

Healing is —

Healing is not confined  
to place or time  
nor to occupying space  
like a heedless vagrant  
moving from bench to bench.

Healing doesn't swirl  
in and out of consciousness  
like an ephemeral visitation  
venting power indiscriminately  
and fading away.

Healing is everywhere:  
a gentle rain of cleansing innocence  
unencumbered by seasons  
a permanent expectancy  
filling Love's vision  
with ever-present blue-sky  
wholeness.

Healing embraces infinity  
and plays no favorites  
but touches all  
with glorious Sun-drenched purity.

Jennifer Cora





## Have you visited Fern Lodge lately?

Inspiring talks by Miss Patricia Tuttle, C.S.B. and by a panel of Christian Science nurses from the Fern Lodge staff highlighted this year's Annual Meeting of Fern Lodge.

The Open House held at Fern Lodge after our meeting was well attended, and we enjoyed showing off the new building. It was heartening to hear the words of encouragement and appreciation shared by those who visited that afternoon.

We know that many of you could not be with us then, and we want to extend an invitation for you to see the facility, too. If you're able to come to Castro Valley on a weekday, our staff is ready to show you around. We think you will be pleased with our progress. Please call (415) 886-2448, and let us know you are coming. If you are able to come only on a weekend, call and ask for Peter Dempsey. He will help arrange a special tour for you.

We hope all of our friends will visit to see the fruits of their support. Plan to come soon!



One of the four living rooms in the new wing which we set up with borrowed furniture to give an idea of how pleasant they will be when we can move in.



# At our Annual Meeting in September, we asked...

...a panel of nurses from Fern Lodge to answer some of the more frequently asked questions about Christian Science nursing. Panel members were Anna Lisa McVey, Barbara Reap, June Copeland, and Jennifer Cora. Their comments were so helpful in clarifying the roles of both Christian Science nurses and Christian Science nursing facilities, that we wanted to share them with all of our supporters. The following is a summary of their remarks.

The first questions were directed to Anna Lisa McVey, an experienced nurse who is now continuing training to become a graduate Christian Science nurse:

*Why do we have Christian Science nurses?*

*Are they just a "prop" for the practice because we are not doing better healing work?*

*Are they just here to show the world that we take care of our own?*

**Anna Lisa McVey:** Before I knew what Christian Science nursing was, I thought it was really contrary to Christian Science. I thought it was nursing a problem along instead of healing it. As a practicing Christian Scientist, I wasn't about to support that concept. But I also knew that Mary Baker Eddy had established the office of Christian Science nurse in the *Church Manual*, Article VIII, Section 31. It's in the chapter on Discipline, along with the Daily Prayer, Practitioners, and Testimonials, so I knew that Mrs. Eddy felt it was just as vital as these.



As I pondered the place of nursing, I realized that the Christian Science movement includes nursing because the movement and nursing are deeply Christian. Christian Science nursing is not the opposite of healing, or a delay in healing, it is a part of healing. In fact every healing includes elements of nursing, if we understand nursing as Love made practical. The nurturing, cherishing, reassuring and holding firm for Truth on the part of anyone, practitioner, nurse or friend, are healing expressions of divine Love. Nursing is epitomized by the compassionate hand of Jesus

lifting up the sinking Peter as he walked out on the sea to the Master. Jesus didn't fold his arms and tell Peter, "too bad, you didn't make the grade." He lovingly reached out to catch Peter even while reminding him that it was just a lack of faith that let him sink.

Our example is Christ Jesus, the Way-Shower. As nurses we ask ourselves, "how did Jesus care for people? how did he nurse them?" Then we pattern our caring and nursing after his. A brief, beautiful summary of how we can measure our success as Christian Science nurses is given in Matthew, 25:31-46. I like to think of this passage as correlative to the *Manual* by-law for the Christian Science nurse: "Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Barbara Reap recently completed her training to become eligible for *Journal*-listing as a Christian Science nurse. We asked her to comment on the question,



## *What are some of the reasons why a Christian Scientist would choose to be a Christian Science nurse?*



**Barbara Reap:** There are many wonderful reasons that make nursing in Christian Science richly rewarding. I went to the Fern Lodge nursing staff and asked how these loving individuals had been guided to their work, and the range of replies was as varied as the nurses who answered. One individual said she wanted to practice more fully the Golden Rule; another answered that she had a desire to support Christian Science healing. One person wanted to change careers, and through prayer came into nursing; another said she had always nursed birds, cats, and dolls and that her nursing work

was a natural outgrowth of her experience. One man came into nursing after working in the garden; he went from nursing plants to nursing people. Among the many reasons given for going into nursing there was frequently the comment that they never thought that nursing would appeal to them or that they could be good at it.

As a child I was more interested in playing ball than dolls, and I studied to become a Physical Education teacher. The work of nursing was about as unappealing as anything I could think of. During the time I had class instruction in Christian Science, I stayed in a rest and study room at Tenacre, a nursing facility for Christian Scientists in New Jersey. I remember remarking to a friend, after we watched a nurse working with a patient, that that would be the last thing I would want to do. Later I witnessed a marvelous healing my son had through prayer in Christian Science, and out of gratitude I dedicated my life to God. I said, "use me Lord any way you want to." Soon I was praying where to be led, and I worked to know that my real employment was expressing these qualities: honesty, trustworthiness, promptness, faithfulness, unselfishness, love, gentleness, accuracy, sincerity.

I didn't realize that these are also nursing qualities. The next thing I knew the thought came to me to go into Christian Science nursing. I was obedient and entered the course, and now I am a Christian Science nurse.

Nursing is rewarding humanly speaking. It always makes you happy to help someone, but it's very exciting as a Christian Science nurse because you know the so-called big dragon that is trying to mesmerize a patient is really only a lie. It is so neat to help someone wake up to what is real, which is what healing is all about. And I see so many beautiful healings at Fern Lodge. Another reason I really love nursing is that you work with so many fine people. I often think of the nurses at Fern Lodge when I read this from Miscellany (355:21), by our dear Leader Mary Baker Eddy: "The Christian Scientists at Mrs. Eddy's home are the happiest group on earth. Their faces shine with the reflection of light and love; their footsteps are not weary; their thoughts are upward; their way is onward, their light shines. The world is better for this happy group of Christian Scientists; Mrs. Eddy is happier for them; God is glorified in His reflection of peace, love, joy."

Of particular interest to us is the place of nursing facilities in the Christian Science movement. We asked June Copeland, one of our nursing staff, to help us understand,



## *Why do we have nursing facilities, such as Fern Lodge, which serve Christian Scientists?*

**June Copeland:** To provide an atmosphere supportive of spiritual growth and divine demonstration, and to realize healing. Our nursing facilities provide a haven or refuge away from the cares of the world, away from our daily home and/or job demands. These facilities are places where a person can come with the goal of realizing more fully his or her unity and sonship with God, and can find support and encouragement for working toward this realization. Each one of us at the facility, patient and nurse alike, is involved in working, both individually and collectively, to recognize Emmanuel, God with us. The purpose of a place such as Fern Lodge is to facilitate the healing effort of Christian Scientists through this spiritual atmosphere and through the provision of skilled Christian Science nursing care.

As we take our stand for spiritual growth and healing we find that our purpose specifically includes challenging the erroneous "old-age" misconceptions in the world today. We do this by realizing and focusing on each individual's unique and useful place in the kingdom of God. It may help our understanding of what Christian Science nursing facilities like Fern Lodge are if we point out what they are not.

A Christian Science nursing facility is not a place to come to retire or to spend the rest of one's life being taken care of. The demand of Life eternal is for all of us to recognize our unity and harmony, which are established forever in Principle.

A goal of the work of Christian Science nurses is to facilitate spiritual growth by keeping in mind that, although we only "know in part" our reason for existence, God is always sure of it. Christian Science nursing facilities are one of the many ways of meeting human needs as stated on page 494 in *Science & Health*, by Mary Baker Eddy: "Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need."

Finally, we asked Jennifer Cora, Assistant Director of Nursing at Fern Lodge, to delve a little deeper into the individual nature of nursing work. She shed light on several questions:

*Why would someone ask for Christian Science nursing help, and what should one expect if he or she requests nursing care while working out a problem?*

*What would be expected of the person who has asked for such care?*

**Jennifer Cora:** First, and it should always be remembered, a person needing nursing care should expect healing. One of the reasons someone seeks nursing care from fellow Christian Scientists is to have the opportunity to continue radical reliance on God while working out a physical problem, rather than asking assistance from those who believe that healing is a





merely material phenomenon. Another reason a Christian Scientist may ask for help is simply that nursing in Christian Science is one more way to see the activity of Love in action.

Nursing care in Christian Science uplifts, supports, wit-



nesses and frees. It is not judgmental. It lifts a patient's thought off the problem confronting him, leaving him free to be conscious of his health and wholeness as God's idea. One who calls on a Christian Science nurse for help

can expect that the nurse will work together with him to lift his awareness of his identity from a material body to the spiritual truths of being, of life in God. The nurse stands firm in the face of error and supports radical reliance on God, always expecting complete healing now. The nurse helps, by his or her example of faith and receptivity to Truth and Love, to uplift the patient's thought and inspire hope and faith. And a Christian Science nurse is happy and grateful to witness God's healing power. Anyone who calls on a Christian Science nurse for aid can expect the nurse to exemplify Mrs. Eddy's counsel on page 395 of *Science & Health*: "An ill-tempered, complaining, or deceitful person should not be a nurse. The nurse should be cheerful, orderly, punctual, patient, full of faith, — receptive to Truth and Love."

It is important to understand that anyone who asks a Christian Science nurse for aid has responsibilities, too. It is essential that a patient express honesty and an expectancy of healing. Each person working with a nurse needs to see their true need and face it, admit that God is the only

factor in healing and move on to healing with conviction. No matter what the challenge facing someone, he should be willing to take a firm stand for metaphysical healing and not try to straddle the fence and work with both Spirit and matter. The nurse stands ready to encourage and support the struggling right motive; it is necessary that the patient, too, work from that right motive. As much as possible, the patient needs to take time and put thought into praying and studying and listening for God's directing. It is this prayer and study that a nurse will assist the patient with. It is also usually very important for the patient to work actively, honestly and humbly with a Christian Science practitioner. We cannot stress too much the importance of expectancy of healing, and the prayers of a practitioner do much to instill this expectancy in the patient.

In summary, we need to recognize that both patient and nurse are working together toward the same objective and with the same conviction — progress in spiritual understanding and complete healing."

Our sincere thanks go to Anna Lisa, Barbara, June, and Jennifer for generously sharing their time and insights. If any of you have questions about Christian Science nursing, the nurses training program or Fern Lodge, we will be happy to speak with you. Please call us at Fern Lodge, 415/886-2448.



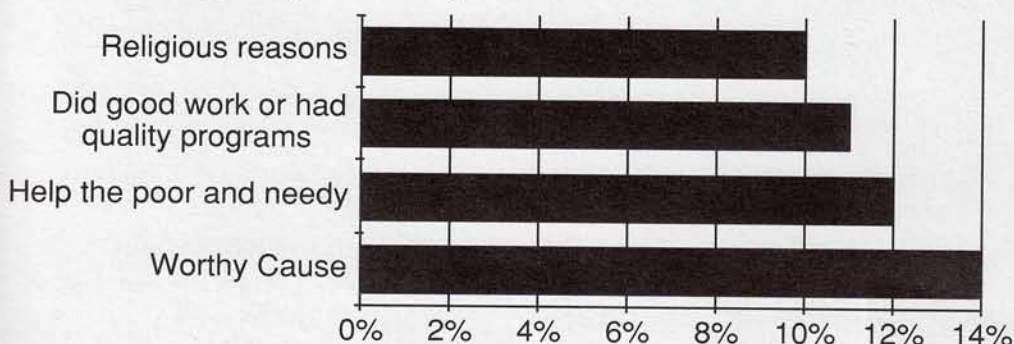
# Who gives what and why? Where do you find yourself on this Chart?

## Profile of US contributors

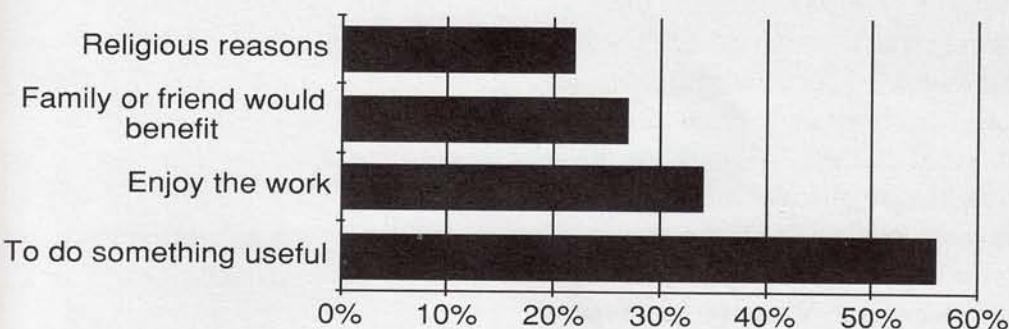
Household Income	Average percentage of income given*	Average hours volunteered weekly
Below \$10,000	2.8%	4.4
\$10,000-\$30,000	2.5%	4.3
\$30,000-\$50,000	2.0%	4.1
\$50,000-\$75,000	1.5%	4.9
\$75,000-\$100,000	1.7%	4.5
Above \$100,000	2.1%	4.4

\*Contributing households only

## Reasons for giving to charity



## Reasons for volunteering



Source: Independent Sector, survey by Gallup Organization reprint from *The Christian Science Monitor*

We are greatly heartened by your response to our message that although the new wing is built, vital furnishings are still waiting to be bought. As we go to print we are still not moved in. One major need is for the communication system. It includes four channels of sound in addition to the two-way nurse call system. The channels will carry 1) continuous *Science & Health*, 2) Hymns, 3) lectures, articles, and the weekly lesson sermon, and 4) music, tapes, announcements, and special services.

## How About You?

Fern Lodge is seeking volunteers who would like to help in the office or in the gardens.

Those who call or visit Fern Lodge on Saturday and Sunday should be greeted by a Christian Scientist who has an appreciation for the healing activity of Christian Science nursing. If you would like to answer the telephone and greet visitors on weekends we would love to have you as a part of our team.

We also need a green thumb on weekdays in the garden. If you can help with either of these tasks, please call George Strong, Administrator, at 886-2448.



# The Seamless Garment of Christian Science Nursing

In response to a request from members, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Menlo Park sponsored a meeting with the topic, "The Seamless Garment of Christian Science Nursing." This informative meeting was held on Sunday, October 23. It brought together for a panel discussion representatives from the Peninsula Visiting Nurse Service, Arden Wood, Twelveacres, and Fern Lodge, along with a local practitioner and four individuals who have been blessed by their contact with Christian Science nursing. Anna Lisa McVey, a Christian Science nurse trainee, and George Stong, Administrator, represented Fern Lodge. The panel shared an overview of the wide variety of Christian Science nursing services that are available in the Bay Area and offered some thoughts about the statement from the Christian Science Board of Directors in the May, 1988 *Journal*, "The Foundation for Christian Science Nursing."

As a special highlight of the afternoon, the meeting was opened for a fruitage period. Several members of the audience graciously told of the many ways they had been helped by Christian Science nurses and nursing facilities. If you would like to help your church members learn more about the blessings offered by Christian Science nursing, please contact Fern Lodge to learn how your church can sponsor a similar meeting.

# A New Brochure on Giving

We give our sincere thanks to all who have given donations in support of the Christian Science nursing work done at Fern Lodge. There are many avenues of giving open to donors who want to have a part in our healing activity. The enclosed *Fern Lodge Giving* brochure lists some of the more popular means of contributing. If you have any questions about establishing a trust, giving a bequest or naming Fern Lodge in an insurance policy, please call us. Our Development Committee will be glad to help you.

## Can Your Association Help?

One avenue of giving which is becoming increasingly important is the student associations of Christian Science Teachers. Many of the people who need benevolence when they come to Fern Lodge for nursing care are class-taught students of authorized teachers. We have been receiving regular contributions from a few associations, and recently we have begun contacting others in the area we serve. What we seek now are more volunteers willing to write their associations on Fern Lodge's behalf. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about how you can ask and encourage your association to contribute to giving benevolence to those relying on Christian Science for healing.