

The
CORNERSTONE
of
Independent
Christian Science

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

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January 2013
Number 152

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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

If anyone is wondering,
this church is in no way affiliated with The
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Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

The Bible is the learned man's masterpiece, the ignorant man's dictionary, the wise man's directory.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Miscellaneous Writings*



From Miscellany by Mary Baker Eddy

One thing is eternally here; it reigns supreme to-day, to-morrow, forever. We need it in our homes, at our firesides, on our altars, for with it win we the race of the centuries. We have it only as we live it. This is that needful one thing — divine Science, whereby thought is *spiritualized*, reaching outward and upward to Science in Christianity, Science in medicine, in physics, and in metaphysics.

I reluctantly foresee great danger threatening our nation, — imperialism, monopoly, and a lax system of religion. But the spirit of humanity, ethics, and Christianity sown broadcast — all concomitants of Christian Science — is taking strong hold of the public thought throughout our beloved country and in foreign lands, and is tending to counteract the trend of mad ambition.

O ye who leap disdainfully from this rock of ages, return and plant thy steps in Christ, Truth, “the stone which the builders rejected”! Then will angels administer grace, do thy errands, and be thy dearest allies. The divine law gives to man health and life everlasting — gives a soul to Soul, a present harmony wherein the good man's heart takes hold on heaven, and whose feet can never be moved. These are His green pastures beside still waters, where faith mounts upward, expatiates, strengthens, and exults.

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Beloved, that which purifies the affections also strengthens them, removes fear, subdues sin, and endues with divine power; that which refines character at the same time humbles, exalts, and commands a man, and obedience gives him courage, devotion, and attainment. For this hour, for this period, for spiritual sacrament, sacrifice, and ascension, we unite in giving thanks.

Religion, to be religion, must permeate all our life; it must be in the schools, in the legislature, in the factories, in the counting houses. Religion must indeed be a powerful, permeating, inextricable part of the daily life if it is to be religion at all; religion must be bound up in our work and our play, our art and our politics.

The Vindicator, Youngstown, Ohio, Dec. 1922

All the people who imagine that God can be left out of business life, left out of politics, left out of international affairs, are taking God's name in vain.

*From the Portsea Parish Church Magazine,
Portsmouth, England, May 1923*

Within the reach of every Christian student there is a high goal, hopes that cannot deceive, virtues that bring their sure reward, joys that are imperishable. But remember, vigilance is the price of success, victories worth achieving are not cheaply won. The Christian Scientist equipped with the spirit of his work is a sure victor: if he works, no matter if his opportunities to acquire the letter have been less than others more indolent, he will not turn back, and having the mark of the Lamb, the good shepherd that knoweth his own will feed him with the bread of Truth, and lead him into green pastures beside the still waters.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Essays and Other Footprints*

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.

The Church of the Future

Rev. B. Fay Mills

The world will see a marvelous change when the Church confesses that she has a mission, not only to the individual, but in behalf of the individual.

Regarding, for instance, the great principles of health, where are we going to discover a cure-all for the world's disease? Some of it in our laboratories, possibly. I believe in laboratories, but I believe in something more. We are sick because we are incomplete, because we have not learned to control the things that are beneath us. I beg you not to sneer at people who believe that there is a spiritual remedy for the physical ills of man. There is such a remedy. How can a Christian minister denounce from his pulpit the people who believe that there is a spiritual remedy for physical ailments, when he believes the stories of the healings wrought by Jesus of Nazareth?

I believe it should be the part of religion not only to discover the secret of health, but also to discover the secret of material prosperity, and to banish poverty from the world. I believe the church ought to be a leader in everything. I can see reasons why she has lagged behind in the social procession. It has been because she had a theoretical basis instead of a practical basis.

*Published in The Christian Science Weekly,
October 13, 1898*



Reported in Washington News Letter

Hon. Nat Ward Fitz-Gerald, of Salt Lake City, gave a history of his wonderful healing by Christian Science at the last Wednesday evening meeting in this city. Col. Fitz-Gerald was educated for the ministry, and preached about two years and became impressed with the belief that orthodox religion was “sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.” He was of the opinion that the Church which could not heal the sick was a fraud, and he became disgusted and left the ministry.

In this belief he remained for some twenty years, when he became very much afflicted and went to southern California to regain his health. There he employed the best physician he could obtain, who, in consultation with others, decided that the Colonel, before he could recover, must have a surgical operation. In order to “build him up,” a private house was obtained where he might be cared for and nursed after going through the operation. This family happened to be Christian Scientists, and there being but few other members of that society in the little town, the meetings were held in their house. The Colonel had his doors padded so as to prevent his hearing anything from this, to him, hated sect.

The doctors performed their operation, and gave out the report that it would take at least three months for him to be able to get around, but gave as their opinion that he never would recover. The day the operation was performed, the Colonel lay in a stupor until nearly two o'clock in the afternoon; and when he became conscious, he heard the Christian Scientists holding their meeting in the next room, the padding of the doors not being sufficient to prevent. He said that from the first word he heard, his atten-

Christian Science Weekly

tion became riveted and interested in the subject, and the more he heard, the more he wished to hear, until finally throughout his system he felt a radical change, and that God was healing him. Suffice it to say that the Colonel, that afternoon, was perfectly cured, and the next morning got up, dressed himself, and visited the doctors at their office. When they saw him they were certain it was his disembodied spirit that had appeared to them.

To use the beautiful expression of the Colonel, he said in closing that his condition was like those “who came to scoff, but remained to pray.”

*Published in The Christian Science Weekly,
November 3, 1898*



Whatever God governs is not subordinate to matter, physics, or geometric altitudes, and never deprived of the light and might of omnipotence. The resuscitating power of health, harmony, and life, is God, Mind, not matter; and guided by this spiritual understanding would never falter before the infinite tasks of truth. Only by understanding that there is but one God, one power, — not two powers, matter and mind, — can be reached correct and logical conclusions.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Divinity Course and General Collectanea*

“Feed My Sheep” — Christ Jesus

Every function of man is directly controlled by God, Mind, and is wholly a Mind-operation, for man is the functioning of God.

Herbert Eustace

It is not the activity of the physical organs (so called) but, primarily, the activity of good thoughts that produces health.

Minnie S. Bower

Stand porter at the door of thought. Admitting only such conclusions as you wish realized in bodily results, you will control yourself harmoniously.

Mary Baker Eddy
Science and Health



Spiritual Law versus Material Law

Sadie H. Pendleton

Sometimes Christian Scientists think it's necessary to know all about the so-called material laws believed to govern disease, in order to destroy them. But what is most important is to clearly understand that God's law is the only real law, and that this law annihilates everything unlike itself.

Matter is merely the outcome of a belief in a mind apart from God, and has no intelligence, no substance, no place, presence, or power. Mary Baker Eddy says, “The basic error is mortal mind.” (S&H) Then why would it be

“Feed My Sheep”

necessary to know every phase or claim of these false laws in order to destroy them?

If a case is not healed quickly, is it because of a lack of knowledge of the material laws regarding the problem — or is it because one does not know enough about God’s law? Mrs. Eddy’s answer is, “If you fail to succeed in any case, it is because you have not demonstrated the life of Christ, Truth, more in your own life, — because you have not obeyed the rule and proved the Principle of divine Science.” (S&H)

Is it a lack of knowledge of material laws, or not enough knowledge about God’s law?

There is nothing more discouraging than thinking that, because we do not know about some specific material law, we are powerless to lift someone out of suffering. Jesus did not say that we had to know anything about the so-called laws of matter; but he did say, “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Truth uncovers error; and as practitioners of Christian Science, whatever we need to know will be uncovered, if we are faithful in our work. This does not mean that we don’t have to deny material law. Christian Science teaches that in order to heal any belief of sin or sickness, we have to deny and destroy every belief of material law that presents itself to our mentality. But if we are spending our time searching out material laws and their *modus operandi*, we are simply accumulating more error in our thought, making the error more real, and it may require a great deal of work to eradicate it.

It is the understanding of spiritual law, it is the putting on of the Mind of Christ, it is the honest endeavor to see man as God sees him, for which we should be striving!

Not by seeking out more of the ways and means of error, not by “diving into the shallows of mortal belief” (S&H), but by cleaning our own mentality of all that is unlike God, do we bring in the Christlike qualities of thought, which alone are healing and redeeming mankind.



How's Your Attic?

Milton Simon

It is generally acknowledged that thought is externalized. Our thinking is expressed on our bodies or in our affairs. Look into a person's face, and you can tell whether he is depressed or joyous, friendly, or grouchy.

The condition of a person's attic or closets can be a reliable gauge of his thinking. When a woman was describing a relative as possessing an inflexible, routine-oriented mentality, closed to anything new and clinging to old methods, I was led to ask, “How is her attic?” “Full!” was the response. “You never saw such an array of junk. She won't throw out a single useless item.” Wasn't this a vivid description of her relative's thought, as well as her attic?

Ignoring error does not remove it, neither will going to some distant place.

It is important for us to clean out our thinking. Erroneous thoughts stay in our mental homes until discarded. Ignoring error does not remove it, neither will going to some distant place.

Through Christ, or Truth, we can face, eliminate, and replace cluttering beliefs — erroneous, negative, limiting concepts that restrict our progress — with the right idea of God and man.

“Feed My Sheep”

A good housekeeper does not ignore dirt. She does not allow it to accumulate, but disposes of it to keep her house immaculate. Correspondingly, a willing, alert, and open-minded person does not overlook error and allow it to build up. Nor does one who is honest justify a mistake or a wrong stand he has taken. Self-justification does not get rid of error, but allows it to pile up.

Christian Science teaches to hold firmly to the truth of being. Each child of God reflects dominion over his own consciousness. Therefore, we can think what is right, and firmly reject the wrong. We have power from God to hold only good in thought! Mary Baker Eddy says, “Know, then, that you possess sovereign power to think and act rightly, and that nothing can dispossess you of this heritage and trespass on Love.” (S&H)

We can never be mesmerized to cling to error, and it can’t cling to us. We have power from God to accept and retain good alone.

How heartening that false beliefs can be put completely out of thought! Because only good has ever touched man’s consciousness, there is nothing for us to retain in thought but good. And the retention in thought of good is certain to permit only harmony in our bodies and our affairs.



God can’t use a coward. He did not use Gideon’s army until He had weeded the cowards out of the camp. The curse of life is fear. As the greatest virtue in the world, next to love, is courage, so the greatest vice in the world, next to hate, is fear.

C. N. Howard

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.

Mrs. Emily Hulin, who eventually became a teacher of Christian Science in New York City, wrote in a letter to Mrs. Eddy after Mrs. Eddy's extemporaneous address in the Central Music Hall in Chicago in 1888, "At the conclusion of your address, I noticed a poor woman who had entered the auditorium on crutches and who was evidently badly crippled, stretch out her arms toward you in a beseeching manner. You looked at her with eyes full of compassion and love, as it seemed to me, and immediately she laid down her crutches and walked out as anyone in a normal condition would do!

"I cannot tell you of the awe that fell on me or the impression I received, and I then determined to learn more of this wonderful truth at the fountainhead."

Perfect God, perfect man,
Jesus taught, is God's good plan.
His loving promise, may we never doubt.
Be assured, and trust — you'll never be without.

Lillian Linnell

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. 96

Gilbert C. Carpenter

WATCH lest, in your denial of false testimony, you build it up instead of tearing it down. If you deny the evidence of the material senses and the seeming reality of discord, merely because you are inharmonious in the flesh, and desire to regain that lost physical harmony, with little or no thought of spiritual growth or unselfish giving, do not be surprised if your denials tend to accentuate the reality of the error assailing you, rather than to diminish it.

When mortal man is seeking nothing higher than material harmony, he denies the error of effect as if it were cause, rather than for the purpose of tracing it back to cause. Error is never something; it is a belief in falsity that does not really exist.

One can say that it is not as serious to have the devil in you, as it is to have God out of you. Hence a higher motive in striving to eliminate error would be to eliminate anything that could claim to shut out the sunshine of God's love. Before one affirms the allness of God, he should know that nothing can darken man's thought, or cause him to believe that he is or ever can be shut off from the primitive good that is his birthright.

The dragging anchor of a ship would have to be pulled up before the ship could progress. It is the testimony of matter and its supposed conditions that constitutes the

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anchor that so holds thought, that it cannot progress into the realm where all problems are solvable. Therefore, the denial of the evidence before the material senses, and the declaration that matter is nothing, are needed in order to convince thought that matter is nothing because it is *nothing* to consider, *nothing* to fear, *nothing* to work with, *nothing* to try to correct. This enables thought to let go its anchor, to retreat from the body, or effect, in order to work in and with cause.



The Exchange

Which of my treasures shall I give to Thee?
What human joys must I renounce and lay,
Worthless, upon Thine altar's sanctity,
That heaven's pure fires may wither them away?

The answer:

Give up, poor heart, your woes and despairs,
Your mortal selfhood with its selfishness;
Render, upon Love's altar, all the cares
That hide the measure of your blessedness!

Give up your present and your future pain,
Your past of discord and mortality;
Give what was never yours, to have again
What has been yours from all eternity!

Florence A. Gubbins

Breaking Down Misconceptions of Christian Science

The chief remedy for the shortcomings and weaknesses of man is to teach him to know himself and his true relation to God.

John D. Works

Whatever may have been the mistakes and regrets of the past, whatever may have been the lessons learned through toil and triumph, — each new year, each new day, here and now, is the glad opportunity for an ever renewed unfolding of good, for a constantly fresh and hopeful effort to “put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

Ella W. Hoag



The Decoy

Anthony Moore

Several years ago Coca Cola introduced what it called “new Coke.” Everything about new Coke was identical with the original — except the flavor. What would happen if a first-time consumer drank new Coke? They never would know what they were missing! But the consumers of original Coke spotted the difference instantly and demanded the original.

And so it is at Plainfield. Plainfield never accepts or tolerates the Christian Science decoy that is taught in the Boston movement, referred to as “the Boston culture.”

This explains why Plainfield strikes a clear distinction between Christian Science practiced in Plainfield and the Boston culture. There is a difference. Plainfield members consistently distinguish this difference in testimonies, arti-

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cles, and Roundtable discussions. There is a decoy out there masquerading as Christian Science, but Plainfield is the “original Coke.” I speak from experience — I have tasted both!

I was born into Christian Science. In my 20’s I went through class instruction with a world-renowned teacher and practitioner, and faithfully attended 15 association addresses. I learned that God was all powerful and man is perfect. He used many arguments to show the impossibility of error. It sounded great, and his association was the largest in the world, so it must be true.

We all got a “lift” each year at association. But the sin in me remained covered. Never once was I taught to examine myself for sin, expose it, repent with all my heart, and strive to do God’s will. My teaching was incomplete and powerless — there was no spirit. I had been taught through Christian Science arguments that God is all powerful and therefore error, sin, sickness, etc., were unreal and powerless. But I wasn’t taught how to feel connected to God. Plainfield teaches students to cultivate the spiritual sense within us all and *feel* God’s presence guiding us. And sin must be exposed and cast out. Hidden sin is deadly.

When the medical community pronounced that my 7-year-old son had an incurable virus, I turned to my Boston teacher for help, and discovered over a period of time that our prayers and arguments were powerless. I felt nothing; I had a callous heart. The core of my life was impure and I was a hypocrite! Why? I declared God is good and there can be no disease, yet my thought was diseased with sin. Devoid of the moral requirements of spiritual living demanded by Christian Science, I had faith without works. Deep down I knew I was responsible for my sin, but felt unprepared and ill-equipped to set it aside during the trial of my life. My teaching and teacher couldn’t save my

Breaking Down Misconceptions

son. Nor could the doctors.

I turned to Science and Health looking for answers after my son passed. I didn't blame God or Christian Science or the medical community. Instead I was lead to this statement on page 149 of Science and Health: "The rule and its perfection of operation never vary in Science. If you fail to succeed in any case, it is because you have not demonstrated the life of Christ, Truth, more in your own life, because you have not obeyed the rule and proved the Principle of divine Science." Here was my answer. I wept.

I was referred to Plainfield Church 18 months ago, and as a new listener I was often shocked and offended by these pointed remarks about the Boston culture — because I was entangled with those ideas. Plainfield draws sharp and uncompromising comparisons between real, independent Christian Science and what is being taught in the Boston movement. I had not grown enough in Truth to discern their correctness. I hadn't experienced the original transforming power of Christian Science.

Working with a practitioner in Plainfield who patiently and lovingly pointed out my mindless habits of thought and talk, I have come to understand a little of Christian Science, the love required, the honesty — and my callousness has largely disappeared. Now I recognize the decoy, loathe it, and am able to reach out and really bless my fellow man, feel the need and meet it. No more hollow "treatments" or "arguments." Truly, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing."

If you are new to Plainfield, have an open heart, and truly want to learn how to practice the divine Science of God, I promise you the light of truth will dawn in your thought. But I had to learn to get on my knees and admit I knew nothing at all about Christian Science. Sometimes we are brought low so we can rise.

From “Ways That Are Vain”

Mary Baker Eddy

Certain individuals entertain the notion that Christian Science Mind-healing should be two-sided, and only denounce error in general, — saying nothing, in particular, of error that is damning men. They are sticklers for a false, convenient peace, straining at gnats and swallowing camels. The unseen wrong to individuals and society they are too cowardly, too ignorant, or too wicked to uncover, and excuse themselves by denying that this evil exists. This mistaken way, of hiding sin in order to maintain harmony, has licensed evil, allowing it first to smoulder, and then break out in devouring flames. All that error asks is to be let alone; even as in Jesus’ time the unclean spirits cried out, “Let us alone; what have we to do with thee?”



The True Church

Rev. G. A. Kratzer

In his book, “Revelation Interpreted,” referring to Revelation Chapter 12 “where the woman was carried away of the flood,” Rev. Kratzer describes the true church, unconstrained by organized religion, which has carried the banner of true Christianity through the ages, often under terrible persecution from organized religion. This resonates with us in this day and age, history repeating itself, as the Christian Science Boston organization has sought to snuff out the true church, but has failed, as it must because it is not of God:

“In the highest sense, the true church is made up of the unorganized body of true believers, some of which can be found in organized religion, and some of which belong

Breaking Down Misconceptions

to no organized church or denomination. The characteristic of these true believers has always been their absolute loyalty in thought, and in conduct so far as possible, to God, Spirit, as the only power. They have refused to 'live after the flesh,' and to substitute matter in any form, or mortal mind in any form, or civil or ecclesiastical government in any form, for God as the object of their allegiance and obedience. It is this pure spiritual consciousness which brought the man-child, Christ Jesus, and this revelation to the world, and it was this pure spiritual consciousness, incarnate in the unorganized church above spoken of, which gave pure Christianity a start in the world, and which kept in the world such remnant of pure Christianity as there was during the centuries known as 'the dark ages'; and it was this spiritual consciousness, incarnate as above mentioned, against which satan, in his diabolical work on earth, commenced to make war in the first centuries of the Christian era. Satan practically drove this true church, this woman, off the stage of active affairs during the first few centuries; but to the true church was given the Holy Spirit with its wings, truth and love, by which it succeeded in escaping the deadly attack of satan, and in withdrawing from the stage of active affairs 'into the wilderness,' where it was taken care of and nourished, through its loyalty to truth and love, during the ascendance of 'the dragon,' spoken of in this chapter, and of 'the beast' described in the next chapter."

When men are projecting the church's ruin, God is preparing for its salvation.

Matthew Henry

“Comfort Ye My People”

What joy is ours in Christian Science! Infinite Love all our own, tireless Love watching our waiting, pointing the path, guiding our footsteps and turning them hither and thither as wisdom directs — then when the lesson is learned, supplying the need and ending the warfare.

Mary Baker Eddy

Divinity Course and General Collectanea

Man, as the activity of God, is the pureness of good and, so, is the law of destruction to all unlike good.

Herbert W. Eustace

God is infinite and God is all. He is everywhere present, and there is no place where He is not.

Adam Dickey

Be careful not to use human will, but speak in the power of divine Love that is a law to human hate and destroys it.

Mary Baker Eddy

Divinity Course and General Collectanea



Joseph and the Pit

Lucy Hays Reynolds

Joseph was a young man of noble ideals — ideals and spiritual talents which in his manhood were to play a vital part in the affairs of his country.

Joseph's nature was to bless. Was it just or fair, then, that he should be thrown into a pit and sold into a strange land? Looking deeper, however, did evil really triumph in

“Comfort Ye My People”

the pit? Though sold into the hand of strangers, no evil came to Joseph; instead, he became prosperous and greatly beloved. Nor did evil triumph later when he was cast into prison; for he came forth as a prince.

When Joseph’s brothers came seeking food, Joseph was kind to them. He said, “It was not you that sent me hither, but God” — not evil, but good had triumphed in his experience. Although evil seemed to accomplish its end, its purposes were overcome by the purposes of good; for Joseph, leaning upon spiritual sense, had reflected love in the midst of injustice.

Every wrong in human experience will finally be reversed, and as divine justice is obeyed, God will be glorified. In casting out the spirit of revenge and overcoming hatred, divine justice brings about blessings — peace, dominion, and joy — to the righteous.

How different is divine justice from the human sense of it! It renders not an eye for an eye, but quietly conquers and heals injustice by returning good for evil. Mrs. Eddy, who experienced to the fullest degree ingratitude, injustice, and abuse, has said, “The righteous suffer for the unrighteous; and by this spirit man lives and thrives, and by it God governs.” (My.)



Dominion and Power

Martha R. Bruggeman

People try to exercise personal dominion over their surroundings, and over their problems. How much better it is to listen to Paul’s direction: “Let every soul be subject unto the higher power. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.” (Rom.)

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Jesus' understanding that the only power is of God enabled him to maintain true composure when Pilate confronted him with the question, "Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?" His answer, "thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above," recognized no force, no authority, no cause but God. He knew that he had nothing to fear from any so-called human power, be it ruler, judge, or the whole Roman army!

Is it any wonder that Christ Jesus could still the tempest, heal the sick, and raise the dead? Not one of these conditions had any reality for him. His perfect understanding of God's allness and ever-presence knew no fear of any harmful force.

It is by this same understanding of the one divine power and authority, unchanged through the ages, that we can still claim freedom from any suppositional power opposed to God. We can either accept what is put forward by the so-called human mind, or reject it. The fact that there is no power apart from God, convincingly proved by the early prophets and by the demonstrations of Jesus, is again being proved today through the understanding of his teachings through Christian Science.

How quick Jesus was to expose mortal mind's fraudulent claim to power! He knew that matter in any form has no power or dominion over man, the image and likeness of the one Father-Mother, to whom has been given dominion over all the earth.

As we begin to see ourselves and our fellow men as perfect and expressing all the attributes of God, we shall be able to express more of man's true dominion. Then we can recognize the truth of these words of Mrs. Eddy's: "Man, made in His likeness, possesses and reflects God's dominion over all the earth." (S&H)

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 U.S.A.; 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 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 by mail, and on our Website.

New Members Are Welcome!

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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
Its “Clear, Correct Teaching” and Complete Writings
by Herbert W. Eustace C.S.B.

This book is now available through the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent. It is an invaluable study aid for advancing students of Christian Science, containing many of the articles written by Mr. Eustace during his practice and teaching of Christian Science.

Mr. Eustace graduated from the Massachusetts Metaphysical College in 1902 with the degree of C.S.B., signed by Mrs. Eddy and Mr. Edward Kimball. After that, Mr. Eustace served the Christian Science movement faithfully for many years, as Trustee of the Christian Science Publishing Society, practitioner, and teacher of Christian Science well into the 1930s.

The following paragraphs, handwritten by Mr. Eustace, were left on his desk as his last written word (December 9, 1957):

“Mrs. Eddy gave two very important directions to every Christian Scientist before saying good-bye; in fact they were more than directions, they were commands and demanded imperative obedience. The one was to call disease animal magnetism as the specific term for error or mortal mind, and then handle animal magnetism. And the other was that Christian Scientists are not healing because they do not know how to handle animal magnetism.

“Here is a challenge to you. Do you not know how to handle animal magnetism? If not, why not; and from this moment let your every intent be to know how to handle animal magnetism and then do it; and heal the sick intelligently and instantaneously, which is the only way Christian Science does.”

The book is bound in flexible red leatherette and contains 1040 pages. The price is \$27.00.

Letters from Readers

Even though I live across the country from New Jersey, I've been attending the Sunday morning and Wednesday evening church services by way of your teleconferencing feature. It's been a joy to listen to a Christian Science service where the Lesson Sermons are truly inspired. One can feel the love and care that has been instrumental in bringing them to us. Thank you for this blessing.

Will you send me an application for membership in the Plainfield Church? I would love to become a part of the congregation.

With sincere gratitude for all you are doing to keep alive Mrs. Eddy's Christian Science. *Arizona*

I am the Founder and President of an orphanage/school of hope in Peligre, Haiti. A member of your church always shares with me about her church in the United States, of how you worship and praise the Lord. I am always blessed when she speaks with me about the Plainfield Church.

I love you all in Christ, and I really want to hear from you as soon as possible. May God in all His mercies and grace bless us by working together, and by sharing His words to all people all over the world in Jesus' name.

I will continue to pray for your ministries, and I would love to ask you to keep my orphanage/school in your prayers. I need new partners and love for the voiceless children in Haiti.

May God bless you with all of His good blessings. *Haiti*

Thank you all for the amazing Wednesday night service. There were so many wonderful testimonies that the time ran over. Everyone was filled and overflowing with gratitude. I also loved the Christmas Eve service. Much prepa-

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ration was evident by the music, readings, chorus and hymns we all sang and the program that was available on our website so we at home could follow along. A big “thank you” to our talented organist and everyone that was involved!

Virginia

I wanted to say how grateful I am for the roundtable discussion on the “Soul and Body” lesson. I particularly liked the practical applications on “less thought” in terms of material ways of living.

It also helped me understand the verse in Proverbs which says, “Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.” I realized that I had things the wrong way round, — I try to intellectualize everything rather than letting God fill my thoughts and work from there, and seeing God’s unfoldment in my life.

I’m so grateful to all for your discussions.

England

We often hear people say,
“Where there’s a will, there’s a way.”
We in Science know, without delay,
God’s will is the only way!

I loved last night’s service, by lamp light and a generator!

Oregon

The calendar daily message is unique and is a blessed way to start each day. I am grateful for it.

California

It is with deep gratitude and humble heart, I send this donation to you. I can never express how much the Bible study class and the Roundtable discussions mean to me, especially since my computer sometimes fails and I can listen by telephone.

Letters

In this divine understanding of Christian Science, God indeed takes us “all the way,” protecting, guarding, and governing us.

I am most grateful.

Illinois

Enclosed is my contribution; use it as needed.

Thank you for all your time and effort given so freely. It is appreciated by all of us.

I look forward to CornerStone and the newsletter. I love the calendar and take that thought with me during the day.

Blessings to all.

Kansas

For many years I have studied Christian Science, but never found a church I felt was correct in its thinking. One day as I was surfing the web for Christian Science information, I was led to your site. What a joy it was to find that you practice true Christian Science.

I remember the day the practitioner I am working with asked me to help with the watches. This was such a privilege and has been a joy and a wonderful eye-opener.

Thank you for the Plainfield Christian Science Church and its dedication to Christian Science.

Wisconsin

Thank you very much, and if my humble contribution serves to bring the healing message, I will do it with the greatest love you can have.

Thanks to you for spreading genuine Christian Science. Believe me, since I found your website and started reading everything the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, has put into it, I saw a huge change. As a faithful student, I believe that your items have strengthened me greatly.

God will guide and govern our work.

Argentina

“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.

True politics is the manifestation of the government of Mind. It is the orderly operation of Principle; that whereby the law of Principle is known. The negation, which must be reversed, is the give and take of human belief, trying to have its own way.

This false sense is hypnotism.

Herbert W. Eustace



Self-government

William D. McCrackan

Two distinct concepts of government exist among nations — the autocratic, which magnifies the State and minimizes individual man, and the democratic, which places individual man in the forefront, with certain natural rights. As stated by Abraham Lincoln, democracy is a “government of the people, by the people, for the people.”

The political point of view largely coincides with religious development. As the people of any nation have become more democratic in their thought, they have become freer both in politics and in religion.

Mary Baker Eddy lays special stress upon the right of self-government, and in her definition of it carries thought back to the source of all power and authority, namely, to God. She states, “God has endowed man with inalienable rights, among which are self-government, reason, and conscience. Man is properly self-governed only when he is guided rightly and governed by his Maker, divine Truth and Love.” (S&H) Again, she states, “Reflecting God’s government, man is self-governed.” (S&H)

“The World Has Need of You”

The teachings of Christian Science emphasize the inseparable connection between divine government and true self-government, and this explains why Christian Science could only be discovered and founded in a national environment enjoying the benefits of self-government.

Mrs. Eddy sums up the natural genius of Christian Science for self-government when she writes, “The Magna Charta of Christian Science means much, *multum in parvo*, — all-in-all. It stands for the inalienable, universal rights of men. Essentially democratic, its government is administered by the common consent of the governed, wherein and whereby man governed by his creator is self-governed.” (My.)



The Communist Manifesto

Karl Marx

Following are the 10 planks of the Communist Party, as contained in the Communist Manifesto, written by Karl Marx, exposing the methods of evil to take away the rights of individual man and, instead, grant them to the State.

But as Mary Baker Eddy writes, “The looms of crime, hidden in the dark recesses of mortal thought, are every hour weaving webs more complicated and subtle. So secret are the present methods of animal magnetism that they ensnare the age into indolence, and produce the very apathy on the subject which the criminal desires.” (S&H) The world has need of you!

1. Abolition of property in land and application of all rents of land to public purposes.
2. A heavy progressive or graduated income tax.
3. Abolition of all rights of inheritance.

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4. Confiscation of the property of all emigrants and rebels.

5. Centralisation of credit in the hands of the State, by means of a national bank with State capital and an exclusive monopoly.

6. Centralisation of the means of communication and transport in the hands of the State.

7. Extension of factories and instruments of production owned by the State; the bringing into cultivation of waste-lands, and the improvement of the soil generally in accordance with a common plan.

8. Equal liability of all to work. Establishment of industrial armies, especially for agriculture.

9. Combination of agriculture with manufacturing industries; gradual abolition of all the distinction between town and country by a more equable distribution of the populace over the country.

10. Free education for all children in public schools. Abolition of children's factory labour in its present form. Combination of education with industrial production, &c.

The theory of Communism may be summed up in one sentence: Abolish all private property.

Karl Marx, marxists.org

A newspaper is not only a collective propagandist and a collective agitator, it is also a collective organiser.

Vladimir Lenin, marxists.org

Mankind must learn that evil is not power. Its so-called despotism is but a phase of nothingness. Christian Science despoils the kingdom of evil, and pre-eminently promotes affection and virtue in families and therefore in the community.

*Mary Baker Eddy
Science and Health*

“The World Has Need of You”

Psycho-politics

Lavrenty Beria

Following is an excerpt from an address on Psycho-politics, given by Lavrenty Beria, an ally of Joseph Stalin, a leader in the Communist Party, head of the Soviet Secret Police, and responsible for the massacre of millions.

If we could effectively kill the national pride and patriotism of just one generation, we will have won that country. Therefore, there must be continual propaganda abroad to undermine the loyalty of the citizens in general and the teen-ager in particular.

The role of the psycho-political operator in this is very strong. He can, from his position as an authority on the mind, advise all manner of destructive measures. He can teach the lack of control of this child at home. He can instruct, in an optimum situation, the entire nation in how to handle children — and instruct them so that the children, given no control, given no real home, can run wildly about with no responsibility for their nation or themselves.

The mis-alignment of the loyalty of youth to a Capitalistic nation sets the proper stage for a realignment of their loyalties toward Communism. Creating a greed for drugs, sexual misbehavior and uncontrolled freedom and presenting this to them as a benefit of Communism, will with ease, bring about our alignment. . . .

The handling of youth cases by courts should be led further and further away from law and further and further into “mental problems” until the entire nation thinks of “mental problems” instead of criminals.

A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

The Government of Understanding

Herbert W. Eustace

The conditions appearing in the so-called world are under the government of understanding. “Immortal Mind, governing all, must be acknowledged as supreme in the physical realm, so-called, as well as in the spiritual.” Is not that government your understanding or Mind? Because there is only one Mind and this Mind is your Mind, it is self-evident that you hold the government in your hands. Is not that in accordance with the promise that “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”? (S&H)

This “government” is not something apart from you. It is our very Mind, it is that which is your very consciousness of being. It is actually intelligence or consciousness to you. Is not your responsibility then inescapable? The world is your world — not something outside of you. It is right with you every moment and it is absolutely under the government of that which is your Mind, for that Mind embraces within itself all that the world means.



Our Relationship with God

Andrew Kidd

It is no secret that the primary battleground in any warfare is mental, whether the warfare be military, political, or “the flesh against the spirit.” It helps to be aware of the enemy’s mode of operation in trying to demoralize into submis-

“The World Has Need of You”

sion. “A knowledge of error and of its operations must precede that understanding of Truth which destroys error.” (S&H)

In a revealing and chilling address given in 1935 by the Soviet head of security, Lavrenty Beria, to American communists, he urged his audience “to produce a maximum of chaos in the culture of the enemy Our fruits are grown in chaos, distrust, economic depression, and scientific turmoil. At last a weary populace can seek peace only in our offered Communist State, at last only communism can resolve the problems of the masses.” “To achieve these goals . . . crush every ‘home-grown’ variety of mental healing in America.” Christian Science (among others listed) “must be discredited, defamed, arrested, stamped upon”

Why would Christian Science pose such a threat to a tyrannical system? Because it declares “The relations of God and man, divine Principle and idea, are indestructible in Science.” (S&H) Any human system that wishes to assert itself seeks to undermine the individual’s relationship with God, because it desires to replace God! This was evident in the Dark Ages when the Church forbade the reading of the Bible. It is evident today in the medical community (AMA), in politics, and yes, even in the Christian Science Boston organization!

So what are we to do about it? The answer is clearly laid out in the Bible and our textbook, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures. We must seek God, Spirit, acknowledge Him in all our ways, strive to do His will above all. “In patient obedience to a patient God, let us labor to dissolve with the universal solvent of Love the adamant of error, — self-will, self-justification, and self-love, — which wars against spirituality and is the law of sin death.” From the standpoint of “The God-principle is omnipresent and omnipotent,” “why stand aghast at nothingness?” (S&H)

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Every effort of the enemy is designed to divert our attention from this Source of all good.

Whichever battlefield we find ourselves on, we are the victor with a cultivated sense of “The Lord, God Omnipotent reigneth.” (Rev.) For “if God be for us, who can be against us.” (Paul)



Excerpted from “Washington, A Life”

Ron Chernow

George Washington’s prayer for our nation when he resigned as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army at Annapolis in December 1783:

“In a voice hoarse with emotions, he recalled his feelings of inadequacy when first appointed commander-in-chief and stated that he had been sustained only ‘by a confidence of rectitude of our cause, the support of the supreme power of the union, and the patronage of heaven.’ He paid tribute to the men who had served with him and gently urged Congress to take care of them, reminding them of the troops sent home unpaid. It was at this point he had to grasp the speech with two trembling hands. When he recommended ‘our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God,’ said James McHenry, Washington’s voice ‘faltered and sank and the whole house felt his agitations.’”

One little thought is stronger than all the battlements and armored ships of the world. The nation that will think right is unconquerable.

From “the American”

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, "God the Only Cause and Creator."

"Heredity is not a law."

Who is to say how someone will turn out and what their destiny is? The human plan is so inferior and is pursued only by those who are selfishly involved with their own pride, and no one needs to be stuck with it. God has a far superior destiny for each and every one, the upward way is equally available to all who are willing to walk in it.

Response:

Think about the blind man Jesus healed. Even his disciples looked for a "hereditary" reason for his blindness! But Jesus blew that away. He refused to go there. This blindness was a mistake, and like all mistakes, it was an opportunity to correct the mistake with the Truth (make manifest the works of God).

It is all too common for people to ask, "Why do bad things happen?" Here is a great example of the need to stop looking for a principle that would cause the mistake, but rather to "wrest" the case from human belief and put it

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under the law of God, or Science, “which corrects error with truth and demands spiritual thoughts, divine concepts, to the end that they may produce harmonious results.” (S&H)

Mistakes have no principle. That is why they can be healed. As we do this, we naturally attract people to the truth, which is already in their hearts. It only needs to be unfolded.

Response:

To say that heredity is not a law would seem to be outrageous, given all the empirical and genetic evidence, etc., *unless* we deny the material senses, the basis upon which all human thinking rests. This is radical, and if we make no effort to change the basis upon which we operate day-to-day, we had better be careful spouting “heredity is not a law.”

Do we check the weather channel or our wallet to see what we can do today? Do we love based upon whether or not we are loved? Do we judge people based on what they have achieved, or how they look, etc.? Do we even bother checking what spiritual sense is telling us? Outside of our “prayerful study” and church-going, where is God in our moment-by-moment decisions?

“For this child I prayed.”

Our society puts so much emphasis on all the things that should be done for children — top-notch school systems, sports activities, travel, games galore, health routines, etc. What emphasis is put on prayer? How often do we pray for our children, or is it too much to squeeze into such busy schedules?!

Forum

Response:

“And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of His words fall to the ground.” Hannah did two very important things for her unborn child — she prayed for him, and she vowed to give him to the Lord — “as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord.” What wonderful results! What could be more important to any child than to feel God’s presence and to have God’s words inscribed in his (or her) heart?! Is this how we pray for our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or for any child God has put into our life? Do we pray *at all*, or once in a blue moon? Have we given them over to God who is their Creator?

Response:

Before finding Christian Science, I tried Silva Mind Control, a system that promises healing power. It seemed amazingly effective in reversing physical and mental problems, but the clincher for me was when the instructor explained how it can be used in “guiding” your children through mental means. There was no God in it! Who was to say you would not misguide your children, “meaning well.”

This sent shivers up my spine, and prepared me for Christian Science. The key impediment in raising children is the desire to possess them, guide them as *you* would have them be guided. Perhaps that was Eli and his wife’s problem. Their children did just what was expected of them, served in the temple, and turned out very badly!!

Hannah relinquished all sense of possession to God. Hence her prayer was righteous and enabled a great prophet and leader to emerge.



Articles

The Furnace of Affliction

Carol Conroy

“We should be willing to let the fires die out after we have come safely through the furnace of affliction.”

S. Ella Shelhamer

Soon after coming to Plainfield Church, whenever I would go through a learning time or a purifying experience, at first I would often be tempted to ruminate over the experience, and either feel angry at myself, resentful at the correction, or embarrassed by what I had done. But a practitioner helped me to see that all this is personal sense, the human mind in full bloom! What I really needed to do was to drop the past, be grateful for the growth and the progress, and rejoice that my thought had been transformed by the experience.

I learned that if we continue to mull over the past and keep reliving what may have felt like an unpleasant experience at the time, we’re keeping those fires in the “furnace of affliction” alive, and causing ourselves needless suffering — and making something real that was never real to begin with! Whatever has been refined out, was never the truth about God’s perfect creation — so why dwell on it, build it up, and make it into a mountain? Once those “fires of affliction” have done their work, let them go, and move forward.

The Bible says, “God requireth that which is past.” We need to give our trying times over to God, so He can dispose of them. Then we can look ahead to a bright future, full of promise. We can be grateful to God for what He has done in our lives, how he has purified us and helped us to see ourselves more clearly as His image. Then we can move forward and be of use to God in this mighty, and greatly rewarding work.

Failure, Humility, and Progress Gary Singleterry

If we are doing our very best and seem to run into a problem, or fail at something, that is not the time to despair or give up. It is an opportunity to learn a good lesson, and to be better, so that we can be of better use to God. However, this process of learning and growing requires one very important quality — humility. (“And what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (Mic.)) Humility is perhaps one of the most under-rated and under-appreciated qualities today.

Early in my business career, I was privileged to work with a wise Christian man who was one of the best investors in his field. One day he explained to me that when he evaluates people and their business plans, he never invests money with anyone who has never failed at least once at starting a new business. If they have never failed before, he will not invest with them. His reasoning was simple and wise. People develop humility by failing, and humility is essential for them to handle the challenges of any new venture. He did not want his investment with them to be their first business failure. He wanted them to already have that humility that would enhance the likelihood of their success. It was a simple test and a simple rule, and it served him very well.

In Christian Science, we learn that progress is God’s law. Progress is not always smooth. It can come in fits and starts, and often has a bumpy path. Humility is the mental quality that gets us over the bumps. It is our sure connection with God that provides the guidance and the courage to keep going. Without it, one cannot make progress.

About ten years later, I found myself starting a new

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business. I didn't know everything I would have liked to know about the business, but I sought God's guidance, at least most of the time. For a while, everything seemed to be going well, but at a critical time I became prideful, thinking I had accomplished success on my own. The business crashed. It failed miserably. I faced the grim decision to either pick up the pieces and keep going, or chuck it all and find another job or something else to do. I had a young family to care for, and needed a reliable source of income.

As I prayed to God for guidance, the thought came strongly, "You've learned some really good lessons from this experience. Keep going." So I did. And with new-found humility, and with God's help, the business got going on a more secure footing. And within a short time, all that I had lost was fully restored. And most importantly, I gained some humility that I may not have gained otherwise.

No one would ever seek failure, but we should never fear it, for out of it can grow the greatest blessings — humility being first and foremost.



Love Communicates

Dale Wallis

In the volume "The Greatest Thing in the World," by Henry Drummond, the author speaks of the Scottish missionary and explorer to Africa, David Livingstone.

In cutting his way through the densest parts of Africa and making major discoveries of the hydrography of that country, his goal as a pioneer missionary was to open up the country to others. And he did this in a very unique way; he could not speak the language of the people he met, and they did not know his language — his communication was

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through Love. Drummond says, “You can take nothing greater to the heathen world than the impress and reflection of the Love of God upon your own character. That is the universal language.” Also, he tells us that “men’s faces light up as they speak of the kind doctor who passed there years ago. They could not understand him; but they felt the Love that beat in his heart.”

What can we learn from this? We are all capable of doing much for this world and mankind, and the greatest way it can be accomplished is by holding the love of God within us and letting it radiate out to the world. Love is more than what we say or what we do; it is what we are.



Bible Study Classes

Tom Richards

“I, Mary Baker Eddy, ordain the Bible, and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, Pastor over The Mother Church.” (Mis.) Here, Mrs. Eddy does not ordain Science and Health as the sole pastor, nor as the primary pastor.

It often seems as if the Bible is relegated to some secondary role. Indeed, if you were to ask a Christian Scientist what else there is to read other than Science and Health, they would probably refer you to other writings by Mary Baker Eddy. However, Mrs. Eddy said that together they are the Pastor. Therefore, it should be just as worthy to read each page in the Bible as it is to read each page of Science and Health.

When I visit a Reading Room, I notice that there are only a few books available for studying the Bible, and the selection is virtually unchanged from many decades ago. I also notice that when the Bible is studied, the focus is so

oriented to the spiritual interpretation that there is little learning of the Bible, and much of the Bible just seems to be ignored.

It was not always that way. Over 50 years ago, Edith Hoyt wrote a book and gave lectures on “Studies in the Apocalypse of St. John.” She was a Christian Scientist, and many Christian Scientists studied her book. For her study, she extensively used the Bible and other Bible study books, and she even delved into the meaning of Greek words.

In 1911, the Christian Science Publishing Society published the pamphlet, “Causation, in the Light of Christian Science,” by Frederick Dixon. This pamphlet was based on this statement on page 170 of *Science and Health*: “Spiritual causation is the one question to be considered, for more than all others spiritual causation relates to human progress.” In this pamphlet, Frederick Dixon frequently refers to Greek words from the New Testament. He also quotes from the Wycliff Bible.

There seems to have been a time and place when Christian Scientists really studied the Bible. However, that was not my experience, and this was one of the reasons I questioned the Boston Church. When I joined the Plainfield Church, I observed that the Bible was an important part of the church, and this was an important consideration when I became a member of this church.

When a practitioner suggested having a Bible study, I immediately said this was a great idea and I would be glad to help. There was no precedent, so we were feeling our way. I thought it was helpful to start out with some Bible facts. Word definitions were included, as this is critical to understanding the Bible and Christian Science. We should all be using a wide range of sources to help understand the Bible. People should not be constrained in the reference

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material that is used, and they should feel comfortable using different sources. However, the Bible study would not dictate what those sources should be.

The Plainfield Church is a lay church. Therefore, members participate and contribute. The purpose of the Bible Study leader is not to teach, but to lead the discussion. The aim is to create an environment to foster learning, to promote people's interest in the Bible, and to generate eagerness to contribute. Initially, it was discussed that the Bible Studies might only be a few here and there, but in the first year we saw it was held almost every week. Now, each week a different participant prepares questions and leads the discussion. It has become a regular part of the church activities, and we look forward to more enriching and enjoyable Bible Studies.



Don't Be Fooled By Delusion Mary Beth Singleterry

In our textbook, *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy uses the word "delusion" or "delusions" almost twenty times. She classifies as delusion sin, disease, and death; the belief of life in matter; the belief of many minds; and the belief in memory loss. Mrs. Eddy is quite radical, for what she calls delusion, the world considers natural and normal!

Many years ago I found a helpful definition of the word "delusion," and it is this: "a fixed, dominating or persistent false mental concept, resistant to reason with regard to actual things or matters of fact." Working with this definition, I realized how important it is to watch my think-

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ing even more diligently. For instance, if I should forget something, do I consider this delusional? If I practice and accept the teachings of Mrs. Eddy, whose teachings are based on those of Christ Jesus, yes, I am! I am resisting the understanding that I have the mind of Christ and the proven fact that I can know anything I need to know, when I need to know it. God is omniscient, and we are all created in His image and likeness.

If I see sin, disease, and death and accept them as real, I am delusional, for I am resisting the fact that what God creates is only good. I am being resistant to reason and to matters of fact. I am being resistant to the fact that Jesus cast out sin, disease and death as unreal and untrue!

If I believe that I am getting older, I believe that life is in matter instead of knowing my life is in God and that we are all ageless, diseaseless, and deathless because God made us so.

If I am seeing the political situation as hopeless, I'm believing in minds many, and therefore, I do not understand the fact that there is only one Mind and we are all governed by that Mind!

Certainly none of us would want to be delusional and let "a fixed, dominating or persistent false mental concept" take hold in our experience! It is important, then, to realize what is delusional and what is not, and to daily challenge what we might ordinarily accept as normal and natural, and to know that, if it is not of God, it is *not* normal, but needs to be cast out as an imposter! Christian Science is radical, and when we faithfully apply its healing Principle to our problems, we will find it to ever be the one answer which meets our every need and the needs of everyone, everywhere!

Testimonies of Healing

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

When I was a child, my mother knew of Christian Science, since her best friend was a Christian Scientist, and her friend's brother-in-law was a practitioner in New York City. My mother was mildly interested in Christian Science, but not enough to attend the church.

Then, when I was about six years old, I was outside playing when I was hit by a car and my leg was broken. I was taken to the hospital and the leg was set. Several weeks later the cast was removed, and the doctors told my mother that the leg had healed crooked, that I would walk with a limp for the rest of my life, and that it would likely cause me great difficulty in later years.

My mother told her friend about this, and the friend told her to trust God. Just a couple of days later, I felt and heard a loud crack in my leg. My mother could see that the leg had suddenly become completely straight, and it has been absolutely perfect ever since. Needless to say, my parents then joined the Christian Science Church, and enrolled me in the Sunday School.

I am forever grateful to God for this powerful healing, and for the dear people who prayed for me and my family. I'm very grateful to have been led to Plainfield Church, and to be able to work for God here.

C. C.
New Jersey

I recently had an especially tough week at work, working long hours, and struggling to stay on top of everything. Ironically, when I'd gone back to my current job (I'd worked there before and experienced a similar trend of long hours and late nights), I'd promised myself that this

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was a fresh start and I wouldn't do that again. Yet, here I was coming home every night at 7:00 or later. That weekend, I noticed that my face was breaking out severely, and by Sunday morning it was covered in breakouts — like I was having some sort of reaction to something.

I called a Plainfield practitioner, who pointed out that this really had nothing to do with skin problems, hormones, or any other material theory. Instead, it was a reflection of where I was mentally — it was a wake-up call to the imbalance I was ignoring with my work situation. The practitioner said he'd help me with this; but he also said that I should give thanks for this problem and not want it to go away until I had received the blessing. I realized he was right. I very much wanted my work/life balance to be harmonious right now; there was no God being expressed in it.

Monday I woke up and turned to my books, and opened Science and Health to the chapter on Genesis. In it Mrs. Eddy explains Genesis 1:26, and talks about the idea of your mirrored reflection, relating that back to being made in God's image. I've read that before, but this time it became so clear to me that I don't have to "do" anything to be God's reflection — I am this transparency for good, and I just need to clear off all the junk and let God shine through. God's shining through will eradicate anything unlike Him. It also made perfect sense how Christ Jesus noted that he could do nothing of himself, that it was the Father that dwelled in him who did the work. This really made an impact on my thought, and I'm very grateful to say that by Tuesday the breakouts were gone! No one would have known I had been a mess just 48 hours earlier. I went to work and didn't think a thing about my face all day.

I'm so grateful for that healing, and for the insight and inspiration of the practitioner at Plainfield.

L. M.
Georgia

Testimonies

A few days ago while at work, I developed a toothache that distorted my face and swelled my mouth. Because of the pain, I thought I would go home, but then remembered that God is everywhere. That included any place I might be.

The watch that week included the statement, “The law of Truth, Life and Love is a law of instant and complete expulsion and elimination of all the impurities and poisons from the system.” This reminded me that God was in charge and He loved and protected me. I was able to return to my work and finish the day.

Many fearful ideas, including lack of funds to pay a dentist, pain, and vanity bombarded me. When this happened, I returned to the above statement and knew that I was safe in God’s loving arms. In a few days, the swelling and infection completely abated. Not one hour of work was lost, and I even attended the scheduled meeting.

Christian Science is truly a working religion. I am truly grateful for all the help I have received from a Plainfield practitioner and for God’s never ending love.

C. G.

Wisconsin

A faithful employee of mine, a very hard worker, an individual who my wife and I had mentored through some difficult times, called and almost inaudibly told me that he had lost his wallet containing several thousand dollars. He had been on a long road trip, and had stopped to stretch his legs somewhere along a remote 40-mile stretch of highway in Maine, where he had somehow lost the wallet.

He was incoherent with grief and yes — shame — over what he considered to be such a careless and foolish mistake. I did my best to comfort him and began to pray that God would send someone to find that wallet who would be honest and return it. I knew this would take a miracle —

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and soon realized I also needed to handle my own skepticism that this could really happen. Jesus' words to a father came to thought: "all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." This was not just about the wallet, but it was an opportunity to face my own "unbelief," and trust God. I continued to pray.

A week later, a phone call came from a hitchhiker who had found the wallet, and said that there was "a LOT of money in it!" We wept, both amazed at the grace of God in our lives. If God can send a hitchhiker to find a wallet in the middle of nowhere in Maine — He can surely pull off the needed changes in my heart!

G. A.
Vermont

I would like to add a few words to my husband's testimony. When our friend had lost his wallet, I immediately prayed that nothing could ever be lost in God's kingdom and that God knew just where the item was.

We both continued to pray for our friend, until one day I just felt certain all was well! When the good news came, it seemed to be a miracle; but in fact, this was the most natural thing ever, because in this independent Christian Science church we are taught to know that God wants only good for His children and that everything in His kingdom is always in its perfect place.

Events similar to this have made national headlines in the past! I thank God for His beautiful intervention and for showing our friend not only the power of God, but the power of prayer.

S. A.
Vermont

I want to express my deep gratitude for the inspired help I have received from a practitioner at the Plainfield Church.

I had been a student of Christian Science on and off

Testimonies

for the past 30 years, but I had never been able to use it in my life, which had literally begun to fall apart. I was in mental darkness.

This September I found and began working with a Plainfield practitioner. She spoke to me with a clarity and forceful affirmation that I had never experienced in all the practitioners I had tried to work with in the past. Suddenly Christian Science made sense to me and I was able to respond to it with a new loving openness toward my life, despite the problems I have had in my situation and experience. I was able to have renewed faith for the future.

In October I was able to make a long-delayed trip back to my home town to visit my older sister, whom I had not seen for three years. On this trip I specifically felt the power of God in my life. Before receiving help from this practitioner, I had been feeling very guilty for not making the trip, but I had been afraid people whom I encountered there would see I had failed. I was ashamed of my problems and my illness, including the way I looked and dressed, and my sister and all my first cousins have very successful lives, with their children and grandchildren and with their Episcopal religion. But now I renovated my appearance completely and went down there with a feeling of being equal to the situation. It turned out to be a wonderful return. I spent a lot of time with my sister and visited with my cousins and old friends with great joy and self-confidence. It was a success I will never forget.

More recently, continuing to work with the practitioner and gratefully attending the church sessions, I have clearly experienced the gentleness of God. A hymn by Mary Baker Eddy has come back to me that I knew in the beginning of my study of Christian Science: "O gentle presence, peace and joy and power; . . ."

*F. M.
Maryland*



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Broadcast the Truth

“Freely ye have received, freely give”