



CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION
FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

2013 NORCAL CHURCH ALIVE SUMMIT Answering Questions About Christian Science

LIFTING THE FOG

Ever wonder what we as church members could be doing to help lift the “fog” that appears to be hovering over the public’s perception of Christian Science? (An apt analogy, whether you live in the Bay Area or the San Joaquin Valley). Something that we may find ourselves somewhat reluctant to do is actually the one thing that could prove to be the most effective: making sure that we’re not just **willing** and **able** but also **aware** of the many opportunities there are to answer the public’s questions about Christian Science.

WILLING: Why Respond?

- ▶ “To correct in a Christian manner impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science.”
- ▶ Motivated by Love *to* love.
- ▶ We’re the only ones qualified to respond.

ABLE: The Big Questions?

- ▶ “What is Christian Science?” or “Why are you a Christian Scientist?”
- ▶ What is prayer?
- ▶ Why don’t you go to doctors?

Tips For Responding

- ▶ Handle fear & resistance (e.g. “no ability” or “no opportunity”).
- ▶ Speak from your own experience.
- ▶ Listen for the question behind the question.
- ▶ Feel free to ask questions yourself (e.g. “Did I answer your question?”).
- ▶ No need to be defensive; beware of making comparisons.
- ▶ Keep your answers short, sweet, and jargon free.
- ▶ Treat every conversation as an opportunity to heal.

AWARE: What Matters to the Public?

- ▶ 80% of Internet users look for health information online.
- ▶ Searching for health information is the third most popular activity on the Internet.
- ▶ Most believe that health is a condition of matter and that health care is the exclusive domain of drug-based medicine.

Online Resources

- ▶ CS.com – christianscience.com/member-resources/for-churches/committee-on-publication
- ▶ NorCal Committee Blog – norcalcs.org