



## A selection of references on Violence from the Christian Science Periodicals

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**Barratt, Geoffrey J.** (CSB, Editor, and Contributing Editor; New York, NY), “A response to violence,” Journal (March 2001), p. 10.

JSH-Online: [http://journal.christianscience.com/issues/2001/3/119-3/a-response-to-violence/\(language\)/eng-US](http://journal.christianscience.com/issues/2001/3/119-3/a-response-to-violence/(language)/eng-US)

Our prayers contribute to the search for peace.

--realize that violence is not simply an abstraction “out there”—a remote event in another neighborhood or country that we’re safe from, to be dealt with only for others.

- It’s a wake-up call to each of us.

--Ultimately, it is not up to us to *maintain* peace as much as it is to recognize concord as an essential fact of real, God-created being, and to conform our lives to this truth.

- We can identify and introduce into our living more of the elements of the environment of divine **Love**, where we find our true self, and where all is well.

--An individual doesn’t have to be either a helpless target for malice or a harbinger of churning impulses to injure, hurt, or kill.

- Perceiving, through prayer, the actual state of things—the concord of spiritual reality—we can healingly acknowledge for ourselves and others the mighty presence of **Truth** and **Love**, even where there seems to be roiling fury and lust for revenge.

“Everything is as real as you make it, and no more so. What you see, hear, feel, is a mode of consciousness, and can have no other reality than the sense you entertain of it.” (Un 8: 5)

**Bemis, Kenneth E., III**, “Is there a cure for violence?,” Sentinel (10 July 1995), p. 3.

JSH-Online: [http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1995/7/97-28/is-there-a-cure-for-violence/\(language\)/eng-US](http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1995/7/97-28/is-there-a-cure-for-violence/(language)/eng-US)

--reflection of divine Love is what draws each individual into a common brotherhood.

--any efforts to heal antagonism must begin with putting God foremost in thought.

--to fully understand and obey “the first and great commandment” and comprehend God as Love, the only cause, means we must bless other individuals--never harm them.

--Prayer starts with a clear understanding that God, **Spirit**, is the only creator.

--The way to permanent harmony is through comprehending and living “the first and great commandment.”

Loving God with all our being will propel us to a more Christian life.

It will allow us not only to walk through evil unharmed, but to neutralize it.

“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.” (Rom 13: 8)

"**Calming Violence**," Monitor (4 May 1992), p.17.

--The Bible recounts some of the events in the life of Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, in the book of Acts.

- He was subject to the prejudices and sense of exclusivity that were common to his people.

---Yet as the influence of Christ Jesus' teachings deepened within him, his understanding of God widened.

--Peter was compelled to reexamine his former views.

- He needed to yield to a diviner sense of man.

---Peter's feelings of racial superiority lessened in light of God's love and acceptance of all men.

- As this leavened his thought, he finally made this spiritual discovery: "God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean...Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."

---Are *we* willing to follow this course of thought and strive to see beyond race or nationality and recognize man's spiritual identity?

**Dunbar, Dr. Rosalie E.** (Staff Editor), “Disarming the children,” Sentinel (17 May 1999), p. 12.

JSH-Online: [http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1999/5/101-20/disarming-the-children/\(language\)/eng-US](http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1999/5/101-20/disarming-the-children/(language)/eng-US)

--refuse the ignore evil.

- love enough to stop it.

--do more than shake our heads in disbelief or dwell on the heartbreak of seeing young people suffer.

- We disarm the evil as we embrace each community, including our own, in God-based love.

--[The] Christly approach requires that each child, each man or woman, be seen as an individual, as truly the creation of God.

- Instead of viewing people en masse, or shrugging our shoulders over them, we need to observe spiritual qualities in each individual we meet.

--Inclusion, instead of exclusion.

- A refusal to ignore evil, along with an embracing in love of those in need.

“I make strong demands on love, call for active witnesses to prove it, and nobles acrifices and grand achievements as its results.” (Mis 250: 16-18)

**Edwards, Eileen**, "A universal neighborhood watch," Sentinel (16 October 1995), p. 3.  
JSH-Online: [http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1995/10/97-42/a-universal-neighborhood-watch/\(language\)/eng-US](http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1995/10/97-42/a-universal-neighborhood-watch/(language)/eng-US)

--This perfect child of God has to be distinguished from the viewpoint of man as a mortal, existing independently of God, apart from His love and control, and subject to evil impulses.

--spiritual reasoning and prayer...(helps)...to counter a feeling of helplessness about crime as well as outrage about shocking reports of crime or terrorism.

The Bible calls for active mental resistance to evil, using such terms as *fight*, *battle*, *warfare*, but our resistance to evil is always to be from the standpoint of God's dominion over it and of evil's unreality before God's allness.

--Those who engage in evil activities have to be restrained.

Ideally, individuals involved in crime can also be helped to awake to a need and desire for a new sense of purpose and self-respect, and so be persuaded to abandon their former way of life as futile.

"During this final conflict, wicked minds will endeavor to find means by which to accomplish more evil; but those who discern Christian Science will hold crime in check. They will aid in the ejection of error. They will maintain law and order, and cheerfully await the certainty of ultimate perfection." (S&H 96: 31)

**Goldsmith, Mrs. Beverly** (CSB, Brisbane, AUS), "What do we do about violence?," Sentinel (23 September 1996), p. 17.  
JSH-Online: [http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1996/9/98-39/what-do-we-do-about-violence/\(language\)/eng-US](http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1996/9/98-39/what-do-we-do-about-violence/(language)/eng-US)

--a violent act is prompted by violent thinking.

so the starting place for eliminating violence must be with individuals and the way they think about themselves and others.

There *is* a connection between motive and action.

--One way to ensure that we reject evil or violent thoughts is to gain a clear understanding of who we really are.

--reduce violent outbursts...think and act from a Christian standpoint.

This is done by living in obedience to the Ten Commandments and following Jesus' example in loving others as ourselves.

--(Jesus') resurrection from the tomb proved that violence has no power over a life devoted to obeying God and expressing divine Love.

"Is it not clear that the human mind must move the body to a wicked act?" (S&H 104: 30-32)

**Hedrick, Judith H.** (CS), "Eliminating violence," *Journal* (May 1998), p. 24.  
JSH-Online: [http://journal.christianscience.com/issues/1998/5/116-5/eliminating-violence/\(language\)/eng-US](http://journal.christianscience.com/issues/1998/5/116-5/eliminating-violence/(language)/eng-US)

--Christianity encourages us to look for and see evidence of the activity of God, good, in human lives.

--The carnal mind opposes God, good, sending forth whisperings of fear, lust, anger, frustration, self-righteousness, self-justification, and self-will.

These impulses appear to have hypnotic lure, and so their source is termed in Christian Science *animal magnetism*.

--the foundation of evil is not so much *in* the mind, as it is *the belief* of a separate mind—that is, the belief of a mind apart from God, divine **Mind**.

This belief that there is something besides God—a mind, a quality, a nature—constitutes the carnal mind and evil and is the root of violence.

"The foundation of evil is laid on a belief in something besides God." (S&H 92: 26-27)

**Johnson, Mildred D.**, "Violence: 'What am I doing about this?'," *Sentinel* (17 July 1995), p. 7.

JSH-Online: [http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1995/7/97-29/violence-what-am-i-doing-about-this/\(language\)/eng-US](http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1995/7/97-29/violence-what-am-i-doing-about-this/(language)/eng-US)

--Recently I was deeply troubled by the intensified buildup and reporting of violence in various cities and suburbs.

--Lord, tell me, show me, how to pray, how to think.

I must become an active participant in this needed healing process, not one who casts stones.

--Release me from the fear that God is not in control of His universe.

--It is incumbent upon each of us to stop giving power to violence in our own thinking so that our purified concept of man will reach out to help heal the world.

Prayer regarding the violence we see in the news each day is not just for our own peace of mind.

It's been proved that scientific prayer touches those in need, bringing healing influence to the situation.

"For right reasoning there should be but one fact before the thought, namely, spiritual existence." (S&H 492: 3-4)

**Kreutziger-Herr, Mrs. Annette** (Berlin, GER), “‘Violence no way forward’,” Sentinel (12 May 2003), p. 8.

JSH-Online: [http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/2003/5/105-19/violence-is-no-way-forward/\(language\)/eng-US](http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/2003/5/105-19/violence-is-no-way-forward/(language)/eng-US)

The discovery of God’s presence with her brought Christine Hewicker out of neo-Nazi terrorist activity, prison, depression, and insecurity, giving her a new life with a peaceful purpose.

--People distinguish themselves not by the fact and nature of their failures, but by the way they react toward them.

--God was with me all the time.

- He had never left me alone.

--If young people are unable to bear witness to a certain faith, I would tell them to develop aims in life that are positive.

• Try to help others, support organizations with good purposes—that support human rights without violence, nature, animal rights, etc.

---Violence is no way forward, and even thought that allow violence should be denied and dealt with.

“O dreamer, leave thy dreams for joyful waking,  
O captive, rise and sing, for thou art free;  
The Christ is here, all dreams of error breaking,  
Unloosing bonds of all captivity.” (Hymn 202)

**Ramaji, David Robert** (CS, Hyderabad, IND), “An Indian neighborhood comes face to face with violence,” Journal (June 2002), p. 30.

JSH-Online: [http://journal.christianscience.com/issues/2002/6/120-6/an-indian-neighborhood-comes-face-to-face-with-violence/\(language\)/eng-US](http://journal.christianscience.com/issues/2002/6/120-6/an-indian-neighborhood-comes-face-to-face-with-violence/(language)/eng-US)

A family’s prayers aid the healing process.

--a radical change of thought can save humanity from the threat of terrorism.

--Jesus, through the power of forgiveness, demonstrated the healing power of Love.

- He never allowed fear to take over.

--The world needs all our prayers to heal international wounds.

• How important it is, then, for each one of us to honor God as the supreme authority and to reach Him through prayer.

--prayer involves communing with God—being still in our thoughts and feeling the divine Love that is always with us.

“It should be thoroughly understood that all men have one Mind, one God and Father, one Life, Truth, and Love. Mankind will become perfect in proportion as this fact becomes apparent, war will cease and the true brotherhood of man will be established.” (S&H 467: 9-13)

**Rosebush, James Scott**, “Prayer that disarms violence,” Sentinel (28 February 2000), p. 12.

JSH-Online: [http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/2000/2/102-9/prayer-that-disarms-violence/\(language\)/eng-US](http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/2000/2/102-9/prayer-that-disarms-violence/(language)/eng-US)

--replace intense fear with confidence in God and His ability to keep me and my colleagues safe.

--God’s control of His spiritual universe is absolute; it is never intimidated by evil, invaded by terror, or compromised by violence.

--affirm God’s presence and His harmony, even though the human conditions (are) threatening.

- spiritual truths (will) bring the power that (will)change the human scene.

--in the understanding of God’s allness and power, evil is powerless, and therefore...expect no terrifying results.

• recognize the power of God, His goodness, His love for all His children, and His total control at that moment—right where (you are).

“Human hate has no legitimate mandate and no kingdom. Love is enthroned.”  
(S&H 454: 9-10)

**“Solutions Without Guns or Violence,”** NEWS & TRENDS, Sentinel (17 February 1997), p. 30.

JSH-Online: [http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1997/2/99-7/solutions-without-guns-or-violence/\(language\)/eng-US](http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1997/2/99-7/solutions-without-guns-or-violence/(language)/eng-US)

#### BENEATH THE SURFACE

--children must learn to choose positive, alternative behaviors when faced with situations that have the potential to result in violence.

#### EDUCATION

--problems can...always be worked out without fighting if people will just talk things out.

people who have inner strength can walk away from a fight even if others make fun of them.

#### ROLE OF PRAYER

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.” (Ps 19: 14)

**Sutton, Timothy James** (CS, Marquette, MI), “‘He who guards you never sleeps,’” Sentinel (16 October 1995), p. 8.

JSH-Online: [http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1995/10/97-42/he-who-guards-you-never-sleeps/\(language\)/eng-US](http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1995/10/97-42/he-who-guards-you-never-sleeps/(language)/eng-US)

--Many people are seeking ways to protect themselves and their families from a society they perceive to be growing more violent.

--Dependable safety *can* be found...as we place our reliance firmly on God’s omnipotent and omnipresent loving care, forever guarding our families and homes.

--God is with us, protecting us from every evil.

--God never sleeps.

Divine Principle is forever operating, maintaining the harmony of its creation.

--hold in thought, through spiritual sense, God's perfect, loving idea, created in His likeness--tender, gentle, and harmless.

--Let's abide with God, Love, in our daily prayer, conversation, and in every action.

“He who guards you never sleeps.” (Ps 121: 7)

**Talbot, Nathan A.** (CSB, Lecturer, Associate and Contributing Editor; Boise, ID), “**Why** the violence?,” *SPIRITUAL DEFENSE, Journal* (April 2000), p. 28.

JSH-Online: [http://journal.christianscience.com/issues/2000/4/118-4/why-the-violence/\(language\)/eng-US](http://journal.christianscience.com/issues/2000/4/118-4/why-the-violence/(language)/eng-US)

--focus on strengthening moral and spiritual qualities such as integrity, innocence, affection, and forbearance—all qualities that Christ Jesus exercised with unparalleled effectiveness.

--some people use mental means to manipulate others.

--The solution to...mental malpractice, has roots in Moses' discovery that there is one God.

--For us to comprehend the truth that there is one God, one **Mind**, helps to disarm the harmful intent of those who believe there is a mind apart from God, a mind capable of hatred and capable of being used to manipulate others and affect their thoughts and acts.

• In reality, there is one God, and every individual is God's spiritual image, expressing the love and intelligence of this true **Mind**, which blesses all of its children.

“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.” (I Cor 2: 16)

**Trammell, Mrs. Mary Metzner, Ph.D** (CSB, Associate Editor, Editor, and Director; Boston, MA), “School shootings—and individual prayer,” Editorial, *Sentinel* (23 September 1996), p. 31.

JSH-Online: [http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1996/9/98-39/school-shootings-and-individual-prayer/\(language\)/eng-US](http://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1996/9/98-39/school-shootings-and-individual-prayer/(language)/eng-US)

--We should *pray!*

--“God is not some sick, homicidal maniac.”

--God is too perfectly good to cause evil.

--God's absolute goodness and justice and love for every single one of us.

What *God* is, makes us what *we* are.

--you can choose to pray.

You can opt to let good thoughts—thoughts about God's love and unfailing care for each one of His children—take over in your heart.

You can take a stand for the basic redeemability of humanity.

--You can find a faith in God's justice and mercy that assures you that good has to win out because God is omnipotent.

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” (Ps 91: 1)

**Trapp, Hans-Joachim** (CSB, Berlin, GER), “Reducing violence—but how?,” Sentinel (10 June 2002), p. 19.

JSH-Online: [http://sentinel.christianscience.com/content/view/full/92375/\(language\)/eng-US](http://sentinel.christianscience.com/content/view/full/92375/(language)/eng-US)

--Our individual lives make an effective contribution when we are able to dissolve the chain reaction of thoughts and feelings that cause violence.

--Each of us can stop measuring ourselves against others, by recognizing that our identity is never separate from God and always remains at one with Him.

- A clear realization of this spiritual fact can give us inner strength, with which to confront any feelings of despair, inferiority, and dissatisfaction we may have.

--each person is one with God and can feel the power of divine Love in his or her life.

- Knowing that we have a unique and valuable place in God’s creation is what frees us from fear and dissatisfaction with ourselves.