

The
CORNERSTONE
of
**Independent
Christian Science**

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

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January 2014
Number 158

Come Join Us

Sunday Service and Sunday School

11:00 A.M.

Roundtable

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Evening

8:15 P.M.

NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR ALL SERVICES

VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE

www.painfieldcs.com

Our services and adult Sunday class are broadcast live!



Plainfield Christian Science Church

Independent

905 Prospect Avenue

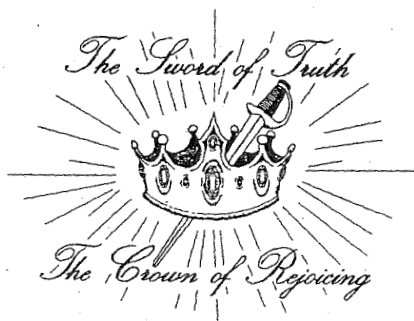
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Independent Christian Science

Unfettered by institutional religion

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

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Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

Following are excerpts from writings of Mary Baker Eddy.

At this immortal hour, all human hate, pride, greed, lust should bow and declare Christ's power, and the reign of Truth and Life divine should make man's being pure and blest.

Miscellany



Excerpt from Miscellaneous Writings

Mary Baker Eddy

Another year has rolled on, another space of time has been given us, and has another duty been done and another victory won for time and eternity? Have you improved past hours, and ladened them with records worthy to be borne heavenward? Have you learned that sin is inadmissible, and indicates a small mind? Do you manifest love for those that hate you and despitefully use you?

The man of integrity is one who makes it his constant rule to follow the road of duty, according as Truth and the voice of his conscience point it out to him. He is not guided merely by affections which may some time give the color of virtue to a loose and unstable character

The upright man is guided by a fixed Principle, which destines him to do nothing but what is honorable, and to abhor whatever is base or unworthy; hence we find him ever the same, — at all times the trusty friend, the affectionate relative, the conscientious man of business, the pious worker, the public-spirited citizen.

He assumes no borrowed appearance. He seeks no mask to cover him, for he acts no studied part; but he is in-

deed what he appears to be, — full of truth, candor, and humanity. In all his pursuits, he knows no path but the fair, open, and direct one, and would much rather fail of success than attain it by reproachable means. He never shows us a smiling countenance while he meditates evil against us in his heart. We shall never find one part of his character at variance with another.



Excerpt from Divinity Course and General Collectanea

Mary Baker Eddy

You are *growing*. The Father has sealed you, and the opening of these seals must not surprise you. The character of Christ is wrought out in our lives by just such processes. The tares and wheat appear to grow together until the harvest; then the tares are *first* gathered, that is, you have seasons of seeing your errors — and afterwards by reason of this very seeing, the tares are burned, the error is destroyed. Then you see Truth plainly and the wheat is “gathered into barns,” it becomes permanent in the understanding.

The healing will grow more easy and be more immediate as you realize that God, good, *is all*, and good is Love. We must gain Love, and lose the false sense called love. You must feel the Love that *never* faileth, — that perfect sense of divine power that makes healing no longer power but *grace*. Then you will have the Love that casts out fear and when fear is gone doubt is gone and your work is done. Why? Because it never was *undone*.

Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

Abide in the 91st Psalm and know that such abiding is treatment and protection. There is nothing that can make laws or influence you. There is but one Mind and that is Love. Do not give life to evil by attaching it to a person or thing. It cannot live without a body. Man is immortal, one. There is but one infinite manifestation. No error can attach itself to man and why deceive ourselves by thinking it can do so? Every manifestation of life is ever-present and omnipresent good and this carries within itself all healing, sustaining. Know that the kingdom of heaven is within you and this is your armor.

Mary Baker Eddy

Divinity Course and General Collectanea

Extempore

I

O blessings infinite!
O glad New Year!
Sweet sign and substance
Of God's presence here.

II

Give us not only angels' songs,
But Science vast, to which belongs
The tongue of angels
And the song of songs.

Mary Baker Eddy

Miscellany

“Feed My Sheep” — Christ Jesus

It is love that wins men. Human hearts are not hammered into tenderness; they are loved into surrender. Truth indeed must be spoken, but we must speak “the truth in love.” It is love that melts; it is love that disarms. It is God’s own mightiest weapon.

Canadian Baptist

Man, the image and likeness of God, has forever manifested the completeness and perfection of Deity.

Ellen Graham

It isn’t the good you have, it’s the good you do that makes you rich.

Craig Thompson



Growing Through Doing Church Work

Tony Moore

As a relatively new member of the Plainfield Church, I am learning how to demonstrate, or put into practice what God wants, rather than what I think is needed. I never used to ask God what He wanted me to do; I always asked God to help me do what I wanted. I was upside down.

I wanted to repay my debt to the church for all that has been freely given to me: the great Bible Lessons, the practitioner help, but most of all, that I found the living God. So I started to ask for things to do. As an out-of-town member, I wasn’t sure how I could help.

Had I not raised my hand and asked, I would have missed out on what church is meant to be: “that institution, which affords proof of its utility and is found elevating

“Feed My Sheep”

the race, rousing the dormant understanding from material beliefs to the apprehension of spiritual ideas and the demonstration of divine Science, . . .” (S&H)

One job I was given is to post a Watching Point onto the church website each week. Instead of debating which of the 500 Watching Points would be better, I am learning to ask God and to rely on His law of meeting every human need, and knowing that I cannot be confused or uncertain. God is right here, and whatever He has in store is far better than anything I could dream up. This puts me in a better state of thought to listen and feel God’s direction. And it works!

This church work is training me to feel my way through family decisions and work problems. And the best part is feeling safe, knowing that I am doing my best to listen. If I do make a mistake, I change course and move on knowing that no harm can come while trying to listen to God — only blessings.



Mental Work

Jeremy Palmer

In Gilbert Carpenter’s writings (Mary Baker Eddy: Her Spiritual Precepts, Vol. II), he used a story from Norse mythology to explain animal magnetism. In that story, Thor is invited by Loki to show everyone his great strength and the power of his hammer. Repeatedly, however, Thor fails in his efforts and is discouraged. Finally we learn that it was only a series of illusions that Loki created to make it appear that Thor had failed.

In explaining this story, Mr. Carpenter wrote: “Interpreted metaphysically Thor’s great power was wholly men-

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tal, with the hammer as its visible expression.” It is a total certainty that when we metaphysically interpret God’s power expressed through the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, we will see that it is completely in mental work and know that each teleconference, church service, Internet live stream, newsletter, and book are its visible expressions.

Animal magnetism would take any opportunity to diminish and destroy what this church does. That is why it is so important that each member take their own mental work so seriously. I have learned this the hard way, as my thought on occasion has been the weak link. I am so grateful to the practitioners and church members for not condemning, but helping me during those times.

Mary Baker Eddy writes, “There is neither place nor opportunity in Science for error of any sort. Every day makes its demands upon us for higher proofs rather than professions of Christian power. These proofs consist solely in the destruction of sin, sickness, and death by the power of the Spirit, as Jesus destroyed them.” (S&H)



What the church has to give to the world in these times is not always what the world thinks it wants nor what it cries out for. The world would remain the same old world if it received that. What the church has to give is a transforming thing that will give the world power. If only the church would cease to fumble through its pockets looking for what the world thinks it wants, while it overlooks what the world really needs!

“The Continent”

“Sing Praises to the Lord”

This section features the words to original musical presentations recently sung in Plainfield Church.

Rise Above the Mist

Peter Kidd

It's uncommon to believe
Adam and his Madam, Eve,
Were doomed before the serpent hissed,
Due to a pernicious mist.

But it's indisputable
God's creation was complete.
Nothing else could ever exist —
Which brings me to that mist I mentioned.

If you're mad you have to grapple
With disease or death or sin,
Don't blame snakes or curse the apple —
Rise above the mist you're in!

It turned all things upside down,
Covered every bit of ground.
It obscured man's origin,
Made it look like God made sin —

Instead of man the image of
A perfect God whose name is Love,
God became a man-like God —
And what resulted is quite fraudulent.

Perfect God could not be cruel
Or send us in a downward spin —

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Stick to perfect God and you'll
Rise above the mist you're in.

See, the mist is, allegorically,
Thinking that is categorically wrong,
Confused, and dualistic —
A totally materialistic state of mind
that's unreliable.
Learn your lessons from the Bible.

If you don't, look what occurred —
With her vision so obscured,
Eve became susceptible
To a sneaky, talking reptile.

And the snake's initial whisper
Soon became an awful din!
Don't you tangle with the lisper —
Rise above, Rise above, Rise above,
The mist you're in!

Peter Kidd

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Watching Points

The book 500 Watching Points was written by Gilbert C. Carpenter, C.S.B., and Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr., C.S.B. 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. 280

Gilbert C. Carpenter

WATCH lest you believe that you can live along in a peaceful sense of the reality of good, maintain a high sense of God, and establish this consciousness so that it is permanent, by *mild* methods. Mrs. Eddy once said, "Jesus spake as one having authority. The mild and pleasant words to a patient will do when it is to quiet fear, but when there is a real clinch with error, to destroy it you must command as one having authority."

It may be possible by mild methods to find the point where a nail is to be inserted, but it takes a hammer to drive it home. In Science attaining may be peaceful, but maintaining always has the claim of animal magnetism to meet. This error, however, may become our friend, if it rouses us to active and powerful resistance.

Many students have felt that they could have a wonderful time, if nothing stood in their way of retaining a beautiful sense of God as All. Yet Mrs. Eddy once wrote, "The Gospel of Christ was a gospel of glory that never could have been given except through a gospel of suffering." A prizefighter wins by holding his ground. Likewise students must learn to hold their position against all the subtle effort of false suggestion and argument to make them back down.

Students may look forward to the time when they will

have no difficulties, yet we must all be tested under tribulation. Why? Because we cannot claim the ability to make nothing of error, until we can do it under affliction.

In Miscellaneous Writings Mrs. Eddy tells us that we must doff our lavender kid zeal and become real and consecrated warriors. Students who dodge all conflict with the lie, until such conflict is forced upon them, may sometimes trace this reluctance to a fear that in such warfare they may lose God, or their metaphysical thought. Yet one must prove his understanding to be stronger than the lying effort of evil to maintain its claims, before he can claim to be a real Christian Scientist. Students must take what they have learned and demonstrate it with dominion. They must come in contact with the claims of error and come off victorious by proving their ability to maintain their scientific thought in spite of all contrary evidence. Then they can rightly claim that the truth has been nailed home through the hammer of tribulation, so that that which seemed wrathful to human sense, has become an angel entertained unawares.

Mrs. Eddy said, "It is not enough to smile and look pleasant when talking to the devil; speak with authority; stamp your foot if necessary and command it to come out of him, as Jesus did. The smile and pleasantness will be all right when you are out of the flesh, but in the flesh you must *strive*."



Lives Transformed

Following are testimonies from people whose lives have been completely transformed by turning to God and independent Christian Science.

When I first came here to Plainfield, my practitioner told me that she wished more people would come. At the time I couldn't see why, because so much excellent content is on-line and available via live streaming.

But after being here for nearly four months, I can see how much extra support and fellowship is available to those who live here. Everyone in this church has made me feel so loved, and I am so grateful to God for bringing me here, where I can truly serve God and do His work.

I know that without the grace of God, my life would have been over. Now because God has sent me to live here and take part in the mission of this church, my life has meaning — and for that I am eternally grateful.

J. P.

New Jersey

Many years ago when I first found out about the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, I remember thinking that this is the way that Christian Science is supposed to be — free and loving, principled but not repressive!

Several years after I began teaching, it seemed like the bills were piling up — student loans, etc. I called a practitioner from Plainfield, and she spoke to me about tithing, about paying God first before the bills, being grateful for the bills, and that God gave me what was needed to pay them. So each month I would ask God how much to give to church. An amount would come to thought, and that's what would be paid. It was a bit scary at first, but I always

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had enough. Gradually all the bills got paid off. Putting God first in this way changed the way I looked at money and supply, and trusting God. Needless to say, my financial situation greatly improved as a result, I got married and bought a home — things I had only dreamed of.

Being a member of this church has certainly changed my life.

B. S.

California

I would like to express my appreciation and continued gratitude for the work being done here at the Plainfield Church. I was lost before finding this Church. Although I was praying and meditating every day, I still felt alone and often confused. I spent half my days vacillating between hope and hopelessness — hoping that God knew of me, and feeling hopeless because deep down I wasn't sure that He did. I spent the other half of the day vacillating between expectancy and fear — waiting for a sign to confirm my hope, and fearing that it would never come.

After finding the Plainfield Church and working with a practitioner on a daily basis, rather than waiting for the harvest, I am learning to acknowledge God's present perfection here and now. When I stumbled across the Website, I felt like I was at the end of my rope. The day I called a Plainfield practitioner for the first time, I had lost my voice and had been unable to speak louder than a whisper for almost a full month. Answering the call, she sounded like an angel — there was so much love in her voice. Immediately, I felt welcomed and loved. That Saturday morning, I joined the Bible Study discussion. Although I could speak a little louder that morning, I only listened. During and after the Bible Study, I was so grateful for the fellowship, grateful that I had found real Chris-

Lives Transformed

tian Science being understood, practiced, and shared. By that afternoon, I had regained the full use of my voice. Since then, I have been joyfully grateful and growing in understanding. I am no longer at the end of my rope.

L. F.

Maryland

I am very grateful today for the work of the practitioners in the church in Plainfield, and I would like to share a testimony with you which took place last week.

My mother had been given less than 12 hours to live by the medical profession. The death sentence had been passed, and we were given absolutely no hope of any kind of survival. I checked twice with them, that there was going to be absolutely zero hope of her surviving, and I was told that, unquestionably, she would be dead by the morning time.

I rang one of the practitioners in Plainfield, who very lovingly supported me. I explained to her that I had opened Science and Health randomly, which is something I have a habit of doing in times of crisis, and panic, and fear. The page I opened to was 266, which said, "Would existence without personal friends be to you a blank? Then the time will come when you will be solitary, left without sympathy; but this seeming vacuum is already filled with divine Love. When this hour of development comes, even if you cling to a sense of personal joys, spiritual Love will force you to accept what best promotes your growth."

The practitioner told me that I was spot on with the verse that I should be looking at. But I began to realize also that my view of my mother was completely wrong. My mother never was and never had been a material blob in a hospital bed. She was an affirmation of God's presence, she

was an embodiment of care, joy, and love, of peace, provision and security. There was nothing about my mother that could pass. My material mother was my limited view of God in my life. Once I let go of this personal sense I realized that the sick mother in the hospital bed that I was seeing with my material eyes, was in reality spiritual unfoldment that I could see with my spiritual eyes, and in fact, this was the only truth.

Once I accepted that fact, then there was no longer a reason to grieve because, in essence, I wasn't losing anything. And I also realized at that point how much my love for my mother was a personal attachment that had to be let go of and had to be exchanged for the bigger picture. As the practitioner pointed out, the more you can let go of personal sense, it is then that the healing takes place.

So I waited all evening for the phone call to tell me that my mother had died, but the phone call didn't come. My brother and I phoned the hospital the next day to be told she was comfortable. By the time lunch time came, we had no news. And then at exactly 12:30 the following day — this was now 3 or 4 hours after the 12 hours she was supposed to die — my mother sat up and started talking. The doctor was so shocked that she ran and called my brother because they had been giving her morphine, had removed all her medication and tubes for material survival, and were simply waiting for death. My brother rushed to the hospital and found her sitting up.

What I learned from this healing is the issue of dealing with personal sense — not to focus on the actual sickness, but to realize there's always a bigger picture than what is in front of us. I'm grateful for the practitioner for supporting me in this.

J. M.

United Kingdom

Announcements

Live Services on the Internet

Plainfield Church broadcasts both our Sunday and Wednesday evening services, including the Sunday Roundtable, 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!

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 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.

Our Roundtable is also available via this teleconference service. The Roundtable begins at 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study

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

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 U.S.A.; international is \$9.00 per issue, \$77.00 for a 12-month subscription.

Comments from Readers

I would like to thank you all again for your teachings and support, your understanding and expression of Christian Science, and pray that this year is an especially blessed one for everyone.

My journey exploring “the isms” of “the world” keeps bringing me back to Christian Science, and in particular to your community. I wish I had really started reading the works of Herbert Eustace before I sent my e-mail withdrawing from membership in Plainfield Church. I so much appreciate him saying “So it must be your understanding . . . that constitutes your real entity . . . what you are.” I have three essential understandings now. One, that I am a child of God; two, that I am a student of Christian Science; and three, that I would like to continue studying with your community.

Thank you, and God bless you.

Texas

I come from a family that has been rooted in Christian Science from an early time and have been following your group for a bit more than a year.

Recently here in Germany I discussed some of my concerns about reaching out to people of Hamburg where I live, and want to establish a home here of avid supporters of Truth, as Mary Baker Eddy presented it. The more that I listen to your group, I realize that I have so much more to learn, and your services offer me much food for thought and contemplation. Much is hard for me to comprehend, as I have been a member of the Mother Church and felt as if the healing work must have been displaced. When I spoke to two practitioners in our church, they felt that I needed to pray more. I asked our small group if we could have a Bible Roundtable in English, and really read Mary

Comments

Baker Eddy's work. The interest was not to do this, and not in English.

I am praying as to the next steps to take. I will continue to listen to your Bible Study sessions, Roundtable and services. Thank you for all of your gifts that are pure Christian Science, and for what you have shared.

Germany

The November issue of the CornerStone magazine is most outstanding! The message from Mrs. Eddy, "Demonstration," is one I am going to refer to many times, for it deals with a topic that I personally must heed. I have read the magazine in its entirety, and I am in the process of re-reading it now. So many of the articles are just what I need.

I wish to express my gratitude for the hours of time spent in this production.

Arizona

I am grateful for the CornerStone download. It is chock full of inspiration, and it is possible to copy and share articles with friends. This church is not money first; it gives freely, and will receive freely.

The Plainfield Church affords proof of its utility and is found elevating the race . . . and is blessing mankind.

Canada

What a wonderful Christmas service; a few tears could not be avoided. It was so good to have this service amidst the mindless noise and stupor of the world around us. Plainfield Church is grassroots, accessible, welcoming, no hierarchy, no threshold. Divinely authorized!

Costa Rica

Enclosed please find our check in gratitude for all that you are doing. We are so very grateful to the Plainfield

CornerStone

Church. Your teachings continue to transform our lives and inspire us.

Vermont

I love the poems by Art Anker (Poems and Illustrations) in the book library. Plainfield is very generous with its free publications, unlike a certain so-called “Mother Church” which charges money for every little thing. Plainfield truly gives out of pure love. That is why the membership has grown over the years. It is Christian Science at its best.

Canada

I’m very grateful for the audio production of Science and Health on the website. It’s a marvelous resource. I’m also grateful to everyone who participates in the Roundtable, which is a continuing source of wonderful inspiration.

United Kingdom

I have been listening to all the archived Bible studies. You all have beautiful conversations. I am learning so much.

New York

The website is absolutely wonderful! Earlier I asked myself, “Where do I begin?” The answer came right away, the Bible Lesson of course. This study is a joy, and I can say this whilst I still seem to have a list of issues to be resolved, because I feel the loving support and guidance radiating from you all, via the website.

England

I had opened and read some of the contents of your website, and it was so great! Thank you so much for continuing the mission of Christian Science, and for your love for Mrs. Eddy. You are doing so great in your love for Christian Science. I am from Benguet, Philippines, and I am a

Comments

First Reader and Sunday School teacher in our informal group. I am giving my time as a local Christian Science practitioner, but not full time because I am still in college now. I am grateful for all of you there.

God bless us all.

Philippines

Thank you for the excellent Bible Study. The presentation of Hezekiah's relationship with Isaiah brought Isaiah to life for me. Before, he was a character in a story long ago and far away; but when I understood how he watched and worked, I saw that he was a Christian Scientist, working for God. It's quite a wonderful thing to have life breathed into the Old Testament stories. I never really found them that inspirational before I began attending our Bible Studies.

Texas

I am grateful to God today to be able to send this small check to help in our great effort to spread to the world God's love and care for all of us. I am absolutely grateful for Mrs. Eddy's discovery of Christian Science, and it is becoming more and more the reality of my life.

God bless you all.

Michigan

Thanks for the CornerStone contributors and editors. It is alive and real, with no fluff!

Georgia

I send my warmest greetings to all members of the church of Plainfield, in the certainty that God is already blessing each day of the so-called new year, and that each of us receives greater understanding, insight, and divine wisdom in this narrow but wonderful way that Love pointed out to Mrs. Eddy.

Argentina

“Comfort Ye My People”

There is more curative power in a few words of encouragement, kindness, and love than there is in the whole range of *materia medica*.

Hon. Charles E. Russell

Experience has proven that consistency in knowing that God is ever-present good can solve every human problem. Sickness and disease cannot stand in the presence of God.

Benjamin Ndukwe



The Keys to the Kingdom

LaVerne Fields

The Bible states, “Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.”

Our mental forecast is much like the weather forecast. When there are storm clouds and turbulent skies, with certainty, the meteorologist predicts a storm on the horizon. Likewise, with us, when our mental atmosphere is blue and gloomy, the forecast is bleak. If nothing changes to uplift our thought or to break the mesmerism, with certainty we can predict turbulence in our affairs. It is inevitable — when we are operating under mortal law, we are subject to that law — the law of sin, disease, and death — for “as a man thinketh in his heart so is he.”

When I was a girl, to save me from the storms that naturally occurred as a result of a turbulent mental atmosphere, my grandmother made up a game called “Thy Kingdom Come.” She said that every time I felt sad, betrayed,

“Comfort Ye My People”

overwhelmed, depressed, fearful, or angry, I must open my heart by turning the keys to the Kingdom, which she said were love, joy, and gratitude. I was to love God first, then everyone I could think of, including my so-called enemies. Then I was to rejoice and be grateful that God is, and that He is good. Then I should praise God, thanking Him for everything I could think of, counting my blessings one by one, thanking him 70 times 70 for His goodness and mercy. And finally, I was to pray, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.” She said that doing this every time I felt turbulence in my mental atmosphere would open the windows of heaven and let the Son shine in; and that all would be blessed: my so-called enemies, my loved ones, my friends, and, of course, myself. As a child, I didn’t fully understand the meaning of my grandmother’s game, but today I understand.

During a recent Bible Study, I was reminded that Mrs. Eddy instructed us to handle the weather daily. It reminded me of my grandmother’s game. So, I asked myself, are you handling your mental weather forecast daily, hourly, and without ceasing? If when the emotional clouds are grey, when the mental skies are turbulent, and the outlook is bleak, am I opening my heart by turning the keys to the Kingdom to let the Son shine in? Am I loving God and man for Love’s sake? Am I rejoicing and praising God for being God — for being good — for being All-in-all? And finally, am I counting my blessings one by one? If I am, then I am being obedient to God, to Truth, Life, and Love — I am handling my mental forecast daily, hourly, moment by moment. And whenever the sky darkens and the clouds threaten, I turn the keys to the Kingdom and my mental atmosphere is transformed, the storm retreats into the nothingness from whence it came, and all are blessed, rejoicing

in the “Son-light” of Truth. “For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.”



Pity Party

Candace Graulich

When I arose this morning, I started having a pity party. It seemed that this week nothing flowed as I thought it should (notice the “I”). Studying the wonderful weekly Lesson, I came across the references to Jesus and it struck me that, if ever someone could have felt disgruntled or disappointed, it could have been Jesus. Where would we be if he wallowed in it?

This was a wake up call. Replacing pity with thoughts of gratitude, joy, and expectation, I was ready for a wonderful day!



The Art of Being Glad

Bicknell Young

In all the world, the wonder and beauty and value of the things we see are dwarfed into insignificance when compared with the grandeur and glory of Spirit.

Mankind must loose itself from the fetters of finite sense. What a man has might depend upon others, but what he *is* depends upon himself. And what we have does not make us happy unless it comes from what we are. Someone has said that unhappiness is the hunger to get happiness, while happiness is the hunger to give.

The wonderful thing about happiness is that it can grow in any soil, exist under any conditions. This God-

“Comfort Ye My People”

given joy is steadfast, because it depends upon Principle and not persons. It is only the joy of the Christ which makes our joy full.

As thought is freed from self-love and self-will, we find happiness surpassing anything of which we have hitherto dreamed. One might possess everything materially tangible in the world and still not be happy. Happiness does not depend upon having, but upon being.

The art of being glad consists in part in the ability to be happy at all times, even when there seems to be no occasion for rejoicing. If we love, joy is inevitable, and there can be no real joy unless one loves. And the more one loves, the greater and more expansive will be his happiness. Many a patient has been healed by simply learning to be glad, by learning to be grateful. It isn't reasonable to expect God to dwell with us unless we can offer Him a dwelling place, so to speak, freed from ingratitude and unhappiness.

The joy that accompanies spiritual understanding knows enough to give thanks for what eye hath not seen. That is why no one can take our joy away from us. So let us be happy now and forever!



O' Evening star and sky afar,
I long to rise above.
My Father's arms await for me,
His heart is pure Love.
Though restless trees and turbulent seas,
may toss me to and fro.
I make my way along the path,
rejoicing as I go.

Luanne Tucker

The Plainfield Bible Study

Following are some points discussed at a recent Plainfield Church Bible Study. At these sessions, Bible citations from that week's Independent Lesson Sermon are discussed. They are held 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, for dial-in information. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Lesson: God the Only Cause and Creator

“The Story of Job “

In the first chapter of the book of Job, there is described a wager that Satan makes with God. Satan claims that, even though Job is considered to be a man of integrity, of great character, and faithful to God, if he were to lose his possessions, Satan claims that Job would surely curse God. The account tells that God gives Satan control of everything Job has, and Satan causes Job to lose his children, his friends, his property, and even his health.

The Bible commentaries talk about Job as one of the greatest men of the East, but there is very little mention of something Mrs. Evans brought to our attention. Job was a good man, he was pious, but the one thing that he was weak on caused everything to collapse. What Job did wrong was that he prayed that his children be forgiven. He said, “It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.”

Job knew in his heart that his sons were doing wrong, and he didn't have the courage to go after them and whip them into shape. Instead, he said to God, “Forgive them.” This is certainly why we have the chapter on Prayer in Science and Health. Mrs. Eddy says you don't pray that your sins be overlooked. Job said, “The thing that I greatly feared has come upon me.” Knowing that his children were not

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doing right, he feared that something was going to happen. And because he feared it, and didn't do anything about it, it did come upon him.

So what do we learn from that? If we're afraid of what's going to happen, we know we're doing something wrong. Ask yourself why you're fearing — get to the bottom of it. Job suspected something was wrong — “It may be that my sons have sinned.” In fact, he knew darned well they were doing wrong. But he might have been afraid that if he stood up to his sons, he might lose them. It was really a lack of love that kept his mouth shut, and that's why he was anxious and fearful — he overlooked. Perhaps if Job had taken care of this, none of this would have happened. But it did leave a really good lesson for all time to come.

Face the Fear

In Science the lesson is that, if we fear something, that's a warning, that's a tap on the shoulder that we have to do something differently. Or if we fear for somebody else, that's a warning that we need to say something. In Job's case, it was very clear he needed to talk to his kids and get them to change what they were doing. How often people who have been in Christian Science for a long while, cover for those close to them. If we feel anxious, we ought to take this seriously. Is there anybody in our home, our close relationships, we are not being principled with, that we're covering up for? It's so important for each one of us to look at our relationship with our spouse or our children, because the belief of human relationship is the most deadly of the beliefs. Reg Kerry used to say that it would often come through your nearest and dearest.

In Job, chapter 13, verse 10, talking about God, it says, “He will surely reprove you, if ye do secretly accept persons.” That's what Job did. He secretly accepted a wrong

human, material sense of his children. As a Christian Scientist, this is where self-examination comes in. Is there anywhere we're secretly accepting a person? We'll all find it if we look — we can all do better, it's hard not to.

What we need to do is to separate the error from the person and handle the error. Face this silly fear that we're going to lose somebody by standing up to them. Would God ever require us to do something that wasn't better for everybody? We're going to gain them in the right sense. We have to be willing to put them on the altar, for their sakes as well as ours. And then things are much freer. There was also a sense of pride with Job — he was proud of his family and didn't trust them to God — that personal sense again!

Elihu, the Christ Figure

Job's four friends came to help him. But what happened that made him turn to God? Elihu, the youngest, was the Christ figure; the other three were human. They ended up judging him; they were no help to Job at all. Elihu didn't just come and comfort Job — he brought the strength of the Christ, and that comforted him, that enabled him to see the unreality of the situation, and the mesmerism was broken. Job gained spiritual understanding. His life was restored, but that was a by-product of his greater understanding, joy, and gratitude — getting rid of the fear, finding peace of mind and spiritual growth.

Putting God first, what should Job have done? Job should not have feared, but trusted. He should have been standing so much on Principle, that he wouldn't have been praying for God to overlook and forgive his children's sins, but he would have done something about it. When you stand with Principle, Principle stands with you. Job probably thought he was putting God first, doing all the things he

Bible Study

should do outwardly, and yet he didn't put God first when it came to his family. Putting God first, we're not seeking harmony. That will be a by-product — seeking harmony is a conflict with putting God first. We're seeking to put God first, and "all these things will be added unto you."

There's a lot in Job. Take the first few chapters and the last few chapters; it mimics what we go through. It's useful in how to break out of the mesmerism, or the struggle — why did this happen to me? Every argument we hear in those "down" times is documented here in Job. It has a lot of meat in it, and it's in the Bible to teach us. It's comforting how he did come through it all. Get rid of this false picture of yourself so the clear idea of God can come through.

How did the Bible Study come about? We were always aware of the woeful lack of Bible knowledge among Christian Scientists and were thinking of some kind of Bible class, but how? The Roundtable came about because it seemed the Lesson Sermons, which were compiled with great love and depth, were being largely wasted, and the service needed more body! In short, the Lesson Sermon was having little impact. The Roundtable turned out to be a huge success, and Tony, among others, wanted more! About the same time, Tom made known his great interest in the Bible, and so we tentatively started the Bible Study on Saturday mornings, and it took off, so that now we hardly dare skip a week! One of the marvels of it, to me, is how much Bible we are covering. We have hardly repeated the stories, etc., over a period of roughly two years. This gives us an idea of how wondrously these Lesson Sermons are being compiled — surely God's hand is on it, because there is no structured control. THE WONDER OF INDEPENDENCE!!!



*I spread my wings and wait
upon the wind.
Aloft from my resting place
into the vast unknown.
Over the valleys and the mountains
and far above the sea.
It is with faith my journey be.
Luanne Tucker*

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 to 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, "Christian Science."

Our Efforts

Today it came to me that we try too hard. We try to change error, heal physical discords — by our own efforts, arguments, thinking, reading, etc.

The Bible tells us to resist the devil, not to argue with him. We ourselves cannot do anything; we cannot heal or change things. Even Jesus could not, he said so. We must resist, resist, disbelieve, disbelieve it to scorn, and then let God . . . let God . . . God will do, will work, will change — reality will break through. God is All. "If Mind don't think it, it ain't so!"

Response:

When we "try too hard," we are making a reality of error — rather than understanding it is a mesmerism that needs to be broken so that the truth may be revealed.

Response:

I think you made a great point, and I think that's what

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Jesus meant when he said “for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:30). The only way for it to be light is to see that God is doing it, not us personally. Otherwise that would be a tremendous burden. When we’re doing work for ourselves or the world — if it’s feeling like a huge burden, then we’re not working correctly.

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

Changes in the physical world?!

Christian Science is revolutionary! Mrs. Eddy writes: “The elements and functions of the physical body and of the physical world will change as mortal mind changes its beliefs.” What? This certainly gives pause to how we think about the changes going on, and that have gone on, in our world.

And further she writes: “What are termed natural science and material laws are the objective states of mortal mind. The physical universe expresses the conscious and unconscious thoughts of mortals. Physical force and mortal mind are one.”

This pulls the rug out from putting too much weight in the material, in what we see out there. We have to start in God, in divine Mind, in thought, to see the true picture!

Response:

Yes, I got that this morning as well. Objectivity is often considered the safest way to discern truth. Hah! It is nothing more than a tool for mortal mind to justify itself. The physical scientists are proving over and over the limits of objectivity. What is objectively true today is proving to be objectively false tomorrow — see all the expert knowledge

Forum

regarding medicine, the weather, the definition of the universe and its constituents!

Mary Baker Eddy discovered the only real Science there is, and as you say, it starts with infinite God — and never goes beyond, since there is nothing beyond infinity!

Response:

What defines objectivity? Is it an objective reality if 90% of the people believe it? It seems to me that the only true objectivity is Truth, the divine Mind.

What cannot God do?

Sometimes I limit what God can do. I have a lot of things to do. Can God help me? Of course He can! Many times I find that the things I thought I needed to do were not mine to do. God gives me the time and ability to do everything I should do.

Do I need more supply? God fed the multitude with five loaves and two fish — and had 12 baskets full left over. He doesn't limit me. I limit what God can do. He supplies our needs daily and abundantly.

Whatever our need — to give a testimony, write an article for CornerStone, find a parking spot, paint, cook, etc. — God directs our path. All things are possible through God.

The Lesson states, “Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? What cannot God do?” (S&H)

Response:

Thank you for reminding me: I, only me, limit what God can do in my experience. How? By false beliefs, breaking the First Commandment, having another reality before Truth and Love.

“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.

On Guard

Laura Dunbar Hagarty

In both the Old and New Testaments, political, civil, and religious liberty has always been won by a mighty effort against the seeming powers of evil. Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Nehemiah, and Daniel proved that consecration to God means constant watchfulness and effort. Deborah, Hannah, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego confirmed the wisdom of the apostolic injunction to “fight the good fight of faith.”

From early boyhood, until his final triumphant demonstration over all evil, Jesus exemplified the fact that to serve God involves not only work, but warfare. Above all else, the example and the words of the Master are conclusive: “Strive to enter in at the strait gate,” “Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.”

Mrs. Eddy’s writings direct thought to the Principle of all healing — to God Himself; and thus she gives us all a solid, working basis upon which to build. Mrs. Eddy’s life and writings tell of the need to be constantly on guard, or to struggle. On page 4 of *Science and Health* she writes, “The habitual struggle to be always good is unceasing prayer.” Her writings are filled with the admonitions to “stand porter,” “strive,” “overcome.”

If we would build solidly, we must be on guard against lethargy or apathy. On page 2 of her *Message to the Mother Church* for 1900, Mary Baker Eddy writes, “The song of Christian Science is, ‘Work—work—work—watch and pray.’”

“The World Has Need of You”

Saving the World

Bicknell Young

You have taken on a tremendous job when you became a Christian Scientist. You have virtually aligned yourself with God.

The thoughts of Christian Scientists are not the thoughts of mortal mind. Their thoughts are divine Principle, their thoughts are the Christ — and the Christ is come to the world not merely to save you and me individually, but to save us collectively — not merely to show us how to carry on our daily affairs, not merely to bless in a limited way, but to bless us in an infinite way.

Our government is a part of our consciousness, and in redeeming our consciousness, we shall save our government. Our government was established by divine Principle and it had its being in a thought of human freedom many centuries before it appeared in human thought. When we come to a great test in this country — it is not who is in Washington — but what is right.

In your own thought you must maintain the facts — that after this country and its government had been tested by a civil war that was terrible to bear, and when it appeared that it could stand for the ideals for which it was founded — then appeared Mrs. Eddy’s discovery — it did not just merely happen. It was just as though God had said, “This is the way it ought to be.” It was just as divine as the birth of Jesus — and so it came about that in due time the impersonal Christ appeared and it came where it could come.

We are Christian Science practitioners saving the world. Don’t doubt it.

*Excerpt from Collected Writings
by Bicknell Young*

One in Christ

Joseph McTaggart

I know that as a Christian Scientist, I have a responsibility to contribute to the peace of the world by constantly correcting my thought, destroying through spiritual understanding the false beliefs of fear, hatred, suspicion, and other ungodlike thoughts which demand that I take notice of imminent wars and threats which threaten the security of our countries and the security of my peace and existence in divine Science — my God-given right of peace.

I was thinking about this and was discussing it with Adeel, our brother who helps with the Urdu Lesson translation. He doesn't claim to understand much about world politics or the curiosities of metaphysical thinking. He lives in Lahore, a city in the Punjab area of Pakistan. I asked him what he thought about the state of affairs in Pakistan and he answered quite innocently:

"Well, for two countries which are supposedly suspicious of one another — you and I seem to get along ok, and we are both preparing the Lessons for a group of people in the U.S.A. So that kind of says it all — in our world with each other, Pakistan, the U.K. and the U.S.A., there really is no war and surely we are representing these countries aren't we, so where's the war?"

No sooner had he said those words on Skype when my mailbox pinged and there was an e-mail from Iran — my Islamic friend Shahin who was writing from Tehran to wish me a happy Christmas and sending greetings to my family. I remember the first time I met him, he couldn't speak much English, but he wanted somehow to communicate his feelings of happiness, so he insisted (through many hand gestures) that I eat with him. Food became the lan-

“The World Has Need of You”

guage through which he was able to say he was happy in my company, and food elevated our thinking away from ritualistic religion. Since it was expressed freely with love and hospitality, it bypassed all the defenses which, had we met at a border patrol, mosque or church, may have existed. That led me to later do a Bible study on “meals of Jesus,” which was amazing and allowed me to see a simple meal as a vehicle of peace.

I realized that there really is no sense of war, at least not when we just “Love” people with small acts of kindness or kind acts freely given. If we all were willing to lay down our own personal sense of what we believe others to be and to “reverse the evidence of our personal senses,” then we might be surprised at the result.

Maybe today we could reach out a hand (or even a smile) to someone we have never spoken to because of a man-made prejudice — who knows, that might just change our world, or at least help stop a war.



Keep your thought pure,
Your path will be sure.
With eyes straight ahead,
You'll safely be led.

Lillian Linnell

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Finding Independent Christian Science

Bjorg Moverley

The first time I discovered Christian Science (about twenty years ago) I was elated, as I intuitively felt that this *is it* — TRUTH — explained!

To my amazement, I experienced several healings simply from reading Science and Health, but I still felt that I had hardly begun to understand its teachings. So it was with great excitement and expectancy that I sought out the local Christian Science Church and reading room, believing I would find a full-to-capacity church, a reading room bursting with writings by various authors explaining in detail this wonderful Science now healing and redeeming mankind.

What I actually found was the very same conditions as described in detail on your website as “The Culture.”

At that time I had no inkling of what was happening to the Christian Science movement, and I am not certain that those few people I met there were wise to the real reasons for the dramatic decline in the church. They certainly told me that all rules were set down by Mrs. Eddy, and the Board of Directors simply carries out her instructions in complete obedience to her mandate.

So I stayed with the church for a few years (although I did not become a member, as I would not agree to sign a form never to seek medical advice again). But to me, neither the church services nor the testimony meetings were very inspiring, and circumstances didn't allow for class instruction. Inevitably, I left.

In the years since, I have continued my search for Truth and studied various schools of thought, but something seemed to be missing. Again and again the thought

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came to me that I must go back to study Christian Science, despite the almost empty church and seeming lack of healing testimonies.

At a Christian Science lecture I attended in May this year, I was introduced to a Christian Science practitioner/teacher who instantly invited me to take class instruction with her in London last August. I had a health issue, so I asked for help with prayer treatment. She agreed, and the only instruction she gave was to phone her every two days. I was given no advice on study. When I phoned her, she either didn't answer the phone or told me she was too busy to talk. At this point, whilst searching the Web for testimonies of healing in Christian Science, suddenly these words appeared on the screen: Plainfield Christian Science Church Independent! — Independent!!

I had recently read on the Helen Wright Web page about the Board of Directors disobeying Mrs. Eddy, but I had no idea that an independent Christian Science church existed. I instantly contacted one of your practitioners for help, which I gratefully received, after breaking the connection with the practitioner/teacher here.

I can now see that the church I expected to find, and felt the reality of in my heart, existed all along. God in wonderful ways guided my every step to the rediscovery of pure Christian Science (as brought to the world by Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy), which was being lived and taught in Plainfield, New Jersey.

My first thought was, "You are too far away"; but then I realized that, of course, this church is a symbol for the center of consciousness, the Christ broadcasting the Truth to the whole world, hence omnipresent, and right here where I am.

Therefore, I now realize that the class instruction, which it has been my desire for so long to partake of, is a

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perfect gift of God — delivered right here to my door of consciousness.

My heartfelt thanks go out to you all working for God at the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, for bringing this message to us all, and for the invitation to work in God's vineyard.

With this I ask that I may be considered for church membership.

Many thanks for taking the time to listen.



Putting God First

Benjamin Ndukwe

When I first came to the United States a few years ago, I was not sure how it was going to turn out for me. But I was very hopeful, knowing that God, who has brought me here and has called me into His service, will never forsake me. My study of Christian Science through the class instructions offered by a gifted Christian Science teacher here in Plainfield, was a great lift for me, and also offered me the strong foundation I needed to begin with.

One of the things the teacher taught me was that, if I continue to put God first before anything else, He will take care of me. That lesson helped to solidify the hope I had before coming to the Plainfield Church. Here in Plainfield, there was much work to be done for God and for the world. I met some good and dedicated workers here, who love working for God, and they have been wonderful inspirations to me all this time. So after my arrival, I was appointed to be Clerk of the church. For me, it was the biggest opportunity of my life. My enthusiasm and dedication for the work as the Clerk, and many other areas, has continued to soar.

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My work for God in the church and in my community has been such a blessing. There is nothing more satisfying or rewarding. God, as He has promised, has never stopped caring for me, through good health and providing for my needs. I remember a few times my thought lingered on how some bills would be paid. But they all got paid ahead of time. I'm not surprised, because I'm sure it's God's doing, and there is no limit to His manifestation.

If you are working for God in any field, you have nothing to worry about. God, who has called us into His service, will sustain us. He never forsakes His servants. So, as the opportunity to bless our fellow man unfolds, we must embrace it wholeheartedly and joyfully, knowing that these opportunities are blessings to all. I'm very grateful that God brought me to the Plainfield Church, for the teaching I received, and for the opportunity to serve Him.



Constructive Looking Back

Betty Simpson

Recently, while looking at some photos, I thought sometimes it's a good thing to take a look back — not in longing for a time past, but to see how much progress has been made, and to look forward to the work ahead.

Sometimes people think of a new year with regret for past mistakes, past times, past friends and family — the “good old days.” But looking back with appreciation for what God has done in our lives, and to see how far we've progressed, is a healthy and happy thing!

In thinking about Plainfield Church, from the origin of

the church Website to where the Website is now, the progress has been amazing. The progress of our publications, the classes, the many opportunities to participate in church work, all have come so far. The feeling of love, closeness, and belonging to a church has increased as well — truly a “miracle” of Love! How wonderful to be a member of this church.



God the Only Parent

Gary Singleterry

On page 326 of the Christian Science textbook is the statement, “We must forsake the foundation of material systems, however time-honored, if we would gain the Christ as our only Saviour.” This requirement covers a lot of ground, but one of the material systems that must be forsaken is the belief that we somehow belong to our human parents or any other human relative, or that our children belong to us, just because there is a material, human connection. Jesus always referred to God as the “Father” and implied many times that God was not only his Father, but the Father of each of us. He referred to those who do the will of the Father as his brethren. Mary Baker Eddy states in her writings that God is the Father of each of us. That means that my parents have the same Father as I do; as do my children. Nobody belongs to anybody else. We all belong to God.

This statement of fact has been of great benefit to many in helping them see correctly their relationship with others. When our children are entrusted to our care, it is our responsibility to teach them, as best we can, about their real Father, God, and to help them develop their own

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relationship with God. This results in strong, healthy and happy children, and ultimately, responsible and generous adults.

Every human relationship has a divine purpose. Yet, we must forsake the material belief about that relationship in order for its divine purpose to be seen and experienced. Every marriage, every family and business relationship will be blessed only to the extent that God is recognized as the Father of all, and the only one in control. As the Apostle Paul so clearly stated in his speech at Mars hill: “For in Him we live, and move, and have our being.”



The Future

Carol Conroy

There's a quote by Edward C. Butler that appears in the 2014 Plainfield Church calendar, that says, “We have nothing to fear from the future. How can we possibly fear what God has prepared for us?”

That used to be me. I used to worry about the future — how things were going to work out, would we have enough, etc. Then a Plainfield practitioner told me to “trust God's disposal of events,” and that God has a perfect plan for my life. We just needed to listen for His guidance, and faithfully follow it. And when I did this, things always worked out better than I could have imagined — in spite of all my fears, worries, and doubts. I learned that you can't out-think or out-plan God!

The future *is* in God's hands. But that doesn't mean we can just sit back and relax. Evil still needs to be vigorously handled and “nothingized” when it tries to suggest there could be a power to undermine what God has in store for

us. And we need to be willing to “throw caution to the wind” and trust His plan. I remember a practitioner saying that if you want to learn to swim, you have to get your foot off the bottom of the pool!

I love how Mrs. Eddy would keep asking God to show her what steps to take, even when she had already heard His voice. She didn’t just say, “Oh, that’s the way,” and blindly go forward. She continued to ask, and often made adjustments to her course, as the directions came to her from God.

The Bible says, “The righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God.” (Eccl.) So we can face the future with confidence, trusting God’s disposal of events!



Uncovering Error

Mary Beth Singleterry

It is sometimes asked why in the world did Mrs. Eddy have a Lesson topic entitled, “Ancient and Modern Necromancy, Alias Mesmerism and Hypnotism Denounced”?! Recently I watched a program on the National Geographic TV station called “Hitler and the Occult.” It made it very apparent that the roots of Nazism were founded in the occult — and a definition of “occult” is “hidden from the eye, undetected, the occult sciences are black magic, necromancy, witchcraft, etc.”

Mrs. Eddy knew full well the importance of including this topic as a lesson sermon! The only chance error has is to try to operate in secret, for once error is exposed, the light of Truth dissipates it into its native nothingness! Mrs. Eddy states on page 210 of Miscellaneous Writings, “Christian Science never healed a patient without proving with

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mathematical certainty that error, when found out, is two-thirds destroyed, and the remaining third kills itself.” Think of that! — With mathematical certainty! No hopeful guesswork here!

For this reason we must never be afraid of exposing an error. To fear an error would be to deny the presence and power of God, to deny His All-Power! It would be to disobey the First Commandment that states we should have no other gods before the one God. If you feel an error may be operating in your life, in your home, in your church, in your country, etc., and you are perplexed as to what it is, you can ask God to reveal to you what it is you need to know — for He is omniscient as well as omnipotent! The answer will come to light as you pray in this manner. Remember what the prophet Daniel boldly proclaimed to King Nebuchadnezzar: “Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are His: And He changeth the times and the seasons: He removeth kings, and setteth up kings: He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him.” (Daniel 2)

Daniel proved that there is a “God in heaven that revealeth secrets”; and as we diligently work, watch, and pray, is there any reason that we may not do the same? In this way we can help expose, and so destroy, error and thus bestow a blessing on the world that is beyond measure.

(If you are interested in learning more on this subject, tune into our audio Roundtable discussion from Sunday December 22, 2013 — it can be found on our website at plainfieldcs.com.)



Ignited By Science and Health

Andrew Kidd

The Christian Science textbook is so radical that it overturns every premise the human mind has ever invented. Reading it to confirm what one already believes is a sad state of affairs. It is as though God has nothing to say to that one, because he knows it all already! Unfortunately, students forget that the book is divine (in that its subject is divine), and become “familiar” with it, and lose the opportunity for perpetual inspiration and spiritual growth.

Recently I was ignited by the following statement: “If we are ungrateful for Life, Truth, and Love, and yet return thanks to God for all blessings, we are insincere and incur the sharp censure our Master pronounces on hypocrites.” (S&H) Now, I have never met a Christian who would not be quite content with someone returning thanks to God for all his blessings. To pronounce such a one a hypocrite would be outrageous! So what in heaven’s name does this passage mean?

Surely it addresses the misconception of a manlike God, who divvies out goodies for which we should be grateful. “Human philosophy has made God manlike. Christian Science makes man Godlike.” (S&H) In Christian Science, we should understand that the good received is the result of Truth, Life, and Love, and we are only grateful for these when we acknowledge their Principle, and strive to express them — Truth in being truthful, Life in being vibrant in thought and deed, Love in being compassionate to our fellow man. Without these, our gratitude is insincere.

The Christian Science textbook needs no interpreter, but sometimes a shaking up of thought is good to get us out of our proverbial rut! Then we will never cease to find fresh insight into this marvelous book.

Testimonies of Healing

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

Last week we had 8 inches of snow. The roads were terrible, and they hadn't been plowed when I left for work. It was really difficult driving, and I was scared. The thought came to me to relax and let God drive. I took a deep breath and loosened my grip on the wheel, and traveled along much easier.

When I arrived at the road that leads to the entrance to the parking lot, I thanked God for His protection and felt confident I could make it the rest of the way. As I tried to turn into the turning lane, I could not get the steering wheel to turn, and couldn't get fully into the lane. I thought that was very odd, and waited for the traffic to pass. As I sat and waited for a break in the oncoming traffic, there were headlights moving in every direction — it's a very busy intersection. I shockingly noticed a tractor-trailer truck coming right at me! I called out to God and took a deep breath. The truck passed about 5 inches from my mirror. If I had been in the turning lane, it would have hit me head-on. God had hold of that steering wheel and would not let go, because He has a plan for me. God doesn't do half a job; He gets you all the way there, and never lets you go it alone.

That's the truth I know from the 91st Psalm: "He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. . . . and show him My salvation." I give this testimony with the deepest gratitude to God, Mary Baker Eddy, the Plainfield Church and its practitioners for helping me to know God's presence.

L. T.
New York

CornerStone

The day before yesterday my sister called and told me that our mom was in the hospital again. I felt angry, worried, and guilty that I wasn't there to help take care of her. I live a thousand miles away and my sister lives only 70, so she does the caretaking. She also frequently takes care of her two small grandchildren, she had just finished with Christmas, and her husband was sick. She needed a rest!

I called my practitioner in Plainfield and poured out my story, and added some lame metaphysics for good measure. When I finished, he asked me where God was in all that. Oh. Nowhere. He asked me if I had asked God if I should go. No. I had just reacted. He told me to work with the Twenty-third Psalm until I got my peace, and then ask God. I did that and right away I felt that I wouldn't need to go.

By mid-afternoon yesterday, the same day I called my practitioner, my mom was released from the hospital. My sister had arrived the night before, had a good night's rest and a peaceful morning and was ready to bring her home. Also her husband was completely well. Order was restored.

I am so grateful to my Plainfield practitioner, to Plainfield Church and all I am learning here, for the Bible Study and Roundtables, the website, to the members who work tirelessly to keep it all going, and, of course, to Mary Baker Eddy and Christ Jesus who gave us this wonderful Science.

C. A.
Texas

I love the Twenty-third Psalm, especially, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." I've been dwelling on this each day, and I've found my wife declaring this before a rough day at work.

Christian Science as it's lived in Plainfield Church

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helps you see more, understand more, be more practical. I learned from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy that “the house of the Lord” is made of good thoughts, spiritual thoughts and spiritual constructs — a consciousness of good.

Last Saturday, my family and I went to help our ailing parents in New York. On the way our car hit a pothole and blew out a tire on a major bridge. The nicest policeman and tow operator came to our aid. We were taken to a nearby tire shop. I was praying to see the blessing in this, and I did. The tire that blew was nearly bald!, and needed to be replaced. Then I asked the tire shop owner for a replacement tire rim for our spare, as I had been trying to find one and the only ones I could find were terribly expensive, and we had been driving without a spare tire for quite awhile. They got it for me and saved me about 50% off retail. I felt showered with blessings!

Thank God for this practical Science, for Mary Baker Eddy, and for this teaching church.

C. T.

New Jersey

Recently my clothes were covered in plaster dust, so I took them off in the laundry alcove, removed the items from my pockets and put the soiled garments into the washing machine. I waited to start the washer.

I put clean clothes on and began to replace items in my pockets. I then realized my wallet was missing. I wondered where the wallet could be since I had carefully double checked my pockets before putting the clothes in the washer. I knew that nothing is lost in divine Mind and God would show me where it was. I gathered the rest of the laundry and before I started the washer, I checked my pockets again. There was the wallet. I had to say, “Thank you, Shepherd.”

CornerStone

I am most grateful that I am listening more and more often to the angel messages telling me what to do.

J. D.

Arizona

Not too long ago I woke up with symptoms of a cold. I decided to go about my day and treat myself by reading Science and Health and remembering statements of Truth I've learned. But by late in the afternoon, I ended up with a fully developed cold and very aggressive symptoms of sore throat and headache. At this point, I knew I had to call a Plainfield practitioner for help.

When I called, the practitioner told me that the design of sickness is to have me withdraw into myself, start feeling sorry for myself, and stop being useful to God and my fellow man. And then he asked me to work with the following statement from Science and Health: "Mind is the master of the corporeal senses, and can conquer sickness, sin, and death. Exercise this God-given authority. Take possession of your body, and govern its feeling and action. Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good. God has made man capable of this, and nothing can vitiate the ability and power divinely bestowed on man."

In just a short time, all symptoms of the cold left — simply vanished into their native nothingness, as Mary Baker Eddy says.

I am very grateful for the practitioner's help, and for Plainfield Church and its correct teaching and practice of Christian Science.

L. C.

New Jersey

I would like to share with you a healing I witnessed some years ago. Shortly after we were married, my husband was taken to the hospital because of an emergency situation, where he remained for several days. After the medical

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practitioners had helped to the best of their skills, and without complete success, he was sent home with the information that there was nothing more they could do for him. But he was to come back for check-ups.

At this time my husband wanted no part of any religion. However, my mother was a Christian Scientist and decided to talk to him anyway about Christian Science and let him know he could be healed by it. Being a “doubting Thomas” and a non-believer — a defiant one at that — his response was a rather rude, “Well, if you think you and your Christian Science can do it, just go ahead and try.” Obviously, he was expecting failure.

My mother talked with her practitioner for guidance, which she lovingly received. And within a couple of days an indescribable aura of peace — that “unspeakable peace” which transcends all understanding — permeated our home. This intense, loving presence remained several days. Even my husband admittedly felt it. The follow-up visits to the doctor showed very clearly that there had been kidney damage, but that a complete healing had taken place. With this experience my husband came into Christian Science. For his healing, I’m still in awe.

Our blessing demonstrated that non-believers, even those antagonistic ones, can be and are healed through Christian Science, showing that divine Love is no respecter of persons, but loves all mankind universally, unconditionally, and completely.

When I was led to the Plainfield Church, looking for a practitioner, I found what was missing from my previous understanding. For this new insight of true Christian Science as Mary Baker Eddy lovingly gave to the world, I’m most thankful. And to the Plainfield Church, the practitioners, and the members I say “thank you” for being there.

E. D.

Arizona



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