

UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION

“It shall be the duty of the Committee on Publication to correct in a Christian manner impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science, injustices done Mrs. Eddy or members of this Church by the daily press, by periodicals or circulated literature of any sort.” Church Manual, Article XXXIII, Section 2

Message from the Manager of Committees on Publication

There is something special about receiving a WhatsApp message from a dear friend or celebrating with a remote family member through their Instagram feed. Whether connecting via the latest tech or picking up a favorite magazine or newspaper, there’s a lot of good to celebrate. But it’s not uncommon to also come across posts, videos, stories, or articles that give us pause. In those moments, we do our best not to let those harsh news stories, less than productive conversations, or inflammatory posts weigh us down. But when we see something that hits close to home or touches on a subject we care deeply about, that can seem difficult. The temptation may be to fret over it, or to respond in equal measure, perhaps by posting a reactionary comment.

There’s a common saying in the United States about the good, the bad, and the ugly — the sentiment that positive and negative aspects are a package deal, that you can’t have one without the other. And yet, as Christian Scientists, we’ve been taught to rebel against that false belief. Rather than accepting such a limited mortal premise, in those moments, there is an opportunity to witness ever more fully the nature of God and His creation as inherently innocent, good, and pure. As Mrs. Eddy reminds us, we have a responsibility to help purify the atmosphere of thought around us (see SH 452:14–15). So it is with joyous freedom that we share the blessings of Christ healing with humanity. This metaphysical work speaks to the role of the Committee on Publication. As Jesus exemplified time and again, a healing response is found in knowing, understanding, and demonstrating the spiritual fact of God’s inherent goodness, even if we have to pause and work to silence the various suggestions trying to attract our attention. Writing of this example in *No and Yes*, Mrs. Eddy affirms:

The real Christ was unconscious of matter, of sin, disease, and death, and was conscious only of God, of good, of eternal Life, and harmony. Hence the human Jesus had a resort to his higher self and relation to the Father, and there could find rest from unreal trials in the conscious reality and royalty of his being, — holding the mortal as unreal, and the divine as real. It was this retreat from material to spiritual selfhood which recuperated him for triumph over sin, sickness, and death (No. 36:12–20).

Though we may encounter mentions of Christian Science rife with impositions on the public, and though we may be tempted to feel hurt or react, the heart of our Christian practice demands more. Let us strive to find that resort to the higher selfhood for all God’s children that Mrs. Eddy writes about. This doesn’t mean we simply ignore these issues or pretend they don’t exist, but instead pray to know more of what God knows, see what God sees, and witness His enduring grace that renews, uplifts, and heals.

Regardless of what we encounter in the media, as Christians, as healers, we are reminded to challenge the limited mortal view. This is a commitment to respond rather than react and to bless rather than curse. The

opportunity always before us is to see and demonstrate more of that innate “unselfishness, goodness, mercy, justice, health, holiness, love – the kingdom of heaven” that our textbook assures us handles the erroneous claims of sense (see SH 248:29). And it is this healing approach that Committees on Publication strive to exemplify in fulfilling the responsibilities of Article XXXIII in the *Church Manual*. The Christian manner at the heart of this work undergirds their watchfulness and alertness to the many media mentions of Christian Science, including those on various social media platforms.

Sincerely,



Scott C. Shivers, C.S.B
Manager, Christian Science Committees on Publication

Fruitage

In support of Committees on Publication around the world, the Manager’s Office has a robust scanning platform that identifies the many media mentions about Christian Science, our church, Mrs. Eddy, and sometimes the healing practice of members. In the social media environment, which is often conducive to brevity and anonymity– quiet, prayerful affirmation of the innocence and purity of man is the most effective corrective. One staff member recently shared:

The oneness and allness of divine Mind powerfully and specifically answer the social media picture of many minds and rampant mortal opinions. We can handle the suggestion that we are in a war of mortal minds. One Mind is our starting and ending point. Not only is God our Principle, but He is also everyone’s Principle; we all have the same parent Mind. This takes personal sense out – starting with our own consciousness and revealing everyone’s oneness with the Father-Mother.

From this firm spiritual foundation, we are grateful that divine inspiration leads us to occasions where we may see receptivity and leavening of thought. For instance, an X (Twitter) post assuming we are anti-science was met with a post inviting the author to look at a favorable *Christian Science Monitor* review of a book on evolution. The original writer thanked us for the correction, apologized, and indicated he knew and liked the book in question. We also see social media posts associating our religion with New Thought. Sometimes, these have offered opportunities to share links to articles correcting that imposition. In addition, several online posts conflating us with Scientology have been corrected through our social media posts. Some additional examples follow:

In response to an X post indicating that Christian Scientists don’t celebrate Christmas:

Oops! Christian Science does not belong on this list. Christian Scientists around the world celebrate Christmas. It is very important to us because it marks the advent of Jesus Christ and God’s great gift of ‘on earth peace, goodwill toward men.’

In response to a post asking the question: “Can you be a scientist if you’re a Christian Scientist?”

Yes. Nothing in Christian Science prevents a member or adherent from being a scientist. Christian Scientists who are professional scientists have publicly shared their experiences. Here's one example: <https://journal.christianscience.com/shared/view/19snacpyyng?s=copylink>.

In response to someone who expressed they were unclear about the purpose of a Christian Science Reading Room:

A CS Reading Room is a quiet place to ask questions, study, pray, and explore the Bible and the writings of Mary Baker Eddy in order to deepen one's understanding of God and spiritual healing based on Christ Jesus' ministry. Find out more about [Reading Rooms](#).

In response to a post that referenced an oft-repeated myth about a phone in Mary Baker Eddy's tomb:

I sense a little tongue in cheek here, but just to be sure, that phone myth actually isn't true. <https://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/research/was-there-ever-a-phone-in-eddys-tomb/>

Inspiration and updates from your Committee on Publication

I've thought a lot about the Manager's message included in this newsletter. In my role as Committee, I have the privilege of metaphysically addressing myriad impositions on the public regarding Christian Science. Responding lovingly and patiently is best, and often results after deep prayer and listening. As mentioned in the Manager's message, it can be tempting to feel frustrated and want to shout from the rooftops that Christian Science is normal, natural, and based on the Bible, where an all-loving benevolent God guides us and keeps us safe. This quote from the Bible has been a beacon when I'm tempted to feel defensive about Christian Science:

Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to-morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you. (II Chronicles 20:17)

God is guiding all his children in their spiritual growth, me included. It's comforting to realize that no one person is responsible for correcting impositions, but that God is gently shepherding us all into a deeper understanding of His allness, where everyone is safe and whole. I've also learned that validation for Christian Science does not originate in the size of our membership or quantity of churches. Christian Science is permanent and eternal and is not dependent on numbers of people or buildings. The Christ, Truth is always relevant and is self-validating. Realizing this through prayer, I refuse to concede to the claim of decline in any form, whether it be a claim of age, membership, or another trick of mortal mind. Discouragement is not from God and has no part in Christian Science healing.

As I encounter these false claims in the Committee work, I will continue to look for God's guidance and aim to respond instead of react. A kind response is always in accord with the mission of Christian Science, and will always bear fruit. As Mrs. Eddy wrote in Science and Health:

Giving a cup of cold water in Christ's name, is a Christian service. (p.436)

The letter of Science plentifully reaches humanity to-day, but its spirit comes only in small degrees. The vital part, the heart and soul of Christian Science, is Love. (p.113)

With love,

Renee McCardell

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