

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

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

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**ARTICLES**

What Mrs. Eddy Says About Age Scientistis and Newspapers Upon Finding Plainfield Church and a Practitioner The Man Who Outlined Knowing and Having Human Goodness Dictatorship Christian Science Not Just a Name Bible Lessons Life a Schoolroom The Impetuous Disciple Argument One Power — God Free Indeed One Real Attraction	Mary Baker Eddy . . . . . 1 C. S. Weekly . . . . . 5  Luanne Tucker . . . . . 8 Louise Knight Wheatley . 10 Katharine B. Judson . . . . 15 Bruce Singleterry . . . . . 22 Herbert W. Eustace . . . . . 32 Andrew Kidd . . . . . 34 Edith Dowell . . . . . 36 Carol Conroy . . . . . 37 Gary Singleterry . . . . . 38 Sharon Welsh . . . . . 39 Florence Roberts . . . . . 40 La Verne A. Field . . . . . 42 Mary Beth Singleterry . . . 43
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**May 2013**  
Number 154

# 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

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Our services and adult Sunday class are broadcast live!



Plainfield Christian Science Church

Independent

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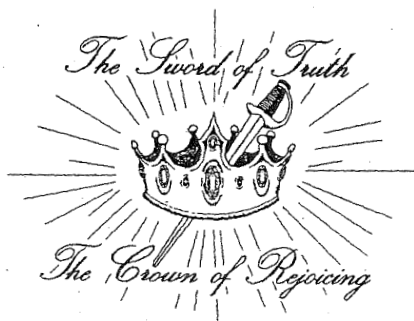
Telephone 908 756-4669

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# Independent Christian Science

*Unfettered by institutional religion*

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

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

The ideals of primitive Christianity are nigh, even at our door. Truth is not lost in the mists of remoteness or the barbarisms of spiritless codes. The right ideal is not buried, but has risen higher to our mortal sense, and having overcome death and the grave, wrapped in a pure winding-sheet, it sitteth beside the sepulchre in angel form, saying unto us, "Life is God; and our ideal of God has risen above the sod to declare His omnipotence." This white-robed thought points away from matter and doctrine, or dogma, to the diviner sense of Life and Love, — yea, to the Principle that is God, and to the demonstration thereof in healing the sick. Let us then heed this heavenly visitant, and not entertain the angel unawares.

*Mary Baker Eddy  
People's Idea of God*



## What Mrs. Eddy Says About Age

Mary Baker Eddy

The added wisdom of age and experience is strength, not weakness, and we should understand this, expect it, and know that it is so — then it would appear.

I ask for you to keep a time for meditation every day. Ponder in thought your infinite harmonious Christ-expressing selfhood, and claim it as you. Drink in its unspeakable safety. All the truth and beauty of God's creation is yours and you.

## CornerStone

Enjoy it in sincere prayer and thanksgiving. Preserve your human sense of yourself rightly by dwelling in definite treatment every day, within the sanctity and integrity of your real selfhood.

In that hour of prayer, discard all your false sense of selfhood, all that is involved in the beliefs of birth, heredity, association, time, decay, death. By the grace and authority of God, close your thoughts firmly against the interference of mortal beliefs. Hold yourself open to the plans of God and closed to the plots of satan. Rise into the spiritual forces of your own destiny. Each day will begin and unfold under the authority of divine Mind, and will be well-ordered, rightly balanced, filled with spiritual good.

This magnificent spiritual exercise of treating yourself in devoted prayer, and praying for yourself, will keep you in the secret place which is unknown to the senses and open to all that heaven holds for you.

In proportion as the law of Truth is understood and accepted, it obtains in the personality as well as character. The deformities and infirmities, said to be inevitable results of age, under the opposite mental impressions, disappear. You change the physical manifestations in proportion to your changed thoughts of the effects of accumulated years; expecting an increase of usefulness and vigor from advanced years, with as much faith as you look for decrepitude and ugliness, a favorable result would be sure to follow.

Life is eternal and unchangeable, and can never grow old, for time is not, and youth is, immortal — you have always existed, and always will exist a perfect, complete and finished work, a spiritual being created of and by Spirit and subject only to spiritual laws.

You do now and ever must manifest the God-life that

## Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

is shining in you. It is working always in every part of your being to will and to do.

There can never be any loss of your faculties — for they are of Soul and not of sense. The Life and strength of which you are the constant recipient, are indestructible and infinite, and nothing can prevent their inflow. You are governed and sustained by perfect Love in which there is no fear of helplessness or death. Your faith and trust in the omnipotent power of Truth are perfect, and unclouded, and you know that God is your sufficiency. Never was one of God's children palsied or helpless, for all His works are good and eternal. There is no mortal mind to say you are old or feeble. There is one infinite Mind, which is the understanding of the truth of your being, and holds you in perfect harmony and health.

Mary Baker Eddy  
*Lessons of the Seventh Day*



God, the divine Mind, self-existent, self-perpetuating, and self-energizing, is the great universal reservoir, or dynamo, and the thoughts which flow from such fountains, constituting a complete expression of that infinite Mind, Spirit, are thus shown to be inseparably linked with the Principle of Life and action, and to be the manifestation of spiritual force or power.

Mary Baker Eddy  
*Divinity Course and General Collectanea*

# Recorded Healings

## by Mary Baker Eddy

*The following is from a collection of healings achieved by Mrs. Eddy, included in the booklet, "The Overwhelming Evidence Concerning Spiritual Healings Through Mary Baker Eddy," compiled by Ralph Spencer. This booklet is available from Plainfield Church.*

Clara Shannon writes, "She {Mrs. Eddy} told me about a child, a few years old, whose mother brought him to her, believing him to be dead. He was stretched out stiff in her arms, and she laid him on Mrs Eddy's lap. Mrs. Eddy saw that the mother was very much agitated, and asked her to leave the little boy with her for a time, and to return later.

When the mother left them, Mrs. Eddy sat realizing the Truth, the spiritual Truth as it applies to all of God's children; and after a while she found the child sitting up on her lap, looking into her face. The first thing he said was, 'Me is tick,' and Mrs. Eddy said, 'No, you are not sick, you are well.' But he repeated several times, 'Me is tick,' and he seemed to get very angry and tried to strike her until she rose and put him down to stand, while she talked of Truth, Life and Love to him. After a time, when he was submissive, he began to cry and sob bitterly. When she saw that he was yielding to Truth, she put him on her lap again, and talked lovingly and tenderly to him and comforted him. Soon a knock on the door was heard and she said, 'That's Ma-ma; go and meet her.' He ran towards the door, and as his mother came in, she collapsed and needed help. What astonished her so much, even more than the fact that he was alive, was that he was walking, because he had never done so before; he had been paralyzed from birth."

# The Christian Science Weekly

*This section contains excerpts from The Christian Science Weekly, which was first published in 1898, and later was re-named the Christian Science Sentinel.*

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*The following, from the October 20, 1898, Christian Science Weekly, shows the importance of Christian Scientists being alert to current events, and praying to support what is going on in the nation and in the world. "Many sleep who should keep themselves awake and waken the world." (Mess. '02)*

## Scientists and Newspapers

Herbert S. Fuller

I have heard many Scientists, and some whose life and work I have an admiration for, say that they never read the newspapers. I have felt at times that perhaps there was something wrong about it.

I can imagine that a Scientist whose entire time is given to the demonstration of the great truths of Christian Science, might not get time to read the newspapers to any extent, and that there are such I do not doubt; but most of us find time to do many things that seem to me far more reprehensible than the reading of the daily or weekly newspaper.

The writings of the Rev. Mary Baker Eddy from time to time indicate plainly that she keeps pace with the great events of the day in the outside world, and evinces often a lively interest in them. This would indicate that it is certainly not unscientific to read the newspapers, as some seem to think.

It seems to me that no class of persons should show greater interest in the affairs of the world than Scientists.

## CornerStone

They should keep pace with the progress in various lines, and in conversation show that they are familiar with matters that are occupying the mind of the peoples and nations.

The daily paper presents the world's thought along many lines, and mirrors the course of men and nations. What if it contains much that one does not want to read? It is easy, in this case, to sift the wheat from the chaff. Skip the portions that you do not want to read, but do not avoid the newspapers as a whole.

It seems to me that we ought, in this age, to uphold everything that tends to elevate thought and spread the "glad tidings of great joy," and the newspapers of today can be made to serve these ends.



## About Diphtheria

*Published in The Christian Science Weekly  
January 5, 1899*

I am glad to give an instance of the healing power of Christian Science which occurred in the city of Berlin, Ont., last February.

A Christian Scientist was called to one of a family of thirteen children, and the claim was diphtheria. The parents notified the Board of Health, as was the law of the city, and a doctor came and said, "Examination proves it to be diphtheria, and a very bad throat." The boy's sister was pronounced affected with the same disease. The Scientist then said to the mother of the children, "Which do you want, Christian Science or materia medica?" "Why, Christ-

ian Science of course. This is no more to God than any other disease." When the doctor returned to his home he said to his sister, who is a Christian Scientist, "There will be a funeral at the S--- home." This was Saturday afternoon. The Tuesday following, the boy was well, playing in the back yard. The first two nights the Scientist read Science and Health, and the sense of protection, and joy to witness the removal of every seeming mountain by the omnipotence of God rendered her too grateful to want to sleep. In the days following, several of the other children complained of the same symptoms, but the fear was met in a few hours, proving what Science and Health says, "Destroy fear and you end the fever."

Three days after the first examination, another doctor was sent by the Board of Health who said, "I am sent to swab the throats of all the children." The doctor said to the Scientist, "I have looked into Christian Science, and it is beneficial in some cases, but this is different." The healer answered, "Can we limit the power of God?" The doctor then continued, "That child needs immediate attention. It is a serious thing to tamper with a human life." "Yes," replied the Scientist; "that is why we leave the child in *God's* hands."

He was silent a few seconds then said in a gentler tone, "Well, have your own way." "No," said the healer; "it is not *man's* way or nothing could be done!"

The doctor was sent each week to swab the children's throats, and at the last swabbing the doctor acknowledged to the parents, "They have recovered very nicely."

The healing of these cases was made possible through Science and Health and other writings by Mary Baker G. Eddy, which prove the truth in the Scriptures to be practical, living *fact*, demonstrable Principle.

# Upon Finding Plainfield Church and a Practitioner

Luanne Tucker

I want to tell you this story about a girl who, up until a few weeks ago, was in deep trouble. She had not had quality sleep for months and reeled in pain for years. Her mind was full of hateful things. Images of the past ravaged her thinking. She replayed the events every time she was forced to give in to sleep. The voice of her abuser rang in her head daily. She wanted him to pay for what he had done to her.

She did not understand anything about her abuse. She detested authority figures. She felt powerless in everything she tried to do. She was so focused on her pain that nothing seemed to ease it, not pills or heat or massage. She was angry at the fact that no one was making this pain go away for her. After all, hadn't she had enough pain to last a lifetime? Why her? Why did God forsake her, she pleaded. Years of this over and over in her thinking. She hated being born to these people she was forced to call parents. She hated her life and wanted to be dead. She tried so hard to be kind and gentle and loving, but with every frustration came anger and malice. Her fists were drawn tight in preparation for the battle. Every muscle of her body was tense and poised to defend it.

One day she made a phone call and on the other end of the line there came a beautiful melody. Her fists relaxed and she listened to the most soothing voice she ever heard. "Be still my child and I will lead you out of the darkness," is what she heard. She listened to the voice of the angel. A sense of peace and knowing came over her. All the knowledge of the Truth came pouring in and replaced the anger. Her mind was at peace and she slept like she had never slept before.

## *Upon Finding Plainfield Church and a Practitioner*



As she walks forward today on her new journey with new understanding of her place in the world, she knows that God has always been there to protect her, that she is the “daughter of the King,” and He has never forsaken her. “It is error to suffer from aught but your own sins.” “Nothing inharmonious can enter Spirit.” Most of all . . . There are Angels right here on earth. Messengers of the Truth and “The way out of darkness.” She was never alone dealing with all the evils that were thrust upon her. She can now learn to trust and to feel safe knowing God is ever present and omnipotent and never apart from her. She can say with all certainty that “God is the only pure life, her life, her Mind, strength, painless, endless supply and support.”

## “Feed My Sheep” — Christ Jesus

I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving. To reach the port of heaven we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it, — but we must sail and not drift nor lie at anchor.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

To love God, and to love man, God’s idea, — these comprehend the whole meaning, duty, and purpose of being.

*George L. Lowe*

The finest art known to man is this: to re-live the Christ-life so finely that our identification as the representatives of Truth and Love may never be questioned.

*John Willis*



## The Man Who Outlined      Louise Knight Wheatley

He had been waiting a long time for his healing — this man who outlined. In fact, we are told that for thirty and eight years he had practically lain in one spot with his eyes fixed on the one place from which he believed his healing was to come; but it had never come. Then one day a strange thing happened. His attention was turned another way; and he who had looked so persistently in the wrong direction, suddenly discovered that as soon as he looked in the right direction, he was healed, and healed within a very few minutes. He is known to Bible students as “the impotent man,” and his story is briefly told in the fifth chapter of John’s gospel.

## “Feed My Sheep”

Most of us are familiar with this man's experience, how he lay at the pool of Bethesda, waiting for the water to be “troubled” that he might step in and be healed. We remember how Jesus found him there, patient and uncomplaining, as honestly mistaken persons often are, and how the great heart of the Master was so moved with compassion that it is one of the few cases on record wherein he offered assistance without being asked. “Wilt thou be made whole?” he said.

How the sick man must have turned with sudden interest to see who the questioner might be. Evidently he did

**Today “the still  
small voice” of  
Truth is speaking  
with the same  
sweet insistence**

not recognize the man whose wonderful miracles of healing must by that time have been known throughout Jerusalem, for even with the dear Christ standing so near, so ready to bless, he continued his outlining.

“Sir,” he replied, “I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool.” His eyes were fixed on the Master, but his thought was still fixed on the pool that was to bring him his healing! Then the Master said to that seemingly helpless one, “Rise, take up thy bed, and walk,” and the man who outlined found that he was healed, but not in the way that he had expected.

Today “the still small voice” of Truth is speaking with the same sweet insistence, and many do not seem to hear it. Perchance, like him, they have been for some time helplessly gazing at the troubled waters of *materia medica*. Have these not lain there long enough, patiently waiting their turn to be healed by that which ignorance and superstition have falsely educated us all to look upon as the only way by which we can be made well? Jesus is not with us

today, but the Christ, the Truth which makes men free, has never left, and is as ready to bless us now as in that memorable morning by the pool of Bethesda.

We may have studied Science and Health, and even sought the services of a Christian Science practitioner. Does that necessarily mean that we have stopped outlining? "O foolish Galatians," writes Paul, "who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?" No one is needed to "put" a man into the living waters of Truth. The great point to be considered is this: Does he really wish to go? If he does, there is no power on earth that can hold him back.

"Rise," said Jesus. It was the thought which must be lifted, if he would be made well. He was to "rise" above his present mesmeric state of helpless apathy into the consciousness of his true identity as a son of God. He was to cease his useless excuses and rise into the glorious realization of his rightful God-given dominion "over all the earth," over every form and phase of error. This being done, the body responded as naturally as a flower blooms when the sun shines upon it. "Take up thy bed, and walk," was the next command; and the man, who at last had stopped outlining, was "immediately . . . made whole, and took up his bed, and walked."



Never ask "why?" Instead, sing "Hallelujah," for our God, the omnipotent, reigneth, in this place, now and forever.

*Benjamin Ndukwe*

# Watching Points

*The book 500 Watching Points was written for Mr. Carpenter's students, "to broaden their demonstration of Christian Science as Mrs. Eddy set the example in her home."*

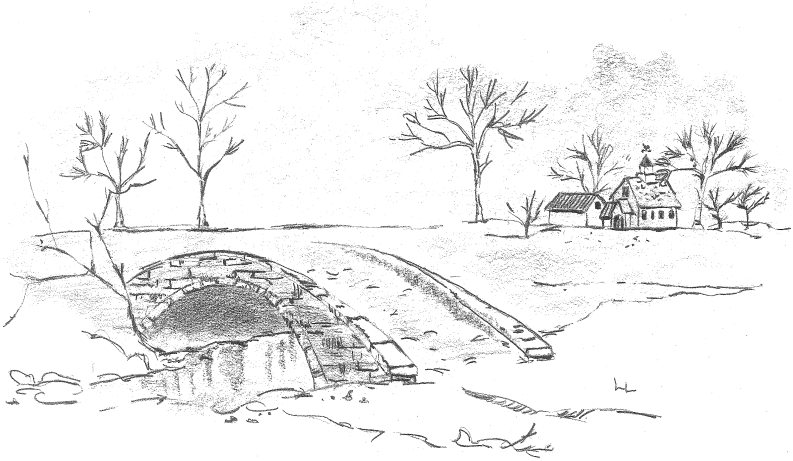
## Watching Point No. 99

Gilbert C. Carpenter

**W**ATCH lest you believe that the commonly accepted cause of disease is the real one, such as exposure causing a cold, or bad food upsetting the stomach. A Scientist has gone beyond the primary causes that mortals believe they suffer from. He could manifest a cold only as his thought dropped from the high recognition of God's law as supreme, to the level where he accepted consciously or unconsciously the power and reality of medical law, mental malpractice, or contagious fear. The scientific cure is to cast out false belief and regain one's understanding and acceptance of the fact that man is perpetually under the law of God, where his health is permanent and independent of the claims of matter.

We must always be suspicious of any cause for disease that seems humanly obvious or materially logical. The power of error lies in its ability to conceal the causes of its effects. One must trace from effect back to cause to find the latter to be mental. Then can the problem be corrected at its source. The argument of a material cause for a material effect is as much part of the animal magnetism of illusion that must be exposed and cast out, as the evidence of the sickness itself.

Once a man had a small growth that did not yield to Christian Science treatment. The argument came to have a slight operation. This suggestion that the condition was material and that an operation could remedy it was the animal magnetism that needed to be gotten rid of, since in reality the effect was no more material than its cause.



## Protection

God's laborers all may rest assured  
That they can never work alone,  
For He beside them works and guides —  
He watches and protects His own.

What time they stumble, He is near,  
To raise them with His steady hand.  
They wait on Him, and find the way  
His thoughtful kindness has planned.

Thus working, watching, through the night,  
With dawn a fresh position won;  
Then sweetly steals upon their hearts  
Their Master's quiet praise, "Well done!"

*Rosemary C. Cobham*

# “Comfort Ye My People”

When we are willing to help and to be helped, divine aid is near. So, my dear ones, let us together sing the old-new song of salvation, and let our measure of time and joy be spiritual, not material.

*Mary Baker Eddy*  
*Miscellany*

The universe consists of ideas, and nothing else. It does not consist of persons with ideas; the ideas are man. Christian Science teaches that Mind expresses itself in ideas, and nothing else could express Mind.

*Bicknell Young*



## Knowing and Having

Katharine B. Judson

Mary Baker Eddy has written that “the spiritual reality is the scientific fact in all things.” (S&H) The constant realization that as God’s children we already have all good, brings all good into our experience.

Man has all good now; he always has had it, he always will have it, because whatever is good is real and eternal. Like the great Wayshower, it is “the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”

Jesus demonstrated this when, at the tomb of Lazarus, in the presence of apparent death, his prayer was, “Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard me.” His clear consciousness that eternal life was the spiritual reality, then and there brought its immediate externalization in the return to the human sense of Lazarus.

In the inner prison at Philippi, with feet made fast in the stocks, "at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them." Whatever the external physical appearances, they knew that, as the ideas of God, they were free spiritual beings living in the infinite freedom of Truth. So certain were they in their knowing, that other prisoners heard them, even though they were in the inner prison. Little wonder, then, with such steadfastness of faith, that the foundations of the prison shook, and that the fastenings of the doors and their own bonds broke. Their consciousness of freedom shook the seeming power of imprisonment.

There may come seasons of attack from the seeming power of evil. These are the times when "the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall," and our song

**Their consciousness of freedom shook the seeming power of imprisonment.**

must be clear and strong to be heard above the roar of the storm. These are the times when the conscious knowing of the allness of God and of His divine protection is the having of His protection, and it will be eternalized in the

breaking of our bonds, leaving us free. "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper," is the promise given through Isaiah, "and every tongue that shall rise against thee . . . thou shalt condemn [prove its falsity]. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord."

It was the shout of triumph before the visible appearance of victory, which brought down the walls of Jericho. The conscious knowing of the scientific fact must come before its externalization, else we would walk by sight and not by faith.

## *“Comfort Ye My People”*

Mary Baker Eddy tells us that divine Love supplies “every human need.” (S&H) Love also meets every danger, shelters, guides, and enfolds every child of God. Living in the consciousness of spiritual good, we know that we already have all good. The knowing of it is the having of it, because as the conscious knowing changes and corrects the human belief, the eternal manifestation must, and does, appear. How, or when, or where, it shall appear, is not our problem. Paul did not know that an earthquake would free him. Mind outlines, but is never outlined. To expect good only through certain channels is to close all other channels through which we might receive it.

In this knowing there is a strong element of gratitude, and nothing more quickly opens the door of our consciousness to good than gratitude.



## Man

God made man, perfect and free.  
Destroy all claims to the contrary.  
Know it, be it, with your God-given ability,  
To be the man God meant you to be.

*Lillian Linnell*

# Announcements

## **Bible Study**

We hold a Bible Study each Saturday at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference. Details are on the Website. Contact the church if you do not have access to the Website.

## **The Overwhelming Evidence**

We have printed a new version of this inspiring booklet, in a larger, more readable format. It was written by Ralph Spencer, and is a collection of events in the life of Mary Baker Eddy, as related by people who were close to her. It also includes some wonderful healings that she accomplished. The cost is \$6.00 per copy.

## **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

## ***Announcements***

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 U.S.A.; 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 be heard by telephone. If you don't have a computer and 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.

Our 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

## **CornerStone**

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 comments about the Lesson. Please check it out, and leave a comment if you wish!

### **Plainfield Independent Quarterly**

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

### **CornerStone Subscriptions**

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

### **Plainfield Independent Newsletter**

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

### **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!

# The Plainfield Church Bible Study

*Following is some of the discussion held at a recent Plainfield Church Bible Study. At these sessions, Bible citations from that week's Independent Christian Science Lesson Sermon are discussed. They are available by teleconference on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. If you'd like to join this study group, log on to the church website, [plainfieldcs.com](http://plainfieldcs.com), for dial-in information. Everyone is welcome to join in!*

Daniel was taken into captivity when he was just a young boy, but he always remained pure, and true to God. What does it mean to be pure? True purity is singleness of heart, singleness of purpose — no compromise! Even though Daniel was a young boy, he refused to compromise — he refused to eat the king's food or to wear the king's robes. What courage he had! He had total trust in God, and would worship and serve only Him — that's why he was safe and protected in the lions' den. Think how amazing it is that someone who was in captivity for such a long time never wavered in his loyalty to, and trust of, God.

From the writings of Jeremiah, Daniel knew that the end of the seventy years of captivity was drawing near, and he sincerely and humbly prayed to God on behalf of his people, so they would be found worthy to be freed from their captivity. He was honest about the sins of the people, he didn't try to hide them, and he asked God for forgiveness.

Just as Daniel was honest about the sins of the people, so we each need to be truthful and honest about our own sins. Sin isn't always some big, obvious thing — it can often be our own wrong thinking. We each need to examine our thought, be honest, recognize and admit our disobedience — whether it be negativity, fear, resentment, etc. People

sometimes think that if they don't verbalize some wrong thought, it's not sin. But if you keep that type of thought inside, it's lurking about, hiding, and waiting for an opportunity to strike! It needs to be uncovered.

The next step is to mend our ways . . . then comes freedom from bondage. "Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard." (Dan.)



*This article is based on further discussions in the same Bible Study session.*

### Human Goodness

Bruce Singleterry

What a revolutionary truth it is that man is the reflection of God. It releases from error and plants our feet on solid ground. Since God is the source of all good, one is good only to the extent that he or she is the reflection of the divine. The striving to be good can seem to be unquestionably the right thing to do, but the need is to discern whether this effort brings us closer to God or just makes us look good so we can enjoy the admiration of other people. Human goodness is largely driven by self will, and even if well intended, it is usually accompanied by unintended consequences that are harmful.

In Luke chapter 13 there is related an incident where the people were discussing how some had fallen prey to

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the politicians, and others had been killed by a falling tower. The speculation was that those had been bad sinners, otherwise how could these tragedies have happened to them. But Jesus corrected this, stating that they were not the worst sinners — but those who were in judgment of them, they were the worst sinners! Notice how quick the human mind is to make comparisons, then judgments, to make itself look better. This sense of human goodness is without God and is faulty, because it is infected with self-righteousness.

Mary Baker Eddy says, “The healthy sinner is the hardened sinner.” (S&H) Matthew Henry, in his Bible commentary, has written, “We cannot judge of men’s sins by their sufferings in this world; for many are thrown into the furnace as gold to be purified, not as dross and chaff to be consumed. We must therefore not be harsh in our censures of those that are afflicted more than their neighbours, lest we add sorrow to the sorrowful. If we will be judging, we have enough to do to judge ourselves.”

This incident is followed by a parable where Jesus talks about a fig tree planted in a vineyard, but which didn’t bear any fruit. Being in a vineyard, where growing conditions are good, it must have been a very good-looking fig tree. But what is the point of looking good if there is no fruit? It’s like someone who reads the Bible, goes to church, says the right things, but that is as far as it goes. How about loving our neighbor as ourselves, rebuking sin in Christly love, exposing error; in short, risking the disapproval of those who have their own personal agenda to defend, for the sake of serving God in this world.

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## Letters from Readers

Thank you for all that you do for independent Christian Science in the Plainfield Church.

The Plainfield Church gave me back the Christian Science that I loved. It changed my life so much for the better.

There is a Bible verse in the book of Joel, "I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten." I feel that this describes what happened in my life after I became a member of the Plainfield Church.

*California*

Thank you for reading Benjamin's testimony on finding and reading Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures. This modern day account of Fruitage, of the transforming power and enlightenment obtained from reading this book, certainly shows the prize and possibilities for any sincere seeker of the Truth.

*Virginia*

I am very grateful for all the articles on the website. I especially like, "Consciousness, Where Art Thou," by Bicknell Young. I also love the article, "The Devil's Auction." That really keeps me from getting discouraged.

*England*

I would like to give gratitude for all the help and healing I have received from Plainfield's website and in working with a practitioner. I have learned more in the last few months about Christian Science than in many years with other churches.

*Illinois*

Many thanks for all your prayers and work at Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent.

I think of all your members often.

*Michigan*

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Thank you all for the Roundtable discussion on malpractice. It is sneaky as well as deadly. Keeping one's thought pure is a full-time activity!

*Alabama*

The Lesson forum is a great blessing. It has helped me in many ways.

Today I went to work not feeling well. At one time I would have thought I needed to go home, but then I remembered the discussion from the Lesson forum about feeling God. With God's love wrapped around me, the feeling of illness evaporated and all was well. Thank you!

*Wisconsin*

Thank you all in Plainfield and around the world for the words of Truth. These words of God always move me and bring me to a better place in my heart and soul.

*New Mexico*

Thank you for making CornerStone archives available online! The article, "Overcoming Rumination" (November 2007 issue) was a big "hit" with me today!

*Florida*

Always, and first and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, and the Plainfield Church with its outreach to the world. Theirs is a heart that overflows with love.

After coming to Plainfield Church, I find myself looking for God's treasures everywhere and expressing gratitude for all of His beautiful gifts. Seeing how Christian Science is practiced here has opened my eyes to a whole new way of living. I am most grateful for this and for having a supportive practitioner patiently working with me and guiding my journey spiritward.

*Arizona*

## CornerStone

Thank you for being that city that is “set on a hill” and for being that light that shines so that all can find it.

I remember when I first found Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent; thinking that this is how real Christian Science is supposed to be: loving and strong!

*California*

I want to thank everyone who participates in the Roundtable. I have been very overwhelmed with personal issues and what is happening to our country. You have helped me understand better how to pray. Before, my prayers for the country were muddled and, therefore, ineffective. You have helped me to understand what I should do when I get bombarded by the negative things that are happening and what my friends are talking about. This will be a big help in getting through the coming days.

I am so grateful for this church and its enlightened members, and the works of the early workers that you are keeping alive.

*Ohio*

Great new publication that the Plainfield Church just issued which is bound in red; the color of Love.

Benjamin's article was outstanding. It was filled with love and an understanding of God, full of truth and love for Mrs. Eddy and her textbook, Science and Health.

*New Mexico*

I wish to express my gratitude for the church practitioners. Consistently, one gets rapid improvement over any false belief that tries to invade one's thinking. Often it is the words to a hymn that bring the needed change.

*Arizona*

Many huzzahs for distributing Mr. Ndukwe's narrative on

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how he came to find Christian Science. The excerpts from “Prayer” quoted in the booklet edified his convictions perfectly.

*New Hampshire*

Thank you for making a great selection of heartfelt songs available in audio library! There always seems to be a song that either uplifts, comforts, or cheers me up!

*New Jersey*

Wow! What a great way to mix up the Sunday service — and the soloist was purely divine. Also, having several readers was inspiring.

*Texas*

I just finished listening to the recording of Message of 1901. Mary Baker Eddy and the enormity and power behind the words is so evident. I am so grateful to have this available.

*Maryland*

I wish to express my gratitude for our faithful practitioners who are always ready to provide help when a need occurs.

*Arizona*

Thank you for sharing the poem, “The Reader Prays” by Grace K. Stitch. It is beautiful and powerful, and a joy to work with.

*Virginia*

During a bitter cold night, when I was writing down the blessings for the day, I realized one of my greatest blessings was that I had a safe and warm home. This led me to pray for those who do not have this and to know they are surrounded and protected by the warmth of God’s love.

I am grateful to be learning to be less self-centered and to let my prayers go out to bless all mankind. I thank

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God for this church, its practitioners and all that I am learning here.

*Wisconsin*

I recently received the book *Dominion Within*. Along with my order, you forwarded to me a brief history of your independence, which I found very enlightening toward my growing knowledge of the Christian Science teachings. Also enclosed were a copy of the *CornerStone* magazine and a full-text Lesson booklet. Thank you for all that you sent in supporting my continuing growth as a student of Christian Science.

*Illinois*

I'm grateful for the church desk calendar this year. It provides a daily uplifting quote to start my day.

The practitioner I work with reminded me of the importance of reading *Science and Health* from cover to cover. When I read the very first sentence, "To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, to-day is big with blessings," I was again full of hope and wanted to read more. Then I decided to look for, and expect, at least one way that God blesses me each day. I'm using the back of each calendar page to write down these blessings. As I lean more on God and expect Him to care for me, I have every day found a blessing in my day. As I look back on what I've written, I am aware that, "My cup runneth over."

*Maryland*

Having just met Plainfield Christian Science a few weeks ago, I'm overjoyed with what you have on the website; it's a veritable feast of love and inspiration. I keep discovering new things, gems, articles, tidbits, recorded study. I know it's a chunk of work updating and uploading and monitoring; please know that it's muchly appreciated!

*New York*

# The Independent Lesson Forum

*If you haven't discovered the Lesson Forum on our church website yet, log on to [plainfieldcs.com](http://plainfieldcs.com) and click on Lesson Forum. You will find lively and inspiring discussions centered 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, "Doctrine of Atonement."

**"The atonement requires constant self-immolation on the sinner's part." — Sinner? Who? Me?**

Who is the sinner referred to here? Hmm. Let's see. Am I at one with God? Well — not exactly. Then I require constant self-immolation. Professing does not cut it. How obnoxious is the mentality that assumes this statement refers to someone else!!

## **Response:**

What could be the difference between a Christian Scientist who acknowledges his sin, and others who do the same? The difference might be in how they respond to the acknowledgement. Self-immolation versus self-condemnation. The former strives to relinquish the sin because he regards it as no part of what God made, and he chooses to identify himself as what God made! The latter is weighed down with the guilt of the sin because he accepts it as his essential nature.

**Response:**

I did once find the passages in this week's Lesson difficult to read and to comprehend — all that suffering and sin. Quite unpleasant, really. And of course, none of it could possibly apply to me. It was only when I realized this chapter in Science and Health DOES apply to me that the words became all too real and meaningful. "Now when they heard this, they were *pricked in their heart*, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

**"Ye are not of my sheep."**

Jesus told the petulant, obnoxious crowd who doubted him, and really were out to get him, "ye are not of my sheep." He did not try to convert them, beyond living the Christ example — did not try to "make nice" or find out why they felt that way, nor get into a conversation. Interesting.

**Response:**

Nobody ever wins an argument. That's why it doesn't pay to talk to someone who is clearly opposed to the truth. It is a false sense of responsibility to want to "talk" someone into the Truth. It doesn't work! God gives each one what they need, and everyone needs to learn whatever lesson they have to learn.

Jesus was not a do-goody. Neither should we be.

**Response:**

I struggle with this false sense because I do want to help people wake up and be part of the Christian Science

movement. One day all people must come to truth, so why not sooner rather than later? I do pray that God leads receptive people to me and Plainfieldcs.com, but I must also continue to pray that the so-called veil over the world about Christian Science be lifted so all may see its power to save. Animal magnetism has no power to mesmerize folks into old theology and medical science as a means for salvation.

### **Response:**

It is a major point of spiritual growth when our desire is primarily to do God's will — when our urge to help others is motivated not by wanting to do good (a/k/a wanting to be a good person), but rather is motivated by wanting to please God. Then we will not waste time talking to someone who will only take our oil and not be receptive. But only God can guide us rightly, as to who is receptive or not. Trust the feeling — be honest to it.

### **Response:**

I've always been impressed by this statement from the Eustace book (page 334), "Education is not teaching something to ignorance. It is bringing to light the intelligence that is omnipresent. It is the sun unfolding the flower in loveliness and beauty."

Holding this in thought, God brings to us those who are ready for this unfoldment . . . else it is easy to fall into the trap of feeling "I am the enlightened one and that guy over there is the ignorant one that I must help." Not good, and not Science!!



# “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.*

Each day I pray for the pacification of all national difficulties, for the brotherhood of man, for the end of idolatry and infidelity, and for the growth and establishment of Christian religion — Christ’s Christianity. I also have faith that my prayer availeth, and that He who is overturning will overturn until He whose right it is shall reign. Each day I pray: “God bless my enemies; make them Thy friends; give them to know the joy and the peace of love.”

Mary Baker Eddy  
Miscellany



## Dictatorship

Herbert W. Eustace

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

However, you must recognize that while it is all hypnotic suggestion, nevertheless, just designating it as hypnotism does not change its effect. That simply places it where you can cope with it and refute its destructive madness.

Diagnosing a case is one step. Applying the remedy is

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the next and more important step. You cannot escape, and you do not wish to escape, your responsibility to judge righteous judgment. Mrs. Eddy urged in Pulpit and Press to, “Know, then, that you possess sovereign power to think and act rightly, and that nothing can dispossess you of this heritage and trespass on Love. If you maintain this position, who or what can cause you to sin or suffer? Our surety is our confidence that we are indeed dwellers in Truth and Love, man’s eternal mansion.”

The Christian Scientist does not interfere with Mind, but he certainly does interfere with malicious mental malpractice and its operation. He definitely will not tolerate

**The Christian Scientist does not interfere with Mind, but he certainly does interfere with malicious mental malpractice and its operation.**

any discordant condition in world affairs any more than sickness, or storms, or other untoward circumstances. He is determined to be about his Father’s business, the destruction of everything unlike good.

The Christian Scientist detects the evil which masquerades as good back of the false concept of dictatorship. He never loses sight of the ruthless endeavors of malicious mind to dominate. God’s way of imparting good is the exact reverse of domination; it is always by way of reflection. “For what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise . . . For the Father loveth the Son and sheweth him all things that himself doeth.”

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God’s law is justice and Truth, which is strength, and the law of extermination to envy or evil, which is weakness.

*Mary Baker Eddy  
Watches Prayers Arguments*

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### Christian Science Not Just a Name

Andrew Kidd

Over 30 years ago, the Mother Church in Boston sued the Plainfield Christian Science Church for using the term “Christian Science” in its name. It argued that, like someone unrelated to the Kellogg Company labeling a box of cereal with Kellogg Corn Flakes, it would be misleading to the public for the Plainfield Church to call itself Christian Science when it is not associated with the Mother Church in Boston. The Supreme Court of New Jersey rejected the argument on the basis that Christian Science is far more than a brand name!

It is worth considering why the term needs to be appreciated, and never relegated to just being a name! Mary Baker Eddy wrote:

“The two largest words in the vocabulary of thought are ‘Christian’ and ‘Science.’ The former is the highest style of man; the latter reveals and interprets God and man; it aggregates, amplifies, unfolds, and expresses the ALL-God. The life of Christ is the predicate and postulate of all that I teach, and there is but one standard statement, one rule, and one Principle for all scientific truth.” (No and Yes)

Does this in any way resemble the jurisdiction of a human institution, a/k/a, ecclesiasticism? Who dares enforce “the highest style of man” or regulate “the one Principle for all scientific truth?” The argument of ecclesiasticism has always been to keep the teaching pure. The premise is that the “sheep” are not fit to be governed by God and therefore must be guided by whom? In the case of the Christian Science movement, by five self-ordained shepherds?

Perhaps more than any other religious institution, the Christian Science institution is a target for the worst criti-

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cism. In the textbook, it is stated:

“Whosoever lives most the life of Jesus in this age and declares best the power of Christian Science, will drink of his Master’s cup. Resistance to Truth will haunt his steps, and he will incur the hatred of sinners, till ‘wisdom is justified of her children.’ These blessed benedictions rest upon Jesus’ followers: ‘If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you;’ ‘Lo, I am with you alway,’ — that is, not only in all time, but in all ways and conditions.” (S&H)

Notice that this addresses the individual only. The problem with institutionalized Christian Science is that it inevitably includes a wide range of states of thought — the materially minded are packaged in with those “drinking his cup.” The materially minded make a mockery of Christian Science:

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

The institution is dragged into the whole mess and quickly becomes the face of a farce — where “Lo, I am with you alway” simply does not apply. This is why Christian Science must have a spiritual organization, or no organization at all.

“Like our nation, Christian Science has its Declaration of Independence. God has endowed man with inalienable rights, among which are self-government, reason, and conscience. Man is properly self-governed only when he is guided rightly and governed by his Maker, divine Truth and Love.” (S&H)

Can it be any clearer? When using the term Christian Science, the student needs to take off his sandals/shoes/slippers, for he is walking on holy ground.

## Bible Lessons

Edith Dowell

Since attending the Plainfield Church's Bible Study classes and Roundtable discussions, plus the Lesson Forum, I'm enthusiastically turning to the Bible. Previously I had glossed over it rather hurriedly to spend more time with Science and Health — this, because of my inadequate knowledge of the Bible and its seeming obscurity. These forums are opening up the Bible, making it more exciting and alive, and practical for everyday living.

The characters in the Bible who followed God to the best of their ability — with all their foibles, failures, and final overcoming of flaws — are an inspiration to keep going, never give up, and confidently expect the outcome of what is good, right, and according to God's purpose. And even though there were retrograde steps along their journeys, with repentance, and a sincere and heartfelt desire to mend their ways and return to God, the lives of the Biblical characters were changed and became wonderful examples we all can profit from.

The apostles, the trustworthy and faithful Daniel, the enlightened and repentant Paul, the reformed David, the prophets, the compassionate and kind Tabitha — all have become much more colorful and alive through the discussions on the forums. Even the villains — Judas Iscariot the betrayer, King Herod, Goliath the giant Philistine warrior, and the like — all provide vivid examples of motives and actions that must be exposed and extinguished. Most importantly, the spiritual messages behind the stories have been brought out and emphasized in the weekly discussions. For without the spiritual interpretation, the stories are just that — colorful tales of colorful characters.

Truly, I am grateful for all the love, the interpretations, and inspirations which are evident in the forum discus-

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sions by all who participate. The sharing of their insights has opened up a whole new way of thinking.

I thank them all from the bottom of my heart, and the Plainfield Church for making this possible.



## Life a Schoolroom

Carol Conroy

In the booklet, “The Greatest Thing in the World,” Henry Drummond writes, “Life is not a playground; it is a schoolroom.” What a helpful statement!

When situations come up during the day, what do we do about them? Do we whine and feel sorry for ourselves because we have a problem to work out — or do we treat it like a learning experience, one from which we can grow and progress?

Things that come to us don’t come by accident. Maybe there is something we need to learn — to be more patient, to be more loving, more kind . . . or to burn out negativity, pride, and hate.

We sometimes hear people whine over troubles, wishing they could live a life of ease. But a life of ease in matter is stagnant! How much better to squarely face every situation with grace, knowing it’s just a learning experience and can only bless everyone involved. It’s also an opportunity to grow stronger and become a better worker for God.

Mary Baker Eddy writes, “Remember, thou canst be brought into no condition, be it ever so severe, where Love has not been before thee and where its tender lesson is not awaiting thee. Therefore despair not nor murmur, for that which seeketh to save, to heal, and to deliver, will guide thee, if thou seekest his guidance.” (My.)

## The Impetuous Disciple

Gary Singleterry

The apostle Peter is one of the most beloved of Jesus' disciples. Yet his training by Jesus involved countless rebukes, and even public humiliation, to burn out the pride and human will that plagued him. It was his willingness to take these rebukes that enabled Peter to become one of the most prolific healers and teachers recorded in the new testament of the Bible.

Mary Baker Eddy refers to Peter as the "impetuous disciple." (S&H) He was enthusiastic in his support of Jesus and his learning of the truth. He wanted very much to follow Jesus' example. He was the one who offered to walk on the water to meet Jesus as Jesus approached their ship in the middle of the sea.

During a class with his disciples, Jesus praised Peter for recognizing him as the Christ — the son of the living God. It was then that Jesus renamed him Peter (Greek for petros, or stone) and proclaimed that "upon this rock I will build my church." Peter had caught a glimpse of Truth at that moment. But his thought was still human. His pride still needed to be burned out.

Later, when Jesus was telling his disciples that he would be crucified and raised up in three days, Peter had the audacity to rebuke Jesus, telling him that it wouldn't happen. For this, Jesus rebuked him severely in front of his peers, saying "Get thee behind me, Satan!" Jesus had been struggling with the thought of his being crucified. He knew what was going to happen, yet he was willing to go through the experience to prove to mankind the unreality of death. He didn't need a sympathetic, human friend encouraging him not to go through with it. His rebuke of Peter was a re-

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buke of human sympathy. Peter selfishly wanted the man Jesus to stick around. He had not yet fully recognized that Jesus was fulfilling his divine destiny and could be trusted entirely to God. This must have been a tough test for Peter, but he swallowed his pride, and took the rebuke.

We have record of other situations in which Jesus rebuked Peter publicly. When the crucifixion was approaching, and Jesus asked three of his disciples (one of whom was Peter) to watch with him, they slept! Later, Peter denied three times that he even knew Jesus! In spite of Peter's failures under pressure, Jesus recognized his great potential and continued to rebuke his pride.

After Jesus' resurrection, during the final meeting with his apostles, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him. Peter anguished because Jesus repeated his question three times, but Jesus was making an important impression upon Peter, each time imploring him to "feed my sheep." Peter needed to forsake all human desire in order to love divinely, as Jesus did. He succeeded in making this transformation and had a career that is an inspiration to us all.

Pride is the enemy of each of us, and would prevent anyone from living the life God intends for us to live. This willingness to take a rebuke and change when necessary is an essential quality for all spiritual growth.



## Argument

Sharon Welsh

In the book, *Watches, Prayers, Arguments* given by Mary Baker Eddy, there is a very helpful argument. It says, "Do not say, 'This is my error or my pain,' say, 'This is an attack against my Christ.'"

In the past, whenever I felt a pain, I would wonder what I did wrong, what error I had let into my thinking, or what I might have done to cause it. This statement from Mrs. Eddy helped me to realize that this kind of thinking was giving power to a material problem and letting it take my joy. Now I know that when someone upsets me or is being obnoxious, it is not my problem, it is an attack against my Christ!

Impersonalizing the error makes it easier to kick out and keeps me from feeling disturbed. Declaring that I am a spiritual child of God, and knowing this is an attack against my Christ, gets me in the mental fighting mode that destroys error. How dare error attack my Christ! I didn't do anything wrong; error just wants to distract me from what I need to be doing for God. There is only one cause, God, good. This error is a lie! God did not send it, and I don't have to have it — and neither does anyone else. It is Godless and powerless!

Thinking this way annuls the material thought and keeps my life in the realm of God. It reminds me that I am a perfect child of God, as I really am. This truth will work for everyone.



## One Power — God

Florence Roberts

Recently I wondered why I had been feeling somewhat down. Nothing in particular appeared to be wrong; but after some soul searching, I realized that I've been resenting certain actions.

With more prayer it became clear to me that I have not made an error impersonal. I have been seeing some people as channels for error, accepting this false picture as real,

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and therefore feeling defeated. Then I woke up. I saw that to continue believing that there is more than one Mind, one God, one Power, one infinite Presence, one source of action and intelligence, is sinful. It breaks the very first commandment, to have only one God!

More and more, I am learning not to make a reality of any so-called evil power. Having recognized the many “isms” and organizations or groups that attempt to present themselves as other powers, my responsibility is to hold steadfastly in my thinking to the fact that there is and can be no power apart from God. I must also know that no “body” influences me nor could influence me. I pray for the courage to do God’s will, to be where and when He wants me, and to know He alone governs my thoughts, speech, and actions. It is His love that inspires me and leads me.

As Jesus’ example, he lived and walked among sinners and sinfulness. But his thought was always with the Father to the extent that he was always ready to recognize the error. Due to his obedience to see perfection everywhere, he had the power of the Christ to do God’s will.

It is my responsibility to know these truths for myself and others, who may be building up subtly in their thinking the lie that there can be other powers that can influence man. This indulgence becomes mesmeric, making real the very lies that need vanquishing.

I am realizing a freedom that can only come from adherence to the truthful fact of God’s allness, all-presence, all-intelligence, and all source of action — and I thank God for it!



## Free Indeed

La Verne A. Field

I recently attended a fundraising event held by a non-profit organization in Baltimore. The event was held to raise money for three families who had lost their possessions in a house fire. Participants were asked to donate unwanted gold — anything broken, tangled, or any missing piece to a set.

The organizers seemed disappointed because they didn't receive the turnout they had anticipated and as a result, they did not receive the amount of gold expected. So they started soliciting the crowd for money or anything else we could spare.

I started to get nervous and noticed myself slipping my gold bracelet under my sleeve to avoid detection. "This isn't just any gold bracelet," I thought to myself. I was proud of this bracelet. It was made out of gold belonging to my deceased grandmother, my son, my mother; it even contained a gold ring my father gave me when I was just seven years old. I remember thinking, "This is my prized possession." Then it hit me like a ton of bricks — to my dismay, I realized that for years I had been idolizing this gold bracelet. I was ashamed and immediately removed the bracelet from my wrist. I wanted no part of the false idol or the shame that came along with idolizing it. I humbly offered it to the lead moderator.

My willingness to give up the bracelet set me free! The woman took the bracelet, and before I could walk back to my seat, she called out to me, "Miss, this bracelet is in excellent condition. We appreciate your generosity, but we can't take this!" At that moment it occurred to me that I had divorced myself from the bracelet and that it didn't matter to me anymore — it was just a bracelet. I was free indeed!

## **One Real Attraction**    Mary Beth Singleterry

“There is but one real attraction, that of Spirit. The pointing of the needle to the pole symbolizes this all-embracing power or the attraction of God, divine Mind.” So writes Mary Baker Eddy on page 102 of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. As in all her writings, this statement is a revolutionary concept which can be of great help in our daily work.

Does not the world scream to us that there are other enticing attractions, allurements that would draw us away from the one true attraction of Spirit? We see it posted on billboards, in movies, on TV, the internet. And, yet, what is the truth about this false attraction? As the Bible preacher declares, it all eventually ends in “vanity and vexation of spirit.” Only the things of God bring true and lasting satisfaction.

If you have a loved one or friend who has been attracted to drugs, alcohol, sex, etc., or if you are in the process of raising young children or teenagers, it would be well to know this eternal truth is true for him (or her). The truth that he can only be attracted to the things of Spirit, for he comes under the laws of God, can help liberate him or keep him from any type of bondage. It will draw the beautiful, good and pure into his experience. He will awaken to find his real needs are met by God.

This truth should be applied universally as well. We can embrace all mankind in knowing, “There is but one real attraction, that of Spirit.” It will bless those receptive hearts that might be searching for happiness in the wrong direction.

It was once suggested to me when seeking right companionship (for yourself, a child, a friend) to work with

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Mrs. Eddy's definition of "Bride" and "Bridegroom" in the Glossary of our textbook, Science and Health — leaving it all in God's hands, without any outlining or preconceived notions. When I endeavored to do this, in each case the results were amazing! How important to attract purity and innocence (a rare commodity these days!), and how much better to pray in this way than to look desperately online, etc.?!

In Genesis 24 there is a beautiful and holy story. Abraham desires to find a wife for his son Isaac — one of his own kindred. He sends his servant out to accomplish this mission. It seems like an impossible task. The servant prays every step of the way, asking God for His guidance. The result is that a beautiful woman named Rebekah comes to the well where he is waiting, and she is the one, the one sent by God, and the perfect choice for Isaac. Miraculous, you say? Certainly not to God, for with Him all things are possible.

"BRIDE. Purity and innocence, conceiving man in the idea of God; a sense of Soul, which has spiritual bliss and enjoys but cannot suffer."

"BRIDEGROOM. Spiritual understanding; the pure consciousness that God, the divine Principle, creates man as His own spiritual idea, and that God is the only creative power." (S&H)



Not first a creed, but first a life of zeal to go the way of Christ — this is the simplicity of the Christian religion.

*Dr. William Lawrence Sullivan*

# Testimonies of Healing

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

Monday morning I was bombarded with interruptions and demands at work and I allowed these intruders to overwhelm me. This used to be the norm, but it no longer felt natural to feel this way. I remembered what was said during the Sunday Roundtable discussion that when we seem to lose our joy, to fight for it with everything we've got. So I prayed, I praised God for being God, and I began to count my blessings one by one until I felt the peace of God descend upon me like a dove. It felt as if God was hugging me. I had regained my joy!

Later the same day a co-worker stopped by my office to chat about a project, and somehow the conversation shifted from work to allergies. She started telling me how bad her allergies are this season. Then she asked me what I've been taking to control my allergies, because she noticed that I hadn't been sneezing this year. You see, for years I suffered from so-called allergies every year beginning in April. My co-worker remembered so well because, for the last eight years, we were miserable together — coughing, sneezing, and itching. It wasn't until she asked me what I was using that I realize I'd been healed! I knew this was one of the results of regularly calling a practitioner for help. She had given me the verse from Psalm 138, "The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me." And God has been perfecting everything in my life!

I continue to be ever grateful to God and to the Plainfield Church, my practitioner, and to all of you.

*L. F.  
Maryland*

I am very grateful for a recent healing. I had suffered from

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a severe pain in my joints, and I couldn't walk. I called a Plainfield practitioner, who went right to work. By mid-morning I was able to get around; and by the afternoon, I was free from pain. I was entirely healed!

Thank you, Plainfield, for your dedication to Mrs. Eddy's Christian Science, and for the prayers of the practitioner.

*E. B.*

*Alabama*

The other day around noon, I was dragging and feeling extremely tired. I recognized this as a mesmeric suggestion, and as it says in James, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." With that, the dragging feeling dissipated and I felt like I was singing and dancing the rest of the day.

Thank you, Plainfield practitioners, for the guidance that you provide us to show us the way we should go. Thank you, Plainfield Church, for the treasures on the web site to help us grow. In addition, thank you for the Lesson forum and Sunday classes. Without these, I know I would not have been watching.

*C. G.*

*Wisconsin*

I'm very grateful for the very practical applications of Christian Science. Late Saturday evening, all of a sudden I had a lot of pain in one of my legs, so much so that it was difficult to walk. Because I couldn't focus, I turned to Plainfield Church's website and listened to the audio recording of Unity of Good, which is from Prose Works by Mary Baker Eddy. It was very comforting to be able to listen to the truths being spoken.

The next afternoon, even though I was not in as much pain, I was still limping and not able to move around freely, so I called a practitioner from this church. I was told not to let myself be put under pressure, that I was the "humble servant of the restful Mind." (S&H) I was also told to work

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with the statements on pages 390-393 in *Science and Health* — they are command statements, which really get you into action and not let you just sit and wait for something to get better! It really turns you completely to God where you can kick error out as the liar that it is.

The next morning when I was working in the kitchen, I thought I must call the practitioner. As I reached my upstairs study, I realized that I had run up the stairs with no problem at all, and I have continued to be perfectly free.

I also turned to an article in the November *Cornerstone*, “My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord,” which directs thought and action to consider the goodness of God and praise Him continually, with the result being “freedom and dominion over all things human.” (Mrs. Eddy) When we are working in this direction, we can overcome “all things human” and be a shining light for others as well.

I am very grateful for all the sources in this church that make us better and help us to help others as well.

*D. W.  
Virginia*

This past Fall, I found the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, and began working with a Plainfield practitioner concerning my life situation, which, I am grateful to say, has irreversibly turned my attitude and my life around.

A couple of weeks ago I had my first physical healing in Christian Science. One morning I set out to do some shopping, though there was a light snow, which seemed to present no problem. However, there was a thin coat of ice in a parking lot, and I took a terrible fall. I tried to refuse mortal mind’s suggestions about the possible effects of the fall, but I could not get up because of the ice. Thankfully, immediately two ladies appeared on either side of me and helped me get up and walk to the sidewalk, asking if I had

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broken something. I thanked them for their help and said I was going to the shop across the street, which I did.

However, I went home quite soon after that and immediately called my practitioner at Plainfield asking for her prayers. In the past few years I have had a couple of bad falls that have left me in a lot of pain. The practitioner was blessedly supportive and told me to work with two passages from Science and Health: "Accidents are unknown to God, or immortal Mind, and we must leave the mortal basis of belief and unite with the one Mind, in order to change the notion of chance to the proper sense of God's unerring direction and thus bring out harmony. Under divine Providence there can be no accidents, since there is no room for imperfection in perfection."

"When an accident happens, you think or exclaim, 'I am hurt!' Your thought is more powerful than your words, more powerful than the accident itself, to make the injury real.

"Now reverse the process. Declare that you are not hurt and understand the reason why, and you will find the ensuing good effects to be in exact proportion to your disbelief in physics, and your fidelity to divine metaphysics, confidence in God as All, which the Scriptures declare Him to be."

The practitioner prayed for me and I held to those two statements in praying for myself, and I found from that time on I had absolutely no effect from the fall. I am very grateful to God for this healing, a totally new experience in Christian Science, deeply grateful for the work of the practitioner, and the wonderful network of companions in Christian Science at the Plainfield Church.

*F M.*

*Maryland*

I was scheduled to teach two hours of dance class in the afternoon and I was feeling very tired and depleted of en-

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ergy and getting fearful about it. It was with the help of a practitioner in the Plainfield Church that I was able to “hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true” and to dwell in divine Mind, where there is only wholeness.

About 30 minutes after speaking with the practitioner, I felt a peace come over me. My apprehension left. Later that day I danced as joyously and energetically as ever, a wonderful demonstration of the authority of Christian Science.

It has been from the excellent teaching and lessons put out by the Plainfield Church that I have steadily apprehended more and more the importance of turning away from the senses and turning within to the “still small voice” where Truth speaks and knows no discord. For this I am eternally grateful.

S. B.

*Canada*

From yesterday I have been working to get rid of a heavy feeling I’ve had since receiving the news of the passing of a loved one. Towards this morning after my watch, I felt a great sense of love for this individual, and some of the Truths I have learned about the belief of death were comforting.

However, today certain thoughts kept coming and I could feel that heaviness again, so I talked with a practitioner from this church. What was said about loving this individual as he journeys on, plus the love and conviction with which it was said, is all I needed to hear. It woke me up from the selfishness of mourning and replaced it with the selflessness of blessing all involved with God’s dear love.

I am grateful for that practitioner’s help because I feel free from that mournful, heavy sadness! Love indeed is the liberator, and I am very grateful to feel that.

F. R.

*Georgia*



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