, nurtured, cultivated, and sponsored in the Principia community these past months is an angry, hungry beast and before it is all said and done, that beast will consume those of you who have tried to ride it to power."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESPONDS

A December 7, 2007, letter from the Principia Board of Trustees stated: "The Principia was founded to serve the Cause of Christian Science. We expect all those associated -- past, present, and future -- with the institution to conform their ideals and practices to the teachings of Christian Science. That is a sacred trust. Any departure from this standard is wholly unacceptable. It is in this spirit that we repudiate absolutely the use of personal attacks by anyone associated with Principia. This includes attacks against past or present officials of this institution, as exemplified by letters, e-mails, and website materials that have been all too widely circulated, including e-mails distributed in late November."

PRINCIPIA PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

The Fall 2007 *Banner* reported that CEO Stuart Jenkins announced plans to commercially develop a 175-acre parcel of property located near the Missouri community of Town and Country.

An article in the November 21, 2007, *West Newsmagazine* [Missouri] stated: "On Nov. 5, the Town & Country Land Use Update Committee recommended that a possible expansion at The Principia School remain in the zoning category compatible with that of nearby residential areas... Principia officials said that the school has had to borrow several million dollars to build athletic facilities and upgrades at its home campus as well as at its location in Elsah, Ill... Some ideas for the land include developing a village comprised of 2,500-square-foot homes as well as shops, offices and perhaps an inn... The Land Use Update Committee looked at adding language to the city's comprehensive plan and recommended that Principia remain in the Major Educational Campus (MEC) category... With the recent resignation of Principia Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Stuart Jenkins, there will not be any further decisions taking place until February 2008."

MORE CHANGES IN THE QUARTERLY

A new format for the *Christian Science Quarterly* debuted with the January - March 2008 issue. Along with more color, commercial stock photography, and the lessons of varying lengths and sections, is a notice on page 58 titled "What you need to know..." It states, "There are 26 Bible Lesson subjects, which appear twice a year. Each Lesson includes selections from the Bible (the King James Version, unless otherwise indicated) and from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy." (Emphasis added)

This is the first time that the integrity of the Lesson-Sermon, itself, is threatened with so-called modern Bible translations. Branches have been encouraged to use these other versions for scriptural selections and benedictions, and this had divided numerous congregations. The December 2007 *Christian Science Journal* includes an article titled "Behind the Scenes" by Sandy Waller, manager, Bible Lesson Products, which details all the changes in the various *Quarterly* editions. Near the end of the article the author includes a quotation from the popular Bible substitute, *The Message*, by Eugene Peterson ("Matter is real. Flesh is good") It is reasonable to assume that users of the *Quarterly* will find *The Message* or other Bible-lite versions in the lessons some time this year. (See Fall 2006 *Banner* for an expose of *The Message* and the Summer 2006 *Banner* for a discussion of the new, non-standard Lesson-Sermons.)

QUESTIONS ABOUT MONITOR SURFACE

An email circulating in mid-November stated that the Board of Directors is seriously considering discontinuing the daily print *Monitor* if operating expenses go below existing funds. According to this message, a weekly magazine is being considered in about eighteen months if the present financial situation does not change.

Later in the same week, another email, which was clearly intended to squelch the first one, stated: "The Directors and trustees are both explicitly and officially committed to a "daily" form of *The Christian Science Monitor*... That could become electronic-only at some point, though no decision has been made to take that step."

Readers of *The Banner* are reminded of a Mother Church employees meeting held on February 4, 2004, in which it was announced that The Christian Science Publishing Society was being called upon to break even by 2008 and to make a profit by 2009. In 2004, the yearly subsidy for the *Monitor* was \$20 million. (See Spring 2004 *Banner* for details.)

CIRCULATION FIGURES FOR MONITOR

The October 4, 2007 issue of *The Christian Science Monitor* gave paid circulation of the newspaper as 52,813. This represents a decrease of 4,214 subscribers since last year and a decrease of 103,433 subscribers

since 1989 when the Board of Directors led by Harvey Wood disastrously changed the *Monitor* format to full color, reduced the number of pages, and eliminated almost all paid advertising.

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
2006	57,027
2007	52,813

PRAYERFUL SUPPORT URGED

A message in October 2007 on the independent Christian Science website, [ChristianScienceIssues2](http://ChristianScienceIssues2.com), asked readers to prayerfully and financially support the Christian Science periodicals. It was noted that the *Sentinel* has lost 33% of its paid circulation in the last five years.

CIRCULATION OF THE SENTINEL

The October 22, 2007, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel* gave its annual circulation notice as required by U.S. Postal regulations. The 2007 paid subscriptions are listed as 32,341. Since last year, the *Sentinel* has lost 2,432 subscribers. It has lost 20,949 subscribers since its recent high point in the year 1999. Mother Church members, who have stopped subscribing to the periodicals, report that they have received letters from Boston urging them to consider resubscribing.

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
2006	34,773
2007	32,341

THIRD CHURCH, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The November 1, 2007, edition of *The Washington Post* included an article titled "A Place unfit for a

Congregation, Much Less a Historic Designation” by Marc Fisher. It begins: “Two blocks from the White House, there is a concrete fortress that looks like a top-secret government installation. Set back on a barren plaza frequented mainly by homeless men in search of a restroom, the building faces 16th Street NW with dirty, rough, blank walls. Amazingly, this building is a church -- probably the city’s most unfriendly and depressing piece of spiritual architecture. The District government proposes to declare this atrocity a historic landmark...

“Never mind that this downtown congregation’s few dozen members want to raze the concrete pillbox and replace its 400-seat sanctuary with a new, more intimate home. ‘It is always with reluctance, and fairly rarely, that we recommend a designation over an owner’s objection,’ says a staff report from the city’s Historic Preservation Office to be presented today to the preservation review board. But that is exactly what the city now proposes to do, freezing plans by a developer to create a mixed-use building that could include a small church for Christian Scientists...

“The city has kept this issue alive for nearly two decades and untold billable hours -- isn’t this a fabulous town in which to be a lawyer? -- despite admitting in its own report that the building is an inflexible space and that there are ‘practical issues with condition and maintenance.’ Such as the fact that church members say it costs \$8,000 to change a light bulb in the sanctuary because scaffolding must be erected...

“Shouldn’t a church have the right to choose its own architectural message -- and how to spend its own money?.. Nothing in Christian Science theology supports the idea of a church as a windowless fortress. And from the start, church records show members wanted a ‘useful, practical building rather than a prestigious structure.’” (www.washingtonpost.com)

EIGHT MORE CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the September and December 2007 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* reveals that the following churches/societies have closed: Santa Maria, California; Peoria (1st), Illinois; Newport, Kentucky; Staten Island, New York; Troy, Ohio; Bradford, Pennsylvania; Seattle (Ballard Soc.), Washington; and Snohomish, Washington. At the same time a new society was formed at Meridian, Idaho. Since the count began in February 1987, **746** churches have closed and **68** have opened.

MONITOR METAPHYSICAL ARTICLES

From the Winter 2007 *Banner*: “Beginning in April 2004, *The Banner* began counting the number of *Monitor* metaphysical articles which did not include any reference or quotation from Mrs. Eddy’s writings. From April 2004 until December 29, 2005, 79 articles neglected to quote from or mention her. From that date

until November 2006, a complete reversal took place, and every metaphysical article unflinchingly included quotations from Mrs. Eddy. Then on November 22, 2006, the *Monitor* included ‘Pregnant with gratitude’ which not only failed to mention or quote from Mrs. Eddy, but also neglected to give even a passing reference to the Bible or Christianity.”

This trend has continued. The March 21, 2007, metaphysical article quoted from *The Message*. The April 30th article did not mention Christian Science or Mrs. Eddy. On May 29th, Mrs. Eddy was quoted two times, but was never named. The July 31st article quoted again from *The Message*. On October 30th, Mrs. Eddy was again quoted, but not named. The November 6th article did not mention Christian Science or Mrs. Eddy, and quoted from the *New English Bible*. The November 26 article did not mention Christian Science or Mrs. Eddy. Again, on December 6th, Christian Science was not mentioned; Mrs. Eddy was not named; and the Bible was not quoted. Since April 2004, **84** metaphysical articles have appeared in the *Monitor* which failed to quote from Mrs. Eddy’s writings.

From the Spring 2004 *Banner*: “A summer 2003 e-mail sent 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 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...’”

BANNER EDITOR EXCOMMUNICATED

A letter dated November 5, 2007, from The Christian Science Board of Directors culminated eighteen years of correspondence between it and the editor of *The Banner*: “Under provisions of the *Church Manual*, Article XI, Section 1, we have now removed your name from membership. We know you will continue to feel blessed by Church as our Leader describes it. Be we do feel a sorrow when a member no longer has the practical expression of spiritual shelter and nourishment that she knew accompanied membership. We look forward to the day when you provide evidence of desiring to rise to the standards established by Mary Baker Eddy for membership in her Church. The door will then be open for you to join with us again.”

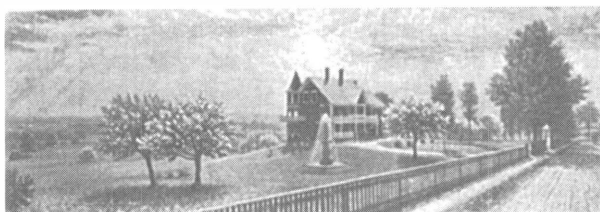
The first letter in the series, dated November 20, 1989, asked “if there is any reason why your name should not be removed from the Church rolls.”

Subsequently, he was asked on two occasions to

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voluntarily withdraw his name from membership or cease publishing *The Banner*, both of which he declined to do. After a series of letters, the Board put the editor on probation effective June 13, 1991. The letter stated, "After one year the Board will reconsider your case." The Board did not write again until December 9, 2006. After another exchange of letters, the Board asked: "If you can't think of a way to describe your Christianity, your Christliness, or if you prefer not to, would you be willing to come to The Mother Church and visit with the Board? Perhaps we'll be able to recognize some qualities that will enable us to resolve your probation." The editor declined to make such a visit, and after a second invitation for him to go to Boston, the Board wrote its final letter of excommunication.

MORE VISITS TO BRANCH CHURCHES

A notice in the October 29, 2007, *Christian Science Sentinel* (p. 19) announced a new initiative from The Mother Church. Branches can invite the President of TMC, two members of the Board of Education, and the most recent teacher of the Normal Class to visit them "to facilitate a meeting, both for those who are developing a healing practice, and for those currently

advertising in *The Christian Science Journal*." Just as with the town meetings, when the Board of Directors visited branches around the world, "these meetings require the coverage of all expenses..." One of the first such meetings took place at the church in Fairfax, Virginia, on November 7th. Those who came to "facilitate" (a dialogue to consensus word) included Tom Black from the Board of Directors; Sandy Sandburg, teacher of the most recent Normal Class; Olga Chafee, "President" of the Board of Education; and Kim Walker, Federal Committee on Publication and his wife.

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by

Andrew W. Hartsook

The complete account of how the Christian Science Board of 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: \$5.95 for orders up to \$19.95; \$7.95 for orders from \$20.00 to \$59.95. Telephone Orders: 1-800-220-7767. Order may also be done via the website: www.thebookmark.com

KING JAMES BIBLE CONTROVERSY

The last issue of *The Banner* noted that the January-March 2008 *Christian Science Quarterly* carried a notice on page 58 titled "What you need to know..." It stated, "Each Lesson includes selections from the Bible (the King James Version, unless otherwise indicated) and from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy." (Emphasis added) The April-June 2008 *Quarterly* includes a lesson which uses the *New International Reader's Version* of the Bible for the Golden Text and the *New International Version* for the Responsive Reading.

The March 2008 *Christian Science Journal* carried an article by Sandy Waller, Manager, Bible Lesson Products, about the change. After enumerating research he says he did that justifies replacing the King James Version of the Bible occasionally with modern translations and paraphrases, he stated, "Please join us in loving and supporting the May 12-18 Lesson, 'Mortals and Immortals,' as well as all of the upcoming Christian Science Bible Lessons as they continue to unfold..."

The March 24, 2008 *Christian Science Sentinel* carried a letter from the Directors and the Trustees of the Publishing Society which was clearly intended to quell dissatisfaction in the field: "This e-mail is about the Bible Lesson, correcting some mistaken points that are circulating in the Field." They then cite instances in which Mrs. Eddy used other Bible versions in, what turn out to be, very rare and specific instances. They state that only the Golden Text and the Responsive Reading will employ other Bible versions and that the body of the lessons will use exclusively the King James Version. They end with references to "helpful *Journal* articles" from 2005 and 2008 about expanding the use of other Bible translations. They do not cite another Directors' statement from the July 2, 1938, *Sentinel* which categorically insists that only the King James Version should be used in church services. Another Directors' statement from September 24, 1984, states, "But the close correlation between the King James Version and *Science and Health* enhances the unity of the Bible and the Christian Science textbook. Mrs. Eddy drew from the King James Version over five hundred different verses for *Science and Health*... Because of these facts, the King James Version should be the exclusive translation that English-speaking branches use in services and Sunday Schools and also in Reading Rooms for sets of books marked for study of the Bible Lessons."

CHURCH THREATENED WITH DISCIPLINE

A Mother Church member wrote to the Directors about the King James Bible controversy and received a telephone call from Susie (Suzanne) Creager in the Clerk's office on March 3, 2008. The church member asked if "there will be any penalty such as removal of church Journal-listings and so forth, for churches whose memberships decide that they wish to read only from the KJV in their services... [Ms. Creager responded], 'That is not true, nobody has said that. It's a rumor. It says in the Manual that The Mother Church does not control the branches... Nobody said that, it's a rumor but it's spreading.' So I told her I knew of a church that had made such a decision and they got a letter from someone at TMC that said they (the branch church) needed to be aware that their Journal-listing could be adversely affected by not reading what's in the *Quarterly*. Susie immediately knew who had written that letter and what was in it, and said that when it first happened and people were calling in saying 'well we're not going to read the Lesson', the people at TMC said you have to read what's in the *Quarterly*. So, yes that letter was written and they did say that. But since then they have gotten new light on things..." [Editor's note: One suspects that it was heat, rather than light, that brought about the policy reversal.]

It is known that the branch church in Sun City West, Arizona, has written into its local by-laws that only the KJV will be read at church services. It is understood that other branch churches are considering the same provision for their own local by-laws.

Clearly the push for other Bible translations and paraphrases is increasing. The Monthly Message from Phil Davis, Manager Committees on Publication, ended his January 2008 message: "Considering progress without fear, our Support Division Manager, Madaline Walter, found this Ephesians passage from *The Message*" which is then quoted in full. As was noted in the Fall 2006 *Banner*, Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message*, stated in another of his books, *The Contemplative Pastor: Returning to the Art of Spiritual Direction* [1993]: "Matter is real. Flesh is good. Without firm rooting in creation, religion is always drifting off into some kind of pious sentimentalism or sophisticated intellectualism. The task of salvation is not to refine us into pure spirits so that we will not be cumbered with this too solid flesh. We are not angels, nor are we to become angels." With the encouragement of TMC, the use of *The Message* has spread to many branch churches as well as into their Sunday schools.

21ST CENTURY SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Cheryl Peterson, a *Journal*-listed practitioner from December 1993 through October 2005, has rewritten *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. She has listed herself as its author, has copyrighted it, and is now offering it for sale at her website [www.healingsciencetoday.com]

Ms. Peterson states, "This book on metaphysical healing has now been revised and updated for today's world in *21st Century Science and Health*. Every effort was made to make the original meaning of these timeless and universal healing ideas understandable and accessible to the modern reader. Spiritual understanding and its healing energy are vibrant and inspiring, not to be trapped in human language. This book will help you with mind healing and spiritual healing. You learn how prayer can work as medicine for sick people. By using this book you will learn alternative energy healing methods to rejuvenate your energy."

Chapter titles have been changed in some instances. In place of Animal Magnetism Unmasked, Ms. Peterson has Power of Suggestion; Crowd Thinking. Instead of Christian Science versus Spiritualism, she has Investigating Psychics and Spiritualism. The chapter Fruitage is eliminated entirely. The original King James Version of the Bible is dropped in favor of the *New International Version* (the same version used in the May 2008 Mortals and Immortals lesson in the *Quarterly*). It goes, almost without saying, that *The Message* is also used prominently in her book.

Ms. Peterson's website also includes links to other sites that she has approved including: Native American Medicine & Spirit Readings and Spirit Touch Center. The latter offers, among other things, yoga, meditation, and hypnotherapy. Hypnosis sessions are offered at \$50.00 per session at this separate website.

On February 14, 2003, while still a *Journal*-listed practitioner, Cheryl Peterson was interviewed for the Public Broadcasting System program, "Religion & Ethics Newsweekly" [week 624]. The topic of the program was The Mother Church's exploring of new ways to reach the public. Others interviewed for the program included Gary Jones (CoP), Elizabeth Kidder (practitioner supporting Matters of Conscience), and Virginia Harris (chair of the CSBD). Ms. Peterson (supporting the CSBD initiatives) stated, "We've got to move with the times, and when anything is being done, if the motive is pure and it's for goodwill of mankind, it's right, and it needs to be supported."

Coincidentally, Cheryl Peterson's brother, Evan Mehlenbacher, is currently a *Journal*-listed practitioner and authorized teacher of Christian Science. His primary class teacher was former CSBD member John Lewis Selover. His 1994 normal class teacher was Nathan

Talbot. He is currently on the Christian Science Board of Lectureship where he is available for youth and Christian Science Organization (college) lectures only.

Mr. Mehlenbacher was interviewed for a July 23, 2003, National Public Radio program titled, "New Direction for Christian Science?" Also interviewed for this program was Virginia Harris. Referring to the *Church Manual*, Mrs. Harris stated, "We had to strip away what existed. We had to strip away the good, the bad and the ugly."

Mr. Mehlenbacher stated, "When you strip away religion and institutionalism from Christian Science, you begin to see that it's not hard at all, and that there aren't these rules that you have to follow like whether to go to the doctor or not. That's totally up to you as a seeker." Mr. Mehlenbacher's position regarding his sister's book is not known. [Ref: www.npr.org and www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/]

FIFTEEN CHURCHES CLOSE

According to a comparison of the January and March 2008 issues of *The Christian Science Journal*, the following fifteen churches have closed: Sierra Vista, Arizona; Gravette, Arkansas; Avalon, California; Hermosa Beach, California; Vacaville, California; Manchester, Connecticut; Highland, Indiana; McPherson, Kansas; Detroit (1st), Michigan; Saint Cloud, Minnesota; Westfield, New Jersey; Brooklyn (3rd), New York; Nyack, New York; Bensalem, Pennsylvania; and Riverton, Wyoming. Since the count began in February 1987, 761 churches have closed, and 68 have opened.

PRACTITIONERS AND TEACHERS

The January 2008 issue of *The Christian Science Journal* lists 1,474 practitioners worldwide and 172 teachers who are still teaching classes.

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
Jul 2006	1,514
Jan 2007	1,521
Jul 2007	1,504
Jan 2008	1,474

Today 47% of branch churches do not have a *Journal*-listed practitioner. The *Church Manual* specifies that a branch church "shall not be organized with less than sixteen loyal Christian Scientists, four of whom are members of The Mother Church. This membership shall include at least one active practitioner whose card is published in the list of practitioners in *The Christian Science Journal*." (Article XXIII, Section 7)

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*
Jul 2006	157*
Jan 2007	143*
Jul 2007	173*
Jan 2008	172*

The list of teachers does not include three who are wrongly excluded from the *Journal* by the Board of Directors: Betty Ann Ridley, CSB, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Elaine Natale Davidson, CSB, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Joseph Eller, CSB, Spencer, New York.

NEW MOVIE BY VAL KILMER

The Spring 2007 *Banner* reported that Val Kilmer is making a movie about Mary Baker Eddy and Mark Twain. He announced his plan to *Maxim* in an interview for that magazine's January 2007 issue: "I'm going to be playing Mark Twain. He was quite a genius. And he was certainly the most famous American in the world at that time. It's a biography of [Christian Science founder] Mary Baker Eddy. It's basically the story of the eternal struggle between the harder road, which is spirituality, and materialism."

On December 31, 2007, a movie trailer titled "Mark Twain & Mary Baker Eddy: a love story" was placed on the internet website You Tube [www.youtube.com]. The ten-minute clip from the movie consists of a monologue by Mark Twain (Val Kilmer) wreathed in cigar smoke. The film is still in production. No other information was given, and no release date for the film has been announced.

(See also Winter 2003 and Spring 2007 issues of *The Banner* for more about Val Kilmer's career and activities.)

MONITOR METAPHYSICAL ARTICLES

Since the last issue of *The Banner*, five more metaphysical articles in *The Christian Science Monitor* have failed to mention Mrs. Eddy or name her as the author of her own writings: The January 4, 2008, *Monitor* article did not name Mrs. Eddy or quote from her writings. The January 31st article did not name Mrs. Eddy or quote from her works. The March 3rd article did not name her, any of her writings, or even quote from the Bible. The March 12th issue quoted from Mrs. Eddy's writings, but did not name her as the author. The March 19th article did not name Mrs. Eddy, quote from her writings or make any reference to the Bible. In addition, the February 29th article quoted from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible instead of the King James Version. Since the count began in April 2004, **84** articles have neglected to quote from or mention Mrs. Eddy.

Article XV, Section 1, of the *Church Manual* states, "To pour into the ears of listeners the sacred revelations of Christian Science indiscriminately, or without characterizing their origin and thus distinguishing them from the writings of authors who think at random on this subject, is to lose some weight in the scale of right thinking. Therefore it is the duty of every member of this Church, when publicly reading or quoting from the books or poems of our Pastor Emeritus, first to announce the name of the author."

YOUTH ORIENTED ADVERTISING

In an apparent attempt to appeal to young people, the Christian Science Publishing Society has run an advertisement for *Science and Health* in the periodicals. Surrounding the cross and crown seal are the following bits of dialogue: "HEAL THE...What? RAISE THE...Oh, c'mon! CLEANSE THE...Who? CAST OUT... Huh? No, we're not kidding. THINK AGAIN." *Banner* readers have commented that such a presentation is an insult to the intelligence of young people and certainly would not attract any thinking person to Christian Science.

GOSPEL OF JUDAS REVISITED

The Fall 2006 *Banner* reported that J. Thomas Black, Nathan Talbot, and Victor Westberg, members of the Christian Science Board of Directors, endorsed the Gospel of Judas on June 5, 2006, at the Annual Meeting: **Tom Black:** "I am inspired by the life of, of, uh, Judas. Well, you know the world thinks of him as being the very, very of the uh the... **Nathan Talbot:** Betrayer. **Black:** Yeah, the essence of betrayal and traitorousness and so forth. There's a word for you. But anyway. Until he got to that point, he actually was a wonderful healer. Jesus sent out the twelve and while the twelve were out, Jesus said I saw Satan as lightning fall from heaven. So Judas was among those who was a

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"OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN"

healer. He obviously had some profound character flaws, but but at the time they were neutralized in his consciousness by the Christ, and he was able to heal. It was only when he allowed them to dominate that that he fell victim to them. **Talbot:** And even when he fell victim, Tom there were elements (sic) of repentant. **Black:** You bet. **Talbot:** Repentance beginning in his life. **Black:** There were. **Talbot:** And I always felt I could trust that he went right on working out those distractions. **Black:** Yes. Yes. **Victor Westberg:** Absolutely.

All of this enthusiasm was apparently based on a TV show on the National Geographic Channel which appeared the week before Easter of 2006. An article by April D. DeConick, professor of Biblical studies at Rice University, appeared in *The New York Times* during December 2007 and also appeared in regional newspapers. Dr. DeConick writes, "It was a great story. Unfortunately, after re-translating the society's transcription of the Coptic text, I have found that the actual meaning is vastly different. While National Geographic's translation supported the provocative interpretation of Judas as a hero, a more careful reading makes clear that Judas is not only no hero, he is a

demon... Geographic transcription refers to Judas as a 'daimon' which the society's experts have translated as 'spirit.' Actually, the universally accepted word for 'spirit' is 'pneuma' -- in Gnostic literature 'daimon' is always taken to mean 'demon.'...To its credit, National Geographic has acknowledged this mistake, albeit far too late to change the public misconception." The article goes into great detail about numerous other elements of the flawed National Geographic translation. See *Science and Health*, page 47: 10-26, for Mrs. Eddy's view of Judas, a view very different from that of the current members of The Christian Science Board of Directors.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AFTER 1910

by

Andrew W. Hartsook

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MONITOR TO BECOME A WEEKLY?

The Boston Globe of May 10, 2008, published that *The Christian Science Monitor* may become a weekly, rather than a daily, newspaper in the near future. *Globe* staff writer Don Aucoin reported: "In an e-mailed response to questions from the *Globe*, Johathan Wells, the managing publisher of the *Monitor*, acknowledged that the paper is considering a 'weekly product,' along with 'the staffing requirements to produce it.'... If the *Monitor* does launch a weekly edition, it would inevitably fuel speculation about the implications for the daily paper... From a peak of more than 230,000 in the early 1970s, the *Monitor's* average daily circulation had dropped to 56,083 as of March 31, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations... A former consultant to the paper, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said *Monitor* insiders have told him that a prototype of a weekly edition is underway and that they believe the long-term goal could be to eventually phase out the daily paper. Under this scenario, daily news operations would move to the *Monitor's* website, which is heavily trafficked and considered successful... The *Monitor* already publishes a weekly international Edition that is only available outside the United States... In 2004, the church gave the newspaper a mandate to be self-sufficient by 2009 rather than relying on subsidies from the church. Both the church and the newspaper have weathered budget cuts and job losses in recent years... However, several earlier media ventures that were designed to extend the *Monitor's* brand ended in failure. Most notorious was the foray into television that involved the purchase of Channel 68 in Boston and the creation of the *Monitor Channel* in 1991. It was a \$300 million disaster that lasted only one year. In 1997, *Monitor Radio* went dark after 13 years of running annual deficits of \$8 million. The monthly *World Monitor* magazine folded in 1993 after five years, with a loss of \$40 million." [www.boston.com]

KING JAMES CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

The May 2008 edition of *The Christian Science Journal* contains a conversation among three "Bible scholars" about the King James Version and other Bible translations. (p.12) Helen Mathis, David Robertson, and Mary Metzner Trammell of the Christian Science Board of Directors were the conversationalists. All three express appreciation for the King James Version, but seek to demonstrate that Mary Baker Eddy did not really show any undue preference for it or require that the KJV

be used in English language church services. They refer to her use of quotations from other Bible versions used in the original (now discarded) motto for the *Monitor* "First the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear." Mrs. Eddy changed a single word from the King James Version on the proof sheet of the *Monitor*, crossing out "corn" and replacing it with "grain." She made no reference to Bible version when making the change. (See *Commitment to Freedom* by Erwin D. Canham, illustrations following page 72.) The scholars refer to the words on the Cross and Crown seal. Again, only a single word "devils" was changed from the King James Version to "demons." In some of the early Bible Lesson-Sermons, the single word "charity" was replaced with "love." Eventually Mrs. Eddy, perhaps foreseeing future mischief, discouraged further variations from the King James Version in the Bible Lesson-Sermons.

The *Journal* scholars refer to the New English Bible and praise its translation of one of Saint Paul's letters. Perhaps they would care to defend another of its translations. The familiar phrase from Elijah's experience on Mount Horeb as given in the KJV is: "and after the fire a still small voice." The New English Bible renders this same phrase "and after the fire a low murmuring sound." (I Kings 19:12)

Mrs. Trammell states: "Is the KJV perfect? No. It has some drawbacks. King James himself, for instance, was a grand idealist with a less-than-perfect moral record." Since the translation was done by others and was merely dedicated to King James as the reigning monarch, such a statement could only be considered a cheap shot and totally irrelevant to the discussion.

A February 19th statement by the Board of Directors and the Publishing Society Trustees is reprinted in the same May *Journal*: "...there is no letter or document by Mary Baker Eddy, or recollection in any reminiscence, which states a particular translation of the Scriptures is to be used in Church services." (p. 62)

MBE LETTER FROM THE ARCHIVES

Letter L02166 from The Mary Baker Eddy Library was written by Mrs. Eddy to James Henry Wiggin, who was "detailed to the work (punctuation, capitalization and general smoothing out as to construction of sentences). [Powell, p. 138] Her letter was written on Massachusetts Metaphysical College stationery in 1885: "I am astonished that when so much depends on my getting out this book at an earlier period than this, -- and have sent word to you by Mr. Frye twice that I would have no new version, or any other, but the accepted St [King] James version, that you have inserted another

than the one I had placed in my copy.” In a “N.B”. at the end of her letter, Mrs. Eddy states, “My notes on Genesis were upon the above scriptural version. It changes the uniformity to go off on another one.”

It should be noted that Mrs. Eddy makes repeated references to the King James as “our common version” or the “common version” in *Science and Health*. on pages 488:12, 523:21, and 576:26. Almost all of her quotations in her textbook and other writings are from the KJV.

CHURCHES STANDING WITH THE KJV

The following churches/societies have specified that only the King James Version of the Bible will be read during their church services: London, Ontario, Canada; Sun City, Arizona; Sun City West, Arizona; Napa, California; Arvada, Colorado; Denver (6th), Colorado; Greeley, Colorado; Delta, Colorado; Steamboat Springs; Colorado; Thornton-Westminster, Colorado; Largo, Florida; Tampa (1st), Florida; Glen Ellyn, Illinois; Wauconda, Illinois; Goshen, Indiana; Arkansas City, Kansas; Belmont, Massachusetts; Boothbay Harbor, Maine; Rockport, Maine; Saint Louis (8th), Missouri; Lincoln (1st), Nebraska; Zanesville, Ohio; Oklahoma City (5th), Oklahoma; Providence (1st), Rhode Island; Dallas (7th), Texas; Denton, Texas; Brattleboro, Vermont; Monroe, Wisconsin.

If your church has decided to use only the King James Version of the Bible and would like to add its name to the list, please inform the editor of *The Banner*.

KJV WEB SITE FOR CS CHURCHES

The web site www.kjvquarterlypages.com offers downloadable pages for the Subject, Golden Text, and Responsive Reading using Mrs. Eddy’s preferred King James Version for those *Quarterly* Bible lessons from Boston that employ other Bible versions. These replacement pages can be copied and easily inserted in your own *Quarterly* and those of your church. This web site will be updated continually for the convenience of those who wish to maintain Mrs. Eddy’s standard for the Sunday Lesson-Sermon. Also available on this web site is a link to a very important paper comparing the King James Version to other Bible versions. It is written by a Christian Scientist who is an accomplished Greek scholar. It is highly recommended.

NEW VERSION OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH

The May 2008 *Christian Science Journal* contains an additional statement from the Board of Directors and the Publishing Society Trustees: “No change is being made to the text of *Science and Health*, in the book itself or in the *Quarterly* despite discussion in the Field about ‘modernized’ English versions of the textbook.” (p. 62)

This statement was probably written in response to the appearance of *21st Century Science and Health* written by former *Journal*-listed practitioner Cheryl

Peterson. Ms. Peterson has almost completely rewritten the Christian Science textbook and listed herself as author. She offers it for sale on her web site. (See Spring 2008 *Banner* for details.)

In spite of the Directors’ and the Trustees’ strong statement about maintaining the integrity of *Science and Health*, the conversation of Mathis, Robertson, and Trammell in the same *Journal* issue includes this exchange: **Mathis:** Wouldn’t it be helpful to have a “Study *Science and Health*,” like the study Bibles everyone already has? A study edition of *Science and Health* (not a “commentary”) could have, for example, notes for words that are no longer in common use; Webster definitions of unfamiliar words; alternative Bible verses from different versions for those passages from the KJV that are not easily understood; even a simple concordance in the back. Does this sound familiar, since this is already happening with *my-BibleLesson.com*? **Trammell:** That’s a wonderful idea, Helen. I understand that something like this is in the works already. (p. 17)

As noted in the last *Banner*, previous Boards of Directors have adamantly maintained that only the King James Version should ever be used in church services or Sunday schools. (*Sentinels* of July 2, 1938, and September 24, 1984. See Spring 2008 *Banner* for actual text.) Clearly, repeated assurances are no guarantee of future actions. The same will true inevitably for *Science and Health* as well. The process has already begun.

TRUSTEES CLAIM RIGHT TO CHANGE BIBLE VERSIONS

In a conversation among the trustees of The Christian Science Publishing Society (Don Adams, Judy Wolff, and Walter Jones) in the July 2008 *Christian Science Journal*, Walter Jones says, “So, Don, changes in formats and Bible translations (which Mrs. Eddy gave the Trustees authority to do in the Deed of Trust) cannot shake the Church or its members, who are on the spiritual foundation of Christ, Truth.” (p. 55)

The 1898 Deed of Trust states, “The Trustees shall employ such number of persons as they may deem necessary to prepare Bible Lessons or Lesson Sermons to be read in the Christian Science churches, the same to be published *Quarterly* as has heretofore been done by and in the name of the Christian Science *Quarterly*; and they may, in their discretion, change the name or style of such *Quarterly* publication as occasion may demand.”

No authority to change Bible translations is stated or implied by Mrs. Eddy’s clear instructions. [Editor’s note: It is fascinating that no previous Board of Directors or Publishing Society Trustees, in over *one hundred years*, ever assumed the right to abrogate Mrs. Eddy’s Deed of Trust provisions regarding the use of “our common

version," -- the King James Bible. Mrs. Eddy asks, "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? No!" (Mis. 119:27-31)]

ELEVEN CHURCHES CLOSE

A comparison of the March and June 2008 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* reveals that the following eleven churches have closed: Tracy, California; Vallejo, California; Copper Mountain-Vail, Colorado; Lehigh Acres, Florida; Titusville, Florida; Detroit (8th), Michigan; Asbury Park, New Jersey; Saint Albans, Long Island, New York; Jackson, Tennessee; Anacortes, Washington; and Casper, Wyoming. Since the count began in February 1987, 771 churches have closed and 68 have opened.

THE GOSPEL OF JUDAS, YET AGAIN

Regarding Judas Iscariot, Mrs. Eddy writes: "The traitor's price was thirty pieces of silver and the smiles of the Pharisees. He chose his time, when the people were in doubt concerning Jesus' teachings. A period was approaching which would reveal the infinite distance between Judas and his Master. Judas Iscariot knew this. He knew that the great goodness of that Master placed a gulf between Jesus and his betrayer, and this spiritual distance inflamed Judas' envy. The greed for gold strengthened his ingratitude, and for a time quieted his remorse. He knew that the world generally loves a lie better than Truth; and so he plotted the betrayal of Jesus in order to raise himself in popular estimation. His dark plot fell to the ground, and the traitor fell with it." (S&H 47:12-26)

Fast forward 96 years to Annual Meeting 2006 and a conversation among Directors J. Thomas Black, Nathan Talbot, and Victor Westberg: **Tom Black:** "I am inspired by the life of, of, uh, Judas. Well, you know the world thinks of him as being the very, very of the uh the... **Nathan Talbot:** Betrayer. **Black:** Yeah, the essence of betrayal and traitorousness and so forth. There's a word for you. But anyway. Until he got to that point, he actually was a wonderful healer. Jesus sent out the twelve and while the twelve were out, Jesus said I saw Satan as lightning fall from heaven. So Judas was among those who was a healer. He obviously had some profound character flaws, but but at the time they were neutralized in his consciousness by the Christ, and he was able to heal. It was only when he allowed them to dominate that that he fell victim to them. **Talbot:** Repentance beginning in his life. **Black:** There were. **Talbot:** And I always felt I could trust that he went right on working out those distractions. **Black:** Yes. Yes. **Victor Westberg:** Absolutely. [Editor's note: It was the seventy, not the twelve, that Jesus sent out. It

was on their *return* that Jesus said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." (Luke 10) Judas was *not* among them. The Bible makes no reference to his healing anyone and does not reduce his betrayal of Jesus to "distractions."]

The only possible source of the Directors' knowledge of the Gospel of Judas was a cable TV show on the National Geographic Channel. At that time, there was no other source because National Geographic held exclusive rights to the story. Unfortunately, their translators made grievous errors in their rendering of the wildly fanciful text.

The May/June 2008 issue of *Biblical Archaeology Review* carries a complete analysis of the flawed translation. The television project was done in secret to retain National Geographic's exclusive "scoop" of the story. Their translators worked hurriedly and without the traditional peer review that catches errors and the misreading of ancient texts. One of their translators rendered *daemon* as "spirit" while another translated it as "god." As the article points out, *daemon* can only mean "demon" in Gnostic texts. In another case, National Geographic's rendering of the sentence "You [Judas] will not ascend to the holy [generation]" reverses the meaning by omitting the crucial word "not". In light of all the discovered errors, National Geographic is publishing a revised version of *The Gospel of Judas*. It has not yet been made available to the public.

EDITORIAL

The question must be asked: Why do officers of the church in Boston so glibly accept a TV show as the gospel truth, and totally disregard the Bible's verdict and Mrs. Eddy's careful evaluation of the career of Judas? The Directors' actions suggest superficiality, wishful thinking, and a grasping at straws for any kind of change or gimmick that will promote "fresh" thinking and revitalization. Why else would they quietly continue to promote a Bible substitute such as *The Message* for use in Sunday schools, Wednesday evening readings, Scriptural selections, and benedictions when they know that its author, Eugene Peterson, also wrote, "Matter is real. Flesh is good... The task of salvation is not to refine us into pure spirits so that we will not be cumbered with this too solid flesh. We are not angels, nor are we to become angels." Why else would they remove the Readers' desks and ornamental lighting from the original Mother Church platform and replace them with their two readers conducting a service in casual dress sitting on bar stools during Annual Meeting week? Also punch and cookies. Why not try metaphysics?

THE PIONEER DAYS

Discussions many years ago with pioneers in the church revealed a manner of work that is seldom found today. The *Church Manual* states, "The prayers in

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Christian Science churches shall be offered for the congregations collectively and exclusively. (42:1-3) The pioneers understood this to mean that they, as church members, were to work metaphysically before, during, and after the service *for the congregation*. They did not attend church to sit and hear the lesson one more time or criticize word pronunciation or what the soloist was wearing. They used the lesson they had read all week as part of their work, and they worked ceaselessly. Mrs. Eddy observed: "A Christian Scientist is not fatigued by prayer, by reading the Scriptures or the Christian Science textbook. Amusement or idleness is weariness. Truth and Love rest the weary and heavy laden." (Man.60:7-11) Also: "The song of Christian Science is, 'Work -- work -- work -- watch and pray.' The close observer reports three types of human nature -- the right thinker and worker, the idler, and the intermediate. The right thinker works; he gives little time to society manners or matters, and benefits society by his example and usefulness. He takes no time for amusement, ease, frivolity; he earns his money and gives it wisely to the world... The intermediate worker works at times. He says: 'It is my duty to take some time for myself; however, I believe in working when it is convenient.'"

('00:7-27) From these statements of Mrs. Eddy, the secret of the early days is revealed. The exalted thought and exalted purpose of the workers resulted in the atmosphere where spontaneous and instantaneous healings could and did take place during services and lectures. Word of mouth brought whole families and even their neighbors to church. No need for punch and cookies, guitars, rhythmic swaying and clapping. The spoken Word through the King James Bible and the Christian Science textbook found its mark and response. For too many years there has been a "fading warmth of action." As Mrs. Eddy says, "Seek Truth, and pursue it. It should cost you something: you are willing to pay for error and receive nothing in return; but if you pay the price of Truth, you shall receive *all*." (Mis. 342: 24-27)

Christian Science After 1910

by

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