

The
CORNERSTONE
of
**Independent
Christian Science**

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

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May 2012
Number 148

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

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Our services and adult Sunday class are broadcast live!



Plainfield Christian Science Church

Independent

905 Prospect Avenue

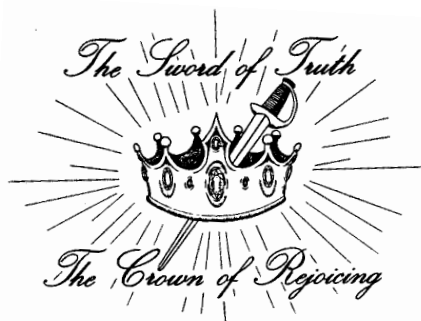
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Independent Christian Science

Unfettered by institutional religion

If anyone is wondering,
this church is in no way affiliated with The
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Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

Following are excerpts from various writings of Mary Baker Eddy.

All that I have written, taught, or lived, that is good, flowed through cross-bearing, self-forgetfulness, and my faith in the right. Suffering or Science, or both, in the proportion that their instructions are assimilated, will point the way, shorten the process, and consummate the joys of acquiescence in the methods of divine Love. The Scripture saith, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper." No risk is so stupendous as to neglect opportunities which God giveth, and not to forewarn and forearm our fellow-mortals against the evil which, if seen, can be destroyed.

Miscellaneous Writings

May my friends and my enemies so profit by these waymarks, that what has chastened and illumined another's way may perfect their own lives by gentle benedictions. In every age, the pioneer reformer must pass through a baptism of fire. But the faithful adherents of Truth have gone on rejoicing. Christian Science gives a fearless wing and firm foundation. These are its inspiring tones from the lips of our Master, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." He is but "an hireling" who fleeth when he seeth the wolf coming.

Miscellaneous Writings

Do we not all understand cowardice never conquers? To get rid of temptation of any sort or to get out of a difficulty, we are not passive and let the wrong rule the right, but we

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struggle and thus conquer. We should not avoid the things that hurt us, but repeat them and meet them as their superior. Disease is a coward that leaves when you are not afraid of it.

Divinity Course and General Collectanea

Jesus bore our infirmities. He took every step of the way before us. He demonstrated the whole problem and left us the rule. We must expect to take all the steps ourselves, and I tell you this, not to pronounce sentence upon you, but that being forewarned, you may be forearmed. When passing through the belief of sin, sickness or death, are you going to make a reality of it, or are you going to pick up the serpent and have no fear; but know that the serpent once handled becomes a *rod*, a staff? If made a reality it becomes a stumbling block.

Divinity Course and General Collectanea

My faith in God and in His followers rests in the fact that He is infinite good, and that He gives His followers opportunity to use their hidden virtues, to put into practice the power which lies concealed in the calm and which storms awaken to vigor and to victory.

Miscellany



Excerpt From Essays and Other Footprints:

“Fear Is Not Your Thinking”

Mary Baker Eddy

The doubts and fears you speak of are doubtless not your thoughts, but the mental suggestions of other minds, whispered into your thought. To all such whisperings answer, “I don’t believe you, you are a liar.” “Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.” Only Love can lift you above it all. Love, Love, Love. Let *nothing* crush you — *rise immedi-*

Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

ately. Love has no poison to impart. The only Mind is Life and Love and purity.

These fearing times are only chemicalizations, like a big storm which gathers and breaks, only to leave the atmosphere clear.

Now worry does not demonstrate. All the mental energy one spends on worry would be better used in faith. Just pray when you do not know what to think, or sing a hymn to yourself until worry goes. Nothing happens out of order, everything happens in the order of development for you. You pray to learn; then why be regretful when the page turns over and a hard lesson comes next? Let resentment go, and just roll up your sleeves, so to speak, and get to work and declare that you are going to squeeze all the benefit out of that experience that you can. Just learn to be glad of these chances to impersonalize error.

Remember there will be nothing come to you that you cannot overcome. The victory is yours by inheritance; claim it and use it as yours. Work every day to know that the belief of impossibility has no power over you. Know that it cannot possibly affect you in any way, and can never for an instant hinder your demonstration, whether you are working for health, peace, joy, or any mental quality, thing or experience.

Be watchful and demonstrate that Truth and Love can and do triumph over every obstacle that confronts us and vanquish every temptation that assails us.

In this critical time we must draw nearer to God and prove Him to be an ever-present help in time of trouble. Mortal mind cannot embrace me in the claim of poverty, in the claim of matter or fear. All this is mesmerism and cannot embrace me in it.

What a glorious inheritance is ours through the understanding of omnipotent Love. We cannot want to have a

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more sweet assurance than this — “Peace be still” to all error. At this moment there is harmony throughout the universe, for God’s law is harmony. At this moment each idea is in its rightful place and is satisfied and contented.

Failure to hold on to the Truth means fear of letting go of error. Unwillingness to give up sin implies fear of not gaining something satisfactory in the place of it. There are no senses outside of the individual sense of God.

Mary Baker Eddy



Excerpt From Essays and Other Footprints:

“Man, Arbiter of his Own Fate”

Mary Baker Eddy

The most precious of all possessions is power over ourselves, power to withstand evil, to bear trials, to front danger, power over pleasure and pain, power to follow our convictions however resisted by *menace* and scorn, the power of calm reliance in scenes of darkness, and fell revenge. No truth is more certain than this, that man is the arbiter of his own fate.

The mutations of time, the periods of the leaf and flower, the enormous cycles of geological and astronomical change, are the motions of continual Mind photographed, the formation and development of an exhaustless mental energy. Even the forms of decay are but marks of regeneration. There is something in the universe besides material forms; for they are moved by a power external to themselves, and the substance on which they are based is greater than they. As to the truth and power of this intelligence that acts above and beyond the forms of sense, we cannot doubt.

“Feed My Sheep” — Christ Jesus

The allness of Spirit and the unreality of matter is the fundamental proposition in Christian Science. We must get hold of it more securely, so as to meet all the claims that mortal mind says are difficult. There is nothing difficult for Omnipotence, and so let us press on.

Bicknell Young

Without enthusiasm, thought drifts backward instead of pressing onward, having none of the persistent activity, resilience, and brilliance that belongs to Soul, Spirit, Mind.

Bicknell Young

Association Addresses

Let us gratefully realize the fact of God's good government on earth, as in heaven, and faithfully apply this truth to every adverse or doubtful situation; in short, to everything that threatens harmony individually or collectively.

Elizabeth Maria Cordsen



Overcoming the World

Bicknell Young

Excerpt from

Association Address 1935

Today the astronomers speak of the expanding universe. Mrs. Eddy spoke of it years ago from a spiritual standpoint in the words, “The astronomer will no longer look up to the stars, — he will look out from them.” (S&H)

Mortal mind, beholding such possibilities dimly, and interpreting them erroneously, is dismayed by them and accordingly predicts the end of the world to occur this year or the next. History records many such predictions recurring periodically, and often accepted, even by the so-called

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learned. During the Napoleonic Wars, which lasted a good many years, they were recurrent and were quite generally feared. So, when these dire predictions appear in our times, they have no more foundation now than they had in the past!

Jesus said, "be of good cheer: I have overcome the world." (John) He unquestionably meant that he had gained the ascendancy over the belief that the world was material.

There is no such thing as the end of the world. There is the revelation of the seed within itself, the self-existent and endless. In this revelation, error ceases to even have the semblance of existence, and this end of the world occurs constantly in the successful practice of Christian Science, for every case that is healed is another extinction of mortal mind.

Job said, "I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth." (Job) That latter day, that proof of the unreality of evil, appears in every case that is healed, and the redeemer stands and guards and perpetuates the healing.

Let's rejoice that the heavenly hosts of right ideas are always with us. They are our spiritual help, and are always ready to protect, and to lead us onward and upward.

Oscar Graham Peeke



Shaking Off the Beast

Alfred H. Smith

After Paul's notable shipwreck while on his journey to Rome, the natives of the island of Melita received him kindly, kindling a fire because of the rain and cold.

“Feed My Sheep”

When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks to throw on the fire, a viper came “out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.” He shook off “the venomous beast” into the fire, showing no concern for his own safety. Those standing around him expected that “he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly”; but after they waited a long time and saw no evil result, they changed their opinion and thought Paul must be a god!

Paul handled the error by shaking off the beast. He didn’t cower before it, and he didn’t waste time analyzing the situation or arguing with the error, he merely disposed of it. As Mary Baker Eddy writes, “Suffer no claim of sin or of sickness to grow upon the thought. Dismiss it with an abiding conviction that it is illegitimate, because you know that God is no more the author of sickness than He is of sin.” (S&H)

Paul had just come safely through a terrifying experience of shipwreck, cold, and exposure when the viper struck at him. This is a wonderful illustration to be always on guard, because when it appeared that the danger was past, error struck at him again. But Paul had put on what he called the “whole armour of God,” and he met the error with the efficient use of spiritual weapons.

Those who witnessed Paul’s handling of the error perceived a power or ability which they did not understand. There is no mystery in this Christianly scientific process of healing. Jesus declared that those who believed on him should do the works that he did; he sent forth his disciples with specific commands to heal the sick. In order that this power should not be considered as applying only to his own time and to his own followers, he expressly mentioned the signs which should follow.

Healings in Christian Science should not be regarded as unusual; they are divinely authorized and therefore to

be expected. Jesus affirmed without reservation that “all things are possible to him that believeth.”



Too Soon!

Mary Beth Singleterry

Some years ago, upon first coming to the Plainfield Church, I suffered from many troubles — quite a few of them physical, some of them painful and chronic. At that time the following statement by Mrs. Eddy was given to me by a practitioner. This one dynamic thought changed my perspective on life forever: “Too soon we cannot turn from disease in the body to find disease in the mortal mind and its cure in working for God.” (Mis., “Fidelity”)

This was a new beginning for me, a new, fresh day, because it gave me something much bigger and much more worthwhile to live for than the mere selfish and petty concerns that seemed to rule my day. Working for God — what a wonderful and expansive thought that is!

So if I would wake up in the morning feeling lousy — well, I had things to do for God, so I would ask for His help and get up and get going. I knew that He was with me, and I began to feel His presence; and because of that, I found healing. It would happen time and time again.

Often I will hear the complaint, “I am sick and have been praying to God, but He is not answering my prayer. Why isn’t God answering me?!”

This began to sound to me as such a one-way street. We want God to bless and help us; and yet, if we look at our lives, what have we ever done to grow closer to Him? I

“Feed My Sheep”

mean, truly — up until that time I had done nothing. I had tried to live a good life, but hadn’t even thought about serving God in any capacity. In Romans we read, “Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” And as we do this, we find healing.

I found two examples of this kind of healing in the book “Collectanea.” “A student told Mrs. Eddy of a case of bronchial trouble that she had been endeavoring to heal without success. Mrs. Eddy leaned over the desk and shook her finger at her saying, ‘What are bronchial tubes for?’ Then she answered the question, ‘They are to be used to sing praises to the Lord, and for nothing else.’ The student’s patient was healed in that hour.”

The second one, given to Edward Kimball, who was an outstanding worker during Mrs. Eddy’s time: — “I never knew a dyspeptic who was either a man or a woman. They are nothing but stomachs all absorbed in digestion — of what? You are not a stomach! And a stomach is not talking, arguing, feeling, suffering. You are a man occupied with a great demand. He is too wise to say, ‘go work in My vineyard’ and then render you unfit to work.”

When we get so involved with our own problems (and I’ve been there!), we do become a stomach, or a head, or a foot, or whatever else that is giving us trouble!

But when we know God is not going to give us something to do and then render us unfit to do it, we rise up out of that sick bed, resisting all that is unlike good! And in so doing, we find healing, for it is the very power and presence of God operating to restore and regenerate!

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Today

Each day has opportunities
for new discoveries.
Yesterday's are gone,
tomorrow's are yet to be.
Thy will, not mine,
brings right activity;
Every idea is fresh and new
from God — for eternity.

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. 214

Gilbert C. Carpenter

WATCH lest you overlook the fact that a student who indulges in travel merely for entertainment, may become as unfaithful to his demonstration as one who smokes without protest. The error in smoking is not the outward act, but in the enjoyment of a negative apathetic state of mind, which is the direct opposite of the mental alertness and activity which is fostered by Christian Science. One who over-indulges in travel for pleasure neglects his duty to God, to his Leader and to mankind, and differentiates between phases of the Adam dream, which is not a sound basis from which to perceive its entire unreality.

This is not a watching point to prohibit students from travelling; but it is a call for consistency and watchfulness. Mrs. Eddy was consistent when she pointed out her birth-place to Calvin Hill. She said, "Over there are the hills of Bow where they say I was born, but I was not. I was born in Mind." Again, when she sent a student a book of beautiful poems for Christmas, she wrote, "I send you a book of dreams, but they are so sweet, some of them, that I listen to them as we take in the fragrance of flowers that are dreams of matter."

Once, when a student was about to travel, Mrs. Eddy wrote, "Remember, that unless you travel mentally, that if you don't traverse new lands spiritually, if you don't cross

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metaphysical waters, that is, and reach shores hitherto unvisited in Soul, you have wasted your time, money and effort, and you will get nothing out of it. Don't do less Science but more. May God enfold you in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake, where no evil, no accident, no allurements, no blame lies, claiming some world more dazzlingly beautiful than the radiance of divine Love, for straight is the gate and narrow the way thereto."



Is it not true, and do you not know it to be true, that the best things of your life have come not from without, but from within — the loyal friend, the reciprocated love, the conscience at peace with God and man, the clear view upward, the large view outward. These things are like letting in the tide that comes bearing its rich argosies of joy from the far-off shores of the eternal day.

The big house does not necessarily mean a happy home, a full pocket is not always the same thing as a light heart, and great affluence does not mean great influence — a very different thing from having an angel in the heart to talk to and to listen to. Happiness grows, it is not made. Is it not character rather than circumstance that makes happiness, after all?

Rev. A. J. Viner



“Comfort Ye My People”

Christian Science practice is the greatest profession on earth. It is the most scientific, the most noble and the most highly appreciated by those who understand it. Even though one is in a situation so that one's time is occupied in ordinary work, yet the knowing of the Truth is one's chief concern. Circumstances may compel us humanly to be occupied in many ways, but we certainly are masters of the domain of consciousness.

*Bicknell Young
Collected Writings*

To be ever with God is to be ever conscious of man's oneness with the perpetual harmony and joy of Soul.

William R. Frye

We see men constantly rushing, striving, and for what? For more wealth, more things, more power, and so on, yet never satisfied, never happy. Surely it must be because mere material things can never satisfy a spiritual, God-being. “I shall be satisfied when I awake with Thy likeness,” and not until.

Kate W. Buck



Vacation Time

Mary E. Belcher

People often make elaborate plans for vacations; but how often, instead of joy, they end up with a feeling of emptiness and disappointment, a sense of having missed something. Could this be because they've been looking to matter instead of to Spirit for refreshment?

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The only true rest and refreshment mankind can ever know is in spiritual communion with God. Jesus knew this, and he went to the mountain alone in order that he might listen more closely to the voice of God. He knew that the only change or relaxation needed was to learn more of God, and of man in His image and likeness.

Our lives today seem to be crowded with work, with little time for the deeper things of God. What a difference it would make if, instead of trying to crowd more material pleasures into vacation time, we would make it an opportunity to withdraw from the things of matter and turn to "the imperishable things of Spirit." (S&H) What greater happiness can there be than to learn more of God's unfailing love and kindness? Then, when our vacation is ended, there will be no sense of disappointment, but we will return to our work strengthened and refreshed.

Jesus knew the value of solitary hours spent in self-examination and prayer. Time and again we read of him spending the night alone in prayer. Imagine the angel messages that came to him during those peaceful times, the messages of God's love, the messages of strength and courage! Many of his mightiest works were performed after those hours on the mountain alone with God.

These quiet hours teach the meaning of true humility. Mary Baker Eddy has given us these illuminating words as to the right use of our time: "Cherish humility, 'watch,' and 'pray without ceasing,' or you will miss the way of Truth and Love. Humility is no busybody: it has no moments for trafficking in other people's business, no place for envy, no time for idle words, vain amusements, and all the *et cetera* of the ways and means of personal sense." (Mis.) Mighty words, indeed, and full of guidance for each faithful follower of the Christ!

“Comfort Ye My People”

What a blessed privilege, then, is ours to use our vacation days and our hours of leisure as Jesus used his. What happy memories of the sunshine of God’s presence would fill our consciousness. To those who are learning to use their leisure aright, the “Sun of righteousness” has indeed arisen “with healing in his wings”!

For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.

Isaiah



“In this Place”

Mildred M. Davenport

What is place? Is it a geographical location, a material environment? Is there more of God’s loving care in one so-called place than in another, more of divine Principle?

Mary Baker Eddy gives the answer to these questions: “Metaphysics resolves things into thoughts, and exchanges the objects of sense for the ideas of Soul.” (S&H) One’s place, then, is really a state of thought. If one were to move to what he considers a better environment, taking this same false thinking with him, wouldn’t he soon become unhappy again? So, instead of finding a different place in which to live or to work, his real need is for a different mental attitude. And this attitude can be gained through understanding that, as a child of God, he has all of Truth, all of

God's love, protection, support, intelligence, and supply, right where he is.

The solution lies in learning to dwell "in the secret place of the most High," wherever he is, rejoicing in the "secret beauty and bounty" of which Mrs. Eddy speaks: "Christians rejoice in secret beauty and bounty, hidden from the world, but known to God." (S&H)

Who could speak with more authority than she about doing one's work right where one finds himself? Mrs. Eddy did not wait for a more convenient time or more comfortable surroundings before writing our textbook, but she labored lovingly, though under humanly trying circumstances. Nor did Jesus ever acknowledge a place in which he could not find God and express good. Even the tomb was to him "a place in which to solve the great problem of being." (S&H)

If someone longs for true improvement of his environment, holding to the right concept that his place is fixed in God's spiritual universe, he finds himself lifted into that sense of peace and harmony and progress which constitute his everlasting birthright, and which meet all human needs. Harmonious adjustment of all of his affairs inevitably follows this right mental activity, and he cannot be held in a situation that he has outgrown. Man, God's idea, is held forever in his proper place, always fulfilling God's purpose.

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms

Announcements

Audio Recordings of Science and Health

We are happy to announce that we have produced 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, or \$85 for the set of 21 CDs.

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 form. 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 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

Thank you for the absolute Christian Science you are spreading throughout the world. With the help of the prayers and the watches, it brings a better understanding of God's love that will lead all in the right direction. As Mrs. Eddy states, "Love is the liberator."

Alabama

Dear Friends,

I am originally from Keyport, New Jersey. I now reside in the Atlanta area. I was raised in Christian Science and am class taught. I just came upon your website. I have listened to your roundtable discussions and explored the site. I have incorporated your site in my daily study.

Thank you so much for all you and your faithful members are doing for our movement. Love is truly reflected in love.

Keep up the good work.

Georgia

The Lesson on Probation After Death talked about being in the "now." Many years ago I made some cards with quotes from Mrs. Eddy and other Christian Science workers. As I walked across my studio (I'm an artist) this morning, the quote on the stand was by Amanda Colbath and I want to share it with you. It said, "To realize the presence of God is to live in the eternal now. It takes care of the past and the future and brings harmony to one's present state of consciousness." How appropriate!

Virginia

My book, Watches, Prayers and Arguments, came today. The watches are great. I don't pray often enough. I shall

CornerStone

take up the habit of prayer three times a day.

The spiritual direction toward making the church a home for out-of-towners has been phenomenal. No church has a better understanding. I'm so proud to be a member of Plainfield Church.

Minnesota

Thank you for the Wednesday night meeting. It was just what the world needed. The readings were really good and each testimony was a Christian Science treatment. This meeting was very healing and fresh.

New Mexico

Thank you for the March 2012 CornerStone. It is outstanding. Actually, they are always excellent. And thank you for all the wonderful and insightful discussions at the Roundtable each Sunday. The opportunities you provide to grow in understanding are boundless.

Thank you for these and your selfless example.

Mississippi

Christian Science, to me, is the most effective way of obeying the second commandment and blessing mankind. The "watches" from this church are one of the special ways to achieve this blessing. Doing them is helping me think in an orderly manner and develop a more universal way of thinking. I am grateful for the thought discipline I am gaining from doing them.

Georgia

I am so grateful for the Roundtable discussions. Every time I attend, I receive a direct treatment and I am blessed by it.

New Jersey

Enclosed is a contribution to support this church in its very vital work in sustaining pure Christian Science. In doing the church watches, it came to me recently that the

Letters

sixth tenet of Christian Science begins, “And we solemnly promise to watch, and pray for that Mind to be in us which was also in Christ Jesus.” This is something I’ve read and repeated many, many times, but not until invited to do a watch in this church have I actually done “watches.” It is so very important, and of course, if we demonstrate that Mind “which was also in Christ Jesus,” then we know that this work will be effective.

Thank you for raising awareness to vital, practical Christian Science, to help heal our world.

Virginia

The Frozen River article is the first thing I read on the website this morning. Oh may I have the faithfulness of that dear river! I’ve seen this article before, but it spoke directly to my heart this morning.

Thank you for the timeliness of the articles and posts on this wonderful website.

Maryland

I often think, “What a beautiful website,” when looking at yours. So I thought I’d put it in writing. What a beautiful website you have.

Texas

The service this morning moved me to tears. It was beautiful and timely in so many ways. I called my wife afterward — three thousand miles away. (She is home and I am building in California.) We both praised God and wept with gratitude for His grace toward us.

Having the services online is a real blessing, connecting me from here to there and allowing me to have some additional communion with my beloved wife who is there online simultaneously. Thank you and all the good people at Plainfield Christian Science Church who make this possible.

Vermont

CornerStone

I am so grateful to have found the wonderful way of life I have learned from Mary Baker Eddy, your practitioners, and the classes where I am constantly learning. This church is filled with love, where I feel the truth and love radiating from all of you; from the wonderful readings, the music, the testimonies and the passion for Christian Science from the teachers in the way it is unfolded to us, the students.

Arizona

What you are doing as an independent Christian Science Church is an inspiration. It is hoped that all Christian Science churches will see the light. Just as mathematics and music are open to all good thinkers, so should be Christian Science. We will be visiting your website often.

E-mail

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

Breaking Down Misconceptions of Christian Science

The time for thinkers has come. Truth, independent of doctrines and time-honored systems, knocks at the portal of humanity. Contentment with the past and the cold conventionality of materialism are crumbling away. Ignorance of God is no longer the stepping-stone to faith.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Science and Health*

The Science of Mind must come to the rescue, to work a radical cure. Then we understand the process.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Science and Health*



Does a Christian Science Treatment Heal?

Andrew Kidd

Jesus healed the Canaanite woman's daughter of insanity (Matthew 15) by publicly humiliating the mother: first by ignoring her plea for help, second by declaring he was only sent to "the lost sheep of Israel," which excluded Canaanites, and finally by insisting that the healing truth was not for dogs like her! When the woman refused to react or be offended, but continued her plea by saying that the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the table, Jesus blessed her for her faith and the child was healed.

Can you imagine how Jesus must have felt saying those awful things? Surely it went against everything he felt in his heart, being the most compassionate man that ever

lived! Why did he not simply give a “Christian Science treatment” and heal the child? Surely that would have been kinder. We must conclude that Jesus did what was necessary to heal the problem, that the Christ-spirit detected some strong pride of life in the mother that needed to be broken. Giving a “treatment” would not have worked!

This story illustrates the fallacy amongst Christian Scientists that healing comes about as a result of “treatment,” mental arguments denying error and affirming truth. In the textbook, Mrs. Eddy urges: “Hold perpetually this thought — that it is the spiritual idea, the Holy Ghost and Christ, which enables you to demonstrate, with scientific certainty, the rule of healing, based upon its divine Principle, Love, underlying, overlying, and encompassing all true being.” Why does she say “Hold perpetually?” Because the danger is that a practitioner begins thinking his/her good treatment does the healing, when it is really just a method for getting out of the way, and letting Love do its thing. The “treatment” that overlooks a moral requirement may deceive with a physical healing, but it is not Christian Science!

The recorded healings of Jesus displayed such diverse methods of healing that it was not until Mrs. Eddy’s discovery that the Science behind them was identified. This Science is divine, and as quoted above, its practice in healing involves the Holy Ghost and Christ. What is the signature of a true Christian Science healing? The unmistakable feeling: “the sign of Immanuel, or ‘God with us,’ a divine influence ever present in human consciousness and repeating itself, coming now as was promised aforetime,

To preach deliverance to the captives [of sense],
And recovering of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty them that are bruised.” (S&H)

Featured Early Worker: Calvin A. Frye

Andrew Kidd

Calvin Frye was never a lecturer, teacher, nor a practitioner of Christian Science, and wrote precious little on the subject. And yet Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, told Mr. Frye that he had done more for Christian Science than any other person on earth except herself. We would do well to consider why.

At the age of thirty-six, shortly after his wife had passed on, Mr. Frye joined Mrs. Eddy's household and remained there for twenty-eight years, doing whatever was in his power to do to support Mrs. Eddy and her great work: secretary, bookkeeping, household manager, etc. But perhaps most telling was the worn carpet in the room next to Mrs. Eddy's where he would do his watch. Nobody was more faithful in supporting our Leader.

Unless one has been in the service, for a prolonged period of time, of a highly spiritualized individual, one devoted to the cause of uplifting humanity in the face of fierce opposition from "the powers that be," one can hardly begin to understand what Mr. Frye overcame in order to fulfill his God-given duty (which he must have so understood). Yes, there would be times of joy and great uplift in that rarefied atmosphere. But how often was Mr. Frye rebuked to keep him sharp, for Mrs. Eddy could not tolerate self-involved thinking in her atmosphere? How often did Mr. Frye feel he was unjustly criticized? How often did he yearn for a little space, some time off, just to be able to do what he wanted for himself? Yet, how long was he able to put the needs of that great woman before his own wants? For twenty-eight years!!

At one time, Mrs. Eddy stated that if someone else were to try to take her place with what she was carrying,

they would instantly be killed, so spiritually demanding was her position. Would not, then, the intent of the opposition be to take that faithful support, Mr. Frye, away from our Leader? Would it not explain why, in the latter years, Mrs. Eddy was compelled to raise this servant three times from the dead? We suspect there were times when he really was not sure if he wanted to be brought back!

Mr. Frye was faithful through to the end of Mrs. Eddy's presence on earth. What an example of faithfulness to the Scripture: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (Eph.)



Tilling the Ground

Calvin A. Frye

Jesus, whom Mary Baker Eddy has called "the highest earthly representative of God" (S&H), said, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." This explains why mortals do not see God, — their impure thoughts so obscure their vision that they do not discern spiritual thoughts and things. They believe themselves to be free moral agents, having minds independent of God, free to indulge their own inclinations, be they either good or evil.

When, however, they awaken to the true sense of

Featured Early Worker: Calvin A. Frye

being, the true sense of man as spiritual and at-one with the divine Mind, they begin to “till the ground” in order to win their way back into Eden. They set to work pulling out the noxious weeds and throwing away the stones which obstruct the path into the garden. Mrs. Eddy says, “The condemnation of mortals to till the ground means this, — that mortals should so improve material belief by thought tending spiritually upward as to destroy materiality. Man, created by God, was given dominion over the whole earth.” (S&H)

Luke, telling us of the time when Jesus was born, said that an angel, a message from divine Love, appeared to the shepherds and announced “good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.” This message was received by the shepherds who were awake through the night hours, but we are not told that any less watchful people heard or saw this remarkable manifestation. The Bible says, “Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead,” the stupefied sense of life in matter, “and Christ shall give thee light.”

Christian Science teaches that all things are mental. Let us then overcome the allurements of mortal pleasures and pains, which are the fruit of trying to know more than God knows, by believing both good and evil, — and let us strive to know only good. We shall then be attuned to the divine voice, and heaven will be within our consciousness. And when we hear this voice call to us, we shall not hide in shame and fear, as Adam did; but, conscious of work well done, we shall welcome the voice of divine Love and enter into “the joy of our Lord.”



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, "Adam and Fallen Man."

Competition and rivalry?

The world accepts competition and sibling rivalry as natural and normal — maybe in some instances as even good. The story of Cain and Abel shows it forth in all its ugliness — part of the Adam dream, leading to unhappiness and destruction. Never accept competition or rivalry of any kind as part of your experience. God is "no respecter of persons," an "open fount" that blesses all. When we are "in Science" we find the brotherhood of man being expressed in our lives — and this is the Truth about God's creation.

Response:

Does this apply to sports? They are 100% competition.

Response:

The answer is yes, this does definitely apply to sports. To engage in sports with the sole motive of beating someone else, to magnify self, to show others who is the best — well, that kind of speaks for itself, and this is what competition is all about and what it fosters. There is no God in

Independent Lesson Forum

this. The movie “Chariots of Fire” deals with this topic — giving true-life examples of someone who loved to run for the glory of God, because he felt running was a gift given to him by God, someone who stuck to his principles and refused to run on Sundays — as compared to someone else who ran solely for competitive purposes, someone who had to win at any cost, someone who was extremely self-centered, and also miserable.

Sports can teach important life lessons like discipline and team work. Why not play for the love of the game, for the joy it may bring, and not keep score? Competition is part of the Adam dream — it declares, “I am better than you!” or “I am so upset because I am not better than you.” And in Cain’s case, he killed his own brother with that type of thinking. I could go on, but you get the picture.

Response:

This was a real shock to me, reading this post. I am guilty of this. I am uber competitive and love playing sports and competing against my friends, etc. It makes sense to me now that always wanting to win is obnoxious and downright unGodlike, but I clearly need to purify my motives around this. Everywhere I look I see competition glorified. But in this experience, mortal mind *always* attempts to reverse Truth and present the limited and opposite idea. So I shouldn’t be surprised. I can pursue perfection, and glory in God’s gifts, rather than being sucked into “I win, you lose.”

“Reflection”

I love where it says, “The universe reflects God. There is but one creator and one creation. This creation consists of the unfolding of spiritual ideas and their identities, which are embraced in the infinite Mind and forever reflected.” (S&H) There you go — *one* God, *one* creation, and

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we are *one* in Mind; a reflection can *never* be separated from what it reflects!

Response:

S&H is full of absolute statements. But everywhere I turn, I see the unlikeness, the deflections, of God. Are you? When I read your post I get the feeling that you either don't see a world that needs healing or you are not handling error, making too little of it. Of course we are the reflections, but what are we doing about the aggressive suggestions that come hourly demanding error is real?

Response:

We might ask: what is the intent of your reply — to preach, to tell someone else what they should be doing, or doing it yourself? A good time to refer to Mrs Eddy's remarks in front of Spiritual Footsteps: "Guard your tongues. When you see sin in others, know that you have it in yourselves, and become repentant. I find my students either in an apathy or a frenzy. I am astonished at your ignorance of the methods of animal magnetism. Your enemies are working incessantly while you are not working as you should."

Response:

It came to me very strongly in this Lesson that, as God is All and His creation is all there is, then there's no way we can be separated from Him, especially as we regard ourselves as reflection. I find great comfort and empowerment in that. Of course, there may be things all around us screaming to be seen as real, and that is why we need to hold on to that strong base of knowing who God is and who we are as His reflection, and demonstrate from there. Mrs. Eddy has stated that we must work from the standpoint of perfection.

“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.

The real Christian Scientist is constantly accentuating harmony in word and deed, mentally and orally, perpetually repeating this diapason of heaven: “Good is my God, and my God is good. Love is my God, and my God is Love.” (Mis.)

Mary Baker Eddy

As you journey, and betimes sigh for rest “beside the still waters,” ponder this lesson of love. Learn its purpose; and in hope and faith, where heart meets heart reciprocally blest, drink with me the living waters of the spirit of my life-purpose, — to impress humanity with the genuine recognition of practical, operative Christian Science. (Mis.)

Mary Baker Eddy

We live in a spiritually mental universe. “All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all.” (S&H) The divinely natural way to think is from the basis of infinite Mind. There is, indeed, no other real basis from which to think. Spiritual thinking gives man power from on high.

Oscar Graham Peeke

The standard of right thinking — God’s thoughts — can be approached only as humanity turns away from sense dictation to seek first the government of God and His spiritual ideas.

Clarence W. Chadwick

Alertness is the price we must pay for freedom.

Ronald Klette

America

Herbert W. Eustace

America, spiritually understood, is the outward evidence of man's individual oneness with God.

America, in that sense, is not a nation defined by territorial boundaries, but is the spiritual idea of Mind everywhere present. America typifies the yearning of the heart for spiritual reality. "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

The "Pilgrim Fathers" were the "Separatists" who separated themselves entirely from bondage to ecclesiastical and political formulas and founded what is called America, as Abraham founded Israel by going out from his "father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee," forsaking all for the highest sense of good. "Come out from among them, and be ye separate," expresses America as the spiritual idea of Mind.

America is synonymous with individualism. Had individualism not been the objective of the Pilgrims, they would soon have been forced to admit that there is no freedom and success without it, as the following historical data show.

At first, the Pilgrims felt that community interest, rather than individual interest, in crops would better serve their ends. But they quickly learned that collectivism was doomed to failure. Complete individuality was essential for true spirituality and prosperity — as it always must be.

William Bradford was the governor of the original Pilgrim colony, founded at Plymouth in 1621. The colony was first organized on a communal basis, as their financiers required. Land was owned in common. The Pilgrims farmed communally, too, following the "from each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs" precept.

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The results were disastrous. Communism didn't work any better 400 years ago than it does today. By 1623, the colony had suffered serious losses. Starvation was imminent.

Bradford realized that the communal system encouraged and rewarded waste, laziness, and inefficiency, and destroyed individual initiative. Desperate, he abolished it. He distributed private plots of land among the surviving Pilgrims, encouraging them to plant early and farm as individuals, not collectively.

The women now went willingly into the field, and took their little ones with them to set corn, which before would allege weakness, and inability; whom, to have compelled, would have been thought great tyranny and oppression!

The Plymouth governor moralizes upon the failure of a scheme which, in theory, had seemed so attractive, but which in the end had militated not only against self-interest, but self-respect. The results: a bountiful early harvest that saved the colonies. After the harvest, the Pilgrims celebrated with a day of Thanksgiving — on August 9.

Man, as God's idea, is necessarily individual. The attempt of evil to change America from individualism to collectivism, and all that goes with that theory, is destined to failure. The breath of America is freedom, which means individualism. To surrender its Pilgrim heritage, would be to sell the birthright of America. But this can never be done, for *it is America*. Mrs. Eddy emphasizes individualism thus: “Is not a man metaphysically and mathematically number one, a unit, and therefore whole number, governed and protected by his divine Principle, God?” This individualism, this oneness is America.

The true sense of what the Pilgrim Fathers, America — Christian Science — really means, may be expressed, “unto

me every knee shall bow.” “And the Gentiles shall come to thy light and kings to the brightness of thy rising.” “And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it.”

The world today has nothing to rely on except spiritual values, and it progresses only as it learns to rely on them.

Calvin Coolidge



The Old Paths

Carol Conroy

“Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.” (Jer.)

The “old paths” are the ways the prophets taught, the ways Jesus lived and taught to his followers. To them, God was very real, and very close, like a good friend. They turned to God for everything, and trusted Him with their very lives. They didn’t rely on medicine or psychology — they didn’t have such things — but they had God, and that’s all they needed. The Bible is filled with examples that, when the people trusted and obeyed God, He supplied their every need.

But the Bible also says, “God hath made man upright, but they have sought out many inventions.” (Eccl.) As civilization has progressed, some people thought they no longer needed God — there were so many other things to rely on. Yes, progress is good, but progress should bring us

“The World Has Need of You”

closer to God, not further away from Him. It should give us a better understanding of God, and a stronger desire to hold onto the old paths of integrity and respect.

Instead of living honest, exemplary lives, and speaking directly to wrongdoing, many people have become so “politically correct” that, to them, “the old paths” are hardly recognizable anymore. Society in general has become permissive, bland, and weak, living in a constant “gray” zone, where right and wrong are indistinguishable.

At this time, we are being called upon to shine the light of Truth like a beacon, to safely guide mankind back to the old paths. The world needs our example, and our strong prayers and watches. Our strong work, faithfully done, will help to clear the foggy, hazy atmosphere of mortal mind and replace it with the sharp, clear mind of Christ.

Mary Baker Eddy has written, “A real Christian 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.” (Mis.)

Am I walking in the old paths every day? What a responsibility — and what a privilege!



Doing, Not Trying to Do

Martha A. Holton

Nowhere in the Bible are we told to *try* to do something. We are told to rejoice, not to try to rejoice; to sing, not to try to sing; to run and not be weary; to listen; to love our ene-

mies; to preach the gospel and heal the sick — but no mention is made of trying. To perform the work is our business — without discouragement, self-pity, or asking why. To solve our problems, not simply to try to solve them, is being obedient to the divine command, “Work out your own salvation.” God created all. Noah went into the ark, David slew the Philistine, and Jesus raised the dead, through doing — not through trying to do.

It is the doing that counts at all times and in all cases. Talking about doing, and wishing for the results of doing without zealous striving, is idle folly. It is the argument of the serpent of defeat, and should be quickly recognized as the subtle effort of evil to obstruct, delay, and limit growth. We often hear such remarks as, “I tried to deny the error, but the pain was so severe I couldn’t help believing it was real.” That work was defeated before it was begun! To deny a false belief with the expectancy of deliverance and the understanding of its nothingness, is doing, — not trying to do.

No wise parent ever admonished his son to try to tell the truth or to try to stop stealing. The boy was told to tell the truth and to take only that which belonged to him. Trying was not the demand. It was resisting temptation and doing that which was right that saved the boy. To say that one would try to walk ten miles would be to start with uncertainty, doubt, and fear that the destination might not be reached; but to start out with the intention of walking ten miles would be to go expectantly forward, surmounting every obstacle, and knowing that each mile gained brought the destination nearer.

In the writings and life of Mary Baker Eddy, we find no note of uncertainty or feeble trying. She says, “When the illusion of sickness or sin tempts you, cling steadfastly to

“The World Has Need of You”

God and His idea.” (S&H) This means that we have to cling, and to cling steadfastly — not just try to cling. Obedience to the rule requires continuous watchfulness and the persistent putting out of false beliefs and the pouring in of Truth.

Mrs. Eddy’s words, “Stick to the truth of being in contradistinction to the error that life, substance, or intelligence can be in matter” (S&H) are a direct command to hold unswervingly to the truth, not simply to try to do so with whimpering and self-pity, and wondering why so much resistance to error is necessary. To stick, yes! To hold on with joyous tenacity, confidence, and understanding that Truth is inevitably the victor, regardless of seeming conditions, is the way out of all difficulty!



Leaning on God

Take my hand, God, lead me on.
Only You will I lean upon.
Dropping the baggage,
 pride and human will —
Steps grow lighter, the way is brighter,
 my purpose for you, to fill.

Lillian Linnell

Articles

Then, When the Winds of God Blow

Florence Roberts

A science can be proven only when its laws are obeyed! Proving the Science of Being is no exception. To prove and feel God's allness requires deep, sincere repentance, humility, a heartfelt desire, and willingness to accept God's laws. The humility to say, "I do not know," and the willingness to be shown is needed. I learned that only a receptive thought could love God's impelling laws. "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." (Isa.)

After reading extensively and putting into practice some of what I was learning, I had demonstrations of healing; an example is how my son was healed from a dislocated arm.

However, the need for greater understanding that would help me feel the power of the truths I declared and the conviction of the Christ presence everywhere persisted. I was eager to feel better from sickness or any suffering, but not so ready to forsake some of the sinful habits I had. I held on to self-consciousness, resentment, vengefulness, fearfulness, with excuses. I did not realize that those habits constituted the belief in a selfhood apart from God.

Through the teaching from this church, I learned that to progress in this Science required giving my heart, my loyalty, and affection to its Truth. I needed the sincere love and repentance shown by the Magdalene and my own inspiration, like the virgins with oiled lamps. This repentance meant letting go of material beliefs, thoughts of any past hurts, disappointments, discouragement, envy, vengefulness, and staying awake not to be taken in by false material evidences. Only through the purity of Spirit could my true selfhood be reflected.

In my work, I come across many lifelong Scientists

Learning About God

who say they do not feel the love, presence, and power of God. Some have had decades of study, and often have had very good teachers. The voicing of truth abounds, but the spirit of the word was lacking in my experience, just as in the experiences of some of the people I encounter. Something is missing. In Science and Health we read, “The way to extract error from mortal mind is to pour in truth through flood-tides of Love.” Love is what is needed most in order to feel the spirit of these truths.

Certainly, I cannot have a consciousness flooded with love if I have resentment, thoughts of past regrets, and other sinful habits. The need for moral regeneration cannot be underestimated or ignored. It is what tests our gratitude and faithfulness, and is needed to gain the purity of our true selfhood. It is only this spiritual selfhood which is not afraid when error looms up — because it knows its safety in God, recognizes and is grateful for the Father’s blessings, and is convinced of God’s ever-presence and everlasting love. This love, felt through spiritual sense alone, can save and keep me from holding on to my tatters when “the winds of God blow.” (S&H)

Learning About God Is an Ongoing Process

Carl Miller

Learning about God and His ideas is a wonderful, ongoing experience.

We all learn about God in different ways — through reading, listening, through daily experiences, and through teaching. What an opportunity we have to learn from all those early workers — Martha Wilcox, Bicknell Young, Peter V. Ross, Herbert Eustace, and others. But we must remember that God is always the one source of true learning.

If we are not learning more about God each day, we need to rouse ourselves and break the mesmerism that would try to cloud our thoughts. If we are actively learning more about God each day, we will have new healings on an ongoing basis, and we'll be able to talk about our new healings frequently.

We must also be ready to talk from our own understanding about God, and express things in our own words. That is why the Wednesday evening testimony meetings are so important. To express our gratitude to God in our own way has more meaning to the listener. When our words are fresh, new, and from our hearts, it will feed those looking for God.

Learning about God might seem to be a closed door at first, but the true seeker of God soon learns that the only way to open the door to their heart is from the inside, and the rest will follow.

The Triumphant Science Gary Singleterry

Mary Baker Eddy writes in *Science and Health*, "The Science Jesus taught and lived must triumph over all material beliefs about life, substance, and intelligence, and the multitudinous errors growing from such beliefs." Here, she states both the responsibility of each of Jesus' followers, and the inevitable result when we faithfully follow his teachings. His three years of ministry shocked the world from its dull sleep in materialism and superstition. He demonstrated the truth of every statement he made, showing mankind that our collective Father, God, is a God of Love, of Truth, and of Principle, which triumphs over all the mortal beliefs in sin, sickness, and death.

The Triumphant Science

This must have seemed very threatening to the Pharisees and Herodians of the time, who were stuck in material beliefs. This “new doctrine” was a constant rebuke to their feeble human beliefs and institutions. It threatened their positions in society, and even their livelihood. Where would their income come from if their members adopted this higher and revolutionary Science? Hence they sought to crucify him! Nevertheless, Jesus was teaching a divine principle, not just another human doctrine, and his faithful obedience to God and to this Principle protected him and enabled him to live a life of triumph over every opposition — including the belief in death itself. His faithfulness is what makes Jesus the example and way-shower for all mankind.

His promise to all followers is “he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also.” This promise is a law of God to all who “believe on him,” or, as Mrs. Eddy explains, to all who understand and live by the Principle underlying his teaching and works. Such a life is, as Paul states, our “reasonable service.” Thanks to Mary Baker Eddy, who has given us her revelation of this divine Principle, this life is available to any sincere seeker for Truth.

This is why Mrs. Eddy refers to Jesus' teachings as a Science. It is divine, not human, and it is still shocking the world today wherever it is lived and practiced. It cannot be contained within a human organization, nor can any human organization prevent it from operating in our lives. The promise is to all who are not afraid of offending today's Pharisees and Herodians, who rise above the temptation to humanize the Christ and the Science Jesus lived and taught, and dare to live in obedience to it. The result for anyone who faithfully follows his example will be the ultimate triumph over sin, disease, and death.

Testimonies of Healing

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

I am so very grateful to be a member of the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, for Mary Baker Eddy who gave us Christian Science, and for the Plainfield practitioners.

Last week, for no apparent reason, when sitting quietly in my living room, I began to experience a persistent pain in my rib cage. It was very uncomfortable. I immediately turned to Science and Health and began reading pages 390-393, knowing that God is all there is, and He didn't send pain, so this could not be real.

After an uncomfortable night, I called a practitioner the first thing the next morning, who gave me some wonderful truths to ponder. Practitioner agreed to immediately work for me. Shortly after I hung up the phone, the pain began fading. She had asked me to call back that afternoon, which I did. Even though I was feeling much better, I asked her to continue to work for me another day. And that was it! The following day there was absolutely no pain whatsoever. It was as though it had never happened. It was just a bad dream. We are so blessed to have this wonderful way of life!

V. E.

Arizona

I am very grateful for a healing my son had recently. He absolutely loved computer games and, frankly, it took over his life. In more than one of these games, he was one of the top players in the world, which shows how much he liked to play.

I had been getting help from a practitioner in Plainfield Church for various problems in my life, including

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problems with this boy. She assured me he belongs to God and can only be attracted to good. He is “obedient to the Mind that made him.” (S&H) It occurred to me not to worry so much, but instead, to pray about this situation every time it came into my thought. For three days I prayed in this way. At that time, to my complete joy and utter amazement, my son told me he had deleted everything on his computer to do with computer games. And to tell you how remarkable this is, he said it would take him 1,000 years to restore what he had deleted — it was irrevocable!

This is another clear example of God blessing my family, as he has in so many ways. This is such a remarkable healing; and I am very grateful for this church, and for the practitioner who helped me. Christian Science is becoming my way of life and changing everything for the better.

T. R.

New York

A little while ago, a lump developed on my wrist, and my wrist became swollen, stiff, and very painful. I thought I might have bumped it and that it would just go away, but it didn't. Then I began to fear that it might be arthritis, so I called a Plainfield practitioner for help. The practitioner told me to work with a statement from Unity of Good, by Mary Baker Eddy: “This false sense of substance must yield to His eternal presence, and so dissolve.” She also said to remember, there is no spot where God is not!

By the very next morning, the swelling was completely gone, and I was able to wear my watch for the first time in a couple of weeks. The pain was also much less, so I asked the practitioner for more help. She said to make sure to handle the belief of age, and be sure to declare every day that I am ageless, diseaseless, and deathless. Within just a short time, the wrist was completely healed.

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I am very grateful to God for this healing, for the practitioner's help, and to be reminded that the absolute power of God wipes out anything that would oppose it — and not to accept anything less!

C. C.

New Jersey

My shoulder was in great pain and I couldn't move it in a natural motion. I called a Plainfield practitioner for help, and he reminded me of the metaphysical principles we had been working with over the past three to four months. Instead of "trying to heal my shoulder," I was instructed to, whenever I felt pain, use it as a reminder to thank God for His being the only power.

Wow, that was awesome! It totally lifted my thought away from body and kept it with God. The pain gradually faded, but I caught myself checking every few days to see if the pain was completely gone by moving my arm around. I finally stopped checking. Well, tonight, about a month after this work began, I realized that my shoulder has felt great for a while; and, in fact, I had been using my arms to swing about and perform very challenging chin-ups and other shoulder-related weight lifting moves with zero pain.

T. M.

Georgia

On Monday I awoke feeling quite "under the weather." In the past, I would have stayed home from work in this case. I nursed myself a bit and read Science and Health for a while, focusing on "extracting error by pouring in Truth through floodtides of Love." I read about "new Jerusalem" in which there is no "body," no material temple, and pondered and dwelt with the idea that I am a spiritual idea only.

I proceeded on my way to work, walking my route, remembering to be grateful for every little — or big — thing

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along the way. It was a beautiful Fall day. I felt gratitude for the grass, the trees, and people and their happy dogs out for morning walks.

Now on the Metro, I sat facing a woman who was smiling joyfully towards her young boy. I felt bathed in her joy expressing qualities such as quiet wisdom, intelligence, patience; I looked for God's qualities being present.

By the afternoon I was fine. I reminded myself to continue being grateful for every Godlike idea. This really uplifted my spirits and made me feel close to God.

B. P.

Virginia

Several months ago my ankles started to swell, and they became three to four times their normal size. I prayed and worked, but I wasn't getting anywhere. So I called a practitioner in the Plainfield Church for help. She assured me that I was God's reflection, and therefore perfect. She continued with, "You are immune from any false beliefs." Progress started immediately, and within one week I was totally healed.

Since that time I was able to attend a wedding and dance in high heels all night, wear high heels to the office, and do everything I needed to do without any further problems.

I am very grateful for the love and truth given to me by the practitioner. The love quieted my fears and let the truth work. Thank God for Christian Science.

S. W.

New Jersey

This past Thanksgiving I found myself agonizing over whether or not to invite my brother to have dinner with my family and our guests. He and his young son had no plans for the holiday. Now, this may initially sound odd and cold on my part, but there had been a lot of turmoil in our fam-

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ily this past year — much of it surrounding my brother and his custody battle. I had mistakenly stepped in the middle of their situation with the desire to help my brother, but I hadn't prayed about it at all or asked God if it was the right thing for me to do. Everything I had done was based on human reasoning and what I thought was fair and right. This brought nothing but grief, and also created severe hostility between us and my brother's ex.

Although that battle was over, here I was feeling again like I would be a poor excuse for a sister if I didn't step in and make sure my brother and nephew had some place to be. However, I couldn't shake the feeling that it just didn't seem to be the right thing to do. (I've been learning a great deal through Plainfield Church about how God governs our feelings and that we need to pay attention to what we feel. I've also learned how uninspired human reasoning, or doing what we think we're supposed to do, can lead to disaster, like what I'd done earlier in the year.)

I'm happy to say I listened to my feeling and left the issue alone. I didn't invite my brother. My family had a wonderful Thanksgiving. The people we had invited remarked on how joyous everything was. Towards the end of the afternoon, I got a text message from my brother, wishing us a happy Thanksgiving, and mentioning that he was grateful not only to have just finished a nice Thanksgiving dinner with his ex and their son, but she had also offered to give him a much needed piece of furniture for his apartment.

I was, and still am, so grateful for that lesson — for trusting God to take care of my brother, and for the opportunity to listen to God and see firsthand how that always blesses everyone involved.

*L. M.
Georgia*

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I am deeply grateful for a recent healing I experienced with the loving help of a Plainfield practitioner.

Late one evening I began to hemorrhage profusely. I immediately began to pray, knowing the many truths we have to work with, including God's ever-present healing power. Suddenly I was overcome with fear. It was weakening, terrifying, and I could no longer think, read, or even pray. I was so scared. I managed to call a practitioner at the Plainfield Church, and it was truly amazing and wonderful.

As she talked to me, I could feel the fear and anxiety disappearing, melting away. In just a few minutes, all fear was gone and I was confident and peaceful. I was told to call back in half an hour, and to work with the Scientific Statement of Being, which I did. When I called back, there was little change. Practitioner said she would keep working; and if I needed her during the night, to feel free to call. I started working too, with pages 390-393, and the definition of "man" on page 475 in Science and Health. I fell asleep, and slept peacefully for several hours.

When I awakened, all was well. It was like this horrible lie had never happened. By the following day, I was completely healed. The practitioner told me to continue to know that it never happened in divine Mind!

I am truly grateful for this healing, which is another proof of God's loving care. I'm grateful for the practitioner's handling of the terrible fear I was feeling, and the restoring of my confidence, courage, and expectancy of good.

Mrs. Eddy says, "Divine Love is our hope, our strength, and our shield. We have nothing to fear when God is at the helm of thought, but everything to enjoy on earth and in heaven." (Mis.) My heartfelt thanks to God, the practitioner, and for Christian Science.

B. B.
Illinois



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