Another friend, Reid Charlston, Director of Camp Owatonna, added more great insights into Mary Baker Eddy’s use of this “flood-tides of Love” analogy.

**Flood Tides of Love
*Written by Reid Charlston, Friend and Director of Camp Owatonna***

“In *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy says, “The way to extract error from mortal mind is to pour in truth through flood-tides of Love” (201:17). Many people who do not live near the ocean, and especially the northeastern coastline of the United States, are not very familiar with tides. As a long-time sea kayaker who has taken and led many trips along the Maine coast, I want to share a little more about these tides to help explain this metaphor a bit more.

“The tides on the ocean are caused by the gravitational pull of the moon as it orbits the earth. The tide changes every six hours and thirteen minutes from high to low and back, which means you can predict it accurately to the minute for every day into the future and back into the past. When the moon is on one side of the earth it both pulls the water on that side towards itself and it pulls the earth itself towards itself and away from the water on the other side of the earth. This means that high tide will always be experienced on the side of the earth the moon is on and the opposite side at the same time. Low tide will be on the other two sides, and the shift between the two causes the rising and falling of the tides.

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/earth/geophysics/tide-cause.htm>

“From what I have been told, this tidal pull affects every body of water on earth, even a glass of water on your desk, but it is only visible when there is a large amount of water moving over huge amount of space. Thus we really can only see the moon’s gravitational effect on the oceans, and nowhere is that effect more prominent than the coastline of the Atlantic ocean from New England up into Canada.

“So, what is a flood tide? When the tide is going out (being pulled to the other side of the earth) we call that an ebb tide. When all that water comes rushing back, we call it a flood tide. The greatest example of this tidal swing is in the Bay of Fundy in Canada where the tidal range is 56 feet between low and high tide. Go to these web addresses to see some great time lapses of the water coming in and out of the Bay of Fundy. One video I watched said that at least 100 billion tons of sea water comes in and out of the Bay of Fundy each day.

[https://youtu.be/\_x9nbW0HW8c](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001oTB97JN8C0Idg7InjnV2sVfoIPraN9fyr2sZ-DKwGs1qvPEFIQMgoRLVwDk6wa36egmULOPhZGFKRlSve3AYEeh2XVe1bZ0QCe3RY_o-AVS9ntiiIhvS99q8X4UZuZhy1MOTgD3R0mA_wKXvsZgbNg==&c=CKGQPh710-bJ1qoHQJTQlBh_FwAT_fS6L8_XGNWK0Hb4Ib6aa9jpqw==&ch=B7yMyLbkX_lIgvJVlvLT3v3J5P1Lmi2vfvyPvkCKTVVft1Jern-3KQ==) (great explanation of how tides work)
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3LtEF9WPt4](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001oTB97JN8C0Idg7InjnV2sVfoIPraN9fyr2sZ-DKwGs1qvPEFIQMgoRLVwDk6wa36bEcllIo6pQJavpdFbeWkC0Z2dAQzD29jAbrTxdWLUUCqwDH7AjKawUBclIZl8-Ji-E22UmngbvdfzyTQTc0gh6mw_hvH4UnDyPdlha6gxZgBpiIyV0VqXg==&c=CKGQPh710-bJ1qoHQJTQlBh_FwAT_fS6L8_XGNWK0Hb4Ib6aa9jpqw==&ch=B7yMyLbkX_lIgvJVlvLT3v3J5P1Lmi2vfvyPvkCKTVVft1Jern-3KQ==) (short time lapse)
[https://youtu.be/6Rl4-vJ8Unw](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001oTB97JN8C0Idg7InjnV2sVfoIPraN9fyr2sZ-DKwGs1qvPEFIQMgoRLVwDk6wa36s3kfayn-Uxldfoi2oTYyHe-E3kL0eYU-xOjFT0EeRwhjGU7VtEr_puZXdGuFTZR6vLNrmeacfSNnPW2SkEBudA==&c=CKGQPh710-bJ1qoHQJTQlBh_FwAT_fS6L8_XGNWK0Hb4Ib6aa9jpqw==&ch=B7yMyLbkX_lIgvJVlvLT3v3J5P1Lmi2vfvyPvkCKTVVft1Jern-3KQ==) (another great short one)
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OObk9ZPcGfo](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001oTB97JN8C0Idg7InjnV2sVfoIPraN9fyr2sZ-DKwGs1qvPEFIQMgoRLVwDk6wa36aqYn2Lm2la0EEs3uagsccZ24ztwQG3JXrVxWwnjHjuw1IpmkaS3zJRs5HgjOyyUc5z1lfTg7buqxxkPoeGMyxMWJ4Z-K5bPBkpe17jAFxhmQEQwI2BnMBA==&c=CKGQPh710-bJ1qoHQJTQlBh_FwAT_fS6L8_XGNWK0Hb4Ib6aa9jpqw==&ch=B7yMyLbkX_lIgvJVlvLT3v3J5P1Lmi2vfvyPvkCKTVVft1Jern-3KQ==) (longer video of the area with some great perspective of how much water comes in and out…

“While I’ve never heard that Mrs. Eddy got to experience the tides at the Bay of Fundy, she more than likely got to witness the shifting tides off the coast of her native state of New Hampshire, possibly too in Massachusetts and Maine, both places we know she visited. So, this concept of flooding and ebbing tides was a natural one for her to use as a metaphor in this sentence.

“As I have read this passage I have always been struck by just how much love she is implying we need to pour in to extract error. It is no trivial amount, but rather a surge of the absolute maximum amount of love that we can possibly give – an amount we know is unlimited as we can only express God’s love which is infinite.”
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