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NURSE'S REPORT

By Pat Cameron

*This is an abbreviated version of Pat's report.
Please visit our website for the complete copy.*

It's a pleasure once again to share the fruits of our year's harvest and to express gratitude for your support. Last year was a busy one for the Service. As always, there was a wide variety in the nursing calls; from nail care to bed care, nourishment needs, metaphysical support, and bandaging situations to name just a few. The Visiting Nurse Service is ever-ready to support those 'casting their net on the right side' to reap the rewards of trusting God to meet all needs. Glorifying God through healing is always the goal and the reward of Christian Science nursing.

I had recently taken class instruction when the doors opened for me to enter C.S. nurses training and begin not just a new career, but my life's ministry. I knew that first day in class that I was exactly where I needed and wanted to be and that everything I had done professionally up to that point had prepared me for this new path. I may have been a bit idealistic at this point, but I felt I was going to have a front-row

seat to Christian Science healing!

Well, it wasn't quite that automatic. I began training and working in a Christian Science nursing facility that cared for people who required long-term care as well as those with more urgent needs. There were patients there who had been there a long time, requiring a lot of care, andto put it delicately ...didn't always express the most Christ-like qualities. Some of them vigorously resisted being cared for and didn't appear to do much Christian Science study. I began to question why I was there and was this really what I should be doing. Why wasn't I witnessing regular, consistent healing in this spiritually-protected atmosphere?

It set me to really praying and studying to clarify my motive for becoming a Christian Science nurse. Then one day, I was assigned to care for a woman who required complete bed care. She was unable to move anything except her head. She did not or could not speak and rarely showed any emotion or expression. I had been told she was very intelligent and loved to be read to from the C.S. Monitor, so the nurses would often read to her while feed-



PHOTOS BY JOHN CAMERON

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

NURSE'S REPORT CONTINUED

ing her. And that's what I did this particular day as I was feeding her lunch. However, she didn't seem to be paying any attention, so when I finished the article, I put the paper away. I began thinking how sad her situation was and how awful it must be to be stuck in such a condition. Then suddenly I woke up and realized what I was doing! That kind of thinking and pity wasn't going to help anyone. I immediately changed my thought and began silently declaring what was true about her as a spiritual idea governed by Mind and not limited in her full expression of infinite Love.

I had continued to quietly feed her and all this had been going on silently in my head. But as I was declaring these truths to myself, she turned her head, looked me in the eye, and smiled. It was a radiant moment of true communication. She had felt my thought!

That was a powerful lesson to me as I realized that to some degree, each patient there — as well as everyone we encounter — is aware of the level of our thoughts. Along with this came the realization that the thought I took into each room would determine the healing I would see. I learned it wasn't up to me to outline how the healing should manifest itself. What I thought I needed to see that would indicate a healing,

might not be at all what meant healing for the patients. That was between them and God and my job was — and is — to bear witness to divine Truth and Love. After that profound lesson, I began seeing healing every day in a myriad of small and big ways, and so it has continued in all these 28 years of my work as a Christian Science nurse. I learned in a very meaningful way, the truth of Mrs. Eddy's statement on page 261 of *Science and Health*: "Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts."

I've shared with you just one example of how I experienced the immense power of our thinking, but I do hope I've brought to light a little more of what's going on "behind the scenes" when you call

on a Christian Science nurse. And I will leave you with this thought — if you've never called on a Christian Science nurse for help or support, you don't know what you're missing!

"As I was declaring these truths to myself, she looked me in the eye and smiled. It was a radiant moment of true communication. She had felt my thought!"

TREASURER'S REPORT

As treasurer I look to see that the sufficiency and abundance of divine Lore are the keynotes of fulfilling the needs of the Service. Whenever there is a situation that suggests insufficiency or lack of something needed, I am comforted by how Mary Baker Eddy handled a very challenging situation.

When Mrs. Eddy lived at Pleasant View here in Concord, it had not rained for the entire month of November 1894. The farmer,

who delivered milk to her household, "told the cook that his well was empty and his cows were beginning to go dry." When Mrs. Eddy was told about the situation, she smiled and said, 'Oh! if he only knew that Love fills that well.' The next day when the farmer came, he was overjoyed to tell the cook that that morning he had found his well full of water. And what was amazing to him was that no rain had fallen to fill it." ^{1, 2}

This got me to thinking about the

Service. We certainly see this love expressed in working with our nurse, other board members and supporters of the Service.

We also see our financial picture in terms of bank accounts and investments and the human steps to nurture and protect them as part of our well. Our expenses for 2012 were somewhat more than we spent the year before on account of additional travel by our nurses

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BOARD REPORT

Our metaphysical theme this year was: *"To live so as to keep human consciousness in constant relation with the divine, the spiritual, and the eternal, is to individualize infinite power; and this is Christian Science."* My 160:5

It comes from a paragraph in First Church of Christ Scientist and Miscellany, upon the dedication of this church in 1904. In that paragraph Mrs. Eddy describes the Christian as one who *"strives for the spiritual;... abides in a right purpose;... and follows Truth fearlessly."* My 160:1-4.

The Christians on our board have worked selflessly in the understanding of the spiritual basis for healing and care. They constantly abide in a right purpose acknowledging Our Father-Mother God as the constant source of supply, and they fearlessly follow Truth's abiding conviction that all is well for in God's kingdom, there is only good.

This year has seen our new Website up and running at cvsvisitingnurseservicenlh.org. It has many wonderful features. The home page has revolving pictures of our visiting Christian Science nurse. There is also a page for commonly asked questions and what the service offers. On this site you can find how to contact the nurse, our Newsletter, other helpful links to other Christian Science websites, and ways that you can contribute to the service. Please take the time to visit our website and explore its features.

In January of this year, the Board held a meeting to go through the records of the board and set up a retention schedule. It was agreed that we would house the records in a file cabinet located in the basement of the Concord church and work on maintaining a digital file also. The service is working to keep its house in perfect order.

We continue to pursue the idea of expanding the service.

The ability to do this however, requires funding that at this time would need to be expanded also. Our expenses continue to exceed our income. We use our investments to cover these costs but continually work to know that the infinite nature of our Father-Mother God will meet our needs abundantly. The board continues to look for someone who has experience in the field of development to assist us in our desire to do good works and help us to reach out to those who would be interested in advancing the Cause of Christian Science Visiting Nursing.

There are also many ways that you can contribute to our work, which covers the entire state of New Hampshire and surrounding areas in Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts. You can support us metaphysically by prayerfully addressing Manual article VIII section 31 of the Manual of The Mother Church, Christian Science Nurse. You can join our board by talking to one of the members of the board concerning your interest. Board appointments are usually for a three year term with a limit of 2 members from one church serving

simultaneously. You can contribute financially through the mail or on-line through our website. This service is a service of love and the love that is given out to the field is fulfilled.

Finally, each year, the board chooses a metaphysical theme to guide our work on the board. This year's theme is from Christian Healing by Mary Baker Eddy pg. 19: 16-26 *"...let us work more earnestly in His vineyard, ... making our words golden rays in the sunlight of our deeds..."*.

As we work to support the activity of the Christian Science Visiting Nurse Service in the field, let each of us work more earnestly in His vineyard and find the Love that heals the sick and comforts mankind.



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**To reach a visiting Christian Science nurse,
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TREASURER'S REPORT CONTINUED

and benevolence in Maine. Our income for 2012 from services and supplies, from contributions and from interest and dividends was significantly less than our expenses.

When the tide rises, all boats rise with it and when the tide falls, all boats are affected. Last year our investments encountered a rising tide and increased. As a result our net assets as of December 31, 2012 were only slightly lowered than the preceding year.

Last year we did not have the regular and generous stock gift from a contributor that has helped us to balance our income and expenses over many years. We are very grateful for the continued metaphysical and financial support from each one of you. We are exploring a number of ways to "fill the well" while knowing that divine Love fills the well with exact sufficiency to meet our every need.

Thank you.

(1) *Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer - Amplified Edition* by Yvonne Caché von Fettweis and Robert Townsend Warneck and amplified by Robert Townsend Warneck. The Christian Science Publishing Society 2009 p. 177

(2) *Love Fills That Well*
<http://www.csvisitingnurseservicenh.org>