

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL WORK IN CALIFORNIA

Selected Chaplain and Corresponding Chaplain Fruitage Reports April - June 2025

Corresponding Chaplain: An incarcerated man, who asked for prayerful support regarding painful knees that made walking and exercising difficult, reported he was healed. He also said he struggled through a “period of dark thoughts from his past” for about two weeks. But then one day he realized God had been present with him the whole time, and the dark thoughts disappeared.

A recently returned citizen, with whom I corresponded for four years, continues to share and grow in Christian Science and will be a guest speaker at the upcoming Embraced Fully Conference in Washington, D.C. One of his favorite phrases is, “God is good – all the time!” He has made wonderful progress since his release (started his own handyman business, has a car, and his own apartment) and is regularly going to the Christian Science branch church where he is a member.

Another incarcerated man wrote an article—including a wonderful testimony—for submission to the Christian Science periodicals, which I will submit for him. He is a Mother Church member and turns to Christian Science for support when he needs it.

Chaplain: One incarcerated woman told us that she had been experiencing severe pains in her abdomen. She said its duration and severity had caused her to call for medical aid. They eventually diagnosed a problem which they scheduled surgery for. However, she requested prayer, and we discussed how we could pray together. In our prayer we handled fear, and I saw clearly that God created her in His spiritual likeness, and since God included no disease, she couldn’t either. I saw clearly that there could be “nothing abnormal there,” if God, good, fills all space. This meant health was the normal and present state of man, and this included the woman. The woman reported that when she was being prepared for surgery, they took another X-ray and seemed confused and surprised. They came to her and said the X-ray showed there was nothing there and no need for surgery. The pain left immediately and the whole problem vanished. She has reported that the healing has been complete, and she has had no further problems.

Chaplain: One man I minister to recounted his experience. He has been taking a bigger interest in preparing for upcoming hearings—he’s been told that because he was incarcerated at an age where the system says youths’ brains are not fully developed, his case is under scrutiny for possible release. (We know that God’s real man was and is made PERFECT.) He was feeling at the lowest point in his life, following hearing after hearing, where for all sorts of reasons his case either wasn’t being heard, there was lack of evidence

in his behalf, or whatever the reason, and so he felt completely lost and doomed. A friend of his then approached him with a great need of support. He turned to Christian Science and began reading to her that week's Bible Lesson. As he read the words, spiritual truths began to take hold of his own thinking. He said to himself, "Oh my, this pertains to me and my needs, too." The more he read, the freer his thought became about his own situation. The cloud of doom lifted, and he had difficulty explaining to me how this had come about other than that he then felt total freedom, a complete sense of love, and an uplifted sense of knowing God's love for him right where he is. He said he knows God will direct his path and he's unafraid of the future, having confidence in God leading him through whatever that looks like.

Chaplain: Two new individuals have been recently added to my Chaplain visit roster, both having been recommended by "A," who I've been visiting in the jail for close to four years now. These are incarcerated men who have been drawn to the spiritual ideas "A" has been sharing with them on what he calls his "daily rounds." He has one hour out of his cell each day. He spends this time going to each cell to see what he can do for others. He will often get snacks for others from the commissary but will most often share spiritual ideas when it's appropriate. At one point during his incarceration at the jail, as he was reading the Bible, he became inspired to live a life of gratitude and giving. He decided to take a three-month period and count the deeds of kindness he was led to do for others and also the kindnesses that others did for him. In 2024 during a three-month period, he did 7,242 deeds of kindness for others, and 523 deeds of kindness were done to him. In 2025 during a three-month period he did 1,600 deeds of kindness for others, and 480 were done to him. (And yes, he has a way to keep track of all those!) He says it's all gratitude to God.

Chaplain: At prison chapel table where I facilitate our Christian Science services, I often cite and write on the board this line as our theme: "The fault is happy because it knows it deserves such redemption." This statement is voiced in the Golden Text of this week's Bible Lesson: "[T]he Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10) This speaks to the All-in-all inclusiveness of the Christian Science healing Principle: Divine Love. This is the calling of our institutional chaplain work — the darkest realms.

It was said that Jesus descended into the darkest realms during his time in the sepulcher, implying that in his own solitude, his work was not yet done. I see that in the chaplain's work: seeking our own in the service of others. This has been my experience. In the May issue of The Christian Science Journal, I read a healing testimony titled: "Suicide averted and a life redeemed through Divine Love." In this testimony, the author stated: "In the New Testament there are many accounts of Jesus' encounters with individuals considered unlovable — unclean, sinners, mentally ill or sick. Rather than ignore or condemn them, he looked on them with compassion, understanding their sinless spiritual identity...this correct view healed the sick." — This again is the chaplain calling. — At our prison chapel table sits one who was incarcerated for an egregious sexual felony. Another was a member

of the Mexican cartel. Another committed a drunk driving homicide. Another spent 16 years in solitary confinement for multiple violent crimes. — But there we are, singing hymns and reciting the Lord's Prayer, reading and studying the Christian Science Bible Lesson, pausing to share our insights and interpretations as they apply to our circumstances. Deep unto deep, the sense I feel, bringing Christ into the room—the Living Christ. To see those you work with the way God sees them, brings out the divine seed in all of us—our true identity.

Chaplain: This last visit, I was approached by the Native American Chaplain. He suggested that he would be happy to hang up a flyer announcing my Bible Lesson study and post them in all the building units. The Muslim clerk overheard our discussion and within a few minutes had produced the flyer. And I just provided some minor edits about Christian Science. Blessings!

A short healing a few weeks ago: I awoke early one Sunday morning, preparing my thought to go in that afternoon to give two services at the Women's Prison, to be followed Monday with three services there and one at the Men's Prison. I was home by myself this particular weekend, and as I got up to open the window shade, I started having trouble breathing. I reached out, "Father-Mother, what would you like me to know of You this moment?" As the shade lifted, three deer were just walking by my window, ears moving to carefully listen, eyes looking in all directions. So that was the Father's angel: "Heard ye My allness? Saw ye My presence, felt ye My all-surrounding Spirit-breathing care?" Then the second angel appeared as I leaned on the copy machine at the window. I heard: "Do you know that I am Spirit, and you are My original reflection as in this glass below your hands? I am shining through you, dear reflection without stoppage, unobscured, without a burden...you are not the burden-carrier or deliverer of My message to the incarcerated. You are only to bear witness to how I am the Spirit speaking in each of my children." Wow...I found immediate freedom...breathing normalized, and I had two inspiring days at the prisons! Much gratitude.

Corresponding Chaplain: I ask God to enlarge my borders, as in the Prayer of Jabez (for God to bless me, to walk with me, to protect me from all evil and to enlarge my borders), and I continue to receive more and more incarcerated individuals requesting a Corresponding Chaplain. More of them are asking for me to pray for them daily as they strive to walk in their spiritual journeys. More are expressing gratitude for the Christian Science Bible Lessons and periodicals. More Christian Scientists are asking me to mentor them as they begin the Corresponding Chaplain work. More interfaith friends are expressing an interest in the prison ministry and how we can work together in this.

Chaplain: "I have been looking for this [Christian Science] my whole life," the incarcerated man told me. "I am actually glad I got arrested!" This man is a friend of the woman who I have been serving since October at the county jail. I was alerted by a friend from church to her desire to see "the woman with the book with the cross on it." My church friend knew

this young woman and had already shared Christian Science with her prior to her arrest. This woman has been receptive and open to every article and periodical I have brought to her, eager to ask for and receive her own Science and Health. Apparently, she had told her male friend about Christian Science prior to her incarceration, but hadn't gotten his attention. After visiting her, I went to the jail clerk who gave me an appointment to see him the following week. The next day I hand-delivered a Bible Lesson, a couple of articles, a Christian Science Monitor, and a short letter of introduction, explaining I was a chaplain and that I would be meeting with him the next week. Waiting for him to arrive, I was praying, as I often do. When I opened my eyes, he was already sitting in front of me, with a big smile on his face. After we began to communicate by phone, he said he wants to learn to pray—to be as quiet as I am. He asked for and received a paperback Science and Health. He calls it “The Key.”

Chaplain: As always, there is much learning and growth going on for each individual I visit at the county jail. One person was raised in the Jewish faith, but then studied many Eastern religions and is now particularly drawn to Christianity. He appreciates reading Science & Health and loves the insights it gives him about Jesus' healings. He was able to talk with his sister lately and was grateful to have had a good, productive conversation with her. He attributes this to the peace he is feeling from his study, for they had been estranged for some time.

Chaplain: One of the incarcerated men we minister to asked if we would call one of his daughters, as she is living in her car, was kicked out of the house due to family issues, and isn't speaking with her dad. After our Monday service, that evening and early in the morning, I was praying for guidance in what to say. I had thought even if I were to leave her a message, how could I let her know she is LOVED. She took my call! We were on the phone for nearly an hour. I “emerged gently” with ideas (from God) on who I was, and how I was acquainted with her dad, and how he is applying what he is learning about himself, his relationship with God, and how he is putting on the new man. He also wanted her to know he understands her frustration that he's in prison and not dealing with the mom's serious illness or supporting the children (all grown adults) and how they are taking care of their mom. I explained how I have dealt with personal family issues, and my reliance on opening myself up to God for answers when I am “stuck.” She thanked me over and over for reaching out to her, and she said this is just what she needed. I thanked God for giving me the words and thoughts to demonstrate kindness to my fellow man. The incarcerated man also stated that that conversation opened their once-closed doors of communication with each other.

Chaplain: Someone I've been visiting regularly for a while told me that, on Father's Day, his grandmother and his son stood outside the jail where he could see them from his window. They were holding a bouquet of balloons. He also shared with me that during a regular appointment with a doctor, he was told he is no longer pre-diabetic. He considers

this to be a side effect of prayer. Another man told me he no longer recognizes the version of himself that was put in jail. He studies the Bible on a daily basis; he loves reading The Christian Science Monitor and Sentinel; and he knows that happiness is not dependent upon external conditions, but rather comes from God.

Chaplain: An incarcerated woman I minister to had been feeling worn out and depressed due to a very challenging room situation. A bully in the room was oppressing her and engaging in very loud, obscene, and inappropriate phone calls with men from morning till night. The woman I see tried earplugs, but this was going on just feet from her bunk starting at 6 am and lasting sometimes to 10 pm daily. She was praying diligently, and these many thoughtless and hurtful, controlling, and hateful actions were opportunities to practice not reacting and knowing she dwelt in the kingdom of heaven, not a depraved atmosphere. We were praying that the love of Good is never absent and there is only one Mind, God. We were realizing that Mind relates and places man in His God-ordered universe of right ideas and His law is forever operating to provide refuge, safety, purity, and right activity. Finally, the woman I see was asked by staff to assist two other incarcerated women with moving out of a room that had been experiencing many disagreements. After doing so, she realized that the women left in the room could provide a better atmosphere, as she had lived with them before and knew their habits and characteristics. She asked if moving in would be acceptable to them and they agreed. The woman took the time to pull aside her former roommate (the bully) and let her know that although she was moving, she wanted her to know that they were on good terms presently, and that they would remain friendly. The woman gave her a hug and appreciated the communication. There were other issues with the former roommate trying to direct how the move took place, but these challenges were met patiently and with a satisfactory resolution. This woman is most grateful for the much improved, quieter arrangement which is more conducive to her study of Christian Science.

Chaplain: An incarcerated man I've visited for over three years is a very dedicated student of the Bible and Science and Health. He helps and inspires others in his jail pod and shared with me how he was "introduced to God" as he calls it. When he was first arrested (almost 10 years ago), he was put in solitary confinement. Not only that, he was shackled to his bed. He was not allowed any human contact at all. The only thing they allowed him to have was his Bible. Even though his hands were shackled, he was still able to read it. When he opened the Bible he thought to himself, "Well, I can't talk with any people, but I can talk with Noah, Moses, David, Elijah, Elisha, Job, Jesus, Paul..." The Bible was his everything during that time and has remained so to this day. He has read it numerous times from front to back and then back to front. He knows it so well that when he talks to others in his pod who are asking for help or inspiration, he can go directly to a Bible story and character that will meet their need. He tells me, "It was the shackles that introduced me to God." He is truly an inspiration!