

January 2017

Dear fellow Christian healers,

It was Christ Jesus who insisted on it, a teaching quite extraordinary in his time and as profoundly so in ours. “A new commandment I give unto you,” he said, “That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another” (John 13:34).

Jesus’ disciples saw what inspired spiritual love for another could do. They watched him break through the boundaries of race, the bondage of disease, the impositions of personal sense, the hardship of poverty, the misery of sin, and even the supposed finality of death. And they saw the undeniable *healings*, all inspired by unselfed spiritual love.

This God-impelled affection taught and demonstrated by Jesus, was then practiced by his disciples, as they went out by twos to heal. After his ascension, his followers were ready to continue this work. And they loved and cared for each other like family, as they continued the healing and saving mission of the Master.

Mary Baker Eddy explained the manifestation of human affection, not as random acts of kindness, but as the evidence of divine Love, the very Principle of Jesus’ teaching. And this natural expression of healing love and care is at the core of Christian Science teaching: “The vital part, the heart and soul of Christian Science, is Love.” (113:5-6)

As class-taught members of Christian Science associations, you are each carrying forward this love-impelled mission of healing! Every effort you make to come together for your yearly association meeting is a gift to the world. You could say it’s coming home to a kind of family reunion, where we all have the opportunity to unite as an association family--and as part of a worldwide family of associations!

Although associations come together only once a year, the spiritual activity and impact of caring for each other and for humanity continues throughout the year. We heard recently from one teacher, for instance, who invited his students to write a treatment to defend spiritually not only their own association, but Christian Science students’ associations everywhere. Here’s an excerpt from what one student wrote:

“Through the *Manual*-directed activity of Christian Science students’ associations, we are mutually supporting each other’s spiritual growth. Each member and guest of this association is an individual ray ‘of infinite Truth’ (*Science and Health*, page 504). We’ve gathered--come together--to focus on healing--on transforming, renewing, spiritual truths that will bless the world.”

This kind of earnest, humble prayer has the power to transform and unify the world around us. What practical spiritual care the Christian Science associations of the world can give, for instance, to people desperately seeking safety, security, and home! Like Jesus' faithful followers meeting in the "upper room" centuries ago, students of Christian Science can feel impelled to come together yearly, daily and hourly in healing love--in humble prayer for our Cause, our worldwide family of associations, our church, and our world. This is how we strengthen each other for the mission Jesus expected his disciples to fulfill.

Thanks to the revelation of the Comforter to humanity, class-taught students of Christian Science are uniquely equipped to embrace the world in healing prayer. From your ranks come the practitioners, lecturers, teachers, Readers, Sunday School teachers, Reading Room workers, and church members that provide the nurturing spiritual care that alone will heal poverty, prejudice, hatred, and violence. This is the proven power of your association. This is the power of God-impelled spiritual love. "Spiritual love makes man conscious that God is his Father," Mrs. Eddy wrote to her Church, "and the consciousness of God as Love gives man power with untold furtherance" (*Message for 1902*, 8:29-2).

With endless affection and gratitude,

The Christian Science Board of Directors and Board of Education



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