

PLAINFIELD INDEPENDENT

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And Thou Shalt Be Built

In a recent Lesson, these verses were included from the book of Jeremiah: “The Lord hath appeared unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built.”

I looked up the word “build” in our 1828 Webster’s Dictionary and found it to mean “to construct; to raise up; to increase and strengthen; to cement and knit together; to settle; to establish; to preserve.”

During my watch time that night, I worked with this definition and knew it to be true about our church. God will build our church and it shall be built! God has and is constructing it . . . literally and figuratively. The grounds have been beautified and new energy-efficient windows are being installed this month. He is raising it up and increasing and strengthening it. Our outreach has been growing and will continue to grow. The website has been attracting more and more visitors from every corner of the earth. God gives this increase. Working for God makes us stronger and better able to handle the subtle suggestion of animal magnetism. Our love for God and for

each other cements us together doing His work with unity of purpose. God has settled and established us. He is fixing whatever is wavering, doubtful or weak, and healing the weary heart. He is settling this church permanently as a beacon of hope for all mankind. He is preserving us. His lovingkindness cares for and protects all our members. Our legacy is for now and for future generations.

During this Christmastime we can thank God for the privilege of working in His vineyard. As the last verse of hymn No. 176 so beautifully states:

“Let there be light, the Word shines forth,
Lo, where the new morning whitens;
O church of God, with Book unsealed,
How its page beacons and brightens.
Living stones we each in his place,
May we be worthy such a grace,
While Truth the wide earth enlightens.”

*Mary Beth Singleterry
Plainfield*

I read something the other night from a book about Mary Baker Eddy, *THE FOREVER LEADER*, by Doris Grekel, that was very help-

ful to me, and I'd like to share it. It begins in chapter 64:

“Young Mr. and Mrs. Clark from Montana were both devoted students of Christian Science.

“Mr. Clark was also a mining engineer, and, accompanied by his wife, he had gone deep into a great forest to examine a mine. On the day of their arrival at their proposed camp they found themselves surrounded by a forest fire that grew to huge proportions, with no way of escape. Together with the five miners, they battled the flames, at times beating out the fire on one another's clothing or going down to the ground for a breath of air. All this time the Clarks were doing their best to declare the power of God to save them.

“At a terrifying crisis, after they had been battling the flames for more than seven hours, Mrs. Clark called to her husband: ‘Oh, let's despise the danger: God never made it! This would have to destroy God before it could destroy His reflection.’ This was the turning point. And soon what seemed a miracle appeared, — a long, green, unburned path which the fire had passed around and along which all seven found their way to safety.”

The statement, “This would have to destroy God before it could destroy His reflection” was such an absolute and complete statement, showing the powerlessness of this situation to destroy or even touch what was God's. I am so grateful for the revelation of Christian Science, giving to all who will accept it and work for it, the answer to all human need. This truth, which was presented and shown to the world by Christ Jesus, and explained and demonstrated by Mary Baker Eddy, is available this very minute to all who are willing to see it.

I'm also very grateful for the good work done in this church by its faithful practitioners, who always turn you to the absolute truth, based on Principle, to a loving Father-Mother God, and the results are always practical, progressive, and healing.

*Dale Wallis
Virginia*

God's Loving Care

Recently my daughter, granddaughter, and I experienced an overwhelming sense of God's loving care, and plan for us. For some time we

felt that something was not right at my granddaughter's Christian school. She would tell us that she was hearing things about the Bible that she did not like. In questioning her we learned that a “Bible education” book was being read to them every morning. In our prayers every day, as we have learned in Christian Science, we listen for God's direction.

We acquired a copy of the book. This book trashed every Bible story by rewriting them in an x-rated format. We were at first in shock. Then we were moved to take some immediate action. We spent that weekend in prayer, asking God what direction we should take.

I heard it said that when evil is exposed it will turn on you. This is precisely what happened. On Monday my daughter went to the head master about the book. He looked at the book and said that he could see nothing wrong with it. He then turned on my daughter to tear her down, saying that she was a quitter and a bad example if she removed my granddaughter from their school. He said he would look into the matter further and get back to her with a decision whether to remove the book.

My daughter and I were presented with the name of a small, private, non-religion affiliated school. We knew of this school and we knew that the enrollment was very small and when their numbers were reached, they closed the enrollment. Also three months of the school term had already passed so it did not look too promising. But we were prompted to contact them anyway, and learned that they had only one opening left, and it was in my granddaughter's grade. We asked them to hold the position and we would let them know of our decision in a couple of days. We then heard from the principal of the Christian school that she wanted to see my daughter about transferring my granddaughter to their other campus. Upon arriving, my daughter was presented with a legal document that absolved the school from any liability in the matter. She was told that the assignment would be made after she signed. Promptly after signing my daughter was informed that my granddaughter was dismissed from the school and could not return.

Rather than be influenced by feelings of anger and rejection, we knew that we could not be vic-

tims and only God's good plan was in place for us. This was Friday, so we called the other school with our decision to take the position. My granddaughter began her new school on Monday, and she was welcomed with an overwhelming sense of love by the students and teachers. This was proof of God's hand in all of it. Throughout the whole experience, which was accomplished in only a week, we held to the Truth that God would never take us halfway.

My gratitude is boundless for what Christian Science teaches about prayer and how to listen and follow God's direction. We later learned that the book was removed from the classroom. We were very grateful that God's blessing was impartial and extended to the other children as well. A verse from Mrs. Eddy's hymn comes to me as a closure to this whole experience, "fear no ill since God is good and loss is gain."

*Margaret Marshall
Georgia*

"Good Tidings of Good"

Albert F. Gilmore

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation," declared the prophet. These holy men proclaimed the holy mission of the bearer of good tidings; lifting the burden of world-weariness under which mankind then, as now, apparently struggle.

Our attitude towards Christmas may justly be said to measure the depth of our spirituality. Whether it is a season of indulgence in the customs and festivities which tend to increase the delusion of pleasure in matter, or whether it becomes a time of spiritual rejoicing, for lifting one's thought above the things of matter to the things of Spirit, and the recognition of the Christ-ideal, is a true measure of our standard. It signifies the direction in which we are traveling, mentally and spiritually.

The commonly observed custom of gift-giving, when prompted by unselfish affection, is a beautiful sentiment; but too often it falls far short of symbolizing the true spirit of Christmas. If, however, it is in recognition of the tremendous lesson which the Christ-child was to work out for

mankind, and is in gratitude for his blessed service, gift-giving becomes a token of devotion which takes on a truly spiritual meaning.

We celebrate Christmas with spiritual vision, and express its true meaning, in giving good gifts of loving service, pure affection expressed in unselfed love, and the recognition of the infinite presence of the Christ whose dominion the Bethlehem babe so fully demonstrated, to relieve mankind of its self-imposed burdens of sickness and sin. Now, as of old, these are the "good tidings of good."

Letters of Gratitude

I am grateful for the practitioners and members of the Plainfield Church, your diligent metaphysical work, and firm, strong stand for Christian Science as Mrs. Eddy and her early workers in the Cause have taught it. I feel the Christliness of your standard and greatly appreciate this, feel this is what I had been seeking in church fellowships for quite a while, and not quite finding.

There is a difference between your practice of Christian Science and that of some local churches where I've participated. The difference is that I can feel the Christ at work at Plainfield, — whereas at the local branches, it was basically "doing the business of the organization to keep it going," for which one received thanks but no Christly impetus, rather a draining energy.

In the last two days, having received some strong statements of Truth from a Plainfield practitioner, and working with those, today I was able to "buck up" with similar strong admonitions, two grateful friends, each of whom was apparently in need of encouragement and confidence that God is working His purpose out in spite of the chaos and danger that are now appearing on the world stage. I am grateful to have been able to affirm verbally that "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth and is All!" This helps me maintain my own conviction and vehemence to stand with God in the work of Christian Science.

*Betty Plummer
Virginia*

Thank you Plainfield Church! My husband and I were so blessed to be able to attend today's Thanksgiving service over the internet. The members have done such a wonderful job of pro-

viding a church that we may attend across the miles, and yet still feel as though we are right there with you. Our living room becomes our sanctuary, the sofa our pew, and with the speakers on high, the beautiful music, readings, and testimonies resonate in the room and in our hearts. We are most grateful to have attended this morning's service that brought us tears of joy and gratitude.

*Susanne Walker Abetti
Vermont*

The Power of a Right Idea

There is good news to report about the windows in our church. Our proposal to replace the windows was enthusiastically approved by the City of Plainfield, and the new replacement windows have been installed. This indeed represents the power of a right idea.

Our motive, of course, was to improve our church, while still complying with the local regulations. The case was presented to a local historic committee, as our church building is in a registered historic district. This committee has been reputed to deny improvements that don't use materials which are exactly consistent with the original construction. Even though our original windows were wooden (and needed frequent painting and repair), the committee approved our new windows, complete with their aluminum wrapping and trim on the exterior! Our contractor, who represented us before the historic committee, noted that there was no contention, everyone respected the others, so there was cooperation and not opposition. This committee hears many proposals for work in their district, and many times there is contention and denials.

Our windows were installed on December 1 and 2. The weather here was warm and clear — in other words, perfect weather to remove old windows and have our church exposed to the outside while the replacements were put in. Imagine that, in New Jersey having clear, warm weather in December. No doubt God's hand has been on this from the beginning and throughout.

We now have new windows that are maintenance-free, look just like the originals, and are

energy efficient. Also, this sends a message to the neighborhood, that we love our neighborhood, we are willing to invest and improve what we have. Today we thank God for this improvement.

*Bruce Singleterry
Plainfield*

Visitors Welcome

We were so happy to have Tom Richards from New York and Tony Moore from Atlanta visit us here in Plainfield this past month. What a joy! It is encouraging and inspiring to have such enthusiasm shared "in person." Both of these guys are so grateful to have found the Plainfield Church, where the practical sense of Christian Science has made big improvements in their lives. Their visits were an illustration that "Love is reflected in love."

We would love to have visits from any of you, our newly vitalized "global" membership, who would like to come to Plainfield. As one of our dear members has said: "I don't like to be referred to as an out-of-town member. This is my church. I have none other. I contribute in every way, and attend services regularly."

*Andrew Kidd
Plainfield*

Thank You

I would like to thank all the sincere working members of the Plainfield Church for their contribution to the cause of Christian Science this year. One of the great joys of membership in this church is associating with so many fine workers who are faithfully letting God use them, who are letting their light shine.

I thank all of you who contribute financially, who conduct and broadcast our services, who participate in the Roundtable every Sunday, who share testimonies of healing, write articles of substance, and give of your heart's rich overflow. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few." Thank you, all, who have answered God's call.

May the love of God bless this Christmas season for each one of you.

*With warm regards,
Gary Singleterry*