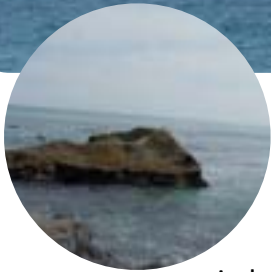


THE SOCIETY PAGES

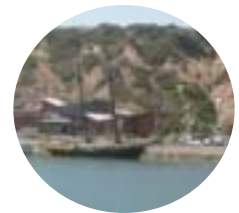
JULY 2010



“Filled with benediction new...” (Hymn 171)

In our last newsletter we posed a few questions to those readers who participated in last January’s weekend retreat with the Board of Directors of the Mother Church. It might be “interesting” to note there was a unanimous response to those questions: none! Undaunted, however, your newsletter team began asking the same questions again and this time struck gold!

Questions: What did our meeting with the Board of Directors inspire in you? Has this fostered your spiritual growth...your daily practice....healing?



- “Our conversation with the Board renewed my growing conviction that we, as individuals, ARE the Christian Science movement....and *that* movement, the harmonizing, healing action of divine Love, is unstoppable, inevitable, irresistible and everywhere present....[it] cannot be interrupted, delayed, diluted nor denied....cannot be touched by fear, conflicting opinions, division, discouragement, apathy, pride or other misconceptions. As one Board member responded when we asked ‘What keeps you up at night?..... Answer: ‘Nothing...I sleep like a baby!’ I’m grateful for the growing understanding that I can too...knowing that ‘*God rests in action!*’ (*Science and Health*) And as God’s reflection, I too am compelled to just keep on keepin’ on! What else can a reflection do?”

- “Many comments the directors made continue to ricochet in my head! One that demanded my attention: ‘Self-government is key to self-correction. How important it is, then, to demonstrate trust in each one’s spiritual self-government. Please continue in this.’ Actually I needed to *begin in this!* I immediately saw the unstated, vitalizing demand to demonstrate solid trust in the one Mind’s competent and sure government of each one. And to stop

the critical judging. By doing this over the intervening months, I am now in a secure place of non-reaction about my perceptions of what anyone else is doing. Trusting that Mind which is in all to be in all has helped me self-govern with far greater harmony, joy and daily effectiveness. I can’t remember the last time I felt like taking someone else’s face off! Isn’t that a great and good healing thing?”

- “Because I was taught early on to respect and prayerfully support the Board of Directors of the Mother Church I’ve made a point to do so. So when they visited, it was like listening to old friends, even though they really don’t know me. Here are some of





the things I heard and am actively working on in my own life at a time of great challenge for me and, I know, for others as well: 'Individuals are the C S movement'...'Heal by the way you see others'...'Replace the material world's will with God's will'... Nullify claims of intimidation'...'Using our CS understanding we are able to overcome all challenges'...Negative earthly experiences bring great spiritual growth"

- "I keep coming back to this thought..... that spiritual commitment fully funds all human endeavor as nothing else can, making it complete, whole, unfailingly active and powerful. If we are truly committed to praying daily for ourselves, our church, and our church 'family', we could take that into our homes, our workplaces, and our schools, as a template for all human activity, to realize 'so in earth, as it is heaven.' "
- "One of the directors remarked that MBE said something like this: ' As Mary Baker Eddy, I am the weakest of mortals. As the Discover and Founder of Christian Science, I am the bone and sinew of the universe.' (attribution not found) I assumed that just the first part applied to me. The second part also applies. As a practicing Christian Scientist, an un-closeted immortal, I'm able to put some flesh on the bone and sinew Mrs. Eddy continues to be. I'm able to make Truth practical in healing others. I committed to devote some evening time to developing myself as a healer. It's paying off in healing opportunities: in my family, in my business, for tenured and recent friends, and even for a few strangers. There have been two incidents

of rather dramatic healing---one of a relative stranger, and more than six other compelling evidences of the power of applied metaphysics. My desire for Journal listing seems like a less remote one now."

- "Mary Baker Eddy hit the nail on the head here: 'Perhaps our church is not yet quite sensible of what we owe to the strength, meekness, honesty, and obedience of the Christian Science Board of Directors;... ' (Miscellaneous Writings, p. 126). Of these four traits, the one that touched me most when the Board visited our Society was their meekness. Hearing them speak so meekly, mildly, and modestly caused me to make a commitment to express more of those qualities in my life, knowing that meekness would bless my healing work. Have I kept my commitment? Well, recently I witnessed the transformation of a neighbor's sour attitude when I applied the meekness Beatitude (Matt 5:5). She went from cold and dismissive for 14 months to warm and embracing literally overnight--without my saying a word. When I looked up 'commitment' and 'meekness' and their derivatives in Concord, I discovered they are actually paired in a beautiful citation by our Leader. Turn to page 330 of Miscellaneous Writings to see what I mean. Key word: grass!"

In the spirit of renewed commitment, thank you to all who have shared with us their inspiration, progress and spiritual growth.



Mark your calendar...

Metaphysical Workshops...

Monday, August 9th, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, September 13th, 7:30 p.m.

Growing Church Workshops

Monday, September 27th, 7:30 p.m.

Second Sundays...

7:00 p.m., a discussion group for 20 somethings held on the second Sunday of every month...newcomers welcome always!

Current Events...

Thursday, July 29th, 7:30 p.m. **Lecture Prep Meeting** for upcoming lectures by Jose Rodriguez Pelaez of Spain

Saturday, July 31st, 11:00 a.m. Lecture: **"Spiritual Solutions in Times of Crisis"**, at the Libreria Martinez Bookstore, 216 Broadway, Santa Ana, by Jose Rodriguez Pelaez, sponsored by 1st Church, Laguna Beach

Saturday, July 31st, 5 p.m. at our church facility, Lecture: **"The Power of Love"** by Jose Rodriguez Palaez, in Spanish with simultaneous English translation. Enjoy festive dancing by members of CREER just before the lecture.

Sunday, August 1, Lecture in Spanish: **"You are an Heir of the Kingdom of God"** sponsored by CS churches in Fullerton and Yorba Linda, by Jose Rodriguez Palaez, at Fullerton Multiservice Center, 340 Commonwealth, Fullerton

Flyers for the SJC lecture, in Spanish, available to all for distribution.

Management Team Meetings...

Our Management Teams meets monthly, sometime more frequently. Questions and issues for discussion or action should be directed to any MT member (not our church administrator). (See contact information, last page)

Getting to know you...

A special welcome to **Mara Purl** who has recently affirmed membership in our Society. Mara joins us, usually via conference call, from either Colorado Springs or Los Angeles, her two places of residence. Mara tells us that she heard about our Society through a dear friend, Deborah Huebsch. "It was the concept of a 'church without walls' that attracted me immediately, and I began attending services by phone long before I joined. Thought is unlimited, and the scope of what we can heal is unlimited. I often pray on my own about both local and global issues, but some things need to be handled collectively. And for this, we need a church community so we can truly be effective."

Mara shares how she was introduced to Christian Science. "As a teenager I had studied three religions in some depth (Buddhism, Transcendental Meditation and Episcopalianism) but had not found they answered my deeper questions. I started keeping a spiritual notebook in which I wrote down observations about how God manifests Himself in our lives. One of my good college friends was a Christian Scientist and was praying to know whether or not to bring up the subject with me. One day I asked her 'Don't you think causation is mental?' She was startled because I was quoting *Science and Health* though I'd never heard of it. She continued to pray and one day I gave her a book as a gift. That was the trigger she needed and she gave me *Science and Health*. When I began to read it, I knew this was what I was looking for."



Mara grew up in Tokyo, Japan, and attended a “wonderful school with 40 nationalities represented in the student body. I attended college in Vermont, then lived in New York City for several years working as a journalist for the *Financial Times of London*, the *Associated Press* and *Rolling Stone*. (One of my essays was published in the *Monitor*.) Next I moved to Los Angeles where I returned to my theater roots, performing in ‘Days of Our Lives’ and writing scripts. I created a radio drama that became the first American serial ever produced by the BBC. I continue to produce audio, and now my focus is writing novels and speaking.”

Her current passion? “I feel both blessed and driven to fulfill my mission, which is to share the truth of life through story telling. Story is the lens through which I look at life, and to me, fiction is not about ‘making things up’; it is the essence of truth-telling. The deep issues of our lives---the ‘interlaced ambiguities’---are among the topics I tackle in my novels. While it is sometimes very difficult to see the tangled issues of mortality that seem to crop up on our own experiences, seeing these issues presented in characters often makes them clear and accessible to us. So....moral choices, conscience, generosity, greed, ignorance, kindness....these are all among the themes I deal with. And by tracking characters’ choices through a series of books it is my intention to reveal

progress.” About joining our Christian Society Mara adds, “It’s been a fascinating journey to arrive at membership in the Society, and it becomes more clear to me each day that church affects every aspect of our lives. Even when you don’t hear me, I hear all of you. Sunday and Wednesday services, meetings, newsletters, bulletins....all are important to me and I am so grateful that each of you is expressing your own commitment to Christian Science.”

What a joy to have Mara among our flock!

Another new member we wish to warmly welcome is **Elaine Bush**. Elaine lives in Corona del Mar, just up the coast a bit, and is in the full-time practice as a *Journal-listed* practitioner. A 5th generation Christian Scientist, Elaine grew up in Mexico where her father’s career as a geologist took the family. Elaine relates part of her interesting family history: “My great-grand father who was the first Christian Scientist in our family was a Captain in the Mormon Battalion and came into Christian Science when he witnessed a beautiful healing of his granddaughter. Brigham Young excommunicated him because of this and erased from Mormon records all traces of the remarkable missions he had led. He became a member of First Church in Salt Lake City and the rest of the family joined him. His portrait, in uniform, hangs proudly in my home! “ She continues to discover new information about her family history in Mexico such as

learning about their involvement in the design of the Copper Canyon Railway and their experiences during the time of the Mexican Revolution.

In Mexico, Elaine’s family lived over 90 miles from the nearest church so her Sunday School was her home, her father her teacher. As a young adult, Elaine moved to Utah, married and had three daughters. Following the passing of her husband she ventured on with three children to Orange County. In 1990 Elaine began an 18 year devotion to serving as a Christian Science chaplain in our local jails. “It was the experience of witnessing many, many healings during this time that led me into the practice about 6 years ago.”

What drew Elaine to join our Society after 30 years of membership in another church? “Laughter! Yes...the joy that I felt so strongly during my first visit. Some time later I was at a service in a small Christian Science church on the island of Kauai and I had this same feeling of joy and instantly was reminded of San Juan Society. After praying about this, one Sunday I found myself on the way to church and drove right by! I continued down the highway to San Juan Capistrano and felt my decision was made. The love, friendship and outreach are all part of what I love here. I remember immediately being given a job to do in such a natural way and instantly felt I belonged here.”

Elaine shares that some of her other “loves” are long walks, going to the ballet, and musical theater. “I’m blessed with five grandsons living in three different states. My husband, retired from a career in aerospace, and I enjoy traveling and spending time with extended family.”

What might Elaine be looking forward to? “ I’m looking forward to discovering how I may best serve here at my new church.”

Welcome to our church family, Elaine!!



Meeting our Skype congregation...

(Contributed by **Susan Clay**)

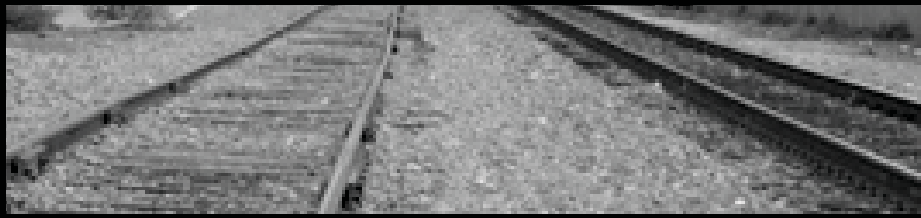
One of our faithful Skypers is **Jud Ruhl**. Jud was introduced to our Society two years ago, after members of his Kingman, Arizona, Society moved away, leaving him the lone holdout. Rather than drive to a church 60 miles away, Jud opted to attend our church without walls. Being able to not only listen and testify via Skype but also fellowship with fellow Skypers after the services proves, says Jud, that "our Church is a world-wide community." A retired heavy-industry welder/pipefitter/fabricator, Jud is now rebuilding his own home, which he and his wife Salinda share with four dogs, four cats and three cockatiels, all of them rescues

Animals often play a part in Jud's testimonies such as Rufus' back-to-back healings demonstrating his natural joy, vitality and bounce and a quick release from the beliefs of accident and vision lost. Jud and creature kin, please keep Skyping and sharing your many blessings with us.

Welcome! A warm welcome to **Glenna Lovett, Wendy Winegar, Rich Winegar, and David Scheppner** our most recent new members. Glenna lives in Laguna Beach, Wendy and Rich live in Utah and Hawaii, and David lives in Austin, TX.

Grateful hearts...

A standing ovation to **Nan Hopfer** and **Debby Oliver** for their time and commitment in serving on our Management Team during the last term. You ARE appreciated!.....**Thank you** to our **Sunday School Team** for organizing and facilitating our recent Metaphysical Workshops "Embracing our children and teens in healing prayer" and to the **prayer teams** that continue to devote specific prayer to healing current challenges...**Thank you for our recent Metaphysical Workshops...**from a conference call visitor: "I was so comforted by your meeting on youth. I was so happy you brought up these unspeakable topics so we can constructively pray and defend ourselves and build a wall of protection around our children and ourselves from these destructive influences. I hung on to every word and feel so much better that these problems are being shared and discussed and that I'm not alone battling these issues... from a member: "I think being asked to pray for our Sunday School students has been the most wonderful thing I've ever done for church. I am confident that this activity will bless everyone involved enormously.".....**Our ongoing appreciation** to **Diana Colarossi** for keeping us updated on California and Federal health care legislation as it relates to the practice of spiritual healing.....**Many thanks** to our **Mentoring Team** for organizing the recent Sunday afternoon conversation and Q&A session for our new members. Thank you to **Alan Hess** for facilitating. The plan now is to conduct these sessions every quarter to help keep our channels of communication open....**Thank you** to **Kay Wittmack** for organizing the breakfast gathering in June when some 25 of our congregation gathered at church to enjoy The Mother Church Annual Meeting via web-cast. Special thanks to **Marcia Brannon** for her AV support during the meeting and to **Sherry Feldtz** for organizing the culinary part of the event...And we are **very grateful** to **Carl Symons** for gathering us together following a recent Wednesday meeting to pray for those affected by the Gulf oil spill....Finally, many thanks to **Dick Smith** for his recent presentation up-dating us on the progress at Petals of Africa School upon his return from visiting the school in Kenya.



Why do we do things that way?

An ongoing column explaining our decisions about how we conduct our church services, business meetings, and outreach activities, all growing out of some basic ideas that we believe should be reflected in church. Questions covered in previous Newsletters: Why are our services so informal? Why do Wednesday meetings often run longer than an hour?

Why do we sometimes take time during a service to welcome visitors?

We do our best to think first about making visitors feel welcomed and comfortable at our church. Greeting newcomers isn't just the job of our hosts---it's everyone's job. It's also why we have a printed program, so newcomers can follow along, know what is coming next, and also have a list of upcoming events to take with them. We often announce the topic of the next Wednesday's readings so they'll consider attending that meeting, too. Welcoming newcomers also includes introducing our names on the teleconference and in testimonies, just a natural kindness that has everything to do with Church. It is also why we often use current styles of music that visitors are probably familiar with and why we include readings from various translations of the Bible---trying to speak a

common language. Keeping our thinking tuned in to what may make newcomers feel welcome is at the heart of every aspect of our services.

Why do we invite everyone to read the Scientific Statement of Being?

Church doesn't have to be a passive activity where you just sit back and listen. Participation draws you into the spirit and the words. So we take every opportunity to give the congregation an active role to play. We repeat together the Scientific Statement of Being, 1 John: 3, The Lord's Prayer (also in Spanish to include our large Spanish speaking local community in prayer), sometimes the spiritual interpretation of the Lord's Prayer, and the Sixth Tenet. The more people are involved directly in the service and the message, likely the more meaning it will have to them.

More good news...

Five of our members are actively participating in the good works of the Orange County Institutions-Jail Lecture Committee: **Marlene Bridges, Glenna Lovett, Margarita Miller, Cathryn Rathsam and Carl Symons.** Recent fruitage includes the highly successful lecture by Tom McElroy, CS, given at the James Musick Facility in June. Record-breaking attendance and participation is reported for Tom's talk "The Real You---

No Limitations," and a substantial amount of literature was distributed. The jail lecture activity has received the generous support of the Sheriff's Volunteer Program Coordinators, who report a significantly changed atmosphere in the jails and a changed attitude by the inmates following one of this year's special lectures. (Recent lectures have also been given by Tim Myers and Ryder Stevens.) Support was also voiced for the good ideas presented to them through the Christian Science Monitor and CS periodicals. (Information contributed by **Jackie Riegel**)

Opportunities for giving, serving, learning, growing.....praying!

The need continues for non-perishable food items for Family Assistance Ministries (FAM). There is a marked container in the Community Room for these donations. No donation is too small and will be delivered to the FAM facility to be distributed to families and individuals in south county in need of food.





Tithing....

Our designated tithing recipient for July is the **“The Troop Support Fund for Christian Scientists Serving in the Military”**. Through this outreach, C.S. Chaplain William Stillman makes every effort to contact all Christian Scientists currently in military service and offers them support. Requests are filled for literature from the CS Publishing Society and he sends out care packages. As always, prayer is the greatest contribution we can make in our tithing. We are told that specific prayer with the following focus would be greatly appreciated by these servicemen and women: The challenges of being in a war zone....The seeming prevalence of evil....and the separation felt from being away from their families. For further information: www.CSChaplain.com

Our tithing contribution and prayerful support during the month of August will support the **teacher salaries at Petals of Africa School**. As long-time supporters of the school, we continue to be grateful for the remarkable progress the students and staff have made over the last few years. We are equally grateful to those individuals among us who are devoting time for specific prayer along with ongoing financial support for the school.



Sunday School Celebrations...

Letting their light shine brightly this summer are **Makenna Johnson** and **Ruthie and Julia Flynn**. **Makenna** has reached her goal of raising money to provide bunk beds for boarding and orphan students at Petals of Africa school. Thank you to all who supported her generous efforts. **Ruthie** was inspired to donate her very first paycheck to help sponsor an incoming 8th grader at Petals to pay for his or her 9th grade year of schooling. She is still thinking of additional ways to raise funds for this support of her future pen pal and is open to suggestions. Contact Ruthie at jvflynn@cox.net And **Julia**, and her dad **Joe**, will be traveling to southern Haiti August 11th to visit an orphanage/school with over 800 children, babies to young adults. They will be among 12 Orange County locals visiting the Village of Hope to serve the children and provide school supplies for the upcoming school year. Julia and her dad are deeply grateful for the outpouring of gifts already donated for their trip. For those who wish to contribute school supplies, socks and underwear there is a location in our church facility to drop off gifts or contact Julia at jvflynn@cox.net

The Book Report...

(contributed by **Nancy Battey**)

Half the Sky: Turning oppression into opportunity for women worldwide by **Nicholas D. Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn** (New York Times journalists, recipients of the Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of China) Alfred Knopf, 2009. If you haven't already read "Half the Sky", I urge you to do so because it is a most important book of our time. Here are some of the reasons why: "...more girls have been killed in the last 50 years, precisely because they were girls, than men were killed in all the battles of the 20th century. More girls are killed in this 'routine' genocide in any one decade than people were slaughtered in all the genocides of the 20th century. In the 19th century, the central moral challenge was slavery. In the 20th century, it was the



battle against totalitarianism. We believe that in this century the paramount moral challenge will be the struggle for gender equality around the world.”

Despite these dire statistics and some of the unimaginable accounts of women described, I found the book objective, constructive, and wise in its advice, and not depressing. The secondary title of this book is “Turning oppression into opportunity for women worldwide.” Many accounts are given of women who have suffered greatly but ultimately triumphed in living freer, successful, and happier lives through the help of selfless souls, both men and women. I hope you choose to read this and help share its important message.

Attending our church without walls...

Joining us by conference call... DIAL 1-605-475-6350...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, or you are welcome to just listen in.

Meetings by Skype...We are now using the Skype room of members Mark and

Marilyn Mohlenbrock. They have generously donated this service to us to help us defray operating expenses.

Instructions: For all services, meetings and workshops: Skype number to dial: **+9900827047040344**.....or to call in by phone: **1-201-793-9022** ACCESS CODE: **7040344**. There is no charge for the Skype connection 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 Skype.com.



Your Management Team...

Our members comprise the governing body of our Society and our Management Team serves as the communication center, handling ongoing administrative and organizational tasks. Agenda items, motions or topics for discussion are welcomed and may be directed to any member of the Management Team.

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