

VOLUME TWENTY-TWO / NUMBER ONE

FALL 2008 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

END OF THE DAILY MONITOR

Readers of *The Christian Science Monitor* were invited to participate in an on-line Kadence survey about the *Monitor* conducted the first two weeks of August 2008. The directors shared the results in an email simply dated September. About 4000 people participated. 34% said they subscribed because it was their responsibility as church members. 28% said they did not subscribe because it was too expensive (\$219 per year). 25% did not subscribe because they lack time to read a daily paper. 18% said they read it on-line. At the same time, 54% said they prefer a daily print edition. 46% said they prefer less frequent delivery. Some who responded to the survey told *The Banner* that their choices were too limited. Those who definitely prefer a daily print edition did not have the opportunity to give compelling, individual reasons for their preference.

Richard Bergenheim told a gathering of teachers and practitioners in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on July 11th that the *Monitor* would probably go to a daily computer edition with one print edition of the paper weekly. In fact, the on-line survey ended by asking participants which day they would prefer to receive a weekly print edition. Close observers note that a once weekly paper has been suggested as a solution to the *Monitor's* continuing deficit for several years.

Boston Globe columnist Alex Beam wrote about the *Monitor* on August 26, 2008: "Publisher [Jonathan] Wells puts the Web at the top of his priority list, with the print paper number three after building electronic subscriptions. [Editor John] Yemma says the web site now attracts slightly less than a million unique visitors a month, measured by Nielsen/NetRatings. (The *Globe* gets about 5 million, the *New York Times* 19 million.)... In the mid-1980s, the church invested tens of millions of dollars in pre-Internet 'news media,' creating a cable television news broadcast, an expensive and sophisticated radio operation, and eventually opening its own television station. The whole enterprise went bust, but 'the troubles,' as they are now called, instilled a much-needed sense of caution at *Monitor* headquarters on One Norway St." (www.boston.com) The main problem with internet-based newspapers is that people are not willing to pay for them and will go elsewhere if there is a fee. *The New York Times* attempted to charge for internet access and had to abandon the concept. How

would the *Monitor* be any different?

SOME HISTORY

At the height of Harvey Wood's project to establish a cable television empire, the intention was to eliminate the *Monitor* altogether and replace it with *World Monitor* magazine. However, word leaked out, and objections forced the board of directors to backtrack. But they reduced the paper to twenty-two pages (since reduced to twenty) with no regular advertising. There was even an attempt to lure the paper's advertisers to the new *World Monitor* magazine. Almost immediately, the *Monitor* advertising committees in branch churches were disbanded. Their unceasing efforts over the years had generated most of the revenue for the paper that kept it profitable. From then on, Mrs. Eddy's newspaper was doomed to a rapid decline partly due to the exorbitant subscription prices. In 1989, there were 156,246 subscribers. By 2007, that number had fallen to 52,813 only subscribers. This is a decrease of 103,433

On June 25, 1996, all the printing presses were sold at auction, and the cavernous space in the Publishing Society building was filled with machines to make 3,000,000 pounds of ice daily for an air conditioning venture (Northwind Boston LLC) intended to service nearby high rise buildings. The enterprise failed, and the equipment was removed. At this time, all the printing is contracted to firms around the country at considerable expense. At the time of Harvey Wood's television project, the *Monitor* Endowment Fund was heavily borrowed from. The principle was eventually paid back, but all the interest that the money would have generated during that time was lost forever. Interestingly, former editor Erwin Canham wrote, "It would be inconceivable for The Church of Christ, Scientist, actually to subsidize such a big annual operation as the *Monitor*..." (*Commitment to Freedom*, p. 382 [1958]) One could argue that the problems began when the newspaper was reduced from a full-sized, broadsheet to supermarket tabloid format on April 1, 1975. Church members were assured that the *Monitor* was the vanguard of future journalism and that other major papers would follow suit. None did, and the *Monitor* lost much prestige.

AMBITIOUS SOLUTION

In an age when newspapers, magazines, radio, and television have been bought up by huge conglomerates, the need for an independent voice in journalism is much needed. Using Mrs. Eddy's statements in *Miscellany* as

a guide to editorial policy: "I believe strictly in the Monroe doctrine, in our Constitution, and in the laws of God." (p. 282) and "I reluctantly foresee great danger threatening our nation -- imperialism, monopoly, and a lax system of religion." (p. 129), the *Monitor* would have a clear editorial policy based on Mrs. Eddy's discernment of what should be preserved and what needs to be exposed and corrected. Mrs. Eddy also emphasized that the *Monitor* should be a *daily* newspaper. In a letter to the Publishing Society trustees, she wrote on August 8, 1908, "It is my request that you start a daily newspaper at once and call it the Christian Science Monitor. Let there be no delay. The Cause demands that it be issued now." (Canham, *Commitment to Freedom*, p. 23)

The *Monitor* was founded to reach the general public but also government officials, financial leaders, and educators. This can only be done if the newspaper is a daily print edition that finds its way to their desks.

To support a renewed *Monitor*, advertising committees could be reinstituted in the field to generate the kind of revenue that all successful newspapers rely upon and then gradually build the paper back up to its former high reputation. State of the art, computerized Heidelberg presses could be installed in the now empty basement of the Publishing Society building that could print all the church's periodicals and even accept printing orders from local businesses as a way to generate more revenue.

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity was begun in 2000. Board chairman Virginia Harris stated that it would be "its own entity, separate from The Mother Church." In fact it is an independent syndicate with no oversight by the church. The *Church Manual* states, "Boards of Trustees and Syndicates may be formed by The Mother Church, subject to the approval of the Pastor Emeritus." (p. 27, 28) It was announced in the June 6, 2000, *Monitor* that \$25 million for the library construction would come from "a restoration project at the church's headquarters." This referred to the Restoration and Renewal Program opened for contributions in 1991. "Borrowing from the fund is not permitted" The library did not qualify for the funds based on the proposed list of projects given to donors. (*Restoration and Renewal* booklet) While it is difficult to acquire financial figures, the initial capital expense for the library was approximately \$55 million. It lost \$10 million the first year, \$5 million the second, \$4 million the third, and \$3 million each year since then. There have been drastic cutbacks, and the library is now open four days per week for only two hours. The library claims 46,000 visitors, but the actual number of walk-ins is around 4000. The rest are apparently "hits" on the

library's internet site. Of the 4000 actual visitors, it is estimated that most are visiting the Mapparium. It had been a popular stop on the Boston tourist circuit since its construction in the 1932. It was announced at the 1950 Annual Meeting that the Mapparium had 101,000 visitors the previous year. With the advent of the library, a \$5.00 fee was charged for those who wanted to enter the giant, stained glass globe.

The proposal has been made that the library be closed, and that the money saved be used for the restoration of *The Christian Science Monitor* to its proper place among the nation's great newspapers. The library could revert to an archive that would cater to the relatively few scholars who would seek access. The Longyear Museum would easily resume its role in preserving and presenting Christian Science history that has been eclipsed somewhat by the library in recent years.

RICHARD BERGENHEIM

On Monday, July 21st, 2008, the Christian Science Board of Directors announced the passing of Richard Bergenheim. Mr. Bergenheim had been elected President of The Mother Church in June. Previously he had, himself, been a member of the Board of Directors from 1992 to 1994. Most recently, he had been editor of *The Christian Science Monitor* for three years. He was also a *Journal*-listed practitioner from 1974 and a teacher from 1982. Mr. Bergenheim had begun a national tour in July and was visiting groups of practitioners and teachers. He noted in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on July 11th that the previous two presidents of TMC had taken on a "cause." At least part of his cause was to visit with groups around the country with the message that church members must accept change. He noted that all the Christian Science periodicals had been operating with a deficit for approximately fifty years. He prepared those in attendance for a greatly reduced *Monitor*. At the same time, he asked each person in attendance to get five other church members to subscribe to the periodicals.

The Boston Globe of July 22, 2008, quoted Mr. Bergenheim's father: "There was no indication of anything serious that he would pass on from it. He seemed to be in perfect health." The *Globe* noted that he was sixty.

In 2006, newly elected Mother Church President David Reed collapsed and died on the way to the platform at the Annual Meeting. He had been part of the Publishing Society committee that changed the *Quarterly* Bible lessons to a variable number of sections and paved the way for the introduction of alternate Bible versions and paraphrases in the Sunday Lesson-Sermon.

MORE CHURCHES JOIN KJV ONLY LIST

The following 62 churches and societies have decided to use only the King James Version of the Bible

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THIRD CHURCH WASHINGTON, D.C.

The *Washington Business Journal* of August 7, 2008, reported, "The Third Church of Christ, Scientist -- affiliated with Boston's Christian Science Church -- wants the court to remove the city's historic landmark designation on its midcentury modern church at 16th and Eye streets NW, two blocks north of the White House. The suit comes two weeks after D.C.'s Historic Preservation Review Board denied the church's application for a permit to demolish the landmarked building... The church also has retained Jordan & Keys PLLC and The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, both of D.C. Except for the Becket Fund, which is a pro bono legal firm, the church anticipates bearing the full cost of the litigation." The land on which Third Church sits belongs to The Mother Church and was leased to Third Church for 99 years. The *Washington Business Journal* of April 17, 2007, previously announced that the property "includes a 30,000 square-foot office building..., 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 the building." The selling price for the property

was not disclosed. The 99 year lease apparently presents a problem to The Mother Church. Some of Third Church's members drive long distances to maintain membership and their influence in the building's fate. These loyalists with close ties to the Directors have urged the destruction of the I.M. Pei designed building for several years. Razing the historic structure would close the deal and allow the new owners to develop the property. Third Church would have to find a new site.

Christian Science After 1910

by

Andrew W. Hartsook

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. Today we see the empty shell of a once great movement. Available from The Bookmark, P.O. Box 801143, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. Hardcover \$24.95 Paperback \$12.95 Postage and 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. Orders may also be done via the website: www.thebookmark.com.

for all aspects of their church services: Melbourne (2nd), Victoria, Australia; Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia; Vancouver (4th), British Columbia, Canada; Rogers, Arkansas; Sun City, Arizona; Sun City West, Arizona; Scottsdale (1st), Arizona; Alameda, California; Livermore, California; Los Altos, California; Napa, California; Sonoma, California; Walnut Creek, California; Arvada, Colorado; Delta, Colorado; Greeley, Colorado; Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Thornton-Westminster, Colorado; Hartford (1st), Connecticut; Largo, Florida; Sarasota (3rd), Florida; Tampa (1st), Florida; Chicago 16th, Illinois; Glen Ellyn, Illinois; Wauconda, Illinois; Wilmette, Illinois; Goshen, Indiana; Rockville, Indiana; Vincennes, Indiana; Arkansas City, Kansas; Hutchinson, Kansas; Belmont, Massachusetts; Boothbay Harbor, Maine; Rockport, Maine; Milford, Michigan; Rochester, Michigan; St. Louis (8th), Missouri; Washington, Missouri; Lincoln (1st), Nebraska; Charlotte (Soc.), North Carolina; Durham, North Carolina; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Boulder City, Nevada; Las Vegas, Nevada; Zanesville, Ohio; Oklahoma City (5th), Oklahoma; McMinnville, Oregon; Oregon City, Oregon; Springfield, Oregon; Chambersburg, Pennsylvania; York, Pennsylvania; Providence (1st), Rhode Island; Dallas (7th), Texas; Denton, Texas; Midland, Texas; San Antonio (4th), Texas; Rutland, Vermont; Gig Harbor, Washington; Hartford, Wisconsin; Milwaukee (3rd), Wisconsin; Monroe, Wisconsin; Woodruff-Minocqua, Wisconsin.

The Bible lesson for July 6, 2008, referred to "our version of the Old Testament" (S&H 576:26). In her *Message for 1901*, Mrs. Eddy refers to "the Bible and the textbook of our denomination." (34:24) In each case, it is understood that the King James Version is referred to.

Churches that wish to use the KJV only may go to www.kjvquarterlypages.com to get easily downloadable substitute pages for their *Quarterlies* whenever a non-KJV version is used.

In the January 7, 1928, *Sentinel*, the board of directors noted, "Mrs. Eddy examined the new translations of her time, including some of the best of the modern versions, but she used them only to a very limited extent. Moreover, she not only adopted, but continued to approve, The King James Version for the Lesson-Sermons, on which as she has said, 'the prosperity of Christian Science largely depends' (Manual, Art III, Sect. 1)."

GETHSEMANE FOUNDATION PUBLICATIONS

"A new volume titled, *In Defense of Mary Baker Eddy and the Remnant of Her Seed* is a collection of most of the articles written and distributed by Paul R. Smillie between 1985 and 1991 through his foundation,

The Gethsemane Foundation." (From Introduction) The essays are focussed upon Mrs. Eddy's place which had been distilled and published in the June 5, 1943, *Christian Science Sentinel*. This statement was later was repudiated by the board of directors on January 25, 1991. These reprinted writings deal with the issue of Mrs. Eddy's place during this latter period when her leadership was being marginalized and her place was being eclipsed by an increasingly assertive and dominating board of directors. Also available is a biography, *Mary Baker Eddy: The Prophetic and Historical Perspective* also by Paul Smillie. The biography is available in very limited quantities. To purchase or to view more information about these important books, call 1-877-764-5543 or visit www.GethsemaneFoundation.com

TEN MORE CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the June and September 2008 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* reveals that the following ten churches have closed: Juneau, Alaska; Chester, California; Larkspur, California; Los Angeles (2nd), California; Los Angeles (6th), California; San Bernardino, California; Deerfield, Illinois; Bronx, New York; Maple Valley, Washington; Milwaukee (6th) Wisconsin. Since the count began in February 1987, **781** churches have closed and **68** have opened.

BOSTON WANTS PUBLIC INPUT ON FUTURE OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PLAZA

This headline appeared in the July 24, 2008, *Boston Business Journal*. According to the article, "Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the Boston Redevelopment Authority are asking residents to join a task force and comment on the redevelopment of the Christian Science Plaza... In updating its master plan, the church is seeking to enhance the plaza for the community, increase the environmental sustainability and explore opportunities for underutilized real estate." *The Boston Globe* of October 17, 2006, stated, "The property is governed by a special institutional zoning plan that allows new structures of up to 75 feet tall, and in some cases up to 115 feet. But Barbara Burley, the church's senior manager of real estate planning operations, expects the final proposal will likely be for bigger buildings." *The C.S. Sentinel* of November 13, 2006, quotes Ned Odegaard as saying, "It is likely to involve reuse of current buildings and new development on the site, including residential, retail, and office space." The Colonnade building now is occupied entirely by offices of Northeastern University. Mrs. Eddy's 1892 Deed of Trust states, "Said Board of Directors shall not suffer or allow any building or edifice, nor shall they allow said church building or any part thereof to be used for any other purpose than for the ordinary and usual uses of a church." (*Church Manual*, p. 131)

VOLUME TWENTY-TWO / NUMBER TWO
WINTER 2009 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO
LETTER FROM C.O.P.

A letter dated November 6, 2008, from Philip Davis, Manager, Committees on Publication, to the editor of *The Banner* included a list of alleged "factual inaccuracies and incorrect assertions" in the Fall 2008 issue. He asked that they be corrected.

Mr. Davis stated: "...the *Monitor* has been unprofitable for all but twelve of the years it has been published." Also, "Branch church advertising committees did not generate more revenue for *The Christian Science Monitor* than subscriptions, nor keep it profitable." He stated that the local committees "generated enormous good will." In response, one would have to say that they also generated significant advertising revenue from every area of the country.

Regarding profitability, *The Banner* quoted Erwin Canham's statement in *Commitment to Freedom*: "It would be inconceivable for The Church of Christ, Scientist, actually to subsidize such a big annual operation as the *Monitor*..." (p. 382) [1958].

The Banner did know that during the "Great Litigation" (1919-1921), the trustees of The Christian Science Publishing Society attempted to preserve the integrity of Mrs. Eddy's 1898 Deed of Trust (and the separation of powers it established) against the encroachment of the Board of Directors. The court had ordered that the officers of The Mother Church not damage the business of the Publishing Society by urging people to cancel their subscriptions. Four of the directors and the C.O. P. were found guilty of contempt of court for doing so anyway and were fined for their actions. In the end, the secret campaign succeeded, and the Publishing Society went bankrupt. At that point the trustees resigned their offices to the court, and the Directors were invited by the court to fill them. One has to ask if this disobedience to Mrs. Eddy's design contributed to future deficits.

Mr. Davis states, "The *Monitor* deficit did not begin with the tabloid format in 1975." *The Banner* actually stated, "One could argue that the problems began when the newspaper was reduced from a full-sized, broadsheet to supermarket tabloid format on April 1, 1975. Church members were assured that the *Monitor* was the vanguard of future journalism and that other major papers would follow suit. None did, and the *Monitor* lost much prestige." From 1975 until 1989, the *Monitor*

continued vigorously to solicit advertising directly and through the branch church committees. It was only in 1989, that advertising was all but eliminated from the new 22-page (later 20-page) color format edition. [Editors Katherine Fanning and David Anable resigned (11-14-88) when their well-considered business plan for the *Monitor*, based on actual newspaper expertise and experience, was rejected in favor of the plan of John H. Hoagland, Jr., who was intent upon the promotion of his *World Monitor* magazine which failed miserably.] It was at this point that all hope of profitability and viability for the *Monitor* was lost. Subscriptions dropped from 156,246 in 1989 to 47,725 in 2008.

Mr. Davis states, "The *Monitor* has never been doomed, nor has it been crippled by exorbitant subscription prices. An annual *Monitor* subscription is \$219. A full-rate *Boston Globe* subscription is \$666.64. A *New York Times* full annual rate is \$816.40."

While all of this is true, *The Globe* and *Times* publish seven days per week and have large Sunday editions. A more equitable comparison would be with *USA Today* which, like the *Monitor*, is published five days per week. A subscription to *USA Today* is \$208. per year compared to the *Monitor's* \$219. *USA Today* was founded in 1982 and has an average circulation of 2,293,310 (*USA Today*, 10-28-08) *USA Today* averages between 40 and 66 pages per daily issue on broadsheets. By comparison, the *Monitor* has 20 pages on tabloid sheets. *USA Today* carries extensive advertising and makes a profit. The *Monitor* strikes out on both counts.

The C.O.P.'s letter states, "Subscription and circulation revenue have annually averaged around \$11.9 million, whereas the average revenue from advertising is \$663,400." *The Banner* would only comment that if advertising were diligently sought, the deficit could be significantly reduced. Apparently there has been no consideration given to this fundamental fact which underpins all successful newspapers.

Mr. Davis states, "Daily print delivery is not necessary today to reach many government officials, financial leaders, and educators. They often read the news online or printed out from the web." *The Banner* would only ask that if all the other newspapers are tangibly sitting on a desk or table, and the *Monitor* has to be called up on a computer screen, which ones are going to be read first, and which are going to have an impact? Location and tangibility make all the difference.

The C.O.P.'s letter states, "Printing in the Publishing House building is not less expensive than printing outside... While printing is expensive, it amounts to only 8.3% of total annual *Monitor* costs." One can only ask what the cost would be for in-house printing that could also be used for the other periodicals. This question remains to be answered.

Mr. Davis states, "The *Monitor* does not lack a clear editorial policy. Its editorial policy is based securely on Mrs. Eddy's foundational statements for her newspaper."

One must ask why Mrs. Eddy's chosen motto for her newspaper, "*First the blade, then the ear, after that the full grain in the ear.*" has been abandoned except as an obscure line on the editorial page. Her motto suggests that history is a progression with a clear destiny. Editorials should be written with this clear-eyed understanding. The directors decided to substitute Mrs. Eddy's chosen motto with another of her statements: "To injure no man, but to bless all mankind." This statement now appears on the front page in place of Mrs. Eddy's motto. So whose newspaper is it? While the substitute quotation is certainly true, it serves as a reminder of *motive* rather than *purpose*.

The C.O.P.'s letter continues: "Funds were borrowed from the Monitor Endowment Fund in October, 1991. All principal and interest (at prime) was completely repaid 4 months later." *The Banner* had stated that only the *principal* had been repaid. The newsletter is happy to correct the misunderstanding. However, it must be pointed out that the terms of the Endowment Fund stated unequivocally that the funds were not to be borrowed or used for any other purpose than for the support of the *Monitor* within strict guidelines.

Mr. Davis states, "The Mary Baker Eddy Library is not 'an independent syndicate without oversight by the Church.' It is a wholly-owned, integrated auxiliary of the Church, overseen by a Board of Trustees and the Christian Science Board of Directors..."

Former Chairman of the Board of Directors, Virginia Harris, stated at a meeting titled "Demand-Response: 21st Century Spiritual Seeker" in Houston, Texas, (July 20 and July 25, 2000) that the MBE Library would be "its own entity, separate from The Mother Church." *Matters of Conscience* (2002) by Elaine Natale Davidson, C.S.B., stated, "The Library set up as a syndicate, is a distinctly separate entity, not part of the Church or Publishing Society..." (p. 89) One must conclude that a change was made sometime after 2002 which integrated the library as an auxiliary of the Church. Perhaps this was done when it became clear that the library would run annual deficits. The deficit for 2006 was \$3,696,616. For 2007 it was \$2,947,344. It might have been awkward to have the church subsidize the library if it had remained a separate entity.

The C.O.P. states: "Moneys from the Restoration and Renewal Fund were not used to construct the Library. As planned and announced, Restoration and Renewal funds were used for infrastructure and exterior renovation of the base of the publishing House building including electrical, plumbing and window replacement."

The Banner quoted from the *Monitor* of June 6, 2000, which stated that \$25 million for the library construction would come from "a restoration project at the church's headquarters." Does this refer to another restoration project, or was the *Monitor* wrong in its reporting? The custom-made, elaborate entrance to the library could not be considered routine infrastructure maintenance. Were it not for the library, it would not have been needed for Publishing Society business.

The C.O.P. states: The actual number of 'walk in' Library visitors is neither 4,000 nor 46,000. Total visitor count for 2007 was 56,000. This figure does not include 'hits' on the Library web site."

The figure of 56,000 visitors would average out to be 1077 visitors per week or 179 per day. Individuals who actually have visited the library state that they have seen very few other people taking a tour. It is possible that some are only visiting the Mapparium or the cafe and are included in the official count.

The letter states: "The Library is not open only four days a week for two hours. It is open six days a week for six hours each day, as can be easily verified by a glance at its web site." Mr. Davis is correct, and *The Banner* regrets the error.

Mr. Davis states, "There is no consideration being given to closing the Library and diverting its funds to the *Monitor*." *The Banner* did not suggest that the church officials were considering such a move, but that many concerned people in the field thought the library should be closed and its subsidy used to support the *Monitor*. Before the library was built, the archives and library of The Mother Church were run very professionally and efficiently by longtime archivist, Lee Z. Johnson.

The C.O.P. states: "The Colonnade and former administration tower are not part of the Church buildings governed by Mrs. Eddy's 1892 Deed of Trust (*Church Manual*, p. 131). Occupancy of them by public tenants is not a violation of any Deed of Trust."

The Banner can only comment that if any of the buildings in question were built with any part of them on the parcels of land included in Mrs. Eddy's Deeds of Trust, their use for commercial purposes would constitute a violation. When Mrs. Eddy discovered in 1892 that the original trustees were planning to incorporate publishing rooms in the church edifice, she returned all the money from donors and wrote, "I am confident that all loyal Christian Scientists will gladly consecrate our church to a more dignified end, than an

exchange, or a place for business bickerings, bag and baggage!" (*Christian Science Journal*, October 1892, p. 274) Renting or leasing to commercial tenants so close to the church edifices would, at the very least, violate Mrs. Eddy's intent for compatible and harmonious surroundings.

PLANET WAVES

On October 31, 2008, an astrology web site, Planet Waves (<http://planetwaves.net/pagetwo/>) posted an article titled, "Christian Science Monitor to 'follow Planet Waves' business model" by their correspondent, Rachel Asher. The article states: "After reading *The Christian Science Monitor's* high-publicity coverage of *The Christian Science Monitor's* shift from the age of paper to the age of 'the tubes' as Senator Ted Stevens describes it, I im-ed Mary Trammel immediately (we met at Meow Mix in NYC a few years ago while conducting 'research')."

"Trammell, editor in chief of The Christian Science Publishing Society and a member of the Christian Science Board of Directors, said that 'journalism that seeks to bless humanity, not injure, and that shines light on the world's challenges in an effort to seek solutions, is at the center of Mary Baker Eddy's vision for *The Monitor*.'"

"The method of delivery and format are secondary' and need to be adjusted, given Mrs. Eddy's call to keep the Monitor 'abreast of the times. Ha! I said *abreast*. Get it? Lord, forgive me.'

"She added, 'we've been following what we call 'The Planet Waves model' for some time now, studying closely the positive, encouraging spin on their articles. The way they use the blog as a daily news source and Planet Waves Astrology News as a more comprehensive, weekly edition has been a source of inspiration for us.'

"Though Planet Waves has some 'inappropriate, un-Christian, heathen tendencies' (Trammell cited a recent article by Genevieve Salerno on Satan as an example), she was willing to accept that 'we both look at the heavens for guidance. Also off the record, you guys are awesome! I live for my weekly and monthly horoscopes. Did you read the Eriscope for Libra this month? LOL!!!" End of quotes from Planet Waves.

To view this article, type "Trammell" in the search box and click. It is known that people in the field have written to Boston asking about this internet posting, but no answers have been given. There is no indication on the Planet Waves web site that this is a parody or a joke. This posting also has been the subject of much comment on another web site: "The Broken Net" (<http://chrsci.blogspot.com>) which is a site for commentary on Christian Science. (See the commentary for November 2, 2008 titled "Earth to Mary Trammel, Do You Read Me?" and the 26 comments about it.)

CHURCH CLOSINGS AND OPENINGS

A comparison of the September and December 2008 issues of *The Christian Science Journal*, reveals that the following five churches have closed: Springdale, Arkansas; Santa Clarita, California; Aitkin, Minnesota; Middletown, New York; and Seattle (7th), Washington. During the same period, societies opened in Pittsburgh (Blackridge), Pennsylvania, and Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Since the count began in February 1987, **786** church have closed and **70** have opened.

THIRD CHURCH, NEW YORK CITY

The New York Times of December 3, 2008, stated: "A federal judge on Tuesday barred the city's Buildings Department from revoking a 20-year lease the church signed with a catering company to raise money for badly needed repairs. Neighbors of the church, on Park Avenue at 63rd Street, had accused it of violating zoning regulations by using the building for commercial purposes... In January 2006, the church signed a lease agreement with the Rose Group Park Avenue, a catering company allowing it to hold events there for the next 20 years in return for significant rental payments and \$8 million for capital improvements." According to *The New York Sun* of January 22 and March 22, 2007, "A liquor license application has been filed..." This raised eyebrows among fellow Christian Scientists. (See details in Spring 2007 *Banner*.)

THIRD CHURCH, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Washington Post of October 29, 2008, reported, "A fortress-like church is at the center of a dispute between D.C. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and historic preservationists, who contend that the mayor is exerting undue political muscle to help congregants demolish their landmark sanctuary... The preservationists contend that Harriet Tregoning, the District planning director who began presiding over the case yesterday cannot rule impartially because her boss, Deputy Mayor Neil Albert, has already backed demolition... The landmark designation halted Third Church's plan to redevelop the site." (See Fall 2007, Winter 2008, Fall 2008 *Banners* for background.)

CIRCULATION FIGURES FOR MONITOR

The October 10, 2008, *Monitor* revealed that total requested distribution for the newspaper stands at 47,725.

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

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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
2008	47,725

What will the *Monitor's* paid circulation be when it abandons its print edition in April 2009 and goes to an internet daily format with a once weekly magazine?

CIRCULATION OF THE SENTINEL

Total paid circulation for the *Sentinel* on October 10, 2008 was given as 30,154.

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
2008	30,154

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 complete suffocated all spontaneity and inspired thinking. They 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. Orders may also be done via the web site: www.thebookmark.com

VOLUME TWENTY-TWO / NUMBER THREE
 SPRING 2009 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO
SAVING THE MONITOR

A flier included with a February 2009 letter to current subscribers to the *Monitor* states, "As a subscriber, you will continue to enjoy daily delivery of the *Monitor* until March 27th. The *Monitor* will then introduce its weekly format with the April 17th issue." After the 27th, the daily newspaper will cease publication and will be available only on the internet.

When examining the first issue of her newspaper in 1908, Mrs. Eddy stated, "This, in truth, is the lightest day of all days. This is the day when our daily paper goes forth to lighten mankind..." (Tomlinson, p. 107) She had already established monthly, weekly, and quarterly publications. The *Monitor* was to be her daily publication intended to reach far beyond the denominational church into the broader secular world. From November 25, 1908, until December 30, 1988, the newspaper was published using a solid business model that included advertising, - an indispensable component for any successful, commercial publication.

On August 17, 1987, in the midst of all the euphoria surrounding the launching of the Monitor Channel, World Monitor news on the Discovery Channel, *World Monitor* magazine, the purchase of short-wave radio stations and a local Boston broadcast television station, Publishing Society Manager John Hoagland recommended that the daily *Christian Science Monitor* be terminated in a secret videotaped meeting.

After the *Monitor's* editor, Katherine Fanning, viewed a tape of the meeting for the first time in November 1987, -- a meeting to which she had not been invited, -- Mr. Hoagland denied that the paper was to be terminated after all. In October 1988, Mr. Hoagland proposed a new format for the *Monitor* with fewer pages, color photographs, and no regular advertising. All of this was done without the knowledge of the newspaper's editor, Katherine Fanning. Subsequently, Mrs. Fanning and David Anable, the only people involved who had any newspaper experience, countered with a feasible business model for the paper. Their plan was summarily rejected. On November 14, 1988, Katherine Fanning and David Anable resigned from the newspaper along with many other top *Monitor* writers and assistants.

Ultimately, all the electronic media and the monthly magazine were a total financial failure by 1992. The

loss to the church, including all related expenses, was in excess of \$350,000,000. Bankruptcy was narrowly averted. (*Boston Globe* 9-24-92) As *Cable World* of March 23, 1991, stated, "It's probably up there with some of the biggest financial failures ever seen in cable." (See *Christian Science After 1910*, p. 184)

In spite of the experience, no lessons were learned, and the *Monitor* was allowed to languish with no hope of profitability. From 1989 until 2008, the paper lost 70% of its subscribers (from 156,246 to 47,725). Now the directors have decided to terminate the daily print edition in favor of internet access and a weekly magazine digest. The directors have stated that the church has had to subsidize all the periodicals with between \$12 million and \$20 million annually. Apparently no consideration was ever given to restoring the *Monitor* to its former broadsheet format with national and international advertising which, at the very least, would have narrowed the financial gap. Interestingly, the first editor-in-chief, Archibald McLellan, told the *Boston Evening Record* on January 23, 1909, "We never expect to make a cent out of the daily [newspaper]." (p.8) Phil Davis, Manager, Committees on Publication, wrote on November 6, 2008, "...the *Monitor* has been unprofitable for all but twelve of the years it has been published."

It is certainly a fact that all but a very few newspapers are encountering difficult financial conditions especially since the economic downturn that began in August 2008. An article by Gary Kamiya in the Salon.com of February 17, 2009, observed, "Daily newspapers are going out of business at an unprecedented rate, and the survivors are slashing their budgets... No print publication is immune, including the mighty New York Times... If newspapers die, so does reporting. That's because the majority of reporting originates at newspapers. Online journalism is essentially parasitic... 80% of all online news originates in print... [T]here is no business model that makes online reporting financially viable... In a recent Op-Ed in the New York Times, two business analysts suggested turning newspapers into 'nonprofit, endowed institutions -- like colleges and universities.'"

A SOLUTION

Clearly the *Monitor* has already been a successful, nonprofit, endowed institution for most of its hundred years of publishing. There is no reason why it could not continue as a daily, print newspaper. A feasible business model, which would include advertising and the

closing of the Mary Bake Eddy Library (which finds no legitimacy in Mrs. Eddy's by-laws or deeds of trust and which currently loses between \$2 million and \$3 million per year) would free up additional money to endow the *Monitor* well into the future.

Like the Detroit auto executives, the Board of Directors could agree to accept one dollar per year and donate the \$200,000 annual salaries they pay themselves to keep the *Monitor* in print as Mrs. Eddy intended. This \$1,000,000 subsidy would see the newspaper through the current economic downturn. The directors are all teachers with associations and lucrative practices. Walter Jones is also a trustee of the Publishing Society and, presumably, has an income from that source as well. Mary Trammell is the editor-in-chief of all the Christian Science periodicals and is also the chairman of the board of trustees of the MBE library. Nathan Talbot, in addition to being a director, is clerk of The Mother Church. No doubt all of these positions involve additional income that they could rely upon. The directors could forego their extensive -- and expensive -- international travel which, in the past, has included Saint Petersburg, Russia; Havana, Cuba; South Africa; and, most recently, India.

Even if the newspaper temporarily ceases daily publication as is currently scheduled, it could be revived after a coherent business plan is devised by newspaper professionals. The *Monitor* made headlines when it announced that it would cease daily publication. It would make even bigger headlines when it announces that it is returning as a full-fledged daily newspaper.

President Obama spoke for many when he told the Sunday *New York Times* (3-8-09) that he does not like the tedious chore of reading news from a computer screen and prefers to read a *real* newspaper. Newspaper pages have a layout of articles that attract the reader to subjects they might not otherwise "click" on. Online versions promote tunnel vision when it comes to articles selected. With so many newspapers going out of business, the independent voice of *The Christian Science Monitor* is needed more than ever just as Mrs. Eddy foresaw one hundred years ago.

NEW TMC PRESIDENT ON TOUR

An e-mail letter dated January 12, 2009, to members of The Mother Church declared, "From January through May of this year, Barbara Vining, CSB, President of The Mother Church, and Brian Talcott, CSB, are conducting workshops for branch church members on 'Embracing the Christian Science Periodicals.'...Barbara and Brian look forward to sharing ideas on how changeless divine Principle governs the changeless spiritual mission of the periodicals as they adapt to rapid changes in the way ideas are communicated in the world today." (emphasis added) In an e-mail letter to subscribers from the CSPS

trustees dated February 2009, one reads, "Our goal is to meet that need through all the Manual activities of this Church, including an 'efficient publishing society' that reaches people through the web, e-mail, print, and other 21st-century communication channels." (emphasis added) In view of the radical changes proposed for the *Monitor*, it is clear that *The Christian Science Journal* and *Christian Science Sentinel* are due for a total transformation from print to internet. Statements required by the US Post Office indicate that *Sentinel* subscriptions have fallen 43% from the recent high in 1999 (53,290) to 2008 (30,154). Neither the subscription numbers for the *Monitor* or for the *Sentinel* reflect the number of current members in The Mother Church which is estimated to be around 100,000 worldwide. The question is: why do so few members subscribe to the periodicals?

The *Monitor* went through its radical transformation in 1989 as already described. The *Sentinel* and *Journal* went through their own unnatural metamorphosis around the year 1997. Instead of the original emphasis on metaphysical ideas, they now both display distracting splashes of color, confusing layout, stock photographs, pictures of the writers, their families, their pets, and "human interest" details that detract from the metaphysics. The "let me tell you a story format" is long on human ways and means and very short on metaphysics. People comment that they leaf through the periodicals and fail to find an arresting statement that pulls them in. Articles seem to be "generated" to match the latest trendy social topic or problem. Originally, articles were written from a writer's own deep, healing experience or character transformation that could be helpful to others who might be struggling with the same challenges in their own spiritual growth. The best of the early articles were reprinted in the familiar green pamphlets that still inspire and comfort seventy-five or one hundred years after they were written.

It would appear that church members are being prepared for internet versions of the *Sentinel* and *Journal* with occasional print versions as a consolation. This would probably take place in 2010 when members will be told that the "new" internet *Monitor* has been so well received that the monthly and weekly periodicals will follow suit.

NEW OFFICE BUILDING FOR CS PLAZA

The *Boston Herald* of February 10, 2009, reports that "The Boston Redevelopment Authority [BRA] has asked us to start the public process and give an introduction to the church and not much more," said Barbara Burley, senior manager at the First Church of Christ, Scientist. "We have some ideas, but it's premature to talk about them right now. The article goes on to say that the BRA limits new construction to 7-to-11 stories. Burley

outlined three goals at the City Hall session: enhancing the public space around the church, which she called the largest privately owned open space in Boston, improving water management and new construction... Neighborhood sources say the church wants to build a 10-to-20 story office tower." The reference to "water management" suggests that the proposed tower would be built in the area of the fountain and that the reflecting pool would be eliminated. Other recent published reports say that the reflecting pool has been leaking into the underground parking garage for decades. Also, neighborhood children use the pool for recreational swimming. Both of these problems could be eliminated by a new master plan.

The *Boston Business Journal* of February 10, 2009, reports that the former CS administration building has leased out 120,000 square feet of its available 215,000 sq. ft. which is about a 56% occupancy rate. The former Colonnade building is totally occupied by Northeastern University's business offices.

The question is: where do the directors propose to get the financing for this new building project? Speculation is that the \$12 to \$20 million subsidy currently allocated for the Christian Science periodicals could be diverted to the building project once the newspaper and magazines are primarily converted to internet-only access. These changes would seem to be all about generating new revenue sources.

ECONOMIC CRISIS

The New York Times of January 5, 2009, reported, "Vacancy rates in office buildings exceed 10 percent in virtually every major city in the country and are rising rapidly, a sign of economic distress that could lead to yet another wave of problems for troubled lenders." *The Christian Science Monitor* of March 10, 2009, reported, "The national vacancy rate for offices at the end of 2008 was 14 percent, up from the recent low of 12.5 percent in the middle of 2007, [Jon] Southard [of CBRE Torto Wheaton Research] estimates. 'But we think it will top 20 percent in 2011.'... The John Hancock Tower in Boston has lost more than half its value since 2006, according to an estimate by one real estate advisor."

The question is: would the Christian Science Board of Directors go ahead with a massive building project in the current economic crisis? Judging by past experience (the Monitor cable channel fiasco, for instance), they would probably go for broke. As one astute businessman who met them on one of their international forays said, "I wouldn't hire any of them."

NOVEMBER TEACHERS' MEETING

A general meeting of all CSBs has been called for November 2009 in Boston. A series of questions have been sent to many of the teachers ahead of time. Their answers are to be incorporated into a paper that will be read

when the meeting is convened. Some wonder if this is an attempt to assess the attitude of teachers so as to avoid the disaster that occurred at the November 22, 1988, meeting when one teacher stood up to read a statement expressing concern about "a movement away from spiritual means and methods and toward an increased reliance on the secular." Some three dozen teachers endorsed the statement by standing up. After the meeting, teachers were sent a letter dated November 30, 1988, which warned them of disciplinary action if they were found "working against the Cause" of Christian Science. (See *CS After 1910*, p.168) A more docile group is expected this year.

VIRGINIA HARRIS INTERVIEW

The March 2009 *Christian Science Journal* carried a long interview with Virginia Harris titled, "The Science and Art of Christian Healing." (p. 20) This is the first time that Mrs. Harris has been heard from since her resignation from the board of directors in December 2004. It is believed that this reintroduction indicates that she has been chosen to be the teacher for the Normal Class to be held in December of this year in Boston.

SEVEN CHURCHES CLOSE

A comparison of the December 2008 and March 2009 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* reveal that the following churches/societies have closed: Burlingame, California; Fall River Mills, California; Sacramento (2nd), California; Lansing, Illinois; Council Bluffs, Iowa; Saint Louis (6th), Missouri; and Wexford, Pennsylvania. In addition, Hermosa Beach, California, has been relisted after a year's absence. Also the Irvine and Laguna Hills, California, churches merged in November 2006. Since the count began in February 1987, 792 churches have closed, and 70 have opened.

PLANET WAVES REVISITED

The 2009 Winter issue of *The Banner* carried an article dated October 31, 2008, from the astrology web site, Planet Waves, titled "Christian Science Monitor to 'follow Planet Waves' business model." It included highly questionable statements attributed to editor-in-chief Mary Metzner Trammell. Concerned individuals wrote directly to Mrs. Trammell and the COP's office in Boston. There were absolutely no responses to these inquiries from anyone in Boston. Others wrote directly to Planet Waves which belatedly added a note on January 10, 2009, claiming that the story was satirical. Questions still remain since the article does not read at all like a satire and contains phraseology that would seem to be characteristic of a Christian Scientist and not an outside observer. The silence from Boston has been deafening.

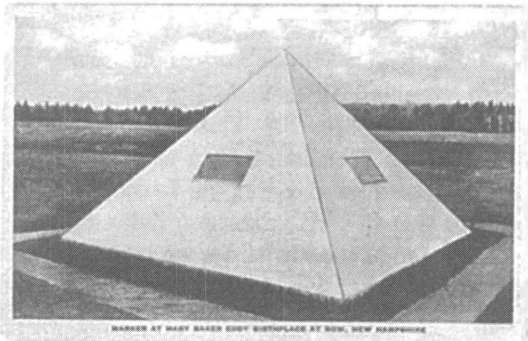
CSBD INTERVIEW IN BOSTON GLOBE

A January 5, 2009, interview of board members Nathan Talbot, J. Thomas Black, and Margaret Rogers

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was reprinted in the February 2, 2009 *Sentinel*. Among the statements made: "There was a lot of fussing going on in the Christian Science movement... There was this feeling that we had gone into a marketing phase and that we kind of lost our sense of purity of our healing mission... [T]he buildings [CS Center] had been the denomination's effort to 'put our footprint in the world,' but that 'it just didn't work out that way... The decline continued, and so the five of us sat around looking at ourselves and said the best efforts have not worked.'"

The most recent efforts have been to turn the organization into a fellowship church with punch and cookies, hand clapping, jokes from the platform, rag dolls propped up in rocking chairs in the Extension, readers in casual clothes, equally casual and sloppy reading, use of Bible substitutes, book clubs, nature walks, and many more fellowship-style innovations. In Christian Science it is recognized that man's only true relationship is with God. With everyone else it is a loving association. The church is supposed to promote this for the newcomers. Actual members are supposed to be *diligent workers* who maintain a spiritual, healing atmosphere that promotes the individual's own

journey heavenward. They also give the "cup of cold water" and offer the understanding and compassion that encourage each seeker along the way. They don't engage in distracting and frivolous social activities that take one away from the *direct* contemplation of what is *needed* and *required* for individual progress. Mrs. Eddy states, "The guerdon of meritorious faith or trustworthiness rests on being willing to work alone with God and for Him, -- willing to suffer patiently for error until all error is destroyed and His rod and His staff comfort you." (Mis 118)

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AFTER 1910

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. Available from The Bookmark, P.O. Box 801143, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. Hardcover \$24.95. Paperback \$12.95. 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. Orders may also be done via the web site: www.thebookmark.com

VOLUME TWENTY-TWO / NUMBER FOUR
SUMMER 2009 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO
ELAINE NATALE DAVIDSON, C.S.B.
EXCOMMUNICATED

On January 20, 2009, longtime teacher and practitioner Elaine Natale Davidson was excommunicated from The Mother Church by the Christian Science Board of Directors. In "An Open Letter to all Members of The Mother Church" dated April 2009, Mrs. Davidson lays out a chronology of actions which began with her presentation to the Board of Directors of a documented complaint titled *Matters of Conscience* on January 4, 2002. This was done in strict compliance with Article I, Section 9 of the by-laws of the *Manual of The Mother Church*.

Matters of Conscience outlined violations of church law including: misrepresenting Christian Science by identifying it with mind/body, New Age, and medical trends; altering and misrepresenting *Science and Health*; misrepresenting Mrs. Eddy and *Science and Health* in commercial promotional activities; the continuing misrepresentation of Christian Science and Mrs. Eddy in *The Destiny of The Mother Church*; adulterating Christian Science religious literature; undermining the Pastor and the Bible lessons; promoting non-denominationalism -- blurring the denominational distinctness of Christian Science; falsely influencing parents and young people in the name of Christian Science; displacing the Publishing Society's mandated activities; undermining Christian Science reading room activity; misrepresenting Christian Science in lecture activity; reinventing the Committee on Publication; perpetuating a political system of rewards and punishments; misrepresenting and redefining church government; and rejecting Mrs. Eddy's leadership. [from the table of contents of *Matters of Conscience*]

In the open letter, Mrs. Davidson states: "The documented complaint that I filed, *Matters of Conscience*, was brought to the Christian Science Board of Directors in strictest privacy. When there was no response, another teacher, Joseph Eller, joined in the effort (as a "witness") to open a discussion with the Directors regarding some of the serious issues in this complaint weighing heavily on the hearts of many Mother Church members.... The Board refused to discuss even a single aspect of the complaint, and further, we were threatened with severe discipline if we were to allow anyone else to read it or even know of the

complaint. I followed the first two steps of the Matthew code in good faith -- filing the complaint privately, then taking a witness. If the brother 'will not hear,' the Matthew teaching requires an unresolved complaint to be taken 'unto the church,' presumably for prayer and healing... Considering that our Master's commands are imperative, to be obeyed above any counter-command, we took the step of sharing the complaint with Mother Church members in the Field. Discipline came as a result. The Board of Directors declared that Mr. Eller and I had been put on probation, that our associations had been dissolved, and that our students were now considered untaught. Our listings were removed from the *Journal*... Throughout the past seven years the Directors have continued to insist on the legitimacy of their disciplinary actions, issuing an ultimatum if their terms of 'repentance' were not obeyed."

Mrs. Davidson reports that in a meeting with the Board on March 7, 2002, she and Mr. Eller were told: "The complaint may not be taken 'unto the church' -- the membership -- because **the Board claims it is the Church**, and no further steps of the Matthew 18:15-17 teaching are permitted, the Board says." (Emphasis added)

Members only of The Mother Church may request copies of the Open Letter which summarizes all the actions and correspondence from 2003 to 2009. (\$4.00) Also members may request the complete correspondence with the Board. (\$9.00) Address: Matters of Conscience, P. O. Box 180239, Boston MA 02118

Also: request@mattersofconscience.org

ERRONEOUS STATEMENTS

The Board of Directors submitted a memorandum in 1994 as part of the Weaver vs. Wood lawsuit to the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, which stated, "The Mother Church structure is hierarchical, with complete authority vested in a self-perpetuating Board of Directors to conduct the business of The Mother Church and to discipline members of The Mother Church."

The *Church Manual* states, "The business of The Mother Church shall be transacted by its Christian Science Board of Directors." (p. 27) Transacted *not* conducted. There is no implication in any by-law that The Mother Church structure is hierarchical. Courts have stated erroneously that the Church is a "public charitable trust" and that members have no standing in court. Mrs. Eddy established a *private* trust. All of this will have to be corrected in future court action.

THE TROUBLING OF THE WATERS AN EDITORIAL

In the fifth chapter of Saint John, we read a story at the pool by the sheep market in Jerusalem called Bethesda, having five porches. "In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had."

A man who had an infirmity for thirty-eight years had lain there for a "long time," but was never able to step into the pool before another, and so his hope of healing was continually frustrated. Jesus observed the scene and asked the man, "Wilt thou be made whole?" The man rehearsed his predicament, and immediately "Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed and walk. And immediately the man was made whole and took up his bed, and walked."

It would seem that this description is more than just a literal depiction of that long ago scene but also has a profound, symbolic significance. Mary Baker Eddy states, "If you venture upon the quiet surface of error, and are in sympathy with error, what is there to disturb the waters? What is there to strip off error's disguise?" (*Science & Health* 254:24-26)

Is not the quiet surface of the sheep pool an analogy for mass mortal mind with all of its unchallenged assumptions and cruel material laws? And aren't these falsehoods what mankind has labored under since time immemorial? During the relatively brief time of Jesus' ministry and that of his apostles, the waters were profoundly agitated. More recently, since the advent of Christian Science and the restoration of the Christ healing, the waters of error were, once again, ceaselessly disturbed. The waters of mortal mind were continually put off balance, and its false laws and material beliefs were proven to be unreal and untrue. Healings were frequent, spontaneous, and seemingly effortless. In the pioneer days of Christian Science, astonishing healings brought whole families to church and even their neighbors. Healings took place during church services and lectures. New church members were almost literally recruited from the graveyards. Much of the public's attention was focussed on this latter-day phenomenon. The growth of Christian Science was astounding as newspaper accounts of the time attest. (See, *The First Church of Christ Scientist and Miscellany* pp. 65-100)

From those pioneer days, clear up to the 1950s, such healings continued unabated. But since then, the pace seemed to slow. The last pioneers left the earthly scene. Healings still took place, but there was a sense that they were protracted, and each one required a more thorough,

individual effort. In many cases healings did not take place at all. Branch churches started to empty and then to close. So the question is: Why has this happened? What has changed in the last fifty years to account for the decline?

For one thing, the individual, daily demonstration of Christian Scientists has waned significantly in the past half century. The bland claim of material sense has been accepted without any mental protest, and the truth has not been put in its place. Ease in matter has become the norm. If we are in tacit sympathy with error's persistent claims through apathy, what is there to disturb the quiet surface of mortal mind? Who is left to break the mesmerism with the confident declaration of truth? What is there to roil the languid and lazy surface of material belief? Mrs. Eddy states: "The human heart, like a feather bed, needs often to be *stirred*, sometimes roughly, and given a variety of *turns*, else it grows hard and uncomfortable whereon to repose." (*Misc. Wr.* 127)

The responsibility falls upon those who call themselves Christian Scientists. Mrs. Eddy states, "He who leaves all for Christ forsakes popularity and gains Christianity... People with mental work before them have no time for gossip about false law or testimony." (*S&H* p. 238)

Merely taking a correct *philosophical* position regarding the course of the church in our day will not carry us into the future. The fact is that the last generation of Christian Scientists may be in the field right now. If we do not stem the decline, *it will not be done at all*.

Mrs. Eddy states, "We, to-day, in this class-room, are enough to convert the world if we are of one Mind; for then the whole world will feel the influence of this Mind; as when the earth was without form, and Mind spake and form appeared." (*Miscellaneous Writings*, pp. 279, 280) How many were assembled in that room in 1889? The subtitle of the article tells us that there were just *Sixty-five Students*.

Mrs. Eddy asks, "What will you do about it? Will you be equally in earnest for the truth? Will you doff your lavender-kid zeal, and become real and consecrated warriors? Will you give yourselves wholly and irrevocably to the great work of establishing the truth, the gospel, and the Science which are necessary to the salvation of the world from error, sin, disease, and death? Answer at once and practically, and answer aright!" (*Misc. Wr.* p. 177) In *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy states: "If you launch your bark upon the ever-agitated but healthful waters of truth, you will encounter storms. Your good will be evil spoken of. This is the cross. Take it up and bear it, for through it you win and wear the crown. Pilgrim on earth, thy home is heaven; stranger, thou art the guest of God." (p. 254)

FORMER SENIOR INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR OF MONITOR SPEAKS OUT

William A. Babcock, former international news editor for *The Christian Science Monitor*, recently wrote, "A sad legacy: Directors let daily print Christian Science Monitor fold" in the April 9, 2009, edition of MinnPost.com: "On March 27 the worldwide journalism community observed yet another death in the daily newspaper family as the Christian Science Monitor published its last daily print edition.

"...a series of boards of directors have for more than 25 years overseen the slow death of her [Mrs. Eddy's] newspaper. In the past few decades the former broadsheet was reduced to a tabloid and its circulation dropped from daily numbers of more than 200,000 to about 50,000.

"During this time many church members and financial experts were unsuccessful in urging recent boards of directors to enthusiastically grow an endowment to safeguard the daily newspaper, reasoning that the church, which outsiders sometimes mistakenly view as a religious cult, gained credibility by having a newspaper that was the gold standard for journalistic ethics, fairness and balance.

"Even though the church's membership had been steadily dwindling since the 1930s, various boards of directors decided that instead of adequately protecting the Monitor, they would spend members' contributions on other ventures, including:

"- A multimillion-dollar construction project begun in the 1960s including three new buildings, an expansive reflecting pool, an underground parking garage, a monumental entrance to its Mother Church Extension and a large brick-paved public park at the church's Boston headquarters.

"- The launching in the 1980s of a short-lived television station over the objections at the time of journalists and MBAs alike.

"- Recently converting the church's archives into a multimillion-dollar Mary Baker Eddy exhibit and library.

"Today the new buildings stand empty or have been rented out, the media-ethics and business classes, and the Mary Baker Library has few visitors. Estimates indicate such ill-conceived projects drained church coffers of close to \$1 billion.

"I'm hard pressed to think of any other owners of daily newspapers who invested so much so poorly during the past few decades. Thus, as the current church board of directors plans to launch a new weekly edition of the print newspaper and beef up the Monitor's online presence, it's difficult to be optimistic.

"After a century of publication, the Monitor could have been a beacon -- the sort of illuminating presence America's Founding Fathers envisioned in our nation's marketplace of ideas. It is sad, if not tragic, that a

church allowed this journalistic light to be extinguished."

CONSEQUENCES OF ONLINE-ONLY MOVE

The Wall Street Journal of April 15, 2009, reported, "Researchers from City University London have published a report showing one European newspaper's steep drop in revenue as well as unsteady Web traffic after it became an online-only publication.

"The report...focuses on Taloussanommat, a financial daily paper in Finland that stopped printing on Dec. 28, 2007 in a cost-cutting move.

"According to the report, Taloussanommat, which had a daily circulation of 72,000, lost at least 75% of its revenue as it sacrificed print advertising and subscription fees in the shift. But the more surprising finding concerns its Web traffic.

"Initially after becoming an online-only operation, Taloussanommat.fi saw an uptick in traffic, but after five months, unique visits and page views fell by 22% and 11%, respectively, compared with the week before it ended its print edition."

CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the March and June 2009 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* reveals that the following churches/societies have closed: Iowa City, Iowa; Farmington, Missouri; Findlay, Ohio; Nichols Hills, Oklahoma; Johnstown, Pennsylvania; and Kirkland, Washington. During the same time one new society opened in Coralville, Iowa. Since the count began in February 1987, **798** churches have closed and **71** have opened.

3RD CHURCH, D.C., TO BE TORN DOWN

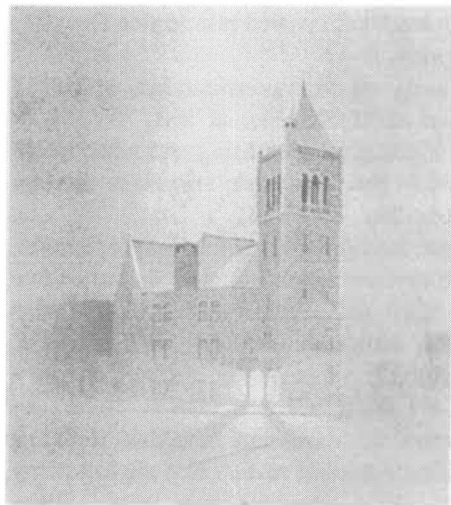
The Washington Post of May 13, 2009, reported, "D.C. planning director Harriet Tregoning has ruled that historic preservation zealots trying to force the church to keep its concrete bunker of a building on 16th Street NW near the White House were wrong and the the city must grant the church a permit to demolish its faceless, spiritually deadening 1971 building so that the church's members can afford to build a new downtown church more suited to expressing and celebrating their religious faith... The solution, Tregoning finds, is the one the church itself has proposed: Tear down the church and let a developer put up an office building in its place. The church has made a tentative deal along those lines, under which the Christian Scientists would get a new church building elsewhere...Tregoning has ordered that the church not be demolished until the Christian Scientists have an approved plan for a replacement church building."

An internet post by David Alpert the following day observes: "...the Church has never submitted sketches plans or any other description of the building they'd like to construct. Why haven't they?... What if, instead of

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wanting to build a new church, it just hoped to make maximum profit from an office building and move somewhere else?"

MASS. AVENUE PROPERTY SOLD

A Mother Church employee bulletin of April 17, 2009, announced that Berklee College of Music would purchase Mother Church owned property at 154-174 Massachusetts Avenue. The 13,300 square foot parcel had already been leased to the college and to McDonald's Restaurant Corporation, and Arirang Restaurant. The sale price was \$6.25 million.

PERIODICAL PRICES INCREASE

A June 3, 2009, letter from the Publishing Society to subscribers announced that all subscription fulfillment activity for the Christian Science periodicals would be transferred to CDS Global. The financial savings "will reduce our expenditures by an estimated \$1 million annually." At the same time the subscription price of *The Christian Science Journal* rises to \$68 per year (28% increase) and the price of the *Christian Science Sentinel* rises to \$79 per year (14% increase). A letter to reading rooms dated February 2009 states that the actual cost of preparing and delivering the *Journal* is about US\$120.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AFTER 1910

by

Andrew W. Hartsook

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