

Members of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship | July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

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Lecturers rotating off the Board of Lectureship as of June 30, 2026

Heike Arneth, CSB

Heike has a deep love for God, people, and Christian Science. She wants to share this love, along with her joy, with others.

Heike says she feels a deep empathy for the tough situations that people and nations face. Having experienced the healing and transformative effects of Christian Science in her own life, she is convinced that it can help these tough situations. Though Christian Science is much more than just a healing or problem-solving system. Among other things, it explains the spiritual rules and laws that are the basis of all being. Through her discovery, Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, not only explained these fundamental laws, but also showed how to put them into practice. These rules, and the healing and liberating results of applying them, are what Heike speaks to people about.

How did her work come about? The work of Jesus and the stories of healing in the Bible have been an inspiration to her for as long as she can remember. Heike was first introduced to Christian Science as a teenager, and got to know people who had made it their life's purpose to heal in the same way that Jesus did. She witnessed wonderful healings through the application of Christian Science. This kindled a desire in her to someday become a Christian Science practitioner.

First, she completed school and professional training and worked for many years as a bank clerk. On the side, she founded a modeling agency, organized fashion shows and worked as a beauty therapist. She even counseled prison inmates as part of a project to help them to reintegrate into society.

Although Heike looked into numerous religions, spiritual perspectives, and trends in psychology, her inner longing for spirituality was never satisfied. After much searching, she returned to what had so inspired her as a teenager: Christian Science. She looked more intensively into the rules for the practice of Christian Science, continually applying what she understood. In doing so, she experienced all kinds of healings — for herself, her family and friends, and many others. Since 2005, Heike has been working full-time as a Christian Science practitioner and became a Christian Science teacher in 2015.

James Bikai, CSB

James lives in Yaoundé, Cameroon, with his family. He studied geology and labor law at the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon.

Raised in a Christian family, he began attending Sunday School at the Christian Science church in his community when he was eight years old. Since that time, James has served his local branch church in many different roles.

James has always had the desire to help others and humanity through the understanding of God's love. This led him into the public practice of Christian Science healing. He has been listed as a practitioner in *The Christian Science Journal* since 2005. In his practice, he has witnessed healings of fibroids, prostate problems, hepatitis, yellow fever, typhoid fever, rheumatism, stomach pain, deformed bone and fractures, and the effects of witchcraft.

James hopes to share and explain the power of Christian Science healing in his lectures. He lectures in French and English.

James Shepherd, CS

God's love is for everyone, and a Christian Science lecture is a perfect setting to learn about God's love and the healing that it brings.

James has seen the healing effects of God's love since he was a youngster, romping through the woods around his home with his three brothers. They had their share of scrapes and bruises which were quickly healed through prayer. On the rare occasions they felt sick, they relied on Christian Science for quick healings.

In high school his family moved to a ranch where they had cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, chickens, and turkeys. He graduated from college with a Bachelor's degree in agriculture, but realized that serving as a Christian Science healer was the best way he could serve others. He left the ranch and took up the full-time work of helping others find healing through prayer. Thirty years later, he still loves this work as much as ever.

Over the years, James has enjoyed being active in many roles in his local Church of Christ, Scientist, and has worked at summer camps for Christian Scientists and their friends. He has also shared the message of Love's transforming power in prison settings and youth detention centers. When his four children were little, he coached their sports programs. He finds other ways to help his community, such as by volunteering at a neighborhood church to help cook a free breakfast for those in need.

James loves spending time with his family and doing any outdoor activity. But his greatest joy will always be to find, and to help others find, a more tangible sense of God's love for everyone and how that improves every aspect of our lives.

Nicole Virgil, CS

Nicole's father was a free-lance church organist, and her parents attended services at many different Christian churches in New England. Her mom had been on a years-long search to find out how to practice Christian healing just as Jesus did, and when she started attending Christian Science church services, she found what she was looking for. As a result, Nicole was raised in Christian Science, and developed a deep desire for an intimate relationship with God.

Nicole studied Christian Science with her mom and music with her dad, and found that each discipline complemented the other. Christian Science healed performance anxiety, while learning music honed the skills she needed for spiritual practice — skills such as intuition, listening, patience and diligence. Throughout her life, Christian Science and music have always overlapped: after studying opera at music school, she took her one-woman opera review program (That Can't Be Opera!) on the road, educating audiences about opera by singing Mozart, Puccini, and Menotti. Christian Science guided her through this entrepreneurial endeavor, just as it led her to start soloing in churches as a teenager (which is something she still loves to do!) — Nicole eventually married, started a family with her husband, and entered the public practice of Christian Science.

Today Nicole enjoys raising children, gardening, soloing in church, and witnessing the healing effect of Christian Science.