

**Christian Science in Metro Chicago  
Body Mind Spirit Expo in Northlake, IL  
Wrap Up Report 11/8/2023**



**SUMMARY**

The Christian Science in Metro Chicago joint committee coordinated participation on behalf of the local Christian Science community at the recent Body Mind Spirit Expo. The Expo was a two-day conference held at the Midwest Conference Center in Northlake, IL over the weekend of October 21 & 22, 2023.

Organized by Body Mind Spirit Expo (BMSE), the Ashland Oregon based company sponsors 19 expos each year across the United States that cater to the metaphysical and alternative health communities.

Representing the Christian Science Reading Room, eight volunteers served during the 17 exhibit hours on Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the exhibit booth, two Christian Science lectures were given as part of the Expo's presentations.

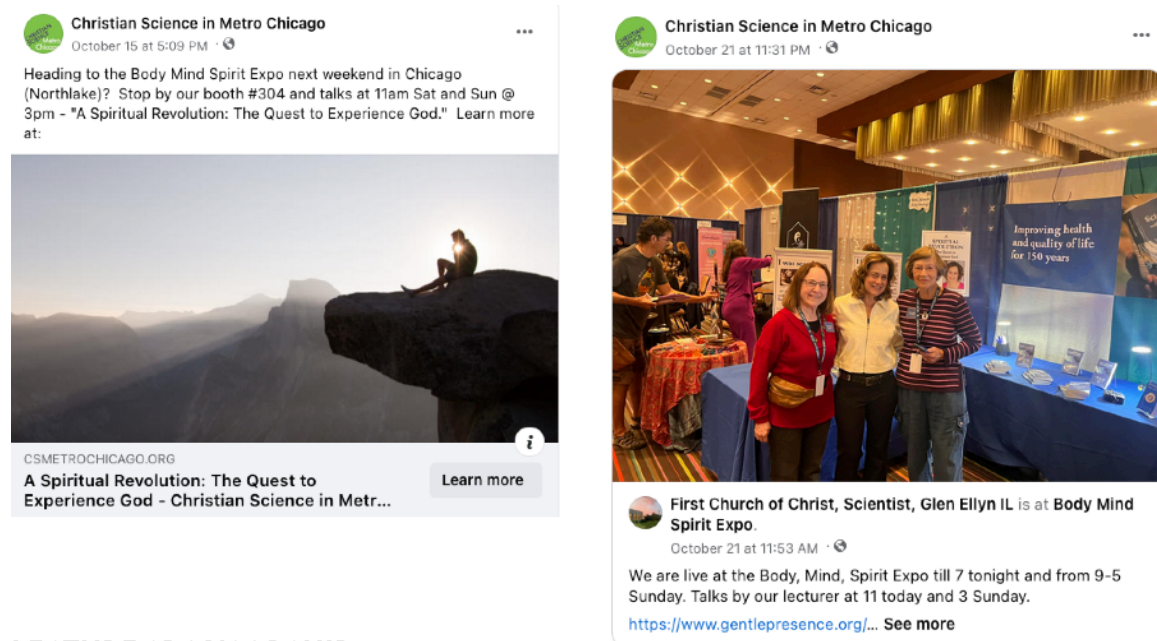
**PREPARATION**

CSMetroChicago e-newsletters as well as the csmetrochicago.org website informed Chicagoland of the upcoming event in the weeks prior to the event.

Zoom meetings in support of lecture and booth activity were held for sponsoring churches and booth participants as they prepared to participate in making Christian Science available to seekers looking for healing solutions.

## PROMOTION

Facebook promotion included the following posts (note Oct 15 post was promoted with \$50 ad to targeted Chicago audience with interest in spirituality):



## LECTURE SPONSORSHIP

Lecture Committee chairs - Todd

Wittenberg (Glen Ellyn), Ray Cesca (Hinsdale), Karen Reynertson (Elmhurst), organized the lecture activity & its finances, contacting The Mother Church to "call for the lectures" and coordinating communication between the sponsoring branches, lecturer and Event Coordinator.

In preparation for the talks on Christian Science being given at the Expo, a metaphysical conference call took place with the lecturer. Approximately 20 people were in attendance with lively conversation and support of the upcoming event.



## BOOTH ORGANIZATION AND DISPLAY

The focus of the booth was the presentation and sale of the textbook of Christian Science, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. Simple, clear displays presented the practical, healing benefits of *Science and Health*.

Small handout-cards with a list of Chicagoland Reading Rooms and Wednesday meetings provided information to seekers where they could meet with other readers of *Science and Health*.



## SALES

Science and Health (\$10 each) 19 copies  
\$190 Total Income - Sales were handled in cash and via credit card

## CONVERSATIONS

Over 50 (approximately)  
17 Exhibit Hours - 3 conversations per expo hour  
8 Staff Workers (from 3 branch churches)

## CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

- A couple wanted to know about spiritual healing. They were sincerely grateful for the sharing of a significant healing by the booth worker.
- A woman stopped by and said, "This is Christian Science, right? My parents subscribed to the Monitor for years and I loved it!" We shared what we loved about the Monitor, I asked whether she knew much about Science otherwise. This led to her asking some good questions and purchasing *Science and Health*.
- With several folks I shared a little of MBE's life and discovery of Christian Science through healing. This led sharing the chapter Fruitage in the book. This conversation resulted in the sale of the book.
- Two different parent couples purchased *Science and Health* for daughters they felt would benefit from this book about healing.
- One visitor wanted specific prayer about supply. Ideas were shared with prayer.
- After learning of the healing ideas in *Science and Health*, one woman immediately bought the book and ran to hear the lecture which had just begun.
- Several visitors stopped to say they had purchased the book at the last expo. Responses were very positive.
- Sharing one's own healing experiences resulted in the sale of *Science and Health* to several visitors.
- A woman who is practicing "religious science" (her words) had heard of Mary Baker Eddy. She bought *Science and Health* to see what the author has to say.
- Several exhibitors who had booths at the expo purchased *Science and Health*. One worked as a chiropractor; another was into "quantum mechanics - metaphysics". A third one had his own personal healing practice.
- A woman who had attended Chicago Junior School and had attended Sunday school was delighted to discover Christian Science was at the expo. She purchased her own copy.
- One young man was impressed by the lecture but had to leave early. He bought a copy of *Science and Health* saying this would help him to continue to learn more.
- A woman came directly from the lecture, took out her money and purchased *Science and Health* without saying a word.
- (from a new booth worker) "It was a wonderful experience speaking with searchers looking for spiritual healing. Many were interested in *Science and Health*"

## Suggestions/comments from booth workers

- This is a very receptive audience for *Science and Health*. I hope we will continue to have a presence there in the future. It was especially helpful to be able to invite people to hear the lecture.
- The cost of the book should be posted. One shouldn't have to ask.
- A QR code or card directing one to the audible SH. For one person this would have met his need.



- Perhaps having a table and chair at which someone could ask about spiritual healing regarding a problem they are facing.

**Lectures & Results**

Two lectures sponsored by 3 branch churches paid for all associated speaker expenses: Glen Ellyn, Elmhurst, and Hinsdale.

Approximately 35 participants in total attended the two lectures. 26 were identified as not familiar with Christian Science. Many were drawn in by usher staff posted at the door. Several people were engaged during at the end of each lecture, with questions answered about the practicality of Christian Science and the spiritual aspect of Divine Science.

**Booth Expenses**

Booth & Lecture Fee	\$ 230.00
Display materials, handouts, inventory	<u>\$ 401.69</u>
 Total Expenses	 \$ 631.69

Note: All lecture related expenses were paid by the sponsoring area churches.

Submitted by

Nancy Bachmann, CSMetroChicago Board Member & Event Organizer AND Todd Wittenberg, Glen Ellyn Church Lecture Organizer

