

## LACKLAND SERVICE REPORT

by Elden D. Stalnaker, CS

After the Sunday, September 10, 2006, Christian Science service at Lackland AFB was over and recorded with ninety-one present, I thought it might be most informative to give you a taste of what a Christian Science minister, for the American military force, does in that ministry.

Besides preparing all week on the great Lesson Sermon chosen for us by our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, and following her 'only so far as she follows Christ.', and as our wonderful Lesson Sermon Committee develops for us all, a civilian military minister becomes the Sunday School teacher, the COP, the First and Second Reader, and hourly-the practitioner. He/she will deliver the Comforter.

We are called to the base to give Christian Science treatments upon request, where others would report to a military chaplain assigned to that base. We are having wonderful healings weekly, and our 0800 to 1000 hour worship space is packed to the brim each Sunday morning. I set up our worship space at 0700 hours each Sunday so those that want to come in to read the periodicals can come for this and counseling when needed.

For example, this past Sunday, when I arrived at 0700 hours to set up, a trainee was there waiting to help me set up, which several of them do weekly. I felt some tugging of the heart, and felt she needed something specific in our early morning meeting. After asking her how her week went, she explained that she was doing great in her training and would graduate Friday of this week. But, that in the middle of the week, the officials had called her out of class to inform her that her mother had passed on unexpectedly.

Now, we had to get to work. The first erroneous postulate, in that Lesson, popped into my mind and we discussed it. We talked about how she could handle this with her graduation right on hand, and her technical school already set up and timed where she would graduate early in December to have her wedding, which was already scheduled.

We worked on the true idea of God and His perfect creation never being separated from each other, and that that was what we were being given to work with. This gave her strength to tell me that she would never have gotten this far in her military career without her new-found study of Christian Science. By the time the service was over, everyone in the room was hearing her testimony of strength, and when we dismissed, it was such a joy to look out, and half of the class was escorting her lovingly back to her barracks.

The erroneous postulate had not gotten into our work there and what a Sunday to have those five erroneous postulates developed so beautifully for all of us. We are working with page 547 in Science and Health:

*The Scriptures are very sacred. Our aim must be to have them understood spiritually, for only by this understanding can truth be gained. The true theory of the universe, including man, is not in material history but in spiritual development. Inspired thought relinquishes a material, sensual, and mortal theory of the universe, and adopts the spiritual and immortal.*

One trainee came to me for counseling after hearing the Lesson Sermon, and some in depth discussion on King David's forgiveness of sins: of breaking God's law put forth in the Ten Commandments, and God's loving forgiveness ( Psalm 51:10) of him and that he was spiritually, and morally, reinstated as the anointed king of Israel, and that Jesus, the future anointed one, as the Christ, was to come forth from this family tree as the Son of David, to fulfill all prophecy. And, that all eyes are to be enlightened with this Truth.

He had just learned from his fiancée that she was pregnant with his child, and he was so frightened that he would be restricted from the Air Force. Many of the men in his flight were falsely telling him he would be kicked out and that their idea of God was punishing him this way. ( Strains of the story of Job's trial)

We handled this through prayer and the two are to be married as soon as he gets settled in his technical school.

We are using for our special weekly study: Psalm 144:7-15:

*Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children; Whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood.*

*I will sing a new song unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee.*

*It is he that giveth salvation unto kings: who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword.*

*Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood:*

*That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished*

*after the similitude of a palace:*

*That our garners may be full, affording all manner of store: that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets:*

*That our oxen may be strong to labour; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets.*

*Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.*

A trainee, fearful of physical failure, asked for prayerful help while taking physical exams this week. She through tears of fear, told me she feared the worst, and was afraid of her technical instructor. Through prayer, and much listening for the right answer, she left smiling, confident of herself and letting God do the directing. She was now understanding the 'new birth', and would be victorious as she shed the old dogma of being wrapped in matter- instead of the Truth. She was spiritual and victorious in , and because of, the Father-Mother God. The 'substance of things hoped for' were present in all of the above work, proving again the power and truth in the Holy Scriptures when studied , and practiced, according to the teachings of Christ Jesus and the Writings of our precious Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, and can demonstrate this opening quote from our textbook: "To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, to-day is big with blessings."

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