

The
CORNERSTONE
of
Independent
Christian Science

*“The stone which the builders rejected
is become the head of the corner.”*

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July 2013
Number 155

Come Join Us

Sunday Service and Sunday School

11:00 A.M.

Roundtable

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Evening

8:15 P.M.

NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR ALL SERVICES

VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE

www.painfieldcs.com

Our services and adult Sunday class are broadcast live!



Plainfield Christian Science Church

Independent

905 Prospect Avenue

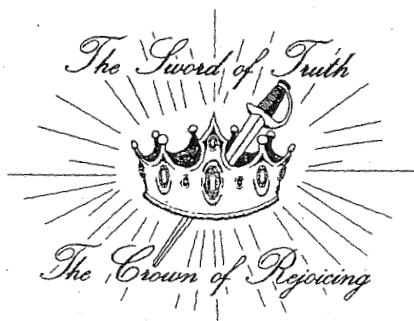
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Independent Christian Science

Unfettered by institutional religion

If anyone is wondering,
this church is in no way affiliated with The
First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts

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Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

Mrs. Eddy and the Bible

Mrs. Eddy refers to the Bible specifically over 600 times in her writings, and she incorporates hundreds of Scriptural quotations in her articles and books.

The following was found in one of Mrs. Eddy's Bibles, penned by her on note paper.

Bible

It is a book of laws to show the right and wrong.

It is a book of wisdom that condemns all folly.

It is a book of Truth that condemns all error.

It is a book of Life that shows the way from everlasting death.

It will puzzle the most skillful Anatomist and critic.

It exposes the subtle sophist, and drives divines mad.

It is the best covenant that was ever agreed to, the best deed that was ever sealed.

It is a complete code of laws, a perfect body of divinity an unequalled narrative.

Author — God



Reformers

Mary Baker Eddy

The olden opinion that hell is fire and brimstone, has yielded somewhat to the metaphysical fact that suffering is a thing of mortal mind instead of body: so, in place of material flames and odor, mental anguish is generally accepted as the penalty for sin. This changed belief has wrought a change in the actions of men. Not a few individuals serve

God (or try to) from fear; but remove that fear, and the worst of human passions belch forth their latent fires. Some people never repent until earth gives them such a cup of gall that conscience strikes home; then they are brought to realize how impossible it is to sin and not suffer.

Sin can only work out its own destruction.

All the different phases of error in human nature the reformer must encounter and help to eradicate.

This period is not essentially one of conscience: few feel and live now as when this nation began, and our forefathers' prayers blended with the murmuring winds of their forest home. This is a period of doubt, inquiry, speculation, selfishness; of divided interests, marvellous good, and mysterious evil. But sin can only work out its own destruction; and reform does and must push on the growth of mankind.

Honor to faithful merit is delayed, and always has been; but it is sure to follow. The very streets through which Garrison was dragged were draped in honor of the dead hero who did the hard work, the immortal work, of loosing the fetters of one form of human slavery. I remember, when a girl, and he visited my father, how a childish fear clustered round his coming. Even the loving children are sometimes made to believe a lie, and to hate reformers. It is pleasant, now, to contrast with that childhood's wrong the reverence of my riper years for all who dare to be true, honest to their convictions, and strong of purpose.

The reformer has no time to give in defense of his own life's incentive, since no sacrifice is too great for the silent endurance of his love. What has not unselfed love achieved for the race? All that ever was accomplished, and more than history has yet recorded. The reformer works on unmentioned, save when he is abused or his work is utilized

Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

in the interest of somebody. He may labor for the establishment of a cause which is fraught with infinite blessings, — health, virtue, and heaven; but what of all that? Who should care for everybody? It is enough, say they, to care for a few. Yet the good done, and the love that foresees more to do, stimulate philanthropy and are an ever-present reward. Let one's life answer well these questions, and it already hath a benediction:

Have you renounced self? Are you faithful? Do you love?

Miscellaneous Writings



Following is an early draft of “Christ My Refuge” penned by Mrs. Eddy in the late 1860’s.

“Christ My Refuge”

O'er the hushed harp strings of the soul
There swept a strain
Low sad, and sweet; its music stole away all pain
And woke a white-winged angel throng
Of thoughts illumined by faith and breathed,
With love perfumed.

And in this unveiled presence grew
My burdens light —
I knew the cross would lead me
To a life that's right.
Not from this earthly scene afar,
But nearer Thee,
Father, where Thine own children are
And love to be.

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So when the dangerous angry sea
Again I walk,
Christ walks with me the Galilee;
I list Christ talks,
And leads me safely to the Rock
Upon life's shore
'Gainst which the winds and waves can shock
O nevermore.

Tis God I trust — no broken reed,
Or doctrine's plan;
In need or woe this is my creed —
To work for man;
My prayer, some good I now begin
To do, or feel,
To teach that Truth
That conquers sin
And sickness heals.



Gratitude

Candace Graulich

I would like to express my gratitude to Mary Baker Eddy for giving us Christian Science. It is a way of life that nothing can come close to. By opening up the Bible and showing us that the all-knowing God, good, is constantly present and in control, she has given us the best help we can have for our everyday life.

Thank you, Mrs. Eddy.

A Special Letter

Patsy Jean Spencer

I would like an application to join the Independent Christian Science Church.

A little about myself:

My grandmother was a Scientist, and I was very ill as a young child, taking several medicines a day. I could not run and play, or I might have fallen over dead. I do not know the names of what I had according to the doctors, but had to go for tests often at the Medical Arts Building in Dallas, Texas.

When I could go spend the night at Granny Kate's, she let me eat anything I wanted and would continually tell me I was God's perfect child and therefore could not be sick nor die! She even let me run and play outside. When I told it, they would not let me go anymore unless she promised not to do it again. I learned to read music from the Christian Science Hymnal, and "Mother's Evening Prayer" was my first song to play by memory. The first time I attended a Christian Science service, it was one of the songs selected; and every time I would be in a place where I could attend services, it was always one of the songs.

I did not know what Christian Science was or what Granny Kate was, as she passed on before my healing was complete. But I know now it was Christian Science because of "Mother's Evening Prayer." That is why I first began my serious study. No one understood the healing, as the doctors told my other Grandmother, who raised me, that I would not live to grow up, so there was no need for me to go to school.

I came to find out about the Christian Science church from a chance copy of the Journal placed in a railroad station. I loved the Journal as it used to be, but now it is not the same at all. That is why I attended when I could. Now

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the Journal has lost the spiritual quality of the old writers. I long to find copies, as I have none now. I have traveled extensively and did not keep them. I have lived overseas very much as the military dependent wife of an Air Force member.

While on Okinawa, Japan, in the late 1970's, I was one of the Readers, and read from the Bible. We had very few in the group. Although I was not a member of any local church or the Mother Church, they asked me to be one of the Readers. I have studied Science but have taken part in other Christian churches, since because of our many travels overseas, I never seemed to be close enough to a Christian Science church. Perhaps it was God's leading, as I tried to join the church in Shreveport while there in the mid 70's, and my application was rejected because I had been a member of a Charismatic church and some Charismatics had caused them problems by speaking out in the services. Of course I would never do that, nor was I firm in their doctrines. I am just not like that, but they did not know me, and I felt it was God's will that I was rejected. So, though I had a complete library of all Mrs. Eddy's books and other books and teachings, including Bicknell Young and Martha Wilcox whose teachings I prefer above all others, I did away with them but could not bring myself to throw away my precious old Textbook that had been all over the world on assignments with me.

I don't know how I happened to find your Website, but it was recently, as Sunday was the first service that I listened to. Though there was a sign that the site was dangerous, I just hit "go ahead anyway," and got on. I have never heard a service so sincerely spiritual, as well as powerful. The Readers just seemed to reflect fully our Father-Mother's Love.

I like to tell about Dr. Einstein who went into a Christ-

A Special Letter

ian Science Reading Room once and read the textbook for thirty minutes, got up and said, "How could this woman have known what I cannot make the scientists today understand . . . there is no matter!"

May our Father-Mother's richest blessings be upon your group for standing firm and gaining the right to use the name Christian Science! Now I can be clearer and give credit to Mrs. Eddy and her teachings for much of what I understand. I could never express my gratitude for this work you have fought so hard to establish.

I do understand Mrs. Eddy's prophecy that by the end of the twentieth century, Christian Science understanding would be in most churches, and I do know that it is the stone cut out of the mountain that broke into pieces to engulf the world. It may be a bit late in being fulfilled, but I see it fulfilled through your work, which is only the beginning of what will happen, and the gathering of those that it has been said were not God's children — here we shall be called the Sons of the Living God. I say this as prophecy, and I do believe your work will go round the world and gather together the lost sheep, many of which had strayed, as I had, from the fullness of the Gospel because of the wolves that had crept into the church that were even there in Paul's time, and false leadership that hid their talents under orthodoxy and rules and prevented the divine Idea from going forth to the ends of the earth. The Truth has now been set free, and it is setting free the children in bondage all over the world. I believe this foretells the dawn of true Christian Science that will fill the earth with its effulgence very soon, and has already begun with your successful trial to maintain the name of Christian Science.

My sincerest blessing and thanks for considering me for membership.

“Feed My Sheep” — Christ Jesus

Where divine Love is known, there is no sense of limitation, for Love satisfies. To the loving, trusting heart, all things are possible.

Charlotte Paulsen



Wait on the Lord

La Verne Fields

Since finding the Plainfield Church, I am convinced that Truth is demonstrable and that God is, indeed, a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. As I draw nigh to God, He draws nigh to me; — the more I work, watch, and pray, and walk in obedience to Him, the more secure I feel. I am truly blessed to have found this church, to be a part of this great work — God’s work.

Through our weekly discussions, I realize that waiting on God and waiting for material good are entirely different. Waiting on the Lord, I’ve learned, is an active state of faith, trust, expectancy, and receptivity — listening for His voice, awaiting fresh inspiration — standing porter at the door of thought and rejecting everything unlike God. When we wait on the Lord in this way, He will renew our strength.

In contrast, anxiously waiting for some material good is self-destructive error, it’s draining, and it opens the door to a multitude of sins. This kind of waiting, like an idle mind, is the devil’s playground.

This realization has healed me from many self-defeating behaviors. Not understanding that God is the only presence and power, I was living my life in limbo — going through the motions — not really living at all. It was more like, waiting while I waited, and I was always waiting for something — waiting for a healing; waiting to lose weight;

“Feed My Sheep”

waiting for a better job, waiting for love, and as a result, I felt as if I was getting further and further away from God. The further I seemed to get away from God, the worse the struggle, — and the act of waiting, within itself, only prolonged the wait! I found myself waiting for something I didn't believe I would ever get or even deserve. The anxiety consumed me, and mortal mind would entice me to eat when I wasn't hungry, to shop for no good reason, or suggest that I pursue some other distraction to keep me in bondage to materiality. When all else failed to soothe or satisfy, it would suggest that I sleep my days away — while I waited.

Since finding the Plainfield Church, the wait is over. I no longer anxiously wait for material things. Today I wait only on the Lord! As a result, I recently noticed that my clothes were getting loose, so I weighed myself and found that I lost 17 pounds without even trying. The more I am fed and assimilate Truth, I no longer have an unnatural hunger for food. I am no longer stuffing myself to dull the pain of anxiety. I've stopped waiting and started acknowledging God's ever-present love for me and everyone, here and now. Also, I haven't been sleeping my days away. I am learning that true rest is found in trusting God. I am no longer spending impulsively, buying pretty shiny things that I don't need.

Instead, I am waking up — I am setting my affection on things above rather than on things on the earth. I am cultivating a relationship with God, praying without ceasing, walking in obedience to Him, being anxious for nothing, and thanking God for all that He has done. Thank you for accepting me, Plainfield Church, Independent — I am being blessed by this work and hope to be a blessing to others. I thank God so much, for so much.

Kingdom of Heaven Within

Carl H. Lehmann

In Isaiah we read, “Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee saying, This is the way, walk ye in it.” The trouble with many today is that they do not listen to His voice!

Instead, mankind often listens to the suggestions of self-righteousness, self-will, and self-love. In doing this, they are listening to that “old serpent which deceiveth the whole world.”

The bars of wrong thinking often hold men in greater bondage than prison walls and iron gates.

In Revelation we read, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock.” How much better to open the door of our consciousness to the Christ, Truth, and listen only to his voice, instead of to the suggestions of discouragement, fear, worry, revenge, hatred. In this way, we open the door of our consciousness to courage, trust, self-forgetfulness, love, and find the kingdom of heaven within. Mary Baker Eddy writes, “The sinner makes his own hell by doing evil, and the saint his own heaven by doing right.” (S&H)

It is not necessary to be confined by bars of iron to be in bondage. The bars of wrong thinking often hold men in greater bondage than prison walls and iron gates. Peter’s chains “fell off from his hands” when he perceived the Christ, Truth, and proved that, regardless of his environment, one always can communicate with God through prayer. God’s spiritual ideas, or right thoughts, always bring freedom from every form of material bondage. Why seek for the kingdom of heaven outside, when the Master said it is within?

The Christian Science Weekly

This section contains excerpts from The Christian Science Weekly, which was first published in 1898, and later was re-named the Christian Science Sentinel.

*Published in The Christian Science Weekly,
January 5, 1899*

Christian Science Souvenir Spoons

On each of these most beautiful spoons is a motto in bas-relief, that every person on earth needs to hold in thought. Mother requests that Christian Scientists shall not ask to be informed what this motto is, but each Scientist shall purchase at least one spoon, and those who can afford it, one dozen spoons, that their families may read this motto at every meal, and their guests be made partakers of its simple truth.

Mary Baker Eddy

Plainfield Church was presented with one of these spoons in a lovely frame, with an accompanying plaque which says, "In December 1898, Mrs. Eddy made available to her students this Christian Science Souvenir Spoon. Inscribed on the back are words by Mrs. Eddy which read, 'Not matter but Mind satisfieth.'"



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It's inspiring to see what the early workers in Christian Science overcame to remain faithful to God, Mrs. Eddy, and her mission.

A Kindly Tribute

Henry D. Janes
Denver, CO

When the Christian Science Weekly came, clad with beauty and freshness all its own, bringing joy and peace to all who read its precious pages, I resolved to help to cherish, feed, and clothe it with purest, loving thoughts gained from the study of Science and Health by our loving Mother, Mary Baker G. Eddy. I have never seen her, but her gentle kindness for man has touched and revived within me a higher hope, and because of this I love her, and try, with God's help, to prove the power of Love by healing the sick, through the teachings of Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures.

For nearly five years I have worked in this city, devoting all my time to Christian Science practice. I was a year and a half trying to overcome poverty, and many a day five cents' worth of crackers was all I could buy. Many times I was tempted to go back and pursue my old trade, blacksmithing, and one evening I started out to find work in order to pay that which I owed.

After going several blocks I seemed to hear a voice saying, "Where are you going? Go back!" I turned and went back to my office, and to my surprise a gentleman met me at the door with a five dollar bill in his hand to pay for one week's treatment.

I took it and went into my private room, fell on my knees and gave God the praise, and promised to never doubt His loving care again. This was three and a half years ago, and since then the demand has always been met and

The Christian Science Weekly

every debt paid by looking steadfastly to divine Love as the source of all supply, knowing that God's promises are true and sure to lean upon at all times. Having understanding of Good through Christian Science, enables me to help others out of failure in business, through having the current of thought changed to an immortal foundation, the Rock — Christ. I feel this will help some brothers or sisters to see their way out of darkness into Light.



*Published in The Christian Science Weekly,
January 19, 1899*

Question: Can it be said that Isaiah's words (40:4): "The crooked shall be made straight and the rough places plain," can be applied to the highways of men and nations?

Answer: Yes. They should be and are. Truth straightens the crooked and smoothes the rough. The coming of Christian Science to a community means much straightening of crookedness and much smoothing of roughness. The spiritual realities are sure to be followed by the visible manifestations. Mind is instantaneous in its action. Mind works without friction and with ease. The recognition of this divine fact is finding fulfillment in varied lines. Every movement which tends to lessen the hours for toil and increase the hours for thought, which makes for the abolition of drudgery and helps men to realize the joy of divine service, is in entire harmony with the thought of the Christian Scientist. Isaiah's prophecy is finding fulfillment in the bettered highways, — streets, steam, electric, etc., — the movement for which is now well-nigh universal.

Watching Points

The book 500 Watching Points was written by Gilbert C. Carpenter, C.S.B., and Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr., C.S.B.

Watching Point No. 283 Gilbert C. Carpenter

WATCH lest you accept the action of treatment as being Truth harmonizing matter, instead of being Truth freeing and spiritualizing thought from the false claims of matter. In Science we learn that the seeming disease on the body is as emphatically mental as is its cause in the human mind. In class Mrs. Eddy once said, "Now what of those who make a claim such as this; declaring the Truth harmonizes matter, that Truth will heal matter, or in any way making matter a reality to be healed? If we admit there is matter, then we must admit all the causes and effects, all the beliefs; there is no other way. Then never admit matter. Never for one moment admit a claim of anything to harmonize."

Watching Point No. 274 Gilbert C. Carpenter

WATCH lest you strive to use Christian Science to sidestep pain and suffering. Rather should you use it to fortify your understanding and courage, so that when these conditions confront you, you will not seek to avoid them, but you will rise up and meet them, and thus overcome them.

An advanced understanding of Science brings this rule, that we have got to learn to stand up under error scientifically, for the sake of purification, stabilization and preparation for future responsibilities. Wisdom should teach us never to pray to have an error removed. We should pray for the faith, courage and understanding to stand before it until we lose our fear of it and belief in it. Then it will disappear. On page 143 of Miscellany, we read, "When these things cease to bless they will cease to occur."

“Comfort Ye My People”

Law is a mandate of Mind. “The peace of God which passeth all understanding.” We find quiet assurance in the realm of Mind. God is Principle, and man lives that Principle.

Bicknell Young

No one can study Christian Science without becoming aware of the radical nature of its teachings. It states the truth about God and His creation, and deviates not at all from that truth.

Duncan Sinclair

You are awake to the truth, you see it, you realize it, and no mortal mind can hinder you from realizing it. There is but one Mind; Truth, Life and Love govern all your thoughts, and annihilate all that is unlike them.

Mary Baker Eddy



God Heals Loneliness

Walter Malinowski

For the last seven years I've lived in my home by myself. It sometimes came to me like a feeling of loneliness, and it would stay sometimes.

When I came to this Christian Science Church, and I started to learn more of God at the Roundtable, it seems to me like God has come closer to me, and this loneliness disappeared. And it seems to me like God is bringing progress in my life.

Imaginary Goliaths

Irving C. Tomlinson

The triumph of the boy David over Goliath is a good lesson in overcoming the Philistines of the flesh that often try to antagonize peace.

David did not see defeat, but victory. Realizing the presence and power of God, he reflected and manifested this power. He knew that the cause was God's, and that with Him, victory was certain.

One of the imaginary foes we have to meet is that of worry. Even from a human standpoint, there is no good whatever in this imaginary Goliath. Give no place to worry, but rely on the ever-present omnipotence of God. "One on God's side is a majority," no matter how overwhelming the force of the enemy may appear.

Another imaginary Goliath is discouragement. The army, as David found it, seemed to be overwhelmed with fear that blinded them to man's dominion. But remembering the lion and the bear which he had slain, he knew that God had strengthened him and given him the victory. He was sure, therefore, that no foe could stand before the power of the Almighty, and this assurance made it a joy for him to go forth to meet the enemy, that he might prove it to be nothing, an illusion of mortal sense without life or mind.

We can all learn to "take pleasure in infirmities," because every obstacle met and destroyed brings us nearer to the Principle of true being. Every problem spells victory, since our watchword is, "Who is so great a God as our God?"

The tiny stone sent forth from David's sling was a missile of Truth, before which error, though in giant form, had to fall. In reality these giants have no power and can produce no effect on him who fights "the good fight of faith."

“Comfort Ye My People”

The divine Love that in the past has met every need, is with us here and now; and with God on our side, we can “meet every adverse circumstance as its master.” (S&H)



God's Work Is Done

Craig Thompson

Years ago, whenever I would ask a practitioner in this church for support on something that I had to do, she would always tell me that “God has already done it.”

I must admit that I was a little puzzled over that at first; but in thinking about it, the Bible does say that God made all things, and that He made everything good. It doesn't say that “someday” He would do this, but that He already did it!

This thought freed me today when I had a lot of work to complete. This morning when the thought came to me that God's work is done, I understood that He's given it to me already finished — I don't have to fight my way through this. All I have to do is recognize what He's already done. I don't have to doubt myself or anyone involved, and question my ability to perform these tasks, I just have to recognize that God did it. He'll show me what the right thing is, and then I need to listen and obey.

I felt stronger today after recognizing that, and was happier, felt less pressure, and I did get everything done that I had to do — and I even had a little time at the end, which was unusual.

I thank God for Mrs. Eddy and for the absolute truth that God's work is done, and that we're vessels for His use. We don't have to labor so hard to bring something about — He's already done it, and that is wonderful!

Announcements

The Greatest Thing in the World

We have published a newly typeset, paperback version, of the much-loved book, *THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD*, by Henry Drummond, the Scottish evangelist. This lecture was given at a mission station in Central Africa, to missionaries preparing to bring the word of God to Africa in 1883. Based on the Bible's "love chapter," I Cor. 13, the lecture illustrates the spiritual timelessness of the message of love. This version is in a larger, more readable format. The price is \$5.00 per copy.

The Overwhelming Evidence

We have printed a new version of this inspiring booklet, in a larger, more readable format. It was written by Ralph Spencer, and is a collection of events in the life of Mary Baker Eddy, as related by people who were close to her. It also includes some wonderful healings that she accomplished. The cost is \$6.00 per copy.

Bible Study

We hold a Bible Study each Saturday at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference. Details are on the Website. Contact the church if you do not have access to the Website.

Audio Recordings of Science and Health

We are happy to announce that we have produced audio recordings of *Science and Health* on CD. On them, *Science and Health* is beautifully and understandingly read by Andrew Kidd, who served as Reader in Plainfield Church for ten years. His experience and great love for Mary Baker Eddy and her revelation makes for a powerful listening experience, even for those familiar with the text-book. The cost is \$7.00 per CD, or \$85 for the set of 21 CDs.

Full-Text Version of Plainfield Lessons

The Plainfield Church produces our independent Lesson Sermons in full-text booklet form. Each 8 1/2 x 11 inch

Announcements

booklet contains the full-text Lessons for one month. It fits easily within a briefcase or large purse. This offers a convenient, attractive alternative to carrying your marked lesson books when traveling. Each one-month issue is \$7.00, a 3-month subscription is \$19.00, a 6-month subscription is \$36.00, and a 12-month subscription is \$65.00, within the U.S.A.; international is \$9.00 per issue, \$77.00 for a 12-month subscription.

Church Services Available by Phone

Our Sunday and Wednesday church services can be heard by telephone. If you don't have a computer and would like to listen to our services live, contact Plainfield Church for dial-in information. You will be provided with a phone number, and a pass code. This will connect you to a teleconference service which broadcasts our services at the time they are being held. Sunday services begin at 11:00 a.m., and Wednesday services 8:15 p.m. The services are preceded by 5-10 minutes of music, and you are invited to dial in early to hear this prelude.

Our Roundtable is also available, live and recorded, via this teleconference service. The Roundtable begins at 10:00 a.m.

We invite everyone to join in, sing the hymns with us, and participate in the Roundtable.

Testimonies Given by Phone

Anyone from out of town is now able, through our teleconference feature, to give a testimony live during our Wednesday services from their telephone. If you are interested, please contact the church for the phone number, code, and instructions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Live Services on the Internet

Have you heard our live services on the Internet? Plainfield

CornerStone

Church broadcasts both our Sunday and Wednesday evening services, including the Sunday adult class, live on the Internet. Recorded versions of these services are available on our Web site at any time. Just log on to plainfieldcs.com, and join our congregation. We look forward to welcoming you!

Web Site

Our Web site, plainfieldcs.com, is constantly being updated with fresh, inspired thoughts, articles, services, and Lessons. It even includes a Lesson forum area to post comments about the Lesson. Please check it out, and leave a comment if you wish!

Plainfield Independent Quarterly

The Plainfield Church publishes its own Lesson Sermon Quarterly, based entirely on the Bible and Science and Health. A one-year subscription costs \$11.00. A single issue costs \$5.00. Subscriptions to overseas and Canada cost \$19.00.

CornerStone Subscriptions

The CornerStone is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The subscription rate to the U.S.A. is \$20.00 for one year. Single copies cost \$5.00. One-year subscriptions to Canada cost \$27.00, and international \$35.00.

Plainfield Independent Newsletter

The Plainfield Church Newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December. It is available to members of Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, free of charge by mail and on our Website.

New Members Are Welcome!

Do you love Christian Science, and wish to see it prosper and go forward? Then we invite you most lovingly to join us in membership. Please contact us, and we'll be happy to send you an application!

Letters from Readers

I just want to give a thank you to those involved in accepting my membership application. I was expecting a tribunal, but it didn't happen that way.

I haven't belonged to anything since I left the Catholic church, and I never joined the independent Bible church I attended, so this is a big deal for me. I will be wading slowly into the waters over the coming days and hope to be a blessing in some way while participating, whether silently, written, etc.

Pennsylvania

We are delighted to have you join our happy band. Your desire to participate and support is a great sign that you "belong."

Chairman — Membership Committee

I am a Christian Scientist from Russia and I want to thank you very much for your Website and audio recordings of Mrs. Eddy's writings. I am also grateful for the books I found in your site, especially those of Bicknell Young and Gilbert Carpenter. I read them every day and have translated some of them into Russian. One of these translations I send as a gift for your church and site.

Russia

Dear Friends at Plainfield,

I just finished listening to our warm, loving service. My deepest gratitude to God for Plainfield Church, the Roundtable, and then our service. My cup runneth over.

I cannot close without mentioning the Website. It is the greatest! It keeps getting better and better. Every day, sometimes late at night, I am led to just the perfect answer using the website, whether it be uplifting or blissful peace.

You bring such love and freshness into my life. My gratitude is boundless. It is impossible to put into words

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the joy you bring to me and so many others all over the world. Words are perhaps inadequate to express my gratitude, but what I feel in my heart is true.

Illinois

I've been learning so much from the Bible Study. Each week after the study session, I go back and reread the Bible portion of the Lesson. I was surprised how much more meaningful, both historically and metaphysically, it was for me.

The week Daniel was the subject, I wasn't feeling well. After the study I realized I was healed. How grateful I was.

Thank you all for this Bible study.

Alabama

It's such a joy to see so much rich content on the Website. Even the pictures are very beautiful.

Lots of love from the UK as always, and please pass my greetings and kind wishes to everyone.

United Kingdom

I would like to express gratitude for the watches and the opportunity to join with your church in working to realize more clearly the true nature of "church" as defined in the glossary of Science and Health, and in realizing that it is truly "The structure of Truth and Love; whatever rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle," as your church is proving.

I am also grateful for the practitioner who has been working with me in alerting me to how important it is to "preserve a scientific, positive sense of unity with your divine source, and daily demonstrate this" as stated in Pulpit and Press in Prose Works.

I love the little verse given at a testimony meeting:

"What if the little rain should say,

'So small a drop as I

Can ne'er refresh a drooping earth,

Letters

I'll tarry in the sky.'"

Thank you for all you are doing to spread the true message of the Gospel throughout the world.

Iowa

I am delighted to have discovered your Website. It truly seems to me a gift from Heaven! I am enjoying listening to the testimonials, and I look forward to receiving my book order, especially the First Edition of Science and Health.

England

Thank you for all that you are doing in Plainfield and for making membership a truly interactive experience, There are infinite ways to be involved from afar, which is such a blessing. There is much work to be done, and it is a privilege to be a part of it, especially the watches.

With the enclosed contribution, my husband and I wish to show our appreciation for being able to attend vibrant church services via the internet, and for all that you are doing to preserve undefiled Christian Science.

May God bless this church mightily.

Vermont

This statement from Miscellany made me think of Plainfield: "Spiritual heroes and prophets are they whose new-old birthright is to put an end to falsities in a wise way and to proclaim Truth so winningly that an honest, fervid affection for the race is found adequate for the emancipation of the race."

Texas

I have found since coming to Plainfield Church, many years ago, that my gratitude to God has become sincere and more heartfelt.

When we knelt in church on Sacrament Sunday, I realized how I am kneeling in my heart many times during the day. And, how important this is; this deep gratitude to God.

CornerStone

The blessings I receive from you dear people are innumerable. I love the Bible study and Roundtable discussions. They have increased my knowledge and love for Christian Science so much. It is more than I can ever express in words.

I also must mention our excellent CornerStone magazine. It gets better with each issue. All of the articles are truly gems and written with so much love. I go back to many of the healing passages again and again. “My cup runneth over.”

God has given us “the pearl of great price” in giving us this religion. Christian Science is a glorious, not always easy, way of life. We are so blessed.

Illinois

Since being led to the Plainfield Church looking for help from a practitioner, my eyes have been opened to true Christian Science as I had not been taught before. I’m seeing better how to live in the now, in the small things, the daily details — for that’s where I am now and the only place and time where I can be or ever was. For the first time in my Christian Science experience, I’m endeavoring daily to live Christian Science, not just study it and feel I’ve done my part. It’s the ongoing chipping away of false beliefs, attitudes, and motives, and replacing them with the right ideas, and putting them into practice. The fact that I’m here to express God and to be a blessing to others, has never before been made so clear and emphatic.

With heartfelt gratitude for the Plainfield Christian Science Church, its dedicated and devoted practitioners and members — thank you all. With your help, support, and guidance, a life is being transformed. And most of all “Thank you, Father” for leading me here.

Arizona

The following poem came to the author like a song, during the night.

A Blessed Journey

La Verne Fields

I was a wandering soul traveling all alone,
Traveling alone and progressing slow.
Having ears, I could not hear,
The still small voice whispering,
Trust me, I love you, Don't fear:
The tempter, the mysterious apple, the darkness:
the one evil — it's not real.

Learning only through mistakes of trial and error
and give and take,
And still mesmerized by the serpent's venom,
and seduced by the snake.
Although hungering and thirsting after righteousness,
Like a mask, I wore personality, a mistaken identity,
barely passing heaven's tests;
A blessed journey designed to awaken me from the
dream of mortality,
To make the crooked places straight and set the
imprisoned splendor free.

They say when the student is ready, the teacher appears;
God knows I am ready to put my trust in Him
supremely and abandon all fear.
The ethers, the heavens, the air under my feet are,
here, likened to steel;
The place upon which I stand is holy ground — the
kingdom of heaven, the realm of the real.

A wandering soul traveling all alone? No!
He was there, He is here, ever with me, He in me,
I in Him, He in us, We in you;
The same yesterday, today, and forever, Immanuel,
God with us, the one altogether lovely and true;
Closer than breathing and nearer than hands and feet;
At last the veil is lifting — the light is dawning —
I surrender all to Thee!

The Plainfield Bible Study

Following is some discussion from a recent Plainfield Church Bible Study. At these sessions, Bible citations from that week's Independent Lesson Sermon are discussed. They are held by teleconference on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. If you'd like to join this study group, log onto the church website, plainfieldcs.com, for dial-in information. Everyone is welcome to join in.

In the parable of the talents, Jesus told his disciples of a man traveling to a far country, who called his servants to him and gave each of them talents. In biblical times, talents were units of money, but that's not what Jesus was referring to in this parable. He was referring to the talent of spiritual healing. The Bible Commentary by Matthew Henry says that the man traveling to a far country was the Christ. He was preparing his disciples for the time when he would no longer be here in person, and he was bestowing upon them the talent of spiritual healing, and depending upon them to continue his mission and carry it out into the world.

In telling his disciples this parable, Jesus was speaking specifically and privately to them. He usually spoke to the multitudes in parables, and spoke directly to his disciples; but in this instance, he was making a specific and very important point.

The master in the parable gave five talents to one of his servants, two to another, and one to another. When he returned from his journey, the servants who had been given five and two talents, had doubled what their master had given them; but the third servant had buried his talent in the ground, and did nothing with it.

The servant who was given the one talent called his master "a hard and cruel man," obviously hating him. He

Plainfield Bible Study

acted out of fear, trying to please his master and not willing to risk his displeasure. That was certainly a lack of love on the servant's part. He obviously had ability or he wouldn't have been given even the one talent; but instead of getting right to work and increasing what he was given, as the first two servants did, he wasted his time whining and making excuses. The servants who were faithful "entered into the joy of their lord."

We've all done some of that, maybe thinking, "I'm not good enough to do that," or "I don't know enough to speak up." If we're in a situation where there's a problem, and we don't jump in with our Science — either verbally or mentally — we're like the servant with the one talent; we're burying our talent in the ground and not using it. Fearing that people might not like it if we speak up, is burying our talent, and so is spouting words without love behind it. Mrs. Eddy says, "If we would heal by the Spirit, we must not hide the talent of spiritual healing under the napkin of its form, nor bury the *morale* of Christian Science in the grave-clothes of its letter. The tender word and Christian encouragement of an invalid, pitiful patience with his fears and the removal of them, are better than hecatombs of gushing theories, stereotyped borrowed speeches, and the doling of arguments, which are but so many parodies on legitimate Christian Science, aflame with divine Love." (S&H)

If you persist in making excuses, after a while you lose the ability to use the talent. Divine Love is urging us to experience the freedom it has for us, and we can't experience it with selfishness or self-centeredness.

When Mrs. Eddy wrote, "nor bury the *morale* of Christian Science in the grave-clothes of its letter," she was speaking directly and pointedly to Christian Scientists, just

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as Jesus was speaking directly to his disciples. Each one of us, whatever we have, has a responsibility to use it. It doesn't matter how many talents we are given, it's what we do with the talents that's important. Even humble things, if they are done faithfully, God rewards. But the reward is never the goal of being faithful. Satisfaction is not in receiving a reward or in the accumulation of things; it's in doing the will of God.

It's interesting that Jesus uses this parable about investing. If you have been given, and you bury it, and you don't make something out of it, woe be to you! As we understand it, this is a law of the universe; this is the Biblical rule of economics. That's what is so fascinating about the Bible. The talents were given to everyone, no one was excluded, and all were free to multiply them. The "lazy and slothful servant," as the master referred to the servant who buried his talent in the ground and didn't do anything with it, lost what he had been given. His one talent was taken away and was given to the one who had ten talents. That servant had faithfully done his work, and was rightly rewarded.

These things go way back to the Bible and they are the laws and rules of the universe. If you disobey them, you'll run into trouble and poverty. Government programs try to be so "fair" and make all things equal, redistributing wealth; but that's going against the laws of the universe. Each servant in the parable had the same opportunity to increase his talents — no matter how much or how little he was given — but one chose not to do so. You can't go against the laws of the universe. "The design of Love is to reform the sinner" (S&H) so you can "enter into the joy of thy lord."

Don't Bury Your Talents

Lenni Moore

“No Excuses — Don't Bury Your Talents!”

I had heard this story of the talents many times before, and I had always felt a little sorry for the last servant. After all, he describes his lord as “a hard man” and as someone who reaps where he has not sown and gathers where he has not strawed. The last servant seemed rather justified in his fear and subsequent actions. I will admit, too, that I always took the story at face value and never really looked closely at what was going on with this last servant.

This time, however, I determined to fully understand the lesson behind this third servant. And thank goodness I did, because his part of the story is probably the most important to all of us. This servant was in the human mind, and operating from a human standpoint. His description of his lord was that of the human mind being at enmity with the divine — it doesn't understand the divine and certainly doesn't have an accurate perception of the nature of the divine! Hence, he saw his master as a hard man, and he didn't want to comply with the demands that his master was making of him — and that God makes of all of us — to be active in the work and not to bury the talent of healing. Instead, he made excuses for why he had done nothing.

This was certainly a strong call to action for me, and should be for all of us. The human mind will send us a never-ending supply of excuses, and will also try to confound us as to the nature of God. I've found myself playing the role of that slothful servant too often, and with seemingly valid reasons, too! But we have to press forward and do the work, because the difference between working and not working is the difference between being cast into outer darkness, or entering into “the joy of thy lord.”

“The World Has Need of You”

This section of our magazine features statements and articles of Truth to help us in our prayer for the world.

Salvation is won by works rather than *words*.

Albert F. Gilmore

Independence does not rest in man-made laws and customs, but in the demonstrable knowledge of the living God.

Lester B. McCoun

I do not know of a single great conquest of the human spirit, a single important step for the perfecting of human society, which has not had its roots in a strong religious faith.

Mazzini



From “The Line of Light”

Herbert W. Eustace

America stands as the one nation on earth whose origin was wholly spiritual. It went forth with the one spiritual purpose to worship God.

Then what constituted America? It was “the seed in itself,” that inborn spiritual craving in each individual which seeks Mind as the needle seeks the pole. The seed was not only the recognition of the right, but also the determination to worship God without any interference; the understanding that nothing has the right to, or can, intervene between God and His idea. In other words, America stands

“The World Has Need of You”

for that union of Principle and idea which is forever one and indissoluble. This country typifies, and its origin proves it to be, the spiritual idea of Mind and the nearest approximation to a nation founded by Mind, and so it stands alone.

America was in no way merely a political experiment; it was the answer to the deep spiritual necessity of man's oneness with Principle. That every step of the unfolding nation was leavened by the recognition of dependence upon Mind, is verified by utterances of that time. Benjamin Franklin said in his address of 1787 before the Constitutional Convention when, at the end of weeks of stress and effort, failure seemed to face them, “If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings, that ‘Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.’ I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel.” Nothing animated the founding of this nation except the one purpose to be alone with God and worship Him after the dictates of a conscience untrammelled by ecclesiastical or other tyranny.

Do not fail to keep all persons out of your analysis or you cannot understand Mind. If your thought is fixed on personality in the slightest, it is not only in danger of losing Principle, but inevitably will lose it. This cannot be more strongly stated than it is by Mrs. Eddy in *Miscellaneous Writings*: “Remember, it is personality, and the sense of personality in God or in man, that limits man.” “Again I repeat, person is not in the question of Christian Science. Principle, instead of person, is next to our hearts, on our lips, and in our lives.”

True Patriotism

William D. McCrackan

True patriotism cannot exist without an underlying consciousness of God's presence and power as infinite Principle. The foundation of every nation which hopes to prosper in righteousness must be laid on the "Rock of Ages" and not upon the shifting sands of selfish ambition. In a world aroused as never before to mental activity, it behooves every patriot to make certain that he has found the true basis for his love of country.

The intentional manipulation of the human mind in order to cover national crimes goes on apace. Prearranged plans for deluding humanity *en masse* are constantly being detected, exposing underground activities which are unsuspected by those who do not look below the surface. But to derive one's love of country from one's love of God, good, safeguards patriotism. The more the citizen knows about the true nature of God and of His man, the better patriot he is, the readier to be a true soldier, the quicker to detect treason, which is the intentional perversion and misuse of information in thought and deed, and the surer he is of protection against the attacks upon his health and happiness, his abilities, and his good name.

True patriotism is not produced by human will power; indeed, it must inevitably perish under the lash of self-will and personal domination. It is never selfish, and as it grows, it widens its sympathies, opens its protecting arms, throws the sheltering cloak of its compassionate love over more and more of mankind until, under the impulsion of divine Love itself, patriotism gathers all mankind to its heart.

The Independent Lesson Forum

If you haven't discovered the Lesson Forum on our church website yet, log on to plainfieldcs.com and click on Lesson Forum. You will find lively and inspiring discussions centered around our weekly Lesson. The individuality of the contributors is wonderfully evident. Those who participate find that it brings greater depth to the study of the Lesson. It provides an opportunity to ask questions, and share with others ideas that have been revealed to you in your study. Everyone is welcome to join in. We would love to hear from you!

The following is a sample of submissions from the Lesson, "God the Preserver of Man."

Concerning the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace — Who is in control?

Imagine surviving the furnace, an outcome that is impossible to regulate by our own efforts. The devotion of the Hebrew boys to the one God was the essence of their being, and the outcome proved that God does preserve man, His reflection. Makes me ask how much am I motivated by my own sense of comforts instead of devotion to God.

"If living in disobedience to Him, we ought to feel no security, although God is good." (S&H)

Disobedience is a fearful state! I dare say this statement in the textbook is the most overlooked by Christian Scientists. They cling to "sin is unreal" and "God is good," despite Mrs. Eddy's warnings; but the demand of obedience is lost in the shuffle.

"Divine Mind rightly demands man's entire obedience, affection, and strength. No reservation is made for

CornerStone

any lesser loyalty.” (S&H) Is there any wiggle room here?

It’s a good idea to check regularly — am I holding back my love and commitment? Where can I do better? “Obedience to Truth gives man power and strength. Submission to error superinduces loss of power.” (S&H)

If our affection for a child or spouse, etc., supersedes our affection for God, we are malpracticing on ourselves and the object of our affections.

Response:

To me the issue in this story was their complete trust in God, who must have been very real to them. More real than fire and death.

Response:

Yes, I once was under the false impression that I was completely secure just by calling myself a Christian Scientist without paying any attention to the obedience to God part! And I was in for some rude awakenings. I am grateful that any experience we might have only leads us closer to the Source of all being — if we allow ourselves to walk in that direction and to demand the blessing. It is comforting to learn how to be truly secure!

Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego know they would be saved?

Did they weigh the risks of disobeying Nebuchadnezzar versus the invisible God? No! Their love for God was so real, so uncompromising — it did not matter what became of them.

How do we live our faith? How strong is our love for God, our commitment, our faith? Are we more concerned with how we appear in the eyes of those around us, or in

Forum

the eyes of God? remembering that God is the Preserver of man — but we reject Him when we are more concerned with what others think of us!

Response:

What “others think of me” is not my concern. But the more I’ve come to this position, the more others like me; I don’t care about that either, beyond being passibly friendly. My few friends are important to me perhaps as I have no close family ties. My challenges are: being present and grounded, deflecting mortal mind distractions coming at me, clearing thought, and focusing on the Real Deal, my CS readings, meditation . . . having time to do that. I “hunger and thirst after righteousness” more than ever and often need to feel closer to God. I’ve glimpsed but haven’t “arrived” at the Kingdom of Heaven. I hope to get there. The Hebrew boys were there, so survived the fiery furnace.

Response:

I think this is what it means in Psalms: “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.” The Hebrew boys didn’t want to be anywhere but with God. They had no interest in pleasing anyone but God. They obeyed the laws of the universe as well as they knew them. Compromise with the latest fad was not an option (in this case, it was a conspiracy to trap them). As a result, they benefitted from the protection of being “in His house.”

Good question. Do I give to divine Mind my entire obedience, affection, and strength? Or do I reserve some for friends and family or my boss?

Articles

Making the Connection

Mary Beth Singleterry

A common problem when beginning the study of Christian Science is being able to make the connection between the comforting Word of God and actually applying His Word to our day-to-day experience. Sometimes the complaint is made, “This truth I read about is only words to me. I can’t seem to make it become a reality in my life. The difficulty seems too real.”

When I first began my spiritual journey here in this independent church, I certainly could relate to this complaint. For that reason, I would like to relate an experience I had that made a dramatic difference in my life concerning this all too common problem.

A large group from church was going to a Broadway play in New York City. I had been invited to attend, too, but had one major problem at the time — that of claustrophobia! The thought of sitting in a crowded theater, wedged in amongst hundreds, did not appeal to me at all! Even thinking about it made me queasy. But as I mentioned, I was beginning my Spiritward journey from darkness into light and wanted to be obedient to God’s direction. After praying awhile to make sure my heavenly Father was giving me the OK to attend this event, I opened the Bible randomly to the following citation from Isaiah 41:10: “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” This to me was definitely an angel message. God promised to be with me, so I determined to go to the theater with the others.

The evening arrived, and I must admit I was still filled with a great deal of trepidation. I had written the Isaiah

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quote on a little paper card and put it in my pocket, referring to its comforting message many times over. As we entered a very crowded theater, the fear tried to grip me; but trusting God, I got into the line to get my ticket. When we got into the main auditorium, something quite wonderful happened. As everyone poured into the rows to get their seats, I realized I had the aisle seat!! *I had the aisle seat!!* And I am every bit as excited about it now as I was then. I never felt so loved by God in my entire life! I felt I heard Him say to me, “Mary, I promised I would hold your hand and be with you. If you would be more comfortable with the aisle seat — then I have arranged that for you . . . not to worry. I heard and answered your prayer. Sit back and enjoy the show!” And believe me I did! And do you know what else is truly amazing? I never suffered from that fear-gripping claustrophobia again, because I knew my God’s presence would always be with me! Hitherto the Lord hath helped me and hitherto He will!

And one other very important point, I *knew* God had answered my prayer. I didn’t blow it off to chance, or think it was the “law of probability” working, or that it might happen once, but never again. I didn’t believe any of that mortal mind nonsense. I *knew* God had taken care of me. I had made that connection between His Word and my daily experience. My God is real! And yours can be too!!



Surplus Thinking

Sharon Welsh

One afternoon I found myself thinking that my hair looks terrible, I look pale, I’m not smart, etc., when a thunderous voice said, “How dare you condemn My

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idea! You are the image and likeness of Me. You are My perfect child.” What an awakening! God was speaking to me. After thinking about it, I realized this was what is called “surplus thinking.” I was all wrapped up in the human mind, and I let in these negative thoughts.

One of the Watching Points in Gilbert Carpenter’s book 500 Watching Points warns about surplus thinking, which is the thoughts that come to us when we are not alert to what we are thinking. That’s when the negative human mind thoughts come to us, just like what I was experiencing. I was the target of error, and it wanted to destroy me. The remedy is to get back to God, and fast!

I remembered that a practitioner told us to take five minutes every hour to get back to God. This would keep our thought focused on God. I hadn’t been doing this, so I started doing it again. What a difference it’s made in my thinking!

Thank God that, in Science and Health, Mary Baker Eddy has revealed the way to stop the surplus thinking. She said to “Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts.” What a safe place to be!



God’s Direction

Jim Dible

I had never paid much attention to the stock market, but it occurred to me that I should become better acquainted with the workings of this area of the business world. What better way than to invest in the stock market.

When setting this up, the accounting included a tithe

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of all earnings to go directly to the Plainfield Church.

Last Fall, the advisory group I had been using suggested now was the time to invest in rental properties rather than the stock market. During this time, I had been working regularly with Mrs. Eddy's article, "Place," found on the Plainfield Church website.

I immediately sold sufficient stocks and worked with a realtor to purchase some rental properties. The rents on these properties have provided an even more substantial rate of income than the stock market had afforded. This adventure has brought me out of retirement to at least a five hour per day productive activity.

Mrs. Eddy reminds us in her article "Place": "The divine will is clearly and always calling to us all the time and telling us of the will of the Father, but we are so bent on having our own way of doing things instead of knowing they are already done, that half the time we do not hear what God is saying."

I attribute this new adventure to fully relying upon Christian Science. I am most grateful for Mrs. Eddy's Christian Science, and for the Plainfield Church for revealing this Science to us.

Oh, yes, and the realtor is now reading *The CornerStone* magazine and other Plainfield literature.



Unselfishness

Florence Roberts

The Bible tells us to work out our own salvation, but is there not great value to the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself?

We hear such sayings as "everyone for himself and God for us all." Yes, to understand one's self first and to love

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one's self is important, if it enables us to love others as we love ourselves.

In Luke 12:16-21 we read about the rich man who builds bigger barns just to selfishly store the bounty of his crops for himself, when he could have given some away to bless others or sold it at a lower price. The rest of the story illustrates the point in the command to love your neighbor as yourself. Our thoughts and prayers can daily bless our fellow beings by seeing the spiritual, perfect man everywhere.

Christ Jesus' mission was both individual and collective; He did God's will, He surrendered the human sense of Jesus so that, as the Christ, he could show mankind the healing power and love of God for all His children everywhere. In Mary Baker Eddy's selfless efforts to follow Christ's footsteps, she left us the rules and means for demonstrating this imperative divine Principle. They both worked individually for the benefit of all mankind.

All the great benefactors of the human race are remembered because of their unselfish giving. We cannot forget God's promise in Hymn 360 of the Christian Science Hymnal:

“Help to bear thy brother's burden
God will bear both it and thee.”



What Is Normal?

Carol Conroy

I overheard some people talking, complaining about the long line at a store, and someone said, “Well, that's just normal.” *Normal?* Do we need to accept inconvenience as “normal”?

Just what is “normal,” anyway? Absolute perfection

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only is normal. The Bible says, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, . . . And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold it was very good.” (Gen.) Now, that’s normal!

Is it normal to come down with a contagious disease because others have it? Is it normal to be stuck in traffic because it’s “rush hour”? Is allergy season normal? Or the hurricane season? No! These are totally abnormal — they are against the law of God. Is it normal to have a bad temper because your father had one? Is aging normal? Is it normal for your muscles to hurt because you worked in the yard all day? Again, absolutely abnormal. Is it normal for appliances or cars to break down or wear out? Not if we declare, whenever we think of them, that God gave them to us, and He maintains them — and we, of course, take care of common sense maintenance.

Mary Baker Eddy wrote, “Jesus regarded good as the normal state of man, and evil as the abnormal; holiness, life, and health as the better representatives of God than sin, disease, and death.” (Mis.) If we accept those things as normal, we’re giving them permission to come into our experience. As we reject these theories as just that — stupid human theories with no law to support them, since God, Principle, is the only law — and accept only the truth of His creation, we can rise up against any of these inconveniences, or errors, and defeat them. “Inconveniences” are only the first step the devil uses to disturb our peace and wreak havoc in our lives.

As we reject these things as totally abnormal, we find the strength and conviction to destroy them. Mary Baker Eddy writes, “Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good. God has made man capable of this, and nothing can vitiate the ability and power divinely bestowed on man.” (S&H) So let’s be careful what we accept as normal!

Bicknell Young's 1937 College

Debra Glidden

I am currently re-reading the book, 1937 College, by Bicknell Young. In the past, I read the section or sections that seemed to apply to my current situation, but this time I am reading from the beginning to the end.

Mortal mind tried to get me to skip the section named "Business," saying that's not the problem right now. Boy, am I glad I didn't listen! That article helped me to see that I was allowing mental limitations into my consciousness regarding my business. Accepting these mental limitations was slowing my progress and the healing of an issue unrelated to my business.

The section on "Fear" is very wonderfully revealing. One great quote is, "Pain is always fear," and in Science and Health, Mrs. Eddy says, "Christian scientific practice begins with Christ's keynote of harmony, 'Be not afraid!'"

I am excited to continue my journey of discovery, illumination, and the destruction of error!



Discouragement Destroyed

Lillian Linnell

Did you ever feel low? Ever get those discouraging thoughts that you're not doing anything right, you don't love, give, etc., etc.? Since these thoughts are definitely not good and uplifting, they are not from God, and we have the God-given power to destroy them!

There's a statement in the book "500 Watching Points"

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that is quite an eye-opener: “Why should error argue that our work is amounting to nothing, unless it is amounting to something.” Wow! There it is.

Error doesn't like that we are doing good and it will try anything to discourage us. This is the time we must fill our thoughts with gratitude for all our blessings and all the good going on around us right now. Error can't stand this and it will destroy itself, as it doesn't have a leg to stand on. Joy uplifts and heals every time!



Your Moral Purpose

Gary Singleterry

There is a moral purpose to everything God creates. And it is all good. He didn't just put us here and then walk away. It is a healthy exercise each day to thank God for His creation and care for us.

Theories abound about how the earth came about and how mankind, the animals and vegetation originated. Darwin's theory speculates that everything has come about by chance, that the universe, including man, is governed by atomic force. However, the Bible makes clear that there is a greater power, spiritual in nature, that is behind everything we see and experience. In the book of Job, one of the oldest books of the Bible, regarding His creation, we read: “And it is turned round about by His counsels: that they may do whatsoever He commandeth them upon the face of the world in the earth.” Life is not a lottery, where some people make it and some don't. Each of us has a moral purpose for existing, and the sooner we discover and acknowledge this, the better our lives will be.

Each of us has a unique role to fulfill, but our individ-

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ual roles are all compatible, and they have some important qualities in common. All are unselfish. We are here to be of benefit to our fellow man. That is the purpose of every human activity. A church cannot thrive if it does not bring its members closer to God. A business cannot last if it does not meet legitimate customer needs. An individual cannot feel satisfied if he does not live his life for a higher purpose than selfish enjoyment or self-preservation. This is evidence of the fact that not only are we created by an infinitely intelligent and wise power, but that we were created to fulfill a purpose designed by that power. In Colossians, we read: “all things were created by Him, and for Him.”

Christian Science, the clear explanation of the laws of God given by Christ Jesus, leads each of us to where we can know God’s plan, differentiate His will from our own will, and follow the “straight and narrow” way to everlasting life. Mary Baker Eddy writes in *Science and Health*, “Science, properly understood, refers only to the laws of God and to His government of the universe, inclusive of man. From this it follows that business men and cultured scholars have found that Christian Science enhances their endurance and mental powers, enlarges their perception of character, gives them acuteness and comprehensiveness and an ability to exceed their ordinary capacity.” A sincere study of Christian Science and honest application of its rules will bring one naturally into consonance with the laws of God which govern the universe, and will enable you to know the moral purpose for your existence. There is no greater satisfaction than finding and living that higher purpose.

Testimonies of Healing

The following testimonies are offered with great love to those seeking encouragement and inspiration.

I love the book, “Christian Science, Its Clear, Correct Teaching and Complete Writings” by Herbert W. Eustace. I was having a problem with some bleeding in the back of my eye, so I looked up an article on blindness. I studied it very carefully and applied it to myself. I knew God can heal this problem. I held to what Mr. Eustace said about the optic nerve. He states, “All that God is, optic nerve has, and ‘Son, all that I have is thine,’ is the eternal dictum of Mind to its own thought.”

I was referred to a retina specialist and the doctor could not find any bleeding. I was completely healed. I’m most grateful to Christian Science for this healing and for all the literature and past healings that I’ve received.

L. S.
Illinois

I came down with a severe case of poison ivy. There were rashes all over my body, and then my face and lips became swollen. I called a Plainfield practitioner for help with this. The practitioner said that nothing has ever touched me but good. She also read a statement from Mary Baker Eddy, “Let unselfishness, goodness, mercy, justice, health, holiness, love — the kingdom of heaven — reign within us, and sin, disease and death will diminish until they finally disappear.” (S&H)

As I hung up the phone, I thought about that statement — if the kingdom of heaven is within me, there is no room for poison ivy. Then, as I walked back to my desk, I could actually feel the swelling in my face going down! By the time I got to my desk, my face was perfectly normal — it was amazing! The next day I asked for more help with the

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itching, and in just a very short time, that was all gone, too.

I am very grateful to God, and the prayers of the practitioner, for this very quick and powerful healing. I'm still in awe of the power of God! Thank God for Mary Baker Eddy and this wonderful Science.

C. C.

New Jersey

Recently, I bit something hard and felt a sharp pain in one of my teeth. The pain did not let up, so I made an appointment with my dentist. He examined the tooth and pronounced that it would have to be removed. Then, he thought for a moment and said there may be a less drastic fix, if I was willing to try it. He was not confident that it would work, but was willing to try it if I was willing. It seemed like a right idea, so I agreed.

We made an appointment for it, and as I was leaving, he said, "And I recommend you try prayer. I believe in that." I was a little stunned to hear that from a dentist, but I thanked him, assured him that I do pray, and told him that I was a practicing Christian Scientist. He immediately responded that his mother also was a Christian Scientist, and that "he believed in that stuff."

I went home and prayed to God for help. I worked with the thought that was given to me years ago by our teacher: "My teeth are rooted and grounded in Love."

The next day I went back and he tried the less drastic fix. It worked. The pain left and the tooth remained intact. When he finished, he told me that I was very lucky. He was sure that I was going to lose the tooth. I could only smile and thank him. I said that God had answered my prayer. Then I looked squarely at him and told him that he also was an answer to my prayer.

I'm so grateful that God led me to a dentist who genuinely appreciates the power of prayer. It helps me appreciate the statement by Mrs. Eddy in our textbook (p. 198),

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“Hence the importance that doctors be Christian Scientists.” And I thank God that He answered my prayer and met my need at that time.

G. S.

New Jersey

Several weeks ago I had a healing of seeing the owner of the company that I work for as obnoxious and controlling to all his employees. When he spoke to anyone, it was in attack mode. Through the prayers of a practitioner in the Plainfield Church, I was healed of seeing him incorrectly and learned to see him as a child of God. I was given statements as, “You work for God,” “God put you in that position and He holds you there,” and “The only thing he can do is to bless you.”

The practitioner continued to pray, and I saw the owner as a perfect child of God, loving and kind and knowing that God was in control.

Three weeks ago my boss was on vacation and since I was next in command, I had to work directly with the owner. I prayed every time I needed to speak to him, and the experience was wonderful! He was kind and listened to what I had to say, and we even had a few laughs together. Only God could have healed this situation. This man had been so unpleasant to everyone, and now he is a complete gem. In our last meeting, I was given a compliment by the owner and my boss almost fell off her chair.

God can and will heal every situation that we experience. I am so grateful that I can call on a Plainfield practitioner, who always turns me to God and every problem turns into a blessing.

Thank God for Christian Science.

S. W.

New Jersey

While reading the Lesson the other day, I was reminded of the wonderful safety that God provides for His children.

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In the area that I live, there are many summer weekend festivities at nearby towns. When my daughter was a young teenager, she asked if she could go with some friends, with one of the mothers as a chaperone. This was something that those of us that live here all enjoy, so I let her go.

While she was at the festival I felt a great sense of unease about her safety. At first I passed it off as being paranoid and tried to enjoy watching a TV show without interruptions. The unease just would not go away. I finally listened, began to pray, and kept at it until the discomfort ceased. Later my daughter told me that she was approached by a drunken man in an isolated area of the park. She was alone, frightened, and unable to get away from him. Somehow his wife found them, apologized to my daughter, and literally dragged the man away.

I am so thankful to God for His persistence in not allowing me to ignore His warning, and for the loving protection He provides for all His children. His arms definitely do encircle and keep us safe.

C. G.

Wisconsin

A few months ago I called a practitioner from this church, as I was in very serious trouble, having just been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. While I had to go through all of the ominous results of test after negative test, the practitioner patiently guided my thoughts away from anxiety and fear to God and the Truth. He guided me to various pages in Science and Health, which I incorporated into my daily reading.

The miracle of healing began to unfold. Sometimes it comes slowly because there are underlying issues that must be healed first. But if we are patient, God will bring those issues to our attention. First I realized that I had not been putting God first. I had allowed everything else

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to occupy my thoughts and time more than God. Then my heart awakened and the need to forgive was brought to my attention. Slowly, I am learning to relinquish the control to God. I worked with the practitioner, prayed earnestly, and applied the teachings of Science and Health.

The doctors painted a very devastatingly negative forecast and phoned non-stop for me get chemotherapy started right away. I had an upcoming appointment with the new oncologist, and again the practitioner guided me to turn to God with all of my heart. He told me to let the Christ go before me to that appointment. The next day the oncologist looked at the scans and said "I don't believe that there is cancer in your pancreas, and I'm not even sure these tests are very definitive." I left his office laughing and couldn't wait to call the practitioner.

The healings continue to come as God heals us, at the deepest levels that we can possibly imagine. I had been my mother's caretaker until her death, and the toll that took on both of us left me guilt-laden and angry with her and other family members. The pain of how our relationship ended had tormented me for years. The healing took place in the form of a beautiful dream in which my mother came to me and wrapped her arms around me while we both told each other how sorry we were. We hugged and cried. It was the healing I desperately needed because it released years of pent-up guilt and resentment, and I felt a freedom that I haven't felt in years.

I am very grateful to God, this church, and practitioner for everything I have been taught and what I continue to learn. I am grateful for the spiritual teaching of Mary Baker Eddy. I have received such incredible support that I never would have received anywhere else.

M. C.
Pennsylvania



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