

## 'Father, You are in charge'

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Australians pride themselves on giving everyone in their country a "fair go." They applaud honesty and are passionate about upholding what is right and proper. Sometimes, though, sentiment doesn't match action. Each night on a popular TV program, there are interviews with people who have lost their homes or been financially ruined through someone else's mistakes or unscrupulous behavior. These innocent victims often do not receive assistance or compensation. Their situations are rarely resolved.

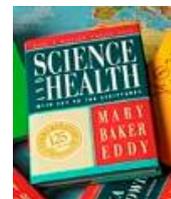
I know what it's like to experience this kind of injustice. At one time, my husband and I were living in Adelaide, South Australia, when he obtained a teaching position in Brisbane, Queensland. We put our house up for sale with a reputable real estate agency and moved in with my mother. Several weeks later, a couple signed a cash contract and paid a deposit. While waiting for the settlement date, we traveled to Brisbane to inspect properties.



Shortly after we arrived, the real estate agent in Adelaide informed us that he had let the couple move into our house. They'd convinced him that I had given them permission to do so. We couldn't believe that he hadn't checked with us first. We told him that they must leave immediately. He reported back that the couple had offered to pay rent until settlement day and he had collected two weeks' rent from them. On settlement day when they failed to purchase our home, we consulted a lawyer about having them evicted. He said it couldn't be done. Accepting rent from them had created a tenancy agreement.

The situation was so unjust. Because of the agent's actions, this couple now occupied our home and we couldn't do anything about it. We weren't even allowed to enter our own property. The lawyer telephoned the couple, sent registered letters and even hand-delivered a notice, but they evaded every attempt to reach them. It seemed that unless they left of their own free will, we were powerless.

One evening, feeling sick at heart, we drove to our home in the hope of seeing the couple. While we sat waiting in the car, I decided to pray. At first, I just pleaded with God to give us back our home. I told Him we were innocent and that we didn't deserve to suffer. Then I realized that I didn't need to pray in that manner. God loved us. No one could dispossess us of His care. I recalled these words from *Science and Health*: "Harmony is produced by its Principle, is controlled by it and abides with it ... Man's happiness is not, therefore, at the disposal of physical sense" (p. 304).



This reminded me that divine Principle, Love, was in control of the situation. Home wasn't just a building; it was a place of love, peace, and shelter. No one could steal our peace of mind from us. Love, a quiet sanctuary, harmony came from God, and as His children, these were ours to experience permanently.

Next I prayed about the couple in our house. I said, "Dear Father, You are in charge. These are Your children. You created them in Your image, so they must be honest and just. Dishonesty cannot be part of their true nature. As You govern us all, they must be law-abiding and principled in their dealings with us and our home."

Then I prayed about the estate agent. This was hard. I was so angry over his incompetence. But I knew I had to stop condemning and blaming him. So in my heart I forgave him for the mistakes he had made and the difficulties he had caused us. And that night, as we drove back to my mother's home without seeing the couple, I asked God to show me what we could do to resolve the stalemate.

In the morning when I woke, I knew that I needed to speak with the couple personally - not through the lawyer. I was quite afraid, so I asked my mother to accompany me and to sit in the car and pray while I spoke to them. When we arrived, an older man was loading items into a car. He was the woman's father. He told me that his daughter had recently left her husband and children to live with her lover in our house. The couple had no money to buy it. He begged me to end the unhappy situation. As he drove away, I felt strongly that it was time to bring the situation to a right conclusion. Reminding myself that God's presence was with me, I went to the side door. It was open. No one was home. The house was empty of furniture. I paused and affirmed that God was present. His wisdom was with me. God was guiding me. I would know the right thing to do.

I went in, called the solicitor, and told him what I'd found. As we were speaking, the man the daughter had been living with in our house came in. I handed the phone to him. After listening, he turned to me and said, "It's over. She's returned to her husband. I'll be gone in an hour. I'm sorry for the trouble we've caused you."

That day our house was restored to us. The estate agency agreed to financially compensate us for the mistakes their agent had made. And not many weeks later, our house was finally sold. This experience showed me that although human law may not always be able to help us, the higher, more powerful law of divine Love can and does. A wrong situation can be resolved, and fairness, honesty, and justice prevail.



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[Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures](#) by Mary Baker Eddy, is her textbook on Christian Science healing practice and her class textbook in teaching Christian Science healing.

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