

Fern Lodge Focus

**Overcoming Resistance
to Christian Healing**

Winter 1987

Dear Friends,

When Mary Baker Eddy provided in The Manual of The Mother Church for Christian Science nurses, it most certainly was not in deference to the beliefs that disease and age are real but in compassionate support of the fact that there is no disease—no debility or disability. This fact has been proven and is called Christian Science healing. Fern Lodge exists to support healing, and the nursing program is committed to that purpose.

Each individual and church who cares about this Manual provided expression of Christly love is united with the Fern Lodge purpose. This has been humanly evidenced in a continual outpouring of love—volunteers, donations of furnishings, financial contributions, and prayerful support. The dynamics of this love are finding response in more inspired nursing, an expansion of services, a more functional facility, a deepening sense of order, dedication and consecration—and in healing!

The vitality of our mission is assured in our Leader's assertion, "As an active portion of one stupendous whole, goodness identifies man with universal good" (My. 165:16-18). The unity of good that embraces us all in "one stupendous whole" forever governs without obstruction or limitation. We rejoice in the power of this law, and feel the kinship with all who are dedicated to Christian Science healing.

That kinship has been cherished, as representatives of Fern Lodge have visited churches in the Bay Area. As of December we have spoken at 20 churches, and others are scheduled after the beginning of the new year. These meetings have focused on sharing information about the nursing care given at Fern Lodge and the need for financial assistance faced by many for whom we are providing care. An information brochure has been prepared which summarizes what has been shared. We will be glad to send this brochure to you or to your church. Thanks to those of you we visited for giving us the opportunity to talk briefly about the facility. If there are other churches who would like to join in this "family endeavor," please contact the Administrator, George Strong at 886-2448.

Our gratitude to a dedicated staff extends to all who are joining us in the spirit of our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy's hymn, "Like brother birds, that soar and sing, And on the same branch bend."

Loving greetings,

Mrs. Demarest B. Morrow, President
Fern Lodge Board of Directors

You may need to know that your contribution is tax-deductible, because we are a non-profit, tax-exempt nursing facility under both Federal and State law. Your entire gift is utilized for improvement and operation of Fern Lodge, and no portion of your contribution has been or will be used for fund-raising expenses.

Fern Lodge Incorporated is a non-profit Nursing Facility for Christian Scientists accredited by
The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Massachusetts.

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NURSES' HOUSING ON JAMES AVENUE

Pictured here are the kitchen and family room of the lovely home we purchased on James Avenue, about 6 blocks from Fern Lodge. This spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath house was bought primarily to provide a home for nurse trainees and beginning nurse aides. For a long time we have realized that the lack of affordable housing in the Castro Valley area has made it difficult for nurses to come here, especially if they were living out of the Bay Area. Several times we have had nurse aide applicants delay training or go to another facility because of their need for a home. Now we are able to offer a place to live, and in this way we are cherishing church members' growing desire to nurse.

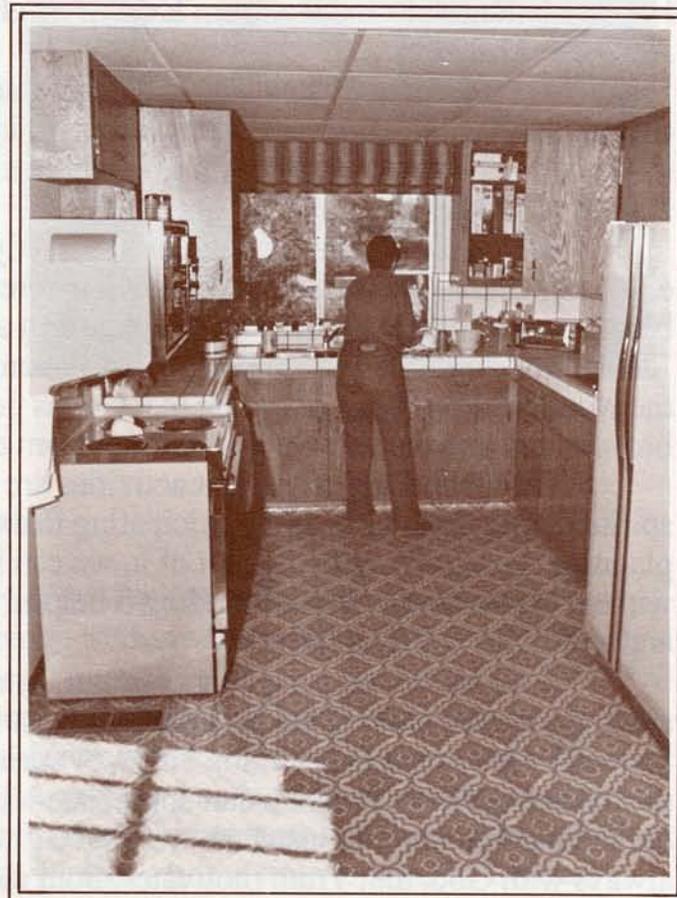
We asked some of the current residents of the James Avenue House to comment on their home. The first is from a new aide trainee who relocated from another part of the country.

"This is a welcome opportunity to express my gratitude for home. This lovely structure and grounds at James Avenue have brought about a wonderful sense of true family. We have been joined with the common goal of seeing home manifest on an individual as well as a collective basis.

"We've been busy cleaning, landscaping, making small repairs and appreciating our little corner of the world. We are located on the fringe of a very lovely development of homes which give us pride in our community as we share joy of home expressed.

"Our location is ideal as it meets the need of proximity to the facility while allowing us to have that much needed sanctuary so necessary for our work at Fern Lodge.

"We truly appreciate our home more each day. We would love to meet you sometime so that we can personally thank you for your contribution to our home."



And we also heard from a young couple who are working together in Christian Science nurses training.

"Life at the James House is quickly becoming a home to us. We have enjoyed relandscaping the front and side yards so that they will look nice and be more useable next summer. This project got us all to work together as a family.

"Decorating the inside of the house has been a continuous unfoldment of love and gratitude. We are very grateful for the many generous gifts from friends of Fern Lodge which have enabled us to decorate the home and make it warm and livable.

"This past summer the house was full, with a girl here for the summer from Principia College, a girl doing the aide program, and another aide here for the summer. After these nurses left, another lady soon arrived, who has been a great help around the house.

"We are all grateful that Fern Lodge has this beautiful house to offer to its nurses. An ideal location and wonderful setting for relaxing after work and partaking in the many activities in the area."

Fern Lodge Patient Activities Program

Here's a letter to our readers from **Evelyn Spelman**, Fern Lodge Activities Director:

"Are patient activities at Fern Lodge entertainment, occupational therapy, diversion, escapism? Or are they an integral part of the healing thrust of Christian Science Nursing? Is there a spiritual basis for our Patient Activities Program?

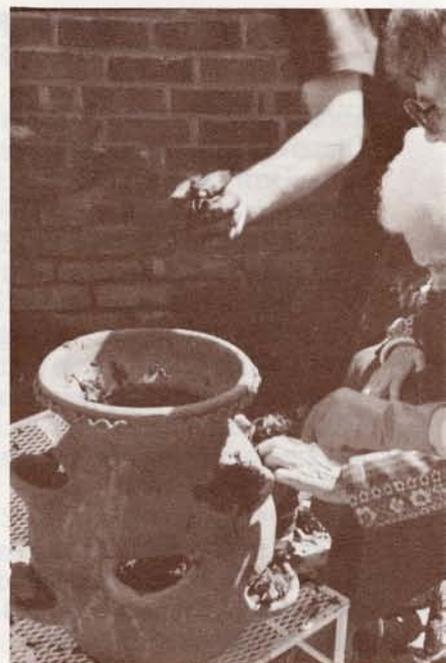
"Let's look for our mandate in Mrs. Eddy's writings. "God expresses in man the infinite idea which is forever developing itself, broadening and rising higher and higher from a boundless basis." (S&H 258)

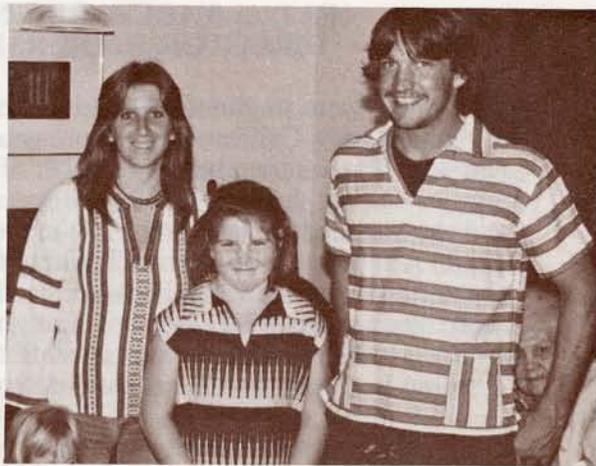
Those working with and supporting the Patient Activities Program have the wonderful privilege of seeing that God is doing the expressing, the broadening, and that we always start out from a boundless basis.

"Those working on patient activities are realizing the importance of spiritualizing thought before participating in any activity. Whether planning an activity or being part of it, we can behold the perfect man and witness God's doing. We are finding it helpful to lift thought above matter and to cherish spiritual ideas.

"If we are taking a trip to a museum, listening to a symphony, singing a hymn, making baklava, helping a patient write a letter, looking at the week's news events, planting bulbs, or seeing slides, those cherishing the Patient Activity Program can appreciate what God is forever expressing in man. For instance, we can be grateful that the initiative is always with God, that Truth motivates, Soul radiates, Love impels, Principle governs, Mind unfolds, Spirit activates. The event or happening is always enriched when those involved humbly acknowledge that God is the One who possesses all and expresses all. Horizons expand, vistas widen as we move in the spirit of Christ Jesus' words, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

"What a joy to see man as Mind's infinite idea and to acknowledge each individual's spiritual qualities, boundless capacities, and limitless talents."





Here's how you can participate!

Would you like to be part of the Patient Activity Program at Fern Lodge? Here are some of the things we have been doing. They may help you see where you can fit in.

We have our own "Country of the Month Club." In a very simple way we are giving attention to a different country most every month. In July we focused on appreciating America. Much gratitude for our country was expressed and appreciation for the TV programs that were in honor of the Statue of Liberty. In August, we had a grand time looking at Greece. Two slide shows gave us a pictorial view of the country. One day we made a collage, looked at post cards, some typical clothes, jewelry and other artifacts. The cooking class made baklava, which was shared with staff and other patients. In September our focus turned to India. In small groups we identified some of their problems and the religious beliefs that we needed to be alert to to handle. The cooking class made chutney one week and a curry rice salad to share with all the next week. We had fun looking at genuine Indian items.

Each country will be explored differently in accord with the resources at hand. In October we traveled to England, Scotland and Ireland. National Bible week being in November, we gave special attention to appreciating the Bible. In December our attention turned to Israel. In the new year we will journey to China, Japan, Poland and Germany.

In addition to the Current Events class mentioned in our last Newsletter, we will have a group of patients meeting monthly to handle metaphysically, current world problems. Our topic for October was "Terrorism and the Media." We currently have a need for volunteers to assist with field trips, picnics, cooking classes. We also would welcome volunteers on a regularly scheduled basis to show a movie (video) to our patients on Saturdays.

We would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who would enjoy playing the piano and/or singing at our Sunday Services.

If you would like to help us "enlarge the place of (our) tent" please fill in the enclosed form. We would love to hear from you!



YEARS OF LOVING SERVICE

In January, 1979, Mrs. Camille Lindsay became the Director of Nursing at Fern Lodge. It was 16 years prior to this date that she started her Christian Science nurses' training. After graduation she worked as a nurse, On-Job-Trainer and Supervisor and also did some private-duty nursing. Mrs. Lindsay has given of her rich overflow of compassion, kindness, purity, dedication and patience to Fern Lodge in witnessing God's great healing love. She has touched hearts of all with whom she has worked. After serving Fern Lodge for 7 1/2 years as Director, she resigned in June, 1986 and is moving forward, discovering many more opportunities to serve God, including being Assistant Visiting Nurse, doing private-duty nursing and also nursing at Fern Lodge from time to time. We feel a great sense of gratitude and love in supporting Camille in this forward growth in grace expressed.

Camille says she feels that "as the love in our heart deepens and mellows in ineffable tenderness, a nurse finds it to be true that we're effective by the stillness, strength, love and Christly statement that our loves represent, more than in just what we do."

PAT ALVAREZ, OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF NURSING

We were so grateful to invite Mrs. Patricia Alvarez of San Leandro, California to become our new Director of Nursing. Pat has long been a member of the Fern Lodge family. During the early 1970's she served as a volunteer, and she attended an Adventure in Nursing workshop in 1978. After First Year Nurses Training Class Pat returned as the first nurse trainee at Fern Lodge, then newly accredited for first year students. She graduated and she returned to Fern Lodge to work as staff nurse, On-Job-Training Instructor and Assistant Director of Nursing.

Pat is active in her branch church and a specially dedicated Christian Science nurse and we are all so happy to let her light shine here. She says that "the essence of Christian Science nursing is Christian Science in action!" Pat is lovingly helping us at Fern Lodge to see more clearly the meaning of Mrs. Eddy's stirring thought in Ret. 93:13-15, "The best spiritual type of Christly method for uplifting human thought and imparting divine Truth, is stationary power, stillness, and strength; and when this spiritual ideal is made our own, it becomes the model for human action."

Pictured are two Fern Lodge nurses who have recently taken new positions in support of the nursing work being done here.

Robin Looney became the On-Job-Training and Aide Instructor earlier this year. She has been a nurse at Fern Lodge since 1977, and she has been an inspiration to many others who have gone through training over the years. We are glad to have her dedication and love helping guide those who come to Fern Lodge to learn more about Christian Science nursing. About her new position Robin writes:

"I see the job of O.J.T. instructor as an opportunity to impart the essence of what nursing is all about to students. But at the same time embrace all of our staff. We all need nursing, nurturing, feeling valued and appreciated. This is an exciting time in the growth of Fern Lodge and myself. I love being right here and love striving to gain more and more of the understanding that God is here. God is the instructor, counsellor and guide. He is at work. 'I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.' (Ps.32:8)."



Accompanying Robin under the umbrella is our Assistant Director of Nurses, Merrie Schmidt. Merrie came to Fern Lodge in 1985, and we have come to cherish the way she loves and nurtures the nursing staff when she is in charge of the nursing floor. Her suggestions and observations are firmly grounded in prayer, and shared with expectancy and grace. When our former Assistant Director, Jayne Nowell, left Fern Lodge for the challenging and much-needed work of relief Visiting Nurse for both the Redwood and Peninsula services, we were delighted that Merrie was willing to fill the Assistant's position. Merrie is working together with Pat Alvarez, our Director of Nursing, to continue to improve the healing quality of nursing care at Fern Lodge.

We are giving thanks again to a dear friend and supporter of Fern Lodge, Seth Dempsey of Sebastopol, CA. He is shown framing the long-awaited new Laundry Room which we were able to build this summer. Our gratitude to Seth runs deep, and he has often given of his time and experience assisting with building projects at the Lodge. It's always a pleasure to work with Seth, and this much needed construction gave us an opportunity to work together again.

For too many years the laundry was done in a temporary enclosed porch which was built on an old patio adjacent to Creekside House. This structure was removed and a new room built in its place. Our Head of Housekeeping, Cathy Adeyemi, had this to say about her new quarters.

"The new Laundry Room is completed. Equipped with a new folding table, counter, shelves, sink and other highlights (a new office for the Director) - it is well organized and now all Housekeeping and Laundry supplies can be better managed and more accessible to its staff.

"This new addition allows the Housekeeping-Laundry departments to operate more smoothly and efficiently, thereby better serving Fern Lodge.

"We in the department are very grateful.

"I am very grateful for each member of my department; for all the Love and Joy expressed in every activity they set out to do. We are very blessed."

Notes From Two New Aides

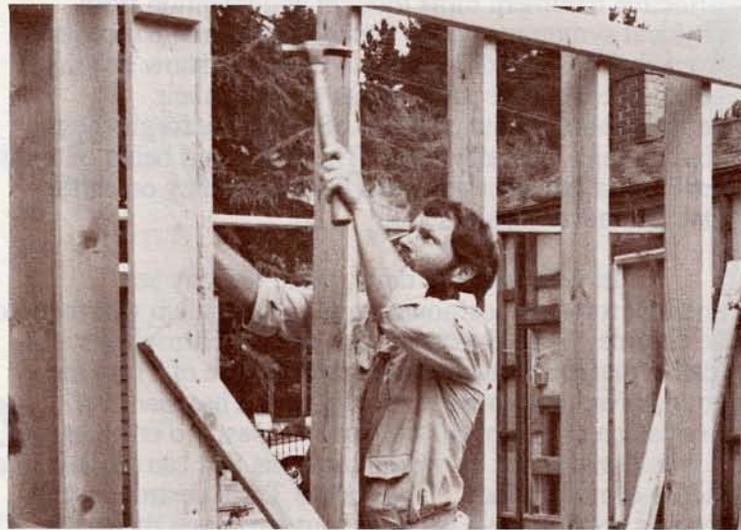
In July Fern Lodge held a nurses aide course for two Christian Scientists. Robin Looney conducted this class, which was a lively time of sharing and delving together into the spiritual foundation of Christian Science nursing.

These two aides shared the following insights about the activity of nursing.

"Nursing is a Divine adventure with love expressing itself in daily experience at Fern Lodge. It is exciting to see love expressed by all staff and guests. The nurturing qualities of Fern Lodge enable healing to take place for all. We wholeheartedly support the good going on here which is Mind directed, based on Principle, lovingly supported and spiritually maintained. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be involved in an activity that brings so much happiness."

"Fern Lodge is a peaceful, loving haven where people can come for healing. Being a nurse is fulfilling employment because one knows that we are about our father's business. Gratitude is expressed often by the guests and staff. My fellow nurses are very friendly and understanding and all work to help each other in many ways. Being in the nurse training program challenges one to put into practice all that we are studying daily about God and man. Through all I am learning, I have overcome the feeling of shyness while working at Fern Lodge."

Laundry Room Completed



Excerpts from Fern Lodge Annual Meeting, April 1986

OVERCOMING RESISTANCE TO CHRISTIAN HEALING

Gary John Jewkes, C.S.B

"I would like to discuss at some length an instance where Jesus came face to face with resistance to Christian healing. It was the case of the man with the unclean devil. What he said to the Master represents to me, the very foundation of the opposition we have to handle in public practice of Christian Science as practitioners, nurses and individual students.

"The Bible tells us, 'And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.' (Luke 4:33-35)

"Have you ever noticed, no matter what the problem may be, animal magnetism tries to get us to leave it alone... 'I'm just too sick to give an effective treatment.'

Or, 'I'm too old to be healed permanently in Christian Science. Just make me as comfortable as possible until I pass on.' In your impersonal, prayerful support of Christian Science healing dear friends, handle specifically and throughly the claims of death. The great apostle Paul tells us, 'To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.' (Rom. 8:6) Think of it, the only death there is or ever will be is carnal mindedness. Waking from a material concept of ourselves and others is practical, ever-present, eternal life.

"One of the things we have to deal with in the healing ministry is aggressive symptoms. When I was studying and praying for a better way of dealing with symptoms, I was guided to this enlightened statement of our Leaders: 'Who remembers that patience, forgiveness, abiding faith, and affection, are the symptoms by which

our Father indicates the different stages of man's recovery from sin and his entrance into Science?' (Mis. 100: 28-31) Effective treatment turns thought and attention from physical symptoms, to the 'symptoms of man's recovery from sin.' Instead of looking to matter to show healing, I began to encourage my patients to check their demonstration of the qualities of 'patience, forgiveness, abiding faith, and affection.' The living and being of these qualities is the most powerful healing agency on earth. One that never loses a case.

"In working on a daily basis, we may see unwholesome dispositional traits in the patient that seem to be chronic. With the conviction of God Himself we can realize that the factuality, integrity, justice of Truth are omniactive, omnipresent, omnipotent. That man, the expression of Truth, has no regretful past, no erroneous dispositional traits, no wrong thoughts that can make him a victim of malignancy. 'The eternal Truth destroys what mortals seem to have learned from error, and man's real existence as a child of God comes to light.' The result is pure Christian Science healing. Healing that not only removes the disease and its symptoms, but makes the individual better morally and spiritually. The same God that transformed Saul of Tarsus into Paul, is doing the same thing to the patient.

"To the first suggestion of the man with the unclean devil, 'Let us alone,' we can reply, 'We will not let the devilish suggestions of the carnal mind alone, we will specifically reverse them and arrive at the truth that heals!

"'What have we to do with thee...?' What has this man in common with Jesus Christ, the Master-Christian? To me, this exposes the need of consistently handling the belief of false origin, or the religious misteaching called, 'the doctrine of original sin.'

"Man, the spiritual idea of the one Mind has everything to do with the Christ, the manifestation of God. I like to work often, and specifically with these words of our Leader: 'In Science, man is the offspring of Spirit. The beautiful, good, and pure constitute his ancestry. His origin is not like that of mortals, in brute instinct, nor does he pass through material conditions prior to reaching intelligence. Spirit is his primitive and ultimate source of being; God is his Father, and Life is the law of his being.' (Science and Health 63: 5)

"The Christian Science practice is not patching up sick, aging matter-bodies; nor is it some sort of mystical process of sending good thoughts to imperfect mortals. Each case I treat, I like to think of as a specific instance of a spiritual idea coming to me for recognition. The idea that heals is in itself supply, supply to the practitioner, supply to the patient, supply to the world.

"The Bible tells us, '...Refuse profane and old wives'fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.' (I Tim. 4: 7-8) Anything that would picture man as material, born on a

certain date and progressing towards inevitable death, is profane, an 'old wives tale' that we don't have to accept. Our model of God and man can actually affect what we see.

"'Art thou [the Christ] come to destroy us?' Could this represent the worldly thought that claims 'spirituality is a drag?' That if you become too spiritually minded, all the fun is taken out of life?

"From our Leader: 'Happiness,' she says, 'consists in being and in doing good; only what God gives, and what we give ourselves and others through His tenure, confers happiness: Conscious worth satisfies the hungry heart, and nothing else can.' (Message for 1902, 17:20-25) I like to think of Christian healing as the continual recognition and demonstration of the 'conscious worth of man.' Someone has defined age as, 'the accumulation of unsolved problems.' Then, eternal youth would be the joy of overcoming the claims of error specifically and exactly as they come up.

"When an individual seems to hang on to error and resists regeneration and healing, what can we do about it? Make twice the effort to live the needed quality ourselves. Say, for example that a guest seems totally ungrateful for everything being done for her. At this point, live twice as much gratitude yourself. Don't let a molecule of good go by unnoticed, nor un-appreciated in your own life. This is the most powerful rebuke to error that can be made, and it does bring healing.

"I have found it so helpful in Christian healing to declare with the authority of God that the truth I am declaring is God's word; that it can do no harm; that it cannot be reversed, nor perverted; abused, nor confused. The Christ is perpetually the 'divine idea voicing good.' Let's listen on a consistent basis to what is being said and live it in our own lives.

"... I know thee who thou art; the holy one of God.' This final claim of error, this last aspect of resistance to Christian healing is perhaps the most subtle. To me, it represents many facets of animal magnetism: first, the belief that we can study, pray, spiritualize consciousness, and still have disease to cope with; secondly, it represents the belief that mortal mind can craftily know the thoughts and workings of Christian Science and stand as a real, formidable opposition to Truth.

"When you're reading the Lesson-Sermon, working with the concordances, reading the periodicals, pause as you read and work with these truths. With the authority of God, realize that once a truth is known, it does have a healing effect.

"There is only one Mind, one consciousness. This Mind is the sole source of intelligence, perception and comprehension. What this Mind knows, constitutes man's intelligence this moment and forever. Mortal Mind is a non-entity; it knows nothing; is conscious of nothing; comprehends nothing. No form of evil can plague or follow me; obstruct or stop the holy healing mission of the Science of Christianity."