

# *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.”

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### THINK UPON THIS

Not how much we love one another, but  
how we love.

“Blue Book” page 278

### QUOTES FROM EDWARD A. KIMBALL

God for you is always absolutely all at this  
moment and at all times, now claim your  
dominion.

### THOUGHTS FROM MISCELLANEOUS WRITINGS

“Address on Fourth of July” page 251

From the falling leaves of old-time faiths  
men learn a parable of the period, that all  
error, physical, moral, or religious, will  
fall before Truth demonstrated, even as  
dry leaves fall to enrich the soil for  
fruitage.

### JIM’S CORNER

Angels can fly because they can  
take themselves lightly.

—Gilbert K. Chesterton

### A QUOTE FROM THE PAST

We cannot solve our problems with the  
same thinking we used when we created  
them.

Albert Einstein

### JOY

The U.S. Constitution doesn’t guarantee  
happiness, only the pursuit of it. You have  
to catch up with it yourself.

Benjamin Franklin

### EARLY BEGINNINGS FROM OUR PAST

From *Science and Health*,  
*First Edition, page 153*  
by Mary Baker Glover

To trample on the belief of sickness, and  
to regard yourself superior to it, is wise;  
but to fear sickness, causes it, by  
acknowledging its supremacy over you.

### GEMS FROM OUR HERITAGE

By Doris White Evans

Seeking to do God’s will always blesses  
man.

*Healing Thoughts No. 34, page 53*

## **“A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD”— ENGLAND**

In this issue, we will be visiting England, courtesy of Ann, who lives in the south of England.



Ann writes, “It’s been bluebell time here recently, and certain woods are beautifully carpeted with blue, and then often white as well, the latter being wild garlic flowers.”



Yes, there are still cottages with thatched roofs in England! “They tend to be more in areas where they would have grown the crops which yielded the straw. So we have quite a few properties of this sort in my area, mostly older properties which can be hundreds of years old, in rural villages.”

Above is a photo of Briantspuddle—

“a Dorset village where the landowner built quite a few properties in the local style in the early 1900s, to provide better homes for the agricultural workers. The emphasis was on local methods and crafts, and on symmetry, so that they look pleasing.

“The thatching is made of bundles of straw, and in years past would have been an effective and cheap way to keep out the rain. However, these days shorter varieties of wheat are generally grown for the grain, so that the crop is not damaged so much by the weather as it grows. So, special, taller varieties have to be grown specially for thatching, or sometimes water reed is used, but I believe this is even more expensive. The thatch is put on in layers, and it’s a very skilled job. I believe training to be a thatcher takes a number of years. The decorative ridge layer needs to be replaced more often than the rest, as this is the primary defense against the rain.



“Sometimes a decorative ‘straw finial’ or ‘corn dolly’ (see above) is made by the thatcher as a final touch to complete his

work—a shaped straw decoration, often a pheasant, owl or hare.



“These days thatched cottages are extremely desirable because they look so lovely, so it tends to be that rich folks from London buy them rather than locals in the villages, but it's good that they have survived.

“Because thatch catches fire so easily, some of the cottages still have ladders hung on an outside wall, ready to get up and pull the thatch off should it catch fire, to limit the damage.”

Ann sent a link to a YouTube video of a thatcher telling how thatching is done: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQy0W0VffgY> Quite an art!



Ann writes, “This is a photo I took recently of the picturesque ruined Corfe Castle, which is near to where I live. It

was built soon after the Norman French invasion in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, and must have been very impressive in its heyday. In the English civil war in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it withstood two sieges, until finally taken by treachery of one of the defenders, after which it was destroyed by the victorious Parliamentarians. It is now owned by the National Trust, and open to the public.”

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## Reports from Membership Meeting May 19, 2022

Library Committee  
Thomas Richards

The church has acquired about 30 notebooks listing every change that was made in each new edition of *Science and Health*. It has been photocopied and is being proofread now. When that is completed, the entire collection will be posted online so everyone will be able to see the progression of Mrs. Eddy's revelation. There is only one other copy of these notes that we are aware of, and it is in England. Interestingly, during the years 1901-1902, there were 50 versions of *S&H* published. Mrs. Eddy has said that students should keep each edition of *S&H*, so she obviously felt that each edition was valuable to students' growth. These notes will serve that purpose in a more manageable form. I was able to locate and purchase one of the editions published in 1902, the 260th edition, which I believe is an exceedingly rare book. It is now in the church's library.

I also gave the church two books from Richard Oakes. I was told he was a student of Herbert Eustace. The two books are the “Blue Book” and the “Red Book.” They were printed in South Africa and sold by The Rare Book Company when they were on Nassau Street in Manhattan. These versions are difficult to find.

## **Website and Broadcast Committees**

### **Jeremy Palmer**

Since the beginning of this year, our English-speaking website has been very active, and has had 16,728 different visitors. Our YouTube channel has had almost 200,000 views, for 62,100 hours watched—and 4,228 subscribers!

Articles on the website were visited by 11,708 different people who viewed 69,957 pages. Books were visited by 9,115 people who viewed 45,252 pages. And our beautiful hymns were visited by 9,937 people who viewed 27,281 pages.

The Sunday School website was visited by 704 different visitors who viewed 3,602 pages. What a wonderful resource for children to learn about God and Christian Science! Who knows how many children have the course of their lives changed for the better and are being put on the path of a happy, productive life!

Our German-language website looks to be the “most read,” with 15,275 pages viewed by 947 different visitors, followed by Urdu (11,312 pages viewed by 448 visitors) and Punjabi (with 10,895 pages viewed by 300 visitors).

There are also very active websites in Chinese, Spanish, French, Hindi, Hungarian, Marathi, Dutch, Nepali, Pashto, Persian, Russian, Sindhi, Tamil, and Ukrainian.

Thank God for all these easily accessible opportunities to reach people all over the world with God’s Truth!

### **Unity Watches**

#### **Bruce Singleterry**

Our watches done in unity are a force for good according to the Biblical instruction to overcome evil with good. Our thanks go

out to those who submit and review the watch messages, and to those who recognize the need and importance of these watches, and take on the discipline to do them well.

### **Bible Study**

#### **Thomas Richards**

Our Saturday morning Bible Studies this year have been focused on the book of Revelation. We have had excellent attendance, with 186 people calling in for the last Bible study, and hundreds more listening to the recordings on the website or on YouTube—650 people listened to one class, 571, 309, 417 and 278. One person wrote a comment saying, “You are a live church, reaching people and places you have never heard of.” It’s true, we never know who we will reach. People also post notes and articles, so there are many opportunities to continue learning.

We are very grateful for all who participate.

### **Sunday School**

#### **Florence Roberts**

We have been very busy working with the Bible, particularly the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 91<sup>st</sup> Psalms, in the older class. One of the older students has shared a song to help us remember the seven synonyms of God. The children share gratitudes each Sunday, showing how God has been active in their lives. One student from Australia has bought a Bible and has been reading Bible stories. We do have a Sunday School website, with recordings of Bible stories and copies of our magazine, “Shepherd Show Me How to Go.”

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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.