## The Elainfield Independent Newsletter

Number 160 June 2015

#### **OUR THOUGHT FOR EACH DAY**

By Mary Baker Eddy "Every day, every hour, our work increases in effectiveness and power."

#### THINK UPON THIS

Become conscious for a single moment that Life and intelligence are purely spiritual, — neither in nor of matter, — and the body will then utter no complaints. If suffering from a belief in sickness, you will find yourself suddenly well. (S&H 14:12-16)

#### **NATIONAL HOLIDAYS**

With the approach of Flag Day and Independence Day, let us use one of these national holidays to again read the Constitution.

Today, so much is said about "education." Read the Constitution, and see how often education is mentioned. Is it three, or is it four times?

#### JIM'S CORNER

#### **PAUL AND A HORSE**

How can Paul be likened to a horse?
Paul liked Timothy
And a horse likes timothy (hay, that is)!

#### **QUOTE FROM THE PAST**

By Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The power men possess to annoy me, I give them."

Is this not suggesting that all our problems begin with our thinking?

# "WHY SHOULD WE STAND AGHAST AT NOTHINGNESS?"

(S&H 563:7)

I am just completing reading a biography, *Mrs. Eddy: Her Life, Her Work and Her Place in History*, by Hugh A. Kennedy. Many times my eyes filled with tears of joy as I proceeded with the reading. It is outstanding!

As we think about her life, and how she overcame all difficulties, we cannot help but marvel at the hardships, the disappointments, the stresses under which she labored; and with the guidance from God, she came out victorious.

With this very same God for our guidance, we too, most assuredly can come out victorious over our seeming disappointments.

Consider starting to read a biography of Mrs. Eddy soon.

#### THE PIE AND CHEESE

(Edward Norwood Reminiscence, 52)

Once Mrs. Eddy and a student had a luncheon in a Lynn cafe, and the menu read, a cut of pie and cheese 10 cents. When it came, there was no cheese. Mrs. Eddy asked the waiter for her cheese, and was told they were out of it. She asked that the proprietor be sent to her, and asked him, "Where is my cheese?" He also said they were out of it. She said, "Are there not stores near where you can get it, and thus carry out your word?" So, after a little talk, seeing she

was determined, he sent out and got some cheese. To her student, who was listening with astonishment, she explained: "I care but little to have the cheese, but if I don't correct error in stealing little things, it will steal bigger things," and she gave the student a lesson.

There is another version reporting that Mrs. Eddy said, "if I let it take my cheese, it will next take my life"—showing the importance of stopping error in the small things.

### EXCERPT FROM SPEECH ENTITLED, "THE PRESENT AGE," delivered in 1841 by William E. Channing, a famous theologian

All human productions, even those of genius, are very superficial, compared with the unfathomable depths of truth. The simple question is, do these lectures rouse the mind to new action?

Will you allow me to observe, that to render lectures of use, one condition is necessary; they must be frank, honest, free. He who speaks must speak what he thinks,—speak courteously, but uncompromisingly. What makes our communications unprofitable in this country is the dread of giving offence, now to the majority, and now to the fashionable or refined. We speak without force because not true to our convictions. A lecturer will, of course, desire to wound no man's prejudices or feelings; but his first duty is to truth; his chief power lies in simple, natural, strong utterance of what he believes; and he should put confidence in his hearers that the tone of manly sincerity will be responded to by candor and good-will.

#### "FEED MY SHEEP"

From Bible Study 4/4/2015

We have a new member, Melissa, from Australia, who has been telling all her friends about our website. She shared it with friends, a mother and a father, who were discussing it on their way home, and their 12-year-old son said, "Oh, mom, I know that website. I've been going on it for several months now and listening to hymns."

Then she shared it with someone else, and their son said, "I know that website. I was having some trouble with my schoolwork, and I found some good articles there that helped me."

Let's all know that people are being led to this Truth, and it is blessing them. Do share it—even if people don't seem interested, you have planted a seed. There are plenty of people we may not have heard from, but they are finding us. This is our missionary work, to go to all the ends of the earth. Every time you testify, every time you give to the forum, every time you submit things, you are being part of this great commission to go to all the ends of the earth and heal with this Science of Christianity. As Jesus told Peter, "Feed my sheep."

## LETTER FROM A TRANSLATOR OF OUR WEEKLY LESSONS

From Jacob in Costa Rica

I love the King James Version of the Bible, and the Spanish translation that C.S. uses is even older, from 1569, and it also is beautiful and grand. Because I work with three different languages, I see discrepancies. So I work with Strong's Concordance, and a Greek New Testament, and online resources for translations and comparisons. Like in Psalm 84, my well-researched version of verse 6 makes it much more meaningful. In general, I prefer to leave things alone.

Even the Lord's Prayer, "lead us not into temptation" should really read: "let us not be led into temptation." It is a matter of the Greek tense of the verb.

Makes sense, too. I know one reader who paused after "Lead us. . . not into temptation," sounds great, too. It surely smacks of scholastic theology to tell God not to lead us into temptation, doesn't it?

Now, the Dutch Bible is a different matter. If it strays from the KJV too far, I will adjust it, and also the language is very indigestible to modern listeners, and my intention is to reach new listeners, and not scare them off.

The translation of Science and Health admits many improvements, too, but I make great efforts to translate it as correctly as possible, true to the original language and meaning of Mary Baker Eddy. I spend perhaps around 12 hours every week to produce a Lesson that is as good as possible, but which sounds good to new listeners. Not too archaic and stuffy, or old fashioned.

I feel that is what Mary Baker Eddy would like me to do, to be able to share and reach people, I want to bless and save. I have not much personal sense or ego left nowadays, so pride is not an issue. I do not like the popular translations of the Bible, they are more paraphrased. It is a bit of a balancing act not to offend the conservatives, and not to chase away the new listeners. LOL.

I just write all this, to put your mind at rest, that I am not cheapening the Plainfield outreach with weirdo stuff. I am very serious about my Bible words.

With a warm hug, Jacob, Costa Rica

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM REPORTS GIVEN AT MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MAY, 2015

#### **Sunday School Committee**

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov.) Below is some of what we are doing to teach the message of God's great love.

We have been reading from the Bible, so that the children will see it as a friendly book to turn to. We use the hymns so they can understand that some verses can be used as prayers.

We have gone over some of the Bible's main figures, as well as parables and stories, pointing out the lessons we can apply to our own lives. We have looked up some words from the Bible Lessons in the 1828 online dictionary to help us understand the Lessons and expand our Bible vocabulary.

We are learning some simple definitions from Science and Health, and some of the practical ways to make Christian Science a way of life.

We continue to pray and listen to God for messages for His children, which will best plant the seeds for a fruitful life, worthy of His praise.

Florence Roberts

#### **Unity Watch Committee**

Mrs. Eddy told one of her classes that they were enough to bring in the millennium if they were of one mind. The power of effective watching is enough to destroy all error, and the need for watching is all too evident.

Many thanks to those who join with the unity watches. We have had at times as many as 40 people call in for the watch, and there are others who do the watch without calling in. This is done voluntarily, no one is assigned to participate in the watches. So, thanks to those who see the importance of this work and do it.

**Bruce Singleterry** 

#### **Roundtable Committee**

Our Roundtable has grown! The average class used to have 28 attendants, but we now have 42 attendants. These Roundtables are healing, informative, and teach us how to make Christian Science practical in our daily lives.

Sharon Welsh

#### **Publishing Committee**

Our magazine's title is officially "Love Is the Liberator." We're grateful to Lynda for her research work and finding articles by early workers, and other items of interest.

Our proofreading team of Dale W. in Virginia, Elizabeth in Georgia, Lynda in Pennsylvania, Barbara and Ken in Pennsylvania, Fairlie in Maryland, Sonja in Germany, Chardelle in Pennsylvania, Candy in Wisconsin, and Connie in Texas proofread the magazine, Quarterly, Newsletter, and Full-Text Lessons.

The full-text Lessons are also translated into seven languages—Chinese (by Bella in New Jersey), German (by Sonja in Germany), Spanish (by Teresa in Argentina, who also records the Lesson in Spanish), French (by Susanne in Vermont), Dutch (by Jacob in Costa Rica), and Urdu (by Adeel in Pakistan). Zari and Ute in Germany also record the Lesson in German, and Joseph in the UK records the Lesson in English.

Carol Conroy

#### **Website Committee**

Our primary website, plainfieldcs.com, has been doing incredibly well. So far this year, we have had 20,956 unique visitors from 180 different countries.

The website that has the webpage view of the weekly Lessons and our magazine, IndependentChristianScience.com, has had 2,107 unique visitors so far this year.

Every service is also loaded onto YouTube, and we now have 823 videos posted there, with 78 subscribers. These videos have had 11,416 views, translating to 59,089 minutes watched.

Everything we post is also added to Facebook, Twitter, and Google Plus, which is also helping to bring in more people all the time.

SoundCloud has had 2,500 plays. The five most active countries are the United States, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Germany, and the UK. The podcast has been viewed 125,829 times on iTunes.

The daily calendar statement that appears on the church Website is also e-mailed to 30 people, and the weekly Lesson e-mail list has 46 subscribers. The Unity Watch e-mail list has 58 subscribers.

Jeremy Palmer

#### **Good of the Cause**

I want to thank everyone for all your dedicated work in making the Plainfield Church

what it is today. This church has gone through stages of improvement, or what I love to call transformation. The vibrant church building and our active, evolving website are evidence of your dedication. So I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who have contributed in one way or another. Everyone's contribution is equally valued, and a blessing to us all.

A few months ago, thoughts came from a couple of former members to sell the church, stating that it's too big, that we should relocate to a smaller building, or worship from home. Well, until we can no longer afford it, it's not too big for us. If you are someone like me who grew up in a church, you would understand how that made me feel. We all prayed to understand God's plan, and the thought to sell the church did not sustain, thank God.

Since coming to this country, the Plainfield Church has been a place of refuge for me, a place where I have found nothing but comfort. It's more than just a building, as some would see it. It's my church, my only church. My best friends are here, and I would miss the opportunity to see everyone on a regular basis.

You need to be here to understand what I am talking about. We are family here, and I would not have anywhere to go to if the building was gone. It sure would not feel the same. It would change a lot in my life, I'm very sure. I come here almost every blessed day, and every minute I spend here is a blessing. So I'm very thankful that many of you stood with Principle. Today, we still have our church and it will be here for many, many generations of God's children to come. Thank you all again for all you are doing to support our church and its mission.

Benjamin Ndukwe

Editors Jim Dible and Carol Conroy

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.