



FERN LODGE FOCUS — DECEMBER 2014

Dear Friends,

The Fern Lodge Annual Meeting in November was inspiring and informative. In this Focus you will find articles derived from the reports given during the meeting and a synopsis of the talk given by Brad Stock, titled, "Mary Baker Eddy: A Lifetime of Service."

Interestingly, the Bible Lesson topic for the week of our meeting was Everlasting Punishment, not a phrase one normally would associate with Christian Science nursing. However there is a clear connection. The only occurrence of the exact term "everlasting punishment" in the King James Bible is in Matthew 25. In his discourse on what has been called "the last judgment," Jesus speaks of dividing the faithful followers of Christ, typified by sheep and at Christ's right hand, and those who have not followed, pictured as goats on his left hand. Here is the context:

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Christ Jesus makes it clear that denying aid to those who need simple kindness and nursing care separates man from the Kingdom of Heaven and is felt as punishment. This idea sheds light on the importance of nursing to our individual practice of Christian Science and to our Movement

We are grateful for The Mother Church's focus on Christian Science nursing as a vital aspect of the healing foundation and mission of our Church. It's comforting for us to have as Church President this year, Linda Kohler, who is a Christian Science nurse. Linda and Caroleen Scholet, Manager of CS Nursing Activities, are touring the country, having conversations about CS nursing with groups of Christian Scientists. See page 3 for more about these meetings. We hope you have been able to attend and participate in one of them.

With gratitude and affection, wishing you a Soul-filled Christmas,



George Strong
Administrator



GRATITUDE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING

I'd like to thank every Christian Science nurse who is available to stand firm with those seeking Christian Science healing. We are so grateful for the loving, healing contribution each of you makes to our Movement! There are currently 22 nurses on staff at Fern Lodge. This year one of our nurses, Araceli Khajehnoori became *Journal*-listed. And we've had several students from the Fern Lodge training program stay on for mentoring – a good, dedicated group.

At Fern Lodge, we provide the full spectrum of Christian Science nursing, and we serve an average of 21 patients daily. Outpatient nursing care is given for individuals who are able to drop in to Fern Lodge; we visit people in their homes; and we deliver nursing supplies if there is a need.

Our purpose at Fern Lodge is to heal. From the vantage point as Christian Science healers, we see evidence of the Christ at work in patients and in our nursing practice on a daily, hourly, moment-by-moment basis. We continue to see examples of progress that include physical healings and overcoming of mental limitations.

Here are some examples. A long-time Christian Science Practitioner who needed support with mobility and was unable to communicate clearly came for nursing care. She made good progress and was able to return home within a short time. A side effect from her metaphysical study during her stay at Fern Lodge was a renewed enthusiasm for continuing her Christian Science practice. Another church member came to Fern Lodge after being taken to the emergency room where surgery was recommended after an x-ray. She continues to progress and is now walking with a walker.

Patients come to Fern Lodge dealing with long-standing claims where the suggestion is that maintaining a declining quality of life is inevitable.

Christian Science nursing denies those claims, and we see progress and increased freedom. We see this progress and expectancy of good through participation in daily activities – Bible Lesson study, hymn sings, and a variety of special activities. Thanks to our activity director, Robin Barben!

We find daily inspiration in the following assurance from Mary Baker Eddy: "Happiness consists in being and doing good; only the good 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 to The Mother Church*, 1902 17:22-25).

I received a phone call from a patient's family after their recent visit. They were very grateful for the care, support and encouragement the patient is receiving. Before she was faced with a physical challenge, the patient had expressed an interest in supporting Christian Science healing as either a practitioner or nurse, but recently she talked of giving up. While they were at Fern Lodge, the family was happy to see patients reading to each other and assisting at meals. They pointed out to their loved one that at Fern Lodge she has opportunities to share with others her love of Christian Science healing, and they encouraged her not to give up. We are grateful for evidence of progress.

Finally, I extend our thanks to Christian Science practitioners for their healing work, to volunteers for their selfless service, and to you for your encouragement and generous support for Fern Lodge!

— Rozanne Zwick



THINKING DEEPLY ABOUT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING

Each year Christian Science nursing organizations gather for a conference to discuss issues of common interest, to share metaphysical insights into Christian Science nursing and facility operation, and to tell of practical solutions and healing experiences we all have had. Representatives from The Mother Church normally attend these conferences and offer valuable support and encouragement.

At the 2014 conference, Caroleen Scholet, Manager of Christian Science Nursing Activities at The Mother Church, shared inspiring remarks focused on this year's Church theme, "Jesus established his church and maintained his mission on a spiritual foundation of Christ-healing." Caroleen urged us all to think deeply about the role of Christian Science nursing in Christ-healing, and she closed with the following:

As a wrap, up I offer 10 questions we can be asking in our facilities.

- *What can we do to bring our practice of Christian Science nursing more in line with the spiritual foundation of Christ-healing?*
- *In what ways is everything we're doing for the purpose of "quick and whole healing"? Anything to shed or do differently?*
- *How can we be allowing for more "burning bush" experiences? What does it take?*
- *How might individual Christian Science nurses be representing themselves more, taking more responsibility and accountability for their individual practice in all aspects from choice of patients and patient oversight to giving benevolence for their own cases within a facility setting?*
- *How can we de-facilitize the Christian Science nursing in facilities and better prepare Christian Science nurses for work in the Field?*
- *How can there be less hierarchy and more of a closer working together from the Christian Science nurses to Administration to Boards? In what ways would this contribute to the sustainability of Christian Science nursing?*
- *What influences or challenges do you see facing Christian Science nursing and Christian Science nursing facilities which compromise the pure practice of Christian Science nursing? Then what ideas are being revealed to turn around those influences? How can they be followed through on?*
- *How can facilities parallel the care one would receive in their home?*
- *In each facility how can we keep the freshness of the pioneering spirit alive, and how would this help our changing needs?*
- *What model(s) is(are) needed for your community in providing Christian Science nursing? Are we thinking beyond our own circle of members?*

These questions give focus to the meetings conducted by Linda Kohler, President of The Mother Church and Caroleen, as they tour the country speaking with all who are interested in Christian Science nursing.

During this and the coming year, the Fern Lodge staff and board are discussing in depth the answers that come to us and their implications for our practice of Christian Science nursing at Fern Lodge.

MARY BAKER EDDY: A LIFETIME OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE — STUDY GUIDE



Dr. Brad Stock is a dear and long-time friend of Fern Lodge. He understands and supports Christian Science nursing and its role in Christian Science healing and individual salvation. Dr. Stock is the Harding Mott II Distinguished Professor of the History of the Christian Science Movement at Principia College, in Elsah, Illinois. Brad teaches courses on the Life of Mary Baker Eddy and the history of the Christian Science movement. A sizable portion of his time is dedicated to research and talks on Christian Science history, both on and off campus. Brad spoke at the Fern Lodge Annual Meeting on Mary Baker Eddy's lifetime of Christian service.

As Mary Baker Eddy writes in a church by-law: "A Christian Scientist is a humanitarian; he is benevolent..." (*Manual of The Mother Church*, p. 46).

That is our job description! Dr. Stock emphasized the fact that this *benevolence* does not necessarily relate to *money*. According to one dictionary, benevolence is "the disposition to do good; good will; kindness; charitableness; the love of mankind." True benevolence always involves healing, for benevolence relates directly to man's reflection of God's love for creation. Thus, benevolence is at the heart of Christian Science.

In *Science & Health*, Mrs. Eddy sets forth two laws which are important to Christian Science nursing. On p. 8, she writes: "If we turn away from the poor, we are not ready to receive the reward of Him who blesses the poor." And on p. 79, she writes: "Giving does not impoverish us in the service of our Maker, neither does withholding enrich us." These laws are foundational to the ongoing success of Fern Lodge. These are not abstract laws; they are practical. They increase our ability to do good, to be of service, to prosper. They are laws of benevolence. They enable us to live lives of Christian service.

Brad provided the following citations to help us explore true benevolence and realize why it is an intrinsic part of our Leader's life and of Christian Science.

1. The Christianity of Christian Science (in Mrs. Eddy's Words):

- "I became early a child of the Church, an eager lover and student of vital Christianity. . . . [T]he Bible, especially the First Commandment . . . and Ninety-first Psalm, the Sermon on the Mount, and St. John's Revelation, educated my thought many years, yea, all the way up to its preparation for and reception of the Science of Christianity..." (*Message to 1901*, p. 32).
- The next year, she wrote to the daughter of her childhood minister: "*The religion that he taught and lived, I honor and love. It was the vestibule of Christian Science*" (Smith, *Historical Sketches*, p. 53).
- "It was an inherent characteristic of my nature, a kind of birthmark, to love the Church.... I never left the Church.... I but began where the Church left off" (*Message to 1902*, p. 2).
- "When a child of about thirteen years I united with the Congregational church, and never left it until I had one built on its foundations. The only difference being the spiritual element taking the place of the material in its forms and doctrines" (Yvonne von Fettweis and Robert Townsend Warneck, *Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer*, Amplified Edition, p. 22).

— FROM A TALK BY BRAD STOCK AT THE FERN LODGE ANNUAL MEETING

- She loved “the prosperity of Zion, be it promoted by Catholic, by Protestant, or by Christian Science” (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist and Miscellany*, p. 270), and predicted that Christendom would be united by spiritual healing (*Pulpit and Press*, p. 22). “Christian Science and Christianity are one” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 372).

II. Mrs. Eddy’s Lifetime of Service (A Model of Benevolence):

Mrs. Eddy wrote, “The true leader of a true cause is the unacknowledged servant of mankind. Stationary in the background, this individual is doing the work that nobody else can or will do” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 266). The following examples can be found in Irving Tomlinson’s record of Mrs. Eddy’s life, *Twelve Years With Mary Baker Eddy*, Amplified Edition:

- p. 43 Mrs. Eddy’s vow to God in 1857.
- p. 60 Her healing of a child in Rumney, NH, in the 1850s, solely through prayer.
- p. 45 Her willingness to endure poverty while discovering Christian Science.
- p. 130 The hostility directed toward her as she recorded her Christian discovery.
- p. 42 Her desire to find even one person who was interested in Christian Science.
- p. 163 Her effort to take herself out of the way and allow God to lead the Cause.
- p. 165 Her willingness to give up all for the Cause.

III. A Model of Christian Benevolence (in the Bible and Mrs. Eddy’s Writings)

- “The Lord gave the word...” (Ps 68:11).
- “...and without him [the Word] was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:1-3,14).
- “...he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things...” (Acts 17:25).
- “The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23; John 3:16; 2 Cor 9:15).
- “...by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).
- “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17; Isaiah 55:1).
- “Shall we plead for more at the open fount, which is pouring forth more than we accept?” (*Science and Health*, p. 2).
- “Christian Science comes to reveal man as God’s image, His idea, coexistent with Him — God giving all and man having all that God gives” (*Miscellany*, p. 5).
- “The human affections need to be changed from self to benevolence and love for God and man; changed to having but one God and loving Him supremely, and helping our brother man. This change of heart is essential to Christianity, and will have its effect physically as well as spiritually, healing disease” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 50).

MARY BAKER EDDY: A LIFETIME OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE (CONTINUED)

- “Judge Medicine then proceeds to pronounce the solemn sentence of death upon the prisoner. Because he has loved his neighbor as himself, Mortal Man has been guilty of benevolence in the first degree, . . .” (*Science and Health*, p. 433).
- “God does not reward benevolence and love with penalties; and because of this, we have the right to deny the supposed power of matter to do it, . . .” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 199).
- “Human reason becomes tired and calls for rest. It has a relapse into the common hope. Goodness and benevolence never tire. They maintain themselves and others and never stop from exhaustion. He who is afraid of being too generous has lost the power of being magnanimous. The best man or woman is the most unselfed” (*Miscellany*, p. 165).
- “... Christian Science comes to reveal man as God’s image, His idea, coexistent with Him — God giving all and man having all that God gives” (*Miscellany*, p. 5)

Mrs. Eddy writes, “The reformer has no time to give in defense of his own life’s incentive, since no sacrifice is too great for the silent endurance of his love. What has not unselfed love achieved for the race? All that ever was accomplished, and more than history has yet recorded. The reformer...may labor for the establishment of a cause which is fraught with infinite blessings, — health, virtue, and heaven; but what of all that? Who should care for everybody? It is enough, say they, to care for a few. Yet the good done, and the love that foresees more to do, stimulate philanthropy and are an ever-present reward. Let one’s life answer well these questions, and it already hath a benediction:

“Have you renounced self? Are you faithful? Do you love?” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 238).

EDUCATION AT FERN LODGE — THE FALL CLASS OF 2014



Pictured from left to right: Diane Cothorn, David Rubel, Mina Soriano (Mentor), Alice Nikuzwe, Sharon Strong (Instructor), not pictured: Gary Bottje, who participated over the internet.

"THEY SHALL BE ALL TAUGHT OF GOD"

The Fern Lodge Christian Science Nursing Education Program is expanding! We have an increasing number of individuals coming to us who have trained many years ago and want skills or ethics updates. And since Annual Meeting of TMC in June, the number of young people applying for Christian Science nursing has increased.

We held a Level 1 course over the summer for a student from Principia, and she was such a natural nurse! It is gratifying to get to know young Christian Scientists who realize the vital role nursing plays in the practice of Christian Science.

We just began our third Level 2 course this year. This is a month-long course covering topics such as Cleansing & Covering or Bandaging, Sudden Needs, Home and Visiting Christian Science Nursing, Advanced Bed Care, Special Needs, Ministering to Mental Needs, and Advanced Foods. We held this course in mid-January and also in mid-May, and for each class, situations arose in nearby homes or at Fern Lodge, which allowed the class participants to gain experience in each of these areas.

Ten students have taken classes this year, which is double the number we had in 2013. Some have come from Colorado (one of whom is originally from Rwanda), two came from New Hampshire, one

from Chile, one from California, and several from our staff who are progressing along in their Christian Science nursing practice.

One of Christian Science nurse from Illinois who took classes with us using Skype recently became *Journal*-listed. Another one attended several courses over Skype with our most recent class of three. He also came to Fern Lodge for two weeks of mentoring to bolster new skills and practice some that he doesn't have the opportunity to at his current care home.

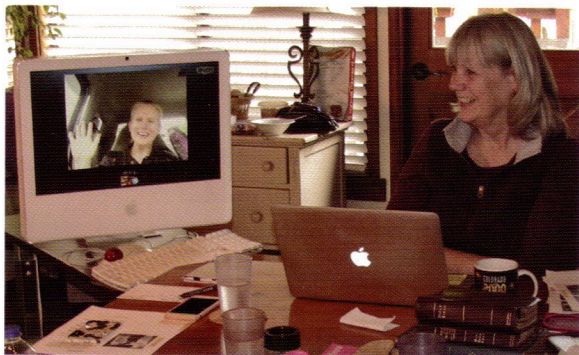
Fern Lodge continues to embrace international education. A group in the Dominican Republic is interested in training and we hope to be going there in 2015. And we continue to work with Christian Scientists in South America. Most of our course material has now been translated into Spanish.

In addition to teaching at Fern Lodge, we conduct reviews for other Christian Science nursing facilities. We have a course scheduled at the facility in Victoria, BC, Canada, and last year we conducted courses at other facilities on Ministering to Mental Needs.

With today's technology, it is easy to keep in touch with more remote areas, to answer questions or even demonstrate a skill using Skype, Google, or other video programs. Some course information is also being transferred to PowerPoint presentations. This enables us to embed brief how-to videos, which is especially helpful with illustrating nursing tasks.

We are finding that as we listen for Mind's direction for ways to reach and teach God's children, new ideas continue to unfold, which enable us to share the good news of the healing ministry of Christian Science nursing with those earnestly desiring to serve. This ensures us that, as John 6:45 says, "They shall be all taught of God."

— Sharon Strong



We're grateful that Rachel is able to take classes without leaving her home in Hawaii.

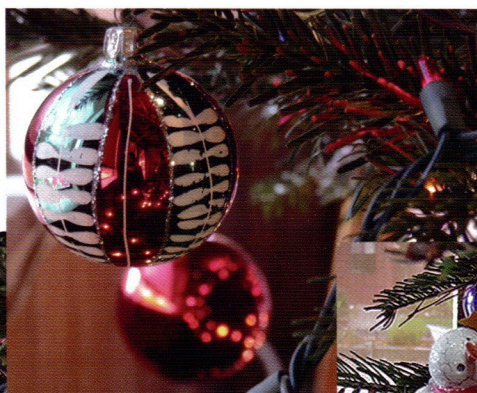
CHRISTMAS AT FERN LOGE



Pictured above are the Sunday Singers, who come each Christmas to sing at Fern Lodge.



At left, Leticia trims the tree.



Fern Lodge Focus — December 2014
18457 Madison Avenue
Castro Valley, CA 94546

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit
Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Hayward, CA
Permit No. 798