



# Chariton Manor

Summer 2016 Newsletter

A very warm welcome to you – to our *Charton Manor Summer 2016 Newsletter*. Reports given at our 18 June 2016 Open Day form the main substance of the Newsletter.

Our inspirational speaker this year was *Rick Stewart, CS*. You can read his talk starting page 14, or listen to it via our website. We hope very much that you will enjoy reading everything.

*We would love to hear from you with any comments or questions raised by this Newsletter ... or indeed on any aspect of our work here at Charton Manor.*

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Reports in the newsletter are substantively what was said on the day.  
‘CS nurse’ has been used throughout to indicate a Christian Science nurse.

# Open Day Reports

## Susan Thomas – Board Chairman

**G**OOD AFTERNOON and thank you all for coming. I'm Susan Thomas, chairman of the board of Hawthorne Trust, and my colleagues and I are so grateful to see so many friends enjoying themselves in this lovely spot.

Those of you who have been to previous Open Days are probably expecting to hear a number of reports from the Board and management and then an inspirational talk by our guest speaker. Well, the inspirational talk is certainly coming but we have decided to tell you about some of the events of the last year in a slightly less formal way this time. We hope you approve.

Charton Manor is very important. To all of us. It is an idea, the expression of love, care, peace, calm, expectancy, support, order, beauty – the list goes on but it all points to one thing – spiritual healing.

First of all, it is important to the individual Christian Scientist, to the person choosing to depend on prayer for healing. It is not the place you go when you think you have failed in your prayers. In fact, it is often the answer to your prayers and is part of the healing. It is divine Love's way of lifting the burden of the human need so you can see the truth more clearly. It's a freeing atmosphere which lifts the blanket of material thinking that sometimes seems to envelop us when surrounded by fear or criticism.

Secondly, Charton Manor – and this includes the Christian Science Visiting Nurse Service – is important to the Christian Science field, especially in this part of the country. It is a symbol to the public at large that Christian Scientists look after and support each other humanly, if you will, in times of need. We care and don't ignore these



*Margritta Reid, Alistair Budd, Susan Thomas, Ednah Lawal and Alan Holland*

needs while we pray for healing. In turn, however, we need the support of each Christian Scientist as an individual and collectively as church members to keep going. Metaphysical support is most important but so is volunteering in some way such as reading the Bible Lesson to residents and patients. Helping spread the word about our work through accurate information is also a help. You probably also expect me to mention money here but this time I am going to leave most of that to others. I will only remind you that this charity could not run without substantial donations, for we subsidise every patient who comes here or is nursed in their home which is why we always run at an operating deficit even before we consider capital improvements.

Looking even wider, Charton Manor is important to the whole UK field and beyond. For example, we work with other Christian Science nursing facilities and visiting nurse services in this country. However, many people may not realise that we are one of only four accredited Christian Science nurses training centres in the world and the only one in Europe. We help train Christian Science nurses for other facilities, visiting nurse services and private duty. Not just for us. Some do their classroom work here and then may go elsewhere for the on the job instruction. A lack of qualified

Christian Science nurses is the biggest challenge this aspect of the healing work faces and we need to do our part.

Lastly, I want to mention our importance in an area you may not have thought of. It has, in fact, come to our notice more this year than ever before. I am talking about our vital place in the wider, more traditional, world of care and healing and this means the care of the elderly, support in the home, pastoral care, quality residential care and, yes, even the NHS. You only have to open a newspaper and there is some challenging story about care. We are a beacon, a leader. We are striving for real progress and true healing. This has been recognised, for example, by the Care Quality Commission who inspect us on behalf of the government. Instead of us just trying to meet their requirements whilst also trying to get out of the ones we don't like they are starting to think that maybe, just maybe, some of the ideas we have are quite reasonable and they have expressed their appreciation to us. Also, our fellow Christian Scientists in the US who are just now coming more and more under the eye of the state are asking us how this scrutiny can bless and not just get in the way.

Now I am going to ask each of my colleagues here to elaborate on several of these points as well as some others.

## Ednah Lawal – *Christian Science Nursing Manager*

IT HAS CERTAINLY BEEN a joy-filled year for us here at Charton Manor. As we have been ‘leaning on the sustaining infinite’ we can joyfully say that our days have been ‘big with blessings’.

Since our last open day we have had many occasions when we really had to lean on this sustaining infinite.

Last year a new requirement came into effect requiring new health and social care workers to be inducted according to the Care Certificate framework. There were fifteen standards within this Care Certificate which covered a wide range of subjects and topics. Some were very good; however it became clear that some of the standards were not compatible with the teachings of Christian Science and as such Charton Manor would not be able to use them or had to meet them in a different way.

I am happy to report that after the classroom portion of the Care Certificate (the tip of the iceberg in terms of the effort required) I worked closely with two *Journal*-listed CS nurses – Jonathan Tetteh and Margritta Reid – who worked extremely hard. It gives me great joy to report that the three trainees who continued to work on our nursing floor have now completed their Care Certificates. So a special

thank you to Jonathan and Margritta. We continue to provide on the job training opportunities for our trainee CS nurses. Currently we have five trainees, with two on level II. These two have only to complete level III in order to complete their training. Three others did their introductory level last year. On average it takes three years for a trainee to complete their training.

Similar issues came up when at our recent meeting with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) which was held here at Charton Manor in April this year. The meeting was organized by the UK Committee on Publication office and was attended by Tony Lobl (District Manager), Bonnie Castroman (via Skype), CQC Regional Manager, a local CQC inspector, Alan, and myself. Bonnie is manager of CS Nursing Activities at The Mother Church.

It was wonderful to share what CS nursing is about and how we go about meeting the new CQC requirements. One example was the issue of infection control which is both in the new Health and Social Care Act (Regulated Activities) 2014 and in the Care Certificate. I explained to them how we deal with it from our CS understanding as well as our training on this issue and the practical steps we take to deal with

this issue. They were satisfied with our explanation. After the meeting the Regional Manager agreed to share what we discussed with other regional managers in England. It was such a wonderful meeting. Our special thanks go to the COP office and The Mother Church.

We continue to have a busy nursing floor with some significant healings. We had a patient who came to us after a fall at home and a hospital admission. At the time of his arrival he needed the service of a CS nurse to walk, use the bathroom and get dressed. He needed at least six hours of one-to-one nursing care a day. His practitioner prayed with him and the CS nurses supported him and provided the necessary care. He continued to progress to the point where his nursing need went from six hours a day to needing only one hour a day. By this time he was not needing care at night and had even requested not to be checked at night. He was able to go to the bathroom himself and meet his needs. He was now doing his own daily shower, getting dressed by himself and eventually got to the point where his care needs were so little that he was able to move into our Assisted Living programme.

Another patient came who appeared confused, was having difficulty speaking well, and also had a mobility challenge. His family was unable to cope with caring for him at

home. He had a significant healing. By the time he went back home he was speaking coherently, walking on his own with a walker or using a wheel chair to move himself around. He and his family were very grateful. And there have been many other healings.

We provide an outpatient facility here where fellow Christian Scientists have come for their needs to be met. We feel that this discreet service has been invaluable to those who have needed it and I'm grateful to the Christian Science nurses who have met the needs.

Our Assisted Living programme continues. When patients no longer need nursing care a return to their former accommodation may not be the right option. Our Assisted Living accommodation meets basic care needs including all meals, while enabling residents to live as independently as possible. In some cases residents have been moved temporarily to the nursing wing when there has been a need. We welcome applications, and we are always pleased to arrange a viewing of the available accommodation.

There have been times when we are no longer able to provide nursing care on a long term basis and we have been able to work with those involved to find an alternative permanent care home for them. For quite a while we had a waiting list for nursing care and Assisted Living. However we

do now have vacancies for Assisted Living both in the main building and in the cottage. We are quite keen to ensure that those who are admitted into Assisted Living are not needing a lot of nursing care. This is simply because we have found that when

those in the Assisted Living wing are having a lot of nursing it does have an impact on our ability to accept nursing care patients. We feel that the primary purpose of Charton Manor is Christian Science nursing.

■ EDNAH LAWAL

## Alistair Budd – *Manager, London Christian Science Visiting Nurse Service*

I'M GRATEFUL for the opportunity to serve as Registered Manager for the London CSVNS. It has been an active and progressive year for the service.

In January this year John Hood began training with the London VNS after taking an Introduction class at Charton Manor. John's training is progressing well and we are grateful for his work on behalf of the VNS. This year, Courtenay Rule and Wendy Mousambini have completed their two-week VN training program with the London VNS as they prepare for listing in *The Christian Science Journal*.

In September 2015 I attended an international conference for Christian Science nurses at Cedars Camps in Lebanon, Missouri, USA. Over eighty CS nurses attended – from the USA, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Germany, Switzerland and the UK. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for me to explore the

role of the Visiting Christian Science Nurse with others engaged in this work.

Ednah Lawal and I gave talks on Charton Manor and the London CSVNS at churches in Cambridge and Poole this year. We are always happy to share information on our work with branch churches. Please contact Alan Holland for further information.

It is a privilege to witness healing and spiritual progress in my work as a CS nurse. Here are two recent examples: A woman on vacation in the UK with her husband was feeling unwell and concerned she may be unable to make her flight home the following day. She was working with a CS practitioner. I responded to a request to visit the couple in their hotel. I stayed for about an hour and a half and read the Bible Lesson. The following day I received an email affirming that the couple were able

to make their flight and had arrived safely at their destination.

A student of CS in south-east England requested assistance with cleansing and covering an area. CS nursing care was provided on a regular basis for about twelve weeks. The patient worked diligently with a CS practitioner. Visits by a CS nurse are no longer required and the patient is now an active member of a branch church.

The prayer of Jabez, as recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures, has provided much inspiration in my work this

year: *Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil...* (I Chronicles 4:10).

The ministry of the London CSVNS is far-reaching and expansive. We have been ‘enlarg[ing] [our] coast’ [border] during the last year. We’ve responded to calls for CS nursing care from a wide area across south-east England and we’re grateful for the opportunity to maintain this important activity.

■ ALISTAIR BUDD

## Margritta Reid – Training Centre Manager

**T**HE PAST YEAR HAS SEEN SOME rewarding but also challenging times in the Training Centre.

At last year’s meeting we invited you to take part in an overview of Christian Science nursing workshop, and I am happy to say that we had the great privilege to host a workshop in July last year with 11 participants, the largest number we have ever had. Some participants were Board members or Hawthorne Company members who wanted to learn more about Christian Science nursing as part of their role. Others were Branch Church members, and we also had two people who were new to Christian Science.

We explored the role of the Christian Science nurse and its ethical basis as specified by Mary Baker Eddy in the Church Manual By-law ‘Christian Science Nurse’, as well as giving a little taster of a practical activity, by teaching participants how to safely operate and manoeuvre a wheelchair and inviting them to wheel each other around. The workshop generated lots of questions, freely asked – and I trust answered – throughout the day. We had a wonderful time and it was not a little enhanced by a delicious buffet lunch provided by our kitchen staff.

In September/October some trainees took part in more advanced Christian Science nurses training –



Christian Science Nurse Practice 2. This course prepares trainees to do visiting Christian Science nursing and also extends practical skills such as bandaging and wound dressing.

We found that it worked well to split the course into several modules over the year. It is particularly helpful to participants who come from further afield and do not work at Charton Manor. For example one of this course's applicants comes from Devon and has been largely establishing her Christian Science nursing practice by visiting patients in their private homes.

There is definitely a need for more Christian Science nurses in the UK facilities and field as well as abroad. One of our trainees has been eagerly employed in Australia, to nurse in a residential home, as a Visiting CS nurse and has also been asked to train new CS nurses. She asked for some help which we are happy to give.

At the end of last year we were able to conduct a new Introduction to Christian Science nursing course. It was wonderful to have six new and much needed participants to boost staffing at Charton Manor, its Visiting Nurse Service and at Lime Tree House.

Four of the participants come from the UK field. One had been a long time resident in the UK and one

comes from Finland, which I think is a first for us here.

Four trainees are employed by Charton Manor, including one who works for the Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service. Two trainees are working for Lime Tree House.

In the future we anticipate having trainees from Springfield House taking part in classroom training here.

The Introduction course presented us with some challenges. Since May 2015 every new employee in the care industry has to complete new national training requirements called 'Care Certificate'. This replaces former Induction standards, which we had previously incorporated into our own training programme as it was suitable. The Care Certificate is based on 15 topics, each with its own workbook comprising a knowledge and a questions part. Topics include Communication, Privacy and Dignity, Duty of Care, Person Centred Care, Awareness of Mental Health, Fluids and Nutrition, etc.

While appreciating the effort that is being made nationwide to lift the standard of care, I remember sitting in my office only a short time before the start of the Introduction course surrounded by 15 substantial workbooks. It really dawned on me as to how much work was involved. At this point I was getting very concerned and I was not sure how to

proceed. However, I clung to my often used and over the years well proven promise from Proverbs 3, 5–6 that hangs on my office wall: ‘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.’

God did direct us ... although not quite in the way I was hoping. I phoned an external training provider who promised to deliver the complete Care Certificate training in one week. Hurrah, I thought, and after necessary agreements from the administration of Lime Tree House and Charton Manor, went ahead to book it. Everything fell well into place, the course could be delivered the week after the completion of our own Introduction course. The trainees were able to add another week to stay at Charton Manor. Funding was generously provided by the Scholarship Fund.

We now have a better understanding of the Care Certificate and we are hoping to adapt our future Introduction course to meet its requirements in a way that is more efficient and also more suitable for us as Christian Science nurses.

Every year I end by mentioning my gratitude to the Albert Baker Fund and the Benevolence and Scholarship

Fund under the umbrella name of the Pension Trust for Christian Science nurses. This year is no different. While the Albert Baker Fund and the Scholarship Fund both contribute to tuition fees for training classes, the Scholarship Fund in particular assists Christian Science nurses in training financially. Trainees often have financial commitments and needs that cannot be covered by the salary of a trainee. The Scholarship Fund has often been instrumental in enabling Christian Scientists to train. Also, in some cases we are grateful to report initiating funding from other trusts such as the Morval Foundation and the Hewer White Trust. Sandie Tassell, its Secretary has been an exceptionally dedicated supporter of our Christian Science nurses; not only at Charton Manor but for the whole field. She has worked tirelessly and with great love. She is taking up retirement this year. I would like to thank her wholeheartedly for everything she has done for the trainees and the Christian Science nurses in the UK.

■ MARGRITTA REID

## Alan Holland – Administrator

LOOKING OUT from our meadow at the bottom of our estate and the extension beyond our footpath, there is a panoramic of the hills above the River Darent valley that provides a ‘still small voice’ calming view beyond the sometimes busy and lively business of the house. Have you considered joining us for a few days or more of Rest and Study? When you do in the summer months, take the opportunity to go beyond the tarmac path and the orchard and find your way into the meadow with its wild flowers and tall grasses with views to the west and north in particular. If you walk down to the village of Farningham, there you will find the river and a footpath to stroll along.

It was wonderful to see so many members from our branch churches and societies and many other CS friends at our Open Day in June; emphasising the genuine support from the field.

You will recall that a year ago we outlined our plans to pursue a number of projects over the next few years.

Clearly our house has been here now for nearly three decades and apart from the need to refresh and refurbish we are conscious that we need to move forward with the times as Mrs Eddy was keen to remind us to do, using new inventions and so forth.

Our main focus has been with the plant area and now the tower roof areas to the south of the main building. We have been working with a consultant and architect for some months and contracts have now been signed. There are two main contractors one dealing with the M & E plant work; replacing our old central heating boilers, our water tanks, introducing solar panelling to heat our water and refurbishing all the radiators and their valves throughout the main building. The other is a builder, refurbishing the parapet which sits above the plant room; I should explain that upon inspection and following obvious visible water staining and damage on the fascia, it has become necessary to carry out this work as a proactive measure. All this work is expected to be completed by the end of September; the gross cost including VAT for the combined project has risen close to £500,000. Naturally as indicated previously, this will require using more of our capital funds.

Where does this leave us with the other albeit less expensive projects – they are still very much in Mind? I shall discuss a few of these:

- Renovation of the nursing rooms, including refurbishing – some work has started in the bathrooms

and will continue over the coming months: The key item of furniture is the chair for the resident/patient. Re-decoration of the rooms will take place as required.

- Audio Visual facilities in each room has been discussed and is being looked into – this will allow occupants to have the Bible Lesson, *JSH* and other items.
- Work on the grounds – extending footpaths and other ideas including more seating.
- We are currently happy with the two house vehicles that we have and will retain these for the time being.
- A second phase of upgrading the nurses' accommodation – in the back wing, this is being looked at alongside the Training school areas and other underutilised areas on the first floor. We also plan to enlarge the visitor's toilet on the ground floor into an enabling facility.

We are very grateful for the many donations received supporting these projects; we shall continue to keep you informed of progress with the use of these monies. As part of our continuous outreach, a Board member and I have responded to several requests to give a financial presentation to branch churches in the next month or two. We hope that we shall be able to do this for other

branches and societies. We have recently introduced a new form for legacy giving (i.e. setting aside money in your will); a copy of which can be found on our website. Thank you again for all your support.

Before we call I shall answer; in early Spring we invited a firm of surveyors to update the site plans of the house. One day I received a message from one of these surveyors to call her back. This was instantly after I had been handed a silver crucifix that had been found by one of our Maintenance men whilst cutting one of the lawns. Of course the caller (a colleague of its male owner) was asking if we had found the crucifix. The delight on the face of its owner when it was handed to him when he next came to the house was a joy to behold!

Each year we send representatives to the AOCSN (Association of Organisations for CS Nursing) conference. This is an opportunity to share ideas and learn about the wider experiences of other CS nursing facilities and their staff including CS nurses, Board Trustees and EDs and/or Administrators mainly from North America. This year all 3 UK houses were represented as well as Le Verger from Geneva. We felt that we were part of the whole and were encouraged to get more involved with the wider movement. It is a very busy

3 days full of metaphysical content and a varied programme of talks and opportunities for interaction among our peer groups. The keynote talk centred on the theme 'Love the Brethren'.

We naturally draw on spiritual means for overcoming challenges throughout the year; we have metaphysical rotas and share inspirational ideas. One such example was using Mrs Eddy's reference to the 'Equipollence' or balance of power as from the textbook *Science & Health* p 110:9 - 'The equipollence of God brought to light another glorious proposition, - man's perfectibility and the establishment of the kingdom of heaven on earth.' You will also find various articles and/or poems using this word on *JSH*. We also share and receive ideas with our fellow facilities during periodic Metaphysical Committee for Sustainability conference calls. We are currently working with the word 'Support' and in June spoke about the then ongoing EU and upcoming Presidential Election procedures. Handling diversity and working together along the lines of TMC annual meeting message, leading to the continuity and re-establishment of unity.

These ideas and many more form the essential parts of our work at CM. We have non-Scientists who are clearly touched by the atmosphere

and value the work that they are doing.

Regular appraisals of staff provide the opportunity to review ideas and gauge how they are progressing in their work. There are challenges that are overcome; the two maintenance men both expressed how they would not wish to work anywhere else and regard CM as the best place that they have ever worked.

We look forward to welcoming you to CM very soon.

■ ALAN HOLLAND

## Holy Calm

STANLEY W. HURST

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This day, untouched by sense  
of time  
In Life's irradiancy.  
This place, unseen to mortal eye,  
In Love's security.  
No fear of sickness, sin, or death  
Evokes a qualm.  
Here perfect Mind's creation  
dwells  
In holy calm.

Dissolved, the things of time  
and place and fear;  
Revealed, harmonious life in  
aspect clear.

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Stanley Hurst is a well-loved friend of Charton Manor.

## Caroline O'Sullivan – *Activities Co-ordinator*

ACTIVITIES ARE A VERY important part of life at Charton Manor with a great deal of time and effort invested into the development of interesting and fun events.

The **Core Aim of Activities** is to provide a homely fun environment that incorporates the life experiences of all our residents allowing them to interact with each other but also ensuring that each of them feels important, cherished and united as a family. Rest and Study visitors, patients and family members are also encouraged to join in with our activities. This often enhances our experiences creating a really lovely atmosphere.

Recent examples of wider participation include a retired ballerina who joined our Music and Movement class, and really enjoyed it. Also, a daughter of one of our residents came to an arts/craft class where we made Easter cards. I then found out that she was a professional cellist. I invited her to perform for us at Charton. She also brought her friend to play the viola one activity often leads to another.

I also ask the numerous musicians that perform for us if they have students that can also perform. This not only benefits the home, but also the students in allowing them to perform in a relaxed environment giving them useful experience and often helping them build confidence,

it is also a cost effective way of entertaining. The harpist Olivia Jageurs came to perform three times over the past year – she really enjoys coming as she said it's nice to feel appreciated. She always stays to chat with all the residents. It was extremely exciting when we had the Brass ensemble concert with two professionals plus some students from the Royal Military school of Music Kneller Hall! All dressed in military uniform; they played Christmas carols, which was very traditional and authentic. We have piano recitals from Jonathan Williams who is a fantastic pianist! In one instance a patient was pleased to demonstrate his own musical talents to the other residents, and to feel their support.

We still enjoy poetry reading once a month. I encouraged a CS nurse who loves poetry to come and share a healing experience through love of reading **Robert E Key**. Some residents enjoy writing their own poetry and enjoy sharing their work. One resident often entertains us with a taste of Joyce Grenfell.

There have been several concerts by some of our talented church members. Not forgetting; card making; painting classes; knitting and crocheting; talks; animal visits; harp recital; brass band recital; films; garden centre trips; quizzes ... and more!

## Gallery



*Ednah Lawal, Tony Lobl (District Manager, Christian Science Committees on Publication), Daniel Abbey (Springfield House) and Julie Brearley (Lime Tree House), pictured on Open Day*



*Ongoing refurbishment of the parapet and damaged fascia, August 2016 ... with a view looking down from the scaffolding*



*... Deep in conversation on Open Day*

## *Inspirational address*

You can listen to the full inspirational address at [www.chartonmanor.org/talks](http://www.chartonmanor.org/talks)

### **In our true light and life – by Rick Stewart CS**

**I**T IS SUCH A JOY to be with you here today. My journey from Dresden has been one step after another of God's grace with the help from our Father-Mother and a derivation of Mind, Google Maps. I flew in directly over the M25 and it was at a complete stand still. I knew God always sends angels before us to keep us in our way and that was the case. When I programmed my route with the help of Google Maps, although much longer than normal, it was a beautiful route using A and B roads. I found myself rejoicing the whole way, I love England it is so beautiful. But after driving by one Close after another, my only question was, 'And when is Charton Manor close?'

During my first night here at Charton Manor it became clear that the staff here knows the path they are walking, as they see themselves as God knows them, in their true Light. Yes, each of you seen in your true light as God's image and likeness are what makes this home work! Actually each of us here in this audience seeing ourselves in this true Light is what makes this home work, what makes this movement work, and I honestly believe what makes this universe work. Indeed I believe this audience is composed of first responders, nurses,

healers, Christian Scientists that see a need and respond with the Christ.

Actually I see two examples right before me today. My friends, David Venting and James Palmer-Hall. I first met David at a youth meeting in Germany, just one month after I had moved to Germany. My wife and I had our son, Noah, with us. The meeting was being held in a castle and the walkways were difficult to navigate with Noah's pram. David saw the need and just simply carried the pram wherever we needed to go. Thank you again David for seeing the need and meeting it.

And James I met at my very first UK Easter Camp where I was serving as practitioner. When I came into the Sunday church service a little late, James immediately got up from his seat and ushered me to a seat near him. He saw the need and responded immediately.

So today, that is how I would like each of you to think of yourselves, 'first responders', responding to meet the immediate need with the Christ. For example, although Sue welcomed us and included the normal request to turn off cell phones, I am going to change that request, I am asking that you keep your phones on. You all are first responders, healers,





nurses, practitioners, you need to be reachable. And for me that means keep those phones on, ready to answer and heal.

Do you have any idea of how many people are inhabiting this planet right now – [audience:] we think it's over 7 billion. What percentage of those would be known as Christian Scientists? How many Christian Scientists does it take to heal a world? One. Remember when Mary Baker Eddy spoke to her last class – I think 80 attended – she said if we are of one mind we are enough to change the world. There are more than 80 here today! That's why I say keep it turned on – stay receptive, responsive.

A CS practitioner/a Christian Scientist is someone who responds 'Father, where will You have me be, what will I know' and you will share the light that comes to you in whatever way you are inspired to do. You could respond to calls for

healing all day, and be our Christian Committee on Publication, and at the same time be a wonderfully talented photographer like Tony Lobl, here with us today. Tony, thank you for sharing your wonderful photos on Facebook. They always inspire me as you share the different ways light illuminates the scenes around you. And as each of us live in the Light that surrounds us, we express ourselves right where we are, and we heal the world.

Here is a little example. I woke up one morning about 25 years ago. I was back home in Florida, and I began my day with the CS Bible Lesson as many here today do. An idea came to me: 'you must go and scrub your mother's garage floor.' It was 55 miles away. I'm serious. I answered 'yes sir' and drove to my mom's house. As I began the work, mom's phone rang and I answered. The call was for me, but the caller thought she was reaching me at my home, I had my practice phone on call forwarding to mom's number. The caller was a friend and member of the church there in my hometown. She needed help. Her husband had taken a fall a few days earlier and she asked if I could perhaps come and visit them. I assured her I could come and she asked how long it would be. Remember, I actually lived 55 miles away. So when I said well just a few minutes, she was perplexed. I explained that I was actually at my mom's house. You see how God had

placed me perfectly to respond to this call for help! These two class taught Christian Scientists were at their wits end in terms of mortal mind but Mind was way ahead of us all. As I talked with my friends we agreed it was right for Ben to go to the Summit, a nearby CS nursing facility. (I was on the Board at the time.) I knew the route well, but in this case I stopped in thought and asked, 'Which way should I go?' A lovely route following country roads came to mind. And isn't that what we all should do as first responders? Go to the Father and ask for guidance. Nursing is lifting thought from the 'I don't know what to do', to the 'Father, here I am, I am listening.'

As we drove this country road I saw 2 kids riding on a four-wheel quad bike along the shoulder of the road. As they passed by I saw the quad bike suddenly swerve and drive right into the barb wire fence at high speed. I vehemently declared, 'No,' and made a quick u turn. Within 10 seconds there were three class taught Christian Scientists on the scene as first responders.

A little boy about 10 had been driving. His passenger was a teen age girl. The boy was fine, so small he had passed right under the barb wire strand, but the girl had been caught at neck level and seemed to be critically injured. Mrs Eddy is very clear that in an emergency situation Christian Scientists are obligated to

respond. And here we were, three Christian Science first responders, we responded with the truth of being – the certainty that God is governing and God is Life. All three of us were knowing what was really present, divine Presence, and not accident.

We know a Christian Science nurse is not fazed by the appearance because they are looking to see the patient in the true light – the light of the Christ. So as I went there and had to take the girl out of the wire I knew what we needed was right at hand. A large, clean towel I had in the car covered the wound beautifully and as we prayed the bleeding stopped. The young girl was very scared and distressed, yelling that she was going to have a big hole in her neck. I assured her all would be well as I walked her to our car. I assured her that everything was going to be fine because that is what a Christian Scientist knows – that Life harmonious is the fact and it doesn't matter what appears. Christian Science establishes that the universe is harmonious – it works because God established and maintains it, and it works – the Earth, the universe, all creation. When we got to the ranch house where they had come from I called the emergency services. They were interrogating me about the injuries and I finally responded, 'Look she has been yelling her head off, she walked to the car, and she needs your help now.' The dispatcher then assured

me the ambulance had been on the way as we were speaking. After about thirty minutes they arrived. During all this time the three Christian Science first responders had been doing their work I can assure you. When the ambulance arrived the young lady was calm, all bleeding had stopped, and she walked by herself to the ambulance. We had reached her mother by telephone and I assured her I would wait there until her mother arrived. When her mom got there I could clearly explain the events and assure her thought of exactly how things were. I was as our Leader says to do, removing fear.

My friends Ben and Shirley and I continued our journey to the Summit, singing hymns and rejoicing in the wonderful presence of the Comforter responding to every need. When we arrived at the Summit we were lovingly and graciously received. Ben settled in wrapped up in the loving atmosphere you always find in a Christian Science nursing facility.

As I began the journey home, I knew I had to make a small detour and stop by the hospital where the young girl had been taken. It was now four or five hours later. I asked at the hospital reception after the girl and was given her room number. I actually arrived at the surgical waiting room just as the surgeon came in to speak with the girl's mother. He spoke in a loving and assuring way to the mom telling her all would be well. He

mentioned that if the cut had been just a quarter of a centimeter deeper, her daughter would not have survived (I thought of that command, 'No' that had come to me! The surgeon assured the mother that her daughter would be able to go home in the morning. Then he turned to me and asked who I was. I explained that I was the one who was first on the scene and had cared for her and called the ambulance. He then asked, 'What did you do?' I said, 'I did the only thing I know to do, I prayed!' He gave me a firm pat on the back and simply said, 'Good job, good job.'

Oh, the Light of the Christ that every Christian Science first responder relies on. Seeing ourselves and the patient in that true Light.

When I was a little boy I loved to lie and had lied so much that nobody would believe me. My mom would always declare 'That's not the real Ricky.' Isn't that why God gives us mothers, for them to love us, support us, and know the truth about who we really are? When my mom would declare, 'That's not the real Ricky,' wasn't she actually seeing me in my true light, seeing me as the beloved, (and honest), child of God. We all make progress. I seldom tell a lie these days. The Truth has become far too important to me to waste any time in lying!

We all know that Jesus healed a lot of people. Wasn't it his ability to see them in their true Light that

inspired the healing. But his thought also enabled them to see their true selfhood. Like the woman suffering for twelve years with a hemorrhage healed when she touched the border of Jesus' garment. Jesus told her, 'Woman thy faith hath made thee whole.'<sup>1</sup> Her willingness to see herself in the true Light of the Christ. In her true light she was freed from every false belief.

And Jesus also said of blind Bartimaeus. 'Go thy way, thy faith hath made thee whole.'<sup>2</sup> He awakened faith, faith in Bartimaeus true identity, seeing ourselves in the Light of the Christ.

Doesn't that take away the Superman syndrome regarding our beloved Master, Way-shower and Saviour? Our faith not in a Superman, but faith in the only begotten of the Father, the only man God has ever created, the spiritual image and likeness of the one and only Father-Mother. Our ability to see ourselves in the true Light of the Christ. Our faith in the laws of harmony and health, our faith to see ourselves in the true Light.

In Mark and Matthew Jesus asked who do they say that I am? Peter answered that 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.'<sup>3</sup> That was revealed to Peter by the Father. Peter understood Jesus in his true Light, the Light of the Christ.

It also keeps our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, in her true light. As a

faithful follower of Christ Jesus she responded by seeing herself and others in their true light.

So please don't you think for one day more, 'Oh there were such powerful healings in Jesus' day, and in Mrs Eddy's day healings were so quick. No more? If only Jesus or Mrs Eddy were here, they would heal me.' You are here! Your understanding of the Christ is here – 'the divine influence ever present in human consciousness.'<sup>4</sup>

The little girl by the roadside in Florida was not a Christian Scientist and yet she was healed. Do we have to convert the 7 billion or do we have to only know ourselves in our true light? Then we're not afraid to respond, we're ready to respond. That's what thrills me about CS nurses. There's training involved but isn't there room for all of us to be CS nurses? There's room in the practice too – knowing the truth about who we are and who man is.

Jesus said it was the Father who did the work. What you see me do, the Father does. I hope that's the last time you think of us as Christian Scientists and non-Christian Scientists. We are simply God's beloved children, all of us. Let's see ourselves, each other, all mankind in their true Light as God's children.

Aren't we grateful to Mrs Eddy for establishing this movement. Have you ever heard of Mrs Eddy referring to herself as weak? In a

remembrance by Emma Shipman, she said 'As Mary Baker Eddy I am the weakest of mortals.' On a tough night haven't we felt like that. Then she goes on to say, 'as the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, I am the bone and sinew of the world.' Wow. She was making the separation we all need to make from our mortal failings, weaknesses, doubts and fears and she was seeing, as Peter saw the Christ, the discovery of this Science of Life, Truth, Love and harmony. In that position I am holding it together. What does that have to do with you in your true light? This is the way I like to think of myself, especially when I seem to have fallen short, I return to the clear, image and likeness of God that is my real selfhood. I see myself as God sees me. I see myself in the true Light.

At age 19 I was a very active student of Christian Science. I was in Sunday School every Sunday and had also founded a Christian Science College Organization. But at that time I was dating a devout Catholic girl from Colombia. (I played on a soccer team with her brothers.) Her mother did not like me because to her I was a bad influence, American and a Protestant. That was an unusual situation for me, to be the 'bad guy.' And it was causing a lot of sorrow for me and Claudia, my girlfriend. As I struggled with this false belief that I was the 'bad guy' I learned how to defend my name. On Wednesday

night a testifier, Caroline Burgeson quoted Mrs Eddy with authority, 'As an active portion of one stupendous whole, goodness identifies man with universal good. Thus may each member of this church rise above the oft repeated inquiry, What am I? to the scientific response: I am able to impart truth, health, and happiness and this is my rock of salvation and my reason for existing.'<sup>5</sup> I learned to declare that for myself, my true identity, my true light.

In the summer I travelled to Colombia with my friends and team mates. While there we climbed Los Nevado del Ruiz, snow covered volcanoes. Six months after our return that volcano erupted and destroyed a small town of 40,000 inhabitants, including relatives of my Colombian friends. At that time my friends spoke to me for comfort and were ready to accept a copy of *Science and Health*!!

If you're willing to claim who you are as God knows you, as your Leader knows you, as your Master knows you, that you're able to impart truth, health and happiness, don't be surprised if what looks like a terrible situation, a sad situation, eventually will lead to something more and you'll be seen in your true light with what you have to give.

Mrs Eddy also encourages, 'The warfare with oneself is grand, gives one plenty of employment, and the divine principle worketh with you.' How does that work? This Science is

what holds the universe in harmony – the divine principle worketh with you, you're not alone in this, the Christ, the Truth, divine principle, Mind is working in your life and experience, reminding you in quiet ways, in grand ways of who you are. And then she says obedience crowns persistence effort with everlasting victory. 'Every attempt of evil to harm good is futile and ends in the fiery punishment of the evil-doer.'<sup>6</sup>

In the news today we are presented with great good and also great evil. British astronaut, Tim Peake, returned to earth just a few minutes ago. His mission could be seen as glorious fulfilment of the prophecy found in this week's Bible Lesson, 'The astronomer will no longer look up to the stars, – he will look out from them upon the universe; and the florist will find his flower before its seed.'<sup>7</sup> And a very fragrant evidence of that statement is found in the



lovely bouquets of flowers all through Charton Manor today. These were all provided without cost by Sainsbury's. For some time now they have donated their out of date flowers to Charton Manor every week, isn't that an example of demonstrating flowers 'before its seed.' Perfect examples of truths from the Bible Lesson being made flesh, coming into expression. is our most powerful tool.

But we also read with great heaviness of heart that Jo Cox, young mother and faithful MP, was taken from us by an evil act. We also read of the aftermath of 50 people being killed in Orlando, Florida, just 76 miles from my hometown. Sometimes these type of events seem too much to bear.

I was comforted by the words of a close friend from Berlin, Annette Kreutziger-Herr C.S. Annette quoted Mrs Eddy in her weekly blog post, 'I will love, if another hates. I will gain a balance on the side of good, my true being. This alone gives me the forces of God wherewith to overcome all error'<sup>8</sup>

Our Leader always encourages us to discover our real identity, our purpose, our true light as in the following, 'Perchance some one of you may say, 'The evidence of spiritual verity in me is so small that I am afraid. I feel so far from victory over the flesh that to reach out for a present realization of my hope savors of temerity. Because of my own

unfitness for such a spiritual animus my strength is naught and my faith fails.' O thou 'weak and infirm of purpose.' Jesus said, 'Be not afraid!' 'What if the little rain should say, "So small a drop as I can ne'er refresh a drooping earth, I'll tarry in the sky."'

Is not a man metaphysically and mathematically number one, a unit, and therefore whole number, governed and protected by his divine Principle, God? You have simply to preserve a scientific, positive sense of unity with your divine source, and daily demonstrate this. Then you will find that one is as important a factor as duodecillions in being and doing right, and thus demonstrating deific Principle. A dewdrop reflects the sun. Each of Christ's little ones reflects the infinite One, and therefore is the seer's declaration true, that 'one on God's side is a majority.'<sup>9</sup>

One last little thing. If you find you are unable to sleep, please do not immediately call a practitioner! First humbly ask your Father, 'Is there something I need to be praying about, is there a need that my prayer can answer? Am I awake to serve?'

For example, one time my brother and sister were in a small private airplane lost in the night with no functioning instruments. As they prayed for a solution my sister commented to my brother, 'Gary aren't you glad to know that mom can't sleep.' And she was right, our

mother was up working. And their solution was soon found.

In another situation a friend and fellow practitioner, Doug Lewsader, C.S., was flying a bomber across the Atlantic at the end of WW 2. They did not have sufficient fuel. As he prayed a solution to the dilemma was found. They landed with no engines right at the edge of ocean in Canada, gliding to a stop on the runway. Doug later found out his mom had been awake all night praying for his safety.

Don't be unwilling to respond. We need that willingness to be awake, to know who you are, to know that the call that comes to you, is because of what you know – your true light – even in the middle of the night.

Mrs Eddy says in *Science and Health* 'A Christian Scientist occupies the place at this period of which Jesus spoke to his disciples, when he said: "Ye are the salt of the earth. Ye are the light of the world"<sup>10</sup>

That indeed is our true light! Thank you all for what you are doing here and for this wonderful opportunity to be with you all today.

<sup>1</sup>Matt 9:22; <sup>2</sup>Mark 10:52; <sup>3</sup>Matt 16:13 and Mark 8:27; <sup>4</sup>SH xi:16–17; <sup>5</sup>My 165:16;

<sup>6</sup>Mis 118:28; <sup>7</sup>SH 125:28; <sup>8</sup>Mis 104:29–34;

<sup>9</sup>Pul 3:26–Pul 4:17; <sup>10</sup>SH 367:17–20.



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