

# 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

## The Church Manual

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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

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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.

## The Church Manual January 2020

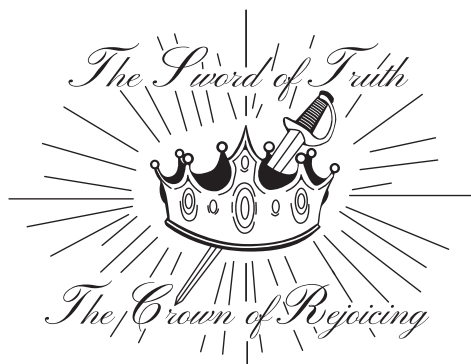
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# Authentic Christian Science

*Unfettered by material organization*



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."



This church is in no way affiliated with  
The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts  
or with the Church of Scientology

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# The Church Manual



## Take Notice

*The article on the Church Manual by Blanche Hersey Hogue, in the Sentinel of Sept. 10 [1910], is practical and scientific, and I recommend its careful study to all Christian Scientists.*

*from Miscellany, by Mary Baker Eddy,  
page 237: 20-24*

## The Church Manual Blanche Hersey Hogue

*Christian Science Sentinel 1910 (excerpts)*

Christian Scientists have for their instruction the Scriptures, the writings of Mrs. Eddy, and the Church Manual, the rules of which help them to apply what they have been taught. The Bible aids its students to live in Christian discipleship; the Manual helps them to live in Christian fellowship. So, the Bible, *Science and Health*, and the Manual are equally important in their places.

Of the Bible Mrs. Eddy has written, "Christian Scientists are fishers of men. The Bible is our sea-beaten Rock. It guides the fishermen. It stands the storm. It engages the attention and enriches the being of all men." (Sentinel, March 31, 1906)

Christian Scientists themselves know what place the Christian Science textbook holds in their regeneration; how it makes plain the words of prophet, apostle, and of the Master himself; how it brings Christian healing into human experience today.

And concerning the Manual, Mrs. Eddy has said: "Of this I am sure, that each rule and by-law in the Manual will increase the spirituality of him who obeys it, invigorate his capacity to heal the sick, to comfort such as mourn, and to awaken the sinner." The Manual safeguards and regenerates Christian fellowship by promoting the best possible form of church organization. Therefore, it can no more be dispensed with than can the Scriptures or the Christian Science textbook.

It is best for the Christian Scientist at present that he is not allowed to live to himself. His place in organization teaches him many things that he cannot learn otherwise, for it lifts him from the selfish consideration of his personal problems to the unselfish support of an impersonal cause. Within the ample boundaries of the Christian Science organization he finds multiplied opportunities for surrendering his own will, his own opinion, and his own comfort to the good of the whole. If, then, the Church Manual, with the organization for which it provides, has so large a

place in the establishment and growth of Christian Science, it is essential that Christian Scientists be keenly alive to its provisions and its demands.

Because the question of church organization is so vital a matter, it becomes naturally an important point to protect. A Christian Scientist who cannot at the moment be made suddenly disloyal to the Bible, to the Christian Science textbook or to its writer, can perhaps, through innumerable arguments, be persuaded into a lukewarm attitude toward church organization. Indifference, restlessness, criticism that is mere fault-finding and is not constructively helpful, are the symptoms of coming under such persuasion. To prevent this, each member needs to keep his thoughts warm and loving toward all church activities; to be cheerfully in his place at meetings whenever possible; to be helpfully interested in every detail of cooperative work, though this does not mean necessarily that he shall take part, personally, in every church undertaking; for the quietest and least conspicuous church member is sometimes best serving the church. It does mean, however, that we must guard zealously our love for organization, even in its present incomplete form, that we may not hinder its growth into greater beauty and utility.

Indifference to organization indicates that we believe we value the Scriptures and the Christian Science textbook, but refuse the discipline their teaching asks of us through the rules and by-laws of the Manual. Finding and keeping a place within organization means sometimes the surrender of ease and self-will, but it means, too, shelter and safety and the right to peace. The Christian Scientist is a standard-bearer within The Church of Christ, Scientist, and he who remains loyally and lovingly at his post best serves God, all humanity, and himself.

It may be said, truly, that the inspiration for the Church Manual is found in the life of Mrs. Eddy. Everything asked of Christian Scientists in maintaining the cause beyond and above all personal interests, Mrs. Eddy herself has done before them. Had she consulted only her own comfort she might have been tempted to apply what she knows of God just to the working out of her own salvation. Instead, she has labored forty years

and more to give of her store to the world; she has been impelled to found the church with all its educational branches, and to protect its growing activities; she has foregone ease, and has bound herself to this task, that we, too, may find the Christ-healing for our sin and pain. Consistent and blessed is the Christian Scientist who can bind himself with her until many more shall find their healing and until The Church of Christ, Scientist, shall stand in good will to all men, radiant and triumphant in the earth.

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## **The Church Manual: a Revelation from God** Gilbert C. Carpenter

*Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Precepts*

Mrs. Eddy considered her writings to be revelations from God, and herself merely a scribe under orders. When in her home I asked her a question on metaphysics, she would often say to me, "What does the book say?" She had little use for her own opinion, or anyone else's. She held the same attitude towards the Manual that she did toward *Science and Health*.

The world would say that if she made a By-law, she could unmake one at will; but God made the By-laws and she could not unmake them, unless He directed her to. If any of the By-laws seem dated or impractical today, it should be remembered that the Manual stands as it does, not as the result of a personal whim of the Leader, but of her demonstration of God's wisdom.

Adelaide Still relates the circumstances when in 1910 some of the students talked with Mrs. Eddy, and suggested to her that she change or remove the By-laws requiring her consent or signature. After thinking the matter over, she sent for those who had talked with her, and told them that her decision was in the negative.

One wonders if those who made this suggestion to Mrs. Eddy, thought of her as the personal author of the Manual, so that she could change it at will to accord with her desire to provide for the time when she might not be present. As a matter of fact, when her approval was so sought on matters that required it, according to the Manual, she never gave her personal approval. As the faithful



translator of God's demands, she demonstrated His approval when the need arose. This requirement remains with us, even though our Leader is no longer personally with us.

The Pastor Emeritus may be defined as the Spirit of Christ that governed Mrs. Eddy. Anyone who has the interests of our Cause at heart, may make the demonstration to be guided by the same spirit. He may not appear as a leader in a human sense, but God will use him to guide the spiritual destiny of our Movement.

When Mrs. Eddy refused to change the Manual, she made no explanation. Perhaps she felt that the students were not ready for a spiritual explanation. Humanly she could not anticipate how things would be worked out after she had gone, but she knew that God knew, and that was enough. She trusted that God had guided her so unerringly, that she had left no "loose ends" in the Cause.

In our effort to reflect the guidance of Mind, it is essential to realize that God knows no limitations. He can see ahead as easily as He can see behind. The application of this to Mrs. Eddy's experience is, that we must conclude that everything has already been provided for that will ever arise in the future of our Cause. For this reason, those at the head of our Movement must become familiar with Mrs. Eddy's letters and writings in the archives, since in them will be found all that is necessary for all time.

A study of these letters makes it plain that when the Manual is administered wholly from a legal standpoint, such a procedure fulfills only the letter of the law, and the Directors may be brought to task for not being merciful and just according to the Golden Rule. Mary Baker Eddy instituted the By-laws. Hence she had the right to say how they were to be administered. Those who accepted them are duty bound to accept her methods of applying them; and where are her methods to be found, other than in a study of her letters that covered the cases that came under the notice of the Directors while she was with them?

To Mrs. Eddy, her Manual was not a legal club, but a loving invitation to reform. It was designed to call sinners to repentance, as well as to keep saints in the right path. No one can come to any other conclusion, after studying the file of her letters to the Directors.

It was impossible for Mrs. Eddy to couch the By-laws in terminology that could adequately express the manner in which she desired them to be administered. For that reason, she wrote letters which she knew would be preserved, which would serve as an addenda to the Manual, providing additional explanations which she knew would be necessary in the years to come.

## Mrs. Eddy's Church Manual, 88th Edition

Joanne Fritz

Recently I've had the great blessing of typing the Church Manual (88th Edition), the last version authorized by Mrs. Eddy, for digital preservation. I am embarrassed to admit, that even though I have been in Christian Science for many years, I never read the Manual.

I am in awe of the divine guidance that Mrs. Eddy expressed in the writing of this last edition of her divinely authorized Church Manual. Each By-Law was inspired by God, and written by Mrs. Eddy as a result of a current need in her church founding and organization. I recall reading in a reminiscence of one of the early workers, that Mrs. Eddy suffered intensely during the demonstration of each of these By-Laws; and when she finally completed it and sent it for insertion into the Manual, her suffering ceased and she felt the peace of God again.

During the past year, I read William Lyman Johnson's *The History of The Christian Science Movement, Volumes 1 and 2*, which can be found on our church website. It was an awakening and humbling experience for me, filling me with much gratitude for what Mrs. Eddy went through in establishing her church. Reading those volumes has given me a greater understanding of, and appreciation for, each By-Law in the Manual. Now, as I read the Manual, it's as if puzzle pieces are coming together, giving perfect meaning to Mrs. Eddy's divinely inspired and authorized work. Thank God that Plainfield Church is preserving these precious works and making them available — in all their original purity — to us all.

## Seventy-Third Manual (1908): Branches' Self-Communion Alice Orgain

“The branch churches continue their communion seasons, but there shall be no more communion season in The Mother Church that has blossomed into spiritual beauty, communion universal and divine.” *Miscellany* 141:26-29.

This Seventy-third Manual records the most momentous event that had ever taken place in the Christian Science Movement — the dissolution of the only tie that bound the branch churches to The Mother Church, the Annual Communion Service.

Previous to the dedication of the Extension in 1906, the Communion Service had been held annually; but immediately after the dedication, in the Fifty-seventh Manual, it had been changed to a triennial meeting.

Mrs. Eddy's statements, in abolishing this Communion, are most forceful in the sense of showing the great significance of the occasion. She says on page 140 of *Miscellany*: "Relinquishing a material form of communion advances it spiritually. The material form is a 'Suffer it to be so now,' and is abandoned so soon as God's Way-shower, Christ, points the advanced step."

Mrs. Eddy further says: "Dropping the communion of The Mother Church does not prevent its distant members from occasionally attending this church." Again, Mrs. Eddy says: "The branch churches continue their communion seasons, but there shall be no communion in The Mother Church that has blossomed into spiritual beauty, communion universal and divine." My. 141.

The great import of the dissolution of the one and only Church tie that bound The Mother Church and the branches together, particularly in the light of Mrs. Eddy's statements just quoted, should be readily apparent.

## The Manual Coup of December 1910

Myrtle Stewart

*Excerpts from "The 1910 Coup"*

Directly after Mrs. Eddy's passing on December 3, 1910, and while the Christian Scientists, worldwide, were grieving in shock at the departure of their great Leader, the 1910 Coup occurred.

It was the quietest, quickest, slickest, most invisible, — and most mentally violent, — churchly reversal in all history! It was also the farthest reaching and the most devastating, — judging by its planetary effects in the meantime.

Mary Baker Eddy's Church Manual was nullified overnight, with two simultaneous, carefully pre-planned shockers; namely:

1. Before the funeral, the 1910 directors announced to the Press that Mrs. Eddy's Church Manual provided for *them* to be her successors, wielding central control over all Christian Science churches and all Christian Scientists, forever. *Nothing was farther from fact!* Her Manual has *always* demanded the independence of the branch churches from the Boston Church!
2. Those same directors immediately "sprung" a Manual of their own *which was already set into print before Mrs. Eddy died*. They called it the 89th Manual. It had been just waiting for the Leader to die! Only three new plates [pages] were needed for the sudden transformation! One plate [page] at the front of the book simply omitted Mrs. Eddy's name as Pastor Emeritus, while two, near the back, contained three added *all-reversing* words: "and Branch Churches."

The so-called 89th Manual was such a dazzling counterfeit of Mrs. Eddy's Manual that it appeared instantly to have been issued by Mrs. Eddy herself, and it was sold *as hers* without comment, within a month after her death!

The catch is: there is not one word changed in the estoppel By-Laws from Mrs. Eddy's 88th Edition made in the 89th. The directors claim that the changes which *they* made are not By-Laws, and therefore her authorship was not violated.

This of course is not true. It was their *changes* which overturned Mrs. Eddy's Manual in being accepted by the majority of unaware members.

The 88th Manual, her last, states that the Manual is *for The Mother Church only* (p. 104); it forbids Communion in the Mother Church (p. 61:8) and Communion *between* branches (p. 70:15); and it demands that the Mother Church keep hands-off the branches (p. 70:10).

All of this is cavalierly ignored under the false so-called 89th Manual. Even the forbidden Communion in the Mother Church has been continued under the label of "The Annual Meeting" in which the branches are always included!

## Decentralization of Power

Andrew Hartsook

Some of the consequences of the 1910 Directors' circumventing of Mrs. Eddy's design [of her church Manual] have not been widely considered. The centralization of power and authority has resulted not only in damage by well-meaning Scientists, but has also, perhaps, enabled hostile elements to infiltrate the headquarters and thereby damage the Movement which would have been almost impossible to do in the decentralized Movement which Mrs. Eddy intended.

For example, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union targeted the Boston headquarters for infiltration in the Manual of Instructions of Psychopolitical Warfare published in the early 1930s for use by Communist operatives. In Chapter XIV entitled, "The Smashing of Religious Groups," the following appears: "In the field of pure healing the Church of Christ Science of Boston, Massachusetts excels in commanding the public favor and operates many sanitariums. All must be swept aside. They must be ridiculed and defamed and every cure they advertise must be asserted as a hoax. ... You must recruit every agency of the nation marked for slaughter into a foaming hatred of religious healing. You must suborne district attorneys and judges into an intense belief as fervent as an ancient faith in God that Christian Science or any other religious practice which

might devote itself to mental healing is vicious, bad, insanity-causing, publicly hated and intolerable. ... We must be like the vine upon the tree. We use the tree to climb and then, strangling it, grow into power on the nourishment of its flesh." So much for detente!

To what extent the Communists have succeeded in their quest would be difficult to determine without an actual investigation.

But the purpose of reproducing these poisonous thoughts is to alert the reader and also to suggest a lesson. We should all resolve to be more watchful in handling such aggressive designs, but we should also consider that such infiltration could not be done in a decentralized Christian Science Movement while a centralized organization is an alluring target. If one branch church were somehow infiltrated, it would wither and vanish and serve as an object lesson to all other branches. To meet a broad-based attack, Mrs. Eddy provides in the Church Manual for the churches in any state to appoint a committee on publication answerable to them as well as to hold conferences to confer on a state statute or "to confer harmoniously on individual unity and action of the churches in said State." (Man 70:15-20) Mrs. Eddy, guided by the one Mind, wisely provided for any contingency even in a decentralized Movement which could successfully meet even the wicked designs of Soviet-style Communism.

It is interesting to note in the report of the annual meeting at the Mother Church for 1985, that all the substantive action planned at Boston was centered in the report of the Publishing Society while all the reports from other departments were mainly metaphysical calls for alertness and steadfastness which, of course, are very important. But these are functions which should be addressed in every branch church all the time, not just once a year at annual meeting.

The simple point is that the areas of real activity in the Christian Science Movement are in the branches and the Publishing Society. All the other activities done in Boston are redundant or even detrimental if they give branches the false feeling that someone else is doing their work for them.



## Healing Through Obedience

Bliss Knapp

*From Destiny of the Mother Church*

**H**ealing is the purpose of our Church Manual as well as of Science and Health. Sickness and discords of every kind are lawless. The Apostle Paul has said, "The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ." (Gal. 3:24) In like manner, the healing Christ is in our Church By-laws because they correct lawless conditions; and when we place the same radical reliance upon them as we do upon the requirements of "the scientific statement of being," the Christ healing will result.

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## Christian Science Churches

Herbert W. Eustace

**"T**hrough the CHURCH MANUAL and the DEEDS OF TRUST Mrs. Eddy left everything in the simplest and clearest manner possible, if accepted just as her directions read and allowed to rest there. This has not changed since the moment of her bidding us good-bye and is merely awaiting the Christian Scientist's adoption.

"First of all Mrs. Eddy was, before she discovered Christian Science, a devout Christian and a member of the Congregational Churches and was led, in instituting the Christian Science church to use the same fundamental idea of 'no central control' (except just while she was present to direct things personally) that is such an outstanding feature of the Congregational Churches. It is interesting to note that the Congregational Churches is the correct title of what is commonly called The Congregational Church, and these churches under no circumstances allow any man made central control. Each church is independent and looks to no intermediary between itself and God. The MANUAL absolutely establishes by its estoppels that this was clearly Mrs. Eddy's purpose and intent for the churches of Christ, Scientist everywhere.

"If you will examine carefully the CHURCH MANUAL, which we all as Christian Scientists accept as spiritual direction about church, you will see how carefully Mrs. Eddy estopped every

by-law giving the slightest government of Christian Scientists or of churches of Christ, Scientist to The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, or to the Board of Directors, by demanding that either her written consent or her approval be obtained before the by-law could be put into operation. The CHURCH MANUAL being spiritual direction, not legal direction, this estoppel could never be laid aside, showing conclusively how Mrs. Eddy meant all official relations between Boston and the churches of Christ, Scientist and Christian Scientists to end. Every by-law with an estoppel clause, no matter how slight, positively ceased to operate, except as an estoppel, on what is called December the third, nineteen hundred and ten, but just as positively remains in the MANUAL as a perpetual guide and God-directed reminder that the estoppel is never voided. On that date The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, automatically became what it had always been, the church of 'the congregation which shall worship in said church' as Mrs. Eddy designated it in her DEED OF TRUST of 1892. A *purely voluntary association* as a 'congregation' necessarily must be.

"The metaphysician. ... sees what it really means for every Christian Scientist and every church of Christ, Scientist to be compelled to look to oneness with God for enlightenment, no longer hoping for or expecting an answer to his inquiries except from his own communion with divine Principle. Voluntary association under God is the only bond Love knows. That bond is the divine unity that brings forth the fruits of Love and ensures genuine brotherly love. Paul expressed it, 'Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.'

"When this day arrives, and it is of course, the present reality, can you not picture the churches of Christ, Scientist so overflowing with the spirit of divine Love that spontaneously they will draw the distressed to their doors to be healed and clothed and in their right Mind? Then Zion shall indeed have put on her most beautiful garments and the waste places will truly blossom like the rose and God's kingdom will be seen in earth as in heaven."

# From Mrs. Eddy

## Rules and By-laws

Mary Baker Eddy

*Miscellaneous Writings, page 148*

**T**he Rules and By-laws in the Manual of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, originated not in solemn conclave as in ancient Sanhedrim. They were not arbitrary opinions nor dictatorial demands, such as one person might impose on another. They were impelled by a power not one's own, were written at different dates, and as the occasion required. They sprang from necessity, the logic of events, — from the immediate demand for them as a help that must be supplied to maintain the dignity and defense of our Cause; hence their simple, scientific basis, and detail so requisite to demonstrate genuine Christian Science, and which will do for the race what absolute doctrines destined for future generations might not accomplish.

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## Motive (April 16, 1909) Mary Baker Eddy

*Collectanea of Items By and About  
Mary Baker Eddy, p. 52*

**W**e think before we speak, then if our thought is right our words will be as nearly right as our thoughts; but if our thoughts are wrong and our words are right, the result will follow the wrong direction. We may deceive man but we cannot deceive God. He searcheth the heart and rewards or punishes the motive until the act follows in the right direction. Oh! Thou eternal Love, I leave my adopted children — and Thy children — to Thee who art wisdom, unfailing and unfaltering wisdom and Love, to guard them in this hour of the attempted reign of M. A. M., the reign and rule of all that is selfish, debased and unjust.

My beloved students: Enter into the closet of divine Love and there in humility ask this ever-present power to shield and to defend you from the enemies of your souls and bodies, to defend you and guard you and guide you in the paths of righteousness, pleasantness and Truth.

Be not deceived; "God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." God knows your motive and will reward it or punish it according to His wisdom and justice, not yours. Not the so-called human, but the divine wisdom shall reign despite your mistaken human hopes, motives or acts. Examine your motives; ask if selfish desire governs them; or if in obedience to the divine command you are taking up your cross and following Him. Self-seeking will never result in Soul-finding — in finding divine wisdom and Love apart from self, and self swallowed up in a victory of Soul.

There is but one way of salvation from sin, disease and death, and this way is to take up the cross in order to follow Christ; then God, who knows your motive, will reward your act according to that motive and not according to your words. Hear O Israel: You cannot succeed with a wrong motive, for it will result in a wrong act.

Cleanse your hearts, ye doubleminded, and keep your account with God, for ye shall be judged according to the Book of Life that registers motives, and records the impulses of Mind, not matter. Let thy tongue and thy pen be employed in the execution of right motives, then shall thy reward come from heaven, that overcometh the powers of earth and wherein and whereby man deals justly, walks humbly.

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## Address in Chicago,

June 13, 1888

Mary Baker Eddy

*Miscellaneous Writings page 99*

**S**cience is absolute and final. It is revolutionary in its very nature; for it upsets all that is not upright. It annuls false evidence, and saith to the five material senses, "Having eyes ye see not, and ears ye hear not; neither can you understand." To weave one thread of Science through the looms of time, is a miracle in itself. The risk is stupendous. It cost Galileo, what? This awful price: the temporary loss of his self-respect. His fear overcame his loyalty; the courage of his convictions

fell before it. Fear is the weapon in the hands of tyrants.

Men and women of the nineteenth century, are you called to voice a higher order of Science? Then obey this call. Go, if you must, to the dungeon or the scaffold, but take not back the words of Truth. How many are there ready to suffer for a righteous cause, to stand a long siege, take the front rank, face the foe, and be in the battle every day?

In no other one thing seemed Jesus of Nazareth more divine than in his faith in the immor-

ality of his words. He said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away;" and they have not. The winds of time sweep clean the centuries, but they can never bear into oblivion his words. They still live, and to-morrow speak louder than to-day. They are to-day as the voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Make straight God's paths; make way for health, holiness, universal harmony, and come up hither." The grandeur of the word, the power of Truth, is again casting out evils and healing the sick; and it is whispered, "This is Science."

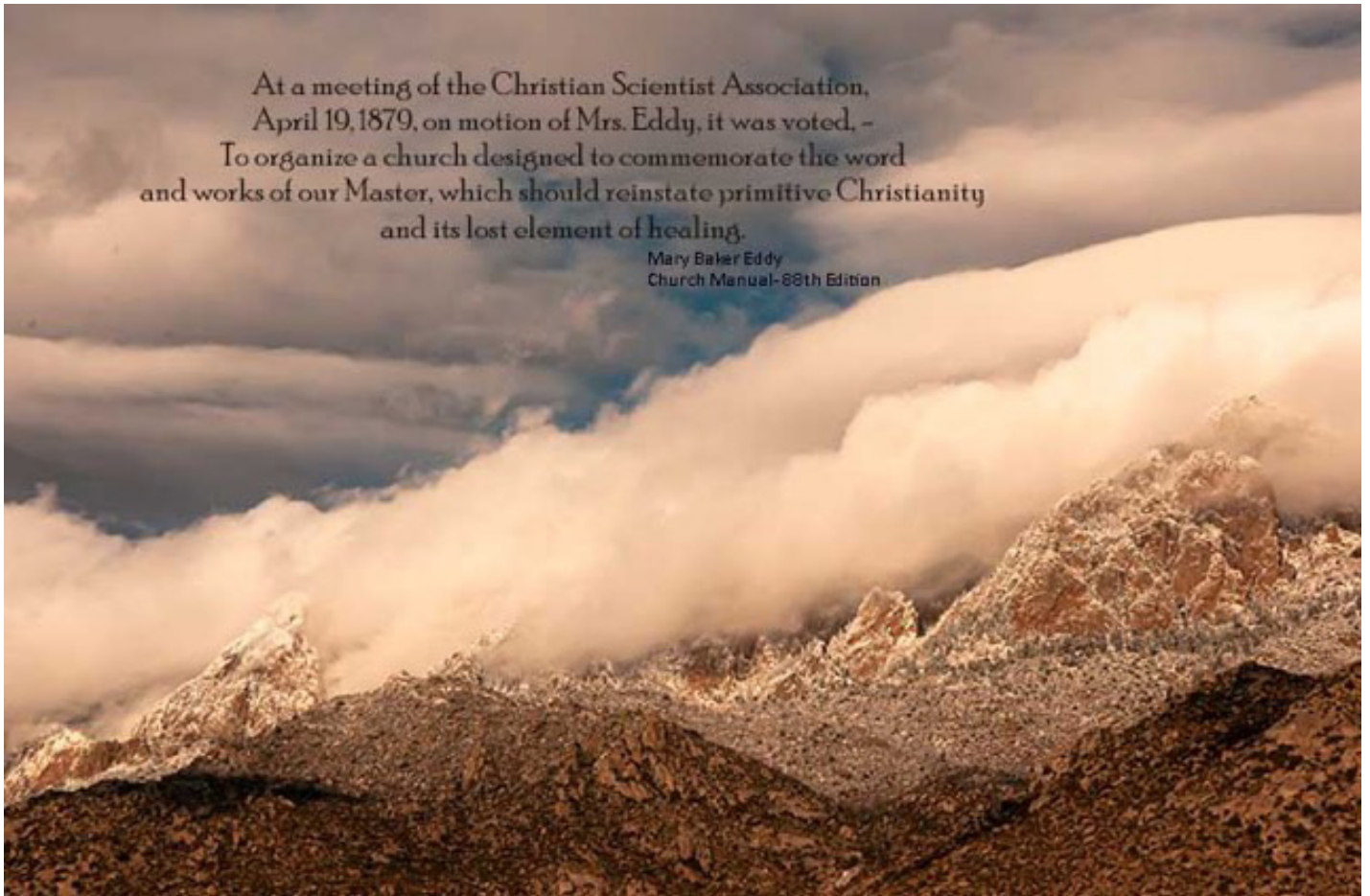


Image by Carl Miller



## Excerpt from “The Meeting”

John Greenleaf Whittier

Our common Master did not pen  
His followers up from other men;  
His service liberty indeed,  
He built no church, he framed no creed;  
But while the saintly Pharisee  
Made broader his phylactery,  
As from the synagogue was seen  
The dusty-sandalled Nazarene  
Through ripening cornfields lead the way  
Upon the awful Sabbath day,  
His sermons were the healthful talk  
That shorter made the mountain-walk,  
His wayside texts were flowers and birds,  
Where mingled with his gracious words  
The rustle of the tamarisk-tree  
And ripple-wash of Galilee.”

“Thy words are well, O friend,” I said;  
“Unmeasured and unlimited,  
With noiseless slide of stone to stone,  
The mystic Church of God has grown.  
Invisible and silent stands  
The temple never made with hands,  
Unheard the voices still and small  
Of its unseen confessional.  
He needs no special place of prayer  
Whose hearing ear is everywhere;  
He brings not back the childish days  
That ringed the earth with stones of praise,  
Roofed Karnak’s hall of gods, and laid  
The plinths of Philæ’s colonnade.  
Still less he owns the selfish good  
And sickly growth of solitude,—

The worthless grace that, out of sight,  
Flowers in the desert anchorite;  
Dissevered from the suffering whole,  
Love hath no power to save a soul.  
Not out of Self, the origin  
And native air and soil of sin,  
The living waters spring and flow,  
The trees with leaves of healing grow.

“Dream not, O friend, because I seek  
This quiet shelter twice a week,  
I better deem its pine-laid floor  
Than breezy hill or sea-sung shore;  
But nature is not solitude;  
She crowds us with her thronging wood;  
Her many hands reach out to us,  
Her many tongues are garrulous;  
Perpetual riddles of surprise  
She offers to our ears and eyes;  
She will not leave our senses still,  
But drags them captive at her will;  
And, making earth too great for heaven,  
She hides the Giver in the given.

“And so I find it well to come  
For deeper rest to this still room,  
For here the habit of the soul  
Feels less the outer world’s control;  
The strength of mutual purpose pleads  
More earnestly our common needs;  
And from the silence multiplied  
By these still forms on either side,  
The world that time and sense have known  
Falls off and leaves us God alone.

# Interesting Squibs

All who call on God in true faith, earnestly from the heart, will certainly be heard, and will receive what they have asked and desired.

*Martin Luther*

Faith is believing when it is beyond the power of reason to believe.

*Voltaire*

More things are wrought by prayer than the world dreams of.

*Alfred, Lord Tennyson*

We impoverish God in our minds when we say there must be answers to our prayers on the material plane; the biggest answers to our prayers are in the realm of the unseen.

*Oswald Chambers*

It takes an intellectual to solve a problem but a genius to prevent one.

*Albert Einstein*

Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance.

*George Bernard Shaw*

An evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God, is the great sin of the human race. This has in all ages led nations and families, as well as individuals, to seek help in trouble from man rather than from God, and always to their disappointment and ruin.

*Christian Science Journal 1884*

The less government interferes with private pursuits, the better for general prosperity.

*Martin Van Buren*

All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom; justice; honor; duty; mercy; hope.

*Winston Churchill*

It's a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it.

*W. Somerset Maugham*

The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.

*Mark Twain*

There is no passion to be found in playing small—in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.

*Nelson Mandela*

A ship in the harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for.

*John A. Shedd*

He who fears being conquered is sure of defeat.

*Napoleon Bonaparte*

The reward of a thing well done is to have it done.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Advice is like snow; the softer it falls the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into the mind.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

You can observe a lot just by watching.

*Yogi Berra*

We cannot do everything at once, but we can do something at once.

*Calvin Coolidge*

Eternity is the present hour.

*Christian Science Journal 1884*

# History Corner

## The Hermits of the Ridge

H. E. C.

*Christian Science Journal 1897*

In the park system around Philadelphia is the beautiful Wissahickon Park, where there is a massive stone building erected in 1738 called the "Monastery." Its historical interest arises from the fact that it served as the place of worship of a peculiar sect which came from Germany known as German Pietists — but the locals called them the "Hermits of the Ridge."

There were forty men, under the leadership of Johannes Kelpius, a young scholar and mystic, of great piety and spirituality, who was drawn to the New World by his religious faith.

Kelpius and his followers were earnest and enthusiastic students of the Bible. They were rigid moralists, having turned their backs upon the world and its allurements, pursuing in their wilderness retreat a systematic study of the sacred Word. They were manifestly governed only by a deep and serious purpose to learn and live the spiritual teachings of the Bible. By their piety, meekness, and simplicity, they made a deep impression upon the religious life of Pennsylvania, many traces of which are yet seen.

The primary purpose of this sect in coming to the "wilderness" of Pennsylvania was that they expected there to find or have revealed to them the Woman of the Apocalypse, — the "Woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and twelve stars on her forehead. She who had fled to the wilderness." It is said that their reasons for coming to Pennsylvania were that from many events and signs,—in which the Thirty-years' War, the newness of the country, its peculiar situation, etc., cut an important figure, it was believed America was the place for the coming of the "promised one," the "Deliverer."

While their hopes and expectations were not realized within the time and in the manner looked for, we who observe the present signs of the times can readily see that they had caught glimpses of coming events that may well be said to have been prophetic. Truly in the "wilderness" of America has appeared the "promised one," the "Deliverer," and we rejoice and are privileged to see that "glad day so long foretold," and for the coming of which so many devout hearts have longed and prayed.

## "The Promised One"

Dale Wallis

Regarding Mary Baker Eddy's place as the Woman in the Apocalypse, Rev. G. A. Kratzer, in his book *Revelation Interpreted*, has some very interesting notes on Revelation 12:6.

Verse 6. "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three score days."

"Coincidentally with the disappearing of pure spiritual truth from the activities of the visible world, the love of pure truth, divine love, the 'woman,' disappeared, for the most part, from the world of men. Such sense of truth and love as they had was adulterated, after the second or third century, with belief in material powers, love thereof, and with reliance upon material means for healing the sick, etc. When Jesus, near the commencement of his ministry, was not active in the visible world, preaching and healing, for a period of forty days, he was spoken of as being 'in the wilderness.' He was simply 'withdrawn from the world,' withdrawn from material sense into spiritual sense. Likewise this 'woman,' this spirit of divine love, is represented as being 'withdrawn from the world,' and so 'in the wilderness' from the standpoint of the world's activity, for 'a thousand two hundred and threescore days.' This is the period or length of time repeatedly spoken of by St. John as the period during which the dragon, or evil, is to have marked and undoubted ascendancy in the mental realm and in the world, so far as men are concerned.

"It is interesting to note that one Bible commentator has described this period as a period of 1,260 'years' lasting 'from A. D. 606, when the Pope of Rome was, by Phocas the Emperor, constituted the universal Bishop of the Christian church, to A. D. 1866.' (The Self Interpreting Bible.) This commentator probably did not know, that 1866 was the date when Mrs. Eddy discovered Christian Science, that reappearance of pure spiritual truth in the world, which undoubtedly presages the early fall of the dragon and of all those human institutions, organizations, and forms of government which derive their power largely from the dragon."

How blessed we are to have the privilege of living in this time! "May we be worthy such a grace." (Hymn 176)

# From the Early Workers

## Hail to the New Year C. S. Journal 1889

In reality, what is the difference between 1888 and 1889? None. With God "one day is as a thousand years." Our human years are vain attempts to compute infinite time, when there is no *infinite time*, the very terms involving a contradiction. Infinity is boundless; time is bounded; therefore there can be no infinite, or limitless, time. "Time shall be no more," said the Revelator.

With God, there is only the eternal Now. In divine order the earth, like every other planet, swings about the sun. The time thus occupied we call a *year*; yet our computation is not accurate. It takes more than 365 days for this revolution, so we add a day every four years; but even then the estimate is imperfect, and once in so many centuries we must drop our Leap Year Day. It is as if God laughed at our feeble attempts to rightly divide the indivisible.

As saith the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians, quoting from one of the ancient Jewish prophet-poets:

I have heard thee in a time accepted,  
And in the day of salvation have I succored thee;  
Behold, *now* is the accepted time,  
Behold, *now* is the day of salvation.

## Heredity and Succession Peter V. Ross

Dispose of its adverse happenings of the past; they never were. Your line of ancestry does not trace back to mortality. You came direct from eternal Life. In fact you are that Life on exhibition in the world.

Only this morning a woman stepped into the office who had recently sustained injuries interfering with her ability to navigate. This morning she walked naturally. Her face was bright and beaming. Her eye was clear and glad. She asked me, "Do you know how I did it? I kept saying, Thank God I am able to walk."

Here is the key to the situation. Do not think you have to prove anything. You do not. You have to gratefully acknowledge what already is. And

the fact is you are fashioned in perfection. Nothing has been added or subtracted which would mar your symmetry. You never inherited anything less than the best.

## Dropping the Past Blanche Hersey Hogue

The memory of wrongs, evils, failures, must yield its ghost to the angels of Truth which show that error never really happened, nor made history. A student was talking with Mrs. Eddy, telling our Leader how her husband was suffering from injuries received in the Civil War. Mrs. Eddy quickly asked, "What war?" The lady explained, "Why the Civil War." Mrs. Eddy again asked, "What war?" Again the explanation, "Why the Civil War between the North and South." Still the same question, "What war?" but she added, "I see you both believe there was a war." With that, the light broke through.

## Our Pentecostal Day Martha Wilcox

Today should be our Pentecostal Day, the day on which we are filled with spiritual Power, or filled with the Holy Ghost. If there is any feeling of disturbance in our thought this morning; if there is any bitterness, or dislike, or aversion to anyone, or to anything in all the world; if there is a clouded past or an anxiety for the future, let it all vanish into its native nothingness. And let us breathe in silent prayer the words of our beloved Leader, "Fill us today, with all Thou art, be Thou our saint, our stay, always."

What are the vital points in this prayer? Not only service and love for mankind, but the great need of being responsive to Truth only. In this way, material resistance to Truth is made nothing, and we are free to reflect spiritual power.

How does this spiritual power come to the individual student? Spiritual power comes through our individual responsiveness to Truth. In the proportion that we are responsive to Truth and let Truth be present in us and as us, there is also present active, spiritual power. And all material resistance will disappear from our consciousness in the proportion that we free ourselves from the false claims of error.



# Current Articles

## New Year's Resolution     Sheri Pinneaux

Every year on January 1, we hear about people making New Year's resolutions. It always reminds me of something Mary Baker Eddy wrote in *Science and Health*, on page 253: "If you believe in and practice wrong knowingly, you can at once change your course and do right." Why wait for the first of January when, as Mrs. Eddy says, we can at once change our course, and with no waiting!

In my home it is usually quiet over holidays, as it was this Christmas. In our Hymnal, Hymn 146 says, "In God I find a precious gift ... the gift of gratitude." I claimed that as my gift on Christmas day, and it became for me, a gift that kept on giving.

It opened by my being grateful for all the good I witnessed this past year — more spiritual growth than I have ever experienced! — which led me to be grateful for Plainfield Church and all its provisions that helped to open my thought wide for such growth!

And this gift then led me to be grateful for Mrs. Eddy's provision for Wednesday evening testimony meetings, and for my ability to share at them. This was not always easy for me; in fact, that is an understatement — I just couldn't do it. But in our Manual, under Testimonials, Mrs. Eddy states that testimonies "scale the pinnacle of praise," and I wanted to know that. So I began praying to be led to share what God wanted me to share, and for the courage and humility to let Him use me for this purpose.

And what I learned is that, whatever God has led me to share is now continuing to lift my thought higher in the understanding of whatever I had expressed my gratitude for...continuing to bless me.

I am so very grateful for this gift of gratitude I received, and for all the gifts of gratitude that have been shared by all in this church.

## "What Cannot God Do?"     Jeremy Palmer

In the Bible we read, "What cannot God do?" Since coming to Plainfield Church, one of the most important things I've been taught is to rely on God and to ask for His help in everything I do. I've seen that, with His help, we can do things we never dreamed possible.

As an example, in the beginning of 2019, our church website was expanded to include translations in a number of Far Eastern languages. As chairman of the Broadcasting and Website Committee, I needed to learn how to make web pages and videos with languages that are read from right to left, rather than from left to right, and also to figure out how to combine each citation of the translated Lessons with the corresponding citation in English. I know that it is only because of God and practitioner support that I was able to get that done, and then to keep up with it all through the year.

All of that has become part of a build system comprised of over 200 little programs that help us make videos and update all the websites each week. If you had told me even three years ago that I would be doing all this, I would have been pretty skeptical, to say the least.

I am constantly amazed at how Christian Science is showing me that my self-imposed limitations mean absolutely nothing to God. It gives me such joy to know that God has so much in store for all of us; and if we stop resisting Him, then we will see what we are truly capable of doing, because of Him.

And now, despite having no specific idea what 2020 will bring, I do know that this year will be filled with good and will bring nothing but blessings to all. What a joy it is to be a part of this mission!

## The Power of Right Thinking

Benjamin Ndukwe

The healing of any problem or circumstance does not always require much effort on our part; often it only requires a change in our thinking, which is always attainable. Very often, we have let fear rob us of this power and opportunity. No matter what the conditions are, reverse your thoughts and watch the conditions disappear or return to good, "for God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (II Tim. 1:7)

Recently I was driving to work in severe weather, with heavy rain and strong winds. I was so concerned about safety that I let my thought drift away — and I began to lose control of my driving. My fear became even worse. Then I started to pray very quietly for the weather and the safety of everyone. Then the thought came to me that God governs the universe, including man, which also includes the weather, my driving, and every driver on the road. Suddenly, the weather responded to harmony, and my driving was good and peaceful again. All fear was completely gone. My knowledge of my oneness with God and His presence filling every space was now supreme, and my joy was regained.

Fear is evidence of lack of trust in God, which consequently makes us vulnerable, and exposes us to error, environmental contaminants, sicknesses, and even death. Be on the right side with God, so that when fear creeps into our thoughts, and gets louder, trying to tell us that we are alone, so shall your faith in God get even stronger, knowing that fear is powerless and that God alone governs man, the weather, and the environment. "Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (Isaiah 41:10)

## Two Very Dedicated Churches

Dale Wallis

The Plainfield Church has many inspiring offerings on its website. The carousel on the main page of the website has a tab called "Noteworthy News," that contains many inspiring incidents from the news.

One story that impressed me was of the Azusa Street Revival. It tells of a group of people in the early 1900s who started the worldwide Pentecostal movement. People from that group traveled the world, spreading God's word. It is so inspiring to read how sincere and dedicated these people were, and it reminds me of aspects seen in this Independent church.

The people came from all nations and countries and tribes; similarly, we have members from many countries around the world, enriching us all. There was never any expression of race or nationality in that Azusa Street church, all children of God; here we are taught to see God in everyone.

There was an upper room where people were always praying, 24/7; in this Independent church, we have Unity Watches, and individual Watches that go on around the clock. It was said that you could feel the power of God in the atmosphere there; those who have come to the Plainfield Church say they feel a very holy atmosphere.

Crutches hung all along the walls, as testimony from those who were healed during the service. In Plainfield every Wednesday evening, grateful thanks are given for healing through the work of dedicated practitioners in this church, or through the learning gained here from the teaching of Mary Baker Eddy's pure divine Science.

They said that the children loved the Sunday School because the teachers loved it. Sounds like the Sunday School here, with the dedicated teachers who so lovingly welcome children for class, even on a teleconference call; and there is a special website for the children.

Azusa had missionaries who went all over the world; here our missionary is the church website that reaches all corners of the earth with services and many rich offerings.

It was said that children prophesied like adults; children here are fed the pure Word of



God, and accept and love the simple truths from the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings.

Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent is a very special place, and I'm very grateful for it.

## An Awakening

A Kindred Heart

Many years ago, it became clear to me that my local branch church members were not "on the same page" as I was regarding the disobedience and obvious misdirection of "the organization." I thought the only solution would be to start a new and separate church. However, that seemed to be too overwhelming a task at the time, so it was never pursued. How wonderful that you have always been there, but I just wasn't aware until I found you last year via your magnificent website! Hallelujah! My prayers were answered!!

I am enjoying great joy and spiritual growth as a result of your many awesome activities — from the weekly Wednesday night testimony meetings, the Saturday Bible Studies, the Sunday Roundtable discussions, the Sunday services, and the massive amounts of inspiring materials, articles, books, quotes, etc. available on your incredible website, including many items for free printing or purchase!

Since I first found you a little over a year ago, on the heels of your sharing of the 1910 Coup information — which explained for me the discomfort and lack of ease I have felt with "the organization" for decades — I haven't missed a single week of your meetings and services, thanks to your endless archives, often taking notes from the instructional comments made, and following up by purchasing and reading articles and books that are mentioned.

All the years of regret at having missed out on being raised in a Christian Science Sunday School are being erased with all that I am learning in the Bible Studies and Roundtables each week. They are so packed full of such helpful comments and inspiration. The most recent enlightenment I'm enjoying is the 3-volume book mentioned not long ago, *The Comforter — Physics to Metaphysics*, by Yvonne Reus, which is so encouraging in conjunction with our endless prayers that our world

awaken to the truth of our dear Leader's full and final revelation that we all so depend upon, and lean on, every day.

Which brings me to a few other aspects of your special and precious "church of the remnant" that I love so much — your weekly reading of a testimony of healing from the textbook or from *Prose Works* during every Sunday service, along with the moments of silent prayer for our world immediately following the Lesson Sermon, and the fact that you include citations from *Prose Works* every Wednesday in the readings at the testimony meetings, not to mention your fabulous magazine, *Love Is the Liberator*, with its cover that almost brings tears to my eyes every time I see it, as you remain so respectful of our dear, forever Leader's wishes. I am so grateful for your obvious love and concern for our beloved country, the Constitution, and for the entire world, as opposed to being just a "local" church, with the accompanying limitations in reach, as is the case with most of the Christian Science branch churches, unfortunately.

I have not yet applied for membership in your church, as I am holding out hope that at some point I will be able to share the truth about the 1910 Coup, and the infractions of "the organization," with my local branch church members, in hopes that they will awaken and enlarge the borders of their tent, as you have done so successfully.

With so much gratitude for the purity and clarity of your thought, and your obvious and total devotion to, and gratitude for Mrs. Eddy, her right place and her right history, as well as the correct history of her Cause!

## No Earthly Weight

Eaglet

We learn in Christian Science the importance of standing porter at the door of thought — what we let in, or accept as the truth, will determine our experience. Mary Baker Eddy states on page 392 in *Science and Health*: "Stand porter at the door of thought. .... When the condition is present which you say induces disease, whether it be air, exercise, heredity, contagion, or accident, then perform your office of porter and shut out these unhealthy thoughts and fears."

Sometimes this is easy when the falsity of the situation is very obvious. But some suggestions of mortal mind are often more subtle, can seem very real, and we take them in unchallenged. However, we need to learn to be equally in earnest that these are lies too.

Many years ago at a Bible seminar taught by a Christian Scientist, I heard the speaker say: “The prayer that ascends up to heaven is one that has no earthly weight.” I believe he was referring to the symbolism in the Bible of smoke. (Rev 8:4 “And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.”)

The meaning I took from this is that there is often a need to let go of the false suggestions and fears that may be weighing down one's own thought. It meant to me that to realize harmony, I needed to totally drop all my human beliefs, human reasoning and fear, and just trust God and the Truth of being. However, it was not until many years later that I had an opportunity to put these ideas into practice.

I live near a lake, where some Canada geese reside. Each year one pair would nest nearby, producing about five or six eggs, and I always enjoy watching them. This particular year the lawn service put fertilizer on the lawn. I asked to see the bag of fertilizer they used, and it turned out to be more than fertilizer — it included a pesticide that could be harmful; not something I wanted on my lawn.

There were eventually six eggs in the nest and they all hatched a little over a month later. I eagerly awaited this hatching event as the babies are always so very cute. When the time came to leave the nest, one gosling was left behind. It was lying on its back. I immediately remembered the pesticide in the fertilizer that was put on the lawn and I felt terrible. I scooped up the gosling and put it in a shoe box with some grass and water and brought it inside. The situation looked grim. I realized that if ever there was a need for prayer, it was now. I prayed, knowing that God cares for and loves all his creation. Furthermore, I claimed that there was nothing in all of God's creation that could harm any of His little ones.

The next morning the little guy was still alive

but still on his back; apparently unable to turn himself over and stand on his own feet. I saw his family in the yard and felt strongly impelled to take the little guy out to his family. I have learned to listen to those impulses, knowing they are divine. I took him outside and put him right side up on his feet. He immediately recognized his family, perked up, miraculously remained upright and struggled to walk toward them. The parents immediately recognized him and accepted him and were patient with him. They slowly walked him down to the lake.

I was tempted to check on them to make sure the little one was alright, but I remembered the statement made at the Bible seminar, that the prayer which ascends up into heaven has no earthly weight. I needed to just let go and trust God all the way. It was the final step I needed to take in my prayers. So I let go entirely of any desire to help humanly and trust God all the way to care for His creation. After all, God is All and disease, etc., has no cause, no history, no power, and no ability to attach itself either to life or to my thought. All these false claims ask is to be believed. Time to let go entirely of the belief that something outside of God's power and Allness could have existence or have happened. Time to throw thought entirely on the right side and adjust the balance to the side of God, and so I let go entirely.

The next morning at breakfast, I glanced out the window. It was now a beautiful day and the geese family were all back with all six of the goslings — and I could not tell which of them had had the issue. They all were happy and healthy and vigorous. And I was glad to have learned this lesson to trust God entirely to bring about what was needed and to rely less on my own human efforts.

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## Three Christmas Gifts Chardelle Hull

I am very grateful for three lovely healing gifts this Christmas. The first was coming to church here at Plainfield for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service, surrounded by friends to enjoy the readings and music.

Then came the evening a little three-year-old came to our house and I brought him over to see the child's crèche I had set up on a table. I had no idea what he would do or say; and when he exclaimed, "That's baby Jesus!" and he made a cradle with his arms and started to sing, "Sleep baby Jesus, sleep." We talked about the remaining figures and played with them.

The last gift was my eight-year-old grandchild. I told him that I was going to do a prayer Unity Watch, which he knew about, and that I would be closing my door as usual. About twenty minutes later, I saw the door handle turning, and in he came. I called him over and asked if he would like to see some of the prayers that I was saying; and when I read, "Thou art Truth's honest child, of pure and sinless heart" (Hymn 382), he said, "That sounds like me." He then turned and went quietly out the door, closing it behind him.

These were all wonderful gifts that I will always remember.

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## Treasure Your Spiritual Birthright!

Florence Roberts

I am so grateful that Christian Science teaches us to re-learn who we are the right way, in the way that God sees us.

It becomes quite clear that all of us, whatever our bad experiences may have been and are, have largely shaped the way we think about ourselves. Sometimes it's because of how we were taught, how we were treated, how we were brought up, or what the belief was then — or if we just never understood that being a true child of God means that we have all, we don't lack anything.

We do not have to accept the wrong thoughts that come. Most of us have lived with these wrong beliefs and have suffered the effects of them. What alarms me most is that we have also often prayed amiss because of not knowing who we are. In a beautiful article by Samuel Greenwood, written in 1906, "How to pray in Christian Science," he makes a very significant point that believing that God's man is anything less than spiritual

and perfect would disqualify one from praying understandingly. This impressed me so, because he's saying that our scientific prayer should have its foundation on our perfect birthright and not because we want to heal something, but because we want to see our true likeness as that perfect child of God. When we pray this way, we are in accord with the children of God.

I remember the lessons given here by Mrs. Evans. She spoke to the fact that no one is second class. This article says that we really don't accept who we are. We cannot think of ourselves as beggars or outcasts. So, we must know that we are all God's children. He has given us all the good that He has, and we should not let past experiences, whatever we were impressed with when we were growing up, rob us of our birthright and make us bow down to evil suggestions of any kind, be it *materia medica* verdicts, diseases, fears, or hereditary concepts. Without the understanding that we are indeed God's children, our prayers go unanswered, leaving us wondering why.

I'm so grateful for Christian Science which is lovingly teaching all of us with the power of Truth to realize who we are and why we should go to God, our Father, with the right sense of that love that He is and expect to be shown what we have always been. I am eternally grateful for this realization because it has changed my life.

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## Diligent About the Things of God

Gary Singleterry

For many years our teacher, Mrs. Evans, would give short sermons during each Sunday service. One sermon she gave was on the importance of diligence. She described diligence as doing your very best every day. I remember this sermon so well because when she first started speaking, I thought, "I don't need to pay attention to this sermon; I am about the most diligent person I know. I am always on time and finish things on time. I don't need to listen to this." Right after I thought that, I felt a mental club hit me over the head and tell me to listen, because this sermon was for me.



After the sermon, I couldn't get it out of my mind. I prayed, "God, what do you want me to get from this?" I started thinking again about how humanly diligent I was, and then it struck me that there were some things that were not quite right in my life. There were some instructions from this sermon for me. Then I realized I was not diligent at all about the things of God, and I needed to be. I needed to put everything in my life in God's hands, to stop being so human about them and let God govern them.

So I began to put everything in my life in God's hands, one at a time. As I began to be more diligent about the things of God, to put God in control of everything in my life, I found my life becoming more ordered. I found the important things getting done, and I did not have to push to be diligent about it because God was taking care of them. This was a big change for me and something I am extremely grateful for. I was headed down a road of human achievement that I know now was destined to be a train wreck. Instead, I have found myself growing in grace and I am very grateful as I see God more and more in control of every detail of my life.

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## Naturally and Necessarily

Mary Beth Singleterry

One day last week, late in the afternoon, after a very busy day, I found that one of my hands was extremely painful. It felt as if I had sprained it; I could barely move it. I quietly finished my tasks for the day with my other hand, and I went up to my room to have some quiet time to pray for myself. I recalled a recent Lesson, where Mrs. Eddy said, "The physical healing of Christian Science results now, as in Jesus' time, from the operation of divine Principle, before which sin and disease lose their reality in human consciousness and disappear as naturally and as necessarily as darkness gives place to light and sin to reformation." (S&H, p. xi: 9-14) What struck me were those two words: naturally and necessarily. When I thought back on the healings I've had in Science, and there have been so many, they didn't come with trumpets blaring and all kinds of fireworks. They

came very quietly and naturally. In fact, almost to where I didn't even notice it was happening. One minute I was having all this terrible trouble, and just as the light dissipates the darkness, the darkness left, and I could see clearly. I could see what a beautiful world God has created and all the perfection around me. That is how healing occurs, quietly, naturally, and also necessarily. It has to be, because that is the truth of your being. I thought about that statement and it was all that I thought about the rest of the evening.

As I got ready for bed, my hand still ached quite a bit, but I trusted God with it. I had a good night's rest, and in the morning my hand was 95% back to normal. Very quickly by the end of the morning it was completely healed, and I was so grateful to God. The naturalness of those symptoms disappearing was absolutely a necessary part of this healing.

As a practitioner, people call with problems, and often I am not told how it was resolved. I'll ask them, and they will say it was healed, almost as though they hadn't noticed. So please, when a problem is healed and seems so natural, give God the credit! Thank Him; it wouldn't have happened any other way. God is our great Physician. He is our healer. There is nothing too big or too small for Him.

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## Thoughts

Myra Viola Wild

What kind of thoughts now, do you carry  
 In your travels day by day  
 Are they bright and lofty visions,  
 Or neglected, gone astray?  
 Matters not how great in fancy,  
 Or what deeds of skill you've wrought;  
 Man, though high may be his station,  
 Is no better than his thoughts.  
 Catch your thoughts and hold them tightly,  
 Let each one an honor be;  
 Purge them, scourge them, burnish brightly,  
 Then in love set each one free.

# Letters of Gratitude



## Letter from one of our translators

Here I am sending you the Urdu and Hindi translation of the last 50 points from *500 Watching Points*. The Punjabi is in process.

Thank you for your patience, love and sharing in this whole project. It was a wonderful, lovely learning experience and enjoyable journey while working on *500 Watching Points*. It has given me a detailed insight about Christian Science and about our Leader, Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy. The journey has inspired me to believe my Creator, Mind, Love, and Life from the core of my heart and allow Him to work for the healing of error in my self-being.

Thank you once again to allow me to go on this venture.

For next projects, I am free to work on Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu. Please give me more articles or books to work in this special month, so that I may learn more. I will wait for your email about it.

I wish all of our brothers and sisters in the Church family Merry Christmas and Happy New Year of 2020.

May this New Year bring a lot of joys, happiness, bright hopes, good health, more strengthening of Christian Faith and bundle of blessings of Holy Spirit in your Church, lives and families.

My younger daughter Olive has prepared a Christmas wishing card for you. I have attached it with the email. I am not certain if this is viewable for you or not. But she asked me to sent it to you.

We will keep you in our prayers and ask you to keep our family, community and country in your prayers.

*Napoleon and Family, Pakistan*

In listening to testimonies from a Wednesday meeting I was amazed to hear Jeremy saying all that he and Plainfield members have achieved in setting up seven new language websites which will serve a very large additional geographical area and new nationalities! I do applaud everyone working on this, and feel it shows not only great dedication and high aims, but also the nimbleness of an independent church. I'm sure this would not have been possible in the organization where things are very ponderous, and no innovation is allowed. So, very well done, to Jeremy and those working on this project — fantastic!

I was very shocked to hear you mention, though, about the “revision” of the Manual (!!!) and the illegal sale and misappropriation of the proceeds of Mrs. Eddy's Chestnut Hill house. Thank you for bringing these things out. It's totally shocking, and could not have been accidental.

*England*

Hi everyone there! I am from India. I love your teachings on the website and YouTube. I regularly visit the website and I am impressed by the way you have managed all the Asian languages there. The teachings are very heart touching, and the translations are done in a great manner

as well. The new languages you put on are really impressive and I love Tamil, Marathi, Sindhi and Nepali as well.

God bless you.

*India*

I have been listening to the church services and testimony meetings for a few months (along with a host of articles, readings, and Roundtable meetings online) and I have been truly blessed and touched by the love of this church. I see that Christian Science is the way and the only way, so I am ready for membership. Please accept my application for membership attached.

Thank you for all that you are doing for mankind.

*California*

Being a part of your watching gave me a glimpse of what can truly happen when people unite and pray together. The blessed Comforter was present as I meditated upon the reading after the teleconference. Of course, many denominations believe in united prayer. But to pray scientifically and in unity with other “unprejudiced minds” is a primary key that unlocks the door of spiritual demonstration. Mrs. Eddy says there are millions of such minds. If it is okay, I would like to be present again for your watches.

*Kansas*

Please find attached my application for membership in the Plainfield Church.

I have sent a donation as thanks for the wonderful work you are doing sharing the true and original teachings of Mrs. Eddy and the writings of the early workers.

I look forward to being a part of your Plainfield Community even though I am many thousand miles away.

*Australia*

The November 2019 Love is the Liberator, themed, “Observing Christmas in Quietude” is wonderfully uplifting and informative. There you can find inspiring articles and poems on Christ-

mas; beautiful painting by one of our members, writings by Mary Baker Eddy and early workers; current articles of great importance; letters from those in the United States, from India, England, and France; and testimonies of current healings. Be sure to take part in this feast of love, and share this very special gift with others as well.

*Virginia*

Our church calendar is full of blessings and has been part of my family’s life for many, many years. Now we are able to receive the daily angel messages electronically.

The enclosed check supports the activities of the church.

*Illinois*

I am so thankful for the expressions of God’s Love in my life. One of the evidences that God loves me is that He led me to the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, through a friend. My life has changed for the better since I learned about Christian Science. Since all of this is brand new to me, I was searching for other teachings that might be similar.

In one particular occasion, I was listening to a spiritual teacher and noticed that his teachings were making me feel depressed. I had felt depressed before, but not since God brought me to Plainfield. The thought came to me that God is so loving to me and to all, that He wants us to know the Truth. I remember in that moment this person I was listening to mentioned Mrs. Eddy and her amazing work. In that moment I realized that God was talking to me and leading me back to where I belong. This to me is a beautiful demonstration of God’s Love for me.

I mentioned this to a Plainfield practitioner and she said, “There is no condemnation, and God is showing you how much He loves you.” I am so appreciative of Plainfield, practitioner support, and all the wonderful work that this church provides for us all. There is nothing greater than to feel the Love of God. I feel like a little girl holding my Daddy’s hand, walking into a beautiful day. And for this I am so thankful.

*California*



I'm grateful for the Plainfield website and all who work daily to keep it fresh and new. This morning (New Year's Day) I was feeling a little overwhelmed and melancholy.

I logged on to the website and found several articles that address the New Year, including ones titled, "The New Year," "Time," "Working in Truth," and "Expanding Your Horizon." Each article had just the right idea for me, with the focus to address the good here now, which is available for everyone, and lifted me out of the melancholy feeling I had. How blessed we are to have the Plainfield website!

*Georgia*

My husband and I had the privilege of attending the Christmas Eve service in this church; it was a time filled with love for God and man, with joy overflowing. This is truly a holy place, with one God, and one aim: to share the light of Christ with the world. Thank you to all the dedicated members who make this outreach possible!

*Virginia*

I am writing to thank you for all the inspiring material that you provide on your website. Also, I would like to request your 2020 calendar.

God bless you all.

*Texas*

What an inspiring year it has been at the Plainfield Church! I cannot be thankful enough for the way the Plainfield Church has transformed my life and set me straight by introducing me to Mary Baker Eddy's pure Christian Science. I had grown up in Christian Science, but things had not been working out that well for me. It was not until stepping into the Plainfield Church for the first time that the veil was lifted! I literally felt it peel away. Everything started to become clear. My life started to transform. It took several years, but things radically changed for the better as I learned the lesson of obedience. Now I relish the "straight and narrow way." I used to do my best to avoid my misconception of it, but now it's exactly where I want to be!

Every week I truly appreciate receiving what I consider to be the equivalent of class instruc-

tion through the Roundtable discussions and Bible studies. Participation on the Forum allows a deeper and shared understanding of the weekly Bible Lessons. And the church services are a sacred time of uplift and outreach to the world with beautiful readings, testimonies, and music.

Thank you to the devoted practitioners and fellow members of the Plainfield Church, for all that you do to promote true Christian Science to the entire world in what is now a multitude of languages. Please find enclosed a heartfelt contribution in support of this wonderful church.

*Vermont*

I very much enjoy your beautiful web page and online tools. The uplifting songs give me new hope in these crisis-ridden times.

Dear ones, you give me so much simply by being out there and doing prayerful work for the final acceptance of universal Christian Science! I pray with you.

*Sweden*

The Christmas Eve candlelight service was a wonderful, uplifting event that my wife and I enjoyed very much. Also the testimony about the song, "Make Room," which led me to some thoughts about Jesus' birth:

Luke 2:7: The *inn* symbolizes my heart. The *manger* symbolizes the unwilling heart not making room for Christ and Christian Science. The *babe* symbolizes the growing understanding of Christian Science. This growth is natural and divine. It can't be hindered or reversed.

I am grateful to everyone in the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, for their wonderful service.

*Canada*

Enclosed is a check with love and gratitude for all that *good* that you do. Thank you!

*Maine*

Thank you to all the members for being so welcoming today! I just found your church, and I really enjoyed the Roundtable and the service.

Most of all, I liked the love and joy throughout. Your church is special!

*Connecticut*

This letter is one of immense gratitude for which I have enclosed a donation check. Your generous offerings online at your website and on YouTube are Godsend, literally.

In the late 70's or early 80's I was a Christian Scientist in Minnesota. After two years I sent a formal letter to the Mother Church opting out, not so much because of the teachings, but more to seek other things. Having been a seeker with no childhood religious training, I couldn't be stopped seeking. So perhaps the Church took me at my word, and I am no longer a member.

Over time, I did not lose my belief in God's healing power, and I still have no medical insurance or even a doctor. It has truly been God's blessing, not my formal treatment according to Christian Science ways. After being an evangelical Christian and lastly a Catholic in search of

the one true church, I'm thrilled to say I am back to the metaphysical approach.

I came back to the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy with new understanding, I believe, than when I was a new member. However, there is no desire to be part of an organized church again. Even if there was, I live in a small rural town about 90 miles from a Christian Science Church. Hearing the old terms spoken is like putting on a glove that fits perfectly. I have purchased another Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures and in a real sense, it feels like coming home.

Another reason for sending a letter with my donation is simply to connect with like-thinkers fully in touch with the power of Truth, Life, and Love. Thank you, dear ones, for listening. I am already subscribed to your YouTube channel and would love to be on your mailing list if you ever do mailings.

My very best to you and thanks again.

*Montana*

## A Watch to Work with Often

December 12th, 2019

**“Now there is a claim that there is separation between Mind and idea and that you have to have a telegraphic system [or phones, email, and websites] to link up. Now is there any separation between Mind and idea? NEVER! Then the claim that there is a telegraphic system is not true, for this is the fact in relation to all being; that Mind and idea cannot be separated, and it is the law that they never shall be, and that they are forever performing the functions of being, because Mind is their presence and substance. It is not a telegraphic system but the immediate presence of Mind; for its being is Mind, its substance, its evidence, and all there is to it is Mind.”**

*from Association Addresses, by Bicknell Young,  
pages 26-27 of the 1918 Address*

The Word of God is love, peace, and freedom! Let us support the outreach of our foreign language websites by knowing they are the Word of God, and bring healing and comfort. Animal magnetism is powerless to disrupt or shut down these websites because the Word of God needs no human government, material devices, or electric charge to reach every man, woman, and child — divine Mind is already there and in complete control! Everyone hungering and thirsting for the Christ will cling fast to the Truth given in our websites, and there can be no resistance to Truth. All our work for the world is God's doing, and will continue until mankind unites as one in spirit and in purpose!

# Testimonies of Healing



## An “Accidental” Christian Scientist

*from J. G. in Alabama*

I would like to share how I found Christian Science. It's actually quite interesting. Under normal medical circumstances, I'm totally blind. In 2009 while I was attending the Alabama School for the Blind, I had a teacher who would download audio and braille books for me. At that time, my teacher was downloading a lot of books for me, and I mentioned an interest in the topics of science and of health. The funny thing is that I didn't know about Science and Health like Mary Baker Eddy wrote it. I was actually looking for regular science and health books. My teacher put Science and Health by Mary Baker Eddy on my flash drive, and as I listened to it, I was rather floored by it, especially the first time I read it. It was so different from what you would think of as modern science — it's beyond modern science, this is metaphysical science.

One of the most interesting and profound statements is where it says the miracles of Jesus are not “supernatural, but supremely natural.” It's found in Chapter 2 and also in the Preface of the book. I was fascinated by the different testimonies of healing in the Fruitage section, and one in Chapter 8 (p. 247) about a woman who had her teeth restored, and another having eyes healed, and all kinds of healings. I was really fascinated by that type of thing.

That journey is how I found Christian Science and started reading Science and Health. I just

recently found your church. Science and Health has given me lots and lots of comfort. I've been healed of all kinds of anxiety and relationship problems. This book is really amazing, and I appreciate being able to participate in your church services and testimony meetings. I am so happy to have found you.

## Stroke Symptoms Healed

*from E. H. in Florida*

I called a Plainfield practitioner, because I thought I was having a stroke. The right side of my face was numb, my right hand was numb, and I could not grasp anything with that hand. I also had a headache and my sight was distorted.

The practitioner answered and I said, “I think I am having a stroke.” She immediately said, “No, that is not true.” After a pause she clearly and emphatically repeated, “Not true at all!”

I immediately agreed mentally and thought “Not true.” She said she would work and we would talk later. She asked that I work with Psalms 23 and 91.

I fell into my recliner and started to pray Psalm 23; next I prayed parts of Psalms 91 and 139. I got quiet and silently listened. I heard, “Peace, peace, peace.” I remembered “Peace be with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you.” I fell into a deep sleep for about fifteen minutes. When I woke I touched my face and it was normal. I checked my hand and it



was almost normal. Only the pointer finger and thumb were numb. I felt grateful and relieved.

I remembered “Peace be still and know that I am Lord and all is well.” I closed my eyes and thought, “Be still.” I fell asleep and slept for about two hours. I awoke peaceful and refreshed — and healed!

I am very grateful for the Bible and its living word, for Mary Baker Eddy and her diligence and generosity in giving the world Christian Science. I am thankful to Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent for all its work, especially on the web. Many thanks to the practitioner who readily responded and successfully restored me to my true self.

## **Mental Disturbance Healed**

*from C. H. Pennsylvania*

I wish to offer gratitude this evening to my practitioner and her constant, patient care. Recently I had a lovely healing.

One evening after an upsetting event, I began to feel very tired, confused, and disoriented.

This was alarming, and I knew I needed help so I called my practitioner for prayer. In just a few minutes I was clear and alert — so alert that I began to work on church-related jobs and kept busy until long past my regular bedtime. This was such a wonderful healing, and also a lesson to stay alert when you are alarmed or shocked about something, use your Science, and go higher as Mrs. Eddy has directed. Such wise counsel!

## **Finding a Home**

*A. B. in England*

I am very grateful for all that I have been learning over the last year, thanks to the Plainfield Church, and all the information provided on the amazing website, as well as the Roundtables and Bible Studies. I feel much more committed to trying to grow spiritually and am also most grateful for practitioner support, including a home for my mother.

Almost a year ago my mother moved, as her

old home was no longer suitable for her, and I am so grateful that the apartment she now lives in exactly meets her needs in so many ways and is in fact better than we could possibly have imagined. It was also within her budget.

I am so grateful for God’s goodness and abundance shown by this solution.

## **Far-reaching Prayer**

*from S. W. in New Jersey*

The power of prayer during our church services reaches receptive hearts everywhere. We often don’t know what harm is prevented—but sometimes we do hear proofs of God’s watchful care.

During a recent Wednesday evening meeting, the readings were on God’s protection. The next day I was talking with my son, who lives in a wooded area in another state. He said the previous night there had been a bad storm. A large, heavy branch broke from a tree and fell to the ground, barely missing his car. He said if it was just a couple of inches closer, it would have demolished his car. This was a wonderful proof that God protects all of His children.

I am very grateful to God, Mary Baker Eddy, and this church for sending out God’s love in our prayers and watches to meet the need of everyone. I am grateful for the teaching here and practitioner supports.

## **Tick Bite Healed**

*from J. L. in Missouri*

I live in a rural area of Northeast Missouri. Last week I went for a walk with a friend to the backside of the lake, and when I returned home, I discovered I’d picked up a tick. I removed it as quickly and carefully as possible, but even after doing this, I began noticing popular symptoms which sometimes came as a result of such a bite.

The friend I’d just been walking with had suffered a similar bite earlier this year and had been diagnosed and treated for it as well. I recalled this, and as I did, I could feel the fear embrace me and I could barely think straight.

Since that fear was grasping me so hard, I contacted a practitioner in the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent for assistance. I informed her about the issue I was having in an email. She told me to study Science and Health page 514:26-3 and Genesis 1, "God saw everything that He had made and behold it was very good." She also stated plainly that there is nothing ever to fear for there is no power apart from God, Good.

As I read the selections, I could feel the fear loosen its grip on me, and I could finally think again. The bite in question dried up immediately and all its symptoms went entirely away.

I am very grateful for this healing, for the help of the practitioner, and for Christian Science.

## Comment Posted on Our YouTube Page

*J. M. in California*

I am living near the California Kincadee fire area. I was under evacuation watch and a block away from those evacuated. I decided to pray about the weather, as Mary Baker Eddy had done.

The idea came to me first to keep all out of harm's way. Second, to have the wind shift so the fire would turn on itself, which is what it did. Amazingly, my electricity stayed on throughout this time.

These are just a few of the blessings I received during this time. Being still and tuning in to God's care and love, healed. I am so grateful for Christian Science. This experience was amazing.

## Foot Pain Healed

*from N. S. in New Jersey*

I wish to express my gratitude for a recent healing that I had. A few weeks ago, when I took off my shoes I found that I could not put any pressure on my right foot. It felt like something had shifted in my arch. It was very painful, and I was hardly able to walk. Throughout the day I kept holding onto the thought that I walk with God. The next morning when I woke up, I was still in a lot of pain when I tried to stand and I knew I

needed to call for practitioner help.

I am so very grateful to my practitioner who is always available and for her loving, prayerful support. I was given two hymns to work with that were extremely helpful. Hymn number 139, "I walk with Love along the way", and also hymn number 324, where one verse states, "Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee." I worked with these hymns throughout the day, and I could feel the pain leaving. By the next morning when I woke up, except for a little tenderness, the pain was gone. I was able to stand and put my full weight on my foot. I called my practitioner to tell her of the great progress being made and we talked about standing up for what is true, and seeing the nothingness of error. That simple statement, the nothingness of error, became so clear to me. Absolutely nothing was ever wrong. God's perfection is now, was then, and forever will be all the Truth there is about me, or any of God's ideas. I was completely free, and able to go about swiftly and with ease, to accomplish everything that I needed to do. I am so very grateful for this healing, grateful to God, and for the teachings we receive in this church. I am so very grateful for the loving and steadfast support of my practitioner, for showing me the nothingness of error.

## Unfallen

*from J. F. in Florida*

The other day while I was riding my bike, I made a sharp turn, lost my balance, and fell sharply to the ground. I immediately declared, "God, good," and that I could never fall out of God's love. I also knew, as Mrs. Eddy has said, "If you fall down and break your leg, rise up and declare this can only do me good." So I got up, brushed myself off, and rode home.

The rest of the day my legs and knees felt sore and bruised, but I kept praying, knowing that since God is the only Cause, and governed this day and me, then the only effect I could have today was one of good, that only good had gone on, and *was still* going on.

When I awoke the next morning, all pain in my knees and legs was gone, and I was able to

walk around with no discomfort at all.

I am so grateful for the Christian Science that I was taught in this church, and for the practitioner here who is helping me to be consistent and steady in this teaching — not to accept negative thoughts and experiences, and fall under them without protest — but to rise up and promptly and persistently affirm statements of Truth. This healing was a wonderful lesson for me, and I'm so grateful for it.

## Acid Reflux Healed

*from L. S. in Pennsylvania*

I am grateful for the many lessons since coming to Plainfield and the healing results of practicing the precepts that are taught here.

Before coming to Plainfield, during a routine physical for work, the doctor expressed concern about symptoms of acid reflux. For several years after this, I experienced many of these symptoms, sometimes daily.

I noticed recently I no longer suffer from these symptoms. I know that it is due to the change of thinking and living coming from participating here and the regular practitioner support that has brought me out of dark, negative thoughts and feelings, to a new understanding of God. Through this I am gaining a connection to God in my daily life. I have also been addressing problems as they came up, rather than having them accumulate over time.

Through instruction, I have been learning how to pray correctly and live this Science. This has resulted in more freedom in how I think about food, cooking, and eating. This also changed the way I think about others and how I act in my home, at work, and in the world.

It has helped me start to grow in moral courage, being more honest, patient and calm. I now pray throughout the day and pay more attention to where my thoughts are taking me. All this has a lot to do with the healing of these symptoms. I am grateful for learning all these things here at Plainfield.

## Blood Pressure Regulated

*from D. F. in Florida*

A few weeks ago I had to have my blood pressure taken. I was told it was very high and that it was necessary that I see a doctor. Instead, I asked a Plainfield practitioner for help.

The practitioner said that the only time Mrs. Eddy mentions pressure in Science and Health is where she says, "Christian Scientists must live under the constant pressure of the apostolic command to come out from the material world and be separate." And then she said "how could you do that better?" So I thought about this, and one way I came up with was to make sure I am seeing a certain person in our community right. She is a constant source of aggravation to everyone here. While not easy, I am constantly working on it, as well as other things.

Two days ago I had to have my blood pressure taken again. I was told it looked good. Needless to say I am very grateful for this quick healing. I'm grateful to be a member of this church, for the work of the practitioner, and for Christian Science.

## God's Protection

*from K. M. in California*

I am so grateful to testify to God's all presence and protection. My husband and daughter and I were driving to the airport recently on our way home from being with the family for Christmas. As my husband was passing an eighteen-wheeler, the truck started drifting into our lane. It did not take long before we realized he was not stopping. In an effort to get out of the truck's way and avoid getting hit, my husband started moving over onto a grassy area that separated the four-lane highway. However, the truck was moving too fast and eventually hit us.

After we were able to stop, my husband and my daughter got out of the car to assess the damage. I knew that my first job was to be grateful that no one was hurt and know, as our textbook states, "accidents are unknown to God." Since this was not an accident it was really what Mr.



Kratzer refers to in his article “Working in Truth” — a “golden opportunity” to trust God and know that He is always ever-present and governing all. Just before leaving where we had been staying, I read “God with Us” by Edward Kimball. In it he says, “there is no truth in anything that is claiming to have happened.”

We completed the paperwork with the police and with the car rental people; and despite the delay, we arrived at the airport just as our flight was boarding. After we were in our seats, I once again thanked God for our safety, and knew nothing can touch God's child except that which blesses.

I am so grateful to have found Plainfield Church, where I am learning more and more how to live this Truth every moment of every day. Someone asked at a recent Roundtable discussion, “how do you feel the presence of God?” The answer was to acknowledge His presence every moment and not wait until something happens that requires one's prayerful attention and then try to feel His presence. With support from my practitioner, the Bible Studies, Roundtables, and so much more that this church provides for one's growth in the study and practice of this Science of the Christ, I am so deeply grateful.

## **“The Lord Is Our Judge”**

*from L. T. in New York*

Over the summer, we had hired a workman to replace the roof on our rental house. After a week, it became very apparent that he did not know how to do the job correctly. After a few battles with him, it became necessary to take him to court, to try to get the money back that we had paid him to get started on the job. I contacted my practitioner about the situation. She assured me that “My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart.” (Ps. 7:10) She continued with a passage from Isaiah 33:22 which reads, “The Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; he will save us.” As I worked with this, I felt very encouraged; and without a lawyer, I was able to present my case in court.

After a month we finally got the verdict back, which stated that we failed to prove our case. I

became very angry and assumed that meant we had to pay him the additional money we would have owed him, had he completed the job correctly. Feeling very much like a victim, I found the work difficult, having to remove the entire roofing and replace it properly. I made such a fool of myself voicing my anger about the situation to anyone within ear shot.

Another month passed and I continued to be in turmoil. I wanted so much to trust God, but I had doubts. I prayed every night, working with the watches about justice, trying to mentally process what went wrong, instead of focusing on what is right and true.

Finally, I got myself out of the way and asked God to help me see the truth. The next day, we were getting ready to write out a check to pay this guy. Still feeling confused, I reread the letter from the court. Included in the envelope, which I had failed to see before, was the verdict for his counterclaim, which stated that he had failed to prove his claim as well. This meant that we did not owe him any more money.

I had been so determined that I was a victim and that there was no justice, that I was blind to what was right there in front of me the whole time. Losing my case does not make me a victim, it makes me more aware that I need to trust God fully when making decisions. God did judge rightly and more so, God is working in my life to raise me out of my personal sense of self and pride. He provides the courage and sees it through to the very end.

I am so grateful to Mrs. Eddy for this working Science and for my practitioner who continues to work with me on each false claim until I am able to realize the allness of God.

I am grateful for everything I have been given and so happy to be a member of this church.

# 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 over 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:

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

## 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](mailto: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](http://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!

## Websites in Other Languages

Our missionary work is expanding. We have recently launched websites in the languages of Hungarian, Ukrainian, Russian, Marathi, Nepali, Pashto, Persian, Sindhi, and Tamil, which join with our existing Spanish, French, German, Dutch, Chinese, Hindi, Punjabi, and Urdu — that makes seventeen languages other than English!

Much gratitude to all of our translators for their individual demonstrations which are working to bless every corner of the world!



*We recently received the following email from someone new in Pakistan:*

Accept my greetings and salute for the lovely way to produce your unchallenged true teachings about God, as our Mind, we as His ideal creation and making it clear what the Christian Science Church is giving to the spiritual-thirsty like me. The great work you and your Church is dealing regarding foreign languages is amazing and fruitful. I am having great blessings since I have started learning the Word of God through your website and YouTube channels. Especially Pashto, Sindhi, Urdu, Punjabi, Tamil and Marathi languages are doing great things spiritually in my life when I read and listen to the YouTube lessons.

I greatly appreciate it and ask my Lord for the unstoppable blessings for the whole church worldwide. May you always please my heart and soul by producing these lessons and other great material in all the languages of the world especially for my Pakistani and Indian people. Amen.

I thank you and the whole church again for all of this.



Drawing by Luanne Tucker

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## Plainfield Christian Science Church

Independent

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Telephone 908 756-4669

### **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](http://www.plainfieldcs.com)**

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