

PLAINFIELD INDEPENDENT

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE PLAINFIELD CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
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Malicious Reports

by Mary Baker Eddy

Truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. — ISAIAH lix. 14.

When the press is gagged, liberty is besieged; but when the press assumes the liberty to lie, it discounts clemency, mocks morality, outrages humanity, breaks common law, gives impulse to violence, envy, and hate, and prolongs the reign of inordinate, unprincipled clans. At this period, 1888, those quill-drivers whose consciences are in their pockets hold high carnival. When news-dealers shout for class legislation, and decapitated reputations, headless trunks, and quivering hearts are held up before the rabble in exchange for money, place, and power, the *vox populi* is suffocated, individual rights are trodden under foot, and the car of the modern Inquisition rolls along the streets besmeared with blood. Would not our Master say to the chief actors in scenes like these, "Ye fools and blind!" Oh, tardy human justice! would you take away even woman's trembling, clinging faith in divine power? Who can roll away the stone from the door of this sepulchre? Who — but God's avenging angel!

In times like these it were well to lift the veil on the sackcloth of home, where weepeth the faithful, stricken mother, and the bruised father bendeth his aching head; where the bereft wife or husband, silent and alone, looks in dull despair at the vacant seat, and the motherless little ones, wondering, huddle together, and repeat with quivering lips words of strange import. May the great Shepherd that "tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," and binds up the wounds of bleeding hearts, just comfort, encourage, and bless all who mourn.

Father, we thank Thee that Thy light and Thy love reach earth, open the prison to them that are bound, console the innocent, and throw wide the gates of heaven.

Miscellaneous Writings p. 274

In trying to stop the advancement of good, the devil hasn't changed its technique since the beginning of time.

M. Webster

Christian Warfare

Eleanor Wallingford

A strong declaration of truth is the beginning of victory, and victory comes by grappling with an error and continuing to do so until its nothingness is seen.

The Bible tells in graphic and colorful language of the war between Michael and the dragon: "Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven." (Rev.)

God said to Joshua, "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua then led the people forward. Complete reliance on, and faith in, the loving ever-presence of God, and of His mighty power, brought victory again and again to Joshua and his people.

We must always be ready to use the great truth that Christian Science teaches, namely, that God is All and error is nothing. We are learning to resist, with spiritual energy, the lying claim that error can enter our experience, and rob us of our freedom. We don't wait for error to be manifested, but are prompt and fearless in denouncing the boastful claim that error is invincible. We know from the many healings in Christian Science, that God alone is invincible.

The understanding that freedom and liberty are God-given and God-protected, enables us to be a law unto ourselves; it supplies the needed courage and ability to successfully meet evil's aggressive suggestions that would take away these blessings. With firmness we can remain confident in the government of divine Love, which is revealed in the teaching of Christian Science, and in the guiding

power of divine intelligence, that comes to us in our daily study of the Bible and Science and Health.

Christian Science is fundamentally and basically spiritual. It maintains the government of right. It is revolutionary and crosses swords with evil continually. It fulfills God's law, thereby demonstrating its wisdom and intelligence to the nations through its healing power.

"Christians must take up arms against error at home and abroad. They must grapple with sin in themselves and in others, and continue this warfare until they have finished their course." These are the strong words of our Leader on page 29 of Science and Health under the marginal heading, "Christian warfare." In the last sentence of this paragraph she gives the assurance, "If they keep the faith, they will have the crown of rejoicing." We aren't promised the crown of victorious rejoicing if we sit with folded hands, idly doing nothing.

Christian Scientists, marching forward as soldiers of Christ, attack the citadels of evil beliefs, and rely on God for victory. They attack error because they know that God is All-in-all, and the attack is made in the spirit of redemption; it is the overcoming of the belief in evil as real. The Christian Scientist improves his spiritual advantage by a prompt attack on every evil that presents itself to him, and overcomes it by knowing its powerlessness and the truth of real being.

Reprinted from Healing Thoughts No. 72

Divine Guidance

Divine guidance is available to everyone, and is constantly coming to all. It only needs to be seen, accepted, and followed. There's nothing mysterious about it. It's perfectly natural. It never fails. It comes in time to meet our need. When we follow divine guidance, it's not necessary to retrace our steps, or to do the work over again, and we find that everyone involved is blessed.

John I. Hoffman

Government Persecution

I've been around Christian Scientists all my life and I've known so many that could easily find crimes committed by America, but they could never bring themselves to say anything about gov-

ernment persecution of Christians and/or Christian Scientists. Never in my entire life have I had anyone in the Christian Science movement — branch churches, practitioners, teachers, Boston church — ever talk about how the Nazis persecuted the Christian Science Church, or about the persecution of C.S. in East Germany. I remember conversations about how C.S. was not permitted, but it was not said in a way as to how awful it was, and not in any sense that we should be doing something about it. Heaven forbid that we do something!

It reminds me of when I used to say to people that I was concerned about the extravagance of the Boston Church and was told I should be quiet and pray for the Board. That never made sense to me. It also never made sense to me that when governments persecute C.S. we should also be silent and pray.

I would hazard a guess that most Christian Scientists are not even aware that Christian Scientists were sent by the Nazis to concentration camps for being Christian Scientists, or of the North Korean who, when he was found reading the Bible, was shot on the spot.

I found some things randomly on the Internet to sort of illustrate what I'm thinking.

July 7, 1934:

Interior Minister Wilhelm Frick said Germans should be Germans first and religious second.

August 21, 1934:

August Hoppe, a spokesman for the Hitler Youth press department wrote an article "that the time has come to take up the fight against Christianity. Germans must and shall realize that their conversion to Christianity was a crime against the people."

June 6, 1939:

Martin Bormann issued a decree banning members of Christian Science from joining the Nazi Party. Christian Scientists were under suspicion for following an alien philosophy.

Monday, July 28, 1941:

Every Christian Science Church, hall and reading room in Germany was padlocked by the Gestapo.

The practice of C.S. was banned in East Germany. Churches were closed and literature seized.

*Tom Richards
New York*

The Daily Duties

How wonderful it is to have three daily prayers so pertinent to our time, and all times.

"May Thy Word enrich the affections of all mankind, and govern them!"

"The members of this Church should daily watch and pray to be delivered from all evil, from prophesying, judging, condemning, counseling, influencing or being influenced erroneously."

"To defend himself daily against aggressive mental suggestion."

What a help these have been to me during this election time.

*Candy Graulich
Wisconsin*

2013 Church Calendar

A big "Thank you!" to everyone who submitted statements for the next church calendar. The entire calendar has been chosen, put into date order, and is being proofread. The statements are also now being placed into the format needed by the printer.

It's a terrific calendar, filled with pure Truth, along with some unexpected statements. Thanks again to all who submitted, proofread, and typeset. We've never been so far along this early in the year!

*Carol Conroy
Plainfield*

Attended Corporate Meeting via the Conference Center

My gratitude is boundless. Last night I attended my first Corporate Meeting of our dear church, via telephone. How blessed I am to be, so far, a small part of this great cause. The meeting was so full of Love. Each committee report was informative, given beautifully, clearly, with great humility. There was joy and laughter, a great sense of "God in the midst of us."

I thank God every day for the great privilege He has given me to be a member of the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent.

*Betty Bethman
Illinois*

A FEW REPORTS GIVEN AT THE CORPORATE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2012

Grounds Committee

The church's sprinkler system was a blessing during the hot summer months, and kept our

church grounds green and flowering. We will soon be winterizing the sprinkler system, and preparing the lawn and shrubs for winter.

Fall is upon us, and already some leaves are changing. What a beautiful picture God is painting for us all. He is quite the artist, when you think about it. Our rakes and blowers are ready, as we look forward to a colorful and beautiful Fall.

Bill Callahan

Mailing Committee

There has been a lot of activity in our worldwide outreach. Subscription mailing for our Corner-Stone, Quarterly, and Newsletter were done every two months as scheduled, and the full-text Lesson Sermons were mailed monthly.

Thanks to Benjamin, many, many requests coming to our church through the mail, phone calls, and e-mail, were packaged and mailed: requests for books from our large inventory, our calendar, and audio requests for Science and Health, Revelation Classes, services, hymns, Sunday chorus, and our DVD. These requests came from Switzerland, Canada, Australia, and all across the United States. Benjamin also packaged and sent new person packages to many new names reaching out to our church. Several membership applications were also sent.

How wonderful to be a part of this never-ending flow of God's healing message going out to the world.

Lillian Linnell

Sunday School and Nursery Committee

The Roundtable is meeting the need of the hungering heart. We've had callers from California, Florida, Maryland, New York, Iowa, Georgia, Illinois, Texas, Virginia, Arizona, Michigan, Oregon, New Hampshire, Washington D.C., New Mexico, Colorado, and Vermont. We've had international callers from Switzerland, Germany, and Ghana, West Africa. Visitors came to Plainfield from Georgia, New York, and Maryland to join in the class.

This year the youngest class now has access to the Internet, and has participants from Georgia. The classes are inspiring, and the students don't want the class to end.

The Sunday School room and nursery have been painted, and new carpeting installed. The nursery has a new crib, and the accessories have been up-

dated. We've already had four babies enjoy the nursery and be blessed.

Thank God for the progress and growth of this church, the teachers, and everyone who attends. Sending Christian Science out to the world and teaching people how to apply it correctly is our mission. We are ready for the next step that God has for us to take, and we invite everyone to come and join us at the Roundtable. *Sharon Welsh*

Subscription Committee

Subscriptions to our publications stay about the same, but activity on the website keeps growing all the time, where copies of our publications can be downloaded for free. For example, about five times more copies of the CornerStone are downloaded from the website than are mailed to subscribers — that's more than we've ever sold! And even more are read without being downloaded. The same is true for our weekly Bible Lessons.

The church Newsletter is now also available on the website, in the "members" section, where members need to log on to access them. From now on, they will only be mailed to members who don't have e-mail, or who request a printed copy.

We're so grateful to be able to spread the Word of God freely to those all around the world, and not be bound and limited by formal "subscriptions"!
Carol Conroy

Usher Committee

The transformation of our church, inside and out, has been wonderful to see. It could not have been anything but humble hearts patiently praying and listening, then obediently putting God's plan into action. And what a plan it is!

We have had 25 visitors to our church so far this year. They came from all parts of the United States, and several other countries. We feel they are all part of the family of God.

At first I had a hard time seeing God's plan for this church. Then I realized that we are not just ushering people in our doors locally, but we are ushering in the world. Thanks to our website and live broadcasts, with conferencing capabilities, no one is alone any more. Mrs. Eddy's God-inspired Truth is available to anyone in the world.

Bill Callahan

Report of the Board of Trustees

We just held our second corporate meeting of the year. It was nothing short of inspiring to hear the committee reports of the progress that has been made in just nine months.

This year we began reading from the chapter "Fruitage" during the Sunday service, and through our teleconference setup, members from outside Plainfield have done that reading. It is an excellent opportunity for all members to participate in the service.

Our desk calendar for 2013 is ready for printing much earlier than in the past, due to the submissions from out-of-town members. Thank you all who have contributed.

Peter Kidd moved from the area, but helped us find a new music director, Gerald Montagne, who has been an ideal replacement. Gerald has a wealth of talent with the organ, good knowledge of music, and a desire to grow in Science. Some of you may also have heard him participate in our Saturday morning Bible Study class.

Our Sunday School is now conducted on-line. We have two children from Georgia participating along with our local members.

Our typesetting room has been upgraded with new computers for the production of our magazine, our Quarterly and full text Lessons, calendar, and other books and pamphlets we print and sell.

Our website is seeing much more activity from all over the world. We also have a new section for members, in which you can receive instructions for watching, as well as a copy of the Newsletter.

In addition to all that, we painted the entire church — inside and out — and recarpeted the downstairs Sunday school, nursery, and broadcasting rooms. Every step was a real demonstration. None of our services was interrupted in any way. We replaced paint and carpet that were at least 35 years old. It looks and feels like a brand new church.

There can be no doubt that God's hand is on our church. We thank Him for every good thing, and take seriously the responsibility God has entrusted to us. Thank you all for your support for this holy cause.

Gary Singleterry