

# Fern Lodge Focus

## August 87

- *The role of nursing in C.S.*
- *Hating our life in this world*

*these articles start on the next page*

### *Volunteers Can Phone In!*

We had a good response to the call for volunteers in our last Focus. One volunteer comes every month on a Saturday for a piano sing-along, another came from Nevada, to give a stunning watercolor demonstration. We also have a volunteer on Mondays who reads to patients and another with monthly slide shows complimenting our "Country of the Month."

Volunteers are needed as:

- Pianists for Sunday & Wednesday services.
- Saturday movie and popcorn hosts.
- Concordance work study partners for patients.
- Monitor bulletin board artists.
- Walkers and talkers for a trip to the San Francisco Zoo in October.
- Musicians & singers for Thursday hymn sings.

Give us a call.

**If you live far away** or don't have transportation or time to come to Fern Lodge, you can still support Christian Science nursing and be an effective part of our healing work.

You are invited to choose a day a week to pray, study and/or read the Lesson Sermon with Fern Lodge firmly in thought. Look to see what healing statements stand out to you. See how many citations apply precisely to a challenge which Christian Science nursing confronts. Put the truth you have seen to work, apply it directly, accept it as law and acknowledge its healing efficacy.

Write or call to let us know your inspirations, we will share them with our staff, patients and volunteers. The knowledge that we are working together lifts all of us to greater accomplishments.

Be a metaphysical volunteer, complete and return the corner form and we will tell you of the specific areas which need your support. To get you started, here are some of the aggressive beliefs which confront patients at Fern Lodge. These beliefs are nothing more than lies. They need to be specifically reversed, denied any power, and healed.

aimlessness	apathy	being in a rut
criticism	dependency	depression
disease	helplessness	dis-connectedness
loneliness	narrowness	discouragement
vulnerability	weakness	self-centeredness
purposelessness		

I will be by the phone (415) 886-2448 on  
Tuesdays 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.,  
Wednesdays 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.,  
Thursdays 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and  
Fridays 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Please call, collect if you wish, I would love to hear from you.

With joy,

Evelyn D Spelman  
Activities Director and  
Volunteer Co-ordinator

I will support the healing work at  
Fern Lodge on Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri,  
Sat or Sun (Please circle one)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Role of Nursing in Christian Science

During the past 2 1/2 years The Mother Church Board of Directors has conducted a study of the role of nursing in the context of the mission of our Church. In June Mr. Bruce Davis conducted meetings in the San Francisco Bay Area to help focus our attention on the place of nursing in our healing ministry. Later this year The Mother Church will publish a statement based on this consecrated work, and we look forward to it with eager anticipation. This has been a time of searching into our motives and goals, and even now we have discovered ways we can be more

radical in our thought and action as we nurse. We see in our staff a fresh dedication to the spiritual basis which

underlies Christian Science nursing work. Here are some of the ideas we have shared about the role of nursing in the mission of our Church. We will share other ideas in future Focus newsletters.

"Love your neighbor as yourself" is the whole of nursing, the whole of Christian activity, and there is no other definition. The guidance

for Christian Science nurses is the same as the guidance for all Christians, and we should be "never unready to work for God." Nursing provides manifest evidence of service in such a way that one must acknowledge its presence. It follows the Master's example, "I am among you as he that serveth." (Luke 22:27) The nurse is always ready to answer the call of "help me" with an expression of the qualities which give evidence of God's presence and care.

Christian Science nursing gives evidence of the "human and divine coincidence." Nursing is not an ethereal work being done by

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people who spend their time dreaming about ultimate perfection in the hereafter. Nursing work demands active

manifestation of God's qualities, and this manifestation takes form in the human expression of "patience, meekness, love, and good deeds." (Science & Health 4:3-5) The activity of nursing is a portion of the activity of Christ, "which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error." (Science & Health 583:8)

Jesus tells us in John's Gospel: "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." (John 12:25) This is a rather startling statement. Because far from hating our life in this world, most of us spend most of our time trying to make life in this world loveable. So if we're trying to make life here more loveable are we working against eternal life?

Well, we might be.

Jesus was very concerned that outward appearances not be used to judge righteousness. There's nothing wrong with wanting to be great or rich, so long as we have the right standards to judge whether we're becoming greater or richer. As Christians, we go back to Jesus to find out what he considered riches and greatness to be.

In the instance of people contributing money to the temple treasury Jesus saw the widow's mite as more than all the money the others had cast in. From a spiritual standpoint she had literally cast in more than the others, and was left richer for it. Jesus wanted us to amass spiritual treasures.

What about greatness?

Jesus said: "Whosoever of you will be great among you, shall be your minister: and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all." (Mark 10:43, 44) It was unselfish service to others that Jesus considered to be greatness.

Why is unselfish service at the core of Jesus' message of the



## "Hating our life in this world" Keith Nealy, C.S.

way to find God and ourselves?

Christian Science teaches that man is the expression or reflection of God. God is the source of all. God is not what He is because of what He gets from outside Himself. He does not depend on what He receives. He is the source. His being involves the constant expression of Himself. He is divine Love. This is the Love that loves all, — the just and the unjust.

Man, as God's perfect reflection, does what God does. Man's unselfishness then, is simply his continuous expression of divine

Love without regard for what comes back. If God depended on the love and appreciation He got from mortals, He'd be in rough shape. Neither do we depend on the love and appreciation of mortals. We express love unselfishly because this is our selfhood.

We are not unselfish because we're waiting to be rewarded for it. We are not rewarded for our good, but by our good.

Again recall that the kingdom of heaven is within. So it's not something which we acquire or accumulate from outside. We discover it within. It's there all along. You don't *get* love. You find love in loving. You don't get satisfaction. You express God's completeness and feel the satisfaction that is an aspect of that completeness. Heaven is not something we *get*.

In the very first paragraph of the very first chapter of Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, Mary Baker Eddy tells us that,

"The prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the sick is an absolute faith that all things are possible to God, -a spiritual understanding of Him, an *unselfed love*," that "*whatever* has been successfully done for the Christianization and health of mankind" has included *self-immolation*. (Science & Health 1:1-4)

I may have misled you a bit in the title to this talk, "hating our life in this world." Our sense of the word

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"hate" is much more negative than the sense in which it was used in John's Gospel. In this instance the word "hate" really means "loving less" or "having no regard for." The phrase "hateth his life in this world" might be rendered "but rather lives for others." The question is really one of whether we are living for ourself or for others. When we direct our efforts toward blessing others we discover our blessedness.

Now just so there's no mistake, let me be very clear about one thing. I'm not preaching a gospel of suffering. This is not a call to give away all you own. It is *selfishness itself* which must be sacrificed, not just the objects of selfishness. We should be looking for opportunities to be unselfish. We should be as diligently searching for opportunities to let go of ego, pride and human will as we are sometimes eager to find bargains at Macy's. We should be as joyous in finding these opportunities

for self sacrifice as when we find these shopping bargains. More so! We're closer to heaven.

Let me leave you with two correlative thoughts, appropriately from the Bible and from Science and Health by Mary Baker Eddy.

The first is from I John:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of

the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (I John 2:15-17)

And from Science and Health:

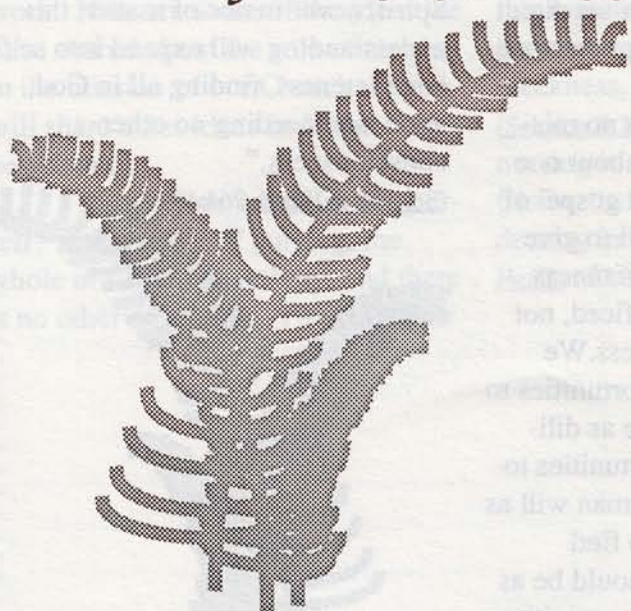
"When we realize that Life is Spirit, never in nor of matter, this understanding will expand into self-completeness, finding all in God, good, and needing no other consciousness."

(Science & Health 264:15)





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18457 Madison Avenue  
Castro Valley, CA 94546-1699



address correction requested

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