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Dear Friends,

It is such a joy to be listening for the message God has for us on what I consider to be the most important day of 2018. What can be more important than the day that God calls us all together in the spirit of unity to hear His message to us, to feel more of His presence and power? We have the promise of the power of Christ with us during this time together, to uplift and inspire us, to move us forward and heal us; and most importantly, to help us to do more in bringing healing to the world.

We know Jesus' promise, "for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:20) To me this is no small thing. This is no ordinary, humanly organized activity. This truly is a God-inspired, God-mandated, Love-provided time together. And it is truly a provision we all should be praying about and planning to be part of. It is wonderful to have these months to prepare our thought, and to cherish this meeting together. And since God is calling us, we can be sure He is providing everything each one of us needs to take active part in the meeting.

This Association day will be all about healing — healing in every aspect of our lives — healing for ourselves and the world. That is our calling, and our Leader tells us that this is the babe we are to cherish in this age. (see Mis. 370:12-15 (to 2nd .))

To help prepare thought, let's take a fresh look at the book of the Bible, *The Acts of the Apostles*, which some Bible scholars suggest would be better titled, the acts of *some* of the apostles. It is very interesting and enlightening to read as a book and it's really quite a gripping story. And as you read, consider what some of these earliest followers of Christ Jesus thought about their mission; how they were led to fulfill that mission and what they experienced—the resistance they faced and worked through, and how they were strengthened and led by God. Had they not done what they did, it is hard to say how many people today would know about Christ Jesus, what he did, and what he taught. I found that reading it through in the J. B. Phillips translation was inspiring and easy to follow. If you would like to use that translation and don't have it, you can read it online at BibleGateway.com.

As you read, it might also be helpful to think about how the Apostles were fulfilling the command to preach the gospel. What was their message to others at that point in time? And since following this command is no less imperative today, how does this shed light on what our message should be right now? What avenues are open to us today to fulfill our mission, the spreading of the good news? Is the resistance they met still an issue today? Where did that resistance come from as described in the book of Acts? There are really so many questions we can ponder about this text. This is not an intellectual exercise. Let it speak to you in your own individual way. Mrs. Eddy tells us that the divine Science in the Bible came through inspiration and needs inspi-

ration to be understood. (see SH 319:21-23) This inspiration comes from God and is felt by every searching heart.

Not only are we being called by our Master to preach the gospel, but to heal the sick, as you well know. In Bible times as well as our times, it is the healing that convinces people of the message. Spiritualizing thought is what enables us to heal. And I recently ran across a series of articles in the *Christian Science Sentinel* that focuses on that very thing, *spiritualizing thought*. It occurs to me that this would be a good complement to reading the book of Acts. Acts helps us to ponder what the early Christians did as examples for us. This series of articles can help us focus on ideas for how to be better healers. There are plenty of quotes from Mrs. Eddy in these articles that will get us into her writings.

I'm going to suggest that we read at least the first twelve of these articles. That will be about two a month between now and the Association meeting. The *Sentinel* series is a year long series, so there are over 50 articles total. You can decide if you want to read more either before or after Association.

These articles can be found at JSH-online or in the bound volumes in the Reading Room. Look for the focus article in each *Sentinel* on "Spiritualizing thought" starting with August 4, 1973. (The series ends in July 1974)

We are God's cherished children. He is giving us so much right now. Let's not be tempted to think that this high and holy work was something for ages past. God is providing for us right now to live the life of Christ, to follow his example, to have that same Mind which was also in Christ Jesus, to express that Christlike power to preach and heal. This is our time to walk with God and to share the good news with the world. This is the life we have chosen — and are choosing each moment everyday.

I would love to do a question and answer session and to share your healings. Please send your questions and healings to me no later than July 1st. That will give me time to consider the questions and determine how best to share your healings. I can't guarantee we'll have time to cover every question or read every testimony depending on how many I receive, but I'll do my best.

It is such a privilege to be praying with you this year in preparation for your 2018 Association day. I truly look forward to seeing you in September!

Much love to each of you,



Mark Unger, CS

Assignment summary:

- Read and ponder the book of The Acts of the Apostles in the Bible
- Read 12 articles from the *Sentinel* on "Spiritualizing thought" beginning August 4, 1973
- Send in questions and healings by July 1st to markungercs@mac.com