

CANTERBURY CREST

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FROM “BRICK AND MORTAR” TO “NO BOUNDARIES, NO BOARDERS”

No limits to Love

By Peggy Gautschi

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“Mrs. Eddy had gone to a home where a toddler was very ill with bowel disease. Within half an hour of arriving at the home, not only was the child healed, but also his father who had been bedridden with rheumatism, and the sister who was deaf.

Many years later Mrs. Eddy told one of her students about this experience, which prompted the question, “When will we be able to do work like that?” Looking off in the distance, Mrs. Eddy replied, “It is Love that heals, only Love!” The student, Miss Nemi Robertson, repeated the question, “But when will we be able to do such work?” This time her teacher looked directly at her and said quietly, “When you believe what you say. I believe every statement of Truth that I make.” Mrs. Eddy recorded those statements of Truth in her textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, so that all who study it may be purified and heal as she did.”

– *Christian Healer Amp.* P. 101

Christian Science nurses visit homes with the same expectation – quick and complete healing through prayer. In recent years the Christian Science Field has been calling for the availability of Christian Science nursing care in their local church communities and in their homes.

Canterbury Crest heard that call and developed an innovative model to support Christian Science nursing in the Pacific Northwest. Unconfined by a location or physical building, Canterbury Crest supports our Field Representatives in their own nursing ministries. This model of supporting independent Christian Science nurses enables them to meet the care needs of individuals in their local areas.

In addition to serving their local communities as independently hired Christian Science nurses, Canterbury Crest's Field Reps travel to other parts of the region, and provide Christian Science nursing assessments and resources such as temporary aids. The Field Reps have traveled as far as Idaho and Montana to respond to requests for Christian Science nursing care.

One of the grateful recipients of this care shared this testimony with us.

"I am indeed very grateful to have the availability of Christian Science nurses who will travel to where I live in Boise, Idaho. I had a so-called serious fall and was in the hospital for about a week and then in a rehab facility for over a week. While there I learned about the availability of a Christian Science nurse from Canterbury who could come to my home for a few days. Though I had not had any pain and had Christian Science practitioner help while I was in the hospital and the rehab facility -- for which I was extremely grateful -- I was oh so happy to come home and have the support of a Christian Science nurse. I am sure my family members would've been very concerned if I had not had that help. I think my family members would've stayed with me or been very concerned if I had not had that help for the first couple of days I was home. I appreciated her being with me.

Rather interestingly, the only time I was in tears was not in any of the medical facilities but when I got home. I was so, so grateful to have someone be holding me in my true image and likeness as a child of God and not concerned with all the material. I do so appreciate the fact that there are Christian Science nurses available to meet our needs in our homes. Most thankfully yours, a Church member." And a side note from a church friend – at first, she needed to park close to the Reading Room while serving there, but it wasn't long before she was parking at the church and walking without assistance the few blocks to the Reading Room. A quick and complete healing was evidenced.

Here's another counsel from our Leader:

"Mrs. Eddy was continually counseling her students on the need for more effective healing. At the end of January, she wrote to one student, "To know there is but one God, one Cause, one effect, one Mind, heals instantly. Have but

One God, and your reflection of Him does the healing.” The following day she wrote to another, “Love is the only and all of attainments in spiritual growth. Without it, healing is not done and cannot be either morally or physically. Every advanced step will show you this until the victory is won and you possess no other consciousness but Love divine.” In the February issue of *The Christian Science Journal*, in reply to a question about whether she would teach again, Mrs. Eddy said in part, “The hour has struck for Christian Scientists to do their own work; to appreciate the signs of the times; to demonstrate self-knowledge and self-government; and to demonstrate, as this period demands, over all sin, disease, and death.”

– *Christian Healer Amp* P. 187

When Canterbury Crest first began the Field Representative program there was one Christian Science nurse in the area. We soon added another who moved to Oregon to join us. There are now six Christian Science nurses within Oregon and Washington who are available to serve our field.

One of the Canterbury Crest Field Reps shared this with us: “Working with Canterbury Crest as part of their Field Rep team has given me an opportunity to have my own Christian Science nursing ministry. I am able to practice my Christian Science nursing working with people in their homes while continuing to support my local church activities and community.”

So let’s see something else Mrs. Eddy has to say about the role of Love in healing.

“. . . she asked us questions. One was, “What is the best way to do instantaneous healing?” Many arose. Some said, “Realize the ever-presence of good”; others, “Deny the claims of evil.” There were many answers, but when they had finished, she said, as I remember: “I will tell you the way to do it. It is to love! Just live love—be it—love, love, love. Do not know anything but Love. Be all love. There is nothing else. That will do the work. It will heal everything; it will raise the dead. Be nothing but love.”

– *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy, Vol 1 (Sue Mims)* PP. 296-297

Benevolence is one of the ways that Love is shown when caring for patients. So what exactly is benevolence? It's defined as the disposition to do good, goodwill, kindness, charitableness, and the love for mankind.

Benevolence is active. It's loving. It goes hand-in-hand with philanthropy as described by Mary Baker Eddy in *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*:

“Philanthropy is loving, ameliorative, revolutionary; it wakens lofty desires, new possibilities, achievements, and energies; it lays the axe at the root of the tree that bringeth not forth good fruit; it touches thought to spiritual issues, systematizes action, and insures success; it starts the wheels of right reason, revelation, justice, and mercy; it unselfs men and pushes on the ages. Love unfolds marvellous good and uncovers hidden evil. The philanthropist or reformer gives little thought to self-defense; his life's incentive and sacrifice need no apology. The good done and the good to do are his ever-present reward.”

– *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*,
Mary Baker Eddy, P. 287:19

One thing about benevolence is that it doesn't require bricks and mortar to be active. When we think of benevolence as it regards to Christian Science nursing, it often involves assistance with paying for services and supplies. All of the Field Reps are very familiar with the various organizations that provide assistance to those who need help paying for the Christian Science nursing services.

These are examples are how we express Christian caring – not just human do-goodness. Thought is lifted above the material picture of need, above the mist, to one of being cared for and expecting to see evidence of God's Love and healing. That is what our Boise member felt. And that caring activity also settled her family, who were then free from fear while the healing was accomplished. The Truth about the picture was evidenced when she was quickly about her

Father's business unencumbered by the suggestion that something had needed healing in the first place.

Let's hear the words of our beloved Leader – the first lines of her chapter on Creation from our textbook: “Eternal Truth is changing the universe. As mortals drop off their mental swaddling-clothes, thought expands into expression. ‘Let there be light,’ is the perpetual demand of Truth and Love, changing chaos into order and discord into the music of the spheres.”

– *Science And Health with Key to The Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy P. 255:1-6

Today we feel the omnipresent Love of God overflowing in our hearts, with a new consecration to our goal, and deep reverence for the divine commission for caring for the world which our dear Master impressed upon us over 2000 years ago.

This caring continues today in the active expression of Love shared by Canterbury Crest's Field Reps in their independent work in Christian Science nursing without boundaries.