

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

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

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NEW REPORT POINTS TO INSOLVENCY

Three prominent members of The Mother Church have prepared "Report of Group Making Inquiry into Finances of The Mother Church" dated September 16, 1992. The report issued by Richard P. Bond, Thomas P. Griesa, and James L. Halferty notes the groundbreaking Treasurer's Report given at Annual Meeting 1991 which gave the most extensive financial accounting ever given to church members. Most people found the report difficult to understand because the figures were not presented in a clear format. The new, independent report is, in one respect, an effort to overcome this shortcoming.

Church funds used to pay for the following activities are as follows: The Christian Science Monitor 1985-1992: \$138 million; World Monitor Magazine 1988-1992: \$36.9 million; Monitor Radio and Shortwave 1984-1992: \$105.3 million; television projects including 1985-1988 monthly and weekly programs: \$23.5 million; the daily World Monitor program on the Discovery Channel 1988-1992: \$84.7 million; the Monitor Channel 1991-1992: \$89.1 million; WQTV/Channel 68 in Boston 1986-1992: \$61.7 million; TV close-down costs: \$65.9 (Total TV costs \$324.9 million).

The report continues: "On May 1, 1991, the Church commenced fiscal year 1992 with a very low balance in the Unrestricted Fund -- \$21.5 million. By September 1991 the reserves in the Unrestricted Fund were completely exhausted, and the current income of the Church was substantially less than what was needed to meet expenses. This resulted in various borrowings by the Unrestricted Fund from other Church funds." These borrowings came from the Monitor Endowment Fund, \$20 million; Trust under the will of Mrs. Eddy: \$5 million. In addition money was transferred from the employee pension fund: \$41.5 million. The Treasurer has stated that the Church has no legal obligation to repay this money, but that pensioners will continue to receive payments. The new report brings this assurance into doubt.

The report draws attention to "Note B -- Going Concern" of the audit report issued by Ernst & Young, the accounting firm hired by The Mother Church. According to the new report of the three Mother Church members, "This statement confirms that there are no more cash reserves in the Unrestricted Fund... As previously announced, the Church is attempting to

achieve a break-even budget of \$70 million in fiscal 1993. A break-even point was not achieved in May, the first month of the fiscal year." According to the **Boston Globe** of September 24, 1992, "Asked about the presence of a 'going concern' note in an auditor's report, John A. Schatzel, assistant professor of accounting at Northeastern University, said such a note generally indicates 'substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern'".

THE LATEST KNAPP HEARING

The hearing scheduled to hear arguments from The Mother Church and Stanford University, originally scheduled for August 31st, was finally held on September 17th. Stanford University lawyers representing the university and Museum Associates of Los Angeles stated that The Mother Church has not cooperated with them. Answers to questions they asked regarding the percentage of reading rooms agreeing to sell **Destiny of The Mother Church** by Bliss Knapp -- a key provision of the Knapp wills -- have not been supplied. Both sides stated that expenses connected with the Knapp hearings have been very high. The Mother Church has reportedly spent over \$1 million so far in pursuit of the money. The court was asked to allow some of the expenses of both parties to be paid out of the Knapp trust.

The current judge expressed great displeasure with the number of documents submitted by both sides that he is expected to review. One observer stated that if all the documents displayed in the courtroom were stacked on top of each other, the pile would be approximately fifteen feet high. The judge urged the parties to resolve the dispute out of court. He also scolded the lawyers for The Mother Church and asked why the Directors had waited until the last few months before the deadline given in the Knapp wills to apply for the money. The next hearing will be held on January 28, 1993. Apparently there will be a new presiding judge at that time.

BACKGROUND TO THE KNAPP WILLS

The **Stanford Observer**, an alumni newsletter for Stanford University graduates, included an extensive article on the Knapp will controversy in its May-June 1992 issue. According to the article, "Whenever the case finally is heard, if the judge rules that the conditions have not been met, the church still would have until May 20, 1993, to fulfill the terms of Eloise Knapp's will [wife of Bliss Knapp] and receive her estate, which is worth about \$23 million. (Mrs. Knapp died May 20,

1973, in Brookline, Mass.) The museum and university would split the trust after May 1993 if the court says the church has not met the conditions.

"Bella Mabury's \$75 million estate [sister-in-law of Bliss Knapp] will not be distributed until 21 years after the death of its still-living trustee, a man said to be in his 60s. That means the church most likely would have several decades to meet the conditions -- and the case would span generations of lawyers, judges, and officials from the church, university, and museum... The university is not trying to inject itself in church matters, said Carol Swenson, senior university attorney. 'Our obligation is simply to find out if the church has met the donors' conditions, and if objective evidence indicates it hasn't, the donors' estates should remain in trust until either the conditions are met or the trusts terminate,' she said. Lawyers often advise clients making conditional charitable bequests to name an alternate charity that will have an interest in making sure the first charity is complying with the stated conditions, Swenson said."

BELT TIGHTENING IN BOSTON

The July 1992 **Reading Room Update** announced some new policies regarding complimentary copies of new books, pamphlets, tapes, etc. which have always been sent free of charge to reading rooms. These new items will only be sent in the future to those reading rooms which pay a \$75 surcharge. The statement declared that this would save the Publishing Society \$200,000 per year. Also every order from reading rooms will be assessed a \$5 service charge. It was stated that this will result in a savings of \$300,000 per year.

The staff at The Mother Church has been reduced to an absolute minimum. Many of the remaining employees are doing two or three jobs. People who call the church during business hours sometimes hear messages from answering machines or are connected to people who cannot answer their questions. People familiar with the situation state that the church will be fortunate to avoid bankruptcy in spite of the drastic cost-cutting measures.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The Eighty-Ninth Edition, Inc., 37 Clarendon Street, Newtonville, MA 02160, sent out a letter on August 22, 1992, with an analysis of The Treasurer's Annual Meeting report for this year. The analysis was done by Goldfarb, Band and Company, certified public accountants in Framingham, Mass. These accountants report that The Mother Church has spent over *one billion dollars* during the last eight years. "In summary, the presentation of financial information in the Report is vague, contradictory and incomplete. Only limited conclusions can be drawn from this information. There is no accountability for the excess expenditures. Although budget variations may be 'fully visible',

internal accounting controls and management should have provided checks and balances to prevent multimillion dollar excess expenditures. The budget process should include restrictions on spending, rather than just a forecast, subject to 'visible' excess expenditures."

The Eighty-Ninth Edition, Inc. was established several years ago with the following goals: "1. Open up the financial privacy of the Board of Directors and Treasurer; 2. Bring The Mother Church within the protective walls of the Manual; 3. Reinstate The Christian Science Monitor to its former position of respect, honor, and dignity."

The August 22, 1992, letter from The Eighty-Ninth Edition states, "We only need \$300,000 to take the legal steps necessary to open up the privacy and expose the mismanagement destroying our Church." Those who wish to support this effort may send contributions to the above address.

INCIDENT AT MONITOR RADIO

National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" for August 2, 1992, reported, "Last week the anchor and editor of Christian Science Monitor Radio's early morning news program were both relieved of their duties. The incident has rekindled a long-standing debate at the Boston-based network over whether church values and journalistic ethics can co-exist." Neither individual was a Christian Scientist. According to the **Boston Globe** of August 3rd, the two staff members were relieved "after they refused to air an editorial apology for graphic images in a report they had used on AIDS prevention in Thailand."

David Anable, former managing editor at the **Monitor** resigned in 1988 to protest the downgrading of the **Monitor** in favor of the ill-fated electronic media projects. He is currently chair of Boston University's School of Journalism. On the NPR program he stated, "It's really neither sensible nor honest, I suppose, to pretend that the **Monitor** is not connected to the church. The TV and radio guidelines tried to pretend just that. And it's perhaps not surprising that straddling the fence, that trying to keep both the church members and professional journalists happy, with two really irreconcilable positions, has got broadcasting into trouble."

JOHN HART AND MONITOR TV

In an article entitled, "The News for God's Sake" in the September/October 1992 **Columbia Journalism Review**, John Hart, former anchor on the now defunct World Monitor TV news program, stated, "The arrival of television had brought in so many non-members that we outnumbered members for the first time in a Christian Science enterprise, and in the most public of the

church's activities. Management tried to make this activity appear secular enough to satisfy our consciences, while at the same time assuring critics in the church that their religious mission was being carried out. In the end, neither side bought it... While the disclosures that led up to the collapse of Monitor television were financial, the real contest within the church was theological... But what drove the demands for an end to the enterprise was a charge that the board had not been faithful to Mrs. Eddy's writings in all this and that the church's mission had been subverted. The money situation made the demands irresistible. I believe the enterprise died in the unresolvable conflict between a religious mission and independent journalism."

The **Boston Globe** of August 27th, reported the appearance of the Hart article and stated, "Church officials referred questions on the Hart article to David Cook, a member and current chief of Monitor broadcasting. Cook, once managing editor of World Monitor, attributed the conflict to 'professional differences,' not religious interference." Another source reports that David Cook was being advised to sue John Hart for libel by a former top church official because of some statements in the **Columbia Journalism Review** article, but decided against it.

THE 1992 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Statements included in the September 1992 C.S. **Journal** made by the Director-Treasurer of The Mother Church reveal some surprising thinking on the Board: "In December 1984, the entire Mother Church membership met through a worldwide link to consider and pray together to find ways to serve the spiritual demands of mankind. That united prayer was the basis for the extended activities of The Mother Church initiated since that time." (p. 11) The implication of that statement is that Mother Church members simply viewing a television screen constituted approval and validation of the financially ruinous electronic media projects. On page 13, the Director-Treasurer states, "A time of deliberate, unselfish, and prayer-filled reassessment can bring to light the needed fresh paths in the fullness of the service of this Church to mankind. Moses had to go back a second time to bring the Ten Commandments to his people. So, if we have to go back again to some other summit, some other Horeb, we will find a way to do it -- together." News reports at the time of the demise of the Monitor Channel indicated that Mother Church officials felt that opposition by "dissidents" in the church created an atmosphere which scared away potential investors in the Monitor Channel. Otherwise they felt that the channel would have succeeded. The implication of the Director-Treasurer's statement is that lack of prayer and selfishness caused the fall of the Monitor Channel and will require a second trip

up the mountain by the Directors to initiate new electronic media projects. As the C.O.P. of The Mother Church said in the July 20, 1992, C.S. **Sentinel**, "The inspired concept of the channel will gain fruition at another time, in another situation."

ANOTHER LETTER FROM TEACHERS

Five Christian Science teachers who have not previously signed letters protesting decisions and policies of the Board of Directors have sent out 15,000 copies of a letter to the C.S. field according to the **Boston Globe** of September 28. The five teachers are from Europe, Africa, Australia, and the United States. Like the other letters from teachers, Bliss Knapp's **Destiny of The Mother Church** is the target. By now some 38 teachers have written or allowed their names to be included in these letters. The March 1992 C.S. **Journal** lists 250 active CSBs, and the number of protesting teachers represents only fifteen percent (15%) of the total. While many teachers strongly disapprove the financial mismanagement at The Mother Church, a considerable number refuse to join the protest effort because they feel that the real focus is an ill-advised attack on Mrs. Eddy's place in Bible prophecy. The latest letter was sparked in part by a September 2 letter to reading rooms from Board member Al Carnesciali justifying the display and sale the Knapp book. Once again the teachers' letter includes "scholarly papers" which purport to prove the errors of the Knapp book and deny Mrs. Eddy's place. These letters always ignore the fact that Mrs. Eddy's closest students recognized her place in Bible prophecy.

Victoria Sargent recorded a conversation with Mrs. Eddy in 1907: "My students recognize you to be God's witness and mouthpiece. They are convinced that God is guiding you in this work which you are carrying on for the cause of Christian Science. They feel that you fulfill the prophecies of the Scriptures -- that you represent the God-crowned woman mentioned in the Apocalypse." Mrs. Eddy was quick to respond to these sentiments. Pointing her finger upward, she said, 'That is from above.'

It is noteworthy that the Dead Sea Scrolls which mention the "two anointed ones" were discovered in 1947, and, until recently, were suppressed. In like manner, Bliss Knapp's book was first published in 1947 and was immediately suppressed by The Mother Church. The full texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Bliss Knapp's **Destiny** book were both finally published in 1991.

The attack on Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy continue as Revelation XI predicted. An advertisement for a new book by Gore Vidal entitled **Live from Golgotha** in the October 2, 1992, **New York Times** included blurbs such as: "The vertiginous plot involves a computer hacker;...a bibulous Mary Baker Eddy; a

seductive Shirley MacLaine...Hilarious...An outrageous, thumb-in-your eye novel that asks: what if a television network could send a camera crew back to videotape the Crucifixion?" The latest rumor is that the Vidal book will be made into a movie.

NEW PUBLICATION IN GERMAN

Christus-Kirche, the newly independent Christian Science church in Bremen, Germany, has begun to publish its own journal entitled, *Christus-Botschaft*. The church's letter to The Banner stated, "It shall be the megaphone of God serving to discover the sin of the world and to heal it, and it will help to irrigate the Euphrat which is going to run dry." Those interested in this publication may write to: Christus-Kirche, Burgermeister-Smidt-Strasse 64, 2800 Bremen 1, Germany.

MORE CHURCH CLOSINGS

Between June and October 1992, six churches have closed according to a comparison of C.S. Journals for those months: Gridley, California; Hawthorne, California; Newport, Maine; Clare, Michigan; Rome, New York; and Brownwood, Texas. At the same time, three new societies have formed: Willows, California; Dublin, Ohio; and Kennewick, Washington. The total number of churches/societies closed since February 1987 is: 221. In the same period 24 new societies/churches have opened.

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CARD.

SINCE my attention has been called to the article in the May JOURNAL, I think it would have been wiser not to have organized the GENERAL ASSOCIATION FOR DISPENSING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE LITERATURE.

1. Because I disbelieve in the utility of so wide spread an organization. It tends to promote monopolies, class legislation and unchristian motives for Christian work.

2. I consider my students as capable, individually, of selecting their own reading matter and circulating it, as a committee would be which is chosen for this purpose.

I shall have nothing further to say on this subject, but hope my students' conclusion will be wisely drawn, and tend to promote the welfare of those outside, as well as inside this organization.

MARY B. G. EDDY.

FIRST CHURCH, CONCORD, N. H.

Mrs. Eddy built one branch church as a gift to the Christian Science field. It was constructed in her beloved Concord, New Hampshire, not far from her home at Pleasant View. This church is filled with significant symbolism as a perusal of Alice Orgain's *As It Is* (pages 526-552) will testify.

Because of the unique place this edifice has in the history of Christian Science, it has always had the financial support of The Mother Church. It was recently learned through some non-members in the Concord area that all financial support has been withdrawn by The Mother Church as a further effort at cost cutting. Recent repairs to the church spire cost over \$8000. It is understood that the congregation of the Concord church is having difficulty maintaining and repairing this historic building.

ARK OF THE COVENANT

The Sign and the Seal, The Quest for the Lost Ark of the Covenant, by Graham Hancock, Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, 1992, presents compelling evidence that the original ark, which had such a significant place in the early history of Israel and the Bible, is intact and safe in a chapel maintained by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in the town of Axum, Ethiopia. The book includes a wealth of information about early church history and shows the grains of truth behind so many legends and traditions in the Christian church.

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REPORT OF BALANCED BOOKS AT TMC

The **Boston Globe** and the **C.S. Monitor** of November 25 and the **Associated Press** of November 26, 1992, ran articles on a report from the Treasurer of The Mother Church released on December 4 which declares that church finances and the budget are on target. In addition it states that the employee pension fund is actuarially sound, that the satellite TV transponder has been sold at a profit, and that a buyer has been found for Boston TV station WQTV. In addition, the report states that donations increased 25 percent since May 1. This increase may be due to a recent gift of \$3.5 million from a California woman who sold some prime real estate in downtown Washington, D.C. and gave the money to The Mother Church. Also, the **Boston Globe** article states, "But the dearth of figures in the report makes it impossible to judge whether income has exceeded expenditures during the six-month period or whether expenses have been postponed according to a local member knowledgeable about the church's businesses."

MOTHER CHURCH ACCOUNTANTS PAY \$400 MILLION IN SETTLEMENT

According to **The New York Times** of November 24, 1992, "Federal financial regulators today reaped the largest recovery to date from professional advisers to bankrupt financial institutions: a \$400 million settlement with the Ernst & Young accounting firm on Government claims that it improperly audited federally insured banks and savings and loans that failed... Through years of turmoil in the financial industry, the nation's biggest accounting firms have faced heavy criticism for failing to discern weaknesses in the books of financial institutions that later collapsed and cost the Government billions of dollars... The Government said the accountants had repeatedly failed to adhere to generally accepted accounting principles when auditing the books of the failed savings institutions."

STEPHEN GOTTSCHALK DENIES RUMOR

In a letter (11-23-92) sent out to the Christian Science field, Stephen Gottschalk, author of several books and former consultant with the Committee on Publication, stated, "I am sending the attached correspondence as a way of correcting persistent rumors that apparently cannot be quelled in any other way. The first letter, written to the Board of Directors, explains why I agreed to act as a consultant for Stanford University and the Museum Associates in the Knapp litigation, under the condition that I do so without pay.

The second letter, which is a letter of understanding to me from Stanford, confirms the fact I have never received any payment." In his letter to the Board of Directors dated September 10, 1992, Mr. Gottschalk states, "...I have recently received dozens of calls indicating that a rumor is being circulated that I am 'on Stanford's payroll,' and have been on it for some time. This would suggest that I have a financial interest in the outcome of the litigation. Such an allegation is totally untrue and totally misleading. But in a number of instances, people at The Mother Church are cited as authority for this charge."

FOUR COMMITTEES ON PUBLICATION FIRED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

An article in the October 8, 1992, **Boston Globe** stated, "The directors of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, have stepped in to bar the reappointment of four regional church spokesmen, apparently because they refused to promote a controversial book about church founder Mary Baker Eddy... All four -- who work in New Hampshire, Colorado, the Netherlands and Australia -- had objected to the directors' decision to publish 'The Destiny of the Mother Church' by the late Bliss Knapp... The vetoes also appear to be the first clear acts of retribution by the Mother Church directors against their critics in the church family... Robert A. Shepherd, who serves as the committee on publication in New Hampshire, said in a letter to officials and branch churches in his state that he was dismissed as a result of a confidential report he wrote to the directors of the Mother Church 'on the response of members in New Hampshire to recent events and some of the difficulties that have arisen from the publication of the Bliss Knapp book.' As a result, he said, he received 'a harsh letter' from [Victor] Westberg, 'accusing me of fanning the flames of controversy'... James H. Meyer, the committee on publication in Colorado, said in his final report to members that although he has had 'serious reservations' about the book since it was published last October, he has kept the reservations to himself, with the exception of a few comments made at a workshop for church members last spring."

DEFENSE OF BLISS KNAPP

The many letters sent to the Christian Science field over the last year attacking **Destiny of The Mother Church** have painted a very dark picture of Bliss Knapp which is unfair and directly contrary to the historical facts. As recounted in previous issues of **The Banner**, Bliss Knapp knew Mrs. Eddy from his early childhood continuously up until her passing in 1910. He attended

Harvard University at Mrs. Eddy's suggestion and inspired her to write the Church by-law establishing college organizations in 1904. Bliss Knapp was appointed to the Board of Lectureship at Mrs. Eddy's own request, and she even edited his early lectures. His 1906 lecture was pronounced by her as "excellent", and she asked that it be printed in booklet form so as to "send it over this planet." He gave groundbreaking lectures all over the world from 1904 until 1931. He lectured extensively in the United States, Canada, England (20 lectures in London alone), Scotland, Northern Ireland, France, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and the Netherlands. He also lectured in Japan, Hong Kong, Shanghai, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania.

Mr. Knapp became a Christian Science teacher in 1907, was president of The Mother Church in 1912, treasurer during 1917-18, a member of the Bible Lesson committee in 1922-23, and first reader in The Mother Church from 1923 to 1926. In addition he taught a wonderful Sunday school class at The Mother Church as former pupils still testify. He was also a speaker at annual meetings and wrote for the periodicals.

The current letters denouncing the *Destiny* book suggest that Bliss Knapp was dishonest in quoting references in his book, that he misinterpreted and misconstrued the Bible, and that he exhibited poor scholarship among other things. It is suggested that he was really a minor figure in the history of Christian Science and that he was a crackpot. It is proclaimed that the terms of his will and those of his wife and sister-in-law are somehow blackmailing The Mother Church and that his book will cause the possible loss of Christian Science. As has been stated in previous issues of The Banner, the *Destiny* book is an elaboration of Judge Septimus J. Hanna's article "A Prophetic Vision" which Mrs. Eddy specifically approved, and it is in accord with the six points issued by the Board of Directors as "Mrs. Eddy's Place" in 1943. Bliss Knapp did not suddenly veer off course. He maintained the position which all of Mrs. Eddy's own students did by recognizing and acknowledging her place in Bible prophecy. It was later Boards of Directors which steered Christian Science off course. What we witness today are metaphysical pygmies stamping on the toes of spiritual giants. (See Bliss Knapp, *Christian Scientist*, by Charles Theodore Houpt.)

"SERVANTS OF THE SPIRIT"

W. J. Brown, a former member of the British Parliament, wrote an article in 1947 for the British newspaper, *The Spectator*. The article contains many statements which apply to the situation we find today in our own church organization: "In the field of religion a prophet, an inspired man, will see a vision of truth. He

expresses that vision as best he may in words. He will not say all he saw. For every expression of truth is a limitation of it. But he will, so to speak, express the sense of his vision. What he says is only partly understood by those who hear him and when they repeat what they understand him to have meant, there will already be a considerable departure from the original vision of the prophet. Upon what his disciples understand of the prophet's message, an organization, a church, will be built. The half-understood message will crystallize into a creed. Before long the principal concern of the church will be to sustain itself as an organization. To this end any departure from the creed must be controverted and if necessary suppressed as heresy. In a few score or few hundred years what was conceived as a vehicle of a new and higher truth has become a prison for the souls of men. And men are murdering each other for the love of God. This thing has become its opposite... [T]he idea having given birth to the organization, the organization develops a self-interest, which has no connection with, and becomes inimical to, the idea with which it began. Now the thing which permits this process of diversion to take place, so that the organization comes to stand for the opposite of the idea which originally inspired it, is the tendency in men and women to become Prisoners of the Organization, instead of being Servants of the Spirit... Organization has its own necessities, in the interests of which the original idea has to be somewhat qualified... As the organization grows, it deteriorates. Its leaders are not the men they were... All of us tend to project on to the organization of which we are members the virtues we would like it to have, and to be blind to its defects... Gradually the organization changes. As it changes, it attracts new elements which approve the change. Not because of conscious calculation, which comes much later, when the idea has been deserted, but because organization develops its own logic, its own *raison d'être*, and because men tend to become the prisoners of the organization, the organization can finish up by standing for the precise opposite of the idea which called it into being."

Mrs. Eddy's *Church Manual* provided the means to avoid the above scenario. But it has been subverted over the years. She carefully states, "The business of The Mother Church shall be *transacted* by its Christian Science Board of Directors." (p.27) A recent letter from the Board has stated that they are to *conduct* the business of The Mother Church. In fact the Board has been trying to lead for years with disastrous results for the Cause of Christian Science. The time has come for all members of The Mother Church to insist that the spirit and the letter of the by-laws be meticulously followed and that Mrs. Eddy's 88th Edition be restored.

The following 222 churches have closed between February 1987 and December 1992. Twenty new churches/societies have formed, and four have reappeared. Source: Christian Science Journal.

<u>ALABAMA</u> (4)	<u>GEORGIA</u> (1)	Owensboro	Oradell	Prineville
Auburn	La Grange	<u>MAINE</u> (4)	Pt. Pleasant Beach	Redmond
Bessemer	<u>IDAHO</u> (5)	Dover-Foxcroft	Union	<u>PEN'SYLV'NIA</u> (7)
Birmingham (Soc.)	Burley	Houlton	Weehawken	Athens
Sheffield	Hailey	Newport	<u>NEW MEXICO</u> (2)	Brentwood
<u>ARKANSAS</u> (2)	Homedale	Rockland	Carlsbad	Chester (merge w/ Swarthmore)
Crossett	Kellogg-Wallace	<u>MASS.</u> (3)	Clovis	Downingtown
Pine Bluff	Idaho Falls	North Adams	<u>NEW YORK</u> (15)	Hazleton
<u>CALIFORNIA</u> (32)	<u>ILLINOIS</u> (13)	Waltham	Attica	Lykene
Banning	Carterville	Winthrop	Baldwin	Titusville
Coalinga	Chicago (1st)	<u>MICHIGAN</u> (13)	Buffalo (2nd)	<u>RHODE ISLAND</u> (1)
Dunsmuir	Harvey	Albion	Hornell	Cumberland
Fremont (2nd)	Highland	Big Rapids	Long Beach	<u>S. CAROLINA</u> (1)
Fresno (1st)	Highland Park	Beulah-Benzonia	Lynbrook	Beaufort
Gridley	(merge w/ Glencoe)	Bronson	New York (13th)	<u>S. DAKOTA</u> (4)
Guerneville	Lombard	Clare	New York (15th)	Brookings
Hanford	Mt. Morris	Detroit (3rd)	Norwich	Huron
Hawthorne	Pontiac	Detroit (N.W. Soc.)	Pelham	Lead-Deadwood
Lincoln	Riverside-Berwin	Dowagiac	Rome	Watertown
Los Angeles (4th)	Robinson	Grand Rapids (2nd)	Saratoga Springs	<u>TENNESSEE</u> (4)
Los Angeles (11th)	Sterling	Houghton Lake	Seneca Falls	Germantown
Los Angeles (39th)	Vandalia	Mt. Clemens	Wellsville	Memphis (Soc.)
Los Angeles (42nd)	Wheaton	Park Rapids	Westburg	Morristown
Manteca	<u>INDIANA</u> (11)	West Branch	<u>N. CAROLINA</u> (2)	Nashville (Soc.)
Martinez	Bicknell	<u>MINNESOTA</u> (3)	Nags Head	<u>TEXAS</u> (9)
Marysville	Cannelton	Cloquet	Washington	Aransas Pass
Orland	Greencastle	Hibbing	<u>N. DAKOTA</u> (1)	Beeville
Pearblossom	Griffith	St. Louis Park	Minot	Borger
Rolling Hills Estes.	Hobart	<u>MISSISSIPPI</u> (2)	<u>OHIO</u> (5)	Brownwood
Rosemead	Huntington	Biloxi	Barberton	Eastland
Sacramento (3rd)	La Porte	Ocean Springs	Cleveland (3rd)	Katy
St. Helena	Madison	<u>MISSOURI</u> (5)	Cleveland (5th)	Orange
San Francisco (3rd)	New Castle	Kansas City (3rd)	Mechanicsburg	Seguin
San Mateo (2nd)	North Vernon	Neosho	Port Clinton	Weslaco
Seal Beach	Shelbyville	St. Louis (2nd)	<u>OKLAHOMA</u> (10)	<u>WASHINGTON</u> (12)
Three Rivers	<u>IOWA</u> (8)	Trenton	Ada	Cashmere
Walnut Creek	Boone	Warrensburg	Claremore	Des Moines
Westminster	Dubuque	<u>MONTANA</u> (2)	El Reno	Federal Way
Willits	Marshalltown	Absarokee	Miami	Lynnwood
Willows	Muscatine	Lewiston	Okla. City (Soc.)	Oroville
Woodlands	Perry	<u>NEBRASKA</u> (1)	Okla. City (2nd)	Pullman
<u>COLORADO</u> (4)	Shenandoah	Alliance	Okla. City (3rd)	Raymond
Estes Park	Spirit Lake	<u>NEVADA</u> (1)	Ponca City	Seattle (2nd)
Hayden	Waterloo	Fallon	Stroud	Seattle (11th)
Rocky Ford	<u>KANSAS</u> (3)	<u>N. HAMPSHIRE</u> (1)	Tulsa (2nd)	Seattle (15th)
Salida	Fort Scott	Berlin	<u>OREGON</u> (7)	Shelton
<u>FLORIDA</u> (4)	Great Bend	<u>NEW JERSEY</u> (8)	Dallas	Spokane Valley
Brandon	Larned	Cape May	Gold Beach	<u>WEST VA.</u> (2)
Crystal River	<u>KENTUCKY</u> (3)	Cliffside Park	John Day	Beckley
Fort Lauderdale (2nd)	Lakeside Park	Maplewood	Portland (1st)	Wheeling
Green Cove Springs	Madisonville	Mount Holly	Portland (5th)	

WISCONSIN (5)

Ashland
Chippewa Falls
Plymouth
Portage
Two Rivers

WYOMING (2)

Wheatland
Worland

REAPPEARED (4)

Susanville, CA
Willows, CA
Detroit (8th), MI
Liberty, NY

20 NEW CHURCHES/SOC.

Homer, AK
Russellville, AR
Glendale, AZ
Diamond Bar, CA
Santa Clarita, CA
Suisun, CA
Quincy, CA
Sun Valley, ID
Effingham, IL
Calais, ME
Alexandria, MN
Brevard, NC
Outer Banks, NC
Dublin, OH
Litchfield-Pawleys Is., SC
Cookeville, TN
Carrollton, TX
Kingwood, TX
Kennewick, WA
Shepherdstown, WV

RECENT CHURCH CLOSINGS

Between October and December 1992, four additional churches closed: First Church, Chicago, Illinois; Cliffside Park, New Jersey; Cumberland, Rhode Island; and Weslaco, Texas. At the same time, one new society opened in Alexandria, Minnesota. The closing of First Church in Chicago represents a significant mark in the recent history of the Christian Science movement. Members of this church included Edward A. Kimball, Edna Kimball Wait, Martha Harris Bogue, Caroline D. Noyes, and Bicknell Young. The founding of this church in Chicago marked an important step in the advancement of Christian Science. Mrs. Eddy's dedicatory message of November 1897 to this historic church may be found beginning on page 177 of **Miscellany**.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Victor, Colorado's old C.S. Church has stood empty for over forty years.

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

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

VOLUME SIX / NUMBER THREE

SPRING 1993 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

NEW COMMUNICATIONS TO THE FIELD

The opening weeks of 1993 have brought a number of letters and articles directed at the Christian Science field. A paper entitled "Loyalty and Democracy in The Mother Church" by Thomas P. Griesa came out on January 30, 1993, and was followed on February 26th by "God's Requirement", a report put together by Leonard J. Colwell, Stephen Gottschalk, Leif H. Olsen, Alice G. Shepherd, Charles F. Terrell, June H. Thompson, and Brooks Wilder. Most of these individuals have worked in various offices at The Mother Church and have inside information about its financial operations over the years.

Judge Griesa's paper states, "The only possible conclusion is that Mrs. Eddy intended that the freedoms of democracy should be the inherent right of every member of The Mother Church. Mrs. Eddy's devotion to liberty makes it unthinkable that a person entering into membership in The Mother Church should leave his freedoms at the door." (p.3) Later the paper includes, "It is interesting to reflect upon a special issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel* which appeared in November 1991. This special issue *Sentinel*, which appeared without an editorial or testimonies, was essentially dictated by the Board of Directors over the objections of the Associate Editors, and in the absence of the Editor. The obvious, and unfortunate, purpose of this publication was to persuade church members to passively accede to the Board of Directors without independent thinking or speaking...Fortunately there are large numbers of Mother Church members who are expressing themselves independently and forcefully about the important issues facing our church." (pp.4, 5)

The paper "God's Requirement" is, for the most part, a restatement of the financial situation of The Mother Church already given to members over the past year. However it clearly shows how the Committee on Finance which, according to the *Church Manual*, is to oversee and approve the management of the church's finances, was severely limited in 1980 by the Board of Directors. This change permitted the unwise spending on the Monitor Channel which almost bankrupted the church. In addition the paper reveals that each member of the Board of Directors receives a salary in excess of \$100,000. Mort Sahl's sweaters for his Monitor TV program were charged to the church at a cost of \$3000. First class airline tickets to Australia for Board Chairman Harvey Wood and wife were charged to the church at a cost of \$13,000.

"God's Requirement" and Loyalty and Democracy..."

soft-pedal their attacks on Bliss Knapp's *Destiny of The Mother Church*. This may be due to the lack of support for these efforts in the C.S. field. So far only thirty-seven of the 250 teachers listed in the *C.S. Journal* have signed letters opposing current Board policies. Many teachers disapprove the ruinous financial conduct and the tyrannical attitude of the Board, but they do not wish to be associated with the attack on the *Destiny* book.

The effort of the thirty-seven teachers and other practitioners to alert church members to the financial situation in Boston as well as the attack on the Knapp book began in April 1992 with a letter signed by Margaret Rennie, Nola Cook, and Roy Linnig who are all *Journal*-listed teachers. A Boston post office box was given with that letter, and subsequent papers including, "Waking Up and Coming Together" (June 19, 1992) and "Facing the Issue and Following Our Leader" (September 19, 1992), have used the same address. To stress their staying power, they now list addresses in seven other countries where donations and copies of the letters may be obtained.

THE MOTHER CHURCH RESPONDS

An Associated Press article which appeared around the country during January and February of this year included an interview with the President of The Mother Church, Nathan Talbot. The article stated, "A rift in the Christian Science Church was fueled by a handful of dissidents who mocked church tradition, the organization's president said.... Talbot said there actually were few critics and that their influence was exaggerated by a flair for media manipulation. He said most members drawn into the controversy were 'confused' but that much lost unity has been restored... Talbot said the church remains committed to its daily *Christian Science Monitor* newspaper but that it had not abandoned television journalism."

MORE DAMAGE CONTROL

In an effort to smooth ruffled feathers in the C.S. field, The Mother Church is sending forth prominent teachers to speak around the United States and selected foreign countries on the subject of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. In fliers sent out to branch churches, people are invited to "Come and explore some topics about this book..." Some of the teachers who will speak include Nathan Talbot, Jean Hebenstreit, and Michael Thorneloe. While the announced subject of the talks does not touch upon the recent financial disasters, the purpose is seen as an effort to restore warm feelings and redirect thought.

HOAGLAND AND DOUGLASS

A letter from The Eighty-Ninth Edition, Inc., 37 Clarendon St., Newtonville, MA 02160, dated January 15, 1993, stated, "Two month after they resigned from the Publishing Society in disgrace, [John] Hoagland and [Netty] Douglass formed yet another corporation, aptly named J-Net Broadcasters, Inc. Among other things, the stated purpose of J-Net is to own and operate low-power TV stations. WQTV, a low-power Boston channel bought by the Church at Hoagland's recommendation, cost the Church (with improvement) about \$50 million. It is available today at a giveaway price said to be \$5 million or less. J-Net's new offices are in the same building as WQTV..."

BOSTON GLOBE ARTICLE

On March 3, 1993, the *Boston Globe* stated, "The US Postal Service is investigating the use of nonprofit mailing rates by the Church of Christ, Scientist, according to a report ['God's Requirement'] on the finances of the troubled church by an ad hoc group of former Christian Science officials and business people... Michael Born, director of media relations for the church, confirmed yesterday that the Christian Science Publishing Society 'has received an inquiry from the postal authorities' but he said church officials believe their operations have not violated postal regulations... But a source familiar with the church's Publishing Society said the investigation involved more than a single inquiry from the Postal Service and centered on mailings by World Monitor magazine. Because of the mixing of exempt with for-profit activities, the church also failed at times to pay Massachusetts sales tax on items such as books and umbrellas, the report charges."

GOTTSCHALK IN CHRISTIAN CENTURY

The March 3, 1993, issue of *Christian Century* magazine includes "Christian Science polity in crisis" by Stephen Gottschalk. Like his previous article in this same magazine, "Honesty, Blasphemy and *The Destiny of the Mother Church*" (November 6, 1991), Mr. Gottschalk attacks Bliss Knapp's book to an audience made up of 99% non-Christian Scientists. In addition to repeating his denial of Mrs. Eddy's place in Bible prophecy, the author makes other statements which could be questioned: "Neither practitioners, teachers nor readers in church are invested with any kind of special status or personal power." For many decades Board members and some other teachers have blatantly played politics by promoting and rewarding their own pupils with top positions in Boston. And again: "...during a serious dispute from 1919 to 1921 between the directors and the trustees of the Christian Science Publishing Society... the trustees claimed for the Publishing Society virtual autonomy from the church." The Deed

of Trust of the Publishing Society established by Mrs. Eddy on January 25, 1898, states, "Said trustees shall energetically and judiciously manage the business of the Publishing Society on a strictly Christian basis, and upon their own responsibility, and without consulting me about details, subject only to my supervision, if I shall at any time elect to advise or direct them." The *Church Manual* states that the Directors may declare a vacancy among the trustees for cause, but the remaining trustees fill the vacancy. The trustees are to turn over the profits of the business to The Mother Church. The litigation was nothing but a blatant power play by the Board of Directors which broke Mrs. Eddy's trust agreement and concentrated all power into their hands. In July 1892, Mrs. Eddy had insisted that all money collected to build the soon to be reorganized church be returned because the trustees of the building fund had advertised that the donations would be used both for the building of the church and for additional rooms for the use of The Publishing Society. She insisted that these functions be essentially separate. Mr. Gottschalk quotes Adam Dickey, "...the board's role in transacting the business of the Mother Church 'does not mean that the Directors are at liberty to inflict their will or their desire upon the Christian Science movement.'" In actual fact, from 1911 to the present, the Directors have been inflicting their will with devastating consequences for the Cause of Christian Science. Some of the brightest lights in the movement have been excommunicated and silenced over the years. Without exception those who incur the displeasure of the Board have been denied due process and have been disciplined on the basis of rumor, slander, and false accusation. Those accused have never been allowed to face their accusers.

It is not clear how an article in *Christian Century* can exert a positive influence on events in The Mother Church or reach its members. Such articles would only seem to stir up old hostilities and past falsehoods.

REPRINT OF NEGATIVE BIOGRAPHY

An advertisement in the March 1, 1993, *The Nation* magazine announced the publication of *The Life of Mary Baker G. Eddy and the History of Christian Science* by Willa Cather and Georgine Milmine which was originally published in *McClure's Magazine* in 1907 and 1908. This magazine series spawned sensational newspaper stories in Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World*, helped keep the controversy of the Next Friends' Suit boiling, and presented an entirely inaccurate view of Mrs. Eddy's life. The book was picked apart at the time because of its sloppy writing, transparent inaccuracies, and false witnesses.

The book is published by the University of Nebraska Press no doubt because Willa Cather was a graduate of that school.

THE NATURE OF THE ATTACKS

It is interesting to note that, without exception, the books and articles attacking Mrs. Eddy over the years have consistently and unrelentingly stressed two points: 1. They disparage and distort Mrs. Eddy's life experience and her Christian character. 2. They uniformly ridicule the handling of malicious animal magnetism and mental malpractice. They all state that Mrs. Eddy was obsessed with "M.A.M." It is on precisely these two points that contemporary Christian Scientists have failed to maintain their watch. Too many have accepted the deceptive anti-Knapp propaganda, and they neglect to vigorously handle the false claims of evil.

The newly reprinted Cather/Milmine book features a cover illustration of Mrs. Eddy submerged in what appears to be water, holding a small model of The Mother Church. "And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood, after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood." (Rev.12: 15, 16)

STATUS OF THE KNAPP HEARINGS

The latest hearings were held on January 28th and February 10th. The judge who had been hearing the case resigned. The new judge has decided to start the entire procedure from the beginning. The February 10th session was a "status conference". One observer said that everything is back to "square one". The amount of money at stake is now approaching \$100 million as interest continues to accrue.

One of the beneficiaries of the wills of Bliss and Eloise Knapp was Principia College. A valuable collection of early editions of the *Church Manual* and *Science and Health* as well as paintings were donated. In addition, the college has numerous unpublished manuscripts by Bliss Knapp in its possession.

DAN QUAYLE MUSEUM

The Dan Quayle Commemorative Foundation has bought the now closed two-story Christian Science church building in Huntington, Indiana, to use as a museum for the former vice president of the United States. It is scheduled to open on June 1, 1993. The new museum is opposite the church Quayle's family attended and within view of the vice president's old elementary school.

ELEVEN MORE CHURCH CLOSINGS

The following churches/societies have closed according to the *Christian Science Journal* between December 1992 and March 1993: Concord, California; Oakland (3rd), California; Dover, Delaware; Hudson, Florida; Chicago (22nd), Illinois; Princeton, Illinois; Des Moines (2nd), Iowa; Braintree, Massachusetts; Charlotte, Michigan; Great Neck, New York; and Alamo Heights, Texas. During the same period two new churches/societies have opened: Sterling, Colorado and Alexandria, Minnesota. The last issue of *The Banner*

(Winter 1993) mistakenly listed Third Church, San Francisco, California, and Walnut Creek, California as closed. Since February 1987 when the count began, 231 churches have closed and twenty-two have formed.

FIRST CHURCH CONCORD, N.H.

It has been learned from sources completely unconnected with First Church, Concord, New Hampshire, that the need continues for major repairs to this one branch church which Mrs. Eddy built and gave to the Christian Science field. The present cost of repairs to this church, dedicated in 1904, is estimated to be \$150,000. Some of the needed repair and restoration work includes a new heating system. The old one is 88 years old. The bell tower needs to be repointed, extensive repairs are needed on the slate roof, as well as other masonry work. The address of the church is: 33 School Street, Concord, NH 03301.

THE MONITOR'S LOST MORAL ANCHOR

The Christian Science Monitor continues not to resist or even notice the swift current of immorality surging out of Hollywood and other entertainment media. The December 31, 1992, issue included a ho-hum review of "Hugh Hefner: Once Upon a Time -- The life and times of Playboy magazine and its founder..." [The film's] view of Hefner and his machinations is too sentimental to take very seriously." One would have to ask why such a review would be acceptable in the *Monitor* at all. In the December 18th issue, the *Monitor* movie reviewer states, "The arrival of 'Leap of Faith' [a movie under review in the article] reintroduces the question of whether the American film industry only deals with religion when scorn or criticism is its goal. A handful of reviewers have recently been making this charge, but I think it overlooks a lot of evidence to the contrary." The reference to reviewers apparently includes well known movie critic, Michael Medved, who published a thoroughly documented book, *Hollywood vs. America*. In a talk given at Hillsdale College, Michigan, Mr. Medved said, "America's long-running romance with Hollywood is over. For millions of people, the entertainment industry no longer represents a source of enchantment, of magical fantasy, of uplift, or even of harmless diversion. Popular culture is viewed now as an implacable enemy, a threat to their basic values and a menace to the raising of their children...An associated Press Media General poll released in 1990 showed that 80 percent of Americans objected to the amount of foul language in motion pictures; 82 percent objected to the amount of violence, 72 percent objected to the amount of explicit sexuality, and by a ratio of 3 to 1 they felt that movies today are worse than ever."

The February 26, 1993, *Monitor* included a mixed review of "Bad Lieutenant" which is rated NC-17 (X-rated). The *Monitor* reviewer, it will be recalled,

also liked the blasphemous "Last Temptation of Christ" and said so to an international TV audience on Ted Koppel's "Nightline" program on August 9, 1988.

THE MONITOR'S POLITICAL AGENDA

The *Monitor* continues its long standing policy of supporting the end of national sovereignty and the formation of a United Nations army which could intervene in the internal affairs of any country. The push for world government began under the editorship of Erwin Canham. Every editor since that time has endorsed this policy and has run op/ed articles on a regular basis.

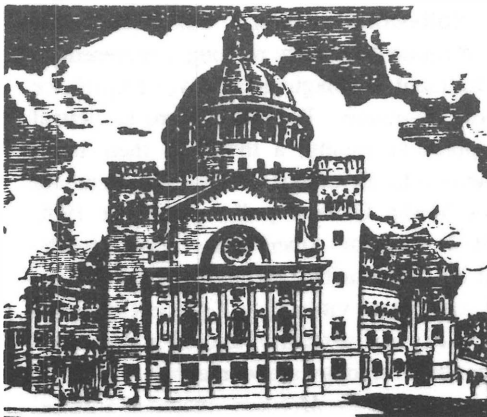
An article on the opinion pages of September 30, 1992, advocates a UN army with power to intervene in the internal affairs of nations. A front page story on December 17th proclaims, "World Grapples with 'Failed Nation-States.'" An editorial on March 9, 1993 urges, "Give the UN Muscle" and lauds the evolution of the United Nation's role. An opinion piece on March 11th calls for a "global security system."

This policy directly contradicts Mrs. Eddy's own well known and clearly established views supporting national sovereignty, the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Monroe Doctrine. All of this has been set aside in favor of the quest for one world government and political correctness. In recent years, one would be hard pressed to recall a courageous editorial on a difficult subject appearing in Mrs. Eddy's newspaper. Without exception they support world government and parrot innocuous, politically correct positions on just about every other subject.

The paper, "God's Requirement", referred to earlier in this issue of *The Banner*, states that circulation of the *Monitor* has dropped from 165,000 in January 1989 to just 97,000 in September 1992. The paper states, "The normal complement of a minimal *Monitor* staff is 110, and this number is 60 less than the staff that was employed when Katherine Fanning resigned as Editor in 1988. Now, however, the *Monitor* is functioning with a staff below even this minimum." (p. 34)

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St. Paul Street facade of the Extension before 1974

***** HIS BANNER OVER ME

THE BANNER

WAS LOVE *****

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

VOLUME SIX / NUMBER FOUR

SUMMER 1993 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

THE 1993 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for this year was held at The Mother Church on June 7th. The following information became known: One-third of the employees have been fired leaving just under one thousand workers at headquarters. There was an 8% drop in contributions over the year which could be attributed to the economic recession or protest over *The Destiny of The Mother Church* by Bliss Knapp. Because of the reduced income, the Church has arranged for a \$5 million line of credit at the Bank of Boston. Total income last year was \$76 million which is \$6 million more than had been projected. Expenses were \$70 million. *World Monitor* magazine was shut down in May with 25 employees losing their jobs. The deficit for the magazine for the 92-93 year was \$3.2 million. Nine of the 90 employees at Monitor Radio were terminated also. In addition The Mother Church is reported to be negotiating with Boston University (B.U.) for the sale of the Church's television station, WQTV. The Church bought the station for \$7.5 million in 1986. Operating losses and investments in the TV station have pushed the total investment in the venture to \$60 million. The asking price for the station at this time is \$4.5 million. According to the Boston Globe of May 24, 1993, "In selling to BU, the church may hope to keep the door open to resuming its own TV experiment...[I]t may also allow the church to position itself to resurrect Monitor TV in a joint venture with BU." The Church lost \$23 million on publishing and broadcasting last year.

One announcement at Annual Meeting was that the audit of the Church books was "still in process at the end of last week [June 4]." The *Church Manual* states: "The books are to be audited on May first." The lack of an audit would seem to be in violation of Article XXIV, Section 4 of the *Manual*. (pp. 76, 77) In fact the absence of the traditional audit would appear to be very suspicious in view of the financial irregularities over the past several years.

The *Boston Globe* of June 8th states that during the meeting, "One member shouted, 'What about the Knapp book?'" But that protest seemed to be outweighed by the majority in attendance. According to the same article, "In the first statement of contrition since hundreds of millions of dollars in overspending forced them to make wholesale changes last year, directors of the First Church of Christ, Scientist told members yesterday they regretted their mistakes and promised to work 'more

humbly' in the future. A statement read by board member Richard Bergenheim at the outset of the church's annual meeting was greeted with 45 seconds of applause and a standing ovation from the majority of the 4,000 to 5,000 people in the huge extension of the Mother Church in the Back Bay."

THE KNAPP HEARINGS

It has been reported that The Mother Church has abandoned efforts to get the entire \$100 million bequest from the Knapp-Mabury wills and are negotiating with the alternate recipients, Stanford University and Museum Associates, to split the money. The hearing to settle this issue was supposed to take place on June 17th, but the parties indicated that they were not ready to proceed, and the whole process was continued until July 7th. It has been reported that the lawyers hired by The Mother Church are getting \$2,000 an hour for their services.

A group of sixteen Christian Scientists which includes Federal Judge Thomas P. Griesa of New York has announced its intention to go to court to prevent The Mother Church from collecting any of the money.

STATE REFUSES TO ACT

The Eighty-Ninth Edition, Inc. which was founded in part to probe the financial irregularities of The Mother Church urged the Attorney General of Massachusetts and the U.S. Attorney to investigate the Church. The May 19th *Boston Globe* reported that Massachusetts Attorney General Scott Harshbarger cited church-state issues which prevent the state from probing into the internal affairs of a church organization. A probe of postal irregularities by The Mother Church is still under investigation by the U.S. Postal Service.

MORE LETTERS FROM TEACHERS

A letter entitled "Supplemental Complaint" dated April 21, 1993, was sent out by Margaret M. Rennie, Nola A. Cook, and Roy J. Linnig. It runs more than forty pages and constitutes yet another rehash of the same issues which have been circulating for more than a year now by some thirty-seven teachers. A second unsigned letter dated June 3, 1993, consists of the usual anti-Knapp propaganda.

Once again, the real targets in all these frantic and strident letters are Bliss and Eloise Knapp. The shameful innuendoes and half-truths about two of the finest workers during the pioneer days of Christian Science are a disgrace and indicate the depths to which the Cause of Christian Science has sunk since Mrs. Eddy's passing in 1910. In addition, this same group feeds these half-truths to reporters who would get them in no other way.

And so we read in the June 7th *Boston Globe* that

"Knapp knew Eddy as a young man and never held a job outside the church." Bliss Knapp knew Mrs. Eddy from childhood into adulthood. They were in frequent communication. She urged him to get a Harvard education which he did. He was eminently employable. He chose to devote his entire life to the Cause of Christian Science. Eloise Knapp's contribution of \$100,000 to The Mother Church mentioned in the same article is made to appear as an enticement or a bribe.

The June 3rd letter states on page three that in 1978, "A new exhaustive review of archival material, requested by the Directors, shows that Mrs. Eddy gave no direct word in either her published or unpublished writings to indicate that she identified herself with the woman of Revelation 12." Judge Septimus J. Hanna's proposed article for the *C.S. Journal* of 1898, which was specifically endorsed by Mrs. Eddy in letters dated June 18 and 22 of that year, contradicts this statement. (Free copies of this authentic article are still available from the editor of *The Banner*.) When Mrs. Eddy left for Boston in 1908, she entrusted her house at Pleasant View to Hermann S. Hering and his wife. Prof. Hering wrote to his association on December 1, 1938: "It is of first importance to see Mrs. Eddy rightly as the woman of prophecy referred to in the Apocalypse, as the one through whom the Comforter came, the second coming of Christ. Unless we see that this revelation came through Mrs. Eddy under divine inspiration, and see it as the inspired word of God, *we are not seeing Christian Science rightly*. Jesus and Mrs. Eddy were the two witnesses and must be seen as such. Just as Jesus in the flesh must be seen as the one who established the first coming of the Christ, back of whom was the divinely royal man, so Mrs. Eddy in the flesh must be seen as the one who established the second coming of the Christ, back of whom was the divinely royal woman, the God crowned woman of the 12th chapter of the Apocalypse."

Elizabeth Earl Jones, C.S.B. wrote: "I had not read but a few pages in *Science and Health* when everything in me told me that Christian Science is the Second Coming of Christ, and Mrs. Eddy is God's Anointed. I have never doubted it. In fact, each passing year but impresses this fact more firmly -- that Mary Baker Eddy is the 'Woman' of Bible prophecy, just as surely as Christ Jesus is the 'Man' of Bible prophecy. When I first wrote to Mrs. Eddy what I saw her to be, she replied in her own handwriting, 'What your dear letter means to me is impossible to say.' Mrs. Eddy was grateful to anyone who recognized her as God's Chosen Messenger of the Second Coming of Christ in Christian Science."

The Gethsemane Foundation monograph, *What Did Mrs. Eddy Say?* includes: "The Board [of 1948] was originally 3-2 in favor of Mr. Knapp's book and then it became 3-2 against his book. 'Nelvia Ritchie was

originally very cordial but after the change of view concerning Mr. Knapp, she fought him at every turn. Just before her passing she said to her nurse, 'I thought all along I was fighting Bliss Knapp but now I realize I was fighting Mary Baker Eddy.'" (p. 12)

The June 3rd letter (on page two) objects to "gradations in the heavenly kingdom" and denies that "God knew the human identities of Jesus and Mrs. Eddy". Hebrews 1:9 in the Bible states regarding Jesus: "Therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." (See also S&H 313:1-8) Concerning whether God knows any of us, Mrs. Eddy states: "This testimony of Holy Writ sustains the fact in Science, that the heavens and earth to *one human consciousness, that consciousness which God bestows*, are spiritual, while to another, the unilluminated human mind, the vision is material. This shows unmistakably that what the human mind terms matter and spirit indicates *states and stages of consciousness*." (S&H 573:5-12 [emphasis added] See also S&H 115:25-27 regarding the Second Degree transitional qualities.) This false doctrine that God doesn't know anything about us is pernicious and contradicts the Bible.

Mrs. Eddy answers the question: "Do all who at present claim to be teaching Christian Science, teach it correctly?" She answers: "By no means." (Mis 43:6-5)

Gilbert Carpenter, Sr., who worked in Mrs. Eddy's household in 1905 and 1906, wrote: "The form of a.m. that was dangerous to our Leader and was, and is, the real enemy of the Cause is the human mind that uses students within the ranks to endeavor through conservation and intellectuality to move our Leader out of her place." With all the current misconceptions circulating in the field, it is no wonder that Christian Science as an organization is fast dissolving.

To get a true picture of Bliss and Eloise Knapp, *The Banner* highly recommends *Bliss Knapp, Christian Scientist* by Charles Theodore Houpt. This book is available from the Principia College Book Store, Elsah, IL 62028. Telephone: (618) 374-5061

19 MORE CHURCHES CLOSE

The following nineteen churches have closed between March and July 1993 according to the *C.S. Journal*: El Centro, California; Porterville, California; Stockton (Soc.), California; Aurora (Soc.), Colorado; Chicago (19th), Illinois; Marshall, Illinois; Chelsea, Massachusetts; Detroit (2nd), Michigan; Owosso, Michigan; Hannibal, Missouri; Deming, New Mexico; Batavia, New York; Staten Island (2nd), New York; Coquille, Oregon; Elkins Park, Pennsylvania (merged with Jenkinstown); Ellensburg, Washington; Moses Lake, Washington; Seattle (Soc.), Washington; Tacoma (2nd), Washington. The following three churches/societies

have formed during the same time period: Blowing Rock, North Carolina; Minot, North Dakota; and Bellevue, Washington. Since the count began in February 1987, 250 churches have closed and 25 new ones have formed.

PERSECUTION OF A C.S.B.

The Fall 1991 *Banner* reported the unfair treatment of Nancy Evans Houston, C.S.B. of Champaign, Illinois. Her designation as teacher was removed from the October 1990 *C. S. Journal*. Then her card was removed entirely from the *Journal* in February 1993. In a letter to the Board dated January 30, 1993, Miss Houston states: "I was in the process of drafting a letter in response to yours of December 10...when I learned from the Field that my advertisement had been removed from the February 1993 Christian Science Journal. It seems apparent that you had already taken this step prior to my receipt of your last letter.

"Contrary to your assertions of the Board's patience, it is I and not the Board who has exercised patience while under continued persecution. In the beginning, you apparently did not like my sharing with someone, at her request, a copy of a letter which was already being circulated throughout the Field (much of which has proven to be true). So I apologized if I offended you, and that should have been the end of it. Instead you then questioned my right to teach and attempted to stop me from teaching. You removed my 'teacher' designation from The Christian Science Journal without my agreement.

"Now you are trying to say that others outside the movement are interfering with my work. Nothing could be further from the truth... A face-to-face meeting would not make them more or less true, but would waste time, energy, and resources...

"The only thing I have not done, and again am not required to do under the Church Manual, which is my authority, is to come before you and allow you to grill me on my personal thoughts and my observations about your conduct of the Church's business. I will not and cannot as a practicing Christian Scientist submit to such attempts at thought control, manipulation, and intimidation.

I request that you stop this travesty and restore my advertisement in The Christian Science Journal, including 'teacher'. I will continue my activities in service to our Cause and look forward to the time when an enlightened Board of Directors will correct past mistakes."

A LETTER FROM GERMANY

A letter from Backnang, Germany, dated February 11, 1993, written to the Board of Directors asks some interesting questions: "In the Christian Science Sentinel we are asked to give contributions in order to restore and

repair the buildings of the Mother Church. The roof of the extension has been defective for some time. Did you not notice this until the third Advent Sunday when it was leaking in bucketfuls so that the Sunday service had to be held in the original building?...What is the function of Mr. Wood and his bureau in the Church government when he had to be dismissed as a Director because of his personal connections? Is he still your consultant? Which religion is exercising an influence on you now?... In your letters and articles we do not want any metaphysical instructions because your doings are not in harmony with them."

FATHER AND SON PRACTITIONERS

Bruce and John Klingbeil were originally from Chicago. As active practitioners, they were aware that one of the routine criticisms of Christian Science is that all of its evidence is anecdotal. They set about devising a way to prove the power of prayer using the standard scientific method recognized by the scientific and academic communities. They set up their experiments using plants rather than animals or humans for ethical reasons. The use of plants also reduced the number of variables in the experiments. Over time they were able to set up a method which could be replicated by anyone and which would provide statistically significant results. Their work was finally gaining credibility in scientific circles. At last incontrovertible evidence of Christian Science healing could be proven to skeptics.

At the same time they were shunned in Chicago and frozen out by fellow Christian Scientists in the town to which they moved in Oregon. The father had his *Journal* listing taken away from him, and The Mother Church was reportedly taking action which would lead to their eventual excommunication. The Mother Church C.O.P. stated, "That sort of approach is not the kind of thing our church is involved in...We are more involved in the regeneration of individual lives." [thereby missing the point entirely] (*Statesman-Journal*, Salem, Oregon Dec. 14, 1987) Apparently as a result of the response they were getting from fellow church members, the father and son went out in the woods in early May of this year and took their own lives. The treatment they received from their fellow church members gives an unfortunate new meaning to the words "Christian Science treatment".

THE MONITOR'S MORAL NEUTRALITY

The June 11th *Monitor* presents its readers with the review of yet another X-rated movie (now called NC-17) called "Romper Stomper". In addition, the June 24th issue recommends "The Real World", a production on MTV, a TV cable channel known for its ceaseless promotion of cultural nihilism. One wonders if the Editors read their own newspaper and if the Board of Directors interpret the newspaper's direction as fulfilling the mandate to "keep abreast of the times." (Man 44:21)

A TEACHER AND C.O.P.

Dane Parker Edens of South Carolina first came to notice more than ten years ago after spectacular healings of leukemia and a broken back. He became a practitioner in 1981 and went through the 1991 Normal class in Boston and was thereafter listed as an authorized Christian Science teacher. Soon thereafter he was asked to take on an additional job as his state's Committee on Publication. He passed on suddenly while in that position. His name last appeared in the January 1993 *Journal*. Those familiar with the situation feel that he was thrust into a position with strong crosscurrents wherein he was called to defend the publication of the Bliss Knapp book while the Board of Directors he worked for privately repudiated it, but publicly promoted it to get a \$100 million bequest.

William A. Buell, a teacher in San Diego, California reportedly passed on under similar pressures. His name last appeared in the May *Journal*.

SENTINEL EDITORIAL

The April 26, 1993 *Sentinel* contains an editorial entitled, "Loyal Christian Scientists" which includes comments from an ex-lawyer: "There is no such thing as 'loyal opposition' to Mrs. Eddy's provision for the government of The Mother Church under the *Church Manual* in the way in which she intended it to be governed." The comments go on to suggest that church members have recourse to prayer only and that there is no provision to bring any action against officers. The editorial ignores what the *Manual* states on pages 28 and 29: "It is the duty of any member...to inform...of the failure...of any other officer" "...a member... shall complain thereof to the Clerk and the complaint be found valid, the Directors shall resign..." Now would seem to be the time for all church member to read, study, and ponder each by-law in the *Church Manual*, to individually comply with every one of them, and to demand the same from every officer of The Mother Church.

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