

Into us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the govern-
ment shall be upon his shoulder: . . . Of the increase of his
government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne
of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with
judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.

Isaiah

Ie that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also;
and greater works than these shall he do; because I go
unto my Father. . . . If ye love me, keep my command-
ments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another
Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.

Christ Jesus

God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall
be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall
there be any more pain: for the former things are passed
away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things
new. . . . I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of
life freely.

John, in Revelation

Fern Lodge Focus

December 1992

The Progress of Biblical Prophecy

A series of benefit talks by Connie StricklinPage 2

Like as a mother, God comforteth His children

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The Progress of Biblical Prophecy



Join Connie Stricklin for a weekend of exploration into the flowering of biblical prophecy.

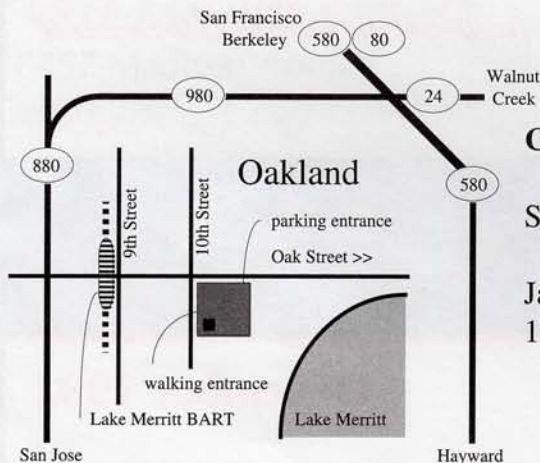
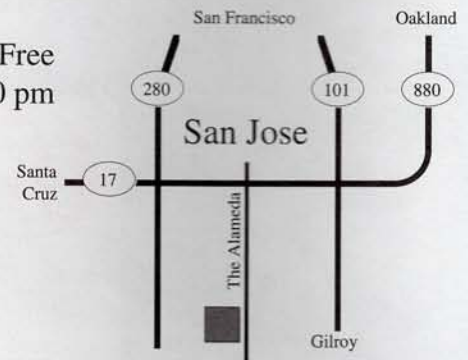
We will start our benefit series with an evening with the Isaiahs, follow with a day with Jesus Christ and his Sermon on the Mount, and conclude with an afternoon with John and the Revelation.

Come follow these prophets, search out their deeper meanings, and discover something previously unrecognized.

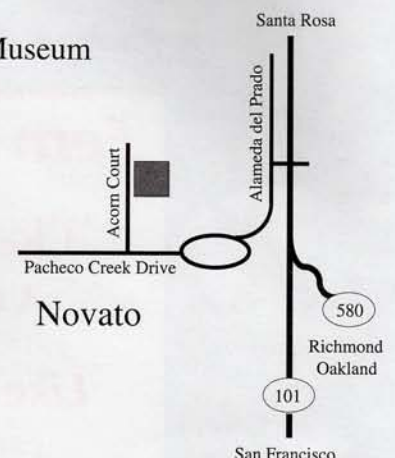
Connie Stricklin will be giving these three talks, including time for your toughest questions. Mrs. Stricklin has an authoritative command of the Bible and takes great joy in applying the examples in the Bible to today's challenges. Mrs. Stricklin graduated with highest honors in biblical studies from Wellesley College. She is currently a consultant at the Bible Exhibit for The Mother Church in Boston and is a featured contributor to the written and broadcast periodicals. Take the opportunity to enjoy her inspiration, enthusiasm, and commitment to the Bible. Send in your reservation (on page seven) by January 18, 1993 and bring your Bibles.

The Prophecy Of The Three Isaiahs Free
Friday, January 22, 1993 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

First Church of Christ, Scientist
1807 The Alameda, San Jose



Christ Jesus And His Sermon On The Mount \$30
generous box lunch \$7
Saturday, January 23, 1993 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
indoor parking available
James Moore Theater, Oakland Museum
1000 Oak Street, Oakland



The Revelation Of John \$20
Sunday, January 24, 1993 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Don & Carrie Krieger's
7 Acorn Court, Novato

Like as a mother God comforteth His children

These are excerpts from the address given by Nola A. Cook, C.S.B. for the Fern Lodge annual meeting, September 27, 1992.

What a joy to be with you today to consider together the topic of the Motherhood of God. When I think of God as “Mother” my thought turns to an incident that Irving Tomlinson related in his book, *Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy*. Many of you know this story well.

In 1897 Mrs. Eddy invited her followers to visit her on Independence Day at her home in Pleasant View, Concord, New Hampshire. Mr. Tomlinson tells the story of a mother, Jessie Cooper, who journeyed by train from Kansas City to Pleasant View taking along her two small children. As Mrs. Cooper was preparing to leave she realized that her small daughter, seven years old, had a very sore spot on her head. The whole thing was a trying ordeal, and it was only through showers of tears that the dear little one was finally made ready to go.

After the speaking was over at Pleasant View Mrs. Eddy sat upon the porch and greeted the people as they passed through. The mother was preceded by her two children — a little boy of nine and the little girl of seven. The mother’s poignant account of this very precious experience includes these words,

I wish I could make the world know what I saw when Mrs. Eddy looked at those children. It was a revelation to me. I saw for the first time the real Mother-Love, and I knew that I did not have it.

As I turned in the procession and walked toward the line of trees in the front of the yard, there was a bird sitting on the limb of a tree, and I saw the same love, poured out on that bird that I had seen flow from Mrs. Eddy to my children. ... This love was everywhere, like the light, but it was divine, not mere human affection.

When we got back to the hotel, there was no boil on my child’s head. ... For weeks it had a strange effect on me. I could not bear to hear anyone speak in a cross, ill-tempered tone, or do anything that would cause pain ...

Each time I saw Mrs. Eddy I had a wonderful revelation of God.¹

What a wonderful glimpse into the heart of Mother love this story gives us. I have often felt that had I been there and witnessed the incredible power and presence of this Mother love, I’m sure I would have felt deeply humbled in the realization that I did not have it. But oh, I could tell you this, I would be determined to stay with my prayers, to stay with my desire for growth in grace and in understanding, to the point where someday I might have it to that degree.

I remember so well the practitioner who worked with me in my early experience as a new student of Christian Science. I never hung up the phone or left her office after talking with her without having such a feeling that I was one of the best Christian Scientists she ever knew. She always made me feel that I had a wonderful spiritual sense, and that I could do whatever I needed to do.

It took me years before I realized that every-one who left her office felt that way. How helpful it was to me (even though I was not aware of it) to have someone nursing, or nurturing, my spiritual proclivities. There is no question in my mind that my progress related directly to the expectation, the hope, the promise, that she instilled in me because of her ability to see me in a higher light than I was seeing myself.

This to me is the primary demand on each of us, whether we are in the nursing profession or simply practicing Christian Scientists trying to the best of our ability to follow Jesus’ example as

Like as a mother

Mrs. Eddy expressed it: *Jesus, ... threw upon mortals the truer reflection of God and lifted their lives higher than their poor thought-models would allow; thoughts which presented man as fallen, sick, sinning, and dying.*² Each of us has our role to play in nursing this higher selfhood in ourselves and in others.

When one has chosen as a life work this holy purpose of care-giving, how does this mother-love relate to our nursing skills? I am reminded of my experience as a young mother. I have five children and at one time in addition to the five children I had two elderly relatives, an aunt and a father-in-law, who lived with us. And they, too, needed a lot of mothering. Now it seems that the mother and nurse both are often involved in a lot of menial care. Constant demands are made upon us to do the homey, practical care activities.

I don't know if any of you have had the experience that I had, but I remember reading the Martha and Mary story as told in Luke and feeling very discomforted. I didn't really like the story at all for I rather quickly identified with Martha. It was very troubling, because I felt that had Jesus been a guest in my home I would have been the one in the kitchen making sandwiches. And I felt Jesus' rebuke to Martha seemed harsh and unfeeling.

But I realized I couldn't take this story out of the Bible, so I had to work this through. I prayed a lot about this, because I really wanted to be more Mary than Martha, and yet I felt this constant sense of heavy responsibility. And I am sure that in our nurturing and nursing activities we may have a similar feeling.

I began to learn that the more we each recognize the Mary-thought behind each Martha task, the more mother-love will permeate everything we do. And we will find the mother-wisdom being supplied right there, even when we are not quite sure what our next step should be.

When we are not quite sure the best procedure in a certain situation, keeping the Mary thought for every Martha task helps us so much, and if we keep the mother-love behind our actions, we will optimize in every way the help we will receive.

Oh, I know sometimes there can be such a strong temptation to doubt one's ability to express mother-wisdom, mother-intuition. Sometimes we can be overwhelmed with a sense of false responsibility. Every mother has felt this. One of the biggest challenges with a sick child is the feeling of responsibility. "If something happens to this child, will I be held responsible by my friends, by my family, by the state?" And we feel frightened when that kind of question comes into thought.

It has helped so much over the years to remind myself whenever I feel burdened with this false sense of responsibility, either as a mother or as a practitioner, to remind myself that my only responsibility is to "respond" to "God's ability."

We need to remind ourselves constantly that it is the Father-Mother Love that is expressed in us, not our own human sense of love which can be so woefully inadequate. We may be tempted to feel so limited in our capabilities if we think that we are the source of that love.

But we are not the source of love. It is this Father-Mother love that Jesus taught us over and over; it is that love that Jesus tried to explain to us by saying, *If your child asks for bread will you give him a stone?*³ And won't the Father who already knows your need, provide for your needs?

Now this is just as true in our nursing activity as in our human family activity. When our motives are pure, when we are really working to express God's love, The Father-Mother love that always knows our need, we can trust this Love, this wisdom, this intelligence, to reveal to us what we need to know to enable us to respond to the ability of God to meet the human need. And we

God comforteth His children

can be there surrounded by legions of angels, God's messages to us, telling us what we need to do and what we need to be thinking.

If behind every Martha activity we establish the Mary thought, we'll find the intuition and the inspiration that is needed always at hand. The caretaker does not nurse sickness, or age, or bodies, or birth, or death. He nurses into acceptance the right spiritual ideas behind the human activity — feeding, washing, resting, etc.

For example, the Mary thought behind feeding is that of being fed by "love divine" from Mrs. Eddy's poem, *Love*. That is the only nutriment we ever need — Love divine.

What is the Mary thought that will support the Martha activity of washing? I can't help but think of Mrs. Eddy's lovely thought of cleansing and purifying in her hymn where she encourages every one of us to *come to this fountain, cleanse the foul senses within*. Isn't this always what needs to be cleansed? Our thought needs to be taken to the very feet of the Christ, the very foot of the cross, and laid down at the altar and washed clean. *T'is the Spirit that makes pure, that exalts thee, and will cure all thy sorrow and sickness and sin.*⁴

We can, with great mother-love, take our thoughts to the Christ and know that as we are helping our dear patients in their cleansing, it is really the Spirit working. As we hold to that, we can find our patients being washed clean of all kinds of things that the eye doesn't see.

And as we tuck in each patient at night, the Mary thought is again not centered around a patient needing physical rest, but centered around that thought of peace, that thought of serenity, that thought of at-one-ment, that brings freedom from all fear, the freedom from every "night" belief of doubt, or darkness, or fear. We know, as we tuck them in, that "there is no night there." There is no

darkness in the kingdom of heaven, and that is where our patient rests — in the consciousness of Love.

We've talked about the role of mother-love with the nursing activity, but surely we realize this applies to each one of us. I've been asked to address how this applies to Care Committees. What is the role of the members of the Care Committee? How does this mother-love apply? Well, I think the ideal concept of a Care Committee would be (are you ready for this?) a church that had no official Care Committee, but where every member of the church saw himself or herself as a responsible member of the Care Committee.

If a member of our church has no friends, we should see to it that that doesn't continue and set out to make him our new friend. The point is that if there is a need and we are made aware of that need, each of us should respond in our own way as a care-giver without having to go through a board of trustees, or anything else.

I feel it is ideal if every member of the church takes it upon himself to be aware of his brother's need. If somebody hasn't been in church for two or three weeks, there is nothing wrong with a friend calling and saying, "How are things? We've missed you. Is there anything we can do to be helpful?" We don't have to ask, "Do you have a problem?" or "Are you sick?" But we can ask, "Can we help? Do you need a ride? Do you need anything?"

It seems the primary problem we often encounter in regard to the activities of a Care Committee has to do with the ethics of Christian Science. For instance, it is very, very important that we honor the aspect of confidentiality.

And consider that Mrs. Eddy has very few rules, but there is one that she states very plainly. She tells us that, *It is a rule in Christian Science*

Like as a mother ...

never to repeat the error unless it becomes requisite to bring out the Truth.⁵ Of course when one is asking for help with a Christian Science practitioner, or is talking with their Christian Science nurse, or asking a family member for help, they may well repeat *the truth concerning the lie*.⁶ But each one needs to be assured that the individual to whom they are speaking is seeing the problem as the truth about the *lie*, and not the truth about him.

Mrs. Eddy told us what prevents us from receiving help when she tells us it is an *unnatural reluctance*⁷ to call for help. There is another aspect to the subject of care-giving, and it is one that we are all thinking more deeply about. I am speaking of the response of the one who is in need. Sometimes it is very important for us to practice the humility and the grace that enable us to ask for help and graciously accept it when it is needed. One can do this, knowing that as they have their healing there will be an opportunity, someday and maybe very soon, to do the same for someone else.

There have been many individuals who have done such wonderful kindnesses to me, and there was no opportunity to ever return that favor to them. But I have taken the opportunity on many occasions to do the same for others, recognizing that maybe that individual won't have the opportunity to repay me, but knowing they, too, will go forward and have the opportunity to pass that gesture of love, and kindness, and caring on to someone else who is needy. This really fulfills Mrs. Eddy's vision of *the rich in spirit help(ing) the poor in one grand brotherhood*.⁸

Jesus came announcing a God who was a God of Love — a love like that of a parent. This is the concept that Jesus taught so clearly and so fully. And over and over he gave examples in his teaching using this symbol of God as a heavenly, loving, providing Father. His followers, trying very hard to understand his teachings at one point, said *show us the Father*. And Jesus gave an

incredible response, saying essentially, *If ye have seen me, ye have seen the Father*.⁹ Many, many times I've prayed for growth in the understanding of Jesus' teachings, thinking, wouldn't it be wonderful if someday I could say to others, "If ye have seen me, ye have seen the Father"?

I opened our discussion today with an example whereby Mrs. Eddy vividly demonstrated God as Mother, completing the picture of the one divine Parent, the Father-Mother God; introducing the gentleness and the nurturing and the nourishing, the intuitive love, that healing love which is the mother love. And truly Mrs. Cooper could have said after that awe inspiring experience on July 4th that when she saw Mrs. Eddy "she had seen the mother."

Wouldn't it be a wonderful goal for each of us, whether we are nurses administrators, practitioners, volunteers, church members, — each of us as image and likeness — to so live day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment, a little better the teachings of Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy in our care-giving — in our comforting *like as a mother* — towards that day when we could say, "if you have seen me, you have seen the Father-Mother love."

- 1 *Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy*, pages 60-62
- 2 *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, 259:6-11
- 3 Luke 10:38-42
- 4 Matthew 7:9
- 5 *Miscellaneous Writings*, 346:24-25
- 6 *Science and Health*, 448:9 (only)
- 7 *Science and Health*, 420:4-9
- 8 *Science and Health*, 518:15-16
- 9 John 14:9

Benevolence Seminar Report

On September 28 and 29 a group met in San Francisco to discuss benevolence. Included were representatives from Christian Science nursing facilities and visiting nurse services throughout California; Christian Science nurses, practitioners and teachers; the Committee on Publication for northern California; members of the Northern California Principle Foundation, and the executive director of The Principle Foundation.

We considered four main topics, with a meta-physical talk to set the tone for each discussion. The topics for the talks were the following:

*... And on Thy care depend
Assurance not insurance
The divine standard demands action!
Is anything too expensive for the Lord?*

Each session was lively and inspiring. Participants shared freely their perceptions of the need and means for benevolence in its broader sense of "good will" and also in its specific expression as financial assistance.

The dedication of each participant made our time together fruitful. There was a genuine feeling of unity based on each individual's prior prayer and consideration of the questions at hand. We met to share ideas about philanthropy, and our expectations were more than fulfilled.

We agreed that Christian Science nursing should be free from constraints of government funding programs — Medicare and Medi-Cal. We shared the recognition that health insurance is based more on fear of an unknown future than on trust in God's care for His children. We felt we would benefit many in our communities if Christian Scientists provide broader means for offering individuals the opportunity to give in support of their fellows and in the spirit of Christian charity.

At the close of the seminar we resolved to continue this process. We now are working with the Northern California Principle Foundation on a proposal for broad based benevolence available to all, no matter where their care needs are met. We will keep you informed of continuing progress.

Registration for: **The Progress of Biblical Prophecy**

	Quantity	Total
The Prophecy Of The Three Isaiahs • 1/22/93 • San Jose	No Charge	\$ 0.00
Christ Jesus And His Sermon On The Mount • 1/23/93 • Oakland	\$30	
generous box lunch.....	\$7	
The Revelation Of John • 1/24/92 • Novato	\$20	
Grand Total		\$

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ City, St Zip _____

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ City, St Zip _____

Clip off and mail this form by January 18 with your check payable to: "Fern Lodge Fund for Care"

If you have any questions call Valerie Hickam, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Mon-Fri, at Fern Lodge.

☐ I cannot attend. Please use this check to help defray expenses or give a scholarship.

The promises will be fulfilled

The text above is one of the many prophecies found in the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy. The passage it is taken from reads:

The promises will be fulfilled. The time for the reappearing of the divine healing is throughout all time; and whosoever layeth his earthly all on the altar of divine Science, drinketh of Christ's cup now, and is endued with the spirit and power of Christian healing.

In the words of St. John: "He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever." This Comforter I understand to be Divine Science, Science and Health 55:21-29.

We rejoice in the healing we are privileged to witness at Fern Lodge, not only because of the comfort it affords each individual, but also because such healing gives evidence of prophecy fulfilled. The Comforter promised by Christ Jesus is come, with blessing for all mankind.

In recent months patients who have come to Fern Lodge have been healed through prayer of a variety of conditions. These have included: immobility, inability to retain food, hearing loss, internal disorder, effects of accident, severe wounds, open sores, and inflammation. In addition we are grateful for instances of normal mental and physical control restored, with individuals returning to their own homes, healed. We thank God.

Fern Lodge Focus

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