

The
CORNERSTONE
of
Independent
Christian Science

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

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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.plainfieldcs.com

Our services and adult Sunday class are broadcast live!



Plainfield Christian Science Church

Independent

905 Prospect Avenue

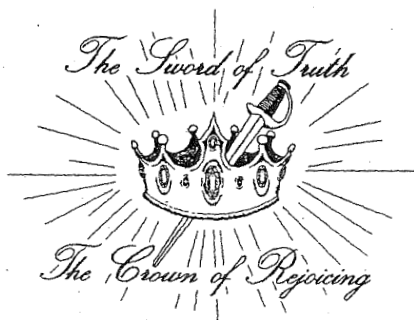
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Independent Christian Science

Unfettered by institutional religion

If anyone is wondering,
this church is in no way affiliated with The
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Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

Following are excerpts from writings of Mary Baker Eddy.

To know that “All things work together for good to them that love God,” even when every material evidence points to the appearance that evil is in control of a situation or condition, is to abide unshaken in a spiritual composure that the world cannot take away.

Divinity Course and General Collectanea



Excerpt from Retrospection and Introspection

Mary Baker Eddy

The Bible was my textbook. It answered my questions as to how I was healed; but the Scriptures had to me a new meaning, a new tongue. Their spiritual signification appeared; and I apprehended for the first time, in their spiritual meaning, Jesus’ teaching and demonstration, and the Principle and rule of spiritual Science and metaphysical healing, — in a word, Christian Science.

I beheld with ineffable awe our great Master’s purpose in not questioning those he healed as to their disease or its symptoms, and his marvellous skill in demanding neither obedience to hygienic laws, nor prescribing drugs to support the divine power which heals. Adoringly I discerned the Principle of his holy heroism and Christian example on the cross, when he refused to drink the “vinegar and gall,” a preparation of poppy, or aconite, to allay the tortures of crucifixion.

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Our great Way-shower, steadfast to the end in his obedience to God's laws, demonstrated for all time and peoples the supremacy of good over evil, and the superiority of Spirit over matter.

The miracles recorded in the Bible, which had before seemed to me supernatural, grew divinely natural and apprehensible; though uninspired interpreters ignorantly pronounce Christ's healing miraculous, instead of seeing therein the operation of the divine law.



Mother's Lesson

Take this lesson to yourself, and whenever anything happens to you of an unfortunate nature, do not admit anything on the wrong side, but instantly declare that the experience does you good. Even if you should fall down and break your leg, get up and say, "I am the better for this experience." This is the truth as God would declare it, for every attempt of evil, when surmounted and destroyed, helps the one who is attacked, and your quick and right declaration to the effect that instead of harming you, it has done you good, breaks the claim of evil, and you become a law to yourself that evil cannot harm you.

Divinity Course and General Collectanea

Talking does not do any good. You must live the truth and demonstrate it.

Divinity Course and General Collectanea

QUESTION: How much Christian Science do you know? The approved answer: Only what I can demonstrate.

Divinity Course and General Collectanea

First Edition of Science and Health

In referring to the First Edition of Science and Health, Mary Baker Eddy described herself as “a scribe under orders,” as thoughts came from God so quickly, she was barely able to write fast enough to set them all down. Of future editions of Science and Health she said, “I have hidden it, hidden it, hidden it.”

Leaning on the sustaining Infinite with loving trust, the trials of to-day are brief, and to-morrow is big with blessings.

The time for thinkers has come; and the time for revolutions, ecclesiastic and social, must come.

Contentment with the past, or the cold conventionality of custom, may no longer shut the door on science; though empires fall, “He whose right it is shall reign.”

The science of man alone can make him harmonious, unfold his utmost possibilities, and establish the perfection of man.

To admit God the Principle of all being, and live in accordance with this Principle, is the Science of Life, but to reproduce the harmony of being, errors of personal sense must be destroyed.

There are many theories of physics, and theology; and many calls in each of their direction for the right way; but we propose to settle the question of “What is Truth?” on the ground of proof. Let that method of healing the sick and establishing Christianity, be adopted, that is found to give the most health, and make the best Christians, and you will then give science a fair field; in which case we are assured of its triumph over all opinions and beliefs. Sickness and sin have ever had their doctors, but the question is, have they become less because of them?

“Feed My Sheep”

Do not go on past work. Each day is God’s unfoldment. Do not let words stand. Make it a spontaneous unfoldment of God’s idea.

Mary Baker Eddy, Collectanea

God does not ask how much we do, but how we do it.

James Freeman Clarke



Day

Bicknell Young

When you awaken in the morning, realize and repeat understandingly and *at once* — “There is only one Mind.” And right then before the mesmerism of the day is taken in, establish the truth about Day, as given in the Glossary of Science and Health.

Know that the belief of time has no dominion over you or others — you have dominion over it. Establish your days in consciousness and unfoldment. Day has no routine. When you awaken, know that you have time and opportunity to do all things that you need to do this day. Declare that there is one Mind, that all things are already done in Mind and that you have not a thing to do but be clear in consciousness so that Mind may unfold. If you stick to this, you will have plenty of time and opportunity to do all things that you need to do. Know in the morning that Day is the unfoldment of His plan; inspiration that does not know how to begin nor end. All the incidents of God’s day are already arranged.

What do you have to do today? You have one thing to do, and that is to know the Truth. When confronted with 16 hours work, just know the Truth the first thing. Do not start

“Feed My Sheep”

out with the belief that you have certain things to do. If you do, you are mesmerized already. You must know this before you get started or it is too late. Infinite unfoldment never begins, never ends, and is never interrupted for a moment, and when you are declaring this forever unfoldment of God’s day, plan, and purpose, this is healing for today.

Infinite Love knows no limitation, it cannot be restricted in achievement, and Its laws are irrevocable and cannot be interfered with. This day does not begin nor end; it does not bring you, or me, nor anyone nearer the tomb in belief nor at all. This day takes you and all creation nearer immortality. This day is the very action of Omniscience. There is no power manifested in this day but Omnipotence. This day has divine order and it comes about scientifically. All requirements of this day are established and do not require time.

No problem can enter God’s day. Mind is not engaged with problems. Mind unfolds Its ideas without interruption. It has all versatility, all originality, and all variety. It is infinite and all its manifestations are complete, whole and satisfied, for man is a state of God’s complete and supreme satisfaction.

This DAILY work will do much that you cannot appreciate at once. Right understanding of Day lifts the burden of mortal belief and serves to dissipate the current mesmerism of mortal mind, as well as protecting you from its claims.

Collected Writings

One of Mrs. Eddy’s students was very irritable over having to do so much domestic work. She said she did not have time for so much material work. Mrs. Eddy smiled and said, “I didn’t know there was any material work.”

Essays and Other Footprints

Don't Rush, Just Trust!

Florence Roberts

Before finding Plainfield Church, I was a wreck going somewhere, but not knowing where. I knew something was wrong when the truths I was being given did not help me overcome one of the most disturbing habits I had — the habit of rushing around.

Listening to the Plainfield teachings, I learned that haste is animal magnetism, something I never knew before. I learned that “day” is unfoldment, as Bicknell Young says in the article “Day,” in *Collected Writings*. I learned that if I held fast in my heart to the truth that God governs my day, I would also trust that everything I had to do would get done, according to His orderly plan. So I started to trust that God knew everything I had to do, and that He would not let me miss anything.

I was reminded of this healing recently when I had so many things coming at me. I found myself rushing like I used to do. Standing in my kitchen I heard clearly, “Don’t rush, just trust”; and this came with a beautiful sense of peace. I repeated what I knew, that God governs every moment of my day, and the awful feeling of rushing went away.

I am grateful for everything that I have learned through this church; it’s been a life changing experience for me.



Succumbing to the Storm

Jeremy Palmer

The Bible tells that when Jesus and his disciples were in a ship, a great storm of wind arose. Jesus was asleep in the

“Feed My Sheep”

ship, and the disciples woke him, fearful that they would succumb to the storm. “And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.” (Mark)

Before learning about Christian Science, I was taught that Jesus was God, and as such, had power that we and the disciples didn’t have. When he rebuked the wind and calmed the sea, it was his own power doing it. So when he asked the disciples why they didn’t have faith, I thought he simply meant faith in him.

Now that I have been learning Christian Science, I understand this so much differently. I see that the storm is only an idea that had become magnified in consciousness by the disciples’ fearful thoughts. As Mary Baker Eddy wrote in *Science and Health*, “If you decide that climate or atmosphere is unhealthy, it will be so to you. Your decisions will master you, whichever direction they take.”

The disciples’ fear had taken hold, and they probably talked amongst themselves about how the storm was getting worse. Then Jesus rebuked and calmed them, and thus the danger was nullified. Had Jesus not been there, the apostles would have succumbed to the storm because their faith was in matter — in the apparent strength of the storm itself — and not in God, where all faith belongs.

But Jesus was there, not as God, but as “The highest human corporeal concept of the divine idea, rebuking and destroying error and bringing to light man’s immortality.” (S&H) He was showing all of us the ideal we should aspire to.

I am incredibly grateful to be here learning Christian Science, because it replaces the arbitrary with the practical, and ambivalence with Love.

“Sing Praises to the Lord”

This section features the words to musical presentations recently sung in Plainfield Church.

Not My Will

Peter Kidd

When I don't know the way to take,
And even when I think I do;
Before I make a choice, I turn to you, dear Lord.
If You want me to stay where I am, I will,
If You want me to go somewhere else, I will.
Though I might prefer one way over the other one —
Not my will but Thine be done.

The people who are dear to me,
And thoughts and things close to my heart
Help me to see if I hold back any part from You.
If You want me to cast them aside, I will;
If You want me to cherish them more, I will.
I'll be ready for any change after I've begun.
Not my will but Thine be done.

If I don't trust it all to Your care,
Then I'm not really trusting You at all.
Help me understand and live the truth behind it —
How that by laying down my life, I will find it —

For I know that Your will is a perfect one.
Only blessings can come from the Perfect One.
If, while on Your path, I am tempted to turn and run —
Not my will, but Thine be done.

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Lives Transformed

Following are testimonies from people whose lives have been completely transformed by turning to God and independent Christian Science.

I was introduced to Christian Science by my now wife. She knew I was an avid reader and left a copy of Science and Health at my house.

I read the book from the front cover to the back. About half way through my reading, I no longer had the desire for alcohol. About three-quarters of the way through, I lost the desire for tobacco; and after finishing my first reading, I was cured of the start of cataracts.

Over the years, I only went to church services on occasion and would only read the weekly Lesson once in a while. I slowly drifted from the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy, only using Christian Science if I needed help with a physical problem. As of late, being in need of a physical healing, I was led to the Plainfield Church and procured the help of a church practitioner.

I have been working out my problem for over a month and could not figure out why I was not having a healing. It then dawned on me that I was like an empty vessel. I had drifted so far from Christian Science, that I had no weapons to fight animal magnetism. In World War II the Russian army was long on men and short on weapons. They had one rifle for every five soldiers. They would charge the German lines, and when a soldier with a weapon went down, one without a weapon would grab the rifle and continue on. I was like the Russian soldier running blindly with no way to protect myself.

I am very grateful for the Plainfield Christian Science armory, and am busy refilling my arsenal with the weaponry and ammunition that I will need to continue my fight. I

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am also grateful for a Christian Science church that teaches Christian Science as it was meant to be taught, and for all I am learning through working with a Plainfield practitioner.

*B. M.
Oregon*

I work for the Federal Government, which recently shut down for a short time. But thank God, heaven is still open! In addition to being heavily involved in wrapping up fiscal year 2013 contract requirements this past month, my department was charged with government shutdown planning and execution. Most of my colleagues were anxious and fearful. They were afraid of being furloughed. Before finding the Plainfield Church, I, too, would have been anxious and fearful — but no more. Now I know that my Redeemer liveth. On Monday morning we were required to go to work just to get our furlough letters. My Director handed me a furlough letter and immediately rescinded it, saying that something told him that I needed to be there during the shutdown. Praise God, my Redeemer liveth! I am so grateful for this Church and for Christian Science.

Before joining the Plainfield Church, my heart was heavy and I was fearful and tired, looking for God in all the wrong places — in people, places, and things, and in books — lots of books! And the church I was attending was a cold material structure without life, truth, and love. Week after week, I left church feeling empty, alone, and further away from God. I felt like I was “playing church” and I was all churched out. Now I look forward to church — the services at Plainfield are the highlight of my life. God has put a new song in my heart — one of joy, hope, and thanksgiving.

*L. F.
Maryland*

Watching Points

The book 500 Watching Points was written by Gilbert C. Carpenter, C.S.B., and Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr., C.S.B. These watching points were written for Mr. Carpenter's students, "to broaden their demonstration of Christian Science as Mrs. Eddy set the example in her home."

Watching Point No. 496 Gilbert C. Carpenter

WATCH that you realize that you are a *terror to error*, that your consciousness of God is so effective and powerful, and you are the custodian of such vast power, that the moment you apply it, *it does things*, it dissipates error and leaves the infinite good filling all space. The time must come when we recognize ourselves as aggressors, rather than merely defenders of the faith. There is a temptation to feel that there exists a great lie claiming to be power, and that we must forever protect ourselves against it. Like the knights of old we must ride forth with shield and sword to defend ourselves against error, so that we may destroy it. Yet this conception does not fit Mrs. Eddy's statement that she used to do her work with the realization that *God is All*. The answer is that this phase of our experience is a necessary but passing one. We must recognize ourselves as terrors to error, until we can rise to the realization that there is no error, since *God is All*.

Some students fail because they regard animal magnetism as a lion, and themselves as but a rabbit. We are the lion equipped with God's power. The lie retreats when we face it with divine courage.

Mrs. Eddy once said, "Animal magnetism is powerless — but you must declare against it as though it had *all power*."

The Plainfield Bible Study

Following are some points discussed at 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 on to the church website, plainfieldcs.com, for dial-in information. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Lesson: Soul Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau

Jacob and Esau were twins, the sons of Rebekah and Isaac. For a long time, Rebekah was barren. It was the result of Isaac and Rebekah's deep prayer to God that she gave birth. While Jacob and Esau were in the womb, God told Rebekah that the elder (Esau) would serve the younger.

Rebekah sensed that God had a purpose for Jacob. He was the more spiritual of the two, the more quiet one — a scholar, who went to his grandfather, Abraham, and to the tent of Melchizedek, to learn and to receive the word of God. Esau seemed to be more materially minded — a rough man, a hunter, who would go away for days at a time. He sold his birthright to Jacob for a meal, when he came back, hungry, from hunting.

The Blessing

Rebekah heard Isaac telling Esau, the eldest, that he was going to bless Esau before he died. But Rebekah told Jacob to go in his place and get the blessing. At first, Jacob was afraid that he would be cursed. But Rebekah said, "Do what I say, and if there is a cursing, I'll take the curse." She was divinely governed and acted with tremendous conviction. There was no doubt she heard the voice of God. A

Bible Study

Bible commentary said maybe Rebekah should have talked to her husband. But it was hard for a woman back then to take a stand — women didn't have the right; so if they went to devious means, that's likely the only way they could get the job done.

Rebekah was a woman of God. She didn't pray about something and then not do anything about it, wondering if she really heard God's voice. What a great lesson!

Jacob got his father's blessing; and when Esau found out, he was furious and said he would kill Jacob. So Jacob had to flee. He went to live with his uncle Laban. During his journey, he had a dream. He saw a ladder, and the angels of God going up and down the ladder; and God spoke to him, telling him that his progeny would be blessed and would cover the earth. He didn't doubt; he knew it was God speaking. God blessed Jacob, and everything he did prospered.

Jacob returns home

At the end of 20 years, God told Jacob to return home. Jacob remembered that Esau wanted kill him, but he was ready to obey what God told him to do. Even though Jacob was being told to go somewhere where he thought he was going to be destroyed, he followed God's direction. We can apply this lesson to ourselves. Following God's direction is not always easy. In fact, Mary Baker Eddy has said, if there were two ways to go and she had to decide which was God speaking to her, it was usually the more difficult way.

On the way back to his home, Jacob was told that his brother, Esau, was coming to meet him with 400 men, and he became afraid. Then Jacob "was left alone," and spent the night wrestling with "a man." This was clearly not a physical fight, since he was alone. What he was wrestling with was the false sense of himself, this false sense of self that had to go in order to serve God with an unselfed heart.

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Jacob wouldn't let go until he received the blessing. In any situation, we need to work through it until we get the blessing. And when he met his brother, he "fell on his neck and kissed him."

This story is relevant to now

This Lesson is about our real identity in Soul. Mrs. Eddy says, "Jacob was *alone*, wrestling with error, — struggling with a mortal sense of life, substance, and intelligence as existent in matter...." (S&H) As we really struggle and get rid of the false sense of personality, we find our individuality in Soul, in God. Jacob was getting rid of the sense of himself as separate from God. This is a process we all have to go through, it can't be avoided. We have to loathe this sense of who we are as separate from God, then God opens the way. Unless you loathe it, you won't get rid of it, you'll compromise yourself with it.

These are all lessons as to how we can live our lives better. Mrs. Eddy says the personal sense of self, the false sense of who and what you are, is more important to get rid of than sin, disease, and death. Once you get rid of that, sin, disease and death can't pin themselves on you. You become better at everything; you don't have to fear, because you've got all this human stuff out of the way and God shines through you in infinite individuality.



Progress is spiritual. Progress is the maturing conception of divine Love; it demonstrates the scientific, sinless life of man and mortal's painless departure from matter to Spirit, not through death, but through the true idea of Life, — and Life not in matter but in Mind.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Miscellany*

Announcements

Discerning the Rights of Man

We have just published a newly typeset paperback version of *Discerning the Rights of Man*, by Richard Oakes. Mr. Oakes was a friend of the Carpenters, and gives a compelling first-hand history of their efforts to preserve some of Mary Baker Eddy's treasured writings, available for all to read. The price is \$6.00 per copy.

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 is a lecture 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 Web site. Contact the church if you do not have access to the Web site.

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

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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 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.

Our Roundtable is also available 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!

Announcements

Live Services on the Internet

Plainfield Church broadcasts both our Sunday and Wednesday evening services, including the Sunday Roundtable, 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.

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 on the Bulletin Board 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 to join us in membership. Please contact us, and we'll be happy to send you an application!

“Comfort Ye My People”

Since man is the image and likeness of God, he is endowed with divine authority over every suggestion of fear, doubt, mistrust, failure, or defeat.

Maybelle Saunders



The Lamb Slays the Wolf

Parthens

Mary Baker Eddy writes, “The understanding, even in a degree, of the divine All-power destroys fear, and plants the feet in the true path.” (S&H)

At the close of vacation Bible school, 7 year-old Jenny received her special pin, a beautiful golden cross, the reward for memorizing and reciting a scripture: “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (II Timothy 1:7). Her Bible teacher had told her that whenever we are fearful, we should immediately recognize this feeling as a lie, as having nothing to do with the truth, God. God’s children do not experience fear, and therefore whenever we feel challenged, tempted to surrender to a spirit of timidity or fearfulness, we should immediately remember what He has given us, replace the fear with awareness of power, love, and of a sound mind, ever-reminding ourselves of II Timothy 1:7. Little did Jenny know that this scripture would soon have a profound effect on her life far beyond that which she and her Bible teacher could have ever imagined.

“Comfort Ye My People”

On a beautiful day, later that same summer, Jenny was walking home with her companions from the local shopping mall. At times, Jenny paused to observe the beauty of the flowers lining the sidewalk, and soon she was separated from her friends, who were now about half a block away.

Suddenly a speeding pickup truck appeared, and just as suddenly its brakes squealed, and the passenger door opened violently at the curb, in perfect alignment with Jenny. Two hands grabbed her forcefully, and in a flash, she found herself the sole passenger in a speeding pickup truck driven by a madman.

But, despite all of this, the little girl was somehow able to recall what her Bible teacher had told her, to deal with fear as something completely apart from God, as distant from any child of God as east is from west. Somehow she knew that to give place to fear — in any situation — was disobedience to II Timothy 1:7. So Jenny began to face the intense frightfulness of her situation and to deny it as a lie, by saying, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind”; to un-feel the emotion of fear and cast it out, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” In a moment of grace, she found herself becoming very thoughtful, and the more she repeated the scripture out loud, the less fearful she became, until the fear was completely destroyed. “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” The more she repeated the scripture, the more she was able to concentrate on its meaning, and nothing else, like a student hungry to learn, reaching out to understand, trying to solve a problem in arithmetic. “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” Suddenly, the truck-driver slammed on the

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brakes. His fists pounded on his temples, and he screamed at the child, "Get out of here!"

Jenny opened the door and, as soon as her feet touched the sidewalk, the truck sped away.

This story was told to me by Jenny's 10-year-old cousin.



Making Faith Work

Dorothy Klein

Faith is not a passive, but an active quality. Once we've been healed through the understanding of God, we can be confident in the face of any error, because we know that what we have proved of divine Love before, we can and will prove again. This faith strengthens us and causes us to hold firmly and buoyantly to Truth.

Even though Herod put Peter in prison with the intent of putting him to death, this did not deter him or the early Christian workers, for "prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." (Acts) Peter was set free because he and his friends loved and trusted in the Word of God so absolutely that this truth destroyed the imprisoning beliefs of limitation, obstruction, and hatred.

Active faith put to work today bears fruit in every circumstance. It glorifies God by acknowledging Him as supreme and all powerful under all conditions.

Faith that is based on spiritual understanding goes forward undaunted in the face of trials, confident that every prayer, every statement of truth, is effective to destroy error. Armed with faith in God, good, it is possible for us to go on from proof to proof, ever expressing more and more of the Christ, Truth, in our daily experience.

Comments from Readers

Please find attached my signed copy for membership in the Plainfield Independent Christian Science Church. I look forward to learning and growing in the true and absolute concept of Christian Science which Mary Baker Eddy brought to mankind.

Alaska

The Roundtable discussions are clear, strong teaching, and the Sunday Services are wonderful. Thank you, Peter and Faith, for the sweet harmonies of your singing together.

Costa Rica

Thank you for the many treasures shared in Saturday's Bible Study and Sunday Roundtable. The question was asked, "What is the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus?" A practitioner stated that the greatest prize is putting off the old sense of self, gaining a sense of oneness with God, feeling the presence of God, feeling not anxiety but quiet dominion, peace, clarity, joy. Thank you so much for this!

Virginia

I want to express my gratitude to all of you at Plainfield Church who are doing a superb job. I am especially grateful to be learning from a practitioner who said if we cannot go out and spread the word, we can very much help with our prayers and watches, since I have no family left and I see very few people.

Our church services, Bible studies, and Roundtable classes are precious to me. Our website is fantastic! Thank you for the audio, Bible Lesson read by Joseph, Andrew's wonderful readings of Mrs. Eddy's writings, and Mary

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Beth's posted testimonies, which are treatments in themselves. I shall continue to pray for and contribute to our church.

Illinois

Thanks to God for the Roundtable and church services. It is such a representation of what Plainfield is all about; sharing the Truth in order to uplift mankind. I now know the importance of doing instead of trying to do; and because this is a loving demand, I know that I am capable of this, as is my fellow man. I love the thought of checking myself, ensuring that I am always loving God, myself, and everyone. This is something for me to practice at each moment.

Thanks to Faith and Peter for the reminder that God's light is shining and that it is up to us to turn to face this light.

Maryland

I would like to give my sincerest gratitude to the practitioners and to all of you who participate in the Bible studies that I have been quietly listening to for a while. If you are feeling they have little value or that your responses to the questions, correct or not, are not causing others to grow in Science, please consider that they are healing those who have limited understanding, and bringing to light the Truth for those who are seeking this Truth.

New York

Wow, I love the new upgrades to the website. Having worked many years in IT, I can say this website is by far one of the better ones I have seen. Congratulations Plainfield on this amazing upgrade. I love the new search engine box. I was able to find articles on various subjects without a hitch.

Canada

Comments from Readers

I find your website more inspiring than ever. The Lessons, the Roundtable discussions, the songs, services, and the articles are truly wonderful. I thank you all so much!

United Kingdom

I would like to express my gratitude to each of you for all your hard work and effort to keep the true practice of Christian Science alive through not only the Sunday and Wednesday services, but also the watches, and the engaging Roundtable discussions, and the Sunday School that you offer for young people. It is all most appreciated by those of us who live so far away.

Please accept the enclosed contribution to help support your efforts to reach out and bring this healing Science to people all over the world.

Georgia

Thank you for your beautiful and inspired services, and for your wonderful website. Both have helped me “un-learn” previous misconceptions. The unlearning process is still going on, and most importantly, new insights are constantly unfolding in my consciousness leading me spiritward with much joy and gratitude.

Arizona

I would like to express my appreciation for the weekly Bible Lesson.

This morning I arose and felt disturbed by some comments that were made yesterday. Nothing seemed to work to raise me from the muck. Then as I do every morning, I studied the weekly Bible Lesson. By the time I was finished, the oppression had lifted.

What a wonderful church, practitioners, great Bible Lessons, and great website.

Wisconsin

Breaking Down Misconceptions of Christian Science

Shipwrecked

Tony Moore

Mary Baker Eddy has written, “Students of Christian Science, who start with its letter and think to succeed without the spirit, will either make shipwreck of their faith or be turned sadly awry. They must not only seek, but strive, to enter the narrow path of Life, for ‘wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.’” (S&H)

Before finding Plainfield Church, I read this statement in Science and Health, and I believed 100% that I was on the “narrow path of Life” and should be enjoying the benefits of being a perfect child of God. I was a Christian Scientist, for God’s sake, because I was class-taught and raised in Science.

There is such danger in thinking you are safe in His abiding because you know the letter through reading, listening, and conversation about it.

Then a serious storm came into my life. It was an agonizing experience. It was a complete destruction of my life as I knew it. The Science that I had been taught was completely useless, a complete failure. The teacher and practitioner I had been with for 18 years could not save my son.

I left the Boston church organization and this teacher/practitioner three years ago for Plainfield. About a year and a half ago I asked him why he, as a teacher and my practitioner, neglected to teach and warn me (and his large association) of the importance of living the spirit, uncovering sin in my thought and atoning for it, and striving to cast off the old man and his filthiness. He said it was too hard to

Breaking Down Misconceptions of Christian Science

teach the “spirit” of things. I now realize that he was (is) ignorant of what real Christian Science practice is.

Our Response:

“The ordinary teachings are material and not spiritual. Christian Science teaches only that which is spiritual and divine, and not human.” (S&H) When you institutionalize the teaching of Christian Science, it becomes too difficult to teach the “spirit” of things. Therefore it is no longer Christian Science. It is something else, something human, in the name of Christian Science — a deadly mistake.



Error Is at War Against Truth

Jeremy Palmer

I am so grateful for the Dixon Letter that has been made available through Plainfield Church, and can be found on our website. The strength of its wording really shattered my belief that practicing Christian Science was supposed to be a passive, peaceful activity. Error is at *war* against Truth, and we need to actively expose it.

I welcome the pointed language that brings about needed change; the phrase “Black Magic” in the Dixon Letter was like a sword through my misconceptions, and I sorely needed that shock. The letter states, “I have found that so-called ‘Black Magic’ works very widely among Christian Scientists. I have found the cause of this subtle error to be the fact that the average Christian Scientist lacks the right knowledge of how and why animal magnetism works.”

I now understand what is meant by mesmerism, as I have begun to feel the passing of this belief. I also see why strong wording is sometimes crucial to cast off these beliefs. Flowery words calmly stated are not always enough to make meaningful changes in one’s heart — sometimes we

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need the message to be loud and “in your face”!

The words of the Bible, Science and Health, and all the teachings and writings that I am presented with here in Plainfield cover the gamut of every possible wording I might need to understand the Truth. I am so grateful to everyone at this church who has held the front lines, and I am grateful that God chose to bring me here.



True Christian Science

Clark Johnson

Thank you for telling the truth about Christian Science. There has been a lot of damage done over the years by that “Boston Church.” Many people come to Plainfield to hear the Truth, not some watered-down, whitewashed version of Christian Science. I like the fact that you tell it like it is, no lies, just the Truth and Love and compassion. When I hear you speak, you remind me of the old fire and brimstone preachers of years gone by, keeping the congregation awake to the truth of God’s word. Keep up the excellent work! I joined Plainfield for the Truth, not sugar-coated lies, and I am getting the Truth. It is better to tell the truth than hide from it.

To fall away from Truth in times of persecution, shows that we never understood Truth. From out the bridal chamber of wisdom there will come the warning, “I know you not.” Unimproved opportunities will rebuke us when we attempt to claim the benefits of an experience we have not made our own, try to reap the harvest we have not sown, and wish to enter unlawfully into the labors of others. (S&H)

Mary Baker Eddy

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 to 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, "Mind."

"He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." Am I a Christian?

Not worthy?? YES! If Christ is not dearer to our heart than all family relations, we are not Christian, and certainly not a Christian Scientist!! How dare we turn to God for help that none other can give, and yet cling to a family member as our most sacred possession?

Further, in Christian Science, we declare God is our Father-Mother, that we are spiritual, never born into matter, etc. — and yet are we willing to do what Job did,"secretly accept persons," and then lose everything?

Response:

Why should there be a separation? Maybe we should see our family members differently, see them as God sees them? It seems more a warning against the personal sense of anyone.

Response:

Yes — but in practice, what would that mean for Job? If he saw his children as God saw them, but they continued their unprincipled action, would he just “know the truth” — or would he be roused into action, recognizing that, “animal magnetism” was aggressively asserting itself; and unless he did something to break the mesmerism, they were in grave danger? Stamp his foot, withdraw all funds, shout — whatever it takes to break the selfish, self-centered behavior which is *not* what God sees!! Simply “knowing the truth” would be no better than praying that God forgive their iniquities!

Response:

From Science and Health: “We apprehend Life in divine Science only as we live above corporeal sense and correct it.” Job claimed to be a righteous man, but he saw his children indulging in materialism, becoming satisfied with a material, human sense of existence, and he did nothing to help them out of it. He didn’t correct anything! As a result, he had to go through a gut-wrenching experience before he was willing to listen to Elihu, get rid of his personal sense of existence, and give it all to God.

Response:

Mrs. Eddy says on page 266, “Would existence without personal friends be to you a blank? Then the time will come when you will be solitary, left without sympathy; but this seeming vacuum is already filled with divine Love.”

What is this personal sense of others? One description would be when you think there is either personal good or personal bad. “Good” comes only from God. “Bad” is the suppositional absence of Light or God, Good. Job must

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have thought his children were basically bad. He personalized the error; therefore, could not deal with it. He unwittingly became a malpractitioner — on his own children! If he knew the error was not theirs, he would have been able to cast it out with the authority of Christ — he definitely would not have prayed that God would overlook their sins!! What kind of prayer is that?!!

Response:

Job made his mistake, suffered for it, and was ultimately blessed as he found God like he never had before. The question for us is: Are we going to learn from his experience, or follow the same pattern?

Response:

“Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.” Sinned and cursed God in their hearts?!! Yes, Job definitely needed to take some strong action with this one, and as Mrs. Eddy has stated, “we must be a terror to error.” Nothing else would have worked.

Response:

In the parable of the prodigal son, the father gave his son’s inheritance to him, and bade him farewell; quietly, deliberately, allowing his son to indulge, unchallenged, his penchant for licentious prodigality — but without once replenishing his son’s purse, without once sending a rescue party after his son, without once affirming his son’s error by daily begging God to overlook it while incessantly beating the drum of “My child is in error, my child is indulging in error!”

The prodigal son’s father somehow knew that his son had so deeply and resolutely embraced the “imperfect

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model that the world [was] holding before [his] gaze continually” (S&H 248:20-21), that he was hell-bent on sculpting his life according to an imperfect model; thus, he simply bade him Adieu, understanding that, at this point, parental words and actions could not reach, much less teach his son — yet knowing that his son would be disciplined, indeed: by life itself, the harsh, self-punishing life-experience that lay ahead of him.

The prodigal son’s father somehow knew that he would have to beat a different drum if he were ever to see his son again. The father thus maintained an infinite, indomitable faith in the true image of God that his son truly was, is, and ever shall be, for he surely must have kept affirming and making real to himself his son’s true nature far and away beyond any temporary, albeit extreme, expression of selfishness. The father filled the blank emptiness of his one-son-less household with the extremity of Truth: the constructive-thought version of his missing son, present and accounted for, just as Mrs. Eddy advocates: “We must form perfect models in thought and look at them continually,” in ceaseless spiritual warfare allowing no imperfect hideously formed “matter-model” to take its place (S&H 248:26-27) — the son that, in reality, never left the father’s household.

Response:

Excellent! Divine Love heals, as was expressed in the story of the Prodigal Son — thus we truly love our family member or whomever, *more*, not less. Human love is just a sympathetic indulgence of the problem and can quickly turn into human resentment, frustration, etc. Why? Because there is no God in it.

“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.

Right is not subject to political pulling and hauling. Its majestic and irresistible influence and power cannot be interfered with by the poor stuff called politics.

Bicknell Young



“Labour Not for the Meat Which Perisheth”

William D. McCrackan

Riches lie in God, not in an employer. The tendency to divide human beings into rich and poor, laborers and capitalists, proceeds from material thinking. There is no dividing line between God’s children.

What can mere matter declare concerning man? All need healing, forgiveness, security, salvation, and substance — and Spirit alone can supply these needs. Therefore, all are equal before God.

The man of much money has no security for his riches except in God. Without divine protection, no investments are worth the paper they are written on. The steel walls of a bank safe are no protection against loss and poverty, unless these riches are turned over to God to keep.

Jesus once said to the crowd which followed him, “Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life.”

When substance is recognized as Spirit, substance can neither be lessened nor monopolized, and the gain of one

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does not detract from the gain of all. When man learns of the abundance of God, there will not be any strife or strike over who shall have, or who shall not have, as supply will not be a fearful or selfish consideration, since the Father will be recognized as the source of all good. The abundance of air and sunshine is never limited. Herein lies a lesson for rich and poor.



Watching

Candace Graulich

After a much labored watch, I realized that something was just not right. While reading *Christian Science; The Clear Correct Teaching and Complete Writings*, by Herbert Eustace, I came across this statement, which Mr. Eustace quotes from the second edition of *Historical Sketch*: “If any honest Christian Scientist can be deceived into believing that it is chance, not direction by malicious minds which are at work . . . the error prevents him from understanding enough of the question to insure his own defense and leaves him in the power of animal magnetism.”

What had I been accepting? Among other things, it had kept me from having productive watches and calling my practitioner when I normally do. It was not the lack of time, the supposedly mental block, or any other excuse but malicious animal magnetism. Now I am watching minute by minute, correcting, and not listening to malicious minds. What a difference it makes!

I am very grateful for all the resources that the Independent Plainfield Christian Science Church has made available for us to use, and for all that I am learning from listening to the Bible Study, Roundtable discussions, and participating three times a week during our unity watch.

Articles

Lent and Christian Science Andrew Kidd

Is it important to know about the Christian traditions of Ash Wednesday and Lent? In case you did not know, they are a celebration and reminder of human mortality, a sign of mourning and repentance to God. These traditions have no precedent in the Gospels, nor in the Epistles of St. Paul. They were institutionalized around the time that healing virtually disappeared as an essential element of Christianity!

This tradition is oppressive and tends to bind man instead of free him. I distinctly remember from my childhood, the strange atmosphere of guilt it brought — guilt and confusion. Surely this is one of the beliefs referred to in our textbook: “willingness to give up human beliefs (established by hierarchies, and instigated sometimes by the worst passions of men), open the way for Christian Science to be understood, and make the Bible the chart of life.” (S&H)

Mankind hardly needs a special reminder of human mortality! Far more useful would be a reminder that “man is immortal and lives by divine authority.” (S&H) Further, mourning and repenting to God ceremoniously is a trap to further enslave man. Repentance is only useful if it leads to reformation, and this should be an ongoing practice as we strive to have that Mind which was also in Christ Jesus.

Those who are enmeshed in the tradition of Ash Wednesday and Lent need our love, not more condemnation! But we can work to see the tradition and detrimental dogma dissolve into its native nothingness. “Those who discern Christian Science will hold crime in check. They will aid in the ejection of error. They will maintain law and order, and cheerfully await the certainty of ultimate perfection.” (S&H)

Gratitude

Benjamin Ndukwe

Gratitude is a mighty force, capable of blessing beyond every imagination. When you think about it, it seems very simple and can easily be ignored. But it is an important factor for divine success.

Here in Plainfield Church, I've been taught about the importance of gratitude and the blessing that it brings. It's been a very important part of my life. But recently, it seemed to be lacking a bit. Just recently I was involved in a business transaction with a partner who I have known very well as experienced and competent. But at some point, we started to experience some delays along the line, which made me lose my confidence in him and I became very upset, blaming him for the delay we were experiencing. I refused to take responsibility for the situation, and I wasn't praying enough, to say the least.

But God never hides anything from us. So one evening, as I was praying, the answer came to me, simple and clear. I have not been grateful enough. It stunned me because I had thought I was. I had not expressed it to the people that deserved it. In this particular situation, I had not been grateful enough to my partner for all the work and resources he has put into the project we are working on. Instead, I was wrapped up in self-virtue that resulted in anger towards this fellow. It hindered me from seeing him right and all the good he has already accomplished and his competence in handling this project. I was blinded by the error of self-virtue.

If you want people to perform to the highest standard, you must first hold them high in your thought. We are all God's image and likeness, capable of performing to our greatest ability. We must not let this standard of Truth

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about God's man drop a bit. We must hold this truth constantly in our thinking that man is the image of God, competent of the best work, if we would not invite the armies of sorrow, hate, pain, and sickness. Here, gratitude is all that is required, and it must be expressed.

I am very grateful for this immediate answer. The healing took place immediately. The anger and uneasiness disappeared. I started feeling the sense of God's presence and Love all around me. It was the best moment I've had in days. The situations that had been stalled in the last few days, have been healed. In fact, the resolution was instantaneous. My gratitude has returned, my communication with my partners has improved. I have not wasted any time in letting my gratitude show, especially to those that truly deserve it. It's such a good feeling and it's rewarding. I am very grateful to God for this important lesson, and all the good teaching that comes from this church.



But What If . . . ?

Susanne Abetti

Discussions revolve a lot around health insurance these days, and people seem to be terrorized about the thought of not being "insured." They might ask, "But what if you got...?" (Fill in the blank with one of the latest disease-fears out there.)

What might I answer? That I choose to put my faith in God, and not in a broken "system"!

I thought about the "What if's?"

What if . . . I take the promises in the Bible seriously?

What if . . . I honor the teachings of Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy with better discipleship? Christian Science

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teaching is based on the Bible. Jesus is our magnificent Wayshower. Mrs. Eddy discovered the fixed rules of this healing Science, and they are here for us to put to use.

What if . . . I turn away from the blather of mortal mind and hold to the Truth of God? Perfect God, perfect man, perfect universe. Where is there room for “What if’s” in that?

What if . . . I were a more earnest student of Christian Science?

What if . . . I heeded Jesus’ words, “What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch.”

What if . . . I, instead, were to see the entire situation as God sees it? With an all-harmonious God, who fills all space, where is there room for accidents or disease? There is none!

What if . . . I held to the Truth, every time I hear the fear about not being insured under some “plan”? Tell that morbid fear to “get thee hence!” Know that God has a perfect plan for every one of His children, and that, spiritually speaking, they are all covered by it!

What if . . . instead of putting faith in what might look like a great healthcare plan, or wishing I had one, I put my faith in the covenant that God has made with His children? This is beautifully stated in the 91st Psalm. In fact, memorizing this psalm to always have it in one’s heart is a healthcare plan we can truly rely on in conjunction with the teachings of Christian Science, as explained in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*.

My prayer is that all of God’s children feel His constant care and live “under the shadow of the Almighty.” That’s a place where we all can feel safe.



“Organization and Time” Carol Conroy

In *Science and Health*, Mary Baker Eddy has written, “Organization and time have nothing to do with Life.” “*Nothing to do with Life*”! — the life of each one of us, the life of our church, the life of our nation and all nations, the life of our planet, the life of all mankind.

The organization called the human body, which is said to be an organization of cells, organs, and who knows what, has nothing to do with Life. It can’t control Life, can’t impair Life, can’t intimidate Life, can’t end Life — or its manifestation. Then there’s the organization of weather patterns. They have nothing to do with Life — can’t freeze it, can’t burn it, can’t flood it, can’t blow it away.

Human organizations, like the medical profession, religious organizations, political factions, governments; the organization of germs said to cause some disease — hog-wash! They have nothing to do with Life.

Mrs. Eddy also says, “For right reasoning there should be but one fact before the thought, namely, spiritual existence. In reality there is no other existence, since Life cannot be united to its unlikeness, mortality.” (S&H)

So, if time has nothing to do with Life, there can be no age — neither too young nor too old — no wearing out of anything, nothing to oppose or interfere with continuous, productive Life. All the expressions of Life are forever fresh, perfect, and beautiful.

Life is not confined in matter; it can never be disrupted. Mrs. Eddy says, “God is the only Life.” Life and its manifestation is so far above organization and time, that those errors cannot even find it!

“Rising above the false, to the true evidence of Life, is the resurrection that takes hold of eternal Truth. Coming

and going belong to mortal consciousness. God is ‘the same yesterday, and to-day, and forever.’” (Un.) And that’s the truth about Life!



Persistence

Betty Simpson

Ever since some new neighbors moved in a few months ago, their dogs had been barking up a storm. It was so upsetting and disruptive, but what are you going to do? I finally mentioned this to a practitioner from the Plainfield Church, and he said that the owner’s thought was self-centered and the barking was unprincipled — and that I needed to speak up to the owners.

I had been trying to “know the truth” about the situation and had been reluctant to speak up directly. I had been trying to be a “good neighbor” by putting up with it (closing windows, not sitting outside, turning up the TV, etc.).

The practitioner gave me a few truths to work with and said “there is one Mind, and they — the homeowners — have that one Mind. This is a mesmerism, and mental warfare.” He then added, “when these things cease to bless they will cease to occur,” and “Truth persists, error does not.”

It still took me several days and some praying before I finally went over. The “final straw” was trying to do a watch through the barking. I asked the owner if he could keep the dogs quiet. He seemed unaware of the barking. It took a couple more complaints and two or three more calls to the practitioner before the barking was finally under control.

During this time the thought came to pray for the

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neighborhood using Morning Prayer in Mrs. Eddy's Household, from Watches, Prayers and Arguments, as a guide after reading the Lesson in the morning, and as part of watch time in the evening.

I had to learn that I needed to speak up to error right away, not hate the neighbor or the dogs, not be impressed or upset by the error, and to see it through. Mary Baker Eddy writes, "Undisturbed amid the jarring testimony of the material senses, Science, still enthroned, is unfolding to mortals the immutable, harmonious, divine Principle, — is unfolding Life and the universe, ever present and eternal." (S&H)

I'm happy to say the barking has stopped. I can now gratefully say it is quiet when I read the Lesson in the morning and do watches in the evening.

As an addendum to this story, while I was giving this testimony on Wednesday evening, a different neighbor's dog began barking a lot. Remembering that "when these things cease to bless they will cease to occur," a complaint was made right away and the problem was resolved.



Progress

Sharon Welsh

Mary Baker Eddy says in Science and Health, "Progress is the law of God, whose law demands of us only what we can certainly fulfil." This made me stop and think — if I am asked to do something by God, and I have an excuse, is it because I can't do it, or because I don't want to do it?

Why would God want me to do something that I can't do? This statement makes it clear. It is the human mind telling me I can't do it, when really I don't want to do it. I

will have all kinds of excuses — not enough time, I don't have the education that is needed, I don't have the funds, etc. God meets our needs, including the time and funds. Whatever I need to know, God will tell me how to do it, when to do it, and it will be right.

If I don't ask God what the next step is in getting it accomplished, I am holding back my own progress and disobeying God. This is not a good position to be in. Trust God and you will be able to accomplish whatever He wants you to do.



Testament to Watching Teresa Stolarski

The following is a testament to our watching from a watcher in Argentina.

How appropriate are our group watches to impress the importance of being alert; and when we do not maintain it constantly in our mind, we run the risk of losing the demonstration of Truth.

A few days ago I went back to my office by public transport bus, and there was a young couple with their small child of a few months. All of a sudden the mother started to scream, and to desperately call the baby by his name. I started to pray in silence to change the mental state of the mother, who right away showed a bit more serenity, but she kept patting the baby and calling him by his name. Then I observed the baby, and saw it had his little eyes turned over, and it was completely pale and stiff.

The people started to get closer, and I knew then I had to hit mortal mind and its pretension of the manipulation

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of life in matter. In a loud voice I asked everyone to stay in their seats, saying that “God is the life of this child,” and “nothing is going on, He is also the life of all of us, and nothing is lost in unconsciousness, because all is the divine Consciousness, infinite Love, and we all are included in it.” I then addressed myself to the parents, and told them not to fear, this child is the image of God, and he is the pure and perfect expression of infinite good. And to the baby I said, “Come on Thiago” (that is how his mother called him), “you are completely spiritual, and God loves you.”

We had travelled about two kilometers in these circumstances, and I continued praying aloud, and thousands of voices came to my mind proclaiming the absolute Truth about this situation, and I repeated only what I could speak. In a moment the child started to cry, and the color came back to his little face, and his eyes were well. The mother embraced him and calmed him, and this little creature was healed from such an error.

When I left the bus, I could not stop weeping, because while I prayed for this child, I felt the infinite presence of God embracing us all. I understood that it was the Christ who in His divinity embraced us and spoke to us. The parents thanked me, but I told them to give thanks only to God, it is He who did it. I said a few things to the mother, to calm her, and left the bus. Several others left with me, and said they could not believe what had happened, if they had not witnessed it.

That is why this watch is so real to me. Only His omnipresence reigns and keeps us. It is not us but divine Love which does the work. I am very thankful for this, and I share it because it is the fruit of the joint work which we do for the cause.

May God bless all and each one of my friends from the Plainfield Church.

Thy Lovingkindness Mary Beth Singleterry

The Psalmist David says in Psalm 143, “Cause me to hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in Thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto Thee.”

I love this prayer for many reasons. Have you ever awakened in the morning and felt like you couldn’t feel God’s Love at all, or felt grumpy and not very loving yourself, or felt like you didn’t know which way to go? This heartfelt prayer can help!

The word “cause” means “that which impels into existence.” What a wonderful thought. God can cause His presence to be felt! When we cry out to Him for help with these negative emotions — in our weakness He makes us strong! The Love that has really been ever-present becomes apparent, warming our hearts and minds.

It is unnatural not to feel God’s Love, and we must never accept it as “ok,” but fight with all our might until the mental miasma claiming to be real dissipates into its native nothingness!

In the words of the beautiful hymn No. 35:

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Uncompanioned, Lord, by Thee;
Joyless is the day’s return,
Till Thy mercy’s beams I see;
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.”



Testimonies of Healing

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

I would like to give this testimony of the healing of stomach cramps which my grandson, Freddie, was suffering from.

A few months ago my daughter called to say how worried she was about Freddie, as he was doubled up in pain, crying, and unable to eat anything. She said this had been going on for over a week and, although she had taken him to the doctor, there was no sign of improvement.

I asked her whether she would be willing to have Christian Science treatment for him, and she readily agreed. My family had seen at first hand a healing I had in 2002 when I was first introduced to Christian Science, and this proof reassured her.

I phoned a practitioner at Plainfield straight away, and she agreed to work at once for young Freddie. When I asked her how often I should ring her, as I was in England, she said I could phone her anytime; but I should ring several times that week so she was aware of his progress.

We spoke almost daily, and I felt so supported, and very impressed that, although she showed such love and compassion, I was aware of how firm she was in dealing with error and I saw the importance of this, which was very helpful to me.

She took away our fear, and in a few days Freddie gradually started to eat a little, which was a huge turning point because he had been so afraid to eat, as it brought on so much pain.

Needless to say his progress was steady, and within a few more days he was completely healed.

CornerStone

I'm so grateful to God for leading me to Plainfield Church last year, and I love listening to the services, Roundtable meetings, hymns, and I hope to be able to get more involved in the meetings.

C. W.
England

A few years ago I was introduced to "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" and by reading this book I was healed of a long-standing problem of outdoor allergies. In the chapter "Physiology" the following paragraph stood out: "What an abuse of natural beauty to say that a rose, the smile of God, can produce suffering! The joy of its presence, its beauty and fragrance, should uplift the thought, and dissuade any sense of fear or fever. It is profane to fancy that the perfume of clover and the breath of new-mown hay can cause glandular inflammation, sneezing, and nasal pangs."

When I read this passage, I realized that the beauty of outdoors can only bless and not hurt because allergies are not part of God's creation. Therefore I can certainly expect to enjoy outdoor activities without being afraid of any allergic reaction. As my fear of exposure to grass and flowers disappeared, so did my allergies.

I am very grateful to Mrs. Eddy for "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" — this textbook is a true Comforter that heals.

L. C.
New Jersey

I thank a practitioner for support, guidance, and patience during a time in my life when I need a constant reminder that our loving God is there with me every step of the way and that He loves me very much. His healing power is stronger than any disease could be.

I don't have enough words to express how grateful I am. The Plainfieldcs.com website has been an invaluable

Testimonies

tool. I am also grateful for the online audio weekly Lesson. I listen to it every day, and all the other parts of the website as well. I get so much out of it. Thank you all who participate in making this website such a valuable resource.

*M. M.
Vermont*

Several weeks ago, I had to schedule a business trip for early February. I asked for the help of a Christian Science practitioner, who told me to make sure that God is governing — to remember that without God, I know absolutely nothing. This was a trip where it was appropriate and helpful for my wife to accompany me, which she agreed to do. In scheduling the trip and the meetings, I took into consideration the fact that my wife is also a Christian Science practitioner and needs her mornings to take patient calls. We also did not want to miss any church services, either Sunday or Wednesday.

After taking all of this into consideration, there was only one flight in each direction that would work for us, and still enable us to do what we had to do for church and not miss any services. So I scheduled those flights, and scheduled meetings around them.

As we were approaching the time of the trip, there were forecasts of severe storms. However, God took care of us. Our flight out of New Jersey was perfect. We left just before a big snow storm, and all of the flights after ours were cancelled. Two days later, our return flight was also perfect. We arrived just before another storm. All of the flights back to New Jersey after ours were also cancelled.

I am very grateful to God for taking care of us on this trip. I am grateful for the effective work of the practitioner, and to be learning that when you put God first as best you can, He takes care of the rest.

*G. S.
New Jersey*

CornerStone

I would like to express gratitude for help given by a practitioner from the Plainfield Church for a trip I went on at Christmas to visit my son and his wife.

I was given a verse from the Bible, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (II Tim.) Also, the practitioner said I was on a mission to bring a blessing and that my thought is powerful when in tune with God and listening for His direction.

I am happy to say that things went smoothly when preparing to depart, and the driving went well — even with snow. Some things came up during the trip that would say it wasn’t all smooth sailing. With help from the practitioner, after the trip I realized that these things came up to be handled because there are lessons to be learned. This is what is meant by the phrase, “getting the blessing.”

My son and I had some “words,” the air was cleared, and this brought us closer. As a result I realized he had a financial need that I was able to offer help with, and he was able to accept. This was a blessing for us both. I am very grateful for this church and for practitioner help, and for learning that smooth sailing isn’t all it’s cracked up to be!

B. S.

California

I’m so grateful for a recent proof of God’s love and healing power.

I had a tiny growth on my shoulder for a while. Recently I did a lot of snow shoveling; and my clothing was rubbing on it a lot, which made it very sore and swollen. One day the thought came so strongly that I cannot be punished for doing good. I held to this and didn’t look at it any more. After a couple of days, I noticed that it was so tiny, had become hard, and I was able to easily remove it. It was all gone. That was the end of it!

I was so grateful and couldn’t stop, and still can’t stop

Testimonies

thanking God. It was so wonderful to see that God is always here taking care of us.

L. L.

New Jersey

I'm very grateful for help I received from a practitioner during a recent road trip. It was necessary for me to drive from my home in Texas to Ohio, in the middle of winter. I asked the practitioner for help for the trip, and was assured God would be guiding and protecting me the whole way. It turned out that my son was able to join me on the drive, and we had an opportunity to spend some time together. He had to return home early, so I had to drive the return trip by myself.

I was in Ohio during an ice storm and a snow storm, but my experience was beautiful. I was safe, comfortable, and enjoyed the cold weather. Then my cell phone stopped working. I had been using Google Maps to plan my route, which I was then unable to do. I was still able to use e-mail, and continued to contact my practitioner and receive help.

In Kentucky I thought I was lost, and stopped to ask directions and was told I was heading into an ice storm. The sky was quite dark and there was no one else on the road, but I continued on, and never did encounter an ice storm. The landscape was beautiful — it was already covered with ice, but the roads were clear and dry.

The trip was slower than I had expected — it took four days when I had planned on three. I found out that if I had arrived a day earlier, I would have been right in the middle of an ice storm. I was beautifully protected all during the trip. If I had only realized how safe I really was, I would have enjoyed the trip more! God was with me every moment.

I am very grateful for the practitioner, for the Lessons from Plainfield Church, and for Mary Baker Eddy. I consider Plainfield Church a national treasure.

C. A.

Texas

CornerStone

God is truly amazing. I am so grateful that He led me to this church.

Today I attended an off-site leadership conference with two of my colleagues. During the conference, as I was taking notes, one of the women passed me a note that read: “how did you get rid of the eczema on your thumb?” I laughed. She shocked me because I didn’t even realize it was gone. In fact, I had forgotten it was ever there — and I’m learning from this church that, in Truth, it was never really there in the first place. To answer her question, how did I get rid of the eczema, I wrote on the back of the same note: “God — I found him at the Plainfield Christian Science Independent Church,” and I wrote my phone number. I hope she finds her way to the Truth as I have.

I am so grateful for this healing and for the practitioner support I am receiving from this church. The practitioner has been working with me for almost a year. She doesn’t tell me to take two affirmations and call her in the morning. She loves me and takes time and care to help me to handle error and to understand this truth. As a result, I am gaining a better understanding of God and my relationship to Him, to all men, and to all life.

Thank you Plainfield, so much for so much!

*L. F.
Maryland*

In a recent Lesson there were two statements from the Bible that helped me: “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only” and “Do all things without murmurings.”

In the morning when I was cleaning the snow off my car, I remembered these statements. Instead of grumbling about the cold, snow, and mess, I thanked God for the beautiful day. The whole day changed and it became and remained a beautiful day.

Please accept my gratitude for what the Plainfield

Testimonies

Christian Science Church has done for me. At our fingertips are the most wonderful wealth of resources to help us grow. Also thank you for the practitioner who has not given up on me and has guided me upward.

C. G.

Wisconsin

On Monday I developed behind my right ear a red sore, and it stayed there through Wednesday night. At about 9:45 that night, my Christian Science friend, who lives in the same building, was concerned about me, as I missed the Wednesday night meeting, and called me. We had a little talk; and after our conversation, she told me to feel better and God bless you. From that time, my problem disappeared and never returned again. This was a very fine lesson for me of how God is close and ready to help.

When something happens, the first place to be is in church, in the healing atmosphere. If it's not good, it's not from God, and I don't have to have it.

W. M.

New Jersey

When I came into Christian Science, I had been a smoker for many years. I wanted to quit and would go without a cigarette for several days, but I always started smoking again. I explained to a practitioner how I tried to quit smoking and asked if this could be healed in Christian Science. I was assured it could be.

The practitioner said I was doing this humanly and she gave me the statement from Science and Health that says, "Puffing the obnoxious fumes of tobacco, or chewing a leaf naturally attractive to no creature except a loathsome worm, is at least disgusting." That was the end of this addiction.

Thank God for the prayers of the practitioner, and for Mary Baker Eddy for giving us Christian Science.

S. W.

New Jersey



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*“Publish the Word”
Broadcast the Truth
“Freely ye have received, freely give”*