



# The Spiritual Resource Foundation

*Supporting Christian Science activities in the Russian-Speaking Field*

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## ***Executive Board***

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Dear Friends:

A lot's been going on since we last shared with you and there are some developments we are very excited about! But first let us tell you of some of the things that have happened more recently:

We are delighted to welcome a new member to the Board, Richard Block, an attorney in Anchorage, Alaska. He will be of inestimable value helping us on legal and organizational aspects of the work.

In August, the Foundation provided funding for Leide Lessa, Manager for the *Heralds of Christian Science*, to give workshops on 'Writing for the Periodicals' and 'Radio Program Production.' These workshops were scheduled to coincide with Hildegard Arnesen's Association and Marie Helm's first Class so that many could attend. There was keen interest in the workshops and we hope there will soon be articles coming from participants for the next series of *Heralds* ... more about this later, and watch the February *Christian Science Journal* for a report on Leide's trip to Russia.

This year the Church in Nurenburg, Germany wrote to us to determine how to send a contribution, and from this came the idea to have the euros remain in Germany (and not lose value in being exchanged into dollars and then back into euros) to support the Russian language short-wave broadcasts from Hamburg. From this inspiration we now have Christian Scientists at the Radio Station who have agreed to receive contributions and apply them to the broadcasts. The Foundation is expanding internationally!

Also exciting are some of the developments that are on the horizon: One of the most notable concerns the production of future Russian *Heralds*. The Foundation joined with the Christian Science Publishing Society (CSPS) to produce a *Herald* in 2006. It was a great success and the Russians are always asking: "When will we see the next one?" It may be soon! We are negotiating with one of our Russian translators in England, who is also an artist, to take over the translation and lay-out of future editions. He is very creative and also excited about this possibility.

Another project that is just getting under way is the translation of more hymns into Russian. There are currently 86 hymns translated and set to music. It happens that our St. Petersburg translator studied the setting of poetry to music while working on his doctorate and recently translated a hymn for the Longyear Foundation with great success. He has completed two hymns for us and we hope to continue translations as funds become available. Russian Christian Scientists have long been asking for more translations of hymns since they are such a rich source of inspiration.

Another new project the Foundation has embarked upon is continuing the translation of *Prose Works* by Mrs. Eddy. That is our top priority for translations. Three articles have been

*"Soul has infinite resources with which to bless mankind" – Mary Baker Eddy*

translated in the past but need revising. Work is now progressing on translating *Unity of Good*. . Two other experienced Christian Scientists, native Russian speakers and excellent translators, are being tapped to help.

Both of the above projects will require considerable metaphysical and financial support, and our translators have agreed to proceed as funds become available. We are seeking an experienced 'Fund Raiser' to assist us in that department. Any help in locating this person would be greatly appreciated!

We are also supporting the setting up of a Russian website in Russia for Christian Science that will link to the Russian Herald page at The Mother Church's website. That will give Russian-speakers correct information about Christian Science, counteracting the overwhelmingly negative publicity they get.

The mission of the Foundation has been expanded to include certain activities in former Soviet Bloc countries; this will enable us to respond to requests for help from outside the Russian-speaking field. Our mission statement now reads: "To Support Christian Science Activities in former Soviet Bloc Countries."

Dr. Hildegard Arnesen, CSB, has begun to scale back her work in Russia. She will continue with her Association meetings as well as practitioner work, while Marie Helm is now teaching and lecturing, making two trips to Russia each year. The two trips have become necessary due to restrictions on length of stay imposed by the government. Another restriction that affects our work is that no religious literature can be sold in the Reading Room in St. Petersburg. Because of the church's non-profit status, all literature must be given away, but donations can be accepted.

Native Russian-speakers are needed as translators. We would be grateful for any help in finding them.

We thank you with all our hearts for your prayers and financial aid. A special thanks to our friends in Great Britain and Germany for the growing activity and generous support there.

Following are selections from a report by Marie Helm, CSB, of activities during the past year.

**The Spiritual Resource Foundation,**

Bill      Catherine      Charles      Leslie      Ralph      Richard

## FRUITAGE REPORT

Selections from Marie Helm's report

### Almaty, Kazakhstan

Only a few attended the lecture, but, despite great pressure from materialism, medical thought, and opposition to "foreign" faiths, they continue to hold services and experience healing.

### Moscow, Russia

The American Cultural Center in Moscow, said that the more they understood the nature of the lecture to be given at the Book Fair, the more excited they were about presenting one themselves. It became part of their ongoing Monday evening lecture series about American culture, life, perspectives, etc. They eagerly received copies of *Science and Health* for their library. There were about 30-35 people in attendance at the lecture. Only one of them was a Christian Scientist and the rest were newcomers. The audience was very attentive. Most of the questions afterward were very thoughtful.

### Kherson, Ukraine

There were 20 people at the lecture. Eight people were members of the church, and six were newcomers. The rest of the attendees were somewhat familiar with Christian Science. A number of the people indicated their joy at the wonderful ideas expressed in the lecture and how they could be applied to their own issues. A woman reported that she'd been told she had to vacate her home immediately and she had nowhere to go. She'd been upset not only by the news, but also because the caller had been so unkind and demanding. However, as she listened to the lecture she felt such a sense of peace replacing the agitation and that she knew all was well. When she talked with the person later, his demeanor had completely changed and he was willing to let her stay until her new place was ready. The next day, she reported that she'd also been healed of severe back pain.

### Kiev, Ukraine

There were 11 people at this lecture. Three were Christian Scientists, and the others were newcomers. The Christian Science group now consists of just 3 individuals. They took upon themselves all the expenses for advertising and hall rental. This was a wonderful contribution on their part and demonstrated their sincere desire to share CS with their community. While the group was small, I have rarely given a lecture to a group of people more intensely interested in the lecture. Not a single person left without literature or without coming to thank me for the lecture and asking if there would be more lectures in the future.

### Astana, Kazakhstan

There were 10 people at this lecture and only three of them were familiar with Christian Science. The group included a physician, a student, and a teacher, among others, and they were intently interested in the lecture. One woman had been feeling grumpy and mean spirited when she arrived, but was so glad she had come. She said, "Now I'm happy and smiling!" She also said she intends to visit the group's meetings. The physician said that she is always interested in other healing methods and she found it very interesting to think more deeply about the connection between the patient's beliefs and fears and the state of their health. The teacher said that she especially appreciated that the lecture illustrated how we can heal character flaws through prayer. Part of her work is to help students improve their behavior and grades. She is eager to share ideas from the lecture with them. The student who came was only 15 years old and was interested in how prayer heals. She wants to share the ideas gained with a relative who is suffering from ill health.

### Moscow Book Fair

There were about 20 people in attendance at the lecture. Five of them were Christian Scientists and the rest were newcomers. Two gentlemen attending the lecture purchased copies of *Science and Health*. They asked me to inscribe one copy with a message of friendship and said they plan to give that copy to President Medvedev! The exhibit booth included copies of the Russian Herald, *Science and Health*, the *History of the Movement of Christian Science in Russia between the years of 1917 and 1935*, by M. Krapivin, and the newly published Russian translation of *Persistent Pilgrim*, by Richard Nenneman. All copies of the Herald, the biography, and *Science and Health* were sold, although a few copies of *Science and Health* were given out. While the informal CS group remains small, the number of readers of *Science and Health* is growing

### L'vov, Ukraine

About 35 people attended the lecture. \_\_\_\_ of them were already acquainted with Christian Science. The rest were new comers. The mother of one of the members is a pediatrician, and she has enjoyed what she has been learning through her daughter and son-in-law, who are members of the group, but she had felt that the ideas were difficult to apply in her life. After the lecture, she said she was extremely grateful for the lecture because it so clearly showed her how to use the ideas.

People attending the Arnesen Association took copies of *Persistent Pilgrim*, by Nenneman back to their respective groups. You can't imagine how excited people here are to have access to a biography of Mary Baker Eddy! It's the first biography available to them, and they are finding a whole new appreciation for Mrs. Eddy and *Science and Health*.