

Love is the Liberator

from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy

“What I say unto you I say unto all, WATCH.” — CHRIST JESUS

Handling Animal Magnetism

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A LADY WITH A
LAMP SHALL STAND
IN THE GREAT HIS-
TORY OF THE LAND

A NOBLE TYPE
OF GOOD
HEROIC
WOMANHOOD
LONGFELLOW

May 2019

Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent

Published in Plainfield, NJ • www.plainfieldcs.com

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from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy



Drawing by Luanne Tucker

A note about the sketch by Luanne:

Boston Light - Little Brewster Island (outer Boston Harbor),
Massachusetts

Boston Light was the first light station in North America and is the country's oldest continuously used lighthouse site. The original structure, built in 1716, was destroyed during the Revolutionary War. Rebuilt in 1783, it has been called "the ideal American lighthouse." Designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1964, it is the only manned lighthouse in the United States.

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May 2019

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About the new cover:

From *In Defense of Mary Baker Eddy, and the Remnant of Her Seed*, by Paul R. Smillie:

In the Christian Science Sentinel of September 6, 1913 on page ten, Archibald McLellan stated three most important points about the cover of the Sentinel and a minor change made at that time on its cover. Speaking of this change he said, "Beyond this there can be neither desire nor occasion for change in the Sentinel, because," he said, "Mrs. Eddy's instructions forbid any change." He explained this by saying, "Mrs. Eddy likewise gave instructions." The word "instructions" is most important. Speaking then of the two women, the lamps and the inscriptions beneath them, he said they had been "preserved as expressive of our Leader's thought. ..." Mrs. Eddy requested that the cover of the Sentinel be light blue in color."



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Handling Animal Magnetism

Illusion of Animal Magnetism Edward A. Kimball

We have a term for evil: animal magnetism. The term "animal magnetism" was in use before Mrs. Eddy was born; it is a scientific term. It is the best family name that could possibly be given for evil. It simply means evil and its action, its nature, and its modus operandi.

Christian Science indicates evil to be a false sense of the real, a perverted sense of the actual, a falsity — nothingness. The modus operandi of Christian Science is the transformation of thought. It comes to substitute the true idea for the erroneous concept. Instead of having something terrible to wrestle with, all you have to do is to destroy the wrong mental sense of existence.

I used to know a woman in an insane hospital who believed that she was all covered with feathers. If you had gone to the woman, and said: "Why, Mrs. Lawrence, dear woman, don't you know that you haven't got any feathers? This is simply an illusion," she would have said: "Why, dear child, feel my arm; feel all these feathers, how soft and silky they are; why, of course I have feathers."

Suppose that woman came to you for treatment, what would you treat her for? Feathers? If not, why not? She says she has them; every time she sees you, she says: "I am covered with feathers." Would you say that God furnished her with feathers? No. Suppose the next person said: "I have smallpox." Would you say God furnished him with the smallpox? And so, on and on. Has she got feathers according to divine law and purpose or not? Are these feathers legitimate, or is the whole thing an abnormality? Suppose she is cured; then you would simply have changed the belief.

Animal magnetism in any of its so-called phases is mere mortal mind. It is never law, manifestation, nor existence. It is a belief without a believer. When one sees clearly (and we shall all do so more and more), he handles animal magnetism with confidence and rapidity.

Do you not see what we have to overcome in all forms of disease? I will tell you that the conclusion is warranted by Christian Science teaching; that all disease is illegitimate, its origin, its cause, its modus, and its law are illegitimate.

The world has never evinced any capacity to cope with evil. It has submitted to it and has been its victim. The world has been submissive to its penalty and has gone down before its law. No matter what the ill is, our salvation lies in handling animal magnetism. Christian Science reduces evil to its native nothingness under the term of animal magnetism, gets it to a point where you can destroy it. Christian Science is the one discovery of the age — the mystery of evil solved!

Awake Out of Sleep Herbert W. Eustace

Which one of us, when something contrary to good is presented, does not immediately begin to think "Well, where did this come from? What brought it about? Some circumstance, some condition, some chance?" instead of recognizing it as animal magnetism.

Do we not all have to plead guilty to the fact that we have been idly dreaming? Did not Mrs. Eddy declare, "*I am astounded at your ignorance of animal magnetism. Your enemies are working incessantly, while you are working not as you should.*"

It is these malicious beliefs or minds at the dictation of the one evil, which are doing the constant pounding, though you may, if not keenly awake, think it is your own thinking. It is this malicious argument going on incessantly, that causes Christian Scientists to bow down to the lies it presents and believe, among other arguments, that they cannot heal, that is to say cannot see God as All-in-all.

Paul admonished, "Now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." In other words wake up by knowing

you are awake and why, and that as a Christian Scientist you cannot be made to believe that it is chance, circumstance or any other thing that is at work instead of malicious mind. Then you cannot be prevented from handling the claim and destroying it, whatever it may be called.

Mrs. Eddy is reported to have told some friends that if we did not destroy the belief in malicious mental malpractice and meet its mesmerism, we would go along another 1900 years with the world sunk in blackest night. She also declared that it had tried to overcome her, but she had withstood it all for 40 years, and that now we must do it. Unless it is done, the cause of Christian Science will vanish.

Is this “withstanding” accomplished by indolence, or by the searching out of an easier way to spiritual achievement? Do you think you can do it by turning, perhaps, to the countless foibles and fables of human belief which offer quick means of securing wealth and happiness? Beware the silly rubbish of so-called superfine metaphysics that is flooding the earth, seeking as the Bible points out to deceive, if possible, the very elect. All of such things mean nothing to the Christian Scientist. God has already done all. Jesus declared, “I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.” What Jesus declared as imperative for him to do cannot be less imperative for all to do.



Animal magnetism has no scientific foundation, for God governs all that is real, harmonious, and eternal, and His power is neither animal nor human. Its basis being a belief and this belief animal, in Science animal magnetism, mesmerism, or hypnotism is a mere negation, possessing neither intelligence, power, nor reality, and in sense it is an unreal concept of the so-called mortal mind.

Mary Baker Eddy, S&H 102 : 1-11

Facing Down Animal Magnetism

Gary Singleterry

Learning how to handle animal magnetism was a tough one for me for a long time. As I look back at the training I received here at the Plainfield Church, one of the primary reasons it was so tough for me was because I arrived as, I guess you could say, a coward. I was really unwilling to acknowledge we were in a battle; a battle between good and evil.

After I moved to Plainfield, the practitioner and teacher, Mrs. Evans, would often remind us that we are in a battle. I remember bristling at first. I was under the mistaken belief that you are supposed to go through life peacefully, be diplomatic, and expect things to resolve themselves. The idea of being in a battle was not something I wanted to accept.

However, for quite some time I had difficulty with relationships, business and personal, and especially confrontation. I did not like it, I did not know how to deal with it, and I ran from it often. It caused many problems for me; it affected my health. Dear Mrs. Evans continued to remind us that we were in a battle and we had better be fighting on the right side.

One morning I woke up, and it just clicked for me. I realized, “Yes. We are in a battle here. It is a battle between good and evil, and the battle is the Lord’s.” This means that God, which is omnipotent good, destroys the false belief that evil has power or reality. The battle is not personal because evil is neither person, place, nor thing; but, rather, only a false belief. My reluctance to accept that we were in a battle was that I was concerned about hurting people’s feelings. I had personalized the battle. When I was able to impersonalize it, everything in my life changed. I started to speak up when I felt things were wrong. I was less concerned about hurting other people’s feelings and much more concerned about the right thing being done or said. If anyone had their feelings hurt, that was alright. I knew it was the best thing for them to wake them up and to let them see that it wasn’t personal; because what is right for one is right for all, and what is good for one is good for all.

That awakening changed my life. Since then I have gained much greater confidence that God is in control of my life. I am so grateful to Mrs. Evans for teaching us this important lesson, for Mary Baker Eddy for fighting the battle before us, and showing us how to win with God.



Animal magnetism, I acknowledge your claims, but I denounce your power. When error speaks, nothing is said. Stop justifying yourself in error.

Mary Baker Eddy, Blue Book p. 199

Watching Point No. 73 Gilbert Carpenter

WATCH lest you regard animal magnetism as an aggressive force. In contrast to man it can be defined as having no more power than a sparrow; yet if you were attempting to cross Niagara Falls on a tight-rope, one inquisitive sparrow fluttering around you might constitute a very bothersome problem.

Animal magnetism is the human mind on the way out, aroused to resistance by Truth. It threatens your reflection of God at times through the very *minutiae* of daily life, the little distractions, irritations and experiences that cause depression.

Once the lowlands of Holland were threatened by a tiny stream of water coming through a dike. Legend has it that a boy put his finger in the hole, and held it there through the night; otherwise the country would have been inundated by the washing away of the dike. Similarly animal magnetism may claim to disintegrate one's spiritual thought through little things as well as big; but in reality it is powerless and the student will do well to adopt the realization that, because of the divine power he reflects, he is a *terror to error!*

Evil is Powerless and Nothingness

Florence Roberts

One thing I have learned in this church is that, in healing, all that I am doing is realizing the present existence of perfection. God made us all well. There is absolutely nothing negative in our Father's creation, hence nothing that is not good can be something to make us fear or to control us.

This realization has helped me to nickname challenges that come, "powerlessness and nothingness." So, when I feel something not quite right, I know that it is powerlessness and nothingness knocking at the door of my thought. As we are learning, we must know that because of God's *allness*, the challenges that come *must* be quickly seen as *no-thingness*. They are mere temptations, whether they appear as something physical, situational, or through someone. They come to deceive us into making realities of them and suffer under their so called laws. We have the clear confirmation of this when we read in *Science and Health*, page 563:7, "But why should we stand aghast at nothingness?"

Recently I had a sudden feeling of heaviness and tiredness, which I would have ordinarily given in to, but this time I saw it was "powerlessness and nothingness" knocking. I declared the truth about God's powerful, Allness and Presence, and that this was a law unto myself. Soon I had the thought to write on the Forum on our website. I prayed for what would bless someone and went ahead and did that.

Soon I was rejoicing gratefully for all that God has done and continues to do. It was just as if a bright light came and destroyed even the smallest wrong thoughts and uplifted my thinking. I was left with nothing but joy.

I am so grateful for everything that I have learned since joining this church and for its genuine practice of Christian Science. This Science is wonderful, and when we stick to it we are rewarded. I cannot be grateful enough for God, Christ Jesus, and Mrs. Eddy and her message of salvation to the whole world.

This message of salvation is for all to wake

up to the spiritual fact of God's Allness. His first commandment in Exodus 20:3 states: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." If we obey this law we continue to free ourselves. As Mrs. Eddy tells us in *Science and Health*, p. 517:31-4: "Man is not made to till the soil. His birthright is dominion, not subjection. He is lord of the belief in earth and heaven, — himself subordinate alone to his Maker. This is the Science of being. She further says in *Science and Health*, p. 442:30-32: "Christian Scientists, be a law to yourselves that mental malpractice cannot harm you either when asleep or when awake"!



When animal magnetism has done its worst, it has done nothing. When animal magnetism has howled and howled, it has done nothing.

Mary Baker Eddy, Blue Book P.19

Animal Magnetism

Martha Wilcox

No matter what the inharmonious condition, be it great or small, terrifying or merely disturbing, the cause behind it is but our belief in it, or animal magnetism.

When you call disease animal magnetism, wholly a belief of mortal mentality, you are calling it by its correct name. What educated belief calls it, is not what it is. Cancer, tuberculosis, scarlet fever, war are simply names, and not something which is occurring, then you understand animal magnetism.

Any effort you may make to rid yourself of sickness and death only perpetuates these errors of belief, since the error is not sickness and death. It is animal magnetism, a belief of life in matter.

Remember that what a thing is named, that it is not. Disease is never a condition of matter; it is always a state of mind, a self-destroying error. Therefore we look away from the error to the Truth that is forever present. When matter is really understood to be an error of statement and

not a lump of stuff, then error will not be used in stating Truth.

When Christian Science was revealed to Mrs. Eddy, she saw that evil was a state of mental blindness, a mesmerism produced by mortal mind thinking. She saw that this mental blindness was a serious thing because it made man incapable of discriminating properly, as to what was real and what was unreal.

As soon as a lie is seen to be a lie, it has no power or existence. No matter how great the Goliath may seem to be, the recognition of the allness of God, and the nothingness of any power apart from Him, is all that is needed to vanquish false belief or animal magnetism.

Evil and its seeming operation affect only those who are ignorant of its unreality. When the world comes to appreciate the wonderful thing that Mrs. Eddy has done in uncovering all evil as animal magnetism or false belief, there will be a great increase in spiritual growth for all mankind.

Answer to a Sinner's Inquiry

Calvin A. Frye

Christian Science Journal February 1887

In reply to your question, "how to avoid being mesmerized," — I answer: through Christianity.

Honesty in oneself is what opens their eyes to see their own error and the truth of Mrs. Eddy's warning. All must at some time in their experience work out the rule that conquers all sin of their own, and the effect on them of other people's envy and hate.

Mrs. Eddy has devoted a chapter in her work, "Science and Health," to the subject of "Animal Magnetism," or, mesmerism, exposing some of its claims, and showing us the way of escape. If instead of saying, "O, they can't mesmerize me," students would profit by her faithful teachings on this subject, they would safely stem the current of malicious mesmerism, and bless her for the words of warning.

A Treatment for Animal Magnetism

Mary Baker Eddy

Animal magnetism does not deceive me. It is not my consciousness. I do not hear it argue, neither can it argue. It is neither mind, life nor intelligence, neither person, place nor thing.

Animal magnetism, ignorant or malicious, you cannot separate me from God, good. You cannot dim my spiritual perception. You cannot make a law that I cannot heal myself or others. God is my refuge, the only intelligence, the only power, the only Mind. Animal magnetism is not intelligence, is not Mind nor any of its attributes.

Animal magnetism, you are a non-entity, nowhere, nothing. Animal magnetism cannot think or feel. It has no existence or creation. It never has been nor ever will be. It cannot maintain itself in my consciousness as life governed by a sympathetic system of nerves, neither as an organism sending forth impure secretions; neither as impurities, deformities, or abnormalities. For God is All-in-all, the only *creator* of the *only universe* and *man*. We are His children and we do realize the all-fulness of the omnipotence of God.

Animal magnetism cannot sever the modes of good; cannot impel my mind into error of thought or action, cannot make me dormant or stupid or drunken with its subtle, evil influences.

Handling Animal Magnetism

Bicknell Young

Would it help an official or ex-official of a church, or anyone at all, to be recognized as the Christ-consciousness? Would our recognition of them do much if we could discern their face as the face of God? Would it hasten their discernment and the uncovering of error, the mesmeric suggestion that claimed to be mesmerizing them and others, and so shorten these days of mesmerism that to which Jesus referred when he said that the days of mesmerism, hypnotism, should be shortened by the elect? Matthew 24:22 — "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

"During this final conflict, wicked minds will endeavor to find means by which to accomplish more evil; but those who discern Christian Science will hold crime in check. They will aid in the ejection of error." (S&H 96:31-2) "I will love, if another hates. I will gain a balance on the side of good, my true being. This alone gives me the forces of God wherewith to overcome all error." (Mis. 104:29-32) Jesus said that unless they were shortened, no flesh would be saved.

This can only be done as Christian Scientists maintain their balance as the Christ-consciousness over aggressive mental suggestions that would mesmerize them, seeing those who are practicing these suggestions as having really the face of God.



Mrs. Eddy told Lydia Hall that she always started her handling of error by the following method: "There is no animal magnetism; there is no hate, no electro-magnetism, no esoteric magic, black art, hypnotism, etc., for God is All-in-all."

Mary Baker Eddy, Blue Book p. 255

How To Handle Animal Magnetism

Mary Beth Singleterry

It is very important to know how to handle animal magnetism. We have learned that animal magnetism is a belief in a power other than God. This is a simple way of thinking of it. We have to rise above the idea that there is a power apart from God and know there is not! In knowing that, we can overcome animal magnetism.

If error tells you that you can't do something, get up and do it! For example, during our Wednesday testimony meetings when it gets a little quiet, error is trying to get people not to speak, telling them they have nothing to be grateful for. No! We see what it is trying to do — so what do we do? We get up and testify! That is all there is to it. It is not rocket science. It is meeting the claim, handling it, overcoming it, and getting past it.

Whatever its name is, and it is always different, it tries to come in a way that seems tailor made so that you think it's your thinking, your problem, you "can't do it." It is always an attack on your Christ, your walking with God, and your work for the cause of Christian Science. If you don't let it happen, you have claimed a victory. Guess what—you have handled animal magnetism!

Let it never be said we do not know how to handle animal magnetism. That may mean you are sitting in your "prayer chair" too long, and it's time to get up and do something. In *Collectanea* on page 156 Mrs. Eddy says, "Do we not all understand cowardice never conquers? To get rid of temptation of any sort or to get out of a difficulty, we are not passive and let the wrong rule the right, but we struggle and thus conquer. We should not avoid the things that hurt us but repeat them and meet them as their superior. Disease is a coward that leaves when you are not afraid of it." Handle animal magnetism!

Rules for Overcoming Animal Magnetism

Mary Baker Eddy

Blue Book p. 170

Rules for overcoming animal magnetism:

1. See what it is trying to do.
2. Know that it cannot do it.
3. See that it is *not done*.

To accomplish this:

1. Be patient.
 2. Be meek.
 3. Be vigilant.
 4. Be sober.
 5. Be loving.
-

As named in Christian Science, animal magnetism or hypnotism is the specific term for error, or mortal mind. It is the false belief that mind is in matter, and is both evil and good; that evil is as real as good and more powerful. This belief has not one quality of Truth. It is either ignorant or malicious. The malicious form of hypnotism ultimates in moral idiocy. The truths of immortal Mind sustain man, and they annihilate the fables of mortal mind, whose flimsy and gaudy pretensions, like silly moths, singe their own wings and fall into dust.

Mary Baker Eddy, S&H 103 : 18-28

The Illusion of Animal Magnetism

Daniel Jensen

We all owe Mary Baker Eddy, our dear Leader in this healing Science, deep gratitude for showing us that in no instance is the effect of animal magnetism — recently called hypnotism — other than the effect of illusion. She showed us how to make this appearance of matter into a no-thing, and keep it as a no-thing. Mrs. Eddy says, "Sleep and mesmerism explain the mythical nature of material sense."

Let's take a dream, for instance. In a dream we see, we feel, we hear we have physical sense reports, yet we know that everything we beheld, everything we experienced, was entirely in thought. Not one single aspect of a dream was ever anything but a thought. But when we wake up we think, "Oh, now I am awake and what I'm seeing has reality outside of me, outside of my thinking." But it is just as mythical, just as much a dream, as that sleeping experience.

And when we realize that we are only dealing with thought in the waking experience, just as much as we are in the sleeping, we begin to deal with thought, and not with matter.

It means that when you walk down the street and see a tree, or a bird, you can stop and think, "That's a thought of a tree, or thought of a bird. It all exists in thought." I find myself practicing this, because the first step of what Mrs. Eddy says "to resolve things into thought" is the difficult one.

That's why the practice of seeing things as thought — recognizing it as thought — puts it in an area where you can say, "Well, big deal, I can handle that." But if you've got it as something where cell structure has to be changed, an organ has to be restored . . . all of a sudden, you've got a different ball game.

Now let's look at it through hypnotism. You're going to see that ultimately that's all you are ever dealing with. It's no accident that Mrs. Eddy says, "Animal magnetism, alias hypnotism." She refers to this constantly. Because that really explains what it is.

A man at Fifth Church I knew had a very good friend who was an expert hypnotist. They used to talk metaphysics, and he used to say to the Scientist, "One of these days I'm going to hypnotize you, and then you're going to understand what we're talking about."

One night they went to dinner and the Scientist ordered lamb chops. Presently, the waitress served him. He looked down at his plate and said, "Just a minute, Miss. You've made a mistake in my order. I ordered lamb chops — not watermelon." "Well!" she said, "What watermelon?" And he said, "This watermelon!" and he held up a big slab of watermelon right there in front of him. She said, "Are you trying to put me on?" "No," he said, "I'm talking about this. I know I ordered lamb chops." She said, "Well, I served you lamb chops — and that's what you've got." And they got into quite an argument.

Finally he caught a glimpse of his friend's face across from him, which had a smirk on it, and he stopped, looked right at him, and said, "You finally did it, didn't you!" And that broke the spell. He looked back at his plate, and where an instant before had been a big slab of watermelon, were the lamb chops. He rather shamefully excused himself to the girl, and the two men went on with their meal.

The next day he and his mother went to visit an invalid aunt who was suffering from a belief of cancer of the face. It had reached the stage where she could no longer go out in public. And so the family took turns visiting. As they walked into the room, he saw his aunt's face, all covered with this growth. He turned to his mother, and almost

with a chuckle, said, "Why, Auntie has watermelon all over her face!"

You see, he saw so clearly that it was no different than the watermelon had been the night before. It was hypnotic. It was not actual. There was no reality in it. And he saw that, and his mother saw that. And they talked to the aunt about it, and about what body really is.

The next morning, the niece, who was taking care of the aunt, called — so excited she could scarcely speak. She said, "The most wonderful thing just happened! That entire cancerous growth just fell off of Auntie's face. And she's well!"

Now let's look for a moment at what happened. The breaking of a hypnotic spell requires two steps. The first step is recognizing it to be an illusion. Even when you are still standing knee-deep in it. The second step that is required is to know what the fact is. With his aunt, when he recognized what true body was, what the fact was, every whit spiritual — not one iota matter — it had to break the spell.

We've got to see things as thoughts . . . then we can make the exchange. The growth had to be seen as nothing but a thought . . . an hypnotic thought . . . in order for the exchange of the objects of sense for the ideas of Soul. And when that happens we cannot avoid healing.

I'd like to share with you another thing about hypnotism — the necessity for continuity. It explains something of what is demanded of us in our work.

During Mrs. Eddy's time, one of her students, anxious to know more about the handling of animal magnetism, booked passage for India — to learn more about the defenses of mesmerism. He took his things aboard ship, put them away in his room, and then went up on deck. He was standing on the deck, watching the stevedores load the boat. There were great stacks of boxes sitting all over the docks in big, orderly piles. And everyone was happily going about his business.

Among the passengers, he met a Hindu, and they began to talk. Pretty soon he asked the Hindu, "Do you believe in mesmerism?" It was a beautiful, sunshiny day, but all of a sudden, the

most terrible storm came in from the Atlantic. Great waves smashed into the boat, and threw it like a toy against the docks. The wind knocked the big piles of boxes around, knocked some of the stevedores into the water, tore the roofs off some of the buildings. They had to hold on for dear life to the boat railing to keep from being thrown overboard. It was a frightening experience. And this went on for some time.

Then, just as quickly, it stopped. Absolutely stopped. And the fellow looked down at the dock. And there were the stevedores going about their business — just as quietly as before. All the crates were standing there in perfect order. No roofs were torn off. And the water was as calm as a lake. And the Hindu turned to him and said. “I have just answered your question.”

The man continued his trip, and arrived in India. He kept his appointment with the adept, who was to teach him about this. He was shown to his quarters. They were very sparsely furnished, just a table and chair. And he was left alone there. Presently, the door opened and a man came in carrying a magnificent, big Indian vase. He had never seen anything so beautiful. The man walked in front of him, and lifted that vase over his head, and slammed it onto the floor. And it broke into a thousand pieces.

It was a rather startling experience, but the Scientist was a bit prepared because of the experience on the boat. And he remembered what the Hindu had told him. He said, “The only defense against mesmerism is to hold to a fact, no matter how simple it is — hold to a fact.” The only fact that came to him at that moment was: 2×2 are 4. And he held to that. To his amazement, the vase and all its pieces disappeared from view, and he was alone in the room again.

He sat back, rather proud of himself at what he had been able to accomplish, and allowed his thought to drift away, and when he did, instantly the whole mess was back — all over the floor again.

He stopped, and went back to that fact again. Everything disappeared. He sat there a little while, and pretty soon his thoughts started wandering . . . and back it all came again. Finally, he saw that he had to maintain that fact. And he did.

And with that, the vase disappeared permanently. The door opened. The mesmerist came in, and he said, “You need never fear mesmerism again. You know the secret of dealing with it.” The continuity of the fact must be maintained, or the illusion will slip back.

Never lose sight of the fact that you are dealing with hypnotism. Never forget you are dealing with illusion. We are breaking the mental state.

When you are tempted to believe what you see, we can think, “Father, You were there. What did You see?” When we see it through God’s eyes, the dreadfulness of the appearance, the helplessness, the hopelessness, the world belief of incurability, utterly fade away.

Now, to sum up. Know there is no matter. Really know it. Feel it. Think it. Remember, it’s the feel of it that counts.

That is not only the axiom of true Christian Science. It is the only basis upon which this Science can be demonstrated.



Mrs. Eddy reminded her household of her instruction in one of her classes where she asked what the students would do if they had a case that would not yield in spite of everything. She asked every member. No one knew the answer. Finally, with just a note of exasperation, but with marked emphasis and finality declared, “Handle animal magnetism.”

Blue Book p. 285

Now awaken from this spell of animal magnetism! God, good, has all the power on earth or in heaven, and “He doeth His own will and none can stay His hand.”

Blue Book p. 89

There never was a moment when evil was real.
There are no mortals who can reflect evil upon the earth
and you must disown the claim of personality to
make room for the dear Love which destroys malpractice.
There is no mortal you that can be touched by malicious minds.
If God is all you need not be afraid. Anything that you can be
afraid of is unreal and the fear both useless and senseless.
Abide in the 91st Psalm...

Mary Baker Eddy

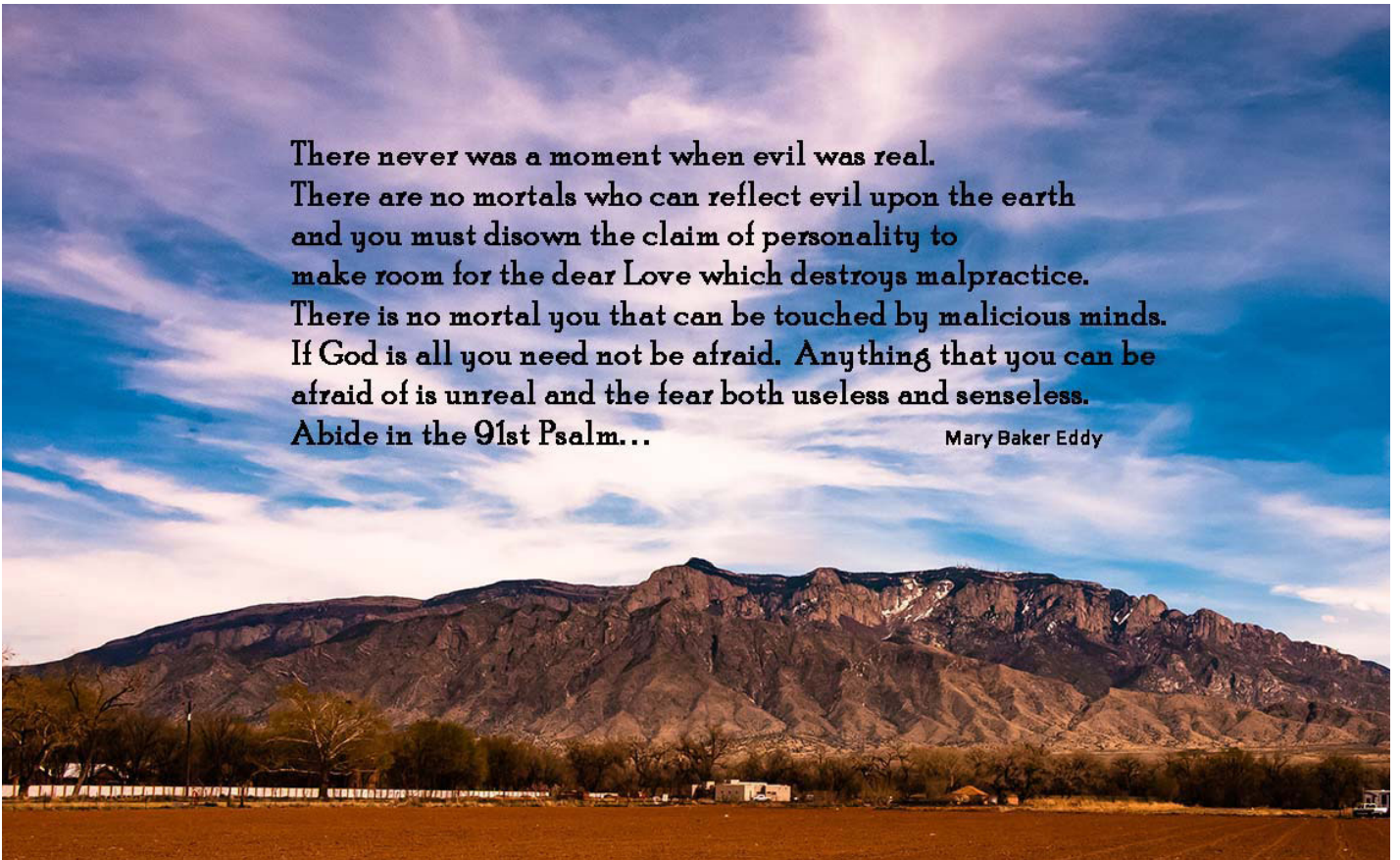


Image by Carl Miller

From Mrs. Eddy

One Talent

Mary Baker Eddy

Excerpt from Sermon

Friends, we are all the offspring of one common Father, children of the divine Love to whom this Love hath given not less than one talent. Have we buried this talent? Are we lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God? God is Love, and we shall reflect much or little of Love according as we bury our affections in matter, in earthly things, or give them the wings of Spirit to mount upward.

Life hath high demands; let us obey them. Like the royal eagle, let us soar and stoop, not to the art by which the serpent wins its spellbound prey. Let us be just amid lawlessness, loving amid hatred, calmly and resolutely pushing on to heaven, and taking all with us we can carry in the arms of Love or call with the voice of Truth.

O fear not in an hour like this
And thou shalt know, ere long,
Know how sublime a thing it is
To suffer and be strong.

The Reverse of Evil is True

Mary Baker Eddy

Collectanea page 95

Man reflects the divine perception, intelligence and memory.

In the presence of death declare Life is spiritual, that Life is *present*, that Life is my life. Life is God, so life cannot lapse, collapse or relapse, for God is divine Principle.

Every lying argument of hypnotism, theosophy, esoteric magic, etc., is reversed in its effects. Guard this statement of truth by knowing that it cannot be reversed. Their arguments bless us and do us good because the reverse of them does us good. And all things shall work together for good to those that love God.

Man the Reflection of Mind

Mary Baker Eddy

Collectanea pages 46-47

Mortals may have a big belief of brain, but according to Christian Science, the claim that somebody thinks blinds man to the fact that there is but *one* Mind, God, and consequently only one real *thinker* and one *thought*. Isaiah 14:24: "The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand."

When man begins to see himself as the reflection of God, Mind, and recognizes that he has within himself the capacity to act as possessing all power from Him in whom we live, move and have our being, he has reached the highest of all endowments and fruitful of all good works. *He who is obedient to Truth has immense power for service.*

The Truth frees him from ignorance of his capacities and privileges. It fortifies and sustains him under all circumstances. It is here and now. Pentecostal power is always present. It is the power of Mind enabling man to do the will of wisdom, for God's biddings are always enablings. It is the power to think, to act, to speak so that life will be fruitful and joyous. It is the capacity every man possesses to act in harmony with divine power, and this is to preserve a scientific sense of being.

Nothing is *truth* but the absolute. We do not know anything. Mind is the only source of power. Thought is the only force. Therefore those who have turned to the fountainhead of being for the solution of any problem, have brought such titanic force into intelligent activity that the results may seem incredible. Principle does not require time to become itself and find its true expression. Mind is causative. We reflect the ideas of Mind, interpret them to ourselves and objectify or bring out the fruit of thought. Therefore the word of God spoken into consciousness is the seed bearing fruit after its kind.

Interesting Squibs

Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

George Washington

What if others suffer shipwreck, yet none that sail with Jesus have ever been stranded yet.

Charles Spurgeon

It is not opinions that man needs: it is TRUTH. It is not theology; it is God. It is not religion: it is Christ. It is not literature and science; but the knowledge of the free love of God in the gift of His only-begotten Son.

Horatius Bonar

Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.

Martin Luther

Every thought is an embryo,
Every word is a planted seed;
Look to it well that the seed ye sow
Be for the flower and not the weed!

Christian Science Journal, 1886

It is the Devil's masterpiece, to make us think well of ourselves.

Christian Science Journal, 1887

Greece, so much praised for her wisdom, never produced but seven wise men. Judge of the number of fools!

Christian Science Journal, 1887

He who has not a good memory, should not take upon himself the trade of lying.

Christian Science Journal, 1887

The apparent motion of the earth is from the rising to the setting sun, when her real motion is from the setting sun towards the rising. So it is with man: he fancies himself journeying from life to death, while in fact he is travelling from death unto life.

Christian Science Journal, 1883

It is a mistake to look too far ahead. Only one link of the chain of destiny can be handled at a time.

Winston Churchill

He who receives a good turn, should never forget it: he who does one, should never remember it.

Charron, Christian Science Journal, 1887

Moliere said that doctors are those who pour out medicine about which they know little, into bodies about which they know less, in order to cure diseases about which they know nothing at all.

Christian Science Journal, 1887

I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them, and that is the Christian religion.

Patrick Henry

Every man has in himself a continent of undiscovered character. Happy is he who acts the Columbus to his own soul.

Sir J. Stevens, CSJ, 1887

History Corner

The Christian Science Hymnal William Lyman Johnson

Excerpts from History of The Christian Science Movement, Vol. 1

With Mary Baker Eddy's thought turning constantly toward a Mother Church, she knew that everything to be connected with it must be put upon a Scientific basis, and one of these necessities was a hymn-book which would be entirely in accord with the teachings of Christian Science. In its services the church had used, first, the "Social Hymn and Tune Book," and later "Select Songs," was used in conjunction with it. While these were very good hymnals in their way, there were many stanzas that could not be used.

In 1890, when the beginnings of a Christian Science Hymnal were made, several compilations for Christian Science church services were on the market. Mrs. Eddy felt, however, that a hymnal should be made up and published under the auspices of her church so that it should always be kept as a standard. With this decision reached, a committee on the Hymnal was selected, including Prof. Lyman Brackett as Chairman, Julia Bartlett, William B. Johnson (William Lyman Johnson's father), Susie M. Lang, E. H. Hall, and W. G. Nixon, all of the Boston area, and Mrs. Chas. Thomas of New York City.

Some were entrusted the labor of the selection of the words, and to others, the selection of the music. The production of this book was one of great effort, for those whose work it was to select the words found themselves very much restricted. Unhappily, there were not many Christian Scientists at that time who were able to write good hymn-stanzas, such as Mrs. Eddy demanded.

Miss Lang of the Committee was busy with her practice, and certain work was allotted to her, but Miss Bartlett and Mr. Johnson acted as a clearing house for all that was sent in for consideration. In his diary and notes for 1891 and 1892, there are very many references to meetings at Miss Bartlett's rooms, and of her coming to our

home to look over hymns. I was given the work of going through the back numbers of the Journal, and selecting what I thought would be of use, and here one might ask, Why were the many excellent verses in the old Journals of 1884-5, etc., not given musical settings? The answer is that most of the authors had left Science or had proved themselves disloyal.

None of those charged with the responsibility of compiling the Hymnal comprehended what an arduous and long-drawn-out task they had undertaken. It was not until about two years later that deliveries were made, and this completed another upward step in the logical and spiritual order which Mrs. Eddy had in mind for the perfection of the Christian Science organization.

In 1897 Mrs. Eddy suggested to the Board of Directors of the Mother Church that should there be at any time a revision made of the Hymnal, she would like to have three hymns added: "I need Thee every hour," "I'm a pilgrim and I'm a stranger," and "Eternity."

The work of the revision of the Hymnal was taken up the latter part of 1898, and it was the aim of the Committee to select for the new Hymnal the music which is best known, and the most used.

The results of this first revision, after curiosity and criticism had subsided, was a great and growing increase in the congregational singing. Within a year the newspapers everywhere were noting that the congregations of no other denomination sang so fervently and enthusiastically as those of Christian Science churches.

From the Early Workers



Getting Tired

Christian Science Journal, April 1883

The useless burdens we impose upon ourselves show our lack of wisdom generally.

When we are striving to do good, and our burdens seem heavy, they become light with the thought that we have a burden-bearer, even God, and that we can bear no burden save with His strength. There is no stintedness in Omnipotence. The sun, moon and stars never fail us, and man is never deserted in his need; but we are not the best judges of what we most need, striving, as we so constantly are, after the temporal.

We are each a drop in the ocean of Life, and that is always perfect in its fulness. God never forgets us, and we may rest in His strength. It is our perfect inheritance. The pleasures of this we call "flesh" are like the mirage, attractive, perhaps, in the distance; but as we approach them they are nothing, bringing with them nothing to reward our efforts but a belief of weariness.

Then let us strive to make our gain in the right direction; not in worldly pomp and glitter but in a spiritual growth; then we shall have rest for weariness, a balm for every wounded thought,

"X"

and peace beyond understanding. Ah! poor, weary mortals, when you understand the rest there is in Infinite strength, how much burden-bearing you will save! Your tiredness will disappear as by magic, and you will realize how little the flesh profiteth you or anyone else. Temporal pleasures are alluring and deceptive; but the rest and peace of eternal Love we have now, at once. You do not believe, because you will not. Christian healing is as attainable to you as to me, and I can prove my faith by works, which comes through the understanding that God is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent, and that "height, nor depth, nor any other creature can separate" me from Him. We may deny Him and suffer, or we may turn to Him and be strengthened and healed.

The Coming of Spring

Grace Stafford Farrington

Christian Science Sentinel 1901

Now is the touch of spring in the air. Winds may blow, skies darken with threatening clouds, but we know the currents of life are flooding back and naught can stay their progress.

We catch the promise of this new awakening in a bit of blue sky, in the robin's note, and in the warmer touch of the sun. We quite forget the barren past in the joy we feel as we watch these first, faint signs. "Everything is happy now. Everything is upward striving."

It is good to watch God's promise blossom over all the land. Good to watch and learn thereby. Are we, too, making ready for our spiritual birth? Are we removing the old accumulations of self-pride, envy, jealousy, hatred, fear, and malice? Are we raking away the faded leaves of discontent, weariness, and self-seeking? Are we willing to destroy all that will retard or prevent us from being pure reflections of God? Science shows us the way. Are we willing to follow?

Divine Love has opened wide the door that this new spiritual life may be possible to all. O, let us then, with a deep thrill of gratitude, accept our blessing and meekly as a "little child" enter the promised land of flower and fruitage. "Now is the accepted time." "Now let us put off the old man with his deeds." "For old things are passed away, behold: all things are become new."

"Who Forgiveth All Thine Iniquities."

Christian Science Journal 1885

If left to their natural conclusions, children invariably trace sickness to a cause in sin, rather than to material causes.

A little boy of our acquaintance got angry with his brother, and threw a stone at him. That night he was taken violently ill with diptheretic sore throat, high fever, and pain in his head and limbs. His mother, a Christian Scientist, treated him unavailingly; he grew rapidly worse. Just at a point when the case seemed alarming, the little fellow looked up and said, "Mamma, if I hadn't thrown that stone at my brother, I shouldn't have been sick." Then the mother handled the sin with Science, making the lesson salutary, and the child was cured suddenly.

Except we become as little children, we may not hope to be set free from the bondage of sin into holiness — health.

Heavenward

H. P. Read

Christian Science Journal, November 1884

Let progress mark the footsteps
Of Science grand and strong.
"Truth bringeth forth her increase,"
Will be the victor's song.

Unconscious of the glories
Beaming in Love divine,
We walk this earth in darkness,
Instead of God's sunshine.

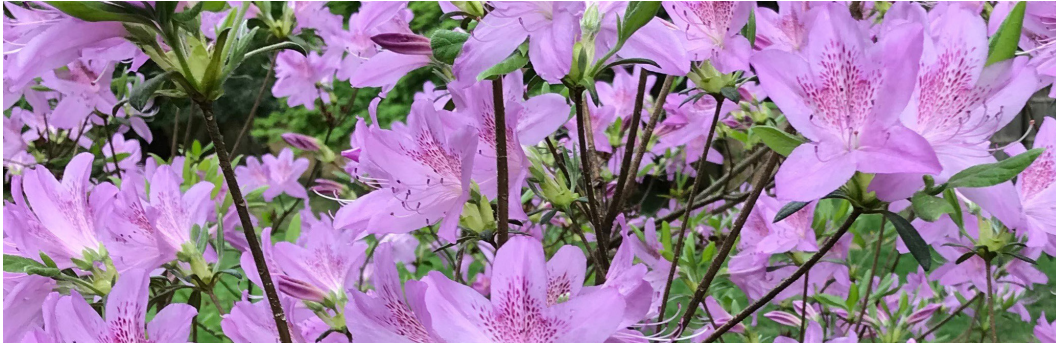
We think of Him as person.
In lieu of Spirit, Mind,
Which fills all space around us
As Principle divine.

A Principle unchanging,
Our only Truth and Life,
Intelligence that governs
Midst all the mortal strife.

By truest understanding
Disease and sin are healed,
Bringing in closer contact
Glories to be revealed.

Then to this understanding
The Spirit calls you now,
And bright will be the jewels
He places on your brow.

Current Articles



God Cares for His Little Ones

Edith Arevalo

I am so grateful, and I just can't keep it to myself. I am so grateful for Christian Science, and I'm so grateful that the Plainfield Christian Science Church became independent. The information provided from Plainfield is so unique and beneficial. I learn so much from the articles by Herbert W. Eustace, Bicknell Young, Gilbert Carpenter, and Mrs. Martha Wilcox. My life is changing. I love my life. I would like to share with you what I mean.

I was born in El Salvador in 1970. I was raised with no religion. My father was a wonderful father and a military man who kept religion away from us. God always made a way into our lives, however.

In 1980 my father was killed during the civil war in my country. I was present during this event. I was 10. My mother had to leave the country, so she came to the USA to be able to provide for us. We were three girls, and I am the youngest. A neighbor had shared Psalm 91 with us, she said that we should read it if we ever felt scared. I memorized Psalm 91 and fell asleep repeating it many nights.

Because of the death of my father, I found myself lost and confused. One day I told myself that I was going to pretend that my father had not died and try to live my life pretending. At that very moment, I heard a voice that told me that I should not believe lies and that I should learn the truth. The voice told me that He was my real father and I could trust Him. And I did. I lived my life following the counsel of the voice, which I called God.

Since my mother had left, we had to live in different places, with different people, and I always followed the voice of God and I never struggled with anything. People always loved me and cared for me no matter where I went. Every time I felt scared because of the war going on, I was always able to run to God. It was marvelous. It was just like Psalm 91 says, I was dwelling in the secret place of the Most High. My childhood was wonderful because of this relationship I had with God. I remember I read the whole Bible when I was 10 and followed the proverbs to the mark. God showed me and taught me so many wonderful things.

I never followed religion. This was done just by being able to listen to the voice of God and willing to follow Him. I guess that since I was a kid, I didn't have anything worldly, or mortal mind that could stand in the way.

In my late teens, I gave room to mortal mind and I lost my connection with God. I had tried to gain it back, but I had not been successful. I studied different religions on my own, but it didn't help — until now that I've found Mrs. Eddy's Christian Science. I am starting to hear the voice of God again. I am starting to go into His presence like I used to, the secret place of the Most High. It's taking work to regain it, and I'm glad to do the work. There is still a lot for me to learn, but I know that I am going the right way now. Each day it gets better.

I am so grateful for Christian Science and for the Plainfield Christian Science Church. I appreciate all the work that is done in Plainfield.

“Mind Never Forgets” Lynda Spencer

During the Roundtable of February 24, 2019 titled, *Sight, Hearing, Memory, Your Immortal Faculties*, we talked about the importance of using our faculties for the glory of God. Mary Baker Eddy writes, “Mind alone possesses all faculties, perception, and comprehension.” (S&H page 488) God is our Mind, our memory, and it’s not glorifying Him to use that to go over negative thoughts!

This reminded me of an incident Martha Wilcox tells about in her book, “Addresses,” while she was working in Mrs. Eddy’s home. She says that one night she asked Mrs. Eddy, “Mother, I did not forget once nor make a mistake, did I?” Mrs. Eddy said, “No, you didn’t.” Later that night Mrs. Eddy asked, “Martha, do you ever forget?” Mrs. Wilcox replied, “Mother, Mind never forgets.” The next morning, Mrs. Eddy said, “Martha, if you had admitted last night that anyone can forget, you would have made yourself liable to forgetting. Whatever error you admit in yourself as real or in another, you make yourself liable to that error.”

The week following this class as I was leaving my driveway, I noticed that the outdoor light was still on. I caught myself thinking, “I bet I’m going to forget to turn the light off all day again.” This Roundtable discussion immediately came to my thought. I was really shocked by my attitude and that I used my memory to remember I was forgetful! This definitely was not using my faculties for the glory of God, nor was it using what I was learning. So, I rebuked the negative thought and affirmed, “God is Mind, He will remind me, and God is my Mind, and I will remember at the right time.” I was firm with myself that I could trust this Truth.

It took a while to do all the errands I needed to do. When I got home, I went into the house and started to do a task when the gentlest, quiet voice came and said, “Lights” while I was very close to the light switch. It was so beautiful because there was no human effort or will power involved. I hadn’t even noticed the light when pulling up the driveway. It was God taking care of the situation. There were two other unique tasks that I also needed to remember, and they were done easily and effortlessly. How important it is to be obedient and hold to the Truth we have been given from the Bible and from *Science and Health*, by Mary Baker Eddy.

The Parting of the Cars Shahidat Abbas

How important it is to take *everything* to God regardless of how seemingly small. I’m learning here in the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, to do just that.

I had an early morning appointment that required me to drive clear across Washington DC during rush hour traffic. Now, while DC is a fraction of the size of bigger northeast cities, it’s absolutely chock full of cars and I generally do all I can to avoid driving in the City during rush hour. The GPS took me on a route where I had to make a left turn into six lanes of busy traffic without an intersection light. When I realized my situation, panic began to set in and the thought immediately came to get out of the situation. But I pushed that thought aside and reached out to God instead. I prayed, “God you found a way for Moses and the Israelites to cross the red sea, so surely you can open a safe path for me in this traffic.”

A few seconds later a truck in the lane ahead of me simply paused long enough for me to maneuver ahead of him. Then the GPS told me to almost immediately make an upcoming right turn, which means I’d have to move into the right lane. I put my signal on and, once again, a car in the right lane just paused so I was able to change lanes effortlessly.

I’ve been driving for twenty plus years and *this has never happened to me!* I actually ended up being quite early to my appointment. I am amazed and so very grateful for God’s care and all that I’ve been learning in this church about reaching out to God.

Look Up!

Mike Pupko

A number of years ago when I was a ski instructor, while skiing down a steep run with one of my supervisors, I crossed my ski tips and fell. My friend asked me why I fell, and I responded logically, or so I thought, because I crossed my skis. His response was that I had focused on a slightly exposed tree stump as I skied past it, and thus

looking down, lost my balance. Later I learned to teach students, while skiing in the trees, a good tip was to look between the trees rather than at the trees, because we seem to go in the direction that we are looking.

I realized after coming into Christian Science that this applies to our spirituality also. Mary Baker Eddy writes, “We must look where we would walk, and we must act as possessing all power from Him in whom we have our being.” (S&H) I realized that looking at obstacles rather than the spaces between them is like taking our eyes and focus off God, thus running into the likelihood of crashing into problems we would like to avoid.

I’m grateful to have learned this lesson of keeping my eyes looking up in an attentive way, with the help of my more experienced supervisor. I’m grateful for the guidance of the friends and “elders” here at Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, who are continuously guiding and reminding us less experienced Scientists how to stay at-one with God and live our lives in the most fruitful and productive way.

Being Still Before God Elizabeth Spaid

“Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.” (Ps. 62:1)

Much is written in the Bible commentaries about this verse, and I thought these paragraphs from MacLaren’s Expositions, about listening silently to God and waiting on Him with all our energy, expressed it beautifully:

“As the flowers follow the sun, and silently hold up their petals to be tinted and enlarged by his shining, so must we, if we would know the joy of God, hold our souls, wills, hearts, and minds still before Him, whose voice commands, whose love warms, whose truth makes fair, our whole being. God speaks for the most part in such silence only. If the soul be full of tumult and jangling noises, His voice is little likely to be heard. ... The silence of the soul before God is no mere passiveness. It requires the intensest energy of all our being to keep all our being still and waiting upon Him. So put all your strength into the task,

and be sure that your soul is never so intensely alive as when in deepest abnegation it waits hushed before God.”

Staying Focused on Christ, Truth

Diana Jacklin

In a recent Plainfield Bible Lesson on “Unreality,” the Bible quote from II Corinthians 10:3-5 really impressed me: “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

The Bible Study on April 6, 2019, also gave me a lot to think about, especially the discussion about Peter. It was brought out that Peter was able to walk on top of the water when his focus was on Jesus, on the Christ; but he began to sink when he shifted his focus to the storm.

Since then every morning, and sometimes during the day, I am really working to keep my focus on the Christ rather than on the world, on matter, the seeming storms of mortal mind or error so that I can do as it says in II Corinthians, “bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

As a result, I am feeling much more peaceful and I am noticing each day my thoughts are more focused and clearer. It is as if I am being straight-jacketed in the best possible way to align my thinking with God’s thoughts, with divine thoughts. It is giving me more clarity, energy, and more faith.

I’m beginning to understand the truth in Mary Baker Eddy’s words, “Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts.” (S&H)

One Student from France's Journey into Christian Science

Melinda Turi

For a few months after I got to know about Christian Science as an adult, I was studying Science and Health. Then I had access to Prose Works, and was also lucky enough that a church member from New Zealand provided us with an original copy of the Blue Book, which has since proved to be an invaluable storehouse of ideas supporting my study.

Along the way, we found the "MBE Institute" and the Bookmark and the works of some other wonderful independent Christian Scientists. I also found Arthur Corey's class instruction, which dissolved my problem with certain seemingly contradictory statements in Science and Health, by explaining how Science and Health contains absolute and relative statements to meet each reader at his level of understanding. The works of John Doorly, the Morgans, and Alice Orgain showed how the Bible may be interpreted in Science as an individual way, while not losing anything from its essence, only Truth unfolding, multiplying, and being expressed in human consciousness in manifold ways.

After a few years, however, I seemed to still struggle with putting Science into practice, and life seemed to be a constant struggle. This was when I read "Notes from a Class as taught by Laura Sargent." Laura Sargent, along with Martha Wilcox, was one of the closest workers in Mary Baker Eddy's home. I found it to state absolute Christian Science in a way that spoke to my heart, and an immediate change took place in my consciousness. I simply could not put the book down.

Then, about a year and a half ago, I found your church's website. All the collected material is great, and there are so many articles by early workers that I had not seen before. I am especially grateful for the recording of the Martha Wilcox material, as well as Gilbert Carpenter's "Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Footsteps," so clearly and beautifully. The latter, which at first seemed to be a material history of Mrs. Eddy's household, holds great lessons about translating all things back into Spirit, as well as understanding the intent behind many of Mrs. Eddy's actions while building this cause.

I am also very grateful for Gary Singleterry for reading the articles by Mrs. Eddy. I think his rich and timeless tone is perfectly suited to carry us back to the sitting room of Mary Baker Eddy, where those items in the compiled articles must have been first heard. I especially gleaned truthful ideas lately from the article titled, "Place." I listened to it at least twenty times in these last two weeks.

I found that God always provides us with the right inspiration according to our light, and that while Science and Health is our basis to understand the Bible better, all this literature highlights different facets of our true diamond, Christian Science. Thank you for your great work in this church, and for collecting and preserving for all of us the literature still available!

Our Gospel Is Not Hid!

Jeremy Palmer

The Responsive Reading in a recent Bible Lesson, from II Corinthians 4, says: "seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; ... if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost."

I certainly felt lost before coming here. I really needed the "good news" of Christ's Christianity in my life, but it seemed almost completely hidden from me. Had I not met a few people from this church, or had they not been very openly different than other people I have met, I would not be here.

They were different in that, while everyone I knew seemed to be perpetually down-on-their-luck, and full of complaints, here were these people who were friendly, intelligent, loving, and they had this light. Coming from such a dark place, that light was very bright to me, and yet these people always gave me the sense that this light was ready for me and everyone as well. It wasn't a special club.

Now that I have been here a while, I am so grateful for the fact that their gospel was not hid. Christian Science has given me such purpose and joy! I am also grateful for the way they modeled such Christly love for me. I often look to their ex-

ample when I am speaking with others, and it has always been what the situation called for.

We never know when our example will change someone's life for the better — it certainly did for me.

Lesson from the Oysters Dale Adler

This past Saturday, May 11th, during our Bible study class we discussed watching as we are taught here at Plainfield and I was listening by teleconference. These classes, that are available to all, are such a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Bible and the correct way to practice true Christian Science. Watching, as taught by Mrs. Eddy, is a protection and a cleansing of our thought and a blessing to mankind. In doing a watch we sit quietly and pray, usually with a topic in mind, and include prayer for our world.

When I heard this discussion, I thought of the oysters that we help raise and how they work at purifying our waters. At our home on a river

running into the Chesapeake Bay we help with a program to raise oyster babies or seeds into mature oysters in order to help cleanse the water of the Bay. The oysters, when ready, are picked up from all the participating neighbors by volunteers and brought to various sand bars and oyster reefs where, just by following their God-given nature purify up to 50 gallons of water per day! They cleanse the water as they glean nutrients. Imagine — one oyster will filter 35 to 50 gallons of water each day. The Chesapeake now has these oyster reefs and sand bars in abundance and we're growing them all the time. What a natural way to clean up our environment and at the same time nourish themselves.

This lesson from the oysters is an example of watching our thoughts in order to strain out the impure ideas and to keep the pure thoughts from God ever present. It's also a reminder to be diligent and persistent in watching to secure our own protection and at the same time be a help to our world.

In Support of Our Nation, Our World

Divine Government Martha Wilcox

Day by day we should know that nothing unlike good is taking place. When our liberty is being threatened by the dominating powers of autocracy, we can even take care of that, because the true idea which we individually entertain is Principle, and as we establish our thought on the side of Principle, this Principle is the law that governs and cares for the universe.

True civilization and true government cannot be imposed upon by any individual. Civilization and government are ideas of Mind, and must eventually spring from within. Our Science teaches that man, self-governed by divine Principle, is ideal government. This Mind of govern-

ment is neither capitalistic nor communistic, but is exclusively and inclusively Christian. This real government seems quite remote, if we look to the testimony of the senses, but looking within, each one of us may establish divine government, and each one of us may exemplify divine government, and, in so doing, we hasten divine government for all mankind.

Civilization will not be destroyed; government will not be destroyed; and the reason they will not be destroyed, but appear better unto their perfection, is because they are already Reality, they are already perfect and established in the Mind of God.

Letters of Gratitude

I love your website; and whenever I listen to any of the discussions, it is beautifully apparent how much you all love Christian Science, Mrs. Eddy, and Jesus, and are happy to say so. The comments are always uplifting and give me joy, which I have missed for a number of years.

When we first begin to follow Christian Science it can seem lonely at times, and it is nice to have a friend going in the same direction to share their inspirations and insights with us.

And for this I thank you all.

Texas

I just wanted to express my sincere thanks for the Bible Study and Roundtable discussions this weekend (March 16-17, 2019), and also an earlier session entitled “Financial Rules of the Bible,” which I also listened to very recently. I will certainly be listening to all of these again.

Your church’s teachings make so much more sense than anything I have learned before. My husband and I have in many ways lived the life you described — very frugally to avoid debt, caring for our possessions (I still have and wear a couple of jumpers I knitted for myself as a teenager), being very grateful for the provision of all sorts, and trying to help with gifts when we feel it’s appropriate. Nevertheless, I can see I need to think about how to tithe presently, when I do not have income. I will be praying about this, as your church is doing such an important work and I would very much like to contribute.

I am so grateful for your help, and for finding your amazing church.

England

I’m so grateful to be a member of the Plainfield Church. Very glad I found this church, which practices Christian Science the way Mrs. Eddy intended. So grateful for the opportunity to be able to participate in church work and activities through the internet and conference calls. It is truly a privilege!

California

Enclosed is my monthly contribution, sent with much love and thanks to all the dedicated members of this independent church, dedicated to preserving and promoting Mary Baker Eddy’s pure revelation of Christian Science.

Virginia

Please find attached my application for membership. I am so thrilled to have found your church and its pure Christian Science. Your website and its publications are priceless.

Although I was raised in Christian Science, attended Principia, and took normal class, I was not clear on how to pray and grow in Christian Science. I looked for inspiration, but never found the depth of understanding I was searching for, so I stepped away from Christian Science while raising my children, because I could never seem to handle fear.

I stumbled upon your videos when I was searching for Christian Science lectures on YouTube. They caught my attention, and led me to your priceless website. The Roundtable discussions and Bible Studies have such depth and sincerity. Your videos, publications, and resources have brought Christian Science into a new light for me. I would like to belong to Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, and continue to learn how I can serve God and help the world to see Christ through service to Plainfield.

E-mail

From one of our translators

The love and dedication that you and everyone at the Plainfield Church gives so freely inspire me. I am nurtured by the wonderful work of the Plainfield Church.

Have a wonderful day.

Suya en Cristo,

California

Thank you to all who make our Bible Studies possible. The topics, questions, and additional readings flow from the one divine Mind, as is the way that the website pages are set up with links to all material. I am grateful for our weekly moderators, as well as those church members who facilitate each weekly session.

I am filled with the love of our Father and, with His ever-present guidance, I seek to constantly live and express Him.

Illinois

After the Bible Study session held on February 2, 2019, I followed up on one of the books mentioned — *Hawthorne Hall* by William Lyman Johnson — by looking for a copy online. I located just one available copy, and purchased it. It arrived on Wednesday afternoon.

When I opened up the front cover, I found a handwritten note to the person to whom the book was given as a gift, apparently, many years ago. I started reading the note, and you cannot imagine my surprise and thrill when I got to the bottom of the note and saw that it was written by none other than the author himself, Mr. Johnson! It says, “May the contents of this book surround you with the same spiritual atmosphere which surrounded those students of Mrs. Eddy when she walked among them in Boston, and led them to see with spiritual vision, speak in a new tongue, and heal and save. And may you be led to realize the full value of her poem ‘Christ My Refuge,’ of the seven steps from ‘sense to Soul,’ and that its first three steps are parallel with the ‘three Degrees’ of her ‘Scientific Translation of Mortal Mind.’ Also that the seven steps stand on a ‘golden rule’ by which we can measure our spiritual growth. William Lyman Johnson, March 19, 1947.”

As I realized the preciousness of this book that has come so unexpectedly into my experience, I felt profound gratitude and awe! I know that you are trying to locate as many Christian Science books as possible to build up your library at Plainfield Church. Based on the special note inside this copy, I’m wondering if you’d like to have this specific copy of the book for your library. I’m more than happy to donate it to you at

some point, but at the moment I’m already engrossed in reading this precious volume that apparently reveals important historical facts about the early workers and their courage in standing strong against the often turbulent winds of the resistance of mortal mind blowing against them as they continued so bravely with their healing works in the early years of the Christian Science movement, blessing all mankind forever after.

Missouri

Dear Brethren in Christ our Lord Jesus,

Accept my greetings from France. I am Pastor Mark, an independent teacher and preacher. I just got an opportunity to visit some countries and I build some house churches in different areas in Asia, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Thailand. I found people need the teachings of the Biblical truths. I searched out a lot from the internet and the Holy Spirit led me to Plainfield Church’s website, I read it thoroughly and found an amazing work and teachings, especially the languages section is really heart touching and very useful to win souls for the Lord our God.

In this regard, I need some help to get Gilbert Carpenter’s book “500 Watching Points” into Hindi and Urdu translation. I have seen the wonderful work of Hindi and Urdu weekly lessons. Is it possible for you to provide me this book in both of these languages? This is what the Spirit of my Lord has asked me to talk about with you and find the ways to use this book.

I am in prayers for you and looking for your answer on it.

Plainfield’s Reply:

Thank you very much for your email! We are happy to hear of your work, and that our website reached you.

Currently we don’t have 500 Watching Points translated, but I am going to start getting one or two translated a week. It will be a slow start, but with time, we will get there.

*Thank you, and much love
from Plainfield, New Jersey!*

I want to thank the hard-working authors of the Bible Lessons. This week's Lesson on "Unreality" is superb; very healing. I have read it several times to absorb all the mighty Truths it contains.

Much gratitude, praise, and thanksgiving.

Colorado

Typically on a Saturday morning, I would sleep in and have a so-called relaxing morning, as I felt I deserved it after working all week. I no longer do that. Rather, I set the alarm so I can be up and ready and not miss the wonderful Bible Studies at Plainfield.

I was raised by a loving Christian grandmother (not Christian Scientist), and as a child I was attentive to some of the Bible stories that were read and explained to our childhood thought; e.g., Jairus' daughter raised; Daniel in the lions' den; and

of course the nativity story as told in the book of Luke.

I have been speaking with a practitioner from your church; and from some of the discussions I am learning more how to really apply letting God be in control and letting go of my own plan of how best I think they should or should not be carried out. Sometimes it is difficult, as thoughts come up to remind me of something that was said or done to me, and how am I going to fix this or that issue. This takes patience, but trusting God with all of my heart and mind prepares me to be in tune with the divine Mind and to be ready "to give an answer" to anyone of the hope that is in me with meekness and joy.

I look forward to joining in with all of you at Christ's table each Saturday morning.

Canada

Watching Point to Handle Memorial Day

261—WATCH lest old theology tempt you to feel that there is virtue in paying one's respects to the dead, as is done on Memorial Day. While we may have to go through the outward form at times, in order to satisfy mortal mind, in our hearts we should use the day wholly to break down the belief that there are any dead, since man never dies. When we assent to the world's belief in death, we open the way for our dying. Therefore, we should always resist such suggestion and evidence strongly and strenuously.

Memorial Day is as much part of mortal mind's plan to kill man as are the more obvious and gruesome ways. Memorial Day wars against life by bringing to people's attention the universal inevitability and necessity for death. It serves to remind those that have forgotten, that death is inescapable and perhaps lurking just around the corner for them. If you do not believe that, take a look at the cemetery! Furthermore, one good look a year is enough to suit the purpose of an-

imal magnetism — enough to quiet any hope or expectancy that one is not going to die.

Once when one of the students asked her permission to put flowers on the graves of Mrs. Eddy's family on Memorial Day, she replied, "I love you, and thank you, but they sleep not there. Let the dead bury their dead. Jesus."

Christian Scientists must break the belief that there is such a thing as death, instead of yielding to it, and making it seem beautiful by means of flowers. One cannot neutralize the smell of death by adding to it the perfume of lovely flowers. It must be done mentally.

It is said that a mother pig once instructed her baby as follows: "Now I have just given you a nice mud bath; don't you dare go out to play and get clean!" Memorial Day says to mortals, "I have just darkened your thought with the suggestion of the inevitability of death; don't you dare go and cleanse yourself of that error!"

Testimonies of Healing

Persistent Cough Healed

from P. D. in New York

During the March 3, 2019, Roundtable discussion, I was filled with tears of gratitude. I have been plagued with a persistent and nagging cough, plus shortness of breath. A quote was read from the book, *The Christian Healer*, about a woman coughing in one of Mrs. Eddy's classes and the sharp and quick retort Mrs. Eddy gave: "Why are you blaspheming God." It was also instructed to say, "God good" whenever there was a belief of cough.

I immediately felt free from this coughing and felt the divine Love radiating from everyone at the discussion. I can't fully explain or describe the overwhelming emotions I felt at the moment; I don't think there are adequate words to describe it with full justice. I can perhaps grasp a little of what the woman felt after meeting Mrs. Eddy, and the absolute Love she radiated, which colored so vividly the rest of that day for her and her family.

I listened to the service afterwards, and the belief of cough tried to assert itself a few times. I quickly shut it up with "God good," which I intend to do until the ungodly (not sent by my dear Father/Mother God) belief is obliterated.

I still feel my eyes filling with tears of gratitude, and so humbled to feel God's love. I'm still working to accept the truth that God loves me no matter what happened in the past, and that His healing is for me, too.

I just want to let you know of this experience and what a wonderful blessing the Roundtable, Bible Study, and services are for the whole world.

God Protects His Children

from S. C. in Texas

When I was 11 or 12 years old, I became very ill. Our family doctor could not determine the problem, so I was placed in the hospital and was scheduled to have an exploratory operation the

following morning. I was raised by my grandmother, as my parents were seldom home due to their work. But they were home at this time, and somewhere in their travels they had been told about Christian Science. My mother decided to call the only practitioner in this small city and, bless her courageous heart, she came to the hospital. I awakened the next morning completely well and was sent home.

My parents departed on their travels, but it was decided that I should attend the Christian Science church in an adjoining town. This I began to do at once. It required my leaving my friends at the church I attended, and going alone to catch an early bus for this town where I window-shopped until time for Sunday School. Then I had to run to catch the bus back home.

I remember this teacher very well. Whatever he said really made a deep impression on me even as a small child. I loved what he said, and ever after I identified myself as a Christian Scientist, though it was a decade or so before I really began to study.

A Life Transformed

from L. T. in New York

I am so grateful to God for this church and the many healings I have had, that have brought about so much change in my life.

Christian Science has completely turned my life around, by opening my eyes and developing in me a deep love for God, Good. Without a true sense of God, I felt so lost in the world. I was filled with hate and anger and did not feel safe. To me living was a punishment that I just wanted to end.

After many years of trying to get help from other sources, nothing changed. I felt like I was living in a rabbit hole with no way out, until I sought the help of a Christian Science practitioner from this church, who had the strength to stand against my demons and pull me up on my feet. She showed me a love that I never knew was possible. The truth she poured out on every claim

of injustice, was the light of hope at the end of a very long tunnel. My heart could do nothing but relent, and I began to trust more and cherish the knowledge that she shared with me. To finally have a safe place to dwell, without fear of harm, is something I am truly grateful for. Having left the past behind, I look forward to each new day and the lessons they have to teach, because I now know that God is with me every step of the way.

I am so grateful to God for his loving mercy. I am grateful to Christ Jesus, the way shower, Mrs. Eddy, for this wonderful Science and my practitioner, for all she has done to lift me out of the darkness.

Man's True Identity

from L. L. in Ohio

I am so grateful for the clear understanding I am getting of Christian Science since coming to Plainfield, and I am so grateful for all that God has been providing.

Recently I became concerned about my identity being compromised. The practitioner explained that my true identity as a child of God can never be compromised. I am grateful to say that everything worked out beautifully, and not one problem developed. I am very grateful for the help of this practitioner, and for God's protection.

God's Care for All

from B. N. in New Jersey

The other day as I was driving home from work on a very dark and busy road with fast moving traffic, a sudden urge came to me to apply my brakes immediately and slow down. There didn't seem to be a reason to do this but, thank God, I did listen. I was ahead of several other cars, but there was no one ahead of me.

As soon as I slowed down, right there in front of me, only about five feet away, was a very young deer staring and confused, not knowing what to do with all the headlights flashing from both sides of the road. As soon as I stopped, the other drivers behind me also stopped, and we watched as the young deer walked over to the nearby woods.

If I had not listened to slow down, I would not have seen it and there would have been an accident. All the rest of the way home, I was thanking God for His loving care over us. Then I started to sing praises and thank Him for how He loved me, how he loved us all and it does not matter what we called ourselves — humans, deer, or birds of the air — God made us and He loves us all. He is all-knowing, all-seeing, and all-loving. He makes all our ways perfect, and He keeps His creatures in perfect peace.

Love's Work and Love Must Fit

from L. S. in Pennsylvania

I am very grateful for my Plainfield practitioner's prayers and instructions.

One morning our furnace stopped working. It happened to be on a day in which the temperatures were well below freezing and expected to continue dropping down into single digits. I called to have someone from our oil supply company come out, and I was told it would probably be hours before someone was available.

After I hung up, I called my practitioner and explained the situation. She instructed me to pray for our Wednesday service that evening, and to be firm that nothing could interfere with church work. She told me to be firm that they would come and resolve the problem quickly. It was a proactive stance, unlike my habit of a "wait and see approach."

No sooner had I hung up the phone, when I was called and told someone was on the way to check the furnace. He cheerfully worked on our furnace and quickly made a needed adjustment and got it running. He suggested we have it serviced soon, and he even called the office to schedule an appointment. He said that there was some time that day and if we would like, he could finish the needed repairs. This was a wonderful working out to have it all completed in the same day. The whole process went quickly, with very little disruption.

How wonderful to be learning that nothing is out of God's control. It was also a very good lesson for me in the need for constant watchfulness and prayer.

Announcements

When Plainfield Church first became independent, we were asked, “How will you survive? What will you read?” As you can see below, through the grace of God, we have survived very well, thank you—and flourished!

We began by writing our own Bible Lessons, and then Independent Christian Scientists from all over the world began sending us writings by early Christian Science workers that were not available anywhere else. And we grew from there — and continue to grow.

YouTube Channel

Our YouTube channel has more than 3,000 videos of church services, classes, readings of books and articles, hymns, and music from our services, which are visited regularly by people from all over the world.

Check out all that we have to offer by going to:

[YouTube.com/PlainfieldCS](https://www.youtube.com/PlainfieldCS)

Websites in Other Languages

Our missionary work is expanding. We have recently launched websites in the languages of Hindi, Urdu, and Punjabi — that makes nine different languages! Our newest translator writes, “Your Lessons are really faith strengthening and they enlighten the truths of the real message of the Gospel for me personally.” Someone in India writes, “This is amazing and very nice work you have done. Keep it up to reach plenty of Christians in India and other areas of the world.”

Our Website

Our church website, plainfieldcs.com, has a wealth of inspiring and healing items to read and listen to, including recordings of past services, Bible Studies, and Roundtable discussions.

You will also find a treasure trove of articles and other literature by early workers in Christian

Science, including Bicknell Young, Martha Wilcox, Herbert W. Eustace, and many others. There are also audio recordings of many of these articles and books. Audio recordings of the current week’s Bible Lesson, and a Forum to post comments relating to the Lesson are available, and also a Bulletin Board where you can post comments of a more general nature.

Church Membership

“When one sees that Christian Science is the only way, he is ready for church membership, and there is no other requirement.” — Mary Baker Eddy

This is the only requirement for membership in Plainfield Church. We welcome everyone who wishes to become a member and work for God to send in an application, which you can find under the “Members” tab on our website. Or send an email to our clerk at: clerk@plainfieldcs.com.



Our goal was, and still is, to get the Word of God out to people all over the world who need this pure, unadulterated Science, as we did, and still do. So you will see that much of what we provide on our website, plainfieldcs.com, is free. Please feel free to browse through all that we have there. You don’t even have to tell us who you are—we warmly welcome everyone!

But there are expenses involved in maintaining a website, and in maintaining our church home and our church services. So if you are helped by what you find here, and you wish to show your gratitude, please use the “donate” button on the website. It would be greatly appreciated!



Painting by Luanne Tucker

“A Lesson in Rhyme”

L. E. L.

from the Christian Science Journal, February 1887

“FORBID them not,” said the Master
“But let them come unto Me.”
And so they clustered around him,
Meek peasant of Galilee.

They missed not the pomp or glory
To older hearts so dear ;
For they heard the cadence of Heaven
In his tones so strong and clear.

They saw the wonderful city,
Whose streets were of glistening gold;
For they caught the beautiful vision
Of one Shepherd, one flock, one fold.

He gathered them all in his bosom,
Free, henceforth, from sorrow and sin,—
Into that heavenly kingdom
Where discords enter not in.

Again Christ’s spirit is brooding
Over a weary world;
The banners of peace are flying,
Never on earth to be furled.

And again the clear little children,
With innocent hearts and young,
Join in the grand old anthem
The “ stars of the morning” sung.

On such as these descendeth
With blessing the healing dove;
Open are they to receive it,
Knowing its author is Love.

Ye who would bar Christian Science
With prejudice, passion or pride,
Watch how it touches the children
Before ye dare to deride!

See how through their meekness the Spirit
Instant witness of God-healing bears
Before in thoughts’ gardens, your sowing
Shall choke the ripe wheat with the tares.

Through suffering, learn ye God’s lesson,
That intellect holds not the key
Which opens the gate of heaven,
But childlike humility.



The Magdalene

Painting by Eric Burfeind



Drawing by Luanne Tucker

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Come Join Us!

Wednesday Evening Testimony Meeting — 8:15 P.M.

Saturday Bible Study — 10:00 A.M.

Sunday Roundtable Discussion — 10:00 A.M.

Sunday Service and Sunday School — 11:00 A.M.

NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR ALL SERVICES

Visit us at our website:

www.plainfieldcs.com

"Publish the Word"
Broadcast the Truth
"Freely ye have received, freely give"