

# The Society Pages

July 2008

## Embracing the World with Healing....

Review...renew...refresh...  
revise....regenerate...  
rethink...(repent!...) =

### Recommitment!

*(Photos by Dee Gruenig....Some of the "faces of recommitment" gathered for our annual session when we reflect on our individual and collective expression of church and determine a special focus for our mission.)*



### Recommitment Recap....

Recommitment Weekend in June was a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other and expand our vision of church.

The Saturday afternoon mentoring session for new members was well attended and informative. Many thoughtful questions were addressed and the concept of church as an ever-evolving idea rather than an organizational structure was explored. Saturday evening offered a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other a little better through dinner and one-to-one interviews. The interview topics were: "How did you or your family come into Christian Science?" ...or "What was a significant healing you have had on your spiritual journey?" The record of healings shared was tremendously inspirational and set the stage for Sunday's discussions. Out of the Sunday meeting came our theme for the year: "**Embracing Our World With Healing**". We have begun doing just that with our monthly metaphysical meetings and related Wednesday evening topics.

**Note: Those wishing to share written accounts of healings shared during our gathering are invited to contact Cathryn Rathsam—[cathryn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cathryn@sbcglobal.net)-- who is collecting them to be made available for others to read.**

Submitted by: **Paul Garman**, Recommitment Team Chair

## **Mark your calendar...**

### **Metaphysical Workshops...**

Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

### **Growing Church Workshops...**

Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

Most of our workshops are open to all who are interested in supporting our church mission— at our meeting place, via conference call, or on Skype.

### **Second Sundays...**

**Twenty-Somethings** are welcome to join our monthly discussion forum held on the sec-

ond Sunday evening of every month at 7:00 p.m. Join fellow students of Christian Science in this lively group that includes participants from throughout southern California.

## **Getting to know you...**

Have you met our new member who arrives for Sunday church services by train from her home in Pacific Beach in the San Diego area? Sometimes she even totes along refreshments for our after-church fellowship! A BIG official welcome to **Venetta Abbott** who shares that she "wanted to join this Society since I first read about it in the *Sentinel*." Venetta tells us she has two children, two granddaughters and three great grandchildren. "I was raised in a fundamentalist Mormon family in a tiny town in Idaho, moving as a teenager to Independence, Missouri, where my mother had a café, supporting herself, her husband and eight children—all living upstairs above the café where they could hear customer musicians play piano and sing." Venetta explains it was "in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where Christian Science found me. I was in trouble, fast becoming a young single mother with two teenage children, but it proved to be a blessing. I return to Chattanooga each year for Class Association." Following twenty years as a court reporter in Chattanooga, "when my children were grown I fulfilled a life-long desire to go to college." She attended the University of Kansas, was active in the women's movement and graduated with a BA in Humanities, followed by six months of travel in Europe, Asia and Africa, "seeing the people and places I had studied about!"

"A family tragedy moved me into my next career. I wanted to nurse so I went to Arden Wood in San Francisco to train." As part of her training she participated in a Visiting Nurse Lab in Australia and also trained others—"very meaningful experiences in my nursing career. While in that part of the world I traveled in New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, Japan, Korea—and later to Beijing."

When Venetta returned to the U.S. she did relief and contract nursing in CS facilities throughout the country from her home base in Santa Barbara. And today she calls Pacific Beach home where she is active in the healing ministry of Christian Science as a *Journal*-listed nurse. In her "spare time" Venetta plays tenor with the La Jolla Recorder Band, has mastered the art of braided rugs and "walks to the beach every morning and down to Crystal Pier to chat with my friends." Thank you, Venetta, for including us in your rich and colorful life story!

### **Grateful hearts...**

**Many thanks...**to the enthusiastic volunteers who hosted our website viewing of this year's Annual Meeting.....**Wow! and a million thanks** for the bright and beautiful new furniture in our church lobby and Reading Room...our "look" just keeps getting better and better, thanks to **Diane Schnitzer** and the Design Team....Thanks to **Bob Hansen** for putting together the new photo exhibit in our lobby gallery. And if you don't already know, he's the wonderful photographer of these beautiful, inspirational nature scenes.....**We are grateful** to **Rahla Lindsay** for keeping us up-to-date for so long as our Assistant Committee On Publication, an important outreach to accurately inform the public about Christian Science.

...**Thanks so much** to the **Recommitment Team** for organizing and facilitating a very successful two day session in June (**Paul Garman, Jackie Riegel, Nancy Battey and Bonnie MacDonald**)...Excerpts from the many expressions of appreciation: "It was a wonderful weekend...can't say enough about how much it means to me to be a part of this church family...beyond words. Such an opportunity we each have to encourage and support each other in fulfilling our mission" (sent from an airport!)....."Thank you so much for the excellent Recommitment Weekend. The questions we tackled were right on and so important to our

continuing progress"... "The meetings were a great contribution to our church and kept us moving forward...great format...thanks for all your work and thoughts...." "Bravos for the excellent Recommitment event! I'm certain that everyone left feeling better informed, more involved, greatly blessed, spiritually advanced and sincerely cherished for their participation. Your work with God's agenda teased out just the right sort of participation and response and kept us beautifully on-track. We're all blessed for your efforts!"

### **FYI...**

**Favorite Psalms of Inspiration**, the music CD by **Bob Moline**, long time member of our Society, is now available in Christian Science Reading Rooms (not just ours!) Bravo! If you haven't heard or purchased this beautiful selection of Psalms, sung and arranged by Bob, be sure to take a listen. It's a jewel!

...**Diana Colarossi** has agreed to assume the responsibility of Assistant Committee on Publications...and we are grateful!

### **Tithing...**

We are currently tithing to CREER with our prayers and financial contributions. "The purpose of CREER is to develop the Cultural, Educational and Social potential of Mexican/Latino children, youth, families and communities so that they may become citizen/leaders and contributors to a prosperous and vibrant South Orange County Community." Among the areas we have been asked to address in prayer are compassion fatigue among volunteers, educational opportunity and immigration reform. There are a number of supportive projects in the works to expand our love and support for CREER and the greater Hispanic community.

**Metaphysical Workshop update....** We devoted our June Metaphysical Workshop to learning about issues of concern among our Hispanic/Latino neighbors, with particular focus

on healing gang participation and violence in surrounding communities. We were privileged to enjoy a visit with **Catalina Durazo** from CREER who shared her concerns and great love for her community. Thank you to **Kathy Smith** and **Paul Garman** for facilitating a very inspirational and substantive session that spiritually armed us to address a number of timely challenges facing our community. This was a wonderful beginning to **Embracing Our World With Healing**....our current theme.

## **Homes of Hope...**

CSSSJC will again be a foundational sponsor for two mission groups this year that will travel across the border to help a family in dire need. We will be building homes alongside Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Mexico, beginning our third year of involvement in this important outreach activity that blesses so many. Two of our Sunday School students will serve as Youth Leaders this year.

### **How can YOU be involved?**

- Be informed about the mission trips:
- Tijuana—October 31-November 2
- Ensenada—December 27-29
- **Dean Baggs**, Youth Leader 949-468-9408
- **Melody Colliatie**, Youth Leader 805 558-8922
- Prayers for home and the families we will be serving
- Become a volunteer builder and join a mission
- Sponsor a youth (\$268.70 lodging, meals, transportation)
- Help raise funds for building materials (\$1,875.)
- Donate toward a furniture package for the family (\$1,200)
- Support current fund raiser: Buy tickets to see "Joseph & The Technicolor Dreamcoat,"

August 15-16 in Long Beach, a Summer Youth Production of Musical Theater West. Paul Garman, Director, will donate a portion of ticket sales to our Homes of Hope missions. To reserve tickets, contact Linda B. at [lindabuddy@hotmail.com](mailto:lindabuddy@hotmail.com) or Paul G. at [paul@musical.org](mailto:paul@musical.org)

- To view a wonderful video presentation of our 2007 mission, produced by youth volunteers Mindy Morgan and Nathan Chow, visit our website: [www.csinsanjuanacapistrano.com](http://www.csinsanjuanacapistrano.com) and click on Tithing.

For more detailed information contact Linda Brown, Adult Advisor [lindabuddy@hotmail.com](mailto:lindabuddy@hotmail.com) or 480 239-2036

## **The Book Report...**

**White's Rules—Saving Our Youth One Kid At a Time** (Broadway Books, 2007), recommended by several of our members, is the inspiring story of veteran teacher **Paul White**, a Christian Scientist, and his remarkable success in helping to turn around the lives of troubled high school students whom others have seen as doomed to failure. "My job is to love you," Paul White tells his students at West Valley Academy in the San Fernando Valley suburb of Los Angeles. "My job isn't to save you...it's to show you who you really are, and help you prove this inasmuch as you're willing to allow me to do that." White works with students who have not succeeded in a traditional school environment, many of them dealing with problems resulting from drug or alcohol abuse, violent behavior, juvenile incarceration, and often gang involvement. Through a combination of unconditional love, value-based discipline, character education, required parental involvement, and the one-to-one attention many of these kids have never experienced, White has saved hundreds of kids from slipping through the cracks. From the book's epilogue: "It's not about personality but about universal principles or rules

that can be applied by anyone who's willing to commit to them. If you understand this, then you know everything you need to know to become a more effective teacher or parent, the kind who truly transforms children's lives and ultimately the world."

An insightful interview detailing White's prayer-based approach to his work with at-risk youth can be found on [spirituality.com](http://spirituality.com). Search for "My Job is to Love You", a reprint from the *Christian Science Sentinel*, August 15, 2005.

**"The depth, breadth, height, might, majesty, and glory of infinite Love fill all space. That is enough!"** (*Science and Health*)

(Do you have a book to recommend? One that has inspired your spiritual growth? Let us know! Contact: [bonniemacdonald1@cox.net](mailto:bonniemacdonald1@cox.net))

## **Sunday School Celebrations...**

**This month's Sunday School Shining Star** is Melody Colliatie. One of our "original" Sunday School students, Melody has been part of our church family since 1993 when she was a tiny tot. Having just completed her sophomore year in high school, she will head this fall to Principia Upper School where she will begin the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Melody recently shared a few "favorites" with us: Favorite food: Mexican! Favorite subject in school: English. Favorite place she would go if she could do anything she wanted for an entire day: Head for the beach or a great park. Favorite trip: New York City. "My trip to NYC really inspired me to know I have the power to do anything!" Melody was a participant in Discovery Bound's recent trip to the Big Apple, focusing on the arts and providing a variety of hands-on experiences in music, art and dance.

This year has already been one full of travel for Melody. Besides visiting New York City, she has already been to Thailand, and July finds her traveling to Costa Rica as part of her National Leadership opportunities. (For more on Mel-

ody's trip to Thailand and her project to help the Burmese cyclone victims, see the excerpt below from her recent blog. A real example of Love in action!) Where in the world would Melody like to travel that she hasn't been yet? "That would be Africa!" she tells us. At this rate, we're sure that trip is not too far off in the future!

**Melody blogs...**( for full details go to [worldwide-impact-now.org](http://worldwide-impact-now.org))

**"Clean Water For Burma"**...My mom told me how by raising just five dollars one person could receive a water bottle that would provide them with water for up to six months. I thought this was incredible so I took a flyer to a teacher at school...made copies...made announcements that tomorrow we would go to all classrooms for a one time collection....my school wasn't excited about helping...my peers and I were stuck on pure hope that we would raise maybe ten dollars. The results shocked us all. We raised \$380 in one hour! We helped more people than my expectations held and with that I'm now going to get to travel to the Thailand/Burma border and hopefully help face-to-face. (With the help of church friends and family... other teachers and students...400 Seychelle Water Bottles were shipped to the Burma region. Thanks to our friends at Seychelle Environmental Technologies for their generous support.)

**Follow-up Story**...reporting from Bangkok, Thailand: After coming to Thailand I learned it might be impossible for one person to change a big problem....We weren't sure if the water bottles would get to the people...but on our last night we learned that the water delivery was going to happen...awesome. My trip was a success...although I did not change the situation in Burma, I did make a small yet important difference...also found new ways to stay involved for the youth who need our support.

## **Participating in our church without walls...**

**Calling in...** You are invited to attend our Sunday and Wednesday services available via conference call. To join us by phone, **DIAL 1-712-580-8020....then punch in this Access Code: 12111#.** You may begin calling in fifteen minutes before any meeting or join any time after the service or meeting is underway. One of our hosts will greet you and answer any questions you may have, or you are welcome just to listen in.

**Meetings by Skype...** If you want to join our services or meetings by Skype there is no charge for the call over your computer. Call in a couple of minutes before the meeting is scheduled to start. You need to have your own Skype account, which you can sign up for, at no cost, at Skype.com. PLEASE NOTE: this Skype number is temporary while we test the quality of the service. **Please send your email address and Skype name to us by email ([sjccss@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sjccss@sbcglobal.net)) so that we can notify you when the number changes.**

**Next newsletter...** Please submit announcements, articles or suggestions for the next edition of *The Society Pages* to: [bonniemacdonald1@cox.net](mailto:bonniemacdonald1@cox.net). The next newsletter will be published in September.

## **Your Management Team...**

A big THANK YOU to **Lew Colarossi** who has just completed a year's service on the Management Team.

Management Team members serving the current term, beginning in July, welcome your input and involvement. The MT is not a policy making group---that is the role of our collective membership. They do serve as the communication "hub" of our congregation, and attend to

day-to-day administration tasks. They are always available to hear from you.

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