

Let's get acquainted

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Crowds of students crushed by me in the halls of my new high school as the bell rang on the first day of fall term. Everyone seemed well acquainted. But I felt like an outsider looking in.

That first couple of weeks of my freshman year, I trudged from class to class of strange faces with a host of unhappy thoughts to keep me company. Over and over I told myself, "I can't be accepted here. No one cares about me. How can I ever make friends? Should my family move away? Try another high school?"

"Impossible," my parents said in flat refusal. There I was. What to do?

I needed to get acquainted all right. But the need was to go one step further; I had to gain a *spiritual* understanding of what was really happening—the way God was seeing His creation, the reality of all things, at that moment. I wanted to find happiness right where an unhappy situation was presenting itself. "What is God conscious of?" I asked myself. "How are things from His viewpoint?" I found a clue to the answer in Genesis 1:31, where the Bible says, "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." In my Christian Science Sunday School class I learned that God is our creator and our friend forever. Nothing can really go wrong for God or His children. His power and activity are as present today in the locker-lined halls of a large high school as in Christ Jesus' time on the roads of Galilee.

After much praying and listening to God, I real-

ized that man, God's child, can never be outside good. Man lives forever in God, Mind, as His idea, always loved and at one with the source of everyone's true being. I hung on to these truths faithfully in the face of the false beliefs of loneliness, self-pity, and discouragement. These truths finally won out—as Truth always does in the end.

Each morning became a fresh opportunity to lean confidently on God. Mrs. Eddy writes at the beginning of *Science and Health*, "To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, to-day is big with blessings."¹

The healing didn't happen overnight. But a few months later, while I was walking to a class, an idea occurred to me quietly like the first star appearing at dusk. Right then I decided to write a column for the school newspaper. I would call it "Let's Get Acquainted." How surprised and delighted I felt. This had to be an inspiration from God. When I presented the idea to the editors and the faculty adviser of the paper, they liked it too. Our principal gladly provided me with the names of some new students who had unusual, out-of-the-ordinary stories to tell about their talents or backgrounds. The principal thought it would be good for the entire student body to meet these people through my new column. It truly was Christ Jesus' Golden Rule in action! Giving to others blessed me.

I became so busy interviewing students and making friends on the paper, I forgot all about being new and lonely. A girl on the staff introduced me to her friends. And that spring our skit won a prize in the variety show. During my next few years on the paper, I became coeditor in chief. I thanked God every day for all the good coming into my life. I found God's qualities of happiness and goodness right where I was. When we respond to divine Love and begin to give of ourselves all we can, we feel that Love encircling everyone, and we discover that it never leaves anyone out.

¹ *Science and Health*, p. vii.