

The  
**CORNERSTONE**  
of  
Independent  
Christian Science

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

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# 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*

If anyone is wondering,  
this church is in no way affiliated with The  
First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts

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# Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

*Following are excerpts from writings of Mary Baker Eddy.*

The followers of the Master in the early Christian centuries did just what he enjoined and what Christian Science makes practical today to those who abide in its teachings and build on its chief corner-stone. Our religious denominations interpret the Scriptures to fit a doctrine, but the doctrines taught by divine Science are founded squarely and only on the Scriptures.

*Mary Baker Eddy  
Miscellany*

Each day I pray for the pacification of all national difficulties, for the brotherhood of man, for the end of idolatry and infidelity, and for the growth and establishment of Christian religion — Christ’s Christianity. I also have faith that my prayer availeth, and that He who is overturning will overturn until He whose right it is shall reign. Each day I pray: “God bless my enemies; make them Thy friends; give them to know the joy and the peace of love.”

*Mary Baker Eddy  
Miscellany*



## Watching

Mary Baker Eddy

You must watch, as Jesus said, if you would not have the house broken open; you think you are watching, but are you when the house is broken open? What would be thought of a watchman who let the place watched be burglarized? Would he be the right kind of a watchman? That is just why I named our paper, *Sentinel*, and on it, “Watch.”

## CornerStone

Now how should we watch? A guard who was watching on the side of the Union soldiers in time of the war, was walking up and down while on duty, when he suddenly *felt* the approach of the enemy — danger; so he began to sing, “Jesus, lover of my soul, Let me to thy bosom fly,” etc., and the verse that did the work was, “Other refuge have I none, Hangs my helpless soul on thee,” etc.; he gave up to God. He afterward talked with the man who said he approached with his gun to his shoulder to shoot the guard, and he said his arm fell and the rifle with it; he could not shoot. That was watching; we must *feel* the danger and lift our thought to God; He will save us.

If we do not feel the danger and go right on as though everything were all right, declaring you are all right, you cannot die, etc., when the seeming is all wrong, you will not be watching with God.

When we *feel* the danger, then we earnestly turn to God.

Mary Baker Eddy

*Divinity Course and General Collectanea*



## Demonstration

Mary Baker Eddy

I have learned a great secret, I have learned how to demonstrate. I have learned how to make Science a thing of life and not of words. I am going to tell you what the secret is, and it is wonderful. It is this: Not to see or hear or repeat any kind of imperfection. It is seeing and hearing and repeating good only, at all times and all circumstances, and in spite of everything that appears to the contrary.

I make this resolve every morning when I first open my eyes, and I renew it every hour of the day. I see perfection in myself, in my friends, and in my so-called enemy, in



## Mary Baker Eddy — Her Revolutionary Works

my affairs, and in world affairs.

I take my radical stand for the perfection of God and for everything and everybody He has created. I look upon the world with God's eyes, and I see it just as He sees it, and I refuse to see it in any other way.

I stop a dozen times a day, and renew the resolve, and make sure that I am not repeating error or giving way to criticism. I watch my thoughts about people, the lame, the old, the unloved to sense that I pass in the street, stray animals, I except nothing. I have taken my radical stand for perfection and I will not, absolutely will not, relax this perfect standard.

The result has been simply marvelous. Try it and you will find that you forget your glasses; they will become unnecessary.

You will be seeing with God's eyes, His perfect sight, and you will behold a perfect universe, the outward condition of your inward thinking. To change the picture you must change the sight that produced the picture.



Let us rejoice this Christmas morn that Christ hath so arisen to our understanding that all sense material is hushed; and the great facts spiritual of Life and Love are more apparent. All else, which belongs only to human, mortal belief, is false.

Mary Baker Eddy

*Divinity Course and General Collectanea*

Let us take "heart" as a token of our Christmas; the great heart of Christ; it is the palpitating presence encircling the universe; it is the only intelligence, and that is what? Love. Could there be anything greater?

Mary Baker Eddy, December 24, 1903

*Divinity Course and General Collectanea*

# 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.*

One day, a man whom Mrs. Eddy had seen jump from a great height, called to see her. He had on dark goggles. She asked him if he were not afraid when he took that leap. He explained to her that if he were to become afraid the jump was too high, he would be killed. After talking to him in a most heavenly way for some time, one could see by the expression of his face how enlightened he was mentally. Then she began again, and talked to him about his lack of fear, he still asserting that he had no fear when jumping — he knew he could do it.

She said to him, "why not apply the same rule to your eyes?" One, he told her, had been destroyed through an accident; the other was all right, but he wore dark goggles to hide the bad eye.

They were sitting in the library, and as she talked to him, I could see and feel that his fear was removed, and his thought was full of hope and joy, although he did not then realize the blessing he had received. A day or two afterwards, the cabman who drove him to the station reported there that he had two perfect eyes when he reached the station.



## “Feed My Sheep” — Christ Jesus

We Christian Scientists should assume our divine responsibilities. They are all joyous, being divine. When they appear, they do not fill us with dismay, but rather with happiness.

*Bicknell Young*

As the rose must have sunlight to give it fragrance and beauty, so must our thoughts, motives, and methods be illumined with the radiance of Love, if we would have them cheer and uplift our fellows and ourselves.

*William R. Rathvon*



## Now Is the Time!

Florence Roberts

The false sense of a future heaven, future salvation, future wellness, future harmony is an evil I had to contend with until I understood through Science that right “Now” is the accepted time. The truth is that self-examination, sacrificing self, desiring to do God’s will and doing His will all have to be happening *now*; moment by moment, and hour by hour.

This is so important because this false concept of a future “heaven” pervades the thinking of many (Christians and Christian Scientists). It pushes the expectation of good, including healing of sin and disease, into some future time. What a subtle abomination! I hear it often when people speak referring to getting better in the future. It is a wrong premise to work from and certainly denies present spiritual perfection.

Thank God Mrs. Eddy came to explain what Christ Jesus lived to prove, which was ignored or misunderstood — that our spiritual perfection is here NOW to be realized!



## A Prayer

Parthens

In the Bible we read, “But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.”

Through the ages, the sin most commonly associated with Sodom has to do with some form of sexual mania. But the great poet, William Blake, sweeping away cobwebs of traditional theological and popular thought on this subject, uncovered an important, neglected, uncomfortable scripture shedding explicit light on Sodom’s real, underlying problem, which at face value does not appear to be all that perverse, all that spectacular, and perhaps even trivial to modern readers: “Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister, Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness . . . neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.” (Ezek.)

God, help me to counter this compound sin, the sin of Sodom, in my own life. Let me embrace deeper depths of humility (obliterating pride); let me constantly hunger and thirst after righteousness in order to do away with being full of self, or full of yesterday’s bread of Life — in other words, to empty myself of self (obliterating the self-satisfaction of “fullness of bread”); let me ever fulfill Mr. Carpenter’s crucial “watching point” about being willing “to forget self and one’s own desires, in order to help others . . . to be willing to be in service twenty-four hours a day with

## “Feed My Sheep”

no vacation from God and His work” (thus to obliterate “abundance of idleness” but also “to strengthen the hand of the poor and needy”). And let all the cities of earth, great and small, endeavor constantly to uncover and banish forever the sin of Sodom from within their walls. Amen.



### Ninety-First Psalm

Clark Johnson

Many years ago when I was in Bible College we studied the 91st Psalm. It was considered to be one of the most powerful of all Psalms. The Ninety-First Psalm booklet by Doris W. Evans, and the beautiful duet that was sung recently are a true testament to the power of our Lord.

In Billy Graham’s book, “Angels,” he relates the story of how a missionary family that faced certain death by a hostile tribe was saved by praying the 91st Psalm. The tribesmen were later converted to Christianity and asked why they did not attack the missionaries. The chief stated that he and his men could not defeat the giant glowing men with wings that surrounded the terrified family.

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Man is protected by divine Love, informed by infinite Mind, enveloped in the radiant joyousness of Soul, and governed by immutable Principle. He is maintained eternally by divine Life.

*Bicknell Young*

# Lives Transformed

*Following are testimonies from people whose lives have been completely transformed by turning to God and independent Christian Science.*

My life has been completely changed and transformed through Christ Jesus and Christian Science, and what has been done for me here in Plainfield Church. It's pretty profound.

When I came to the church I had some big challenges and problems. When I reached a practitioner here, I wasn't really sure what to expect; but now I realize that what I was given was exactly what I needed to help clear the way for the healing Christ to come to me. It wasn't just words, it wasn't just a pep talk, I wasn't told to read an article. It was the most powerful, deep prayer — exactly what I needed to help realign me and get me back so I could hear the voice of God, which has always been there, but I had wandered off the trail.

I just want to testify that the Christ does exist now, and it existed before Jesus. We have seen the golden thread of Christ all throughout the Bible. But for what it has done for me and how it has changed my life, I am indebted to the practitioner. But also to the Plainfield Church itself, because the Bible Lessons, the Sunday morning Roundtables, and all the work that is God-inspired, is clearing the way for us to hear this Christ.

To anyone who may have experienced a Christian Science church before and wasn't sure about what to expect, I am here to testify that this church is living and practicing the Christ. I am so grateful that I found it and that it found me. I don't know how it worked, but it did. Thank God for Mary Baker Eddy, for Christ Jesus, his sacrifice, what he

## *Lives Transformed*

gave us, and to the sacrifice for the past 30 years the people in this Plainfield Church made to enable someone like me to have my life changed. I am so grateful.

*T. M.  
Georgia*

There was a time when the only concept I had, was of a discordant universe. I labeled myself a victim and nothing was going to change that. I was as the insane man in the Bible story, with a mind full of chatter and cutting myself. I was mesmerized by spiritualism and allowed voices from the grave to dictate who I was. Depression, fear, and anxiety filled my cup.

One day, through a friend, I was advised to seek the help of a practitioner from the Plainfield Church. I had no concept of the spiritual truths that would be unfolded. Through her loving and patient guidance, she has taught me to embrace my true identity as the child of God, and has taught me the necessity of forgiveness and its healing power.

My seeming insanity has been washed away by the pure waters of divine Mind. I no longer live in a mind full of discord, but dwell in a higher Mind where reality is harmonious and unbounded.

I rejoice daily and give praise to God, for He has given His angels charge over me, to keep me in all my ways.

Thanks to Mrs. Eddy, these spiritual truths can be understood and utilized by all mankind.

Thanks to the help of the practitioner and all the support and guidance of the Plainfield Church, I can now begin to understand and utilize these spiritual truths. My erroneous concepts have been dispelled by precepts of Life, Truth and Love.

*L. T.  
New York*

## CornerStone

Growing up, I was excited to go to church only if there was hope to go out to eat afterward. Later I found that I wanted to go on special occasions just to be with my family. More recently, as a member of a Christian Science branch church, I would attend service every Sunday, because I felt that it was the right thing to do.

I am so thankful to those at Plainfield for allowing me to see what church is really about. I've learned that attending church is not about routine, but renewal; each service is fresh with inspired ideas that are not only uplifting, but empowering. Here, it doesn't matter what you wear — you are being viewed spiritually, which is all that matters. I'm still eager to be fed, but now it's *during* the service, and not afterward.

Though what I'm gaining from Plainfield is priceless, I've learned that church is also about giving — giving my whole heart to God and giving all that I can, not out of obligation, but in obedience to Him and Him alone.

Thank you, Plainfield Christian Science Church Independent, for standing strong long enough for people like me to find the true sense of church that we've been seeking. Through weekly lessons, readings, tapes, services, watches and all, you are blessing this world in the most significant way. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to join with others from all over to be a part of the irreversible good that God continuously enables you to do.

To God, Jesus Christ, Mary Baker Eddy, and the entire Plainfield Church, I am forever grateful.

*D. R.  
Maryland*





# 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.*

## A Wonderful Key

*Published in Christian Science Weekly, January 19, 1899  
from the Denver Republican*

Through Christian Science, the sick and dying are healed; the slaves of sin and evil appetites, set free; the insane restored to reason; the otherwise incurably blind, deaf, and crippled, made whole; and this Science has been revealed to mankind in Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker G. Eddy.

These are facts, and yet, even those who have been healed in Christian Science sometimes complain of the distinction that is given Mrs. Eddy and her book in the church services and in the practice. The writer was one of those unreasonable persons.

Let us consider a parallel case. A man has been lying in a damp, deep dungeon — manacled hand and foot — ever since he can remember. He has been given keys from time to time, none of which would turn the bolts of his dungeon door or loosen the iron clasp of his fetters. His condition has excited the sympathy of men of all nations, and keys of the most cunning design have been sent to him. Some of them are very beautiful and almost fit, but an unseen flaw in the design makes them as useless as the key of crudest design which does not come near fitting the lock.

In the course of years, the prisoner has acquired a large and varied collection of keys. But finally he gives up all hope and concludes that the only escape for him will be death. Just at this time a woman offers him a key. He has tried so many that it seems folly to try another, but in a

## CornerStone

half-hearted way he applies it to the lock of his ankle fetters, and lo! they are loosed. Then he tries the bands around his wrists, and they spring open. His joy at first is too great for words. He weeps tears of heartfelt gratitude. He goes to the door and tries the key in it. The bolts slowly slide back and the door opens. He is free!

There are locksmiths who have spent a lifetime trying to devise keys to unlock these dungeons. Some of these locksmiths are graduates of famous universities, where they have studied the literature of keys in every known language. They look at this wonderful key, and immediately pronounce it a fraud, without even trying it. They say it's just a composite of the notions of visionary key-makers of all ages — “Nothing new in it at all.”

“That may be,” says someone, “but this new key unlocked that dungeon door that no other key would unlock. How do you account for that?” “Well,” responds the educated locksmith, “if it unlocked that door, it's the devil's work. It's my opinion that it was not the will of God that that man should ever get out.”

Science and Health is more than a collection of truths from ancient and modern authors. It is the full revelation to mankind of the Principle of all Truth, which imparts spiritual understanding, by which one is enabled to separate the wheat from the chaff (Truth from error) in all that he reads, whether in ancient or modern literature. It is the Science of Being which leads into all Truth, all Life, and confers health, happiness, freedom, and abiding peace.

This great book opens the hidden meaning of the Scriptures. It is, in very truth, a “Key to the Scriptures.”



## *The Christian Science Weekly*

*Published in The Christian Science Weekly,  
January 5, 1899*

### **Our Christmas Tree**

**E. C. S., Boston**

In my Sunday School class there are several little children who have recently come into Christian Science, and who were accustomed to having Christmas trees in their former churches.

While thinking of the glorious blessings which have come to the world through Christian Science, I heard two of the children speak of their Christmas celebration of last year. My heart went out to these little children, in an earnest desire to show them that the true Christmas is far beyond and above anything that the world can give.

Then I pictured to them a Christian Science Christmas tree. It was a tree whose leaves will not fall, and one that can never lose its freshness, for it was the Tree of Life. This tree was fully lighted, not by flickering candles, soon to be snuffed out, but by the eternal radiance of divine Love. On the topmost branch was a star, not a poor little tinsel star, but the seven pointed star of purity which points the way. By its light we saw God's chosen One as our Leader and Guide.

There were most exquisite and imperishable gifts on this tree. Among them were found joy, peace, love, and the wonderful gift of healing. Our tree was for the whole world to enjoy. Each child could have all the gifts he would take, and there were enough for all.

The children were very joyful over our Tree of Life. One little girl said, "The old trees were trees of error, this is the tree of Truth." Another said, "There is no room for error on this tree."

# 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. 234

Gilbert C. Carpenter

**W**ATCH lest you believe that you will need protection from the wind of error all your days, lest it blow out your spiritual flame. Will progress bring the demonstration that will enable you to know that the wind only causes your spiritual fire to burn more brightly? Surely this was true in the case of our Leader.

Protection from the winds must belong to the baby stage, where one's spiritual fire has not yet been kindled brightly. Protection in one's advanced stages is gained by reversing error upon itself, knowing that every effort evil makes to blow out one's spiritual fire, only causes it to burn more brightly.

When Gilbert Carpenter was at Mrs. Eddy's home, she taught him this rule of protection. She instructed him to handle every claim by knowing that he was the better and stronger for it, that every effort of error to harm him, only made him better and lifted him higher.

Let us suppose a claim of epidemic was rampant. How would you handle it? Could you not realize that error never created anything and never could. Therefore, the only epidemic must be the presence of God's encircling love, which mortal sense is distorting, and so we are stronger and better for Love's presence, and safe from all harm.

One sad thing about sickness under mortal mind is

## *Watching Points*

that every attack leaves mortal man weaker and more fearful. Every time he is thrown down, he is weakened. In mythology we read about the giant, Antaeus, who was the son of Mother Earth. Every time he was thrown down, he rose up with renewed strength, infused into him by his contact with his mother. Thus we can realize in Christian Science that every time error claims to throw us down, it only serves to put us in contact with our Father-Mother God, from whom we derive a constant renewal of life.



It is not the flower, but the joy that embraces you  
when you recognize its  
true beauty.

It's not the crickets chirping or night birds singing,  
but the sweet harmony  
that fills your thoughts  
with peace.

It is not the blossom or the season,  
but the rejoicing of Soul  
that fills your vision  
with renewed life.

*Luanne Tucker*

# “Comfort Ye My People”

Be wise, calm, slow to judge, patient, *pure, loving*. These are the graces of Christian Science.

*Mary Baker Eddy*  
*Divinity Course and General Collectanea*

To love thy neighbor as thyself is to find God, the Self of you as thy neighbor.

*Herbert W. Eustace*



## “Praise God” Day

LaVerne Fields

In Science and Health, Mary Baker Eddy states, “Take possession of your body, and govern its feeling and action. Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good.” How wonderful to know that we don’t have to suffer with anything that’s not from God, but that we can control our own thinking and govern our feelings through the love of God.

A co-worker recently called me, feeling depressed because of the government shutdown. And, to make matters worse, she had just received some bad news. She said, for her, it was a very dark day. I told her that this is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. I said that God has given us mastery and dominion, and that she has the power to rename this day for herself. I said, “Let’s name today ‘Praise God Wednesday.’ And not just today — let’s name every day ‘Praise God Day’! Let’s praise God for being God, and for leading you to call me so that I could remind you that He loves you.” And then she laughed.

I was able to tell her something a practitioner said many months ago — something that has stuck with me ever since — that when we wake up and find that there’s no

## “Comfort Ye My People”

joy in our heart, we must fight for it with everything we have. I said, “Let’s start fighting for soul-saving joy by praising God, and knowing that the government is on His shoulders.” Then we started singing hymns and praising God.

My co-worker called me back several hours later. When I answered the phone, I didn’t recognize her, she had so much joy in her voice. She said, “I’ve been praising God all day; I’ve been telling everyone I talk to that today is ‘praise God Wednesday,’ and that the government is on His shoulders.” Then she shared that, before she called me earlier, she was in such a dark place — all she wanted to do was go to sleep and never wake up; she said she felt like ending it. But after our conversation, all she wanted to do was to praise God and thank Him for His tender mercies. She said that she had heard so many times before that God loved her and that the government was on His shoulders, but today, for the first time, she really believed it. While we were on the phone, she received word telling her that the bad news she received earlier had been completely resolved.

Before joining the Plainfield Church, I may have been tempted to join my friend in the dark alley of despair, but “Now, with joy, I walk before The Lord in the land of the living.” Truth fills my cup to overflowing.



### My Worth

Luanne Tucker

The other day a practitioner said, “God told me of your worth.” I thought, “Yeah right, what worth?” Then I went off and sat for a while reading *Unity of Good*, by Mary Baker Eddy. I was reading the part where the error and

## CornerStone

Good were being compared. The picture of an insect of some kind came into my thought. I was sitting there watching it run across the desert making little marks in the sand. Then I saw an eagle flying over what I knew to be Alaska. I watched that for a while. Then I saw little granules of sand just washing back and forth with the tide. The thought came to me, "They have worth." The whole grand scheme of things came together in one picture; they all had a part in the rhythm of things. They were exactly where they needed to be and no man told them to be there or put them there. So much came so fast into my thinking. Most of all I held on to what I was knowing, although it was a little bit confusing.

Today while I was working on a project, I did not try to be anything but receptive to God. At first when I went outside, it was so hot to the point of being almost unbearable. I began working on my project and I just let it happen. I was singing a song in my head. I didn't mind the heat and before I knew it, the project was finished and it looked better than it might have if I'd tried to actually think about it, because I would second-guess myself so much.

I think sometimes of the value of the simple sentence that was said to me by practitioner. I was never told I had any worth to anyone or anything. Mostly I was told the opposite. I wanted to have worth for a long time, and I tried doing so many things to show that I had worth. I was always looking for praise from people. I pretty much felt like I did not matter, even though I tried to tell myself that I did. That simple sentence opened up my thought, and it was greater than anything I ever knew before. Thank God for practitioner. Praise God for His presence in my life. Most of all, I have a Father, a guiding Principle grander than anything I ever knew before.



## “Comfort Ye My People”

### “Joy Cometh in the Morning”

William D. McCrackan

Joy is natural, for it is of God. There are no sad saints, for whoever is sad would be separated from God.

To attempt to be sorrowful in God’s kingdom would be like insisting upon starvation in the midst of plenty. “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” Joy is first to greet us when, having come through a night of discord, we receive healing in Christian Science.

The Bible makes constant references to joy. After the Jews had rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah urged them to remember, “The joy of the Lord is your strength.” Isaiah calls upon the waste places of Jerusalem to “break forth into joy.” Jesus, speaking of the at-one-ment between himself and his disciples through their union with God, said, “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.”

To live on the mount of revelation opens the way for continual messages of joy from God. When obeying the call of Spirit, we have nothing but good awaiting us. Courageously marching forward, we pass through the nothingness of evil into the glories of ever-present bliss. Hear the inspired words of Mary Baker Eddy: “Clad in invincible armor, grasping the sword of Spirit, you have started in this sublime ascent, and should reach the mount of revelation; for if ye would run, who shall hinder you? So dear, so due to God is *obedience*, that it reaches high heaven in the common walks of life, and it affords even me a perquisite of joy.” (My.)

The world’s standard of joy is a poor staff to lean upon, but spiritual joy stands the test of eternity.

# Announcements

## **The Greatest Thing in the World**

We have published a newly typeset paperback version of the much-loved book, *THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD*, by Henry Drummond, the Scottish evangelist. This is a lecture given at a mission station in Central Africa, to missionaries preparing to bring the word of God to Africa in 1883. Based on the Bible's "love chapter," I Cor. 13, the lecture illustrates the spiritual timelessness of the message of love. This version is in a larger, more readable format. The price is \$5.00 per copy.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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 text-book. The cost is \$7.00 per CD, or \$85 for the set of 21 CDs.

## **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 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 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 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 Church broadcasts both our Sunday and Wednesday

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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 most lovingly to join us in membership. Please contact us, and we'll be happy to send you an application!

## Letters from Readers

Plainfield is a beacon of light in an ever-changing world. TRUE Christian Science is taught here by its loving, selfless staff of dedicated workers. I recently overcame a life long illness with the help of Christian Science, and the amazing resources available on this website. Finding Plainfield online was one of the best discoveries I have ever made. Many other churches claim to teach true Christian Science, but fall short of the mark.

*Canada*

I feel very fortunate that when challenges present themselves, I have Christian Science to rely on and know that God is in control. This is only possible because of Mary Baker Eddy and her gift of Christian Science, the Plainfield Independent Christian Science Church, their practitioners, and all the good, practical help available from them.

*Wisconsin*

I sat and listened to the Roundtable discussion on “Adam and Fallen Man.” It helped me immensely. I am going to be more aware of animal magnetism. I see how it got into my thinking — my Achilles heel, being made a fool of, being laughed at, not being in control.

Thank you.

*New York*

I am very grateful for the watches our church has three times a week. The issues to be overcome, from a material standpoint, appear to be vast, but we must remember that, matter doesn't matter. God, Spirit, is in charge. Our prayer to God is, “Thy will be done.”

*Arizona*

## CornerStone

Enclosed is a contribution, sent with many thanks for the love and inspiration found in this Independent Christian Science Church. I am always filled with gratitude for the very clear and complete messages that are found in the weekly Bible Lessons, and for the added explanations which can be found in the forum. This truly is a learning and growing experience, open to all.

*Virginia*

“Today is the day the Lord hath made” is the way I start my day. I have learned to turn to God before doing anything and everything. He walks before me and makes way for whatever I do.

Thank you Plainfield for making Christian Science a practical way of life.

*Alabama*

What a wonderful and useful website. The other day when it was down, it made me realize how much I utilize it. It has become a wonderful daily lifeline. Thank you for all your work and dedication.

*Wisconsin*

I am realizing that all I need for my study is on your website. It's just nice to know I am not on my own.

*England*

Received your red booklets, “Receive the Truth.” I will keep them in mind, as they are really wonderful for people interested in Christian Science. Thank you for sending them to me.

The CDs I get from the church are wonderful! They are so clear and helpful to me as I hear them. The Wednesday testimony CDs make me feel like I am right there in the church.

I am also grateful to you for the great loyalty and steadfastness with the church to the world.

## Letters

Sending my love to all of you for your wonderful healing works of God.

*Illinois*

I was on the watch last evening and I am grateful to be alerted to be handling the belief of destructive forces — bestial ferocity, as Mrs. Eddy states, and to have the opportunity to embrace everyone in the Allness of divine Love.

*Iowa*

This past Wednesday was overflowing again with wonderful testimonies! Thank you all. The testimony about learning to talk with God every day like you would speak with a good friend meant much to me. I'm so glad to be a member of this dedicated group!

*Virginia*

The article by Rev. G. A. Kratzer, "The Law of Right Feeling" is right on the dot for me; not just arguments, but emotional discipline. It is the key to staying above all the negatives that would draw us down.

*Costa Rica*

Thank you for my membership in the Plainfield Church, for your Newsletter and Quarterly which concentrate on the enduring, the good, and the true. These give me strength and dominion.

Enclosed please find my contribution for your loving support. I think often of all of you and I am most grateful for Mary Baker Eddy and your Christian Science family.

*Michigan*

How grateful I am for all the practical everyday help the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent has.

Unable to sleep early one morning, I arose and read the Lesson forum. For a while I had been struggling with some ugly mental pictures, but posted on the forum was

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the statement from that weekly Lesson, "All that really exists is the divine Mind and its idea," And the question, "Do I see and acknowledge this fact?" This was the help and ammunition needed.

Thank you for showing us how practical Christian Science can be in our daily lives, and helping us to apply it.

*Wisconsin*

The Roundtable and the service today were so outstanding. They always are. In fact, it's hard to believe, but our church, in every way, keeps getting better and better.

Our website is superb! All the testimonies on Wednesday night touched my heart.

*Illinois*

I wish to express my gratitude for a recent Wednesday meeting. Mention was made of an article on the website concerning America. Immediately I thought this could be the theme of my way of celebrating the Fourth of July. On our website I found a second article dealing with the USA. I was inspired to combine these articles with the reading of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution which I do each year. The majority of the Fourth was devoted in prayer for our city, state, our country, our world. What a joyous way to relate these articles and documents to our government.

*Arizona*

Thank you for all you do for God and the Plainfield Church. I am especially grateful for all the opportunities to participate in church activities. When I put God and church first, the other things that need to be done all fall into place.

*California*



## Featured Workers:

### The Carpenters' Divine Destiny

Andrew Kidd

Here is an important question for the serious student of Christian Science to consider: “If you found evidence that Mary Baker Eddy spoke or acted inconsistent with her teaching, would not this discredit her and, therefore, her revelation?” The answer from the enemy of Christian Science is, “Of course!” But the answer of the student of Christian Scientist is more important.

Those who worked in close quarters with Mrs. Eddy, in her home, or those on the Board of Directors, were challenged by this question daily. Most judged her based upon the evidence of their “personal sense,” either hating her and turning away, or tolerating her with the patronizing “she is making a loving mistake!” The latter evolved into the official position of the church hierarchy, and turned it into a Gestapo-like, take-no-prisoners method of operation, fiercely pursuing every shred of historical content surrounding Mrs. Eddy, and hiding it in “the Archives,” only allowing carefully vetted people to peek, under close scrutiny — all to prevent embarrassing trivia regarding Mrs. Eddy to reach Christian Scientists and confuse them, or to reach the general public and bring ridicule upon the movement!

One saintly man, Gilbert Carpenter, Sr., took a different approach, and took Mrs. Eddy at her word: “I briefly declare that nothing has occurred in my life’s experience which, if correctly narrated and understood, could injure me.” (Christian Science Sentinel, 3/12/10). During his one year of service in her home, Mr. Carpenter had observed

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Mrs. Eddy in operation. He did not pass judgment upon her on any point, but, rather, quietly thought and prayed about his experience. He reasoned that anyone who was fit to discover and found Christian Science, a divine revelation, could not possibly be understood from a personal, human point of view. After nearly 1900 years, Mrs. Eddy was the first to “get it.” The difference between her writings and the finest Christian theologians is like night and day. Even the highly regarded Christian, St. Augustine, whom she respectfully referred to in her writings, presented a very human rendering, a mere shadow of the spiritual power underlying the Christianity Mrs. Eddy revealed.

And so Mr. Carpenter, we might say, waited on God for 25 years before sharing his insight on Mrs. Eddy with others. In fact, he was impelled to set the record straight after several books (Dittemore, Dakin, etc.) dragged her through the mud of unpleasant criticism. In his precious books, “Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Footsteps” and “Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Precepts,” Mr. Carpenter, with the aid of his son, Gilbert, Jr., addressed many difficult-to-understand incidences in her home at Pleasant View and letters to the Board of Directors. Whereas others used this same material to illustrate Mrs. Eddy’s weaknesses, Mr. Carpenter convincingly explained how, in fact, she was demonstrating Christian Science in the smallest details of her life! She was constantly striving to obey God as best she could, ever watchful of the encroachment of the so-called human mind, that which thinks and acts to please man instead of God. It is the nature of things that those who habitually please man before God do not like to have it pointed out!! And so, dear Mrs. Eddy bore this cross, pointing out deficiencies of her students along this line and bearing the consequences through to her passing, and we expect, her ascension.

## *The Carpenters' Divine Destiny*

The vision of the Carpenters was diametrically opposed to the “party-line” of the Christian Science Board of Directors, and for their courage and love in quietly fulfilling their divine destiny right under the nose of the Great Red Dragon, we can never be grateful enough. Now the student of Christian Science can face the “dirty secrets” about Mrs. Eddy and gain greater, not less, respect for her, and grow to a much higher understanding and demonstration of Christian Science. The advancing student who avoids knowing more about how Mrs. Eddy practiced this Science, and drowns themselves in reading more and more metaphysics, is handicapped.



Man never ought to think in any other way than intelligently and divinely. One thing is absolutely true, gloriously true, and that is, when you think with that divine intelligence, you are finding that your divine thinker or consciousness is able to do all things well, in business, in healing, in all things. You will understand that passage in the Bible, “He doeth all things well” (according to His will).

*Bicknell Young*

Students must avoid mesmerism. Self-immolation is essential; fear to offend God is a wholesome idea.

*Mary Baker Eddy*

# “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.*

## Waking Hours

Louise Knight Wheatley

Mary Baker Eddy wrote of “each waiting hour,” but she also wrote “wake to know a world more bright.” Sometimes the only thing we can seem to do is wait patiently on God, but let us not get so absorbed in waiting that it merges into dull self-mesmerism. If there is “a time to every purpose under the heaven,” as the Bible says, there is not only a time to wait, but also a time to get up and do something!

Paul’s counsel, “Having done all, to stand” is very good advice; and yet it is the experience of most of us that when we *really* have done all, we seldom have to stand very long. When human will, pride, self-justification, and specific outlining are eliminated, we soon see the solution to our problem — which has been at hand all the time.

What seems to be one of the favorite devices of the adversary is to keep us waiting, in the stupefying belief that we must wait indefinitely. Yet when the world is in distress, that’s a great opportunity to rouse the world from its long sleep of materiality! The carnal mind had been sleeping for so many centuries in its self-satisfied belief of life in matter. It struck out fiercely right and left when a firm hand was laid upon its shoulder, and the voice of Truth was heard saying, “Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead.” Error fights back with the stubborn, desperate resistance of that which knows its time is short.

We need never be disturbed by world tribulations, when we see in it only what Elijah saw when the 450 priests of Baal sought to establish the supremacy of their god by a sign from heaven. All day long they shouted and clamored

## *“The World Has Need of You”*

and “cried aloud”; and all day long Elijah, the one and only prophet of the true God, stood aside and watched them with the patience of the man who knows. Then, when noise and bluster had done all it could and had accomplished nothing, he stepped forward, and with quietness and confidence, offered a brief, simple prayer to the God of Israel, which received its immediate answer.

Today the same privilege which was given to Elijah is given to us, to prove before all the power of good over evil, of Life over death, of Love over hate, of Spirit over matter. It is no wonder that these words echo joyously in our hearts: “To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, to-day is big with blessings.” (S&H)



### Our Place

### Pioneer

I believe that God has given to everyone a place, and in this harmonious creation there is no void — nothing left out — nothing lacking. So, we may as well try to breathe without air, or think without mind, as to think we can rotate out of the divine order of being, or take any place other than our own. Others may try to usurp us; they may try to be like us; they may move earth and apparently heaven, to gain our position; but when God has placed us there, we are there, and naught can move us out of this our rightful inheritance.

If this were understood, many warfares would cease; envy and jealousy be exchanged for the peaceful gleams of joy and gratitude; and, mingling with the light of love, would bring to man new health and happiness, — yea, Life immortal.

We never see the stars vying for each other's places,

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nor the sun and moon at variance; nor have we seen a Paul take Peter's place, or John the place of our Master, or *vice versa*. Each fills its own, her own, his own place, whether they have knowledge of it or not; and I, for one, would be content in the sweet consciousness that I have a place with Thee, eternal Love, and however grand or great, humble or small, I am of Thy creation, therefore Thine.

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*The above article appeared in the Christian Science Journal of December 1, 1883. Since Mrs. Eddy wrote and edited the Journal in its beginning, she was likely the "Pioneer" who wrote this article.*



### World Must Discover that Hope Is in God Only

Edward A. Kimball

This world has for ages turned in vain to matter and materialistic philosophy for deliverance from its woes, and in disregard of its own declaration that God, Spirit, or Omniscience is all power, and regardless, too, of the fact that the divine Mind alone can govern man aright, can alone wipe away tears and heal all of the diseases of the nation.

The profundity of Mrs. Eddy's announcement that the only hope of humanity lies in the direction of Mind has been recognized slowly; but, in spite of all reluctance and dimness of spiritual discernment, the world must awaken to that discovery. In the future the only march of actual progress will be in the mental realm, and this progress will not be in the way of human speculation and theorizing, but in the actual understanding and demonstration of the Mind that is infinite God, Good.

# The Plainfield Bible Study

*Following are some points discussed at a recent Plainfield Church Bible Study. At these sessions, Bible citations from that week's Independent Lesson Sermon are discussed. They are held by teleconference on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. If you'd like to join this study group, log on to the church website, plainfieldcs.com, for dial-in information. Everyone is welcome to join in.*

## **Lesson: Doctrine of Atonement**

**M**oses went up to the mountain to receive the Ten Commandments, and when he came down, he found that the people had gone back to idol worship. So the day of atonement was established as a day to purify from sin. But if Christian Scientists believe there is no sin, what does that mean to us?

Christian Scientists often consider atonement as simply "at-one-ment with God." But what does that really mean? What is the process? The process is self-immolation, daily purification of thought and daily deeds, "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ," whereby man reflects divine Truth, Life, and Love. This reflection of Truth, Life, and Love is serving the living God.

Mary Baker Eddy says, "In proportion to a man's spiritual progress, he will indeed drink of our Master's cup, and be baptized with his baptism! be purified as by fire, — the fires of suffering; then hath he part in Love's atonement, for 'whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth.'" (Mis.) So if you're progressing spiritually, there's no way you're going to avoid this. And what you're being purified of is sin, disease, and death.

## **Purging Ourselves of Sin and Guilt**

In the Lesson it says to purge your conscience so that you may serve the living God. We have to purge our lives,

change the way we live our lives, and stay in continual touch with what is truly right, what Jesus taught us. In the course of this, we then have a clear conscience so we can serve the living God — we're not all wrapped up in guilt. Instead of a life of guilt for all the sins we've committed, Mrs. Eddy comes along and says, there is no forgiveness without reformation. So stop looking for forgiveness without reformation, stop looking for God to pardon us.

Mrs. Eddy also says constant self-immolation is necessary. If you're a Christian Scientist and walking around with a lot of guilt, you can't practice Christian Science. How can you when you're feeling guilty? It totally incapacitates you. You have to squarely face that first and come through it. If you have committed a sin and you are guilty, you have to make amends — first to God, and to anyone else, and certainly to yourself — and then you can move on, and get your peace with God.

### **Anxiety Is Disobedience to God**

If you are feeling anxious, that is guilt. If you are perennially anxious, then you are basically sinning in some way and not doing anything about it. Mrs. Evans used to say if you are feeling anxious, it's disobedience to God. You're allowing negativity, ingratitude, or some other thing to infiltrate your thinking. What a sin that is! It will control you and drive you until you see it and kick it out. Then you can start anew; then you're ready for progress.

People take medication and go through therapy because anxiety is this mysterious thing. It's not mysterious at all, and we shouldn't make it mysterious. It's something that needs to be met. If you're chronically anxious, you can't serve the living God.

Another problem in today's society with the medical is they're trying to find ways around taking responsibility for



## *Plainfield Bible Study*

sin. Mrs. Eddy is very clear on that in the chapter on Prayer — you're pardoned when you stop sinning. Mrs. Eddy says, "Prayer, watching, and working, combined with self-immolation . . ." People say, oh, yes, I'm watching, working and praying. But they miss the self-immolation part; they completely overlook that. It's nothing to fear, because as you grow spiritually, God gives you whatever you need to overcome whatever is assailing you. It's just a natural outcome of your spiritual growth. It's nothing to fear or dread. But you do have to suffer through sin in order to purge yourself of it. It's healthy and life-giving. Mrs. Eddy also says, "The atonement is a hard problem in theology, but its scientific explanation is, that suffering is an error of sinful sense which Truth destroys, and that eventually both sin and suffering will fall at the feet of everlasting Love." (S&H)

Jesus proved by demonstration that we must overcome everything so there is nothing we are the victim of — even to the point of overcoming death. Mrs. Eddy says every time you overcome one of these little things, you are actually overcoming the belief of death. Every time you have a healing, every time you correct a negative thought, you're overcoming death. So why not do it now, get started with it, and be faithful to it? Then we're following his example. That is substantive religion.

### **The Lamb Destroys the Wolf**

It's intriguing to think why the Lamb can destroy the wolf. The wolf is sin. Innocence would be the only thing that could destroy it, because it has the whole power of God behind it. Mrs. Eddy says, "Truth, Life, and Love are a law of annihilation to everything unlike themselves, because they declare nothing except God." (S&H) "Divine Science shows how the Lamb slays the wolf. Innocence and

Truth overcome guilt and error.” The wolf is guilt and error? That’s really big. It’s not this big, evil force — it’s guilt and error. Innocence and purity are not something fragile — here she’s saying it destroys the wolf! With innocence and purity, there’s no way the wolf can reach you, and so you annihilate it. You need to cleanse yourself and get rid of that guilty conscience, then there’s no hook in you for the wolf to grab onto. You end up destroying it. And the kingdom of Heaven is within you.

### **Face the Demons of the Past, and Move On!**

If you look back at your human history, there are going to be things that would try to create that guilt. That’s why we have to face the demons in our past and move on. A good way to tell the difference between legitimately facing a sin, and animal magnetism — if something from the past comes up, if there’s nothing you can do about it, that’s animal magnetism. You can turn it into a steppingstone with, “I can’t do anything about that, but I can strive to do better in the future.” But if it leaves you with the feeling, “I should have done better” — that’s trying to drag you down. That’s not the way God works. God does not condemn, ever!

In the Bicknell Young article, “Death Overcome,” he had led a pretty good life. When he found himself at the bottom of a lake, the accuser came in. If he didn’t know his Science, he would not have survived. He tells that the louder the error spoke, the louder he argued, until he shot up out of the lake, and lived to tell the story.

“The atonement requires constant self-immolation on the sinner’s part. That God’s wrath should be vented upon His beloved Son, is divinely unnatural.” We are empowered to do this, as we’re honest and faithful in our self-immolation. It’s an ongoing thing, not a condemning thing. Take the true atonement and use it, so you’re ready to serve God!

# “Sing Praises to the Lord”

*This section features the words to musical presentations recently sung in Plainfield Church.*

He to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey,  
His servants you are to whom you obey.

I've always considered myself a good person —  
Done unto others what I would have done unto me —  
So why am I struggling with problems that just seem to worsen?

If God made me free, can you tell me why I'm not free?

I'm always resisting the devil's temptation.  
Won many battles, but I'm still fighting the war.  
I'm starting to feel like each trial brings more tribulation.  
The more that I try, the more I'm tried—and what's it all for?

Why must I struggle, and when will this suffering end?

When you yield yourself to the Lord.  
Yield your plans, yield your will,  
Yield your pride, better still —  
Yield yourself to The Lord —  
Yield your heart, soul, and mind.

Where is my Father, and how can I find peace again?

You must yield yourself to the Lord.  
Yield your dreams, yield your fears,  
Yield the past thousand years.  
Yield yourself to the Lord.  
Yield your heart, soul, and mind,  
And you will find —

Joy, release, and everlasting peace.

*Peter Kidd*

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# The Independent Lesson Forum

*If you haven't discovered the Lesson Forum on our church website yet, log on to [plainfieldcs.com](http://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, "Probation After Death."

## **Oh no! More talk about sin!**

Last week's Lesson was Doctrine of Atonement, this week Probation after Death, next week Everlasting Punishment, and then Adam and Fallen Man. Ouch! What was Mrs. Eddy thinking? What was God thinking? I thought God is Love?

## **Response:**

"For every man shall bear his own burden." Well, if we're all bearing our own burdens (and as we learned in last week's Lesson, Christ didn't relieve us of a single responsibility), then I guess we need to keep examining ourselves and talking about "sin" until it's completely handled. Otherwise it becomes a tremendous burden. I feel like I've been carrying around 40 years of that burden, and it's only at this church that I'm slowly grasping the concepts of self-immolation and learning the "practical repentance" that chips away at and destroys that sin.

## **Response:**

And what freedom to be rid of the perennial guilt hid-

## Lesson Forum

den under the facade of “I am a perfect child of God” when referring to the “mortal self!” Yes, Mrs. Eddy saw the danger from the beginning, as did Paul: “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.” (Gal.) These tough Lesson subjects, one after another, are intended to get our attention so that we do not drift off into the quicksand of impractical metaphysics, into selfish, self-centered harmony.

### Response:

And yet the “culture” floats over these subjects. “Pay no attention to that man (sin) behind the curtain.” To think I used to travel every year for class association to be lectured on the letter of Science! Not once was I taught that I needed to atone for my sin so that I may manifest my true nature — a son of God who has dominion over sin and evil. Science shows us how to put off the old man step by step, day by day, in a practical manner. And this church has not lost sight of that!

**“Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.”**

Seems pretty hopeless if you’re on the wrong side of that gulf! But God does not condemn. So, what is this gulf?

In Luke, “No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” The great gulf must be the gulf between materiality and spirituality; between love and hate; between selflessness and selfishness. One or the other rules your heart. There is no grey zone here. No connection between the two opposite states of thought — hence the need for

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constant self-examination. I am either in a selfless state of divine love, or I am way over on the other side of that great gulf, in the hell of selfish materialism and the hatred that goes with it.

### **Response:**

It has been said that this is not a parable, since Jesus never used actual names in parables. Rather he was recounting what he saw “on the other side” — past the veil of matter. The rich man was in a bad way — looks like he was being punished for being such a selfish man, and that it was eternal damnation. But Mrs. Eddy explains: “the belief in sin is punished so long as the belief lasts,” so we may be sure that the rich man was crying out for help, but without a modicum of repentance. When we are struggling with a hellish situation, we would do well to remember this. Feeling sorry for ourselves does not constitute repentance!!

### **Response:**

What a very important point. The rich man seemed to get that it was his actions that put him there, which is why he wanted to send a warning to his brothers; but he did not repent or ask forgiveness. I just listened to the excellent Hezekiah Bible Study and the discussion of how he repented and wept sore. The rich man didn't like being in pain, but there was no change of heart and no break in his pride whatsoever. I love how these Lessons weave together to reinforce teachings.

### **Response:**

This is perhaps the most arresting of all the examples Jesus gave of the need to progress and live righteously. Thank God for Mrs. Eddy's wonderful help. But the challenge is great.

## Articles

### A Major Healing

LaVerne Fields

Last Wednesday night on my way home from work, I received word that my mother had been rushed to the hospital. I immediately turned to God in prayer, thanking Him for His ever-present love. I prayed all the way to the hospital, and every time thoughts of fear threatened, I would thank God even more for His goodness and mercy.

When I arrived at the hospital, my mother was hooked up to an EKG machine, which showed evidence of a heart attack. My mother is not a Christian Scientist — she was moaning and talking negatively. She said that this was the end for her and that she wasn't going to make it. She kept talking about funerals and insurance papers. I kept praying, and she kept moaning. The more she moaned and spoke of death, the more I prayed and declared for Life, rebuking the fear and lies.

Then I e-mailed a Plainfield practitioner for prayer support. I knew she was at the Wednesday night testimony service; but I was certain that as soon as the service was over, she would read the e-mail and pray for my mother.

Then I received the angel message to play the Wednesday night testimony service. At first my mother didn't want to listen; but then she closed her eyes and, after a while, quieted down. Then she appeared to drift off to sleep. The service was almost over when Mary Beth began to share the story of Jesus and Pilate. She said that after Pilate told Jesus that he had the power to crucify him, Jesus responded by saying, "you couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above." Then she went on to say that a doctor's diagnosis has no power over thee.

My mother's eyes opened wide and she sat straight up. She heard what Mary Beth said and it made an impression

on her, so much so that she started repeating, “The doctor’s diagnosis has no power over me.” Immediately after the service ended, the practitioner responded to my prayer request with a message of love and healing. Shortly afterwards, my mother said, “Let’s go, I feel better! That woman is right, the doctor’s diagnosis has no power over me!” Then she unhooked herself from the machine and we left the hospital, praising God. My mother still hasn’t stopped talking about it, and is now in perfect health.

Thank God, for this church, and for the practitioner who loved us and helped us to rise above the battlefield on the wings of Truth and Love.

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*Below is the testimony referred to in LaVerne’s article that turned her mother to God and opened the way for this wonderful healing.*

## Given Thee from Above

Mary Beth Singleterry

In the book of John, chapter 19, there are two verses that have meant a great deal to me. This chapter describes the dark events that led up to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. In verse 10, Pilate, with all the arrogance of a godless man, jeeringly asks Jesus, “Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and power to release thee?” Jesus’ stirring answer echoes down through all ages with mighty import for us all: “Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above”! His total conviction of the fact that God is the one and only Power and that there is no other lesser power, was what enabled Jesus to overcome completely all the wicked beliefs of hatred, pain, sin,



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and even death itself — an everlasting victory! The holiness of this event is unspeakable.

Jesus' unflinching example under such dire straits shocked me into asking myself, how many times do I attribute power to something other than to God? I was not pleased with my answer and realized it was all too easy to be duped into believing this lie of a power apart from God. Mrs. Eddy speaks of a God-principle in *Science and Health*: "The God-principle is omnipresent and omnipotent. God is everywhere, and nothing apart from Him is present or has power." So I began the process of "unwinding my snarls" and to align myself with this operative principle, a law of God I could trust in. I would frequently remind myself that there was no power apart from God and to make sure I did not believe otherwise. Great changes began to take place. I began to have a sense of peace and joy that I had never before known to be possible. In some small way a resurrection was taking place, a resurrection out of the bondage and tyranny of the human mind.

It is good to ask oneself often, "Do I believe someone or something has a power over me other than God Almighty?" Is it a boss? Is it a domineering family member or friend? Is it the government? Does it call itself a doctor's verdict? Is it the bullying tactics of mortal mind you have allowed to stream through your consciousness unchecked? If so, now is your time to stand up and challenge these insidious suggestions with the words of our Master, "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above"! Mrs. Eddy told her students, "Error comes to you for life and you give it all the life it has." Think of this! Don't give the belief in error a power it doesn't have! The Kingdom of God is within you. God *is* the only power and you can begin today, this very moment, to prove this wonderful Truth to be the truth about you!

# No Second Class

Sharon Welsh

When I came into Christian Science, I felt I was a second-class citizen. I did not have a college education, a prestigious job, or a lot of money. I only had a desire to learn about God.

A practitioner told me that, as a child of God, I was a first-class citizen. My spiritual growth and putting God first was more important than education, employment, or money.

The Bible says, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” I should not go to God for material things, but for spiritual growth. In Isaiah it says, “If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.” And the Moffat interpretation is, “If you are willing and obedient, ye shall feed on the best of the land.” No second class in that!

I was instructed to make sure I could see the Reader in the church service and not sit behind someone who might block my view. I was told to go to the butcher and the vegetable market and buy the best meat and vegetables, to buy good clothes, not cheap and of poor quality. Since they were first quality, they cost more, but the money would be provided by God to pay for them, and it always was.

All these were practical lessons. As my thought lifted, I realized that I really was a child of God. Over the years I have had some challenging times, but as a first-class child of God, every need has been provided, and more so. I have had many opportunities to serve God — and that’s the best riches anyone could ever want!



# Resist the Devil

Gary Singleterry

In James we read, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” This should be a source of strength and comfort to anyone who believes that there is a real force, called devil, that has power to harm. Early in Jesus’ mission, he was tempted by the devil, but the devil could not make him do anything. And when Jesus resisted the devil, the devil left him and angels ministered unto him.

What is the devil, that we can and should resist? In the Christian Science textbook, Mary Baker Eddy defines “Devil” as “a belief in sin, sickness, and death.” Here, she makes it very clear that sin, sickness, and the belief in death are the devil, and they therefore can, and should, be resisted. They are not to be considered as a legitimate fact of life, or inevitable. No! They are to be resisted.

There are countless stories of men and women who have resisted cancer and other verdicts of hopeless disease, and have been healed solely by their change of thought. The fact that some have done it is proof that anyone can do it.

Here, Christian Science is the pearl of great price. It explains why the devil flees when we resist it. God made man in His image and likeness. That likeness does not include disease. When you resist a belief in some fearsome disease, you are resisting that which God did not make or ordain. It is therefore illegitimate, and does not deserve to have the power it claims to have. It claims to have power over man, but it is Godless; therefore powerless before the power of God. Mrs. Eddy states in the textbook, “Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good. God has made man capable of this, and nothing can vitiate the ability and power divinely bestowed on man.”

# Testimonies of Healing

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

Last week, I had a toothache. While listening to the Wednesday night testimony meeting, I heard something that changed my thought. One of the testifiers talked about the motive for healing. “Wow!” I thought, “what is my motive for having this toothache healed?” And I had to be honest with myself — my motive was to feel better. But, that testimony made me realize that it’s not about me. To God be the glory; Thy will, not mine be done. After listening to this testimony, I thought, “I want only what God wants — I want to glorify Him. I want understanding, growth in grace, and a closer walk with Him.” And before the meeting was over, the toothache was completely healed.

I am so grateful for that testimony. For me, it was transformative. I’m grateful for all the testimonies. I am so grateful to God, for Mrs. Eddy and Christian Science, and for this church. For the first time in my life, I feel alive. I love you all!

*L. F.  
Maryland*

For a number of years I’ve experienced regular knee flare-ups as a result of a sports injury. For many years since the injury, I had to be cautious with the level of activity that I could do, or immediate pain would follow — if I walked up the stairs too much, tried to bicycle, etc. I never thought it would be possible to address the issue through Science, for in my mind I had such a strong visual of a knee structure, its problems, and all the history that goes along with it.

One day during one of my flare-ups I had to call a Plainfield practitioner for help. I started telling him about

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my knee problem — how long it's been going on, what caused it, what kind of activity I had to avoid, etc. He listened politely for a short time, and then stopped me and told me to stop rehearsing the material history and to turn away from it completely and think about my spiritual identity. I was reminded that in Science, I have only continued spiritual unfoldment and no material history. And what I am really dealing with is nothing other than a one-dimensional claim, an aggressive mental suggestion, that has no law, no cause, no substance to support it. God did not make a troubled knee, and it is my divine right to have freedom of mobility.

I am grateful to report that for months now I am enjoying normal activities of bicycling and stair walking without any pain or flare-ups. I am grateful for the true Christian Science I found at Plainfield, grateful for the dedicated practitioner, and very grateful to see in my own experience that all things are possible to God, and He surely will never leave any of his children alone or stranded.

*L. C.*

*New Jersey*

Some years ago I worried about everything. I remember in particular there was a saying that used to trouble me a lot. People would say: "opportunity knocks but once."

I would worry that if I did not respond in a certain way to what was considered an opportunity, I would miss that opportunity. And with that thought, I would blame myself, and go over it until I felt exhausted, sad, and at times downright depressed.

I am so grateful for the strength and love with which Christian Science has been taught, and is being shared now in this church.

It teaches me that God is giving all of us good at all

## CornerStone

times, and that if I keep my thoughts and motives right, if I want to do His will and seek His guidance, He will guide me and no opportunity can be lost.

I am so grateful for this because it is so freeing to know that it is God who places me, it is God who adjusts my path, and if I just remain always wanting His will to be done in my life, then He will direct.

I thank God; I thank Christ Jesus and Mrs. Eddy, and everyone who is contributing to share this Truth, this Holy Truth, to bless all mankind!

*F. R.  
Georgia*

If you can hear me right now, you would know the power of God is working through me at this very moment. I have a message for this church and for everyone involved with it: God is Love, and it is that Love that is reflected by each and every one of you that is enabling me to speak here tonight.

Earlier this evening I had to reach out to a practitioner from this church. I was immediately comforted with a psalm and divine words. We talked for a while, and when I hung up the phone, the condition I believed myself to be in was put behind me. To everyone listening, I would like to say, Thank you for making it possible for me to overcome my fear of speaking in public.

I am so grateful that I found this church and for the practitioner help I have received.

*L. T.  
New York*

I'm thankful for the support of a Plainfield practitioner. A few weeks ago I was directed to write a new policy for the board where I work. In the past I would labor over the policy and look at it and correct it for several weeks. This time I relied on God, and wrote the policy in about an

## *Testimonies*

hour. It received only a few minor corrections. Without God's help this would have been impossible.

What a wonderful way of life!

C. G.  
*Wisconsin*

About a year ago, we received information that an acquaintance had been stricken ill with a disease, and the prognosis was that it was terminal. I wanted to do something for this person, but I didn't know what to do, since he's not a Christian Scientist; but I felt something should be done. It came to me to send him some cards and that this would at least lift his spirits. But it wasn't the cards so much as what I put in the cards that made the difference. It was the calendar that the Plainfield Church publishes, with all the quotes on it. Every time I'd send him a card, I would cut off the date and include quotes from Mary Baker Eddy, Peter V. Ross, and others. And for the past almost year now, I have been sending him these cards and including these quotes in them, and I've received such gratitude from him and his wife for these quotes.

This individual, the doctors have now told him, is out of the woods! His father apparently had the same illness when he was a young man and passed on from it. And now this man is doing extremely well. I know these quotes were a cup of cold water in Christ's name. I thank you all so much for that.

I just wanted you all to know what a fabulous job you are doing there, and how grateful I am for it. It is inspiring to all Christian Scientists. Being raised in the religion, I never saw or heard things like what comes from Plainfield Church. This has been such an inspiration to me.

J. M.  
*Georgia*



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*“Publish the Word”*

*Broadcast the Truth*

*“Freely ye have received, freely give”*