

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

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”	LEWIS REDNER	1
O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM	PHILLIPS BROOKS	1
BETHLEHEM		2
A CHRISTMAS LECTURE	F. J. FLUNO	2
THE ABIDING PRESENCE OF CHRIST	CAROL NORTON	4
A PERPETUAL CHRISTMAS	K.	5
MRS. EDDY – THE WOMAN	ANNIE M. KNOTT	6
THE SCIENTIFIC STATEMENT OF BEING 1876-1907		8
THE CURRENTS OF SPIRITUALITY	ISABEL HILLIER	11
THE BAD LITTLE SHEEP	JOHN RANDALL DUNN	12
HOSPITALITY	ELLA W. HOAG	13
A PRAISE NOTE	R. N.	14
THE STAR IN THE WEST	WILLIAM D. MCCrackAN	14
“THE SUPREMACY OF SPIRIT”	PARTHENS	16
PRAYERS HEARD ‘ROUND THE WORLD	IMOGENE HEWETT	16
PRACTICING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE	LYNDA SPENCER	17
THE ABUNDANCE OF GOOD IS FROM GOD	ELIZABETH DOW	18
DON'T LEAVE THE OTHER UNDONE	JEREMY PALMER	19
PROGRESS	CHARDELLE HULL	19
IT IS A SELFLESS JOURNEY	FLORENCE ROBERTS	20
ALONE, BUT NEVER LONELY	MARY BETH SINGLETERRY	20

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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Drawing by Luanne Tucker

A note about the sketch by Luanne:

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

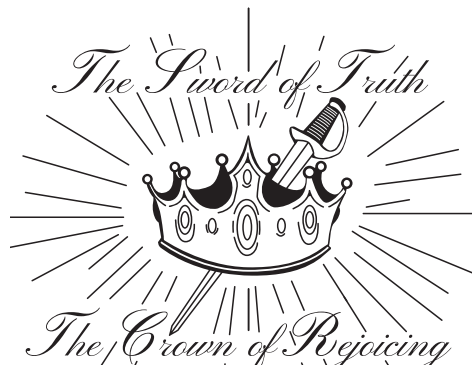
Boston Light was the first light station in North America and is the country's oldest continuously used lighthouse site. The original structure, built in 1716, was destroyed during the Revolutionary War. Rebuilt in 1783, it has been called "the ideal American lighthouse." Designated as a National Historic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

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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Authentic Christian Science

Unfettered by material organization



About the cover:

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

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



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Table of Contents

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	1
“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM” LEWIS REDNER	1
O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM PHILLIPS BROOKS	1
BETHLEHEM	2
A CHRISTMAS LECTURE F. J. FLUNO	2
THE ABIDING PRESENCE OF CHRIST CAROL NORTON	4
A PERPETUAL CHRISTMAS K.	5
Items By and About Mary Baker Eddy	6
MRS. EDDY – THE WOMAN ANNIE M. KNOTT	6
History Corner	8
THE SCIENTIFIC STATEMENT OF BEING 1876-1907	8
Interesting Squibs	10
From the Early Workers	11
THE CURRENTS OF SPIRITUALITY ISABEL HILLIER	11
THE BAD LITTLE SHEEP JOHN RANDALL DUNN	12
HOSPITALITY ELLA W. HOAG	13
A PRAISE NOTE R. N.	14
THE STAR IN THE WEST WILLIAM D. MCCRACKAN	14
Current Articles	16
“THE SUPREMACY OF SPIRIT” PARTHENS	16
PRAYERS HEARD ‘ROUND THE WORLD IMOGENE HEWETT	16
PRACTICING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE LYNDA SPENCER	17
THE ABUNDANCE OF GOOD IS FROM GOD ELIZABETH DOW	18
DON'T LEAVE THE OTHER UNDONE JEREMY PALMER	19
PROGRESS CHARDELLE HULL	19
IT IS A SELFLESS JOURNEY FLORENCE ROBERTS	20
ALONE, BUT NEVER LONELY MARY BETH SINGLETERRY	20
Letters of Gratitude	21
Testimonies of Healing	25



Painting by Luanne from NY

Little Town of Bethlehem

*But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou
be little among the thousands of Judah, yet
out of thee shall he come forth unto me that
is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth
have been from of old, from everlasting.*

Micah 5: 2

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Lewis Redner

One of the best-known hymns of the Christmas season, “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” originated in 1868 as a poem written for the Sunday School of the Church of the Holy Trinity on Philadelphia’s Rittenhouse Square. The words by Rector Phillips Brooks and music by church organist Lewis H. Redner resonated themes of stillness and peace in the aftermath of the Civil War. (*Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*). This is the story of the musical composition as told by Lewis Redner in 1868.

As Christmas of 1868 approached, Mr. Brooks told me that he had written a simple little carol for the Christmas Sunday-school service, and he asked me to write the tune to it. The simple music was written in great haste and under great pressure. We were to practice it on the following Sunday. Mr. Brooks came to me on Friday, and said, “Redner, have you ground out that music yet to ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem’?” I replied, “No”, but that he should have it by Sunday. On the Saturday night previous my brain was all confused about the tune. I thought more about my Sunday-school lesson than I did about the music. But I was roused from sleep late in the night hearing an angel-strain whispering in my ear, and seizing a piece of music paper I jotted down the treble of the tune as we now have it, and on Sunday morning before going to church I filled in the harmony. Neither Mr. Brooks nor I ever thought the carol or the music to it would live beyond that Christmas of 1868.

My recollection is that Richard McCauley, who then had a bookstore on Chestnut Street west of Thirteenth Street, printed it on leaflets for sale. Rev. Dr. Huntington, rector of All Saints’ Church, Worcester, Mass., asked permission to print it in his Sunday school hymn and tune book, called *The Church Porch*, and it was he who christened the music “Saint Louis.”

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
Proclaim thy holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Bethlehem

Excerpts from Wikipedia and Jerusalem, Bethany and Bethlehem, by J.L. Porter

Bethlehem, though it be "little among the thousands of Judah," is only second to Jerusalem itself. It is encompassed by ground which, though rugged and rocky, is yet carefully cultivated, and rich in corn, vineyards, and olive-groves. There is also now, as there was in David's time, a wide and wild region of pasture land, reaching away down through the wilderness of Judah to "the rocks of the wild goats" at En-gedi on the shore of the Dead Sea.

Biblical scholars believe Bethlehem, located in the "hill country" of Judea, may be the same as the Biblical Ephrath, which means "fertile," as there is a reference to it in the Book of Micah as Bethlehem Ephrathah or Bethlehem Ephratah. The New Testament describes it as the "City of David."

It is first mentioned in the Bible as the place where the matriarch Rachel died and was buried "by the wayside" (Genesis 48:7). Rachel's Tomb stands at the entrance to Bethlehem. The valley to the east is where Ruth of Moab gleaned the fields and returned to town with Naomi. In the Books of Samuel, Bethlehem is mentioned as the home of Jesse, father of King David of Israel, and as the site of David's anointment by the prophet Samuel. It was from the well of Bethlehem that three of his warriors brought him water when he was hiding in the cave of Adullam. The sepulchers of David, Ezekiel, Asaph, Job, Jesse, and Solomon were all located near Bethlehem.

In 326-328, the empress Helena, mother of the ruling emperor, Constantine the Great, made a pilgrimage to Syria-Palaestina, in the course of which she visited the ruins of Bethlehem. The Church of the Nativity was built at her direction over the cave where Jesus was born. Bethlehem was sacked during the Samaritan revolt of 529, and its walls and the Church of the Nativity destroyed, but they were rebuilt on the orders of the Emperor Justinian I. The Persian Sassanid Empire invaded Palestina Prima in 614 and captured Bethlehem. A story is told that they refrained from destroying the church on seeing

the magi depicted in Persian clothing in a mosaic.

Shortly after Jerusalem was captured by the Muslim armies in 637, Umar ibn al-Khattāb, the second caliph, promised that the Church of the Nativity would be preserved for Christian use. A Persian geographer recorded in the mid-9th century that a well preserved and much venerated church existed in the town.

A Christmas Lecture

F. J. Fluno

Christian Science Journal, February 1894

About three thousand years ago (as finite sense counts time), in the little town of Bethlehem, was born David, the youngest son of Jesse, who, in subsequent years, upon those grassy plains, watched his father's flocks. As he kept his lonely vigil, doing his duty well, learning contentment, constancy, faithfulness and carefulness, his heart went out to higher things, yet still of earthly type, for he learned to read the skies and enumerate the stars. And catching tones of harmony from the music of the spheres, he tuned his harp, that in after years rang out in song and psalm, with celestial notes.

And in the direct lineage of this child, this Sweet Singer of Israel, came one of heavenly parentage, Jesus the Christ, the Anointed, the pure and perfect one. His coming was told to those who watched their flocks upon those same plains and on those mountain slopes. Their eyes were opened to behold the heavenly visitant that came to them in a light from heaven, shining round about. And as they saw the light, they were filled with consternation and alarm. The shepherds on that night, although they trembled and were sore afraid, heard said to them, "Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Later, when on the Sea of Galilee, after that night of storm and adverse winds, the disciples saw the Master walking on the waves and drawing near to them, they trembled and were afraid, for they thought it was a spectre come to tell them of their doom. But as they looked, filled

with fear and trembling, he did not upbraid them, but calmly and with loving tone said, "It is I, be not afraid." And when they had admitted him into the boat with them, *"immediately they were at the land."*

When the light of heavenly good first dawns upon our vision, we are often filled with alarm. But the angel of Truth brings nothing but good tidings. It could not be a message from the Spirit of Truth, and bring anything else. And whatever brings anything else, cannot be of Truth. A message from Spirit brings healing on its wings; and as it flaps its broad pinions, the breath of love is stirred, eternal light comes flooding in, and glory shines around; and the dark pall of sickness, sorrow, pain and death, is lifted, is vanquished, and driven quite away. It brings no tidings of evil, no dark forebodings of sorrow, no midnight ghosts of fear.

It bears on its pinions of light,
A message of peace from above:
And heralds the Christ-born infant,
Begotten of Truth and Love.

All nations in peace are included,
To all people the message is given:
Not a soul is cast out or forgotten,
For nothing is wanting in heaven.

To the heart of the savage, it whispers:
Let your faces of war-paint be clean,
Let the war-echo die in the forest,
And the smoke of the calumet seen.

Let brotherly love between nations,
Remain in your breasts evermore;
Thus, the Christ-light, born in the natives,
Breaks on the bright golden shore.

To the shepherds who watched their flocks upon those Bethlehem plains, the Christ was born when the light of heaven came. But finite sense must have a sign, something as a positive proof that the heavenly message is true; and, as though willing to make concession, the finite proof appears, for, "If ye seek, ye shall find." And ye shall find that for which you seek.

And it said, "This shall be a sign unto you: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And they said to one another, "Let us go even unto Bethlehem," for thus it had been foretold by the prophets: "Thou Bethlehem in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda, for out of thee shall come a governor that shall rule my people Israel." And as they went, the star went before them and they found the babe with Mary, his mother.

And the child that was born grew up and became, "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." For, so much did the spiritual contradict the mortal, that all he saw in finite sense was fickle, false, and foolish.

And although he went about doing many wonderful works, and doing nothing *but* good, yet so much did his teachings and his works contradict the material sense of things, that the world he sought to bless, returned cursings on his head. And so much is the carnal mind the enemy of good, that it would not let him live; but went about to slay him. Yet so much was the mortal man overcome in him, and the true man apparent to him, that he knew they could not harm him. Do with him as they would, he would show himself alive, and prove himself immortal.

But before his last and final demonstration, he told his immediate followers that it was expedient for them that he should go away, for if he went not away, the Comforter would not come unto them. He intimated that if he went away, he would only go from their sense, and in reality would be with them always, in Spirit and in Truth.

And his youngest and most beloved disciple, because of his simplicity, went far beyond his elders; and saw wonderful things of spiritual type and order. The revelations he wrote, finite sense could not then understand, and the world has not yet been able to interpret them. But, in the light of Divine Science, they begin to glow with beauty and effulgence; and in the halo of their glory, the Christ is seen.

For lo! in the land where liberty enlightens the world, the star again appears, and sheds its rays abroad.

Oh! beauteous gem of Bethlehem,
Oh! bright and glorious ray!
Thy brilliant light dispels the night,
And terrors flee away.

Oh! star of peace, that brings release,
To captive hearts, and sad!
No sin is found, for all around,
Thy light makes all things glad.

The Abiding Presence of Christ

Carol Norton

Christian Science Journal, March 1894

Looking backward down the vista of time, till thought rests with mingled awe and joy upon the central event of all history, the first Christmas, with its accompanying message of holy peace to all men, does not one overshadowing question present itself to all who thus journey back through the centuries, to consider and ponder the deep lesson taught by the nativity of the Virgin-born babe of Bethlehem? Of what present and individual significance is this event to me? Is its import simply historical, or is its essence spiritual and of hourly value to me as a child of God?

To those who saw in Him the "Hope of salvation," and Son of the Highest, He became the Messiah or Saviour. Are there not millions today who worship and believe in the historical Christ Jesus, yet who do not understand the spiritual ever-presence of the enduring Christ? The abiding nativity or birth of the Christ consciousness must go on hourly in the hearts of men. The heavenly lesson taught by that distant Christmas-tide lives for men today, as truly as it did for those humble shepherds when, through the evening hush and quiet, rung out the great anthem, "On earth peace, good will toward men."

It lives for all who learn the nature of the peace that our Master came to bring. He, himself said, "My peace I give unto you," and again, "I came not to send peace, but a sword." Christ, Truth gives peace only as it destroys the erring

thoughts of the human mind, and dissipates the fogs of *intellectualism* and mortal selfhood, *i.e.* materialism. To whom did Jesus bring peace? Surely not to the scribes and Pharisees, neither to the rich ruler, to the money changers, to those who loved to indulge in the pleasures of materialistic living, nor to Judas. To each and all of these did not his words and life act as a two-edged sword?

But to the penitent Magdalene, and the sorrowing families of Lazarus and Jairus, to the fishermen who willingly left their nets to follow him, to the sorrowful Peter, and to all sincere seekers for "the mystery of Godliness," his teachings and deeds brought that peace, which passeth all human understanding, that rest for which the hearts of men ever yearn, and that elevation above earthly living, for which men in all ages have sought. Truly is this Christ-given peace a foretaste of what the Psalmist calls, the "Secret place of the Most High," the Infinite Calm of Spirit. It means that men can be strong and restful in the spiritual thought, even amidst the discords of earth, and that man can, in Goldsmith's words be

As some tall cliff, that lifts its awful form;
Swells from the vale and midway leaves the storm,
Though round its breast, the rolling clouds are spread,
Eternal Sunshine settles on its head.

"If ye love me keep my commandments" is the keynote of Christian obedience, and nothing short of absolute regard for *all* his commands can be termed true worship, or love of God.

In his resurrection and ascension He revealed Science as divine, the falsely called supernatural as preeminently natural, acquainted man with his heavenly Parent, and illumined the leaden sky of doubt and spiritual penury, with the divine practicability of the Parental government of omnipotent Love.

Thus learning, as the Bethlehem babe grew and waxed strong, so must this same Christ-Mind become our all and only consciousness. Then, and then only, will the nativity of Christ be an abiding guest in the house of our thoughts and lives.

When in the hush of Soul, we hear the gentle

voice of the ever-present Christ speaking its oft-repeated words, “Behold I stand at the door and knock,” let us answer in the words of Samuel “speak for thy servant heareth,” enter thou my life and go not out forever.

A Perpetual Christmas

K.

Christian Science Sentinel, December 24, 1904

Blest Christmas morn, though murky clouds
Pursue thy way,
Thy light was born where storm enshrouds
Nor dawn nor day!

Rev. Mary Baker G. Eddy.

The Christmas chimes tell a wonderful story to those who are conscious of their deeper meaning. They tell of the ever-deepening influence of Christ Jesus, who, when he was about to leave his disciples, said, “Lo, I am with you always.” They tell us that the Herald Angels have never ceased to send earthward their message of peace and good-will, though “the deaf that have ears” hear it not. They remind us that, in spite of the seeming persistency and power of evil, the good which is forever identified with the life and mission of Christ Jesus, has an ever-enlarging place in the world’s consciousness.

Jesus’ earthly career was constantly shadowed by the evil designs of the “carnal mind” which is indeed “enmity against God.” Never did earthly life open with such fair promise as that announced by the angel who told the pure, virgin mother of throne and kingdom for her son. Then came his earthly betrayal, desertion by friends, the cross, the tomb. But the spiritual light was never quenched, — the resurrection followed, — and later, came the enthronement of the Christ in every heart which has ever sought to rise above the enslavement of sin and materiality. In the struggles of countless thousands, hope has again and again risen from the ashes of despair and has reached across the abyss of mortal helplessness, seeking aid from Christ Jesus, — the one who faced every foe, and who proved in

every struggle with evil the supremacy of good.

To the Christian Scientist every thought of Christ Jesus is unspeakably precious, and at this Christmas time we remember with deep gratitude how much we owe to Mary Baker Eddy, through whose teaching the healing ministry of the Christ has been brought within reach of our every need. No longer is omnipotent Truth separated from that need by two thousand years of history, but now, through the blessed revelation of Christian Science, the divine touch takes away our sense of pain, of sickness, and of sin, and our night is illumined by that “glory of the Lord” which shone upon the Judean plains, — a herald of the universal dawn.



*I am come a light into the world, that
whosoever believeth on me should not abide
in darkness.*

Christ Jesus (John 12:46)

Items By and About Mary Baker Eddy



Mrs. Eddy — The Woman

Annie M. Knott

Christian Science Journal, March 1910

It is by no means an easy task to write about the personality of any one who has become known to the world through his or her achievements, for the latter always seem to eclipse the former; and yet it must ever be true that the achievements spring from the personality, that what one does is the result of what he is. Long ago the great Teacher said that a tree is known by its fruit, — not by its stem, its leaves, its branches, or its root; and whatever we may choose to think or say, the test of the Master is inevitably the final test for every human being.

Of Mary Baker Eddy much has been written by both friends and foes; in all cases because she is the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science and the author of its text-book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. No one, however, can truly know Mrs. Eddy who does not understand in some degree this Science to which she has devoted her life.

It is not the purpose of the present article to deal with the question of Mrs. Eddy's earlier

years, but to speak of her at her maturity, as she appeared when actively engaged in the work of the Massachusetts Metaphysical College, in the '80s, and also in later years. Her personal appearance at that time was very remarkable. Although she was then over sixty-five years of age, her hair was abundant and beautiful, of a rich brown color, while her complexion was as fresh as that of a woman of twenty-five, her figure erect and graceful, and her arms and hands exquisitely molded. It would have been extremely difficult to have guessed her age at this period, as there was a freshness not always seen even in very young people, but there was also a sort of mental maturity to which few people attain, and that spiritual poise which is not swayed by the passing of the years, but which betokens a reflection of the changeless life of the Spirit. We have St. Paul's word for it that when the veil of material sense is taken away, those who behold the glory of the Lord "are changed into the same likeness;" and while the primary signification of this likeness is undoubtedly that of mind and character, it must also be expressed by the face, as in the case of Moses, when he caught foregleams of man's immortality in the holy mount.

It was the present writer's good fortune to

receive Mrs. Eddy's personal instruction, and in those class days, sitting at Mrs. Eddy's feet, it was not difficult to believe what is recorded in the Bible of those who were divinely guided in the olden time, for with rare spiritual genius she lifted her students' thoughts to the heights of inspiration, and never was their credulity taxed by the inconsistent statement that what was once true is so no longer. No! It was unchanging God and unchanging law — the light growing clearer as men drew nearer to the ineffable presence, nearer to Truth and Love.

It is not possible to speak of Mrs. Eddy without referring to the subject of religion, because she is by nature religious in a most essential and vital sense, yet there is in her character an entire absence of that sanctimoniousness which is often mistaken for spirituality. Sometimes, in her teaching, she would turn a flash of playful raillery upon some materialistic dogma, only to leave the truth which it parodied more sacred to her listeners, when it was stripped of the trappings of mere belief. The keenness of her intuition made her quick to detect insincerity, but there was an indescribable something in her analysis of her students' answers which made them, when in her presence at least, desire to *be*, not merely to seem. To her, real things were real, sacred things sacred, and shams merely the shadows which should vanish before the light of Truth. Her acquaintance with the Bible was unique in its character. Some passage, involving a deep moral question which had escaped the notice of learned commentators, would be explained by her in a never-to-be-forgotten way, — the spirit which "giveth life" being with her the all-important consideration.

Long ago King Solomon gave a line word-picture of the ideal woman, and among other things he said: "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." Before I had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Eddy I met in the West a lady who had been in her home as a guest for over a year, and who had also been taught by her gratuitously, and this at a period when Mrs. Eddy's means must have been very limited. This impressed me very

greatly at the time, and I was no less impressed by what the lady told me of the spiritual sense of the Scriptures which she had gained under Mrs. Eddy's tuition. Later, when I myself met Mrs. Eddy, I was deeply touched by her great human kindness. It was a bitterly cold morning when I first met her, and as I looked with some awe at the woman whose teachings were even then revolutionizing the world's thought, she said in a kind, motherly way, as she took my hand, "Aren't your hands cold?" They were at that moment but in an instant they glowed with a warmth which was felt over the entire body, and with it came a sense of healing which remained and left the sweet impress of divine Love, — God nearer and dearer than ever before. Many years have passed since then, but when in more recent times a guest in Mrs. Eddy's home, I saw that same loving-kindness expressed in her unusual consideration for the comfort of her visitor. And not only is she thoughtful for those of her household, but who that has lived near her in later years does not know of her goodness to the needy?

The Story of the Starfish

Epoch Times

A famous parable tells of how a storm left thousands of dying starfish stranded on the beach. A man watched as crowds gathered but did nothing. Then a child began picking up the starfish, one by one, throwing them back into the sea. "Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference." The child smiled, picked up another starfish, threw it into the ocean, and replied, "I made a difference to that one!" The man was moved. He joined in, then one by one, the whole crowd joined.

As data suggest, single acts of kindness may spread farther than you might think.

History Corner

The Scientific Statement of Being 1876-1907

Below are revisions made to the Scientific Statement of Being through various editions of Science and Health.

QUESTION AND ANSWER AS GIVEN IN THE SCIENCE OF MAN (1876)

Ques. What is the scientific statement of being?

Ans. No Life, Substance, or Intelligence in matter. That all is mind and there is no matter. Spirit is immortal Truth; error is mortal, and belief has named it matter; Spirit is real and eternal; matter is unreal and mortal; Spirit is God; and man “the image and likeness of God;” hence, man is spiritual and not material.

3RD EDITION (1881) OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Ques. What is the scientific statement of being?

Ans. There is no Life, substance, or intelligence in matter; all is Mind, there is no matter. Spirit is immortal Truth, matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal, matter the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness; hence, man is spiritual and not material.

16TH EDITION (1886) OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Question. — What is the scientific statement of being?

Answer. — There is no Life, Substance, or Intelligence in matter. All is Mind. Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness; hence, man is spiritual and not material.

50TH EDITION (1891) OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Question. — What is the Scientific statement of Being?

Answer. — There is no life, substance, or intelligence in matter. All is Mind; there is no matter. Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness; hence, man is spiritual and not material.

81ST EDITION (1894) OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Question. — What is the Scientific statement of Being?

Answer. — There is no life, truth, substance, or intelligence in matter. All is infinite Mind and its manifestation. Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness; hence, man is spiritual and not material.

111TH EDITION (1896) OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Question. — What is the Scientific statement of Being?

Answer. — There is no life, truth, intelligence, or substance in matter. All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All in all. Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness; hence, man is spiritual and not material.

226TH EDITION (1902) OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Question. — What is the Scientific statement of Being?

Answer. — There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter. All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all. Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness; hence, man is spiritual and not material.

1907 EDITION OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Question. — What is the scientific statement of being?

Answer. — There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter. All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all. Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness. Therefore man is not material; he is spiritual. (Note: This 1907 version is the version found in current editions of *Science and Health*.)

AN OLD NEWSPAPER.

CS Weekly, Dec. 1, 1898

THROUGH the kindness of a Christian Scientist, we are in possession of a copy of the Massachusetts Centinel, dated Wednesday, July 30, 1788. It presents all the quaint characteristics of the newspapers of that time. From it we quote the following very beautiful poem:—

AN ODE TO FORTITUDE.

Vain fears, and idle doubts, be gone!
Unjust suspicions, false alarms,
Delusive hope, that smiles, and cheats,
And subtle pleasure's dangerous charms.
When Virtue calls, and points the way,
'Tis mad, 'tis impious, to delay.
Not all the force of all mankind,
His stedfast soul can ever bend
Who owns fair Virtue for his guide,
Who claims her as his constant friend;
Fix'd as a rock, he stands secure,
And laughs at all their fruitless power.
In vain Ambition all her arts,
Her toys, her tinsel charms, displays,
In vain seducing wealth conspires
To brighten the illustrious blaze,
The wise and good he loves alone,
And scorns the tyrant on his throne.

Interesting Squibs

God has not given us vast learning to solve all the problems, or unfailing wisdom to direct all the wanderings of our brothers' lives; but He has given to every one of us the power to be spiritual, and by our spirituality, to lift and enlarge and enlighten the lives we touch.

Phillips Brooks

Do the truth you know, and you shall learn the truth you need to know.

George Macdonald

If you worry about what might be, and wonder what might have been, you will ignore what is.

Anon

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present.

Bill Kean

He who fears he will suffer, already suffers because he fears.

Michel de Montaigne

Thoughts have power; thoughts are energy. And you can make your world or break it by your own thinking.

Susan Taylor

Life, like war, is a series of mistakes; and he is not the best Christian nor the best general who makes the fewest false steps, poor mediocrity may secure that; but he is the best who wins the most splendid victories by the retrieval of mistakes. Forget mistakes: organize victory out of mistakes.

F. W. Robertson

Without kindness there can be no true joy.

Thomas Carlyle

He who ceases to pray ceases to prosper.

Sir William Gurney Benham

Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured.

Mark Twain

Pray devoutly, but hammer stoutly.

William Gurney Benham

The greatest events of an age are its best thoughts. It is the nature of thought to find its way into action.

Anon.

A learned fool is one who has read everything and simply remembered it.

Josh Billings

Our Father, let the spirit of gratitude so prevail in our hearts that we may manifest thy Spirit in our lives.

W. B. Slack

The very best and utmost of attainment in this life is to remain still and let God act and speak in thee.

Meister Eckhart

Prayer means that we have come boldly into the throne room and we are standing in His presence.

E. W. Kenyon

The science of Life, God, that our Master demonstrated, was not a theory, doctrine, or belief; it revealed a Principle that brought proof with it; and this proof was not forms or systems of religion, but metaphysical or divine science, that brought out all the sweet harmonies of Life.

M. B. G. Eddy

From the Early Workers



The Currents of Spirituality

Isabel Hillier

Christian Science Sentinel, August 18, 1923

The majestic beauty of the life of Jesus of Nazareth is a glowing illustration of the effect of the “calm, strong currents of true spirituality.” (*S&H* p. 99) His steadfast adherence to the truth of man's unity with the Father, his refusal to recognize any intelligence apart from the divine Mind, his boundless love and compassion — these not only kept him immune from the “currents of human nature,” which, Mrs. Eddy says “rush in against the right course” (*Mis.* p. 212), but gave him power to arrest those currents and destroy their suggestions.

In the story of the raising of the widow's son at Nain, we have a graphic picture of this. The sorrowful procession, the beliefs of loneliness and separation, the sense of hopelessness, the bowing to the inevitable! All these were, to Jesus, an appeal for healing; and as the procession approached, he spoke with tender courtesy to the mother, saying, “Weep not.” Then he touched the

bier. His spiritual sense of Life overcame the belief of death. The current of false thinking having been arrested, the released sense of the young man responded to the command, “Arise.” What a change suddenly came over the picture!

We all need to watch whether we are consenting to, or arresting, the many dreary processions of thought around us. So many opportunities to arrest the pressure of suggestion, which never for one moment had a gleam of intelligence! Good is real; evil is not. How simple! But truth is ever simple. It is error which appears to make things complicated. Fortunately, healing does not come by trying to straighten out these complications, but by turning to the truth and refusing to be deceived by any contradiction of Truth.

In reading the gospels many of us have felt that, had we lived in the time of Jesus, we would gladly have responded to the call, “Follow me.” How eagerly would we have gone where he went, stood by him under all circumstances, and carried on his work!

The call of the Christ comes to each individual today; and what are we willing to do?

We are not asked to walk the streets of Nazareth, nor to climb the Galilean hills; but we are most certainly called to carry on his work. And where shall we begin? In our own consciousness. Only by our own purified thinking, only by our own loyal consecration to good, can we ever hope to do what the Christ-call demands of us.

Everything that appears in our experience as a contradiction of God, good, must be arrested and healed; and this is our share in the world's redemption. Waking each morning with the certainty that we can reflect the power which destroys all forms of error, how inspiring the work of the day becomes! Our attitude towards those whose faults have worried us becomes changed. We see what it is to know "no man after the flesh;" and every idea of God will unfold to us bathed in beauty and splendor.

This does not mean that we should fail to handle any form of error. On the contrary, the more we understand of Truth, the more clearly we discern good from evil — but we know how to destroy evil, and we find that the so-called human currents of thought are being arrested. Sight is in reality a spiritual faculty. Then with clearer views of the real creation, our sense of sight improves. The fact that people around us believe that sight is in matter does not make it so!

Are we sometimes so absorbed in thought that we do not see what is before our eyes or hear what is falling on the ear? Then what is it that hears or sees? Certainly not matter. In our present state, the human consciousness decides whether it shall be aware of what is going on around us, or whether it shall be absorbed in other thoughts. If we are convinced that we can always see and hear what is necessary and right for us, because sight and hearing are purely spiritual, then we will be free from the material limitations connected with the human beliefs in regard to sight and hearing.

Let us watch and reject all that is destructive and erroneous, and accept only what is true and lovely. Then the "calm, strong currents of true spirituality" will have arrested that false "current of human nature" and demonstrated man's unity with God, good, in ever increasing measure!

The Bad Little Sheep John Randall Dunn

Christian Science Sentinel, December 30, 1916

Above my desk hangs a picture which I desire to keep ever near. It shows a shepherd leaning over a jagged precipice and stretching forth a saving arm to a helpless sheep. It must have been a bad little sheep to have so wandered from the quiet pastures and the careful shepherd. It must have been a willful, disobedient, headstrong little creature, for not otherwise could it be found in this distressing situation. A great chasm yawns beneath; ominously circling above moves a waiting vulture. Yet to this hapless animal, this willful, disobedient, and headstrong animal, perchance, is stretched out the hand of compassion. Through heedlessness or deliberate disobedience, it has become separated from its brothers of the flock and their kindly shepherd. Should not such grievous dereliction be strongly censured? Would it be a Christian act to allow such grievous wrongdoing to pass uncondemned?

At this point the picture furnishes interesting food for thought, illustrating, as it does, human experience. Apparently the shepherd in the picture feels that the greatest need of the erring sheep is not condemnation, but saving compassion. So far as can be determined, no stern rebuke has been administered, no reminder of the depth of wickedness into which it has been plunged. There has been no need for this. The erring one knows all about hell, for he has been there. He knows now the joy of trusting in a faithful shepherd, and how sore is the penalty of wandering away. He knows this — ah, how deeply he knows all this! Perchance condemnation and remorse have already caused the feet to be less firm in clinging to the ragged edge of hope. Yes, there is but one need, and divine Love is meeting it. Down comes the tender hand, gently sounds the cheering voice, and out of yawning depths there rises a sense redeemed.

Let those who are confronted with the problem of a straying sheep, an unloving and unlovely sheep, a malicious or even a seemingly incorrigible sheep, ponder the lesson of this picture. Possibly the sheep is still lingering on

the hazardous steep of malice, or misunderstanding, or sickness, or sin. Should a friend then stand above him, delivering silently or audibly his opinion as to one who could bring himself to such a pass, and so-called righteous condemnation of his course? Or should the Christ-mind, that knows neither sin, frailty, nor blemish, be allowed to reach out in daily, hourly compassion through a brother's consciousness to wrest a precious thought from the nightmare of materiality and to bring it, unsullied and undefiled, to the sheepfold of the Father? As a loved hymn runs (Hymnal, p. 8): —

Not by the harsh or scornful word,
Should we our brother seek to gain;
Not by the prison or the sword,
The shackle, or the clanking chain.

But from our hearts must ever flow
A love that will his wrong outweigh;
Our lips must only blessings know,
And wrath, and sin shall die away.

Hospitality

Ella W. Hoag

Christian Science Sentinel June 4, 1927

Most people believe that hospitality is something desirable to receive, and there are probably but few who do not wish to express it. In its best human aspect it implies gracefulness and graciousness, thoughtfulness and cordiality. Even its ordinary definition of “kind and generous reception and entertainment of strangers and guests” immediately strikes a responsive chord in every friendly, loving heart.

There are multitudes, however, because they have looked at hospitality as principally dependent upon matter, who have imagined that lack of material possessions could limit their expression of it. When hospitality is considered from a merely material standpoint its intrinsic beauty is obscured, and men are then liable to deprive themselves of that association with it which is really heaven bestowed.

In Peter's first epistle, after counseling those to whom he was writing to have “fervent charity”

among themselves, he went on to say: “Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” Here Peter presented that true sense of hospitality which inevitably helps to cement harmonious and right relationships, while it pours the softening oil of gentleness and love on all that would tend to offend and separate.

The “grace of God,” therefore, is the first important element in right hospitality. Think of the hungry hearts that are fed, the lonely hearts that are comforted, the tired hearts that are refreshed, the sick hearts that are healed when they meet with one who is dispensing the “grace of God” in simple, unselfish loving-kindness!

There are few things the earnest Christian Scientist desires more than that he may never fail to give the cup of cold water at just the right time, in just the right way. A devout Christian of the old school once spoke of “breaking through the chills of ceremony and selfishness and thawing every heart with a glow.” To have the ability thus to melt the ice of formality with the kindness of unselfed thoughtfulness is surely to possess something of the “grace of God.”

Mary Baker Eddy, our beloved Leader, writes, “We should measure our love for God by our love for man; and our sense of Science will be measured by our obedience to God, — fulfilling the law of Love, doing good to all; imparting, so far as we reflect them, Truth, Life, and Love to all within the radius of our atmosphere of thought.” (*Mis.* p. 12)

In *Science and Health* (p. 54) Mrs. Eddy, in speaking of Jesus, says, “Out of the amplitude of his pure affection, he defined Love.” So Jesus measured his love for God by his love for men, and became the most perfect dispenser of divine hospitality that the world has ever known. He so richly reflected Life, Truth, and Love to them that each went out from his presence strengthened, satisfied, healed!

In the degree that we as Christian Scientists annul all selfishness with that pure affection which seeks its own in another's good, we too shall have the blissful experience of dispensing

that beautiful hospitality which feeds and comforts and heals, since there is never a loving thought, or word, or deed, but carries with it God's blessing and God's grace!

A Praise Note

R. N.

Christian Science Sentinel, December 18, 1902

Entering my garden in the early morning, I was greeted by the song of a robin redbreast. The melody was so sweet that I stood and listened. Then there came from another part of the garden a similar song, and the two birds trilled luscious notes without a sign of discord or inharmony, melody answering melody in real joyousness. So pure and clear and delightful were these notes, forming a perfect symphony of praise for the bounty everywhere manifested, that I was instinctively led to meditate on the lesson that these songsters were teaching.

Shall not the life and work and testimony of every Christian Scientist be pure and clear and joyful? "The corner-stone of all spiritual building is purity" (*S&H*, p. 241), and if we are earnestly desiring to reflect divine Love, we shall seek to purify ourselves and cultivate that clear spiritual vision that will enable us to see only Good.

It is our privilege, too, seeing that we are growing in the understanding of Truth, to let our words be without doubt or fear, but definite, clear, emphatic. We are ambassadors for Truth, and as such every word we speak should be based on the solid foundation of divine Science. And should we not live in the spirit of praise? "The joy of the Lord is your strength." No people on earth should be more joyous than Christian Scientists.

We are demonstrating the unreality of those fetters which formerly held us in bondage, and are rejoicing in such spiritual freedom that every day should have its song of thanksgiving. That song, becoming so familiar to Christian Scientists everywhere, is often the sweetest when it is embodied in quiet, helpful words of truth and gentle deeds of true discipleship and love. Herein is Love manifested: that Love's

messengers show forth the beauty of holiness in loving deeds. And great is the reward therein. For "the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever."

The Star in the West

William D. McCrackan

Christian Science Sentinel, December 22, 1917

When Jesus was born, certain wise men came to search for him in Jerusalem. They had "seen his star in the east," — but they traveled west. Thus was started that Westward Ho! of spiritual progress which has carried Christianity steadily forward until the setting sun has become the rising sun, and East and West are united in one eternal day.

Westward from Palestine the advancing thought of humanity took its way, by states and stages, across Europe to the Atlantic Ocean, and on to the Western Hemisphere to further the gospel announced to the wise men and the shepherds. Then on the American continent came the discovery of Christian Science by Mary Baker Eddy. "The star of Bethlehem is the star of Boston," Mrs. Eddy writes on page 320 of *Miscellaneous Writings*, "high in the zenith of Truth's domain, that looketh down on the long night of human beliefs, to pierce the darkness and melt into dawn." To uphold the star of Bethlehem and Boston is to uphold the standard of the flag of righteousness. The star in the East has become the star in the West.

In the Western world the star and the eagle symbolize the most exalted ideals of men. As the eagle perched upon a rock looks out, penetrating the distant view with a shining, alert, and keen eye, so does the star gleam out of the dark night and brighten the highway. The tireless flight of the eagle typifies the aspiration of man for freedom, whereby his superior qualities rise above the lower elements, and he soars into the upper airs of God which are free from the inharmonies of the flesh. This spiritual soaring brings the blessing contained in the psalmist's

words, “Thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

The star in the West guides the men who are upholding the starry standard of freedom with the spiritual sight of the eagle soaring overhead, guiding the higher motives of men to the goal of one country, God’s country; one land, heaven on earth; one sea, the heavenly sea of harmony; one man, God’s image and likeness; one God, unchangeable Principle, governing the universe. The star in the West also records the discovery of Christian Science and the labors of love of its Founder, Mary Baker Eddy. It typifies the purity of her motive, the brilliancy of her diction, the clearness of her logic. It sets forth the jewel nature of her gift to the world, and points to a new world of regenerated lives. In “Christ and Christmas” we read: —

Thus olden faith’s pale star now blends
In seven-hued white!
Life, without birth and without end,
Emitting light!

The star in the West is the twinkling star in the twilight which guides the faithful shepherd of today into the spiritual light where there is no night, revealing the scientific method of how to be born anew, ushering in the Christ to the consciousness which is spiritually receptive.

This star also clarifies the true organization of Church, explaining what The Mother Church stands for, and marks the inspired interpretation of the Scriptures with the piercing-eyed perception of spiritual influence. It is the day-star from on high guiding the brave above the cross to the crown of rejoicing. Christian Scientists are the people who are receptive to that Christian healing of sin, sickness, and death, which has been restored to humanity by their beloved Leader. Those who have received the benefits of the healing star have the opportunity to be like twinkling stars radiating this healing power throughout all the earth, and to be the stars shining in God’s firmament, eternal harmony. In the book of Daniel we read, “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.”

This blessed star, preeminent for beauty, is also powerfully practical. It is science and

demonstration in one, teaching and proof. It not only draws the wise men from the East to the West, but also directs them to spread their gifts before the mother and child. It calls for active participation in lighting the world with the rays of God’s mercy; for the love of light is the love of might directed by spiritual understanding. Its “Glory to God in the highest” is today an actual reliance within man’s consciousness, for in the heights is the transfigured man who knows only God and obeys Him. The glorified man shines resplendent in the universe of Spirit, on whose brow sits the starry gem of the diadem of love in a brilliant crown of righteousness.

Thus at length the city which “lieth foursquare” opens its gates “westward, to the grand realization of the Golden Shore of Love and the Peaceful Sea of Harmony” (*S&H*, p. 575). The star in the East and the star in the West, the star of Bethlehem and the star of Boston, are welding the world in one, in the perfect unity of God’s universe.



Daily Angels No. 107

Max Dunaway

The little steps are necessary, too;
It is through them we learn to take the great.
We do not leap from error to the true;
It needs the constant effort’s steady rate.

Help us, dear Lord, to be patient and see
Each timely step takes us from where we stood
On up in ways that lead to victory,
Then wait on You to compass all in good.

Current Articles



“The Supremacy of Spirit” Parthens

In *Science and Health* Mrs. Eddy writes, “Rise in the conscious strength of the spirit of Truth to overthrow the plea of mortal mind, *alias* matter, arrayed against the supremacy of Spirit” (p. 390:32-2). Similarly, in I Samuel 17:26, when preparing to face Goliath, “David spake to the men that stood by him, saying ... [W]ho is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” David did not put Goliath on an equal footing with the “supremacy of Spirit,” but kept him under Its heel.

Neither did Mrs. Eddy: “Sickness is not a God-given, nor a self-constituted material power, which copes astutely with Mind and finally conquers it.” (*S&H* 378:24-26). These examples show us never to hesitate to exercise our God-given dominion over anything that would stand against Truth!

Another way of saying “the supremacy of Spirit” is “the only-ness of Spirit,” as there is none beside God.

It is my assignment to make the promises of the Word of God so prominent, so supreme in my consciousness, that the roar of “the plea of mortal mind” becomes but a faint squeak. This is exactly what happened in the allegory of the trial (*Science and Health*, pages 430-442). When the

patient finally took his case to the Supreme Court of Spirit (that is, the Court of the Supremacy of Spirit), the might and power of the “exceeding great and precious promises” of God (II Peter 1:4), wielded by Christian Science, won the case — hands down!

Prayers Heard ‘Round the World

Imogene Hewett

I am so grateful for the Unity Watch prayers going out from this church, as far back as the 1980s, that reached me here in Australia during the violence of my upbringing. I had many experiences where God saved me from accidents and violence, in ways that just cannot be explained humanly.

On one particular such experience, when I was around the age of 5 or 6 years, I wanted to make my siblings laugh, and it occurred to me that a funny thing to do would be to entertain them by pretending to be a bus driver. So we came into the kitchen and I opened the oven door and used it as my “driver’s seat.” So I joked, miming to be driving on a bumpy road by bumping up and down in the open oven — my imaginary bus — as my brother and sisters

quietly laughed so as not to disturb my dad. As I stretched up to climb onto the range, the whole oven came out of the wall and fell on top of me, and I landed on my back on the kitchen floor. I realized I was soaked in warm liquid on my head, face, neck and chest, soaked through my hair and clothing, and I realized I was lying in a large puddle of cooking oil. I remember feeling very calm at this point, even with the huge weight of the oven on top of me. I couldn't move, but all I felt was God's love, as I could hear a favorite hymn come to thought.

This colossal noise of the oven crashing down, brought our parents in from the other room and they hauled the oven off me. They were furious, especially my dad, and I quivered a bit as I looked up at him and closed my eyes bracing for what would come next. It wasn't until later on that night, after realizing that about 4 liters, or about 1 gallon of cooking oil from the deep fryer had spilled, when my mother remarked it was incredible that the oil was not hot, as she had done some deep frying not 30 minutes previously, yet the oil was only lukewarm when it drenched me. Later on in bed that night I prayed to my dearest Heavenly Father and felt His tender love as I sang that favorite Hymn to myself

Beneath His watchful eye
His saints securely dwell;
That hand which bears creation up
Shall guard *His children well*.

I smiled through the tears as I felt God's beautiful, bright, shining love washing over me — His child — having no injury at all from this accident or from the beating with the leather strap that followed. Not even the slightest pain, no bruising, no breaks, no welts, no concern at all — not even a mark on my skin! Although the oven did not survive the ordeal as well as I had!

This was but one small experience where the meaning of that hymn was communicated to me in a far more profound way than I had ever been taught in my Mormon upbringing. And you can only imagine my joy when I found this hymn decades later in the Christian Science hymnal — Hymn 402. This was one of many experiences that prepared me to know Christian Science so I would be ready and recognize it when God placed

a copy of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* in my hands decades later and I read those first immortal lines on page 1 of the Chapter "Prayer" by Mary Baker Eddy: "The prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the sick is an absolute faith that all things are possible to God."

So now I often recall all the good that God has done for me. From that particular experience, all I recall is the warmth of the oil as I sang beneath His watchful eye. Thank you to this precious church for the Unity Watch Prayer practice — who knows who is being helped today! It is such a great blessing to be a member of this Church. Thank you to our Holy practitioners at this Church, past and present. Thank you God, thank you Christ Jesus, thank you Mary Baker Eddy. And so much Love to you all.

Practicing Christian Science

Lynda Spencer

Before discovering Plainfield Christian Science Church Independent, I felt like a wanderer "in a beleaguered city, forced to seek the Father's house." (*Mis.*, page 326)

A Sunday Roundtable titled "Faith" brought back memories of when I struggled to understand why I wasn't experiencing the healings I knew Christian Science was capable of, even after being in it for decades. In my heart, I knew something was missing. Little did I know what I didn't know! I am grateful for the clear, explicit, and practical instructions offered at this church, which lifts the veil of confusion, especially regarding bringing your life in tune with God. One of these is watching the thoughts we entertain.

Several weeks ago, a sentence in *Science and Health* stood out to me.

"Our proportionate admission of the claims of good or of evil determines the harmony of our existence, — our health, our longevity, and our Christianity." (*S&H*, p. 167)

In our textbook and other writings, Mrs. Eddy clearly instructs us to watch thought. Still, it wasn't until I arrived at this church, attended the

classes, and worked consistently with an infinitely patient practitioner, that I began to grasp that we are responsible for our own experiences. For so long I believed I was the victim. It is work and requires discipline to practice Christian Science correctly, because it is a science. I had to become like a child, leave behind old habits, and relearn how to live Christian Science. I had to face many bad habits/sins, such as people pleasing, that were interfering with my ability to feel and know God. I had to become more Godly.

The Bible classes here were a huge help. As a testifier said a short time ago, *Science and Health*, and Christian Science taught here have opened his understanding and love for the Bible. What a blessing it is to have access to all the writings by the early workers. I hope this helps someone to persist in correctly learning how to live, not just theorize this sacred Science. When I look back to where I was before I came here, I am amazed at the transformation God has worked in my life and continues to do so.

A few days ago, I came across Mrs. Eddy's early writings before *Science and Health* was published, titled "Science of Man." In it she writes, "God helps only those who help themselves, ... Science is a straight and narrow road you must strive to enter in. It is a battle with old positions of belief, and you must fight the good fight, in order to conquer them." (*Essays and Other Footprints*, "The Red Book," page 214)

There is no feeling of, "I will call and have someone fix my problems, hopefully quickly, so I can go on with my life as it is," which was my old sense. It clearly requires preparation and a change of heart, not an intellectual exercise — casting off wrong thinking and sins, or as Mrs. Eddy wrote, "give up thy earth-weights." Without changing my thinking that got me into the problem in the first place, I have not grown spiritually. I began to practice what I was learning, which was removing the veil over my thinking that had blinded me. Step by step, I did see all kinds of healings, some fast and some slow, all of which aided in my walk with the Father.

It is a blessing to be learning these truths and to be able to support our world. I thank our good

God, Christ Jesus, and Mary Baker Eddy. They loved God and the Bible, surmounted tremendous resistance, and left volumes of instruction on this Science of Being so that all may learn to put off the old man for the new, and also for this faithful Independent Church.

The Abundance of Good Is from God

Elizabeth Dow

I am so grateful and would like to share an awakening that I experienced recently. The word "lust" was in a recent Bible lesson, and an example of it was in the story of King David. In the Bible, it's one of those words on the list of "what not to do." But what is lust?

I used to think it had only to do with sexuality. One of Webster's definitions says, "longing desire; eagerness to possess or enjoy." I certainly never thought I had a problem in this arena; but after a very loving Christian Science practitioner pointed it out to me, I realized actually there was a lot of attraction and desire for shopping, for material things — shoes and bags, clothing, and household goods.

As I examined my thought more carefully, I realized there were some behaviors that needed adjustment — the worldly suggestion is that material things make us happy. Remember the young man who asked Jesus how to obtain eternal life — until he learned that he must give up his "things." In Truth, he needed only to give up a false, material concept of them.

True joy does not come from things purchased or owned. Adam Dickey says in his article entitled "Possession," "All this is based on the supposition that matter is substance and that man is the proprietor of it." (This is a wonderful article on the Plainfield website.) I have definitely been led to think about things from a different perspective, and I'm so grateful to know it for the whole world. I have been practicing seeing that what looks like matter, is the representation of Spirit, God. I need to do more of that. And, as has been pointed out at the Plainfield Roundtable, there is nothing wrong with having beautiful things, but it must be in a

spiritual sense of recognition that God made all and the abundance of Good is from Him, not from a catalog or a store. Mrs. Eddy says, "We must exchange the objects of sense for the ideas of Soul."

I'm so grateful for the tools to tackle this issue. Now, when a suggestion comes to me of want or desire for *any thing*, I can catch it fast, because really the suggestion is that something is lacking in my life. But that space is already filled with God's goodness. In Truth, I am full and content, joyous and abundantly supplied with God's ideas. In Psalm 23, "I shall not want" is something very powerful to hold onto. Thank you God, thank you Christ Jesus, thank you Mary Baker Eddy for the tools to break down any seemingly human situation in our thought and turn it around to the perfection that God made and called Good.

Don't Leave the Other Undone

Jeremy Palmer

When I first came to Plainfield, I had many unhelpful and downright unhealthy attitudes about myself. I was usually happy to try my best for others, but for myself I was unwilling to do much of anything that would be considered loving or beneficial. I spent many years working with a practitioner here, which served to heal me of all that and get me to the place where I could see and understand myself as God's child. I am so grateful for that.

One specific way this has helped now is to allow me to take care of my body by understanding that God gave me this body to work for Him. So now I am able to take time to exercise throughout the week, and I now view it as time to be grateful for what God has given me, as opposed to simply making it a task to check off the list.

I can't help but think of Christ Jesus saying "these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Matthew 23:23) when I take this time, because, in addition to what might be specifically viewed as Church work, there are these other secondary concerns which all work

together, such as taking time to eat well, and maintain my truck, amongst other things. These are all ways to be ready for what God would have me do, and also, ways to show I am grateful for the abundance He has given me.

I am so grateful for all the ways that being a member of this church and learning Christian Science have helped me to let go of all those old unhealthy attitudes I had and to instead move forward with God leading the way. What a constant blessing it is to be here. Thank you!

Progress

Chardelle Hull

I'm very grateful for learning here at Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, what "progress" really means. It has been stated several times, during our Roundtables, held every Sunday at 10 o'clock, that progress is a law, and it is happening in our experience, sometimes unawares. When we strive, watch, work and pray, progress is taking place. While pondering this beyond a personal level I became aware that our church, Christian Science, is "progress" for the whole world; teaching true Christianity, spreading the Gospel through Christian Science just as Mary Baker Eddy intended. This was also the intent and desire of the Apostle Paul. As Edgar J. Goodspeed wrote: "Now with the gift of the Holy Spirit, God's love has flooded our hearts. This magnificent amnesty, which was the heart of the Gospel, had tremendous consequences for those who accepted it in faith ... as sons of God, never to be separated from His love. Paul had found the river of the love of God, and his gospel was to make it known to all whom he could reach."

We here at Plainfield gladly and with joy carry the torch of the gospel of Truth with every church activity and our most outstanding websites. God bless our Leader, Mrs. Eddy, who has made it possible to maintain, carry on, prosper, and progress the Gospel of Truth and Love. Also, may God bless this Church.

It Is a Selfless Journey Florence Roberts

Jesus, in complete obedience to the Father, lived a selfless life to show us how we must live. In John 10:10-11, we read, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” We read his example of doing things that were simply right by God without a care about how that day’s “important” people saw him. Healing on the sabbath, eating with those shunned in society — He was a shining example to all and a testament to loving one another.

Likewise, in *Miscellany*, Mrs. Eddy says on page 165:18-22, “Thus may each member of this church rise above the oft-repeated inquiry, What am I? to the scientific response: I am able to impart truth, health, and happiness, and this is my rock of salvation and my reason for existing.”

We read about so many instances where she endured much scorn, maligning, and humiliation, all for God’s glory and to continue this Cause.

What an example they both were for us all! Selflessness is a great attribute to keep in mind as we journey on. As we live Christian Science, we feel more joy and deeper contentment because the things unnecessary for spiritual growth fall away, while a new altitude of thought which aids more gratitude, compassion, feeling for others, makes life more worth living — all because you tend to attribute all good to God’s glory, and there’s a feeling of kindness to live when feeling God’s presence everywhere. Is it not more joyful to awake with the purpose to help someone overcome a tempting lie?

Living to bless others does help us develop a keen interest in all things good.

Alone, but Never Lonely

Mary Beth Singleterry

When Mrs. Eddy was asked by one of her students, “Mother, are you ever lonely?” her reply was, “Alone, child, but never lonely!” (“Blue Book” p. 252)

At this time of the year, when people sometimes feel lonely or alone, it’s good to remember “alone ... but never lonely,” because we’re always with the Christ Truth. In Isaiah, chapter 54, we read, “For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.”

A few years ago, I studied Isaiah chapter 54 in the Amplified version of the Bible, which is very, very beautiful. The footnotes of that Bible noted, “Although this chapter is primarily intended to express Zion’s joy over redemption, it is also a very personal, long-neglected, and often overlooked message for women, the lonely, the disappointed, the childless, and the widow. It has all the glorious confidence and assurance of the incentive and understanding for which feminine hearts have longed throughout the ages; every woman who will read it every week for a year with a receptive heart and mind will find herself not only spiritually prepared for her childlessness or widowhood, should it come, but also supplied with rich treasure with which to address the similar needs of countless other aching hearts to whom the holy spirit is here speaking.”

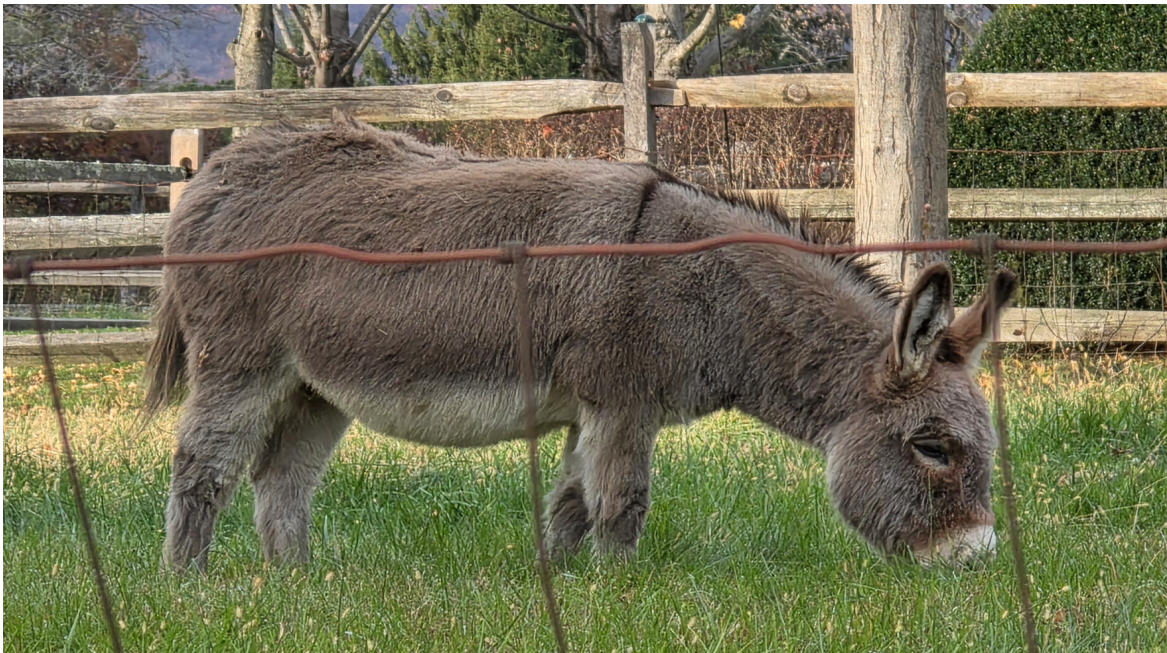
This was beautiful, and it made me so grateful for the Bible, that meets the needs of all people, wherever we are, whatever we’re experiencing. Whatever comfort we need, it is expressed in our beautiful Holy Bible.



How many observe Christ’s birthday! How few, his precepts! O! ’tis easier to keep Holidays than Commandments.

Benjamin Franklin

Letters of Gratitude



The Roundtables and the services at Plainfield are awesome. I can see that Mrs. Evans did a great job with all of you. And thank God you were very receptive and obedient to her teachings, the teachings of the Christ. And now the fruit is the church that remains today, a strong, alive, loving, and great Christian Science church.

After our “independent” church in Mexico fell down and the practitioner passed on, I just prayed that the Christ would not leave my son and me alone, and that somewhere there was a church for us. I just prayed, “God, I don’t know how or where, but certainly You are going to show me the new church we need.” I did not want to return to the former church I was a member of, because it is like a little Boston church in Mexico. I wanted something much better. So, I guess I had enough faith to see a new church for me. And the reward was that the Christ showed me Plainfield. It was much more than I expected. I am so grateful that God had the answer for me since the very moment I asked Him.

Mexico

There was a lovely discussion at a recent Sunday Roundtable about giving God thanks for all the good that happens in our lives. There is no such thing as chance or coincidence. I was reminded

of this while walking my dog across a major intersection in my quiet residential neighborhood. However, late last year, before additional stop signs were added, my dog and I were waiting to cross on the way home from our morning walk. Whenever we started to enter the street, the cars would whiz by, refusing to yield. Several times we had to retreat to the curb.

Several other pedestrians ran past us across the street; but since running is not currently in my repertoire, we had to wait until there was a prolonged break in traffic. I knew when our time to cross came, we would be able to do so safely, and so I was content to wait. As we waited, a man came out from a house across the way in what looked like his pajamas, and he yelled over to me, asking if we were ready to cross. I yelled back, “Yes.” And he then walked into the street, and stood there in the middle of the road. The traffic slowed down, and he gestured for us to cross.

I give all credit to God for this wonderful demonstration of divine Love meeting my every need. I’m grateful for the spirited Sunday Roundtable discussion. The intersection is now a four-way stop, making crossing very easy, for which I thank God!

Maryland

This is the only email address I could find, so please pass my gratitude on to whoever you think it may apply to. I have been working in Science for a large part of my life, and due to my current location, there is no local support. Accordingly, a few years ago, I was led to your website. What a great source of thought and inspiration. Truly remarkable. Ideas from the simple to the advanced are so generously shared. Thank you all.

Email

I just want to let you know how grateful I am for everything that I have access to on the Internet from the church. These are really crazy times.

Pennsylvania

I am grateful to learn to shape my view according to what God sees.

Psychology would like to make us see persons and tempers instead of Christ, and it often lures us into thinking that there are different persons instead of Christ. If we turn to God and acknowledge He is the only cause for all His ideas, we can be more loving toward His creation.

I am doing this about myself, to leave the wrong concept of a man with a past, a temper, and mistakes. This requires discipline, but at least it provides a practical roadmap to stop listening to the false ego and discover that we are loved by God and that we have never left His harmony.

Thanks to our church for the loving support.

France

Dear Fellow Members,

Enclosed is my monthly contribution to this Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, gratefully sent to support the worldwide ministry of promoting and sharing the goodness and freedom found in Mary Baker Eddy's revelation of this Divine Science.

As she said, we are to follow her only as she followed Christ. She has made the way clear to follow him who said, "I am the way, the truth,

and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

I am so grateful to see, in her autobiography and the many authentic biographies, that she lived a life of prayer, humility, and selflessness, showing the world what can be accomplished through love for God and for all mankind. How blessed we all are to know an omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient Father-Mother God, who infinitely loves His entire creation!

With much gratitude,

Virginia

The autumn is a beautiful season, and we wish you great joy in it.

Many thanks for the latest Roundtable discussion!

There is so much we have to unlearn and replace with Truth. Repetition, again and again, is what helps us understand and exchange false beliefs for true ones.

We've been talking a great deal lately about authority — or perhaps the lack of it. Today, when I picked up *Science and Health*, the first thing I saw was 395:6: "The healer should speak to disease as one having authority over it." That really emphasized the importance of recognizing the authority God has given us.

We send our warmest thoughts to you and everyone at the Roundtable. May this autumn bring quiet inspiration, clear light, and the joy of God's presence in every moment.

With love,

Sweden

The Sunday Roundtable, "Jesus proved, sin disease and death unreal... and so can you," was a complete treatment. It clicked several times, and with each "click" the veil became thinner, the mist more see-through. Thank you!

Germany

I am grateful for all the Plainfield Roundtables; however, I absolutely loved this Roundtable. This one really hit home because it speaks to the "Illusion of Mortal Mind" seducing us — and

giving a simple remedy of working with one thought of Truth and cherishing it all day, every day. Afterwards, voice this Truth, because we have authority. Why? God is not separate from the wisdom he bestows. This was a gem because folks want something simple that everyone can do. Plus, I can easily post this for others to "Pay it Forward." Thank you, Thank You, Thank You!

Email

I am grateful for the very existence of this church and to learn that Love is the Liberator. I learn here to love God, not as a distant God, but as a tangible and good God, Mind, Power, all-presence.

I am learning to know that I don't get good things by the power of my intelligence or by my own so-called wisdom. I have them because God is wisdom, the only wisdom, and I am one with His creation.

I love a sentence from the Bible, "Son, all that I have is thine." I love the promise that God has many good things in store for us.

I decided to change my view of others and to see that God gives all good to all his children. They don't need to be labelled "Christian Scientists" to receive good, to be good, or to know the Truth because God is All.

Many thanks to this church for the loving support.

France

What a beautiful summer we enjoyed with lovely fields of flowers that brighten our days and lift thoughts immediately to God, for it is He who created all of this wondrous beauty!

Thank you, Plainfield Church, for keeping Mary Baker Eddy's pure Christian Science alive with the uplifting services, Roundtables, incredible music, and wonderful fellowship.

Enclosed is our monthly contribution.

With Love.

Vermont

This letter is long overdue to express my unending gratitude to Plainfield Church

Independent. I accidentally came across the website a couple of years ago while researching and was delightfully surprised at the content offered, which is boundless.

I was brought up in Christian Science, but quickly realized I had no idea how to apply the Science until I discovered Plainfield. When I reached out to speak to someone at the church, I have never been greeted with such love, warmth and acceptance.

I have been working for a while to overcome a situation and am so very grateful for my practitioner sending daily treatments for me to study and utilize. The archived Roundtables have been invaluable to me with all their contents and readings. Plainfield is such a treasure trove and gift to all, and I thank everyone at the church who provides truth, pure Science, and embracing love to others around the globe. It is such an honor and a privilege to be a member.

South Carolina

I love the work Plainfield has done to make early workers' lectures and other presentations available on their website. So much to review, understand, and appreciate.

I also love being reminded of the importance of the 23rd and 91st Psalms from the book of Psalms.

This morning, I also really appreciated the daily calendar message as follows: "You can do more than pray, but only after you have prayed."

Thank you, Plainfield, for your loving workers, loving practitioners, all.

As of this morning's review of the 23rd Psalm, I was reminded that I had been leaving out one line, which line is in itself very precious:

"he leadeth me in the paths of Righteousness for his name's sake."

Much love to all as we "Do more than pray."

South Dakota

Dear Benjamin and Plainfield Church Members,

I wanted to share a heartfelt thank you for the warm welcome extended to my friend Gregor and

me during our visit from D.C. to attend the Roundtable and service the Sunday before last.

We were deeply touched by the spirit of your community — so warm, inviting, and loving. I am especially grateful for the gracious embrace you showed us, and I left inspired by your commitment to sharing the principles of Christian Science around the world through innovative and engaging ways.

The reception and lunch with some of the members after the service was a special blessing as well, giving us the chance to know one another more deeply.

With gratitude, love, and blessings to all in Plainfield!

Washington, D.C.

Good afternoon!

I received your welcome letter in the mail a couple of days ago, and wanted to extend my great appreciation for the letter. It is such a pleasure and honor to be a member of Plainfield, and I want to assure you that my thoughts and motives are in complete alignment with its teachings. I am deeply grateful that I found this magnificent church, and I love you all! I hear your voices every day in the Roundtable archives, which I listen to daily. They are equal to receiving loving treatment. Thank you for all you do and your contributions.

With warm wishes to all.

South Carolina

Dear members of Plainfield:

The rains have decreased considerably in Mexico, particularly in Mexico City, since I asked for metaphysical support from the Weather Committee. Last Saturday, a very strong rain was expected in Mexico City, but thank God it never came. During the week, we have had some light rain in the afternoon and evening. And unexpectedly, we have had sunny and very bright days with a very blue sky.

So I want to share this with the church in Plainfield, to give thanks to God, to the Christ,

and to our magnificent Weather Committee for their work. Prayer works. Hallelujah!

Much love to all of you!

Mexico

I have been helped so much by listening to the fine recordings of the Plainfield collection. Thanks to all the fine metaphysicians/readers who have been involved.

This morning, I listened to the recording of “CHURCH” by Bicknell Young before the Sunday Service. I was so overjoyed to be more than listening. For the first time, I heard it and understood every word. This was a milestone for me. Thank you, Gary, for this particular reading.

Mrs. Eddy would surely be approving of the creativity and original way Plainfield CS has used the internet to share and TEACH Christian Science.

Idaho

YouTube comments on: “The Ability to Hear God's Voice is Fundamental — Sunday, August 10th, 2025 Roundtable”

Thank u, this is just what I needed this morning, I was feeling a little overwhelmed by life. Indeed, we need to blow the dust of despair and fear and other negative thinking that would deceive us and discourage us. We need to work and rejoice daily and hourly, to know that we are in the Father and the Father in us.

Over a decade ago, I cried out to no one and asked for guidance. The next day I was late for class, and when waiting outside, I met a Christian Scientist and was given a *Science & Health*. But recently, I have become confused by listening to different Christian religious beliefs, so I prayed to the Holy Spirit to guide me to the truth, so I could be a true Christian and look where He sent me. My answer is clear!

Be Thou my vision, O God of my heart! nothing possesses reality.... except the divine Mind and His ideas. Love needs our love. There is nothing that is not God.

Testimonies of Healing



Birth of Calf Natural and Fast

from J. in Kenya

One morning, I went to the store to buy bread and some eggs. A mother approached me to help the family, as her cow was giving birth. The lady told me that they probably needed more people from the village to help in case there was a problem. Her daughter offered me a piece of cloth, which acts as an apron to protect my clothes from getting dirty. I declined, and I told her I would be okay. I was calm. I comforted the lady and I told her it was okay. By this time, I knew God as Life through Christian Science, and that life is eternal. I paused my shopping and walked to the compound, where the cow was.

I kept knowing this wonderful truth about life. I was joined by the man of the house and later the son. We stood by the side of the shed watching without intervening, and within minutes, the cow safely gave birth to a beautiful calf. Nobody touched or assisted the cow in any way. We did not require the help of more neighbors, and yes, it was one of the fastest animal births I've ever witnessed. The lady joined us later, having not found more neighbors to assist, and she was definitely surprised. She told me they had lived with the shortage of milk for a long time, and now their need was going to be met. I had tea with the family as we watched

the mother and calf. There was a great sense of relief, peace, joy, love, and calm. I knew it was a sign of God's presence again, in the place of anxiety and fear. There was, and always is, God's presence. The first need was also met. I learned that God wants us to show up when directed. He is the one who does it all. Without Him, we can do nothing. I thank God for Christian Science, for Christ Jesus, Mary Baker Eddy, and all workers then and now. God bless you all.

Scarred Lungs Healed

from S. Q. in North Carolina

Back when the Covid pandemic dominated the news, people were scrambling to get vaccinated, and some of them, my fellow members of the local Christian Science Church, took the vaccination shots because their children were worried about them. One of my own children was pleading with me to get vaccinated, since X-ray had shown significant scar tissue in both my lungs due to severe pneumonia suffered while on a trip to China. There was fear expressed that I would be at risk of dying if I contracted Covid. Now, I knew that would never happen. At the same time, I didn't want my children to worry about me. I prayed and asked God,

"Should I take this vaccination?" I got a very clear message — this is not for you. I spoke with

my child, and with a deep love in my heart, I promised her in a gentle yet firm tone that I would come through the pandemic alive and perfectly well.

I continued to teach lessons in my home studio and followed protocol with the mask, taking tests every Friday, and made agreements with my students so everyone would feel safe continuing in-person lessons.

It was during this time that I discovered the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent. I listened to the YouTube videos every day. I was immediately drawn in by the simplicity and clarity of the teachings given at this church. I could feel the effects in my thoughts right away.

One day, I was feeling really bad physically, and, following my agreement with my students, I drove to get a test. It wasn't busy at the drugstore, and they invited me into a doctor's office to set up inside. I didn't feel mesmerized or tricked into anything, even though it never happened on my weekly Friday visit before. I said, "Sure, fine." And she insisted on having my lungs X-rayed while we waited for the test results. I told her I had scars on my lungs the last time I was checked. She showed me the X-rays and said something like, "Well, whatever damage you had is completely gone. Your lungs look perfect to me." My lungs were healed with Christian Science simply by listening to and absorbing the YouTube videos on the Plainfield Church site.

The test was negative, and she reported it was a common cold. Even though I had not specifically prayed about the scar tissue, I believe that my uplifted thought during my studies at Plainfield Church healed me of those scars. As I promised my daughter, I was, and am, fine. Having medical proof now also gave her assurance. I understood that God set it up for me at the testing center so that it wouldn't be busy and the doctor could specifically invite me inside, allowing my daughter to meet me there, so she wouldn't have to be afraid for her mom. How loving God is for all his children.

I'm sincerely grateful for all that I continue to learn from our dear membership and the clear, practical teachings of our practitioners. Thank you all for your testimonies and Bible lessons.

I've been really delving deeply into them lately. Thank you for everything you're doing for us and the world.

Edema Healed

from E. H. in Oklahoma

I had been working for several days to overcome a "disease" called edema, through prayer and Bible study. After a few days, I contacted a Christian Science practitioner at the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, for help. She agreed to treat me and pray for me. She recommended I listen to Hymn #324 on the website. This was comforting to do. And she also said to love God more.

I had been reading the Bible regarding Paul and James about trials and tribulations, leading us to greater spiritual understanding.

The Practitioner continued to treat and pray. She sent me an article, "Spiritual Consultations" by Rosemary Maas Stamp. The consultations were with the Great Physician and the Christian Science Practitioner. In the article, it said that error was never personal. This was a relief, because I did feel like it was personal and I was being "attacked." The error was the universal mortal mind's way of hiding Omnipresence to keep us in its darkness. Knowing error to not be personal was a great comfort and relief.

Later that night, after praying for a while, I sat in silence. As I sat silently, I clearly and emphatically heard, "THIS" is NOT for me. I felt a rush of energy, and a release and freedom seemed to flow out of me. I continued to sit in silence, then repeated the statement several times and realized I was healed. To God be the glory. I felt peace and joy. I am ever grateful for the Bible, for "Science and Health," Mary Baker Eddy, and Christian Science. I am especially thankful to the Plainfield practitioner for help. Finally, a thank you to the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, and its valuable website, which makes so much Truth available to everyone.

God Bless each and all.

Child Healed of ADD

from C. H. in New Jersey

Good Evening. For several years, my practitioner has been supporting me as I pray for family members. I am grateful that yesterday I found out about my youngest grandson, who had been labeled with ADD and has been in a special education program since grade school. He has tested out of most of this program. He just started 9th grade and is reading at that level. His spelling is 83%, and his writing fluency is above average. He fits in better socially now and has a few friends.

He was never given drugs to calm him down, so there was a lot of movement, that I am pleased to say, was tolerated by most people. He did encounter some bullying along the way. In one situation, the bully was a neighbor, so his parents took him to visit the boy at his home with his mom and dad, and that was the end of that.

He is now a happy, kind young man.

I am so grateful to my practitioner for praying with me, and because of those prayers, I always saw the perfect child of God unfolding.

Along with all our prayers and watches at Plainfield, prayer goes out daily to all children, knowing that they can never be separated from the awesome power of God, who created them in His image.

Thank you, Shepherd!

Healed of Shyness

from E. C. in New Hampshire

I would like to express my gratitude tonight for the Wednesday testimony meetings. They are inspiring and heartfelt, the testimonies praise God's power and goodness and they are wonderful. In this week's lesson, Mary Baker Eddy speaks of testimonies of God's all-power and all-presence in the Bible. She writes in *Science & Health*, "From beginning to end the Scriptures are full of accounts of the triumph of Spirit, Mind over matter ... Moses proved the power of Mind by what men called miracles." And then, "In Egypt. it was

Mind that saved the Israelites from belief in the plagues. In the wilderness, streams flowed from the rock, and manna fell from the sky. ... Even in captivity among foreign nations, the divine Principle wrought wonders for the people of God in the fiery furnace and in king's palaces."

It wasn't until I found the Plainfield Church that I realized the importance of giving testimonies. Having been very shy for most of my life, the thought of public speaking was very intimidating, but this is something entirely different. I have learned that it starts to become a human endeavor, but the Divine takes over. Very often, the suggestion will come that I don't know how to put my testimony into words. Of course, I know that suggestion does not come from God, so I wait and listen, and suddenly, whether it's a day later or 10 minutes, the words just come...I'm so grateful for Christian Science that teaches us the true meaning of Life.

Harmony Overcomes Anger

from G. in Maryland

Recently, I had a legal issue that required hiring an attorney to prepare some important family documents. I spent weeks preparing written instructions for the attorney before we met so that we could avoid mistakes. We met with the attorney, we paid half the fee in advance, and waited for the documents. However, when the documents arrived, they contained several major errors. The documents were legally unusable.

I started to feel anger bubbling up inside me, and I could tell this feeling was going to turn into rage if I did not do something. Thank God I stopped myself. I tried to think about harmony — that God's spiritual household projects only harmony, that I always live in that household and that I am responsible if I let error take my peace and joy. I tried to recall Mary Baker Eddy's article, "A Treatment for Every Day," which I really love. It describes God's spiritual household. One quote is, "Harmony is the only law." I also thought about the injustice I was feeling, as well as how it can be challenged while still living in harmony.

Finding justice does not have to go hand in

hand with anger. I tried to think about Jesus and how he lived, as well as how he solved problems. By staying calm and not letting anything take my peace, I was able to make a plan without anger. Within a few hours, the problem was resolved in a way that exceeded my hopes. Remembering to focus on God's spiritual household and addressing problems early, rather than after they have grown larger, helps me make better decisions and increases my confidence. I want to thank everyone who leads and participates in the Roundtables. They are just invaluable in giving examples of how to live Christian Science day to day.

A Blessing in Disguise

from C. C. in New Jersey

There was an interesting incident one night last week. In the dark, a young man came running up my next-door neighbor's driveway, aiming for her garage, followed by the police. He tripped over her lawnmower, then hopped over the fence into my backyard, where the police were able to tackle him. They said he had been committing robberies and they were happy to have caught him.

The first thought that came to me was, "I have to do better protective work for my neighborhood!" I talked to practitioner, and she said, "It was your right thinking that tripped him up!" I hadn't thought of that. Then I was able to stop blaming myself and get back to work.

No one can want what someone else has. God provides every needful thing to every one of His children, and no one is left out. The only reason anyone can come into anyone's neighborhood is to bless, and to be blessed. He was certainly blessed because he now has an opportunity to turn his life around.

God really does supply every need for all His children. And this guy just learned this truth, whether he recognizes it yet or not. It's in him, planted like a seed, and it will continue to grow and bless him immensely!

Visit to Plainfield

from I. H. in Australia

I want to thank God with the deepest Love and respect for bringing us all the way from Australia to America to meet our dear Church family. Sunday's Unity Watch called me to testify tonight for those who may not yet have visited Plainfield in person to tell you what I witnessed there. These are people who truly love God, who love Mary Baker Eddy. They work so hard and so wonderfully and so selflessly to bring us these regular meetings and teachings that we receive at this church. I had often said that I would kiss the blessed steps of the Plainfield Church when I arrived there. But when the time came, all I could do was look up in awe at our Church — our dear, beautiful Church, as I realised I was standing on precious ground! All I could do was cry with Love. We took our seats in the blessed church as the organ started to play for the testimony meeting prelude. We sat there, praying, with our eyes closed, and I felt the most sublime Love wrapping around me. And for nine glorious weeks, I lived amongst these people and their families — these dear church members — these people we love — we were with them. The thing that stands out most from that time was the utterly pure spiritual atmosphere that enveloped this beautiful group of workers at Plainfield and their utter faith and Love! They work so diligently! They would never miss a single meeting! They are truly called by God and strengthened by God! I am so grateful for Plainfield Independent! This pure independent Christian Science Church has retained the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy, and along with that comes the Holy healing power of God! We are all so blessed to have this Church! I pray God we return to our dear Church! I have never met a more loving, Holy group of people in all my days! Thank you, God, for this precious independent Christian Science Church — thank you to our Plainfield workers — and thank you to all our workers around the globe, and so much love to you all!

Artist and Musician Showcase



Dale Adler – artist
<https://DaleAdler.com>



Nancy Beauchamp – artist
<https://NancyBeauchamp.com>



James Kimani – artist

<https://www.instagram.com/kimanigichau/>

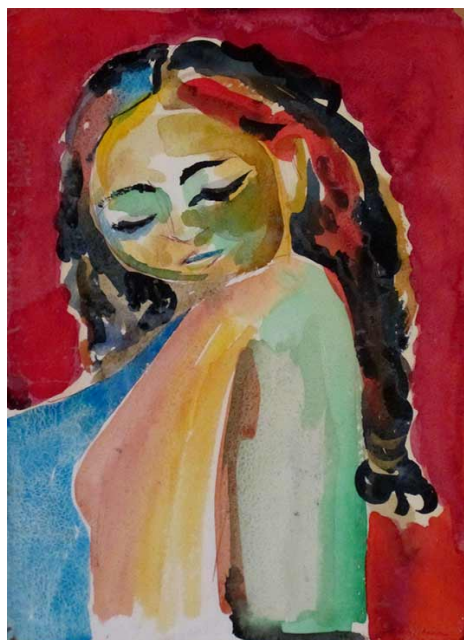


Alexia Marshall – artist

<https://sites.google.com/view/precious-pet-portraits/home>

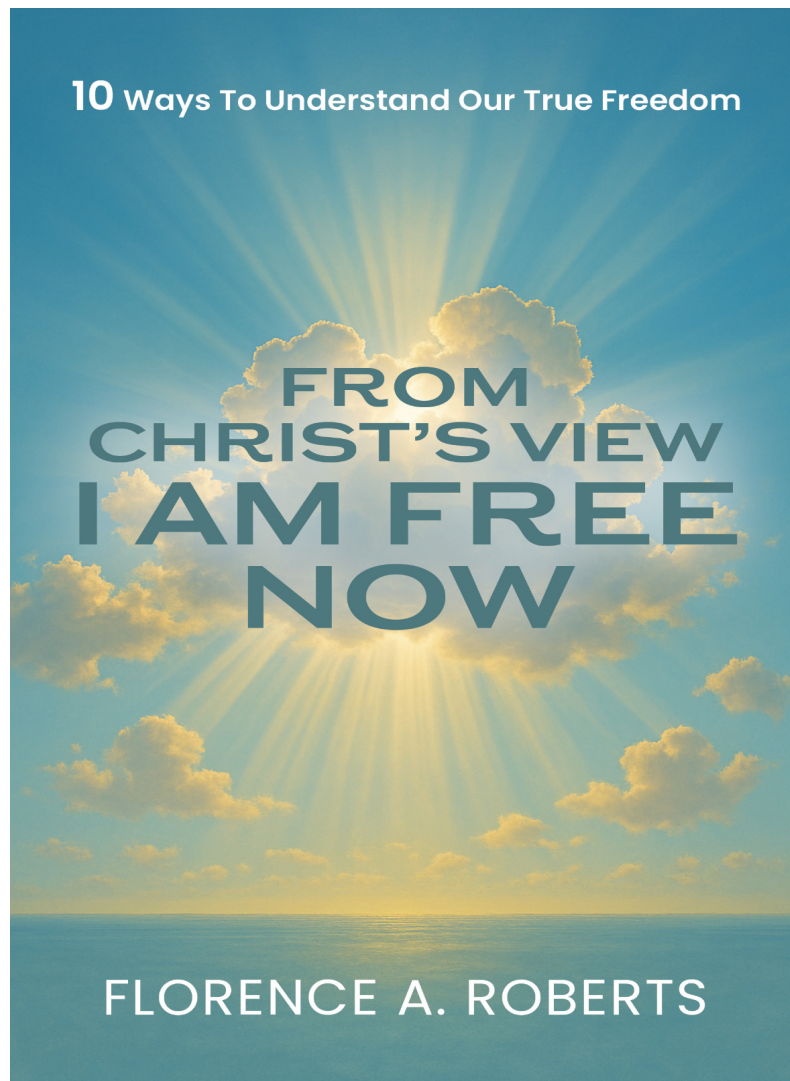


Tim Lancaster – artist
<https://Lancasterartworks.com>



Zari Harat – artist
<https://ZariHarat.com>

Stephanie Quinn – *musician*
<https://StephanieQuinn.com>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/violintuition>



Florence Roberts
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Drawing by Luanne Tucker

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Come Join Us!

Wednesday Evening Testimony Meeting — 8:15 P.M.
Saturday Bible Study — 10:00 A.M.
Sunday Roundtable Discussion — 10:00 A.M.
Sunday Service and Sunday School — 11:00 A.M.

NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR ALL SERVICES

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"Publish the Word"

Broadcast the Truth

"Freely ye have received, freely give"