

Peace Haven

INSPIRED TO SERVE

2023 Summer Newsletter



Christian Science Nursing . Love's Eternal Bloom

Love's Eternal Bloom

VALERIE HICKAM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thank you for cherishing Love's eternal bloom alongside Peace Haven's staff! We are regularly reminded of God's constant care for His idea, man. In the early days of spring, we watched the daffodils and tulips poke through the soil. Now, as the summer sun shines throughout our airy, light-filled building, we are again reminded of Love's tender care.

Christian Science nursing is a beautiful manifestation of God's promise to each of us. The true and real sense of God's care for man, expressed by Peace Haven's dedicated staff as Christian Science nursing, is ever-present, reliable, and unchanging. In the light of Truth, every need is cared for, and Love's eternal bloom is consistently revealed.

At Peace Haven, we recognize Love's eternal bloom as right ideas flourishing and expressed bountifully and practically. As we welcomed a Christian Science Nursing Youth Service Corps intern over the past several months, as we prepare for our next Christian Science Nurses Training class, and as we stand with our patients and witness their freedom and completeness daily, God's constant care is expressed.

You stand with us in bearing witness to God's unwavering care for His beloved ideas. This spring, we rescheduled a film presentation by The Effulgence Foundation due to threatening weather in the greater St. Louis area. Many of you replied to our email notification with encouragement and healing truths. Our hearts were so touched and fortified! We affirmed that our desire to bless our community by sharing films about early workers consecrated to God would not be in vain. Together, we affirmed that Truth is real, powerful, and untouched by false suggestions of destructive elements that the storm presented.

As storms came through that evening, we heard the words of Christian Science hymns being sung at Peace Haven

and filling our hallways—coming from the designated areas where our Christian Science nurses and patients took shelter. We affirmed that our refuge, as well as our community, is secure in Christ, Truth. The staff members assigned to be alert to weather notifications watched the radar on cell phones, which showed tornado warnings in the county west of us and the storm path headed toward us. And then, we witnessed those tornado warnings disappear. The storm diminished on the radar right before our eyes. When it reached us, it was a minor thunderstorm that did very little damage.

Everyone at Peace Haven returned to their rooms and regular duties with joy-filled hearts. The next night, we went forward with a much-appreciated double feature about L. Ivimy Gwalter and Paul Stark Seeley which was enjoyed by many—including some who traveled quite a distance to see these films!

Peace Haven and its patients, staff, and our broader community, were blessed by the Christian Science community's consecration to God, good, standing watch with us that evening. Peace Haven's 2023 Metaphysical Theme, "Take my life, and let it be / Consecrated, Lord, to Thee" (*Christian Science Hymnal*, No. 324), is a beloved verse that captures the heart and soul of the student of Christian Science and the Christian Science nurse. It summarizes our collective desire to more fully embody and demonstrate the words of this hymn while recognizing that Christian Science nurses consistently live and embody these words, moment by moment. This holy work is the epitome of Love's eternal bloom.

Inspired by Moses, a Christian Science nurse recently shared what she has been appreciating in her healing ministry about the continuity of God's care for each of us. Some of the ideas that have been especially meaningful to her include the recognition that when God impels us to do something, we can be confident that He is with us all the way. She mentioned that for a Christian Science nurse, this is especially meaningful to consider when entering a patient's room. The Christian Science nurse is always present as God's reflection. They never have to figure out something on their own. We each reflect God's care for His creation.

PEACE HAVEN'S ANNUAL MEETING

Save The Date!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JOYCE HEARD HAWES, C.S.

MORE DETAILS TO COME



Finding the True Meaning of Benevolence

THE THOUGHT THAT TRULY COUNTS



You've heard it a thousand times—"It's the thought that counts." This quip is often used when an action doesn't have its desired effect. But considered through the lens of Christian Science, it has a much deeper meaning. We learn from our Leader that "Our thoughts beget our actions..." (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 203). Actions are the manifestation or expression of thought or motive. This means that thought and action are inseparable, and action without thought is meaningless.

This concept applies to benevolence as well. More than simply giving something away, leaving us with less than we started with, benevolence has a much broader meaning. Mrs. Eddy reminds us, "The human affections need to be changed from self to benevolence and love for God and man; changed to having but *one* God and loving Him supremely, and helping our brother man. This change of heart is essential to Christianity..." (*Miscellaneous Writings*, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 50). By definition, then Peace Haven is a benevolent organization. It exists

to provide loving care to our faithful "brother man" who rely on Christian Science alone for healing. Everyone connected to Peace Haven has the opportunity to "love his neighbor as himself"—an inspired commandment given to us by Jesus and also a requirement that Mrs. Eddy succinctly states on page 367 of *Miscellaneous Writings*, "This Science requires man to be honest, just, pure; to love his neighbor as himself, and to love God supremely."

This metaphysical approach to benevolence offers us an opportunity to go beyond checking a box on a reply envelope, setting up monthly withdrawals from our bank account, or dropping a bill in a collection bag, believing we have done our Christian duty. Jesus addresses this very notion in his encounter with a rich ruler. This man came to Jesus asking for the secret to eternal life. In the course of the conversation, the man proudly confesses his adherence to the letter of the commandments. "All these have I kept from my youth up," he says. But to Jesus, going through the motions was not enough. That's too easy, he says in essence. Real living requires sacrifice—living

the spirit of the commandments. To the rich man, he said, "... Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me" (Luke 18:22).

This metaphysical lesson was brought home to the Peace Haven community in 2012. Few people knew then that Peace Haven was perilously close to permanently closing with only two months of operating funds in the bank. Even though generous supporters contributed regularly, the leadership team and Board had to make very tough decisions while faced with the cost of maintaining the aging facility and addressing a shortage of Christian Science nurses.

Then, like the Red Sea parting for the Israelites' safe escape on dry land, the staff and Board adopted an inspired approach to the metaphysical work. Instead of making admission decisions based on a limited sense of capacity and dwindling staff and resources, they changed their course entirely. They put their faith into action, by letting the Father work out the details for every request for assistance. Concurrently, a six-figure gift was generously given by a donor from out of state to fund critical heating and kitchen equipment replacement and repairs. A group of students arrived and put a fresh coat of paint on the exterior of the original building. And, like manna from heaven, a local branch church learned of the situation and responded by setting up a matching gift fund of \$100,000. They invited other local Christian Science branch churches in the St. Louis field to join them in embracing Peace Haven in their prayers and benevolence. The field responded.

The transformation was breathtaking. Over the ensuing years, Peace Haven's ability to respond to students of Christian Science requesting the healing care of Christian Science nurses steadily increased. This vibrant haven for

Christian Science healing eventually required the new, beautiful, carefully designed, fully-funded facility that now houses patient rooms, a Christian Science Nurses' Training Center, Rest and Study spaces, and more. Today, Peace Haven serves patients in a nine-state region within the Midwest in addition to individuals who choose to travel to our facility from other parts of the United States.

What made the difference? Students of Christian Science in our community and beyond embraced Peace Haven in their thoughts and prayers. Peace Haven became recognized as an essential part of the healing work of the Church our Leader founded—an idea to be loved, cared for, and cherished. And due to this collective, inspired, prayerful effort, Peace Haven stands ready to serve future generations of Christian Scientists.

Christian Science nursing is an essential part of Mrs. Eddy's church and prospers from the love and benevolence of church members. This benevolence is not a burden but is naturally and effortlessly supported by inspiration, gratitude, and love for the role Christian Science nursing plays in our Leader's church. Benevolence like this is "essential to Christianity" (see *Mis.* p. 51) and reaches the heights of divine Love.

Our Leader writes on page 454 of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, "Right motives give pinions to thought, and strength and freedom to speech and action." It is this thought that counts. We are grateful for all the thoughtful supporters who have been instrumental in Peace Haven's transformation over the last decade. Our gratitude abounds for your generosity. This summer, and year-round, we invite all our supporters to join us in recognizing the most important parts of benevolence—the thought, inspiration, and prayer that empower it. With this as the solid foundation for our giving, the outward expression will always be abundance.



STAFF APPRECIATION PICNIC



A Beautiful Day Celebrating with Friends and Family



Meet Zandrea Krysha

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE-IN-TRAINING



Moving between Ontario and Quebec, Canada, throughout her life, Zandrea Krysha was eager to find her purposeful path. Then, about six months ago, she visited Peace Haven, where she felt that

Christian Science and get better acquainted with God. I also love going on walks and enjoy anything water-related, especially swimming and kayaking. **What is something interesting that most people do not know about you?** I like to ride as a motorcycle passenger. A friend and I once took a motorcycle trip from Missouri to California and back on a Kawasaki Ninja® 650, a sport-touring bike. Next summer, I aspire to learn to ride solo. **Please tell us about your favorite book.** I can honestly say that my favorite book is *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. The last hundred pages—"Fruitage"—is a collection of healings demonstrated solely from reading this book. After reading it myself from cover to cover, I felt a remarkable healing shift in thought. This shift resulted in a complete restoration of peace and love in a relationship gone awry. On page 22 of *Retrospection and Introspection*, Mrs. Eddy says: "The human history needs to be revised, and the material record expunged." I experienced this revision wholly and completely with such a sense of harmony. As a result of reading our textbook through and through, I was also healed of the claim of overthinking. Where there used to be a seemingly constant internal narrator, there is now a quiet peace. This quieting of mortal thought has made it much easier to hear God talking to me, for which I am eternally grateful. **What do you love most about Christian Science?** Christian Science has taught me that the whole purpose of this experience is to grow and understand God, learn to heal, and emulate Mary Baker Eddy and Jesus Christ to the best of our abilities. Christian Science is the key to understanding how to do that. It's the key to life.

God was calling her to serve as a Christian Science nurse. Join us in getting acquainted with Zandrea through this recent interview:

What did you study in college? I earned a BA in Music from Principia College, specializing in Vocal Performance. I later completed the Diploma in Acting for Film, Television, and Theater program at Toronto Film School. **What did you do before becoming a Christian Science nurse?** While living in Quebec, I auditioned, acted, and worked in a bookstore. Since coming to St. Louis, I've led hymn sings at Peace Haven and soloed at local Christian Science branch churches. My theater background continues to support my work with large groups. I'm grateful to use these skills to glorify God and to see how everything I've done translates to my current activities. **What languages do you speak?** English is my first language, and French is my second. Growing up, I attended French or bilingual schools, while my family spoke English at home. Most recently in Quebec, I spoke both French and English daily at work. **What activities do you enjoy doing outside of this healing ministry?** I love sitting on my porch, where I study

What inspired you to go into Christian Science nursing?

About 10 years ago while helping to care for a family member, this lovely individual told me with such conviction: "I think you need to be a Christian Science nurse." At the time, I was not ready for it and I completely dismissed the idea. When it was presented to me again this past year, I still was not prepared to accept it, but with my loved one's words from a decade ago echoing in my ears, I agreed to visit Peace Haven. During this visit, I felt strongly that God was calling me to be a nurse. I remember saying in thought: "Seriously, God? Me?" I couldn't understand it at all. Now, it could not be clearer that being a Christian Science nurse is my calling. I'm so grateful I listened. **What do you love most about Christian Science nursing?** There is so much I love! Two things stand out: moments with patients when we connect on a metaphysical level and share ideas, and when patients laugh. In these instances, we both learn something and feel closer to God. There is so much joy here. When I see that freedom reflected in patients, I am witnessing healing. **What limitations, if any, have been lifted from your thought since you began this work?** I love giving care. Initially, though, I was unsure why God chose me for this work as I do not have much experience in providing practical care for others. Also, the idea of helping someone with certain needs would seem to provoke physical discomfort at times. I was concerned that this imposition would impede my work at Peace Haven. However, after my first Christian Science nurses' training class, I realized that offering care is an outpouring of love and a most natural thing. Previously held concerns completely vanished. Witnessing the ways in which the divine embraces the human through this healing work is so fulfilling. **What do you want to share with individuals considering Christian Science**

nursing as a career? I've learned that Christian Science nursing beautifully demonstrates the divine meeting the human need. What a wonderful way to express divine Love and joy.

Acadia Vance, a Christian Science Nursing Youth Service Corps (CSNYSC) intern, completed the interview, writing, and editing for this article, with oversight from the Peace Haven team. She also took the accompanying photo. Acadia graduated from the CSNYSC program in Spring 2023, and we are grateful for her many contributions to Peace Haven since she began her internship with us in Fall 2022.

Now Accepting Applications!

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING YOUTH SERVICE CORPS



Service Learning Opportunity

Starting This September

Witness the healing work of Christian Science nursing and gain valuable professional experience.

CSNYSC offers 18- to 30-year-olds:

- Paid work experience and housing at one of several participating Christian Science nursing facilities across the United States.
- Time commitment of 3, 6, or 9 months.
- Opportunities to learn about Christian Science nursing, nonprofit management, hospitality, maintenance, and the culinary arts.
- Financial award for education earned upon successful program completion.

Apply by early August 2023 to join us!

comforterscalling.org



A Sweet and Inspiring Night for All
The Effulgence Foundation films brought many Peace Haven friends together.
We celebrated and learned about the dedicated lives of L. Ivimy Gwalter and Paul Stark Seeley.



A Sweet and Inspiring Night for All

This spring, Peace Haven was delighted to host a double feature presented by The Effulgence Foundation. A standing-room audience enthusiastically watched *The L. Ivimy Gwalter Story* and *The Paul Stark Seeley Story*, original films that highlighted examples from the lives of two remarkable early workers.

Several of the examples and themes brought out in these films offered inspired support to Peace Haven's 2023 Metaphysical Theme: "Take my life, and let it be / Consecrated, Lord, to Thee" (*Christian Science Hymnal*, No. 324).

A representative from The Effulgence Foundation shared a historical prologue before each film screening and an epilogue after each one, as well as question and answer sessions. Attendees joined us from throughout the greater St. Louis area, and we also welcomed groups of friends who traveled significant distances to enjoy learn-

ing more about L. Ivimy Gwalter and Paul Stark Seeley.

Guests commented that they found the films inspiring and supportive of their daily prayerful work. One audience member mentioned especially appreciating ideas brought out about supply in *The L. Ivimy Gwalter Story*, including those related to her work at Third Church of Christ, Scientist, New York City: "If we would increase our human manifestation of supply, we must cultivate the habit of magnifying good." This is more fully articulated in the article, "Supply As Spiritual Reflection," by L. Ivimy Gwalter, published in the August 15, 1936, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Peace Haven's Board and staff are grateful to all who joined us at this event and those who supported it from afar. What a gift to be able to offer this program, which enriched students of Christian Science who daily support the collective demonstration that is Peace Haven.

A Reminiscence Filled with Blessings

BY HERA GERBER



Following The Effulgence Foundation's film presentation about Paul Stark Seeley, C.S.B., that Peace Haven hosted, audience member Hera Gerber shared spontaneous comments about her experiences with Mr. Seeley. She elaborates on them in this reminiscence prepared for Peace Haven's friends.

I'll begin by sharing my family's experiences in finding Christian Science and the bountiful blessings that followed.

My mother, S. Sunarti Hersubeno, became interested in Christian Science after being healed of cancer through Christian Science prayer. Her sister-in-law, who was not yet familiar with Christian Science, gave her a copy of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, translated into Dutch. My mom was healed after reading it from cover to cover. Years later, she happened to run into the doctor who previously

cared for her, and he could not believe that she had completely recovered. (This testimony of the healing efficacy of Christian Science appeared in the March 5, 1966, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.)

My mother later became a *Journal*-listed Christian Science practitioner and then served as a Christian Science lecturer. This healing occurred during my childhood, and it was meaningful to every member of my family.

After recognizing my mother's healing, some of my aunts and uncles became interested in Christian Science. Some were medical surgeons, and one was a pharmacist. The one who trained as a pharmacist later became the Committee on Publication for Indonesia. One aunt who was a dentist was inspired to give up her profession to become a Christian Scientist. Other relatives, some of whom remained surgeons, would periodically attend our local Christian Science branch church services and bring their family members.

So, how does this story relate to Paul Stark Seeley and his contributions to the Christian Science movement in Indonesia that I recall with much gratitude? In 1965, Mr. Seeley came to lecture in Jakarta (the capital city) and Yogyakarta. I was introduced to him at his Jakarta lecture.

Following his lectures, people flocked to the Christian Science branch church my family attended in Jakarta to learn more about this remarkable religion. Many, who were previously of a different denomination, chose to become Christian Scientists and branch church members. A Christian Science Society was formed in Yogyakarta that later became a Christian Science branch church.

In early 1966, Indonesia began to experience a political upheaval with protestors taking to the streets to speak out against the ruling dictator. Schools were closed, and I became concerned about my prospects. Meanwhile, *Christian Science Monitor* correspondent John Hughes

came to report on the protests in the streets of Jakarta, and he became my Sunday School teacher. After Sunday School each week, he would say, "All right, guys, see you on the street tomorrow!"

My dad was the director of the Indonesian Pavilion at the World's Fair, held in New York City in 1964 and 1965. My mom, younger sister, and I visited him there for four months. Meanwhile, my parents' close friend, a Christian Scientist from Portland, Oregon, whom I called Aunt Margo, offered to fully cover my tuition for Principia College in Elmhurst, Illinois. We gratefully accepted her generosity.

Before starting at Principia in 1967, I stayed with Aunt Margo in Oregon. It just so happened that she and Mr. Seeley were great friends, and she asked if I would be interested in speaking with him. Already enamored of Mr. Seeley's lecture that I heard in Indonesia, I readily agreed. I went to his office for one-hour visits three or four times weekly during that summer before I attended Principia. During these discussions, I asked questions and deepened my knowledge of Christian Science. Mr. Seeley taught me the importance of being hopeful. He helped me through the challenges of being 10,000 miles from home. I will always be grateful for his time, help, and support as I embarked on my new educational experience.

"Mr. Seeley was a quiet man, full of great wisdom."

Mr. Seeley was a quiet man, full of great wisdom. He smiled a lot and was very warm. He was very comfortable to be around and very loving. I am deeply grateful for all he contributed to the Christian Science movement in Indonesia when I was there.

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CARING for CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS



Caring for Christian Scientists is a new service from The Principle Foundation that provides ideas and information to help meet the practical needs of Christian Scientists. This service is available in two formats: online and over the phone.



The National Fund for Christian Science Nursing

(NFCSN) is a benevolence fund intended to assist Christian Science nursing patients in the United States and its territories. The Fund may be able to help in a situation where a Christian Science nurse is needed, including in-home care and facilities. NFCSN grants can help pay costs associated with Christian Science nursing facilities and Christian Science visiting nurse services, Christian Science private-duty nurses, nursing supplies and equipment, travel expenses, and related Christian Science practitioner invoices. While this may not pay for all costs associated with care, these grants can be an aid to qualified individuals who are seeking and finding healing through Christian Science.

816.759.5450 nfcsn.org

Thanks to you, Spring Match was met!

Embracing Peace Haven in your giving is like broadcasting seeds of abundance on fertile soil and letting them take root, spread, and blossom into beautiful flowers. That's how we feel about the contributions so many have made to Peace Haven. Each gift spreads blessings of joy and gratitude throughout the Peace Haven community in so many beautiful ways.

The gifts you send help to provide practical resources supporting our Christian Science nursing services. Your generosity supports a livable wage for our Christian Science nurses and helps to maintain a facility that offers a haven for Christian Science study and healing. It also enables our training of new Christian Science nurses, fulfilling an essential pillar of our Leader's church. A simple "thank you" barely scratches the surface of our gratitude for you. Please accept our most profound appreciation for the benevolence you show through your prayers and contributions.

Love Note



"I have been so grateful for the quiet, peaceful atmosphere at Peace Haven in which to work out the challenges for which I came. It has been a blessing. Although I am continuing my work here, I am free and healed of the swollen feet and legs and limping which troubled me when I first came. I have gone from baby steps for balance to longer, freer strides with confidence. My biggest strides, however, have been in spiritual growth in my understanding of Love, Spirit and what God is and how He works, strengthening my trust and confidence." **-A Grateful Patient**

**CONTINUE TO BE ENRICHED BY PEACE HAVEN'S 2023 ANNUAL METAPHYSICAL THEME:
"TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE CONSECRATED, LORD, TO THEE."**

-Christian Science Hymnal, No. 324

This summer, we continue to cherish Peace Haven's 2023 metaphysical theme from Hymn 324. It is a beloved verse that captures the heart and soul of the Christian Science nurse. It summarizes our collective desire to more fully embody and demonstrate the words of this hymn while recognizing that Christian Science nurses consistently live and embody these words, moment by moment. We are grateful for the many demonstrations we have witnessed that highlight our renewed and continued consecration to God. Thank you for your dedicated commitment to this holy work!



Deep Appreciation for Peace Haven

A PATIENT'S GRATITUDE AND HEALINGS



Peace Haven recently received correspondence reflecting on some beautiful healings that took place at our facility. We rejoice in this recognition of the healing efficacy of Christian Science. The demonstrations highlighted below thoughtfully describe the freedom we are privileged to witness here each day. With the writer's permission, we're delighted to share excerpts from their correspondence with you:

"...I know how deeply my friend valued Peace Haven and its healing mission. Her first healing at Peace Haven came after she had walked into and through a plate glass sliding door, leaving her quite banged up. Her time at Peace Haven took care of the practical details of the case and allowed her space to heal. She beamed as she told me how after just one week, she walked out of Peace Haven without a bruise or blemish.

"Another significant healing, one I witnessed, was less about the practical details and more about the loving atmosphere at Peace Haven. She had been complaining of severe stomach pain and, finding no relief, landed in an emergency room. The doctor described the prognosis as dire, suggesting that some of her bodily systems had failed, and stressed the importance of staying in the hospital. But as she and I prayed and talked together, the fear began to yield. There in the emergency room, I suggested the idea of going to Peace Haven. She lit up. It was as if the clouds of sense parted in consciousness and

the light suddenly shone. Peace Haven was immediately able to prepare a room, and they thoughtfully considered how best to meet her needs.

"Right away, she began to take nourishment and had little problem with the food. She later wrote to me about this healing:

'The love that surrounded me was HUGE.... What had changed from one week at home in bed to the next week at Peace Haven was gigantic. It was the evidence of this strong metaphysical support and the love that surrounded me. I was never in need of anything, and I loved everyone there—as well as the beautifully prepared meals! All I could feel was Love, Love, Love. How blest I was! A friend who works there brought me audio materials so I could listen to various metaphysical talks that had been given. Oh my, they were wonderful!

The staff at the facility provided for my every need, and the Administrator came in each day and visited with me. The entire staff was fantastic in their dedication. Oh, such happy people they are!

I shall never forget the LOVE that surrounded me and the metaphysics that brought me through that harrowing experience. God had healed me, and I was and am very grateful.'

"This dear friend went on to enjoy many happy, active years after these healings were demonstrated."