

HISTORY OF THE BOOKMARK

Ann Beals, publisher and editor of The Bookmark, is a life-long Christian Scientist and former member of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts. Her father, Harry Smith, was a lecturer and teacher in Atlanta, Georgia. She was at one time a member of the branch church in Decatur, Georgia, serving in many capacities. Later she became listed as a practitioner in The Christian Science Journal, and also contributed metaphysical articles to the Christian Science periodicals and the Christian Science Monitor.

During the years that Mrs. Beals was active in the Church, she was greatly concerned over the decline in membership and the need for better healing work. She felt that more profound writings on Christian Science should be published and freely circulated in order for the movement to go forward.

While living in Boston, she tried to talk with officials at The Mother Church, but she found that they would not consider publishing deeper works on Christian Science, nor would they permit any Church member to publish his or her own writings on Christian Science independently of the Church and remain a member in good standing. She was so convinced of the need for the publishing of such writings, that in 1974 she wrote and published her booklet, Animal Magnetism. Within a few months she was forced to resign her listing in the Journal, and the editors of the periodicals would no longer accept her articles.

A year later she met Reginald Kerry, who shared her great concern about the decline in the Church. He told her he was planning to write Letters to the Field about the immorality, corruption, and disobedience to the Church Manual taking place at Church headquarters on Boston. She assisted him in writing and sending these Letters. (See her book, Crisis in the Christian Science Church.)

In 1977, after the mailing of the fourth Kerry Letter, she moved to California. At the same time she learned of outstanding papers and books on Christian Science that were being suppressed by the Church. Convinced that these should be published and made available to the world, she started The Bookmark. She also began writing papers that would help others understand better how to demonstrate the healing power of Christian Science.

Today The Bookmark publishes the finest collection of writings on Christian Science found anywhere in the world. It provides not only profound transcripts and books by both early and contemporary Scientists, but it also offers memoirs and biographies about Mary Baker Eddy that give a true account of her life. The Bookmark also publishes papers and books on the history of the Church that have been suppressed by Church officials.

The Bookmark is located in Southern California and mails to readers throughout the world. These publications include Mrs. Eddy's published and unpublished writings, papers by outstanding teachers in the movement, and contemporary writing being done independently of the Church.

As the Church organization in Boston continues to decline and Christian Science churches throughout the world close, these papers and books grow in importance. Only as these writings are published and circulated, can there be a revival of the movement.

During the present critical stage in the unfoldment of the Christian Science movement, these papers are meeting the need for a better understanding of Christian Science and the scientific method of healing through prayer that has blessed millions since it was first introduced into the world.