



In our true light and life by Rick Stewart CS

Extracts from a talk given at Chariton Manor Open Day, 18th June, 2016
You can listen to the full inspirational address at www.charitonmanor.org/talks

It 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 Chariton Manor close?"

During my first night here at Chariton 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 homework, 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 centimetre 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 haemorrhage healed when she touched the border of Jesus' garment. Jesus told her, "Woman thy faith hath made thee whole." ¹ 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." ² 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 Super man, 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." ³ 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." ⁴

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 MBE for establishing this movement. Have you ever heard of MBE 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." ⁵ 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." ⁶

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." ⁷ 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 Kreuziger-Herr CS. 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" ⁸

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." ⁹

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 CS, was flying a bomber across the Atlantic at the end of WW2. 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'" ¹⁰

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.

¹ Matt 9:22; ² Mark 10:52; ³ Matt 16:13 and Mark 8:27; ⁴ SH xi:16-17; ⁵ My 165:16; ⁶ Mis 118:28; ⁷ SH 125:28; ⁸ Mis 104:29-34; ⁹ Pul 3:26-Pul 4:17; ¹⁰ SH 367:17-20.