

PUBLICLY SPEAKING

The newsletter of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship

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Questions Answered

Question: Where can I find the biographies and lecture titles for the lecturers?

Answer: At <http://www.churchofchristscientist.org/lectureplanning/lecturers.jhtml> on the Board of Lectureship website, there is a list all the lecturer's names. Click on a name and the lecturer's biography will pop up. Most lecture titles are listed at the bottom of the bio pages.

Also, at the above link, there is an 88-page printable PDF document that contains all the biographies.

Creative Ideas Breaking New Ground

Branches around the world are experiencing growth and healing as a result of their lecture activity. Below are some recent examples of branches that have followed their inspiration and tried new things.

Claygate and Esher, UK

This branch sponsored a lecture at a nearby school that is run by Christian Scientists. This lecture was for the parents who don't attend the Christian Science church. Daniel Scott was the lecturer. After the lecture the lecture chair was eager to share their experience with the Board of Lectureship (BOL) office. Below is her report.

"Oh, gosh, dear BOL, what a treat to sit down to respond to your lecture feedback request. Our lecture was a life-changing one! The preparation work of the lecture committee was a joy, and simply put, done in complete harmony with respect and admiration and trust in each one's ability.

"During the lecture preparation, a normal membership meeting occurred where the members voted to have as many lectures per year as we possibly could, with each lecture having a brand new, fresh committee, thus giving each member an opportunity to be part of this vital work. Talk about forward thinking and outreach to the community!

"We began our committee work with the check list available on the Board of Lectureship website at <http://www.churchofchristscientist.org/lectureplanning/checklist.jhtml>, which walked us right through the process. In the beginning we asked the whole church to be part of the committee by metaphysical support. We invited a Christian Scientist, who had discovered Christian Science at a lecture, to speak to our church members, and one thought he shared that we kept referring to throughout the months of preparation for our lecture, was that NOTHING can stop the good which God has planned for us.

"The process of advertising, meeting with the whole congregation and the lecturer for a preparatory evening, silent prayer meetings, personal invitations, media materials direct from the lecturer's website, and coordinating the venue, all prepared the fertile soil for a wonderfully successful lecture, after which I heard of two Christian Science healings within eight hours of the lecture.

"Following the lecture, during the question and answer time, questioners openly admitted being skeptics; the lecturer applauded them for sharing their questions, encouraged them, and included them. Fully a third of the attendees in our large (150 seats), filled hall, were newcomers and the lecturer had many excellent conversations with them. Hooray!

"Yes, Mary Baker Eddy must be right, 'There is but one real attraction, that of Spirit.' (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p.102)

"This report is submitted with so much gratitude for Mrs. Eddy's *Manual* provision for sharing Christian Science with the world through lectures and so much thanks for your work to make it all such a delight."

Australia

Ten branches in Australia invited lecturer Lyle Young to lecture for them (he also lectured in New Zealand, Angola, and Brazil on this trip). The branches in Australia joined together in their publicity and advertising efforts — with great results.

The lecture chair in Penrith, NSW, said, "Our members held a teleconference with the lecturer about three months prior to the lecture. This proved to be a most unifying and uplifting meeting. Our thoughts centred on the needs of the community and denying any thoughts that may try to hinder the progress of the lecture, for example, that we were just a small group.

"One of the members of our church suggested we create a prayer team to work for the lecture. The sense of unity and working together for one cause continued when First Church of Christ Scientist, Gosford, who was sponsoring the same lecturer, suggested all the Australian churches participate in producing a newsletter on newspaper-quality paper for distribution. The newsletter included an article by the lecturer, information about the lectures, and ads for *Science and Health*. This gave our church the opportunity to advertise in different ways. We sent the newsletter to the interfaith chaplains at campuses associated with the local university. Newsletters were sent to local and State radio stations. One of the local radio stations responded to our correspondence, and we were able to advertise at a reasonable cost for the 10 days prior to the lecture. A member hired a stall in the local street markets two weeks prior to the lecture and had the newsletter displayed and for distribution. *Science and Health* was also for sale at the stall.

"A couple of weeks prior to the lecture, one of the friends of the church who lives approximately 300 km [about 187 miles] away came to a Wednesday evening testimony meeting to report on a healing he had as a result of Christian Science. This same individual traveled again to be at the Sunday morning church service and the lecture. He appeared most appreciative of the lecture and gave his thanks.

"One newcomer reported he had seen the advertisement in the newspaper and had a need for healing and so he came. He also reported that his grandmother had been a Christian Science practitioner, but he had not been to any Christian Science church before.

"A church member felt inspired to contact someone who had been to the reading room and invite them. The individual who had been contacted was pleased to have received the invitation and came to the lecture with a friend. An individual who had been a member in the past also attended. We were happy to see them.

"A wife of one of the attendees phoned a church member to say how much their spouse had been inspired by the lecture and how practical it was. A member of the lecture committee reported that she felt a sense of peace and calm the week before the lecture even though there were still a substantial number of tasks to complete.

"A newcomer came to seek inspiration and guidance on how to help a friend struggling with alcoholism. The lecturer was unaware of his need, but the lecture includes the examples of alcohol and binge drinking to explain how changing our thought and starting with God, and what God knows of his creation, can have an effect on others and society as a whole. The newcomer was impressed that the example so closely met her need. She took a copy of *Science and Health* and *Sentinels* that related to this topic.

"Two weeks after the lecture we received a call from a lady who has a need for healing who wanted to come to our church services. She has attended a number of times and has spoken with the Reading Room attendants as well.

"This was a second lecture for our church in one lecture year and proved to be most successful. Although the work for a second lecture seemed daunting with a small group, we were not drained from the effort but rather fulfilled. A great sense of peace was felt before and after the lecture."

Lyle Young said, "The 'newsletter' was outstanding. It was a large four-page flyer and there was information printed in both Spanish and English as I lectured in both languages while in Australia. They got professional advice and working together, they made thousands of copies which were included in the main newspapers in several Australian cities. Pulling together all of the text and pictures for this was a lot of work, but this flyer went into probably hundreds of thousands of homes at an affordable price.

"Ten churches from Australia and six from New Zealand worked together on this tour. This meant that the cost per church to bring a lecturer from clear the other side of the world was very reasonable. This was a good use of the branches' money and of the lecturer's time. And it was also kinder to the environment since an organized tour requires less travel than 16 different trips to individual cities. Such a major tour requires effective prayer, advanced planning, and a spirit of cooperation and flexibility and that was certainly there in abundance in Australia and New Zealand!"

Tempe, Arizona, USA

Here is a quick quote from the lecture chair in Tempe, "What we learned was that the effort and prayerful thought we put into the lectures did bless the community, but also our members found it more and more effortless to reach out to humanity in their individual experience. One member said, 'Everybody's invitations happened naturally.' We are seeing significant healings in this church, and they are reverberating out through the community."

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

First Church Calgary was inspired by a previous issue of PUBLICLY SPEAKING to hold a lecture in a panel format followed by a general audience lecture the same day. To this end they prayerfully and diligently worked, connected with their community, and sponsored a panel that focused on "Spiritual Solutions to Ending Homelessness" with lecturer Dave Stevens as one of the panelists. Dave also gave the lecture that was held after the lunch provided by the church titled, "Spiritual Solutions to Security in the Community." This branch prayed their way through each step of the lecture planning process and as a result were led to try many new ideas.

A heading in the feedback report from the branch was: BREAKING NEW GROUND and CREATIVE IDEAS. Here is what they shared.

"There was a positive, joyful sense of the rightness of the whole day! There was lots of interactive dialogue with impromptu verbal questions and answers during the second lecture. It was new for us to hold two lecture events on one day and to provide a free lunch. Many newcomers talked with the lecturer during lunch and after the lecture.

"We witnessed God's guidance in planning the panel: its format, its conduct, and the rightness of having only three panelists. The search for the right blend of panelists, and the venue was also creative, original, and God-directed. We encountered positive encouragement, help, and feedback from other faith communities during this process.

"Our expectation of who would be likely to attend a Christian Science lecture was enlarged and healed. Newcomers spoke with David with sincere interest during the lunch break. Members of the Lecture Committee all experienced healings throughout the months we spent planning this lecture

"As plans went forward many new ideas and results unfolded:

- Realizing our goal of holding a real public lecture. The highest proportion ever of non-Christian Scientists attended – (an estimate of one-third to one-half)
- Welcoming the widest cross-section of humanity ever to attend one of our Christian Science lecture events
- Recognizing the worth of and interacting with homeless people who attended
- Having two events on one day – a Panel and a traditional Lecture, and having a number of people stay for both events
- Building relationships with other faiths throughout the planning and the day of the events
- Searching for panelists through contacts with other church denominations and service organizations
- Encouraging free interactions (Q&A) at both Panel and Lecture (oral and written)
- Collecting written questions from audience, and having them prioritized by a designated committee member before being handed to the moderator of the panel
- Donating 16 copies of *Science and Health* to individuals, including the panelists
- Advertising on the Calgary Transit C-trains
- Setting up a G-mail address for public inquiries re lecture details
- Sending e-mail invitations with the electronic file of the poster as an attachment
- Sending these e-mail invitations to municipal and provincial government representatives involved with ending homelessness and security issues, i.e. EMS, Calgary Police Commission, Member of Legislature representing N.W. Calgary
- Following up after the lecture events, by several committee members attending meetings of a group working to end homelessness, and other interfaith groups."

Lecturer, Dave Stevens, said, "The lecture committee really took to heart the idea that Christian Science has a message about the nature of God and man and the power of prayer that is key to solving homelessness. They also became convinced that the community members dealing with the issue have a right to this spiritual perspective. Their determination to include those in Calgary who are working to end homelessness led to valuable contacts, an outstanding panel, and the attendance of professionals, the homeless, and politicians with an interest in the issue. Every step of the way, the committee demanded more of themselves; more vision, more consideration of what they already had in the house in the form of resources, skills, and contacts. All the while, they kept a spiritual sense of the events foremost in thought resulting in inspired new ideas for publicity, and a vision of limitless possibilities for good."

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.

Our mailing address is:
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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.