

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

VOLUME EIGHT / NUMBER ONE

FALL 1994 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

JUDGE REFUSES TO DISMISS LAWSUIT

The September 16, 1994, *Boston Globe* reported, "A Suffolk Superior Court judge has refused to dismiss a lawsuit by two members [Elizabeth A. Weaver and Roy D. Varner] of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, who are seeking a full accounting of the hundreds of millions of dollars spent by church officials on unsuccessful ventures in television and other media. Church officials had asked the court to dismiss the suit, arguing that they were protected by First Amendment rights and that they govern a 'hierarchical' church in which the board of directors has authority to interpret the church's by-laws and constitution... The decision opens the way for the first in-depth scrutiny of the church's venture into radio, television and magazine publishing, which church officials have said brought the otherwise conservative church body to the brink of bankruptcy in 1992... [Judge J. Harold] Flannery based part of his decision on the most important lawsuit in the church's history, a dispute decided in 1924 between the directors of the church and the trustees of the Christian Science Publishing Society over who had ultimate power. Under a supreme Judicial court ruling in that case, Flannery noted, 'the court may inquire as to whether there has been compliance with the essential formalities prescribed by the rules...and whether the decision is within the scope of the jurisdiction.'... Flannery ruled that a group called Members for the Manual, Inc., which also brought the suit, did not have the right to bring suit. But he found that the two church members have 'a direct and personal interest in the controversy.'"

THE EIGHTY-NINTH EDITION, INC.

The editor of *The Banner* has been requested to "let it be known to all interested parties that The Eighty-Ninth Edition, Inc., has been dissolved."

LONGYEAR MUSEUM TO MOVE

A recent letter to members and friends of the Longyear Museum and Historical Society announced the board of trustees' intention to sell the current building and property and move to a more modern facility. The letter stated that the mansion continues to deteriorate in spite of large scale spending for its upkeep. The house originally stood in Marquette, Michigan. John Munro Longyear and Mary Beecher Longyear decided to dismantle and move the structure to Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1902. It was transported by railroad and rebuilt on the present site. Mrs. Longyear established The Longyear Foundation in 1923. Besides

operating the museum, the foundation maintains six former homes of Mary Baker Eddy in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

PROBLEMS WITH THE TRADE EDITION

The recent campaign to promote the new "trade edition" of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy for distribution in commercial bookstores has been greeted with controversy in the Christian Science field. Criticism has centered on the addition of a publisher's note and an index as well as the absence of the cross and crown seal on the cover of the book. This has led some branch churches to refuse to carry the book in their reading rooms. Critics have also noted that the book is being advertised as "non-denominational" and that the publicity letter sent to media outlets states, "Virginia S. Harris is Publisher of the Writings of Mary Baker Eddy and Chairman of The Christian Science Board of Directors. Mrs. Harris, a dynamic leader and spokesperson, is actively involved in the country's health care discussion and has addressed diverse audiences on Christian Science's role as a 125-year old health care provider."

An unfriendly Associated Press article based on the publicity packets sent to the media has fostered more misconceptions. The article refers to *Science and Health* as "the bible of the Christian Science Church." In a reference to the new index, the article gives "Devil: see also Satan" as an example. Both statements seem deliberately calculated to falsely suggest that Christian Science is a non-Christian cult which has put aside the Bible and has some connection with Satan. In addition, the article refers to the child court cases and the failed Monitor Channel.

To make matters worse, it has been revealed that there is an error in the text of the trade edition: line 20 on page 116 was inadvertently omitted. This will necessitate the recall of the entire edition and delay the release date originally set for October 1, 1994.

MORE NEGATIVE PRESS

The Spring/Summer 1994 issue of *Christian Research Journal* reviewed the prospects of various denominations in the United States. While other churches also received negative evaluations, Christian Science was said to be one sect "in irreversible decline."

An Associated Press article of September 2, 1994, linked a measles outbreak during April and May to Christian Science: An unidentified skier "passed the highly contagious disease to five others, including a 14-year-old Illinois girl whose family follows Christian Science, a religion that shuns medical care, including

inoculations. The girl spread the disease to 51 people in her hometown of Elsah, Ill., a small town near St. Louis, and started an outbreak that hit 156 people at her boarding school, The Principia, a 96-year-old school for Christian Scientists in a St. Louis suburb."

The October 1994 issue of *Redbook* also carries a negative article about Christian Science.

THIRTEEN MORE CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the July and October 1994 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* reveals that thirteen more churches have closed during that three month period: Los Angeles (29th), California; Redwood City, California; Santa Paula, California; Villa Park, Illinois; Hampton, Iowa; New Orleans (5th), Louisiana; Malden, Massachusetts; Detroit (Soc.), Michigan; Fairbury, Nebraska; East Brunswick-New Brunswick, New Jersey; Westfield, New York; Easton, Pennsylvania; and Levittown, Pennsylvania. During the same time period, Minot, North Dakota, reappeared in the *Journal*. Two new listings appeared for Boulder Creek, California; and Bensalem, Pennsylvania. Since February 1987 when the count began, 301 churches/societies have closed, and 31 have formed in the United States.

ABOUT BAD NEWS

In her Address to the Concord Church in February, 1899, Mrs. Eddy states: "I am patient with the newspaper wares and the present schoolboy epithets and attacks of a portion of Christendom:

"(1) Because I sympathize with their ignorance of Christian Science:

"(2) Because I know that no Christian can or does understand this Science and not love it:

"(3) Because these attacks afford opportunity for explaining Christian Science:

"(4) Because it is written: 'The wrath of man shall praise Thee: the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain.'

"Rest assured that the injustice done by press and pulpit to this denomination of Christians will cease, when it no longer blesses this denomination. 'This I know; for God is for me' (Psalms). And in the words of St. Paul, 'If God be for us, who can be against us?'" (My. 151:1-16)

EDITOR'S COMMENT

One purpose of *The Banner* is to present news which individuals in the Christian Science field might otherwise not know. Most of the news is negative and is intended as grist for the active, practicing Christian Scientist. A Christian Scientist does not shrink from bad news, but handles it with assurance and confidence well knowing that ignoring or hiding from it would be fatal to himself and the Cause.

RELIGIOUS TENSIONS

The Jerusalem Post of July 30, 1994, reported, "Moslems are increasing their attacks on Christians in

Jerusalem in an effort to show their dominance in the city...Last weekend a gang of Moslem youths ransacked a pool hall near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which is frequented by Christian youths. four of the Christians were stabbed and lightly wounded; one required hospitalization. Witnesses said about 50 Moslem youth marched through the Christian Quarter to the pool hall Saturday afternoon, chanting anti-Christian slogans. They attacked the Christians inside, and broke chairs, tables, and other objects."

The Jerusalem Post of August 20, 1994, reported, "Three Christian tourists were forced to leave the Temple Mount last week by Wakf [Moslem] officials and police after starting to pray there." The Temple Mount is the location where Abraham built the altar and brought Isaac as a sacrifice. It was later the site of Solomon's Temple which housed the Ark of the Covenant.

The August 13th *Post* reported, "The Saudis are feverishly acquiring international media outlets. News agencies, newspapers, television networks and radio stations throughout the world are owned by the royal family. In Saudi Arabia itself, censorship can only be described as medieval. No reference can be made to any royalty: the British royal family, the pre-revolutionary Egyptian king, the Spanish king, or even playing-card kings must never be mentioned."

The August 4, 1994, *New York Times* reported, "Five French citizens working for the French Government in Algiers were killed by suspected Muslim militants today, bringing to 56 the number of foreigners slain in Algeria since the banned Islamic Armed Group began attacking foreigners there last September." A headline in the September 12th *Times* warned, "Islamic Party's Gains in Istanbul Stir Fears of a Radical Turkey."

DISTURBING MILITARY EXERCISES

The Augusta [Ga.] Chronicle of August 3, 1994, reported a surprise, late night exercise in the unsuspecting civilian community on Tybee Island, Georgia. U.S. Marines descended on the town in helicopters with weapons and full military gear. A Marines' spokesman claimed that leaflets had advised residents of the exercise in advance. However no examples were ever provided by local residents or the military. The spokesman stated, "Such missions are vital...[to] provide Marines the opportunity to practice."

Other reports state that the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska was subjected to a "Knock and Talk" exercise in which Alaska State Police and the U.S. Army went door to door asking homeowners if they had contraband and requested permission to search their houses without a search warrant. *The Las Vegas [Nevada] Sun* has reported joint exercises of the Las Vegas Metro Police with Russian police militia troops.

A Department of the Army and the Air Force "Fact Sheet" dated May 19, 1994 announced the partnership of various National Guard State partnerships with the emerging democracies of the former Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc. Examples: Alabama with Romania, Arizona with Kazakhstan, California with Ukraine, and Utah with Belarus.

On May 10, 1994, U.S. Marines at the Twentynine Palms Marine Base in California were given a "Combat Arms Survey". Some of the questions included: "Do you feel that U.S. combat troops under U.S. command should be used in other countries for any of the following United Nations missions? [peace keeping, nation building, humanitarian relief] "Do you feel that U.S. combat troops should be used in other countries under command of non-U.S. officers appointed by the United Nations for any of the following missions? [disaster relief, environmental disaster clean-up, police action, etc.] A statement to be rated from strongly disagree to strongly agree: "I would swear to the following code: 'I am a United Nations fighting person. I serve in the forces which maintain world peace and every nation's way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.'"

The last question invited the soldiers to consider: "The U.S. government declares a ban on the possession, sale, transportation, and transfer of all non-sporting firearms. A thirty (30) day amnesty period is permitted for these firearms to be turned over to the local authorities. At the end of this period, a number of citizen groups refuse to turn over their firearms. Consider the following statement: I would fire upon U.S. citizens who refuse or resist confiscation of firearms banned by the U.S. government."

When copies of this questionnaire were spirited out of the base, circulated and eventually sent to Congressmen and Senators, the U.S. Navy claimed that the survey was a fabrication. Later they released what could be considered a "damage control" fax dated August 4, 1994, which stated: "In May, a U.S. Naval officer conducted a survey at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms. The survey was designed to study attitudes of military personnel who have been or might be placed in non-traditional missions. The survey was part of an independent master's thesis developed by the officer... The student's idea for the thesis originated from the Department of Defense's Bottom Up Review which included a section on peacekeeping, disaster relief, humanitarian assistance and peace enforcement operations, and from Presidential Review Directives 13 and 25, which directed DOD to create a U.S. military force structure whose command and control would include the United Nations..." An article in the February 1994 issue of *Modern Gun*

magazine, however, reported that the same questionnaire had been administered to Navy SEALs several months before the Twentynine Palms survey.

The July 19, 1994 *Christian Science Monitor* published an essay, [U.N.] "'Blue Helmets' Deserve More US Help" The essay lamented the restrictive Presidential Decision Directives [mentioned above] which do not go far enough toward setting up a standing United Nations army. The article states, "Domestic opponents of greater US involvement fear that participating in UN operations would abridge US 'national sovereignty.'"

Mrs. Eddy's statement becomes all the more imperative: "I believe strictly in the Monroe doctrine, in our Constitution, and in the laws of God. While I admire the faith and friendship of our chief executive in and for all nations, my hope must still rest in God, and the Scriptural injunction, -- 'Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth.'" (My. 282:3-8)

Those who have edited *The Christian Science Monitor* for the past fifty years have charted a steady course away from Mrs. Eddy's clear position. They have embraced the concept of world government and the erosion of the U.S. Constitution and national sovereignty. While the wheels continue to turn behind the scenes for United Nations hegemony, the one newspaper in the world which should be warning of the "foe in ambush" has instead joined the foe and abandoned its founder's clear mandate.

AN INTERESTING DATE

A booklet entitled *The Latter days; With Evidence from The Great Pyramid*, dated 1895 and printed in England, is now kept in the archives of The Mother Church. It is said that it was originally in Mrs. Eddy's own library. On page 19, Isaiah XIX. 19, 20 is quoted: "In that day shall there be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord. And it shall be for a sign and a witness unto the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt."

The booklet further states, "The geographical position of the Great Pyramid perfectly fulfills the requirements of this prophecy. It stands at the angle of the sector-shaped land of Lower Egypt, and thus is both 'in the midst of the land, and at the border thereof,' while its particular mission at the present day, is to be 'a witness to the Lord,' and to give evidence on subjects connected with the time in which its secrets are being revealed.

Mrs. Eddy makes a single reference on this subject in *Christian Healing*: "We are in the midst of a revolution; physics are yielding slowly to metaphysics; mortal mind rebels at its own boundaries; weary of matter, it would catch the meaning of Spirit. The only immortal superstructure is built on Truth; her modest tower rises

slowly, but it stands and is the miracle of the hour, though it may seem to the age like the great pyramid of Egypt, -- a miracle in stone." (p.11: 6-12)

The booklet from 1895 further states regarding the passageways in the pyramid, "...we may here premise that it has been found that the length of these passages predicate the duration of the periods they typify, on the scale of an inch to a year." [The English inch and the division of the Egyptian cubit correspond almost exactly] Regarding these measurements in the passageway known as the Grand Gallery, the booklet states: "By the same standard of interpretation, the termination of the Grand Gallery, 1,910 inches gives the 3rd of December, 1910, as the end of the present era, which we accept as an approximation only though possibly a very close one."

Those familiar with the history of this booklet note that this last quotation was marked in pencil by Mrs. Eddy and left on her desk the night of her passing which was December 3, 1910. The booklet also speculates that the end of the era would be followed by a time of tribulation. The history of the Twentieth Century after 1910 would seem to bear this out. Mrs. Eddy's commentary on this subject appears on pages 96 and 97 of *Science and Health*.

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The recently published book is a documented account of the decline of the Church after it passed from the leadership of Mary Baker Eddy to the control of The Christian Science Board of Directors. The book documents the basic causes that have led to the decline of this great movement -- causes that originated with the Directors in their relentless drive to exercise absolute control over Church members. Included in the book are Mrs. Eddy's Deed of Trust for the Publishing Society, a copy of her last will, a list of all present and past Board members, and a number of rare photographs.

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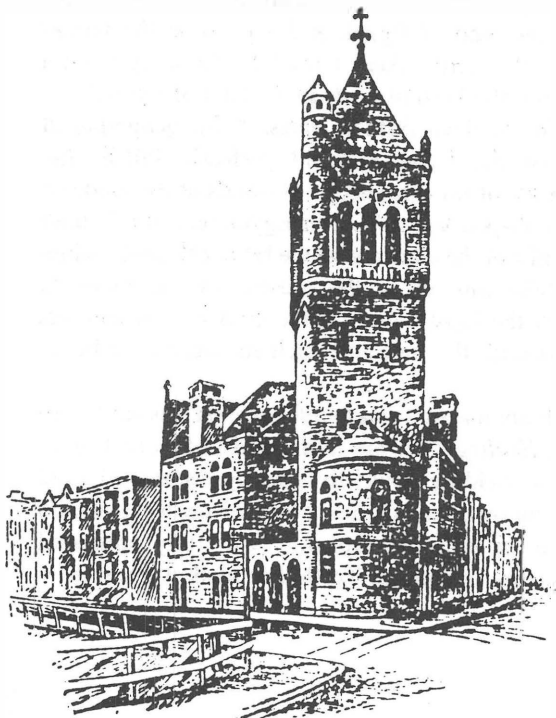
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Andrew W. Hartsook
2040 Hazel Avenue
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QUOTE FROM NATIONAL TOUR

Virginia S. Harris, Chairman of the Christian Science Board of Directors, is quoted in *The Dallas Morning News* of November 19, 1994, as saying, "It [Christian Science] may not work for everyone. But at least we want it to be 'out there' and for society to be able to have an opportunity to examine it, in light with everything else."

Mrs. Eddy writes, "In divine Science, where prayers are mental, *all* may avail themselves of God as 'a very present help in trouble.' Love is impartial and universal in its adaptations and bestowals." (S&H pp. 12, 13)

Christian Scientists who read the newspaper article were left with the impression that the Board chairman was suggesting that Christian Science practice is an exercise of the human mind rather divine Mind. These same individuals compared Mrs. Harris' quote with Mrs. Eddy's statements: "Many imagine that the phenomena of physical healing in Christian Science present only a phase of the action of the human mind, which action in some unexplained way results in the cure of disease." "If we pray to God as a corporeal person, this will prevent us from relinquishing the human doubts and fears which attend such a belief, and so we cannot grasp the wonders wrought by infinite incorporeal Love, to whom all things are possible." (S&H pp. xi, 13)

The Christian Science Monitor of October 21, 1994, ran an advertisement for the new trade edition of *Science and Health* which stated in its headline: "Discover The Original Healing Resource." A week later on October 28th, the same ad ran with a surprising change: "Discover An Original Healing Resource." (Underlining added for emphasis) Mrs. Eddy writes, "Whatever is said and written correctly on this Science originates from the Principle and practice laid down in Science and Health, a work which I published in 1875. This was the first book, recorded in history, which elucidates a pathological Science purely mental." (Rud. p. 16) The Dallas interview and the *Monitor* advertising suggests an effort in Boston to downgrade the textbook to make it more compatible with popular titles on the human improvement/New Age book shelves.

GOVERNMENT OF THE MOTHER CHURCH

A two part article by John R. Peterson in the *Christian Science Sentinel* (Nov. 28 and Dec. 5, 1994) states, "She [Mrs. Eddy] also was led to make no provision in the *Manual of The Mother Church* for traditional ecclesiastical tribunals acting in judicial

capacity, rendering opinions and considering appeals from decisions of officers or internal church bodies." The article fails to note that Mrs. Eddy includes important provisions in the *Manual* calculated to provide the same protection: "It is the duty of any member of this Church and especially of one who has been or who is the First Reader of a church, to inform the Board of Directors of the failure of the Committee on Publication or of any other officer in this Church to perform his official duties... If the Christian Science Board of Directors fails to fulfil the requirements of this By-Law, and a member of this Church or the Pastor Emeritus shall complain thereof to the Clerk and the complaint be found valid, the Directors shall resign their office or perform their functions faithfully." (Man., pp. 28, 29) Many have sought to implement these provisions only to have their letters and communications ignored.

Clearly this two part *Sentinel* article was calculated to sway church members against the decision of the Suffolk Superior Court in Massachusetts to allow two Christian Scientists, Elizabeth A. Weaver and Roy D. Varner, to bring suit against present and former officers of The Mother Church and to require a full accounting of the hundreds of millions of dollars spent by these officials on the unsuccessful television and media ventures underwritten from 1988 to 1992.

DOCTRINE OF INFALLIBILITY ?

The Christian Science Board of Directors passed a resolution on August 6, 1993, which stated 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 determination of The Christian Science Board of Directors at any time that purports to apply to 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."

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Elizabeth A. Weaver, one of the two plaintiffs in the

pending case against former and present officers of The Mother Church, was elected to the Supreme Court of Michigan on November 8, 1994. During nearly twenty years in the justice system, she served under three governors on commissions and committees dealing with juvenile and family legal problems. In addition, Justice Weaver served eight years on the State Appeals Court and, previous to that, as probate juvenile judge where she was known for her tough, but constructive rulings which required juvenile offenders to make restitution to their victims.

TREASURER TO RESIGN

It has been reported that Donald Bowersock, longtime treasurer of The Mother Church, is scheduled to leave his position at the end of 1994. Since the shake-up of March 9, 1992, when Harvey W. Wood resigned from the Board, Mr. Bowersock has served as managing treasurer with Board member John Lewis Selover serving as a figurehead treasurer over him. Mr. Bowersock is named as one of the defendants in the pending court action brought by Justice Weaver and Roy D. Varner.

12 CHURCH CLOSINGS IN TWO MONTHS

The following churches/societies have closed according to a comparison of the October and December, 1994, issues of *The Christian Science Journal*: Lake Elsinore, California; Riverside (Soc.), California; Waterbury, Connecticut; Live Oak, Florida; Benton, Illinois; Howell, Michigan; Alexandria, Minnesota; Natchez, Mississippi; Silver Creek, New York; Pawhuska, Oklahoma; Portland (3rd), Oregon; and Beloit, Wisconsin. Houlton, Maine, has reappeared in the *Journal* on an apparently seasonal basis. Since February 1987, 312 churches/societies have closed and 31 have formed in the United States.

48 HOURS ON CBS TELEVISION

It has been learned that the CBS television network is planning a *48 Hours* TV program on the subject of alternative healing methods. Dr. Larry Dossey, author of *Healing Words* (1994) and *Recovering the Soul* (1989), was specifically interviewed on camera about the experimental work of Christian Scientists Bruce and John Klingbeil. In addition, one other former associate of the Klingbeils was interviewed off camera. At this time, it is not known how much of the interviews will be used on the upcoming program. No date has been set for its broadcast. Bruce and John Klingbeil were a father and son team who worked for eighteen years to develop a method to prove the power of prayer using the standard scientific method accepted by the orthodox scientific community. Their work is still distributed by Spindrift, Inc., a non-profit corporation dedicated to recording and disseminating their work for others to replicate. Dr. Dossey, an M.D., works in the Office of Alternative

Medicine of the National Institutes of Health. He included the Klingbeils work in both of his aforementioned books. The Mother Church removed the elder Klingbeil's practitioner listing from *The Christian Science Journal* and had instituted excommunication proceedings against him at the time of his and his son's deaths in May of 1993. In view of The Mother Church's disdain for the Klingbeils and their work, the Chairman of the Christian Science Board of Directors' endorsement of "gathering empirical evidence" to prove "the effectiveness of spiritual healing" is puzzling. (See June 8, 1994, *Monitor*) An advertisement for Dr. Dossey's most recent book was even accepted in the June 24, 1994, edition of the *Monitor*.

NEW VIDEO BIOGRAPHY OF MRS. EDDY

The Manchester New Hampshire *Sunday News* of November 6, 1994, announced a new video biography produced by New Hampshire Public Television as part of its "New Hampshire Crossroads" series. The title of the one hour program which aired on November 11th is "Soul of a Woman; The Life and Times of Mary Baker Eddy."

"'Everywhere you go, you run into a Mary Baker Eddy plaque,' says Jim Gilmore, A New Hampshire Public Television producer who has traveled the back roads of the state making 'New Hampshire Crossroads.' 'I started wondering, who was she?'" Mr. Gilmore's question led to the television biography.

The program was produced entirely by non-Christian Scientists, but is appreciative and respectful of Mrs. Eddy in every way. The Christian Scientist will find statements he might disagree with, but the tone and the high regard for Mrs. Eddy are evident throughout the program. Rarely seen photographs are included in the production. Those who are interested in obtaining a copy of this copyrighted program may do so by sending a blank VHS tape and \$60 to: Video Dubs, P.O. Box 1100, Durham, NH 03824.

NEW BOOK INCLUDES MRS. EDDY

Susan B. Anthony Slept Here; A Guide to American Women's Landmarks by Lynn Sherr and Jurate Kazickas includes all of the New England sites connected with Mrs. Eddy life and work. It is published by Times Books. The text is descriptive and unbiased.

THE MIDDLE EAST

The December 10, 1994, *Jerusalem Post* included the following: "Seven Christians from Jerusalem's Old City, including a Greek Orthodox priest, were arrested last week for allegedly forming an armed gang to protect Christians from Moslems... The arrests come as reports of attacks by Moslem extremists on Christian targets in the Old City have increased in recent months... Police are considering setting up a special unit to secure Christian holy sites in the Old City." The same issue of

the *Post* included the following: "Ten Jews...were arrested last Tuesday trying to go to the Temple Mount [site of Solomon's Temple] to pray... Jews are not allowed to pray on the Temple Mount. Any Jew with a kippa trying to enter the area has his name recorded and is accompanied by a police officer to make sure he doesn't pray." Only Muslims are permitted to pray at this site.

The New York Times of November 8, 1994, reported the reopening of the Cave of the Patriarchs in which Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are buried. The holy site had been closed since the shooting of Muslims by a lone Jewish extremist in February of this year. Muslims who live in Hebron, the location of the cave, stated to the *Times*, "In terms of religious law, going inside with them [Jews] is just like going in with a dog because the dog will desecrate the mosque."

It is noteworthy that the *Journal*-listing for the Christian Science Society in Jerusalem is listed under "Middle East" without Israel being mentioned. This may be calculated to avoid the controversy over Muslim and Jewish claims to the city.

Elsewhere, *The New York Times* of September 18, 1994, reported that individuals accused of being witches had been burned in Nobody, South Africa.

THE HIGHER CRITICISM

The December 1994 issue of *Life* magazine features as its cover article, "Who was Jesus?" Along with reproductions of artwork, the article includes quotations from scholars and theologians who offer their interpretation of Jesus' life and mission. *Merriam-Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* defines higher criticism as the "study of biblical writings to determine their literary history and the purpose and meaning of the authors." More often than not, the work of scholars sets artificial tests which the Bible, or any other ancient text could not pass. The result has been to destroy confidence in the Scriptures.

One example of such modern scholarship is illustrated by the following entry in the *Life* article: "Robert Funk, Founder of the Jesus Seminar, which examines the authenticity of the Gospels: 'Jesus was a subversive sage. His witticisms tended to undermine the everyday view of things. Jesus taught them: If someone sues you for your coat, give them your shirt as well. In a two-garment society, that would have been funny.'"

A newspaperman in 1906 wrote, "The higher critics and the men of science may think they can banish faith in the supernatural, but no religion of growth and vitality exists without faith in the things unseen." (My. p. 95)

Mrs. Eddy writes, "The Old and New Testaments contain self-evident truths that cannot be lost, but being translations, the Scriptures are criticized. Some

dangerous skepticism exists as to the verification of our Master's sayings. But Christians and Christian Scientists know that if the Old Testament and gospel narratives had never been written, the nature of Christianity, as depicted in the life of our Lord, and the truth in the Scriptures, are sufficient to authenticate Christ's Christianity as the perfect ideal." (My. p. 179)

RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM

George Washington wrote, "Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master!" The last issue of *The Banner* detailed recent incidents which should cause everyone who reveres the U.S. Constitution and individual freedom to question the motives and actions of some people in and out of government. One more example requiring attention is Handgun Control, Inc. and its 5-Year Master Plan to disarm all citizens in the United States. It is marked, "Confidential! Not for General Distribution!" and is dated February 7, 1994. The plan details a gradually increasing restriction of all means of self-defense by civilians. The language used by this group speaks for itself: "Essential to the Neanderthal gun culture are the typical military clothing, camouflage, pouches, and gear, boots and other combat gear. They euphemistically refer to this as 'militaria'. Elimination of the future sale of these items will cripple the culture of violence well into the 21st century... Banning of military reenactments. The questionable 'Historical' value of these events has escaped public scrutiny for too long. Many of these so called historical events are mere excuses for gun nuts to blast the countryside with automatic weapons... We propose the prohibition of Survivalist/paramilitary, World War I and World War II and Civil War Re-enactments on federal land... We cannot survive into the 21st century unless we remember the need to expand our wave to new thinking to the total disarmament of America."

Alexander Hamilton wrote in *The Federalist* (#28) "If the representatives of the people betray their constituents, there is then no recourse left but in the exertion of that original right of self-defense which is paramount to all positive forms of government." Noah Webster wrote, "The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AFTER 1910

Recent unsolicited comments on this book by the editor of *The Banner* included: "It's a fascinating record. You've put a tremendous amount of information together. Thank you for documenting this story -- it's never been done so completely before."

See next page for further information.

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Zanesville, Ohio 43701

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Sampler in Mrs. Eddy's room, Swampscott, Mass.

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

VOLUME EIGHT / NUMBER THREE

SPRING 1995 ** ZANESVILLE, OHIO

1994 NORMAL CLASS

The members of the December 1994 Normal Class are as follows: Mrs. Hildegard Arnesen of St. Petersburg, Russia, and Olympia Washington; Mrs. Fenella Bennetts of London, England; Mrs. Pamela Bissell of Los Angeles, California; Miss Marceil DeLacy of Seattle, Washington; Mrs. Lucinda Ferguson of Eureka Springs, Arkansas (erroneously listed as Arizona in March 1995 *C.S. Journal*); Noel G. Fischer of Dallas, Texas; Mrs. Heather M. Hayward of London, England; Mrs. Sandra Hoerner of St. Louis Missouri; Mrs. Lynn Jackson of Lubbock, Texas; Walter D. Jones of Des Moines, Iowa; Edward W. Little of Seattle, Washington; Ronald A. Mangelsdorf of Wasilla, Alaska; Mrs. Dorothy Maubane of Pretoria, South Africa; Evan Mehlenbacher of Kennewick, Washington; Mrs. Rebecca Odegaard of New York, N.Y.; Mrs. Kay R. Olson of Raleigh, North Carolina; Mrs. Barbara R. Pettis of Boston, Massachusetts; Bruce I. Risk of Chicago, Illinois; Mrs. Earline Shoemake of San Diego, California; Keith H. Stark of Adelaide, Australia; Mrs. Marjorie C. Stephens of San Jose, California; Mrs. Marjorie Tis of Boston, Mass.; Mrs. Mirella Trapanese of Milan, Italy; Mrs. Maryl F. Walters of St. Louis, Missouri; Mrs. Debra Warmack of Louisville, Kentucky; John H. West of Dayton, Ohio; Victor Westberg of San Francisco, Calif. and Boston, Mass.; Mrs. Jacklyn J. Williams of St. Petersburg, Florida; Keith Wommack of Corpus Christi, Texas; and Douglas A. Worth of Norwalk, Connecticut.

The new teachers from Iowa, Connecticut, Illinois, and Alaska are all currently serving as the Committee on Publication for their respective states. In addition the manager of C.O.P.'s in Boston was a member of the class.

According to the March 1995 *C.S. Journal*, there are currently 239 authorized teachers conducting classes worldwide. The figure was 250 when the list was made in the March 1992 *Journal*. A survey of the latest *Journal* reveals that twelve states have no teachers and that the state of North Dakota does not have a single listed practitioner. The last practitioner to have a listing from that state appeared in the March 1994 *Journal*. This is the first time since April of 1904 that a state has not had at least one *Journal*-listed practitioner. The April 1904 *Journal* has listings for all states including the territories of Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, as well as Indian Territory. There were no listings for

Alaska or Hawaii which would not become states for another fifty-five years.

PLEA IN THE SENTINEL

The March 13, 1995, *C.S. Sentinel* carried a notice from the Directors urging members "to close the door" on "the anonymous group calling itself the mailing fund" which "is striving to overturn the *Manual*-authorized government of The Mother Church."

The Mailing Fund had its genesis with an open letter sent to the Board of Directors in March of 1992 by three *Journal*-listed teachers: Margaret Rennie, Nola Cook, and Roy Linnig. The letter and supplemental documents ran over one hundred pages and constituted an indictment of the Directors' conduct of Mother Church affairs. The mailing went to all branch churches, teachers, and practitioners and detailed the multimillion dollar losses suffered as a result of the ill-fated Monitor Channel cable TV venture. The letter also attacked Bliss Knapp, his book, *Destiny of The Mother Church*, and the Directors' decision to publish it in order to claim the Knapp-Mabury fortune. The letter went out barely three months before the June 1992 Annual Meeting. It was no doubt hoped that the pressure of the letter and the impending Annual Meeting, which would be attended by members from all over the world, would constitute a knock-out punch which would clear the way for an entirely new board.

The Directors chose Nathan Talbot as the new President of The Mother Church to conduct the Annual Meeting. His personal popularity among the membership and skillful handling of shouts and protests carried the board safely through its yearly contact with church members in the field.

It soon became clear that the Directors had weathered the initial crisis and were not about to resign. At this point the Mailing Fund was formally established and has sent periodic letters to churches, practitioners, teachers, and others who have requested to be on its mailing list. Approximately 15% of teachers listed in the *Journal* have signed letters or statements supporting the Mailing Fund's position opposing publication of *Destiny of The Mother Church* and its sale through branch church reading rooms. A new letter dated March 1995 has been mailed with sixty-nine signatures of teachers, practitioners, and C.O.P.s.

The Mailing Fund is essentially a mailing list with no organization or meetings. It troubles the Board of Directors because of the influence it may have among church members in the field. A greater challenge comes from Members For The *Manual*, Inc. which supports the

lawsuit brought against current and former officials of The Mother Church by Michigan Supreme Court Judge Elizabeth A. Weaver and Roy Varner. The lawsuit is currently in the "discovery" phase in which each side requests documents from the other as a preliminary to meeting in court. While the Board of Directors has repeatedly stated that this suit is an attempt to overturn the *Manual*, the plaintiffs seek only to expose financial wrong doing and to require compliance with the by-laws by all Mother Church officers. The address is: Members for the *Manual*, Inc.; 25-13 Old Kings Highway North, Suite 245; Darien CT 06820

TWELVE MORE CHURCH CLOSINGS

A Comparison of the December 1994 and March 1995 *Christian Science Journals* reveals that the following branches and societies have closed in a three month period: Blytheville, Arkansas; Quincy, California; San Clemente, California; San Jose (3rd), California; Miami Beach, Florida; Lansing (2nd), Michigan; Ferguson, Missouri; Jackson Heights (Queens), New York; Dickinson, North Dakota; Cranston, Rhode Island; Westerly, Rhode Island; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. One new society has been formed in Centerville-Clifton, Virginia. Since the count began in February 1987, 324 churches and societies have closed and 32 new ones have been formed in the United States.

MORE ABOUT NEW LETTER TO FIELD

A letter from Margaret Rennie, Nola Cook, and Roy Linnig was mailed In March of this year to teachers, practitioners, and branch churches. This letter was sent on the third anniversary of the March 1992 letter which outlined their original charges against the Board. This new letter acknowledges that the Directors have ignored the admonitions of their 1992 letter. The writers vow to continue the original effort. At the same time, the letter states, "Our concern is certainly not over personalities or penalties; nor are we saying that the administration can't do anything right."

The letter renews the attack on Bliss Knapp's *Destiny of The Mother Church* and the Directors' decision to publish it. The authors once again falsely state that Mr. Knapp calls Mrs. Eddy "the equivalent of another Christ" and quote a partial sentence from the book,— out of context and without page reference,— that Mrs. Eddy was "invested with deific power to make laws as a ruler in the heavenly kingdom." [Mr. Knapp is referring to Mrs. Eddy's inspired writing of the by-laws in the Church Manual in this passage.] (See pages 224, 225) Mr. Knapp explains later, "These two witnesses were created to rule, and that means they were invested with all the necessary endowments to fulfill their destiny... Christian Scientists need to be careful not to deify this visible idea; and they will not, so long as they

obey her teachings. She says, 'Follow your Leader, only so far as she follows Christ.'" (see page 260)

While this latest letter was widely circulated before publication in order to garner signatures, only 27 other teachers were willing to sign. The fact that the other 209 teachers declined to sign does not necessarily mean that they agree with the Board's disastrous policies of the past five years, but it could indicate their discomfort with the outspoken opposition to the Knapp book.

REVELATION 12 AND BIBLE LESSONS

The last time that the Bible account of the Woman of the Apocalypse and Mrs. Eddy's correlative passages in *Science and Health* (pages 560-562) were included in a lesson-sermon was December 31, 1989. These references also are not included in the April-June 1995 *Christian Science Quarterly*. This means that soon it will be six years since these references have appeared in any lesson. It is believed that Harvey Wood's January 25, 1991, letter to teachers repudiating the 1943 Six Points regarding "Mrs. Eddy's Place" in Bible prophecy may have something to do with long absence of these references regarding Mrs. Eddy. Only a policy directive from the Board of Directors to the Bible lesson committee could explain this long hiatus.

CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL "WATCHES"

This Centre was started in May of 1994 by H. Griffin Ewing with its purpose to analyze, uncover, and annihilate error, worldwide. Mr. Ewing is a longtime Christian Scientist who has traveled all over the world as a businessman. In addition, he has acted as an advisor and lecturer on business and marketing techniques, and has written many books and articles on these and related subjects.

Mr. Ewing writes, "In the home of Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, those whom she called mental workers were instructed to sit quietly in their rooms and watch and pray, usually for an hour at a time... The world may never know the loss it sustained when it no longer had Mrs. Eddy at the head of her household of mental workers, directing them day and night to pour into human consciousness a volume of scientific thought that aided greatly in counteracting and neutralizing the error, and opening the way for Truth to enter and govern... With humility and love for divine Love the *Centre for Christian Science Watches* is dedicated to promoting international prayer watches. For only effective MBE 'Watches' will be able to lessen and overcome the evil in the world."

Those who wish to participate in this important work are invited to write or call Mr. Ewing. Address: P.O. Box 636, Glendon Beach, Oregon 97388. Telephone: (503) 764-2675.

MORE BOOKS ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE BY NON-SCIENTISTS

Robert David Thomas, a psychologist and college professor, has written *With Bleeding Footsteps*, published by Alfred A. Knopf in 1994. This book is a biography of Mrs. Eddy written from a psychoanalytical perspective. While this would ordinarily raise warning flags among Christian Scientists, it should be noted that Dr. Thomas treats his subject sympathetically and with respect. While there are numerous references to articles in various journals and books on psychology, -- which would be of interest only to a student of that discipline, -- the discussion is always focused on a desire to understand. The dust jacket states, "Through a close study of her early writings, he makes it unmistakably clear for the first time that she [Mrs. Eddy] was a woman of strikingly original, searching, and probing mind -- not the plagiarist some have alleged her to be." The book contains a frontispiece portrait of Mrs. Eddy from the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., which, apparently, has not been previously published. While this book may not present new information to the Christian Scientist or present the view of Mrs. Eddy which discovers her life's deeper spiritual meanings, it should be seen a welcome change from previous books written only to demean, ridicule, and sensationalize.

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Sarah Gardner Cunningham, Ph.D., wrote *A New Order: Augusta Emma Simmons Stetson and the Origins of Christian Science in New York City, 1886-1910* while a doctoral candidate at Union Theological Seminary in 1994. Dr. Cunningham, a non-Christian Scientist, has pieced together the story of Mrs. Stetson's life and her missionary work in New York at the behest of Mrs. Eddy. This 210-page study sets aside many of the myths surrounding Mrs. Stetson which have taken root among Christian Scientists over the past 85 years. Interestingly, the author was denied access to the transcript of Mrs. Stetson's trial in the archives of The Mother Church. Other researchers before her have met similar denials. Included in the text, however, are some surprising letters which Mrs. Eddy wrote to Mrs. Stetson after her excommunication, but decided not to send. The first one was dated the day after Mrs. Stetson was removed from membership on November 19, 1909, and another on November 21st. The first letter advised Mrs. Stetson to bear her affliction with joy, not grief, and quotes the Bible statement that "he scourgeth those whom he receiveth." The second letter tells Mrs. Stetson that she had been blessed by the action of the Directors. It also states that Mrs. Eddy would not have permitted the actions against her if they had not constituted a useful experience. She closed by advising Mrs. Stetson to be happy and to be better as a result of

all that she had experienced. Those who may be interested in reading this unusual history may order a copy of the dissertation from University Microfilms, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106. Toll free call: 1-800-521-3042 or from Canada: 1-800-343-5299 for credit card orders. The order number for this dissertation is: DA 9426791. The cost for reproduction from microfilm is \$55.00 plus postage and, in some cases, local sales tax.

MORE ISLAMIC EXTREMISM

International wire services reported in March of this year that a 14-year old Pakistani Christian boy, Salamat Masih, and his uncle were sentenced to hang for insulting Islam. Another relative who was also a defendant was shot dead as he left a Lahore courthouse in April 1994 after being granted bail. The death sentences against the boy and his surviving uncle were overturned by the Lahore High Court in northeast Pakistan for lack of evidence. The overturning of the death sentences resulted in riots. "Hundreds of Muslim militants railed against the decision and vowed revenge. Some wept and others smashed traffic signals or tried to blockade the road."

On February 13th, Christians in the northern Nigerian town of Kaduna closed their shops to protest the government execution of a fellow Christian who allegedly showed disrespect for the Muslim holy book, the *Koran*.

The *Middle East Intelligence Digest* of February 1995 published by the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem reported a statement by Abassi Madani, a leader of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front. Regarding the only times that a woman should emerge from her house, he said, "When she is born, when she is married, and when she goes to the cemetery." The same issue shows a PLO flag which was displayed in Bethlehem in December 1993. The flag carried an inscription in Arabic: "On Saturday we will kill the Jews; on Sunday we will kill the Christians."

The *New York Times* of March 7th reported: "The Arab world's most famous poet [Ali Ahmed Saeed] has been expelled from the Arab Writers' Union for meeting with Israeli intellectuals, and the punishment has generated bitter debate among intellectuals and artists across the Middle East. The same article reported: "Last year the Lebanese Government...threatened to put Miss Lebanon of 1994 on trial. Her crime was that she appeared in a photo standing next to Miss Israel. Public ridicule of the ruling finally persuaded the Lebanese Government to relent."

See next page for information regarding Christian Science After 1910 which tells the story of the unnecessary decline of the Church. The solutions are obvious after reading.

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Andrew W. Hartsook

This recently published book is a documented account of the decline of the Church after it passed from the leadership of Mary Baker Eddy to the control of The Christian Science Board of Directors. the book documents the basic causes that have led to the decline of this great movement -- causes that originated with the Directors in their relentless drive to exercise absolute control over Church members. Included in the book are Mrs. Eddy's Deed of Trust for the Publishing Society, a copy of her last will, a list of present and former Board members, and a number of rare photographs.

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*Not matter
but Mind
satisfieth*

Mrs. Eddy's motto on 1898 souvenir spoon

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

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THE F.B.I. AND C.S. CARE FACILITIES

At a meeting of the Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing (AOCSN) held in Florida just before this year's annual meeting in Boston, Bill Doyle of the Aetna Insurance Company revealed that six F.B.I. agents had visited his office looking into possible Medicare fraud in Christian Science nursing facilities. Aetna handles Medicare claims for most members of AOCSN. Apparently because of soaring Medicare costs, the federal government is stepping up efforts to stop illegal charges. C.S. facilities are being looked at because diseases are named or diagnosed in the absence of an M.D. In order for C.S. facilities to qualify for Medicare claims, The Mother Church had to certify that C.S. nurses have only a secular role, not a religious one.

On July 10, 1993, The Mother Church announced that all ties between it and C.S. nursing facilities would be severed effective January 1, 1997, and that TMC would no longer serve as an accrediting body after that date. The concept of the AOCSN was promoted at that time as the independent accrediting agency for C.S. care facilities. At that same 1993 meeting, it was announced that C.S. nurses would no longer have to complete a three-year training course to qualify for a listing in *The Christian Science Journal*.

U.S. GOVERNMENT STUDY OF PRAYER DRAWS PROTESTS

The Albuquerque Journal of May 3, 1995, reported that a U.S. government funded study at the University of New Mexico to determine the efficacy of prayer in the treatment of the sick has met with protests from two organizations: The Freedom from Religion Foundation in Madison, Wisconsin, and Americans United for Separation of Church and State in Washington, D.C.

The study was granted \$28,797 by the Department of Health and Human Services.

According to the *Albuquerque Journal*: "The project done under the auspices of UNM's Center for Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Addiction (CASAA), involved groups saying prayers for 42 people who entered treatment in Albuquerque for alcoholism. The 60 people saying the prayers -- which included Protestants, Catholics, Jews and others -- didn't know the people they were praying for, other than first names and research numbers. People on the receiving end were told somebody was praying for them. Others, in a control group, got equivalent treatment, but not prayers." William R. Miller, a psychology professor who's

director of research at CASAA stated, "The separation of church and state is there to keep government from interfering in religion. In no way does that say we shouldn't be researching into spirituality."

Larry Dossey, M.D. wrote the best selling book, *Healing Words* in 1994 which discussed the power of prayer in the cure of disease. In the *Albuquerque Journal* article, he is quoted as saying, "Any time any technique or therapy affects human bodies, it's the business of medicine to know more about it. I would defend this as a legitimate medical research project. If doctors don't open up to this possibility, they're not being good scientists. I think we need to get over our religious indigestion on this point of view."

STATEMENTS ABOUT PENDING LAWSUIT

An article in the June 5, 1995, *Christian Science Monitor* and the report from the Board of Directors in the July 1995, *C.S. Journal* once again misstate the intentions of Michigan Supreme Court judge Elizabeth A. Weaver and fellow church member, Roy Varner.

Board chairman, Virginia Harris states in the *Journal* article, "Two Church members filed a lawsuit eighteen months ago against fourteen present and former officers of this Church... This suit, if not withdrawn or defeated, would amend the *Church Manual* and certain of Mrs. Eddy's Deeds of Trust. It would do this by forcing the adoption of the personal theories and interpretations of the two plaintiffs concerning these founding documents." (p. 55)

The fourteen present and former officers of The Mother Church named in the suit oversaw the loss of three-quarters of a billion dollars in assets which were spent on the ill-fated electronic media projects between 1987 and 1992. Efforts by church members to use provisions in the *Church Manual* to call those responsible to account for their actions were ignored in every case.

The Weaver-Varner lawsuit aims to activate provisions in Mrs. Eddy's deeds of trust which state, "...this 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..." (*Church Manual*, p. 137) Therefore it was Mrs. Eddy who sought to insure that the By-Laws would be obeyed and gave ultimate power to the courts to enforce them. It would seem that the Directors are trying to gain support from church members by misstating the facts.

It should be noted that Donald Bowersock, former Mother Church treasurer and one of the fourteen officers of The Mother Church named in the lawsuit, died unexpectedly in May of this year.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY ARTICLE AND AFTERMATH

The April 1995 issue of *The Atlantic Monthly* ran an article titled, "Suffering Children and the Christian Science Church" by Caroline Fraser. The article was followed on April 10th by an hour-long radio discussion/phone-in program on Boston University's station, WBUR. The program was titled "Christian Science under Fire." The Mother Church declined to send a spokesman from the Committee on Publication office, and so former C.O.P. staff member Stephen Gottschalk agreed to join Caroline Fraser for the discussion.

Robert C. Nelson, another former employee in the C.O.P. office in Boston was so impressed by the results of the radio program, that he sent tape recordings to people around the country including some state C.O.P.s. In his letter of April 21st he stated, "The resulting conversation impressed many who heard it locally as informative, corrective, and with evident healing effect. In pondering the broadcast, it occurs to me that you, too, might find it supportive of your work at this particular time." On April 25th, M. Victor Westberg, Manager of Committees on Publication in Boston, fired off a fax to "Committees on Publication Throughout the World" in it he stated, This letter dated April 21 and signed by Robert C. Nelson, mimics the tone and style of circular letters from the Committee Office, which convey to you the guidance and direction of the Manager... On closer examination, it blatantly usurps the role of the Manager's Office in Boston to direct State Committees, guide the corrective work, and encourage and support local initiative and action... This recent letter's effect, or lack thereof, depends on your alertness. We trust that your fidelity to our Leader's vision of church government will keep you awake to the motives behind mild words that tug at our longing for unity."

TRADE EDITION TROUBLES

Some Christian Science church congregations around the country have voted not to carry the new trade edition of *Science and Health* in their reading rooms because of Board chairman Virginia Harris' foreword and the topical index which were added to this new edition of Mrs. Eddy's textbook. It has been reported that some state C.O.P.s have been ordered by Boston to obtain the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all members in the offending churches.

THIRTEEN MORE CHURCH CLOSINGS

The following churches have closed between March and July of this year according to a comparison of the

March and July 1995 *Christian Science Journals*: Victorville, California; Denver (5th), Colorado; Belleville, Illinois; Chicago (21st), Illinois; Marion, Illinois; Richmond, Indiana; Baltimore (3rd), Maryland; Haverhill, Massachusetts; Havre, Montana; Norwood, Ohio; Toledo (2nd), Ohio; Portland (12th), Oregon; and Long Beach, Washington. At the same time a new society has been listed for Evansville, Wisconsin. Since the count began in February 1987, 337 churches have closed and 33 new ones have been established.

VIDEO, RESPONSE, QUESTIONS

The videotape sent out in March of this year by a group of Mother Church members titled, "That They All May Be One" included statements by a number of teachers, practitioners, former Mother Church employees, and branch church members. There is no doubt that it took courage for all of these people to appear on a video which was guaranteed to meet with the disapproval of the Boston church hierarchy. While the producers of the video took pains to state that they were operating independently of The Mailing Fund, many of these individuals have appended their names to Mailing Fund publications. The recent mailing, "A sharing of responses to the video," dated June 1995 is printed in the same style and format as Mailing Fund publications.

It is interesting that everyone connected with The Mailing Fund and the recent video is labeled as a dissident by Boston. But it turns out that The Mailing Fund and the video producers have their own list of dissidents to whom they refuse to send their publications even when donations are sent with the requests. The question arises as to whether The Mailing Fund people are any more tolerant than those who now occupy the church offices in Boston. It has been suggested that prominent individuals connected with The Mailing Fund hope to fill Mother Church offices if the Weaver-Varner lawsuit is successful and resignations follow.

While everyone's attention is focused on Boston, the Christian Science field is quietly collapsing at an alarming rate. The list of church closings gives only a glimpse of the actual crisis. Literally hundreds of churches around the country are barely managing to stay open. Many have not had a single Sunday school pupil in years. Even those with large endowments find it difficult to fill vital offices. As an illustration, someone who attended two Seattle churches recently reports that First Church had about forty people in attendance, while Fourth Church, downtown, had only eight people in the congregation. Many churches are holding on with only four or five members. Often there are more people on the platform than are sitting in the congregation. It is not unusual to find five or six members attending services in churches designed to seat 250 people. Until the spirit of domination and the elbowing for position

and power is subdued, the lights in the field will continue to be extinguished. As one observer has noted, "Unless the spirit of love is revived and the inviolable right of the individual to think, study, and practice is observed, we are doomed to go the way of the Shakers. The only difference is that there won't be any furniture to remember us by."

COMMUNISTS AT THE MONITOR

The Christian Science Monitor of April 11, 1995, was forced to admit that it had a communist party member on its staff in the 1950s. A recent book, *The Secret World of American Communism*, published by Yale University Press used recently opened Soviet archives to name prominent Americans who were secret party members. The book names former *Monitor* staff writer Edmund Stevens as having joined the Young Communist League in 1931 and the Communist Party in 1938. In its two articles and editorial of April 11th, the *Monitor* takes pains to say that this was an isolated incident.

However, *Christian Science After 1910* written by the editor of this newsletter documents the following: "In the 1930s and 1940s, the *Monitor's* China correspondent was Gunther Stein who was later exposed as a Soviet spy by General Douglas MacArthur's intelligence headquarters. In fact he was called an 'indispensable and important member' of the famous Sorge spy ring which reported to Joseph Stalin. Another *Monitor* writer was Wilfred G. Burchett who was recommended to the newspaper by a friend and longtime staff writer William Henry Chamberlin. Mr. Chamberlin was the *Monitor's* correspondent in Moscow who wrote sympathetic articles about the Soviet system. Burchett was later exposed as a Soviet spy. After his dismissal from the *Monitor*, he surfaced in North Korea and helped to interrogate captured American soldiers during the Korean War." (pp. 102,103)

MORE MONITOR NEWS

The June 20th *Monitor* printed a guest editorial by the general secretary of the National Council of Churches. The article condemned the Christian Coalition's "Contract With the American Family" and then presented the National Council's own social agenda.

Over the past decade The Mother Church has showcased N.C.C. leaders in its publications. The December 23, 1987, *Monitor* and the February 1988 *Reading Room News* are examples. In addition, the September 24, 1987 "Global Lecture Preparatory Meeting" included a representative of the N.C.C.. On June 25, 1988, a director of The Mother Church signed the N.C.C. sponsored Williamsburg Charter which, according to N.C.C. General Secretary Rev. Arie R. Brouwer, "expresses my own deep concern for religious

liberty." It is the opinion of many that the directors of The Mother Church have wanted to join the N.C.C. for a number of years, but have run into obstacles in their quest.

The N.C.C. was founded in 1908 as the Federal Council of Churches and counted among its founders British Fabian Socialists, Sidney and Beatrice Webb. In 1950 it changed its name to the current National Council of Churches. An exclusive interview with Gus Hall, General Secretary of the U.S. Communist Party, appeared in the July 15, 1968, issue of the N.C.C.'s *Approach* magazine. In it he said, "We can -- we should -- work together for the same things... We can live together in a Socialist nation."

MORE SHORTWAVE STATION FALLOUT

The *New Hampshire Sunday News* of April 30, 1995, stated: "...the sale of a powerful shortwave radio station to an apocalyptic church based in Florida remains the talk of the town [Greenbush, Maine]. The Christian Science Church sold that station, which can broadcast to much of the world to Prophecy Countdown Inc. early this year placing Greenbush's most highly valued property in the hands of a little known broadcast ministry that split from the Seventh-day Adventists... In a newspaper ad last year, the group said it is not a cult and denied any link to the Branch Davidians whose February 1993 gun battle with federal agents outside a Waco, Texas, compound culminated 51 days later in the fiery deaths of Koresh and about 80 cult members... The lavishly furnished compound that went on the air in 1987 cost \$8.5 million to build and was sold to [the] sect for \$5 million."

MIDDLE EAST

The Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* of April 3, 1995, reported that the police force of the new Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Gaza had ordered that all cars stolen from Israel must be registered by their new owners by April 8. Any cars not registered by that date would be confiscated and returned to their original Israeli owners.

The Jerusalem Post (International Edition) of June 24, 1995, reported, "The Palestinian Authority will uphold a Jordanian law permitting anyone who sells land to Jews to be killed, Palestinian Authority Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein said last week... Abu Medein repeated this explanation to journalists. Upon being pressed, however, he added that the PA would see to it that the law was implemented.

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