



## “Divine Love meets our needs”

*By Sharon Caligiuri, Christian Science Nurse*

“Love” was the subject of the Christian Science Bible Lesson the week of January 24. When I read this lesson it was like reading my job description as a Christian Science nurse, because the work is all about Love being expressed – practicing patience, loving my neighbor as myself, seeing the real man, witnessing God’s creation and work. These attributes reminded me why I do this ministering work.

I found Christian Science nursing after my mom passed away in 2010. I had taken care of her for some time.

Wanting to know more about how to help others, I started volunteering at a CS nursing facility in California. I then decided to take Christian Science primary class instruction. This educational step led me to take level 1-3 of CS nurses training at the same organization. Then I worked there for a few years.

After my husband and I moved to Oregon, I didn’t find much work as a Christian Science nurse in Oregon. A few CS nurses I knew were going to Wide Horizon for work. So I decided to call to inquire about working at Wide. There was a staffing need, so I

came to Wide Horizon a few times as a temporary CS nurse.

I loved working at Wide Horizon so much that we decided to move to Colorado when I found out there was a job opening on the nursing staff. Everything just flowed together on our journey to Colorado, and Wide Horizon provided temporary housing accommodations in its new “cottages” on the hill. Soon I was able to buy a new car, and we found a place to live right away. Love clearly led the way.

Divine Love truly meets all our needs!



## What does a Christian Science nurse do at Wide Horizon?

The daily duties of a Christian Science nurse include elements of both physical and spiritual care for his or her patients. Each CS nurse is assigned the care of 3 or 4 patients/residents, depending on the level of care required. The residents' needs range from fairly simple things such as guidance and assistance with their personal care to more extensive service such as full bed care, food modification and feeding of the patient, or extensive bandaging of wounds. Christian Science nurses minister to all these practical, physical needs. Their patients (who are Christian

Scientists) choose to rely on prayer and spiritual treatment from a Christian Science practitioner for healing, rather than medical treatment. The spiritual aspect of the CS nurse's work is to express the trust in and understanding of God's laws that uplifts the patient's thought and brings an added measure of hope, joy, comfort, courage, and healing. Daily job duties vary by need and may include taking patients to the toilet, bathing, feeding, bandaging, and assisting a patient to use a mobility aid such as a walker, as well as reading aloud from religious literature, making beds and keeping patients'

environments safe and tidy. Maintaining a calming spiritual atmosphere is also an important aspect of all these practical care duties. A Journal-listed CS nurse will be regularly required to act as Shift Supervisor. In this capacity he/she will care for his own assigned patients, as well as supervise the other 3 or 4 nurses working on the 8-hour shift. Additionally, Wide Horizon will occasionally call on individuals who have experience as CS nursing instructors to train or mentor less-experienced colleagues, either in a classroom setting or on-the-job.

## Carol Horen is now a Journal-listed Christian Science Nurse!



### Would you like to financially help meet the human need at Wide Horizon?

- \$12,500 = new vinyl flooring in 9 patient rooms to replace the linoleum from 1990.
- \$11,500 = removal of old cottonwood trees that are damaging the walking path.
- \$10,500 = repair and resurface asphalt walking path to make it safer for guests.
- \$ 1,100 = new carpet in 2 patient rooms to replace carpet from 1990's.
- \$ 700 = upgrade to Wi-Fi network.
- \$ TBD = new boiler in Horizon House to replace an old hazardous one.



The activity of Wide Horizon is of the “Church,” that is, an activity of supporting the *Church Manual* bylaw “Christian Science Nurse” and, as one of “the structure of Truth and Love” in mission and purpose, of serving mankind, especially our fellow church members.

### **From Christian Science Practitioners who volunteer to prayerfully support Wide Horizon:**

- ◆ Wide Horizon is a city set on a hill, and the light that shines from it blesses those in the city as well as those who may believe themselves outside its walls for whatever reason. Its walls and gates, for the safety and security of all, are kept in good repair by the thought and action of Mind’s ideas (Nehemiah-like in expression). Wide represents the “**New Jerusalem — Divine Science; the spiritual facts and harmony of the universe; the kingdom of heaven, or reign of harmony**” (S&H 592:18). Mrs. Eddy’s description of New Jerusalem as the “city foursquare” is helpful when we pray that the Word, Christ, Christianity, and divine Science are its four “cardinal points.” It’s not really comprised of staff or buildings or equipment or field support or a plot of ground – but those things are the visible manifestation of our understanding of its substance and they tell us how well we are seeing the kingdom of heaven at hand. It is our job at Wide Horizon to behold the kingdom at hand, to keep it in clear view and to rejoice in its expression – morning, noon, and night. Whoever comes through its “gates” (new guest, family members, new nurse, inspection team, local official, etc.) is beloved, cherished, nurtured, because that’s what happens in the kingdom. And that’s what we do for those who have found this wonderful symbol of the “city of God” called Wide Horizon!
- ◆ Wide Horizon is “undivorced from Truth, uncontaminated by human hypotheses, and divinely authorized.” What a joy to consider your work in this way!! As a spiritual idea, which is its very substance and being, Wide Horizon is the expression, the constant outpouring, of Truth, Life and Love – it is never separate from, working up to, or seeking God’s presence, but the very manifestation of that All-Love-Presence forever! It is intact, uncontaminated by any claim of a human hypothesis about human organizations, personalities, history or environs of any size, shape, etc. – just as pure and perfect as the Source that is pouring it forth now and always. And it is authorized by divine Love with a holy purpose, divinely empowered as the very overflow of the one and only Being.
- ◆ I’ve so enjoyed cherishing the good and enduring purpose of Wide Horizon today. It strikes me that the real desire is for the healing mission of the Christ to be expressed through the facility. This is such a pure motive and one that cannot be interrupted or disturbed. In fact, the work is already done and the Christ light is full to capacity, shining out even beyond the property. Years ago, Helen Wood Bauman wrote an article, “What God has Already Done,” in which she explained, “The will of God is the power of good, which is omnipotence. [We] cannot measure power by [our] own slight expression of it, but must recognize the infinite might of Spirit, which is in full operation eternally. A vital part of healing work is the realization that nothing can resist the force of God’s will. If anything seems to be resisting it, this is illusion, and illusion cannot persist when it is confronted with the truth. She continues, “[In any case, we] must open [our] spiritual eyes to discern the power of God to preserve man in His image and to maintain his health forever. [We] must realize that no mortal belief acting as the patient’s [or institution’s] thinking or in the thought surrounding him can resist the will of the Father for that individual’s present harmony.” I love this idea of nothing being able to stand in the way or impede the will of God, acting through Christ. Nothing can stop the good and Christly work going on at Wide Horizon. Because the light of Christ is filling us up and radiating out from us, nothing can stop our effective healing and nothing can diminish the power of good, which is in full operation eternally. Amen.
- ◆ What love your two leaders are showing, in putting forth so much extra effort! This can only bless them, as well as everyone around them! They are blessing the patients, and they are demonstrating their own love and their high level of nursing skills to your staff. They are being great teachers as well as healers. And they can do this without harm to themselves. The devil cannot steal their joy and enthusiasm! But we also know that God supplies daily, all that we need, including sufficient (and additional) workers to do this precious work. We can “pray... therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest.” (Luke 10:2) God provides us with the spiritual ideas that in turn give us the daily supplies we need. Seeing this blesses all mankind, including ourselves.

*Continued on next page...*

### From Guests/Patients who went home:

- ◆ “My stay at Wide Horizon was excellent – I couldn’t ask for anything better. I am so grateful that I live so close to this facility. The nursing care I received was also excellent.”
- ◆ “My stay and the quality of the care were very good. I am impressed with recent improvements. I came to Wide Horizon for a quiet place to study and pray. I had fallen and could put very little weight on my legs and could not move without intense pain... Upon arriving at Wide, I had a feeling of calm and support, and relief knowing my needs would be met. My room had been lovingly prepared and the CS nurses went to great lengths to make me as comfortable as possible, considering my situation. The room was pleasant, comfortable, and quiet with a beautiful view of trees, sky and mountains. I spent about two weeks in this room, focused on gaining a greater understanding of God and my inseparable relationship to Him. There is an atmosphere of spiritual support at Wide that was very helpful. In addition, the nurses and staff were very supportive. My needs were met without fanfare. I could focus on my study. There were other lessons to learn and with the help of a CS practitioner there was daily progress. I was soon able to return home. I cherish the time I spent at Wide. It was a wonderful time of spiritual growth. I have gained a greater sense of God’s love for me and all mankind.”
- ◆ “I found it very helpful to be at Wide Horizon and appreciated the quality of care given by staff. My ongoing impression of the facility is that it is excellent.”
- ◆ “My stay was pleasant, and the care was good when I needed it. The facility is quite nice.”
- ◆ “My time at Wide Horizon was most wonderful! It was exactly what I needed for spiritual progress and healing. The staff gave loving care and metaphysical support. I felt it! The facility provides a calm, peaceful atmosphere for healing to take place. I came to Wide Horizon with a very uncomfortable condition – unable to sit, stand, and recline with normal comfort. Thank you all for meeting my human needs while I focused on Truth as I leaned on God, trusting Him to show me the way. Step by step I gained more freedom. And the healing goes on as I am home, letting God, Good, guide, guard, govern me, mine, all. I feel God’s holy, healing presence. Joy, joy, joy for the progress which continues! I am so, so grateful for Wide Horizon!”

### From Residents and/or Family:

- ◆ A resident gave a very dear testimony about being stung while on a wheelchair ride. On our daily walk one day she told about an insect that landed on her hand on a previous walk and her quick acknowledgment of no harm from one of God’s creatures to another. It started out quite painful, but she was able to handle the pain immediately, with no mark

whatsoever.

- ◆ I love Wide Horizon and all that it stands for and does. I can’t thank you enough for the response you’ve each had to this unfolding situation with my Mom’s care. I’m so at peace with this resolution. You’re both such excellent listeners - to those around you and to God’s guidance. I don’t know all the healing or calls for spiritual growth this has brought you, but I’m seeing what it’s bringing me, and having Mom staying where she is to do whatever it is she’s doing feels entirely right. Besides my volunteer work for Wide, I cannot put into words the gratitude for all that Wide has done and continues to do for my Mother.

### From our Field & Volunteers:

- ◆ A volunteer who is a reader for the weekly evening testimony meetings remarked with sincere gratitude for Wide Horizon and all who work here, “Anyone who isn’t unselfish cannot really work here. Selflessness is a quality expressed by all here. I don’t know what the Christian Science community, including my family, would do without Wide Horizon.” (This volunteer, like others, had a family member who was cared for at Wide years ago.)

### Comments about our Christmas mailing:

- ◆ “Love the Christmas message. Cherishing the Christ forward.”
- ◆ “Loved the Christmas message in tone, compassion, obedience and a right sense of worship. Well worded and well done! The presentation and colors were likewise perfect!”
- ◆ “Thank you for the very gracious Christmas letter.”
- ◆ “Thank you Wide Horizon for this Christmas greetings. I return this to you all who so diligently express the Christ every day.”
- ◆ “The Christmas message is a divine reminder this season. And it’s all true!”



# Are Christian Science Nursing Facilities Relevant?

(Borrowed and modified from an article in Glenmont's "Clarion Call", 2002)

In 1909, Mrs. Eddy wrote to the Christian Science Board of Directors and asked them to "vote on the adoption of the following by-law, and, if adopted, publish it in our periodicals and in the Church Manual". The proposed by-law read: "The Mother Church shall establish and maintain a Christian Science resort for the so-called sick" (Christian Science Sentinel, vol. 19, p. 110).

From this it is clear that Mrs. Eddy felt that Christian Scientists required their own nursing facility. The fact that this request was in the form of a by-law suggests that it carried extra power. Each by-law, she writes, was "impelled by a power not one's own" in order to provide "a help that must be supplied to maintain the dignity and defense of our Cause" (Church Manual 3:7).

In obedience, the Directors passed the Christian Science resort by-law. However, they very shortly asked Mrs. Eddy whether they might postpone such a major undertaking and rescind the by-law. Mrs. Eddy replied that if the Church were not yet ready for this step, she was "willing to let this matter rest for the present" (Christian Science Sentinel, vol. 19, p110).

The Board did not forget. In 1916

they decided to build a Christian Science sanatorium in Chestnut Hill, MA, making it clear that this was done in obedience to Mrs. Eddy's request. Many other Christian Science nursing facilities followed this step during the next several decades.

Writing of this step, Mrs. Eddy's former Secretary, Adam Dickey, said: "Our Leader was for many years deeply impressed with the thought that the Christian Science movement should have places where people suffering from ills of various sorts could retire for treatment, rest and recuperation. The members of Mrs. Eddy's household who ministered to her needs have heard her many times express herself quite freely on this subject. She knew that patients under Christian Science treatment were at times placed in a position where they needed the care and attention of a skillfully trained person who was also a Christian Scientist. Her own experience had shown her the great need for a place of refuge to which sufferers could retire, and where they could receive proper care and attention as well as freedom from criticism while under Christian Science treatment. The purpose which the Directors of The Mother Church seek to

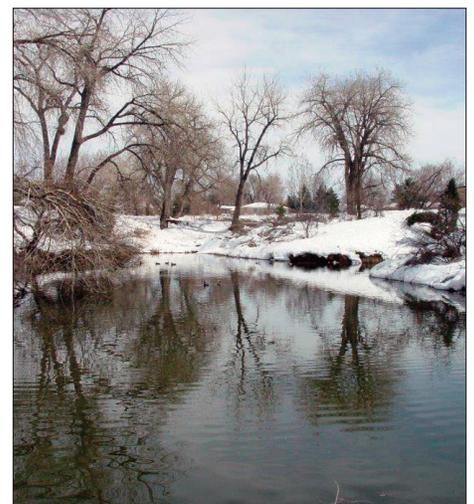
accomplish in organizing the Christian Science Benevolent Association is one that is in direct obedience to our Leader's wishes and which had for a long time been uppermost in her thought" (Christian Science Sentinel, vol. 19, p. 303).

Christian Scientists should expect instantaneous healings and rightly so; but if a case or challenge does not yield, our Leader counsels that we should "early call an experienced Christian Scientist" for aid. If we are hesitant to do so, she adds, we should "know that error cannot produce this unnatural reluctance" (Science and Health p. 420:4). Christian Science nursing facilities which provide aid are one avenue of meeting this need.

You are invited to join us in a renewed commitment to Christian Science nursing. This commitment includes a higher sense of our Leader's purpose for Christian Science nursing facilities which exist to serve fellow Christian Scientists and ultimately all mankind. Your support of this Christian mission of tender mercy is sincerely appreciated, for Christian Science nursing organizations exist to serve!

## Questions pertaining to the "foundational" basis of Christian Science nursing:

- How encompassing is Christian Science nursing?
- What do we need to understand to see Christian Science nursing is for all mankind?
- How can I (we) understand Christian Science nursing as BIG enough to be available to all or anyone?
- Do we think of Christian Science nursing as an out source or outcome of Divine Science or the Comforter?





# WIDE HORIZON

A Christian Science Nursing Facility

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**Donations can be made online: via our website at [www.widehorizon.org](http://www.widehorizon.org), where you can also learn about Wide Horizon and its Christian Science nursing activity.**

*Thank you!*

