

*****HIS BANNER OVER ME

THE BANNER

WAS LOVE *****

A NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS

ANDREW W. HARTSOOK, EDITOR

VOLUME TWENTY-FIVE / NUMBER ONE

FALL 2011 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

TOM BLACK RESIGNS FROM THE BOARD

An e-mail from Mother Church clerk, Nathan Talbot, dated September 23, 2011, announced the resignation of J. Thomas Black from the Christian Science Board of Directors. Tom Black replaced Virginia Harris when she resigned from the board on December 4, 2004. Christian Scientists in the field openly wondered if Mr. Black's departure was prompted in part by his surprising question at Annual Meeting on June 6th: "Would you mind if we kept ourselves out of the Manual jail and would ask the Committee on Publication to give his report...?" To this, C.O.P. Russ Gerber responded, "Thank you, Tom. Thank you. Much better to be outside the jail; I agree." [See Summer 2011 *Banner*] Many telephone calls and letters were received by the clerk of The Mother Church questioning these statements which clearly demeaned the by-laws which Mrs. Eddy and her closest students adamantly warned were essential to the prosperity of the Cause of Christian Science.

Tom Black has been at the center of acrimonious incidents for several years. At one of the board's town meetings in Pittsburgh on October 14, 2006, Mr. Black thrust his finger into the face of Maryfrances Cassell and said, "You are suing the Church!" The board's own lawyer refers to this in his August 25, 2011, brief to the Massachusetts Appeals Court as an "intemperate remark" which was nonetheless justified in law. (p. 43)

[NOTE: The town meetings were initiated in Eugene, Oregon, on January 22, 2005, in the wake of Virginia Harris' resignation. Earlier, her controversial initiatives had stirred the field and led to Elaine Natale Davidson's *Matters of Conscience* (January 4, 2002) which detailed numerous violations of the *Church Manual* and a departure from Christian ethics by the directors. She and fellow teacher Joseph Eller, who accompanied her as a witness when she met with the board, had their listings summarily removed from *The Christian Science Journal*. Subsequently, Mrs. Davidson was excommunicated from The Mother Church on January 20, 2009. In support of the Davidson document, many teachers, practitioners, and nurses signed and mailed a letter to the field titled "Working Together" (September 20, 2002). Everyone who signed the letter was paid a personal visit by a board representative. This was widely interpreted as

intimidation. There were too many signatories for the board to inflict open disciplinary action on them all. The town meetings were intended to quiet concern in the Christian Science field and also to convince everyone that the directors were listening to the membership.]

Subsequent to the Pittsburgh town meeting incident, Tom Black apparently called uniformed Boston police officers to physically remove Maryfrances Cassell from an Annual Meeting workshop on June 7, 2010. No one else recognized her, and she was not calling attention to herself or otherwise disrupting the meeting.

Tom Black is succeeded on the board of directors by Lyle Young, C.S.B., of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The current order of seniority on the board is as follows: Mary Metzner Trammell, July 18, 2001; Nathan Talbot, January 23, 2004; Margaret Rogers, January 22, 2008; Michael Pabst, August 20, 2009; and Lyle Young, September 23, 2011.

APPEAL FILED

The attorneys for Maryfrances Cassell filed an appeal to the December 30, 2010 dismissal of her complaint against the Christian Science Board of Directors. The appeal, dated July 25, 2011, reiterated that the directors are fiduciaries akin to church wardens or deacons who are required to obey and administer Mrs. Eddy's deeds of trust and the by-laws contained in the *Church Manual* without waiver. Interestingly, the board submitted a memorandum to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in 1994 as part of the Weaver vs. Wood lawsuit falsely claiming: "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 brief submitted for the current case by the attorney for the Board of Directors on August 25, 2011, stated, "On appeal, Cassell has apparently abandoned her *ultra vires* [beyond legal authority] claim respecting the Board's administration of the Church's charitable assets and thereby focused her attention solely on the Board's alleged *ultra vires* act of excommunicating her from the Church. (p. 14)

In the reply brief for Maryfrances Cassell dated September 12, 2011, her attorneys refute the directors claim that she has abandoned her claim against their *ultra vires* administration of the deeds of trust and cite the case of *Watson v. Jones* (1871) which was "already 'enshrined in the general law' of this country twenty years before

Mary Baker G. Eddy founded The Mother Church. What Defendants overlook, however, is that the same case also found, already enshrined in the general law, the very principles that Plaintiff has argued to distinguish the legal structure chosen by Mrs. Eddy for her Church from those religious organizations to which the church autonomy doctrine applies.”(pp. 1, 2)

THE THREE STRUCTURES

The three structures are: 1. when property has been *deeded or willed by a donor to trustees* for perpetuation of a teaching or to spread some specific form of religious doctrine or belief *and is subject to lawful terms or conditions*. 2. when property is *held by an independent religious congregation* which owes no fealty or obligation to any higher authority. 3. when property is *held by an ecclesiastical or hierarchical body* which, in turn, is subordinate to a superior ecclesiastical tribunal. (See pp. 2, 3)

CHURCH AUTONOMY DOES NOT APPLY

The Cassell attorneys note, “All the authority cited by Defendants and the Trial Court address the rights of autonomous (hierarchical or congregational) churches. None, it is submitted, deal with a non-autonomous, restricted association like The Mother Church, let alone with the obligations of fiduciaries, like the Defendants, serving such an organization.” (p. 6) In other words, the church autonomy doctrine does not apply to churches founded on deeds of trust. They are, in fact, subject to judicial oversight.

MRS. EDDY DEPRIVED OF HER RIGHTS

The Cassell attorneys note: “Endorsement of a principle of constitutional law that says Mrs. Eddy’s material intentions cannot be enforced creates a new set of constitutional violations: It deprives Mrs. Eddy of the right to express her religious freedom through establishing a church that is distinct from the autonomous denominational and congregation forms, and is governed by a perpetual board of fiduciaries bound to the immutable and otherwise lawful restrictions set forth in her Governing Documents. It also deprives Member Beneficiaries of their own First Amendment rights to express their religious freedom by associating with a Church that is governed, not by ‘autonomous’ officers, but by the rules established by Mrs. Eddy.” (p. 13)

For the first time, the court will have to make its decision based on this previously neglected part of the law which distinctly and clearly applies to Mrs. Eddy’s chosen form of church government.

SUPPORT STILL NEEDED

A letter from Maryfrances Cassell dated September 10, 2011, requests: “Our Response to the Appeal of the Christian Science Board of Directors has been filed, and the funding is needed to pay for it -- approximately \$10,000.00 -- within thirty days. It should be sent to

the foundation:

Novus Ordo Seclorum Foundation
P.O. Box 11
Mount Joy, PA 17552
USA

A court date has not yet been set for hearing the Cassell appeal, but will probably occur before the end of this calendar year.

CHURCH CENTER REAL ESTATE PLANS

An e-mail dated August 17, 2011, and a subsequent article in the September 26th *Christian Science Sentinel* announces: “On August 16, an important milestone in the Christian Science Plaza Revitalization Project... was reached. The Boston Redevelopment Authority Board unanimously approved the rezoning of the Plaza to allow for the construction of three new buildings and a small pavilion... The locations of the proposed new buildings are on selected edges of the Plaza... After all approvals are in hand, the Church will seek proposals from developers, who will fund the projects. This will be done when market conditions are favorable, so the timing has not yet been determined... It will also generate additional real estate revenue to help cover the Church’s property expenses, thereby contributing to the Church’s goal of a self-sustaining real estate model.” (p.5)

The Spring 2011 *Banner* reported Mother Church clerk, Nathan Talbot’s statement of January 26, 2011: “Yesterday the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) voted to designate the Christian Science Plaza as a Landmark... The Church did not seek Landmark status.” The implication was that one of the three buildings proposed for construction -- the one designated for Huntington Avenue -- might not be approved by the BLC. (The cover of the Spring 2011 *Banner* shows the three buildings with the one marked “3” to be located on Huntington Avenue.) Now that all three buildings have received tacit approval, the directors are ready to move forward with the project. The buildings would include a residential tower, a 15-story hotel and the third not yet designated.

Harry Dent, economist, author, and Wall Street observer, noted in *Boom & Bust* (August 2011): “**The greatest Real Estate Bubble** in history is about to start shedding another 42% of its value within the next 6 months...shaking McMansions to their suburban foundations. Florida, New York, Massachusetts, Washington and California will be hit the hardest -- with McMansions and commercial real estate leading the way.” In other words, market conditions will not be right for the foreseeable future, and developers will not be coming forward to fund these projects. Observers wonder if the directors will get tired of waiting and decide to fund these projects from the various Mother Church

funds currently designated for support of the periodicals. Now that these are slated to be "published" primarily on the Internet, expensive printing and mailing costs would be minimized.

CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the June and September 2011 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* reveals that the following, nine churches have closed: Heber Springs, Arkansas; Cortez, Colorado; Old Saybrook, Connecticut; Melbourne (Soc.), Florida; Belvidere, Illinois; Glen Burnie, Maryland; Ayer, Massachusetts; Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; and Temple, Texas. A new society was formed at Georgetown, Texas, during the same period. At the same time, the Highland Park-Glencoe church in Illinois has changed its name and location to Deerfield, Illinois, with a reading room only in Highland Park. Since the count began in February 1987, 867 churches have closed, and 78 have opened.

MARY BAKER EDDY: THE MOVIE

The board and steering committee of "For Thine is The Glory, Inc." are in the process of producing a feature film about the life of Mary Baker Eddy. Their web site, www.marybakereddythemovie.com notes that this is not a project of the Christian Science Church, but is an independent film. The motion picture is intended for general audiences worldwide. The "frequently asked questions" page on the web site states: "The film is biographically accurate and the script was written to include more of her life story. It is primarily a drama focused on the events surrounding the attempt by a group of powerful newspaper moguls and others to destroy her and take control of everything she had built. It is a story of her victory over the most powerful figures in 'yellow journalism' in 1906."

The producer is Ed Elbert. The screenwriter is Alexander Ignon. "\$6 million is needed to begin and complete the filming. Another \$6 million is needed for distribution and marketing." All of the Board and Steering Committee members of For Thine is The Glory, Inc. are volunteers.

The Spring 2007 *Banner* noted that the actor Val Kilmer was planning to produce a biographical film about Mrs. Eddy. He spoke of the project in an interview in the January 2007 issue of *Maxim* magazine. The Spring 2008 *Banner* noted that a movie trailer for the Kilmer film titled, "Mark Twain & Mary Baker Eddy: a love story" had been placed on the internet web site You Tube [www.youtube.com]. It was understood at the time that Val Kilmer was seeking funding for his project. For Thine is the Glory, Inc. stresses that their film project is not related to the Kilmer film and that theirs is an entirely different project.

Previous video projects include: *Mary Baker Eddy: A Heart in Protest* which was produced by Northern Light

Productions in association with The Mother Church in 1988. In 1994, New Hampshire Public Television produced *Soul of a Woman - Mary Baker Eddy* as part of its "New Hampshire Crossroads" series. Both of these videos are documentaries using period photographs, film clips, and historical narration.

EXEMPTION VS. ACCOMMODATION

A message from the Federal Office of the Christian Science Committee on Publication dated August 3, 2011, requests that state C.O.P.s help compile information about insurance plans carried by individual Christian Scientists. Gary Jones, the Manager of the Federal Office, states: "Your help will aid us in our efforts with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to ensure that Christian Science care is widely available for all who would like to access it." In other words, the new universal healthcare law -- dubbed Obamacare by some -- might be called upon to reimburse Christian Science practitioners for their services.

A letter of concern to the Federal Office from a church member about abandoning exemption in favor of accommodation noted that Webster's 1828 dictionary defines exemption as "freedom from any service, charge, burden, tax, evil or requisition to which others are subject; immunity; privilege." The same dictionary defines accommodation as "adaptation; adjustment of differences; reconciliation."

The Federal Office responded: "It is this conviction about the efficacy of Christian Science healing that motivates us to engage with lawmakers, who are drafting health care policy. And, as you may have noted, we are currently pursuing an exemption from the health insurance mandate, in addition to working to have Christian Science care and treatment more accessible through an accommodation."

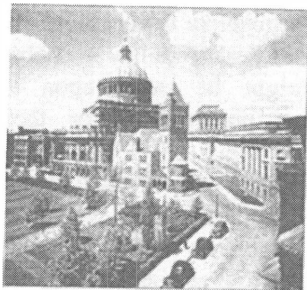
A *New York Times* article of March 23, 2010, titled "Christian Science Church Seeks Truce with Modern Medicine" by Paul Vitello stated: "...Christian Science leaders have recently found a new tolerance for medical care. For more than a year, leaders say, they have been encouraging members to see a physician if they feel it is necessary. Perhaps more significantly, they have begun a public campaign to redefine their methods as a form of care that the broader public should consider as a supplement rather than a substitute for conventional treatment, like biofeedback, chiropractic or homeopathic care. In recent years, the church has been lobbying to convince lawmakers that its approach is an alternative way of tending to the sick, and that its costs should be covered by insurance companies and included in health care legislation." [www.nytimes.com]

The publication of the article resulted in many letters and telephone calls of concern from the field. The

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Committee on Publication released a statement claiming that the article contained inaccuracies and misstatements. A Christian Scientist who called Paul Vitello directly, was told that no one from The Mother Church had called him to complain after the article's publication. He stands by the accuracy of the story which he said was written over a period of weeks after extensive interviews with C.O.P. Phil Davis. (See Winter and Spring 2010 issues of *The Banner*)

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

This issue of *The Banner* begins its twenty-fifth year of publication. It remains committed to putting on record the history of Christian Science after 1910. The church organization in Boston has strayed so far from Mrs. Eddy's design that it has become necessary to record the decisions and events that have led to its catastrophic decline. It is hoped that when her Church is restored, the historical record contained in the pages of this newsletter will enable the true workers to avoid repeating the pitfalls that led to the present situation.

Currently, *The Banner* has subscribers in all fifty states of the United States, Canada, Mexico, two countries in Central America, England, Scotland, Ireland, Denmark, Belgium, France, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, India,

Australia, and New Zealand. Subscriptions are free to any address in the world.

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. The book documents the disastrous and unnecessary decline of the church after it passed from the leadership of Mary Baker Eddy to the despotic control of the Board of Directors. The book contains footnotes, sources, and photographs.

Hardcover: \$18.95 Paperback: Sold Out

The book may be ordered from The Bookmark, P.O. Box 801143, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. Postage & Handling: \$5.95 for orders up to \$19.95. Telephone orders: 1-800-220-7767 Orders may also be placed via the web site: www.thebookmark.com

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VOLUME TWENTY-FIVE / NUMBER TWO
WINTER 2012 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

APPEAL TO BE HEARD JANUARY 6, 2012

The appeal filed by the attorneys for Maryfrances Cassell will be heard by a three-judge panel on the first Friday of 2012.

Past cases which have sought to compel the Christian Science Board of Directors to obey Mary Baker Eddy's Deeds of Trust have been decided on the basis of the legal precedent established by the case of *Watson v. Jones* (1871) which was already enshrined in the general law of this country twenty years before Mrs. Eddy founded The Mother Church. This 1871 case established that churches could be founded on three bases: the congregational, the hierarchical, or through deeds of trust.

Churches founded on the first two bases enjoy autonomy, but churches based on deeds of trust are compelled to comply with the provisions specified by the donor, who in this case is Mary Baker Eddy. Since this may require the supervision by the court, church autonomy does not apply. Past court decisions involving suits against the Christian Science Board of Directors have mistakenly cited church autonomy as the reason for denying of the plaintiffs' petitions. Courts are loathe to overturn previous decisions without a compelling reason. Now that the flaw in these past decisions has been exposed, the appeals court will be free to honor Mrs. Eddy's clear expectations as well as garner praise in the legal community for clarifying a point of the law which has been hidden for so long.

Interestingly, the original Mother Church was dedicated on January 6, 1895. January 6th happens also to be the traditional day on which the wise men were thought to have reached Bethlehem after the birth of Jesus.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND THE C.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The *Christian Science Sentinel* of October 31, 2011, carried an article by Shirley Paulson titled, "Interfaith Dialogue Opens Door of Understanding" (p. 5). The *Christian Science Journal* of December 2011, carried the identical article but titled "Our Turn to go to NCC Headquarters" (p. 17): "As in any good dialogue, we hear each other better when we visit each other's homes. Michael Kinnamon, the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches (NCC), has come to visit

The Mother Church three times, meeting with various representatives of the Church...

"And on September 15, members of the Christian Science Board of Directors, along with Lyle Young, C.S.B. (who has had considerable experience in interfaith work) [and recently elected to the board of directors] and I, went to the NCC headquarters in New York...

"The conversation will continue, and at this time we are deeply grateful for our NCC friends who welcomed us so warmly and sincerely. Both parties will continue to pray and consider just how to pursue the conversation."

HISTORY OF THE NCC

The Spring 1999 issue of *The Banner* reported: "On September 24, 1987, the Rev. William Fore [an official of the NCC] was included in The Mother Church's videoconference 'Global Lecture Preparatory Meeting'. Mr. Fore was apparently included in the meeting to give expert advice about religious broadcasting. The meeting marked the beginning of the Board's plunge into television which nearly bankrupted the church.

"On December 23, 1987, *The Christian Science Monitor* ran an interview with the new head of the National Council of Churches, Rev. Patricia McClurg. Elsewhere that same year, Rev. McClurg said that her goal was to 'broaden the ecumenical family' beyond the 32 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox communions then involved with the NCC. She conceded that her task would not be easy because 'the name NCC scares some folks.' The fright generated can be explained by some background. The NCC began in 1908 as the Federal Council of Churches (FCC) and included Fabian Socialists among its organizers. Fabians believe in converting a nation to socialism through a gradual process of education and step-by-step legislation. Sidney and Beatrice Webb, founders of the Fabian Socialist Society in England, had come to the United States in 1898 to review and give advice about introducing Fabian ideas into American churches. The Federal Council of Churches grew out of their efforts.

"In 1942, the FCC convention called for: 'Ultimately, a world government of delegated powers. Complete abandonment of U.S. isolationism. Strong immediate limitations on national sovereignty. International control of all armies and navies... Individual nations must give up their armed forces except for preservation of domestic order and allow the world to be policed by an international army and navy.'

"In 1950, the FCC formally changed its name to the National Council of Churches with the hope of changing its image. Their December 1950 *Bulletin* stated, 'All the work of the Federal Council will continue under new auspices.' The July 15, 1968 issue of their *Approach* magazine carried an interview with Gus Hall, General Secretary of the American Communist Party. In it he stated, 'We can -- we should -- work together for the same things... We can live together in a Socialist nation.'

"Continuing with the Board of Directors interest in the NCC, the *Reading Room News* (Now called *Open Doors*) of February 1988 carried the following: 'Perhaps in *The Christian Science Monitor* in December you saw the interview with the incoming president of the National Council of Churches, Rev. Ms. Patricia McClurg. In many of her thoughtful comments you might have thought she was addressing a group of Reading Room Librarians! Among other things, she was quoted as saying, 'As we are learning the lesson that the whole world is our neighbor we also need to remember that our next-door neighbor is our neighbor too.'

"During the summer of 1988, the blasphemous movie, *The Last Temptation of Christ* arrived at theaters around the country. Among other things, Jesus is depicted as making and selling crosses to the Romans while still employed as a carpenter. [He is also depicted as dreaming about having sexual relations with Mary Magdalen during his crucifixion.] While the movie was widely condemned, Rev. William Fore of the National Council of Churches defended it. *Monitor* movie critic David Sterritt also defended the movie on the ABC News *Nightline* program on August 9, 1988: 'I hope that people go to see it and make up their own minds about it, but support filmmaking with this kind of courage and ambition to deal with this kind of issue in this day and age.'...

"In 1990, the governing board of the National Council of Churches passed a resolution condemning Christopher Columbus for 'invading' America and the 'genocide' of the Indians. An amendment proposed by an attending churchman, which would have added a list of positive things about America was voted down.

"The July/August 1990 *Reading Room News* stated that the Reading Room Service was 'considering' adding the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible to the catalog. This Bible version is a favorite of the National Council of Churches. It is based on two unreliable manuscripts, the Codices Sinaiticus and Vaticanus. The former was found in a wastebasket of a monastery in the 19th Century. It has over 5000 alterations not made by the original copyist. The NRSV calls many familiar Bible passages into question with scores of footnotes.

One of Mrs. Eddy's most frequently quoted references (Mark 16: 17, 18) is dismissed as a late addition and not part of the original Gospel.

"There is no way to know if the Board of Directors has ever considered a formal affiliation with the NCC." [End of quotations from the Summer 1999 *Banner*]

Editor's Note: Now we know that the Board of Directors is actively considering just such an affiliation.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE BOARD

A longtime member of The Mother Church began a correspondence with the Christian Science Board of Directors in June 2011. He asks: "Is the Christian Science movement in a state of obedience to our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy? or Is it in a state of passive acceptance of multiple disobediences to our Leader, persisted in by the transactors of the business of her Church?... I am making the following letter available to individual earnest students of Christian Science for their prayerful consideration because the Board has, in effect, denied that it [the letter] has any validity (will not hear), whereas I believe it is based throughout on self-evident truth and a faithful adherence to our Leader's guidance as found in all her writings." *Banner* readers are urged to go to the following Internet web pages to read the entire correspondence and other related resources:

<http://duncansbeemers.com/bod11.html>

<http://duncansbeemers.com/dialcs.html>

SENTINEL SUBSCRIPTION FIGURES

The October 17, 2011, edition of the *Christian Science Sentinel* gave the required U.S. Postal Service statement of current circulation: 24,016

1933	170,784
1997	44,995
1998	50,868 *life style edition began
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
2009	24,130
2010	25,720
2011	24,016

The December 2010 *Christian Science Journal* reported: "Today fewer than half of Mother Church members subscribe [to the periodicals]. (p. 18)

CHARLES WYLY

The Dallas Morning News of August 7, 2011, reported: "Dallas billionaire Charles Wyly, whose fortune helped reshape the Dallas Arts District before the Securities and Exchange Commission charged him with insider trading and fraud, was killed Sunday in a car crash in Colorado... Both brothers [Sam and Charles] vigorously disputed the SEC lawsuit. 'I think it's good

politics to beat up on big companies and rich people.' Sam Wyly had said of the government allegations... The news stunned the Dallas arts community, where Mr. Wyly's philanthropy had helped solidify the dreams of the Arts District."

Some three weeks before his passing, Charles Wyly had resigned as a trustee of The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity in Boston.

[See also the Fall 2010 *Banner* for a related story]

MONITOR SUBSCRIPTION FIGURES

The October 10, 2011, edition of *The Christian Science Monitor* gave the U.S. Postal Service statement of current circulation: 74,312.

1933	129,260	
1989	156,246	*Color format, fewer
1990	116,709	pages & greatly
1991	115,117	reduced advertising
1992	107,652	begin.
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	
2008	47,725	
2009	48,435	*weekly format begins
2010	76,869	
2011	74,312	

In the October 3, 2011, edition of the *Monitor*, Editor John Yemma wrote: "We need your support. This month, we're phasing in price increases as subscriptions come up for renewal... But I'm sure you can appreciate that independent, constructive journalism has a price, and the cost of delivering that each week in print has outpaced our ability to even partially subsidize those costs.

"We're a nonprofit. Over the past three years, we've reduced our losses by 25 percent, and in the coming year we'll reduce further still. If subscribers were to pay just the costs of producing, marketing, and delivering this publication -- not counting the global reporting that goes into it -- the price would be \$200 a year. We're not asking for that.

"From the current \$89 a year (\$1.70 per issue), domestic subscriptions that come up for renewal will now be \$119 (\$2.25 an issue)." (pp. 5, 6)

CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the September and December 2011 issues of *The Christian Science Journal*, the following five churches/societies have closed: Ketchikan, Alaska; Frankfort, Kentucky; Gaylord, Michigan; Akron, Ohio; and Lincoln City, Oregon. During the same period, a

new society has been listed for Highlands Ranch, Colorado. The church at Ridgewood, New Jersey, has relocated to Midland Park, New Jersey. The church at Wilmette, Illinois, disappeared from the church listings, and their building was sold to a synagogue in May 2011. The reading room is still active while members decide whether to merge with another branch, continue services in a rented space, or disband.

Since the count began, 672 churches have closed and 79 have opened.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Christian Science Foundation located in Elmdon near Cambridge, England, is dedicated to preserving works written or supervised by Mary Baker Eddy, metaphysical writings by others on Christian Science, historical items, biographies, Biblical items, as well as material relating to the Christian Science Church in Boston after Mrs. Eddy's jurisdiction.

The resources of the Library have enabled the Foundation to produce two publications: a Compendium titled, *The Continuity of the Cause of Christian Science* and a narrative titled *Christian Science: Mary Baker Eddy -- "True Estimate of God's Messenger"*. Both of these documents can be downloaded from their web site. Readers of *The Banner* are invited to visit the web site to take advantage of these resources:

<http://christiansciencefoundation.wordpress.com>

CONSECRATION THEN AND NOW

In an article written for the May 1936 *Christian Science Journal*, William R. Rathvon wrote: "In the days when our churches were few, our membership small and our religion derided, our people as a rule were devout in their practice and defense of their convictions, and gave to Christian Science first place in all their affairs. They worked at healing the sick and reforming the sinner seven days in the week and fifty-two weeks in the year without relaxation. Theirs were lives of consecration to the exalted mission of bringing the truth of being to human consciousness...

"When Christian Scientists who formerly were known to put their religion first, and above everything else, now spread out their application of Science so thin that it is hardly visible, we become apprehensive of their future. And when one who formerly gave the right of way to the things of the spirit of God, devoting his entire time to the healing of the sick and such other ministrations as Christian Science imposes upon its followers -- when we see such a one spreading out his understanding of the truth so thin as to leave it neither solidity, flavor, nor permanency, it should be a reminder to us to examine our own activities to see whether or not we are doing any thin spreading ourselves. When we look out to detect error, we should look in to correct it...

"[The Christian Scientist] needs just enough play to

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increase his appetite for work. If he overworks he dulls his tools. If he overplays he becomes a thin spreader. No one can weigh or measure the amount of work without play that is best for another, and only a few are endowed with that enormous capacity for work without diversion that characterized our Leader. Her Science was her relaxation. Apart from her daily drive, for many years she took no respite from the exacting demands of her leadership. She needed no vacation and she took none; and we, as well as generations yet to come, may profit by her fidelity to Truth, Life, and Love...

"Ever at war with humility, and underlying most forms of personal deviation from rectitude, lies that little word 'self.'...

"Self is a thorny plant that grows in every climate and flourishes on every kind of ground... But by a blessed provision of Principle, whenever self is plucked up by the roots or trampled underfoot, there spring up the fragrant flowers of the precious plant we call humility...

"A semblance of humility may be worn as a cloak to hide selfish ends, but it does not wear well nor deceive many... True humility is not a garment but a trait of character...

"The consecration of our early predecessors in

Science was marked, as ours should be, by virtues other than fidelity, humility, and responsibility, for their lives were dedicated to the uplifting work of healing the sick, reforming the sinning, and comforting the sorrowing. Being human they made mistakes, but the lessons they learned and the examples they set have come down to us as a precious heritage, which points the way to more of unselfed love, to better healing, and more wholehearted consecration to our highest ideals."

Praying For The World
by

Ann Beals

Today, as we watch the discord and distress going on in the world around us, most of us agree that humanity needs our prayerful support as it awakens from the long, deep sleep of materialism and begins the inevitable journey spiritward. This new booklet is written to help you understand the causes of this traumatic time in history. If you are wondering how to pray for the world, this booklet will give you new insight into today's overturning and how to handle it most effectively. \$9.95 postpaid. May be ordered by mail from: The Bookmark, P.O. Box 801143, Santa Clarita CA 91380 or by using the Toll free number: **1-800-220-7767** or through the web site: **www.thebookmark.com**

VOLUME TWENTY-FIVE / NUMBER THREE
 SPRING 2012 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO
DECISION OF APPEALS COURT

The three judge panel of the Massachusetts Appeals Court which heard the case of Maryfrances Cassell vs. The Christian Science Board of Directors on January 6, 2012, issued its findings on February 15, 2012.

In its decision, given in a two-page memorandum, the court stated that Miss Cassell's appeal was frivolous and that she is liable to pay the board of director's attorney fees.

The memorandum states that the court's decisions "are primarily addressed to the parties and, therefore, may not fully address the facts of the case of the panel's decisional rationale..."

"A judge of the Probate and Family Court dismissed Cassell's claim for lack of subject matter jurisdiction and standing, and she now appeals. We affirm [the decision of the Probate and Family Court]..."

"The church autonomy doctrine provides that both congregational and hierarchical churches 'are entitled to autonomy' over church disputes..."

"Cassell contends that judicial interference is appropriate here, where the church's founder, Mary Baker Eddy, deliberately chose to create the church as a trust. As a result, the board consists of mere fiduciaries of that trust. In choosing such a legal entity, Cassell argues, Eddy was implicitly permitting judicial review of board decisions that conflict with the church's authorizing documents. This argument is flawed, however, because Eddy's deed of trust only covers a conveyance of land; it does not establish the judicial policing of church membership..."

"We feel some sympathy for the plight of the parties. Nonetheless, it appears beyond dispute that the First Amendment forbids courts from interfering with a church's internal governance or with the excommunication of its members, which is the matter at issue here... Therefore, we hold that this appeal was frivolous and the defendant's request for attorney's fees is allowed."

Subsequently, the board's attorney filed an affidavit with the court asking for \$48,800.

In a comment made after the decision was issued, the board's attorney gave his opinion that Maryfrances Cassell, a member of The Mother Church for sixty-six years, deserved "a good punch" for daring to sue the Christian Science Board of Directors.

**REQUEST FOR REHEARING AND APPEAL
 TO THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT**

A "request to reconsider" was submitted to the appeals court by the attorneys for Maryfrances Cassell on February 29, 2012:

"Respectfully, it was error for this Court to find that Mary Baker G. Eddy's ("Mrs. Eddy") Deed of Trust only conveyed land and did not establish any legally binding restrictions on the Defendants in their governance of the Association under the applicable bylaws..."

"The Deed of Trust *explicitly* incorporated the bylaws in *The Church Manual* as and stated that they are never to be amended. By incorporating bylaws of *The Church Manual* into the Deed of Trust, Mrs. Eddy made those bylaws binding as any other condition of the Trust. The bylaws of *The Church Manual* thus constitute a legally binding instrument under *Watson v. Jones* [1871 U.S. Supreme Court case] imposing enforceable external constraints on the Defendants as Trustees of the Trust, and Directors of the Association..."

Defendants additionally breached their duty of loyalty, when they acted in a self-interested manner, by removing Cassell from membership for complaining about them for their *ultra vires* actions. These actions put this case squarely in the realm of a secular issue. [...]

"Simply stated, the Court should not refuse to exercise jurisdiction over this matter just because there is a dispute between a church and a member, especially where the dispute is secular, not ecclesiastical, and can be resolved by applying neutral principles of law."

The appeal of Miss Cassell to the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts dated March 6, 2012, included additional arguments:

...[A]dherence to the Governing Documents authored or adopted by Mary Baker G. Eddy, including the *Church Manual* itself, is essential to the continuing efficacy of the Office of Pastor Emeritus as a fundamental check on power of the Defendants [C.S. Board of Directors].

"It is at least a serious legal question whether the church autonomy doctrine applies at all to these Defendant fiduciaries whose entire authority is rooted, not in the organic law and practice of an autonomous hierarchical or congregational church, but in the Governing Documents authored by Mrs. Eddy -- documents that impose limitations on the Defendant's authority and grant Member Beneficiaries like Plaintiff certain rights, privileges and benefits distinct from other members of the general public. Under *Watson* there can

be no doubt that a civil court would have jurisdiction to hear a case like this, and we are aware of no subsequent case that holds otherwise. [...]

"Massachusetts law is clear that 'an appeal should not, however, be tarred as frivolous because it presents an argument that is novel, unusual or ingenious, or urges adoption of a new principle of law or revision of an old one.'"

The \$48,800 attorney fee submitted by the directors' lawyer has been halved by the court, and Miss Cassell will not be liable to pay unless she were to lose her case in the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

This case has attracted the attention of prestigious members of the legal community, and amicus briefs by them on behalf of Miss Cassell will be submitted to the court in the near future. No date has been set for the next court hearing.

DIRTY TRICKS

An anonymous tip was telephoned to the local police in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania, stating that Maryfrances Cassell was hiding a stash of illegal drugs in her home. Police officers searched her premises on February 20, 2012, but found nothing.

Three different people mailed checks for large amounts of money to the fund supporting Miss Cassell's case. All three checks "bounced", and there is no doubt that they were submitted deliberately for the purpose of disrupting and compromising the fundraising effort to pay her attorneys. The names of these individuals have been recorded for possible legal action. She also has had to change her telephone number several times because of persistent, harassing calls.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT STILL NEEDED

Cassell v. Christian Science Board of Directors promises to be an historic case in American legal history. Miss Cassell's attorney discovered the provision in the U.S. Supreme Court case, *Watson v. Jones* (1871) for churches founded on deeds of trust. Deeds based churches are such a rare occurrence that this provision has been overlooked whenever the *Watson* case has been cited in subsequent legal actions. This discovery promises to change everything.

In Mrs. Eddy's 1903 Deed of Trust, which is printed in the *Church Manual* (pages 136, 137), she states: "[T]his property is conveyed on the further trusts that no new Tenet or By-Law shall be adopted, nor any Tenet or By-Law amended or annulled by the grantees unless the written consent of said Mary Baker G. Eddy, the author of the textbook 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures' be given therefor..."

In her rarely seen 1904 Deed of Trust, Mrs. Eddy is even more emphatic: "Nothing in this deed contained shall be construed as a waiver or as permitting a modification in any degree of any of the trusts and

conditions and the same are now established and exist under and by virtue of the deeds above described. I do further declare that nothing herein contained shall ever be construed as a waiver or as permitting a modification in any degree the further trusts set forth in deeds of Albert Metcalf, Ira Knapp and others dated March 19th 1903 and recorded in said Suffolk Registry of Deeds book 2886 page 521 wherein it is provided that no new tenet or by-law shall be ~~added~~ nor any tenet or by-law amended or annulled by the grantees, unless the written consent of said Mary Baker G. Eddy, the author of the textbook 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures' be given therefor..."

The legal rights of Mary Baker Eddy have been ignored for more than one hundred years. It is high time that she be vindicated and that the design for her church be honestly implemented.

Financial donations to continue this legal effort to restore Mrs. Eddy's design are urgently needed. It is hoped that readers of this newsletter will contribute generously to the only fund established for this purpose:

Novus Ordo Seclorum Foundation

P.O. Box 11

Mount Joy, PA 17552

USA

3RD CHURCH, NEW YORK, LOSES CASE

The *New York Post* of January 20, 2012, reported:

"The prayers of residents near Park Avenue and 63rd Street have been answered by an appeals court, which has just ruled that a catering hall inside an historic church in the tony neighborhood isn't cutting mustard when it comes to the state liquor laws.

"In a decision issued Thursday, the Appellate Division sided with a coalition of co-op owners who've been complaining since 2007 that the Third Church of Christ Scientist had been transformed into a catering operation that was disrupting their sedate blocks with huge banquets, weddings and even runway shows that drew thousands of revelers a year.

"The caterer, Rose Group Park Avenue LLC, claimed that churches don't have to comply with State Liquor Authority regulations, such as not being within 200 feet of a school or a place of worship..."

"Plastic folding chairs replaced pews for the remaining 100 or [so] congregants. Worship was limited to Wednesdays, Sundays, Christmas eve and Thanksgiving. Signs with the church's name were covered..."

"In a biting footnote, Judge James Catterson concluded: 'In my view, [architects] Delano and Aldrich are spinning in their respective graves over the conversion of their soaring house of worship masterpiece into a pedestrian catering facility'..."

"The volume of events, which have attracted the likes of Mayor Bloomberg and former President Clinton, reached 67 in 2009... Without a liquor license, sources said, the catering operation will probably have to shut."

[<http://m.nypost.com>] See Spring 2007 and Winter 2009 *Banners* for related stories.

CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the December 2011 and March 2012 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* reveal that the following seven churches have closed: Dana Point, California; Chicago Society (Hyde Park), Illinois; Lebanon, Indiana; Fulton, Kentucky; Pontiac, Michigan; Sanford, North Carolina; and Kingport, Tennessee. At the same time First Church Sun City, California, has become First Church Menafee. Since the count began in February 1987, 879 churches have closed and 79 have opened.

SOPHISTRY IN THE C.S. JOURNAL

A February 2012 editorial titled "Church Services Alive!" and signed by The Christian Science Board of Directors, states: "A congregation striving to reach a right decision recently asked us if it's acceptable to read from the Full Text *Quarterly* at the Sunday service. The *Manual* specifies, 'The Readers shall not read from copies or manuscripts, but from the books' (Article III, Section 4, p. 32) Of course, if followed literally, this could mean readers should read the Golden Text and Responsive Reading only from the books, instead of from the *Quarterly*. There are many good reasons for reading from the books, but there may be equally good reasons to read from the Full Text. So in this case, as in many others, how important it is to use wisdom and discernment. We're grateful that Readers and congregations are bringing prayer and spiritual insight to this and other questions, and coming to inspired decisions that meet their unique branch needs." (Emphasis added) (p. 64)

This statement issued by the current Christian Science Board of Directors presents compelling evidence that these five individuals are disloyal to Mrs. Eddy and disobedient to the by-laws and the 1892, 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906 deeds of trust that they are *required to obey* as officers of her church.

To suggest that the reading of quotations from the Bible printed in the *Quarterly* reveals Mrs. Eddy contradicting herself and that she may, therefore, be ignored and disregarded, is the worst kind of self-serving sophistry.

Individuals and congregations have been reading Bible passages as printed in the *Christian Science Quarterly* since July 3, 1898. (See also Mrs. Eddy's statements in *Miscellaneous Writings* 300:23-28, 314:3-31, and 315:6-8)

PERIODICAL "PROGRESS"

The February 2012 *Christian Science Journal* stated: "About a year ago the concept of a comprehensive online *Journal*, *Sentinel*, and *Herald* subscription was introduced... Whenever we talk about *online* periodicals, it's like a cue for animal magnetism to stir up fear about the demise of our *print* periodicals... CSPS is dedicated to publishing the print periodicals as part of its long-term plan for sustainability." (p. 19)

The April 2012 *Journal* states: "As you may know, the *Herald* currently runs at a significant deficit, which needs to be largely reduced to achieve the CSPS goal of financial sustainability. To this end we looked at reducing the frequency of publication and the page count, eliminating color, etc. However, these changes alone would not be significant enough to reach the desired goal... Currently the four *Herald* print editions [German, French, Spanish, and Portuguese] are editorially unique periodicals." A "unified editorial plan, design, layout, and production for each monthly edition" will now include: "One unique upfront/welcome for its language field; one translated feature article and the monthly editorial from the *Journal*; and one original article and one testimony from the four language fields (total of eight)" (p. 17)

MORE CHANGES AT THE MONITOR

The Winter 2012 *Banner* reported: "In the October 3, 2011, edition of the *Monitor*, Editor John Yemma wrote: 'We need your support. This month, we're phasing in price increases as subscriptions come up for renewal... But I'm sure you can appreciate that independent, constructive journalism has a price, and the cost of delivering that each week in print has outpaced our ability to even partially subsidize those costs.

"We're a non-profit. Over the past three years, we've reduced our losses by 25 percent, and in the coming year we'll reduce further still. If subscriptions were to pay just the costs of producing, marketing, and delivering this publication -- not counting the global reporting that goes into it -- the price would be \$200 a year. We're not asking for that.

"From the current \$89 a year (\$1.70 per issue), domestic subscriptions that come up for renewal will now be \$119 (\$2.25 an issue)." (pp. 5, 6)"

John Yemma now states in the March 19, 2012, *Monitor*: "We discontinued our five-day-a-week print newspaper [three years ago] in favor of an energized website, CSMonitor.com; an e-mail-delivered Daily News Briefing; and this weekly news magazine.

"I'm happy to report that our efforts have significantly ~~expanded~~ the reach of Monitor journalism and improved our financial situation. Eight million to 10 million individuals a month read a Monitor article. We have cut our losses in half and are on the path to

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become self-sustaining by 2017." (pp. 5, 6)

The March 26, 2012 *Christian Science Sentinel* highlighted "A NEW LOOK: *The Christian Science Monitor* Weekly Edition" The article announces that the weekly will get "a new look beginning with the April 9, 2012 issue... The most exciting innovation grew naturally out of our need to operate with more efficiency... A smaller format -- still 48 pages, but in a more standard magazine size -- will save a great deal in paper, printing and distribution costs... The *Culture* and *Money* sections have been condensed. And the *Home Forum* will carry fewer essays, but more from the authors our readers love most." (p. 23)

BROKER NAMED FOR C.S. PLAZA SITE

On February 23, 2012, christianscience.com announced: "The First Church of Christ, Scientist, has engaged HFF, LP to serve as its agent to market to qualified investors long-term leases of two development sites on Belvidere and Dalton Streets and of the existing 26-story office building located at 177 Huntington Avenue in Boston's vibrant Back Bay... The PDA [Planned Development Area] Master Plan approved the following building sizes for the Belvidere/Dalton development sites across from the Hilton and Sheraton Hotels: Belvidere / Dalton High-Rise: approximately

600,000 square feet with maximum height of 512 feet; Belvidere/Dalton Mid-Rise: approximately 200,000 square feet with maximum height of 251 feet." (See Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Summer 2010, and Spring 2011 *Banners* for related stories)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AGAIN

A question in the February 2012 *Journal* asks why church officials are visiting NCC headquarters and if joining is the goal. Shirley Paulson, who now has been given the title "Head of Ecumenical Affairs for the Church of Christ, Scientist" answered the question: "There is no foregone conclusion about membership in NCC, either for or against it... [A]s Christian Scientists we are learning how to remove ourselves from isolation." (pp. 6, 7) In the April 2012 *Journal*, Mrs. Paulson states: "...I became interested in joining my local clergy association after I had become a Christian Science practitioner. When I began to go to meetings and I would start to explain something about myself or ask questions, there was this horribly unpleasant silence in the room... Why did we become so isolated? How did this happen, and why?" (pp. 42, 43) Editor's note: Perhaps that is why Mrs. Eddy had to start her own church to protect and promote the promised Comforter.

VOLUME TWENTY-FIVE / NUMBER FOUR
SUMMER 2012 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO
DECONSTRUCTING THE MANUAL

At the Church Alive! Summit held in Orlando, Florida, in the spring of 2012, a panel discussion was conducted by Lesley Pitts, Executive Manager & President of the Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity, and Mike Davis, Senior Researcher for the library. They assured the audience that they would not be expressing their personal opinions but would be presenting the results of their scholarly research in the library.

The main topic was the Bible Lesson-Sermon and questions about First and Second Readers using the full-text *Quarterly* on Sundays instead of reading directly from the books as required by Mrs. Eddy in the *Church Manual*. (Art.3, Sect.4 [page 32]) Ms. Pitts and Mr. Davis stated that Mrs. Eddy really was concerned about *handwritten* copies or *typed* manuscripts which could be full of errors but that she was not necessarily opposed to an official version which might be printed by The Christian Science Publishing Society. Their answer seemed to suggest that the technology did not yet exist in Mrs. Eddy's day to print a full-text *Quarterly*. But the fact that the other periodicals were being printed monthly, weekly, and even six days per week (in the case of *The Christian Science Monitor*) exposes this as a false insinuation.

As late as 1977 the Board of Directors rejected the full-text *Quarterly* for Readers and students when it wrote, "To extract the lesson citations from the two books, the Bible and *Science and Health* by Mrs. Eddy, would be to separate the sermon from its pastor. It also would separate the student from his textbooks." (March 1977 *C.S. Journal*, p. 160)

As for the Bible versions used in the lessons, Ms. Pitts and Mr. Davis stated that in 1890, the *Quarterly* was using the Revised Standard Version. The panel members failed to clarify that the church at that time was relying on the *International Bible Lessons*. Mrs. Eddy ultimately found them inadequate and substituted her own subjects beginning on July 3, 1898. From that point on, the King James Version was used exclusively. Mrs. Eddy refers to the KJV as "our common version." (See *S&H* 488:12, 523:21, and 576:26) While it is true that some of the early lessons varied in their number of sections, by 1904, there was only a single lesson that did not have six sections (March 20th). Thereafter,

every lesson had six sections. After one hundred years, lesson-sermons with varying numbers of sections were reintroduced on September 10, 2006. Other Bible versions first invaded the Golden Text and Responsive Reading in the January-March 2008 *Quarterly*. (See Summer 2006 and Winter 2008 *Banners* for details.)

THE FUTURE OF THE LESSON-SERMON

Ms. Pitts and Mr. Davis also stated that some branch church Readers are already reading the Sunday lesson-sermon from iPads and Concord desktop computers rather than from the books. Add this to the statement from the Board of Directors in the February 2012 *Journal*, "There are many good reasons for reading from the books, but there may be equally good reasons to read from the Full Text... We're grateful that Readers and congregations are bringing prayer and spiritual insight to this and other questions, and coming to inspired decisions that meet their unique branch needs." (p. 64)

If enough branch church Readers choose the easy way and start reading from the full-text, it will only be a matter of time before the main body of the lesson-sermon is invaded by modern Bible paraphrases.

THE VOICE

USA Today reported on April 16, 2012, "The name Jesus Christ doesn't appear in *The Voice*, a new translation of the Bible. Nor do words such as angel or apostle. Instead, angel is rendered as messenger and apostle as emissary. Jesus Christ is Jesus the Anointed One or the liberating king... Unlike the updated New International Version and the Common English Bible -- both released last year -- much of *The Voice* is formatted like a screenplay or novel."

The explosion of new Bible paraphrases may have a partial explanation in that Bible publishers must change a set percentage of words used in their modern versions, or they cannot receive royalties. This is defined under Derivative Copyright regulations. So it would seem that accuracy and inspiration are not the determining factor in these new, trendy translations, but rather promiscuous novelty and financial gain.

THE SLIPPERY SLOPE

The *Christian Science Sentinel* of May 7, 2012, announced revised Spanish and German translations of *Science and Health*: "Modern languages evolve as their speakers encounter new ideas. When conveying the ideas of Christian Science, they may need new vocabulary or flexibility to clearly and precisely communicate its radical statements regarding God, man, and the universe.

Thus, translating *Science and Health*, which Mary Baker Eddy refers to as 'the complete statement of Christian Science' (*Retrospection and Introspection*, p. 37), requires a remarkable amount of ingenuity and inspiration when conveying the ideas in a language for the first time." (p. 23)

The May 2008 *Christian Science Journal* contains a statement from the Board of Directors and the Publishing Society trustees: "No change is being made in 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 Petersen. Mrs. Petersen is the sister of current C.S. teacher and lecturer Evan Mehlenbacher. Mrs. Petersen has almost completely rewritten the Christian Science textbook and listed herself as its author. She offers it for sale on her web site (See Spring 2008 *Banner*).

An article from Religious News Service (October 22, 2009) titled, "Are sacred texts ever due for a make-over?" by Solange De Santis contains the following: "Christian Science headquarters, which is based in Boston, made no attempt to stop Petersen's book, said Phil Davis, who manages media and legislative affairs for the church... Since 'Science and Health' is regarded as a companion to the Bible, less a sacred text than a textbook, Petersen's revision is not seen as blasphemous or as desecrating Eddy's original writings, Davis said."

In a conversation among "Bible Scholars" in the May 2008 *Journal*, Helen Mathis and Mary Trammell, discuss the subject of an updated *Science and Health*. "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)

Previous Boards of Directors adamantly maintained that only the King James Version of the Bible would ever be used in church services or Sunday schools. (*Sentinel* of July 2, 1938, and September 24, 1984. See Spring 2008 *Banner* for 1984 statement.) Clearly, past assurances are no guarantee of future actions. The inviolability of *Science and Health* has already been breached by Virginia Harris' personal introduction printed in the trade edition of *S&H*. Clearly, the

revision process for *Science and Health* has already begun under the current Board of Directors. These five individuals have shown their blatant disregard for and disobedience to Mrs. Eddy's *Church Manual* and her Deeds of Trust that they are required by law to obey or resign their offices.

C.O.P CHAOS

At the 2011 Annual Meeting, the late Tom Black asked, "Would you mind if we kept ourselves out of the Manual jail and would ask the Committee on Publication to give his report...? In response, C.O.P. Russ Gerber said, "Thank you, Tom. Thank you. Much better to be outside the jail; I agree." (See Summer 2011 *Banner*)

The *Church Manual* states, "It shall be the duty of the Committee on Publication to correct in a Christian manner impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science, injustices done Mrs. Eddy or members of this Church by the daily press, or periodicals or circulated literature of any sort." Mrs. Eddy then gives very specific instructions about how to accomplish this. (Article XXXIII, Sect. 2 [pp. 97, 98])

Recently, the C.O.P. office in Boston has decided to focus on social media and the use of blogs and twittering and to downplay the clearly defined processes outlined by Mrs. Eddy in the *Manual*.

Considerable resistance has been encountered as Boston tries to strong-arm committees around the world into adopting this new strategy. As part of the process, Boston is attempting to gain direct control of C.O.P. trust funds in other countries as well as in the United States. Reportedly, state committees are being pressured to transfer their state support funds to The Mother Church. They have also been advised not to inform the members of their respective states about this step since, ostensibly, nothing has really changed -- the funds are only being centrally administered in order to get better interest rates. Theoretically, state committees still have access to them.

The trust funds for Australia are already under direct Boston control with the exception of Tasmania. The Australian field is strenuously opposing the forced adoption of blogging and twittering. The Germans and Swiss are both resisting the relinquishment of their trust funds and are standing by their duties as specified in the *Manual*. Russ Gerber has made personal visits to many of these countries to explain the new policies and has been surprised by the resistance. Needless to say, the Board of Directors supports Russ Gerber 100%.

CHURCH CLOSINGS

According to a comparison of the March and June 2012 *C.S. Journals*, the following society has closed: Roswell, New Mexico. At the same time, the Hyde Park society in Chicago reappeared after disappearing

from the March 2012 *Journal*. The society at Forty Fort, Pennsylvania, reopened after disappearing from the December 2001 *Journal*. Since the count began in February 1987, 878 churches have closed and 79 have opened. The editor of *The Banner* frequently receives advance notice of church closings, but they are not reported until the change officially appears in the *C.S. Journal*. One large church in the Southwest was reported to have closed in May of this year, but it is still listed in the July 2012 *Journal*.

To view a revealing chart of closed C.S. churches including photographs and subsequent uses of the edifices, go to www.wikipedia.org and type "List of former Christian Science churches, societies and buildings" in the search box.

WAITING FOR A COURT DATE

A court date in the case of Maryfrances Cassell vs. The Christian Science Board of Directors to consider her appeal to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court was scheduled for the week of April 23, 2012. It was abruptly canceled. The delay enables Miss Cassell's attorneys to prepare additional documentation for the court. A new date will be set in the near future.

MORE DIRTY TRICKS

An attorney from a nearby Christian Science branch church showed up at Maryfrances Cassell's house with two of her distant relatives the week of April 9, 2012, with the promise of financial help for her case. Embedded in the paperwork was a power of attorney provision which was to be exercised by that same C.S. lawyer. As soon as this was discovered, Miss Cassell's local attorney had it nullified.

Adult Protective Services of Pennsylvania came to her house for the purpose of testing her mental competence. It is unknown who sent these people from the state agency, but it is assumed that their hope was that she would fail the test, that she would be declared mentally incompetent, and that her legal case against the Directors would be dismissed. However, Miss Cassell passed the competency test with ease.

Since December of 2011, Miss Cassell has had to change her landline telephone number seven times and her mobile phone number three times because of harassing calls. As soon as she would get a new, unlisted number, the abusive calls would resume almost immediately. This has led friends to wonder if someone with a background in one of the government intelligence agencies has tapped her telephone. It is known that at least one Board loyalist lives in the Boston area and has such a background.

The telephone tapping suspicion would seem to be confirmed because of the experience of an individual who called Miss Cassell in advance to say that he was sending a large contribution to her foundation. Very

soon afterward, this person received his letter back rubber-stamped "Return to Sender". The local post office was unaware of this action, and this suggests that the letter was intercepted at a mail distribution center in another city. The letter was successfully resent and received by Miss Cassell.

All of these actions, including the police drug raid on her house in February described in the last *Banner*, would have caused most people to abandon the court case and resume a quiet and anonymous life. But Maryfrances Cassell is more determined than ever to pursue this litigation. Its purpose remains simple and direct: to restore Mrs. Eddy's governing documents and her rights as Discoverer, and Founder of Christian Science, and Pastor Emeritus of her church.

MRS. EDDY'S INTENTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

The 1892 and 1903 Deeds of Trust are printed in the *Church Manual*, and most people assumed that these were Mary Baker Eddy's only trust documents. However, Mrs. Eddy executed subsequent deeds of trust in 1904, 1905, and 1906. These deeds had been hidden for one hundred years. It is even said that longtime Mother Church archivist Lee Johnson never saw them. It was only through the efforts and connections of Michael Ritchie of Scotland that these crucial deeds came to light again from the New Hampshire archives. They establish that Mrs. Eddy created a *private* trust (not a public charitable trust as courts have ruled in the absence of these three missing deeds); that the church she founded was "Mary Baker G. Eddy's Church" (not the Directors' church); that the Directors were trustees acting beneficially for the members (They are not an untouchable and unaccountable *hierarchy* as they falsely claimed in the Weaver v. Wood case [1997]); and that "nothing herein contained [the 1904 Deed] shall ever be construed as a waiver or as permitting a modification in any degree the further trusts set forth...wherein it is provided that no new tenet or by-law shall be added nor any tenet or by-law amended or annulled by the grantees, unless the written consent of said Mary Baker G. Eddy, the author of the text book 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures' be given therefor..."

IS THIS OBEDIENCE?

On August 6, 1993, The Christian Science Board of Directors passed a resolution which reads in part:

"IT IS NOW HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that it is and has long been the determination of the Board both (a) that it is implicit in any decision of The Christian Science Board of Directors to take or refrain from taking any action that the taking or refraining from the taking of such action does not violate any provision of the Manual of The Mother Church and (b) that no

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determination of The Christian Science Board of Directors at any time that purports to apply the provisions of the Manual of The Mother Church either (1) can or does prohibit or invalidate any action thereafter taken by The Christian Science Board of Directors or (2) can or does prohibit or invalidate any subsequent determination of The Christian Science Board of Directors purporting to apply the provisions of the Manual of The Mother Church in a different manner, whether such subsequent determination be explicit or implicit." This resolution was signed by Olga M. Chaffee, Clerk of The Mother Church.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT STILL NEEDED

Financial donations are needed to continue this legal effort to restore Mrs. Eddy's rights which have been ignored and covered up for more than one hundred years. Only when her design for her church is restored can Christian Science prosper once again. Donations should be sent to: **Novus Ordo Seclorum Foundation**

**P.O. Box 11
Mount Joy, PA 17552**

NEWLY EDITED BIO OF MRS. EDDY

A newly edited biography of *Mary Baker Eddy, The Prophetic and Historical Perspective* written by Paul R. Smillie is now available. In paperback, the book is the same size as the original but now includes an index, table of contents, additional subheads, and a portrait of Mrs. Eddy. Paperback. 364 pages. \$28.99. It may be ordered online at: wwwcreatespace.com/3768441

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Howard Chandler Christy: A press release dated 1942 states: "Christy, who had been partly paralyzed, almost completely blind, and had been told by doctors that he had only a few months to live, ascribed his cure to Christian Science and painted the portrait [of Mrs. Eddy] out of gratitude."