

## The Plainfield Independent

### Newsletter

Number 187

December 2019

---

## OUR THOUGHT FOR EACH DAY

By Mary Baker Eddy

“Every day, every hour, our work increases in effectiveness and power.”

---

### THINK UPON THIS

S & H page 9:11-14

If selfishness has given place to kindness, we shall regard our neighbor unselfishly, and bless them that curse us; but we shall never meet this great duty simply by asking that it may be done.

### A QUOTE FROM THE PAST

By Thomas Tusser

At Christmas play, and make good cheer,  
For Christmas comes but once a year.

### GEMS FROM OUR HERITAGE

*Sermons and Articles on Christian Science*, by Doris White Evans  
Page 89

God's love for man has not ceased. The Bible promise is being fulfilled. The light of the Christ, in Christian Science, is again flooding the world, bringing hope and peace to struggling hearts.

### JIM'S CORNER

When did Moses sleep with five  
people in one bed?  
When he slept with his forefathers.

### THOUGHTS FROM MISCELLANEOUS WRITINGS

*Miscellaneous Writings*, Page 229:9-12  
If only the people would believe that good is more contagious than evil, since God is omnipresence, how much more certain would be the doctor's success, and the clergyman's conversion of sinners.

### QUOTES FROM PETER V. ROSS

*Leaves of Healing*, Page 77

A Bible verse says that the Almighty has put His law in your inward parts. This law will regulate you perfectly in every detail. Not a single item in your make-up can get out of condition.

### JOY

Joy is remembering that Christ is a part of Christmas.

### A TRADITION

For a goodly number of years, our church has held a candle-light service each year on Christmas Eve. What a beautiful way to introduce the Christmas Season

and restore Christ as a definite and essential part of Christmas. Since becoming aware of this event, I have never missed a candlelight service.

## **A NEW BEGINNING**

A number of years ago, it was determined that there must be an organized method of keeping track of days. Yes, we had days, weeks, years, and centuries. Unfortunately, there was no uniform method that was utilized. Scholars gathered and developed a calendar that we now often assume had always existed.

After a period of time passes referred to as approximately 365.25 days, we refer to this opening as a year. So every approximately 365 days we have New Year. The start of this New Year has developed into a holiday referred to as New Year's Day. Rather than festive parties, could we not celebrate this day as the beginning of "in the year of our Lord"?

## **EARLY BEGINNINGS FROM OUR PAST**

*From Science and Health, First Edition*

By Mary Baker Glover

Page 28

Doctrines, theories, and knowledge, are but opinions and beliefs, the impressions and observations of personal sense, based on no Principle or fundamental Truth by which to work out harmony.

## **A TIME FOR GIVING**

By Joanne Fritz

One of the most precious Christmas gifts I ever received was from my membership in Plainfield Church, where I learned that Christmas is a time of giving, not of getting.

I grew up thinking Christmas was all about *getting* — getting gifts, getting invitations to holiday parties, getting time off from school or work. It was all about me. No wonder I would crash into a dark depression when the holidays ended.

After coming to Christian Science and Plainfield Church, I was taught that Christmas was all about being quiet with God, and cultivating a sense of peace and love in our hearts.

While in Plainfield, my husband and I lived in a "church house" with other church members. Each year, Mrs. Evans would arrange for an Open House to be held on Christmas Day in this house for every church member, many of whom did not have family nearby. Each resident would provide different snacks and desserts in their apartment. Its purpose was to keep our members together, and to keep thought lifted away from the materialism that tries to invade this holy time, and to stay close to God.

I am very grateful for the teaching in Plainfield Church, where the true spirit of Christmas is practiced every day. We were taught here to "listen, from no mortal tongue, to hear the song the angels sung, and wait within myself to know the Christmas lilies bud and blow." (Hymn 170)

## **A POWERFUL WATCH WORTH REPEATING**

Unity Watch for Thursday,

August 22nd, 2019

**"You all can know that newspaper men will not publish aught against Christian Science [and Christianity]. Please *know this* —and also know that you can do this separately, as well as together."** (from *Watches, Prayers, and Arguments*, given by Mary Baker Eddy, page 50) Mrs. Eddy gave the above watch, and said to use it *daily* to handle the thoughts and

actions of the news media of her day — and it is just as relevant, and just as important, today. There have recently been derogatory reports published against Christian Science and Christianity. Let us know the news media is of a sound mind and cannot be manipulated, or manipulate, against pure Christian Science and Christianity, or against *all things right and good!* Mortal mind's lies cannot poison world thought. They fall by their own weight and are powerless to affect Truth! "The action of so-called mortal mind must be destroyed by the divine Mind to bring out the harmony of being." (S&H, p. 400)

I have used this watch daily since it was originally given to us as a Unity Watch.

## 'TIS THE SEASON

\*  
(o)  
'Tis  
The  
Sea-  
son of  
joy and  
gladness.  
Listen to the  
carolers as they  
joyously sing, "Si-  
lent Night...", "Joy to the  
World..." "Blest Christmas  
Morn...", "O Holy Night...", "O  
Little Town of Bethlehem..." "It Came  
upon a Mid-night clear." May all find  
this Christmas Day a day to remember!  
The source of this Holy Day is the birth  
of our living Christ in the town of  
Bethlehem on that  
first  
Christ-  
mas  
Day.

## Excerpt from "CHRISTMAS"

Mary Baker Eddy

*Essays and Other Footprints ("The Red Book"), p. 4*

*"For unto us a child is born" (Isaiah 9:6)*

Over eighteen centuries ago, the advent of a babe stamped a new impress on history.

Little dreamed the Emperor, enthroned in his gorgeous palace upon the Capitoline Hill, that a babe slumbering in a manger in the obscure hamlet of Bethlehem, a remote province in Assyria, was to establish an empire before which the power of the Caesars must dwindle into insignificance.

When the child Jesus was born, all the nations known of that period were in subjection to the government of Rome, and Caesar was the governor of Rome. He could do what he pleased with the property, the liberty and lives of over three hundred millions of people comprising the Roman Empire.

Such power no mortal ever swayed before; such power no mortal will ever sway again.

"For unto us a child is born." Millions of children were born before the babe of Bethlehem, but they were not heralded by angels. Even the material history of Jesus furnishes this fact, that the meek Nazarene was the most conspicuous character that ever trod the globe. Uneducated, he put to shame the arrogant Rabbis, overthrew the proudest systems of philosophy, ancient and modern; yea, warrior, king, and philosopher went down before him, and his teachings, and demonstrations are destined to take Christianity back to its primitive definitions.

But, we turn from the material to the spiritual history of the babe.

The prophet Isaiah sang — “for unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given — and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” Did not that wise seer forecast the destiny of Truth when he said, the government shall be upon his shoulder, it shall be a marvelous instructor, and omnipotent power, an imperishable Principle? But the Hebrew bard in his grand epic referred to the advent of a spiritual idea, the idea of Life evolved from Spirit, man begotten of the Principle of all being; perfect Mind reflecting perfect Mind and mind never starting from or resulting in matter.

The existence of Jesus was identical with Truth, and the Life that is God. He demonstrated Spirit free from matter, and the divine Soul, the substance of man, and body, but its accompanying shadow and this eternal substance never in its body or shadow. He knew that even as good and evil are opposites, so are the spiritual and material sense of things opposites.

The material senses declare matter as substance and Spirit as shadow, while the spiritual sense of things reverses this statement, and finds the only permanent and eternal side of things, the thoughts that beget them.

To understand this great fact in metaphysics, it is necessary to be born again; born of the Spirit and not of the flesh; and this was the birth referred to in those words of the prophet Isaiah, “For unto us a child is born and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful.”

## OBEY AND REJOICE

Florence Roberts

Through many challenges, I have learned that to obey the instructions that come from my prayers or whatever readings I am led to, gives more blessings than all the human reasoning, doubting, or questioning the human mind can come up with.

Many times I was given specific angel messages, instructions from practitioner, or led to books I read for answers. Often, though, I would listen or read, without any further adherence to them, because a particular result I wanted did not happen fast enough. And so I would continue, deceived into looking further for something else, or focus even more on the claim to be healed. Such preoccupation with the false belief started anxiety, discouragement, and fear that would block my view from realizing my spiritual perfection.

Mrs. Eddy, on page 93 of *Divinity Course and General Collectanea*, says: “His ways are not made known until He tries our obedience and then He will *reward it*. Be of good cheer. It is Love, unquenchable Love, that loves you better than you can love yourself; Love that cares for every moment and will not leave you comfortless; Love that saith: ‘none shall be able to pluck them out of my hands.’”

This means I must remember to come to my Father-Mother with an empty heart, meekly ready to be filled with His Truth—and joyfully obey the Truths given, and stand ready for the rewards or blessings; and then give freely to the world what I have been freely given!

---

This is an informational newsletter for members of the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, intended to be a means for communication with each other, and is supported and provided by the efforts of the membership at large. Each member shall do his part to ensure the continuing success of Independent Christian Science as a worldwide activity. Let us begin with our Newsletter.