

Plainfield Independent Newsletter

December 2013

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DEIFICATION OF PERSONALITY

Mary Baker Eddy

Notwithstanding the rapid sale already of two editions of “Christ and Christmas,” and many orders on hand, I have thought best to stop its publication. In this revolutionary religious period, the increasing inquiry of mankind as to Christianity and its unity — and above all, God’s love opening the eyes of the blind— is fast fitting all minds for the proper reception of Christian Science healing. But I must stand on this absolute basis of Christian Science; namely, Cast not pearls before the unprepared thought. Idolatry is an easily-besetting sin of all peoples. The apostle saith, “Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”

The illustrations were not intended for a golden calf, at which the sick may look and be healed. Christian Scientists should beware of unseen snares, and adhere to the divine Principle and rules for demonstration. They must guard against the deification of finite personality. Every human thought must turn instinctively to the divine Mind as its sole centre and intelligence. Until this be done, man will never be found harmonious and immortal. Whosoever looks to me personally for his health or holiness, mistakes. He that by reason of human love or hatred or any other cause clings to my material personality, greatly errs, stops his own progress, and loses the path to health, happiness, and heaven. The Scriptures and Christian Science reveal “the way,” and personal revelators will take their proper place in history, but will not be deified.

THE HUMAN CONCEPT

Mary Baker Eddy

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We do not question the authenticity of the Scriptural narrative of the Virgin-mother and Bethlehem babe, and the Messianic mission of Christ Jesus; but in our time no Christian Scientist will give chimerical wings to his imagination, or advance speculative theories as to the recurrence of such events. No person can take the individual place of the Virgin Mary. No person can compass or fulfil the individual mission of Jesus of Nazareth. No person can take the place of the author of Science and Health, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science. Each individual must fill his own niche in time and eternity.

LESSON FORUM CULTIVATES GROWTH

Florence in GA

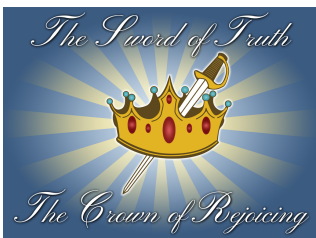
"We never know how one simple inspired thought, even if familiar to many, could have the healing power of Science that someone desperately needs!"

Something wonderful is going on at Plainfieldcs.com and our Lesson Forum is a significant part of it. If I start my study of the lesson with God, what He leads me to share will bless someone. I see the forum as a 24/7 platform to share my inspiration from the lessons, a place to write my understanding of how the Truth is made practical in my life. It does not matter how many responses I get, it is not about me. We never know how one simple inspired thought, even if familiar to many, could have the healing power of Science that someone desperately needs!

What a blessing for us and all who are led to our site. We cannot forget those who are still searching as we once were. On the Forum I can expect correction if I get a thought or statement from the Bible or Science and Health confused. This means much, as it demonstrates the love that cares enough to correct and steer straight my spiritual growth. Cultivating spiritual sense is most important in our spiritual growth and participating in the Lesson Forum plays a major role to help us all LEARN, SHARE, and GROW!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES

LaVerne in MD



Plainfield Independent, a church without walls and a light unto all.

Each week, I feel the presence of God throughout the entire service – the Love is palpable. Week after week, I am inspired by the beautiful healing testimonies and heartfelt gratitude expressed for God and His goodness and mercy. Since joining the Plainfield Christian Science Church Independent and participating in the weekly Bible Studies, the Roundtable discussions, the Wednesday Night Testimony Service, and the Sunday Church Service, my life has been transformed. I am learning so much about God and my relationship to Him and I no longer feel like a motherless child. Now I know that God is ever-present – closer than breathing and nearer than hands and feet; and that He is, indeed, a very present help in trouble. Thanks be to God and to all of you – my gratitude speaks for all you are doing to uplift and motivate mankind...and for all you are doing to uplift and motivate me.

SAVING GRACE

Jeremy in NJ

I first started to orbit Plainfield as a teenager, yet a lack of understanding and an abundance of willfulness kept me away.

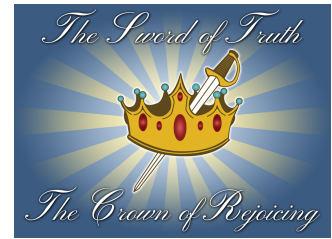
25 years later when my life inevitably fell apart I was left feeling as though there was no recourse for me—and that my existence was actually detrimental to those I loved—so I decided to take my own life. I was moments away from the act when I reached out to God and simply asked for help. That help came immediately, chasing away the darkness, and I very quickly found myself here.

The torch of authentic Christian Science, which this church has for so long held aloft, lit understanding in me immediately. Where confusion and want once lay, meaning and relevance took root. The wreckage I was when first I walked into church soon became filled with hope, love, purpose and utility.

After this comes the tale that truly needs telling: In the midst of such love and light came a great resistance inside me. I began to doubt my usefulness here. False paths sprang up—under the guise of opportunity—conspiring to lead me away from this wonderful church. The darkness of erroneous thought tried to give me everything I previously wanted, and I admit I was sorely tempted.

All that kept me from leaving was the intense gratitude to God for delivering me from everything black and godless. Had I allowed myself to forget that, material opportunity and lies would have not only destroyed the goodness I've experienced here, but the possibility for more. In time I would have ended up right back where I was.

I know that vigilance is imperative because that will not be my last hurdle. Only the strength of God will help me overcome the subtle cunning and aggressive suggestion of error when it tries to tempt me to forego His Will. Christian Science and the fellowship I have found at the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent are integral to my success in the service to God, and for that I am most grateful.



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As a relatively new member to Plainfield, I am learning how to put into practice what God wants. I never asked God what he wanted. Instead I asked God to help me do what I wanted. This was backwards. I knew I had to repay my debt to the church for all that had been freely given to me, so I asked for jobs. As an out of town member I was unsure what I could do. Had I not raised my hand and asked, I would have missed out on what church is meant to be: "that institution, which affords proof of its utility and is found elevating the race, rousing the dormant understanding from material beliefs to the apprehension of spiritual ideas." Instead of debating which of the 500 watching points to post, I am learning to rely on God's law of meeting every human need and knowing that I cannot be confused or uncertain.

God is right here and whatever He has in store is far better than anything I could dream up. In this state of thought I can listen and feel God's direction. And it works! This church work has trained me to feel my way through family decisions and work problems. And the best part is feeling safe, knowing that I am trying my best to listen. If I do make a mistake, I change course and move on knowing that no harm can come trying to listen to God. Only blessings can come to me. Thanks to my practitioner who always supports me, and where would we be without Jesus Christ who proved this Science and sacrificed everything so we could have an unwavering faith in the Eternal goodness of God. *Tony in Atlanta*

Thank you to everyone who took the time to contribute to the calendar. We have almost 400 good submissions. Thanks to Jeanne from Michigan, Dale W. and Dale A. from Virginia, Janet from Georgia, Connie from Texas, Jim from Arizona, Candace from Wisconsin, Heidi from Maryland and Lil and Jeremy from New Jersey. What a team effort. It will be available for Christmas giving. Please continue to send in your submissions so we can start on the 2015 calendar. If you haven't submitted, please do so. It is a growing and learning experience. *Sharon in New Jersey*

Tony has graciously answered the call to take a turn publishing our members' Newsletter. When he has finished his stint, we will be looking for other "budding" publishers amongst the membership. Our church has no walls, and we are delighted to have fresh approaches to presenting the Newsletter and celebrating the fact that this church belongs to each and every one of us, each setting aside personality and striving to express our own, divine individuality. *Membership Chair, Andrew*

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24 at 8 PM.

Peter has agreed to conduct our Christmas Eve candlelight service this year. Every year, this service has been a holy and happy way to celebrate Christmas. It is also a great service to invite friends and relatives to. This year, the service will be held on Tuesday, December 24 at 8 pm. As usual, it will be broadcast over the internet and through the teleconference center. Please plan on joining us for another holy Christmas Eve service!