

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE VISITING NURSE SERVICE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Annual Meeting 2013 – Nurse’s Report

By Pat Cameron – Visiting Christian Science Nurse

GREETINGS! It’s a pleasure once again to share the fruits of our year’s harvest and to express our gratitude for your support. Last year was a busy one for the Service as I drove around New Hampshire, bounced back and forth between Maine and Vermont, and made regular forays into Massachusetts. In fact, as the summer wore on, my car’s odometer inched ever closer to 200,000 miles and the “check engine” light began to appear – and reappear, even though no definitive cause could be found. With prayer and the helpful oversight of a mechanic, I was able to continue my travels without incident until it became fully apparent that a new car was in order.

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.

In this age where the medical is clamoring for more and more acknowledgement as the best and only method or avenue for treating ills, we as Christian Scientists, long to hear more reports of Christian healing. I’m often asked if, as a Christian Science nurse, I see healing in my work. Although there’s not always an easy answer to this question, I like it because it means there is a recognition that Christian Science nursing relates to healing. In fact, part of the reason I entered the field of Christian Science nursing was because I wanted to witness healing.

I had recently taken class instruction when the doors opened for me to enter Christian Science 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. So as you might imagine, I was a bit idealistic at this point. 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 and clarifying, or purifying, 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 feeding her her meals. 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.

Now remember, 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 25-plus 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."

As I've said many times before, the Christian Science nurse is not treating the patient, but is always handling his or her own thought regarding the situation being presented. This in turn supports the practitioner's work, as we see from this reminder on page 424 in the chapter on Christian Science Practice (in *S&H*): "It is equally important in metaphysical practice that the minds which surround your patient should not act against your influence by continually expressing such opinions as may alarm or discourage, – either by giving antagonistic advice or through unspoken thoughts resting on your patient." Quite a charge for the Christian Science nurse to be ever-mindful of.

Getting back to my early days of understanding my role as a Christian Science nurse, I knew it was my love for God which had let me to Christian Science nursing and strengthened my resolve, but I also learned that it was love and compassion for my fellow beings which motivated me to continue in spite of the challenges. And I say that in all humility because it's not my love being expressed, but the law of divine Love that infinitely expresses itself.

As I'm nursing, my human sense of love and personality always has to take a back seat to the all-embracing Love which is God. And this naturally promotes healing, for as we know, it is the omnipresent power of Truth and Love which quiets fear and heals. (*S&H 445:19 & 31:13*) Once again, Mrs. Eddy says it best: "We should measure our love for God by our love for man; and our sense of Science will be measured by our obedience to God, --fulfilling the law of Love, doing good to all; imparting, so far as we reflect them, Truth, Life, and Love to all within the radius of our atmosphere of thought." (*Misc. 12:28*)

I've shared with you just one example of how I experienced the immense power of our thinking and I'm sure you all have your own stories to tell, 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. One of the qualities Mrs. Eddy lists in *Science & Health* for the nurse is "cheerful" and we can see how that would come naturally for all of us – nurse or not – who are living in accord with this statement in *Miscellany*: "Happy are the people whose God is All-in-all, who ask only to be judged according to their works, who live to love." (p.127:4-6)

So if you've never called on a Christian Science nurse for help or support, you don't know what you're missing!

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