

The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston Massachusetts

January 2019

Dear members of Christian Science Associations throughout the world,

The world is trying to become a better place. However, that may not always be easy to see, given that a great deal of today's news and conversation focuses on conflict and destruction. But when we look a little deeper, it quickly becomes apparent just how much of humanity's energy is organized around efforts to bring greater equality, honesty, and wholeness to issues of gender, race, government, and health. People don't cheer when they hear about evil, they rally and call upon the best in all of us to respond with good, with truth. Think of all of the causes and organizations that exist because good-hearted people are devoting themselves to improving the world we live in.

Nowhere is that more true than when we look at Christian Science Associations. The work you're doing to promote healing and comfort in our world is bringing much needed light to humanity. Although class taught Christian Scientists may only come together once a year for their Association meeting, members are receiving and giving support to others throughout the year through their practice of Christian Science healing.

This yearning to make a difference, to lift up good, is at the heart of the Annual meeting theme of The Mother Church this year--"that we may be able." We have found *Miscellany* 147:14 and 2 Cor 1:3,4 so helpful in understanding how God, as Paul says, "comforteth us in all our tribulation, **that we may be able** to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." This theme doesn't so much focus on the specifics of how we should pray or what we should study, rather it speaks to the effect we expect prayer and the Word of our Pastor to have on us. We expect to be able to practice Christian Science healing effectively. We expect to be inspired, purified, and empowered to bring genuine comfort to others. We expect to be able to work in unity with those in our Associations and branch churches to demonstrate and share Christian Science with our communities so that the world may succeed in ever becoming more of that better place it is reaching for.

The point has been made often, but it is nonetheless true--there are undoubtedly many events taking place in the world on the day of your Association, but none of them is as important as the coming together you will be doing to prove and bear witness to the allness of God and the perfection of God's image and likeness. You are vital to the cause of Christian Science. We send our deep gratitude and love to each of you.

The Christian Science Board of Directors and Board of Education



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