

## The Plainfield Independent

### Newsletter

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#### OUR THOUGHT FOR EACH DAY

By Mary Baker Eddy

“Every day, every hour, our work increases in effectiveness and power.”

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#### THINK UPON THIS

By the truthful arguments you employ, and especially by the spirit of Truth and Love which you entertain, you will heal the sick. S&H (418:22-25)

#### A QUOTE FROM THE PAST

Benjamin Franklin

Never leave that till to-morrow which you can do to-day.

#### JIM'S CORNER

Why was Adam's first day the longest?  
There was no Eve.

#### THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

When entering any department store, one is bombarded with Christmas decorations and Christmas music. Tradition would have the Christmas Season begin after Thanksgiving, but this year artificial Christmas trees were on display well before the start of October.

Shall we make a goal for ourselves to reject this commercialism and reaffirm our position of maintaining this, not as a holiday, but a most holy day? When we again establish “CHRISTmas” as a reminder of the birth of Christ, we

gain much.

We have been taught in this church to begin the day after Thanksgiving to study Mary Baker Eddy's writings about Christmas contained in her book, “What Christmas Means to Me,” as well as in Prose Works. We will find much to lift our thought to the true meaning of Christmas, and to protect ourselves and others from becoming mesmerized by materialism. As our thought lifts, it will aid in lifting world thought above the mist.

What better way of introducing Christmas Day, but by attending our Christmas Eve Service in our beautifully decorated church? Our musicians are developing a program that will celebrate the holiness of this time. If you are able to come to Plainfield to enjoy this beautiful candlelight service, it will certainly be worth the trip! Or you can join the live service by telephone or over the internet. It will be a beautiful and holy time!

#### A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Just one short week following Christmas Day, is another traditional holiday — that being New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Parties abound. Here is just one more event where we can transform a holiday into a special

Watch Session for this “old world” of ours. One thought we can think on is from *Watches, Prayers, and Arguments*, where Mrs. Eddy has written, “This day [year] is merely a step in infinite progress. It is unfoldment, not time. ... It adds no fear, no age, ... no belief in matter. It only adds wisdom, power, dominion, law, and the presence of well-done.” This will do much to erase the belief of “time,” and open the world and all mankind to recognize the perpetual and orderly unfoldment of good.

#### **OUR DAILIES**

We have been given three daily duties by Mrs. Eddy, and how important they are to our wellbeing. They are not to be speedily read, but to be studied thoughtfully, reverently. As we think about each of these statements, we cannot help but be grateful to Mrs. Eddy for providing them for us. The study of these statements each morning helps us to gain a firm hold on all the daily activities that tend to distract us from our true goal for the day.

The prayerful study of our three daily duties forms a strong foundation for the study of our daily Lesson.

Jim Dible

#### **UNDER GOD’S CONTROL**

Gary Singleterry

Only God can and does control anything in our lives, and it is really foolish to think that we can control anything except our own thinking. A practitioner in this church taught me that several years ago.

When faced with a problem, the best thing that any of us can do is to put out all our human theories and listen for God’s voice. Then, when we get an answer of peace, act on it immediately.

Psalms 119 was given to me by this practitioner: “Thy word is a lamp unto

my feet, and a light unto my path.” I was told that God does guide us correctly, even when we can’t see the way ourselves. And God knows better than I do what is right for me. I am grateful to say I am learning to trust God’s control of all the details of my life, and, as a result, I find that tasks get done much more quickly and correctly, and with a much greater sense of peace and dominion.

#### **OUR NATIONAL ELECTIONS**

To the uninspired thought, and to personal sense, this election was either a victory or an upset. Yet, to the inspired thought, this natural event was the culminating result of prayer-filled daily Watches by our church, and is an absolute proof that God’s care is ever with us. A phrase from the Lord’s Prayer is fulfilled: “Thy will be done.”

May each find the inspiration for continued use of watches that support our democratic electoral process and not be influenced by any negative media remarks. “The government shall be upon his shoulder.” (Isa. 9:6)

#### **MARTHA WILCOX 1941 ADDRESS**

*Excerpts (submitted by Jacob)*

“Day by day, we should know that nothing unlike good is taking place. When we read or cognize that our liberty is being threatened by the dominating powers of autocracy, we can even take care of that, ... as we establish our thought on the side of Principle, ... the law that governs and cares for the universe.” “In every Christian Science treatment the only adequate denial is the absolute nothingness of any phase of evil.” “The desire to wipe a certain nation (race, religion) off the map, or to feel great disapproval of any person or group of people, is not the correct attitude for any Christian Scientist to

take. To make any error, however great, a personal error, is not the way to prove its nothingness. Our work as Christian Scientists is to prove the powerlessness and nothingness of erroneous thought, wherever it is seen or whatever its form, through our own correct mental position of God's allness." I paraphrase this from her writings: "The allness and omnipotence of God is the wholeness and substance of every human being." There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free...for we are all one in Christ. There is only one substance.

#### THE CHURCH MANUAL

I have always been most interested in all histories, and the *Church Manual* is no exception. Realizing there was a lack of former editions available sparked my interest even more. How grateful we are to Mrs. Eddy for providing us with more and more up-to-date editions. Mrs. Eddy was always very careful—making sure all was most precisely stated. At Mrs. Eddy's passing, the 88<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Manual was in effect. Very shortly after this, the Board of Directors published the 89<sup>th</sup> Edition. They revised the Manual topic, "Present Order of Services in The Mother Church" by adding "and Branch Churches" to the topic. These three added words placed all churches under their control. In their haste to get the new edition published, they neglected to change the "Table of Contents" to reflect the new wording, and it remained thus for a number of years.

Plainfield Church abides by the last edition written by Mrs. Eddy, the 88<sup>th</sup> Edition.

I am most grateful for the loyal member who helped me find early editions of the Manual. Those early Manual Editions are now preserved for others to view.

It was through this research that I became interested in the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent and became a member. Jim Dible

#### PERFECT IN GOD

"Every time you declare you are *perfect* in God, there goes through the body a health-giving power. When you realize this truth of truths, that you are *now* — not will be — perfect in God; without a single doubt, wonderful changes will come to pass."

L.J.N., *CS Journal* Sept 1889, p. 296

Recently, I had the opportunity to share this statement from a past Journal with a friend — a Christian, but not a Christian Scientist — by printing this statement on a placard to be mounted on her refrigerator.

#### MY DAILY WORK

God is the Creator of all. God is the Father-Mother of all. God saw that His Creation was good and complete. I am a part of God's Creation. This Creation is good and complete and so I, too, am good and complete. Therefore nothing of an inharmonious condition can be a part of me, for God is perfect and I, too, am perfect. No malpractice of any sort can ever attempt to alter this perfection. This perfection is a part of me and also of every other idea of God. J Elbid

#### THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

by Janice T. Connell, excerpts,

In April of 1778, Washington wrote the following to John Bannister about his army. "Order of Men in the Thirteen States have paid a more sanctimonious regard to their proceedings than the Army; and, indeed it may be questioned, whether there has been that scrupulous adherence to them by any other, for without arrogance, or the smallest

deviation from truth, it may be said that no history now extant can furnish an instance of an Army's suffering such uncommon hardships as ours have done, and bearing them with the same patience and Fortitude. To see men without clothes to cover their nakedness, without blankets to lay on, without shoes, by which their marches might be traced by the blood from their feet, and almost as often without provisions as with; marching through frost and snow, and at Christmas taking up their Winter Quarters within a day's march of the enemy, without a house or hut to cover them til they could be built, and submitting to it without a murmur, is a mark of patience and obedience which in my opinion can scarce be paralleled."

Washington and his men publicly prayed that God would act on their behalf... as he had done on behalf of the first Israel.

#### BEING THANKFUL

Recently I had the opportunity to read a children's book about being thankful. The last few lines went something like this: "You are not thankful because you are happy. You are happy because you are thankful." I was glad for this important reminder.

Lynda Spencer  
Pennsylvania

"Aspirations pure and God-ward, steadfast purpose, honesty, understanding, and independent action, alone fit us for the science of Life."

Science and Health,  
First Edition p. 178

#### HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE

Mary Beth Singleterry

In II Timothy we read, God, "Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."

Do you realize that you have a purpose? When I first came here to Plainfield, I certainly struggled with a sense of purpose and direction. I really did not have one. I just kind of floated around and hoped for the best, not really knowing why I was here.

I am so grateful for a practitioner here who helped me with this and established in my thought that no one is ever here for no good reason. God has given each and every one an individual purpose, and it is a holy purpose — a purpose created by and for Him.

As we find the wonderful sense of our oneness with Him, all things become possible. We get a great sense of joy, peace, harmony, health, and all good things. Our lives may not be without problems but we have this tremendous God to meet the problems with. In *Miscellaneous Writings* is an article called "Pond and Purpose," by Mrs. Eddy. The last statement says, "drink with me the living waters of the spirit of my life-purpose, — to impress humanity with the genuine recognition of practical, operative Christian Science."

That is God's purpose for us, too.

Editors Jim Dible  
and Carol Conroy

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This is an informational newsletter for members of the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, intended to be a means for communication with each other, and is supported and provided by the efforts of the membership at large. Each member shall do his part to ensure the continuing success of Independent Christian Science as a worldwide activity. Let us begin with our Newsletter.