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Who is Driving You?

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Excerpts from a talk given for the Christian Science Visiting Nurse Service of New Hampshire

THE TITLE of my talk today is “Who is driving you?” And it came to me almost immediately after I was asked to speak. It also fits well with the Christian Science Visiting Nurse Service’s metaphysical focus for 2012 from page 160 of *The First Church of Christ Scientist and Miscellany*: “To live so as to keep human consciousness in constant relation with the divine, the spiritual, and the eternal...” a priceless roadmap given to us by our beloved Leader, Mary Baker Eddy.

A quick glance at our concordance will show you that Mrs. Eddy used the word drive and allied words such as driving, driven, many times. We also know of her daily carriage drives around Concord NH and Chestnut Hill. She writes on page 275 of *Miscellany*: “I go out in my carriage daily, and have omitted my drive but twice since I came to Massachusetts. Either my work, the demands upon my time at home, or the weather, is all that prevents my daily drive.” Mrs. Eddy valued her daily drive and even went so far as to protect it by having a By-Law written in regards to it. On page 48 of the *Church Manual* you will find these words: “A member of The Mother Church shall not haunt Mrs. Eddy’s drive when she goes out, continually stroll by her house, or make a summer resort near her for such a purpose.” Pretty clear admonitions, don’t you think? She didn’t take on any passengers of personal sense or mortal mind in any form. Deification of personality was strictly forbidden — a forever “no-no” for all of us. She says on page 307 of *Miscellaneous Writings*: “Christian Scientists should beware of unseen snares, and adhere to the divine Principle and rules for demonstration. They must guard against the deification of finite personality.”

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OUR MISSION

To provide and promote Christian Science visiting nurse care, embracing an individual's reliance on Christian Science for healing.

Christian Science Nursing
as a provision of the Manual of
The Mother Church,
safeguards, supports, dignifies,
and defends the ministry
of Christian Science healing.
More than a mere human
activity, it fully demonstrates
“...the spirit of Christ's charity.”

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

WHO IS DRIVING YOU? CONTINUED

We know from biographies of Mrs. Eddy that those daily drives in her carriage were much more than daily breaks from her usual workday. She was keeping her “*human consciousness in constant relation with the divine...*” She never took a “break” from the divine, but was always at one with the divine, the one Mind. These drives held two-way blessings — refreshment for her and often healings for those who came within her gaze or view. Like Jesus she was always beholding the perfect man! How far are we following?

Well, we've touched on Mrs. Eddy's drives around Concord, Chestnut Hill, etc., but I thought I should mention her most important drive of all. If she had not taken it, we wouldn't be assembled here today. She explains on page 380 of *Miscellaneous Writings* about the fall on the ice and what she was driven to do. I quote: “*Even as when an accident, called fatal to life, had driven me to discover the Science of Life...*” So she was driven to discover Christian Science!

We've briefly touched on how Mrs. Eddy was driven, so now let's consider some other drives and drivers, and even more importantly, who or what is doing the driving.

Most of us are familiar with the delightful movie and play, “Driving Miss Daisy,” I like to think of the Christian Science Visiting Nurse Service as a visiting vehicle that drives to the homes of Christian Scientists who are in need of some human assistance. Putting it in metaphysical terms, maybe the daisy has drooped or been trampled on. Our chauffeur here, the visiting Christian Science nurse, lovingly lifts the daisy to the light after tenderly watering it. Our visiting nurses return again and again if necessary until our Miss Daisy is able to stand tall in the sunshine of God's love. I can attest to this incomparable care. Quite a few years ago, I fell and seemed to have a fractured ankle and strained back. I wanted to rely completely on Christian Science help and wanted to remain in my own home so that I could continue on with contacts with patients. Having my own personal encounter with our visiting nurses made me much more aware of, and appreciative, of their priceless worth.

Visiting Christian Science nurses are caregiving drivers, drivers who care. Next let's consider drivers who share — share the driving, so to speak. Webster's definition of a co-pilot is this: “*A co-pilot is a qualified*

airplane pilot who assists or relieves the pilot.” So here we have a sharing driver in contrast to the caring driver of Miss Daisy. As Christian Scientists, we must lift this concept higher! If God is your Co-Pilot, move over and let Him take over completely! He doesn’t need any coaching or assistance from you! Let Him fly you! Let Him drive you! A partial quote from page 276 of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* goes along with our focus for 2012, “...the Scriptural command: ‘Let this Mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.’ Man and his Maker are correlated in divine Science, and real consciousness is cognizant only of the things of God.”

Perhaps my most memorable experience of letting God drive me occurred back in the 1970s. For quite a few years after my husband’s passing, I did a lot of heavy yard work, including the mowing on my tractor of two fields. This was in addition to my church work and a growing Christian Science practice. One could say I was a field worker, literally and figuratively. I really enjoyed this balance of activity, but one particular day I was feeling a bit overwhelmed. I had a lot of weeding to do under a long row of juniper shrubs. I was beginning to feel like Elijah under his juniper tree. I think I was feeling especially burdened because I had just been asked to substitute as First Reader once more. So like Elijah I was having a “pity party.” When I got through with this outside work, I realized it

was high time to do some “inside work” – on my thought, what I was entertaining in my consciousness. I did some work with the word “burden,” and really felt uplifted by hymn #402 in the *Christian Science Hymnal* – especially the last 2 lines of verse 1 and 3. “Come, cast your burdens on the Lord, and trust His constant care.” And “I drop my burden at His feet, and bear a song away.” The music of version #402 reminds me of a hymn I sang when I was a Rainbow Girl – “Blest be the tie that binds.” And of course those words reminded me of my constant oneness with God. My tie to God enabled me to keep my human consciousness in constant relation with the divine. It came to me very strongly that all I had to do was drop my burden at God’s feet and bear a song away and trust His constant care. Well, the next day a friend and I took a drive up to the top of Mount Kearsarge. It was foliage season and there were a lot of wet leaves on the rough road. On the way down the mountain, the brakes of my car gave way and the car started careening down the mountain – out of control! The parking brakes did nothing, and I later learned that in my particular model, there was no back-up system. Well, while this was happening, I had to know who was driving my car! I kept singing, “Blest be the ties that bind.” We were tied to Him only and were being blest by this only union

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or tie. I was absolutely certain that nothing, absolutely nothing, could separate us from God, from Life. I repeated this over and over, and all at once we managed to steer the car over to a large outcrop of a huge rock – and it stopped. Later another car came along and witnessed what had happened. They notified AAA and they eventually rescued us. They said we were most fortunate to be alive. The next morning I joyfully substituted as First Reader! Upon rereading hymn #402 I found and felt the message of the last two lines of its middle verse: “That hand which

bears creation up shall guard His children well.” Truly, God’s hand was on my steering wheel.

Yes, let Him drive you!

The key word here is synonymous with a five letter road sign that is almost as important as red and green lights. Know what road sign I’m referring to? Yield! One of Webster’s definitions is: “to give place or precedence: acknowledge the superiority of someone else.” More importantly, how does Mrs. Eddy use the word yield? Just in *Science and Health* she uses it (and allied words) over 60 times. Here’s one that fits in rather well with our subject of a journey with yield signs along the way. It is from page 151 of *Science and Health*, “All that really exists is the divine Mind and its idea, and in this Mind the entire being is found harmonious and eternal. The straight and narrow way is to see

and acknowledge this fact, yield to this power; and follow the leadings of truth.” Another great sentence with the imperative word yield in it is from page 162, “The effect of this Science is to stir the human mind to a change of base, on which it may yield to the harmony of the divine Mind.”

Now I’d like to talk about another word that I pair with the word ‘let.’ It’s the word ‘get.’ From Sunday School days I learned and loved hymn #64 – “From sense to Soul my pathway lies before me,” so I figured we must all be on some kind of journey. I soon learned from Mrs. Eddy in *Science and Health* on page 233 that “...progress is the law of God...” But what about Ecclesiastes 3:14? “I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it.” And what about the first chapter of Genesis, where God made everything good and perfect and finished His work? And on page 353 of *Science and Health*, where Mrs. Eddy assures us: “Perfection underlies reality.” Why would we ever have to get something if we had already been given it? Why would we have to progress if we were already perfect? Of course, I was trying to reconcile absolute statements with relative statements, and found I was stuck with a procession – a going from A to B on a journey. Finally I realized that we indeed have to work from the point of perfection AND

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and onliness of God
and stick with it.**

are already there – we don’t have to get there, so to speak. It’s like a folded roadmap that is already complete and whole, but we have to unfold it. We only see panels (or parts) of the map during the unfolding process, and that’s the progress that is demanded of each of us on our journey. Mrs. Eddy clears this up for us beginning at the bottom of page 253 in *Science and Health*. “The divine demand, ‘Be ye therefore perfect,’ is scientific, and the human footsteps leading to perfection are indispensable. Individuals are consistent who, watching and praying, can ‘run, and not be weary;... walk, and not faint,’ who gain good rapidly and hold their position, or attain slowly and yield not to discouragement. God requires perfection, but not until the battle between Spirit and flesh is fought and the victory won.”

So to emphasize this imperative for the human selfhood to progress and be improved, here is a citation with the word drive in it. “Truth should, and does, drive error out of all selfhood.” (page 538 of *Science and Health*). And here’s another sentence from *Science and Health* with the word drive in it. “Can matter drive Life, Spirit, hence, and so defeat omnipotence?” (page 357). Of course not, but that’s why we don’t try to heal matter when we seem to be facing a problem. We start with the allness and onliness of God and stick with it. Mrs. Eddy makes it very clear that a wrong

start inevitably ends up with a wrong answer. On page 277 of *Science and Health*, she writes “Matter is an error of statement. This error in the premise leads to errors in the conclusion in every statement into which it enters.” And to emphasize the need to work from the basis of the allness of Spirit and the nothingness of matter, she makes it very plain on page 357 of *Miscellany*. “Spirit is infinite; therefore Spirit is all. ‘There is no matter’ is not only the axiom of true Christian Science, but it is the only basis upon which this Science can be demonstrated.”

So why is it that instead of keeping our human consciousness in constant relation with the divine, letting God reveal to us our perfect completeness, we fall into the trap of trying to get something – whether it’s health, a new home, a job, companionship, higher education, etc. or just plain get better? Well isn’t it because we’re driving under the influence of animal magnetism – the subtle and blatant suggestion that we can be separated from our at-one-ment with the great I AM? Probably no one in this room has been stopped by a police officer for driving under the influence of alcohol, but I wonder if there is really anyone here who hasn’t at some time been driving under the influence of fear, impatience, criticism, or just plain stubborn human will — one of the worst forms of animal magnetism. Such so-called aggressiveness has no real power, but it certainly is suggestive, and we’re

sometimes asleep when it presents itself. Instead of stopping it, we yield to it, and let it take over and drive us erratically — instead of yielding to God. So what does Mrs. Eddy tell us about right yielding? She says on page 450 of *Science and Health*: “Some people yield slowly to the touch of Truth. Few yield without a struggle, and many are reluctant to acknowledge that they have yielded; but unless this admission is made, evil will boast itself above good.” So whether animal magnetism is suggesting itself in the form of fear, or just plain human will, we have to stop it and be alert to what we are yielding to. On page 485 of *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy addresses the suggestion of sickness and “*The belief that life can be in matter...*” when she warns us “*If thought yields its dominion to other powers, it cannot outline on the body its own beautiful images, but it effaces them and delineates foreign agents, called disease and sin.*” So let’s not be driving under the influence of animal magnetism, whether it comes in the form of fear, human will, family influence, personal attachment, passage of time, pressure, road rage, etc. and let’s be as diligent in not trying to influence others. We know that one of the definitions of drive is to cause to go by force or influence — to press upon or push. A pushy person isn’t popular usually, so don’t be one, nor let one drive you or influence you. Better

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still, impersonalize that un-godlike quality and know that only the one flawless Mind directs and protects each one of His ideas. Really follow the Rule for Motives and Acts in our Church Manual. Following it assures a good drive and journey, and studying it is much more crucial than studying the manual of your car.

Modern technology is offering drivers today GPS, Global Positioning System.

Let all of us here be forever tuned into the divine direction which is our 2012 focus found on page 160 of *Miscellany*.

Hitch up your vehicle to the GPS that every Christian Scientist has and let’s have it stand for “God Placing Service.” In Isaiah 45 verse 13, God tells us what He does for man. “...*I will direct all his ways:...*” And verse 14 of Romans 8 states: “...*as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*”

If you’d like to sing a hymn along your drive, you might find #39 from our hymnal helpful. Here are the first two verses:

*“Come gracious Spirit, heavenly Love,
With light and comfort from above;
Be Thou our guardian, Thou our guide,
O’er every thought and step preside.”*

And we could substitute the word drive for step. “O’er ever drive preside!” The middle verse is:

*“The light of Truth to us display,
That we may know and choose Thy way;
Plant holy joy in every heart,
That we from Thee may ne’er depart.”*

In Summary, let me leave you with a jingle I wrote for this occasion.

Who is Driving You?
Who is driving me?
Should be your question every day.
Is your driver really listening
To the directions of God’s way?

Have you unwittingly engaged a
chauffeur
Who is known to some as Will?
He boasts he never needs a map
Nor needs his brakes on downward
hill!

Or have you let your Heavenly
Father
Guide and drive you on your way?
Only by following His directions
Are you assured a joy-crowned day.

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**To reach a visiting Christian Science nurse,
please call 603-848-7755.**

Meet Pat Cameron, the Christian Science Visiting Nurse.



As an experienced Christian Science nurse Pat has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, and quietly supports spiritual healing while attending to the immediate human need. The physical care includes such things as bathing, cleaning and bandaging wounds, assistance with mobility, feeding, and newborn and new mother assistance.

To reach Pat, please call 603-848-7755. If the phone is not answered, please leave a message with your name and number and your call will be returned promptly.