

PLAINFIELD INDEPENDENT

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE PLAINFIELD CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
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CHURCH PROGRESS

Our New Organist

Peter Kidd had been our organist, on and off, since he was twelve, and full-time for the past ten years, at times commuting from Brooklyn, New York, and later from Philadelphia. We are very grateful that his enthusiasm and choice of lively music helped to support our church through some very difficult times.

When he finally decided to move on recently, his earnest desire was that we find a good and proper replacement. Peter is an active student of Christian Science, and has always been very sensitive to the needs of our church. So, he wrote an ad which described our requirements in such a way as to draw a creative, but devout individual, emphasizing that our church welcomed innovation.

In searching for a new organist, I first called some musicians in the area, and they did not paint a bright picture at all. Organists were few and far between!

So, as Peter suggested, I put his ad on Craigslist (an online "Classified Ads"), and within two hours, I was contacted by Gerald Montagna from Manhattan.

Gerald had a background in Christian Science, had followed our church's independence for years, but had moved on to serve in Pentecostal churches, where there was more freedom of expression in praising God through the music. He vowed he would never play in a Christian Science church again due to the staidness of the music and general thought, but Peter's ad interested him.

As you all know, Gerald has fit in beautifully. He is a fine organist, comfortable with the less formal music, brings a sweetness with him, and a devout consecration to praising God through the music — our singing group is very happy with him. We could not have done better!! As anyone who has tried to find an organist for a church can

tell you, this was a miraculous demonstration. We thank God for His taking care of us every step of the way.

*Andrew Kidd
Plainfield*

Sunday School Progress

Thank God for the progress and growth of the Sunday School. It has a new look. It has been painted a bright, sunny yellow with white trim, and is uplifting and joyous — so welcoming to the students.

Laura is now teaching the youngest class using video-conferencing, which allows full participation from anywhere. The students who attend online and in church love being able to see each other on the computer. Every Sunday Maddie and Alexia from Georgia call in and attend the class. They participate in a lively discussion. They are free to ask questions and give their thoughts. The students enjoy the class so much they don't want it to end!

We would like to invite all children everywhere to join us at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday. We hope to see new faces on Sunday!

Please call the church and you will be given information on how to connect.

*Sharon Welsh
Plainfield*

Fruitage

Recently Andrew finished the entire audio recording of Science and Health, ending with the inspired chapter on "Fruitage." This chapter is filled with incredible testimonies of healings that have taken place solely through the reading of our textbook. Each testimony is heartfelt and a fitting tribute to the healing power of Mrs. Eddy's revelation.

Andrew felt so moved by this chapter, that he suggested we read one testimony every Sunday morning before the reading of our Lesson Sermon. The intention here is to open thought to the infinite possibilities Science and Health brings to

the receptive thought, to lift the veil that has been cast upon it.

We feel Mrs. Eddy would be well pleased with this addition to our service, so each week we have had a volunteer from our congregation read a testimony they have selected — one they found particularly meaningful to them.

And now that all of you can call into our service live on the teleconference, we would like to extend this special invitation to you as well! We would be so happy to have you participate in this highly important part of our service. Please contact the church and we will place you on the schedule. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

*Mary Beth Singleterry
Plainfield*

Letters of Appreciation

What you are doing as an independent Christian Science Church is an inspiration. It is hoped that all Christian Science churches will see the light. Just as mathematics and music are open to all good thinkers, so should be Christian Science. We will be visiting your website often.

*D. Freeman
Comment on Website*

Dear Friends at Plainfield,

O glorious Sunday morning! I just finished listening to our warm, loving service. My deepest gratitude to God for Plainfield Church, the Roundtable, and then our service. My cup runneth over.

I cannot close without mentioning the website. It is the greatest! It keeps getting better and better. Every day, sometimes late at night, I am led to just the perfect answer, whether it be uplifting or blissful peace.

You bring such love and freshness into my life. My gratitude is boundless. It is impossible to put into words the joy you bring to me and so many others all over the world. Words are perhaps inadequate to express my gratitude, but what I feel in my heart is true.

*Betty Bethman
Illinois*

Once again I wish to thank you all for what you are doing in the name of Christian Science.

I have greatly appreciated all the fine literature that I have received, and especially what the early workers in Christian Science have left us.

Much love to all the members and the practitioners, who stand by lovingly to help us.

God bless you all.

*Louise Siedenfluss
Illinois*

To whom do I owe a heart felt thank you for such a surprise? We don't get much literature from a Christian Science Church here! I am in awe and surprised that you sent me so much, especially the books I asked about.

Christian Science has clearly helped me to separate error from Truth, but most of all it has given me more understanding of who God is, what God is, and who am I in God. It clearly isn't the mainstream of religious teachings, or the common belief system that most of us were taught. It's jaw dropping as well as refreshing. However, Truth has a way of cutting through error and mistaken beliefs.

I do have experiences of other churches not wanting me around. I'd rather be up front and honest to those who may not feel comfortable. I don't know, maybe I shouldn't have brought it up; however, I recall looking for the loving Truth of our God, and those whom will truly bring me in, and guide me.

Either way, Plainfield, I'm deeply grateful for the tools you have sent me, and they will be cherished.

From a prison in California

A Fresh Start

Susan F. Campbell

One of the many encouraging aspects of Christian Science is that there is no time, place, or circumstance that can prevent us from making a fresh start. No past failure, mistake, fear, disease, or sin can keep us from making a splendid new beginning. However difficult or muddled the past may have seemed, we can start at once to work our way out and up; and nothing can hinder this progress if we are honest and in earnest.

In Paul's letters to the churches, he urges that the Christians be renewed, or "put on the new man." No one can live in the past; all must be awake and active today, striving to love more,

striving to understand more and to demonstrate more of what God is, and what man is as God's reflection. With joy, we should go forth daily into the world, knowing that it is our right to make a fresh start.

From Mary Baker Eddy

Study the Bible constantly, daily, and, dear one, pray. Ask the divine Love every day to give you all that the Lord's Prayer inculcates. Go alone by yourself one half hour every morning and ask God, good, "Thy kingdom come" — ask to establish the reign of honesty, peace and purity in your consciousness and to overthrow and cast out all that is unlike the Christ, Love. Ask to forgive those that wrong you even as God forgives you, and see how this must be for you to reflect God. Ask for deliverance from temptation, ask for patience, meekness, peace, and so may the grace of God be with you.

*Mary Baker Eddy,
Divinity Course and General Collectanea*

From Essays and Other Footprints by Richard Oakes

"Assembled Statements"

When asked who would take charge of the cause of Christian Science in time to come, Mrs. Eddy answered, according to Henry Robinson's Biographical Sketch: That question has resolved itself into a fatal mistake. I do not carry on the work myself. It is only through the influence of the Lord that I do it, and the Lord is the one who will carry it on. There is no more speculation on how the work will be carried on in the future than there is on what the future discoveries in astronomy will show, or what will be done in the nebulae. Why it is an infinite subject. So speculation is void. My life has been such a demonstration of this that it would amaze you.

Report of the Clerk The Annual Meeting 1906 From Miscellany, p. 48-49

Not until nineteen centuries had passed was there one ready to receive the inspiration, to restore to human consciousness the stone that had been rejected, and which Mrs. Eddy made "the head of the corner" of The Church of Christ, Sci-

entist.

With the reading of her textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," Mrs. Eddy insisted that her students make, every day, a prayerful study of the Bible, and obtain the spiritual understanding of its promises. Upon this she founded the future growth of her church, and twenty-six years later the following splendid appreciation of her efforts appeared in the *Methodist Review* from the pen of the late Frederick Lawrence Knowles: —

"Mrs. Eddy . . . in her insistence upon the constant daily reading of the Bible and her own writings, . . . has given to her disciples a means of spiritual development which . . . will certainly build such truth as they do gain into the marrow of their characters. The scorn of the gross and sensual, and the subordination of merely material to spiritual values, together with the discouragement of care and worry, are all forces that make for righteousness. And they are burned indelibly upon the mind of the neophyte every day through its reading. The intellects of these people are not drugged by scandal, drowned in frivolity, or paralyzed by sentimental fiction. . . . They feed the higher nature through the mind, and I am bound as an observer of them to say, in all fairness, that the result is already manifest in their faces, their conversation, and their bearing, both in public and private. What wonder that when these smiling people say, 'Come thou with us, and we will do thee good,' the hitherto half-persuaded one is wholly drawn over, as by an irresistible attractor. The religious body which can direct, and control, in no arbitrary sense, but through sane counsel, the reading of its membership, stands a great chance of sweeping the world within a generation."

Awakening

When I first joined Plainfield Church I was still a regular attendee in my branch church. But the veil was slowly lifting from my eyes and I was beginning to feel — literally — Truth in my thought, perhaps for the first time.

The Plainfield Lesson was different. I couldn't put my finger on what was different about the Lesson because both churches use the King James version of the Bible and Science and Health.

One Sunday morning before church in the local branch, I got a very uneasy feeling, which increased during the service. As soon as the Second Reader gushed a verse from Psalms, the light broke through and I saw revealed to me for the first time ever, that the Lesson was incomplete.

The Boston version of Christian Science focuses on the goodness of God — too much so. They were skipping over the real crux of the Science — that evil must be uncovered so that it can then be seen as unreal. It was like a bolt of lightning in my thought. The entire movement across the world was reading and praying with an incomplete view of what this Science requires from us.

This week's Lesson reminded me of something I am so grateful for: the complete and accurate teaching and living at Plainfield of Mary Baker Eddy's discovery. This is no little thing.

I would be remiss if I didn't glorify the fact that Plainfield is AWAKE and sharing the complete and whole truth of God and this Science.

Proof:

“When God heals the sick or the sinning, they should know the great benefit which Mind has wrought. They should also know the great delusion of mortal mind, when it makes them sick or sinful. Many are willing to open the eyes of the people to the power of good resident in divine Mind, but they are not so willing to point out the evil in human thought, and expose evil's hidden mental ways of accomplishing iniquity.

“Why this backwardness, since exposure is necessary to ensure the avoidance of the evil?” (S&H)

A. T. M.
Georgia

The Saturday Bible Study Group

Mrs. Eddy once wrote that she hoped students of Christian Science, in their reading Science and Health, would be encouraged to read the Bible more and get more out of it. For that purpose, for several months, the Plainfield Church has been sponsoring a Saturday morning Bible Study Group, and the results have been nothing less than inspired. Tom and Tony have teamed up to provide study questions, usually based on that

week's Lesson, and guide us through a fascinating history of people and events in the Bible.

The beauty of each class is the light that Christian Science shines on the stories, which brings them alive and gives them relevance to us today. Those who participate can certainly feel the presence of the Spirit of God. We all come away from each class with a much greater understanding and appreciation for the Bible, and for Mrs. Eddy.

In reading “The Overwhelming Evidence Concerning Spiritual Healings Through Mary Baker Eddy” by Ralph Spencer, I came across the following paragraph:

“Christians are apt to accept the Scriptures only as historical facts, moral philosophy and religious doctrine. The most valuable part of the Scriptures, however, is the somewhat hidden portion, — the spiritual meaning that brings an awareness of God, and which the writers were endeavoring to set forth as best they could. But to set forth the things of the Spirit with material phraseology is not easy. It is no wonder that for thousands of years the Bible and other spiritual writings have been so misunderstood and have seemed so incomprehensible. Yet, man's underlying nature is of the Spirit, and it is this Spirit which he needs to discover and understand, so that he may partake more and more of his divine heritage. For a whole generation, our people have strayed farther and farther away from God and the things of God, and behold the mess that the world is in. Yet, the wonderful things of God are always available, and especially so to those who believe and pursue until they find.”

Participants in the Saturday Bible Study Group are pursuing and finding. This class is available through the church teleconference system. The dial-in number is:

866-576-9975

760-569-7000 international
access code 617788.

Class starts at 10:00 am. Recordings of prior sessions are available on our website under Bible Lesson/Bible Study.

Gary Singleterry
Plainfield