

Urban renewal

What can a family do if urban renewal forces it to move? I found my solution through prayer.

I was living in a modest furnished apartment well suited to my income. One day my landlady informed me that the local urban-renewal authority had ordered her to make some necessary repairs and that I would have to move. She said the work would begin in a few days.

Of course, I began at once to look for a new apartment, but the extensiveness of the urban-renewal changes throughout the area had made low-cost housing nearly extinct. It quickly became apparent that if I was to find a place for my daughter and me, God would have to provide it, and I knew He would.

Turning to God as I have learned to do in Christian Science, I rejoiced that I was complete and included all right ideas of home, such as harmony, order, freedom, joy, goodness, purity, and so forth. I knew that God would supply my need. In the divine economy there is no imbalance. Supply and demand are equal. I turned my thought from the material problem and prayed for spiritual understanding so that I could express more of the divine qualities man derives from God, divine Truth and Love. After all, my only home was spiritual, with God, and as such it was eternal and perfect.

Prayer changed what looked like approaching disaster into a blessing. Within a couple of days I received a telephone call from my landlady, informing me that she and the urban-renewal relocating counselor had found a suitable temporary place for us at half the amount I was presently paying. Since it was unfurnished, the landlady offered us the use of the furniture that was in our present apartment. After the remodeling was completed, we returned to the newly decorated and newly furnished apartment. Urban renewal paid all the moving costs.

Christian Science, which was discovered and founded by Mary Baker Eddy, teaches us that our real home is in divine Mind. In fact, a member of Mrs. Eddy's household remembers that she said, "Home is not a place but a power."* Home can be demonstrated wherever we live, whether we are in a ghetto, a suburb, a high-rent district. We need to be individually conscious, moment by moment, of man's inseparable unity with God. Our spiritual, perfect home is demonstrated whenever we express the divine qualities, for the purpose of our whole existence — since we are made in the image of God, divine Truth, Mind, Love — is to express Him. There is no other home, actually speaking.

Instead of fearing urban renewal, we can think constructively in terms of *spiritual* renewal. For instance, we can replace resentment and frustration with gratitude for God's ever-outpouring goodness. Never mind what the human scene appears to be. The influence of purified thinking and living brings us into accord with God's law, which meets every human need.

We can all develop and rely on our inherent spiritual sense. Prayer — to see what God has already given us — and living in consonance with our prayer will help us realize that man is the perfect idea of the divine Mind and that he can never be deprived of this inheritance of good. Nothing can rob him of it except the belief that evil has place and power to oppose God. But God is all-power. Neither persons nor human codes can separate man from God because the government of man — the government of the real, spiritual selfhood of each of us — is in God's hands.

Yes, even in the midst of urban renewal, one can be secure in one's home. Christ Jesus said, "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."**

When we abandon our false concepts for the spiritual reality, we do find that the kingdom of God is within reach of human consciousness. Here we find the heavenly home we seek. Mrs. Eddy writes: "[Jesus] said: 'The kingdom of God is within you.' Know, then, that you possess sovereign power to think and act rightly, and that nothing can dispossess you of this heritage and trespass on Love."†

*Irving C. Tomlinson, *Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy* (Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society, 1966), p. 156;

**Luke 17:21; †*Pulpit and Press*, p. 3.