

**"Reason, Revelation, Demonstration:"**

## Christian Science Church Founded By Mary Baker Eddy; Administration Is In Boston

(Editor's Note: This article, concerned with the structure of the Christian Science church, is third in a series of commentaries on religions of today as explained by members of the student body at Brevard college. Subsequent issues will carry explanatory essays on these denominations: Christian (Disciples of Christ), Church of God, Dutch Reformed, Episcopal, Moravian and Presbyterian. This article was written by Tom Neal, Jr., with advice and assistance of Judge Fred H. Hasty, Christian Science Committee on Publication for North Carolina.)

The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Boston, Massachusetts, with its more than 3,000 branch churches and societies throughout the civilized world, represents Christian Science. This religious organization has its theology based on the New Testament teachings of Jesus, the Christ, and was founded by Mary Baker Eddy. In 1879 the First Christian Science was formed by Mrs. Eddy and her small band of followers.

Mark Twain's final reversal of previous judgment on Christian Science comes today as news to many: "Christian Science is humanity's boon . . . She (Mrs. Eddy) has organized and made available a healing principle that for two thousand years has never been employed except as the merest kind of guesswork. She is the benefactor of the age."

**Mary Baker Eddy**

Born of New England parents,

### Some Facts Regarding Christian Science

Christian Science is Christian. It is based on the teachings of Jesus as recorded in the Bible (Authorized King James).

Christian Science is scientific: Spiritually logical and unflinchingly consistent, its prayers affirm and demonstrate man's true nature to be in accordance with God's perfection, since God is the real author of man.

Furthermore, to the sincere seeker, a thoughtful study of the Christian Science textbook

### Science And Health

With Key to the Scriptures

By Mary Baker Eddy

furnishes convincing assurance that Christian Science is demonstrable and satisfying.

Courtesy, Christian Science Reading Room, 44 Patton Avenue, Asheville, and First Church of Christ, Scientist, 64 N. French Broad Avenue, Asheville.

The textbook may be bought, borrowed or read at Christian Science Reading Rooms throughout the world.



This imposing edifice is The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts. Largest of the churches in Boston, The Mother Church has over 3,000 branches throughout the world.

Mary Baker was as a child frail and sickly. She early became acquainted with the Bible, with Greek and Latin scholars and philosophy. Her brother, a prominent statesman, tutored her in science, math, Hebrew, French and classical languages. The Congregational influence of a deeply religious mother prompted Mary Baker to probe the depths of Scripture. It is recorded that at a young age she was admitted into the church although she did not adhere to all of the Congregational beliefs; but because of her deep spiritual understanding she was accepted into the membership of the church.

Often Christian Scientists are charged with the worship of Mrs. Eddy. This charge is far from the truth. Mrs. Eddy is revered as the discoverer and founder of Christian Science. She is author of the Christian Science textbook, *SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES*, founder of the *Christian Science Monitor*, *JOURNAL*, *SENTINEL*, as well as author of numerous books concerning Christian Science, including the *Church Manual*.

#### Purpose Of Science

In the words of Mrs. Eddy, Christian Science is a religion designed to . . . "reinstat primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing." It is a religion devoted to the study of the nature of God, of Christ, His Beloved Son, one Christ; the Holy Ghost or divine Comforter and man in God's image and likeness.

The search for an understanding of God, Christ and man in God's image and likeness, in an effort to restore primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing, explains some of the unusual features of the Christian Science church and its activities. Because of the high purpose of this church, members are admitted only after examination by local Board of Directors,

In line with this high goal and purpose, the church is devoted not only to the worship of God, but to a reaching out to understand and obey Him to a degree that heals the sick as well as the sinner. Nothing is permitted to interfere with this holy and spiritual purpose; no church entertainments nor socials, no fund-raising nor evangelistic membership campaigns, no commercialism nor participation as a church in community or other activities no matter how worthy they may be. The church endeavors to worship and find God in as spiritual a manner as is humanly possible. This, of course, does not mean that Christian Scientists as individuals, do not take part in and support community activities outside the church. Their religion encourages them to be good citizens, to help support good government, and to work for the good of all.

Many outside of this religion have testified to its healing fruitage both of functional and organic disorders. Dr. William Mayo (Mayo Clinic) and Dr. Richard C. Cabot (Harvard Medical School) have lauded Christian Science and its healing power.

#### Church Organization

The business of The Mother Church is transacted by a Board

of Directors, in accordance with the Church Manual. The Manual makes provision for Christian Science Societies and Branch Churches, but The Mother Church assumes no official general control over them. Each Society and Branch Church has its own form of government.

Christian Science is characterized as a "layman's movement." There is no professional clergy or priesthood. Each member is his own priest. A First Reader, chosen from and by the members, conducts the church services, reads a Scriptural selection; there is the Lord's Prayer, silent prayer, a solo, a collection (at Sunday services), and a lesson-sermon in which a Second Reader reads from the Bible (King James Version) and the First Reader reads correlative passages from the denominational textbook, *SCIENCE AND HEALTH*. Communion services are held twice yearly, but without the use of any material elements or symbols, such as bread and wine. This service, as are all services, is devoid of ceremonies or material symbols of any kind. Regular Wednesday meetings, held usually in the evening, provide opportunities for the congregation to give and hear remarks and testimonies of Christian Science healing.

#### World-Wide Scope

The Christian Science Publishing society in Boston, Massachusetts, is one of the largest printing houses in the world and is known for its beauty and efficiency. Christian Science articles are

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**MARY BAKER EDDY**, discoverer and founder of Christian Science. (Photograph Copyright 1910, The Christian Science Publishing Society. Renewed 1938. Used by permission.)

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