"Loyalty to the Truth"

A summary of an Inspirational Talk

Given by Col. Janet Horton,
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at the
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As we look at this unusual phrase together, we'll start by looking at how and when Mary Baker Eddy uses the terms loyal or loyalty and when and where she uses them. Both evoke questions because of the uniqueness of what she associates it with and where she uses it the most.

Any guesses on the most? Or the least?

In the 138 pages of the *Manual of The Mother Church*, she uses the term *loyal* 19 times and *loyalty* an additional two times. The most frequent way she uses the term *Loyal* is to refer to *Loyal* Christian Scientists and does so 12 times in the *Church Manual*.

Yet in the 599 pages of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, she uses the term *loyal* only ONE time and *loyalty* only once.

In the 1,276 pages of *Prose Works* she uses the term *loyal* 32 times and *loyalty* 10 times. Many of those relate to her gratitude for her follower's *loyalty to her or the Cause of Christian Science*.

In *Miscellaneous Writings* on page 275:23 she states: "Your *public* and *private* expressions of love and loyalty were very touching. They moved me to speechless thanks." (Italics added.)

I would think Mrs. Eddy may have been equally

thankful and moved by Christian Scientists' loyalty to her writings, and how instrumental the study of those ideas are in providing caring Christian Science nursing. The Truth impels all our actions and what you may say to patients and their loved ones as you interact with them.

Church members and church attendees in meetings I've participated in have sometimes expressed surprise and even concern about how to share Christian Science in their daily lives and activities.

As I studied Mrs. Eddy's address in Chicago at the National Christian Scientist Association in 1888 which she entitled "Loyal Christian Scientists", (*Miscellaneous Writings* page 275:20) the title made me think of how often I've heard Christian Scientists say either they're afraid or feel unprepared to speak about Christian Science in public.

I can't imagine having any reluctance to speak publically or in other Christian Science settings about the power and value of Mary Baker Eddy's gift of Christian Science to the world. Nothing is more fulfilling to me than to have an opportunity to share Christian Science literally anywhere. In this week's Christian Science Quarterly Bible Lesson on Doctrine of Atonement it includes Paul's remark to the Romans

"... I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:" (Romans 1:16).

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When a woman on a flight to Hawaii asked me non-stop questions about Christian Science, she was so moved by what she heard that she begged me to give her my leather-bound *Prose Works* to read while she was in the Oahu airport. Granted it was tough to give up my leather-bound copy, yet I felt strongly it was the loyal thing to do. Three times in the next couple of years I found people were giving me leather copies of *Prose Works* free.

PANERA BREAD. I had another experience that was

helpful in showing me how eager and willing people are to hear about the Truth as expressed in Christian Science. It was a wonderful example of how natural it is for loyal Christian

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Scientists to want to share Christian Science and how natural it is for people to want to hear about it. It's as basic as how naturally a plant turns to the light.

Two of my neighbors begged me to promise to give them 3 hours to discuss Christian Science in a nearby Panera Bread restaurant. I started out by loyally obeying the truths expressed in Hymn 201 in the Christian Science Hymnal:

> "O do not bar your mind Against the light of good; But open wide, let in the Word, And Truth will be your food."

I affirmed that this experience would radiate that light of good in all directions. Everyone in the experience would turn to the daily bread we seek in our Bible Lessons or any quotes I might link to their questions. It was striking how quickly people at the table on our right began leaning in our direction; then those to our left; then our server, who kept standing near our table asked if he could join us on his 15-minute break, exclaiming, "This is the most fascinating discussion I've ever heard."

This recognition isn't limited by time either, later that year three woman at our table and some at tables next to us at the National Council of Churches cried when I shared the experience of being spit on and hugging the chaplain who did it. Again, it was clear that people all around us really are hungry to hear about Christian Science.

It's very comfortable to speak about Christian Science when people ask. Yet, even in less obvious events, we can loyally share our love for Christian Science.

Mrs. Eddy points out in *Miscellaneous Writings* page 276:31

"In the dark hours, wise Christian Scientists stand firmer than ever in their *allegiance* to God. Wisdom is wedded to their love, and their hearts are not troubled." (Italics added.)

Frequently people ask me, "Why weren't you afraid" in the many situations I share in testimonies? My answer is simple. "I can't conceive of the possibility that there is

anything too hard for God, Love." And it is crystal clear to me that it is God that is really acting, speaking and leading in every situation, every day. Yet there is another recognition needed when we do step up and voluntarily and loyally become Truth's mouthpiece.

In *Miscellaneous Writings* page 277:7-10, 25 Mrs. Eddy says:

"Whosoever proclaims Truth loudest, becomes the mark for error's shafts. The archers aim at Truth's mouthpiece; but a heart *loyal* to God is patient and strongn . . . the divine justice and judgment are enthroned. Love is especially near in times of hate, and never so near as when one can be just amid lawlessness, and render good for evil." (Italics added.)

We can be assured that there is no penalty for doing good and sharing the Truth, and that the whole armor of God will protect us in doing our duty. Obedient Christian Scientists are prepared because, we "... daily watch and pray to be delivered from all evil;" as a *Manual*-directed daily duty (*A Rule for Motives and Acts, Church Manual*, p. 40).

While supporting military women who were being harassed, I found some groups had become very threatened by the fact that I was counseling and advising the counselees on how to approach this with their chain of command. One day coming into work at Fort Sill, I watched two men in a truck pull

stocking masks down over their faces; they rammed their truck at me.

Because I was driving a small responsive sports car, I was able to veer swiftly into a dry wadi. In their large truck they couldn't get to me down in the river bed. They sped away. I reported this to the Post Chaplain who called the police; I was moved from Fort Sill to Korea early as the leadership and the police seemed certain someone had taken a hit out on me. I didn't recall being afraid but just the reverse. There was a clarity of thought as to exactly what to do. I felt God's presence and love (His loyalty to me as his child was apparent.) The leadership couldn't believe I didn't panic. I honored God with the Command of the situation not people. I had been doing my duty and had listened faithfully. I was completely loyal to the concept that God governs omnipotently, omnisciently and was certainly omnipresent in that situation as always.

Shortly after I arrived in Korea, a person came to my office and confronted me. The service member

asked if the group they represented needed to consider me a threat to them. I told the person that what their beliefs were was something that was "private" and each person had to pray and think about what made sense to them or what they felt

about Scripture or perhaps what prayer revealed to them was right. However, to *harm* other people who didn't agree with them was illegal. I said they too needed to respect regulations, the law and military discipline. At that point the person smiled and said, "Well OK, everything will stop." After that I had no other odd or threatening events.

One of the synonyms for loyalty is *faithfulness*. Faithfulness is an eternal quality. Every faithful act we achieve and offer has eternal blessings not just for the person who initiated the action, but often even more so it blesses others. But as loyal Christian Scientists we do have to listen constantly and obey.

GO GET POTATOES. On Easter morning I argued with the voice urging me to "go get potatoes." I argued twice that I'd bought two bags of potatoes before, red

and yellow potatoes; then I heard a very stern rebuke: "I told you to go get potatoes!" I loyally obeyed.

On that very quiet early morning only four checkout lines were open. When I was waiting, I saw a young man who was modestly dressed in work clothes begging a woman to put his check back in the machine again. He urgently stressed he and his wife had carefully balanced the checkbook. I could hear the distress in his voice.

You could see he had a little girl's Easter basket, potatoes, ham etc. for Easter dinner. I walked over and told him that when I was in military, women weren't allowed to have children — so God let me spoil other people's children. I would be very honored if he'd let me buy the groceries. He initially resisted, but I persistently reiterated how much it would mean to me.

The entire store was silent. No one moved during our discussion. I started putting some money down on the conveyor belt. The woman immediately bagged

his food and he quietly walked out. When he had gone many of the people came and embraced and some wept. The check-out clerk said. "That's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen anyone do!"

"Neither animosity nor mere personal attachment should impel the motives or acts of the members of The Mother Church."

Church Manual

Now its not uncommon at our Church for someone to share that they had "A GO GET POTATOES MOMENT."

Every one in that Winn Dixie was lovingly loyal, honoring this young man as honest, as a caring dad and husband and a devoted worker who had obviously worked all night. They saw his true self as a loyal dad, husband and worker.

In *Science and Health* on page 183:21 Mrs. Eddy writes:

"Divine Mind rightly demands man's **entire** obedience, affection, and strength. No reservation is made for any *lesser loyalty*. Obedience to Truth gives man power and strength. Submission to error superinduces loss of power." (Italic and bold added.)

A Rule for Motives and Acts in the *Church Manual* urges us that "Neither animosity nor mere personal attachment should impel the motives or acts of the members of The Mother Church." And it teaches us that it is Principle that should impel us. Mrs. Eddy's writings continually identify Principle as Love. We can love all people, regardless of how they conduct themselves in a moment, or in a season of time. Unconditional love can and does include loving ways of correction, encouragement and spiritual affection.

It is very powerful to pray daily about this type of divine Love. One day while on a plane I was praying with the words of a song, "Love is all around me

and so the feeling grows." I wanted to do so in a fresh and new way for the day. I noticed that a little girl on the plane, three rows ahead of me, turned around and hung her body over the

hung her body over the armrest and began blowing me kisses.

We had never even seen each other before that day but I am sure this was clearly an example that, "The effects of Christian Science are not so much seen as felt" (*Science and Health* page 323:28-29).

As Mrs. Eddy says in *Science and Health* page 4:9 "Outward worship is not of itself sufficient to express loyal and heartfelt gratitude, since he has said, 'If ye love me keep my commandments." Expressing gratitude is one of the highest ways we can be loyal to God for all the blessings we receive in his constant care for us.

My dad was quick to teach us kids the importance of daily gratitude as a loyal Christian Scientist. He had a drill he called "The Gratefuls." I was only about 10 when my mom allowed me to go with him on a trip to sell the tools he had invented. We took a ferry from Ludington across Lake Michigan to Wisconsin. He didn't sell his tools to the first couple of car dealerships we went to. As we left, he took my little hand in his. He was 6 foot 4 inches tall and I was very small for my age. The visual had to be striking. He took a step forward and said, "I'm grateful I have a daughter." I followed his lead took the next step with him and said, "I'm grateful

I have a dad." He took the next step and said, "I'm grateful I have a car." Then I said "I'm grateful we had money for breakfast." And on it went until we got to the next dealership. He sold tools the rest of the day.

We can always be loyal to the truth that we always have much to be grateful for.

In *Science and Health* on page 579:10-14 Mrs. Eddy defines Abraham as:

"ABRAHAM. Fidelity; faith in the divine Life and in the eternal Principle of being. This patriarch illustrated the purpose of Love to create trust in good, and showed the life-preserving power of

spiritual understanding." (Italics added.)

The Scriptures assure us that God is Truth and his children are not by design liars but made in his very

"image." It is very powerful to understand that man's loyalty to the truth is natural, and neutralizes any opposite sense that man would even be vulnerable to lying.

A young man in our family was training at the police academy. All applicants had to pass a lie detector test. Other officers told him of feeling shame for failing the test and greater fear when having to repeat it. Some candidates had to take it as many as five times to pass it. Non-conclusive tests had to be repeated, and some people never passed it and therefore couldn't be hired. Everyone, including very seasoned officers, said it was the worst experience they'd ever had. The test consisted of four hours of intense interrogation and grilling. It was conducted on the premise that everyone had something they would be tempted to lie about.

He asked me how he might prepare for this excruciating ordeal. I shared with him how I had prayed about having to take two very extensive mandatory physical exams for the military as I closed out my career. It had come to me that there had really been only one examination, and that was when ". . . God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good." (Gen 1:31) I offered that he could pause before he entered the room and ask God, Love, to precede him and make easy his way.

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to be grateful for.

I reinforced we are never alone. I told him he was a child of God and that was the truth about his identity. I suggested he hold his favorite Bible passage in his thought while he was being tested.

This is his description of what happened:

On a crystal-clear winter day just before the test, I was walking the dog and looking at the sky. I was still feeling some concern about the test. At first the suggestion came to me, "It all hinges on this session." I was thinking, "I've done all the things asked of me. I've passed the physical tests, the background checks and the orals." It seemed they were putting all their trust in a machine. It seemed incongruous that it would all come down to this arbitrary test. Then I realized I was just thinking of myself. Then I became still enough to listen to God. I recalled the parable about the sparrow. (Matt. 10: 29-31) I thought, If God's eye is on the sparrow, I'm more important than a sparrow. A machine isn't important to God. I acknowledged that as a child of God I was divinely made. God was reminding me that he wouldn't take me halfway. God assured me, 'It's a man-made instrument, just as imperfect as any machine.

During the test they made me sit in a room with double-sided windows. It starts with a pre-brief. You sit in a chair that looks like a medieval chair. The intent is to plant a seed of doubt. The interrogator said, "You can't beat

the machine." For twenty minutes he explained that any hesitation or halfway response, once I was hooked up, would be identified. He repeated it didn't matter how disciplined I was. He said he knew I was an athlete but

the machine can pick up the slightest nuance and the subtlest variance. I was still for two hours. I sat so still there was no sensation in my legs. For two hours they read me the questions and recorded my responses.

The second two hours they hooked me up to the lie detector machine and compared my responses. I pictured the 23rd Psalm as if it were a picture book. I kept thinking about what it meant. I recall especially being comforted by the words "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures . . . He restoreth my soul . . . "

And another Bible assurance "Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind is stayed on *thee*..." comforted my heart. I also went back to the peace and calm I'd felt looking at that still starry sky.

During the session I noticed the interrogator kept repositioning the sensors, fiddling with the machine and even turned it off and on. At one point the tester put the sensors on himself. I felt peaceful and just focused on the Psalm. When the test was over, the officer asked if I would speak to him outside the office. I asked if I'd passed the test and the officer said yes. When I joined him in the hall, the man peered into my eyes and asked in an amazed manner, "Who are you?" I thought, "Gee! We just spent four hours discussing that." I asked him, "Didn't I cover that in the questioning?" The man looked seriously, again, deep into my eyes and said, "No! WHO ARE YOU?" even more emphatically. I had to ask him to explain. The officer told me he'd been a detective and state policeman for fifteen years. He had given lie detector tests for years to literally hundreds of people and he'd never, ever had a test come out like that. He exclaimed, "It was like I was hooked up to a dead man! You had no readings!" The man just shook his head and assured me he had tested and retested the

> machine to assure himself that it was working. It had worked fine on him. Then I explained that I had prayed and he just shook his head.

I had initially been scheduled to take the test in March but

the date was moved up to February. That meant I was hired within three weeks of starting the initial application. I called my stepmother afterward very triumphant and told her that I felt only peace and calm during the entire test. I asked if she had any idea what had happened. She told me, as best she could explain, that I had grasped that I wasn't a mortal to be read and examined, but one of God's sheep who followed and obeyed the Lord as his shepherd. Having

"The effects of Christian Science are not so much seen as felt" Science and Health held in my consciousness that I was God's child, and that was my identity, it couldn't be read on a lie detector machine.

In this experience he came to know more clearly the meaning of Romans 8:1

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

There are times when, even those of us who are not officially trained Christian Science nurses may find that we may be called on to provide visiting nursing type help in unusual moments or circumstances.

On page 95:6-10 of *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy notes an important link between fidelity to Truth and Love and meeting people's needs:

"We approach God, or

Life, in proportion to our spirituality, our fidelity to Truth and Love; and in that ratio we know all human need and are able to discern the thought of the sick and the sinning for the purpose of healing them."

While attending the Montreal Rogers Cup Tennis Tournament I noticed a man in distress. He was sitting on a cement slab outside the arena. The intense heat seemed to render him unable to lift up his upper body. When I asked him if he was okay, he said he wasn't and that the EMT's had been called. It came to me that one of his needs was a tender word of encouragement. I asked if he'd like to recite the 23rd Psalm while he was waiting. He beamed a dear smile and said an emphatic "YES! I'd love to." As we finished the Psalm the EMT's started to wheel him away. But he stopped them, and surprisingly was now able to lift himself up and swiveled around toward me. He tapped his heart twice, kissed his hand and extended his arm as if in a salute.

If that wasn't amazing enough, we had two more events that linked to it later. As we left the tennis center and boarded the METRO to begin our journey back to Vermont, one of two brothers offered me his seat. I thanked him but said we were only going two stops and we'd just been sitting for almost 3 hrs at the tennis match. About that time his younger brother

began to spit up. He attempted to wipe his face with dirty newspapers people had left on the crowded dirty floor. I gave him my napkins from my bag and helped him wipe himself clean. As the huge number of people crushed off the subway the two brothers waited for us to exit the car and both rendered the same gesture to us as the man at the tennis center.

About two hours later at the border crossing I noticed four border guards eating lunch. I gave them a copy of a prayer/poem I wrote for the firemen who helped us in the Pentagon on 9-11 entitled the "Best in Human Character." I thanked them for the job they did. Each one of them said no one had ever thanked them in

all the many years they'd worked at the border. They waited for us out in the parking lot and all four guards rendered the same gesture. For years I've asked Canadians if they have ever seen this

loving, heartfelt gesture and no one has, even once, let alone three times in a six-hour period. I felt in each situation the thing I could do was express love to the people in those opportunities obviously orchestrated impressively by divine Mind.

The love and caring that are the foundation for Christian Science nursing is as striking as what we experienced that day. The loyalty to Truth and Love is apparent in all you do.

I was invited to take part in an Episcopal Church service in Micanopy, Florida, on a day that they celebrated Peace and the concept of Unity. At the end of the normal ceremony a Muslim woman and a Sikh gave very dear, humble presentations on their traditions. I shared how I had prayed in a field training exercise in Germany. I invited over fifty chaplains, chaplain assistants and lay leaders of numerous Christian faiths and several other faith groups, to share ideas from their sacred texts that illumined the idea of how the power of prayer can bring peace and a sense of safety in practical situations. All the religious support personnel agreed to pray specifically each day for the safety of our soldiers.

At the end of a long and challenging exercise the leadership in the exercise was deeply moved by the fact that we didn't have a single fatality or major injury

"There is therefore now no condemnation to

them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not

after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Romans

in over eight weeks of training in icy conditions in a remote part of Germany. Even the German general had asked if I would share with his leadership how we had united and how we had prayed. He saw this event as one of the highest examples of the power of unity and leadership. The leadership expressed a loyalty to the power of sacred truths and prayer during that exercise.

After the Episcopal service a woman asked to speak to me outside. She explained that this Church prided itself on its perfect architecture in the sanctuary,

that made it possible not to have a sound system. The architecture was designed to direct the sound so all could

"Loyal hearts can feel no fear; . . ."

Christian Science Hymnal

hear. However, she explained that she had such severe challenges with her hearing, she had never heard anything for several years in the services. Yet, her sincere desire was expressed in a loyalty to the truth that her right place was in church on Sunday mornings.

Outside on the sidewalk, she joyfully shared that she wanted me to know that although she wasn't able to hear the service or the other two presenters, that she had heard every word I said. She even repeated the high points of what I shared. She thanked me and we hugged.

When loyalty to the Truth is felt and expressed, we may also hear the encouraging words of Matthew 25:23

". . . Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Let's look at another aspect of loyalty. There is a great difference between the "personal loyalty" service members are expected to honor their superiors with versus the more spiritual and purer sense of loyalty to the Truth.

I asked our Commandant at United States Army Chaplain School to counsel a Lieutenant Colonel instructor for his repetitive sexually inappropriate remarks and harassment of both civilian women employees and women chaplains and chaplain assistants. Many women thanked me for making sure the counseling statement got done because the man stopped his aggressive and demeaning remarks, which greatly improved the working environment.

The Commandant's Deputy had attempted to rebuke me as a Captain by saying I couldn't talk to the Colonel like that. I told him my loyalty was to the Truth not rank or personality. I told him by regulation and policies that were based on truth he was required to do the counseling statement and that if it wasn't done, I would take the issue up the chain of command. I reminded him I had never done that

for less than an issue of truth. I was not doing it as a power play or out of a sense of animosity. I was doing it because it was the

right thing to do. Then I reminded them both that that was the function by regulation that was cited as one of the duties of chaplains, they had no argument against the truths of those statements.

In *Science and Health* page 514:10-19, Mrs. Eddy says:

"Moral courage is 'the lion of the tribe of Juda,' the king of the mental realm. Free and fearless it roams in the forest. Undisturbed it lies in the open field, or rests in 'green pastures, . . . beside the still waters.' In the figurative transmission from the divine thought to the human, diligence, promptnes and perseverance are likened to the 'cattle upon a thousand hills.' They carry the baggage of stern resolve, and keep pace with highest purpose. Tenderness accompanies all the might imparted by Spirit." (Italics added.)

LOYALTY. One definition is, supports especially in time of crisis.

"Loyal hearts can feel no fear; . . ." Hymn 58 in the *Christian Science Hymnal*

CAR FLIPPING. I was riding with another military officer when we hit a piece of the road where the pavement had been resurfaced. The new pavement didn't go all the way over to where the old pavement was so it dropped off significantly. The tight suspension of the 1952 Austin Healy Bugeye Sprite sent the car flying through air toward a telephone pole. I listened and the synonym for God, Mind, was all I had time to declare. My sense of what happened next would be similar to the words of Hymn 53:

"Everlasting arms of Love Are beneath, around, above; . . ."

I felt no sense of any real impact with anything. I felt God's hand had gently laid me on the grass in the ditch. I only had one slight line like a blade of grass brushed my cheek. The responding highway patrolman wouldn't believe I had been in the car.

The driver was in the hospital for two weeks, but his challenges were met over a few weeks. I played a tennis match that night. My opponent who was 10 years younger, remarked I played like I was possessed by Chris Evert and I won the match easily. Friends at work who visited our other co-worker in the hospital and saw the wrecked car couldn't believe I had been in the car.

The clarity of Hymn 58's teaching point, "Loyal hearts can feel no fear" was all I remember in the event. I had no sense of the car flipping or anything other than being gently laid on the grass by divine Love's hands.

When I was completing my first week as the Division Chaplain in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, I noticed a poster on the door of my Deputy Chaplain's office. It listed denominations and columns of what their

beliefs were on numbers of doctrinal ideas, such as Christ, baptism etc. I was standing beside our new Catholic Priest and asked him to review if the

"Obedience is the offspring of Love; . . . "

Miscellaneous Writings

construct represented the Catholic Church correctly. He said, "No." I explained to the young Major that it wasn't accurate for Christian Science either but I knew my church would gladly fill out the construct for the Southern Baptist Church accurately if they wanted to continue to use the poster. The Priest chimed in that he too would get that from the Bishop for the Chaplain's church.

The young man seemed very offended and asked if I was ordering him to take it down. I said no. But I told him that in the week I had worked with him I felt he was very genuinely devout and couldn't imagine that he would be comfortable with being any part of "bearing false witness against his neighbor." I then asked him if he realized that our black chaplain assistants wouldn't enter his office but would only

come to his door to hand him something. He asked me why. I explained they were not comfortable coming in and having to stand by the Confederate flag he had on his wall directly in front of his desk. I could see he was really thinking by that time. Within the next week he decided himself to remove both items. Over the time we served together we became very good friends and when he was forced to exit the military because he was not promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, he turned to me for comfort and guidance.

Miscellaneous Writings page 264:3-6

"My noble students, who are loyal to Christ, Truth, and human obligations, will not be disheartened in the midst of this seething sea of sin. They build for time and eternity."

Christian Scientists are loyal out of Principle and defend our faith not just for a self-centered reason or only for our denomination's good.

san Diego Marine Corps Depot. I received a call that a Drill Sergeant had taken a Christian Scientist trainee's *Science and Health* away from him. My first question when I contacted the Senior Chaplain at San Diego Marine Corps Depot was, "Who else had sacred texts taken away by the

Drill Sergeant?" Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and Muslims had also. I informed the Latter-Day Saints and Muslim

endorsers — their trainees had their Korans and Books of Mormon returned within a day.

Salt Lake City held training to teach their new chaplain trainees. They had me give an hour-long talk on Christian Science at their luncheon. They said: "Ma'am you're the real deal."

Loyal hearts do what they do out of a sense of obedience, out of joy to live what they've learned, not out of fear but out of love for all that is good, upright, pure and true.

Miscellaneous Writings page 117:13 "Obedience is the offspring of Love; . . . "

