

# PUBLICLY SPEAKING

The newsletter of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship

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## Questions Answered

**Question:** How quickly can the Board of Lectureship respond to a lecture request when there is a special need?

**Answer:** "*Semper paratus* is Truth's motto." (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy 458:15) The Board of Lectureship is always ready to respond quickly. Rather than thinking a lecture has to focus on a particular community problem in order to meet a specific need, we're finding that when a lecture is focused on explaining the teachings and practice of Christian Science, it can quickly be adapted to respond to any situation. Below are some examples.

## MEETING THE WORLD'S NEEDS

### Mumbai, India

First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Mumbai began this lecture year praying with the Bible verse from Romans 8:28 – "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." The lecture chair said, "As we prayed and listened we felt the need to try and have more than one lecture and more than one lecturer during this year knowing that the Word of God could go far and wide."

The opportunities for more lectures did open up—they found out that Lyle Young of Ottawa, Canada, was coming to India to lecture. His lecture was entitled, "You Can Change the World—Through Prayer." The branch felt the title met their need and decided to invite him to lecture in December 2008.

"On Wednesday, November 26, there was a terrorist attack in Mumbai and the city was gripped by fear, anger and helplessness," the lecture chair said. "We prayed to know that this lecture was truly divine Love meeting each individual's need, that the affirmation of God's allness and power was the healing balm, that everyone was enfolded and safe in the warmth of Love. We knew that this was the best contribution we could make to restore harmony and peace. The lecturer conducted an inspiration meeting on December 4 which set the tone for the lecture which was to be held the next day. In spite of there being terror threats and advisories issued by the authorities requesting people not to go out, we had a good turnout of about 150 people. The lecturer included healing thoughts and ideas to meet our city's specific need."

On December 6 the branch had arranged a talk at the Initiatives of Change organization (international organization with its roots in England early in the 20th century). One of the church members set the tone for the evening by singing "Let No Walls Divide." The lecturer shared how everyone is united and can pray effectively and that all those in authority would be guided to make the right decisions that would be for the welfare of everyone. We ended

with "This Is the Time to Pray," which was much appreciated. Twenty-five people attended, about two-thirds of whom regularly attend this organizations meetings.

On December 7 one member accompanied the lecturer to Panchgani – about 5 hours by car – to the headquarters of Initiatives of Change. There was a seminar for the Armed forces and the branch was given a slot for a lecture there. The lecture was also translated in Hindi for the benefit of those who were not too fluent in English. We distributed booklets with the Lord's Prayer, Scientific Statement of Being, and four articles in Hindi and English which were readily accepted by those present. The lecturer was able to interact with those present during his two-day stay there. In fact the management has appreciated Christian Science ideas and wants the branch members to return on February 27 and 28, 2009 for another seminar, which is scheduled to be held for the Religious Teachers in the Armed Forces.

The lecture chair said, "We look forward to the fruitage of these lectures, after all in Isaiah we have the promise of the Lord, 'So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it.' "

Lecturer, Lyle Young said, "It was an especially rich spiritual and cultural opportunity for me. It was a lovely experience for me to share in Christian Science in a very different setting."

### **Yorba Linda, California, USA**

In November 2008, the "Freeway Complex Fire" burned over 30,000 acres and destroyed or damaged approximately 300 homes in Yorba Linda, Brea, and Anaheim Hills in California. A member from First Church of Christ, Scientist, Yorba Linda, shared how their branch sponsored a lecture in response.

"Ginny Luedeman was scheduled to lecture in seven days in a nearby city. Her title was **Finding Home... 'on earth as it is in heaven.'** With the approval of our Executive Board, we asked Ginny if she could add us to her schedule. Ginny agreed.

"Our Lecture Committee had recently located a facility for our already planned lecture in February. We were able to book the facility for a date that week that fit into Ginny's schedule.

"We quickly designed a flyer. A partial list of affected properties had been published in the newspaper, so we mailed flyers to them. Flyers were placed at the local emergency centers where people were meeting with officials and insurance agents, as well as at the copy center, police and fire stations, and farmers' market.

"Approximately one hundred people attended the lecture. We offered literature, lecture references, and snacks. Our aim was to comfort. A teenager stated after the lecture that he really connected with the message as he had been homeless and was a foster child.

"Ginny allowed us to record the lecture, and the videographer reduced his price as a contribution to the fire recovery effort.

"We broadcast the lecture on the local public access channel. Our lecture was longer than the usual time slot, but the station waived this constraint and showed it once a week for six weeks, and played it in its entirety. Two other local churches posted the lecture on their

web sites with the approval of the lecturer. To date, one of the churches reported that it has been viewed over 900 times in many states and countries. A new student of Christian Science e-mailed the lecturer *from London* asking how she could further her spiritual growth.

"To advertise the cable and online access we put ads in the newspaper and mailed flyers to a now more complete list of properties as well as local fire departments, police, Red Cross, homeless shelters, school officials, and others.

"We kept turning to God, even in the smallest of decisions and in meeting with several new people. Obstacles became irrelevant and the way opened up. It illustrated that statement in *Science and Health*, 454: 18:

Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way. Right motives give pinions to thought, and strength and freedom to speech and action. Love is priestess at the altar of Truth. Wait patiently for divine Love to move upon the waters of mortal mind, and form the perfect concept. Patience must 'have her perfect work.' "

## **HOW TO CONTACT US**

If you have general lecture questions, you can always e-mail us in your language at [lecture@thebol.com](mailto:lecture@thebol.com), or, if you speak English, call the Board of Lectureship office at The Mother Church. Our number is +1-617-450-3669.

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## **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Do you have any fruitage or progressive ideas for lecturing you'd like to share through PUBLICLY SPEAKING? Please send us your thoughts. We may be able to include your contribution in a future issue of PUBLICLY SPEAKING.