CHRISTIAN SCIENCE COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL WORK IN CALIFORNIA

Selected Chaplain and Corresponding Chaplain Fruitage Reports
August - October 2026

Chaplain: Returning to the prison has been good. There is a lot of enthusiasm! I have taken to complimenting the Sergeant on the yard for the helpfulness of the staff—those who call the men out to the services. I really appreciate the sense of cooperation. I never used to do that. I was inspired to give the compliment one day, and it blesses all of us.
A new volunteer has given me some new perspectives. I'm not sure what she was expect find, but she was very surprised at the low key, relaxed atmosphere in the chapel. The incarcerated individuals in attendance are smiling, shaking hands, and very relaxed. She said she didn't expect that. I explained that these are folks who return to the chapel regularly, want to be there, and hope to gain a new understanding. Prayer for peace, stability, and to follow the life and teachings of Christ Jesus are ongoing. Some individuals truly do want a new way of looking at things. Some have sentences of 20, 30 or life in prison. They know they will be there a long time and are learning new ways of praying and living. It's somewhat amazing to me also, along with our new volunteer, that the men wave and are smiling when they see us. Helping them learn about a new relationship with God, a new understanding of Biblical passages, and a hope to gain a new foundation for moving forward, is why we attend. We are fortunate to witness the joy these men show in their newfound ability to see themselves in a completely new way. I am planning a Thanksgiving hymn sing and I know from past experience that we can expect a chapel full of joyful singing. At one such event a man asked where his wife could find a Christian Science church. That was a delightful question!

Chaplain: Three incarcerated men at the jail have asked me to pray for them and for their family members. One reported back a sense of peace; another was grateful for relief of financial worries for her adult children; and another man's girlfriend's health needs were being met.

Chaplain: I went to the unit that I'm assigned to at juvenile hall this month. I'm still only able to meet with the youth individually, for 5-10 minutes each. This past month 3 youth came each time for Bible Study. The first of the two weeks the youth updated me on the classes they are taking (high school and college level). The second week we discussed the account from the Bible Lesson of Jesus walking on the water, and Peter getting out of the boat (Matt 14: 22-32). I asked them if they thought Peter failed; what they thought about the disciples that just stayed in the boat; and if they want to be like Peter, or stay in the comfort of the boat. I also pointed out that when Peter was struggling/sinking, Jesus didn't abandon him, or rather, he immediately reached out to lift him up.

Chaplain: An incarcerated individual who I meet with 1 on 1 at the jail told me about significant steps towards healing that his father had. They were talking on the phone and his father (who lives in Central America) said he had an appointment with a doctor who told him he wasn't going

to live long because his kidneys were failing. The father was remorseful about the way he had treated his family and others in the past and felt this illness was punishment for that. His son told him, "All that stuff you did to others that wasn't good, wasn't really you. God made you or and that's all He sees." He went on to say, "When you choose to do the right thing, the real man that you are is safe. The body is not you, so don't be afraid for the body. And stay close to God don't fight with God about any of it." Shortly thereafter soon his dad and he were laughing and having a great conversation. This hadn't happened in years, and the man felt his dad was on his way to permanent healing. Subsequent conversations confirm this.

Another individual that I've been visiting for a while reminded me of a term we had discussed not long ago – phototropism. In biology it means plants grow towards the light. Looking at it spiritually, we talked about how the light represents God and all that is good and true. Since we are God's very expression, we are naturally attracted to the light of spiritual ideas that make us grow. Our new term has become "spiritual tropism." Healing happens when we naturally do what plants do: turn towards the light which is God. I love that he reminded me of this.

Corresponding Chaplain: One individual, who has become a faithful and dedicated student of Christian Science, reported that he had experienced a recent hardship (he did not disclose what it was). This hardship brought him to another low point where he began to question his faith. He stated that he was able to quickly pull out of this and draw closer to God and to Christ Jesus. He felt this was just another opportunity to feel his oneness with God. He stated that he had a revelation that now is the time for him to offer himself in the Christ ministry to the younger inmates. He had felt this was becoming a right idea, but with this recent challenge, he felt he was being spoken to directly by the Christ to begin this ministry in earnest. He has demonstrated good humor and an elevated outlook on life which he shares with me and with others.

Chaplain: Six gentlemen attended the service which started with the Lord's Prayer. I ask what was on their mind. They said a murder occurred in this cell one month ago. We talked about seeing the true nature of man, clean, pure and undefiled, just reflecting the Father. We talked about Jesus on the cross and forgiving those who were crucifying him, and his followers who had deserted him except for Mary. We read aloud Jesus healing the unclean spirit, and discussed what compassion was, and that there is a law of God that applied to healing then and applies now, and it is the same law. Effective prayer can help in this situation, I said, and I told the story of Christian Science lecturer Bobby Lewis in his "Effective Prayer" lecture—being lost with his family in a Colorado cave, and how effective prayer healed the situation. We talked about how we leave the material sense of things behind and listen and watch for an answer from God. No matter how long it takes.

Everyone was attentive, and some helped read aloud. We talked about needing an answer and opening the Bible and putting your finger down and finding help, and at least one gentleman said he had done that. I told about the story of Mary Baker Eddy and her healing ability on the farm, and about her Christian parents, one reading Scripture to her daily and one focusing on love. I told the story of her fall on ice and her own healing, and her healing a woman in 20 minutes who was on a death watch. I told them the Bible has all the answers; the companion textbook simply

helps explain the Bible. I talked about why it is called a “Science.” I told them about the 100 pages of healing not written by her, but by readers who had simply read Science & Health and were healed, often of things they hadn’t even tried to be healed of. Two gentlemen wanted an English/Spanish Science & Health, and one gentleman wanted a copy in English.

Chaplain: I had a long discussion with an incarcerated man who came to reiterate his thanks for the way Christian Science views man as beloved and good, rather than broken and bad and under criticism from God. He is actively trying to put scientific Christianity into practice, and we were able to talk about several personal situations which would not have been possible in the group setting. Another man came up and said how much he had appreciated a video one-on-one many months ago, and he requested on his tablet for another. It was denied, so he sat with us and joined in. He was extremely grateful to see that yes, he could choose to love unconditionally as our Master demonstrated, that it was his natural state and expression as the child of God. He had felt he could not legitimately aspire to be like Christ Jesus and was surprised but pleased to see that he could!

One man had found a Christian Science textbook left by another man, and we discussed the origin of the book and the progressive flow of the chapters as Mrs. Eddy recounts her revelation. He had been reading the chapter Fruitage” and was very interested in spiritual healing of a particular challenge. I was able to use the moment to point out certain passages in the textbook that summarize the process of understanding the truth of man’s identity, and how that resu healing. Another man had tears in his eyes as he recounted his formal religious upbringing and now saw clearly how he had become enamored of material possessions as the measure of man. He was feeling huge relief to be reconnected to feeling his innate sense of being the spiritual image of God, and to the continuous forgiveness of our Father for him and all mankind.

Several men reported substantial progress in feeling they can now more easily let go of habitual practice, and we covered a lot of ground in very practical considerations of how to confidently center in our present wholeness—founded on our understanding of the present wholeness of God and the consequent spiritual wholeness of man. It was a challenge for many to let go of customary interpretations of Bible passages that propose that God is like man—angry, jealous, etc.—but at every turn, a simpler answer was that God is Love. The evidence is within us, each moment, in our innermost desire.

Chaplain: I continue to practice “walking among them” within the ALPHA compound yard and visiting the cell dormitory “Day Rooms.” This practice involves a half hour prayer preparation in the chapel, that I may present myself as a transparency for Christ — so far, I have had no specific agenda but to present myself as an open-hearted transparency for Christ. In this capacity I have been well received by the prison community, where many call out or approach me for meaningful spiritual engagement. Wearing the Christian Science Chaplain badge, inevitably there will be inquiries into Christian Science. I do carry with me a packet of “What Is Christian Science?” brochures that I hand out. This reporting period I spoke of our upcoming Christian Science prison lecture on November 12th. On my next chaplain walk about, I hope to have the prison lecture flyers to hand out. In checking the chapel service sign-up listings, I noted 14 new sign-ups for Christian Science services. Because of that, I will need to resume the chapel services where the

focus is an engaged study of the Bible Lessons. I'm thinking of alternating between walk a
and chapel services every other visiting week.

Chaplain: One of the individuals I visit one-on-one had a healing of "resistance." He had been trying to write a letter of apology to his sister and hit a wall every time. As we worked from the basis of his pure desire to communicate honestly with his sister, we concentrated on the passage in *Science and Health* that states on pg. 1: "Thoughts unspoken are not unknown to the divi Mind. Desire is prayer; and no loss can occur from trusting God with our desires, that they may be moulded and exalted before they take form in words and in deeds." This resonated wit He especially appreciated that God knows our need BEFORE we ask. And an honest motive is always rewarded. Recently he said he was able to write his sister a 15-page letter that was sent from the heart.

Chaplain: Eight gentlemen attended at my picnic table and one at another table where he was last week. I introduced myself and Christian Science and that these services are being held around the world today. . . . I spoke about Mary Baker Eddy and her listening to God and writing the textbook to tell the world what she was impelled to write. I suggested memorizing the 23rd Psalm: first start with the first verse, then add the second and say them together, then the third verse, and say them, etc., in the group, aloud. It's kind of a game but will serve you the r your life in trials. I spoke about trials, that these verses will help going into a courtroom, but also facing the trials ahead in their life.

Chaplain: I was able to meet with a Spanish-speaking woman three times. Before I leave my home for jail, I use Google Translate to make a script of the ideas I want to share. When meeting in person, we both use our Spanish/English or English/Spanish dictionaries to aid our communication. Since the only true language is Love, our sessions are productive. One week I had her read the parable of the Persistent Widow (Luke 18: 1 – 6; what prayer should be) and verses 9 – 14 (how to pray/how not to pray). I recommended she study the chapter in Science and Health, "Prayer." No te rindas (don't give up); no cedas (don't give in); sigue orando (keep praying).

Corresponding Chaplain: With gratitude, I encouraged the incarcerated individuals I correspond with to write a love letter to God. "Dear God" … and to use the synonyms Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth and Love. Then, when they read it back to themselves, they could replace "God" with their own name! That's how we can more clearly see ourselves as God sees us. I wrote a love letter to God, reversed it, and wrote the letter back to myself and included it in the letter I sent to them. Then I wrote a love letter from God to each one of them.

I invited them to hold hands with me in thought and cross the bridge that seems to say, "You and I are separate from God!" I think writing this letter, and reading it, be more than one, will help us to run into God's waiting arms! God has created us in "His image and likeness, and beho very good…" (See Genesis 1) Who are we to say that this is not so? Learning how to view ourselves as included in God's consciousness, His kingdom of heaven, is so healing! It hel to recognize that as far as God is concerned, we have always been in His consciousness, in His kingdom.