

The Plainfield Independent *Newsletter*

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OUR THOUGHT FOR EACH DAY

By Mary Baker Eddy

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

THINK UPON THIS

Science and Health, page 295:5

God creates and governs the universe, including man.

A QUOTE FROM THE PAST

by Edward Young

The bell strikes one. We take no note of time, but from its loss.

EARLY BEGINNINGS FROM OUR PAST

Science and Health, First Edition

Mary Baker Glover, page 20

The five personal senses are beliefs of Life, substance, and Intelligence in matter, even the fount of error; all discord proceeds from this false source; in reality, there is no personal sense, for matter is not intelligent.

JIM'S CORNER

Who made a pair of kid gloves
for her son?

See: Genesis 27:15, 16.
Rebekah

GEMS FROM OUR HERITAGE

Sermons and Articles

Doris White Evans, Page 97

Life is inspiring, beautiful, triumphant.

How could it be otherwise, with God leading us forward?

QUOTES FROM PETER V. ROSS

Leaves of Healing, Page 29

“I am that Life revealed which began not and ends not, a Life crowded with the potencies and glories of the universe.”

THOUGHTS FROM MISCELLANEOUS WRITINGS

Page 208

Mortals have only to submit to the law of God, come into sympathy with it, and to let His will be done.

JOY

Viewing the beauty of a sunset on a distant mountain, as dusk falls nearby, but the hills are alive with the glow of the sunshine.

WINDOWS 10 AID

A publication that is very beneficial in the training for the use of Windows 10 is entitled, *Windows 10 for the Older Generation*, by Jim Gatenby. It is a publication from the UK and is written in “English,” so be prepared for some very “English” terms. The description of

how to change your wallpaper, for example is very comfortable to follow.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we approach the Holiday Season, shall we make an attempt to replace the word “Holiday” with the more meaningful term of “Holy Day”? As we recall the source of Christmas, as the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus, new meanings flow within us. Each thought of a gift could well bring to remembrance the most precious gift of all, the birth of the Bethlehem Babe. Do have a joyous Christmas.

Finally, may your New Year be filled with joy and comfort, not just for New Year’s Day, but for the whole year!

THANKFULNESS

Have you ever had an afternoon that found everything going wrong? I was working on a project and nearly everything seemed to create a new problem. When I finally stopped, I discovered that for the time involved, the project had not progressed, but that the afternoon caused a loss in production.

The next morning I mentioned this event to a practitioner from this church, who reminded me of several truths—that everything I do is for God’s glory, that He guides every detail, and that error has no power or ability to cause problems. What a difference! That day provided many successes.

THE ALL NEW “EASY STREET”

We have in this photo, a view of Easy Street, the next street east of Diamond Drive. It displays four homes occupied,

two nearing completion, and two that have the footings dug and ready for the pouring of the slabs. As we review this new development, each lot has the house number painted on the curb. A goodly number of lots have the term “SOLD” painted on the curb also.



GOD IS ALL!

Cara Porter

The other day after I got off the phone with my Plainfield practitioner, a cartoon I’ve always loved by Gary Larson came to mind. This cartoon has two panels. The top panel is called, “What We Say to Dogs.” There is a drawing of an angry man pointing at his orange-colored dog saying, “Okay, Ginger. I’ve had it. You stay out of the garbage. Understand, Ginger? You stay out of that garbage, or else!”

The bottom panel of the cartoon is the same angry man pointing at his dog, but this time it’s titled, “What Dogs Hear.” And what Ginger hears is: “Blah blah blah blah, Ginger. Blah blah blah Ginger. Blah blah blah.”

Sometimes when I’m calling my practitioner, I feel just like that cartoon. I’m blathering on about whatever seems to be so real and urgent, and possibly alarming, and gradually I realize that all she’s hearing is “Blah blah blah blah blah.” Because when I’m done with my

litany of woes, she inevitably says, “Is God All or not?”

I think this is my favorite part of being a member of Plainfield Church — that the entire conversation here is about God’s allness and the impossibility for anyone to exist outside of God’s allness.

For the past few weeks, I’d been really bombarded, but each time I called for practitioner help, I gleaned another way in which I had been seeing myself as outside of God’s allness.

Now I see that it’s taken this bombardment of blah blah blah to help me begin to recognize all the subtle ways I’d been believing the blah blah blah to be real for a very long time.

A huge aha moment came when I read this in Mrs. Eddy’s writing on Body: “The inharmonious belief does not create an inharmonious condition. The belief of lack is the lack. The belief of disease is the disease. . . . There is no condition in the body. There is nothing in the body to be rebuilt or straightened or healed. There is nothing to change. There is nothing needed but to see God.”

As Love is bringing every blah blah blah to the surface to be seen as the nothing that it truly is, I am learning that our only task is to be just like Ginger in that cartoon.

No matter what thought, or body, or social media, or the news throws at any of us, we all just need to listen to the one word only. That word does begin with “G”; but it’s not Ginger.

No matter the blah blah blah, all we need to hear is God. Because there is nothing needed to see or hear, or think, or live but God.

Inspiration, Not Obligation

Bruce Singleterry

When I first came to this church, Mrs. Evans, our teacher at that time,

requested that we read several articles by Mrs. Eddy, found in her book *Prose Works*.” I started reading “What Christmas Means to Me” and some of the other articles about Christmas, and it helped me quite a bit. I had trouble at Christmas time, because I felt the obligation to buy Christmas gifts for everybody, and it was a bit unsettling and I felt uncomfortable about it. When something is done through inspiration, it’s easy; but if it’s out of obligation, that’s when it gets very awkward.

In Mrs. Eddy’s article entitled “What Christmas Means to Me,” she includes this statement: “Christmas to me is the reminder of God’s great gift, — His spiritual idea, man and the universe, — a gift which so transcends mortal, material, sensual giving that the merriment, mad ambition, rivalry, and ritual of our common Christmas seem a human mockery in mimicry of the real worship in commemoration of Christ’s coming.” (*Miscellany*, pg. 262)

After reading that several times, my whole sense of having to get gifts for people just disappeared, and it was an enormous relief. Instead in its place it gave me much more appreciation and gratitude for God and His gift of the spiritual idea, which I was very actively learning here in the Plainfield Church. Gratitude for that replaced all these negative aspects of the Christmas season, the materialism and commercialism, and things that tend to take one away from Christ. I’m so happy to say I’m grateful for this church, because it has helped me to plant my feet in Christ and not get swept away by other false concepts. It has made my life much happier and hopefully, more useful to God, which is why I am here in the first place.

A Christmas Poem

by Dr. Francis Fluno

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.

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.

***What Christmas Means to Me* by Mary Baker Eddy**

Joanne Fritz

Many years ago, a practitioner and teacher here gave me a very precious gift — a copy of a little book titled *What Christmas Means to Me*. This precious book is a collection of writings about Christmas by Mary Baker Eddy, that can also be found in *Prose Works*. The practitioner told me to read and study it daily during the Christmas season, and I have done so ever since.

I had always struggled during Christmas time with extreme highs, followed by deep depressions; but after

coming to Plainfield Church and studying this little book, I gained a sense of spiritual balance, an inner quietness and peace, and a feeling of God's deep love for me and all. I began to realize that this was really what Christmas — and every day — was all about. In this precious book, Mrs. Eddy says it best:

“Beloved: — A word to the wise is sufficient. Mother wishes you all a *happy Christmas*, a feast of Soul and a famine of sense.” (*Miscellany*, pg. 263)

Thanksgiving

Gary Singleterry

We certainly have a tremendous amount to be grateful for. Those of us who live in the United States have the privilege of living in a nation the basis of which is the sanctity of man's relationship with God, and the government of God. That basis has served as a source of inspiration to every nation in the world, and all mankind is better off because of it.

This nation gave birth to Christian Science, which is prophesied in the Bible and which is divinely directed and divinely protected.

I'm grateful to Mary Baker Eddy for her courage, for her inspiration, for her willingness to stand up to the wiles of the devil, and give us the Science of Christianity. I am grateful to those who followed, who were faithful in giving Christian Science in its true form to the world. I am grateful for the patriots of this nation, for being willing to work hard to live up to the foundation that our forefathers put forth in our Declaration of Independence, and our Constitution.

We know that that basis will only be realized as the world sees and accepts Christ's Christianity, and that is our purpose for being here today.