

Christian Science Nursing Forum

We are pleased to invite you to join members of the Fern Lodge staff and other experienced Christian Science nurses to investigate the foundation and expression of nursing in Christian Science.

Saturday, January 6, 1996 9:30 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. at Fern Lodge

Lunch will be included

Discussions will touch on
Blessings and rewards of nursing,
The place of nursing in our Church today,
Motivation and preparation needed by nurses, and
Relationships between Christian Science nursing and some issues of interest in our communities.

If you would like to attend or learn more about the Forum please contact Patricia Alvarez or George Strong at (510) 886-2448.

Why would you want to know more about Christian Science nursing?

Perhaps you know a family member, friend or fellow church goer who has a need. The nurses who conduct our seminars will help those who attend to gain a fuller grasp of the metaphysical basis and essentially mental nature of the aid we give others, while they also show how the right action which meets specific human needs springs directly from an understanding that all true care is the expression of God's care for man.

Even if you do not feel you need to nurse at this time, an understanding of Christian Science nursing will give valuable insights into the nature of divine Love's manifestation. We all want to be more loving and to love so that it is felt by others and expressed in ways that demonstrate the power of Christian healing. Nursing is much more than visiting those who seem sick. There are countless opportunities for us to express nursing qualities in our daily lives.

We also should remember from our study of the Scriptures that those humble acts of service which we normally associate with nursing are involved with individual salvation. In Matthew 25 Christ Jesus tells us that at the judgement those who are asked to enter and possess the kingdom that has been ready for you since the world was made (New English Bible) will be those who have fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, clothed the naked, and helped the sick. It seems necessary for all of us to know and demonstrate our caring nature as children of God, Love.

Christian Science nursing is dear to our hearts at Fern Lodge. We would like to share with you the joy, inspiration, hope and assurance that accompany the work of putting love for God and man into action in service to those who are relying on Christian Science for healing. Please join us on January 6 for a thoughtful and thought-provoking day.

Rising above limitation — Michael Taylor, C.S.

In the late 1950's an Air India jet, flying a new route over the Himalayas at over 30,000 feet, almost collided with a flock of large birds. Nothing was supposed to be able to live at that altitude. A field biologist called in to investigate observed a large colony of swans migrating from a nesting area on one side of the Himalayas to the other to feed in rice fields. They had been migrating thus for thousands of years. During this time the mountains reared up, forming a hurdle, then a potential barrier, for them. The birds, undaunted, went ever higher, spiraling upward and over the highest peaks. They refused to accept limitation.

How do we as Christian Scientists ascend to those sublime heights to perceive the spiritual facts of being? Through scientific, consistent prayer, that joyous upward thought—Christ-impelled—that brings us into the light and glory of Truth. Consider the words of Hymn 346.

Christ, thou dost come to bring
On thy redeeming wing
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind;
Ah, now to all mankind
Let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy dove,
Speed forth thy flight;
Move on the waters' face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light.

In the October 2, 1995 Christian Science Sentinel is an article entitled Let's Help Each Other. The writer speaks of the true brotherhood of a Christian community—of the brother birds that soar and sing together.

A flock of migrating birds is a cohesive unit, taking advantage of the benefits of journeying together. There is safety in numbers, they are less vulnerable to the attack of predators. By flying in a V-formation the whole flock can fly 71% further than one bird on its own. Birds take turns in the leadership position. This helps ensure the safety of the entire flock.

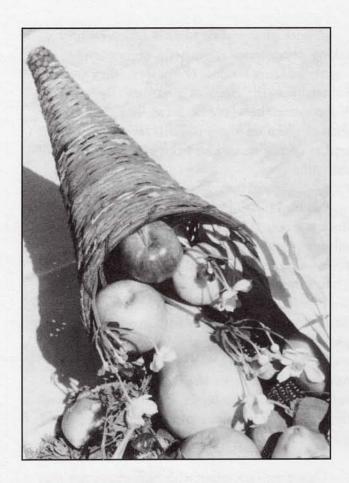
No bird flies solo for long. Birds of a feather do flock together. When Noah sought to check on the subsiding waters of the flood he first sent out a raven—a symbol of mortal existence and death. Then a higher sense was sent forth—a symbol of hope and peace — the dove. Which of the many flocks do you choose to fly with, roadrunners, going around in circles, gossipy magpies, strutting peacocks, ugly ducklings, ostriches, parrots repeating rumors, chicken littles afraid the sky is falling — vultures picking over bones, caged canaries? If you fly with any of those you could quickly have your goose cooked or be a dead duck.

Or are we associating with early-rising robins, wise owls, peaceful doves, joyous skylarks and upward soaring eagles?

And by all means watch out for the cow bird. She never makes a nest of her own or raises her own, but sneaks about looking for an already established but unattended nest with eggs in it. She lands in the nest and lays her eggs hoping they will be accepted as part of the clutch. The baby cowbird hatches early, grows quickly and can force the other babies out of the nest prematurely. The cowbird seems to belong but doesn't. It presents a threat. A smart mother bird who can distinguish between her own and the counterfeit can push the cowbird out of the nest.

Do you have any cowbirds, such as limitation, fear, guilt, unworthiness, age, loneliness, in your nest of consciousness? Perhaps it's time to clean the nest.

Rising above limitation (continued)



ow it might appear that what we "need" is love from someone, better health, another body, more money, a bigger house, a fuller church, when what we actually need is a Christly sense of present oneness with God. In Miscellaneous Writings, p. 9, Mrs. Eddy writes, A false sense of what constitutes happiness is more disastrous to human progress than all that an enemy or enmity can obtrude upon the mind or engraft upon its purposes and achievements wherewith to obstruct life's joys and enhance its sorrows.

We rise above the mountain mists of limitation on true prayerful updrafts of divine Love; we are led by the Spirit of divine law. This law is part of our divine partnership with God and applies to all phases of our human experience, when we are starting out, making mid-career adjustments, and during our golden, untarnished years.

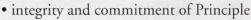
When I was away from home for the first time serving in the army and later in college, God became very real to me. I soon found a spiritual partnership with God, a relationship based on love, respect and reciprocity. At first I thanked God for all that I asked—health, supply, friendship, love. Soon, too, I found that prayer was not a tin cup to beg God for something, it was a cornucopia—a limitless, inexhaustible fountain of love that

was palpable evidence of God's presence, power, care and provision, and evidence of my partnership in this.

Prayer is an affirmation of God's omniactive Love. It is an inventory of what we already have rather than a shopping list of what we think is lacking. Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law, Psalm 119:18.

I was on the faculty of a local university when I first considered going into the practice of Christian Science. I rented a small office and prepared a modest budget, though it was considerable for me at the time. I began by taking an inventory of what I had to give in the way of Christly qualities, since this was my clear

and strong calling. This inventory included the



- · wisdom and intuition of Mind
- enthusiasm of Spirit
- joy and freedom of Life
- mental courage of Truth
- patience, compassion and unselfishness of Love.

...excerpts from a talk given at the Fern Lodge Annual Meeting

ne day a stockbroker called me at my college office and asked if I would help him with a series of public talks on investments and then critique him afterwards. The price he offered was exactly what was needed to furnish the new office; we shook hands; no written contract. He paid as we went along, was pleased with the tone and overjoyed with the results. When the job was

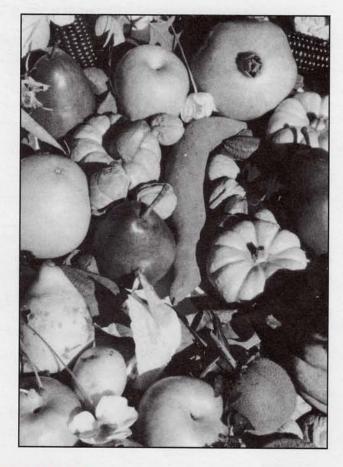
completed he still owed me several hundred dollars. I waited, I called, I was put off. Finally he told me that he had gotten what he wanted, and I would not be getting the balance.

At first I was shocked, then outraged. I flew around mentally with the magpies and blue jays in a dither. Then it hit me. Here was my first patient. I had fallen into the trap of staying in the barnyard working for chicken feed. What kind of idea had God created? Honest, appreciative, generous, prompt, reciprocating. In my prayer it became clear that God paid me directly, with joy, inspiration, substance, humility. I interacted with people not to get something but to praise God and acknowledge Him. Like an

ambassador whose salary is paid by the government, I was there to be a showcase for God. What a relief! Supply is not what you earn, it is what you reflect, give forth, confidently share. It cannot be withheld, lost, stolen or devalued. A week later the man called, apologized, asked a favor, ... and sent a cashier's check for the balance owed. God's laws work when you are starting up a career.

Let me now tell you of someone with a midcareer crisis. This fellow was an artist and had worked himself up over the years to be the art director of a major corporation in the aerospace industry. One day his world fell apart when a young man-bright, aggressive, college trained-was brought by upper management into his department. He felt threatened, then resentful, then panicked as work began to flow to this whipper-snapper, and the staff shifted their loyalties to the new arrival. The artist had two children in college, house payments, and still had a way to go before retirement. The resentment grew and so did something inside his body. He felt a tumor in his stomach. His wife was a Christian Scientist, and she suggested that he speak with a Christian Science practitioner.

he practitioner led him gently and firmly over the mist mountain and established his real worth—independent of job titles, pay checks and retirement packages. The real contract



Rising above limitation (continued)

he had was with God, permanent and unbreakable. His value was unique and irreplaceable. The staff were seen as loyal and faithful ideas of God. Moreover there were many mansions in His Father's house, each with a suitable place and function. It was no surprise when a new division opened up, and the new man was put in charge. The staff returned to their routine. The internal obstruction dissolved. "Everything has changed," he told the practitioner. "No," she said, "only your perception of them."

Inally I would like to tell you of a woman healed of poor health associated with the so-called inevitable effects of aging. This person, of so-called advanced years, was seated in a Christian Science church at night on Sunday waiting for the evening service to begin. She had been quite a sportswoman in her youth enjoying swimming, horseback-riding and tennis. Gradually she had given up these activities as various health problems had intervened.

She had come early to church to pray for the service and those coming for healing and comfort. As her thought unselfishly ascended she rejoiced in the qualities one naturally and inevitable associates with God as Life—strength, freedom, omniaction, joy, safety, renewal, perfection, permanence, glory.

So uplifted was she that she was unaware of the Readers coming out. The First Reader read the Explanatory Note from the Christian Science Quarterly, which says in part, The evening service is a repetition of the morning service. She reasoned, "This service was read at 10:00 A.M. this morning. It is now 8:00 P.M., and it has lost none of its power and vitality. I am supposed to be in my 'evening' years, yet what I represent of God as Life has lost none of its power and vitality. I am still that active portion of one stupendous whole." She was healed of the fears, limitation and restrictions falsely imposed—the cowbird eggs—and returned to the activities of her

youth. As it says in Isaiah 40:31, They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

Today we have been soaring to new heights, surveying the immeasureable universe of Mind. What are the angel messengers that lift us above the mental mist mountains of lack, unworthiness and age, especially when our tail feathers are drooping? God needs and loves us. We have a duty and a joy to serve as His committed and faithful agents. We have a cornucopia, not a beggar's cup.

od doesn't come to us, we remain forever in Him. His resources, which represent Him, never need to be replenished, nor can they be lost. You and I are in the true rejoicing business, true giving business, true upward wing business. Remember to keep proper company. Birds of a feather do flock together. Be alert to the cow bird. Remember these ideas from Hymn 149,

In Love divine all earth-born fear and sorrow
Fade as the dark when dawn pours forth her light;
And understanding prayer is fully answered,
When trustingly we turn to God aright.

And as on wings of faith we soar and worship, Held by God's love above the shadows dim, Hushed in the grandeur of a heart's awakening, Unfolds a joy unknown till found in Him.

Then in this radiant light of adoration, We know that man beloved is in God's care, Not wrapt in fear nor bowed with tired labor, But satisfied, complete, divinely fair.

> Michael Taylor, C.S. October 15, 1995



Join us for a day with Abraham and Sarah

When: Saturday, January 13, 1996 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Where: Marines' Memorial Club Crystal Ballroom 609 Sutter Street at Mason Street San Francisco, CA Mary Jane Chapin graduated with a Masters of Arts degree, majoring in both the Old and New Speaker: Testaments, from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. As a class taught Christian Scientist she brings special perspective to the text. \$40.00 (includes lunch in the Commandant's Room) Fee: Ms. Chapin comments on her talk about Abraham and Sarah that it is focused on their story, which is really about the time that passes between promise and fulfillment. It is a good talk for someone whose healing is still in the process and whose demonstration is not yet complete. I think it would be very helpful for those times when a healing is not instantaneous, when more work needs to be done. It's a response to the question "How long...?" —a question blurted out by Abraham at various points in his journey in following God's directives. As the story continues, we hear how God supported him, and encouraged him, and "healed" him. A gift admission to this program would make a thoughtful Christmas present. For more information call Valerie or Evelyn at Fern Lodge, (510) 886-2448 Registration for Abraham and Sarah Name_____Phone____ Address___ Name_____Phone____ Please put additional names you are registering for on the back or on a separate piece of paper so we can prepare name tags in advance.

Mail this form with your check, payable to Fern Lodge, before January 6, 1996. If you have not registered in advance, you are still welcome to attend. We just cannot guarantee a lunch for you.

Please register me for _____ place(s) at \$40.00 each. \$ _____

I cannot attend. Please use this donation to defray \$

Total

the costs of the day or provide for scholarships.

A day with Abraham and Sarah (continued)

On Saturday, January 13, 1996 Fern Lodge will present a Bible program at Marines' Memorial Club in San Francisco. Mary Jane Chapin will share insights into the lives of **Abraham and Sarah**. The story of the Patriarch and his wife is of special interest to us. It shows the blessings which come with unwavering trust in God and demonstrates the facts of being which overcome limitations believed to be associated with aging.

We sponsor Bible courses because we trust that a fuller understanding of the Scriptures will lead us all to a broader and more effective expression of and support for Christian Science nursing.

More information about this program and a registration form is on page 7 of this Focus.

<u>Where</u>	Who	<u>Price</u>
611 Sutter	Olympic Garage	\$13.00 all day or \$8.00 if before 9:30
840 Sutter	Butterick Garage	\$7.00 if before 9:30
520 Mason	System Parking	\$14.00 up to 12 hours
O'Farrell & Mason	Downtown Center Garage	\$8.50 if before 9:30
Union Square	Union Square Garage	\$15.00 all day or \$8.50 if before 9:00
750 Bush Street	City Park	\$11.50 all day or \$9.00 if before 9:00
Stockton & Sutter	Stockton & Sutter Garage	\$15.00 all day
Holiday Inn Union Square		\$12.00 if before 10:00

FERN LODGE FOCUS — November 1995

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Address correction requested

Non-profit Organization U. S. Postage Paid Hayward, CA Permit No. 798