



## FERN LODGE FOCUS — JUNE 2015

Dear Friends,

The year since the last Annual Meeting of The Mother Church has seen in-depth focus on Christian Science nursing. Linda Kohler, President, and Caroleen Scholet, Manager of CS Nursing Activities, have toured the world, having conversations about CS nursing with groups of Christian Scientists. We hope you have been able to attend and participate in one of these informative and inspiring meetings (see page 7 for more information).

We are deeply grateful for the focus on Christian Science nursing. As Christian Scientists gain a deeper understanding of nursing and include care for others in their practice, they will participate in the fullness of Christian Science healing, bringing blessings to mankind, and helping to cure the ills—physical, mental, and societal—that appear so aggressive today. Fern Lodge is planning to build on the growing understanding of nursing as a vital aspect of the healing practice of Christian Science. Once again we will offer to conduct Care Workshops in communities throughout northern California and parts of Nevada. Look for an announcement soon on our website and in a newsletter later in the year.

Thoughtful, loving care is vital to Christian Science healing. At Fern Lodge we have been thinking earnestly about the role of nursing in metaphysical healing. Studying the chapter “Christian Science Practice” in *Science and Health*, we find Mrs. Eddy’s in-depth explanations of how to heal through scientific prayer framed by examples of loving-kindness and care. The chapter opens with Mary Magdalene washing Christ Jesus’ feet. A few pages into the chapter Mrs. Eddy writes, “...if the unselfish affections be lacking, and common sense and common humanity are disregarded, what mental quality remains, with which to evoke healing from the outstretched arm of righteousness?” (SH 365:11).

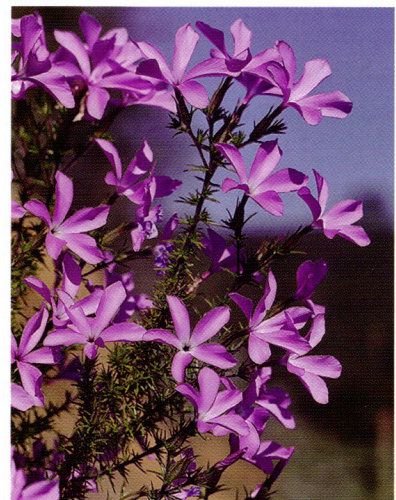
The chapter closes with what students of Christian Science know as the trial. This insightful and comforting assurance of the healing authority of Christian Science tells of a mortal man who was sentenced to die because he got sick while nursing a friend. In the trial, Christian Science, the attorney for mortal man, says “Laying down his life for a good deed, Mortal Man should find it again. Such acts bear their own justification, and are under the protection of the Most High” (SH 436:12).

We look forward to continuing unfoldment in the understanding of Christian Science nursing and its essential role in the fullness of Christian Science practice.

With gratitude and affection,



George Strong  
Administrator





## FROM HEATHER BECK, OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING



**Heather Beck**  
**Director of Christian Science Nursing**

I love looking in the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings for examples of Christian Science nursing. When I notice something, I find myself quietly exclaiming, "That is what a Christian Science nurse does!" Recently I found this in *Miscellaneous Writings* (249:23): "My heavenly Father will never leave me comfortless, in the amplitude of His love; coming nearer in my need, more tenderly to save and bless."

Doesn't this describe the ministry of Christian Science nursing? One definition of ministry is, "the spiritual work or service of any Christian." It is the spiritual work—praying and seeing God's man right where other suggestions seem to be—that reflects His love, meets all human needs and saves mankind.

A very long time ago, I was in the office of Marion Jordan, who was the Director of the Home Aide Service for Christian Scientists in Boston. We were standing in front of a map of Boston and she was showing me where my first home case would be. She put her hand gently on my shoulder and said,

"Christian Science is practical, dear." It is hard to describe fully what happened in my thought and to my life in that moment. But I knew this in an instant: Knowing the Truth is practical. Realizing the Truth in whatever situations I was about to face was what I was being asked to do, and doing this would meet the human need.

Years later, when God led me to Christian Science nursing, this idea became further crystallized in my consciousness. Our ministry—our spiritual work—is to keep thought actively in relation to the Divine, as Mrs. Eddy writes in *Miscellany* (160:5-8): "To live so as to keep human consciousness in constant relation with the divine, the spiritual, and the eternal, is to individualize infinite power; and this is Christian Science."

This is what we are endeavoring to do every day at Fern Lodge. And we are seeing some inspiring healings. Last week a patient was upset, feeling there really wasn't any point in living. What could he do that would be worthwhile? What purpose did he have? As I was listening, I began to acknowledge the good in him. His life did and does have purpose. It's to love! Suddenly he began to talk about experiences that were positive examples of loving. Another nurse joined me and we continued to encourage him. After a little while, he became peaceful and happy.

A month or so ago a patient returned home after several weeks at Fern Lodge. His practitioner called me and said that the patient was back to participating in daily activities, and she expressed gratitude for the support he received at Fern Lodge.

Proofs of God's presence and love are all around us. We see them every day. As we move forward at Fern Lodge, I am keeping in mind what the little ones learn as one of their first lessons in Sunday School: God Good, Guards, Guides and Governs. He is pointing the way and He will guide Fern Lodge in ways that will increasingly bless our dear patients, our wonderful staff, and our community.

Heather Beck



## HEARTFELT THANKS TO ROZANNE ZWICK!

Everyone at Fern Lodge is deeply grateful to Rozanne Zwick, who served for three years as Director of Christian Science Nursing. Under Rozanne's inspired guidance Fern Lodge made significant progress as we sought to ensure that the Christian Science nursing care we offer is a healing influence, specifically tailored to meet each individual patient's daily needs. Her unique touch has helped to make our facility a home to all who come to us for care.

Rozanne wrote, "While I've enjoyed the Fern Lodge setting, it is clear to me that my desire is to serve as a Christian Science nurse, working with individual patients rather than managing a facility." We are grateful to know that she is available to help those who need care in their homes, as well as in Christian Science facilities around the world. Rozanne is an excellent instructor and mentor, and we look forward to having her join us from time to time to teach classes in our Christian Science Nursing Education Program. As the poster in the photo above says, we love Rozanne and will stay in close touch with her.



## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING EDUCATION UPDATE



Sharon, Ashley, and James

Sharon Strong, Director of Christian Science Nursing Education and Ashley Niles, a *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse, were grateful to assist the parents, Janessa and Forrest, as they welcomed James into their family. This was an opportunity for Ashley to further her education by taking the Fern Lodge class in Mother and Infant Care.

The many manifestations of our care for others reflect God's care for man. Christian Science nursing education at Fern Lodge is focused on helping Christian Scientists understand their inherent nursing qualities and demonstrate these qualities fully and skillfully, embracing all who turn to Christian Science for healing.

Nursing is simple. Yes, there is much to learn if we would offer Christian Science nursing for everyone, but the fundamental qualities that lead to good nursing care are inherent in all who love one another and seek to bless mankind. The Fern Lodge education program offers instruction in Christian Science nursing in ways that accommodate individual lives, so that this instruction is readily available to any Christian Scientist who is called to this holy ministry. Look for more information on the Fern Lodge education program in future issues of the *FOCUS*.



## UNFOLDMENT INTO CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING —

Early this year our friend, Ashley Niles, was listed as a Christian Science nurse in *The Christian Science Journal*. Her story illustrates the qualities of thought that naturally lead Christian Scientists to care for others. We asked if she would share her inspiring experience with our readers, and here's her article.



Ashley with her dog, Scout

I remember as a little child going to a Christian Science nursing facility to get a cut on my hand cleaned and bandaged. That was my first experience I can recall with a Christian Science nurse.

My second experience a couple decades later was when I went to attend a youth summit and sat in on a discussion group about being in the practice. There was a Christian Science practitioner as well as a Christian Science nurse speaking. That was where the thought came to me that Christian Science nursing might be something I was interested in doing. So I picked up the pamphlet entitled, "To Be a Christian Science Nurse" so I could read more about this position.

When I got home I read through the pamphlet but over time forgot about Christian Science nursing. It was about five years later I found that pamphlet on Christian Science nursing and read through it again. At that time I was working new construction as an electrical apprentice. I was having a difficult

time with the men on the job site as I was the only woman on the entire site. Crude comments, inappropriate language, discussing immoral behavior was what I was having to be around all day. It started to wear on me and I wanted out of the situation, but as I stopped myself, I realized something: I was having trouble finding satisfaction in any work I was doing, which ended up with me having a high turnover rate in jobs. Every time I'd get tired or frustrated with my current employment, I'd start seeking a new line of work.

Being raised in Christian Science I knew I could turn to God in prayer for answers on what to do. But if I'm honest, I didn't really know what it meant to pray or how to pray. I knew one thing though, I wanted to help people, and I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself. So I started searching for jobs that might fulfill that desire. The first thing that came to my thought was Christian Science nursing. I have heard of people saying God has spoken to them in a very clear voice. Well I don't recall ever hearing God speak to me in a very clear and distinctive voice until this one day after a very challenging day at work. I heard: "Ashley, how could you even consider being a Christian Science nurse if you can't even heal this situation on your job site with these men you work with."

Wait, what?

I feel that clear message to me was the beginning of my Christian Science nurse training. I got to work to see these men I worked with as Jesus would have seen them. In about a week, there was a complete change in behavior on the job site. There were no more crude comments towards me, and the inappropriate language dwindled. There was mutual respect on the job site, and I honestly started to care deeply for each and every one of those men.



## ASHLEY NILES, A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE, TELLS HER STORY

Once that healing occurred and things were going great at work and I started to make an effort to pray daily, I woke up one morning with God telling me it was time for me to take Christian Science class instruction. Now, I knew at some point in my life I'd probably take this two-week course, but I hadn't expected that thought at this particular moment. I guess that is what happens when you get self out of the way and let God lead! Since that healing on the job site, I decided it would be good if I listened to God and did what I was told to do.

I honestly had no clue how things were going to work out. Two weeks off work in the middle of my electrical school was not advised as I could fall very far behind the rest of the class. But I believed God had my best interest so I started looking for a Christian Science teacher who had not already taught a class that year.

My experience finding a teacher was via God's shepherding. I struggled for weeks to pick the right teacher because

you only get one! Oh my gosh, how was I to know who would be the right teacher for me? I had a list of four names, and I talked with all but one. That one teacher that I had decided to cross off my list (to narrow it down to three) ended up being my teacher for Christian Science class instruction. It goes to show me that my personal wants or opinions are not always what is best for me. God kept me on His path, not my human will. I believe that is because deep down I was open and receptive to God's guidance and willing to follow what I felt was right. So a couple months later, off I went to class instruction—two whole weeks learning how to pray! Remember, I hadn't really understood what it meant to pray or how to pray. Well, I was lead to the right teacher, and I learned!

I think it was the second or third day of class that I knew I wasn't going to be going back to my job

as an electrical apprentice when I returned home. I again read through that pamphlet "To Be a Christian Science Nurse," but this time I knew I was ready and willing to do this work. Was I scared? I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a little. I had no clue how things were going to unfold, I had no clue how I was going to afford to pay my bills while I worked out how to go through training for Christian Science nursing or how I would afford to pay for the training.

With my new understanding of how to pray about difficulties we all face, I got to work to gain a better understanding of what it really meant to trust God fully.

As I started looking into training programs and trying to pick the right one, I was given a very wonderful idea from a practitioner to think about. I had Christian Science class instruction, and that

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***MY PERSONAL WANTS OR OPINIONS ARE NOT ALWAYS BEST.  
GOD KEPT ME ON HIS PATH, NOT MY HUMAN WILL.***

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is the most important training for being in the practice. That is the basis of my Christian Science nursing ministry. Everything else, all the practical care, will be harmoniously administered as I stand on the rock of Christ.

Like picking a teacher, I made a list of four places, and again, the first place I crossed off ended up being where I began my first level of Christian Science Nurses training. You think I would have learned from my first experience of trying to figure it out for myself. I guess sometimes we have to go through things a couple times before it really is clear that trusting God's path for us is always the best.

The harmonious unfoldment of this first part of my training was so exciting to witness. Here's a quick look: Two weeks class instruction, finished my last two weeks at my job, two weeks spent packing up



## UNFOLDMENT INTO CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING, CONTINUED

my apartment and putting everything I didn't need with me while I was gone for training in storage, went to my first Association the following weekend, and then started my nurses training that following Monday. It sounds jam-packed, but it flowed so smoothly. Needless to say, it was pretty cool to experience!

After about five months and lots of praying about what was next, I started looking into the next level of training for Christian Science nursing. This led me to Fern Lodge, in Castro Valley, California. Again it was a seamless transition to the next phase of my training. I wasn't sure how long I'd be there, but I was learning what it meant to trust God fully through these experiences.

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### ***I FEEL COMPLETELY SATISFIED...BEING PART OF A MOVEMENT BIGGER THAN MYSELF...THAT WILL BLESS ALL MANKIND.***

I will mention that I struggled daily with fears that would come up—mostly fears about finances. I worked daily at handling those fears through prayer to gain a spiritual view of supply and to know that I will have what I need when I need it. I found that this requires an understanding of trusting God fully. Even though I had struggles, they were always corrected as I gained a stronger spiritual view of Life and supply. I just had to keep working and studying to understand God's supply better and to remove the fear that I couldn't make a living being a Christian Science nurse with only one income.

I proved over and over through my training time that the lie or fear of not having enough money has no basis or truth in my life. I always had the supply I needed to take care of my financial responsibilities.

After a little over a month at Fern Lodge, I felt the need to head back home. At this point I had been gone from home for Christian Science nurse training

for about seven months. When I returned home, there was a need for a private duty Christian Science nurse in my home town. I knew that was the work of God again putting me right where I needed to be, and where I would be the most helpful. And I was willing to listen and be led.

Later that summer, I was able to set up a mentorship with a *Journal*-listed nurse at one of the Christian Science Youth Camps to get experience working with children as a Christian Science nurse.

Since I started nursing full time in the fall of 2013, I have not experienced any lack in my life. I have always been provided with what I needed at the time I needed it and I have much gratitude for that law of God in my life. It is the first career I've had where I feel completely satisfied! I have the opportunity to daily assist and support my

fellow man while being a part of a movement that is bigger than myself, a movement that will bless all mankind.

In December of 2014, I applied for my *Journal*-listing, and in January 2015, I was accepted into *The Christian Science Journal*.

I think the important thing to remember is that we each are listening for God's guidance in our individual lives. The beautiful thing is that there are many different opportunities to get the practical training for Christian Science Nursing. This was an opportunity for me to listen for what God has planned for me. And sometimes it surprised me where I was led to be. But when I finally understood what it really meant to trust God fully, the blessings and the opportunities came into my life abundantly.

Love and Gratitude,  
Ashley Niles



## A MESSAGE FROM THE MOTHER CHURCH — QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

We are deeply grateful to Linda Kohler, President, and Caroleen Scholet, Manager of Christian Science Nursing Activities, for their inspired, selfless, and unflagging devotion to our Church and to Christian Science nursing. During the past several months they have travelled the world, talking with groups of Christian Scientists about the Church's theme for the year, "Jesus established his church and maintained his mission on a spiritual foundation of Christ-healing" (*SH* 136:1-2) and leading discussions focussed on Christian Science nursing. In these discussions, Linda and Caroleen asked thought-provoking questions of Christian Science nurses and all Christian Scientists who are interested in and supportive of Christian Science nursing. Here are those questions:

### SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION OF CHRIST-HEALING

- What evidence am I seeing today that convinces me that Christian Science nursing is a vital aspect of Christ-healing--that it is Biblically-based, Manual-founded and Pastor-guided?
- How does the practice of Christian Science nursing promote Christ-healing? What does my own ongoing spiritual growth have to do with promoting Christ-healing?
- What is required of me today in order to strengthen my individual practice and to witness "quick and whole healing" (Manual pg.92) in every case?
- What can I do to bring my practice of Christian Science nursing more completely in line with the spiritual foundation of Christ-healing?

### INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Why am I a Christian Science nurse?
- What are some of the "burning bush" experiences in my life that have strengthened my Christian Science nursing practice? How can we be allowing for more "burning bush" experiences? What does that take?
- How can I keep the freshness of the pioneering spirit alive? Would doing this help me better respond to the world's changing needs? If so, how?

### A CHURCH OF HEALERS — SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

- How can I be more alert to recognize financial concerns (my own, those of patient, family, facility, CS community, the world) as mental suggestions that I am divinely authorized to correct with pure, scientific truth? How can I contribute to uplifting world thought to realize more fully that man is dependent on God alone to meet every need?

- What's the best way to share the message that Christian Science nursing plays a vital role in the Christian Science Church's healing mission for humanity with fellow students of Christian Science? What can I as an individual member do to accomplish this?
- What can I do to help others accept and embrace Christian Science nursing care when they legitimately need it, to "early call on an experienced Christian Scientist to aid them"? (*S&H* 420:4-7)
- How can we prepare for the future generations of Christian Science nurses?

### UNIVERSAL CHURCH — HEALING AND SAVING THE WORLD

- Do I generally expect, as an outcome of my prayer and ministry, that the public (including friends, neighbors, communities around Christian Science churches, the world at large) is becoming more aware of Christian Science nursing as a blessing to our community and to mankind?
- Do I expect that Christian Science nursing as a ministry of the Christian Science Church should and will be recognized through suitable legislative actions as a legitimate healing practice?
- How prepared am I to welcome the public to pursue Christian Science healing and the services of Christian Science practitioners and Christian Science nurses?
- How can those of us meeting today continue this discussion with one another in the future?

The meetings in branch churches closed with this thought provoking question:

**How can those of us meeting today continue this discussion with one another in the future?**



## PROJECTS AND PLANS

Earlier this year we had a thorough safety inspection of the Fern Lodge facility and grounds. We were informed that an electrical panel was overloaded and inappropriate for its location. We are grateful to our dear friend and contractor, Jim Keven, for managing the smooth replacement of this electric service. Jim also constructed and installed a gate to enclose our garbage bin shed and shield the bins from view and from the weather. With the substantial savings Jim realized for us, the total cost of these two projects, neither of which was anticipated this year, was about \$10,000.

Hillside Hall, the nursing wing of Fern Lodge built in 1960, is in need of a major remodel. Patients in adjoining rooms must share a bathroom, and this seriously limits the room assignments we can make. We are working with an architect to prepare a design that will add three additional bathrooms. Also in Hillside, the hallway lighting now consists of a long row of inefficient fluorescent lights. We plan to install LED lighting, which will be more energy efficient while providing additional light.

We will appreciate donations to help fund these projects.

## BENEVOLENCE AND DONATIONS

Most of the dear Christian Scientists who come to Fern Lodge for Christian Science nursing are unable to pay the full cost. Fern Lodge provides about \$700,000 each year in benevolence, and all of those funds come from donations from individuals, branch churches, Associations, foundation grants, or bequests. Your gifts support the radical stand for Christian Science healing made by the patients at Fern Lodge.

Fern Lodge is deeply grateful for all donations to enable us to make needed upgrades and repairs to the facility and grounds and to continue our benevolence for patients. If you wish to make a donation by credit card, look for the **Donate** button on the upper right corner of our website home page, [fernlodge.org](http://fernlodge.org), or call the business office.



***Fern Lodge Focus — June 2015***  
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