



# Focus

December 1990

Fern Lodge

Nursing  
Our  
Neighbors

## Out of Egypt have I called my son.

Matthew 2:15

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# Out of Egypt have I called my son.

It is interesting not only to ponder the call to Joseph and Mary to leave Egypt but to think about why they were sent there. Warned in a dream that Herod was a threat to Jesus' life, the young parents went by cover of night into Egypt.

What a place to send God's anointed — to Egypt with its necromancy, superstition and unenlightened thought. It's not unlike today when some find it strange, even frightening, that Christian Scientists are called to send their anointed thought into the darkness of the prison, the sickroom, and even the courtroom. Yet the Egyptian inability to recognize the enlightened thought gave that thought a measure of protection. Darkness wasn't an enemy to that family because it wasn't theirs. Their "darkness" was filled with the light of supreme intelligence directing, guarding and guiding their every step, and their obedience to God's message kindled that light.

This supreme, loving intelligence was not worried about the mental atmosphere "over there" in Egypt, not worried about moral or physical contamination. Nor was it afraid of darkness, as we parents may be when we worry about the moral contamination of a college campus or the physical contamination of a grade school's "contagious" disease, instead of supporting our children's enlightened, pure thinking.

How grateful I am for a glimpse into Mary Baker Eddy's "Let there be light, and there was light" in her wonderful hymn #30 in the *Christian Science Hymnal*, for seeing that the emphasis in that line belongs on the word *there*. Right there in that place calling itself darkness, or disease, or discouragement, or sickroom, or courtroom, right there is the light of truth.

And where is "over there" anyway, except our expanded awareness of here. Mrs. Eddy says in *Unity of Good*, p. 61, "Coming and going belong to mortal consciousness," so there is no "over there." Right there where the darkness appears to be is the here of truth's light, so we need not fear gross materialism, occultism, or unenlightened thought, in our homes, schools, courtrooms, or sickrooms, any more than Joseph and Mary did in Egypt.

When Joseph and Mary were called out of Egypt they did not return to Bethlehem. They went to Nazareth, the city of the Nazarites — a word which means "separated" and which refers to those who voluntarily consecrated themselves to the service of God. These individuals separated themselves from the values of their countrymen not through distance but through jurisdiction, just as Joseph and Mary separated themselves in Egypt.

It wasn't how far they were from Herod nor how close or similar they were to the Egyptians which saved them, it was how close they were to God. There is no evidence that they tried to fit into the Egyptian way of thinking to assume the Egyptian thought so as to be left alone or to fit in — not even for the "Sake of the Children."

Mrs. Eddy instructs, (*Science and Health*, p. 451) that Christian Scientists are under the apostolic command "to come out from the material world and be separate." Be separate — not aloof, not unloving, not lacking in compassion. Might she be telling us to separate ourselves from the error of personal thought and to be distinct in the Truth? Sometimes in our concern for being "One of the guys" we find ourselves as part of the erroneous thought with no distinct purity of thought, and at other times our aloofness can be too much separation from others. Our real separateness is in jurisdiction, not in distance.

Joseph and Mary took Jesus from Egypt to Galilee. The people of Galilee were relatively receptive. Organized sectarianism was not as great there as in Judah. In Galilee Jesus went about "teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness among the people." The Sermon on the Mount was delivered there; he fed the 5,000 there.



In Galilee Jesus prepared himself and his disciples for Jerusalem — for the great and inevitable struggle with the ecclesiastical despotism which was centered in the capital of the Jewish nation. The definition of Jerusalem in our textbook, p. 589, gives a clear picture of what Jesus faced there. "JERUSALEM. Mortal belief and knowledge obtained from the five corporeal senses; the pride of power and the power of pride; sensuality; envy; oppression; tyranny. Home, heaven."

While we speak of Egypt and Nazareth and other places we are aware that Jesus' real dwelling place was in his Christliness. "Jesus' true and conscious being never left heaven for earth," (*No and Yes*, p. 360). Heaven is remembered as the spiritual definition of Jerusalem — home, our true selfhood.

Jesus claimed his spiritual home in many ways. But only at the end of his earthly experience did he prove the true meaning of home, heaven in Jerusalem. He spent a long time in Galilee, in receptive, friendly territory you might say, before he tackled the despotism, the idolatry, the fanaticism of Jerusalem.

There is much to be said for learning the lessons of Galilee well. Many times I have tried to tackle Jerusalem when I haven't successfully mastered the lessons of Galilee. Then greatly humbled,

and returning to Galilee, I have licked my wounded pride, my arrogance and my self-centered thinking.

Frequently I have felt washed through the penitent tears of discouragement and failure as I have denied a personal sense of sin and pleaded God's allness as our Leader instructed us to do. In such moments I have felt the presence of the Comforter — the ministering, delivering, instructing Christliness which I have come to associate with my true selfhood. The light of our own Christliness penetrates right through the surface-seeming of mortal mind. I catch a glimpse of my heavenly home, and then I find that the challenges of Jerusalem are more easily tackled.

How wondrous the thought which calls itself nursing facility, nurse, even sickroom when it acts as a Galilee, when it safely shelters us, when it allows us to turn from worldly concepts and to seek Truth righteously. How welcoming the arms outstretched to receive us from our ill-timed attempts to storm Jerusalem. How fine the opportunity to be turned again to heavenly ways through the healing, regenerative effect of separating ourselves from false theology, medical beliefs and calendars!

How blessed the thought that is nursed and cared for, as it finds itself uncondemned. And how blessed is Mrs. Eddy's movement

when it is cherished and given birth in the hearts and lives of its individual members.

Surely this is nursing at its best. Let us resist the temptation to think that we are doing something to someone. We are joining together to have something done to us. We are called to see something more of God's lovely creating and to see it right "there" in the midst of a seeming problem.

Each one of us is being called to move out of the narrow quarters of limited growth, materialism, humanism, secularism, incomplete demonstrations, unhealed conditions. And how do we do that? Through answering the call to come not only out from but to the realization that we are called to be all we can be — what we already are as individuals, as a movement.

And who is being called? Everyone! The "son" is being called — the innocent, pure selfhood of each of us. We are being called to a separate, distinct awareness of our true selfhood. We are giving birth, you might say, to our own Christliness through the understanding of our sonship with the Father.

*Marjorie Dagnall, C.S.  
Aptos, California*



We asked for questions, and you responded. Here are some of the questions and answers from our Annual Meeting in September, just follow the dots.

*I have heard of confusion about the relationship between the Christian Science practitioner and Christian Science nurse on a case. Can you clarify this relationship?*

The subject of the nurse-practitioner relationship frequently arises in discussions about Christian Science nursing, but there is no confusion evident. Both practitioner and nurse are contacted by an individual to help in specific ways. The practitioner and nurse pray to God for guidance and perception, and then they act as they are led in prayer. The person who asks for help retains full responsibility for his or her care and has a specific relationship with both the practitioner and the nurse. The relationship between practitioner and the nurse on any case is their common responsibility to trust their Father-Mother God, to pray, to be Christian, and to expect to see God's care manifest in health, wholeness.

*Do our present nursing homes take children as patients? If they do and a child expired while there, could the nursing home be sued?*

Yes, children are welcome at Fern Lodge and other nursing facilities for Christian Scientists. Working with children is a joy! Our Master said, "suffer little children, ... to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Their trust in good and receptivity to truth make a nurse's work buoyant with hope, and quick healing is frequently evident. Because of parents' legal responsibility and concern in our society for the welfare of children, facilities generally require at least one parent to accompany a child at the facility.

We obey the laws of the State that pertain to our work as Christian Science nurses, but we realize that in the practice of our religion we are protected by God, not by laws of human government. When we pray for guidance and understanding, and then act as led by prayer, we trust that we are doing the nearest right in any case. Our motive in nursing cannot be to avoid being sued. We are encouraged by the Bible story in Daniel, chapter 6. Daniel knew that prayer to God was grounds for punishment, yet he prayed. He trusted God to care for him. We rejoice with Daniel, who said, "My God hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt."

*What can you say about the relationship between the facilities, such as Fern Lodge, and The Mother Church, based on the new Accreditation Standards?*

The Mother Church continues to recognize facilities that provide Christian Science nursing care. If you have questions about accreditation, we encourage you to call Fern Lodge, Arden Wood, or another accredited facility, or contact the Nursing Activities Department at The Mother Church.

*Are there employment opportunities generally available for nurse aides in Christian Science facilities?*

Yes, if you wish to know about serving as a nurse aide, please call Fern Lodge to learn the opportunities and requirements. Nursing qualities are natural to each of God's children, and we welcome Christian Scientists who want to show their care for others. Nurse aide work is a rewarding experience and may be a step toward further preparation for those who plan to represent themselves as Christian Science nurses. Fern Lodge also offers on-job-training opportunities in cooperation with the Christian Science Nurses Training Program.



*You speak of facility staff members nursing in people's homes. How do you work with the visiting nurse services in the area?*

Christian Science nurses work together in every way possible. The goal of each nursing organization is to assist those who ask for help to locate the aid that best meets their needs. So no matter where the initial call is made—to Fern Lodge or to a Visiting Nurse Service—we will work with the caller to find the best way to proceed.

When a call for nursing comes to Fern Lodge, we will help the individual find ways for the needed care to be given in the person's own home, by family, friends or nurses in the community. We may refer the person to a visiting nurse, whose knowledge of local resources will be helpful. If admission to the facility seems to be in the best interest of the caller, we may ask if a visiting nurse can come to the home first to help assess nursing needs.

Visiting nurses may recommend a call to Fern Lodge to help individuals locate nurses who will come to a person's home. They may also purchase supplies or borrow nursing equipment from the facility for use in home care.

*Can I come to live at Fern Lodge?*

No, Fern Lodge is a nursing facility, not a residence. Christian Science nursing is temporary assistance given for those who are relying on Christian Science treatment for healing, with an expectation of return to more independent living. If an individual would be benefited by sheltered living arrangements, perhaps with meals and housekeeping services, there are other facilities and homes available to help. The need for Christian Science nursing in our community is such that we cannot offer our rooms as residences and still be available for those whose care requires the aid of a Christian Science nurse.

Our policy is in accord with the Accreditation Standards from The Mother Church which state, "...the primary mission of the facility is to provide a place where individuals come to commune with God while receiving temporary aid and assistance consistent with the theology of Christian Science." Insistence on the temporary nature of nursing care does not mean that we impose time limits on an individual's stay at Fern Lodge. We will offer nursing for as long as it is needed, if the person receiving care is relying on God for healing and expecting, to the best of his or her ability, to be free to leave the facility to a more independent living situation.

*The Manual by-law makes provision for the Christian Science nurse, but doesn't mention nursing facilities. Why are there facilities?*

Caring for each other is characteristic of Christians everywhere. It is important for Christian Scientists to nurse, because our care is a natural and necessary expression of God's care for His children. And those who are relying wholeheartedly on God for healing deserve the benefit of being nursed by others who understand and encourage healing prayer. The fact that the *Manual* doesn't mention facilities does not imply that Mrs. Eddy did not approve of them. Our Leader's by-law establishes standards that are sufficient to protect the purity and practicality of Christian Science nursing where ever care is given.

Nursing facilities serve their communities. A facility may be organized when Christian Scientists see a need for a refuge where people can temporarily get away from the responsibilities of maintaining a home, or from a home atmosphere that does not support their prayer for healing. A facility may also help by providing nursing for more individuals that can be served at home by the Christian Science nurses available in a region. It is important to remember that facilities are built by groups of people to meet perceived needs, and when the needs change, the focus of or



the need for the facility may change, too. But "...eternity awaits our Church Manual," and the standards it provides for Christian Science nurses do not change whether or not we see a present need to maintain facilities where nursing is available.

*We have heard today about the abundant expression of God's qualities that constitutes Christian Science nursing. Why is this abundance of good accompanied by a chronic lack of funds?*

Each day we give thanks for the grace of God that enables us to serve in the healing mission of Christian Science nursing. As we work we may be tempted to be discouraged because of many arguments presented to us. Perhaps there aren't enough nurses on duty today; we need more rooms to provide for those on our waiting list; there just isn't time to do all we would like to do for each patient; too many patients cannot afford to pay the cost of care, so Fern Lodge is always short of funds. What are these arguments, where do they come from? They come with a material, mortal sense of man and of care. They accompany the belief that we are giving physical care, and relying on limited resources of people, time and substance to meet constantly growing needs.

Christian Science nursing is an expression of God's care, a manifestation of the Motherhood of God in the lives of those who care for others. This tender cherishing is not physical in nature, it does not require a specific time or a particular place. Furthermore, it is valuable beyond price.

At Fern Lodge the cost of providing nursing is about \$3,700 per patient per month. This cost is reasonable when compared with other facilities for Christian Scientists. Our charges average \$3,800 per month, so if everyone who came to us could pay our rates we would not seek donations to support Christian Science nursing here.

About 70% of the Christian Scientists who apply to Fern Lodge cannot afford to pay the cost of nursing. Who should help them? Whose responsibility is it to care? Is benevolence a facility responsibility? If so, how should the facility do it, through inflated rates to government programs, insurance companies, and those individuals who can pay?

Inflated rates to individuals who can pay is not a fair way to finance benevolence. Many government-funded and insurance programs have requirements which are in conflict with the theology of Christian Science, and they usually cover only a portion of the cost of nursing.

The individual redeems the collective, not the other way around. Benevolence is an individual's responsibility, not an institution's. An institution can give benevolent care only when individuals play their part. Individuals who need aid to pay the cost of nursing are to be helped, individuals must help them.

Do Christian Scientists understand the contribution made by nursing to our Church? If they did there would be no question about where the resources would come from to provide for our care for one another. Each of us must nurture, protect, and provide for the manifestation of nursing qualities in our lives and in our Church. Then we will offer of our abundance to care for those who seem to be in need. We are thankful for every gift in support of Christian Science nursing. Please remember that there are deserving individuals at Fern Lodge who seek your help to pay the continuing cost of the care they receive.

The Bible story of the Children of Israel in the wilderness is a constant comfort to us. We, like they, take the manna of today, giving gratitude for the grace and goodness of God and His complete provision for His creation. And as long as we see the means for doing good, we will continue to offer loving care for those who need nursing while they pray to their Father-Mother for healing.



Dear Friends,

Come, let Connie Stricklin walk you through the first three chapters of Genesis, the cosmic order of Genesis I versus the Hebrew family history of Genesis II & III.

Last year she gave us "A Day with the Beloved Disciple, John" which was much appreciated. This year's subject is "Creation: God's Doing & Man's Undoing."

We believe tickets to this event would make thoughtful gifts for some of the people on your Christmas list.

Yes, parking prices are steep. If you choose not to come by public transportation, a car pool could share the expense of a garage. A map with a list of garages is on the back of this page.

So, please circle this date on your 1991 calendar, and keep the registration form handy as you work up a group to attend. We would appreciate receiving your reservations before January 10, 1991.

This day will be a rare treat as we learn to appreciate the creation stories as never before. Don't forget to bring your Bible!

Many Thanks,

Elizabeth S. Dempsey,  
Chairperson  
Fern Lodge  
Development Committee

# CREATION:

## God's Doing & Man's Undoing

When: Saturday, January 19, 1991

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration 8:30 a.m.

Where: Marines' Memorial Club, Crystal Ballroom  
609 Sutter Street at Mason Street  
San Francisco, CA

Guide: Constance Stricklin graduated with highest honors from Wellesley College, majoring in biblical studies. She has lectured on the Bible for over 25 years including the last six summers at the California Bible Seminars at Asilomar. She serves regularly as a consultant at the Bible Exhibit for The Mother Church in Boston, and as a featured speaker on the short wave *Herald* programs.

Fee: \$45.00 (this includes lunch in the Commandant's Room)  
Proceeds from this day will go to the Fern Lodge *Fund for Care*. Partial scholarships are available.

For more information call: Fern Lodge at (415) 886-2448

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Registration for: CREATION: God's Doing & Man's Undoing

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, ST Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets. If more than one, please write the names and addresses of the individuals you will be giving the tickets to on the back of this registration form.

\_\_\_\_\_ I cannot attend. Please use this check to help defray the expenses of the day or provide a scholarship.

Cut and mail this form before January 7, 1991 with your check payable to: "Fern Lodge *Fund for Care*"  
Fern Lodge • 18457 Madison Avenue • Castro Valley, CA 94546



Marines' Memorial Club  
609 Sutter Street

>> Geary  
<< Post  
>> Sutter  
<< Bush  
>> Pine  
California

<< Gough  
>> Franklin  
Van Ness

>> Taylor  
<< Mason  
Powell

Market

BART  
Powell Street

By BART:  
Exit at Powell Street station.  
Walk up Powell or take the Cable Car  
(\$2.00 or .75 for seniors) to Sutter Street.  
Turn left and go one block on Sutter Street.  
Marines' Memorial is on the left across Mason Street.

## San Francisco parking garages in the area of the Marine's Memorial

### Where

Cosmos Alley off Taylor  
between Post & Sutter  
260 O'Farrell Street

O'Farrell & Mason

750 Bush Street  
660 Sutter Street  
611 Sutter Street  
520 Mason Street  
Mason Street  
Ellis & O'Farrell  
Stockton & Sutter  
571 Post Street  
531 Taylor  
Union Square  
550 Powell Street

### Who

Cable Car  
next to Trader Vic's  
Handlery Union Square

Downtown Center Garage

City Park  
Public Parking  
Olympic Sutter  
System Parking  
Hertz  
Ellis & O'Farrell Garage  
Stockton & Sutter Garage  
Metro Park  
Metro Park  
Union Square Garage  
Holiday Inn Union Square

### Price

\$6.50 for the day  
\$8.00 Early Bird Special  
in before 9:00 a.m.  
\$8.50 Early Bird Special  
in before 10:00 a.m.  
\$9.00 for 12 hours  
\$10.50 for 10 hours  
\$12.00 for 9 hours  
\$12.00 for the day  
\$12.00 for 15 hours  
\$13.50 max for 7 hours +  
\$13.50 max for 6 hours +  
\$14.00 for the day  
\$14.00 for the day  
\$14.00 max  
\$18.00 for the day



*Nursing Our Neighbors* is the title of the new Fern Lodge nursing video. We shared it at our September Annual Meeting, and now it is available for loan to individuals and groups. Recently we mailed copies of the 13 minute program to branch churches of Christ, Scientist in northern California. We hope it will be shown to church members, so if you are interested contact your church or Fern Lodge.

Fern Lodge Focus  
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