

The
CORNERSTONE
of
Independent
Christian Science

*“The stone which the builders rejected
is become the head of the corner.”*

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November 2012

Number 151

Come Join Us

Sunday Service and Sunday School

11:00 A.M.

Roundtable

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Evening

8:15 P.M.

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Plainfield Christian Science Church

Independent

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Independent Christian Science

Unfettered by institutional religion

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Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

In 1886, Mrs. Eddy asked Augusta [Stetson] to go to New York City “to help establish the Christianity of Christian Science.” She added: “There will be plenty of people who will attempt to work in Christian Science, but will pervert it, and the result will be mental relief on a material basis, and faith cure. I want the Christianity of Christian Science.”

Gail M. Weatherbe

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah



“Unto Us a Child is Born”

Mary Baker Eddy

The existence of Jesus was identical with Truth, and the Life that is God. He demonstrated Spirit free from matter, and the divine Soul, the substance of man, and body but its

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accompanying shadow. He knew that even as good and evil are opposites, so are the spiritual and material sense of things opposites.

To understand this great fact in metaphysics, it is necessary to be born again; born of the Spirit and not of the flesh; and this was the birth referred to in those words of the prophet Isaiah, "For unto us a child is born and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful."

Great epochs begin with the birth of new ideas, the development of an unseen Principle; unseen only to the material senses. When we enlarge our idea of God, it becomes more divine and less human, and this more spiritual conception of being has birth in higher individuality.

The most notable period of the ages was that when a Galilean peasant uttered by the way-side and in humble homes, to artless listeners, dull disciples, and to wondering ears his simple sense of Truth, of how it healed the sick, saved the sinner and robbed the grave of its victory. He trusted those words to the providence of God, but in no fact seems the man of Galilee greater than in his serene sense of the immortality of those words.

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"; what a calm confidence was that in the superior permanence of mind over matter!

Mary Baker Eddy
Essays and Other Footprints



Featured Early Worker: Augusta Stetson

Andrew Kidd

To many of us, if we had heard of Augusta Stetson, it was not in a favorable light. We heard that she was an early worker in the Christian Science movement who enjoyed enormous success, established the First Church in New York City, and then turned to the dark side and had to be excommunicated from the organization. But we also heard that Mary Baker Eddy had a deep and enduring love for Mrs. Stetson right to the end. How could this be? The assumption has been that, since Mrs. Eddy allowed the board of directors (b.o.d.) to proceed with the excommunication, she must have felt it necessary!

However, today, now that we have discovered the b.o.d. was far from supportive of Mrs. Eddy during her final years, that they summarily ignored her estoppel clauses in the Church Manual after her passing, ignored her warnings that the Church Manual was divinely guided! — now, knowing that whatever impressions we may have of Mrs. Stetson and her disgrace has been the result of thorough indoctrination by the all-powerful board of directors! — now we take a look at Mrs. Stetson in a different light. We do not attempt to summarize the thorough documentation which may be found on the website: <http://www.emmapublishing.com>. Instead, we compare the Mrs. Stetson that Mrs. Eddy knew with the one her detractors saw.

Mrs. Eddy loved Mrs. Stetson dearly, as is clear from their copious and heart-felt correspondence. No one else enjoyed such a close relationship with Mrs. Eddy. An early experience in their relationship left a deep impression with Mrs. Eddy. She did not appear at a scheduled speaking engagement and Mrs. Stetson, as a fairly new student, was in a position to either cancel the proceedings, or get up and

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give the lecture herself. She chose the latter and, without preparation, spoke for an hour and a half, apparently very effectively! Later, Mrs. Eddy often referred to that experience when urging her on: "You did not run then. You never will." This quality of boldness, a spiritual strength, Mrs. Eddy recognized as rare and valuable to the furthering of her Cause. On the other hand, this same quality alienated Mrs. Stetson from others. They were offended by her brashness. When Mrs. Eddy sent her to establish the First Church in New York, other of Mrs. Eddy's own students distanced themselves from Mrs. Stetson, and started other churches. They did not want to have to deal with her strong, dominating character.

In another area, Mrs. Stetson was a regular purveyor of excellent fruit, fine clothing not available in Boston, and other expensive gifts to Mrs. Eddy, who happily accepted them. Despite being acutely sensitive to the thought behind gift-giving, Mrs. Eddy felt no strings-attached love from Mrs. Stetson's generosity, a spiritual giving. On the other hand, Mrs. Stetson's detractors found her to be grossly material, her church lavish, and her appreciation of expensive, beautiful things offensive to the spiritually minded!

Finally, Mrs. Eddy shared her vision of a spiritual organization with Mrs. Stetson, and as far as we know, with no one else. After years of struggling with her board of directors, whom she once castigated as "stuffed shirts and trained monkeys!" Mrs. Eddy eventually gave them up to their own devices, although she absolutely refused to remove the estoppel clauses from the Church Manual which, if adhered to, would have severely limited their sphere of influence after she passed on. Her battle with them, well documented through many letters referenced in Carpen-

Featured Early Worker: Augusta Stetson

ter's "Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Precepts," was over their lack of urgency in doing the will of God, and instead, operating from the standpoint of human expediency. This was best expressed by the then-clerk of the mother church, John Dittimore, after her passing: "This church is run as a plain business proposition, and its future will be in accordance with plain business principles." Nothing could have been more antagonistic to Mrs. Eddy's vision and the true practice of Christian Science!

Mrs. Stetson, on the other hand, governed her church from the standpoint of demonstration, striving to do God's will as she understood it. This outraged the carnal mind which always demands "due process," but proved to be highly productive in the healing work. She built offices for practitioners in her church, and kept careful watch over their work as to their proper practice of Christian Science. Even though Mrs. Stetson's dynamic approach may have tested the letter of the Church Manual, apparently Mrs. Eddy felt she was far more obedient to the spirit than were the board of directors! The fierceness with which the board pursued and excommunicated Mrs. Stetson and those faithful to her indicated they felt she posed a dire threat to their authority. And there were plenty of people in Mrs. Stetson's church who also took exception to her mode of operation, out of envy and jealousy.

With the excommunication of Mrs. Stetson, Mrs. Eddy turned away from the board of directors to the spiritual organization, and urged Mrs. Stetson to do the same. Never did she withdraw her love and support and high expectation from her precious student.

The Bible warns of "the war of the flesh against the spirit." Christ Jesus said, "Blessed are they that are persecuted for my sake" So in the history under considera-

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tion, who was on the right side? Did Mrs. Stetson represent the flesh, this brash woman who had no problem telling people what to do, who, it is claimed, brazenly patronized our Leader, and then defied authority in operating her church? Yes, she may have had a great record in the healing and teaching department, but was she so materialistic it must have been hypnotism at work?

Was Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, the one so far in advance of the age and all of her students and followers, was she so bewitched by Mrs. Stetson that she could not see what the rest saw? — Or is the human concept of the spiritual idea so skewed with self-pride, so pathetically inadequate, that it sees “a friend of Beelzebub” when confronted with the Christ-spirit?

We write this from the standpoint of our first-hand experience with Doris White Evans, who, like Mrs. Stetson, had a tremendous healing record, who was excommunicated by the board of directors, and had many detractors. The one thing Mrs. Evans had which Mrs. Stetson did not have was a church that stood with her in defiance of the b.o.d., and which stands today, the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, a spiritual organization.



Recorded Healings by Mary Baker Eddy

The following is from a collection of healings achieved by Mrs. Eddy, included in the booklet, "The Overwhelming Evidence Concerning Spiritual Healings Through Mary Baker Eddy,": compiled by Ralph Spencer. This booklet is available from Plainfield Church.

At the birth of my youngest child, now eight years old, I thought my approaching confinement would be premature by several weeks, and sent Mrs. Eddy a message to that effect. Without seeing me, she returned an answer that the proper time had come, and that she would be with me immediately.

Slight labor pains had commenced before she arrived. She stopped them at once, and requested me to call an obstetrician, but to keep him below stairs until after the birth. When the doctor arrived, and while he remained in a lower room, Mrs. Eddy came to my bedside. I asked her how I should lie. She answered, "It makes no difference how you lie," and added, "Now let the child be born." Immediately the birth took place, and without pain. The doctor was then called into the room to receive the child, and he saw that I had no pain whatever.

I confess my own astonishment. I did not expect so much, even from Mrs. Eddy, especially as I had suffered before very severely in childbirth. The physician covered me with extra bed-clothes, charged me to be very careful about taking cold and to keep quiet, and then went away. I think he was alarmed at my having no labor-pains, but before he went out I had a chill coming on. When the door closed behind him, Mrs. Eddy threw off the extra coverings and said, "It is nothing but the fear produced by the doctor

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that causes these chills.” They left me at once. She told me to sit up when I chose, and eat whatever I wanted. I sat up for several hours and ate whatever the family did, and never experienced the least inconvenience from this course. In one week I was about the house and was well, running up and down stairs and attending to domestic duties.

For several years I had been troubled with prolapsus uteri, which disappeared entirely after Mrs. Eddy’s wonderful demonstration of Christian Science at the birth of my babe.

Lynn, Mass., 1874

Miranda R. Rice



Stand!

To stand and know He leads,
Though we cannot see the way;
To stand through storm and stress,
When darkness dims the day;
When fear seeks to appall,
And doubt to enter in;
When hatred would enthrall,
To simply stand with Him.

This is our work for God—
The path our Master trod.

Mabel Cone Bushnell

The Christian Science Weekly

This section contains excerpts from The Christian Science Weekly, which was first published in 1898, and later was re-named the Christian Science Sentinel.

*Published in The Christian Science Weekly,
October 20, 1898*

Only a Belief

Rev. Irving C. Tomlinson

“When one is sick, why do you say, ‘It is only a belief?’” This often-asked question has an answer in the following incident, told by a New York Scientist.

While playing lawn-tennis, a young woman was hit in the face by a tennis ball. After recovering from her confusion, she found that her two front teeth, supplied to her by the dentist and set in gold, were gone. She quickly arrived at the conclusion that she had swallowed her teeth, and that her life was in danger.

Had she been a Christian Scientist, she would have known that the swallowing of her teeth was only a belief, and that, as God’s child, she was “all right.” Not being a Christian Scientist, she sent for the family physician, who knew she had swallowed her teeth, and that she was “all wrong.” The usual grave announcement was made: “The case is very critical,” followed by the frank avowal that “The teeth, with their gold prongs, cannot be pumped up or thrown up. The patient must be kept very quiet. She will grow weak, lose her appetite, take to her bed, suffer severe pain, have convulsions, and most likely die.”

It is not said that the physician was a prophet nor the son of a prophet. Oh the time-honored (?) custom that decrees the fulfillment of medical prophecy. In a critical (?)

case, to prophesy doleful disaster is very “regular,” to declare that it is only a belief is very “irregular.”

In this case the treatment was “regular,” and the symptoms which followed were “regular.” The patient was kept quiet; she grew weak; she lost her appetite; she took to her bed; she suffered severe pain — but she did not have the convulsions. Before this symptom was due to manifest itself, the patient’s sister found the teeth in the grass on the lawn and carried them to the patient, who was thereby convinced that the swallowing of her teeth was only a “belief.” When she saw that the teeth in her stomach were only a *belief*, and not a *reality*, she saw there was no necessity for convulsions, in fact no necessity for her being in bed at all, or for that matter, being in any way ill. Then she knew she was all right, and she *was* all right.

Had Christian Science cared for the case, what was known last would have been known first, and several unnecessary illusions would have been avoided; for she would then have known that the swallowing of her teeth was *only a belief*, and that, as God’s child, she was all right.

Moral.—Learn to *know* that your “beliefs” are in the grass and not in yourself, and *you* will be all right.



“And a Little Child Shall Lead Them”

Ellen L. Ash

One morning as I was out in the woods with my little boy he said, “Mamma, look here!” And taking hold of a vine, he began pulling it through his hands, and winding it round

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and round both hands and wrists. “Oh!” I said, “why do you spoil that pretty vine?” He laughed and said, “Don’t you know what this is? It’s poison ivy; and some people *believe* if you touch it, it will poison you. But when we know God is All, we know it has no power.”

If I had accidentally touched poison ivy, I would “meet the cause mentally and courageously” (S&H), but I would not have dared to handle it as fearlessly as the child had done, which shows how hard it is to rid ourselves of old superstitions.

We can smile now at the foolish credulity of past ages which believed a horseshoe over the door would keep out evil spirits, witches, etc., and that it was unlucky if thirteen sat at table, and that it was good luck to see the new moon over the right shoulder. The next century will wonderingly smile at many superstitions that today are accepted as facts.

Christian Science Weekly
October 6, 1898



It’s been said that God cannot open the windows of heaven very wide to the man with a shut-up Bible.

Christian Science Weekly

What a wonderful idea if this year I received only good thoughts instead of gifts under the tree! We read in the Bible, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17. Isn't the truth that I am the image and likeness of God the greatest gift?

Sometimes I wonder if I really need another sweater, another pair of shoes and more jewelry. Even though these are nice to have, can we compare them to the restoration of peace between husband and wife, freedom from the false appetite for food, drug addiction, insecurity, tribal tensions, sibling discords, fear, greed, disease and poverty?

Aren't there many of us who wish we could go to the store and exchange bracelets for fidelity in our relationships? Wouldn't we trade some new shirts to be able to talk with a brother we have not spoken with for a year or two? Wouldn't we trade even a new car for recovery of a son who is captivated with the false desire to use drugs for happiness? How many homes are yearning for a happy Mom instead of a resentful, unhappy one? The world's so-called poor would trade some of their wonderful material donations for the everlasting awakening that they are also included in God's abundant circle of plenty and love; that no one was created poor.

These gifts of good thoughts are affordable by everyone; we simply need to share in the giving of them. They do not need wrapping and they don't have to be mailed. We can keep them, and yet bless with them, and they never run out. These thoughts need to go out with every material gift as well, in order to truly bless. We love our neighbor as ourselves with such good thoughts, and these good gifts are in accord with God's great laws!

“Feed My Sheep” — Christ Jesus

Gratitude is the beauty of thankfulness, and man expresses that divine beauty.

Herbert W. Beck

God is no more and no less available to one than to the other. The choice is in the testimony of the petitioner, in his worthiness, in his humbleness, in his consecration to the purposes of God.

Norman Beasley

Right thinking leads us to say and do the right thing in the right way at the right time; and Christian Science leads to right thinking.

William R. Rathvon



Gratitude

Herbert W. Eustace

Of all the virtues, can there be found one more prolific of quiet, peaceful happiness, more overflowing with love and kindness, than gratitude? This subject has been frequently in my thought.

When on vacation, one Sunday evening it was my privilege to hear a learned bishop of the Episcopal Church deliver a sermon. In his address he stated that in his old parish, in one of the large eastern cities, a parish that contained some of the best Christian workers he had ever known, on the reading desks in the church were the old prayer-books that had been there for over a century. They were not then being used, more modern ones having replaced them.

One day the thought came to him to look over these old books, and see what prayers to God had been most fre-

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quently used. First he turned to the prayers for help for the sick, for the safety of those at sea, and for the many other blessings mortals so urgently desire. All these prayers were black with finger-marks, showing how much they had been used.

He then turned to the prayers of thanksgiving to God, and he was amazed to find that these prayers of deep gratitude were as clean as any pages in the book, showing how little they had been used. There was every evidence to show how constantly they had prayed to God for what they desired, but there was no evidence to show that they had expressed any gratitude for the blessings received.

Are we truly grateful for all the blessings that infinite Love is showering on us? Are we not too often like the ten lepers whom Jesus healed, only one of whom came back to render thanks? Out of ten blessings, do we render thanks for even one? How many times do we allow error to whisper to us, when some prayer is answered, that it just happened that way, or that we should have gotten well anyway. We are content that we have what we wanted, or that we are well. Our prayer of thanksgiving is not made and we have robbed God of what rightfully belongs to Him, a grateful heart. And we have furthermore denied the Bible, for it tells us that, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights."

Dear friends, let us always be ready to acknowledge our heavenly Father's love and care, not in one way only, but in every way. Let us turn to Him alone with our psalm of thanksgiving for everything that comes into our lives. With St. Paul let us rejoice at infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions, and distresses for Christ's sake. Remember "this self-same God is our Helper, He has mercy upon us, and guides every event of our careers." (Un.) If we do this we will learn that the seeming distresses are angels

“Feed My Sheep”

entertained unawares, and that Love has been with us all the time.

What a glorious thought this is, that we live in Love! Could we possibly ask for more? Can we express our gratitude in anything less than earnest, consecrated lives? Consecrated to God, striving to have the same Mind in us that was also in Christ Jesus, consecrated to the steadfast purpose of proving that God’s kingdom has indeed come on earth, as in heaven.

If we say, “I want,” we obscure “I AM.” The only “I” there is, cannot want. Man is a state of possession, not of desire. When we set aside “I want,” then “I AM” is present. If there is anything you want, stop and think; that’s the reason you haven’t got it.

Bicknell Young



Our Work

Maurice Kennedy

It is not our work to create anything, to make anything, or to produce anything. God has already done that. Our work is to stop believing a lie, and to stop accepting the suggestions of error.

Mary Baker Eddy has written, “Your true course is to destroy the foe, and leave the field to God, Life, Truth, and Love, remembering that God and His ideas alone are real and harmonious.” (S&H)

God’s work is done; and His creation exists, and must continue to exist, complete, harmonious, and perfect. Our work is to eliminate the fog of false belief that claims to

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hide the true idea. We do not have to make evil unreal; evil is unreal, and our part is to know that it is unreal. Neither do we ever have to make good real; it already is so. We do not declare the truth to make it true; we declare it because it *is* true.

Letting go of error allows the true idea to shine through. If a rubber ball is squeezed tightly, the ball loses its natural shape and becomes distorted, and will remain so as long as the cramping grip is maintained. In order to restore it to its normal condition, nothing needs to be done

but to let go — to release the hold. Then at once the abnormality and distortion vanishes.

We do not declare the truth to make it true; we declare it because it is true.

Mary Baker Eddy says in *Unity of Good*, “*By knowing the unreality of disease, sin, and death, you demonstrate the allness of God.*” This “knowing,” then, comprises the

whole of our work. But this does not mean that our work is merely passive. The destruction of error calls for the use of the two-edged sword; for how can we see the unreality of any evil, except we first see, and hold to, the truth which proves its falsity? Honest, earnest seeking of the light is true prayer; and no true prayer goes unanswered!

Having thoroughly done our work of destroying the foe, casting out the evil belief, we can rejoice and confidently “leave the field to God.”

Watch when the telephone rings, or when you receive letters, messages, etc., or when the doorbell rings — handle mesmerism, and know that you are not getting anything but from God. Then it is handled before it even reaches you.

*Bicknell Young
Collected Writings*

Watching Points

The book 500 Watching Points was written by Gilbert C. Carpenter, C.S.B., and Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr., C.S.B. These watching points were written for Mr. Carpenter's students, "to broaden their demonstration of Christian Science as Mrs. Eddy set the example in her home."

Watching Point No. 145

Gilbert C. Carpenter

WATCH lest the evidence of error that confronts you, lead you to believe that the battle-ground of Christian Science, on which we win our victories, is ever in any place but your own thinking. We are not trying to change the world's condition, but our sense of the world's condition. We are not trying to correct or perfect mankind, so that they may be fit to take their places in our kingdom of heaven. We are endeavoring to rend the veil in our own thinking, that would cause us to believe that they are not perfect now, or not in the kingdom of heaven now.

Mrs. Eddy once wrote, "Error is nothing but erroneous thought, and we must never give in to it, or go down before it." Also she said, "Error is non-scientific thinking and scientific or true thinking is all that is needed to destroy it."



Every treatment that you give is founded on the fact of "perfect God and perfect man." (S&H) You stand there. The whole demonstration of Christian Science, to the extent that it has been made, is on that basis, perfection; that all *is*, nothing has to be created; everything is.

Bicknell Young



The Gift

Lighted candles in every window,
A festive wreath decked every door.
I heard a jovial, "Merry Christmas!"
From a passer-by I hadn't seen before.

Happy children building a snowman,
Their laughter filled the chilly air.
Friendly smiles on friendly faces;
God's love was present everywhere!

I felt a peaceful warmth within me.
With gratitude my heart did sing,
"Thank you, Father, for the Christ
in Christmas,
And the gift of love and joy it must bring."

Art Anker

“Comfort Ye My People”

Whenever there seems to be a need or a lack in your experience, this simply indicates the scientific fact that this seeming need is already supplied by God’s gracious abundance. Then give thanks with your whole heart because you have learned in Christian Science that God’s supply is ever at hand.

Mary Baker Eddy
Divinity Course and General Collectanea

The scientific denial or correction of sense testimony is the only road to health, holiness, and happiness.

Clarence W. Chadwick

The government of divine Love is supreme. Love rules the universe, and its edict hath gone forth: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me,” and “Love thy neighbor as thyself.” Let us have the molecule of faith that removes mountains, — faith armed with the understanding of Love, as in divine Science, where right reigneth.

Mary Baker Eddy
Miscellany



Power of a Right Decision

Adell Lonergan

“Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.” These words of Jesus bring forth

the great fact that the only thing we ever have to do — the only thing we can do — is to decide to be obedient to divine Principle. When we have done that, our problem is well on the way to being solved.

Sometimes mortal thought tries to deceive us into believing that we must change our environment, our business, even our entire future, in order to find health, happiness, and success. But, in reality, salvation lies in deciding to stand with divine Principle, Truth. As Paul put it to the Ephesians, “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Early in my study of Christian Science, I began to find new hope and a new life, after a long, hard battle with some

salvation lies in deciding to stand with divine Principle, Truth.

medical problems. Yet, back in consciousness, there lurked the reservation to retain a doctor’s prescription that had seemed necessary to overcome suffering and ward off death. The practitioner soon discovered this “enemy,” and said, “When you can say with Job, ‘Though he slay me, yet will I

trust in him,’ you will be healed.” I felt I was in the “valley of decision,” with the truth on one side, and medical remedies on the other. One thought kept coming to me, “Choose you this day whom ye will serve.” The material evidence soon lost its importance, and I could honestly say, “Even if error seems to slay me, yet will I trust God, good.”

Then came hours of testing. Error tried to weaken this new God-given trust; but faith, stronger than the temptation, conquered; and I suddenly found myself free. Semi-invalidism of 14 years, a seemingly unbearable sorrow, and diseases pronounced incurable fell away like an old cloak,

“Comfort Ye My People”

leaving me strong, enduring, and as well as I had ever been. Nothing was left to tell of the seeming struggle, except the memory of the power of a right decision.

Mrs. Eddy says, “Your decisions will master you, whichever direction they take.” (S&H) To get nearer to the heart of divine Love is mankind’s great need; and Truth is ever whispering to the heartsick and burdened, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heaven laden, and I will give you rest.”



Vigilance Always Necessary

Andrew Kidd

Recently I had the joy of sleeping at my brother’s sheep farm in a remote place, far from the maddening crowd! I fell off to sleep in such peace, but an hour into the night, I was awakened by barking dogs, the dogs whose sole purpose is to guard the sheep from predators. They barked all night, it seemed, and I did not have a restful night because I was imagining there might be trouble out there. In the morning, in relating the experience to my brother, he laughed and said that, when the dogs are barking, that is when he sleeps soundly. It is when the night is silent he worries!

It turns out, the wolves are always on the prowl, waiting for an opportunity to move in for the kill. The guard dogs let the wolves know that there will be hell to pay if they trespass!

These kinds of things always carry a lesson to the student of Christian Science, otherwise they would not have entered experience. This is what I came up with: The sheep

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represent the spiritual thought, the wolves, material sense. Once the student claims his rightful heritage as spiritual, made in the image of God, material sense is on the prowl to contradict and destroy. The barking dogs could represent our difficult experiences, those that stir us out of complacency, when we are reminded we must shut the door on material sense and “Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good.” (S&H)

Mrs. Eddy distributed the following Watch in her home at Pleasant View: “The unseen silent forces of God are standing sentinel over me and mine and all, silencing, destroying, annihilating the unseen silent arguments of the serpent, material sense.” (Watches, Prayers, and Arguments) Apparently barking dogs were not necessary to protect her home, but this Watch indicates, nonetheless, that the threat was there and that the work had to be done to keep the serpent (or wolves) out. Notice the unction with which the silent arguments of the serpent are handled: silenced, destroyed, annihilated. No pussy-footing around!

We must guard the door of our thought against the entrance of opposing beliefs of selfishness, envy, resentment, laziness. This is an important point, if we want to enjoy the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise of salvation and supply. This process of correction is necessary, and results in better health.

Martha P. Noll



Announcements

Bible Study

We hold a Bible Study each Saturday at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference. Details are on the Website. Contact the church if you do not have access to the Website.

The Overwhelming Evidence

We have printed a new version of this inspiring booklet, in a larger, more readable format. It was written by Ralph Spencer, and is a collection of events in the life of Mary Baker Eddy, as related by people who were close to her. It also includes some wonderful healings that she accomplished. The cost is \$6.00 per copy.

Audio Recordings of Science and Health

We are happy to announce that we have produced audio recordings of Science and Health on CD. On them, Science and Health is beautifully and understandingly read by Andrew Kidd, who served as Reader in Plainfield Church for ten years. His experience and great love for Mary Baker Eddy and her revelation makes for a powerful listening experience, even for those familiar with the textbook. The cost is \$7.00 per CD, or \$85 for the set of 21 CDs.

Christian Science in Germany

We have published a newly typeset version of the inspiring book, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE IN GERMANY, by Frances Thurber Seal, in paperback form. This book tells of her experience in bringing Christian Science to Germany in 1897. She had found Christian Science less than a year before, and didn't speak a word of German. Yet through her love and faithfulness to God, she was able to bring Christian Science to Germany, teaching classes to people from all over Europe. The price is \$6.00.

Full-Text Version of Plainfield Lessons

The Plainfield Church produces our independent Lesson Sermons in full-text booklet form. Each 8 1/2 x 11 inch

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booklet contains the full-text Lessons for one month. It fits easily within a briefcase or large purse. This offers a convenient, attractive alternative to carrying your marked lesson books when traveling. Each one-month issue is \$7.00, a 3-month subscription is \$19.00, a 6-month subscription is \$36.00, and a 12-month subscription is \$65.00, within the USA; international is \$9.00 per issue, \$77.00 for a 12-month subscription.

Church Services Available by Phone

Our Sunday and Wednesday church services can now be heard by telephone. If you don't have a computer and would like to listen to our services live, contact Plainfield Church for dial-in information. You will be provided with a toll-free phone number, and a pass code. This will connect you to a teleconference service which broadcasts our services at the time they are being held. Sunday services begin at 11:00 a.m., and Wednesday services 8:15 p.m. The services are preceded by 5-10 minutes of music, and you are invited to dial in early to hear this prelude.

Our Roundtable is also available, live and recorded, via this teleconference service. The Roundtable begins at 10:00 a.m.

We invite everyone to join in, sing the hymns with us, and participate in the Roundtable.

Testimonies Given by Phone

Anyone from out of town is now able, through our teleconference feature, to give a testimony live during our Wednesday services from their telephone. If you are interested, please contact the church for the toll-free phone number, code, and instructions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Live Services on the Internet

Have you heard our live services on the Internet? Plainfield

Announcements

Church broadcasts both our Sunday and Wednesday evening services, including the Sunday adult class, live on the Internet. Recorded versions of these services are available on our Web site at any time. Just log on to plainfieldcs.com, and join our congregation. We look forward to welcoming you!

Web Site

Our Web site, plainfieldcs.com, is constantly being updated with fresh, inspired thoughts, articles, services, and Lessons. It even includes a Lesson forum area to post comments about the Lesson. Please check it out, and leave a comment if you wish!

Plainfield Independent Quarterly

The Plainfield Church publishes its own Lesson Sermon Quarterly, based entirely on the Bible and Science and Health. A one-year subscription costs \$11.00. A single issue costs \$5.00. Subscriptions to overseas and Canada cost \$19.00.

CornerStone Subscriptions

The CornerStone is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The subscription rate to the U.S.A. is \$20.00 for one year. Single copies cost \$5.00. One-year subscriptions to Canada cost \$27.00, and international \$35.00.

Plainfield Independent Newsletter

The Plainfield Church Newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December. It is available to members of Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, free of charge.

New Members Are Welcome!

Do you love Christian Science, and wish to see it prosper and go forward? Then we invite you most lovingly to join us in membership. Please contact us, and we'll be happy to send you an application!

Letters from Readers

Thank you for this independent Christian Science Church. Your love for God, Christian Science, and mankind makes the Plainfield Church a shining star, a beacon of Life, Truth, and Love.

Enclosed is my contribution.

California

My husband and I listened to the Roundtable together today. My husband especially appreciated your comments, and how the Roundtable takes somewhat “lofty” ideas and makes them practical.

Vermont

This comes with love and gratitude for all your service broadcasts, publications, and website.

We’re grateful to be able to “attend” from afar.

Florida

I want to express my gratitude for the Roundtable. Keep up the excellent work that blesses all mankind.

Alabama

I would like to express my deep gratitude to all of you there and members everywhere who work so hard and lovingly for our church. Your “labor of love” is very much appreciated. It would not be possible for me to mention all the wonderful things. Impossible. So, I’ll try to mention just a few: our services, our organist, our readers, our practitioners, our Roundtable discussions, the Bible study — all superb! I cannot fail to mention CornerStone and the Newsletter — the loving effort that goes into these publications. This is unselfed love. And last, but not least, is our Website. It is awesome. It is filled with such

Letters

wonderful, informative, uplifting healing. I am so grateful every time I turn it on (which is often). The articles are great, and especially for me, the audios. The testimonies are treatments, and the clear reading of Science and Health is wonderful. And I almost forgot the forum. It is so helpful. Many times I print it and make it part of my weekly study.

Again, I give my heartfelt thanks to each of you dear people for all your dedication, and of course, to our Father who led me to Plainfield.

Illinois

I am very thankful for the Sunday Roundtable discussion. Recently the topic was on Matter and a number of great ideas came out of the discussion that I've been working with throughout the week, including that error would keep us in a dual state of existence — a divine idea and a human concept of the divine idea. This statement really clicked for me, and even more so after I read the excerpt from Martha Wilcox's article on Idealism and Realism from where it came. Also of use was the knowledge that we aren't really healed of a problem until we understand that if it's not true for us, then it certainly cannot be true for anyone else either. Perhaps the most helpful for me was the idea that problems are opportunities to get closer to God. In the past I've always simply wanted my problems healed fast so I can just get on with my blissfully ignorant life.

I am very grateful for the excellent instruction to be found here at the Plainfield Church.

Maryland

I'm sending love to all. I'm so grateful for you all. I love being a part of the Roundtable, even if silently. It's such a joy.

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Please know that your wisdom, joy and counsel are always appreciated and loved.

Nevada

We happen to be away where there is only a cell phone signal, but we were able to listen live to the Sunday service by ipad. Thanks for making this available, for the service well read, and the music beautifully sung.

Montana

I have been listening to your audio of Science and Health and have been enjoying it very much. It has been 25+ years since I read the book, and hearing someone speak it gives a whole new meaning to the words written. Mary Baker Eddy was an amazing person. I believe by learning from Mrs. Eddy, I can become a better person.

New York

Thank you for the quote of the day and the daily Bible message. They are often the little something I need to help me better the day.

Wisconsin

Thank you for the many ways you include out-of-town members in all the church activities. Everything on the website and in the CornerStone magazine shines with your unselfed generosity and love, brightening each of my days.

New Hampshire

Thank you for practicing and teaching Mrs. Eddy's Christian Science — independent from the Board of Directors.

This church changed my life. Thank you for giving those of us not living in Plainfield ways to participate and contribute to this church.

I was able to "attend" the corporate meeting via the teleconference. The atmosphere was one of God's healing

Letters

power and love, as well as a feeling of devout and united prayer. Everything was done with a joyous purpose. I was very impressed at how much love and work went into the practical everyday running of the church.

Enclosed is my monthly contribution.

California

Enclosed is a check to support the work of this church, which is powerful, practical, up-to-date, and enlightening. There is always something to meet the need and to share with others. Thank you for all you are doing.

Virginia

I have just begun the second study of the current copy of The CornerStone magazine. There are so many very helpful articles in this copy, and it well deserves a second study.

California

I wish to express my gratitude for the practitioners of the Plainfield Church. They are always on duty and ready to help when a call comes in. It was suggested that I read the articles by Martha Wilcox on "Body." The second article seemed to "hit the nail on the head," for it was just what I needed to study.

California

I thank those writing the weekly Lessons. The relevance to our world and daily lives leaps out. These Lessons have so much meaning to me and have helped me through many situations. God's love smiles and enfolds us in all ways.

Alabama

Enclosed is a contribution to support the wonderful work of this church in its message to the world of Mary Baker Eddy's pure and practical Christian Science. There is not

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a day that goes by that I don't find help and inspiration through the materials offered on the church's website — things that really help me, and also things that are perfect to share with others and which really fill the need.

This independent church truly exemplifies “the structure of Truth and Love.”

Virginia

Everything concerning my move from California to Arizona has been most comfortable.

My former home was listed for sale on Monday, the “for sale” sign went up in the yard on Tuesday, and the house sold on Wednesday.

My new home was purchased, the vehicle license for the car and my personal driver's license were all acquired in just a few hours. My work concerning this move involved daily study of the article, “Place,” by Mrs. Eddy.

Arizona

It is wonderful to have the Watching Points! I love Watching Point 210; it is so relevant to my understanding of Christian Science.

I ordered the Herbert W. Eustace book from Plainfield. It came in the mail and I have been reading it. I am so glad you are making certain metaphysical books available.

Of course I am grateful that the Lesson is online. Also I am making use of the articles, especially Radiation and Absorption and Treatment for Every Day.

Colorado

I live and work in People's Republic of China and it was refreshing to discover your website. I have already shared it with others.

I look forward to learning more.

China

The Independent Lesson Forum

If you haven't discovered the Lesson Forum on our church website yet, log on to plainfieldcs.com and click on Lesson Forum. You will find lively and inspiring discussions centered around our weekly Lesson. The individuality of the contributors is wonderfully evident. Those who participate find that it brings greater depth to the study of the Lesson. It provides an opportunity to ask questions, and share with others ideas that have been revealed to you in your study. Everyone is welcome to join in. We would love to hear from you!

The following is a sample of submissions from the Lesson, "Everlasting Punishment."

Story of the Prodigal Son.

I found new insight in this story, a fresh new meaning for me. The Father, when asked, gave to his son spiritual insight, inspiration, and clarity of thought: the gift which is life and substance. Feeling elated and full of excitement with this new gift, he should have thanked his Father and continued to work. Instead he turned from the source of his inspiration to pursue his personal will, and gradually his light went out. There was no oil left in his lamp.

I have experienced this problem myself. There is only one way out of that pit. Working for God keeps the fire burning.

Response:

Excellent. I too got something fresh: the Father welcomed the prodigal back with a celebration because "he was dead and now is alive."

In the material, self-absorbed, self-loving, self-loathing state, I am dead. Turning to the heavenly Father/Principle-Mother/Love, I am made alive. Makes

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sense, especially because God IS Life! There is no other life.

What a revolution in medical care if this was the new criterion for health and life!!

Response:

Human thoughts lead to death — so he was obviously suffering in this state of thought. So divine Love was operating right in that spot, and he was receptive. How often do we see suffering people refuse to turn to God. They blame everyone else for their problems. Refusing to expose sin hastens death. But not the prodigal son — he turned to God and repented! He wanted what he had lost, so he fought for it.

Response:

Wonderful parable with more than one theme. I also notice that the Scripture tells that the Father waited and watched. He looked for his son daily. He never gave up hope that his son would return. I believe that he was holding “thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true.” It was this pure love which externalized, and brought his son home.

Just like our Father, Mother, God, the father in this story waits on his son (as God waits on us) to turn from sense to Soul. He (Divine Love), is always right there, ready to receive us with open arms, and never with condemnation!

Response:

This is the understanding in this parable that I am most so grateful for. I knew this parable as a child but certainly without the lesson of the nothingness of materiality and the ALL-NESS of spirituality. My everything worth having can only be found in God. Also a great example of Truth blazing out error!

“The World Has Need of You”

This section of our magazine features statements and articles of Truth to help us in our prayer for the world.

To translate each duty into a shining of light for the glory of God, and the good of universal humanity, is to rise out of limitation into the grandeur and bliss of divine activity, blessing all, even though unconsciously.

Ella W. Hoag

All the power, action, intelligence, life, and government in the universe belong to God and have always belonged to Him. He is the Supreme Ruler and does not share His power with another.

Adam H. Dickey



The Great White Throne

Elizabeth Earl Jones

In his letters to Timothy, the Apostle Paul exhorted the followers of Christ to pray for “all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”

Mary Baker Eddy also exhorted her church (Christian Science versus Pantheism, p. 14): “Pray for the prosperity of our country, and for her victory under arms; that justice, mercy, and peace continue to characterize her government, and that they shall rule all nations. Pray that the divine presence may still guide and bless our chief magistrate, those associated with his executive trust, and our national judiciary; give to our congress wisdom, and uphold

our nation with the right arm of His righteousness.” In this same message, Mrs. Eddy included a prayer and blessing for the brave men in our country’s armed forces.

Obedient Christian Scientists have prayed thus for many years, and have learned that righteous prayer not only achieves victory and blessings, but purifies the thought of the one who prays, freeing it from destructive criticism and resentful thinking. It also opens one’s eyes to opportunities for service that otherwise might not have been seen.

The following incident, which occurred some years ago, will serve to illustrate this point. The then-President of the United States had accepted an invitation to deliver the address at the unveiling of a monument on one of the battlefields of the American Revolution. A few days before the event, a federal agent discovered a plot to assassinate the President as soon as he should rise on the platform to address those present. The agent hastened back to Washington with his report, but he stopped off between trains to seek out two Christian Science practitioners, who resided in that state. He asked these practitioners to pray for the President’s safety, which they most gladly agreed to do. For some years they had daily prayed as our Leader had requested in her message, but this was a call for special prayer.

The proper authorities took the human steps necessary to ensure against trouble, and all went well.

During the four hours that the President was in their state, the two practitioners devoted the entire time to prayer. While they were praying, a strange thing happened: they both became almost overwhelmed by a sense of crushing burden, so heavy and cruel that it seemed as if no human being could endure it.

“The World Has Need of You”

Said the one to the other, “Can it be that this is the load our Presidents have to bear?” Then they both prayed to lift that load. These words from Isaiah came to them: “Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?”

A new light dawned for them upon the vision of St. John, where the Revelator tells of “a great white throne” in heaven, and of the One who sat upon it. These two practitioners saw and understood, as never before, the absolute supremacy of God’s government and the oneness and allness of the divine Mind. They saw clearly that there are not thrones many — just one; also, that there are not rulers many — only One. In the same reality of being there are not minds many, hating and being hated, hypnotizing and being hypnotized, because the one divine Mind includes and governs all. They awakened to the idolatry of seeing persons in the place of divine Principle. All authority is in God. To think otherwise is to think destructively instead of constructively concerning our government.

As these two practitioners prayed, the sense of burden began to lift until nothing was left to it; and in place thereof was a great consciousness of freedom, of absolute safety, peace, and harmony.

Two days later they found in the morning newspaper the account of an interview given by the President’s secretary. The secretary told of how the President had enjoyed his time away, and had returned in excellent health and spirits, and he closed with these words: “The President says that while on this trip he felt the lifting of a crushing mental load which descended upon him when he took the oath of office, and from which he had experienced no relief until now.” It is not difficult to imagine the overflowing gratitude

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to God, and the humility and joy, with which those Christian Scientists read of that interview; nor is it difficult to understand that this was a lesson never to be forgotten.

Every true Christian knows that there is a forever “firmament,” or firm, uncompromising line of separation, between good and evil. Right is right, and wrong is wrong. Moral values must be kept straight and clear until all belief in a power apart from God, good, is wiped out by divine Science. But we must observe the Christ-rule in the destruction of evil. This rule scientifically impersonalizes evil, and then destroys it. This action of the Christ-consciousness heals and saves. Cruel and destructive action is not Science, is not the Christ-way, and does not proceed from God.

The Christ Science that uncovers error as impersonal and unreal destroys it. If we personalize error, we give it, in belief, an agent with which to strike back. The whole world has now learned a lesson in the awful error of appeasement. We have tasted and now know the deadly nature of the mental narcotic of apathy, and we want no more of it; but our testing times are not yet over, and we cannot afford to lessen our watch and prayers. The sword of the righteous can halt the sword of aggression, but it cannot destroy the wicked motives back of aggressive warfare — only the Christ, Truth, can do that.

Christian Science Sentinel, October 16, 1943

The real quality and significance of a career is determined, not by the display of courage, cleverness, energy, and en-

“The World Has Need of You”

duration, but by its governing motive, its faith in God, and the nature of the struggle to the success of which it has contributed.

John Willis



Change of Thought

Herbert W. Eustace

When the earthquake and fire occurred in San Francisco in 1906, sick people in homes and hospitals forgot their ailments in the greater calamity. It is recorded that for months after that experience, sickness in San Francisco was virtually unheard of.

Under the influence of great excitement or shock, freedom has come to many a sufferer after medical attention had failed to free him. Two thoughts cannot be entertained at the same time; and since all there is to any mortal is thought, it follows that if he becomes absorbed in one, he is free from others. A great shock or exciting experience spontaneously does this.

I have proven, to my own satisfaction, at least, that in seven cases out of ten, drugs hinder rather than aid the recovery of a patient; and that in nearly every case, when recovery has taken place, it was brought about more through the change of thought of the patient than through any other one thing.

Dr. Charles A. Davenport

Articles

The Search for Wisdom

Gary Singleterry

Many people spend a lifetime seeking knowledge and desiring wisdom. The Bible is full of guidance as to where wisdom comes from. In Proverbs, we read, “The Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.” Mary Baker Eddy explains that God is Mind, and the only Mind, the source of all knowledge and wisdom, and that we don’t need to look any farther for it. And how far is God? In Job we read, “He that is perfect in knowledge is with thee.” Here we have Biblical authority for the fact that God, and all His wisdom and knowledge, is right here with us!

So, what’s the problem? How do I make good decisions? Once again, we need look no further than Proverbs: “He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: He is a buckler for them that walk uprightly.” If you want wisdom, the Bible tells us to live a righteous life. Walk uprightly. Obey God and His precepts. Support those who are living a selfless, Christly life. This opens the door to intelligence and wisdom. All the human education in the world can’t compare to living a Christly life.

Jesus always knew what he needed to know, for the purpose of healing sickness and sin, and teaching others how to do the same. God revealed to him the truth about every situation. And why was he able to hear God’s voice? Because he was living the most righteous life the world had ever seen and was giving mankind the most valuable message it had ever heard. He told the Samaritan woman things about her life that only she knew. He read his disciples’ thoughts.

Articles

Some of the most successful businessmen and statesmen have acknowledged having a strong faith in God. Many admit to praying and to relying on “instinct” or “common sense” before making tough decisions in which there is no humanly possible way to know the right answer.

How many people spend countless years in school accumulating human, material knowledge, thinking that, somehow, that would make them more intelligent? Mrs. Eddy addresses this misconception in our textbook, *Science and Health*, on page 196: “If materialistic knowledge is power, it is not wisdom. It is but a blind force. Man has ‘sought out many inventions,’ but he has not yet found that knowledge can save him from the dire effects of knowledge.” True knowledge, however, is the knowledge to know what the human need is at the time, and to know how to meet it. This is the only legitimate basis for all human activity. This knowledge comes only from God, and requires that we have our strong connection with Him in order to hear it. It is the moral requirement, and is true wisdom.

Living a life of obedience to God is a rebuke to those who prefer to glorify their human knowledge, are too selfish to put mankind’s needs above their own wants, or are too proud to submit to the will of God. They may be smart about the ways of the world, but they will never gain the true wisdom that comes only from God.

This wisdom can only bless mankind. It can never harm. It is always at hand. Since it is always right, and always a blessing, could there be any reason to turn to anything or anyone else than to God for the answer to all our problems? Once again, in *Proverbs*, “In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” There is no other source for knowledge and wisdom than “He who maketh all things.”

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

Mary Beth Singleterry

In the first chapter of Luke are found several beautiful and holy verses which have become known as “The Annunciation.” In these passages, the Virgin Mary announces she would become the mother of the Messiah, the Saviour of Israel and of all generations to come. Mary’s pure and steadfast communion with God brought forth the Christ Child! Martha Wilcox, in her article “The Power of a Right Idea,” states, “This annunciation by the Virgin Mary is the greatest poem in Hebrew literature. I will say it is the greatest poem that has ever been written.”

At this time of year, to reflect deeply on this holy event is time well spent, for it lifts thought above all the merry-making and brings a true peace and calm.

Mary begins The Annunciation with the joyful proclamation, “My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” The word “magnify” as defined by Webster’s 1898 dictionary means, “to make great in representation; to extol; to exalt in description or praise.” Thinking of this definition, can we not in some small way let the real meaning of Christmas be exemplified in our own life? We are either magnifying the goodness of God or we are going along with the everyday currents of mortal thinking.

There is a quote of Mrs. Eddy’s that has helped me realize the importance of letting my soul magnify that which is good, and it is this: “I tell you the truth when I say there is only one Source of all good, God. The conscious recognition and acceptance of this fact, acknowledged by every activity of the mind, not two or three times a day, but every

Articles

few moments all day long, no matter what the outer self is doing, and this maintained will enable anyone to express his perfect freedom and dominion over all things human.”

Think of it! To constantly be acknowledging God as the only Source of all good, and to be grateful to Him for this goodness — what a wonderful way to live! Truly, as we do this, we are letting our soul magnify the Lord! And as we each take responsibility in this holy work, we will help to usher in the healing Christ right where we are and right at this present moment. What greater work could we be doing? And what a sacred way to spend this Christmas season!



The kingdom of God is at hand. It has always been at hand, waiting only for men made ready to possess it. It is to be achieved in the lives of men, however, not accepted by any man-made formula. We were warned long ago against those who would prophesy the coming of the Kingdom by scheme or schedule, and enjoined to remember that “the kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”

Rev. Clinton Scott

Testimonies of Healing

The following testimonies are offered with great love to those seeking encouragement and inspiration.

I'm remembering with gratitude the healing which my mother had with help from one of your practitioners. I will always be grateful for the kindness she expressed to me at that time. The issue in question was alcoholism.

My mother made a perfect recovery to the point that despite being diagnosed as "brain damaged," she was released from hospital into a nursing facility, and subsequently released from there one year later to her own apartment, which she rented and decorated. She made a full recovery!

She was the first person here to have ever been released from the nursing facility after having been placed there for life, and single-handedly battled the healthcare system to prove her freedom, which as you can imagine did not go well with error.

I also wanted to share with you that I have applied to join your church.

*J. M.
England*

I have learned so much through the Christ spirit present in Plainfield Church. I don't know where I would be, had God not brought me here.

A lesson that I am learning in Science is that there is no material causation. If I don't feel well, I don't think, "What did eat today? Did I get enough sleep? Is there a bug going around?" If I don't feel well, something is disturbing my thought.

Testimonies

For many years I suffered with aggressive sneezing. People always asked me if I had allergies. It wasn't until I learned that God governs my feelings and thoughts that I saw a problem that needed correcting. I was easily irritated by people, noises, and the minutiae of daily life.

I began to rise up in rebellion to this intruder — this foreign idea that I had accepted as me. A practitioner in this church was praying for me every day; and by the grace of God, I have asserted my God-given dominion over this error. The change was very slow at first and required faith and persistence. The sneezing got worse as the error was being challenged and destroyed. But we kept at it. I knew the truth now and I wasn't going to be pushed around. That was the turning point — I was not going to stop being a terror to error.

After two to three weeks, the problem just started to fade away, and then totally left me. I felt more peace and replaced the irritation with a better quality of thought — ideas that were from God.

I am free from the lie of irritation and the aggressive sneezing because I proved God governs my feelings and I am in harmony with God. And now I know how to hold that fact ever before my thought when I am tempted.

Thank you, God, and many thanks to the practitioner in Plainfield.

*A. M.
Georgia*

I want to express gratitude for a wonderful and unbelievable happening!

The past year or so I have been struggling to keep my home out of foreclosure. I had a home equity loan in addition to my first mortgage, which I took out nine years ago

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when real estate was at an all-time high. Being a realtor, I was using that money to purchase rentals. As you know, the real estate market took a sudden dive, and all of a sudden many of us owed much more than our homes were worth. Worst of all, my income was drastically reduced, due to the depressed economy and real estate market. I found myself falling behind on everything.

I voluntarily surrendered the rentals, but that still left my home, which I didn't want to lose. I have been working with a practitioner in Plainfield Church for awhile now, who reminded me that the house does not belong to me, it belongs to God, and I should just lay it on His altar. I did do that, but then I would take it back again and fret and stew over it. Finally, I just gave it back to Him and said, "God, you know I want this house, I love this house, and I know you gave it to me. It is really Your house, and whichever way it works out, I'm alright with it." I gave it back to Him for the last time.

Just a short time ago, I received a letter from the bank that owned the second mortgage that said my second mortgage was forgiven! I no longer owed the debt. I stared at that letter with so many emotions — disbelief at first, and then indescribable joy! Tears flowed, I fell on my knees and thanked God with all my heart. The relief is overwhelming. I am so very grateful and so blessed! Thank you, God, and thank you to the practitioner in this church.

V. E.

Arizona

My friend was coming from Maryland to spend the afternoon with me. He called to say he had car trouble. His brakes went out going 60 mph. He was right at an off-ramp and no other cars were there. He coasted into a gas station at the end of the ramp. The attendant was able to

Testimonies

help him, and a few hours later he called to say the car was fixed.

We are both infinitely grateful for God's protection and care.

*B. P.
Virginia*

I owe a debt of gratitude to God, to Christian Science, and to the Plainfield practitioners. Many times I feel I can go it alone; but then there are times when fearful thoughts creep in and I need inspiration.

Back in 2006 our youngest son passed away unexpectedly, leaving his two children, ages 5 and 9. So we found ourselves in the role of parents again. It has certainly kept us on our toes, with going back to school and tending to our businesses, etc. It has been a joy, although there have been a few rough spots along the way.

Our granddaughter was not doing her best during her freshman year at high school. After trying to work with her to help her study, but to no avail, I called a Plainfield practitioner for help.

The most important thing that the practitioner told me was, "Let God speak to them. You get out of the way." I began to realize that we were not raising these children, because they are ideas of God. It took me a while to let go, but at the beginning of her sophomore year, and all through the year, I never once had to help or offer to help her. She actually came to me each night to tell me she was having a test and that she had studied for it. The next day she would let me know how she did. She enjoyed her studies and her teachers, and would tell me the importance of listening and taking notes in class.

Needless to say, her grades improved to where she almost made straight A's. I couldn't believe it! I was soon

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awakened to the fact that, "Yes, God does indeed speak to our children."

There have been many healings over the years, and I am very grateful and indebted to the practitioner at Plainfield.

*D. P.
Ohio*

I'd like to express my gratitude for a major healing I had, and for the love of a practitioner from this church, who helped to bring it about.

I had a severe stomachache which was getting progressively worse over the course of a couple of days. My family members were concerned, and I was also becoming quite fearful. I made a decision to go to the hospital. An independent Christian Science practitioner from this church was called. She agreed to help me right away.

At the hospital, it was determined that I had a perforated colon that required emergency surgery. Afterwards, I was put into the Intensive Care Unit due to the seriousness of my condition. One day, the doctors told my family they were "doing all they could" for me, but that some of the various tests they had conducted on me were not turning out to be normal. I felt very fearful for my life. My mother continued to call the practitioner for help, and we were consistently reassured that "God is a very present help in trouble," and that He would see us through this.

The next morning, there was a wonderful turnabout. The doctors were baffled. All of the tests were totally normal! The doctor told me, I could go home the next day.

When the practitioner, who was working for me all night, was given the good news, she remarked that God's love had prevailed, and that He had a good plan for my life, with good work for me to do in our church.

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I am so very grateful every day for independent Christian Science, for the practitioner who helped me, and that I am here, able to do God's work!

*H. G.
Maryland*

I would like to express my gratitude for a quick healing of an eye problem that I had last week. I woke up in the morning to discover that one of my eyes was itching and felt uncomfortable, and when I looked in the mirror, I saw that the lid was swollen and red. At first I thought, oh well, very unusual for me but eventually it will go away. But then I thought, wait a minute, since when am I allowing such a thought to enter into my experience? I also realized that I had doubt that this situation can be resolved through Christian Science treatment. At that point I called a practitioner in Plainfield, who firmly assured me that this itching, swelling, and redness was illegitimate.

After the conversation I went about my day, and a few hours later discovered that the swelling and redness have been greatly reduced and the eye was pretty much back to normal. It certainly became completely normal towards the end of the day, and remained so ever since.

I am very grateful for this quick healing, and for the practitioner's help and firmness. I also learned that the thoughts of doubt, and suggestions of letting small things go and not address them, are certainly illegitimate and should be arrested on the spot. And most importantly, not to be discouraged if I seem to be confronted with obnoxious mental suggestions and discouraging thoughts, for NOTHING can stop the power of God.

*E. T.
Florida*

CornerStone

I want to express great gratitude for the help I have found at the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, thanks to the practitioner I have been working with there.

I have been a student of Christian Science for the past 30 years. I had class instruction, joined the Mother Church and a branch church, and after a while tried another branch church. I worked with different practitioners around those churches on and off for years. But though I recognized Christian Science to be the truth of our existence, whatever I read and studied, I never connected with or really understood. Therefore, I was never able to embrace it and make it my life.

I had a very difficult time, both when I was a child and as an adult, with overbearing personalities in my life, even though I live far away from where I grew up and have a very blessed husband. I came to the point where I began to suffer what was referred to as clinical depression. My family has put me in the hospital for periods of shock treatment and medicine on and off over the past five years, seemingly every Fall, the last time being November of 2011.

Nothing really cured me, though I was blamed for sometimes dropping the medicine I was supposed to take. I came to be in the depths of despair and terrified of my future. When I woke up in the morning I would immediately close my thought so I could go through the rote of my day. I knew I had to keep on coping with everyday life, even though I did not want to keep on living.

At some point I began looking on the Internet and I happened to read an article by an early Christian Scientist, Bicknell Young, "Consciousness, Where Art Thou?" He wrote, "Do you understand that leaving a material problem will accomplish nothing? If it is in your consciousness, you

Testimonies

will reproduce it even though you go to the uttermost parts of the world because you take it with you." This was something that conveyed a truth directly to me about my life situation.

A year later, this August, determined not to go to the hospital yet another time, I went on the Internet again, looking up Christian Science, Mr. Young, etc. It was then that I came upon a reference to the Plainfield Church, which I had never heard of before. I soon decided to contact them. I was so lovingly welcomed by the practitioner there that even from the beginning, as she first spoke to me, I felt so affirmed as God's child that my whole perspective began to change. After daily work with her I can say that in these last few weeks my life has completely turned around. Where I had felt that somehow I had been left out by God, I now know that I am included! Situations that seemed impossible have begun to shift in a positive direction. Where I was lonely and fearful of relationships with people, I have become open to a much more loving, outgoing attitude. I have been blessed over and over as I have worked with the practitioner. I realize that something I had sought for so many years has rather suddenly come through to me. This help has simply changed my life. I know it! I now have a future I can look forward to and much joy.

I am very grateful for all you are doing there in Plainfield, the practitioner, the Roundtables, the services, and all the literature and opportunities available through your website. I am so grateful to this church, where the Truth is very alive, and it conveys.

*F.M.
Maryland*



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