

The
CORNERSTONE
of
**Independent
Christian Science**

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

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January 2012
Number 146

Come Join Us

Sunday Service and Sunday School

11:00 A.M.

Roundtable

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Evening

8:15 P.M.

NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR ALL SERVICES

VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE

www.painfieldcs.com

Our services and adult Sunday class are broadcast live!



Plainfield Christian Science Church

Independent

905 Prospect Avenue

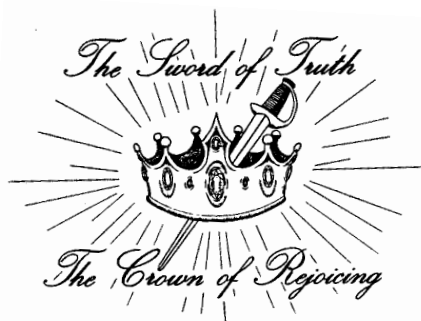
P.O. Box 5619

Plainfield, NJ 07061-5619

Telephone 908 756-4669

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Independent Christian Science

Unfettered by institutional religion

If anyone is wondering,
this church is in no way affiliated with The
First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts

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Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

Following are excerpts from various writings of Mary Baker Eddy.

Sermon Delivered in 1895

A new year is a nursling, a babe of time, a prophecy and promise clad in white raiment, kissed — and encumbered with greetings — redolent with grief and gratitude.

An old year is time's adult, and 1893 was a distinguished character, notable for good and evil. Time past and time present, both, may pain us, but time *improved* is eloquent in God's praise. For due refreshment garner the memory of 1894; for if wiser by reason of its large lessons, and records deeply engraven, great is the value thereof. (Pul.)



Now and Then

Mary Baker Eddy

This was an emphatic rule of St. Paul: "Behold, *now* is the accepted time." A lost opportunity is the greatest of losses. Whittier mourned it as what "might have been." We own no past, no future, we possess only *now*. If the reliable *now* is carelessly lost in speaking or in acting, it comes not back again. Whatever needs to be done which cannot be done now, God prepares the way for doing; while that which can be done now, but is not, increases our indebtedness to God. Faith in divine Love supplies the ever-present help and *now*, and gives the power to "act in the living present."

The dear children's good deeds are gems in the set-

tings of manhood and womanhood. The good they desire to do, they insist upon doing now. They speculate neither on the past, present, nor future, but, taking no thought for the morrow, act in God's time. (My.)



Improve Your Time

Mary Baker Eddy

Success in life depends upon persistent effort, upon the improvement of moments more than upon any other one thing. A great amount of time is consumed in talking nothing, doing nothing, and indecision as to what one should do. If one would be successful in the future, let him make the most of the present.

Three ways of wasting time, one of which is contemptible, are gossiping mischief, making lingering calls, and mere motion when at work, thinking of nothing or planning for some amusement, — travel of limb more than mind. Rushing around smartly is no proof of accomplishing much.

All successful individuals have become such by hard work; by improving moments before they pass into hours, and hours that other people may occupy in the pursuit of pleasure. They spend no time in sheer idleness, in talking when they have nothing to say, in building air-castles or floating off on the wings of sense: all of which drop human life into the ditch of nonsense, and worse than waste its years.

“Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.”

(Mis.)

“Feed My Sheep” — Christ Jesus

Man is not subject to matter; he does not live in matter, on matter, nor because of matter; nor is he subject to any beliefs of mortal mind. He is perfect and complete in every phase of his being, and cannot be touched by chance, lack, loss, or accident. As the full expression of his Maker, man is conscious only of harmony, dominion, and abundance.

Bicknell Young

Know for yourself every day that there is nothing to you but the infinite idea of inspiration and exaltation and abundant multiplication of all that is Godlike. Don't wait till one of these diseases tries to kill you, but day by day establish your true individuality as an idea of Life.

John W. Doorly

It is well for us to accept truth now, rather than to wait.

Bicknell Young



Prosperity

Ellen Dickson

Webster gives a definition of “prosperity” as, “Advance or gain in anything good or desirable; successful progress.” This word came to my attention recently when talking with someone who was working out a problem through the teachings of Christian Science. While the demonstration seemed slow, he had been wonderfully protected in every way; and “day by day” the manna had fallen.

During our conversation he asked why he didn't gain the benefits others did and remarked, “I have not had one prosperous day since studying Christian Science.” His ingratitude was startling; and it was very apparent why he

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had to *study* before the light would come! Christ Jesus did not say, Seek the loaves and fishes and you will learn to know God. Instead, he said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Mary Baker Eddy says, "God gives you His spiritual ideas, and in turn, they give you daily supplies." (Mis.) When, through study and practice, we gain one more spiritual idea, we surely have made "successful progress." In understanding more of this truth, we recognize where our help comes from, stop looking to matter for proof of prosperity, and we gain the spiritual insight which is the foundation of real prosperity. And this prosperity can't help but be evidenced in a fuller sense of good, right here and now!



Watching

John C. Lathrop

Real watching requires more than a superficial awareness of our surroundings. A true watchman is one who is also conscious of the danger. A little story of the Civil War illustrates the point.

A Confederate soldier and a few comrades were creeping stealthily up to a Union encampment. They were sharpshooters, and they were seeking a Union sentinel who was marching up and down the encampment. When they came within firing distance, the leader knelt down and took careful aim at the sentinel. Just as he was about to pull the trigger, his attention was arrested by the sound of someone singing a hymn, and he realized that the singer

“Feed My Sheep”

was the person at whom he was aiming. He paused, listened, and waited till the singer had finished the hymn, then arose to his feet and said, “Boys, we will go home.” They turned and disappeared in the underbrush.

Years later, this Confederate soldier was on a ship crossing the ocean. It was Sunday evening, and some of the passengers were singing hymns. During one hymn, he was startled by the strange familiarity of the voice next to him. He said to the man, “Where have I heard your voice before?” They compared notes, and the man turned out to be the Union soldier. “Yes, I well remember that occasion,” he said. “While marching up and down that day, I was suddenly seized with a sense of great danger. I couldn’t see the danger, or hear it; and in my extremity, my thought went out wholly to God for refuge and protection. I could think of nothing to do but sing that dear old hymn of refuge and safety I learned in childhood, ‘Jesus, Lover of my Soul.’ Then a strange thing happened. When I had gotten half through the hymn, suddenly all sense of danger vanished, and I was at peace.”

This lesson is one of deep significance. It doesn’t suggest a fear of danger, but rather an awareness of the claims of danger, and a wide-awakeness to these claims. Unless we awaken from the lethargy of ignorance, self-conceit, or self-righteousness — and stay awake — we will become a victim of sin, the sin of mental malpractice. The exact nature of this aggressive mental suggestion is plainly uncovered by Mrs. Eddy in her article “Ways that Are Vain.” There she says, “Animal magnetism fosters suspicious distrust where honor is due, fear where courage should be strongest, reliance where there should be avoidance, a belief in safety where there is most danger; and these miserable lies, poured constantly into his mind, fret and confuse it, spoiling that individual’s disposition, undermining his

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health, and sealing his doom, unless the cause of the mischief is found out and destroyed." (My.)

A person may have faith in God's protection, but may stop short at blind faith, and ignorantly permit evil to make a victim of him. Sometimes we may hear a Christian Scientist say, "All is good, Love is everywhere, justice will prevail. I wouldn't hurt anyone, so no one will hurt me. We don't need to uncover error. Why make something of nothing?" These are arguments which, even though they are correct, yet if not thoughtfully and scientifically made, are calculated to put us off guard, lull us to sleep, and make us targets of error. Is this not the reason for some of the seeming failures in demonstrations, and for the frequent queries as to why one is not healed of disease and lack?

Mrs. Eddy says, "Not to know that a false claim is false, is to be in danger of believing it; hence the utility of knowing evil aright, then reducing its claims to its proper denominator, — nobody and nothing." (Mis.) When we understand about error, we will then cease to talk about it, and learn to be still and not listen to its arguments. Then we become a real watchman, for we then really understand and prove the nothingness of sin and disease.



God's blessings make free, both you and me.
They come without limit, God sends them, you'll see.
Be faithful, be honest, in all, not just some.
God, our desire: Only Thy will be done.

Lillian Linnell

Watching Points

The book 500 Watching Points was written by Gilbert C. Carpenter, C.S.B., and Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr., C.S.B. These watching points were written for Mr. Carpenter's students, "to broaden their demonstration of Christian Science as Mrs. Eddy set the example in her home."

Watching Point No. 83

Gilbert C. Carpenter

WATCH lest you fail to appreciate the fact that disease, being no more than a belief of the human mind, can be eliminated through any process that changes the thought of the patient from fear to the absence of fear. There can be apparent physical healing that is not Christian Science healing, but merely a change of belief.

The emphatic purpose of Christian Science is not to heal the sick, but to spiritualize the patient's thinking, which results in outward harmony. All effort in Christian Science must have this lofty motive to be genuine and legitimate. Mrs. Eddy once declared, "The difference between Science and faith-healing: one makes the healed *know God*; the other simply heals the physical. Faith-healing is not really healing, or else the patient would be one with God."

The Biblical rule is, "By their fruits shall ye know them." Yet the appearance of the fruit is not sufficient to prove its goodness. Mrs. Eddy once declared, "To be sick, does not always prove we are sinning, any more than to be well proves we are not sinning. We must not rely too much on the thought, 'By their fruits shall ye know them.'"

The real fruitage by which the correct metaphysics of a case is made known can only be that which results from a spiritualization of thought in both the practitioner and patient.

“Comfort Ye My People”

The past is a lie; there is no truth in anything that is claiming to have happened. There is, and has been, and always will be, only the eternal now. Remember only the good, then you will be communing with God, and harmony will be the inevitable result.

Edward A. Kimball

We would all probably be astounded at the time we waste in dwelling upon yesterdays and wondering about tomorrows. When we begin conscientiously to refuse to occupy thought with memories of the past and fears for the future, then we will find, and use, the riches of today, and dwell more securely in the eternal now.

Myrtle T. Sutherland



Count Not Time by Years

Helen H. Hixon

The new year brings with it a sense of joy for fresh opportunities — but to some, there is regret at the passing of another twelve months.

One of the greatest blessings Christian Science brings is freedom from the limiting belief of time. Solar years are the invention of mortals; but Mary Baker Eddy gives a clear understanding of God's day in the Glossary of Science and Health, where she says, “Mind measures time according to the good that is unfolded.” Mrs. Eddy also says, “Eternity, not time, expresses the thought of Life, and time is no part of eternity.”

What freedom this brings from the thought of the passing of years, and of advancing age! As Paul says, we can forget “those things which are behind” — the old resentments, hatreds, discouragements, failures, the regrets and

“Comfort Ye My People”

mistakes — and press on with renewed resolve to know God better and to live in obedience to Him.

Jesus said, “This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.” This eternal life is man’s now. With the turning of the calendar, right activity should bring richness and fullness, rather than decline and decay. The so-called law that would bind men with age and seek to limit and impair their usefulness is the product of the false belief that man is material; and when we begin to understand that man is not material, but spiritual, because he is the image of Spirit, God, we will begin to free ourselves and all mankind from this bondage. Because man reflects divine intelligence and activity, the years which are spent in demonstrating this will bring greater wisdom and usefulness.

A new year is a new opportunity; and in proportion as we are striving to know and do the will of God, we enter upon it with buoyant hope and serene confidence that “all things work together for good to them that love God.”

All joy, peace, happiness, success, health, and harmony, are ours now. They are ours as children of the Most High; and “No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.” (Ps.) Our concern must be to see that we do “walk uprightly.” Mrs. Eddy says, “To-morrow grows out of today.” (Hea.) And if we are sincerely seeking to walk in the path our Master trod, we shall be shown the way. Instead of viewing with dismay the passing of another year, we can welcome with joy the promise of the new, shown forth as added growth in grace and a greater unfoldment of good in our lives.

Overcoming age is not resuming our youth; it is thought going into new paths, which history has never recorded.

Mary Baker Eddy

Time Is Not Toxic

Mary Beth Singleterry

I came across a very interesting article in an old copy of the New York Herald Tribune from the year 1948. A group of medical specialists and surgeons had been researching the process of aging. They came to the conclusion that anyone experiencing a lack of vigor or any other disorder due to age was suffering from what they termed “time neurosis.” The report stated that “every human tissue is endowed with potential immortality,” and there really was no good reason for anyone to get old and decrepit. Anyone who was experiencing such symptoms had submitted to the “prevalent superstition” that time in some way poisons the system and causes one to grow old.

When I read that article, it made me so grateful for Mary Baker Eddy and for the textbook she wrote, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, which truly debunks the belief of old age. On page 245 Mrs. Eddy states, “Decrepitude is not according to law, nor is it a necessity of nature, but an illusion.” What a revolutionary and liberating statement!

It is helpful to work daily with “I am ageless, diseaseless, and deathless, because God has made me so!” And also to watch out for what are termed “the creeping things,” such as failing eyesight, poor hearing, or a general slowing down. This is not the truth about God’s perfect creation, and we have the right not to allow any of these lies into our experience.

It is wonderful to know and to prove we do not have to succumb to the aging process; but we can continue on with the work God has given us to do with strength, alertness, and rejoicing!

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 text-book. 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

We are happy to announce that 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

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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 Roundtable is also available, live and recorded, via this teleconference service. The Roundtable begins at 10:00 a.m.

We invite everyone to join in, sing the hymns with us, and participate in the Roundtable.

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. 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, and join our congregation. We look forward to welcoming you!

Web Site

Our Web site, plainfieldcs.com, is constantly being updated with fresh, inspired thoughts, articles, services, and Lessons. It even includes a Lesson forum area to post com-

Announcements

ments 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.

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

I would like to express my gratitude for the incredible teaching going on at the Plainfield Church. Recent roundtables have been so powerful and helpful, as well as the new Bible study. I encourage everyone to check them out. (Be sure to click on “Read More” at the bottom of the Home Page for recent recordings!)

The website just keeps getting richer and richer; hours of instruction and inspiration can be found on the Home Page alone. And it’s great to have a “sneak peek” at the new CornerStone online before the wonderful print edition arrives.

All of this, of course, is the result of much dedicated work on the part of the members of the Plainfield Church. I am so grateful to be able to attend services online, for quite frankly, where else could I go? This church has the most vibrant, lively, beautiful, powerful, and healing Christian Science services I have ever attended.

Please accept the enclosed contribution for this most important work, for which I cannot thank you enough.

Vermont

I am very grateful that I am able to participate in the Wednesday meeting and the Sunday roundtable. The conference call feature is wonderful. The website offers so much more than before.

California

Thanks to all the workers for your great work and dedication. I love your services and the uniqueness of it all, your dedication to God only, and I especially love the main sentence you say at the beginning of each service, “Pay allegiance to God and only to God.” I know God helps you in this endeavor every moment.

California

CornerStone

Your outreach in the form of live services, adult Sunday School class, Lesson-Sermons, and the new CornerStone magazine is a blessing to all of us at a distance.

We thank you and continue to hold you and the church's mission dear in our hearts.

Florida

Thanks for the roundtable, our adult Sunday School. It is wonderful and informative. I know that all who join are truly blessed. Such enthusiasm. Then the beautiful church service afterwards. I so look forward to Sunday mornings. And, every Monday I listen to the recording of the roundtable and enjoy it all over again. I highly recommend joining the roundtable and listening to the recordings.

Plainfield is such a blessing to all of us who love Mrs. Eddy's pure Christian Science and want to see it continue forever.

Illinois

I just received an additional sum of money, hence an additional check is included for the endowment fund.

I wish to express my gratitude for the current CornerStone magazine. So many of the articles were on a topic I needed to read. "From Sickness to Health" by Reverend Kratzer was especially helpful and was read a number of times. The time needed to produce these publications is most appreciated.

California

I am so thankful for our teleconferences. I think listening and being "with" others has prompted more reading — not just the Lesson; and I am beginning to be a lot more watchful of thoughts — and stopping the wrong ones quickly.

Michigan

Enclosed is a contribution sent with much gratitude for all

Letters

the healing activities of this church, which are based on Principle and accomplished with Love.

Virginia

It was good to hear the Wednesday evening meeting. Every testimony of Truth and how Truth works in people's lives was worth paying attention to. I liked the testimony about air travel — be sure you keep the idea of flying in Mind and keeping your own thoughts with that one Mind. There was another testimony that talked about being sure you take in the Truth, and understanding that Truth, and knowing the answer to the issue is at hand with God. And the last testimony of the night was just wonderful as usual. This testimony is always so full of Christian love and the substance of God's understanding.

I was really happy to hear that the publishing is moving forward and the books are moving into the hands of the seekers of Truth and fighters for Independent Christian Science.

God bless you all.

New Mexico

In the September CornerStone I found an article entitled "The Command Statements" very helpful. In order to "mentally contradict every complaint from the body," you may need to sing hymns or stamp your foot. I now find myself yelling "shut up" to error. It is very helpful for me in breaking that mesmerism.

Oregon

I listen every Sunday and Wednesday to the church services. I am so grateful to Plainfield's staff for their amazing services, and dedication to Mrs. Eddy's mission. I consider Plainfield's service my weekly church, and follow along diligently. Christian Science has helped me resolve several health-related issues in the past; for this I will always be grateful and humble. So on behalf of my

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wife and myself, I would like to wish everyone at Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you and God bless.

Canada

I am reminded of “the open fount, which is pouring forth more than we accept,” (S&H) when I think of the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, website, as well as the literature, classes, and services. What an abundance! What a shining beam of light shining out to the world. This church transformed my life, and is transforming other’s lives.

Enclosed is my contribution.

California

Thank you for the Bible study on Saturdays. It really has enlarged my understanding and appreciation of the Bible message.

The dedication of the church members is appreciated.

Alabama

I’m writing to express my gratitude for our church.

I first heard of Plainfield about four years ago. That first year I just kind of lurked in the shadows and listened to the recorded services on Monday and Thursday. The second year I got up the courage to call a practitioner for help, and later that year became a member, but continued to attend my local branch church. Year three, I realized that I had found everything I was looking for in the church right here at Plainfield and stopped attending my local branch church.

Recently my sister and I had the wonderful opportunity to visit Plainfield, New Jersey, and meet many of the New Jersey-based members. We were just so warmly em-

Letters

braced and welcomed. I felt like I've always known you all. In Science and Health Mrs. Eddy defines church as the structure of Truth and Love. While the beautiful church sanctuary is the center of our church activity, a true structure of Truth and Love knows no physical boundary, but radiates out and blesses the world. Our church does that in abundance. It's this true genuine love and warmth that we felt during our visit.

I want to say how thankful I am for the church and for all our loving members. I am grateful and humbled to have been led to this wonderful church family.

Maryland

What a wonderful blessing is Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent! A tremendous power radiating out and lighting the way.

Thank you; and God bless you all.

Mississippi

I have been thrilled to hear the roundtable discussions on your website.

I just want to say how grateful I am to be able to access this on the Internet. I am not a Christian Scientist, but have attended Christian Science churches, and I am always drawn to the work of Mrs. Eddy, right up until people start espousing jargon and quoting this and that, using the quotes to form their thoughts instead of forming their thoughts from how God counsels their heart and being inspired by Mrs. Eddy and then finding quotes that concur.

For the first time after listening to some of the discussions, I feel that my understanding of Christian Science is moving forward, apace with my life, instead of trying to cram my life into the formula of the Mother Church.

Lovingly,

E-mail

Breaking Down Misconceptions of Christian Science

Though error hides behind a lie and excuses guilt, error cannot forever be concealed. Truth, through her eternal laws, unveils error. Truth causes sin to betray itself, and sets upon error the mark of the beast. Even the disposition to excuse guilt or to conceal it is punished. The avoidance of justice and the denial of truth tend to perpetuate sin, invoke crime, jeopardize self-control, and mock divine mercy. (S&H)

Mary Baker Eddy

If evil is uncondemned, it is undenied and nurtured. Under such circumstances, to say that there is no evil, is an evil in itself. When needed tell the truth concerning the lie. Evasion of Truth cripples integrity, and casts thee down from the pinnacle.

Christian Science rises above the evidence of the corporeal senses; but if you have not risen above sin yourself, do not congratulate yourself upon your blindness to evil or upon the good you know and *do* not. A dishonest position is far from Christianly scientific. “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” (S&H)

Mary Baker Eddy

At one point, the Board of Directors wrongly threatened to dismiss Martha Wilcox as a teacher and take Mrs. Wilcox’s association from her (an action that they have engaged in often to the harm of the Christian Science movement). She went to a hotel and to her room, working and praying for three days. During this time her sister left meals outside Mrs. Wilcox’s door. When Mrs. Wilcox emerged from her room, with her face radiant, her sister could see that the problem had been met. The Board of Directors immediate-

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ly telegraphed her not to come, as all the charges had been dropped.



Authority of Mary Baker Eddy Passed to the Board of Directors?

**Adapted by
Andrew Kidd**

Mary Baker Eddy retained final authority on a wide range of organizational activities in her church right up to the time of her passing. In fact, she codified this authority in the Church Manual, so that this authority could not be assumed by others after her passing. The Board of Directors, the ruling body of the organization, tried vainly to get her to remove these limitations on their power. After her passing, the BOD summarily ignored Mrs. Eddy's divinely inspired directions in order to "save the movement" from dissolution.

Within 10 years, in order to eliminate any remaining restrictions on the absolute power of this self-perpetuated Board, it became embroiled in an ugly legal battle, later referred to as "the Litigation." During this time, it authorized the Committee on General Welfare, chaired by Martha W. Wilcox, CSB, and Richard P. Verrall, CSB, to provide recommendations on governing the Church organization, no doubt expecting a result favorable to themselves.

Here we present some key points of the report of the Committee on General Welfare:

The "perfect man" is that compounded spiritual individuality which reflects God as Father-Mother, as two individual natures in one. As we gain this insight of what man really is, we lose the sense of corporeal being. Writing of this perfect man, Mrs. Eddy says, "In this divinely united

spiritual consciousness, there is no impediment to eternal bliss, — to the perfectibility of God's creation." (S&H) "Union of the masculine and feminine qualities constitutes completeness." (S&H)

The Committee on General Welfare saw this prophetic utterance as the key to the question of Mrs. Eddy's rightful and legitimate successor, since it enunciates the Principle upon which the government of The Mother Church could fulfill the Magna Charta of Christian Science, and prove itself "essentially democratic, its government [being] administered by the common consent of the governed, wherein and whereby man governed by his Creator is self-governed."

Every step toward the equalization of the responsibilities and honors in church government is therefore a step nearer to the fulfillment of Mrs. Eddy's ideal of the Christ Principle: "For this Principle there is no dynasty, no ecclesiastical monopoly. . . . Its only priest is the spiritualized man." (S&H) In this true government each individual has immortal sovereignty.

The Report found that what hinders the progress of accepting this immortal sovereignty is that element in human nature which cries out: "Nay, but we will have a king over us!" The servile element in human consciousness responds to the suggestion that it is easier to rely on someone else who apparently has greater ability and authority. To think out and work out one's own salvation requires more effort than many care to make. The dependence upon personal control and the disposition to take advantage of it, all the way from an individual to an organization, is a form of idolatry insofar as it limits dependence upon divine power. And there are always persons quick to take advantage of this dependency trait and assume "the divine right of kings" rule.

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The Committee averred that the recognition of Mrs. Eddy's successor (as the God-like man) was of paramount importance because it supplies that potential authority without which neither the spiritual nor the business affairs of the Church can be properly administered. This means that the spiritualizing influence exerted by Mrs. Eddy's teachings upon the general human consciousness constitutes a moral force that can't be measured. What must be individually demonstrated is the true nature of man. This true nature is Mrs. Eddy's successor, and should be recognized as the great impersonal Leader of the Christian Science Movement.

This spiritually unique Report of the Committee on General Welfare did not support the position of the Board of Directors, and it was therefore quietly suppressed. Comfortably ensconced in their position of prestige, power, and authority, their inclination was toward more, not less, control.



It requires the spirit of our blessed Master to tell a man his faults, and so risk human displeasure for the sake of doing right and benefiting our race. Who is telling mankind of the foe in ambush? Is the informer one who sees the foe? If so, listen and be wise. Escape from evil, and designate those as unfaithful stewards who have seen the danger and yet have given no warning.

At all times and under all circumstances, overcome evil with good. Know thyself, and God will supply the wisdom and the occasion for a victory over evil. Clad in the panoply of Love, human hatred cannot reach you. (S&H)

Mary Baker Eddy



Are You Listening?

“Are you listening, God?
Please tell me what to do.”
Then, came the gentle answer,
“I’m listening, child, are you?”

Author Unknown

Featured Early Worker: Gilbert C. Carpenter

Andrew Kidd

Of all the workers in the Christian Science movement, aside from the Leader herself, none has left a more valuable legacy than Gilbert Carpenter. Whereas the unyielding policy of the Board of Directors has always been to hide the evidence of Mary Baker Eddy's "difficult-to-explain" behavior in the Archives of the Mother Church, Mr. Carpenter took a diametrically opposite view. He brought the "evidence" out into the light and explained it for the benefit of all. "Without a correct sense of its highest visible idea, we can never understand the divine Principle." (S&H) Mr. Carpenter would not leave unchallenged the criticism of Mrs. Eddy by her own students, that she was testy, changeable, obsessive, etc., and instead provided a correct sense of her through his books "Mary Baker Eddy; Her Spiritual Footsteps" and "Mary Baker Eddy; Her Spiritual Precepts." In these works, Mr. Carpenter explains Mrs. Eddy's actions and interactions with the utmost clarity, leaving the reader with invaluable instructions on how to apply Christian Science in the minutiae of daily living.

The premise of his work was this: "When one begins to understand Mrs. Eddy's effort to hold a scientific attitude toward every phase of human existence, he realizes that there was something about her private life and her rebukes that needs to be unfolded spiritually. Otherwise she must appear inconsistent, since she seemed to place a great deal of importance on the material side of her home, while in her teaching she set forth matter as being valueless and having no real existence." (Precepts)

Mr. Carpenter served in Pleasant View, Mrs. Eddy's home, for only one year. It was a profound, and we suspect, intense experience, which he thought about for many years before sharing with others. When reading his works,

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one is inclined to ask: How did Mr. Carpenter come to such a clear understanding where so many others took away negative impressions? We believe the answer lies in the Beatitude, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” His love for Mrs. Eddy was in no way personal, but rather, entirely rational: If one could be used by God to bring forth the revelation of the Science behind Jesus’ works after almost two thousand years of Christian history, we are talking about somebody quite extraordinary — not someone to be regarded and judged as just another person!

In *Spiritual Footsteps*, Mr. Carpenter recalls incidents during his tenure at Pleasant View, each chapter containing an incident with explanation. The first chapter recounted Mrs. Eddy’s rebuke to her horseman, Mr. Stevenson, for his sloppy haircut. Was she unloving? Mr. Carpenter made it plain that she was addressing thought — the imperfect haircut indicating a lack of alertness, which, if left alone, could lead to an accident. This demonstrated how Mrs. Eddy applied the Science in practice, to maintain the harmony of her experience.

In *Spiritual Precepts*, Mr. Carpenter referred to business letters exchanged between Mrs. Eddy and the Board of Directors. Some letters indicated that Mrs. Eddy changed her mind frequently, which to the untrained eye would indicate an instability. Mr. Carpenter explained that these letters indicated the lengths Mrs. Eddy was willing to go in order to do the will of God, never too proud to change her mind if, through further prayer, she was guided differently. This constant turning to the Father for guidance, even after getting an answer, is another profound lesson in Christian Science practice.

For the tremendous body of work that Mr. Carpenter left us, of which these works were only a portion, he was rewarded with threats and intimidation, false rumors, alien-

Gilbert C. Carpenter

ation from the Mother Church. He was even ostracized by his own branch church, by people who knew him personally, his wonderful work as practitioner and teacher, his kind and gentle nature. The depravity of this treatment can only be explained as the Red Dragon in Revelation: "the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed."

We should also mention that Mr. Carpenter's son, Gilbert Jr., played an invaluable role in supporting his father's work. He deserves his own distinct treatment, which will come in a later issue.



Following are excerpts from various writings of Gilbert C. Carpenter.

Merely listening to Truth does not make it our own. We can claim it only when we take it in and digest it until it becomes so firmly implanted in consciousness that we cannot be robbed of it.

Gilbert C. Carpenter

All men are born with spiritual talents, but most of them bury these talents in the ground of human obligations and pleasures.

Gilbert C. Carpenter

In the Church Manual, Mrs. Eddy included many By-Laws which required the approval of the Pastor Emeritus. Even though she recognized that her consent could no longer be gained after she had passed from our midst, nevertheless, she definitely left this requirement in many of the By-Laws. Understood spiritually, however, this is our assurance that she left the impersonal guidance of the Christ, which is with us always. Hence, today Mrs. Eddy's demand upon

her faithful followers is that they always go, as she did, to divine wisdom for guidance and consent in matters pertaining to the furthering of this great Cause.

Gilbert C. Carpenter



Mrs. Eddy's Successor

Gilbert C. Carpenter

At one time Mrs. Eddy told me that I was to be her successor. I assumed that she said this same thing to every one of the students who gave any exhibition of spiritual understanding and power. Later, I learned that about a year before I arrived at the home, the point had come up, and some student had stated that God would raise up someone who would be faithful as was John at the cross. Mrs. Eddy replied, "How do you know? Look within and see who that one should be. It is opium, ether, etc., that would cause you to suggest it should be someone else."

I think that Mrs. Eddy hoped that every student who came to Pleasant View would be her successor — notwithstanding, by successor, she did not mean one who would step into her place as Leader.

Who could be Mrs. Eddy's successor? In order to answer the question, let me ask another: what was Mrs. Eddy's work? Was it not to keep the mighty influx of spiritual revelation flowing freely to guide the great Cause of Christian Science and to bless humanity? Hence, would not all students who could successfully light the bright lamp of inspiration and keep it burning and shining out to bless all mankind be her successors?

This explanation defines Mrs. Eddy's successor — a position of honor before God rather than before man. The

Gilbert C. Carpenter

results of such a position, which is open to all at all times, are so infinite and far-reaching that man cannot conceive of them. The footsteps to it require sincere self-immolation, the effort to submerge the human and exalt the divine. And he who attains this God-crowned office of Mrs. Eddy's successor does so through gaining and retaining inspiration. Mrs. Eddy has no other successorship.



The Truth About the Lie

Gilbert C. Carpenter

It is possible for students to learn the letter and theory of Christian Science, and then to make scientific statements which they have not proved. This condition was illustrated by the student who presented herself before Mrs. Eddy one morning with the symptoms of a severe cold. Mrs. Eddy inquired how she felt and received the response, "I am all right." Mrs. Eddy's reproof still rings in my ears as such a needful and enlightening point for every Christian Scientist to know. It is, "Tell the truth about the lie." Had she completed instructing this student she might have said, "When I have such symptoms, I do not say I have no cold until I *know* it, and when I know it, the demonstration is made."

This statement, "Tell the truth about the lie" has stayed with me as the most helpful thing she said. It has adjusted my thought to the point of being able to maintain a classification of thoughts and statements in Christian Science, so that I put everything under two heads — either as being the truth about the lie, or the truth about Truth.

Human Intellect

Gilbert C. Carpenter

All through the ages, there is one thing which man will fight against giving up when the call comes — that is his developed human opinion. For this reason, the most important demand of Christian Science is for man to yield his stubborn will to God.

It is always an interesting commentary on human nature to see the stubborn resistance of those who would be benefited most to modern methods for eliminating drudgery! Yet this resistance hardly compares to the inflexibility Christian Science encounters, when it declares the educated beliefs and opinions of the developed human intellect to be worthless from the spiritual standpoint — in an effort to persuade the individual to relinquish them in favor of the divine Mind.

Not since the days of the Master has the world seen such a notable example of Jesus' statement, "Not my will, but Thine be done," as in Mary Baker Eddy. This was Jesus' war-cry, his object of attainment, and Mrs. Eddy made it hers. She would reach a decision; but if the recognition came that what she had declared differed from a higher glimpse of the divine will, how selfless she was, and devoid of pride, in her willingness to relinquish it in order to voice the will of God!

One of the chief requirements of reflecting the divine Mind is that man acknowledge the divine Mind which he reflects as supreme, and himself as nothing, in line with Jesus' statement, "I can of mine own self do nothing."



The Independent Lesson Forum

If you haven't discovered the Lesson Forum on our church website yet, log on to plainfieldcs.com and click on Lesson Forum. You will find lively and inspiring discussions centered around our weekly Lesson. The individuality of the contributors is wonderfully evident. Those who participate find that it brings greater depth to the study of the Lesson. It provides an opportunity to ask questions, and share with others ideas that have been revealed to you in your study. Everyone is welcome to join in. We would love to hear from you!

The following is a sample of submissions from the Lesson, "Is the Universe, Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force?"

With regard to Jesus walking on the water.

I get the picture of Jesus who, despite the storm, had not one bit of materiality weighing him down, so he walked confidently above it all. It makes me ask myself, what claims of materiality weigh on me, so I can release them and go on with the divine purpose more clearly.

"A miracle fulfils God's law, but does not violate that law. This fact at present seems more mysterious than the miracle itself." (S&H)

This stuck out to me this morning. Do I think of "miraculous" things as the putting aside of law, or as the fulfillment of law? Like walking on the water, or going somewhere without traveling to it, loaves and fishes, etc. — these are the fulfillment of God's law of supply to every need; God's law that is not in cahoots with matter or material processes. Not that we tell God what he should do, but allow God to tell us what we should do, and see the law fulfilled.

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Response:

I also thought of Peter, the disciple, who had more faith than the other disciples, and started to walk to Jesus on the water, but began to sink. Jesus asked him, “wherefore didst thou doubt?” It made me question, what was it that Peter doubted? Jesus had taught his disciples the power of the Truth. Peter had just seen Jesus walk on the water. Yet, he doubted that it was the result of law, of principle. Peter apparently learned the lesson, because he went on to be a great healer and teacher.

Response:

It made me think about my own faith. Do I doubt? Do I have doubts about the unfailing power of God to meet every one of my needs? I may not “need” to walk on the water, for that may not be God’s plan for me. But I certainly need to do whatever God has for me to do, and I can certainly trust that I have the ability to carry out whatever that is. Mrs. Eddy tells us that the only way we can know what God wants of us is through our spiritual sense. In *Science and Health* she writes, “Man’s spiritual individuality is never wrong.” If my spiritual sense is never wrong, I need never doubt!

Very encouraging!

Response:

Another approach to this, in the light of Mary Baker Eddy’s revealing how animal magnetism works: aggressive mental suggestion, the supposititious opposite of the true. Peter’s doubt was nothing but animal magnetism, enticing thought away from the true. When we are wise to it, we know that truth cannot be reversed. Truth has cause, law, and substance to support it. Error has nothing to support it. Jesus knew this. Peter did not.

“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.

Opportunities for service in Christ’s name are unlimited.

Kate W. Buck

Nothing is too insignificant to call upon divine Mind.

Gilbert C. Carpenter

A denial in Christian Science is always dominion, and never a fight with matter.

Bicknell Young

Man is the embodiment of right ideas. These ideas never mingle with matter, and are forever free from all its conditions. For example, wisdom is never affected by blood circulation; justice by the action of the heart; goodness cannot have a fever; mercy cannot ache or feel a pain; kindness cannot be operated upon; nor can gratitude meet with an accident.

Bicknell Young



“I Have Kept the Faith” — Where?

Nancy B. Tomlinson

Paul says, “I have kept the faith.” It is also written, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Heb.) The Bible tells of triumphs, one after another, over difficulties through faith in God.

When Jesus and his disciples were together on a ship, and he was asleep, a great storm came up, filling the boat with water. The disciples, being afraid, roused the Master.

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He arose, rebuked the winds and the waves, and the raging ceased. Then, turning to his disciples, he said, "Where is your faith?" It was evidently not where his was placed, or they would have produced the same result! Jesus' faith was in God, the governing, controlling, divine Principle. The disciples' faith must have been in the winds and the waves — in material things — or fear could not have controlled them as it did.

The only power error seems to have is the power we give it by having faith in it. It seems to be so easy to place our faith in material things! They're so near at hand, and to believe in them takes no effort. But where does the belief in them lead? "Wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction," said Jesus.

Are we sick, sinful, discouraged, dissatisfied? Are we lacking the comforts of living, congenial surroundings, pleasant work? Stop, and consider! Are we placing our faith in matter and so-called material law, and giving it the power to make us happy, or are we placing our faith in God, knowing that he has already made us happy and satisfied, right where we are? We cannot be neutral. We place our confidence on one or the other. We may think we can divide it; but divided faith just does not work.

If Moses had placed his faith in the waters of the Red Sea or on the pursuing Egyptians in the journey out of Egypt, he would never have led his people through it on dry land to safety. His faith was in God. On the other hand, the Egyptians, putting their faith in matter, attempted to follow the faithful, but were overwhelmed from lack of a right understanding of where all real power lies. In their ignorance, they believed in physical sense testimony — and perished.

We read in the Bible how Daniel came safely out of the den of lions, because he placed his faith in God. "Innocen-

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cy was found in me,” he said. This was not the first instance of his having “kept the faith” in God. Long before this, when he had been offered the king’s food and wine, he refused to eat it, or to defile himself by believing that material things had the power to sustain man. Instead, he preferred to look to God for health and all wisdom and understanding. This reliance on God, with consequent fasting or abstinence from materiality, brought rich results; for when the king made inquiry, he found him ten times wiser than those who had placed their faith in matter.

Mrs. Eddy says, “The first idolatry was faith in matter.” (S&H) If we understood that we were breaking the First Commandment when we place our faith in matter, we would be more careful to place our faith where it rightly belongs, in God. Paul said, “I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.” Are we keeping faith with God?

“O for a faith that will not shrink,
Though pressed by ev’ry foe;
That will not tremble on the brink
Of any earthly woe.”



God’s Day

Edith F. Allen

The Bible says, “This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” (Ps.) Since “the Lord hath made” it, God’s day must be complete. It must be perfect, without discord, lack, or limitation; and it must contain everything necessary to meet man’s need.

If our day seems difficult, and we have not been able

to “rejoice and be glad in it,” taking an honest look, we’ll often find it has been a day filled with thoughts of self, and too little of thoughts for our neighbor, and for mankind in general. As we get out of ourselves and our own problems, and instead lift a brother out of darkness into the understanding of his real selfhood as the son of God, what a day it is, and what a contrast to the one lived for self!

Mary Baker Eddy defines “Day” as, “The irradiance of Life; light, the spiritual idea of Truth and Love.” (S&H) It is God’s day, then, when we keep thought uplifted out of matter, above the trivial things which beset mortal existence, and radiate the light of God.

Mrs. Eddy goes on to say, “Mind measures time according to the good that is unfolded. This unfolding is God’s day, and ‘there shall be no night there,’” no lapsing into darkness, doubt, and fear, so long as we are reflecting the light of God.

As we keep our thoughts steadfast in the right relation to God, we no longer look at our day as dependent on our fellow mortals for work, play, happiness, supply, since we know that God is holding and guiding each individual idea.

Children greet each new day with sweet love and trust, with alertness and eagerness. There is no fear or lack of faith in regard to what father and mother have provided; nor do they continually demand proofs of protection, joy, supply. They simply trust, and that is enough.

Let us turn in childlike love and confidence to God, trusting Him to guide and guard us in the daily radiance of Truth and Love. As Mary Baker Eddy writes, “To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, to-day is big with blessings.” (S&H)



Articles

Happiness

Richard Lloyd Jones

Happiness is the reward of duty; and duty is active, is up and doing.

The turtle may be content, but nobody thinks of him as being a creature of happiness. Yet we often speak of the happy birds, because happiness results from action. We think of the running brook as happy, but never so of the stagnant pool.

Action must bear the test of sober judgment; we ourselves must be able to approve our conduct to find happiness. The happy life goes from service to service, not from idle pleasure to idle pleasure.

He who sets out to find happiness is pretty sure to fail. It is not a pursuit in itself. It comes as the reward for service. The most idle, and in the end the most miserable, life is the life that seeks nothing but pleasure.

Happiness is so unconsciously a part of the truly busy life that we often fail to recognize it until it is gone. One seldom hears, "This is a happy time"; one often hears, "Those were happy times." We are more prone to remember happiness than to prize it when we have it. He finds most happiness who labors most to make others happy.

As Mary Baker Eddy writes, "Happiness consists in being and in doing good; only what God gives, and what we give ourselves and others through His tenure, confers happiness: conscious worth satisfies the hungry heart, and nothing else can." (Mess. '02)



“My Times Are in Thy Hand”

Carol Conroy

Each day is full of new opportunities, and new blessings from God. If, as it says in Psalms, “My times are in Thy hand,” is there ever any reason to worry or to doubt?

It’s often been said when something good happens, “He was certainly in the right place at the right time.” Or when something not so good happens, it’s said, “Too bad, he was just in the wrong place at the wrong time.” Nothing happens by accident — there is no such thing! An “accident” only indicates that someone wasn’t listening to God.

How often people seem to prefer to do things in their own time, rather than in God’s time. God’s timing is flawless — can the human mind plan anything better than that? Instead of blindly going ahead with what *we* think we should do, or when we should do it, take time to ask God what He wants us to do. Then we’ll always be in the right place at the right time.

We recently planned to go to New York City. I prayed and asked God when to go, and when *not* to go. Since it was during the Christmas season, I also asked for help from a Plainfield practitioner. On the day we went, there were quite a few people, as there usually are, but no large crowds. Everything worked out beautifully, and the day was a great success. I heard from several people later who had gone there on different days that it was terribly crowded, and they didn’t enjoy the day.

Instead of rigidly following some preset schedule, we need to humbly listen for God’s direction. And, rather than over-scheduling our children’s lives, as some parents seem to do, we need to help them to cultivate the ability to hear God’s direction, as well. What a blessing it is for them to understand that “My times are in Thy hand”!

Wherefore Didst Thou Doubt?

Gary Singleterry

In the Bible story of Jesus walking on the water, Peter bravely went to meet him, but began to sink. Reaching out to help him, Jesus asked, “wherefore didst thou doubt?” What was it that Peter doubted? Jesus had taught his disciples the power of the Truth, the divine Principle which creates and governs the universe, including man. They had seen Jesus heal the sick, feed the multitudes, cast out demons, and raise the dead to life, all through faith in the one Father, God. Now Peter had just seen Jesus walk on the water. Yet, he doubted that it was the result of law, of a principle that applied to him as well as to Jesus.

Jesus’ teaching was for all mankind and for all time. He came to demonstrate who and what God is and what God does for mankind. Christian Science makes plain that God is Principle, or unfailing law that is the basis of all creation. God is also Love, — principled, divine love that never fails and never ceases. From this we can conclude that divine law is moral. It is always all good. And since it is the supreme law, it trumps so-called physical law every time. “Metaphysics is above physics.” (S&H) Mrs. Eddy tells us that “a miracle fulfills God’s law, but does not violate that law.” Peter obviously learned this lesson, because he went on to be a great healer and teacher.

Everyone has doubts. We tend to doubt and fear what we do not understand. But today, a more clear explanation of Jesus’ message is available to all mankind in the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy. Mrs. Eddy spent a lifetime discovering the scientific basis of Jesus’ teaching and practice, and her discovery is now available to every sincere seeker for Truth. Jesus promised, “He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also.”

Each of us has a divine purpose in life. We may not need to walk on the sea to fulfill that purpose, but we can be assured that God will give us whatever ability we need to do His will. Those who genuinely seek the divine basis of Jesus' teaching can fulfill this promise for themselves; and by putting into practice this unfailing principle, we all can overcome our doubts and fears and find the dominion that God has for each and everyone.



Overcoming Fear

Duncan Sinclair

How defrauded men are by fear! Not only does fear seem to produce disease, it claims to paralyze every right activity, inducing cowardice where moral courage is needed.

The first step in the overcoming of fear is the gaining of an understanding of divine Mind and its allness, — the fact that divine Mind is the only real presence and the only real power.

Fear always implies a belief in an evil power, — a power other than God, good. If mankind were to realize that there is only one real power in existence, that there is no evil power opposing good, sin would at once vanish, and fear would disappear along with it; for, as Mrs. Eddy says, "The understanding, even in a degree, of the divine All-power destroys fear, and plants the feet in the true path, — the path which leads to the house built without hands 'eternal in the heavens.'" (S&H)

In considering the question of overcoming fear through divine Mind, we can never forget that divine Mind

Articles

is divine Love. As John said, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear." To overcome fear, then, we must strive to know more of God as divine Mind or Love; and with the knowing, our trust in good will increase, and the tendency to fear will grow less and less. And let us always bear in mind that Mrs. Eddy says that "Christian scientific practice begins with Christ's keynote of harmony, 'Be not afraid!'"



A Quest for God

Mary Beth Singleterry

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand are pleasures for evermore." (Ps.) This is quite a stirring statement — in God's presence is fullness of joy! Of course people are always searching for joy and happiness elsewhere. I, too, was one of those people, convinced it is found in people, or circumstances or wealth — always searching, never finding, until the realization dawned that it is never the object itself that brings joy. It is always God who blesses us continually, and a grateful heart who appreciates and sees what God is doing is a happy one!

Some time ago I found myself entirely alone without family or friends. One morning I turned to that verse from Psalms and became aware of the fact that I did not know what it meant — not really. What did it mean to find all joy in God? Even though I had spent most of my life as a "Christian Scientist," God was a very abstract concept to me. I felt that to be without friends and family was nothing

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less than a terrible situation! How could I possibly be happy? It was then that I decided to go on a quest to find God — to find this God that I had always read about and heard about, but had never really experienced or felt.

I remember thinking to myself, “Ok, God, it’s just You and me!” When I was lonely, I talked to Him; when I was confused, I went to Him for answers; when I was upset, He was my comforter. Over time, He became to me, as the hymn says, “My best, my ever Friend.” He became real!

That time alone without family and friends perhaps did more good than any other experience ever has. It changed my life in dramatic ways. I was able to impersonalize good and to know that in whatever form goodness takes — be it friends, supply, etc. — it is always God at work, for He alone is the source of all good. This brought about a peace and security I had never experienced before. It is proverbial that you can be surrounded by people and still feel empty and lonely, and so I write this as an encouragement to others. If you feel you don’t really know this God you have heard and read and talked about — you can know Him! Search for Him with all your heart, make it your one desire, for the Bible promises, “If thou seek Him, He will be found of thee.”

I will close with the beautiful second verse of hymn No. 35, which expresses well the sentiments of this article:

Dark and cheerless is the morn,
Uncompanioned, Lord, by Thee;
Joyless is the day’s return,
Till thy mercy’s beams I see;
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.



Testimonies of Healing

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

A few years ago, I discovered a strange spot on my face, had it checked out by a physician, and found out it was skin cancer. At that time I made the decision to have it removed by a surgeon. The work was completed, and after a few months it healed.

However, for around a year I noticed a similar spot growing on my face; and much to my dismay, it was getting larger. I began to get concerned and fearful, and realized this belief needed to be rooted out in Science.

This time I decided to get help from a Plainfield practitioner. She gave me a statement by Mrs. Eddy in Unity of Good to work with, "This false sense of substance must yield to His eternal presence and so dissolve." Also, I was reminded of the omnipresence of God and given the simple statement, "There is no spot where God is not." I was told that I was a spiritual being and could not be touched by this lie; and this is true not only for myself, but for everyone, everywhere. The practitioner also recommended that I look at this as little as possible. I did the best I could with this — since it was right there in front of me. A few days later as I was putting on some makeup to go out, to my amazement, *the cancer spot was gone!*

What a remarkable, quick healing this was. I thank the practitioner and this healing church for leading us to the truth about God and man as shown to us by Mary Baker Eddy.

D. A.
Virginia

CornerStone

My car wouldn't start a few weeks ago. It was completely dead. I called the dealer who said to tow it in, it could be the electrical system. "Oh no!" I thought, "there goes at least a thousand dollars because they will find several things that need repair. And I don't have a regular, trusted, garage any more."

I turned this over to God, trusting the Eternal (as the hymn says), and released my concern. I left it in God's timing and refused to speculate, ruminate, or cogitate over the whole solution. Any time I thought of it, I trusted God with it. This went on for about two weeks. (Thankfully to God also, I have a second car, so I was not left in the lurch.)

Then, out of the blue, a friend who lives nearby whom I haven't seen or talked to for over a year, called me. Long story short, he had a solution for this. He not only advised me, told me where I should buy a battery, came by and removed my old battery and drove me to the store to buy a new battery. Then he put that one in for me, and the car started. He's also going to tell me of a nearby garage he likes and I can give his name to them as a reference. My friend was an angel sent by God, and I told him so!

B. P.

Virginia

On Christmas morning, I called my mother to let her know I was on my way to pick her up for the church service. She said she had been up all night with severe back pain and would not be able to attend the service.

After the service I asked a practitioner for help for my mother. She gladly said she would help, and to call later in the afternoon. I know the practitioner was having guests for Christmas dinner, but helping a child of God was first in her heart.

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About fifteen minutes later, as I was driving home, I called my mother and told her I asked a practitioner to help her. She said she knew it, because she was feeling better. My mother called the practitioner that afternoon, and the practitioner assured her that God was watching over her. She said to keep her thought with God; He is your best and ever Friend.

The next day my mother was much better, and on the third day, she was completely healed.

I am so thankful for God, Christian Science, and the love and prayers of the Plainfield practitioner.

S. W.
New Jersey

Last week I had a significant healing. My eyes were very swollen, red, and itchy for a couple of days. Also, my neck was itchy and there was a bumpy, hive-like rash all over it. I found myself awake that night, rubbing and scratching.

In the morning, I knew I needed help. I called a practitioner from the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent. I was met with much love and comfort. She asked me to work with the statement, "Peace. Be still."

When I got off the phone, I realized there was something on my mind that I wasn't feeling very peaceful about. I was worrying, and irritated about a particular situation. I knew the practitioner was right. I realized I needed to let go of this, and let God handle it.

I began to work on gaining my peace back. I studied the Lesson for the week, and I wrote something for the forum. Each time I reached to scratch, I declared, "Peace. Be still!" I listened to and sang along with some of the church hymns on our website. As I listened to the beauty of

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these hymns, I felt bathed in God's love and goodness. By the end of the day, I was feeling much better, and I had a good night's sleep.

Things were considerably better in the morning. I was happy I could report to the practitioner that I had a lot of relief. She assured me that she would continue working until everything was entirely clear. She told me to work with Mrs. Eddy's statement in Science and Health, "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God."

By the following day, my eyes were perfectly normal looking. The skin on my neck was clear too. There wasn't a trace of the rash or scabs at all! In addition, the worrisome, irritating problem I had been rehearsing over in my mind, trying to find a solution to, was met in a quick and wonderful way. A solution that was obviously God's blessing unfolded, at the same time as the physical healing!

This is a remarkable healing in so many ways. In the past, when I have felt an itchy rash like this, it would typically begin to spread over the rest of my body. This time, it was all stopped dead in its tracks!

I am so grateful for the lessons that came with this healing, for the practitioner, and for independent Christian Science.

*H. G.
Maryland*

It was over a year ago when I asked a practitioner in this church for help with back pain. This was an excruciating pain that was with me constantly, some days better than other days, but always there. Many nights I would wake up moaning and have to get up and put ice on my back, and even took a pain pill when I couldn't stand it. I had consulted a doctor previously, who had ordered an MRI.

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The diagnosis of the MRI was called spinal stenosis. Supposedly nothing could be done, short of surgery, which may or may not have taken care of the problem.

The back problem was one of many problems the practitioner was helping me with, including supply, resentments, relationships; and little by little, each problem was worked out, other than that back pain. I remember one time waking up in tears in the early hours of the morning. I got up, reached for my Science and Health, and tried to read some of the things the practitioner had given me to study, pleading mentally to God for help. The pain abated and was never as strong after that, but it was still there. When I asked the practitioner why it seems to take so long for this particular healing, she replied, "Little by little, step by step, all in God's time. Just keep working, knowing the Truth, and striving to grow spiritually, and it will come."

I had come to terms with the pain and moved on with my life, growing, learning to know God better, listening for His direction for me, and then it happened! I can't tell you when it happened, but the pain was gone! It was as though it had never been there, a bad dream, which, in fact, it really was. When I think back on all the misery, and all the things I tried to no avail, I realize what a great blessing this is!

I am so grateful for that practitioner who stayed right with me, working on this problem, along with all she taught me at the same time. Words cannot express my gratitude! She never lost confidence in the fact that I would have a healing, and she lovingly and persistently declared the Truth, fed me the Truth, demanded that I demand the blessing from this — and look what happened! The result was a healing. I am so grateful.

V. E.
Arizona

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I was using a new knife for the first time the other day, and severely cut my finger. The cut was very deep and long, and I'm sure it would have required stitches. But instead, I realized that this was just error trying to make inroads into my experience, and immediately shouted, "Oh, no you don't! You are not getting in here! The only thing that can come to me is what God sends, and you're not it! You are nothing and nowhere, and you have no power — God is the only power!" I wrapped the finger in a paper towel and held it tightly, while I continued to pray. In a short time the bleeding slowed down considerably, and I put a band aid on the finger and went back to preparing dinner. The pain woke me up once during the night, and I prayed again, and was able to go right back to sleep.

By the next morning, the pain was entirely gone, and the bleeding had completely stopped. I put another band aid on just to protect it; and when the band aid fell off the following morning, there was absolutely no trace of the cut.

I am very grateful to God for this very quick, complete healing, and for Mrs. Eddy, who showed us that we can stand up to error and whip it out of our experience.

C. C.

New Jersey

I was raised in Christian Science but never saw any healing in my life, nor did I feel as if I understood the Science. When my youngest daughter was 28 years old, she died of breast cancer; and it was a horrendous experience for us all. More recently my oldest daughter, after seeing a doctor and having an MRI, was told there had been a change in her breast and she, too, would need to see a surgeon.

We were all very fearful and apprehensive about this

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news, but I had begun to attend church services in the Plainfield Church and also to attend the Roundtable discussions. Here I was learning much about how to demonstrate Christian Science and how to develop a trust in God. I asked a practitioner in this church to help me with my doubts and fears. She said she would, and that I needed to blot out the negative images in thought and to hold thought steadfastly to the “enduring, the good, and the true,” as Mrs. Eddy says in *Science and Health*. I was also given the article “Adhesion, Cohesion and Attraction,” by Julia Warner Michael, to study, which can be found on our website. The article refers to Mrs. Eddy’s statement, “Adhesion, cohesion, and attraction are properties of Mind. They belong to divine Principle.” And the author of the article continues to say, “Let him who has been told by materia medica that a malignant growth adhered to some part of his body and that even a knife cannot separate him from it — learn that the law of divine Love eternally separates God’s ideas from all evil.” I found this very comforting.

Using what I had been learning, I decided to take a determined stand against this lie which was trying to invade my experience once again, and stood staunchly with the Truth — this lie is not from God and it never was from God, and in Truth, it never touched anyone, anywhere!

To our great joy the results of my daughter’s biopsy came back negative. She would not need an operation. Thank God she is alright! This is the first time I can honestly say I have felt the power of God operating in my life, and I am so grateful for this. My gratitude is beyond measure for Mary Baker Eddy, and for the Plainfield Church, which has been teaching me the correct way to think and to act in Christian Science.

*B. B.
New Jersey*



Plainfield Christian Science Church
Independent

905 Prospect Avenue
P.O. Box 5619
Plainfield, NJ 07061-5619
Telephone 908 756-4669

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www.plainfieldcs.com

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