

*****HIS BANNER OVER ME **THE BANNER** WAS LOVE *****
A NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS *** ANDREW W. HARTSOOK, EDITOR

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From: **WATCHES - PRAYERS -
ARGUMENTS**

Given to students by Mary Baker Eddy with a forward by
Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr., C.S.B.

Privately printed in 1950

ARGUMENT

Life is eternal and unchangeable, and can never grow old for time is not, and youth is immortal -- you have always existed, and always will exist, a perfect complete and finished work, a spiritual being created of and by Spirit and subject only to spiritual laws. You do now and ever must manifest the God-life that is shining in you. It is working always in every part of your being to will and to do. There can never be any loss of your faculties -- for they are of Soul, and not of sense. The Life and strength of which you are the constant recipient, are indestructible and infinite, and nothing can prevent their inflow. You are governed and sustained by perfect Love in which there is no fear of helplessness or death. Your faith and trust in the omnipotent power of Truth are perfect and unclouded, and you know that God is your sufficiency. Never was one of God's children palsied or helpless, for all His works are good and eternal. There is no mortal mind to say you are old or feeble. There is but one infinite Mind, which is the understanding of the truth of your being, and holds you in perfect harmony and health. (p. 37)

EVENING PRAYER

Before you are ready to close your eyes in sleep, be sure you are not holding anything unlovely in your consciousness, anything unlike God; laying aside every fear, put yourself entirely in His charge. Quiet yourself with the thought that He who has all power will protect you, give you health, and all you need in abundance, and know that whether sleeping or waking, you are safe because your life is hid with Christ in God. To declare that you are well is the exact truth; you are not flesh, but rather the ray of divine light that, shining upon flesh, makes it appear alive. This *you* is spiritual and cannot be sick. Remember that power is exerted by merely stating a truth. All truth is the work of God. Assert it constantly, even though your so-called human mind screams falsehood. It is to acknowledge Him, to have your mind stayed on Him, to be directly benefited by the activity of good. (p. 29)

INSTRUCTION 10/22/90

Overcome the love of personality and the fear of it. God is Person, but He is incorporeal. God is infinite Mind, and there is but one Mind, one God. He is the only Person, the Ego, the only I. We are not Person but the reflections of the one Person; members of that one Body which is Christ. That Body is not corporeal. It is infinite Mind, Spirit, substance. It is Love. Person is not finite, it is infinite. Person is not human, it is divine. I have contended against the personality of God because lexicographers define person finitely. Now as Christian Science defines Person, God is infinite Person and there is but one infinite. Let us not humanize or finitize personality. (p. 98)

PRAYER

We should pray for that Mind to be in us that was in Christ Jesus, not the man that was mortal. Never pray to have my mind as a person, for God is my Mind and yours and there is but one Mind. Christ expressed the Mind that is God, for Christ was the spiritual idea for that age and all ages, for this idea never changes; it is the same forever; it expresses Science. The female thought is its last fleshly embodiment because this thought expresses the Mother-God, the male the father. But remember these are concepts which we entertain; they are neither male nor female in the spiritual universe of God, and we shall gain this true sense of ourselves as God's ideas, spiritual personalities when the sense of life, substance and mind is gone forever from matter and Spirit to us is All-in-all. (p. 99)

ARGUMENT

Do not fear your sense of fear. It is nothing. We are as safe as omnipotent God. God's idea absolutely cannot fear; he knows there is just one Mind. Is he going to use that Mind to fear with? Is he living in God and still afraid? Is there anything outside of or beyond God? Is there anything inside God to fear? God made all and proclaimed it good. Fear is godless, mindless, powerless, not included in consciousness. Fear cannot act on mortal mind, body, understanding, does not manifest self either as subjective or objective; not mine or anybody's, and if I seem to fear, it is not my fear or anxiety and doesn't make any difference. God isn't afraid. My treatment isn't afraid. A Christian Science treatment dissipates all the supposititious presence, power, law of fear. Fear is a fake belief within a fake belief, without cause, effect or continuity. There is no personality. There is no mortal mind to embody itself

and call that embodiment by my name, and hold over it laws of limitation. God is Mind. I have the sense of that Mind. I have no mortal mind to look for pain or pleasure, health or sickness, strength or weakness, life or death. (p. 38)

CHURCH CLOSINGS

A comparison of the October 2022 and January 2023 issues of *The Christian Science Journal* reveals that the following churches have closed in the United States: Manville (Soc.) New Jersey; Taos (Soc.) New Mexico; Hudson (Soc.), Ohio; Brownsville (1st), Texas, and Onalaska (Soc.) Wisconsin. Since the count began in February 1987, 1,183 churches have closed and 86 have opened.

BRANCH CHURCHES WORLDWIDE

1908	1,059
1951	3,049 (2,279 US, 770 elsewhere)
1961	3,273
1993	2,467
2011	1,673
2012	1,666 (1,153 US, 513 elsewhere)
2013	1,632 (1,129 US, 503 elsewhere)
2014	1,563 (1,074 US, 489 elsewhere)
2015	1,552 (1,079 US, 473 elsewhere)
2016	1,492 (1,030 US, 462 elsewhere)
2017	1,435 (985 US, 450 elsewhere)
2018	1,405 (962 US, 443 elsewhere)
2019	1,375 (937 US, 438 elsewhere)
2020	1,342 (910 US, 432 elsewhere)
2021	1,302 (876 US, 426 elsewhere)
2022	1,261 (844 US, 417 elsewhere)

COLLEGE ORGANIZATIONS

1974	497 (433 US, 64 elsewhere)
1982	292 (233 US, 59 elsewhere)
2013	84 (57 US, 27 elsewhere)
2014	77 (52 US, 25 elsewhere)
2015	68 (51 US, 17 elsewhere)
2016	64 (50 US, 14 elsewhere)
2017	63 (48 US, 15 elsewhere)
2018	56 (41 US, 15 elsewhere)
2019	60 (44 US, 16 elsewhere)
2020	59 (42 US, 17 elsewhere)
2021	57 (39 US, 18 elsewhere)
2022	52 (32 US, 20 elsewhere)

Today there is not a single college organization in all of Europe. In the U.K. there are college organizations at Cambridge University and London South Bank University. In the U.S., there are college organizations in thirty-two states and the District of Columbia. In Africa there are eighteen college organizations in nine countries (Burundi (2), Cameroon (2), Democratic Republic of Congo (6), Republic of Congo (2), Liberia (1), Nigeria (2), Rwanda (1), Togo (1), Uganda (1).

There are no college organizations in Asia or South America.

Sunday school and church attendance by young people have decreased dramatically in most Christian denominations and have been replaced by social media via computer and a preoccupation with I-Phones and texting. Many problems among young people can be traced to these obsessions and their subsequent social isolation.

PRACTITIONERS AND TEACHERS

Practitioners Worldwide

1908	3,793
1951	10,503
June 2000	1,833
June 2005	1,433
June 2010	1,374
June 2012	1,383
June 2013	1,327
Dec. 2014	1,298
Dec. 2015	1,277
Dec. 2016	1,232
Dec. 2017	1,185
Dec. 2018	1,126
Dec. 2019	1,083
Dec. 2020	1,051
Dec. 2021	1,020
Dec. 2022	954

Teachers (CSBs) Worldwide

(*Still teaching classes)

Mar. 1992	250
Jan. 2000	193*
Jan. 2005	172*
Jun. 2010	182*
Jun. 2012	167*
Dec. 2013	186*
Dec. 2014	192*
Dec. 2015	208*
Dec. 2016	200*
Dec. 2017	184*
Dec. 2018	174*
Dec. 2019	190*
Dec. 2020	179*
Dec. 2021	167*
Dec. 2022	174*

There are currently four CSBs who are not teaching classes.

C.S. SENTINEL'S PAID SUBSCRIPTIONS

The U.S. Postal Service requires that periodicals distributed through the U.S. mail system publish their paid circulation numbers in October of every year. *The Christian Science Monitor* complied with this requirement, but the *Christian Science Sentinel* did not do so in 2022. Otherwise, the circulation figures up through 2021 for the *Sentinel* are as follows:

1933	170,784
1997	44,955
1998	50,868 * "life style" format
1999	53,290 began
2000	46,342
2001	48,899
2002	48,260
2003	45,047
2004	37,778
2005	36,384
2006	34,773
2007	32,341
2008	30,154
2009	24,130
2010	25,720
2011	24,016
2012	23,493
2013	19,346
2014	18,101
2015	17,573
2016	16,370
2017	15,126
2018	14,203
2019	11,728
2020	11,358
2021	10,492
2022	?

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR WEEKLY
PAID CIRCULATION**

The required Postal Service statement of current paid circulation appeared in the October 17, 2022, issue (p.2)

1933	129,260
1989	156,246 *Color format, fewer
1990	116,709 pages & greatly
1991	115,117 reduced advertising
1992	107,652 (Hoagland era began)
1993	103,607
1994	96,352
1995	86,479
1996	86,679
1997	77,507
1998	77,093
1999	72,498
2000	73,079
2001	70,324
2002	77,310
2003	72,463
2004	63,794
2005	54,726
2006	57,027
2007	52,813
2008	47,725
2009	48,435 *weekly format
	began

2010	76,869
2011	74,312
2012	59,775
2013	51,410
2014	43,163
2015	42,315
2016	39,609
2017	36,399
2018	31,096
2019	24,855
2020	23,141
2021	21,488
2022	20,184

The *Monitor* usually has a full page advertisement for the J.M. Smucker Company on the back cover and an occasional quarter-page or half-page ad inside.

BETWEEN TWO TOWERS

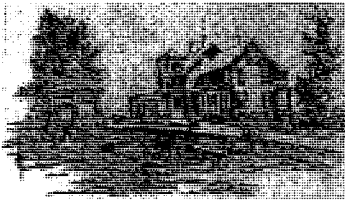
The book, *Between Two Towers: How the CIA Undermined a President and Looted an American Church* by Ted Seay reveals the dire financial situation that the church faces today. Excerpt: "If we take the number of churches worldwide as a proxy for membership, the college organizations number as indicative of youth interest in Christian Science, the number of practitioners and teachers (as well as paid subscriptions for the testimony-heavy Sentinel) as a gauge of the depth of commitment to Christian Science among its members and circulation for the Monitor as at least one indicator of public interest in the Church, a broadly secular trend emerges: The Christian Science movement has lost somewhere between 2 - 5% of its members every year since 1970. This has had serious implications for the Publishing Society, of course, and goes a long way toward explaining the incentives pushing Hoagland and Co. to take action in the 1980s and 90s." (p. 80) It was through John Hoagland that the intelligence agency gained access to church finances and the church's inner workings. All of the subsequent 50 and 99 year leases of buildings on the Christian Science Plaza become easier to understand after reading this book. To order online:

www.barnesandnoble.com/s/between+two+towers

**WHY US CHURCHES ARE ON THE
DECLINE**

The Guardian, a British newspaper, reported on January 22, 2023: "As the US adjusts to an increasingly non-religious population, thousands of churches are closing each year in the country -- a figure that experts believe may have accelerated since the Covid-19 pandemic..."

"About 4,500 Protestant churches closed in 2019, the last year data is available, with about 3,000 new churches opening, according to Lifeway Research. It was the first time the number of churches in the US



hadn't grown since the evangelical firm started studying the topic...

"A study by Pew Research found that the number of Americans who identified as Christian was 64% in 2020, with 30% of the U.S. population being classified as "religiously unaffiliated". About 6% of Americans identified with Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism.

"Since the 1990s, large numbers of Americans have left Christianity to join the growing ranks of US adults who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic or 'nothing in particular', Pew wrote...

"In 1972 92% of Americans said they were Christian, Pew reported, but by 2070 that number will drop to below 50% -- and the number of 'religiously unaffiliated' Americans -- or 'nones' will probably outnumber those adhering to Christianity...

"While grandparents might have been regular churchgoers, their children would say they believe in God, but not go to church regularly. By the time millennials came round, they had little experience or relationship with churchgoing or religion.

"Yes, there's financial pressures that will close a church, but oftentimes its more that they didn't figure out how to change when the community changed..."

Genocide in Nigeria, Armenia and Syria: The Persecution of Christians, December 2022

Gatestone Institute reported on January 22, 2023, in an article by Raymond Ibrahim: "These military attacks by Recep Tayyip Erdogan's regime are part of a wider Turkish policy of annihilation of the Kurdish and Assyrian (Christian) people in northern Syria and Iraq. Turkey has committed war crimes and crimes against humanity, including bombing, shelling, abduction, torture, and extrajudicial killings. The attacks are part of Turkey's genocidal policies towards Kurds, Christians and Ezidis." Genocide Watch, December 7, 2022, *Turkey*

On Dec. 17, a high-level Muslim official promulgated a new law saying that Christians could not celebrate Christmas without first obtaining a governmental permit. --Morning Star News, December 23, 2022, *Indonesia...*

The persecution of Egypt's Christian Copts is the longest ongoing persecution in the history of mankind, from 642 to today, 2022. Through all this time, maybe 70 years under British occupation were peaceful and good -- the golden era for Copts in all this duration... I know of no group that has been persecuted for nearly 1400 years with still no light at the end of the tunnel.