

## 2017 PEACE HAVEN ANNUAL MEETING – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

By Leslie Gerber, November 11, 2017



I have been at Peace Haven for over one year now and the spiritual journey I have been on is extraordinary, including a deeper understanding of what it means to embrace, cherish, and live the nursing qualities through the lens of Christian Science.

I have discovered that the *Manual* by-law “Christian Science Nurse” applies to all of us whether *Journal*-listed or not. And the qualities of caring, nurturing, comforting, healing, sustaining, brooding, compassion, and love are vital to the Christian Science healing practice and abound throughout the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy’s writings. This by-law is a provision for each one of us to nurture our own individual nursing ministry—and fulfills the commandment to love one another. There are three *Manual* by-law qualifications: 1. Demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, 2. Thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, 3. (One) who can take proper care of the sick.

Our Wayshower’s work parallels this *Manual* by-law in his healing practice. A great example is when Jesus walks on the water, and Peter walks out to meet him but starts to sink. Jesus has compassion and stretches forth his hand. His water walking is an example of his demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science, divine Law. He uses necessary practical wisdom by stretching out his hand to help the sinking Peter, and then takes proper care of Peter by getting him safely back into the boat. Jesus is nursing his disciple!

I’ve also learned that a Christian Science care facility is not the “pool of Bethesda” model, with folks waiting around for the symbolic 38 years for the moving of the water, hoping their turn is next. It is the Christ touch-point model, at the moment when asked, “Wilt thou be made whole?” and receptive thought turns upward reflecting that brilliance of light and love, that mental touch-point of revelation where one discovers lack of wholeness was never an option.

A beautiful example is when a patient was transported to Peace Haven with a serious leg injury. Months later I was attending a conference in this person’s home state and while visiting the church service, I witnessed this individual walking out to the platform at their post as Second Reader. Afterwards, this dear person could not say enough about their experience at Peace Haven and our exceptional staff.

We all know our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, was an extraordinary woman, but the deeper you dig into her writings the more you feel her love, nurturing and nursing each one of us, her beloved students. For example, the chapter “Christian Science Practice” in our textbook begins and ends with nursing. Throughout this chapter, Mrs. Eddy goes on to share the qualities that evoke (to cause to appear) healing that include, among others, unselfed affection, Christly affection, spiritual affection, common sense and humanity, Love, compassion, calm, faith, tender words, Christian encouragement.

This leads to the vital question as to why these Christian Science qualities are so important to the efficacy of our healing work. They represent the womanhood aspects of the Christ which we all—men and woman—include as complete, spiritual, eternal beings. But there is a special element that is important to understand.

Womanhood handles animal magnetism, and is the remedy for Eve who deals with the serpent. Mrs. Eddy comments about Eve on page 533 of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, and states, “...She has already learned that corporeal sense is the serpent. Hence, she is first to abandon the belief in the material origin of man and to discern spiritual creation...” Our Leader goes on to say, “This enabled woman to be first to interpret the Scriptures in their true sense, which reveals the spiritual origin of man.”

In her Christian Healing sermon (*Hea 9*), Mrs. Eddy writes, “St. John saw the vision of life in matter and he saw it pass away,—an illusion, the dragon that was wroth with the woman, and stood ready to ‘devour the child as soon as it was born,’ was the vision of envy, sensuality, and malice, ready to devour the idea of

Truth. But the beast bowed before the Lamb: it was supposed to have fought the manhood of God, that Jesus represented, but it fell before the womanhood of God, that presented the highest ideal of Love.” It takes an understanding of the womanhood aspects of the Christ, qualities found in each one of us, to completely destroy any suggestion of a so-called beast.

What does this mean for us? Through cherishing these nursing-Comforter-womanhood qualities, Mrs. Eddy teaches us to be better healers. And there is a great need today for this powerful healing compassion.

### **2017 Highlights at Peace Haven:**

Our 2017 metaphysical theme and focus has been to stay in the heavenly consciousness of the “New Jerusalem.” We are so grateful for the three speakers we have had this year, Dr. Laurance Doyle; Kristy L. Christian, M.A.R.; and Evan Bryant, C.S. All have so beautifully inspired us. We are also so grateful for the dedicated Christian Science practitioners and teachers who have signed up to metaphysically support Peace Haven for a month, and often give a short talk to our staff members. We also want to share gratitude for our outstanding Board members who monthly meet in support of this great work, and most importantly, prayerfully support this healing ministry.

We have absolutely cherished the time we have had reaching out to the community about Peace Haven and Christian Science nursing. To date we have spent time together with over 30 church groups, including Hawaii! We are all in this together with each of us shareholders in this healing work called Peace Haven. And we are so grateful the community has responded so beautifully to this call for support, not only with an increase in needed financial support, but enthusiastic volunteer supporters, staff and metaphysicians.

And as a community I know you join me in expressing great gratitude for the support of Christian Science foundations large and small, and the Philanthropy Forum which developed the National Fund for Christian Science Nursing. All have so greatly impacted our work here and across the country. There truly is a spirit of giving going on.

Our Visiting Christian Science Nurse has also spent time rotating between the 16 local churches attending services and being there to answer questions. Every church is so special and unique, and she has loved meeting with you all. We are currently praying through how to best support the eight states surrounding Missouri, none of which has a facility. We recently met with the Kansas City area churches as a first step; we look forward to supporting that group. Please know, there is a movement wide need for additional Christian Science Nurses to support this holy ministry, so if any of you are thinking of entering this work, please let us know.

It has been a pleasure to be part of the extraordinary work going on. Our team of Christian Science Nurse and staff is exemplary, dedicated, loving, always at the ready, every hour of every day, here to serve each and every one of us should the need arise. And while we are all asleep, there is a team of alert Christian Science nurses on duty, the hospitality staff is up beautifully caring for our facility, and the kitchen staff is already there preparing the first meal of the day. This goes on 365 days a year, and during pending snow storms, etc., many often voluntarily stay overnight so they will be at their posts caring for our resident

We thank each one of you for your dedicated support on so many levels. Thank you for helping us stay in the New Jerusalem, and we invite you to join us next year as we explore Nehemiah’s spiritual journey to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. This year we dove in depth on what it means to live in the “Holy City” state of consciousness, and next year we will focus on how we stay there. **We invite you to join with us next year as we explore Nehemiah’s spiritual journey to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Our 2018 theme is:**

***We are doing a great work, so cannot come down.***

Enjoy cherishing and demonstrating your individual nursing practice. Legitimate Christian Science certainly is “afame with divine Love” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* 367).

Lovingly submitted,

Leslie Gerber  
Executive Director, Peace Haven Association