

Christian Science in Metro Chicago
Body Mind Spirit Expo in Schaumburg — September 27-28, 2025
Wrap up Report 10/9/2025



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 (BMSE.)

The Expo was a two-day conference held at the Schaumburg Convention Center in Schaumburg, IL over the weekend of September 27 and 28. Organized by Body Mind Spirit World, 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, four volunteers served during the 17 hours on Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the exhibit booth, one Christian Science lecture was given as part of the Expo's presentations.

PREPARATION

The Reading Room booth and Christian Science lecture were promoted by BMSE organizers on their website and in expo attendee registration packets. CSMetroChicago e-newsletters as well as the CSMetroChicago.org website informed Chicagoland of the upcoming event in the weeks prior to the event. In addition, the expo lecture was promoted along with all the fall lectures advertised on CSMetrochicago.org and related Facebook page.

Booth workers participated in a zoom training meeting.



LECTURE SPONSORSHIP

Seven churches, including the lead lecture committee from Naperville, 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 addition to 1st C Naperville, 1st C Barrington, 17th C Chicago, CSS Glen Ellyn, CSS Park Forest, CSS Park Ridge and CSS Sandwich sponsored the lecture.



Lecture by Melanie Wahlberg – “Effective Christian Healing in 2025: A closer look at the book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*”

The lecture itself was attended by four church members (three were booth volunteers) and nine expo attendees, four of whom stayed for the whole lecture while the others attended part of it. Lots of smiles and nodding agreement was noticed among attendees. One attendee commented to a booth volunteer that of all the modalities present at the expo, that this felt like spiritual reality. Several people approached the lecturer afterwards and spoke with her about their impressions.



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*.



Share. Pray. Listen.
TOGETHER.
Online and In Person.

Wednesday Evening

Experience calm and peace, share insights and healing ideas from *Science & Health*, find clarity, be better.

Find a meeting:
CSMetroChicago.org/Wednesday

Wednesday Prayer Meetings in Metro Chicago

More info @ CSMetroChicago.org

One of the best hours of the week! A mid-week prayer and sharing meeting. In person and online.

Real people working out real issues. Sharing from the heart and sharing what they are learning from their study of *Science and Health with Key to Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. Connecting with the divine. Feeling refreshed.

Wednesday prayer group meetings throughout Metro Chicago. Scan the QR code with your mobile phone camera app to find locations, in person and online options, and meeting times.



Improving health and quality of life for 150 years

Available at Christian Science Reading Rooms throughout Metro Chicago

See locations on back of card and at CSMetroChicago.org

Christian Science Reading Rooms in Metro Chicago

More info @ CSMetroChicago.org



- Barrington 421 Main St
- Chicago 935 E 50th St
- Chicago 2628 N Clark St
- Chicago 55 E Wacker Dr
- Chicago 7036 North Ridge
- Deerfield 155 Deerfield Road
- Evanston 1936 Central St
- Geneva 322 W State St, #105
- Hinsdale 14 E First St
- Libertyville 120 E Cook Ave
- McHenry 1511 Eastwood Ln
- Michigan City 617 N Franklin St
- Naperville 16 E Jefferson Ave
- Oak Lawn 9536 Minnick Ave
- Palatine 1 S Rohlwing
- Park Ridge 13 N Prospect Ave
- Winnetka 804 Elm St

CONVERSATIONS

The conversations at the booth were more robust on Saturday. Sunday felt that people were rushing more. We handed out 40+ flyers for the lecture and many people said they were interested.

There were at least 40 conversations with attendees and other exhibitors.

- A senior couple who was familiar with the bible, said they were concerned with how our culture is getting away from religion. I showed them the chapter on fruitage and talked about Jesus' healing message. They purchased *Science and Health*.
- A woman who declared herself a Messianic Jew said her cousin is a Christian Scientist. She also purchased a book.
- A man seeking healing, who was very familiar with Christin Science attended the Expo specifically to hear the lecture. He had enthusiastic conversations with two booth volunteers and the lecturer.
- A Greek Orthodox woman who loved the chapter on prayer purchased a book.
- A very distraught Polish woman who was with her husband told me of her hardships in life and how she is now putting God first. She encouraged her husband to buy the book and read it. He purchased it. I saw him the next day and he excitedly reported to me that he had read the book's preface.
- Another Greek Orthodox woman stopped by with her daughter and they said they thought they got a copy of the book while in Bulgaria. They took a photo and said they would like to attend the lecture.
- A woman who has experienced pain for many years but is not interested in organized religion spoke with me at length. She had not been working for over a year, so I donated a book to her. She later brought a friend who was interested. I gave her a copy of an old Sentinel.
- A woman with sight issues could not read the book, so I gave her a Reading Room card and told her she could find the book online on christianscience.com and listen to the Bible Lesson on the phone. She was grateful.
- I spoke with at least three people in Spanish and told them we have the book in many languages and many articles in Spanish.
- A young lady relayed her story of healing and said she is "recovering her spiritual nature." We donated a book to her saying it was her story!



SUGGESTIONS/comments from booth workers

- Have copies of *Science and Health* in different languages, especially Spanish.
- Two booth workers at a time are plenty for the small space.
- Provide white and blue table clothes, a floral arrangement, and a container with candies.

SALES

Science and Health (\$10 each) 13 copies = \$130 total income.
Sales were handled in cash.

BOOTH EXPENSES

Booth	\$ 706.00	
Display materials and handouts	\$ 76.18	
Event Coordinator Honoraria	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	
Total Expenses		\$ 2,282.18

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

Submitted by
Diane Almendarez, Event Coordinator