



Plainfield Independent Newsletter

June 2014

FROM 1ST EDITION OF **SCIENCE AND HEALTH**

Mary Baker Glover

The whole world will not understand Christianity for centuries to come. When we are good enough to take His cup of earthly sorrows, we shall have it, and until we are, and do drink of it, all the vain repetitions that heathen use can never reach the demonstration that Jesus gave and instructed his followers to give, as the test of Christianity, saying, "And these signs shall follow you." We learn in science the necessity for Christians to suffer in this wicked world of sense, insomuch as they oppose it, and are helping to destroy it, therefore it would destroy them. Anciently, in Japan, they conveyed a praying-machine through the streets, stopping at the doors to earn a penny grinding out a prayer. But in the belief of higher civilization, we pay for prayers in lofty edifices. Experience teaches that we receive not the good we ask for in audible prayer. Petitioning a personal Deity is a misapprehension of the source and means of all good and blessedness; therefore it cannot be beneficial, and we receive not, because, as the scripture saith, "We ask amiss, to consume it on our lusts."

Suffering for sin is all that destroys it; every supposed pleasure of personal sense, will furnish more than its balance in pain, until the belief of Life and Intelligence in matter is ultimately destroyed. We are not rid of mortal experiences, of sin, sickness, or death, at the change called death; we cannot reach heaven, the harmony of Life, except we understand the Principle of harmonious man, that alone destroys personal sense and error. Seeking is not sufficient to destroy error; striving to enter into the straight and narrow way of science, is all that will enable us to do it. Spiritual attainments are the preparation for heaven, and that which opens the door to a higher understanding, even the Life that is God.

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY REPORT

Individual spiritual growth is by far the most important activity of our membership. To this end, our increased attention given the 1st Edition of Science and Health has brought out:

1. Science requires understanding. Without it, our practice is faith-cure and not Christian Science. It is our individual responsibility to check ourselves, that we are not settling for belief - "I know it is true because it is in the textbook." or "I am so grateful the practitioner healed me," etc., but striving to see Principle, not person, behind everything.

2. In Science, I must declare Intelligence, Soul, Life - my intelligence, my faculties, my life - outside the body (physique). Without this declaration, I am settling for the human default!

The recording of the 1st Edition has been completed and is now in final proof. This is the first time in history that this precious book has been presented audibly. Thanks to the proofers, especially Connie, TX and Lillian, NJ, who have persisted through the whole book. The 1st Edition will soon be available to all on the church website.

SOWING THE SEED

Gary from NJ

The church began publishing shortly after it became independent. First, we wrote our own weekly lesson sermons. Then we began publishing our magazine and Newsletter. Then we created a web site and began offering selections of our publications over the internet. Soon we began to broadcast our services over the internet, and in time, offered an interactive teleconference bridge for our out-of-town members to both listen to and participate in services and classes over the phone.

The web site has grown to become the most effective way of reaching others and communicating with one another. Many of our members who do not live in New Jersey have found the church through our web site. Many of them have grown to be active members of the church,-- writing, giving testimonies, and even publishing. Our monthly full-text lesson booklet, translations of our weekly lesson sermons, Forum Highlights, and even our Newsletter have been written and published by members not living in Plainfield. We have truly become a church without walls.

We recently created a Publishing Department within the church to integrate our publishing and our web site activities to insure that all of our publications will be available both in printed form and on-line and that the production of our publications can take place from anywhere, not just in Plainfield. This will be a work-in-process, and we encourage all of our members to help in publishing the word. Initially, the new department will be co-chaired by our practitioners, Andrew Kidd and Mary Singleterry. I encourage everyone to help out! Just let us know any ideas you may have and what you would like to do!

CAROL AND THE CHURCH MAGAZINE

It all started back in 1986 - a little blue covered magazine called Healing Thoughts. It soon moved from a quarterly periodical to a bi-monthly, and the size was enlarged, a glossy cover and many other cosmetic changes were introduced. Finally, a few years ago, we changed the name of the magazine to The Cornerstone, and introduced many changes in format, content, and presentation.

Through all this, one thing was constant. Carol was the typesetter, the one who put the magazine together prior to printing. She learned the initial setup - a phototypesetting machine that had its own obscure language, 5 1/4 floppy disks (no hard drive!), and produced pages on film (no printer) to be pasted up on boards which were eventually made into plates for the printing press. When we made the big step to move to computer (with hard drive and printer!!), Carol was the one who went through the painful process of learning the new typesetting software, Pagemaker. A few years later, we moved to the top-of-the-line typesetting software, Quark, and once again it fell upon Carol to learn it. Anyone who has dealt with complex programs with a multitude of commands and seemingly endless nuances knows the tenacity required to make this stuff practical!!

Through 160 issues of the magazine, it has been Carol on the front-line. For many years, it was not unusual to find her at her post in the typesetting room all Saturday and into the evening, and sometimes after midnight. Whatever it took, she was willing to do it. As Mrs. Evans became less active in choosing and editing articles from old Journals and Sentinels, Carol picked up the slack. For many years now, Carol has done the lion's share of gathering and editing, organizing, and typesetting our magazine. Note that all the while, she has had, in addition, a full-time job - and, oh yes, Second Reader for the last three years!

We are deeply grateful for her service in making the magazine possible for so many years. Her work has blessed multitudes.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

Jacob in Costa Rico has stepped up once again! This time to record the Weekly Lesson in Spanish for two weeks in June, when Teresa from Argenetina will be unable to do her usual. Jacob apologizes for not having as pleasing a voice as Teresa, but we have no doubt his sincerity and passion for Truth will serve him well!

Joseph in the UK has once again been active as our Church Ambassador to the world. He arranged for another friend to translate our weekly lesson into the Filipino language Tagalog for the month of June. This has already doubled our visits to the church website from the Philippines.

Ute and Zari from Germany are now regular participants in our Bible Study and Roundtable and, no doubt, are having a profound impact in Hamburg, Germany with their awakened sense of Christian Science, the Laws of the Universe - a light in the darkness of materialism!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Florence from Georgia

Our Sunday School is growing. We have 7 students from five states and Elena, NJ, and I take turns fortnightly in conducting the classes. However both of us are present each Sunday.

We have shared Bible stories in some of our sessions to make the children familiar with the lessons from them. It has also become clear that the children should know about Mary Baker Eddy, so as to gain understanding of her spiritual significance in the salvation of man.

Mrs. Eddy wanted the children to know the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20: 3-17)), the Lord's Prayer (Matt 6: 9-13); its Spiritual Interpretation (by Mary Baker Eddy), and the Sermon on the Mount (Matt.5: 3-12). We have gone over these in class and have encouraged them to study and commit them to their hearts.

It is our greatest desire that they feel the Love of God and understand how He is their Father-Mother and an everlasting friend.

We have weekly assignments and will be having weekly reviews to help us see how much the children are practicing what they are learning.

Recently we have encouraged them to each keep a "book of healings" or a "gratitude book" to remind them of the power of God's Truth. Mrs. Eddy encouraged this, she said in *We knew Mary Baker Eddy*, First series p 68, when asked about keeping record of healings: "You should, dear, be faithful to keep an exact record of your demonstrations, for you never know when they might prove of value to the Cause in meeting attacks on Christian Science. Then she added, sadly, I regret to say that in the rush of a crowded life it is easy to forget even important experiences, and I am sorry that this has been true of much of my best healing work!"

NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Dear Florence, Thank you for sending the Forum Highlights. I have no computer so it is lovely to get this information - most helpful and inspiring. Sincerely, Louise, IL

(Florence is publishing and mailing Forum Highlights, free of charge, to anyone who wishes. Contact the church if you wish to be included.)

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

Lenni from GA - email: threemooresatl@gmail.com

Hello everyone! I wanted to let you all know about a new idea I'm working on implementing for our church website. It's the creation of a church events and activities calendar that would be posted or embedded in our website. This calendar would list all of our regular events – Bible Study, Round Table, Services, Unity Watches, as well as business meetings, deadlines for article submissions – pretty much anything else you can think of! If any of you more tech-savvy folks out there have any thoughts about ways we could do this, feel free to email me and let me know. I welcome any and all ideas!

A VISIT TO PLAINFIELD

Betty from California

Visiting the Plainfield C.S. Church, Ind. felt like coming home, from the time I got to Plainfield Thursday evening until I left Sunday afternoon. I got to stay at a lovely Bed and Breakfast, not far from the church.

On Friday, along with Lillian, I helped set up a display of historical pictures of our church in readiness for the of Tour Historic Churches of Plainfield including our Church. Our church is so beautiful and full of love and light!. Saturday morning began with the Bible Study led by Tom Richards from New York. Afterwards, we listened to readings from the 1st Edition of *Science and Health*. Sunday, I attended the "Round Table" (held at a large oblong conference table). Then, onto the Sunday service. I was very grateful to be able to do my first Scriptural reading.

The thing that most impressed me was seeing how much effort and prayer and love went into each activity. One of my favorite times was talking with Jeremy and hearing how he came to be in Plainfield while I was getting a ride.

THE CITY OF CHURCHES

Benjamin from New Jersey

In May, our church participated in a Tour of Historic Churches organized in Plainfield. On the tour day, Bill and I welcomed visitors. It was an extraordinary experience. I was especially impressed by responses we received from visitors. Visitors came from all over, some from out of state, and many of them have little or no knowledge about Christian Science and were eager to know what we believe and why we are different from other churches. So it was a wonderful opportunity for us to share with them our experiences and what we are here for.

The turnout was a little bit lower than the organizers had anticipated, but the blessings that it brought to our church and city cannot be measured with numbers. It is a lasting blessing. Even if it saved or blessed just one person it has done its cause. And I know every one of them that walked in through our doors went home happy and blessed, with a clearer understanding of what we stand for and they can go and bear good testimony of our church. It was really a blessing to be part of it and we know it will have a lasting impact in our city.

MEMBERS OF HIS CHURCH MUST ANSWER TO THEMSELVES

The answer to these three questions will tell us how we are doing (from Charles Stanley's In Touch magazine - we have no doubt Mrs. Eddy would be pleased!):

1. Is my hunger for Christ growing?
2. Is my discernment of sin sharpening?
3. Is my sphere of love expanding, more inclusive of those I find difficult to love?