

FERN LODGE FOCUS — SEPTEMBER 2012

Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! (Romans 10:13-15).

The gospel message is the good news that Christ is here, demonstrating the Love that is God. This gospel message includes the revelation of Christian Science, again, as in the time of Christ Jesus, teaching and demonstrating the saving grace of God. As Christian Scientists we are sent to preach the gospel, and at Fern Lodge we have unique opportunities of share the good news of Christian Science nursing with our fellow man.

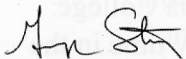
Normally, the **Fern Lodge Focus** gives readers information about Christian Science nursing, insights into the spiritual, Christian inspiration that guides our work, and the services Fern Lodge offers for our community. This issue will focus on how Fern Lodge has touched some individuals who are not actively involved with Christian Science nursing.

As part of our Activities Program, patients at the facility have been in touch with Robert Staeded, Jr., who wrote from a local prison. His letter speaks of his gratitude for Fern Lodge and of his unfolding demonstration of Christian Science, witnessing the truth of Mary Baker Eddy's promise, "Christian Science...shows the scientific relation of man to God...and sets free the imprisoned thought" (S&H 114:23-27).

Inside you may read of the experiences and observations of three interns from Principia College who spent part of their summer working at Fern Lodge. Also inside is the text of a talk given by Anna Lisa Kronman, CS, at a Christian Science nursing program held in July. See the back page for more information about the program.

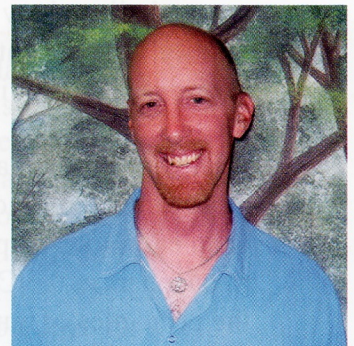
The next **Focus** will include a report of our September 23 Fern Lodge Annual Meeting. We also will explain in depth the Fern Lodge benevolence policies that offer support for those who receive Christian Science nursing.

Gratefully,



George Strong
Administrator

"I'd like to thank the people at Fern Lodge, and Robin Barben, Activities Director, for the sincere caring they have shown me through their prison outreach. The many letters and cards filled with spiritually productive ideas have been like many points of light. I invited a Christian Science chaplain to lead a group of prisoners in weekly sessions and the spiritual hunger and openness to Christian Science has been apparent and exciting. I now see a community of growing individuals that have no limitations about sharing the inspiration and truth revealed within their lives. I've seen anger, fear, hopelessness, loneliness, and depravity healed in myself and others. One healing was of a man seemingly having a heart attack. From where he had fallen, the man said, 'Stay with me.' I immediately felt the inclusive Love that the Fern Lodge group has expressed to me, and I called on this all-encompassing Love of God for this man. By the time people came to help, the man was upright, had stopped his profuse swearing, and spoke to me without a problem. I loved seeing his smile and glow of gratitude for all that Love opened him to.



Thank you for the support from your facility. It has not only touched me, but has touched many!!"

ROBERT STAEDED, JR.

NOELIA, MALCOM AND TONY —



NOELIA LEY

Working as an intern at Fern Lodge was a great experience. In the mornings I served as the Fern Lodge receptionist. Then I helped in Patient Activities, helping the patients with small services. I enjoyed working on the weekly Bible study with the patients, taking patients for walks, participating in Hymn sings, and much more. Working with all these great people helped me grow in different fields of work, and most importantly it helped me grow spirituality.

I think my favorite part of working at Fern Lodge was to know that my co-workers and I gathered together for one purpose: Healing. The fact that we were all together to help each other was something that kept me going every day. Furthermore, every single day I learned something new that will help me in the future. My work was not just a job, it was a way of living. This was definitely a great experience for me. Now I understand and appreciate even more the work that both of my parents do as Christian Science nurses.

I truly thank Fern Lodge for opening its doors and letting me be part of this learning environment. I give a special thanks to the Christian Science nurses because without them the rest of our staff would not be there. This internship has been a blessing to me and to many other people who have worked and are working here. Thank you very much.

MALCOM SCHOLZ LUZIO

I am an international student from Chile, and I am about to start my junior year at Principia College. This summer I had the pleasure of returning to Fern Lodge for my second time. I spent my time in the beautiful facility translating Fern Lodge's website, articles, and nursing study guides into Spanish. I also helped in the weekly Hymn sing, singing alongside the enthusiastic patients and sometimes playing the piano. In addition, I accompanied patients on daily walks near the facility and helped with gardening. I cannot believe how much I learned during the time I was immersed among the wonderful Fern Lodge Family! The patients and the staff are a beautiful group, enormously kind and helpful to each other and to any new person in the facility.

I am very happy that by translating nursing documents into Spanish I was able to be part of one of Fern Lodge's vital missions: to bring Christian Science nursing to South America. This important mission is an enormous help to the countries of South America and the Christian Scientists there who want to take part in the Christian Science nursing ministry. Through my work I realized how wonderful the principles of nursing are and how I can apply them to my everyday life. I learned that nursing is a manifestation of Love, and I am infinitely grateful to have been able to spend several weeks with amazing people who have given most of their time and lives to such a noble and needed cause. Thank you!

THREE SUMMER INTERNS FROM PRINCIPIA COLLEGE

ANTHONY ACKAH-NYANZU

I am really glad I came back to work at Fern Lodge this summer. Looking back, I have seen a lot of improvement and growth in my character and my practice of Christian Science. Last year was my first time working outside Principia College, and even though I got a lot done, I felt I could do more. The solution for making me more productive was perfect. I worked for three different departments this summer: Maintenance, Patient Activities, and the Office.

Each morning I did gardening, a really relaxing way to begin your day. Planting flowers, weeding, mowing, and replenishing garden beds with mulch have really taught me a lot about gardening. As Ben says, "It is all about the visual in gardening." Working outside is very rewarding, because you can instantly see the results of your efforts. When someone says, "those flowers are beautiful," or "the back of the house looks beautiful," you can think with a smile, "Yeah, that is my work."

In the Office I digitized the Fern Lodge forms so they can be completed on the computer. Occasionally, my work involved configuring people's computers. I remember Brian telling me once, "Here, simple kindness and assistance make people happy." Just helping someone with Skype, stopping to have a conversation, fixing their Internet, or taking them on a walk can make people so happy.

The last work in my day was in the Activities Department. Working with Robin is really entertaining. She has so much energy and always is lively. She is like the party planner, and I helped her do some of her work. I worked on the playlists for the "Fern Lodge Radio," with the Christian Science Bible Lesson, lectures, talks, hymns and other music that is heard in patients' rooms.

I am very grateful and happy I had the opportunity to work at Fern Lodge again this summer. I feel I have contributed to the Fern Lodge community and also learned from all the workers and guests here, and I grew in a variety of ways. Thank you.



Pictured left to right are Tony, Janet Leon, Noelia, and Malcom, enjoying each other's company on a trip to San Francisco. We are grateful that Janet is continuing to work with Patient Activities at Fern Lodge while she attends a local college. We hope to feature an article by her in an upcoming newsletter.

FERN LODGE & ARDEN WOOD — A COOPERATIVE ADVENTURE

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel.” A vital truth of Christ’s gospel is the ever-present fact that God cares for man, and Christian Science nursing is an essential element of that care. On a warm, sunny afternoon on the Fern Lodge patio, Fern Lodge and Arden Wood, a Christian Science nursing organization in San Francisco, joined together for a joint presentation of the good news that is Christian Science nursing.

Representatives from each facility shared the services available through the Christian Science nursing and education programs at Arden Wood and Fern Lodge. Talks, along with questions and answers, also told about the financial assistance available through insurance and government programs, Medicare and Medi-Cal, that help pay for Christian Science nursing.

Two highlights of the meeting were talks by Caroleen Scholet, CS, Manager of Christian Science Nursing Activities and Advertising at The Mother Church, and Anna Lisa Kronman, CS, a member of the Fern Lodge Board,. Anna Lisa’s talk, “Christian Science Nursing and Healing: an Awesome Twosome,” is included in this *Focus*.

Caroleen spoke on the topic, “In Accord with Church,” and she emphasized the place of Christian Science nursing in the mission and demonstration of Church.

The following paragraph includes some of our notes.

Because the mission of Church and of Christian Science embraces the whole world, Christian Science nursing is deeply involved in caring for the world. Caroleen’s talk spoke of foundation, revelation, and unfoldment. The foundation of Christian Science nursing is the words and works of Christ Jesus; “his teachings shape our actions.” Christian Science is the “revelation of the absolute divine Principle of scientific mental healing” (Science and Health, p. 107). Christian Science nursing is central to this revelation. Christian Science ministers to and nurses man, and Christian Science nurses are its witnesses. We live and we nurse in the present unfoldment of the revelation. We are not here just to help Christian Scientists in need. We work and pray to offer the revealed Science of God’s loving care for all mankind.

Everyone who attended the meeting left with a fuller understanding of Christian Science nursing and its relationship to Christian practice and its essential role in the Church. On October 21, 2012, Arden Wood will host another program to further the understanding of God’s care for man. Fern Lodge will participate in this event, and we hope you and your friends will attend.

Fern Lodge Focus — September 2012

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Christian Science Practice and Christian Science Nursing: An Awesome Twosome

Talk given by Anna Lisa Kronman, CS, at Fern Lodge on July 22, 2012

It is my joy to share how Christian Science nursing and Christian Science healing practice fit together seamlessly. This talk is entitled: "Christian Science Practice and Christian Science Nursing: An Awesome Twosome." *Rodale's Synonym Finder* says of the term, practice: "preparation, discipline, workout, action," and of the term, nursing: "ministering, holding, cherishing, nurturing." These make a formidable, majestic, and sublime team. I will share what Christian Science practice and nursing have in common, how they are unique, a few challenges to both ministries, and a look ahead.

The first Christian Science nurse I encountered was my grandfather, Roy Cochrane. He once told us a delightful story about how during his training at Chestnut Hill, maybe in the 1930s, he somehow had a butterfly cocoon in his sock drawer. When the new creature emerged from its cocoon, as Roy walked his rounds, served trays and helped people, he carried the freshly winged butterfly on his lapel--to the great delight of all he met that day!

When Roy met his sweetheart Oleona, he needed permission to marry her, because at that time Christian Science nurses were not allowed to marry. Early on, Christian Science nursing was based on a military model--twelve-hour days, few days off, and strict rules. Apparently they felt marriage would be too distracting, so it was not usually permitted. Happily, collective progress is the law of God, and the marriage prohibition fell away. The military model, first developed by Florence Nightingale, a contemporary of Mrs. Eddy's, was not ultimately the right fit for the eternal expression of divine Love known as Christian Science nursing. Nor was the convent model.

As a young adult pondering my own path, I wanted to heal problems, not just nurse them along. I wondered why we have Christian Science nurses--despite family history, I frankly didn't see the point. I was afraid nurses were delving into some mushy gray area where material remedies met Christian metaphysics, and instead I wanted the pure stuff. However, I knew Mary Baker Eddy included a provision for Christian Science nurses in the *Manual*, so I reasoned there must be a correct concept about it. I plainly did not yet have it.

About this time, Fern Lodge offered a weekend Introduction to Nursing class: "Adventure in Learning." I certainly had no intention of becoming a Christian Science nurse, but I did want the right idea about it, so I attended. What I witnessed and learned that weekend changed my life. Far from being a murky realm of questionable practices, Christian Science nursing was the ultimate Christian exercise. Jesus demonstrated it when he stretched out his hand to the sinking Peter, lifting him up to walk with him on the tempestuous sea back to the boat. Jesus taught the vital importance of this practical care in his parable of the Good Samaritan and in his call for visible, tangible love for one's neighbor. Other Bible characters felt this impulsion, too. Noah practiced it when his obedient listening and following God's direction enabled him to save many lives. The Shunammite woman exemplified it when she saw a need for food, rest, light, and shelter for the prophet Elisha, and provided these. I discovered that Christian Science

nursing is the fulfilling of God's love for man. It is not about making matter comfortable, but rather about bearing witness to the Comforter.

God has wonderful ways of making Herself heard, and I did eventually find myself fully involved in the practice of Christian Science nursing. As I learned and practiced it more, I understood more of its essential, eternal, and entirely spiritual nature. I came to the conclusion that it is absolutely vital to our Movement. It is our Christian outreach arm, and if we lack that, we lack the heart of what we profess. Christian Science nursing is as eternal as Christian Science healing. Why is that? Because they both are an expression of Love itself. In their essence, neither nursing nor prayer-practice is about fixing an unfortunate circumstance. They are both about bearing witness to God's love in a discernable, practical, and useful way. They go together, hand in hand.

A Christian Science practitioner is someone who is willing and able to join with one in prayer to seek God's version of events. (And our textbook* makes it plain that we all get to practice in this way, even if we do not devote our full time to it.) The practitioner's prayer is not to change, fix, or rearrange unpleasant circumstances, but to see more clearly that the only genuine power on the field is infinite Love. This truth brings thinking into accord with divine law, and the effect of harmony on the inside is harmony on the outside.

What qualities are desirable in a Christian Science practitioner? Here are a few mentioned by our Leader: humble, conscientious, honest, persistent, affectionate, able to speak with authority, "richly imbued with the spirit of Christ." Mrs. Eddy also says, "Good must dominate in the thoughts of the healer." "That individual is the best healer who asserts himself the least, and thus becomes a transparency for the divine Mind, who is the only physician; the divine Mind is the scientific healer" (*Misc.* 59:26). When we need prayer, don't we look for these qualities—and for solid metaphysics, steadfastness, joyfulness, trustworthiness, patience, wisdom, and discernment?

What qualities are desirable in a Christian Science nurse? Mrs. Eddy says in *Science and Health*, p. 395, "The nurse should be cheerful, orderly, punctual, patient, full of faith, — receptive to Truth and Love." If I need nursing care, I would want someone who expresses those qualities, as well as being metaphysically solid, steadfast, joyful, trustworthy, patient, wise, discerning-- the same qualities I would look for in a practitioner. Our Leader also specifies unacceptable nursing qualities: ill-tempered, complaining, deceitful. Wouldn't you agree that those qualities would also fail the practitioner test? In *Science and Health* Mrs. Eddy says (*S&H* p. 365), "The poor suffering heart needs its rightful nutriment, such as peace, patience in tribulation, and a priceless sense of the dear Father's loving-kindness." It doesn't say only *practitioners* should supply this, or only *nurses*—both get to listen how to do this best.

At one time, I thought practitioners had to be the really good pray-ers, and that nurses were not necessarily held to the same standard. I found in my nursing practice that this was not the case. I noticed the most successful nurses were the ones that cultivated the same humble listening a practitioner does. A practitioner has been specifically asked to

pray giving Christian Science treatment--actively bearing witness to God's allness and a dear one's inseparability from God. He may be refuting aggressive presentations of matter and reaffirming Mind's onliness, Principle's operation, and Spirit's flawless substance. Also with the goal of healing, the nurse takes a different part of the job: maintaining an environment conducive to healing, observing needs, and meeting them lovingly and practically, all the while maintaining an awareness of God's supreme control. The *Manual* by-law requires of nurses a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, a thorough understanding the practical wisdom necessary in a sickroom, and ability to take proper care of the sick. She may be feeding, bathing, walking, listening, or holding a hand. Same team, different jobs, though both helpers need to be equally in earnest about seeking God's take on the situation.

Christian Science nursing does not fit within a medical model or a purely physical or environmental model. We are still collectively discovering the genuine expression of Christian Science nursing, and it is a metaphysical model. We desire to, and progressively are, seeking to base all our actions and decisions on our best understanding of that *Manual* by-law and guidance from our Pastor. The genuine practice of Christian Science nursing is much bigger than we may yet understand, and we are beginning to glimpse more of its possibilities—the majestic, formidable potential for good!

Jesus' practice combined both nursing attributes and prayer-practice attributes. He often spoke the word, healing folks instantly, but he also touched faces, broke bread, and washed feet. Why not just follow Jesus' example and have only one person nursing and healing at the same time? This was our Master's example; but he said to his followers, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." And he gave strong direction to make love very practical. So, perhaps the way to become a healer like Jesus, is to practice loving each other more. It may be quite helpful to have more than one person witnessing and practicing Love-expressions. In these cases, practitioner and nurse can work in tandem to see God's man, each one focusing on his own contribution. The result can be wonderful. The team wins!

What would sap our effectiveness as Christian Science nurses and healers and claim to burden, divide, or drag down our winning team? Below are a few. If we are alert, we can recognize and disarm them. These never originate with anyone. These suggestions pose as our own thought. Knowing this, we can detect, reject, and nullify them.

1) Too small a vision. Do we accept the view of one's day as a series of tasks to be done instead of Love to be seamlessly expressed? Nursing, nurturing, fostering, and cherishing is vaster than just "doing things." We don't want to lose the overarching goal in the details, but we also don't want to disregard details, either. Jesus said, "These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." The antidote for limited vision: have as wide a vision as possible. See both the healing practice and the nursing practice as expressions of infinite Good, governed by Principle, sustained by Life, impelled by Soul, and defended by Truth. Actively acknowledge this. Choose this vision. Refuse to be small.

2) Personal sense getting in the way. Personal goodness or badness, personal ability or inability, personal strength or weakness may press urgently on us to think we are personally responsible for the patient, instead of remembering that God forever is. My earlier fear of “nursing a problem along, instead of healing it,” would fit in this personal sense category, for if either practitioner or nurse identifies more with the problem than its remedy, Truth, they are inadvertently personifying it, and have a much harder time seeing through it. Again, this thinking does not originate in anyone, but sometimes it seems to slither in undetected. The antidote: Claim one pure, ever-present all-knowing Mind, that always has every idea in perfect relation to itself and each other. This Mind is supreme intelligence that arranges, clarifies, maintains, and enlightens. It is the only Mind there is, the only Life there is, and the only Shepherd there is. We report directly to Life itself, and so does everyone requesting our help. There is no personal intervener, because in truth we are each one forever inseparable from Mind, Life, and Love. We can (and must!) refuse a personal sense of Christian Science practice and Christian Science nursing, and we can with joy remember that God enables us to do this.

3) Discouragement--doubt, fear, despair, tiredness, grumpiness, lack, envy. These say we have too much to do, not enough time, and insufficient inspiration. The antidote: radiant Soul! Gratitude. Singing hymns. Frequent refreshing with Mrs. Eddy’s life-saving instruction: “Take possession of your body, and govern its feeling and action. Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good. God has made man capable of this, and nothing can vitiate the ability and power divinely bestowed on man.” (S&H 393) These are tools with which both practitioner and nurse can face down error and be refreshed with Spirit. Along with Jesus, say yes to good, and no to evil.

I encourage us all to keep listening and watching to hear and see Love continuing to lead us as we practice scientific Christianity and cherish one another. Let’s watch Love lead us out of the military model, the convent model, and the medical model to a more metaphysical model. Remember that pillar of cloud by day and fire by night that led the Children of Israel through the desert? We are still being led, and there are new things ahead, in both Christian Science practice and nursing. Let’s watch for them. Christian Science practitioner and Christian Science nurse, that awesome twosome, and all of us, can joyfully adopt the direction from I Corinthians: “Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.**” It’s what we are all here to do.

Thank you.

Anna Lisa Kronman, CS

**Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy*

***The Message, translation by Eugene Peterson*

Anna Lisa Kronman is a Christian Science Practitioner in Orinda, CA, and she currently is on the Fern Lodge Board of Directors. Before listing in *The Christian Science Journal* as a practitioner, Anna Lisa served for many years as a Christian Science nurse.