

Christian Scientists' annual meeting taped for viewing this summer

The Church of Christ, Scientist, convening its 91st annual meeting in Boston, focused its attention on fulfilling the denominations' "mission of Christ-healing." The theme was traditional for Christian Scientists, but the meeting was not.

In a pre-taped video, the five-member board of directors stressed the church's founding purpose, dating from 1879, to commemorate the teachings and life of Christ Jesus "which should reinstate primitive

Christianity and its lost element of healing."

For the first time, videotapes of the Boston meeting will be shown at Christian Science churches around the world, enabling members of the century-old denomination to be part of the meeting in their respective cities and countries. In Farmington, members of First Church of Christ, Scientist have scheduled a meeting later in the summer for this purpose. Reports from the field, from Christian Scientists around the

world, also were delivered via video recordings.

A speaker from New York described a healing through prayer of a toxic condition that doctors feared would endanger her unborn child; a woman from New England told of being lifted from destitution and suicidal tendencies to hope and new purpose; a man from the Philippines recounted his recovery from a serious gunshot wound.

Asked what he felt was the most important element in the healing,

the man referred to forgiveness for the man who shot him: "Forgiveness helps a lot in healing because if you forgive, there is love. When you demonstrate love, you feel you are already in the kingdom of God and all is possible."

THOSE ATTENDING the two-hour afternoon meeting also heard reports from church officers and committees.

Church treasurer Donald Bower-

sock indicated that contributions not only supported the church's various worldwide denominational activities, but also enabled it to contribute to a variety of humanitarian relief organizations, including the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization, UNICEF, the Red Cross, Lutheran World Relief, Oxfam and CARE.

Nathan Talbot, manager of the church's information office, spoke about court cases challenging the legitimacy of spiritual healing as practiced over several generations by Christian Scientists.

"The real controversy is a struggle over the underlying concept of looking fully to God for healing," he said.

A panel of editors discussed the church's religious publications.

These include the 78-year-old international newspaper, "The Christian Science Monitor," and members were updated on the Monitor's new broadcasting activities on radio and television.

The editor of the church's religious magazines, Allison Phinney Jr., reported a 45-percent increase in accounts of spiritual healing submitted for publication. Each issue of the weekly Christian Science Sentinel,

the monthly Journal, and non-English language publications include letters of testimony from those who have been healed through prayer. Phinney said, "The Sentinel and its readership confirm the fact that spirituality has 'come of age' and is relevant to every contemporary topic."

THE NEWLY appointed clerk of the Mother Church, Virginia S. Harris of Birmingham, reported on last summer's international gathering for young Christian Scientists who are members of Christian Science organizations on university campuses. The meeting on "Individual Spirituality and the Future of Mankind" drew some 2,500 students and faculty members from 22 countries.

It was announced that Timothy A. MacDonald of Washington, D.C., and Marianne Bauer of Frankfurt am Main, Federal Republic of Germany, have been appointed to three-year terms as Readers at the Mother Church. The new president of the Mother Church, Jean K. Welda of Boston, brings to the one-year post long service to the denominations' healing and nursing activities.

Girl Scout troop earns Gold Award

Five Farmington Hills members of Senior Girl Scout Troop 1784 received their Gold Award this week. The event marked the first time an entire Girl Scout troop in the Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council earned the honor.

The award, the highest given to

Girl Scouts, is the equivalent of the Eagle Award for Boy Scouts. The ceremony took place on Tuesday, May 27, in Presbyterian Church of Farmington, Farmington Road at 11 Mile.

Judge Margaret Schaefer of the 47th district court was the keynote speaker. The troop received congratulatory letters from President Ronald Reagan and from Betty Pillsbury, national Girl Scout president.

The troop has worked for 1 1/2 years to achieve the award. They spent several months last summer and fall renovating Shlawassee Park in Farmington as their community service project.

The troop members include: Laurie McKinnon, troop president; Stacy

Sukockas, troop vice president, corresponding secretary; Stephanie Ellis, troop vice president, troop activities; Heidi Austermliller, troop secretary and Claudia Osowski, troop treasurer. All troop members attend North Farmington High School except Claudia Osowski who attends Harrison High School.

Camp aides needed for handicapped

The Metropolitan Society for Crippled Children and Adults is seeking volunteers, ages 18 and over, or its annual summer camp for the handicapped. The society has continually sponsored a summer camp for the handicapped since 1948.

The camp is in Jeddo, Mich., on Lake Huron north of Port Huron. This year's camp session is June 15-21.

Those with energy, high ideals and a desire to offer your time to handicapped children and adults, ages 7 to 40, contact Phyllis Bryant, camp director, Metropolitan Society for Crippled Children and Adults at 465-5522.



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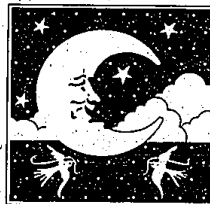
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