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Visiting Christian Science Nurse
Pat Cameron
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“...where heart meets heart...”

DEAR Friends,
We are happy to share with you a summary of the reports presented at the Annual Meeting of the Christian Science Visiting Nurse Service of New Hampshire which was held on Sunday, April 19, 2015 in the Sunday School building of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Concord, NH.

The meeting was opened with a welcome from Carolyn Keith, Chairman, and the singing of Hymn 180. This was followed by readings by Susan Moller on the Service's theme, “...where heart meets heart reciprocally blest, drink with me the living waters of the spirit of my life-purpose, – to impress humanity with the genuine recognition of practical, operative Christian Science.” (*Miscellaneous Writings 1883 – 1896*, by Mary Baker Eddy, 107: 2).

Carolyn then introduced the Service's nurses, Pat Cameron and Lelia Smith, and the Board of Directors, Don Alusic, Susan Moller, Alice Shepherd, Shirley Wilson, Allan Dermott, and George Reed, Director Emeritus. She also shared with the audience a special tribute for Marjorie Wessner who is a long-time supporter of the Service, and was instrumental in its founding and development for 25 years, and to whom a certificate of recognition and appreciation was given.

The following are excerpts from the Board Report given by Carolyn; the Treasurer's Report, by Don Alusic; and the Nurse's Report, by Pat Cameron:

We were blessed at last year's annual meeting with a full expression of Christian Science nursing through a panel discussion that included five *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurses. The story of the Good Samaritan was a focus of the discussion, which was summarized in the newsletters sent out in October and December 2014.

Some of you may have attended meetings held here last November, that were jointly sponsored by The Mother Church and First Church of Christ, Scientist, Concord, NH. These meetings focused on Christian Science nursing and the vital role it has in the healing mission of the Christian Science Church. They were facilitated by Linda Kohler, President of The Mother Church, and Caroleen Scholet, Manager of Christian Science Nursing Activities at The Mother Church. Church members from many different areas of New Hampshire and bordering states,

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



sat down together to explore the nature of God's love and care for each of us, and I believe it helped to lift the understanding and appreciation of Christian Science nursing. While the Visiting Nurse Service wasn't one of the sponsors of these meetings, our visiting Christian Science nurse, Pat Cameron, coordinated them and we feel they were a wonderful benefit to the Service.

The board collectively and individually prays to support this Christian Science nursing service through metaphysical and practical care. Each month an individual board member is responsible for the metaphysical support of the service.

In March 2015 we had the privilege of sending one of our board members, Susan Moller, to a conference in Kansas City, MO sponsored by the Principle Foundation. The Principle Foundation promotes assistance and benevolence in all 50 states in accordance with the teachings of Christian Science. The theme of the conference was "We would enter by the door" and over 100 participants gathered representing more than 50 Christian Science organizations. The conference focused on how to elevate the practice of Christian Science in organizational work using the lives of Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy as models.

We're so grateful for the steady development of Tallwood House, a home for Christian Scientists in Concord, NH. While our missions are separate and distinct, we continue to support one another in providing Christian Science nursing where needed.

Having two nurses this year has been a wonderful blessing to this activity. Pat had previously been the sole nurse available for many years before Lelia Smith was brought on board as our second nurse. Lelia is still in demand for private nursing. Therefore, she has decided to focus on those demands. We can't begin to express how deeply grateful we are for her contribution to the service – she has been a wonderful and loving support.

Our website is active and keeps current with answers to commonly asked questions regarding our Service, Christian Science nursing, and how to contact our nurses. It also includes our newsletters, helpful links to Christian Science websites

and ways that you can donate your talents and prayers. If you'd like to make a financial contribution, there is an easy link to PayPal. The website is csvisitingnurseservicenoh.org.

Each year the board chooses a metaphysical theme to guide our work on the board. The theme for the coming year is from the King James Bible, and is found in II Corinthians 9, verse 8: "...God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work..." Strong's Concordance defines the Hebrew word for "grace" as "the divine influence upon the heart." Our prayer is to recognize the divine influence upon each heart that is touched by the activity of this Christian Science Visiting Nurse Service.

TREASURER'S REPORT

When we added a second nurse last year, this provided many opportunities to turn to divine Love for guidance. These statements from Proverbs gave some specific direction: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3: 5,6)

The true essence of our finances is spiritual, but we also see them in terms of bank accounts and investments and we have followed a path to nurture and protect them. Our expenses for 2014 were markedly more than we spent the year before on account of having a second nurse. Our income for 2014 from services and supplies and from contributions was higher than last year due to increases in nursing and travel fees plus a very generous contribution from the Clearway Foundation and welcome contributions from many of you and others in our field. This gave us a net deficit somewhat more than the previous year.

Interest, dividends and gains from our investments which are like an endowment contribute to covering our expenses. Last year their contribution was such that our total assets decreased by only a small amount more than the previous year when we had only one nurse. We are most grateful for this provision for the Service.

We continue to work with our financial advisor,

Steven Lozan from Oppenheimer, to guide us with our investments. We are working with Bill Powers of Murphy, Powers and Wilson, a CPA firm near the seacoast, to review our books and we expect to have his review complete in the summer.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING REPORT

To borrow Mrs. Eddy's words in *Miscellaneous Writings* (147:6): "Another year has rolled on, another annual meeting has convened, another space of time has been given us, and has another duty been done and another victory won for time and eternity?" I would answer "Yes!" We have done our duty and won victories of healing for Christian Science and our fellow man.

As many of you know, Lelia Smith joined the Service in April 2014 and she and I began sharing a rotating schedule of working 4 days followed by 4 days off. She stepped smoothly into this new role and it was as if she'd always been there. The transition to this new arrangement was seamless, and Lelia has been an immense blessing to me and the Service. As you have heard, she will be leaving this position in June (2015) for personal reasons and I extend to her my deepest gratitude and best wishes for her future.

I would like to also express my gratitude to Sally Carruth, who has continued to serve as an on-call nurse and provide vacation coverage for us.

Lelia and I traveled nearly 15,000 miles over the past year while responding to calls from the "Northeast Kingdom" of Vermont, southern Maine, northern Massachusetts, and of course the many corners of New Hampshire. This was quite a challenging winter to be on call but with "the divine control of Spirit" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, 9:23) at the wheel, all calls were answered and needs met. Lelia, in

particular, seemed to get the bulk of the stormy driving conditions and the families involved were most grateful.

We made visits to ten people who had never called on this Service before, in addition to an equal number who were familiar with visiting Christian Science nursing care from previous experiences. As always, some care was given on a regularly-scheduled basis, and some as needed on either an urgent or non-urgent basis. We also provided nursing care via the telephone in over two dozen cases.

Care was given in support of nourishment needs, nail care, personal hygiene in a variety of situations, bandaging, regaining mobility, mental challenges, reading



Pat Cameron addressing Annual Meeting.

Christian Science literature, companionship, and assistance finding further care in Christian Science nursing facilities.

All these situations were ameliorated and conditions were healed through the power and presence of the Christ: "The divine manifestation of God, which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error", as Christ is defined in the Glossary in *Science and Health* (583:10). The Christian Science nurse's role is to bear witness to this manifestation in the presence of whatever error is trying to say to the contrary. The nurse becomes an instrument of divine Love, bringing spiritual comfort and pouring forth the 'healing balm of Truth and Love' (*No and Yes*, by Mary Baker Eddy, 44:19); with the Christian Science practitioner serving as the "archangel" over

all.

In addition, the Christian Science nurse represents strength, fearlessness and a practical response to a human need. It is nothing to be ashamed of to serve in this way, or to ask to be served by a Christian Science nurse. No, it's an immense privilege to partake of God's Love in this reciprocal activity. As Doris Peel stated in her poem entitled "The Waiting Upon": "A need is only the space shaped to receive a precise dispensation of grace".

(*The Christian Science Journal*, July 1975)

I know you all like to hear examples of dramatic healings as a result of our work, and sometimes there are some. However, more often the visiting Christian Science nurse only sees the beginning of the healing and thus has learned to discern the precursors of error's destruction; and rejoices with the patient in these initial steps of progress. The reason for this is that usually the visiting Christian Science nurse is called to meet an acute, immediate need and only stays on the case for a short time. Sometimes this is sufficient to completely eliminate the problem and see the full healing;

but other times, the patient has more work to do and this may not always involve continuing visiting nurse visits. You may recall an example of this in the metaphysical talk given by our speaker, Kathryn Matteson, when she shared a healing she had after calling a Christian Science nurse.

So, we always see progress because "progress is the law of God" (*Science and Health*, 233:6) as Mrs. Eddy tells us, and God is ever working out His purpose which results in blessing everyone involved. For example, there's a case that could appear to have minor involvement of Christian Science nursing on the surface, but there's been an ever-expanding ripple effect. Years ago, an individual placed herself in an all-inclusive care community for seniors and ultimately found herself in the



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nursing building due to a debilitating physical condition. Although the medical outlook did not include a great expectation of recovery, the patient was a student of Christian Science and asked for regular visits from the visiting Christian Science nurse (along with Christian Science practitioner support). These visits consisted solely of reading Christian Science literature and discussing and sharing spiritual truths. The patient regained full mobility and cognition, and perhaps as Mrs. Eddy said about Jacob and the spiritual evangel: ‘perceiving her error and need of help, did not loosen her hold upon this glorious light.’ (*Science and Health*, 308:26) The visits continue, and the individual’s spiritual growth continues. In addition, the staff at the facility have seen the changes and now acknowledge the value of the visits and encourage them, and a non-Science family member has begun reading *Science and Health*.

Truly, God is working His purpose out through this Service and many are the blessings from it, be they large or small, seen or unseen. I thank you all for your steadfast and loving support. Thank you!

The inspirational talk on the topic of “Signs Following” given by Kathryn Matteson, CS of Concord, NH, followed and was sent out in our Fall Newsletter.

The meeting closed with hymn 423.



December 2015

Thank You and Welcome

WE recently received word that Pat Cameron, our long-time visiting Christian Science nurse will be leaving the Service at the end of December. We are sure that you will join with us in expressing deep gratitude to Pat for the many, many years that she lovingly and faithfully provided visiting Christian Science nursing service to us all as the need arose. “We live in an age of Love’s divine adventure to be All-in-all.” (*The First Church of Christ Scientist and Miscellany*, by Mary Baker Eddy, 158:9). We wish Pat well as she goes forward in “...Love’s divine adventure...” and we are sure that she will be a blessing to many.

We are happy to announce that we have engaged a Christian Science nurse to take over from Pat. Amanda J. DeNicholas of Olivette, Missouri has had 25 years of experience as a Christian Science nurse. She took her Christian Science nurse’s training at High Ridge House in Riverdale, NY. Since then she has worked in many Christian Science organizations including Peace Haven in MO, the Principia School in MO, numerous Christian Science camps, Chestnut Hill Benevolent Association in MA, and Arden Wood in CA. She also worked as a visiting Christian Science nurse in Connecticut. With her background and experience we feel she is wonderfully suited for the job, so please join us in welcoming her to the Christian Science Visiting Nurse Service of New Hampshire.

— *Board of Directors*