

CS SOCIETY PAGES

January/February 2009



Embracing children in prayer...

Cherishing every child in healing prayer. This is the focus of our current metaphysical workshops, as we strive to embrace the world in healing. Many thoughtful insights were shared among participants at our February workshop. As we continue our commitment to children into our March Metaphysical Workshop, may these insights inspire your own

prayers. "There are no infant, immature ideas...only divine Mind's infinite ideas".... "All children everywhere can hear the 'still small voice' of Love"..... "In Truth there are no lost, abandoned or mistreated children since they can never be separated from their real Father/Mother"... "Innocence belongs to all children...innocence is not

vulnerability...innocence is power!" "*Fear not little flock...it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom of heaven.*"

Mark your calendar...

Metaphysical Workshops...

Monday, **March 9th**...7:30 p.m. ...Current focus:
Embracing all children in healing prayer

Monday, **April 13th**...7:30 p.m.....Focus: to be determined

Growing Church Workshops...

February....no GC Workshop will be held

Next workshop: **Monday, April 27th**...7:30 p.m.
Election of two members of the Management Team and election of 3rd Quarter Sunday Readers (July, Aug & Sept)

Recommitment Weekend....

March 28th & 29th....this year the primary meeting will be held Saturday, March 28, from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.. The focus is "Are we Walking the Talk?" Details to be announced for our annual gathering for individual and collective renewal and recommitment to our church mission.

Management Team Meetings This team meets monthly (or more often) and encourages your input at any time. Contact any MT member with your ideas, suggestions, or issues for attention and discussion.

Second Sundays... Twenty-Somethings are welcome to join our monthly discussion forum held on the second Sunday evening of each month at 7:00 p.m. Join fellow students of Christian Science in this active group that includes participants from throughout southern California.

Game Night... February 28 7:00 p.m....all are welcome...for more info contact Peggy Webb, peggy@westriveracademy.com (949-492-5240).

Getting to Know You.....A big welcome, officially, to **Cathryn Rathsam** as a member of our Society. Cathryn shares that when our original informal group was serving lunch many years ago to the homeless in Laguna Beach, she brought her sons a few times to participate and then visited our church a few times over the years. "Your commitment to new ideas and community outreach has always attracted me....so, here I am!"

Cathryn shares that her father "was raised in Christian Science but left it in his teens. I had an "incurable" disease as a young child. My parents took me to several medical specialists to no avail, so eventually my dad suggested that we try Christian Science. I was healed, so at 3 years old was enrolled in Sunday School." Cathryn grew up in a home her father built in West Covina, with three younger sisters, the youngest of whom is Doris Monticone, also a member of our Society. After a few years of college, Cathryn worked at the Mother Church in a number of capacities. "This was one of the most awesome periods of my life. After eighteen months I traveled to London and worked in a CS nursing home, Hawthorne House, where I met my late husband, John Maycock." From England Cathryn, her husband, and their toddler son moved to Libya where her husband taught English at a university. Following her husband's passing, Cathryn returned to college, completed her degree and taught preschool at Clairbourn School, remarrying and welcoming two more sons.

Cathryn tells us "my passions are the study, prayer and sharing of Christian Science, reading (mainly non-fiction and the CS Monitor), hiking and spending time with my sons, travel, KUSC, cultural outings, volunteer work and meeting new people. I love children and have taught in the Sunday School most of my church life. Another favorite church outreach is reading in our Orange County jails."

Cathryn has been substitute teaching in elementary schools, is also credentialed to teach English as a foreign language, and is currently seeking full-time employment. "I'm open and listening to whatever God has planned." Says Cathryn, "It's a real joy to be a member of a vibrant, dedicated, and, most of all, loving community of Christian Scientists." And what a joy it is to have you, Cathryn, as such an enthusiastic contributor to our Society

Grateful hearts... Much gratitude to **Linda Worley** and **Todd Herzer** who served as facilitators during three months of inspiring Metaphysical Workshops addressing an array of economic challenges facing individuals and the world. Blessings from these workshops continue to unfold.....**From a new caller following a recent Wednesday evening meeting:** “Thanks so much for the wonderful testimony meeting, my first via conference call. I was healed by the end of the service. Because I could attend by conference call I was able to lie down while attending. I just wanted to be very still and listen to the readings and testimonies. By the end of the meeting, I realized that all traces of the headache had left, to my great joy. It was truly a healing service! I appreciated the Reader... including definitions of miracle and comments from Spirituality.com They were a love prelude to the readings and all of the wonderful testimonies!”.... And many expressions of gratitude have come to us for last year’s Christmas Eve Wednesday Service, with our Sunday School students sharing the Christmas story from our “church without walls”..... **One caller writes:** “I spent Christmas Eve with your Society! I live about 30 miles from my branch church and we were having a blizzard here....not wise to travel...so I called and listened to your Wednesday service. I loved hearing the Christmas story read by the children! And their testimonies were great...**Holiday Outreach: Thanks** to everyone who participated in our Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach of love to our community. Our Thanksgiving service was virtually bilingual, thanks to many in our group who contributed by translating the testimonies and parts of the service to include our many Spanish speaking friends who joined us for Thanksgiving....Thank you also to all who volunteered to prepare and serve our annual holiday dinner to residents of the Mainstream Recovery Homes. Many attending expressed gratitude, saying they felt loved and included and that this was their only Christmas dinner of the season.....Much gratitude to those who organized our annual Boys & Girls Club Christmas project of “adopting” families. This outreach continues to bless many children and their families in our community....**Gratitude from a Mainstream dinner guest...**”Thank you for your generosity, grace and love. What you have done for those with the illness of substance abuse is meaningful. I should know. My wife and I have been well for 3 years now! Please accept this small offering with our gratitude”.....**A note of thanks...** from Boys & Girls Club families we “adopted” at Christmas: “Thank you so very much for the gift card to Ralphs! It is being used wisely. Our family appreciates

your generosity and thoughtfulness. This Christmas season was most special and blessed thanks to your group. What a wonderful surprise! Thank you...Thank you....”....“Thank you so much! You made our Christmas wonderful. My son got just what he wanted and there is still money on the card from Target. May God bless you for making a difference in our family. A BIG difference.”.....

.....**Thank you to Bob Hansen** for continuing to organize our photography gallery in the Sunday School. Most recently we were treated to a wonderful exhibit of the last home building mission in Mexico. Don’t miss the current exhibit of photographs from Costa Rica by Sunday School student, **Melody Colliatie** (see Sunday School column for details)...**Many thanks to Dee Gruenig...**always at the ready to take photos at a moments notice!...including those on the cover of these *Society Pages*.....**A note of thanks** from the librarian of “The Cart”, the Laguna Hills Mall “Reading Room” project. The holiday season was especially fruitful with hundreds of visitors, staffed by 39 volunteers from several CS churches, including ours. You are invited to continue supporting this outreach in your prayers....**A BIG thank you to Patti Holditch** who has provided the words to the songs/hymns to the new Hymnal Supplement that can be used for reference as a Reader or for personal use.

FYI...A reminder about our Growing Church Workshops...These workshops are held on a regular basis at least six months of the year, usually January, February, May, August, October and November, with opportunities during the remaining months for meetings that may be requested by any of our regular participants for special purposes.....**From the Refreshment Team Coordinator:** Thank you to everyone who continues to generously provide refreshments for our Sunday after-church fellowship. A reminder that you may team up with others to help with this weekly provision. A request: if you change the dates you are bringing refreshments, please remember to contact **Sherry Feldtz**, 949-855-6041.

...**An update from FAM...**From our liaison to Family Assistance Ministries, **Margo Bishop**, comes more good news. In addition to the recent grant from the City of San Clemente, FAM has been awarded a grant of several hundred thousand dollars from HUD, making it possible to fulfill their building plans. Margo reports that two new staff will be added to accommodate the rapidly growing

growing number of people in the community for whom FAM provides assistance. Margo will be assisting FAM in their volunteer efforts and will be teaching a Life Skill course to residents at their shelter for women and children. Our Society joins other local churches in providing a monthly contribution to support this faith-based community outreach. The Board, staff and clients at FAM express their gratitude for our ongoing prayerful support as the foundation for their work.

Special Focus: Our teleconference friends

(Contributed by Alan Hess)

Our phone and internet congregation is a unique part of our “church without walls.” They may be invisible, but they actively participate! Some of them have joined as members. Others call in just to enjoy the blessings of our services, music, and testimonies. Either way they are an equal part of our very public services!

As this part of our congregation has grown, we’ve adjusted how we conduct our services to help them feel included. At a recent meeting of the AV Club (the people who run our tech equipment) we discussed ways to make our teleconference/internet callers feel even more connected to our services and church effort. Here are a few thoughts that everyone at our services can support in prayer and action:

The people on the phone ask that we be sure to call on the phone and Skype attendees regularly during Wednesday meetings or workshops. It takes a few extra seconds for them to unmute themselves, so be patient! Also, Readers (or anyone who has a microphone) should be aware that rustling papers or even whispered comments can be heard directly on the phone. You can turn off the lavalier microphones momentarily if you need to.

If you usually attend in person, try calling into a service from home sometime. Hear what our services and meetings sound like on the phone – it’s different than being in the room. You may hear how the train sometimes drowns out voices, or that it’s difficult to follow a discussion when you can’t see who’s talking, or when there’s uproarious laughter. If those of us in the room put ourselves in the shoes of those of us on the phone (and vice versa), we can make the service even more welcoming.

If you are a Reader or Facilitator, you might think of yourself as a radio reporter at a live news event.

Sometimes a comment or occurrence causes laughter, but those on the phone can’t see what happened. If it’s natural, you might briefly explain what is happening in the room.

We’ve invited the world to our church via the phone and internet. Even if we can’t see them, they are part of our services. We’re pioneering a new type of church service – we should keep the lines of communication open so that everyone feels comfortable with it. Below (and in upcoming issues of the Society Pages), we’ll feature some of our regular teleconferencers so we can get to know each other better. In general, be aware that the service can sound very different to someone listening on the phone than to someone in the room. If we take a moment to listen to things from their point of view, it can make them feel more included in the love we strive to express.

Getting to know our call-in congregation.... Gracia (known to us as Grace) and Ken Transom started calling in to our services a year ago and have since rarely missed a Sunday or Wednesday service or a Metaphysical or Growing Church Workshop. They tell us that they feel the inspiration and love emanating from our every gathering and are grateful for the “wonderful friends” they’ve made via phone and email. The Transoms appreciate how the timing of the West Coast services and meetings fit into their East Coast lives, joining us either from Niagara Fall, New York, or Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, depending upon the day and time. Ken recently retired from customer service for Leland Industries in Toronto, and Grace is a former opera singer, voice teacher and business woman. Grace founded and presides over the Opera Foundation of Buffalo and is soloist at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Buffalo-Kenmore, New York. Between them they have six children, one new grandbaby, and several “precious kitties” who listen raptly to the Bible Lesson, prayers, hymns, and testimonies of praise to God coming over the phone.

New opportunities and possibilities....

Iglesia sin muros! (Church without walls!).... SPANISH LANGUAGE TELECONFERENCE SERVICES will soon be shared from our church building each Sunday afternoon. **Ingrid Butaya** has led these teleconference services from her home in Texas for several years, and now that she has moved to San Juan Capistrano she will provide the

Sunday service here, beginning in the next month or so. **Callers from around the country currently participate in the service which is held at 4 p.m. Central Time. The current call in number is: 218/486-1300...Access #838537 and Skype Connection is Iglesia sin muros.** You are invited to pass this information along to anyone who may be interested in discovering this weekly outreach to Spanish speakers. For further information on this program contact **Ingrid Butaya...281/253-5114 or weareuno@yahoo.com** .

Tutoring/Mentoring Outreach...Our Society has partnered with CREER to offer local Hispanic youth free academic support in a safe and nurturing environment. Currently we have 12 tutors, some from our congregation and Sunday School, some from neighboring churches, all willing to lend a helping hand while offering their expertise in a particular subject matter. Twenty motivated students are registered with the program already; their parents are committed to their child's academic success by bringing them for tutoring on a regular basis. We currently have a waiting list of students who either need someone to read with or simply would like help getting through a homework assignment or a writing project. Grade levels range from 1st through 12th grade and subject matters vary. We have a particular need for high school math (Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1 & 2, Geometry and Calculus) tutors. We meet every Saturday at our Society from 3:00 to 4:15 pm. If you would like more information about this wonderful outreach opportunity, please email **Valerie Flynn** at jvflynn@cox.net. No Spanish knowledge necessary for this outreach, in case you were wondering!

Become a Reading Buddy!....Could you spare a little time to read the Weekly Bible Lesson or an article from a periodical to someone who has requested a reader by telephone? For more information on this program sponsored by CSDirectory.com, contact **Marilyn Mohlenbrock**, Marilyn@csdirectory.com

To Africa with Love...A Sunday School Mission group will travel to Kenya, East Africa, during spring break. **Melody Colliatie, Rachel Nishikawa** with her sister **Stacey**, and former SS student **Kyle Smith** will journey to Ngochoni Petals of Africa School, a private secular school run by Christian Scientists. For the past 10 years our Society has had a partnership with Petals, located in a poor rural community, and has supported their efforts in a variety of ways. Our youth will be sharing their talents among the students, teachers, parents and church community and welcome any monetary contributions,

given directly to our SS students, to help purchase items for the school and its students, nursery through 8th grade. **From Melody**, here are some specific opportunities to consider: \$125 sponsors one bicycle for student transportation...\$100 sponsors books (4-5 students now share one book!)..\$50 sponsors soccer uniforms for 4 players...\$25 sponsors a month's food for one orphan child at the school...\$10 will purchase art supplies..\$1 will buy paper. For more info or to donate, call Melody: 805/558-8922...or mail her at The Principia, 13201 Clayton Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131.....**Rachel's focus** will be an art project she has created to help raise funds for the school along with contributions she hopes to make in English instruction, brick construction, music and dance cultural exchange, and Sunday School....**Stacy** will bring her musical talents to her work in Kenya and is hoping to donate a keyboard to Petals for accompaniment during church and Sunday School.....**Kyle** desires to write/photograph local stories of interest to help awareness and resourcing for the school's needs. To offer support to any of these young volunteers, you are invited to contact them directly. The trip to Africa is scheduled for March 12-25th. **BIG Sunday '09...**The annual Big Sunday volunteer event will be held May 2nd and 3rd of this year. According to organizers there will be volunteer opportunities "for every passion, every talent, and every age. Projects are scheduled throughout the weekend and can last from one hour to two days." There are opportunities for individuals or for groups, such as churches or other organizations. The weekend is described as an opportunity for service as well as to build communities. If you are interested in taking part in Big Sunday, contact **Linda Worley...** noelnoel@cox.net

In the news....Discovered in the "Letter to the Editor" sections of recent *Journals* and *Sentinels* were familiar names....offerings of gratitude and inspiration from **Susan Clay, Nancy Battey, Bev Lyle** and **Jackie Riegel....**and in the *Christian Science Monitor* a wonderful children's book review written by **Enicia Fisher**.

The Book Report....

A recent review in the *Christian Science Monitor* led to the discovery of a children's book that does a wonderful job of "making the scary melt away." ***The Little Bit Scary People*, by Emily Jenkin, illustrated by**

Alexandra Boiger, Hyperion Books for Children, Ages 3-6 . With a universal (and perhaps spiritual!) message to children of all ages, this picture book offers a delightful approach to viewing others beyond what they appear to be. "Some people are a little bit strange, or a little too loud, or a tiny bit mean. Some people seem a little bit scary. But...I bet if you knew them---if you knew what they like for breakfast, and how they love their pets, and they sing along to show tunes, or read cowboy stories on the couch...then you'd know that maybe (probably) most people aren't so scary after all." Seeing through the eyes of a little girl "with wild red hair," we watch a seemingly scary cast of characters change before our eyes. A kid in full Gothic garb, showing off on his skateboard, becomes a cuddly little boy snuggled in bed with his kitten. A teenage girl looks tough as she kicks a trash can "just to hear the racket it makes"...and is seen at home playing football with her younger brothers and "always lets them win." As one reviewer says: "It's hard to fear anyone once you've pictured him with a kitten on his lap." It just takes a different kind of "seeing." Amen!

Sunday School Celebrations...

Congratulations to **Bren Johnson** for his recent lead role in his high school's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*...Bravo Bren!.....Be sure to stop and enjoy the photo exhibit featuring the photography of **Melody Colliatie**. Melody traveled to Costa Rica this summer as part of the Discovery Bound National Leadership Council travel experience. The exhibit features a beautiful record of her trip, from planting trees in a reforestation project, distributing supplies to a local school, meeting "native" crocodiles and iguanas, to a Christian Science Sunday service with the backdrop of Arenal Volcano...erupting! Thanks for sharing your awesome experience with us, Melody!

Sunday School Student in the spotlight!.....Houston Monticone is a member of our high school/college Sunday School group. Houston is an 11th grade student and tells us his favorite subject is history. "My history teacher is full of energy and excitement and that's what makes history so awesome!" he says. Houston's parents are members of our Society and his brother and sister also attend our Sunday School. He shares that he likes to skate with younger brother, Parker, just about every day...and older sister Megan..."I can go to her to tell her anything." Houston adds that his family also includes "lots and lots of pets...five dogs and two cats." What's the best trip you've been on? "Camp...period" he says

of his summer camping experience. Where would you like to travel, anywhere in the world? "That would be Italy. I'd like to visit the country my family originated from." Favorite food? You guessed it..."Italian food." Houston's favorite book: *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Favorite movie: *Stepbrothers* and any movie with Will Ferrell. If you could change the world in any way, what would that be? "Solving world hunger"... "peace instead of war." Houston describes his idea of a good friend: "Someone I can trust, tell anything to, and know they won't say a word...someone you can relate to, who is always there for you, no matter what." And finally, Houston shares his views as a Sunday School student: "Sunday School is a second home for me. It's an awesome feeling when you know if you have a problem you are way more than welcome to go there or even call in. One thing we might change...a Starbuck's trip!" And it's awesome to have you, Houston, as part of our church family!

Attending our church without walls...

Calling in.....You are invited to participate in our Sunday and Wednesday services and other meetings that are available by conference call and Skype. **To join us via phone, DIAL 1-605-475-6350...(note: this is a new number)** , 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 in progress. A host will greet you and answer any questions you may have, or you are welcome just to listen in.

Meetings by Skype...If you wish to join us by Skype, there is no charge for the call through your computer. Call in a few minutes before the service or meeting is scheduled to begin. You need your own Skype account, which you can sign up for, at no cost, at Skype.com. Dial in +9900827047193996.

Next newsletter...Please submit announcements, articles, suggestions, and expressions of gratitude for the next issue of *The Society Pages* to: bonniemacdonald1@cox.net. The next newsletter will be the March/April edition.

Your Management Team....

This Team is the communication "hub" of our Society and handles our ongoing organizational and administrative tasks. This elected Team meets at least once a month and encourages your input. The entire membership is the governing body of our Society and your involvement is welcome and needed! Agenda items and motions, questions or topics for discussion may be directed to any member of the Management Team.

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