

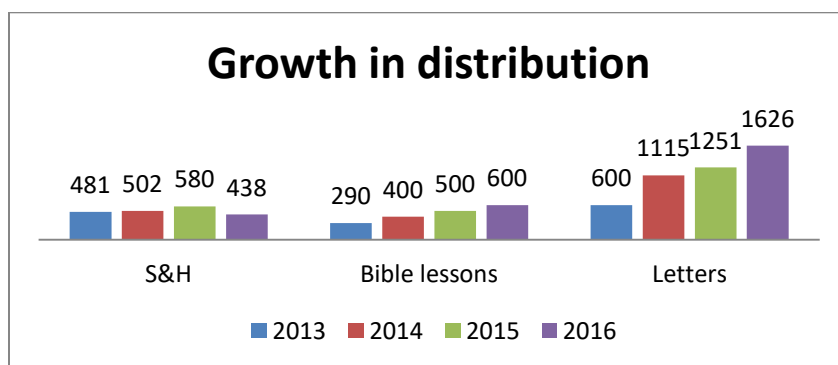
The Christian Science Committee for Institutional Work in Texas

Date: January 15, 2017
Subject: **2016 Year End Report**
To: The Christian Science Branch Churches and Societies in Texas

This committee's healing service is in response to requests all over the state. We are thriving!
"The human affections need to be changed from self to benevolence and love for God and man; to having but one God and loving Him supremely, and helping our brother man. This change of heart is essential to Christianity, and will have its effect physically as well as spiritually, healing disease." *Misc 50:27*

Distribution Activity: The thirst for our Pastor and subscriptions to the publications is constant. Distribution results for 2016 from the State office are as follows:

- *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* – 219 English and 19 Spanish mailed; 200 provided to volunteers to distribute
- Bibles – 142 English 14 Spanish mailed
- *The Christian Science Monitor* – 45 facility & 185 one- year subscriptions for individuals; 417 donated copies distributed to the inmates from this office
- *Christian Science Sentinel* – 278 donated copies mailed from office; 129 subscriptions
- *Herald of Christian Science* – 45 mailed from office
- *myBibleLesson* – 600 subscriptions through bulk license up from 525 in 2015; 480 weekly recipients – 120 copies are mailed to volunteer chaplains
- 241 new requests to be added to the Bible lesson mailing list. 164 names were removed
- Spanish Full Text edition - 90 mailed - began with 7 recipients, now have 12 recipients
- 1000 Thanksgiving lessons
- Letters from this office to inmates – 1,626
- 3 new members of The Mother Church



2016 Annual Meeting: Please join us in giving thanks to outgoing Chair Don Eyeran, CS from the San Antonio area and Sammie Gray, CS from the Austin area for their years of service on the Board as zone representatives. We extend a big welcome to the new San Antonio zone representative Hal Shrewsbury, CS and to Suzanne Davis, the new Austin zone representative. Here is your new State Committee:

Chair – Eleanor Bigbie – East At Large Member -2019
Vice Chair – George Nutwell – Houston Zone - 2019
Shellie Evans – West At Large Member - 2018
Suzanne Davis – Austin Zone - 2020
Hal Shrewsbury, CS – San Antonio Zone -2020
Patty Woodard, CS – DFW Zone - 2018

We had an incredible afternoon of sharing and support. Christian Science practitioner and volunteer chaplain for 20+ years, Hal Shrewsbury, CS led the way with an inspiring talk. You can read it at <http://christiansciencedallas.com/programs/outreach-to-prisons/> His talk was followed by 90 minutes of testimonies from the over 40 in attendance!

A special attendee was a recent parolee. He shared his gratitude for Christian Science, the volunteers, and the services provided to him while he was incarcerated. In his words, "I spent 16 years and 7 months in prison until I paroled out on 12 February 2016. In the year 2006, I read a book called *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne. This book expressed many truths like *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. I was drawn to Christian Science and a good friend of mine named K.B. is a Christian Scientist. We began to go to a new Christian Science weekly Bible lesson class. Jim Dinsmore (and others) started this class. I am very thankful to them and the Institutional committee for that. I believe I first attended services at the end of 2007. When I first attended, there were only 6 of us attending. Last Wednesday, there were 115 offenders attending the service. When I left Coffield in September 2015, we had about 29 offenders attending the service every week. In 1 year and 2 months, the attendance has more than tripled! Wow! When the Truth is shown and understood, people are drawn to it. They tell others the Truth, who then understand and soon we need more volunteers!

"We are not called 'inmates' anymore. We are called 'Offenders'. At the Annual Institutional committee meeting I held up my prison ID to show prisoners are called OFFENDERS. Christian Science points out that we are not offenders. We are the image and likeness of God. We are God's reflection. As God's reflection, we cannot be anything but perfect.

"I wanted to thank each and every one of you for volunteering, your prayers, your guidance, all the literature you send us; but most of all, for the love you all give to every offender in and out of prison. We are humble and thankful for any and all love expressed to us. Love can be a simple handshake, maybe even a Christian Science Bible lesson. God is Love.

"Prisoners released on parole still need help as I have experienced firsthand. I hope through my experience that I can help others who get out on parole." Darryl Scott

Zone Update

San Antonio Zone

- Two chaplains visit the Bexar County Jail twice a month with 30 men attending the Bible study class, filling the room to capacity every time.
- The Applewhite Substance Abuse Training Facility has a very active volunteer who provided 55 Bible classes to 226 individuals, giving away 12 Bibles and 23 *Science and Health*.
- The Laurel Ridge Treatment Center volunteer conducts Bible classes for the Wounded Warrior program at the facility. 111 attendees participated in classes this year. 9 Bibles and 1 *Science and Health* were shared.
- 129 youngsters at the Bexar County Juvenile Detention Center have participated in Bible classes offered by the volunteer. Laura LaPointe, CS gave a lecture to 39 girls on October 10th called "The Way Out for You." 34 Bibles and copies of *Science and Health* were given away that day.
- Spanish Bible services were provided the first half of the year at the Karnes County Correctional Center. The volunteer conducted 34 services to 492 attendees. Jose de Dios Mata, CSB spoke in March to 20 men.
- 38 church services were conducted at the Torres Unit in Hondo. The New Braunfels branch also has volunteers that provide spiritual support through letters and articles.

Houston Zone

- There are three areas that the volunteers are addressing: letter writing, state facilities and Harris County Jail, the 3rd largest jail in the nation. The letter writing has touched 33 inmates that would not otherwise have contact with a chaplain.
- The Walls Unit in Huntsville receives bi-weekly services and DVD lectures.
- The Ramsey Unit is re-launching weekly services. There are Mother Church members at this unit.

- The chaplain visits at the Harris County jail have reached over 1,745 people.” Over 575 *Science and Health* and over 300 Bibles were distributed by the volunteers, as well as 10 *Prose Works* and many other Reading Room periodicals.
- They report, “We have visited special cell blocks such as military veterans, transgender, protective custody, medical and mental health units. The veterans, many who suffer from PTSD and substance abuse, are very grateful for our visits. The transgender inmates feel especially isolated and are not visited by many of the other churches. They keep a little library of CS materials in the center of their cell block.”

Austin Zone

- Continues its long-standing support of the Gardner-Betts Juvenile unit. One volunteer is available to visit the females in the local state facilities. The branch members in this zone provide deep metaphysical support for all the work going on throughout the state.

DFW Zone

- Is extremely grateful for the 24 volunteers who provide over 200 services at five facilities: state units, Coffield and Michael; federal units, Seagoville and FMC Carswell; services and chaplain visits at Dallas County Jail; and literature at the Denton County Jail.
- The Coffield Unit volunteers also provide a Thanksgiving service. The testimony portion of the service contained heartfelt gratitude and healing.
- We are very grateful to have been able to have 9 lectures in the zone in 2016. “This lecture activity is key to the growth of the CS movement in our Zone” wrote volunteer Patty Woodard.
- This zone has close to 200 offenders it serves every week.
- Hundreds of *Monitors* and *Sentinels* are shared quarterly.
- Four volunteers mentor through the mail.

At Large areas

- Nate Frederick, CS spoke in Abilene at the Middleton Unit in October to 122 men.
- Abilene, McAllen and Lubbock members are answering letters and embracing the seekers drawn to reach out to them.
- Two El Paso volunteer chaplains continue to serve at the El Paso County jail.

Inmates thirsting

- M. D. –Wynne Unit “These lessons are shared among others and mean so much to more than just me. Thank you so much!”
- M.S. – Gist Unit “Thank you, so very much for the priceless gift of right thinking.”
- S.B. – Torres Unit “The things I’ve learned in the last three years have equipped me with the tools and knowledge to be a better father, and a productive member of society. I owe these changes to the time and efforts of the people on the Committee. Thank you for the lessons.”
- W.P. – Garza West Unit “Christian Science has brought me to a higher level of serving and understanding God than I ever thought possible. I thank the church and the people in it. Since I’ve started studying Christian Science two years ago God has taken away my hepatitis C and cured my heart damage and my high blood pressure. But most importantly he has cleaned my soul from hate and greed and sadness. I now have a joy and happiness that I can’t explain.”
- J.C. – Ramsey Unit (In reference to the Bible lessons) “The readings have been spiritually uplifting and enlightening. After so long of questions and unfulfillment I honestly do feel I may have found just the place for the theology and teachings agree so wonderfully with my spirit. I look forward every week to our gathering here on the unit. A friend of mine, who happens to be Catholic, attended service with me on Christmas day. He was well impressed and so pleased with (the volunteer’s) teachings and explanations that he has committed to attend services with me until he leaves. He has even expressed a desire to visit one of the churches when he gets home.”

- J.B. – Coffield Unit “Words cannot express my gratitude to God and for Christian Science. I used to have real bad seizures every other day. I started to write Mrs. K. About six months into our writing I finally started reading Science and Health. I saw it offered something substantial. After a few months and study Christian Science praying about everyday 4 or 5 times a day I am happy to say I haven’t had a seizure in over 2 1/2 years, not a one. I want to work, watch and pray for the mind of Christ that I may work rightly in God’s vineyard and I know that in truth what belongs to one belongs to all.”
- E.J. – Harris Co. Jail “The reality of the Christian Science way of life and its ‘Light’ upon the world has continually made its way upon the pathway of my spiritual journey. I have connected with and accepted the Divine Principles upon which Christian Science stands. It has been the type of inspiration which has empowered my daily efforts toward spiritual growth and awareness.”

Where We Serve: The Committee is in contact with individuals in 93 facilities throughout the state encompassing federal, state, and county jurisdictions!

- There are three federal facilities, one female and two male.
- Four county facilities- Dallas, Harris, El Paso, and Bexar have church services and/or chaplain visits.
- Facilities with large groups of offenders receiving the weekly Bible lessons.
 - Coffield Unit in Tennessee Colony has 103 men – has weekly services.
 - Michael Unit in Tennessee Colony has 49 men – has weekly services.
 - Clements Unit in the Amarillo area has 20 men.
 - Ramsey 1 Unit in Rosharon has 14 men – **needs volunteers for new services.**
 - Stiles Unit in Beaumont has 13 men – **needs volunteers to begin services.**
 - Allred Unit in the Wichita Falls area has 8 men.
 - The Gatesville area – Crain 8 women, Murray 10 women, Hughes 7 men.
 - The Waco area female facilities – Marlin 11 and Hobby 9 recipients.
 - The Huntsville area facilities – Estelle 17, Walls 9, and Wynne 7 all male and **needs volunteers for all three, especially new services at Estelle and Wynne.**

2017 Needs:

1. Additional volunteer chaplains in the DFW, Houston, and San Antonio zones.
2. Your individual support! The per capita was set at \$3.50 of the actual cost of \$9.95 per member per month. We have budgeted for 600 subscriptions to *myBibleLesson*. The lesson’s subscription, printing, packaging and postage are a monthly expense of \$3,560.00 or \$42,720.00 for the year.
3. We have committed to providing 200 *Christian Science Monitor* subscriptions and 150 *Christian Science Sentinel* subscriptions totaling \$32,650.00 and need your help to do so.

Checks can be made payable to the committee and mailed to the Executive Secretary at the address below or you can contribute online thru Pay Pal at: <http://christiansciencedallas.com/programs/outreach-to-prisons/>

Thank you for your continued metaphysical and financial support of this statewide activity.

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