



"As a drop of water is one with the ocean,
a ray of light one with the sun,
even so God and man...
are one in being."

Mary Baker Eddy

***FERN LODGE FOCUS*— October 2005**

Unity Demonstrated, a talk by Jack Hubbell, CSB

Articles on Christian Science nursing

A report from the Fern Lodge Treasurer

Christian Science nursing — a healing ministry

Anyone who had the opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting of The Mother Church, or to watch it broadcast over the internet, heard a message from the Nursing Manager that brought me a deep sense of joy and gratitude. We heard Christian Science nursing described in simple terms that showed it as the practice of Christian Science, an activity that is a healing presence for patients. I have been a Christian Science nurse since 1975, and that message stood out to me as the clearest public statement I have heard of the role of Christian Science nurses in the healing mission of The Mother Church.

When I began to learn Christian Science nursing in the training program that was then required, I came away with the belief that being a nurse meant being primarily concerned with certain skills, products and techniques that could be used to bring comfort to a patient. I often heard the statement, “a Christian Science practitioner takes care of the spiritual needs of a patient, and a Christian Science nurse takes care of the patient’s physical needs, carefully avoiding praying for the patient.”

This view of Christian Science nursing gives the impression that it is merely non-medical, physical care, and so the Christian Science nurse is much like a medical nurse who doesn’t give medicine. And this view of Christian Science nursing never felt right to me. As a Christian Scientist, I couldn’t accept the statement that a patient is a physical person with physical nursing needs. Nor could I believe that he is a spiritual individual with physical nursing needs.

Through prayer I realized that I needed to repent—completely change the way I had been thinking about myself as a nurse and my role when working with patients. It dawned on me while reading Matthew 25, that Christian Science nursing is not a physical activity, it is divine Love expressed in Christian obedience to Jesus’ command to “love one another.” Christian Science nursing has more in common with the metaphysical treatment given

by a Christian Science practitioner than it has with any form of medical or material nursing. Christian Science nursing starts from the standpoint of man as the image and likeness of God, Spirit, and stays there, with the conviction of man’s inherent health.

Yes, if a patient appears to need physical comfort and care, a Christian Science nurse’s prayer and work will be seen to provide them, but this activity just fulfills Christ Jesus’ promise, “set your minds on God’s kingdom and his justice before everything else, and all the rest will come to you as well” (New English Bible, Matt 6:33). A Christian Science nurse does not give specific treatment for a patient, but the nurse does pray specifically and consistently for his or her concept of each patient. And a Christian Science nurse can expect that the right idea of another, held clearly and firmly in consciousness, will heal. Mary Baker Eddy writes of spontaneous healing, and I feel that in her assurance of the power of Love she endorses this mode of healing as a standard for Christian Scientists.

The Christian Scientist loves man more because he loves God most. He understands this Principle,—Love. Who is sufficient for these things? 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? Who knows how the feeble lips are made eloquent, how hearts are inspired, how healing becomes spontaneous, and how the divine Mind is understood and demonstrated? He alone knows these wonders who is departing from the thralldom of the senses and accepting spiritual truth,—that which blesses its adoption by the refinement of joy and the dismissal of sorrow.
Miscellaneous Writings 100:26

I rejoice in the growing understanding and demonstration of the fact that spontaneous healing can and will accompany the care given by Christian Science nurses.

George Strong, Administrator

"Unity Demonstrated" — excerpts from a talk by Jack Hubbell, CSB

It is appropriate that we call Fern Lodge a care facility. Care denotes love, and love is the significance of service. Care finds joy in doing good for others. Just as we say that God expresses love, we can say that God expresses care. Care epitomizes the never failing attitude of our Father-Mother God toward His dear children. Care is the essence of the practice of Christian Science. How grateful we can be for a facility that endeavors to fulfill the purpose of care.

And how grateful we are for Christian Science nurses and those individuals who express care in loving service for others. There is no greater opportunity for the cultivation of love, compassion, and selflessness than the work of the Christian Science nurse. As these qualities grow in character, the more the impersonal view of the work comes to light in accordance with what our Leader attributes to the angel, Gabriel, as "the more quiet task of imparting a sense of the ever-presence of ministering Love."¹

Our Leader considered such a form of activity necessary, and she in her great love and wisdom provided for the Christian Science nurse. In addition to a practical knowledge of the care of the sick, the nurse's thought and presence has that spiritual quality which aids in overcoming fear and in bringing peace to the patient. This takes place only through genuine love, which proves all error to be unreal. We are indeed grateful for Fern Lodge and all those who make it truly a care facility.

And now I would like to address the subject of demonstrating unity. The challenge of disunity is being presented in many facets throughout the world. Jesus stated, "If a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand."² Isn't "divide and destroy" a battle strategy of an army general? This is also the tactic of animal magnetism. We need to see that every problem is one of animal magnetism. We deal with a problem as we handle animal magnetism. We handle animal magnetism as we see it is not a

real entity but a term, a term we use to indicate that error, the supposed absence of truth, has the power to act, to do something. How? By presenting a false suggestion! It is no sin to be confronted with a false suggestion. Even Jesus faced false suggestions. What counts is how we respond to it. Remember, animal magnetism is only a term denoting nothing but the hypothetical action of a lie. We reject a lie as we know the truth. Exercising daily defense against aggressive mental suggestion prevents witnessing the false claim of disunity.

Christian Science teaches that there is only one Being composed of cause and effect, God and man. There is nothing in addition to the oneness, the allness, of being. The omnipresence of Deity deems impossible a separation from God, good. To be conscious of this truth is our defense against the suggestion that man can be separated from God. As we recognize our unity with God, we find our unity with one another.

Does unity have anything to do with healing? Yes, a great deal! Disunity would also claim to be an attack on our health. Disease is always an attempt to divide and destroy. Animal magnetism suggests that man is not one whole entity, but an organization of many parts. Then under this division into parts, mortal man is subject to destruction of the whole by the disruption of the parts. What appears as a physical body composed of material parts is a counterfeit of the real man's embodiment of spiritual qualities. But while a physical body composed of material parts is vulnerable to "divide and destroy," the real man — the compound idea of God — cannot be divided into parts and therefore is safe from destruction. The belief that man is liable to disease is a misstatement that man can be separated from God.

The oneness of God and man is the wholeness, completeness and health of man. When confronted with a problem, we do not have a sick man to treat or even a man who believes himself to be sick, but rather a man about whom a lie is to be disbelieved.

"Unity Demonstrated"

You and I need to defend ourselves constantly against the aggressive mental suggestion of disintegration, whether it is a disintegration of body, a business, or a relationship. Disintegration is animal magnetism's effort to disrupt unity, man's oneness with God. The whole healing practice of Christian Science can be stated in terms of a realization of our oneness with God.

During this past year, there have been many reports of branch church disunity. I hear of members who have stopped attending church or even dropped their memberships.

There is no question that church membership has its challenges. Church meetings often provide opportunities to put our Christian Science commitment into practice. For example, if there is disunity among the membership, it is an opportunity for the members to pray deeply to recognize and yield to God's government.

Animal magnetism presents human will under the guise of divine will. But the Christ strips off the disguise and reveals the truth. Our prayer is not to see our will done, but to acknowledge that God's will must be done. Furthermore, there is no power to oppose God's will. As Paul tells us, "If God be for us, who can be against us?"³ So, one on God's side is more than a majority. It is a monopoly. This is true humility, with the meekness and power which go with it.

Man's only meaningful activity is to express God. The realization of this fact eliminates politics from church affairs, lifts thought into a higher level of action, and provides fresh insights, inspiration, and unity of purpose to the role of church membership.

As long as we see disunity as the result of opposing individuals, we are being handled by animal magnetism. We have accepted the suggestion of many minds, some in conflict and some in agreement. But there is only one Mind being reflected by each person. The culprit is not person, but the anti-Christ claiming to gain witness as a person with a mind separate from God. Regardless of the nature of the error, be it discord, disunity, disease, personal sense, or egotism, one and all are simply wrong concepts working mesmerically in human consciousness.

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All members of The Mother Church want to see their church prosper. But there are differences of opinion on how we best bring this about. We can learn from history. The government of the Roman Empire didn't destroy Christianity. Primitive Christianity was destroyed from within. It was the early Christians who adulterated Jesus' teaching to make it more alluring and acceptable to the non-Christian pagans. No doubt the motive was good for many of the early Christians.

They wanted to reach out to the pagan world and share Christianity. In order to attract more converts, they allowed various pagan idolatries to adulterate the pure teaching of Christ Jesus. Compromise of doctrine was condoned if it was believed it would benefit the institution.

Will Durant, the famous historian, tells us, "While Christianity converted the world, the world converted Christianity, and displayed the natural paganism of mankind."⁴ The pagan concepts which were adopted to make Christianity more attractive led to the demise of primitive Christianity and the forfeiting of healing. It would appear that it was

— excerpts from a talk by Jack Hubbell, CSB

some of the early Christians who were mesmerized into destroying primitive Christianity. But, was it a person that impeded truth? No! It was the failure to handle animal magnetism claiming to be a person.

Mrs. Eddy restored primitive Christianity. She established our church to maintain the purity of Christian Science, not to destroy it. Her goal was to bless mankind, not to form a huge institution. One need only read the *Manual* to see that it deals primarily with protecting the purity of Christian Science and promoting healing for all mankind. Without the *Manual*, pure Christian Science, with its element of healing, would soon be lost to the world.

So, what is our motive in wanting to share Christian Science? Don't we want to share because we love our fellow man and want to help him overcome the limits of a matter-based world? Our motive is right in wanting to share Christian Science with others. And what better attraction is there than healing?

Why did people throng Christ Jesus? Because he healed! It was healing that built the original Christian church in Jerusalem, and it was healing that reinstated the primitive Christian church in Boston. Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."¹ Not, "If I come down to their state of thought." Jesus showed us that the most effective way to share the truth is by living it.

If there is world indifference to Christian Science, perhaps it is because the world no longer sees enough difference in Christian Scientists. It is the Christ we exemplify which is attractive. Of course, we do not want to hide our light under

a bushel. As we let our light shine, live the pure standard of Christian Science, we will draw men to us. If we don't offer mankind healing, then we have nothing new or different to offer. Christian Science heals! It is the Comforter promised by Christ Jesus!

To summarize, do we pray to see our will or God's will fulfilled? Could there be disunity if we work from the standpoint of one Mind, reflected by everyone? Each individual in a family, nation, church and the world actually reflects the same Mind as the source of his or her intelligence and ability.

Man's meaningful activity is to express God. The realization of this fact eliminates politics...and lifts thought to a higher level of action.

You have the opportunity for a victory over disunity by:

1. Handling animal magnetism, seeing it as nothing but a term and thus destroying it;
2. Impersonalizing the error;
3. Knowing that neither you nor anyone else can be influenced erroneously because God is the only Mind;
4. Affirming that there can be neither disunity due to a conflict of minds nor unity due to a

meeting of minds. Rather, there is a unity based on one divine Mind being reflected by each individual;

5. Holding to the fact that the real government of our church, world, nation, and family is maintained under God's law.

Although individual, we are nevertheless controlled and governed by divine Principle, God. There is naught but unity in the oneness and allness of God. Therefore, there must be unity of purpose, unity of thought, and unity of desire and practice.

¹ S&H 567:1-3 the more (to 1st.).

² Mark 3:25 if.

³ Rom. 8:31 If.

⁴ Durant, Will, *The Story of Civilization: Caesar and Christ*, p. 657 (Simon and Schuster, New York)

⁵ John 12:32

Christian Science nursing in practice

I was praying specifically about a patient's care, and the qualities of thought being expressed. Every day seemed to repeat the same verbal material story. I had reached the point where I just couldn't partake of that verbal rehearsal anymore. I was praying to know how to be free. I was led to where Mrs. Eddy writes, "Lips must be mute, and materialism silent... We must close the lips and silence the material senses" (*Science and Health* 15:11-16). When asked to nurse in that room, I would quietly, prayerfully, go about the work, not entering into the material conversation. This quiet approach was changing my thinking. Another statement has been comforting: "Christian Science acts as an alterative... It relaxes rigid muscles" (*S&H* 162:5-8). Rigidity being a claim in this case, the thought of relaxing rigidity, being at ease, was wonderful to experience in my own consciousness. Being relaxed and calm are qualities of thought that heal. When manifested outwardly, it blesses those around us.

The result of this consistent prayer is that there has been a change. The material conversation has noticeably reduced and has been replaced with gratitude. When I was praying for how not to partake of that material conversation each day, it also included my own conversation with the patient. In this quiet, more relaxed atmosphere, thought is calm and there is a quiet sense of listening to God and doing the work in a more ordered way. Refusing to enter into that material conversation freed me. Our expectation for change, should begin with a change in *our* own consciousness. Our demonstration of these spiritual qualities brings healing.

In giving prayerful thought to another patient's care, I continued working with page 15 of *Science and Health*. When we pray, thought uplifts to God, and we naturally find ourselves giving thanks to God, being so grateful. Materialism or any complaint is silent. "Lips must be mute, and materialism silent," was showing itself to be what was needed. I began to examine my own thinking. There were qualities of thought that I was holding to and expressing that needed to go. A change in my own consciousness, expressed, demonstrated, would bring about the necessary change

in this particular care. Anger, human will, complaint have to be put out of our thinking first. Error cannot heal error. Thought must rise higher in order to uplift consciousness out of the error.

My consciousness was kept very quiet of noise, complaint, conversation, and I steadfastly listened to God. One day, something occurred to trouble my thinking. I found my thought beginning to complain. This was a helpful experience, because it showed me what error was trying to do. I also knew I could express dominion over my thinking. Nothing could thwart this right endeavor. "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you" (Jeremiah 29:12). I was learning the truth of Mrs. Eddy's statement (*S&H*, 259:26-31), "Immortal ideas, pure, perfect, and enduring, are transmitted by the divine Mind through divine Science, which corrects error with truth and demands spiritual thoughts, divine concepts, to the end that they may produce harmonious results."

During that time, my greater sense of quietness brought about a clear, quiet thought in the patient, enabling her to hear more clearly, showing the mental nature of that false claim of hearing loss. Complaint lessened, and she expressed gratitude for my help every day. Keeping lips mute and materialism (complaint) silent, is prayer. Prayer evokes gratitude. Gratitude corrects complaint. Gratitude, demonstrated, heals.

God is showing us how to go in our care for patients. We see the things that work, and the things that don't work, which when reduced, are qualities of thought. I have not always heeded the angel messages. I have not always heeded the demands for change and growth within my own self. But nonetheless, the messages are there, the demands are there, the healing is there. Being a Christian Scientist requires work within our own consciousness. It is our thinking that needs to change, be spiritualized, when we seem to be faced with a challenging care. Mrs. Eddy tells us that we must "pray without ceasing" and that "such prayer is answered" (*S&H* 15:21-22). This silent, quiet, praising prayer heals.

This article was written by a Christian Science nurse.

From the Director of Christian Science Nursing

Christian Science nursing is an essential aspect of living and loving as our Master, Christ Jesus. The inherent, childlike instinct to follow His example brings true and lasting satisfaction. There's a story in Matthew 25 that illustrates the relationship between nursing and rejoicing in the kingdom of heaven.

Here Jesus presents an equation: caring for Christ's brethren = caring for Jesus = inheriting the kingdom. Jesus said that those who take care of and visit the sick, feed the hungry, take in the homeless, clothe the naked, and visit prisoners have a place in God's kingdom. Why? Because they have served Christ Jesus, "the Word made flesh," John 1:14. That "Word made flesh" could be LOVE,—love made visible, tangible. Jesus told us and showed us the two main commandments: love *God*, and love *man*. And as Christian Scientists, our caring for the sick,—taking them in or visiting them— should be so full of the Christ spirit that it heals.

Countless hours of *love* are poured forth by the nurses as they are watching, praying, supporting, witnessing, bathing, bandaging, and feeding each day at Fern Lodge. We have a full house and, sadly, we turn away about 4-6 requests for admission each month because we do not have room for them. Yet, many nursing needs are cared for at home by staff nurses on their off-time who fit these in around family lives. We are so grateful for each one, and for the four nurses who were accepted for listing in *The Christian Science Journal* this year.

Christian Science nurses education is an important component of our work at Fern Lodge. Since 2000, our education program has been helping dedicated Christian Scientists awaken to the joys and rewards of nursing, to understand and participate in its healing ministry. Individuals are learning Christian Science nursing in ways that meet their unique needs.

For example, three women with young families, living three to five hours away in the Sierra foothills,

began meeting with me in one of their homes for instruction in nursing principles, skills and ethics. This class continues successfully, alternating between in-home instruction and hands-on experience at Fern Lodge. They have found opportunities to nurse in their communities. An article written by this class appeared in the international Christian Science nursing newsletter, *Vision Now*, describing how the class came together and how it blesses their lives each day. Nurses from around the country have expressed gratitude for such a program. One experienced nurse emailed her delight: "*What a fantastic outreach—I'm so grateful to the Fern Lodge Board ... for backing such an unusual plan.... in bringing the [Nursing] By-Law to life and demonstration.*"

Students on staff, and several others from California, Oregon and Washington have participated in nursing classes and mentoring at Fern Lodge. Our latest adventure is teaching a bilingual nursing course for three South Americans. These earnest students of Christian Science are improving their English while learning nursing principles, skills and ethics.

The Bible makes several references to God pouring out His spirit and pouring out so many blessings that we can't contain them. The imagery of pouring is so clear: it's unmistakable. We have seen repeated healings of temperament softened and confusion lessened or healed through knowing clearly that there is only one Mind and it is divine, controlling every aspect of our work. We have *felt* divine Love pouring itself over frustration and mean-spiritedness, —neutralizing them.

We are so grateful for the outpouring of love we feel from volunteers. Patients would *love* more volunteers to come read to them, especially on weekends. It's a great way to fulfill our Leader's prayer, "some daily good to do to Thine, for Thee." Thank you all for your affection and care.

Sharon Strong, Director of Christian Science Nursing

From our Treasurer to the Fern Lodge friends

The *Manual of The Mother Church* by Mary Baker Eddy, Article XVII, Section 2, says in part, "Gratitude and love should abide in every heart each day of all the years." This statement defines the feelings of the Fern Lodge Board, Fern Lodge staff and especially the dear ones who find themselves needing Christian Science nursing care.

Speaking as the Treasurer, gratitude and love are always in my heart when I discuss the finances of Fern Lodge.

Let me paint a picture for you. Let's assume that you are in business, and at the beginning of the year you know that your expenses are going to be at least \$1,500,000. Your business policy is to provide a service without questioning whether your customers can pay for the service and not knowing how long they will require

your service. Last year your customers paid \$526,000. That means your business had a \$1,000,000 short fall.

This is the seeming picture we face each year at Fern Lodge, the need to raise \$1,000,000. Fern Lodge does not have endowment funds, investments or aid from government programs to draw upon. What we do have is something much more powerful. That is Love and the metaphysical and financial support of Christian Scientists everywhere. That is enough!

Fern Lodge ended last year with all our expenses met and a positive balance is on the balance sheet. For this, and for all the blessings that have come to Fern Lodge this past year from you and all those who have been so generous, we say THANK YOU!

The Fern Lodge nursing education program is growing! We are reaching out to a broadening circle of Christian Scientists who are drawn to the healing ministry of Christian Science nursing. We must provide education in order to staff Fern Lodge, and so we must provide additional staff to instruct and oversee the nurses as they learn to help others. We will deeply appreciate donations to help us continue giving education opportunities to ensure that Fern Lodge is properly staffed and that there will be Christian Science nurses available in our communities.

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