

Christian Scientists face their challenges

Editor's note: Judy Cole, a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist of Farmington, writes about the denomination's unusual meeting and the legal challenges it faces to practice Christian healing.

After offering a job to a refugee, a church in Cairo, Egypt, soon found itself full of refugees and out of money.

"Like Solomon," explained one adherent, "our members asked for

wisdom in how to deal with this thy so great a people." Praying to see each person not as a refugee but as a child of God, the church was able to continue to help and to heal those who came. One individual was healed of malaria, others found needed work, shelter, and a lessening of fear.

This report was given as part of the 92nd annual meeting of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston which focused on the wider range of

spiritual healing going on in the denomination.

In the wake of legal challenges to the practice of Christian healing, church officials affirmed the denomination's historical commitment to spiritual healing, and emphasized the context of love and responsibility and overall success in which it continues to be practiced.

Also discussed was the church's expansion of "The Christian Science Monitor," including the launching this fall of a daily televised edition of "Monitor NewsWorld" and the September start-up of a new monthly "World Magazine."

REPORTING ON THE church's five-member board of directors, incoming chairman John Lewis Solover took up the question of New Testament healing in modern times. He noted that the "healing record" of Christian Science extends throughout the past century, and underlines legislators' willingness over the decades to accommodate the practice of spiritual healing in state and federal law.

Public policy regarding healing, he said, always needs to be approached with fairness and thoughtfulness on all sides. But it isn't sound

policy, he added, "to unthinkingly rule out a responsible, Christian approach to spiritual healing" — one which has meant so much and has brought so much healing to the lives of thousands of Christian Scientists and their families.

Virginia Harris, clerk of The Mother Church, also reported the continuing evidence of healing in members' lives. Among the recent testimonies of healing received by the church were those of heart problems, impaired hearing, drug addiction, cancer, arthritis and stroke. She spoke of the ongoing importance of effective healing in light of the church's outreach to the world. She also announced that a series of meetings for college-age people will be held in several locations around the U.S. and overseas during the coming year.

COMMITTEE ON publication manager Nathan Talbot noted that several Christian Science parents are currently facing prosecution "for having relied upon Christian Science care and treatment" for their children. "Perhaps the irony of these prosecutions," said Talbot, "lies in the fact that one of the most significant contributions Christian

Science has made to society has been its healing of children."

"It seems especially vital that society look beyond the assumption that there is only one credible method of care — conventional medical treatment," Talbot said. "After all, many Christian Science families found their way to spiritual healing only after being given up by traditional medicine."

He noted the importance of having a choice when there are intelligent alternatives, stressing the common ground Christian Scientists and the rest of society share in determining the care they choose for their children, that of parental love. "Like other parents," Talbot said, "Christian Scientists want only the best possible care for their children."

Manager of The Christian Science Publishing Society John Hoagland highlighted the year's progress including the publishing of the first prototype edition of the magazine, "World Monitor," and the organization of the daily edition of "Monitor NewsWorld," which will begin broadcasting in the fall with former NBC correspondent John Hart as anchor. He also mentioned the interest in the shortwave broadcasts of "The Herald of Christian Science."

The new president of The Mother Church, Pearl Thompson of Washington, D.C., brings to the one-year post long service to the denomination's healing and lecturing activities.

Think Trim all-day course set June 25

Studies indicate that 95 percent of all people who go on diets regain that weight. Think Trim's founder and director, Lorraine Stefano, is offering the Think Trim workshop at the Farmington Community Center, Saturday, June 25. Stefano will lead an all day course for \$40.

Through Think Trim philosophies, Stefano helps the students develop a more positive attitude about themselves and their relationship to food. Stefano stresses the importance of self-image, self-motivation, healthy

attitudes, and above all, losing weight and keeping it off.

With her Think Trim principles of ongoing support, motivation and information, she has helped thousands of people to be trim. Stefano has developed a successful following with her Think Trim program and through her radio and television appearances. She conducts her seminars and classes at colleges, hospitals, corporations and community centers throughout the metropolitan area.

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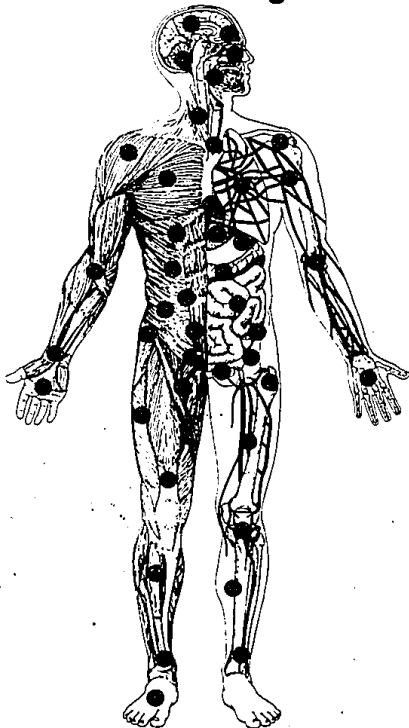
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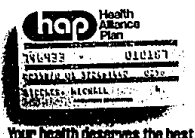
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