



*OUR PURPOSE IS TO HEAL*

*FERN LODGE FOCUS — November 2006*



## *How do you identify Fern Lodge?*

Dear Friends,

What is the Fern Lodge Board doing these days? With our threatening financial picture, we needed to take action. After much prayer, we met for a two-day metaphysical retreat with the Board and Administration. We invited two guests from another Christian Science nursing facility. Their experience in metaphysical retreats helped us stay focused.

Our pre-retreat assignment was to address with prayer five challenges facing Fern Lodge and come prepared with spiritual solutions. During the prep time, and especially flowing through the retreat itself, a theme popped out: Identify Fern Lodge correctly — identify spiritually every aspect of the organization: patients, nursing, finances, administration, maintenance ...everything.

If we identify Fern Lodge spiritually before we act humanly, we begin at the right altitude. Effective decisions are the result. God-based decision and action cannot fail.

How do we think about each activity of Fern Lodge? We strive to witness the Christly purity of Truth, the clear reasoning of Mind, the wisdom and integrity of Principle, the healing action of Spirit, the spiritual vision of Soul, the harmony and grateful expectancy of Love, the health and stamina of Life.

When we look at Fern Lodge from this spiritual standpoint, we do not see a Christian Science organization with good intentions, struggling with the belief of stagnant supply and limited resources. Instead, we realize that Fern Lodge is an idea from God and is God-endowed and supported. Our income may appear to be from patients, donations, endowments, or trust funds, but in every case, the true source is always God, Spirit, and the resources must be sufficient and constant. God's river of grace never runs dry.

The Board's shift in thought during the retreat resulted in a brand new and surprisingly brief purpose statement. **OUR PURPOSE IS TO HEAL.** We trust that this refreshed outlook will bless all of Fern Lodge's endeavors. This is the Board's on-going work for Fern Lodge.

Now, how do you identify Fern Lodge?

Sincerely,

The Fern Lodge Board of Directors

Mary Kuhl, President

Audrey Patterson, Vice President

Robert Burch, Treasurer

Nancy Stiner, Secretary

George Strong, Administrator



## ***Priest, Levite, or Samaritan? — a choice for everyone***

We all know the story of the Good Samaritan. A traveler is attacked, robbed and left to die. A Priest and a Levite both pass by without giving aid. A Samaritan then comes, stops, helps, and even goes out of his way to see that the man continues to be cared for. Think about this story with a modern-day emphasis in the light of divine Science.

A Christian Scientist travels along life's road—living the best way he knows how. At some point he faces a challenge that lays him by the side of the road, alone and frightened. As he prays for help, he encounters a priestly view of his situation. This self-righteous religious thought sees him in his distress, and from an institutional view of Christianity, says, "He must have sinned to be in such a position. It's God's will that he suffer." In the same way, some students of Christian Science might say, "He must not be a faithful follower of Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy to find himself in that situation." These people just hurry by.

Then the Scientist encounters the thought of a Levite, one who interprets and enforces the law. So-called laws of life in matter, and of *materia medica* as the enforcer of matter's laws, come and look on him, and they may think, "It's not my problem. He's not my family, not in my association or branch church. Anyway, it looks like he's going to die, no matter what I might do. Why bother?" They, too, pass by.

The Samaritan thought now enters the scene. Samaritan thought is not popular; it is an outsider's way of looking at this situation. But this is the thought the Master taught his disciples to embrace. The Samaritan, "came where he was: and...had compassion on him."

Came where he was — met the thought that needed to be met, in a Christianly scientific way. The Samaritan wasn't even a Jew, not a member of the specific "church" the traveler attended. Yet what this Samaritan did was certainly an activity of church. What is the heart of church? UR, "you are" the heart of church.

There are many travelers at Fern Lodge who need benevolence. Your Samaritan assistance can be given in several ways. First, you may donate money to make up the difference between what a patient is able to contribute and the actual cost of his own care. Please note, the Samaritan did not give the innkeeper an extra two pence so that he could remodel the inn or buy wood for the fire. The extra two pence was to be used for any additional needs of **the traveler**.

Fern Lodge operates economically. It is the patients themselves who are in need of your benevolence. Your financial contribution is for your fellow Christian Scientists, not for a building or an organization.

You also can contribute by reading at a testimony service, a Sunday service, or informal reading of articles from our periodicals at a time convenient for you. Each gift is appreciated and needed. Mrs. Eddy writes, "There may be exceptional cases, where one Christian Scientist who has more to meet than others needs support at times; then, it is right to bear 'one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ,'" *Misc 39*.

All patients are blessed by our many good Samaritans. You are bearing others' burdens and fulfilling the law of Christ, the law of divine Love. Thank you!!!