

WatchWords

"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..." Church Manual, Article XXXIII, Section 2

PLEASE NOTE:
OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPT. 7, IN
OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.

**2020 Annual ACOM
Conference Sat., Sept. 12
(See pg. 3)**



From Southern California Committee on Publication, Anne Cooling:

The Committee family worldwide has been exploring together how the Committee as part of church is responding with healing to the pandemic. Two impositions have surfaced to specifically address, which I invite you to join our international church family in prayer as September and October's WatchWords prayer topics. First, **September's imposition to correct prayerfully: The false belief that church is a source of danger and inequity instead of wisdom, healing and love.** We have been working with the following citations which have been shared within the Committee family.

Citations: John 15: 1-5; SH 224:22; SH 583:10; Mis 206:24-6; Mis 223:20; Pul 2:27 - 5:5; '01 34:16-10; '02 17:7-21; Peo 14:11; My 201:29; My 202:13, 23-25; My 223:26-20; My 232:9-27 *np*; My 246:30-30 *np*.

The following is what has come to my prayers regarding this topic:

I have been praying about church, and listening for a clearer sense of how we practice church today. I affirm God guiding each of us to answer the call of today and think about church in a new, powerful and healing way to fulfill its mission. Knowing nothing can stop that fulfillment. As I was praying one morning, the real shift in thought that came for me was this incredible recognition that all the prayers from all of us in the church were supporting each other. In addition, the power that lies behind the mission of church -- which is a spiritual idea -- is supporting all of our prayers. It was such a powerful thought.

In connection with this unfoldment are ideas from a biography I'm reading as part of our all Committee assignment, I chose *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*,

Expanded Series, Volume 2. On pages 159-161, Joseph Mann talks about Mrs. Eddy's divinely impelled leadership. He says "Her leadership lay in her own consecrated following of the Christ. In humility she could teach and lead them through love demonstrated in healing, but she could not personally rule. Her leadership of love practically demonstrated love amounting to law, divinely, not humanly, enforced."

Joseph Mann writes of a conversation between a student saying to Mrs. Eddy, "I'll follow you faithfully as far as I can see." Her swift reply rebuking his limited sense was, "You can't see, you will have to walk by faith."

Mann then gives Mrs. Eddy's description of church as "the spiritual building, which overcomes the world, the flesh and the devil, for whose superstructure of self-sacrifice Christ Jesus laid the foundation." This beautiful, clear description of church makes me realize that our churches are very much open and alive to the spiritual idea of church, because this is exactly what I am hearing from the field



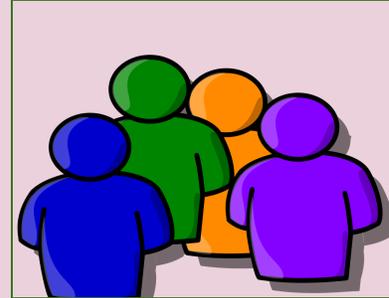
we are doing. There are some key questions we can ask ourselves in prayer to more deeply align and engage with this understanding of church and the blessings that await from this endeavor: Are we overcoming the world or are we arguing with the devil? Are we willing to cherish in our practice of church the self-sacrifice called for at this pivotal moment? Churches around the world are asking these same types of questions.

Another interesting excerpt from my reading, Joseph Mann had an incredible healing which brought him into Christian Science, basically the belief he was shot in the heart and was quickly healed. And at one point in time our Leader said to him -- and I thought of this in terms of our church -- "...you had a wonderful experience, you were thrown violently out of the house and picked up yourself outside. Go not back into the house." I am recognizing that we're not going to be in the same place we were before. We can expect to be in a better place because of the specific prayer we're embracing, getting ourselves laid on the foundation of the mission of church and letting church hold us up. This prayer naturally ripples out to our neighbors. Our Leader practiced this necessity. Mann, among other early workers, indicates Mrs. Eddy dedicated a special hour of prayer for the world. (pg. 169)

ASSISTANT COMMITTEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year, the Annual Assistant Committee (ACOM) conference, on **Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020** will be online using Zoom.com* technology, which can also be accessed by phone. The conference is now scheduled for a 3-hour timeframe, from 9am to noon (join Zoom beginning at 8:45).

The theme for this year's meeting is: **Leading the Way in Public Thought**. The keynote speaker is Wendy Manker. Her talk is entitled, "Time to Wake Up and See the Fields Already White for Harvest." Manager of Committees on Publication, Kevin Ness, will give our opening report as usual. Deb Sherwood, Special Assistant to the Manager, and Eric Nelson, Northern California Committee on Publication, will also be joining us with reports and for dialogue.



As in past conferences, we are inviting all ACOMs (or a representative from your church) to **register for this event**. The online registration process is now in place and [just open the link here](#) to go directly to the registration form. You may also register via a telephone call to our office. Meeting sign-in information and Zoom.com practice session opportunities will be emailed once you have registered.

Our Zoom settings limit the meeting to 100 participants, so we are not able to accommodate separate registration for church member guests of ACOMs this year, unless guests join the ACOM at his/her computer screen/speaker phone. Please let us know who will be joining you on your Zoom sign-in during registration.

*Information about Zoom technology will be shared once you are registered.

Closing Share: A practitioner wrote Lady Astor, the first female member of Parliament in the UK and a Christian Scientist, "Someone near to Mary Baker Eddy said, 'Whatever the condition or circumstance, we can and must love our way out.' The only place you can meet the sense of strife in your life is in your own sense of what alone is real (the presence and love of God)." [Hayward, MS 14116/1/2/583, Letter]

Jesus healing others during his experience on the cross is our example -- from quoting Ps. 22 in order to correct the imposition of those who mocked him reminding them of God's power to deliver the afflicted, to saving the man crucified with him, to caring for his own mom, to healing the man at Gethsemane of the slain ear, to awakening/warning the sleepy disciples. Healing opportunities are before us on this cross today. Love reflected brings resurrection, fulfilling God's crowning purpose, and leading to greater heights.