



Wide Horizon: A Spiritually-based “Hospital” Set on a Hill

By D. Brian Boettiger, Executive Director

Hospital is defined as “a charitable institution that provides care and treatment for the sick or the injured” in the *American Heritage College Dictionary*, 3rd Edition. Certainly Wide Horizon, as a Christian Science nursing care facility, is such a charitable institution for students of Christian Science who need spiritually-based care. Here, in a peaceful setting that has a spiritual atmosphere, the expectation is for everyone to experience complete spiritual healing. It is therefore more of an outpatient facility, if you will, because we expect guests to be able to return home, even though we do care for individuals on a longer term basis too.

Wide Horizon is therefore a “hospital” for Christian Scientists—one that is literally set on a hill shining its light wherein the Christ heals those who enter its doors and divine Love meets the human need through the professional care given by consecrated Christian Science nurses. These nurses work hand in hand with Christian Science practitioners who provide

daily Christian Science treatment for each individual guest. Moreover, if you have a challenging situation, a phone consultation with an experienced Christian Science nurse, including those employed by Wide Horizon, is always available.

Christian Science nurses have “a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice [and] thoroughly understand the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room [in taking] proper care of the sick” (*Church Manual*, p. 49). They are ready to lovingly help and nurture the guest who needs attention in an emergency and those with so-called chronic conditions or acute injuries by not focusing on the problem but rather by striving to see God’s perfect child made in Spirit’s image and likeness. The Christian Science nurse mentally nurtures and spiritually holds dear each guest. What differentiates Christian Science nurses from reverent and loving medical professionals is the acknowledgment that “All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation,” and that man is wholly spiritual and perfect, right now and right here, and the developed understanding that the realization of these truths can and will “heal all thy diseases.”

This mental component is the primary aspect that separates Christian Science nursing from that of the world.

Thus Wide Horizon provides both private inpatient and outpatient care but without the clamor that often may



occur elsewhere. The world at large does not support Christian Science nursing nor the institutions that help to facilitate this precious work of the Christ, Truth. Therefore Christian Scientists must support this activity—prayerfully, financially, and practically through the utilization

of its services. This charitable institution needs your support and is here for you if there is a need for Christian Science nursing care. Wide Horizon is your **spiritually-based** hospital set on a hill!

Gratitude for Volunteers

Wide Horizon is truly blessed by the wonderful volunteers who perform many hours of selfless service that bless the lives of Christian Scientists who need extra companionship and love. THANK YOU!



2010 Nursing Annual Meeting Report

2010 has been a year of progress, fresh ideas, and healing. The “core elements” of Christian Science nursing remain the same from year to year—providing practical care to individuals in accord with the theology of Christian Science. Yes, we bandage wounds, give baths, prepare food, and help people get back on their feet again after a fall, but most importantly, we strive to see each individual guest as God sees them—already perfect and complete. This is the “skill” that really binds up the wounds and enables men and women to go forward.



Teresa Claro

We’ve also had some things that are a little new and different this year. This summer we had four teenage Sunday School students (mainly daughters of current staff) helping us provide expanded activities for our guests. They read the Bible Lesson or articles from the Periodicals one-on-one to a guest. They also played cards and other games, made some valiant attempts at doing artwork, gave wheel chair rides outside, and befriended our guests. The girls, working about one day a week, loved their work. They felt the importance of what they were doing in helping individual guests and the facility as a whole. They were also touched by the opportunity to witness and participate in the *demonstration of Christian Science*—the truths they’ve been learning about in Sunday School for years.

At Wide Horizon, our days are like a laboratory where we take those truths out of “the books” and put them into practice and watch them work. That is neat—no matter what so-called age or stage of our lives we are in! We also have some adult volunteers who come nearly every week,

who have found a real sense of purpose and enrichment in their own lives as they spend time with our guests and help at the facility.

One of the changes we made this year was to add a set of double doors in the middle of one of the two hallways. Although this was supposed to be part of the work of our major renovation project, creating a separate space for patients who are challenged with confusion or who tend to wander became a need we could no longer defer. We still have more work to do to complete our separate “patio wing” concept, but we have already seen the benefits in a quieter, more peaceful facility. We have also seen a more restful sense, at times, from guests who live in the patio wing, who may decide to lie down on their bed and listen to the inspirational message coming over the speaker rather than pacing back and forth throughout the building.

We continue to provide “outpatient” care for individuals who can come to the facility to have a wound bandaged or to have a shower or something like that. We are also working to *expand* our ability to meet calls for Christian Science nursing in the home. If you have a need, give us a call and let’s see what we can work out.

We have also purchased a new lifter, which will enable us to lift a person quickly, comfortably and safely from bed to chair or wheel chair to

By Susan Wood, Director of Christian Science Nursing

commode, etc. The new lifter also has some advanced features that will assist a person who is regaining the ability to take their weight on their feet or learning to walk again. Contributions toward this \$5,000 expense are greatly appreciated!

Earlier this month, the annual conference of Administrators, Directors of Christian Science Nursing, and Board members from Christian Science facilities throughout the world was held in Boulder, CO. As part of that inspiring event, Wide Horizon hosted the participants for a light evening meal and a tour of our three buildings. All of them, whether from the smallest facilities or the largest, **loved** our facility. It was rewarding to see how interested they were in our unique expression of Christian Science Nursing. The comment I heard the most, as different groups of people moved along from building to building in the tour was, “*We want to stay in Horizon House!*” This gorgeous accommodation for Rest and Study for Spiritual Renewal is right in your backyard, but few of you have seen it and most of you

have never spent a night there. Come find out what people from as far away as the U.K. and Switzerland are raving about! From time to time we still have special rates. Check our web site, www.widehorizon.org or call to find out.

New in Horizon House this year was the inclusion of “Supervised Residential Living” in addition to Rest and Study. This program is



Calaine Ohmert & Carol Hanauer

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The theme of this year's annual meeting on September 26th was "...a more expansive love..." taken from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy (p. 265).

The inspirational talk titled "Our Spiritual Journey" was given by Kathryn Hoyt, C.S., of Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Citations referenced in Kathryn's talk:

- *Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy* by Irving Tomlinson (Pages 63-64)
- Matt. 10:41
- *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy (Pages 428:8-14, 26-29 and 392:24-32)
- Deut 31:8 from *The Message* by Eugene Peterson
- My 356:1 from *Prose Works* by Mary Baker Eddy

The Present

By William McKenzie

The doors of my future and past
Have irremovable bars;
I fought as they prisoned me fast,
These doors of my future and past,
But in the still Present, at last,
I am calm beholding the stars, --
Though doors of my future and past
Have irremovable bars.

The future and past are man's
The Present belongeth to God;
Man visions, and fears for his plans,
(The future and past are man's,)
Regrets, and his failure bans,
Till peace is a path untrod;
The future and past are man's
The Present belongeth to God.

(Nursing, continued from page 2)

for individuals who want to give up the hassles of home maintenance, cooking, cleaning, etc. and be part of an active community of spiritual thinkers. We had one guest in Supervised Residential Living for the better part of the past year. This individual has had many homes all over the world, and yet Wide Horizon proved to be one of the very best because of the nurturing love she was constantly embraced in.

With all this caring, reading, praying, and nurturing, do we actually have any healings? Yes, it's going on every day! Recent healings include: complete freedom from pain and difficulty in walking; healing of injuries sustained in falls; patients who had suddenly become weak and unresponsive restored to their normal activities—sometimes quickly, sometimes over a period of days; patients who had lost their desire or ability to eat, eating normally again; and wounds healed.

One healing that seemed to take a while at first, concerned a woman who has made Wide Horizon her home. She had a fall and after a week or more of being in a lot of pain, her family decided it was probably a good idea to get an x-ray. At the hospital, the x-ray showed her pelvis was



fractured in 2 places. It wasn't something they would operate on. All they could offer her was "pain management." But since she'd been refusing pain medication the entire time she was there, she returned home quickly! Back at Wide Horizon, she spent sev-

eral weeks being mostly in bed because of the pain. She lost her interest in eating. Every now and then she was willing to get up to her chair with the assistance of two Christian Science nurses. Then one day, she was able to get out of bed with minimal help, started walking down the hall with her walker, and ate in the dining room. This was the turning point in her healing. There was even a tooth that had become loose with the gum around it inflamed. At that point we realized that the tooth and gum were normal and sound.

Not all healings are this dramatic to watch, but they are all wonderful to the people who experience them. We thank all who are supporting this healing work of Christian Science nursing here in Colorado. We thank you for your donations, your prayers, and your volunteer time. You can also support Wide Horizon by making use of our services, or recommending them to friends who might not be aware of them.

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DENVER AND THE WEST

Christian Scientists push for health insurance that covers spiritual care

By **Electa Draper**

The Denver Post

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WHEAT RIDGE — In her mind's eye, Sue Wood still clearly sees the young man burned head to toe in a grease fire.

He had fled a hospital emergency room to seek help at Wide Horizon, a nonmedical religious nursing-care center.

"He was in tough shape," said Wood, the center's director of nursing.

The burn victim, in his early 20s, was a Christian Scientist. When ER doctors told him he faced six months of skin-graft surgeries, he turned to his religion.

His religion told him to rely on prayer for healing.

His religion told him "he is the spiritual image and likeness of God instead of a material, biological being." That the material world and suffering are illusory. That suffering is an error resulting from sin or fear. And that healing is "the natural outcome of gaining this spiritual realization."

"The more clearly we see God's love," Wood said, "the greater the alleviation of pain and suffering."

And the Church of Christ, Scientist is lobbying the federal government to give its members an option to buy health insurance that covers this kind of spiritual care.

Wood said her nurses put the burned man in the shower, where they peeled off his bandages and rinsed away the medication. They replaced the bandages with clean ones.

Over the weeks, they kept him clean and covered. They also applied their spiritual principles. And he made dramatic progress. As Wood remembers, he

returned to work in a little more than a month.

When the bandages were removed for good, "he was crying, and we were crying too," she said. "He has no noticeable scars."

For 60 years, Wide Horizon, which sits high on a Wheat Ridge hillside, has offered spiritual care and healing. The center serves seven states: Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Kansas, Wyoming and Nebraska.

The center practices Christian Science, a theology and healing system founded by Mary Baker Eddy in Boston in 1879.

The church is grounded in the Bible and in Eddy's primary textbook on Christian Science, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures."

"What Christ Jesus practiced and taught 2,000 years ago is still applicable. Those spiritual laws are eternal laws," said Wide Horizon executive director D. Brian Boettiger. "Mrs. Eddy was a pioneer leader who rediscovered those laws."

Wide Horizon has 29 beds and a staff of 39, including 22 nurses.

What you won't see at Wide Horizon are bottles of pills, medicine-filled cabinets, IV stands or X-ray equipment. You won't see any diagnostic machinery or even a doctor. There is a cat in residence.

Without medicine to give or blood-pressure gauges to read, what do all those nurses do? Wood says nursing means to nurture, nourish, foster and promote.

Training for "basic nursing arts" entails a couple of months in the classroom and nine to 12 months of mentored on-the-job instruction.

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Advanced training involves an additional six weeks in the classroom and another year of instruction on the job. Christian Science nurses are not licensed by the state.

"If the government is going to take the extraordinary step of requiring Americans to buy health insurance, they should be responsive to the kinds of health care Americans are relying on," said Gary Jones, federal manager of the Christian Science Committee on Publication. "That should include skilled nonmedical nursing care and treatment through prayer."

Religious nonmedical health care institutions are covered by Medicare, the federal employees' health-benefits program and some programs for U.S. military personnel.

In addition to 600 Christian Science nurses and 33 nursing-care centers in the U.S., there are, church literature says, 1,500 individual Christian Science practitioners worldwide who take an intensive two-week course and have "a proven record" of healing.

They typically charge \$20 to \$60 a day.

At Wide Horizon, rates range from \$150 a day for a single room and an hour of nursing care to \$420 a day for a single room an average of six hours of nursing care.

A few hundred private insurance products once covered religious nonmedical health care institutions, but the number has dwindled to a handful, Boettiger said.

"What we want," Jones said, "is for spiritual care to be an option for insurance coverage available through the insurance exchanges."

In late 2009, there was a provision in the health care reform bill to give Christian Science treatments some parity with clinical medicine as substitute or supplemental treatments. The provision would have prohibited discrimination against religious and spiritual health care.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, with the support of Democratic Massachusetts Sens. John Kerry and the late Edward Kennedy, put in the provision.

However, opponents, such as the Freedom From Religion Foundation, got it taken out. Critics argued that conferring that kind of legitimacy on practices outside "scientific medicine" was a slippery slope to set foot on.

"We haven't given up," Jones said.

Much of the reform legislation doesn't go into effect until 2014.

The mandated coverage currently allows some exemptions for religious organizations that have structures in place that already cover a group's health care expenses. Examples of these include the Amish system and some health care ministries.

Christian Scientists tend to be healthy and independent, Wood said, but they are also a practical people and recognize a need for nursing care, especially long-term care for the very old.

"If we have to buy health care, we should at least have access to a policy we would use," said Peter Van Vleck, the church's Colorado media and legislative liaison.

Jones said the church is not asking for a special provision for itself but for freedom for all Americans who would choose nontraditional care.

Even within Christian Science, there is a diversity of needs.

"Our church does not require us to use prayer only," Van Vleck said. "Our church does not punish us for getting a bone set or receiving any kind of medical treatment. It's the individual's choice. Such treatment could be a temporary means, a step, that enables someone to take the next step to complete reliance on God."

In Colorado, there are 28 Christian Science branch churches and societies. The Denver area is home to about half of them. The church does not quote membership numbers.

Worldwide, there are more than 1,800 church branches and societies.

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Annual Meeting Board Report

The theme for this year's annual meeting is "A More Expansive Love." Wide Horizon's activities have certainly been expansive this past year, whether it has been in nursing our guests, visiting churches to share Wide's activities with others, hosting a Christian Science Nursing Conference, or continuing to plan for expanding our North Building structure. As you may know, a metaphysical topic is selected for each board meeting to help us expand our thought and provide a metaphysical basis for our activity. The topics for this year were: Perfection, Thanksgiving, The Christ, All Things New, Still Focused, Inspiration from reading *The First Church of Christ, Scientist*, Inspiration from reading *Unity of Good*, Begin Rightly, Gratitude, Momentum, Harmony, and Clear Vision.

This past year, board and staff members visited various churches to share what is going on at Wide Horizon. Visits included a discussion on what Christian Science nursing is, the importance of the nurse's thought and how they prepare their thought, the services we provide, and an



update on our building project. Several healings were shared as well as useful information relating to questions Christian Scientists may wish to ask their insurance companies and the value of healthcare directives. We visited churches in the Denver area as well as Loveland, Greeley, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Salt Lake City, Cheyenne, Billings, Wichita, and we will be visiting Boulder in two weeks. If for some reason we did not visit your church and you would like to schedule a visit, please contact us.

Our North Building Expansion Project is continuing. We are currently envisioning making additions and modifications to the North building that will provide a new kitchen, a larger living and dining room, and offices for our administration staff. By moving these functions out of the South building, we plan to shut down the South building and realize some operational savings. The changes to the North Building will also allow us to reallocate some of the current spaces to provide an increased opportunity for guest activities and a larger and more centrally located quiet area for prayer and study that can be used by guests, nurses, and visitors. Our goal is to raise \$3M and we have raised \$1M to date in outright gifts and promises to give. Some have asked if we plan to sell land to finance the project. The answer is no, we do not have any such plans at present. If you would like to learn more about the North Building Expansion Project, sometimes also known as the Capital Campaign, please contact a board or staff member after this meeting or

call us in the next few weeks.

The Association of Organizations of Christian Science Nursing, more commonly known as the AOCSN, held their annual conference in Boulder a few weeks ago. The AOCSN fosters communication and mutual support among Christian Science nursing organizations—whether they be facilities or visiting nurse services—by gathering and



disseminating valuable information about Christian Science nursing standards, Christian Science nursing education, Christian Science nursing management, and organizational administration and governance. This is accomplished through teleconferences, focus meetings, a website, and annual conferences. The conference just held was also a wonderful opportunity to share valuable metaphysical ideas and how challenges have been met through prayer. The focus of the most recent meeting was on "sustainability." Healings and demonstrations of Love's provision for nursing organizations were also shared.

Wide Horizon had the privilege of being the host facility for the conference. We opened wide our doors to all conference attendees for a tour on Friday, September 10. While respecting our guest's privacy, we were able to share some of the practices used in the North building, and

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many visitors commented on how nice the rooms are in Horizon House. The best part of these visits, is that members from other Christian Science nursing organizations can see how Wide is implementing various ideas and take back ideas that may be useful for their own organizations. We received many favorable comments and I'd like to thank all the staff of Wide Horizon who helped host this effort. You should know that Brian Boettiger, our Executive Director and Sue Wood, our Director of Christian Science Nursing were also part of the agenda planning committee. Thanks to both of them for all the effort that went into planning and hosting the conference!

As part of our expanding activities, we have opened our doors to several Christian Science groups for their activities, including a regular Bible study group as well as Joint Broadcast Committee or JBC Meetings. As many of you know, the JBC sponsors the weekly Sentinel and Herald radio programs. We [hosted] a Bible workshop by the Principle Foundation on October 9th in the South Building.

Thanks also to each of you who so lovingly support the activities of



Employee Recognition

There were four employees recognized for benchmarks of service to Wide Horizon. They are:



Joanne Powell
CS Nurse
30 years



Carol Hanauer,
Assistant Director of CS Nursing
20 years



Calaine Ohmert
Business Manager
20 years



Chovane Vang
Food Services
10 years

Wide Horizon. We value your prayers, your recording of articles, your reading or playing the piano at Thursday evening testimony meetings, the time you spend with guests along with all the other volunteer activities you do. Thank you also for your financial support.

Mary Baker Eddy writes in *Science and Health*, "God expresses in man the infinite

idea forever developing itself, broadening and rising higher and higher from a boundless basis. Mind manifests all that exists in the infinitude of Truth."

Thanks to all of you who are actively nurturing and nursing this development of the

infinite idea both within yourselves and through your support of Wide Horizon.



Margee Howard



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Wide Horizon Herald

Annual Meeting 2010

Shared Blessings

If we accept Paul's statement that, "in Him we live, move, and have our being" (Acts 17: 28) and, to paraphrase Jesus' words, "we can of our own selves do nothing" (John 5: 30), then we know that all that we do and experience is of God. This includes the wonderful blessings provided by Wide Horizon to hundreds of Christian Scientists over the years, as well as the support of so many of you for these blessings.

These infinite blessings know no limits—not in time, space, human circumstances, financial turmoil, or other false boundaries. Blessings come in many forms, such as:

- Providing care for someone even though they do not have the funds to cover the costs
- Completing improvements to our facilities so everyone has a more pleasant and affordable experience at Wide Horizon
- Offering a wider variety of activities that rejuvenate and inspire our guests
- Sharing our own blessings with others in need of these services, thereby reaping a return blessing from knowing we helped others, thus "paying it forward."

Many of you have generously shared blessings with Wide Horizon



over the past few years, and we (both staff and guests) are eternally grateful for that support. As in past years, about 40% of our expenses must be covered by donations. Your contributed and metaphysical support is vital. **We hope you will consider a year-end gift so we may continue to provide blessings to those served by our facilities and services.**

Donations can be made online: via our website at www.widehorizon.org, where you can also learn about Wide Horizon and its Christian Science nursing activity. Thank you!