

## Ingrid Peschke, Massachusetts Committee on Publication – Key points from her talk 4-28-18

*Ingrid is happy to have members contact her at [ma@compub.org](mailto:ma@compub.org) or 617-450-3322 with questions or comments.*

### How are we as a church body “afame with divine Love”?

- We’re the children of light, not darkness; the light of the world. Don’t hide our light – we need higher attainments. Be patient toward persecution; our enemies will advertise for us.
- Alfred Farlow, the first Committee on Publication and loved by MBE, said to not attack or demolish, but have charity for all, wait patiently, and be kind Christian standard bearers.
- Do the work through love or it’s not being done at all. When sharing C.S., having others feel the love of the Christ is what counts, the “tender word and Christian encouragement...” (S&H 367)

### Why do we need church?

- Church members are like a campfire. We all know what happens when we spread out the coals (they go out) – but come together, and there’s a flame!
- We need churches for unity and for the community – to handle the collective action of evil.
- Wednesday evening testimony meeting is the “crown.”

### How can we help pray and correct misinformation? “God, how can you use me?”

- This work supports the healing activity of our church.
- It removes “stones” so people will come to our lectures, etc.
- Be willing to be in a conversation with those who differ – “a cup of cold water in Christ’s name.” (Without speaking in Christ’s name, it’s just a cup of cold water!)
- Convey how we honor sacrament, baptism, communion, our oneness with God – what we have in common with other Christian churches. Along with “more alike than different,” claim our uniqueness as Christian Scientists. It’s not about the human mind and material techniques.
- Scientology: Rather than describe it, say C.S. has nothing to do with it, and tell what C.S. is.
- A healing in progress: When working out something at home, make clear to family members and others that something is being done (C.S. nurse, etc.).
- Correct impositions such as these:
  - *No longer able to heal as in the past*: As in Jesus’ first healing, the “best wine” is yet to come.
  - *Numbers declining, church dying*: If this comes to our thought, take it on as a practice case, whether it’s a C.S. church or other churches.
- Desk Announcements: Be sure it’s clear that church services are for everyone.
- Biographies: *A World More Bright*, a quick read; or Gill biography, *Mary Baker Eddy*. Look in Natick Library to see what’s there. Share books from our Reading Room?
- MBE’s vision for Committee on Publication was printed articles. See Annie Knott’s recollection in *Years of Authority*, p. 227, re gold and silver coinage. The “gold” is our thought, and the “silver” is publishing.

### Examples of “turnarounds”

- The Mother Church received a very critical letter, and forwarded it to Ingrid to help craft a response. The man wrote back saying he couldn’t believe the church had responded, and his tone completely changed! (As always, we need a response that starts to heal the heart – that’s not defensive, but answers with love.)
- Some students from a class at Harvard Institute for Learning and Retirement visited Longyear. The attendant realized they were taking a class that threw a negative light on Christian Science and MBE. Longyear alerted Ingrid. With two weeks left in the class, she arranged for Gillian Gill to be guest speaker the next week. She also met the professor and his students at their first testimony meeting at TMC, and she was invited to speak at the last class. The students reviewed the service, sharing from their hearts. They said they had expected an older crowd and dwindling numbers, but instead were impressed with the space, the young testifiers, and the democratic nature of our church. One woman after class remarked that to understand the subject, they really needed to read a lot more, and Ingrid agreed!