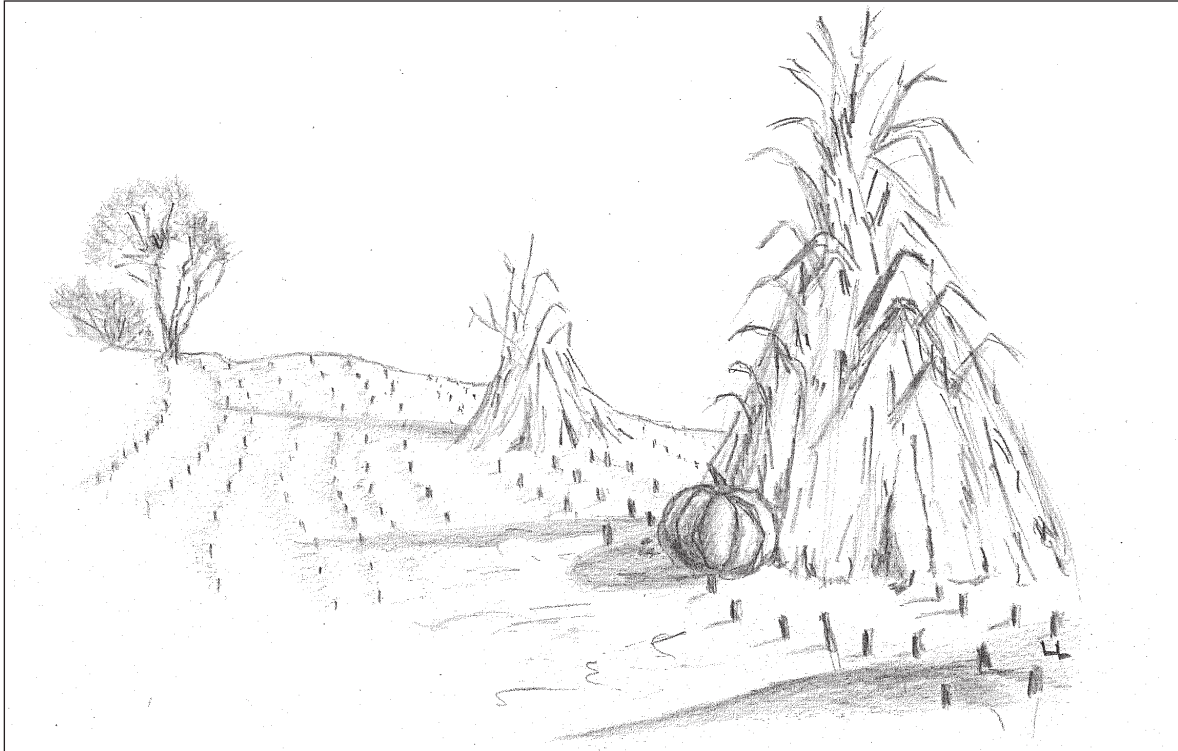


PLAINFIELD INDEPENDENT

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE PLAINFIELD CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
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A Christian Scientist's Duty

Herbert W. Eustace

The duty of the Christian Scientist is to hold crime in check. One on God's side is a majority. The Christian Scientist does not interfere with Mind, but he certainly does interfere with malicious mental malpractice and its operation. He definitely will not tolerate any discordant condition in world affairs any more than sickness, or storms, or other untoward circumstances. He is determined to be about his Father's business, the destruction of everything unlike good.

You alone are responsible for what is taking place in your world. It is not something "over there," but consciousness "right here." You have full power and authority to think and act rightly. You as the activity of God, divine Mind, must understand your world in its true sense. In so doing, remember you are compelling malicious mind to cease its suggestions, which is all that is declaring this turmoil, misery, and death.

However, you must recognize that while it is

all hypnotic suggestion, nevertheless, just designating it as hypnotism does not change its effect. That simply places it where you can cope with it and refute its destructive madness.

Diagnosing a case is one step. Applying the remedy is the next and more important step. It is in the application that the correctness of the diagnosis is rewarded by the disappearance of the evil. You cannot escape, and you do not wish to escape, your responsibility to judge righteous judgment. Mrs. Eddy urged in Pulpit and Press to, "Know, then, that you possess sovereign power to think and act rightly, and that nothing can dispossess you of this heritage and trespass on Love."

If the Christian Scientist is not conscious of his power, how can he exercise it and bring good to light? The reason the Christian Scientist must be successful in his endeavor to conquer sin, disease, death, and all limitation is that he is absolutely sure they are not of God. He therefore attacks them with full power and authority, be-

cause he knows mesmerism is all that is at work there, and that it is the basis of every erroneous appearance. He refuses to tolerate any false sense of control, whether called dictatorship, or totalitarianism, or any other subversive "ism," and he promptly destroys them by recognizing all such influence as malicious mental malpractice.

Thus the command voiced by the prophet Isaiah is fulfilled, "To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke."

(Reprinted from Healing Thoughts No. 26, Jan. 1992)

Praying for the Community

Recently the city of Plainfield began to have serious problems with gang violence. The members of our church, as well as other churches in the area, began to pray about this. Praying for one's community is an on-going responsibility and not one to be shirked or taken lightly. Bill would often post a message on our church sign inviting others to, "Join us in prayer for our city." We were all praying to know that God loves this city and all its residents, and that He was in control of every situation and would restore harmony.

A short time later, there was a headline on the front page of our local newspaper that reported the gang leaders had made a truce. They were tired of all the violence and promised it would stop. They even met at a local restaurant with town officials to discuss the problem, and their pictures were in the newspaper as well.

This was an outstanding resolution to the problem! No one had ever heard of gang leaders declaring a truce! The story has been reported all across our country. The gang members expressed an interest in getting jobs and becoming responsible citizens. God answered our prayer in the most wonderful way possible, bringing healing to everyone involved.

We have learned an important lesson in this church, and that is never to run from a problem, but face it with the power of God Almighty! This is a quote from Mrs. Eddy that I have worked with many times if ever I felt timid about confronting a problem head on: "Do we not all un-

derstand cowardice never conquers? To get rid of a temptation of any sort or to get out of a difficulty, we are not passive and let the wrong rule the right, but we struggle and thus conquer. We should not avoid the things that hurt us but meet them as their superior." When we face with God's power the challenges that confront us, we become a blessing, first to ourselves, then to our community, and to our world!

*Mary Beth Singleterry
Plainfield*

A Prayer by Mary Baker Eddy

"Pray in this wise: O Father-Mother Love, let Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done here in this city and throughout this state. Turn the hearts of this people to seek and to find the healing Christ that taketh away all sin, disease and death, etc."

Watches

As a child I had heard of watches, but didn't understand what they were. Frankly, I forgot about them until I came to Plainfield Church. How could Boston disregard this important activity? I am so happy to be back on track and can continue Mrs. Eddy's pure Christian Science.

Thank you all for your dedication to the Truth.

*Elsie Boros
Alabama*

Indoctrination

Thank you for the roundtable discussion about indoctrination. I never heard anything about this in the Christian Science churches. Thank God I did from outside the "church walls" and it was great to have prayed specifically about this. I wish there were more chances to talk about it. I do not know if others think the same way.

Thanks for your good work, prayer, and most of all, love.

*Ingrid Butaya
California*

Hurricane "Irene"

Aggressive Mental Suggestion

During the days before Hurricane Irene hit the East Coast, the news media was in a frenzy. We

were bombarded 24/7 with dire predictions, videos of past storms, and pictures of people waiting in long lines to buy flashlights and water! And although I turned the TV on as little as possible, it was hard to avoid the onslaught! It was similar to a negative doctor's prediction where one has to listen to every conceivable and horrendous outcome possible.

In Science we have a term for this, and it is called aggressive mental suggestion. And we have learned the importance of standing up to its incessant bullying!

We sell a wonderful book by Bicknell Young, entitled COLLECTED WRITINGS, which has an article entitled "Death Overcome." In that article it tells of someone who is in a violent storm and finds himself at the bottom of a lake. He has obviously passed on and is having an out-of-body experience. He decides to get back into his body because he wants to live.

As he does this, a voice begins to bombard him. He said it was like a machine gun with bullets accusing him of every past mistake he ever made. It is the voice of the "accuser" and just keeps at him, even though he had led a fairly good life. The person telling this story makes a point of saying it is well to be a good person, but at a time like that, you have to know the Truth and be able to argue back with all the power of God! In belief, error is aggressive; and if you are not even more aggressive with your declarations of Truth, it will try to slam you down and to convince you it is real. If you give it an inch, it will take a mile! So you have to take your stand, dig your heels in, and fight back with all your worth!! Which is exactly what the man in this story did. The louder error spoke, the louder he spoke. And with help from God Almighty, he overcame those aggressive mental suggestions, and his body shot up out of the water, even though he had been down there for 30-45 minutes! He quickly recovered and lived to tell the story.

This story is a good reminder to be ever on guard for aggressive mental suggestion. It is not our friend! Mrs. Eddy gave to us "Alertness to Duty" for an important reason, and it is well to remember and work with it as often as possible.

"It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to defend himself daily against aggressive mental suggestion, and not be made to forget nor to neglect his duty to God, to his Leader, and to mankind. By his works he shall be judged, — and justified or condemned."

*Mary Beth Singleterry
Plainfield*

Roundtable Comments

How truly a miracle to have both the roundtable and the Sunday church service this morning despite (or to spite?) the storm. Even though there were power outages round-about, fallen trees, flooding, etc., the Plainfield Church, because of much prayer and God's grace, not only had power, but joy as well.

When the Quartet began to sing, I thought about a scene from the movie, "The Grinch That Stole Christmas" when, despite all the trappings of Christmas being stolen, all the people held hands and sang for joy.

Thank you Plainfield Christian Science Church!

*Betty Simpson
California*

New Jersey got slammed, but God saw you all through!

*Betty Plummer
Virginia*

That's wonderful news! Thanks for continuing the work.

Georgia

Thank you for your prayers. Although power was out all around, our church and a very small surrounding area was protected, and our roundtable and service were broadcast. A couple of hours later, the power went out at church as well for a short time.

So we thank God, and thank you all. This is a precious work, and clearly, He protects it.

*Andrew Kidd
Plainfield*

The Power of God Expressed

I would like to express gratitude to God and to all the devoted workers in our church. How blessed we are with an unending list of God's blessings.

Last week my niece and I went to visit a family member in a nursing home. When we arrived, they were in the middle of a power shortage, using generators for light to get around. The air conditioning, elevators, etc., were not working.

As we walked up the stairs, an angel thought came to me: "God's power never can be out of order. His love and protection are here, right now." As we visited, we prayed, talked, and laughed together, never being too warm or uncomfortable. A few hours later, the power went on again. The wonderful part of all this is the way the staff was so loving and helpful to each of their guests. As one of our hymns says, "The loveliness of Love" was all around.

I am so grateful for this experience, proving again that God's love is always in the midst of us, no matter where we are!

I am so grateful to be a member of Plainfield Church, for the practitioner's loving help and guidance, and for living with Mrs. Eddy's true Christian Science.

*Betty Bethman
Illinois*

Reality

"What is it that's real?" you say to yourself.

"Can it be seen or can it be felt?"

Material senses are baseless and false;

Spiritual sense is real, with God as its source.

*Lillian Linnell
Plainfield*

2012 Church Calendar

We are again planning to publish our page-a-day calendar, for 2012. Many people love this inspiring way to begin the day — and we invite you to submit any quotes you would like to see included. They should be uplifting, inspiring, and healing, and, of course, in line with Christian Science. Please limit them to about 15 words at most, and forward them to the Clerk, either by e-mail or through the postal service. We look forward to hearing from you!

*Carol Conroy
Plainfield*

Let It Stir

The study of Christian Science should stir thought. It should lift us to a place we haven't been before and leave us with a desire to change. If the study of our textbook doesn't stir my thought, it is a sign that I didn't get it, — that I'm stuck in a sleepy stupor and I need to shake myself mentally to let God speak to my heart. I find it helpful to pray for receptivity before studying the weekly Lesson.

A good practitioner will also stir your thought to change. For many, the thought of having thought challenged by either a practitioner or by our textbook, can be a frightening experience. Many people even avoid asking help from a good practitioner if they suspect that by doing so they are going to be challenged to stir their thought "to a change of base."

Yet, isn't this exactly what Mrs. Eddy says must be done? "The effect of this Science is to stir the human thought to a change of base, on which it may yield to the harmony of the divine Mind."

If we are sincere in our desire to grow spiritually, and humble in our desire to do what God wants for us, we will welcome the discomfort of change and be willing to give up the old and take on the new. Humility is key. It is only uncomfortable if I am hanging on to my pride. The pride of education, heredity, or human accomplishment are all impediments to spiritual growth and demonstration in Christian Science.

Christian Scientists need to watch that they have no pride of being "class taught," or of being a member of a "Christian Science" family or church. God does not care one iota who taught us, or what we call ourselves, or what human organizations we belong to. All He cares about is whether our thought is humble, full of divine love, and willing to yield to the truth. That state of thought can be of great use to God.

So, let it stir!

*Gary Singleterry
Plainfield*