

fru-i-tion (frōō-ish'en) n.

[ME *fruicioun* < OFr. *fruitio*
< Med. Lat. *fruitio*, enjoyment
< Lat. *frui*, to enjoy.]

1. Enjoyment derived from use or possession.
2. a. The condition of bearing fruit.
b. Achievement of some thing desired or worked for.

Is Anything Too Hard For The Lord?

Edwin Leever, C.S.

Is anything too hard for the Lord? How about the times when the going gets particularly tough, as in a severe illness or accident? If we're encountering something in our lives which appears quite difficult and even overwhelming to us, do we not need to continue to worship our God, whatever the situation is we're coming up against, and to know that there's nothing too hard for our God?

He will silence every suggestion of there being a power other than Him, omnipotent God. And, as we all know, those suggestions about there being a power other than God originate in what we call in Christian Science, mortal mind, which is forever trying to impress us, and to scare us, and so gain a foothold in our consciousness and in our lives.

One of mortal mind's contentions is that certain diseases are very difficult, if not impossible, to heal. But every one of mortal mind's suggestions, including this one, can be silenced in our thought as we recognize the falsity of the claim. After all, if God didn't make it or give it authority, and He is All-power, where did the disease get its power? It only has the power we unconsciously or consciously give it.

Now what makes some cases harder to heal than others? Mrs. Eddy, has an interesting paragraph in *Science and Health*, 396:14, on why some cases are harder to heal. She writes: "The refutation of the testimony of material sense is not a diffi-

cult task in view of the conceded falsity of this testimony. The refutation becomes arduous, not because the testimony of sin or disease is true, but solely on account of the tenacity of belief in its truth, due to the force of education and the overwhelming weight of opinions on the wrong side, — all teaching that the body suffers, as if matter could have sensation."

So there we have it. What makes a case more dangerous or difficult to heal? "the tenacity of belief in its truth, due to the force of education and the overwhelming weight of opinions on the wrong side." And, of course, what is "the wrong side?" It's matter's side, looking at the situation from a material viewpoint. Looking at something from matter's side is a distorted picture which Christian Science corrects by teaching us to look at everything through the lens of Spirit, God.

If we find ourselves, for example, thinking some physical condition is hard to heal and could be a fatality, let's ask ourselves: why am I reasoning this out from matter? Those people in the testimonies in the last 100 pages of *Science and Health* simply accepted what they read in *Science and Health* as true. Truth was let into thought, and Truth heals. And that's how so-called difficult cases (difficult only for us, never for God) are healed. By refusing to believe the belief.

As we keep refusing to believe "the tenacity of belief in its truth," as we see sickness, for example, as not some powerful thing to deal with but rather a belief

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Fruition —

The condition of bearing fruit.

Achievement of some thing desired or worked for.



Giving of one's "hearts rich overflow" is very rewarding. A loving invitation to attend the Annual meeting at Fern Lodge this year came from a new friend with such love that I accepted with out hesitating. I went willing to serve in any way I could and what fun, what love, what beauty and healing I found. My heart overflows with gratitude to God for opening the door of another way I can serve the Christian Science movement. About the Annual Meeting, even the "yellow jackets" were loved and only nibbled on the cookies. I truly look forward to serving at Fern Lodge where the "loveliness of Love is all around" in any way I am needed.



I arrived with a check already written, but after this meeting I had to write another to return the value received.



A special gift came to Fern Lodge after our Annual Meeting. One of our friends went behind the new wing and saw it was still just a field. She offered her expertise, time, and materials to landscape the area.

There has been a complete transformation. Where there were just weeds, there now are little hills and a dry creek bed. Trees and blossoming shrubs have been gracefully laid out, and irrigation is installed. The view from each of the patient rooms is delightful! The response from everyone has filled the facility with joy.

Turn the page and catch the spirit. ➔



I love Fern Lodge — they keep patients even when they run out of money. No one is turned away.



Thank you for
the convenience of
the parking lot.
the van to transport us
right to the spot.
the guides with
information we got.
the cookies & punch
were not to be bought.
the comfortable chairs
and weather, not hot.
the rain that fell
so no one was caught.
the enlightening address
with lessons taught.
And then another prompt
ride to the lot.

I loved it all.



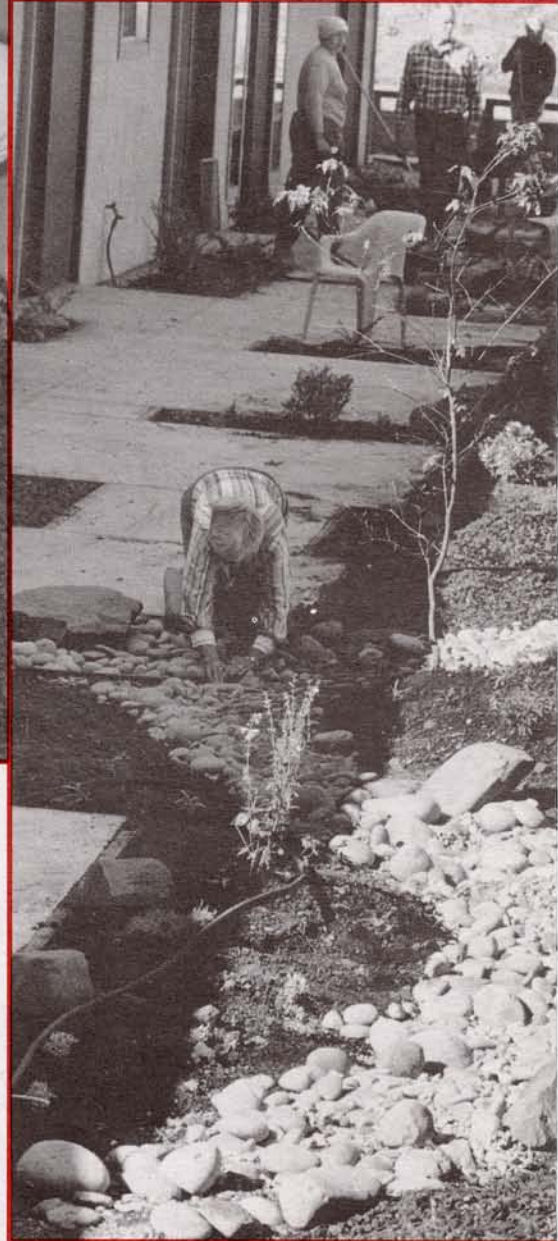
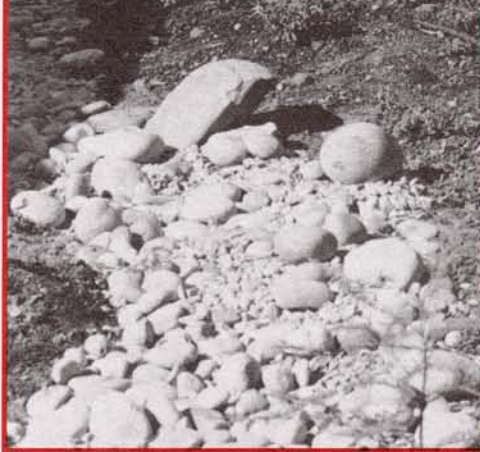
I felt the heart of Fern Lodge.

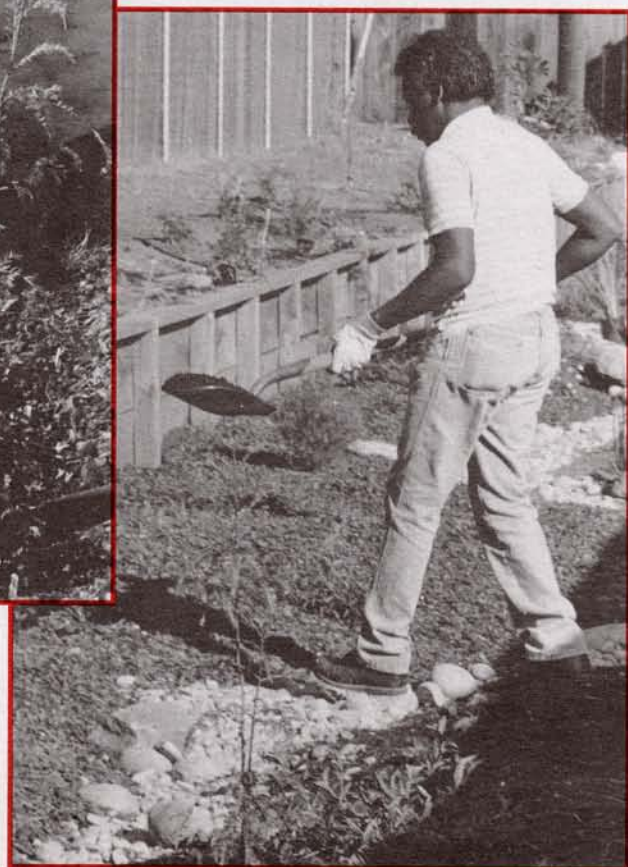
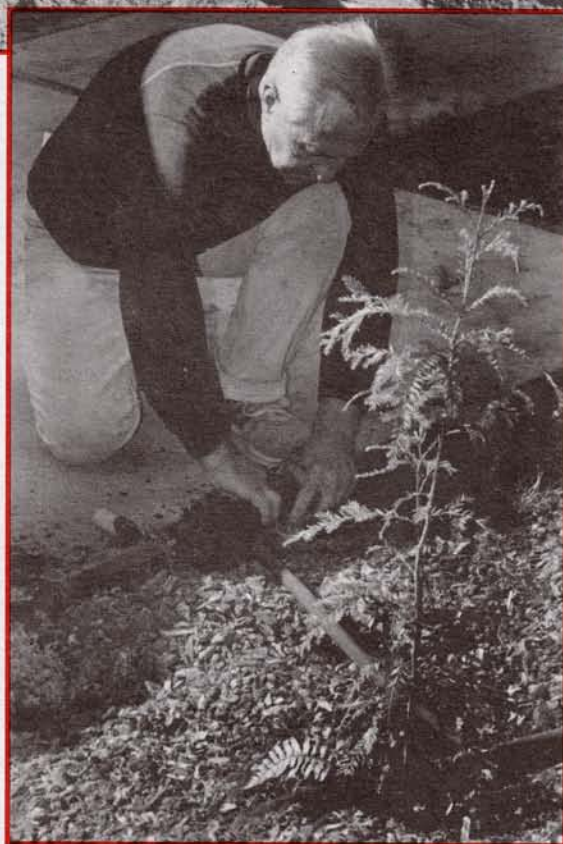
God can give you...

more than you can ever need, so that you may always have sufficient for yourselves and enough left over to give to every good cause. He who gives the seed to the sower and bread to eat, will give you the seed of generosity to sow and will make it grow into a harvest of good deeds done. The more you are enriched the more scope will there be for generous giving, and your gifts, administered through us, will mean that many will thank God. For your giving does not end in meeting the wants of your fellow-Christians. It also results in an overflowing tide of thanksgiving to God. Thank God, then, for His indescribable generosity to you!

(II Corinthians 9:8, 10, 11, 15)







George Strong

Disease, disorientation, disability, old age, these seem to be lurking threats to the happiness and health of mankind. There appears to be a chronic shortage of nurses to help in times of need. The incredible cost of nursing care, especially if it is required over a period of longer than a few months, puts this care out of reach of most of those who require it. And this high cost would seem to make it impossible for a facility such as Fern Lodge to survive if it offers anything more than minimal care for those who have no funds.

These conditions have such gigantic proportions that I'm reminded of Goliath. Isn't it tempting to take a look and say, "Wow! He's big; I'd better get out of here before he comes after me." No, we know better. Like David we can see the giant as a challenge to our trust in God and His ever-present and all-powerful care for His children.

And like David we can know that there is nothing too hard for the Lord and run to meet this challenge, armed with the tried and trusted stones of our faith. We can demonstrate the might of our God. This is exactly what the Christian Science nurses and the patients at Fern Lodge are doing every day when faced with sickness and confusion, and this is what Fern Lodge is doing every day when challenged by lack of supply.

Mrs. Eddy writes, *Materialistic hypotheses challenge metaphysics to meet in final combat. In this revolutionary period, like the shepherd-boy with his sling, woman goes forth to battle with Goliath* (Science and Health, 268:9). Woman is to carry on the battle this time. Our Leader does not say "a woman;" though she led the struggle against the materialism of this age, she is not referring just to herself. It is the womanhood of man, the

manifestation of the Motherhood of God, who is to battle today's giant.

Our Mother, God, tenderly nurtures, nourishes, protects, and sustains us — yes, nurses our true, spiritual being. Expressing God's tenderness, a mother cares for her children and a nurse cares for those who call on her. And as the care we express is the outcome of our prayer to be God-like, this care has divine authority and the power to defeat Goliath.

Let me share some of the healings we have been privileged to witness. A hearing aid has been put aside, with normal hearing restored; physical effects of falls have been quickly healed; conditions that apparently required covering with a dressing were healed; mental and physical exhaustion were quickly overcome; freer communication and mobility have been seen in long-standing cases of severe limitation.

There are times when the Christian Science nursing work here at Fern Lodge has the aspects of a battle. Occasionally over the years I have felt that I could say of Christian Science nurses, and particularly of the nursing staff here at Fern Lodge, the words that Winston Churchill said, in a tribute to the Royal Air Force in their defense of England, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Relatively few Christian Scientists choose to nurse, but those who have chosen this holy work, give selflessly of their love, and they bring comfort and healing affection to many.

The task these nurses have taken on might seem hopeless if it were not for the generous support, encouragement and gratitude we have received from our many friends such as you.



only, we'll break down the mesmeric control material medica tried to impress upon our thinking, regarding any kind of disease or illness. And we'll see, then, in practical, healing way that there's "nothing too hard" for God.

Materia medica, though, continually tried to scare us, to influence us and to brainwash us into believing that only materia medica knows the score about any kind of illness, that only materia medica can allay fears and heal, that only materia medica verdicts are true and should be believed. To that, I say this: "every Christian Science physical healing cuts through every one of those arguments." A woman I know well was instantaneously healed of medically diagnosed terminal cancer. She just let the Christ-Truth talk to her about her true, Godlike being. She listened, and accepted it and was healed. And this is just one healing out of many, many, many that have taken place through relying solely and entirely on the teachings of Christian Science during the last 100 years.

What this all boils down to is giving up the wrong concept of man — the mortal concept — and prayerfully exchanging it for the true concept of man as God's creation, ever perfect and spiritual. This sacrifice of self — giving up the false for the true — might require some dispositional turn-around and some giving up of long-held cherished personal beliefs. But as we do, we see that won't hurt us one bit. We call it spiritual redemption and reformation. It gives us a whole new dimension in looking at ourselves. It gets

us and our thoughts, and our speech, and our actions, more and more in tune with what Christ Jesus was teaching. It lifts the heaviness from our lives and starts us rejoicing — even laughing aloud at times — in thinking how ridiculous it is to suppose there could possibly be more than one power, one God, governing and controlling us — our lives, our health, our overall well being.

So each moment we have a choice, We can believe the material evidence or we can prayerfully and joyfully — even light-heartedly — dispute it with the spiritual facts of being, the Christ consciousness. Which way we go is always up to us.

We read in the Bible: "Ah Lord God! ...there is nothing too hard for thee." (Jer. 32:17) What could be plainer? So then, let us build on that Bible citation. Take what we spiritually know about God, omnipotence, what we've been taught, accept it, practice it, live it, express it, love it, embrace the whole world with it, and we'll then, see more and more healing in our experience and in our movement — yes even of so-called dangerous and difficult cases.

After all, did not Jesus say, "...with God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26)? And Mrs. Eddy put it this way: "What cannot God do?" (S&H 135:20)

Excerpted from Edwin Leever's address given at the Fern Lodge Annual Meeting 9/17/89.

Is anything really too hard for the Lord? Of course not, and we acknowledge this fact. But there seem to be problems to solve in order for Fern Lodge to continue its services. We have heard people say they would not support Christian Science nursing because nursing is associated with a failure to heal and therefore is not a part of the healing mission of the church. The recent focus on nursing by The Mother Church should dispel this misconception. Some have said that Fern Lodge must have money because they have built a new wing? The money actually came from Laurel Haven with the requirement that Fern Lodge increase its capacity. It took more than they provided to get the job done. The remaining requirements will cost about \$70,000.

Because about 70% of our applicants need it, Fern Lodge currently gives \$30,000 per month in Benevolence. This year we have averaged \$14,000 per month in donations. The difference has necessitated borrowing, and it requires us to consider difficult options.

1. Take only people with money. Is individual worth to be measured by material wealth?
2. Close and sell Fern Lodge. Are we important to you and our community?
3. Continue to operate as prayer leads us to act.

This is our only viable option.

There remains much to do. Dear friends and supporters, we are asking you to be "insiders," to join us in spreading the word about Christian Science nursing.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Pass the message to your church friends.
- See your friends are aware of the work done at Fern Lodge and of its financial needs.
- Invite a few people to your home for a private presentation.

With your assistance we can spread the good news about Christian Science nursing and the healing work going on at Fern Lodge. And we can continue to offer care for those in need without regard for their ability to pay or for the length of time nursing is required.

Circle This Date

Saturday, January 13, 1990
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. for

A Day With The Beloved Disciple, John

Join us for a walk through the pages of this most spiritual book of the gospels. Constance Stricklin, a Bible authority, will explore Saint John in the:

Marine's Memorial
Commandant's Room
606 Sutter Street at Mason Street
San Francisco, CA

The price of \$35 includes lunch in the Crystal Ballroom. Proceeds from this benefit will go to the Fern Lodge Benevolence Endowment Fund.

For reservations and more information call:

Evelyn Spelman,
Activities Director,
(415) 886-2448

Please R.S.V.P. by January 7th, 1990 so we can make final catering arrangements.

