



Desert View News - Fall 2023

Strengthening, Healing, Building and The Butterfly

Marcella C. Lehr, Board President

It's so good to have the opportunity to share the continued spiritual growth Desert View's family has been experiencing since our last newsletter. Continuing with the theme -- Strengthening, Healing, Building – our Board decided to commit itself, along with the Administration of Desert View, to read *Science and Health* together. As one can imagine, healing of all kinds has been taking place. We look forward to sharing fruitage with you at Desert View's Annual Meeting to be held on November 18, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at Second Church of Christ, Scientist in Scottsdale. You can also join us via Zoom.

Recently, I was listening to a podcast and heard the most interesting analogy of what was to me a familiar example of a butterfly working out of its cocoon during its transformation from larvae to beautiful insect. What caught my thought was the very need for the butterfly *to struggle* during the process. The struggle to work its way out of the cocoon developed the needed strength to have the ability to fly once it was free from the former environment, as an independent, fully formed insect. If one were to cut the butterfly out of the cocoon thinking to make its job easier, the butterfly's wings would not possess the needed physical strength and other structural components to be able to fly. It is the same in our healing work and it has everything to do with this year's metaphysical theme for Desert View: Strengthening, Healing, Building.

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My Christian Science Nursing Journey – Really?

Chris Radel, Administrator

Those who know me are likely thinking, “Chris, what is this about? We know you are not a Christian Science nurse.” They are correct, if by that is meant an individual who has taken Christian Science nurses training and is listed as such in The Christian Science Journal. Here's my story:

It started when I was in graduate school and needed a part time job. I was in the San Francisco Bay Area, and a friend said, “You ought to check out the BA (now Arden Wood). I did. It was suggested I take Christian Science nurse's aide training. That was not what I had in mind, but I followed their suggestion, and that was my introduction to Christian Science nursing. I worked at the BA for some time and then moved on to another Christian Science nursing facility closer to home where I continued to work throughout my years in graduate school, as a nurse's aide, housekeeper, and as a cook - wherever I was needed. I graduated and was off. One might have thought that was the end of the story, but it did not end there.

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Go Forward—Ann Deputy, Vice President

While listening for inspiration and evaluating ways to wisely spend our resources, I was awakened to the need for a higher attitude.

“Supply is as infinite and indivisible as God himself. Man reflects the infinitude of Mind – hence his sufficiency.” (Awake and Inherit, “Supply as Spiritual Reflection”, pg.7&8, The Christian Science Publishing Society)

All we need to carry out the mission of providing Christian Science nursing for our community is already provided: We have a loving staff that is always at hand with enlightened thought to support every need. We have a facility that encompasses an uplifting healing atmosphere. We have reliable transportation that conveys this loving care where it is needed around the state. This supply is not outlined or limited by the money that is in our bank accounts.

When we are alert, we see good multiply in our experience by maintaining the regular attitude of minimizing evil. Am I seeing “Love’s abundance or error’s want?” (ibid. p. 6) Mortal mind would try to place limits on our abundant supply by suggesting that our monetary resources will continue to dwindle and there won’t be enough of it to maintain our building and grounds or that there aren’t enough Christian Science nurses to meet all needs in the community. As operational change at Desert View is considered, it must not be driven by a sense of lack but by the transformative sense of abundance as demonstrated by Jesus with the loaves and the fishes.

What do you value about having Desert View at hand?

Is it comfort in knowing that there is a place you can go when you require physical assistance while you are working on your healing, a place with a loving, uplifting atmosphere where healing is expected? Maybe it’s knowing that there is a caring Christian Scientist trained to help with physical needs that you can call to your own home to support your healing progress. It could be that you or your church has benefitted from training provided by Christian Science nurses on how you can support members of your church family on your own. Desert View is a resource for all your care questions and can assist you in finding the right place and human resources to support your demonstration.

“Rightly considered, money is a medium of exchange, a symbol of gratitude, something given in return for value received.” (ibid. p.4) Please consider the value Desert View provides you and the entire community and send a symbol of your gratitude today. Your support enables others to get the care they need when they are not able to afford it themselves.

A note of gratitude from a recent patient

Desert View has been a haven for me. This year has been very challenging and having the wonderful care facility has meant the world to me. The loving care of the Christian Science nurses supported and sustained me as I made progress and was able to go home. While at home the visiting Christian Science nurses were there to support me when necessary. My gratitude for Desert View and its staff is more than I can say. The Christian Science nurses are the salt of the earth.

In referring to the Christian Science textbook, Mrs. Eddy shares: “Although this volume contains the complete Science of Mind-healing, never believe that you can absorb the whole meaning of the Science by a simple *perusal* of this book. The book needs to be *studied*, and the demonstration of the rules of scientific healing will plant you firmly on the spiritual groundwork of Christian Science. This proof lifts you high above the perishing fossils of theories already antiquated, and enables you to grasp the spiritual facts of being hitherto unattained and seemingly dim.” (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 147:14)

Later on in the textbook she also shares the blessed promise from this work: “The struggle for Truth makes one strong instead of weak, resting instead of wearying one.” (Ibid. page 426:9–11)

Struggles of all types makes one strong. Merriam Webster provides the following definition for struggled or struggling: 1. To make strenuous or violent efforts in the face of difficulties or opposition, i.e. *struggling* with the problem; 2. To proceed with difficulty or with great effort i.e. *struggled* through the high grass.

Again, we find in our textbook a promised blessing for the faithful performance of work in the struggle in the form of healing: “Glory be to God, and peace to the struggling hearts! Christ hath rolled away the stone from the door of human hope and faith, and through the revelation and demonstration of life in God, hath elevated them to possible at-one-ment with the spiritual idea of man and his divine Principle, Love.” (Ibid. page 45:16)

Returning to our friend the butterfly with its example for all of us to follow: Embrace the struggle facing you. God is with you each step of the way. These struggles are not to afflict you. These struggles are to strengthen you for your upward flight in your expression as God’s unfettered, beautiful idea. In doing research for this article, I discovered a statement that butterflies are often seen as a symbol of *hope, rejuvenation and transformation*. I also discovered that Monarchs can travel between 50-100 miles a day; it can take up to two months to complete their journey. The farthest ranging monarch butterfly recorded up to this point in time traveled 265 miles in one day. Just think: When it began, it started its journey with the victory by enduring, and continuing to be faithful in its work to overcome a struggle.



The gratitude continues

I am so grateful that Desert View was available when I unexpectedly needed assistance following a car accident. The Christian Science nurse on duty welcomed me with a warm meal and assisted me with showering the evening I arrived. The private room accommodation was perfect for in-depth study in the few days that followed while the shaded outdoor greenbelt beckoned me to stroll with a willing Christian Science nurse. I felt nothing but loved and uplifted during my stay at Desert View. Every need was beautifully met.

A Conversation between Cindy Snowden, Director of Christian Science Nursing and Christian Science nursing student at Desert View, Bonny Laver

Cindy: Bonny, what impelled you to think about becoming a Christian Science nurse?

Bonny: When I was in college, The Mother Church advertised for interns for the Church Center and also promoted training courses for Christian Science nurses. I applied to the BA in Boston to enroll in their introductory course for Christian Science nurses. Soon after that I was married, so I used it to mother my family until they were grown.

Cindy: You've had the opportunity between then and now to assist your family can you tell us a little about that?

Bonny: After our children were grown, we were invited to move into a house together with my parents so that I could support their care needs. My husband and I continued living with them for about a year and a half until they needed to go into assisted living where they could have a fuller sense of activity and more interaction with a variety of people. Later, I cared for my husband and mother-in-law for years. I have always wanted to serve Christian Science and so became a *Journal*-listed Christian Science Practitioner in September, 2021. I served in that capacity for one year.

Cindy: I visit churches and Reading Rooms in Arizona to let them know Desert View cares about them. Could you please tell us about the day I came into the Tempe Reading Room while you were the attendant?

Bonny: I serve in many capacities at First Church of Christ, Scientist Tempe and was enjoying being the attendant in the Reading Room when you popped in for a visit. You shared your journey into Christian Science nursing and then we chatted about the need for more Christian Science nurses in the area, to serve at Desert View, in private duty or visiting services and how much easier it is now, to get the training here locally. I had already been praying about next steps in my practice because I really desired to continue to be of service to the cause of Christian Science and had seen regular ads in the Christian Science periodicals with the need for Christian Science nurses but didn't want to go away for the training. The conversation we had was a blessing, and here I am. I love the Christian Science practice as a practitioner, but Christian Science nursing really suits me more, as I love the hands-on care for fellow Christian Scientists. I can pray for myself and the world and physically assist those who need it, supporting their demonstration as they work with their Christian Science practitioner. I love the new journey and encourage others to think about this idea as well to support fellow Christian Scientists.

Cindy: Thank you Bonny for sharing your journey with us today. And for those who are interested Desert View is able to train Class-taught Christian Scientists to become Christian Science nurses. We are so grateful for this recent development this year.

A few years later, while working in Boston, I got involved with a Christian Science Home Aide program. I have no remembrance of how that came about. I was not seeking this activity but rather would say, it found me. This was about helping folks with a variety of simple needs in their homes. The next step came after I had moved to Arizona. I had recently left a position and was pondering what's next. While in prayer mode, I was approached and asked if I would help out with some projects at El Dorado Vista.

Looking back at the various steps in my human career, there were intersections with my “caring, or Christian Science nursing” career. I am so grateful for the prompting, along the way, to recognize caring as a natural aspect of whatever else I was doing: High school teacher; Operations Manager in Technology Education; Contract Data Administrator; Volunteer Coordinator in Social Services; and others. Whether or not I recognized it at the time, I was learning that caring is our effortless response to Love, the Divine Principle that governs our every step. I was learning what our Leader meant in her poem, “*My prayer, some daily good to do to Thine, for Thee...*” (Poems, 13: 5-6). It's a continuing lesson, isn't it?

What has been your journey of caring? I suspect most individuals have had their own unique experiences learning Love's lessons of what true caring is all about and thus being introduced to Christian Science nursing. It's a journey we are all on together.



Autumn Musing - Adrienne Skoczylas, Secretary

Autumn, a time of bountiful harvesting of the fruits of our labors and an acknowledgement and gathering of the abundance of God's ever-present and current supply for all our needs. As we watch the leaves changing colors, it reminds us to gather the good from our spiritual unfoldment over the past months — to build on that strong metaphysical work that has been going on and is going on, to support and strengthen our understanding of that foundation of our spiritual identity and existence as stated in the *Christian Science Hymnal*, Hymn No. 123:

“How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord . . .”

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent hand . . .”



Let each ray of sunshine bless and blot out any shadow of sadness, sickness or disappointment that may have been hidden in consciousness and let them be the leaves that fall and be blown away!

Let the light and might of Truth cleanse and purify each consciousness today and always. Let's build on that!

“Desperate times call for . . .”
John Cochran CS, Board Member

As I was thinking about this newsletter, out of the blue came the following phrase, “Desperate times call for desperate measures.” This is attributed to Hippocrates, the Greek physician. A Google search shows a modern interpretation to be, “In adverse circumstances, actions that might have been rejected under other circumstances may become the best choice.” (Wiktionary)

It seems that many if not most people would agree that world-wide — from the weather, to government and politics, to social interactions — there are indicators that these could indeed be considered “desperate times.” In a day and age of complex interactions with so many perspectives, where human-based answers seem to be falling short of complete and harmonious resolutions, is this a time where *actions that might have been rejected under other circumstances may become the best choice*?

The scriptures are full of accounts of “desperate times” and extraordinary actions. In fact, at one point Christ Jesus makes this statement to a group of antagonist religious leaders, “*And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?*” (Luke 20:17). He was referring to their harsh denunciations in order to marginalize his ministry. His message was not always readily accepted, yet his teachings have more than stood the test of time (not to mention extreme situations) and have been a rock-solid foundation to build on.

As Christians and Christian Scientists live and prove the validity of Christ’s Christianity, and the healing power of Christian Science given by Mary Baker Eddy, we can share these maybe “unlikely” ideas with others around us and around the world, thereby supporting unforeseen, healing solutions coming to the surface. As this is done, we should be able to see the world’s desperate cry change into a song of gratitude. No doubt — “Desperate times call for *inspired* measures.”



Annual Meeting 2023

It's our pleasure to share details of this year's Annual Meeting. Our guest is Bruce Jeffrey.

Bruce is a graduate of the Air Force Academy and has served as both a navigator on B-52's and as an instructor at the Academy. His master's degree is from the University of Wisconsin. He has worked as a manager, trainer, consultant and coach for leaders and executives in businesses small and large.

Bruce is a life-long Christian Scientist. At various times, he has served as Sunday School teacher, usher, Clerk, meeting leader, first and second Reader, and as a member of the Church's Board.

Bruce is Executive Director at The Principle Foundation in Kansas City, Missouri, a nonprofit organization that offers modest grants to Christian Scientists in need of financial assistance. The Principle Foundation also administers the National Fund for Christian Science Nursing.

He will speak on question, "Are We Making Decisions or Discoveries?" We all make decisions every day. Sometimes we need to make important decisions when we don't feel quite ready or don't have as much information as we'd like. And since decisions affect the path forward, wouldn't it be nice to know a little bit about the future?

As Executive Director of The Principle Foundation, Bruce has participated in hundreds of grant committee meetings when grant administrators determine how to respond to requests for help. This has given him a lot of experience to draw on as we all explore this topic together with him.



The meeting will be in-person and online on Saturday, November 18th, at 2 pm.

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