

REMBRANT - THE GOOD SAMARITAN

**WE LOVE BECAUSE HE LOVED US FIRST.**

NEW ENGLISH BIBLE, 1 JOHN 4:19

## **FERN LODGE FOCUS - SEPTEMBER 1993**

FERN LODGE ANNUAL MEETING — OCTOBER 24TH, 2:00 PM .....	2
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT .....	2
RECEIVING AND GIVING — SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN ACTION .....	3
VOLUNTEERING — ITS SOURCE AND INSPIRATION .....	6
RECEIVING AND GIVING — THE VOLUNTEER'S POINT OF VIEW .....	7
IN THE SPIRIT OF RECEIVING AND GIVING, WHAT IF...? .....	8



## FERN LODGE ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, October 24th, 2:00 p.m.


### THE DOVE'S DRY LAND

by

Barbara Cook, C.S.

a frequent contributor to the  
*Christian Science Journal and Sentinel*

at First Church of Christ, Scientist  
1814 B Street, Hayward

check the pullout invitation for map and preparation readings 

---

## FROM THE FERN LODGE DIRECTORS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT.

The Fern Lodge Board of Directors would like to acknowledge the gratifying response to our June 1993 letter requesting metaphysical and financial aid for Fern Lodge. In June we received a bequest of \$62,400, and monthly cash donations were as follows:

June	\$ 8,335
July	27,664
August	18,124

These contributions are meeting current needs, and we are grateful for this loving, unselfish support. Because of the charitable policy of Fern

Lodge, up to \$35,000 per month is needed from contributions, bequests, and other sources to maintain this Christian care. There are still outstanding personal loans which should be paid back as soon as possible, so your continued assistance will be deeply appreciated.

Thank you all for demonstrating Mary Baker Eddy's promise: *The rich in spirit help the poor in one grand brotherhood, all having the same Principle or Father; and blessed is that man who seeth his brother's need and supplieth it, seeking his own in another's good,* Science and Health 518:15.



Most people love to give. They would much rather be able to give to others than be in need of receiving from them, and because of this they feel worthwhile when they can give but may be embarrassed or feel inadequate if they are in need of help. And although many individuals are generous in their benevolent giving, many others feel they cannot give because they have insufficient resources. What is the remedy for this sense of inequity associated with benevolence?

In Science we see that our relationship to God is one of receiving and giving back what we receive. We receive from our Father-Mother God because that is the demand of reflection, where every quality of the original is given to its image. God, Soul gives spiritual qualities without measure. Soul's faithful representative, man, receives these qualities, and each individual gives by expressing them in reflection. Receiving and giving are coincident and immediate in reflection. Belief in any distinction which implies that they can be separate, in time or space, leads to incorrect conclusions and eventually results in the human experiences of lack or excess.

To understand giving and receiving it will help us to see more clearly the nature of supply and demand. In human experience we may be tempted to think of supply as that which is capable of meeting demands, and of demand as that which awaits the supply to meet it. Supply and demand then appear to be independent of each other, and we may be concerned that a demand could appear for which there will be no supply.

## Evidence of spiritual supply

The experiences of the prophet Elijah illustrate demand and supply and show the ability to give which recognition of their coincidence confers on man. During a long drought God sent Elijah to Zarephath, to a widow woman who was to care for him. This woman was about to prepare a final meal for herself and her son, using the last of the food she had. Because of the drought she saw no way of

getting more, and she was without hope. Here the prophet came and asked for a portion of her food for himself. The woman protested briefly, telling Elijah of her plight. He reassured her, saying *Fear not*, and he gently insisted with a promise that her needs would be met.

Elijah had God's assurance that He would care for this woman who in turn would cherish and sustain His prophet. The widow heard the assurance she was given, *And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah*. Her willingness to put the needs of another before those of her own family then bore the fruits promised by the prophet; *The barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah*.<sup>1</sup> Elijah's understanding of the nature of supply and demand was demonstrated.

This story is of special interest to us at Fern Lodge because of the example it gives of Christian Science nursing. In his time of need Elijah came to the woman and asked for help. She responded from her trust in God, not from her assessment of her human ability, or rather inability, to do what was asked of her. This is a touching example of unselfish nourishing, or nursing care, and for that alone it would be an inspiration to us. But we also consider the story in the light of Mary Baker Eddy's revelation of what Elijah, or Elias, represents.

*ELIAS. Prophecy; spiritual evidence opposed to material sense; Christian Science, with which can be discerned the spiritual fact of whatever the material senses behold; the basis of immortality.*<sup>2</sup>

The widow of Zarephath was asked by the prophet, who represents Christian Science, to give up what she thought was her supply, a significant portion of the last of what she had to sustain herself and her son, in exchange for the promise of a dependable, spiritual supply according to Science, the law of God. When she responded to the prophet's plea God's law was made manifest to her, and in it she saw her needs met in the way she was



# RECEIVING AND giving ...

accustomed to. The oil and meal continued to be oil and meal, but they had lost the limitations imposed by a material sense of them, so they were not depleted by use. Isn't this a clue telling us how to judge whether we are thinking of the nursing care we give as material or spiritual?

## NURSING ENRICHES THOSE WHO GIVE

If what we give depletes us, if caring for others leaves us care-worn, tired or short-tempered, we are not aware of the spiritual nature of supply. Giving material resources or physical aid always seems to leave the giver with less than he or she started with — giving money makes us less rich, giving physical labor makes us less refreshed, less strong. On the other hand, we can acknowledge that we receive all from God and that we give by reflecting His spiritual resources. This makes Soul's infinite supply more apparent, and more available, to us. Giving love makes us capable of being more loving; sharing understanding increases our understanding.

Whatever the request, a Christian Science nurse needs to respond in a way that affirms his or her reliance on God's spiritual law, Christian Science, *with which can be discerned the spiritual fact of whatever the material senses behold*. What if someone comes to a Christian Science nurse seeking assistance with standing or walking? The nurse can deny the suggestion that the individual is limited by a material condition which prevents movement, and turn to God to see man in His image, always capable of manifesting the unlabored motion of Spirit. Then the nurse will not be tempted to rely on physical strength, hoping to lift the weight of a material body in order to assist another to move. This would be working from a standpoint of depletion, a belief that the nurse has a limited amount of strength to do the tasks at hand.

The nurse can pray to discern the practical application of the message of Elias, telling him or her of the infinite spiritual resources right at hand to sustain man and enable him to perform his

duties. According to the lesson of the widow of Zarephath, the nurse can expect to see God's provision in a way he or she can easily understand, in the wisdom and strength to provide safe and sure assistance and in the realization that every one of God's children lives and moves at God's direction and under His protection and power.

## THE MASTER'S BENEVOLENT EXAMPLE

The life of Christ Jesus offers abundant evidence that spiritual supply meets human needs. We can apply what we learn from his example to our Christian Science nursing and other benevolent activities. Once he and Peter were asked to pay a temple tax.<sup>3</sup> Jesus used this opportunity to teach a lesson on how divinity embraces humanity, showing the distinction between man as the loved child of God and the human sense of existence. First Jesus made it clear that the demands of human custom and law are not legitimate demands on the spiritual children of God. He then showed the requirements of Christianity by agreeing to pay the tax to avoid a misunderstanding that might turn others away from God, and the Master's fulfillment of the demands of Christianity supplied what was needed. Jesus sent Peter fishing, and Jesus' understanding of the constant ever-presence of God's supply for His children was seen as a coin in a fish's mouth. Jesus provided for himself and gave benevolent assistance to meet his brother's need, too.

Remember the touching story of the Master washing his disciple's feet.<sup>4</sup> In this humble act of service Jesus showed how to put into practice the Principle which enabled him to feed more than 5,000 people with what appeared to be very meager supplies. When Peter refused to let himself be washed Jesus told him that willingness to be served is as vital to Christian fellowship as willingness to serve. This simple, heart-warming story indicates the equivalence, or coincidence, of receiving and giving, and shows the operation of divine Principle, Love, in daily life.



God's supply and demand always come together — the demand supplies and the supply demands, as our Leader indicates in these assurances from our textbook, *The spiritual demand, quelling the material, supplies energy and endurance surpassing all other aids...*<sup>5</sup> and, *Mind alone enlarges and empowers man through its mandate,—by reason of its demand for and supply of power.*<sup>6</sup> Understanding the unity of supply and demand unfolds the coincidence of giving and receiving. We like to think of giving and receiving as supply and demand in action. God supplies His qualities at His demand. There can never be the slightest hint of imbalance between supply and demand, or giving and receiving, because of their spiritual relationship to each other.

## BENEVOLENCE — THE REFLECTION OF GOD'S WILL

We need to be on guard against the belief that just giving money to the poor always demonstrates benevolence, or good will. If the motive in giving is to equalize a limited supply of wealth or resources, if it claims that there are those whose needs cannot be met by God, but who need “me” to help them, there will never be enough to go around. The gifts, although generous, unselfish, and helpful, will not be adequate to meet the needs. This motive may be the result of accepting generosity as a good human quality, which is needed to overcome inequity — plenty of good for some, not enough for others. If we think our humanity is the source or means of good, rather than yielding our thought to the divinity of the Christ, we will be working from a limited sense of supply, from the same standpoint the widow of Zarephath worked before Elijah came along. Human institutions are unable to heal or to save mankind, because of the limited, temporary nature of their resources.

As we turn to God instead of humanity when others seek our aid, we do not turn away from the individuals who ask for help. Every man's real identity is the reflection of God, so turning to God to see His resources we also turn to the true sense of man. Then we can claim and demonstrate that, as

our Leader says, *Soul has infinite resources with which to bless mankind,*<sup>7</sup> and we will give benevolence in its higher sense — as the reflection of God, as the sun which shines on all and the fountain which cries *Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.*<sup>8</sup> This “good will” is God's will. It cannot be abused or mis-used, and it is certain of success in the purpose to which God sends it.

Mrs. Eddy's much-loved request of her students includes the admonition to ask God for what we need and to accept what is given from our dear Father-Mother in order to demonstrate true care.

*One thing I have greatly desired, and again earnestly request, namely, that Christian Scientists, here and elsewhere, pray daily for themselves; not verbally, nor on bended knee, but mentally, meekly, and importunately. When a hungry heart petitions the divine Father-Mother God for bread, it is not given a stone,—but more grace, obedience, and love. If this heart, humble and trustful, faithfully asks divine Love to feed it with the bread of heaven, health, holiness, it will be conformed to a fitness to receive the answer to its desire; then will flow into it the “river of His pleasure,” the tributary of divine Love, and great growth in Christian Science will follow,—even that joy which finds one's own in another's good.*<sup>9</sup>

1. I Kings 17:13-16
2. *Science and Health* 585:9-12
3. Matthew 17:24-27
4. John 13:3-17
5. *Science and Health* 385:7-9
6. *Science and Health* 199:10-12
7. *Science and Health* 60:29
8. Isaiah 55:1
9. *Miscellaneous Writings* 127:7

George Strong  
Administrator





How does understanding impartial, unconditional love that effortlessly comes from divine Mind relate to volunteer work at Fern Lodge? Isn't it vital for all of us to see that no one, anywhere, has ever been abandoned or outside Love's embrace?

Loneliness, feelings of rejection or being unloved are never real for anyone. What role does a volunteer play in challenging these suggestions?

One day a rather surprising question came to my thought. "Were there volunteers in Bible days?" My research led to a few examples. During Elisha's ministry a little maid, a Hebrew slave who was aware of his healing works, mentioned to her mistress that she wished Naaman, who was suffering with leprosy, might learn of Elisha. Perceiving a need she volunteered ideas that Mind unfolded to her. This opened the way to Naaman's healing.

On several occasions Jesus responded to unspoken calls. He saw a woman bowed together who *could in no wise lift up herself*. The account continues, *...he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.* The parable of the Good Samaritan, the healing of the man with the withered hand, and the man sitting 38 years by the pool of Bethesda are other examples of unsolicited healings.

Mary Baker Eddy unselfishly devoted her life to service and to healing. Once while with a student at a furniture store, she was waited on by a man who was wearing a bandage over one eye. Mrs. Eddy appearing disinterested in the choice of chairs said, *"Any that we can sit on."* She later told her student, *"Could I think of chairs when the man was suffering?"* When the student returned the next day to order the chairs, the salesman asked: *"Who was that lady with you yesterday? I had an abscess on my eye and when she went out, I took the bandage off, and there was not a sign of it left,"* Irving Tomlinson, *Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy*, p. 53.

When Mrs. Eddy lived in Boston she healed a crippled man. Apparently his arms were useless and his legs withered. He was often taken to Boston Common in his wheel chair. One day Mrs. Eddy talked with him; *she spoke of the Christ, and told him the truth of his being. He felt that she had helped him, and looked for her day after day in the park. She did come again, and she spoke to him in the same way. And this time he was completely healed,* Clifford Smith, *Historical Sketches* pp. 78-9.

The precious act of Mary Magdalene washing Jesus' feet with her tears and anointing them could only have occurred by responding to divine prompting. And Jesus washed his disciples feet and told them they must go and do likewise.

In The Sermon on the Mount our Master said, *whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.* The first mile was required by the law at that time, and Jesus asks his disciples to go beyond what is required. This second mile, or unconditional giving, requires us to purify our motives, perhaps to let go of personal judgement, or self righteousness, and to see our brother more scientifically. When walking this second mile, Christly joy tells us that our action is right. Our footsteps can be light, our hearts warmed by knowing we are following our Wayshower.

When we volunteer our time, ideas, or expertise it is important for us to first unself thought and see that Soul has already given us inspiration, resources and right ideas. We understand that we don't personally bring love, fulfillment, or caring with us. We acknowledge that the Christ is already right where negative beliefs appear to be. No one for a second has been left out of the kingdom of God. So we receive the truth ourselves, see that it is impartial, and then know without a doubt that anguish, loneliness, suffering could never be real and are without authority or presence. Then we are ready to read, share a talent or hobby, show slides, or help with a party or event.



# RECEIVING AND giving — THE VOLUNTEER'S point of view

My wife and I have read one Sunday Service each month at Fern Lodge for over 20 years. This "labor of love" has been pleasant and rewarding. We enjoy greeting guests after services, and occasionally we stay for dinner. On a recent Sunday, Father's Day, my wife offered to take me out after the service for a sandwich and milkshake. One of the nurses reported that the Sunday dinner was very good and that enough had been prepared to take care of us. So we stayed and indeed enjoyed the meal at one of the pleasant patio tables.

What was special to us at the meal, however, was the scene in the shade of a large tree at the other end of the patio. There, two nurses were each seated between two patients in wheelchairs or beds, and they were patiently, cheerfully feeding those four patients their Sunday dinner. This was certainly a shining example of the loving Christian Science nursing care provided at Fern Lodge.

It has also been possible to share some of our travel experiences with slide shows where my wife passes around some of the momentos of our trip. The guests always seem to enjoy these as a means of expanding their horizons and their thoughts.

Art Sprague

on the receiving end. My friend had such rich experiences to share, and such wisdom she had gained from her long years of studying and practicing Christian Science, that I was always greatly inspired after seeing her. I invariably came into her room viewing myself as a frazzled wife, mother, and part-time career person with serious time constraints, but I always left with a greater sense of freedom and joy. Soon after, these meetings expanded to include Fern Lodge guests in general.

My children, too, enjoy these happy occasions. At first, their main focus was on the Halloween costumes they were displaying or the Christmas treats they were passing out. Now, however, I sense a growing awareness of the wonderful purpose of Fern Lodge and the important work going on there. Unlike the conventional view of nursing where the nurse gives and the patient receives, Christian Science nursing demonstrates nurse and patient as jointly receiving inspiration, guidance, and healing from the infinite Giver, Divine Love.

Witnessing the love and caring expressed by both the staff and the guests at Fern Lodge continues to greatly enrich our family.

Laurie Witt

## THE REWARDS OF FRIENDSHIP

While serving on the transportation committee at our branch church, I became acquainted with some of the guests at Fern Lodge who sometimes attended our church services. One woman became a friend whom I would visit periodically, often bringing my two very young children. Up until this point, I had been "programmed" to consider myself as being in the role of the giver. When I was a child, our family had frequently visited a nursing facility, and we went caroling there at Christmas.

From the first time I visited my new friend at Fern Lodge, I was awed by the fact that, while I came there to give, I came away so uplifted and helped myself, that I felt I had unquestionably been

## WHOSOEVER SHALL RECEIVE AS A LITTLE CHILD...

As children we were able to joyfully receive freely, and we thought nothing of it. At some point we discovered the joy of giving. Is it more blessed to give than to receive? Are they not one and the same thing in a way?

As adults we at some point learn the joy of receiving! Letting another be able to express their gifts by giving. Isn't it sharing in each other's God given ability to shine? We wouldn't want to cut off someone else's reflected light or their opportunity to do good! Just as we love to give so do others! And always we strive to follow the Golden Rule. Love reflected in love!

Cheryl Churchill



# A VOLUNTEER'S point of view      What if...?

## WHAT I SEE is WHAT I GET

We're all recipients of good,  
We're all in this together  
As friends, and staff, and patients share  
In helping one another.

When I come "all prayed up" to give  
The Thursday Bible reading,  
I find the Christ awaits me here  
To furnish what I'm needing.

What do I need who comes to give?  
I need to see these provings of the  
Patient, tender and true,  
One altogether lovely.

Elizabeth Bryant Schartz



What if there was an organization which would encourage Christian Science demonstration and expectancy of healing, and provide practical help to meet the needs of individual Christian Scientists?

The Principle Foundation provides this kind of aid. There are Local Committees serving Northern California and the Fresno Central Valley area. These two, and 22 others like them across the United States, seek to provide immediate support in their communities. You can contact them or the national office at the numbers listed below:

Fresno Central Valley	
Vera Resweber	(209) 261-2031
Northern California	
Ruth Grolitzer	(800) 464-1741
National, Kansas City	
Bill Lampmann	(800) 826-7756

Representatives from Fern Lodge have met with the Principle Foundation Local Committees. We are looking together to see how to meet benevolence needs of those who rely on Christian Science.

## FERN LODGE FOCUS - SEPTEMBER 1993

18457 MADISON AVENUE  
CASTRO VALLEY, CA 94546-1699

forwarding and address correction requested

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Hayward, CA  
Permit No. 798