

PUBLICLY SPEAKING

The newsletter of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship

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Questions Answered

Question. How can we find additional copies of the lecture package that was mailed and e-mailed to branches in June 2008? Is there a printable catalog?

Answer. A downloadable PDF version of the June mailing is available on the Internet at <http://www.churchofchristscientist.org/lectureplanning/>. Click on the underlined word, 'Mailing,' on the right side of the page and the PDF document will open—ready for printing.

Find a printable catalog at <http://www.churchofchristscientist.org/lectureplanning/pdfs/lecturer-bios-2008-2009-full-catalog.pdf>. This catalog has 88 pages, but can be printed double sided.

Gratitude!

July is the beginning of a new lecture year. We are so grateful for the joy, inspiration, enthusiasm, and progress that we have seen evidenced through the lecture feedback forms sent in by sponsoring branches this past year. Keep your fruitage coming! Below are some special experiences from the last few months.

The Joy of Working Together

In April three Christian Science churches in Tucson, Arizona, USA, sponsored a series of three lectures. A committee was created with representatives from each sponsoring church. The chairman of the joint lecture committee said, "The committee was first and foremost aware of our need to pray metaphysically for the right lecturers to give the lectures and the times and places to hold them. And though it looked rather daunting to think we could organize this with the lecturers that each church had wanted, it all fell into place with complete harmony. After the lecturers and lecture dates fell into place, we knew that our unselfish desire to bring the message to Tucson—that there is a spiritual solution to every human problem—would continue to move us harmoniously through every detail leading up to the actual talks."

Each church was responsible for their lecturer's fee and travel expenses. However, all branches shared in the other expenses including four billboards that went up around the city for a month, invitations and flyers, newspaper advertising, and as a committee, they worked together to obtain permission to distribute flyers to four different college campuses in the area.

There was an average of 140-150 guests at each lecture. The chairman of the joint committee said, "The most wonderful part of the planning and preparation was the sharing that we did with each other. I have been Lecture Chairman many times, but I believe this was the most gratifying experience for me. Because we were coming together and representing all Christian Science churches in Tucson, we felt a sense of strength and unity. We each shared ideas, had three metaphysical meetings open to all three churches and regular attendees, and continued praying for each lecture during a two-month period. We

were no longer three individual churches, just calling to say when their lecture would be, but three united churches all prepared with the messages of the lecturers and united to bring this gift to Tucson."

All three lectures were held in the same auditorium at a local community college. They were all on Tuesday nights at 7pm and were a week apart. The three lectures were: "Why Spiritual Healing is Crucial" by Ron Ballard; "The Healing Power of Prayer" by Barbara Fife; and "Real Security without the Blanket" by Kevin Graunke.

Many newcomers attended the lectures and copies of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy were given away.

Inspiration supports the lecture activity

When lecture plans didn't go forward as originally planned, First Church New Delhi, India, re-focused their prayerful support of their lecture activity. Each member of the committee was assigned a specific topic to pray about. Individually they prayed about progress, promotion, location, time, and lecturer. Here are some of the ideas they worked with:

Progress: We all work together as God's servants, no one or no thing can hinder the progress of good.

Promotion: Our desire was to reach as many people as possible. Why? So they may be blessed, so they will learn about the healing Truth, so their hearts will flow over with joy, so they get to hear about unconditional Love.

Location: What meets the needs? A welcoming and comfortable atmosphere, suitable to accommodate all attendees, affordable for our church, and easy to get to. We kept in mind that Jesus was teaching on mountains, in private homes, and at the sea shore.

Time: The healing work has already begun and will continue after the lecture. The right time for the lecture would be when we are ready for the harvest and all workers on the field.

Lecturer: Someone who is God inspired, who expresses God's Love, someone who can deliver God's message, a good listener who follows God's guidance.

As a result of their prayer the lecture plans unfolded beautifully. Their lecturer, Sushil Likhi, was interviewed by a Journalist from one of the largest papers in New Delhi. The lecture, held at the YMCA, had approximately 25 newcomers with at least two of the newcomers attending a church service as a result.

The lecture chair said, "I think the church has learned to be more flexible and open, to really listen to God and not other people's opinions. I felt this was a church effort as a whole, not a one person job."

Enthusiasm the inevitable result!

First Church Enumclaw, Washington, USA, focused their lecture work, from the very beginning, on recognizing that the lecture and all the many details were the direct unfoldment of the only Cause, God. The Lecture Committee (as well as their entire membership) kept foremost in thought and motive—the recognition of the Christ as the reason for and fulfilling factor in this activity. This inspiration guided the decisions made by

the committee in the choice of lecturer, the date of the lecture, the location, and the human footsteps in advertising and invitations.

The lecture chair said, "We radically depended upon prayer in all of this, and the answers were always there, not as just personal opinion, but unfoldment. The choice of the topic for the lecture was almost unanimous from the start as we read the lecturer's title/topic options. All of this we felt was because of our motive to honor the Christ as the basis of our lecture. Personal opinion really didn't have an opportunity."

He went on to say, "We are very thankful for the provision in the *Church Manual* for the Board of Lectureship. We perhaps grasp better than ever before that the real source of the activity of lectures is the Christ itself. We worked from this standpoint and felt the healing and ordering impact of this very activity of God, infinite Love, in this work. We have seen, more than ever, how our work for the lecture and all other avenues of church is most meaningful and effective when, to quote (in part) our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, one '...blends his thoughts of existence with the spiritual and works only as God works,...' (*Science and Health* p. 263: 5-10). We continue in this unfolding of the Christ in our branch and its work."

At the lecture by Ron Ballard, there were so many new faces (not previously known to the membership) that they lost count, but members made a special point of speaking to each newcomer.

Progress!

This note came from a lecture chair from First Church, Sewickley, Pennsylvania, USA. "The lecture itself was a lovely demonstration for our church as we have not had one in over eight years—mostly for financial reasons. As we overcame these fears, we had a beautiful outpouring of financial support from our regular congregation, members, and visitors alike. The process of putting together the lecture was a wonderful experience of spiritual growth for our church. We have now agreed to make it a priority to budget enough money every week to provide for a lecture each year as the *Manual* requires."

HOW TO CONTACT US

If you have general lecture questions, you can always e-mail us in your language at 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.