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## *Fern Lodge Focus*      September 1995

### *Annual Meeting — Rising Above Limitation*

October 15 at 2:00 in the afternoon

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**Sunday, October 15, at 2:00 p.m.**

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**

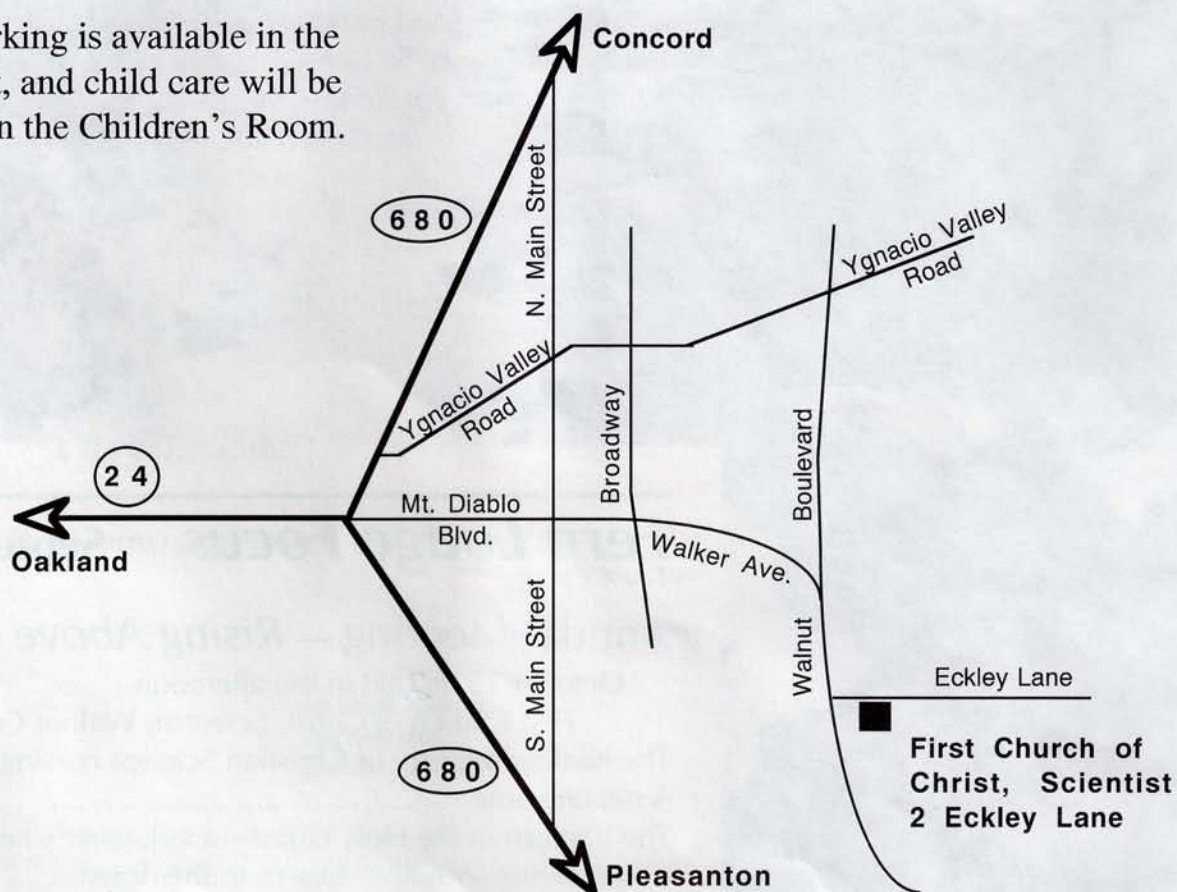
**2 Eckley Lane • Walnut Creek, California**

**Michael Taylor, C.S. of Mill Valley, will speak on the topic,**

## *Rising Above Limitation*

Mr. Taylor is a Christian Science practitioner, listed in the *Journal* and the *Spanish Herald*. He has a background in speech communication and has been an instructor. In his practice Mr. Taylor works closely with Christian Science nurses and facilities.

Ample parking is available in the Church lot, and child care will be provided in the Children's Room.





## The ministry of Christian Science nursing

At Fern Lodge we continually strive to deepen and broaden our understanding of the role of nursing in the healing mission of our Church. We cherish the inspiration we gain from others whose practice of Christian Science has led them to the ministry of Christian Science nursing, and from time to time we have shared this inspiration with the readers of the *Fern Lodge Focus*. The following article was written by Mindee Spear, a visiting nurse with the East Bay Visiting Nurse Service. We are grateful to Mindee for her willingness to let us print this article.

### What should a Christian Science nurse know about physical techniques and anatomy?

If in our work as Christian Science nurses we conform to the world's rules and views of nursing which place positive power as well as negative results on technical skills and training then we are in essence mixing material methods with spiritual. This will have the effect of division on a case and in some instances impede or arrest healing!

Mrs. Eddy answers this interesting question on page 39 in *Miscellaneous Writings*. *In what way is a Christian Scientist an instrument by which God reaches others to heal them, and what most obstructs the way?* She begins in part by making no difference when healing the sick and converting the sinner and then continues, *Divine help is as necessary in the one case as in the other. The scientific Principle of healing demands such cooperation; but this unison and its power would be arrested if one were to mix material methods with the spiritual, — were to mingle hygienic rules, drugs, and prayers in the same process, — and thus serve "other gods."*

For the nurse to place faith and trust in skills and knowledge of physical conditions subtly prevents the nurse's full obedience to spiritual law, *the law which overcomes material conditions and puts matter under the feet of Mind* (*Science and Health* 182:20). It is this spiritual law which is the only real authority and power in effect on every case! But we are so tempted to believe that there is something we can do physically which will promote healing. Yet Mrs. Eddy tells us that *healing [is] a condition of salvation* (*Miscellaneous Writings* 192:26). She also profoundly stirs our thought by her definition of

anatomy, which *when conceived of spiritually, is mental self knowledge* (*Science and Health* 462:20). We can understand, then, her admonition that the *... teacher or healer who is indeed a Christian Scientist, never introduces the subject of human anatomy; never depicts the muscular, vascular or nervous operations... He never talks about the structure of the material body... nor manipulates the parts of the body supposed to be ailing* (*Rudimental Divine Science* 11:25).

She reminds us where we need to place our faith and trust for *... God is supreme and omnipotent, materia medica, hygiene, and animal magnetism are impotent; and their only supposed efficacy is in apparently deluding reason, denying revelation, and de-throning Deity* (*Miscellaneous Writings* 3:25).

### What care are you choosing when you call a Christian Science nurse?

You are choosing intelligent and loving care which is strongly anchored on a metaphysical foundation. It is important for all of us to understand that the source for all care is God, divine Love. This may seem like an abstract statement at first, but if we take time to ponder it in depth we will see the tangibility of Love in our human experience. Mary Baker Eddy reassures the members of her newly formed church, *Your faith has not been without works, — and God's love for His flock is manifest in His care* (*Miscellaneous Writings* 154:5). She also refers to John's revelation of *the human and divine coincidence, shown in the man Jesus, as divinity embracing humanity... reducing to human perception and understanding the Life which is God* (*Science and Health* 561:16).



## The ministry of Christian Science nursing, continued

Christ Jesus gave us so many examples of how we should care and who we should care for through his poignant parables, his teachings, and through his personal labor in the flesh. He spoke of the shepherd who cared for his sheep, going after the lost sheep, and stressed the need for us to be caring shepherds, too. Jesus felt it was of utmost importance to tell a parable of the Good Samaritan who stopped by the road to care for an injured man while others passed him by. He told this parable in response to a lawyer who tested him by asking what should he do to inherit eternal life and who was his neighbor—in other words, whom should he love.

Jesus expressed the highest sense of care in healing the man at the pool of Bethesda. He did not carry the man into the pool as the man wanted, but Jesus did give him the care that was needed. He stopped and spoke to the man, rousing the man's thought to a more receptive state needed for healing to take place. And lastly, at the cross we are touched by Jesus' expression of love for his mother as he arranged for her care.

Mrs. Eddy writes so reverently of Jesus, *In this simplicity, and with such fidelity, we see Jesus ministering to the spiritual needs of all who placed themselves under his care, always leading them into the divine order, under the sway of his own perfect understanding ... a fishing-boat became a sanctuary, and the solitude was peopled with holy messages from the All-Father* (*Retrospection and Introspection* 91:17).

I feel that we can directly relate this to Christian Science nursing. Nurses must make sure that they are following divine orders, governed by divine Principle and always turning the individuals under their care to divine Love, our only Physician, who *binds up the broken-hearted; heals the poor body,*

*whose whole head is sick and whose whole heart is faint; comforts such as mourn, wipes away the unavailing, tired tear, brings back the wanderer to the Father's house...* (*Miscellany* 132:29).

### Does a Christian Science nurse need to know any skills to give competent care?

Yes, definitely. But the nurse's knowledge and practice of skills must be consistent with the teachings of Christian Science. Christian Science nursing must be seen as a religious activity, **not** as a secular one. Nursing is truly holy work.

The guidelines and requirements for our work are divinely authorized. They are available for all to read in the *Bible*, *Science and Health*, and Mrs. Eddy's other writings. Specific standards for nurses are found in the bylaw *Christian Science Nurse* in the *Church Manual* (49:7). This bylaw requires a Christian Science nurse to be a member of the The Mother Church, to have *a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice*, to *thoroughly understand(s) the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room*, and to be able to *take proper care of the sick*.

It seems significant that Mrs. Eddy chose the words *practical wisdom* and *proper care*. We can ponder this in light of her many statements on material knowledge, scholasticism, materia medica, hygiene, care, etc.

Proper care includes metaphysical support, personal care, appropriate nourishment, keeping the individual warm, dry, protected from harm, bandaging of wounds, and help with mobility needs. I have always been grateful for the basic nursing skills I learned in the former training program, and I surely benefited by working with other seasoned

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## A nursing note

nurses. All Church members who represent themselves as Christian Science nurses, whether *Journal*-listed or not, need to be honest about what they know and about their ability to responsibly care for another. Oft-times the human condition presented is vivid and in much need of tender care.

I am convinced, however, based on my years of rich experience as a Christian Science nurse, that knowledge of skills alone does not make a nurse necessarily competent, or prevent one from making mistakes. The activity of the nurse needs always to be from the point of demonstration. Protection for us and our work lies in our receptivity to the power of divine Mind, which is always available and unfolding ideas superior to any combination of challenging circumstances that may present themselves.

The recent adjustments in the instruction requirements for Christian Science nurses do not affect the standards or ethics of the nursing activity. These standards and ethics have always been based on our Bible, *e.g.*, the Sermon on the Mount, the Ten Commandments, etc., and on Mrs. Eddy's writings. These standards have not been and cannot be compromised.

If you are interested in Christian Science nursing you may wish to call the Nursing Activities department (800-288-7155) or the *Journal*-Listing department (800-288-7090) at The Mother Church. They will answer your questions and give you information and specific requirements for *Journal*-listing. You may also take part in seminars and instructional programs on nursing offered by Christian Science nursing facilities such as Arden Wood in San Francisco or Fern Lodge in the East Bay. Visiting nurses such as Camille Lindsay and myself with the East Bay Visiting Nurse Service, and private duty nurses listed in the *Journal* are also available for information and support.

Mindee Spear  
East Bay Visiting Nurse

Mindee's article speaks of the need for Christian Science nursing to proceed from individual demonstration. Turning to the Bible and our Leader's writings we find ample guidance for the demonstration of our nursing practice.

*The tender word and Christian encouragement of an invalid, pitiful patience with his fears and the removal of them, are better than hecatombs of gushing theories, stereotyped borrowed speeches, and the doling of arguments, which are but so many parodies on legitimate Christian Science, aflame with divine Love.*

*Science and Health 367:3*

The *tender word and Christian encouragement* required of a Christian Science nurse must be *aflame with divine Love*. Man, the idea or reflection of God, is one with divine Love. Therefore man expresses the non-judgmental, always compassionate nature of God. The Christian Science nurse's expression of Love does not mistake its mission nor lack the means for fulfilling that mission. The expression of Love does not run dry, and it cannot be shut off by impatience or discouragement brought on by circumstances such as difficult or protracted healing, apathy, or indifference.

Christian Science nursing is *Love reflected in love*. This boundless love is like the cruse of oil that supplied a widow and her son for as long as they needed it (see I Kings 17). In *Science and Health* (p.592) our Leader defines *oil* as *consecration; charity; gentleness; prayer; heavenly inspiration*. Daily consecrated prayer to be what we naturally are—God's loving image—enables us to calm rough situations; love those who seem unloving or unlovely; respond to Love instead of react to appearances; and remain inspired, never exhausted. We will be less prone to judge or criticize others in their demonstrations. Divine Love will not fail us in our hour of need, just as Love does not fail the patients we work with. Our only concern will be how better to follow in the footsteps of the Master, Christ Jesus, and live consistently the unselfed love he demonstrated.



# The baptism of the Holy Ghost—a volunteer's need

Didn't Jesus tell us repeatedly how important it is to be willing to serve? This may seem way out to a society that is focused on "getting my money's worth," "pulling your own strings," or crying out, "What's in it for me?" In Matthew 20 we read, *And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

Many years ago I worked with The Big Sister Association of Greater Boston. My job was to match Big Sisters with Little Sisters and to give support to the Big Sisters as they were forming a relationship and reaching out to be helpful. It was at this point that I became vitally aware of how much one's motive counts in this blessed volunteering work. It was clear to me over a period of years that the Big Sisters who made a difference in the lives of their Little Sisters were those who were not looking for self gratification, but were able to give unselfishly and be satisfied in serving.

Willingness to serve was one of the lessons Christ Jesus illustrated in the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15). Feeling he could do things his own way and be in charge of his destiny, he asked for his share of the inheritance and went off to spend his money. Things went from bad to worse until he was forced to humbly listen for direction and be willing to obey. What words do we hear from him at this turning point? *I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.* With his willingness to serve and to reject willfulness and self-seeking, he is restored to his status as son and rejoiced over.

We can rejoice for every victory over wanting things our way, outlining, human planning. What joy and fulfillment come after the struggle with self has been accepted, and we find ourselves willing to listen, respond and obey.

Mrs. Eddy tells us in her marvelous article, *Pond and Purpose* (Miscellaneous Writings 204-205), *The baptism of the Holy Ghost is the spirit of Truth cleansing from all sin; giving mortals new motives, new purposes, new affections, all pointing upward. This mental condition settles into strength, freedom, deep-toned faith in God; and a marked loss of faith in evil, in human wisdom, human policy, ways and means. It develops individual capacity, increases the intellectual activities, and so quickens moral sensibility that the great demands of spiritual sense are recognized, and they rebuke the material senses, holding sway over human consciousness.*

*... Through the accession of spirituality, God, the divine Principle of Christian Science, literally governs the aims, ambition, and acts of the Scientist. The divine ruling gives prudence and energy; it banishes forever all envy, rivalry, evil thinking, evil speaking and acting; and mortal mind, thus purged, obtains peace and power outside of itself.*

What wonderful preparation for volunteering!

Evelyn D. Spelman  
Activity Director  
Volunteer Co-ordinator

*What joy and fulfillment come after the struggle with self has been accepted, and we find ourselves willing to listen, respond and obey.*



## Volunteering—finding *streams in the desert*

Fern Lodge isn't just a lovely place nestled among the hills of Castro Valley. It isn't just a place where things are done with joy, purpose and love by volunteers and staff alike. It isn't even just a place where the nurturing, healing practice of Christian Science nursing and supportive activities are being carried out. It is a place where significant spiritual growth is continually being made and witnessed—who wouldn't want to be a part of this?

And guess what? You can be! Fern Lodge is looking for volunteers to help out with a variety of tasks, both on a regular basis and on a do-it-when-you-can basis. The only requirement is a sincere desire to help in the work that is being done here.

Sometimes we would like to volunteer but think we aren't the "volunteer type." All it takes to volunteer is to move our desire to serve God and man one notch up in our priorities and put it into action. It helps to remember that since man is defined as the *image of Love* (*Science and Health* p. 475) he cannot help expressing Love—it is the very nature of his being. Anything that argues to the contrary is "bad data," totally false and undeserving of acceptance.

Some time ago I read something in a *Sentinel* article that helped me to understand this better. *It's normal for us as spiritual ideas of God, or Mind, to express Love, joy, peace, intelligence, honesty, purity and goodness. These qualities not only define our being; they are our being.* Suddenly, I saw that loving isn't just a "nice thing to do" or a "nice way to be," but is the very substance and purpose of our being—it is what God made us to be.

Understanding this helps us to reject suggestions that we are shy, reserved or inadequate in some way. Humanly, we are all on the path of learning how to love the way Christ Jesus did and to follow the commands in his Sermon on the Mount. Volunteering is a good "laboratory" for helping each other to put into practice what we are learning.

We may be prayerfully looking for ways to more fully demonstrate our commitment to living unselfishly and to Christian Science healing, but we may not be sure how we can help, what we can do, or even how much time we can give. Often all that is needed is to take the first step of offering to volunteer. Like finding *streams in the desert*, the willingness to serve brings out the very abilities and provision that meet a particular need. This isn't surprising since God is the orchestrator of both demand and supply. The staff at Fern Lodge has experience working with volunteers and is very flexible in dealing with time constraints and in working with volunteers to see that volunteering is a wonderful blessing to all involved.

I was one of those who wanted to volunteer but wasn't sure what I could do that would be beneficial. My first "project" was inventorying and creating labels for the Fern Lodge tape library. This fit in well with my prior experience and has proved a blessing for those using the tapes. Since then I've branched out into other areas, from working on metaphysical projects, to helping out on social functions, to writing for this newsletter. At times professional commitments have gotten in the way of my regular every-other Friday commitment, and the staff has been totally understanding.

Finding time in the '90s to do everything we have to do is a challenge ...but sometimes it is simply a matter of being willing to say "yes" and letting God work out the "how" of it. I can say from personal experience that what you give will be returned to you four-fold. Our motive, of course, should always be to give ...and when we do our reward is certain. For me, one of the biggest rewards has been learning from the example set by the people I've worked with. I can tell you that every single thing you do will be valued and appreciated here—a very nice feeling indeed!

Eileen Sorrels  
Volunteer



## Lifting the View—Thank you for your response

In May we sent a letter *Fern Lodge Finances*—*Lifting the View* to our readers. This letter begins, “We love the fact that justice and affection are united in the gospel, because this leads us to the understanding that the affection expressed in Christian Science nursing will always be acknowledged and rewarded justly.”

With gratitude for the justice and affection we have been shown, we would like to share the response to the *Lifting the View* letter and tell you of our current financial situation.

Since May, donations to Fern Lodge were over \$55,000, so we have been able to give benevolence each month to those who need it. Also a friend forgave a debt we owed her, and we received a bequest from an individual and a gift from Grandview, a benevolent corporation which formerly operated a home for Christian Scientists and which recently has given generously to several Christian Science organizations. Together these sources of income have enabled Fern Lodge to give about \$200,000 in benevolence so far this year and also to repay a small portion of what others have loaned to us. We still owe about \$140,000 to these individuals.

Those who come to Fern Lodge continue to need about \$25,000 each month to pay what it costs us to provide Christian Science nursing care. The source of these funds is the on-going expression of justice and affection from people like you and from other organizations which understand the importance of giving in support of those individuals who steadfastly rely on God and prayer in Christian Science for healing and meeting their daily needs.

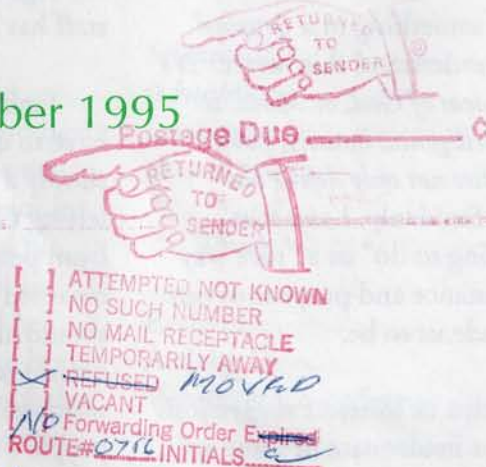
Our assets are our love for God and man and our steadfast reliance on God, Love who *healeth all our diseases* and meets *every human need*. Our income sustains this love for and trust in God; it is the daily expression of God’s qualities—justice, gratitude, mercy, affection, and so on.

Thank you once again for your expressed support for Fern Lodge. We rejoice in the union of justice and affection. We deeply appreciate each of your prayers, your volunteer work and your financial gifts, given in just recognition of the value of Christian Science nursing to our Church and to the world.

## Fern Lodge Focus — September 1995

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