

PLAINFIELD INDEPENDENT

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE PLAINFIELD CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
NUMBER 143 FEBRUARY 2012

Time and Age Bicknell Young

Time is not a reality discerned from a standpoint of higher mathematics. It is helpful to see there is no element of time in omnipresence and omnipotence. Omnipresence does not require time.

Mrs. Eddy says never record ages. Age should be, and when properly understood is, more full of power, wisdom, and victory than youth. Mortal existence is a constant experiment. Spiritual life demonstrates unswerving Principle more fully and perfectly every day.

Instead of losing one's faculties with the passing of years, as one sees God more clearly, his activity increases, his spiritual sense becomes more acute, his intelligence and perception are greater. There can never come a time when God's man can or must go downhill; his way must be onward and upward through all eternity.

There is no time. This is the time it has always been, last week, last year, a hundred years ago; it makes no difference which, because they are all the same. Even while we speak of the present moment, it is gone. This shows the unreality of time.

There is no before or after; nothing is a minute old, or a day, or a week, or a year; so now is exactly our age. We cannot be younger or older than now. Time has nothing to do with it, or you. The ideas of Soul can never grow old. Hopeless, apathetic, depressed, or vicious thinking makes for age; while enthusiasm, hope, love of humanity, and spontaneity will keep us always young.

When we lift our consciousness into the spiritual realm, fixing our thoughts on the glorious, fadeless, undying, present realities of the universe, filled with ideas that are ever new, our whole being becomes rejuvenated, and we are refreshed and inspired by the everlasting truth of being.

Plainfield Classes

I would like to express my gratitude for the incredible teaching going on at the Plainfield Church. Recent roundtables have been so powerful and helpful, as well as the new Bible study. I encourage everyone to check them out. (Be sure to click on "Read More" at the bottom of the Home Page for recent recordings!)

The website just keeps getting richer and richer; hours of instruction and inspiration can be found on the Home Page alone. And it's great to have a "sneak peek" at the new CornerStone online before the wonderful print edition arrives.

All of this, of course, is the result of much dedicated work on the part of the members of the Plainfield Church. I am so grateful to be able to attend services online, for quite frankly, where else could I go? This church has the most vibrant, lively, beautiful, powerful, and healing Christian Science services I have ever attended.

Please accept the enclosed contribution for this most important work, for which I cannot thank you enough.

*Susanne Walker Abetti
Vermont*

Walk Through

Recently I made a wonderful discovery. Part of verse 4 of the Twenty-Third Psalm, which reads "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil," kept coming to me — particularly the word "through." Then I slowly went through the whole verse and found so much inspiration.

Walk — stay in control, don't rush; keep moving peacefully forward with God.

Through — nothing can stop anyone who's following God from going all the way.

Valley — an area between hills and mountains; protection; sometimes thought of as a low spot or depression, but God's protection is there, too.

Shadow — not solid, and can be dispelled at any time; it's not real, like death is not real, it's an illusion.

For Thou art with me — God is with us every moment. There's nothing to fear or doubt.

This is all saying, "Side with God, and win!"
(Hymn No. 296)

*Lillian Linnell
Plainfield*

Letters from Readers

It is that time of the year that needs to be handled. I pray the Christ Spirit guide us. Every day is a blessing, and let the love of God prevail.

Love to all.

*Elsie Boros
Alabama*

I'm writing to express my gratitude for our church.

I first heard of Plainfield about four years ago. That first year I just kind of lurked in the shadows and listened to the recorded services on Monday and Thursday. The second year I got up the courage to call a practitioner for help, and later that year became a member, but continued to attend my local branch church. Year three, I realized that I had found everything I was looking for in a church right here at Plainfield and stopped attending my local branch church.

Recently my sister and I had the wonderful opportunity to visit Plainfield, New Jersey, and meet many of the New Jersey-based members. We were just so warmly embraced and welcomed. I felt like I've always known you all. In Science and Health Mrs. Eddy defines church as the structure of Truth and Love. While the beautiful church sanctuary is the center of our church activity, a true structure of Truth and Love knows no physical boundary but radiates out and blesses the world. Our church does that in abundance. It's this true genuine love and warmth that we felt during our visit.

I want to say how thankful I am for the church and for all our loving members. I am grateful and humbled to have been led to this wonderful church family.

*Shahidat Abbas
Maryland*

I have been thrilled to hear the roundtable discussions on your website.

I just want to say how grateful I am to be able to access this on the Internet. I am not a Christian Scientist, but have attended Christian Science

churches and I am always drawn to the work of Mrs. Eddy, right up until people start espousing jargon and quoting this and that, using the quotes to form their thoughts instead of forming their thoughts from how God counsels their heart and being inspired by Mrs. Eddy and then finding quotes that concur.

For the first time after listening to some of the discussions, I feel that my understanding of Christian Science is moving forward, apace with my life, instead of trying to cram my life into the formula of the Mother Church.

Lovingly.

By E-mail

Malachi 3:3

Malachi 3:3 says, "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study, and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest so as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says, "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy — when I see my image in it." If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that

God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

Sent by an out-of-town contributor

Audio of Science and Health

“The ‘still small voice’ of scientific thought reaches over continent and ocean to the globe’s remotest bound. The inaudible voice of Truth is, to the human mind, ‘as when a lion roareth.’ It is heard in the desert and in dark places of fear. It arouses the ‘seven thunders’ of evil, and stirs the latent forces to utter the full diapason of secret tone. Then is the power of Truth demonstrated, — made manifest in the destruction of error.”
(S&H)

Each day Andrew has been informing us of all the places around the world where people have been listening to the audio of Science and Health. (Wellspring1866.org) The inspired word of our textbook is being listened to in places like Mongolia, the Ukraine, Canada, South Korea, most of Europe, as well as the entire continental United States including Alaska.

Andrew felt impelled by God to record Science and Health in its entirety and is currently working on Miscellaneous Writings. His motive has been to “lift the veil” that has been cast on the works of Mary Baker Eddy. His readings are done with understanding and conviction, and from the standpoint of a life dedicated to God’s service.

This highly important outreach should be daily supported by our prayers. The good it is doing does indeed reach over “continent and ocean to the globe’s remotest bound”! And the blessings are manifold.

These readings are also available in CD version for \$5 each, or the complete set for \$85.

*Mary Beth Singleterry
Plainfield*

New Store on Website

In our ongoing effort to improve our church website and make it easier to use, we have replaced our “Store” with a new one, aptly called VirtueMart! This allows other websites to directly link into our website to order specific books and CDs which we offer, as well as provides a more integrated connection with the rest of the

website, so that your login procedure is simpler — only one login is needed for both the website and the Store.

We encourage you, we urge you, if you have an e-mail address, to use the online Store for your contributions and orders, as it makes things much easier for Benjamin, our Clerk. If you prefer to pay by check, please still make your order online, and your order will be shipped upon the arrival of your payment. With the wonderful growth of our church outreach, this is a good way to support our Clerk!

*Andrew Kidd
Plainfield*

Annual Meeting Committee Reports

Below are excerpts from some of the very encouraging committee reports given at the annual corporate meeting held in Plainfield Church during January. What wonderful progress — thank God for it!

Sunday School Committee

The adult Roundtable is growing all the time. We have participants who phone in from California, Florida, Maryland, New York, Iowa, Georgia, Illinois, Texas, Virginia, Arizona, Michigan, Oregon, and for the first time, Switzerland, Germany, and Ghana. This class is active, enthusiastic and uplifting. No one wants the classes to end!

This is what true Christian Science is — learning with joy, asking questions, getting many different answers, and being with a group that wants to spread Christian Science.

Thanks to God and Mary Baker Eddy for this wonderful Science!

Sharon Welsh

Lesson Sermon Committee

The writing of the Lessons for the Quarterly for the second quarter of 2012 are well under way, with six of the thirteen Lessons already written. Recently, a member from Georgia has been trying his hand at writing a Lesson, and we are very grateful for this kind of help.

Mrs. Eddy has stated that the Lesson writing is the most important work there is to do, and we are very privileged here to have the opportunity to write these Lessons and to send out a Quarterly, as well as the popular full-text version. In fact, I don’t know of anyone else who is current-

ly doing this work other than the Boston organization.

We are so grateful to all of you who help with proofing, typesetting, and printing. And to our members in Florida and Virginia who do a super job with the full-text Lessons. We also thank those of you who contribute to our weekly forum, which is a great way to share our Lesson ideas with others who are really hungering for the Truth.

Mary Beth Singleterry

Website Committee

Many improvements have recently been made to our website to make it easier to use. We've engaged an internet marketing company that has positioned our website in a more prominent setting to be easier to find. All this, along with sincere prayer, has greatly increased the number of visits to our website, from all over the world.

All the issues of the CornerStone, and old issues of Healing Thoughts back through the May 2006 issue are available to read on our website.

The website is a collaborative effort expressing the operation of one Mind. It is unique in the world because it is Christian Science free of "the culture," and it is alive with the demonstration of students who are awake and passionate about Mary Baker Eddy's revelation.

Andrew Kidd

Mailing Committee

It's been a wonderfully busy year, getting this healing, comforting word of God out to the world.

In addition to subscriptions to our CornerStone, Quarterly, Newsletter, and full-text Lesson Sermons, many church calendars were mailed. Also, requests were filled for our books and CDs from Switzerland, England, New Zealand, Germany, Sweden, Austria, Canada, and Australia, as well as all across the United States.

Thank God for this wonderful activity!

Lillian Linnell

Publishing Committee

Our publishing is very active, with our regularly scheduled publications, our church calendar, and reprints of books.

The January issue of the CornerStone is our

anniversary edition — we've been publishing CornerStone for a full year now, and it has been very enthusiastically received. The number of copies downloaded from the church website is even greater than the number of subscriptions we mail out. Thank God for the generous donations we receive that enable us to spread the Truth in this manner.

As Bruce said recently, "This church has broken through and gone beyond the limits of organization!" We are free to welcome anyone into our fold who loves God and wants to practice and support this Science.

Carol Conroy

An Invitation

When this Newsletter was conceived, almost 20 years ago, the objective was to inform our out-of-town members of the activity of the church. Articles were written by committee members and others of some of the important projects and developments within the church.

That was 20 years ago. Today, our church has progressed beyond that of a local church with out-of-town members. It has become truly a church without walls.

With the teleconference feature allowing all members everywhere to participate, and the website reaching every corner of the world, we now have many members outside of Plainfield just as active as those living here. For example, our full text Lesson is compiled in Florida. Our Saturday Bible study class is hosted from New York and Georgia. Our magazine, CornerStone, contains letters, articles, and testimonies from members from every corner of the world. There are no limitations!

We invite any and all members, whether in Plainfield or not, to contribute articles about your work in the church and for the church that would be of interest to the membership. Whatever is informative and inspirational is always welcome. Everyone is needed and every job is important. Articles may be mailed to the clerk or emailed to our editor, Carol Conroy at ccat156@aol.com. Please note the word "Newsletter" in the subject line.

*Gary Singleterry
Plainfield*