

April 2013

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**Message from  
Mary Baker Eddy**

“EVERY step of progress is a step more spiritual. The great element of reform is not born of human wisdom; it draws not its life from human organizations; rather is it the crumbling away of material elements from reason, the translation of law back to its original language, — Mind, and the final unity between man and God.” (from *People’s Idea of God*)

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*We have found the pearl of great price in Christian Science. When we are confronted with disturbing news of moral breakdown in governments, education and religious institutions, etc., what are we to do? Leave the pearl on the shelf and absorb ourselves in trying to fix the world?  
This issue of the Newsletter is dedicated to answering the question “What are we to do?” intelligently.*

**Spiritual Growth**

*Attaining permanent right thinking instead of occasional right thinking – the value of using the book “Watches, Prayers, and Arguments given by Mary Baker Eddy.”*

We first learn to read Science and Health, our textbook, with the eyes of belief, then with the eyes of understanding; then we are ready to begin to demonstrate it and explain it to others. But Mrs. Eddy has given us Watches, which you will find in this book, to teach us to think Christian Science continually. This thinking is doubly important. It is the only way to salvation, because substituting the belief in mortal mind for divine Mind

is salvation. But the Watches include also a vast benefit to the race and the solution of the world’s problems, include healing the sick. But for us it means attaining permanent right thinking instead of occasional right thinking.

– *Gilbert Carpenter, Sr.*

**Watching In Unity**

*Recently, upon the urging of some of our newest members, we have begun doing a watch in unity. What began tentatively with a handful of people has turned into a regular three-time-a-week watch with up to thirty eager participants from all over the country.*

*Following are some examples of shared inspiration:*

**Hymn 176**

Long hast thou stood, O church of God,  
Long mid the tempest’s assailing,  
Founded secure on timeless rock  
Rises thy light, never failing;  
Shining that all may understand  
What has been wrought by God’s command,  
O’er night and chaos prevailing.

Let there be light, and light was there,  
Clear as the Word that declared it;  
Healing and peace to all it gave,  
Who in humility shared it.  
Ah, they were faithful, they who heard,  
Steadfast their trust in God’s great Word,  
Steadfast the Love that prepared it.

Let there be light, the Word shines forth,  
Lo, where the new morning whitens;  
O church of God, with Book unsealed,  
How its page beacons and brightens.  
Living stones we, each in his place,  
May we be worthy such a grace,  
While Truth the wide earth enlightens.

Hello all,

These three things came to me right off and I spent the rest of the time sorting them out:

1. "I have received commandment to bless and He hath blessed and I cannot reverse it." (Numbers 23:20)

2. "Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee: the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain." (Ps 76:10)

3. Fear of Muslims taking over:

Darkness was upon the face of the deep (earth) and God said let there be light and there was light. His work is done, established. There is not so much as a speck of darkness anywhere. Christ has come to the flesh to destroy incarnate error. We are fighting a defeated foe.

Much love to you all,

- *Connie Abbitt, TX*

*Handling resistance to the outreach of our church:*

Truth cannot be quieted. The messages and outreach from the Plainfield Church cannot be hidden or obscured. Divine Mind reigns supreme; there is no other mind or mentality to oppose the one Mind.

Evil, error, tried to crucify the Christ, Truth, 2000 years ago, and it failed! Evil's actions made Truth appear ever stronger in the hearts of mankind. Truth overcomes evil, error, today as it did then.

The Plainfield Church is keeping alive the true cause and Spirit of Christian Science; God supports this with all of his might and Mind.

No power or human organization can prevent the word of Truth and the spirit of Love from being broadcast

and received. God's Word does not return void.

God's Word cannot be blocked or stopped, and God's Love cannot be stifled.

Truth will prevent from taking hold any interference of its message and will eradicate every attempt of error to silence it. Truth triumphs.

- *Edy Dowell, AZ*

"In every treatment close with this: This treatment cannot be reversed; it cannot be made to produce a result contrary to that which is intended; it cannot be arrested, obstructed, reverted, or converted; the false claim of malicious animal magnetism has no law of reversal, and cannot act through any belief of law; there is no such law."

- *Mary Baker Eddy*

*(Lessons of the 7th Day. Page 116)*

### **Visible Impact from the Watch**

Alice from Oklahoma found our website last week after being hit with a hard experience. She called, wondering why she had never found us before. She was 26 years a Christian Science nurse but had become so disillusioned with Science that she had almost given up on it. No more! She has found the Christian Science that she has always loved.

Thomas from Kenya, Africa called, excited about having just found our website. He never knew about independent Christian Science, but is obviously hungry for it, and plans to visit the church when he comes to the US this summer.

Our website statistics show a huge upsurge in visitors since we began the watching in unity. The most recent Wednesday Testimony Service had almost double the average number of online participants.

*Presently, the watch is held Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 9:30pm (ET) Details are always on the Watch Guidance section of the website. If you are interested in joining in and do not have a computer, call the church for details. (908) 755-4669*

### **Email Exchange with Argentina**

Hello! My name is Isabel and I am studying CS here in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where I live.

I found your wonderful website so I read it every day and feel very grateful for the articles you share. I studied Herbert Eustace, which I like a lot.

I quite do not understand if there is any difference between the treatment as your church teaches and the one which is traditionally taught.

Thank you very much for the help you could give me.

*Our response*

Hi Isabel,

Good to hear from you, and that you are finding our website helpful.

Difference in treatment? I would say there is a huge difference – we recognize the moral demands of Science.

For the “traditional” CS, it is as though there is a veil over Mrs. Eddy’s writings. Students say they read the writings, and yet are oblivious to these

moral demands, which Mrs. Eddy warns about constantly.

For example: “The man who calls himself a Christian Scientist, yet is false to God and man, is also uttering falsehood about good. This falsity shuts against him the Truth and the Principle of Science, but opens a way whereby, through will-power, sense may say the unchristian practitioner can heal; but Science shows that he makes morally worse the invalid whom he is supposed to cure.” (from Rudimental Divine Science (p.8:18)

If you read on, you will find warning about teaching, the devastating effects of morally weak teachers. It describes perfectly the state of the “traditional” movement.

In the first six pages of Christian Science Practice (S&H) Mrs. Eddy never mentions treatment, but rather compares the contrition of Mary Magdalene and the pride of Simon - and to Christian Scientists she asks, which one are you? One is receptive, the other is unhealable. How many Christian Scientists have noticed this?

Hope this helps.

### **Inspired by the Bible Study - a Testimony from a new participant**

I recently attended a fundraising event held by a non-profit organization in Baltimore city. The event was held to raise money for three families who had lost their possessions in a house fire. Participants were asked to donate unwanted gold - anything broken, tangled, or any missing piece to a set. The organizers seemed disappointed because they didn’t receive the

turnout they had anticipated and as a result they did not receive the amount of gold expected. So they started soliciting the crowd for money or anything else we could spare. I started to get nervous and noticed myself slipping my gold bracelet under my sleeve to avoid detection. "This isn't just any gold bracelet", I thought to myself. I was proud of this bracelet. It was made out of gold belonging to my deceased grandmother, my son, my mother; it even contained a gold ring my father gave me when I was just seven years old. I remember thinking, "This is my prized possession". Then it hit me like a ton of bricks - to my dismay I realized that, for years, I had been idolizing this gold bracelet. I was ashamed and immediately removed the bracelet from my wrist. I wanted no part of the false idol or the shame that came along with idolizing it. I humbly offered it to the lead moderator. My willingness to give up the bracelet set me free! The woman took the bracelet and before I could walk back to my seat, she called out to me, "Miss, this bracelet is in excellent condition...we appreciate your generosity, but we can't take this!" At that moment it occurred to me that I had divorced myself from the bracelet and that it didn't matter to me anymore - it was just a bracelet. I was free indeed!

- *La Verne A. Fields, MD*

### **The Stranger Among Us**

I am so grateful to be able to take part in our church's Saturday morning teleconference Bible study class. The various responses to the questions submitted are very helpful to me in gaining a greater understanding and spiritual meaning of the Bible stories.

Several weeks ago, in the Bible class discussion, one of the questions submitted was, "What is a stranger?" Later that afternoon, that question kept nagging at me. I finally had to stop and really get into that idea of "stranger." Now, just what is a stranger? The thought came haltingly at first—a stranger is a person, one of God's children—with God as Father - Mother to us all. A stranger is a brother or a sister, a family member whom we have never met, but certainly deserving of our love and respect.

A stranger is anyone we pass on the street or someone in line at the grocery store. We should treat the person in front of us with the same consideration and respect that we would expect from the person or persons in line behind us. This is the Golden Rule in practice. It is very important to always see others as God's children, and see them conducting themselves accordingly. I am so grateful for all of the helpful instructions I am receiving from our church's Bible classes through the teleconference program. I am thankful that God gave someone the idea to use this means of communicating and teaching.

- *Anita Singleterry, OR*

### **To Our Dear Members**

Your enthusiasm is energizing to those of us who have been here for a while - your reading Fruitage on Sunday and giving testimonies on Wednesday, in preparing the Bible Study (owned exclusively by out-of-town participants!), proofing audio and printed material, etc. - and now the watches in unity. Thank God for each precious one of you.