

February 2018

Dear fellow Christian healers,

Every Christian Science association, however small or large, is a treasure. Every thought tending Spiritward, every Christlike action, every Christian Science healing is impelling progress for the individual, for our Church and for our world. As we think of you praying together in solidarity, sharing and working side by side all around the globe, we remember Mary Baker Eddy's words from "Heart to Heart":

"I just want to say, I thank you, my dear students, who are at work conscientiously and assiduously, for the good you are doing. I am grateful to you for giving to the sick relief from pain; for giving joy to the suffering and hope to the disconsolate; for lifting the fallen and strengthening the weak, and encouraging the heart grown faint with hope deferred" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, page 262).

Impelled by this kind of gratitude and with a deep desire to share the mothering love of The Mother Church, the Board of Directors has recently visited with Christian Scientists in branch churches on this continent and in Europe. And what a joy it's been to witness how Spirit is bringing newness and fresh energy to the practice of Christian Science! We've spoken with long-time dedicated members, as well as people who are just beginning to consider the practical and dynamic truths of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. These people have ranged from high school students to great-grandparents, from new readers of *The Christian Science Monitor* to medical doctors. And everywhere we have felt their earnest desire to learn more about, to demonstrate, and to share the healing power of God's love.

Many of you are members of the branch church families we met. You are the ones who are courageously standing up to and mastering the claims of animal magnetism, and working for what you believe in, despite mortal mind's perennial claims of discouragement, small numbers and limited resources. We saw congregations overcoming their differences and uniting in love and prayer, as they worked together to serve their communities and to help each other. And we knew without a doubt that "the divine energy of Spirit" was the source of this renewal (*Science and Health*, page 249). This energy, the forever newness of Christian Science itself, is actively rebuilding individual lives and calling people home to their own true identity and to the mothering nature of Church.

Your work as class-taught Christian Scientists has been so crucial in this progress. Walking together "in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25) as this year's Annual Meeting theme invites us to do, coming together as association families, and supporting one another as healers day by day--you have contributed so much to the Cause of Christian Science throughout the year.

Even if your contribution has been very simple, we are all so deeply grateful for it and it has made a difference. We need every one of you. And we thank you!

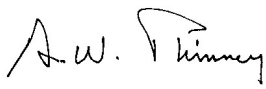
Of course, it's Christian Science, the revelation itself, that is renewing us individually and as a Church. And the closer each one of us adheres to the revelation, through heartfelt daily study of the Pastor--the Bible and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*-- the steadier our footsteps will be, the more united we will be, and the stronger our Church will stand on the rock of Truth.

With deep gratitude and affection,

The Christian Science Board of Directors and Board of Education



Robin Hoagland



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