

APRIL 21, 1963

CHRISTIAN
SCIENCE
PAVILION

*GROUNDBREAKING AT THE NEW YORK
WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965*

Excerpts from transcription of remarks made by members of the Christian Science Church and World's Fair officials at the Christian Science Pavilion groundbreaking ceremonies, New York World's Fair, Sunday, April 21, 1963.

RICHARD C. PATTERSON, JR. [Director of Protocol]: Ladies and gentlemen, we are here today to take part in a very important groundbreaking ceremony. The pavilion which will rise on this site will serve to remind all of us that a large measure of America's success results from the religious freedom we enjoy.

I should like first to present Mr. Hobson F. Miller, distinguished chairman of the Committee for Christian Science Activities at the World's Fair.

HOBSON F. MILLER: Thank you, Ambassador. We will open this joyous occasion with a hymn. I shall read the first verse of that hymn and then we will be led by Mr. Richard Wrightson.

"Thou whose almighty Word, chaos and darkness heard
And took their flight, hear us, we humbly pray
And where the Gospel-day sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light."

Friends, on behalf of the members of the executive committee for Christian Science Activities at the World's Fair, on behalf of the members of the various committees who have done so much to bring our objective to fruition, and on behalf of the World's Fair Corporation who so kindly provided this tent and these fine facilities—I greet you.

Our participation in this World's Fair is in accord with the purpose of Christian Science, which is to heal the sick and elevate the race. Mary Baker Eddy, Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, was so devoted to peace on earth and the brotherhood of man that she prayed daily for the pacification of all national difficulties, for the brotherhood of man, for the end of idolatry and infidelity, and for the growth and establishment of Christianity.

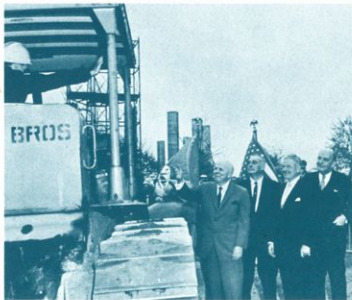
The Chicago World's Fair in 1893 included a Parliament of Religion where an address on Christian Science written by Mrs. Eddy was read by Judge Septimus J. Hanna. Judge Hanna was introduced by a non-Christian Scientist, the Honorable Charles Carrol Bonney, president of the World's Congress Auxiliary, who once said in his remarks before that body: "No more striking manifestation of the interposition of divine Providence in human

Cover: The Christian Science Pavilion, designed by Edward Durell Stone, showing its seven-pointed star roof. The pavilion will be set in a pool with fountains interspersed. The separate building will house a reading room.

affairs has come in recent years than that shown in the raising up of the body of people known as Christian Scientists, who are called to declare the real harmony between religion and science, and to restore the waning faith of many in the verities of the sacred Scriptures." That is also from "Miscellaneous Writings" by Mary Baker Eddy.

How prophetic was this statement! Today, the harmony between religion and science becomes more and more apparent. The great advances in space exploration hint the infinite nature of God's universe, but as Christ Jesus declared, "The kingdom of God is within you." That is in Luke. Therefore, the true universe is not to be found in space. While time and space may seem to separate men from each other, the speed of travel and communication brings them closer to each other, foretelling the recognition of one universal family, or brotherhood. Christian Science is indeed opening men's minds to the real harmony between religion and science, and is giving to the world the highest sense of science — spiritual Science, or Christ Science.

The waning faith of many in the Scriptures, as Mr. Bonney put it, has been restored for millions by Christian Science. All sincere Christian Scientists read the King James Version of the Holy Scriptures daily, and it is a beacon to light their paths and govern their lives. An article in the "Christian Herald" some years ago stated



Signalling the bulldozer driver to officially break ground for the start of the Christian Science Pavilion are: (left to right) Ralph E. Wagers, President of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass., Robert Moses, president of the Fair, Hobson F. Miller, chairman of the Christian Science Committee for the Fair and Edward Durell Stone, architect of the pavilion.



Robert Moses, Fair president, presents the official World's Fair medal to Ralph E. Wagers, as Hobson F. Miller looks on.

that because of Christian Science the Bible is more widely read than ever before.

When we open the doors of this Christian Science Pavilion, we will invite millions of people to come in and drink deeply of Jesus' refreshing invitation — "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew).

With the use of modern techniques in audio-visual presentation, visitors to this pavilion will be afforded convincing and documented evidence that countless thousands of persons obeying the teachings of the Master as explained in Christian Science have found Jesus' promises applicable to all human needs today.

In closing, it is fitting to be reminded that the daily sessions of the Religious Parliament in Chicago were opened by a Protestant clergyman using a prayer, from the pen of Mary Baker Eddy, known to every Christian Scientist as the Daily Prayer.

"Thy kingdom come; let the reign of divine Truth, Life, and Love be established in me, and rule out of me all sin; and may Thy Word enrich the affections of all mankind, and govern them!"

It is my pleasure now to introduce to you the members of the executive committee: Mrs. Muriel Holland, Mr. Herman Schmidt, Mr. George Sweetser, Mr. John Young, and our working staff who have done a tremendous job: Mr. Gil Robinson, our general manager; Miss Jean Elsie

Sanders, our administrative secretary; Miss Anni Solinger, Mr. Robinson's secretary; and Mrs. Mildred Miller, a volunteer worker who takes care of our books.

RICHARD PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Miller. I was very much impressed by that. I'd like to present for a bow two of my colleagues in the World's Fair, Mr. William Berns and Mr. Allen Beach, who head extremely important departments in this huge organization.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I now present the president of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston — Mr. Ralph E. Wagers.

RALPH E. WAGERS: Good afternoon, my friends. The New York World's Fair, in which it is our pleasure to participate, must impress the world with the great possibilities of a free people dedicated to the task of bringing to the world the proof of an economy based upon the God-given rights of individuals to develop their talents and usefulness for the good of all. While the scientific achievement of men throughout the world during the past century has been nothing less than startling, the spiritual achievements of equally dedicated individuals are bringing the teachings of our great Master, Christ Jesus, out of the realm of doctrines and creeds into the realm of demonstrable divine Science.

In this century, and in this country, there has appeared a dynamic interpretation of the Master's teachings — cast in the role of scientific Christianity. Mary Baker Eddy

is widely recognized for the great service she has rendered to the cause of mankind in general, and of Christianity in particular. She states in her book "Miscellaneous Writings": "This age is reaching out towards the perfect Principle of all things; is pushing towards perfection in art, invention, and manufacture. Why then should religion be stereotyped, and we not obtain a more perfect and practical Christianity? It will never do to be behind the times in things most essential, which proceed from the standard of right that regulates human destiny. Human skill but foreshadows what is next to appear as its divine origin. Proportionately as we part with material, systems and theories, personal doctrines and dogmas, meekly to ascend the hill of Science, shall we reach the maximum of perfection in all things."

It is fitting that Christian Science should take its place with other Christian churches in pointing out that this nation has attained, and will maintain, its greatness as it recognizes ever more clearly that a society can endure only as it is based upon an acknowledgment of the supremacy of God, Spirit, and His ever unfolding purpose for man. Thank you.

RICHARD PATTERSON: And now I have the honor to present the administrative genius of the New York World's Fair, the Honorable Robert Moses.

ROBERT MOSES: Ambassador Patterson, and friends. I'm sorry that Gene Taliaferro isn't here. He was one of

the first of your group to talk to us about a Christian Science Pavilion, and I'm sure he's here in spirit. I am delighted that Ed Stone, one of the very great architects of our time, is here.

It isn't the size of the pavilion, the amount of money that you spend on it, or the outward impression it makes that's important. We can't all have the resources of General Motors and Ford, and the gas and light industry — they are important, but some of these smaller things that embrace imagination, ingenuity, thought and the right kind of spirit, are fully as important and I am sure will attract just as much attention.

Now you all know the idea behind the World's Fair. All world expositions, like the college shields, pray for truth and light; and all of them aim at peace. To use a rather humble and popular expression, we are aiming here at a sort of Olympics of Progress in the temper of the Olympic Games. We invite people from all over the world to come here, and bring their very best products. We tell them that it is going to be a fair and open competition of ideas, inventions and skills. Where foreign countries are concerned we are not particularly interested in ideologies — we can't be. We may disapprove of the ideologies of some of the exhibitors but that doesn't mean that we don't want them here. We want them to meet on common ground.

As you know, the Olympics are not just athletics. They

represent competition in all the arts, and that's what we're aiming at here: to have all people come here on equal terms, to meet here on common ground, to form new friendships.

Now of course you know that we have states, the United States Government, the City of New York which is celebrating its 300th anniversary, and we have foreign countries — all represented here.

We have industries, amusements, arts and we have religions.

I have only one other thing to say, in addition to welcoming you with open arms: We have a lot of exhibits here, a lot of pavilions, a lot of steel, stone, concrete and metal going up. On a certain date which we have fixed, and it's very soon, we are not going to spend any more time entertaining or listening to people who have other things to exhibit because we feel we have enough. There are some things that are in abeyance, things we think are important that may come in or drop by the wayside. For example, we want a Hall of Health — public health, medicine — I think we're going to get it. Otherwise we are satisfied with what we have, and we're going to devote the remaining space to greenery, landscaping, trees, and shrubs.

Now in your Christian Science Pavilion, you are going to have a place for people to come and rest and think and contemplate — we want that. We don't want this

Fair to be only a place of noise and entertainment — we want it also to have greenery and landscaping, and we want to have places like the Christian Science Pavilion — where people can reflect on what they've seen, and give some thought to what we are attempting to do here. What we are attempting to do, of course, is to achieve the largest measure of international amity and friendship we can in this space age and cold war age. Thank you.

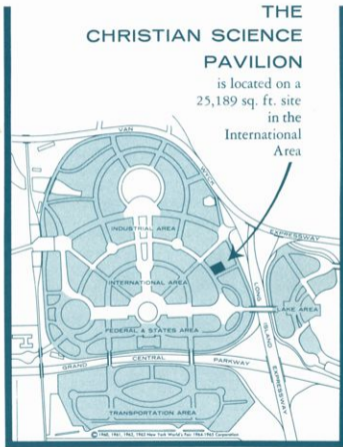
HOBSON F. MILLER: We'll have a closing hymn which will be led by our very dear and generous friend, Mr. Wrightson, and concluding that, we'll have a benediction by Mrs. Holland. The Hymn is #414 from the Christian Science Hymnal. I will read the first verse only and the chorus. Let us carry this in our hearts forever. Expressed in this hymn is one of the reasons we are at the Fair.

"I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love,
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true,
It satisfies my longing as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story, it is my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love."

BENEDICTION BY MRS. MURIEL N. HOLLAND:
The benediction is from Ephesians. "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus through-out all ages, world without end. Amen."

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PAVILION

is located on a
25,189 sq. ft. site
in the
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