

# Practical health care for humanity

By Ute Keller

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Wherever one finds a Christian Science nurse today, and there are many places, it is an answer to humanity's search for health-care solutions.

For centuries, thought has been buried in the illusion that man is material, that life is in matter, and that health is determined by material conditions. Health care has been mostly in line with these beliefs, trying to establish relief in a material body. Sickness has been purported to be a condition of matter, and so people have tried to find health by changing matter.

However, world thought has gradually started opening up to new perspectives with regard to health, healing, and health care. Christian Science explains Jesus' method of healing spiritually. It reveals creation as wholly spiritual in nature, and matter as nothing more than an illusion. It follows, then, if creation is wholly spiritual, that it's natural for the basis for health care to be spiritual, too.

In Christian Science, health is recognized as a state of consciousness, the expression of divine Mind, God, instead of a condition of matter. Healing and care become questions of what is happening in thought. The mental atmosphere surrounding a patient is seen as an important aspect of care.

Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, writes in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, "Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need" ([p. 494](#)). Divine Love has met humanity's needs for health care by providing for Christian Science healing and nursing, and inspiring the basic rules of their practice. These "rules" can be found throughout *Science and Health*, and also in the *Manual of The Mother Church*. In regard to nursing, the By-Law "Christian Science Nurse" says, "A member of The Mother Church who represents himself or herself as a Christian Science nurse shall be one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick" ([p. 49](#)).

While Christian Science nurses do practical things such as proper cleansing, feeding, and bed care as necessary, their primary work might be summarized in this statement in *Science and Health*, “The poor suffering heart needs its rightful nutriment, such as peace, patience in tribulation, and a priceless sense of the dear Father’s loving-kindness” (pp. 365–366). Peace, patience in tribulation, and a priceless sense of the dear Father’s lovingkindness are spiritual qualities that make up effective Christian Science nursing care. They help to remove fear, which is so often at the root of sickness. When fear is gone, healing dawns.

Christian Science nursing is much more comprehensive and extensive in its means than one may at first think. It is not an alternative method of matter-based medical care; it is not the same as medical care but without the use of drugs. If one believes creation is material, then medical care seems to be an appropriate way to care for matter. But if one has even a tiny glimpse that being is spiritual, and feels a need for spiritual answers, then Christian Science nursing care can be a very natural fit.

Christian Science nursing is the reflection of divine Love’s guidance and care for all humanity. Despite the turmoil that is reported around us, the world is awakening to see that our being is truly spiritual and that we are the loved ideas of God. This awakening is going on now, and it will help us all see how humanity’s needs for health care can be met in the very practical way pointed out through Christian Science healing and nursing.

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