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**Parents of an 11-year-old girl who died of treatable diabetes**

**were charged with reckless homicide**

**as they refused to get her medical help**

**but instead relied on prayer to save her.**

**Two parents who prayed as their 11-year-old daughter**



**died of untreated diabetes were charged Monday with**

**second-degree reckless homicide.**

**Family and friends had urged Dale and Leilani Neumann**

**to get help for their daughter.**

**But, the criminal complaint said,**

**the father considered the illness "a test of faith"**

**and the mother never considered taking the girl to the doctor**

**because she thought her daughter was under a "spiritual attack."**

**Marathon County District Attorney Jill Falstad said,**

**"It is very surprising and shocking that she wasn't allowed medical intervention.**

**"Her death could have been prevented."**

**Madeline Neumann died March 23 - Easter Sunday -**

**at her family's rural Weston home.**

**Her parents were told the body would be taken to Madison for an autopsy**

**the next day.**

**The medical examiner wrote in a report that they responded,**

**" You won't need to do that. She will be alive by then."**

**An autopsy determined that Madeline died from undiagnosed diabetic ketoacidosis,**

**which left her with too little insulin in her body.**

**Court records said she likely had some symptoms of the disease for months.**

**The Neumanns each face up to 25 years in prison if convicted.**

**The couple and their attorney did not immediately return messages**

**left Monday by The Associated Press.**

**Falstad said the Neumanns have cooperated with investigators**

**and are not under arrest.**

**She said they have agreed to make an initial court appearance Wednesday.**

**Randall Wormgoor, a friend of the Neumanns, told police**

**that Dale Neumann led Bible studies at his business, Monkey Mo Coffee Shop,**

**and believed physical illness was due to sin,**

**curable by prayer and by asking for forgiveness from God.**

**Wormgoor said he and his wife, Althea, were at the Neumann home**

**when Madeline - - called Kara by her parents - died.**

**Wormgoor said he had urged the father to seek medical help**

**and was told the illness "was a test of faith for the Neumann family”**

**and asked the Wormgoors to join them in praying for Kara to get well.**

**Althea Wormgoor said she "implored" the parents to seek medical help for the girl.**

**Leilani Neumann, 40, told the AP previously she never expected her daughter to die.**

**The family believes in the Bible, which says healing comes from God,**

**but they have nothing against doctors, she said.**

**Dale Neumann, 46, a former police officer,**

**has said he has friends who are doctors and started CPR**

**"as soon as the breath of life left" his daughter's body.**

**According to court documents,**

**Leilani Neumann said in a written statement to police**

**that she never considered taking the girl,**

**who was being home-schooled, to a doctor.**

**"We just thought it was a spiritual attack and we prayed for her.**

**My husband Dale was crying and mentioned taking Kara to the doctor and I said,**

**'The Lord's going to heal her,' and we continued to pray."**

**The father told investigators he noticed**

**his daughter was weak and slower for about two weeks**

**but he attributed it to symptoms of the girl reaching puberty.**

**A day before Madeline died, according to the criminal complaint,**

**the father wrote an e-mail with the headline,**

**"Help our daughter needs emergency prayer!!!!.”**

**It said his daughter was very weak and pale at the moment with hardly any strength.**

**The girl's grandmother, Evalani Gordon,**

**told police that she learned her granddaughter could not walk or talk on March 22**

**and advised Leilani Neumann to take the girl to a doctor.**

**Gordon eventually contacted a daughter-in-law in California**

**who called police on a non-emergency line to report the girl was in a coma**

**and needed medical help.**

**An ambulance was dispatched shortly before some friends in the home**

**called 911 to report the girl had stopped breathing, authorities said.**

**One relative told police that the girl's mother believed**

**"she died because the devil is trying to stop Leilani from starting her own ministry."**

**The Neumanns said they moved to Weston,**

**a suburb of Wausau in central Wisconsin,**

**from California about two years ago**

**to open the coffee shop and be closer to other relatives.**

**The couple has three other children, ages 13 to 16; they are living with relatives.**

**Leilani Neumann has said that the family does not belong to an organized religion**

**or faith.**

**Everest Metro Police Chief Dan Vergin said the parents**

**once belonged to the Lighthouse Pentecostal Church**

**but later became what he called religious "isolationists"**

**involved in a prayer group of five people.**

**He said, "they have gone out on their own. They have a very narrow view of Scripture**

**and I would say not many people hold to that narrow of view."**

**In March, an Oregon couple who belong to a church**

**that preaches against medical care**

**and believes in treating illness with prayer**

**were charged with manslaughter and criminal mistreatment**

**in the death of their 15-month-old daughter.**

**The state medical examiner's office said,**

**the toddler died March 2 of bronchial pneumonia**

**and a blood infection that could have been treated with antibiotics.**

**My comments:**

**I think that we have discovered an entirely new meaning**

**for the term “complimentary and alternative medicine”**

**Thankfully the other kids have been removed from that home,**

**but who knows how much damage has already been done to them?**

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**According to the Chicago Tribune dated May 21, 2008**

**approximately one child per month over the last 25 years**

**has died in a similar manner (parental neglect based on faith).**

**A person identified in the article only as “Swan”**

**(a Christian Scientist mother who also lost her son to meningitis**

**because she treated him with faith instead of medicine)**

**said that about 75% of parents charged with this crime get convicted.**

**She also said that 90% of the children who died**

**could have been saved with proper medical intervention.**

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**Official website of the Church of Christ, Scientist**

**Overview**

* Christian Science, discovered by [Mary Baker Eddy](http://www.tfccs.com/marybakereddy/index.jhtml), is a universal, practical system of spiritual, prayer-based
* Christian healing, available and accessible to everyone.
* Christian Science is fully explained in Mary Baker Eddy’s primary text on spirituality and healing,
* [Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures](http://www.tfccs.com/scienceandhealth/index.jhtml).
* Christian Science has helped many people find better emotional and physical health,
* answers to life’s deepest issues and progress on their spiritual journeys.
* Many Christian Scientists are members of [The First Church of Christ, Scientist](http://www.tfccs.com/aboutthechurch.jhtml),
* but membership in The Church is not a prerequisite for the practice of Christian Science.
* Healthcare decisions are always a matter of individual choice.

**Basic ideas of Christian Science**

* God is divine Love, Father-Mother, supreme.
* The true nature of each individual as a child of God is spiritual.
* God’s infinite goodness, realized in prayer, heals

**Christian Science Practitioners and Christian Science Nurses**

* [Christian Science Practitioners](http://www.tfccs.com/healingresources/christian-science-practitioners.jhtml) are available to help bring healing to others through prayer.
* [Christian Science Nurses](http://www.tfccs.com/healingresources/christian-science-nurses.jhtml) are available to provide spiritual reassurance and skillful physical care
* to those relying on Christian Science for healing.

**Christian Science Primary Class Instruction**

* [Christian Science Primary Class Instruction](http://www.tfccs.com/primaryclass/index.jhtml) is a two-week course in spiritual healing, based on the ideas in
* Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy.

**Christian Science Publications**

* [The Bible Lesson](http://www.tfccs.com/biblelesson/index.jhtml) with selections from the Bible and *Science and Health* provides an opportunity
* for weekly study and inspiration and is the basis of the Sunday church service in Churches of Christ, Scientist.
* [Weekly and monthly magazines](http://www.tfccs.com/publications/index.jhtml) contain articles on Christian Science and examples of healings
* through the application of Christian Science.
* The international newspaper [The Christian Science Monitor](http://www.csmonitor.com) has provided delivery of world news
* with journalistic integrity since 1908.

**The founder: Mary Baker Eddy 1821-1910.**

**founded church in 1879.**

**married 3 times!**

**Got to give credit where it is due:**

In 1921, on the 100th anniversary of Eddy's birth, a 100-ton,

eleven-foot granite [pyramid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyramid) was dedicated on the site of her birthplace

in Bow, New Hampshire.

A gift from the [Freemasons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freemasons), it was later dynamited by order of the

church's board of directors[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)].

Also demolished was Eddy's former home in Pleasant View,

as the board feared that it was becoming a place of [pilgrimage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pilgrimage).

Although Eddy allowed personal praise in her lifetime

for various reasons, including for publicity and fundraising,

the church shuns both the [cult of personality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cult_of_personality) and religious [reliquaries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reliquaries).

**reliquary:** a container or shrine in which sacred relics are kept.

**Now for a few famous skeptical quotes**

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| **AMBROSE BIERCE** |
| **1842-1914** |
| **american writer** |
| **died while traveling with mexican rebels during their revolution.** |

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| **"definition of the verb 'to pray':** |
| **to ask that the laws of the universe be annulled** |
| **in behalf of a single petitioner confessedly unworthy."** |

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**ANAXAGORAS**

**500-428 bc**

Anaxagoras brought philosophy and the spirit of scientific

inquiry from [Ionia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ionia) to Athens.

His observations of the celestial bodies

and the fall of meteorites led him to form new theories

of the universal order.

He attempted to give a scientific account

of [eclipses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eclipse), [meteors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meteor), [rainbows](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainbow) and the [sun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun),

which he described as a mass of blazing metal,

larger than the [Peloponnese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peloponnese).

The heavenly bodies, he asserted, were masses of stone

torn from the earth and ignited by rapid rotation.

However, these theories brought him into collision with

the popular faith;

Anaxagoras' views on such things as heavenly bodies

were considered "dangerous."

About 450[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anaxagoras#cite_note-0) Anaxagoras was arrested by Pericles'

political opponents on a charge of contravening

the established religion.

It took Pericles' power of persuasion to secure his release.

Even so he was forced to retire from Athens to Lampsacus

in Ionia (c. 434-433 BC).

He died there in around the year [428 BC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/428_BC).

Citizens of Lampsacus erected an altar to Mind and Truth

in his memory, and observed the anniversary of his death

for many years.

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| **"Everything has a natural explanation.** |
| **The moon is not a God but a great rock**  **and the sun a hot rock.** |

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**ANDRE GIDE**

**1869-1951**

**french writer and winner of the nobel prize for literature in 1947**

Gide's work can be seen as an investigation of freedom

and empowerment in the face of moralistic and puritan

constraints, and gravitates around his continuous effort

to achieve intellectual honesty.

His self-exploratory texts reflect his search of how to be

fully oneself, even to the point of owning one's sexual

nature, without at the same time betraying one's values.

**"Believe those who are seeking the truth;**

**doubt those who find it."**