

*The*  
**CORNERSTONE**  
*of*  
**Independent  
Christian Science**

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*“The stone which the builders rejected  
is become the head of the corner.”*

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**ARTICLES**

What Christmas Means to Me	Mary Baker Eddy..... 1
Albert Einstein's Comments	William Dana Orcutt ..... 3
Listening to God	Gilbert Carpenter ..... 5
Happiness	Helen Keller ..... 6
One Thing Have I Desired	Mary Beth Singleterry .... 6
Aggressive Mental Suggestion and Malpractice	Bicknell Young ..... 8
Enforcement and Protection of Treatment	Edward A. Kimball ..... 10
Entertaining Angels During the Christmas Season	Andrew Kidd..... 11
The Awakening	ATM..... 13
Human Harmony	Mary Beth Singleterry... 15
Bicknell Young	Andrew Kidd..... 25
Finance	Bicknell Young ..... 27
“I AM THAT I AM”	Bicknell Young ..... 29
Individual Responsibility	Peter V. Ross ..... 34
Simplicity	Alexander Warendorff... 34
Pause and Give Thanks	Bruce Singleterry..... 36
Conquering Fear	Shahidat Abbas..... 37
No Failure	Benjamin Ndukwe..... 38
Moses and the ATM	Betty Simpson ..... 40
God's Standard	Gary Singleterry ..... 41
Christmas	Ella W. Hoag ..... 43

**November 2011**

Number 145

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Roundtable

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Evening

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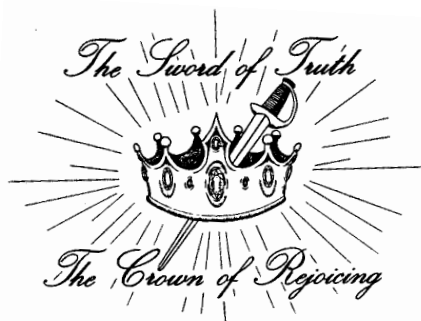
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# Independent Christian Science

*Unfettered by institutional religion*

If anyone is wondering,  
this church is in no way affiliated with The  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Mary Baker Eddy —</b>	
<b>Her Revolutionary Works</b> .....	1
What Christmas Means to Me	
Mary Baker Eddy .....	1
Albert Einstein's Comments	
William Dana Orcutt .....	3
<b>"Comfort Ye My People"</b> .....	4
Listening to God	
Gilbert Carpenter .....	5
Happiness	
Helen Keller .....	6
One Thing Have I Desired	
Mary Beth Singleterry .....	6
<b>"Feed My Sheep"</b> .....	8
Aggressive Mental Suggestion and Malpractice	
Bicknell Young .....	8
Enforcement and Protection of Treatment	
Edward A. Kimball .....	10
Watching Points	
Gilbert C. Carpenter .....	10
Entertaining Angels During the Christmas Season	
Andrew Kidd .....	11
<b>Breaking Down Misconceptions</b>	
<b>of Christian Science</b> .....	13
The Awakening	
ATM .....	13
Human Harmony	
Mary Beth Singleterry .....	15
<b>Announcements</b> .....	17
Christian Science, Its "Clear, Correct Teaching" and	
Complete Writings, by Herbert W. Eustace C.S.B. ....	20
<b>Letters from Readers</b> .....	21

<b>Featured Early Worker: Bicknell Young</b>	
Andrew Kidd .....	25
Finance	
Bicknell Young .....	27
“I AM THAT I AM”	
Bicknell Young .....	29
<b>The Independent Lesson Forum</b> .....	31
<b>“The World Has Need of You”</b> .....	33
Individual Responsibility	
Peter V. Ross .....	34
Simplicity	
Alexander Warendorff .....	34

## THE HEART SPEAKING

Pause and Give Thanks	
Bruce Singleterry.....	36
Conquering Fear	
Shahidat Abbas .....	37
No Failure	
Benjamin Ndukwe .....	38
Moses and the ATM	
Betty Simpson .....	40
God’s Standard	
Gary Singleterry.....	41
Christmas	
Ella W. Hoag .....	43
<b>Testimonies of Healing</b> .....	45
Literature List .....	50
Independent Christian Science Practitioners .....	52

## POEMS

Christmas, Kathrine Scobey Putnam .....	30
Poem, Lillian Linnell .....	44

# Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

*Following are some excerpts from various writings of Mary Baker Eddy.*

To affirm mentally and audibly that God is All and there is no sickness and no sin, makes mortals either saints or sinners.

Truth talked and not lived, rolls on the human heart a stone; consigns sensibility to the charnel-house of sensuality, ease, self-love, self-justification, there to moulder and rot.

The noblest work of God is man in the image of his Maker; the last infirmity of evil is so-called man, swayed by the maelstrom of human passions, elbowing the concepts of his own creating, making place for himself and displacing his fellows.

A real Christain Scientist is a marvel, a miracle in the universe of mortal mind. With selfless love, he inscribes on the heart of humanity and transcribes on the page of reality the living, palpable presence — the might and majesty! — of goodness. He lives for all mankind, and honors his creator.



## What Christmas Means to Me

Mary Baker Eddy

To me Christmas involves an open secret, understood by few — or by none — and unutterable except in Christian Science. Christ was not born of the flesh. Christ is the Truth and Life born of God — born of Spirit and not of matter. Jesus, the Galilean Prophet, was born of the Virgin Mary's

## CornerStone

spiritual thoughts of Life and its manifestation.

God creates man perfect and eternal in His own image. Hence man is the image, idea, or likeness of perfection — an ideal which cannot fall from its inherent unity with divine Love, from its spotless purity and original perfection.

Observed by material sense, Christmas commemorates the birth of a human, material, mortal babe — a babe born in a manger amidst the flocks and herds of a Jewish village.

This homely origin of the babe Jesus falls far short of my sense of the eternal Christ, Truth, never born and never dying. I celebrate Christmas with my soul, my spiritual sense, and so commemorate the entrance into human understanding of the Christ conceived of Spirit, of God and not of a woman — as the birth of Truth, the dawn of divine Love breaking upon the gloom of matter and evil with the glory of infinite being.

Human doctrines or hypotheses or vague human philosophy afford little divine effulgence, deific presence or power. Christmas to me is the reminder of God's great gift, — His spiritual idea, man and the universe, — a gift which so transcends mortal, material, sensual giving that the merriment, mad ambition, rivalry, and ritual of our common Christmas seem a human mockery in mimicry of the real worship in commemoration of Christ's coming.

I love to observe Christmas in quietude, humility, benevolence, charity, letting good will towards man, eloquent silence, prayer, and praise express my conception of Truth's appearing.

The splendor of this nativity of Christ reveals infinite meanings and gives manifold blessings. Material gifts and pastimes tend to obliterate the spiritual idea in consciousness, leaving one alone and without His glory.

## Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

### Mrs. Eddy's Christmas Message

#### MY HOUSEHOLD

*Beloved* — A word to the wise is sufficient. Mother wishes you all a *happy Christmas*, a feast of Soul and a famine of sense.

Lovingly thine,  
Mary Baker Eddy



#### Albert Einstein's Comments

William Dana Orcutt

Some of the best minds of our century have not hesitated to give credit where due. The great physical scientist, Albert Einstein, had a firm grasp of what Mary Baker Eddy had accomplished, and publicly acknowledged it. One such instance is recorded in an affidavit made by Mrs. Mary Spaulding, librarian for New York City's Fifth Church Reading Room and wife of the famous violinist, Alfred Spaulding.

Einstein was a frequent visitor to this Christian Science Reading Room and often had conversations with Mrs. Spaulding. On this occasion Einstein said, and these are the exact words of the statement of Mrs. Spaulding's affidavit: "Science and Health is beyond this generation's understanding. It contains the pure science. And to think that a woman knew this over eighty years ago." Einstein marveled that a woman a hundred years ago had discovered the nothingness of matter, which the advanced physicists of today have seen for themselves. In Einstein's words, "Matter as matter does not exist."

# “Comfort Ye My People”

God’s supremacy has never been impaired or endangered by the claims of error, however real they may seem to be.

*Albert F. Gilmore*

The one thing error can’t stand against is a healthy disbelief in it.

*Ruth Ingraham*

The searchlight of Truth turned on error or evil has the same effect as warm sunlight on a river of ice — it melts it away.

*Esther Sims Bowen*

God is the only cause and creator; and He neither produces, permits, nor sanctions evil in any form.

*John Ellis Sedman*

Since there is but one God, there is but one government, the reign of divine Love, the spiritual law that maintains the universe in perfect harmony.

*Eleanor Shipman Miner*

There is a power always available that is greater than any human power and superior to any combination of circumstances.

*Bicknell Young*

When you are in trouble or disturbed about any matter, that is error, mesmerism, animal magnetism. God’s method of work is quiet and brings rest and harmony.

*Mary Baker Eddy*

Doubts and fears are not your thoughts, but the mental opposition of the world’s thought. To such whisperings, say, “I don’t believe you. You are a liar and the father of it.”

## “Comfort Ye My People”

“Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.”  
Love will lift you above it all.

*Mary Baker Eddy*

We have all in some way needed the experience we have had. Never be found as a Christian Scientist mourning over an experience. It is a thing of the past, but not so the manifold power and presence of God resulting therefrom.

*Mary Baker Eddy*

Keep your joy! This is the hour of demonstration, dominion and power, gratitude and glorification; for even with faults, man is still Love’s idea.

*Mary Baker Eddy*



## Listening to God

Gilbert Carpenter

If you ever expect to hear the voice of God, you must accept the fact that His voice is right now sending out its messages continuously, and doing this because you possess a capacity to hear it.

Man *does* receive and hear the voice of God when he seeks it and makes the effort to gain it, but he is not conscious of having done so until a need arises. When he voices that which he himself never knew, then he knows that it is God talking through him.

So when you seek to hear God’s voice and do not seem to do it, do not be disappointed. Every day, make the effort to open your thought and let God talk to you; and if you do not hear it with your material ears or are even conscious of it with your conscious thought, take it on good faith. Believe that it is being recorded on the tablet of your mind, that you are laying up treasure in heaven, in your spiritual

## CornerStone

consciousness, and when the right time comes, you will be able to give it out, and know what God has been saying to you, by what you say to another.



### Happiness

Helen Keller

Most people measure their happiness in terms of physical pleasure and material possession. Lacking this gift or that circumstance, they would be miserable.

If happiness is so to be measured, I, who cannot hear or see, have every reason to sit in a corner with folded hands and weep. If I am happy in spite of my deprivations, if my happiness is so deep that it is a faith, so thoughtful that it becomes a philosophy of life, — if, in short, I am an optimist, my testimony to the creed of optimism is worthy of hearing.

As sinners stand up in meeting and confess to the goodness of God, so one who is called afflicted may rise up in gladness of conviction and testify to the goodness of life. I long to accomplish a great and noble task; but it is my chief duty and job to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble.



### One Thing Have I Desired

Mary Beth Singleterry

I have often thought about the prayer that goes unanswered, the prayer made “amiss.” I am sure at times, I have

## *“Comfort Ye My People”*

made such a prayer.

There is a very pure prayer which I have turned to when I felt my own prayer may be lacking in some way, and it is Psalms 27: 4. In this prayer King David says, “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”

“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after.” To have a focused prayer, to desire one thing above all else and not to have a “laundry list” of self-centered wants, this kind of prayer is simple and pure and reaches the heart of God.

“That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.” To desire to feel the healing presence of God’s power, Emmanuel, “God with us,” to dwell in the secret place of the Most High, the Christ consciousness — every day, all day, forever — what a prayer!

“To behold the beauty of the Lord.” To see God’s beauty everywhere, to see what He has created and the beautiful nature of it, to see as God sees, to express this true vision — what could be more wonderful than that?!

And finally, “To inquire in His temple.” To have a sincere desire to find out more about God, to have a deep yearning to spend more time with Him and to understand Him better and to pray that He may forever be unfolding Himself to me. What a pure prayer! And dear Lord, may this be my one and only prayer!

Christ Jesus says, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” It is certain, as our prayer is perfected and made so pure and simple, as we grow day by day in His grace — all our other desires will be answered by God. How could it be otherwise? “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after”!

## “Feed My Sheep” — Christ Jesus

We are not wrecked, either nationally or physically, by great crimes so much as by the lack of courage to face small issues, and master them. An accumulation of small raids amounts soon to an invasion which is difficult to check.

*Una Willard*

There is no rushing out to meet the enemy, and we only need to know this to eliminate from conscious belief that there is anything to meet. God is Love; nothing can destroy that fact.

*Bicknell Young*



## Aggressive Mental Suggestion and Malpractice

Bicknell Young

When Mr. Kimball came on the platform the first day I studied with him, he said something like this: “If I seem to manifest any physical discord (and he did), it is because many persons believe I am in error.” He said that many persons had wanted to be in class and had not been permitted, and they believed him to be in great error. Would it seem that what these persons were believing had produced the physical discord? No, but it did seem that the belief entertained by a great many people seemingly was disturbing his thinking, until his disturbed thinking about what they were thinking was being objectified as physical discord. What needed to be treated? Not simply that he was in error, but the claim that this belief in what they were thinking could make him believe that he was in error, and could disturb or harass him.

## *“Feed My Sheep”*

His work was to maintain his own thinking, the Christ consciousness, undisturbed and uninfluenced by the thoughts of others, by the thoughts that were arguing to him about what others were doing or thinking. Paul said, “None of these things move me.” Even if the whole world believed him to be in error, this malpractice, these aggressive mental suggestions about him, could not make him seem to believe in error. These aggressive mental suggestions could not do a thing to his Christ consciousness. Knowing this, the physical discords vanished quickly.

This is the work of every Christian Scientist to do for himself, and for his patients. It is when you are not knowing that you cannot be mesmerized, that you are most liable to be. Mesmerism is not power, there is no mesmeric power, no magnetic power, and those aggressive mental suggestions are not power. The Christ consciousness does not give them power. Take possession of these aggressive mental suggestions with such a sense of their nullity as destroys them. They cannot mesmerize the Christ Consciousness, my Christ Consciousness. Aggressive mental suggestion has no channel or avenue, and cannot find me, or reach me through any avenue within the radius of my thinking, by mesmerizing others with aggressive mental suggestions about me.

Maintain your balance; we need balance to stand. With every aggressive mental suggestion you master, you will have a greater unfoldment of Truth and Love. Refuse to be influenced by these aggressive suggestions. Aggressive mental suggestion is all the adverse influence there is. All there is to a suggestion, is a suggestion about some spiritual reality. Melt the error away in the discernment of the one influence, one action, one substance, the one true emotion, the one presence, the one function, the one operation

of law, and the harmonious rhythm of Truth and Love unfolding.



## Enforcement and Protection of Treatment

Edward A. Kimball

The adversary, like Herod of old, lies in wait for every Christian Science treatment, before it is given. The laws of mental malpractice endeavor to suggest the belief that Christian Science does not heal, and that Scientists shall not think their treatments can heal. You must work by means of constant endeavor to break this lie.

To protect your treatment, know with every treatment that this treatment is the very Word, power, presence and action of God; that it is the very law of Life and harmony to the case; that you cannot be mesmerized to doubt its power and efficacy; it cannot return unto itself void; it does heal; there is no law that can impede, arrest, restrain or reverse it, or frustrate its operation or effect.

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## Watching Points

*The book 500 Watching Points was written by Gilbert C. Carpenter, C.S.B., and Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr., C.S.B.*

### Watching Points No. 77, 78

Gilbert C. Carpenter

WATCH lest you conceive of animal magnetism as a power or danger from outside, rather than as the subtle suggestion that writes its message with unseen fingers on the inner tablet of your own consciousness. It is true that

## *“Feed My Sheep”*

the fundamental false belief comes to us from outside, but it appears in our thought as our own thoughts. When we accept it, it is expressed in our lives. So error first comes from the outside to the inside; then if it is accepted, it goes from the inside to the outside.

Mrs. Eddy is quoted in an article by Mr. Tomlinson as having said, “Error comes to you for life and you give it all the life it has.”

**W**ATCH lest you believe that the entire remedy for animal magnetism is to fight and cast out these mental suggestions, that seem to be written on the inner wall of thought. The man in the Bible who swept and garnished his house after he had cast out the devil, had a return visit from Satan with seven friends! Why? Because he believed he had a room in his mental house which the devil had once occupied.

Man must realize that, because he is God’s perfect child, he has no room reserved for evil, and never has had. He must know that he is not receptive to erroneous suggestions; that he has no such capacity, and never could have; that no subtlety of evil can render his thought receptive to aught but the ever present thoughts of God, since there are no evil suggestions. In this way he drives out the wasps and then burns their nest. Then they have nothing to come back to.



## **Entertaining Angels During the Christmas Season**

**Andrew Kidd**

**W**hat should a student of Christian Science be doing during the Christmas season? First, he or she must be awake to

## CornerStone

the aggressive suggestions around — sensitive to the crying need for spiritual alertness. Second, the student must recognize that tradition in and of itself has no place in the Scientist's thought, any more than ritual does in the church. Third, "Christianity, with the crown of Love upon her brow, must be their queen of life." (S&H)

What are some of the aggressive suggestions at Christmas? "Buy, buy, buy" is perhaps the most obvious one, and feeling obligated to participate is also prevalent. Turning to God, desiring to please only Him, will guide us rightly. There is no time better spent than in praying for guidance. And there will be no better way to strengthen spiritual "muscles" than to avoid seeking popularity at the risk of displeasing God!

Are the traditional activities of the Christmas season off limits to the Christian Scientist? As tradition, yes, but as vehicles for meeting the needs of others, no. Sending cards or giving gifts as a matter of tradition — with pride and expectation of reciprocation unchecked — may put a stone on another's heart, but when done with Christly love, it will always bless.

The safest and most satisfying way for the student of Christian Science to celebrate Christmas is by reaching out to others in need, in thought and deed. "Home should be the centre, though not the boundary, of the affections." (S&H) Is there someone outside of family who might be alone? Include them in a family gathering. Listen to those angel thoughts: "Angels are God's representatives. These upward-soaring beings never lead towards self, sin, or materiality, but guide to the divine Principle of all good, whither every real individuality, image, or likeness of God, gathers. By giving earnest heed to these spiritual guides they tarry with us, and we entertain 'angels unawares.'" (S&H)

# Breaking Down Misconceptions of Christian Science

Jesus commanded, "Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead;" in other words, Let the world, popularity, pride, and ease concern you less, and love thou. When the full significance of this saying is understood, we shall have better practitioners, and Truth will arise in human thought with healing in its wings, regenerating mankind and fulfilling the apostle's saying: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Loving chords set discords in harmony. Every condition implied by the great Master, every promise fulfilled, was loving and spiritual, urging a state of consciousness that leaves the minor tones of so-called material life and abides in Christlikeness.

*Mary Baker Eddy  
Message for 1902*



## The Awakening

ATM

"For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." —*Christ Jesus*

This well describes me before I found independent Christian Science in Plainfield. Since childhood I learned to accept the letter of Christian Science, but I didn't know how to connect to God and feel his love as a means of healing. At Plainfield I discovered that unless I work from the Spirit, the letter is meaningless and hollow.

## CornerStone

These are some misconceptions that have bound me for years, and what I've now learned to be true:

- "I just need to read more to learn more about Christian Science." Reading doesn't make me a Christian Scientist. Striving to do God's will and self-sacrifice lifts me up higher.

- "I went through Class Instruction; therefore, I am knowledgeable about Christian Science." Not worth a thing if I am asleep! I need to humbly ask God what I can do for Him today, and put into operation the rules of Christian Science, demonstrating the divine Principle.

- "I go to church, therefore, I am an active Christian Scientist." Irrelevant. Am I handling mental malpractice, wrong, negative suggestions when they come into my thought or experience? That is active work.

- "I am protected because I am a Christian Scientist." Not unless I am awake to the demands of Christian Science, and strive to fulfill them. "If living in disobedience to Him, we ought to feel no security, although God is good." (S&H)

What chains have been loosed! What treasures I am finding! Since reading the Plainfield Lesson, I have discovered what I have missed from the Boston Lesson: substance — the duties, requirements, and sacrifice necessary to live the exact and unwavering Science in order to cast out sin and heal sickness and disease. This came through a divine revelation, and I thank God for it!



## Human Harmony

Mary Beth Singleterry

Gilbert Carpenter writes in one of his books about Mrs. Eddy, that she would despair when she would see her students falling into an apathetic sense of human harmony. And during those times she would take drastic measures to wake them up! In *Miscellany* she states, “Unless one’s eyes are opened to the modes of mental malpractice, working so subtly that we mistake its suggestions for the impulses of our own thought, the victim will allow himself to drift in the wrong direction without knowing it. Be ever on guard against this enemy. Watch your thoughts, and see whether they lead you to God and into harmony with His true followers.”

I once mistakenly thought human harmony was what I, as a “Christian Scientist,” was trying to achieve. How wonderful to construct a nice little haven for myself! I could not have been farther from the truth! Human harmony is going along with the drift of mortal mind. It claims, “Peace, peace, where there is no peace.” Everything seems to be “going fine,” so no need to pray, no need to ask God for direction, no need to care if a brother is in trouble. My life is fine and that’s all that matters.

Gilbert Carpenter states in his book, *Mary Baker Eddy — Her Spiritual Footsteps*, “in a mental state of exhilaration without an ache or a pain, man may be further from God than when he is depressed or suffering. When he feels badly, he is out of tune with God, to be sure, but he is struggling to get back. But when he is in a state of mental exhilaration, he may be out of tune with God, and in tune with what he should not be; yet, because he feels well and happy, he is not driven to make the struggle to throw off the

domination of the enemy of God.”

We once had a cartoon pinned to the bulletin board at church. It depicted a man who was relaxing on his raft, floating on a river, not paying attention to anything, completely oblivious to the fact that he was about to tumble headlong over a huge waterfall! And so it is with human harmony. That waterfall is never too far away!

Divine harmony, on the other hand, is entirely different. One is alert and working, asking God for guidance every step of the way. You are ever aware of God’s presence and power, and this also makes you much more sensitive to error’s subtle suggestions. This God-given alertness enables you to nip error in the bud — and hallelujah for that! Error cannot catch you off guard. Going over a waterfall would be impossible for the man who is putting God first in all his ways.

Mrs. Eddy writes in her article on “Obedience,” “Never absent from your post, never off-guard, never ill-humored, never unready to work for God — is obedience; being ‘faithful over a few things.’”

During this holiday season, let us keep Mrs. Eddy’s wise counsel well within our hearts. Alert and faithful obedience to God brings to us a divine harmony, and with that, a peace unspeakable, for it is truly Emmanuel, — God with us!



# Announcements

## **Audio Recordings of Science and Health**

We are happy to announce that we are producing audio recordings of Science and Health on CD. On them, Science and Health is beautifully and understandingly read by Andrew Kidd, who served as Reader in Plainfield Church for ten years. His experience and great love for Mary Baker Eddy and her revelation makes for a powerful listening experience, even for those familiar with the textbook. The cost is \$7.00 per CD.

## **Christian Science in Germany**

We have published a newly typeset version of the inspiring book, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE IN GERMANY, by Frances Thurber Seal, in paperback format. This book tells of her experience in bringing Christian Science to Germany in 1897. She had found Christian Science less than a year before, and didn't speak a word of German. Yet through her love and faithfulness to God, she was able to bring Christian Science to Germany, teaching classes to people from all over Europe. The price is \$6.00.

## **Full-Text Version of Plainfield Lessons**

The Plainfield Church now produces our independent Lesson Sermons in full-text booklet form. Each 8 1/2 x 11 inch booklet contains the full-text Lessons for one month. It fits easily within a briefcase or large purse. This offers a convenient, attractive alternative to carrying your marked lesson books when traveling. Each one-month issue is \$7.00, a 3-month subscription is \$19.00, a 6-month subscription is \$36.00, and a 12-month subscription is \$65.00, within the USA; international is \$9.00 per issue, \$77.00 for a 12-month subscription.

## **Church Services Available by Phone**

Our Sunday and Wednesday church services can now be heard by telephone. If you don't have a computer and

## **CornerStone**

would like to listen to our services live, contact Plainfield Church for dial-in information. You will be provided with a toll-free phone number, and a pass code. This will connect you to a teleconference service which broadcasts our services at the time they are being held. Sunday services begin at 11:00 a.m., and Wednesday services 8:15 p.m. The services are preceded by 5-10 minutes of music, and you are invited to dial in early to hear this prelude. If you miss a live service, recordings can also be accessed through this teleconference service.

Our adult Sunday School class is also available, live and recorded, via this teleconference service. The adult Sunday School class begins at 10:00 a.m.

We invite everyone to join in, sing the hymns with us, and participate in the adult Sunday School class.

### **Testimonies Given by Phone**

Anyone from out of town is now able, through our teleconference feature, to give a testimony live during our Wednesday services from their telephone. If you are interested, please contact the church for the toll-free phone number, code, and instructions. The dial-up information is also available on the church website, [Plainfieldcs.com](http://Plainfieldcs.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

### **Live Services on the Internet**

Have you heard our live services on the Internet? Plainfield Church broadcasts both our Sunday and Wednesday evening services, including the Sunday adult class, live on the Internet. Recorded versions of these services are available on our Web site at any time. Just log on to [plainfieldcs.com](http://plainfieldcs.com), and join our congregation. We look forward to welcoming you!

### **Web Site**

Our Web site, [plainfieldcs.com](http://plainfieldcs.com), is constantly being updated with fresh, inspired thoughts, articles, services, and

## *Announcements*

Lessons. It even includes a Lesson forum area to post comments about the Lesson. Please check it out, and leave a comment if you wish!

### **Plainfield Independent Quarterly**

The Plainfield Church publishes its own Lesson Sermon Quarterly, based entirely on the Bible and Science and Health. A one-year subscription costs \$11.00. A single issue costs \$5.00. Subscriptions to overseas and Canada cost \$19.00.

### **CornerStone Subscriptions**

The CornerStone is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The subscription rate to the U.S.A. is \$20.00 for one year. Single copies cost \$5.00. One-year subscriptions to Canada cost \$27.00, and international \$35.00.

### **Plainfield Independent Newsletter**

The Plainfield Church Newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December. It is available to members of Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, free of charge.

### **Bicknell Young: Collected Writings**

Collected Writings by Bicknell Young is one of our church's most popular publications. Due to widespread demand, the Plainfield Church has reissued this collection of Mr. Young's most outstanding writings on Christian Science. Included for the first time in this new edition is Mr. Young's article, Aggressive Mental Suggestion and Malpractice.

Collected Writings is bound in a blue leather-like cover. The price is \$15.00, with free postage within the United States.

### **New Members Are Welcome!**

Do you love Christian Science, and wish to see it prosper and go forward? Then we invite you most lovingly to join us in membership. Please contact us, and we'll be happy to send you an application!

## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

### Its Clear, Correct Teaching and Complete Writings by Herbert W. Eustace C.S.B.

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This book is now available through the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent. It is an invaluable study aid for advancing students of Christian Science, containing many of the articles written by Mr. Eustace during his practice and teaching of Christian Science.

Mr. Eustace graduated from the Massachusetts Metaphysical College in 1902 with the degree of C.S.B., signed by Mrs. Eddy and Mr. Edward Kimball. After that, Mr. Eustace served the Christian Science movement faithfully for many years, as Trustee of the Christian Science Publishing Society, practitioner, and teacher of Christian Science well into the 1930s.

The following paragraphs, handwritten by Mr. Eustace, were left on his desk as his last written word (December 9, 1957):

*"Mrs. Eddy gave two very important directions to every Christian Scientist before saying good-bye; in fact they were more than directions, they were commands and demanded imperative obedience. The one was to call disease animal magnetism as the specific term for error or mortal mind, and then handle animal magnetism. And the other was that Christian Scientists are not healing because they do not know how to handle animal magnetism.*

*"Here is a challenge to you. Do you not know how to handle animal magnetism? If not, why not; and from this moment let your every intent be to know how to handle animal magnetism and then do it; and heal the sick intelligently and instantaneously, which is the only way Christian Science does."*

The book is bound in flexible red leatherette and contains 1040 pages. The price is \$27.00.

## Letters from Readers

Being a member of your church is a real blessing in my life! I enjoy studying the Lessons, reading CornerStone magazine and your newsletter. Also I love the daily quotes on the calendar. But what I really love are the Wednesday night services via teleconference. It is the highlight of my week and so relaxing and healing.

*Alabama*

My husband and I have been greatly blessed by being part of the Plainfield Church family and can never thank all of you enough for keeping the torch of pure Christian Science ablaze, in accordance with what Mary Baker Eddy surely had in mind for the future of the movement.

*Vermont*

Just discovered your Bible stories for children and the sweet coloring page you have accompanying the story. What a wonderful idea and blessing for parents. The love in this website certainly addresses every need. Thank you.

*Florida*

The main thing I love about the Independent Christian Science Church is the emphasis I have seen placed on handling animal magnetism; so thanks for all of your good sharing about this important subject that seems to be left out in the other Christian Science churches. I also love the beautiful music, different from the organ and with joyful sound and new lyrics so needed in Christian Science to really make it feel like a Movement actually moving!

Thanks for all your good work, dedication and prayers.

*California*

## CornerStone

I have enclosed a check. Please send CD on the chapter "Prayer" recorded by Mr. Kidd, along with a copy of CornerStone magazine. The balance of the money is a donation to the church's general fund. I am so grateful to be able to do this and grateful for Mary Baker Eddy's pure Christian Science.

*Arizona*

Enclosed is a contribution, sent with many thanks for all the healing and growing activities of this church. The weekly Lessons, the articles, the services, the roundtable discussions on Sunday, comments on the Forum, the testimonies, the musical selections in services and on the website all work together to inspire, uplift, and heal. I am very grateful for each and every one.

*Virginia*

Thank everyone at the roundtable for their love and devotion to Christian Science and their commitment to "putting off the old man and putting on the new man."

*Switzerland*

Tonight's service was most inspiring, with the understanding of God. I would like to thank the testifiers for their healing testimonies. They were so inspiring. I would also like to thank the Independent Church and its practitioners for spreading the Truth and understanding of God. I might be out of sight but I'm still with you in heart and soul.

*New Mexico*

I would like to become a member of your church. I have enclosed the membership form for your approval, and a donation to help with your church. I love your website and church services.

*Canada*

I was so glad to know about your Christian Science

## *Letters*

Church, new ways, having won a great battle with the lawsuit and especially keeping together through the whole thing. Amazing. Thanks for sharing all this.

I loved the website and especially the respect and love it shows for Christian Science and Mary Baker Eddy. This shows real Christianity in practice; the only way I believe it can be shown.

*California*

Thank you all members for your great devotion and continuing support and help that we members who are out-of-town get this healing Truth.

*Illinois*

I just received the September CornerStone in the mail and had to call in to tell you how much I love it! All the CornerStone magazines are terrific but this one is outstanding! Every article a gem. Thanks so much. Love to all!

*New York*

I am so very grateful for the Plainfield Church and practitioners who have given me an enlarged understanding of Christian Science and demonstrations.

*Ohio*

Wonderful Newsletter in August. I always enjoy it and learn something from each article. Thank you.

*Mississippi*

We have had some powerful reminders during the round-table of the discipline necessary to understand Christian Science. It cannot be turned on or off, it must be lived. Thank you for not being afraid to point out and challenge. It takes that for the Light of Truth to shine.

*Alabama*

Thank you for providing another wonderful online ser-

## CornerStone

vice—the hymns, readings, and testimonies were all a blessing to me.

Can you please email me the phone number to dial-in, so that I can participate in the testimony service in the future?

Also, I believe you are still doing watches, and would it be possible for me to keep watch with the church?

Thank you for all you are doing.

*Florida*

P.S. Enclosed is my contribution

Enclosed is a check to renew my subscription to the CornerStone magazine.

I love the CornerStone and look forward to receiving it. I immediately open it and skim through all of the contents, and then savor each article slowly, making it last as long as possible. There are such wonderful and healing articles in each and every issue! The little poems tucked in throughout are just the final touch!

I am also enclosing a donation for the church's general fund. I am so blessed and grateful to be a member of this church family, and grateful for our roundtable class, teachers and practitioners. Thank you, Father.

*Arizona*

Thank you for sending some of your literature. I am looking forward to learning more about your wonderful church and use your full text lesson sermons to my advantage. I am very interested and also a few of my friends. We have already started studying the lessons and look forward to learning more. I love to learn more about the Bible and passages that will help me for the rest of my life to fight and rebuke the devil.

I respect your friendship.

*California*

## Featured Early Worker: Bicknell Young

Andrew Kidd

It is fascinating to consider the individuality of the luminaries of the early years of Christian Science, those who are of particular interest to us: Edward Kimball, Rev. Kratzer, Martha Wilcox, Gilbert Carpenter, Herbert Eustace, and now under consideration, Bicknell Young. We are hard-pressed to find anything similar in their backgrounds or their personalities, and there is little to suggest they shared much with each other, with the exception of the teacher-student relationship of Mr. Kimball and Mr. Young — and yet they each left a precious heritage, their wonderfully individual and clearly stated understanding of Christian Science.

Bicknell Young grew up a Mormon, pursued an ambitious and successful career as a musician, had a dramatic healing through Christian Science, and spent the rest of his years dedicated to the practice of Christian Science. Taught by Mr. Kimball in 1895, he became a teacher himself in 1902, and then followed Mr. Kimball into the lecturing circuit in 1903. Like his mentor, Mr. Young was an excellent communicator, and filled halls wherever he went. From 1909-1913 he was resident practitioner and teacher in London, England. He was selected by Mrs. Eddy to replace Mr. Kimball (who had passed on) as teacher of the Normal Class in Boston (the class to teach teachers) of 1910, an indication of the high regard Mrs. Eddy had for Mr. Young.

What was extraordinary about Mr. Young was his ability to remain above the fray after Mrs. Eddy's passing. Although Mr. Young taught that the material universe “is the spiritual creation dimly seen and incorrectly interpreted” — and this was unacceptable to the “intuitional approach” promulgated by the central organization — nevertheless he was selected First Reader of the Mother Church for

## CornerStone

1917-1920, during the contentious Litigation which had the movement in turmoil. Later, in 1937, he was chosen to teach the Normal Class again. That Mr. Young felt the sensitive position he was in is reflected by a remark he purportedly made to the class: "You don't want to get your teacher into trouble, do you? Then don't pass notes around of what I have said." Having been left untouched by a heavy-handed organization that had disciplined others for far less, is testament to his tremendous popularity, and his ability to rise above his detractors, rather than get into the mud with them!

As can be seen by the selections from his writings that follow, Bicknell Young was a master metaphysician, and wonderfully practical at the same time.



*Following are some quotes from the writings of Bicknell Young.*

When you see a man come in, think or say, "Hail, Son of God." All that is needed is the Son of God, or Science of Being. Continue to see the Son of God, and insist that he is present, no matter what the evidence of the senses may say. You will always find some evidence in an improved human being.

Know that man is doing just the right thing at all times, under all circumstances, and is always in the right place.

The thing that gives man dominion is to know that he does not want anything. Everything good God made, and man knows.

Do not ask divine Mind to help you; just know. This is the very presence of God. Make no appeal, no supplication. KNOW.

## CornerStone

Know that the evidence of God's universe is the only evidence there is; and that His law is ever operative.

You do not have to change anything but the belief, and the belief inevitably changes under the realization of the Truth.

Let that clear, sweet recognition of divine Presence be so sure with you all the time, that you have no doubt of it.

I want you to be comfortable and happy. You cannot handle error unless you are happy. There must be that kind of spontaneous feeling in your consciousness which delivers to us the glory of God. God with us!



### Finance

Bicknell Young

Can you see that if you have a consciousness of failure, inability, and poverty, it is impossible to change the manifestation of these things from the outside, *since consciousness will out-picture itself, no matter what you do? Change consciousness.*

It is useless for you to try and think things into being. Do as Jesus did when he let the operation of Mind take place. We see Jesus going through the simple steps of manifestation. He lifted his eyes to heaven and gave thanks. He had already disregarded the *appearance*, and had let go of thoughts of how, when, why, and where; this being entirely out of his province.

Jesus could do nothing of himself; neither can you. Are you going to insist that you can and continue to struggle and fight with the manifestation, hoping to change something? If you have the consciousness of anything, it is *eternal in the heavens* and can be reproduced, ad infinitum. Take your attention away from the appearance and place it

“on Me,” if you desire to see the desert blossom as the rose.

It was thanksgiving and recognition that multiplied the loaves and fishes to the five thousand. The *less* you ask for, the harder it is to get, *by reason of* its tremendous affluence. Your poor vision of what belongs to you keeps you from having the abundance of Spirit. A man with a consciousness full of troubles will find them wherever he goes. Without the consciousness of substance, you cannot retain the symbol. “I will overturn, overturn, overturn ...” and so everything will be overturned until you find within yourself that which Jesus found within himself: the *source of All*.

When will you stop trying to get *things*, and see the presence of God? The spirit of the consciousness of the presence of God is the source of all supply, not *some supply*; all supply. When you know this, you will not try to hunt for supply, or a job, for it will be as much present in one locality as another. It will be wherever you are and whatever you *need*. You will find the presence of all, where nothing is lacking. *All* these things shall be added to the unafraid one. There is but one now; why should you be afraid to accept the good here and now, instead of waiting for the harvest?

It was quite as impossible for Jesus, the man, to increase substance as it would be for you. It was the Christ which did this. In the new consciousness, which is within every man awaiting recognition, there is an instantaneous release as you realize the presence. *The endless planning and trying to arrange things, suddenly cease*. The government will be upon His shoulders, the government of your life, and all is well. Be not afraid, it is I.

Be still outwardly, and shout for joy within, until it shall shatter the walls of your prison. “I have many hidden things to show you when you can be still.” Right where you are is holy ground.

## “I AM THAT I AM”

Bicknell Young

In the order of divine Science, there is ONE MIND. Everything that occurs in the universe has its Being in this One Mind, Principle, “I AM THAT I AM.”

Every action, incident, movement, faculty, function, organ, in the divine creation is an idea of God, and is constantly declaring, “I AM.” Every idea must do this, and cannot do otherwise. It does not know how, and cannot know how, to be unlike infinity, perfection, eternity.

Man is well now; sustained and maintained in his business, health, etc., by God who said, “I AM.” “I AM” a law maker. My laws are divine laws, omnipotent laws. “I AM” a law unto this and every condition and circumstance that confronts me.

Have no fear; the only “I AM” there is, is infinite Spirit. There is nothing going on in reality but infinite “I AM,” enforcing its own law.

The thing that takes care of what seems to be a problem is to find out that there isn't one, because all that Mind has done is not in the nature of a problem, but is in the nature of scientific manifestation of divine Intelligence, which after its divine nature is ever uttering itself “I AM,” and which finds in its own nature nothing that is unlike itself, and knows no problem.

Our God is so kind and true, so loving and just, and is so constantly knowing “I AM,” that I will know what to do and do it at the right time.

“To sit quietly and declare ‘I AM’ will confer a power that nothing else can.” (Mary Baker Eddy) “Absolute acknowledgement of the ever presence of infinite Perfection.”



## Christmas

Star-gleam and angel chorus  
At midnight's awesome hour,  
Self hushed and spirit waking  
To welcome heaven's dower—  
So learned the humble shepherds  
Of Truth's eternal power;  
So we may find and prove it  
A stronghold and a tower.

*Kathrine Scobey Putnam*

# The Independent Lesson Forum

*If you haven't discovered the Lesson Forum on our church website yet, log on to [plainfieldcs.com](http://plainfieldcs.com) and click on Lesson Forum. You will find lively and inspiring discussions centered round our weekly Lesson. Those who participate find that it brings greater depth to the study of the Lesson. Everyone is welcome to join in. We would love to hear from you!*

The following is a sample of submissions from the Lesson, "Everlasting Punishment."

## **Question:**

"Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?"

## **Response:**

This is why we should never classify anyone as "good" or "bad." Only God is good, and that which is ungodlike is bad. We all worship something. If we worship the things of God, we will experience freedom and everlasting life. However, if we worship material things, money, a job, or people, it will feel at times that we are going through everlasting punishment.

Job worshipped his children. Not a good thing! He did not worship God enough to discipline his children. Instead, he thought he could atone for their sins by burnt offerings. Isn't this the way the human mind always works? Wanting to buy its way out of trouble instead of repenting (changing) and stop worshipping something other than God.

To his credit, Job worked through it and learned his lesson. His wife was not much help. Neither were his closest friends. But he had the humility to listen to young Elihu, a Christly thought who pulled him up by his bootstraps sufficiently for him to hear God's voice. I'm sure God was always there to pull Job out of his funk, but Job had to stop

his conversations with his wife and friends before he could hear God. It's comforting to know that we can always work through issues if we persevere. We just have to stop listening to the wrong voices. Then the punishment stops.

**Response:**

Things are judged good or bad by human standards and therefore the judgment is faulty. Almost everything in this world is unfair from this basis. Just think of Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers, was treated badly by Potiphar's wife and others in Egypt. Yet he didn't complain but served God with all his heart, and then saved many from starvation. When Jesus was asked by his disciples about the man who was born blind, who was at fault, Jesus gave no credibility to this apparent unfairness, no credibility to fault finding, but rather claimed that the works of God should be made manifest in him, and then healed him. Can we stay grateful no matter what is thrown at us, get the blessing from each experience?

**"Influenced erroneously."**

"Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die. After this opened Job his mouth and cursed his day."

Whoa!!! With friends like that who needs enemies?! What an outrageous example of being "influenced erroneously"! (And by his wife, no less!) The story of Job really brings home the importance of working with "A Rule for Motives and Acts" by Mrs. Eddy on a daily basis. She was so wise in her instructions for us. To "daily watch to be delivered from all evil, from prophesying, judging, condemning, counseling, influencing or being influenced erroneously" is vastly important. If Job knew enough not to be erroneously influenced and also not to be impelled by personal attachment — his story would have been much different!

## “The World Has Need of You”

*This section of our magazine features statements and articles of Truth to help us in our prayer for the world.*

You alone are responsible for what is taking place in your world. It is not something “over there” but consciousness “right here.” You have full power and authority to think and act rightly. You, as the activity of God, divine Mind, must understand your world in its true sense. In so doing, remember you are compelling malicious mind to cease its suggestions, which is all that is declaring the turmoil, misery, and death.

*Herbert W. Eustace*

Strong currents of Scientific thinking must be injected into the whirlpool of economic and political structure. You are important to the strength of that current. One thought of truth is power.

*Una Willard*

We must be alive to all the suggestions of evil, and accept none of them.

*Bicknell Young*

One little thought is stronger than all the battlements and armored ships of the world. The nation that will think right is unconquerable.

*From the “American”*

Seek to find deeper joy in your work. One can be deeply in earnest and at the same time spiritually light-hearted.

*Mary Morgan*

You couldn’t possibly handle error and be unhappy. In fact, unhappiness will indicate that error is not being taken care of.

*Bicknell Young*

## Individual Responsibility

Peter V. Ross

Each individual can do something, in these apparently troublous times, to steady the situation. He can at least insist that the Lord God omnipotent reigns, which is another way of saying that Principle governs the world, governs the nations, governs business and industry, governs man and his affairs; making of none effect unprincipled forces which would upset society, precipitate nations in strife, wreck business, or otherwise interfere with man's well-being. It is time one should face these devastating influences, not in alarm or with concern, but with the assurance that they are powerless to defeat God's fine destiny for humanity. Amidst the harsh noises of the day, every individual may, with the aid of Science, walk the earth in dignity and in confidence.



Beloved children, the world has need of you, — and more as children than as men and women: it needs your innocence, unselfishness, faithful affection, uncontaminated lives.

*Mary Baker Eddy*

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## Simplicity

Alexander Warendorff

As we look upon the condition of the world today, we see the great need of true simplicity, "the simplicity that is in Christ."

Children, whose lives are uncontaminated by materialism, often work wonders. They quickly grasp the fact that the laws of God operate unfailingly; therefore, they expect, and get, the answer to their prayers. Thoughts of failure

## *“The World Has Need of You”*

never occur to the child. In Psalms we read, “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”

Christian Science teaches us how to live simple, God-like lives. The one who says he cannot grasp its simple teachings is an example of the saying that the wisdom of God is foolishness to men. Mrs. Eddy says that Jesus “taught that the material senses shut out Truth and its healing power.” (S&H)

When Jesus placed a little child in the midst of his disciples, he said, “Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Christian Science uncovers the fact that fear, sin, sickness, impatience, hatred, superstition, war, lack are unknown to God and, therefore, should be unknown to us, as they will be when mankind wakes to the Christ-consciousness. This spiritual consciousness brings with it joy, peace, health, freedom, and harmony; for God’s way is a sure way, and the pathway of righteousness — right thinking and living — is simple, clear, and open to all.

Such qualities as honesty, meekness, humility, and cheerfulness are always to be found in the thought of the spiritually minded, those whose desires are being purged of all materiality. Such are not afraid of so-called evil, or aggressive mental suggestion; they are the masters of it. They are always expecting, and therefore finding, good. When we are single-minded, we are clear-minded; we are never confused, never disturbed.

In our homes, businesses, and in the relations of nations with one another, simple, straightforward thinking and dealing are greatly needed. Christian Science with its simple message is hastening the fulfillment of the Scriptural prophecy, “The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

# The Heart Speaking

## Pause and Give Thanks Bruce Singleterry

With Thanksgiving Day approaching, again comes the reminder to remember our blessings and thank God for them. Being thankful and giving thanks is simple, and it is a profoundly fundamental element of a sound mind. Gratitude is a basic part of our make-up, inherently natural to all. It is only false education, the erroneous influences of the world that would cause anyone to think otherwise.

Just think of this — our nation saw fit to set aside a day to publicly and formally acknowledge that we have blessings, and that God is their source. The Pilgrims acknowledged bounty and thanked God while going through adversity. Today, we have much more in the way of basic comforts. Can we fail to recognize the good, and thank God for it? The self-involved, the material sensualist, the lazy human mind will complain regardless of how good things are. Someone in this mode could have something good happen, then just skip along and forget it, while complaining that things are not good enough. This ingratitude is sin, a godless depravity. An honest acknowledgement of what God has done for us can do tremendous good, can loosen love and compassion from the restricting bonds of selfishness, can help open the way for those struggling to find the upward way.

Our nation's forefathers acknowledged the hand of Divinity in the birth of our country. They instituted laws that more closely resembled Godliness, and then conditions were ripe in our nation for the revelation of Christian Science to be received by our dear Leader. Let us never forget what we have, where we came from, and how we got to this point. May the impulse of praise to the Almighty, and genuine compassion for our fellow man, flow naturally from the heart of humanity.

During one of the first testimony meetings I listened to from the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, several members of the congregation gave testimonies of how they had worked with this statement to great effect: “God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (II Tim.) I felt like God was speaking directly to me and throwing me a life line.

At the time I was living in a lot of fear after a sudden illness and extended hospital stay had left me with a physical disability that severely impacted my mobility. The littlest things made me uneasy, like crossing the street, or walking outside on a windy day, or riding in a car at highway speeds. It was truly a terrible existence.

I wrote that Bible statement on a piece of paper, and periodically I'd pull it out and really consider what it meant. I would thank God for creating me without a spirit of fear. Slowly but surely, one by one, those fears fell away. Now I can walk outside on a windy day, rainy day, any kind of day, and can cross the busiest of streets without fear. Riding in cars at highway speeds became a non-event. However, I continued to look forward to the day when I would be the one driving the car at highway speeds, with a mixture of excitement and dread.

When I finally got my driver's license, I initially avoided driving on highways because I was too scared to maintain the minimum speed limit, and most definitely never drove on the highway at night. When I went to visit friends or family more than 10 miles away, I'd always cut my visit short so I could leave in plenty of time to get home before dark. A few days ago I needed to go see a family member 30 miles away at dusk during rush hour, and once again I

worked with this statement. “God hath not given me the spirit of fear....” I made the trip safely, in half the estimated time, and consistently stayed at or even slightly above the highway speed limit throughout my trip.

This experience has taught me that avoiding a fear will not make it go away. However, if I face it and persist in resisting the devil, it will flee from me.

I am very grateful to the Plainfield Church for persisting in the fight to remain independent, and to Mary Baker Eddy for persisting in her goal to give the world Christian Science. My life is wholly the better for it.



## No Failure

Benjamin Ndukwe

Failure is one thing nobody ever wants to experience. It can be devastating to fail; but as with anything, there is always a lesson to be learned — a steppingstone to grow closer to God and learn more about His good plan for our lives.

Failure is not really what it seems to be. In the real sense, what seems to be failure is just one more step taking us closer to where God want us to be — it just means that we’re not there yet! So pick yourself up and keep moving forward.

Recently, I had an experience that taught me an important lesson. I was working on a project that I thought I had planned well. I anticipated it would be an easy process, not realizing that the devil has its plan as well and would want me to think I could fail. But God’s plan is always the best. I went to a number of locations, some of which I had been to in the past, hoping they would allow

## *No Failure*

me to complete my project there. But it didn't work out that way. Every single one of them turned me down. I became discouraged, began condemning myself, and almost gave up; but I knew that giving up was not an option! Then, I did what I should have done in the first place — I turned to God with my whole heart, and prayed that His will be done.

The following evening, I went to a dinner in an unfamiliar area; and when dinner was done, I decided to drive around in the neighborhood, since it was a gorgeous evening and the town was extraordinarily beautiful. Suddenly, I saw a building with a sign that caught my attention. I went inside and inquired if I could complete my project there. I was told to leave my contact information and the manager would call me. She called the very next day, and asked me to come in to schedule the days I would be available.

This place was indeed God's place for me, filled with the most loving individuals. The environment was perfect for my project. I was welcomed with love and given the opportunity to learn new things and to demonstrate my ability. My project was completed in due time. I was probably the happiest person ever! The reason for my happiness is not that my project was done, or because I found a good place to have it done; but because I had learned an important lesson that I will never forget.

Failure is not something to fear anymore, but an opportunity to turn to God and listen for His guidance. God has a place for every one of us, but to get there we must never admit failure. Get up and keep moving forward. You will get there if you persist. There is only one will that will be done in our lives, and it is the will of God. And its purpose is that we all succeed in our good endeavors.

# Moses and the ATM

Betty Simpson

There is a commercial on TV that shows a man standing in front of an ATM machine, debating whether or not to accept the ATM charges, which are considerable. His first inclination is to not accept the charges. But, before he actually presses “not accept,” you see all these people telling him to accept the charges — that’s just the way it is, you can’t change the way banks operate, etc. He finally accepts the charges.

After watching this, I thought, I have a choice to accept or not to accept false claims, error’s voice saying — that’s just the way it is, you can’t change it, etc., that come to me each day. This really came home to me when I read the Lesson Sermon on “Unreality.” In it were several stories about Moses. There was the burning bush, the two “Signs,” and the “Crossing of the Red Sea.”

When Moses saw the burning bush that was not consumed, he turned aside to see. Moses’ thought was open, and God spoke to him and told Moses, “Come . . . and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people . . . out of Egypt.” At first, Moses was frightened and was listening to all the reasons mortal mind told him not to obey God — He was slow of speech. They wouldn’t believe God had spoken to him, etc.

God continued and told Moses to cast his rod on the ground, where it immediately became a serpent “and Moses fled from it” in full acceptance of error’s claims of reality. But God told him to “put forth thine hand and take it by the tail.” Moses faced his fear — error screaming to be believed and made real — obeyed God, and caught the serpent by the tail and it became a rod again. Then God said, “That they may believe that God hath appeared unto thee.”

When God asked Moses to put his hand into his bosom and it became leprous, Moses didn’t run, or accept

## *God's Standard*

error's claims this time. He wasn't afraid anymore. So when God told him to put his hand back into his bosom again, there was no hesitation. He knew his hand would return to its normal condition. Moses had learned not to accept error's claims, and to trust and obey God, Truth, Life and Love.

When the time came to cross the Red Sea, "Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord which he will shew to you to-day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to-day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." Moses was telling (teaching) the people what he had learned from God. Fear not, face your foes, see God's Truth, Life and Love, and for heaven's sake, stop arguing for error's claims! Of course, God saved the day. The people walked through the Red Sea on dry land and the Egyptians were defeated!



## **God's Standard**

Gary Singleterry

There is an attitude that is essential for living a satisfying and productive life. Quite naturally, it starts with our accepting full responsibility for our lives — our thoughts, actions, and our circumstances. However, it goes one step further. It submits every aspect of one's life to a standard higher than our own.

In Psalm 26 we read, "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart." This is the ultimate in personal responsibility — to want to be tested and judged by God. Is my every thought and action acceptable to God?

## CornerStone

Are they totally selfless? Totally honest? Are they motivated by pure divine Love?

Jesus stated, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." By this, he meant that the knowledge of God's standard of living is now made known to mankind, and, for our own good, we should change to conform our thinking and actions to that standard, thereby being blessed beyond our wildest dreams. Mary Baker Eddy described this standard in her textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*: "The Christlike understanding of scientific being and divine healing includes a perfect Principle and idea, — perfect God and perfect man, — as the basis of thought and demonstration."

The standard of perfection can seem daunting and unrealistic from a human standpoint, but that is exactly the point. Jesus implored his followers: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." If Jesus told us to be perfect, then it must be possible. Otherwise, he would not have said it. Human standards are not good enough. We are God's creation, and His standard is perfection.

Every sincere effort to live in accordance with God's standard is met with blessing and spiritual growth. The desire to be examined and judged by God is the safest place to be. It is the standard that has healed the sick, reformed the sinner, and raised the dying to life throughout the ages. It is the price of liberty, for if we have any other desire, it will enslave us, until our hearts are reformed and we are willing to do the will of wisdom. It requires us to turn away from human organization, human opinion, human desires, and material laws, to the one almighty source. That desire will always be rewarded with better health, better morals, and a greater sense of dominion over the cares of the world.

# Christmas

Ella W. Hoag

“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people,” said the angel to the shepherds in that far-away time when Jesus was born in the little town of Bethlehem.

Ever since then, the Christian world has been seeking to know just what this message really means. Many have believed the “great joy” must be brought about through a material sense of good. Theology has looked to have the “good tidings” fulfilled in a future heaven. Others have longingly hoped that right here and now evil might in some way be completely vanquished.

Christian Science shows us that Christmas need no longer be observed from a material standpoint, but that thought may be lifted into an understanding of the spiritual meaning of Christmas, which does indeed prophesy “good tidings to all people.” Mary Baker Eddy says, “The basis of Christmas is love loving its enemies, returning good for evil, love that ‘suffereth long, and is kind.’ The true spirit of Christmas elevates medicine to Mind; it casts out evils, heals the sick, raises the dormant faculties, appeals to all conditions, and supplies every need of man.” (My.)

How could there be a clearer, more definite explanation of the nature of the “good tidings”? Here is the method whereby each individual may avail himself of the blessings which Jesus lived to bestow upon men. He loved his enemies; he returned good for evil; through the understanding of the Christ-mind he cast out evils, healed the sick, and raised the “dormant faculties”; and he certainly proved how every human need could be supplied. And he commanded all men, “Go, and do thou likewise.”

The true sense of Christmas must, then, include the understanding of healing. It was this message of deliver-

## CornerStone

ance from all evil that the angel proclaimed in his message to the shepherds. Mrs. Eddy writes in an article entitled "The Cry of Christmas-tide," "In different ages the divine idea assumes different forms, according to humanity's needs. In this age it assumes, more intelligently than ever before, the form of Christian healing. This is the babe we are to cherish. This is the babe that twines its loving arms about the neck of omnipotence, and calls forth infinite care from His loving heart." (Mis.)

This, then, is the Christmas message which the angels of God are proclaiming anew today — the message of the healing of sin, sickness, and death. This is the work Jesus lived to do and to show us how to accomplish.

At this Christmas time, we should all awaken, as never before, to the wonderful possibilities of healing which are at our very door. Each one has the unspeakable privilege of proving these possibilities to be true. Surely, then, we never need to doubt or falter, never question for a moment that "all things are possible" to us who have the method plainly defined in Christian Science!

It only needs hearts more consecrated to good, thoughts more steadfastly held to the facts of spiritual being, lives more completely governed by divine Truth and Love for Christ's holiest Christmas to flood the earth with its healing.

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With consecration, not elation,  
We are of use to God.  
No one left out, neither man nor nation.  
With God, we're steady as a rock.

*Lillian Linnell*

# Testimonies of Healing

*The following testimonies are offered with great love to those seeking encouragement and inspiration.*

Three years ago this Spring, all of a sudden I had trouble with my legs. I had excruciating pain in my knees when any pressure was put upon them, so that it was impossible to kneel — I couldn't even climb into bed at night, but had to sit on the bed and swing my legs up, and sometimes I had trouble walking. I kept affirming the truth of my being as God's idea and walked with Him every step of the way. I worked with the following statements from our textbook, *Science and Health*:

"In Science, you can have no power opposed to God, and the physical senses must give up their false testimony."

"Resist evil — error of every sort — and it will flee from you. Error is opposed to Life. We can, and ultimately shall, so rise as to avail ourselves in every direction of the supremacy of Truth over error, Life over death, and good over evil, and this growth will go on until we arrive at the fullness of God's idea."

During this time, I was able to do everything that I needed to do, and the only person who knew I had any problem was my husband. I was concerned at one point because at the end of May we were to take a big anniversary trip and there would be a lot of walking involved. But the prayerful work was continued and my Father, God, took me the whole way. The healing was complete and I have been active in every way since, including skiing, which really works your legs, and there has never been a recurrence of the problem.

I am very grateful to know that when we turn to God,

## CornerStone

we can find the answer that we need, and this always brings us closer to God as well, and to acknowledging who we are as His children.

*D. W.  
Virginia*

There is a hymn that we often sing in church, which I love. One of the verses of the hymn goes, "In atmosphere of Love Divine we live and move and breathe."

On Wednesday evening, before the church service, I was feeling a "lump in my throat" when I swallowed. Not long afterwards, it became sore and my breathing was also becoming restrictive. I immediately thought, "This is an imposition to my giving my all to the church service and keeping my focus on God." The service was to begin shortly. I thought, "No matter what, I'm going to be listening in by teleconference, and I'm going to be ready to give a grateful testimony."

I am happy to say, that within a half hour of calling into the service, I felt a calmness. I had been feeling anxious and worried moments before. Suddenly, I noticed the sore "lump in my throat" had dissolved. I felt the calm, sweet love from the Reader. All the testimonies were so heartfelt and genuine. About 15 minutes later, my breathing was back to normal. I had none of the symptoms that I had been experiencing when I first picked up the phone that night. I was filled with God's love. All I kept thinking was that God's presence was surely with me and everyone in Plainfield. It was so powerful, that it reached me right through the telephone! I could no longer "sit in my seat," I found myself "jumping up" and giving my gratitude for this mighty quick healing!

I feel so blessed to be surrounded by this atmosphere of love each time I listen to any of the church services, at-

## *Testimonies*

tend the Sunday School adult class, or speak with a healing practitioner.

*H. G.  
Maryland*

I had yearned to adopt a child for some time, and had prayed to God often about it. After going through a very thorough adoption process, I was finally blessed with a lovely child. From day one, the child has been a shining light in my life and everyone else around us.

After about a month, the child needed to have a physical examination to enter nursery school. To my shock, HIV was detected, even though there had been no such finding during the adoption process. I knew only God could help us with this. I had heard of the vibrant, healing Christian Science in Plainfield, and contacted a practitioner there for help. I was met with absolute confidence that this condition was illegitimate, that “the blessing of the Lord it maketh rich and He addeth no sorrow with it.” I was greatly relieved to have this loving support.

Together, the practitioner and I prayed daily to know the truth about this child. We would not accept this lie to be any part of this innocent, loving child of God. This experience motivated me to continue nurturing in the child an unwavering love for God and Christian Science, for caring about others, and to continually express gratitude for our many blessings through our daily prayers.

It is with great joy that I report that the child has been tested and retested, and is totally free of HIV! I am so grateful for all the love we’ve experienced since discovering this healing church and its dedicated practitioners.

*W. M.  
Georgia*

I am very grateful for the guidance of God that led me to the Plainfield Church. I am grateful to the practitioners

## CornerStone

who lead the Roundtable and for those that take the time to create our Weekly Lessons.

On Monday, my practitioner gave me a very simple statement to use in meeting any aggressive suggestion — and it was one of the greatest blessings! Later that day, I was given some shocking news, and that simple statement, “God good,” helped me to put my trust in God. I was able to navigate through the shock and feel the peace and confidence expressed in the following citation from the Lesson this week:

“‘Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.’ (Psalm xxiii. 4.)

“Though the way is dark in mortal sense, divine Life and Love illumine it, destroy the unrest of mortal thought, the fear of death, and the supposed reality of error. Christian Science, contradicting sense, maketh the valley to bud and blossom as the rose.” (S&H)

I am extremely grateful for the different and various offerings of this church.

S. A.  
*Maryland*

About 10 years before I heard about Plainfield and 6 years after I discovered Christian Science, I had finished college, had a great job and was in my first year of marriage. Things were going great and then, wham. I was diagnosed with encephalomengitis. I have since learned through the Roundtable discussions and the book, Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Footsteps, that when things are going great, that’s when you want to watch your thoughts the most and get closer to God. You don’t want to be complacent in your thinking and studies. Well, I was guilty of that, so when I heard complacent thinking allows error to seep in, I thought of this healing I had and realized any troubles I’ve had since have been due to my thinking — or more precisely, lack of putting God first. Plainfield tells

## *Testimonies*

it straight, and for this I am thankful. Plainfield is my first, and will be my only, Christian Science Church.

I was placed in the hospital on a Sunday night. The doctor later told me they gave me no medicine but only a bed and a pillow. He said I was so sick he went home that night and told his wife he didn't think I would be alive in the morning.

As I was falling asleep, I was speaking directly to divine Mind. I awoke 2 1/2 days later on Wednesday afternoon, completely free. I felt so good that I wanted to get dressed and leave the hospital. The doctors said, "No, no, no. We want to keep you here until Friday for observation." The doctors' fear was that I should have complications such as blindness, deafness, or being crippled, or all of the above. When you touch the hem of Truth, there is no relapse or complication. So Friday came and they had to release me. Praise God, for even a little Truth, rightly understood, will bring harmony. A month later I had a complete physical, which came out perfect. The doctor told me he has one case a year which he considers to be a miracle, and I was it. Well, here's what I say to that: when the doctor does not understand how something is healed in defiance of what he knows, he sees a miracle; whereas divine Mind sees His ever-loving presence and all-powerful self expressed. That's the way I see it also.

One of my favorite offerings on the Plainfield website is the Roundtable discussions. I learn so much and want to thank the practitioners for leading it. I am blessed to be a member of this church and want to thank the many dedicated workers who give their love and time so members like myself can come to Plainfield or go online and know the Truth that is being shared all over the world, and that it is not watered down but is pure Science. So thank you.

*D. S.  
Minnesota*



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*“Publish the Word”  
Broadcast the Truth  
“Freely ye have received, freely give”*