



# Plainfield Independent Newsletter

April 2014

## FROM 1ST EDITION OF **SCIENCE AND HEALTH**

Mary Baker Glover

“Spirituality is the only Christianity; and its basis is, ‘to be absent from the body and present with the Lord;’ sensuality is personality ever present with the body. We have already sufficient professions of goodness without the Spirit: too many religions and not enough Christianity is the genius of the age. Man knows already too well how ‘to make long prayers, to be heard for his much speaking,’ and to enlarge the pharisaical borders, to steal in private and give in public, but this is political, not Christian economy. What we want is, ‘Christ and Him crucified,’ in other words, Truth and the cross-bearing that attends it, to make mankind better.”

“Persons are not to be trusted; Principle, is all there is to trust; hence, the greater reliability of science, than all else; but this word, science, will not be appended to humbugs, when once we catch its meaning. ‘Absent from the body and present with the Lord,’ were Paul’s directions for a scientist, for this is spiritual understanding reaching outside of personal sense, and material things. Life, Truth and Love displace the material with the spiritual, but they are self-expressed, and self-existent; nothing is wanting in them. Not that Soul is voiceless, capable of jargon, or words ‘such as hypocrites use.’ ‘Let us lay aside the weights that so easily beset us,’ for the better proofs of Christianity in love to our neighbor, and a perceptible gravitation toward Spirit, and away from matter, whereby man is governed by Soul, instead of sense, by God, instead of man.”

“Aspirations pure and Godward, steadfast purpose, honesty, understanding, and independent action, alone fit us for the science of Life.”

## MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY REPORT

We have embarked on a journey through the 1st Edition of *Science of Health* by Mary Baker Glover. Nothing could be more conducive to the spiritual growth of our membership at this time. Why?

1. The current edition of *Science and Health* is familiar to most of us. There is a tendency to read it as though we know it. The 1st Edition presents a new look and feel. It is a little shocking, and yet, after reading it and then returning to the current edition, the message is unmistakably the same, but more noticable.

2. The discoverer of Christian Science wrote this book “as a scribe under orders.” Her revelation is presented here in raw form, with little attention to how it may come across to the reader. In later editions, Mrs. Eddy stated that in subsequent editions, she had “hidden it, hidden it,” meaning that the revelation was presented more carefully, to minimize chemicalization. This accounts for the startling nature of the 1st Edition.

3. The “precious volume” as she once referred to it, was written well in advance of any Christian Science church or denomination, and as such is intriguing. Mrs. Glover, standing alone against the currents of mortal mind in religion, medicine and much more, overcame all odds, paid for the publishing, did her own proofing, had to patch up the mess her publisher made when trying to “fix” her prose without her permission! Knowing this while reading the book is inspiring, humbling, and energizing!

## A VISIT TO PLAINFIELD

Fairlie from MD

A couple of weekends ago, my husband and I had a wonderful visit to Plainfield in the flesh! It is with the deepest gratitude that I describe the lovely atmosphere of our church, with all the caring members who made us feel so welcome. It was truly satisfying to get to know my practitioner and all those there at Plainfield whom we met. They were so helpful and generous, and made our stay very meaningful and delightful.

My husband is an Episcopalian, and he attended our Saturday morning Bible Class with me, sitting around the rectangular “round table,” and he was deeply influenced by what he recognized to be the insight and understanding of everyone who participated. He is still very quick to take heed of what I tell him my practitioner says. That morning I was also very grateful that fellow diaspora member, Tom, came out from New York for the Bible Study, and we were very grateful for his very good help and good company on the trip we took back to New York City.

We had the opportunity of seeing all the different parts of the church and the equipment used for all the printing production, and the main church, newly painted a beautiful pastel green, with beautiful new windows open to the light. I express my hope and strongly urge my fellow members to make the trip when possible. It was a deeply rewarding experience and confirmed all the good that is going on there. It's pretty cool to see this unfold naturally.

## GROWTH FROM CHURCH ACITIVITY

Tony from GA

“Practice not profession, understanding not belief, gain the ear and right hand of omnipotence and they assuredly call down infinite blessings. Trustworthiness is the foundation of enlightened faith. Without a fitness for holiness, we cannot receive holiness.” S&H

A great way to be fitted for God's righteousness is practicing CS at Plainfield. It takes practice hearing God's direction, so one must cultivate spiritual sense.

Cultivating spiritual sense is made easier when I am consistent. Sporadic practice of Science isn't principled. God doesn't stop loving me, so why should I stop? I can't just decide that 'today I am going to be spiritual and listen to God' and then go back to my selfish pursuits the following day. In the three years I have been removed from “the culture” I have felt a lot of progress, but now, in order to keep growing, I must stay spiritually active. Various opportunities in the church give me the opportunity to do so. As an out of town member, I work on Bible Studies, Lesson Sermons and The Cornerstone. But we also have to be open to new ideas.

If we are listening and striving to ‘wait on the Lord’, the ideas will come. Why? Because stagnation is not good. For example, I felt the need to start Sunday School for several young kids in my neighborhood. All the families are thrilled! We hold the class in my living room. This is an opportunity for me to practice. I can't just talk about what I want to say. I have to listen to what those little ones need to hear. It is challenging but oh so much fun!

Thanks to Plainfield, I have the opportunity to advance my career – the spiritual one – the one that matters.

## OVER A HUNDRED VIDEOS, WITH TWO MORE EACH WEEK

Did you know we have videos on YouTube now? Viewers can listen to the audio of every Sunday and Wednesday service while following along with the text of the readings and the lyrics of the hymns. This is available on YouTube.com/PlainfieldCS. After watching, be sure to like, subscribe and share so your social circle can have the chance to find freedom from the lies of mortal mind that both The Bible and the writings of Mary Baker Eddy are bringing all of us.

## THE CITY OF CHURCHES

On Saturday, May 3, the Plainfield Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a tour of churches in the city. Plainfield has been known for its beautiful old churches. Our church was invited to participate in the tour this year, and we thought it would be a great opportunity to open the doors of the church to the community. Andrew wrote a brief history of the church for the brochure. Carol is printing some pamphlets appropriate to hand out to visitors, and we plan to display pictures of the building of the church in the foyer during the tour. Jeremy will prepare a CD of songs performed by Peter and Faith to play in the background.

We created an ad for the brochure which we think will catch peoples' eye. It highlights a few of the facts about the church which make us different from other churches. We are looking forward to it and intend to let our light shine brightly! If you can join us for that weekend, we would love to see you.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

Willkommen!

We are most happy to welcome two of our newest members from Germany, Zari and Ute! Many of you may already know them by their active participation during our Bible Study and Roundtable sessions.

Ute volunteered to translate Gilbert Carpenter's book 500 Watching Points into German for our website, which is quite a labor of love and she has been doing a wonderful job. Zari has been helping with this by proofing her work. Ute also translated two articles into German for our website, “Place” by Mrs. Eddy and “Your Background” by Una Willard. Ute has said how grateful she is to be able to do this work and how healing it has been for her.

There is a real need for the pure Truth of Mrs. Eddy's Science to reach Germany and all mankind. We are so grateful to have Zari and Ute helping us with this most important work for God.

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Dar la Bienvenida!

A note from Jacobus, a new member in Costa Rico, who is very active on our Lesson Forum and translates articles to Spanish regularly on our website:

“Will translate, later announce the website on my spanish Facebook “Pensadores de la Ciencia Cristiana” page. Many people have scattered on the internet a whole avalanche of spiritual teachings with some truth and plenty of error. I stay with Kimball, Eustace and those guys, red hot from the source, MBE, as she was a transparency for the Christ-Truth. Eustace's writings are doing so much good for me, it is easy to read, and to understand, logical. Thank you guys for being enthusiastic about my membership, I'll do my best not to disappoint. A bit of humor goes a long way in destroying the thralldom of error, good old devil cannot stand being made fun of. Together then we march!”

## WHY FILL OUR THOUGHT UP WITH ANYTHING ELSE?

Now we have the Independent Christian Science podcast, which gives anyone with access to iTunes the ability to keep updated. Every week we add the Full-Text Lesson with Joseph's reading, the Bible Study questions, Wednesday's testimonial service, Saturday's Bible Study, and Sunday's Roundtable Discussion and Service. It's a great way to listen again while on the go from your mobile device. Go to PlainfieldCS.com and click the “Independent Christian Science podcast” link in the Audio Library dropdown list, or search the Podcast app on your mobile device or AppleTV.

## THE STRUCTURE OF TRUTH AND LOVE

Connie from TX

Before last night's service I was thinking about Church, the structure of Truth and Love, which has always been a little bit puzzling to me. I thought that it is easy to see that Plainfield is radiating Truth out into the world, but what about that Love part? Then a feeling of love swept over me, so intense that it made me cry. That's the Love that Plainfield is radiating out into the world!

## SOWING THE SEED

Bruce from NJ

Recently it has been announced that there are new avenues that the church is offering to reach people with the message of Christian Science. The You Tube links, podcast through devices that support iTunes, the audiobook format of Science and Health through Amazon are examples. These seeds of truth propagate and grow because they carry God's word to the listener without any personal influence.

After a recent lesson which contained the parable of the sower and the seed, it was observed that a sower can plant seed, even water, cultivate, fertilize, and more, but there is no way that anyone can make a seed grow. It is the unseen element, the overseeing superior Intelligence that governs all things that causes growth. So it is with the word of God. We have our part to plant and cultivate, but God propagates this cause. "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof" says the Scripture.

## LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW!

If you use FaceBook or Twitter, we are on there sharing important links. We aren't just doing this for our members, it is for everyone affected by real Christian Science to share with their friends and followers! Sites like these are a great way to get Truth out there, because so many lost and unfulfilled individuals are using social media every day. Don't miss the opportunity to participate on both [Facebook.com/PlainfieldCS](https://www.facebook.com/PlainfieldCS) and [Twitter.com/PlainfieldCS](https://twitter.com/PlainfieldCS).

## MEMBERS OF HIS CHURCH MUST ANSWER TO THEMSELVES

Mary Baker Glover

"No time was lost by our Master in organizations, rites, and ceremonies, or in proselyting for certain forms of belief: members of his church must answer to themselves, in the secret sanctuary of Soul, questions of the most solemn import. First, am I surely gaining a victory over matter, and present with Spirit, present with Love and Truth, supping with them and they with me, gaining this oneness with God, of which Jesus spake, thus rising superior to personal sense, and conquering sickness, sin and death; am I caring less and less for earthly pleasures or pains, and getting out with the sinner and in with the saint? The true answer to these inquiries will set us all right; they are the only signs significant of the burial of the body with Christ, and its resurrection with God, Truth, compared with which rites and ceremonies sink into insignificance."

"If we accept the mere letter of moral and spiritual science and omit the Spirit, we shall not gain the great Truth that destroys sin as well as sickness, but omit the important point that heals the sick. We must watch and work more for the Christianity of the science of being than its other points, and make this our first proof if we would succeed in healing, for this more than all else gives success."