
PLAINFIELD INDEPENDENT

February 2013

Message from Mary Baker Eddy

"Beloved children, the world has need of you, — and more as children than as men and women: it needs your innocence, unselfishness, faithful affection, uncontaminated lives. You need also to watch, and pray that you preserve these virtues unstained, and lose them not through contact with the world. What grander ambition is there than to maintain in yourselves what Jesus loved, and to know that your example, more than words, makes morals for mankind!"

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We had many comments regarding our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, the atmosphere, the children singing. Our new organist, Gerald, spent a good six weeks preparing for it, praying through every detail. He has brought a childlike enthusiasm and sincerity, a wonderful compliment to our church. The note below, I think, captures how we all feel about Gerald:

Dear Gerald, Thank you for the beautiful Candlelight Christmas Eve service! I wished it would continue for hours and hours, everything was flowing so beautifully! The part where little children were singing was very precious and brought tears to my eyes (and believe me, it takes quite a bit for this.)

I heard your Wednesday testimony, about your struggles and thoughts of being unwanted. Well, I hope this has changed or rapidly changing, for you are very loved, wanted and needed and your work brings joy to many and uplifts hearts.

Church Desk Calendar

For the first time, members from all over were encouraged to submit inspiring statements, and two of you, Dale Wallis (VA), and Betty Simpson (CA) were the proofers. The major portion of the work still rested with Carol Conroy (NJ), but this year the load was made much lighter thanks to you all!

I'd like to add my name to the many who are grateful for the church desk calendar this year.

Not too long ago, I decided it was time to read S&H again from cover to cover. The first sentence, "To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, today is big with blessings," inspired me to expect at least one blessing each day as the result of my reading of the book, and to record it on the back of the page of our desk calendar for that day! This calendar has become a "Blessings Journal!"

As I lean more on God, and expect Him to care for me, I have every day found a blessing. And as I look back on what I've written, I am aware that "My cup runneth over."

Thank you to every one who took part in the creation and publication of the desk calendar. It has been a blessing!

- Heidi Gwynn, MD

Corporate Meeting

Our Corporate Meetings are now on teleconference and we had a good number of members on line. The following describes well the experience:

The meeting was very uplifting, LOVED the start - with a hymn and a reading from Misc. writings. Definitely wasn't your regular corporate meeting, God was in it! which I find rather challenging at

times to put into practice when talking about things like maintenance, membership, investments. With God nothing has to be dull or boring, that's what I am learning and seeing at Plainfield.

- *Elena Talalaeva, FL*

Testimony – Getting That Steel

I used to feel pushed around mentally - even bullied by thoughts intended to harm me. Sometimes I could fend them off, but as I have grown stronger in my faithfulness to God and work in Plainfield, my mental steel has been forged tougher! I don't take any bull, and I am quicker to recognize an intruding thought. It has been gradual. But looking back on my former self I see a difference.

Then I read this statement in Science and Health this morning and it hit me....God has done this wonderful thing for me!!!! I didn't ask Him to do it. It is part of who I really am...it just unfolded. And I feel excited about this real, unimpeachable dominion.

“Here Christian Science is the sovereign panacea, giving strength to the weakness of mortal mind, — strength from the immortal and omnipotent Mind.” (S&H) Thank you, Father.

- *Tony Moore, GA*

Outreach - New Booklet

We're working on a new project — a booklet specifically for people who know nothing about Christian Science.

Just as Mrs. Eddy published both a Journal (for students) and a Sentinel (for newcomers), we need to have something to give people who walk into the church “off the street,” and non-Scientists who find our Website and want to learn more. Benjamin has written a beautiful,

heartfelt article (that will appear in the next CornerStone) about how he found a Healing Thoughts magazine and was so moved by what he read, that he yearned to learn more. Despite opposition, he refused to give up, and is now one of our most precious, and valuable, members. There is also a testimony from Paul, who was healed of food poisoning when he first came to Plainfield, when the practitioner told him that the dominion God gave to man over the fish of the sea, also applied to the fish he had eaten. Shows the practical use of Bible statements, and how they can be applied in our lives today.

If you'd like to write something simple and easily understandable that might inspire a newcomer, we'd love to receive it. We also plan to offer these booklets to anyone who might want to distribute them in their local area (perhaps a local religious book store, or wherever you think might be appropriate). So please also let us know if you'd like a supply.

- *Carol Conroy, NJ*

Roundtable

I just wanted to thank everyone who participated in the Round Table today. I have been very overwhelmed with personal issues and what is happening to our country. You have helped me to understand what I have to pray for. Because before my prayers for the country were muddled and therefore ineffective. You also helped me to understand what I should do when I get bombarded by the negative things that are happening that all my friends are talking about. This will be a big help in getting through the coming days.

I am so grateful for this church and its enlightened members. Plus the works of the early workers you are keeping alive.

- *Rene Eady, OH*

Bible Study Experience

Each week a different participant leads the Bible Study on Saturday morning, held on our teleconference service. Even those who have little Bible experience are encouraged to take a turn. Everyone prepares. Everyone contributes. Everyone learns.

I volunteered to lead the Bible Study recently and was terrified because I knew so little about the Bible. A practitioner at Plainfield explained to me that I didn't need to know anything; I should rely on God for direction and guidance. Also that the lesson would be appropriate and I would have the blessing of turning to God for help. I did as she recommended and was delighted and amazed when the study questions that we post on the website just flowed to me easily. Other members helped a lot as well, making suggestions for a few changes, but basically the study questions were as I was inspired to write them.

When Saturday morning arrived I was a little nervous, but confident that Divine Mind was right there with me. The class went just fine and was very meaningful and full of thought provoking discussions.

Something very interesting happened just prior to the end of the class: There were two remaining questions, but only a few minutes left of class time and I needed to choose one. I felt directed to choose the last question and passed by the beautiful story of Peter raising Tabitha. Afterwards I felt disappointed that we didn't discuss this important Bible happening and wondered that I must not have been listening to the guidance correctly. The next morning during our Roundtable class I realized why this occurred as we all enjoyed a

long and appropriate discussion of this story that was brought up just where it should be. This was such a good lesson for me to learn to trust God and know that He has a plan for us all if we would just listen and obey. My thanks to you all for helping me with this demonstration of God's love and guidance.

- Dale Adler, VA

Republishing Collaboration Online!

The book, Revelation Interpreted, by Rev. Kratzer, was originally published in 1915, two years after Rev. Kratzer had been thrown out of the Mother Church. Recently, the book was referenced during our Bible Study, and this opened our eyes to what a treasure it is. We were inspired to republish it, but since the folks in Plainfield already had their hands full, we realized it was time to harness the great work-force we have scattered all over the country, within our own membership. Elena offered to organize and assign the work – compiling the text in digital form, and proofing. The main part of the work has been completed, and now our typesetter and editor, Carol Conroy, will do final preparation for printing.

Great, thought-stirring book but the project was so much more than that! I got to know our wonderful members and appreciated the enthusiasm and effort they put in. “Church without walls” - we are all over the country but what a great united effort it was! Truly appreciated kind emails from everyone as we shared the excitement about the book itself.

- Elena Talalaeva, FL

To Think About:

“What is the speed of darkness?”

For Staying on the Straight and Narrow

The following were among the things that Mrs. Evans gave us to use each day to help stay on “the straight and narrow.”

First thing in the morning, “before your feet hit the floor”:

1. God is Mind. God is my mind. God is the only pure Mind.
2. God is Life. God is my life. God is the only Life.
3. I am a law unto myself that mental malpractice cannot harm me, either when asleep or when awake. (from S&H)

As you continue your preparations for the day, run through the three Daily Duties listed at the bottom of the Full-text Lesson – from the Church Manual.

Prior to reading the Lesson, pray that God open your heart to hear what He has to say to you today. Take some thought from the Lesson to use during the day – write it on a piece of paper to have with you.

During the day, have the three statements of Christ Jesus on your lips, repeating as necessary:

“I and my Father are one. The Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works. The Father hath not left me alone.” (Jesus)

Each day, read 5 pages of S&H, 5 pages of Misc. Wr., 5 pages of the Bible, or whatever you can schedule.

In the evening, before sleep, go over the day. Thank God for blessings – it is helpful to keep a list. Then ask God if there is anything you might have done better.

Finally, “Into Thine hand I commit my spirit; Thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.” (Ps. 31:5) before closing your eyes for the night.

Watching – our most important duty

We urge each of you to use the following “argument,” given by Mary Baker Eddy to the workers in her home, in counter-acting the evil intent of “the enemy” to influence the minds of our children erroneously.

Children, you are a perfect thought of God, made in His image and likeness, surrounded by His love as by a strong fortress through which no evil can reach you. God is your Mind, your Life, your strength, and you are governed by Truth and Love. You have no material conception or birth, no father and mother in the flesh. You were not born of the flesh (Mortal mind) and you are not the reflection of beliefs. Belief is not reflection. You are not weak or easily led astray. You cannot desire to rule and lead others. You are not rebellious or obstinate. You have no human will. God’s will is all and you are its reflection. Therefore you will only do right, for you reflect and inherit divine wisdom and understanding. You are spiritual and Spirit knows all things. Sensuality has no power over you, for you are not conscious of the lusts of the flesh, but you are the pure conception of divine Truth and Love and coeternal with your Father-Mother God. Your every thought and action are love, goodness, tenderness, gentleness, beauty, holiness, joy and peace; that peace which passeth all human understanding. In God we live, move and have our being; therefore we are in Life, health, strength, forever. To be conscious of this is to be in the presence of God--with the Father who is Life, Truth and Love. Amen. We are the children of the King; why should we mourn?

- Watches, Prayers, and Arguments