

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

A scene in the Bible that I’ve been cherishing is of special relevance to the work of correcting impositions on public thought about Christian Science. Following the crucifixion and resurrection, two of Jesus’ disciples, on their way to Emmaus, are trying to make sense of recent events (see Luke 24:13-35). Their faith tested, they needed to get away. How were they supposed to follow Jesus now? There were rumors of his resurrection, but doubts, worry, and uncertainty prevailed. And yet Jesus, meeting them on that path, wasn’t swayed by their incredulity. Meekly, gently, the Master spoke with them, breaking down the entrenched mortal beliefs that would keep them from seeing what was right in front of them. Their eyes opened, their hearts renewed with the flame of true discipleship; they returned to Jerusalem with a rekindled desire to leave all for Christ.

Members and Committees together, genuinely desiring to feel the touch of the Christ, — and for our neighbors to experience this opportunity — may find themselves on that proverbial walk to Emmaus. At times, we may need to face down our own doubts and fears. At other times, we are listening for just how to humbly offer that light to someone else. Regardless of the need, there is a wonderful strength in the idea of true discipleship that solidifies our footsteps in following the example of the Master.

The corrective, healing work is strengthened as we individually and collectively follow Jesus in the way he taught. Committees on Publication are giving special attention to this idea of discipleship in the work. Building off the theme for last June’s annual meeting, “As you work, the ages win,” we’ve found particular strength in the whole paragraph where our theme was found. In particular, the idea of being “God-endowed for discipleship” is such an uplifting assurance. The full passage from *Miscellany* by Mary Baker Eddy reads:

As you work, the ages win; for the majesty of Christian Science teaches the majesty of man. When it is learned that spiritual sense and not the material senses convey all impressions to man, man will naturally seek the Science of his spiritual nature, and finding it, be God-endowed for discipleship. (My. 188:25)

This is a helpful reminder to maintain the corrective activity as an expression of Christ’s healing mission. More than simply a human activity with a humanly defined to-do list (which can sometimes be quite long), discipleship demands a richer and fuller expression. Discipleship is less about focusing on human actions and outcomes, and more about yielding to the clear, absolute expression of Christ, Truth. This spiritualization of thought helps rouse ourselves and the public from dormant mortal, material beliefs to the realization, recognition, and richer understanding of the spiritual ideas and laws of God that govern.

During a recent online gathering of Committees on Publication, Committees shared about how they'd been studying and praying about God-endowed discipleship. Below are a few brief reflections on what they shared, which I've found to be inspiring as we think about our engagement with the public.

One individual shared that when they were first appointed as the Committee on Publication in their jurisdiction, they spent a lot of time praying and reading the *Manual* to determine how best to prepare to serve. They also turned to Isaiah 51:16, "I have put my words in thy mouth." With this reassurance, they realized that discipleship meant they were never personally responsible. Serving the church and humanity as outlined by our Leader in her *Manual* is an opportunity to always put God first and follow Mind's guidance. They shared how this has helped carry them through their years serving in this role. If at times they've faced situations where the solution was initially unclear, they learned they could always pray to recognize God and God's power. From there, each footprint unfolded harmoniously and naturally.

Another Committee shared that when looking up the definition of "endowed," they found it meant to provide quality or ability, or to "give as a gift." This helped them see that each Committee and member has the God-given ability to do the work they've been appointed or asked to do. This includes everything necessary to correct a public misconception or imposition in a healing way.

These are helpful reminders that discipleship requires humility, persistence, and a humble readiness to put God first and follow where we're led; as we do, the healing result is assured. Discipleship encourages us to move forward and seek the healing solution that blesses one and all.

Correcting impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science in a Christian manner is knowing that God, Love alone, is governing and communicating the right ideas. This sense of discipleship lifts any sense of burden and provides for fresh inspiration. We should not be surprised to find our hearts burning within us as we experience more of the fullness of the Christ idea in our lives.

Sincerely,



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

Inspiration and updates from your Committee on Publication

Metaphysical inspiration guiding the Committee work:

In Scott's message above, he states that "correcting impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science in a Christian manner is knowing that God, Love alone, is governing and communicating the right ideas." Mrs. Eddy tells us in our textbook, "If the disciple is advancing spiritually, he is striving to enter in. He constantly turns away from material sense, and looks towards the imperishable things of Spirit. If honest, he will be in earnest from the start, and gain a little each day in the right direction, till at last he finishes his course with joy." (Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 21:9) Our daily work in the Committee on Publication office is joyous, spiritually uplifting, and healing. As we strive to listen to God in all of our endeavors, we are able to turn away from and correct the false suggestions or impositions

on the public in regard to Christian. As we recognize and know that God, divine Life, Truth, and Love is guiding each step in our corrective work, we are gaining in the right direction of true discipleship where freedom and dominion are gained and all are blessed by the healing touch of the Christ, Truth.

Branch church/society visits and talks:

It is always a joy to have the occasion to visit Missouri branch churches and societies, whether it is for a Committee on Publication church talk or attending a church service or lecture. I welcome the opportunity to meet with your branch church or society to share with one another spiritual inspirations pertaining to Church, specific to the *Manual-By-Law*, Article 33, Committee on Publication. If your branch church or society is interested in having the Committee on Publication visit with your members, feel free to reach out and we can consider some possible dates and what this might look like. These visits allow us to come together and share gratitude for the continuous unfoldment of good and the demonstration of divine Love being expressed.

Assistant Committees:

As always, I am thankful for the continuous, steadfast, and uplifting metaphysical support of each branch church/society's Assistant Committee (ACOM). Assistant Committees play an important role in the *Manual*-based activity of the Committee on Publication. ACOMs provide an opportunity to support the Committee work both practically and metaphysically.

Communication between branch church ACOMs and the Committee on Publication enables both the Committee and the branch church/society to be aware of any impositions on the public that may arise in their jurisdiction. This communication allows Assistant Committees and the Committee on Publication to work closely together in a "Christian manner" to correct misconceptions regarding Christian Science.

This role is appointed by the Committee on Publication as needed.

With love and gratitude,
Susan Frank, C.S.B.
Missouri Committee on Publication

Contact COM:

Susan Frank
Christian Science Committee on Publication for Missouri
167 Lamp and Lantern Village, Box 185
Chesterfield, MO 63017
missouri@compub.org
Mobile: 314-503-8042

Administrative Assistant:

Allison Eggers
mocompubasst@gmail.com
Mobile: 617-435-2884