

“In and Out”

A talk by Nancy S. Pihl, CS

Given at the Desert View Annual Meeting on November 8, 2014

The Bible tells us that hungering and thirsting for righteousness, we will be filled. Our spiritual needs for refreshment can be quickly satisfied when we turn our thought away from the physical hunger for healing to Desert View. Refuse to believe it will take a long time to be healed. The dedicated Christian Science nurses and staff are expecting all who are in need of the healing atmosphere and practical care they offer to be helped and healed, in and out and on their way to a life free from fear and permanently perfect.

As a practitioner who is called on from time to time to support their work, I am well aware of their devotion to the Cause of Christian Science healing. When one is in need of help and comes in to Desert View for support with the expectation of receiving immediate help and healing, they can expect to go out healed.

Why is it that the “In and Out” burger places are so popular? Because they promise fresh produce and fast service. You are hungry and thirsty and you know you can have your hunger pangs satisfied and get in and out quickly. Oh, but you have to wait a little longer for the food to be prepared to order, but it’s worth the short time you wait while it is prepared especially for you. The Bible tells us that hungering and thirsting for righteousness, we will be filled.

Our spiritual needs for refreshment can be quickly satisfied when we turn our thought away from the physical hunger for healing to Desert View. Refuse to believe that it will take a long time to be healed. Be satisfied with the realization that this is a place where our hunger for spiritual renewal and healing can be realized quickly and efficiently when we open our thought to divine Mind. We can be refreshed and satisfied with divine Mind’s assurance that our old thoughts and old views of what satisfies and strengthens us will be filled with confidence and assurance that the help we need is already available. We are in heavenly Love. We can enter the secret place of the Most High at any time of the day or night and be filled with the fullness of the Christ. The Comforter knows our every human need and is supplying us with an abundance of strength.

We are filled with the assurance that wherever He may guide us, no want shall turn us back.

Yes, God's plan is a plan of fulfillment and satisfaction. The effect of Christly thought blots out the false beliefs, lifts thought from sickness to health, from abnormality to normality, from error to Truth, and from the body; and experience responds to that state of thought inevitably.

One of the biggest misconceptions many Christian Scientists seem to have, not just about Desert View but any Christian Science nursing facility, is that if they go into one of them, they will never come out. It will be the end.

My mother and I proved several times what a false concept that is. And over the years I have had patients in different facilities across the United States, first in New Jersey where I was on the first visiting nurse board and made frequent trips to Tenacre, then on to Connecticut and New York's High Ridge House. And then years later to California and Olive Glen before arriving here in Arizona and Desert View.

I can give you personal experiences I have had with each of these facilities, not to mention when I was raising four children. I worked with school nurses and visiting Christian Science nurses who were happy to take care of my children when sports activities or so called contagious diseases needed to be met through prayer and Christian Science.

Today, I want to tell you about my first experience I had with my mother that grounded me in the conviction that Christian Science treatment is the very best, whether at home or in a Christian Science nursing facility. Both my husband and I were raised in Christian Science. He came to my hometown of Anderson, Indiana for his first job. We were married there, and I had all four of my children at home with the help of Christian Science nurses from Chicago and Indianapolis. For about four months prior to moving east, we lived in Indianapolis while my mother continued living in Anderson. One day I received a call from my mother's sister saying I needed to come home at once because my mother had had a stroke and was unconscious and unable to move. Anderson was only 35 miles from Indianapolis. I called my husband to come home and look after the children because I needed to drive to Anderson to take care of my mother.

When I got there and saw the condition of my mother, who didn't seem to be responding to treatment, I called a Christian Science teacher in Indianapolis and asked her to pray for my mother. Her reply was "I will begin to pray for her right away, but you need to call for an ambulance and take your mother to Midland House," which was the Christian Science nursing facility there.

Well, I was shocked and I told her I had only been with my mother for a few minutes, and she has taken care of me all of my life. Why should I take her to Midland House? Her reply was, “you want her to get well, don’t you?” And I said, “of course.” She then said “call the ambulance. The nurses will insist that she do whatever she can for herself even if it is just pulling a sheet up a bit.”

I saw my mother carried into Midland House, still unconscious and unable to move. Six weeks later she walked out of there completely healed and ready to move with us the following week to New Jersey. My mother lived with us for about four months. Then she announced she was ready to have her own apartment. For several years she lived on her own and drove the children to school, piano lessons, and sports events. She took three different trips abroad with a school teacher from our Morristown church, who loved my mother’s company. They traveled around on a Eurail pass visiting different countries where the teacher could practice her language skills. When my mother was at home in New Jersey, she was a member of a choral group, served in our reading room, and was a member of the senior citizens group who took interesting trips about the state and into New York to shows and museums.

During this time I went into the practice and once a week went in to New York where I shared an office with other practitioners across the street from Grand Central Station. On those days when I wasn’t home, she picked up the children from school and drove them to their activities. How grateful I am that the teacher I called insisted that my mother be taken to Midland House, only to see her walk out unaided six weeks later!

There are two prayers that we as Christian Scientists are to pray daily. The word affections has a prominent place in both of them. First in the Lord’s Prayer’s Spiritual Interpretation in Science and Health, we pray, “feed the famished affections.”

Then we learn from the Manual of the Mother Church that we are to pray daily, “Thy kingdom come; let the reign of divine Truth, Life and Love be established in me; and rule out of me all sin.”

Here again! What is to be in us is divine Love, and what is to go out of us is all sin. Love reigns in us, and what goes out of us when we pray that way? All thought of sickness and abnormality, all infirmity, all weakness, go out of thought, and consequently, out go the false beliefs of incapacity of any sort.

Let us be sure to check our affections to see if they are not famished but well nourished through inspired prayer. Then our innermost feelings grow spiritual, and we are fed with divine Love. When our affections are spiritualized, we go forward with the facts of present and eternal perfection. Our realization of the presence of divine Mind's Christly presence is now within us, and we are out of the range of mortal mind's attempts to keep us in despair. They disappear. God guides us in what we choose to do for our health and well being. So if divine Mind guides us to enter into Desert View, we know it is a right idea. We will be blessed for listening to Mind's direction both going in and coming out. We are blessed, renewed, and rejoicing in God's provision for immediate and lasting health and happiness.

God's provision for immediate and lasting health and happiness is available to all who seek this guidance and protection. Material symptoms never tell us anything about our condition nor can they interfere with the activity of Life. We can rejoice in the face of disturbing sense testimony when we hold firmly in though the reality of God's omnipotence and omnipresence.

In preparing for this address, I found that many of our hymns have come to mind to affirm where we are at all times. You are familiar with them as well. For example:

"In heavenly Love abiding, no change my heart shall fear . . ." (Hymn 148)

"In God I find a precious gift that knows no fear no feud . . ." (Hymn 146)

"In Thee, O Spirit true and tender, I find my life as God's own child;" (Hymn 154)

Another one of our hymns has been helpful in thinking about getting out of troubling situations:

"Out of darkness, world enthralling, into Light, O hear it calling." (Hymn 84)

We can be sure that we are enlightened when we turn wholeheartedly to the Bible and our Leader's writings for guidance and inspiration. Frequently throughout the day I am conscious of Mrs. Eddy's comforting and healing admonition, "Mind is the source of all movement, and there is no inertia to retard or check its perpetual and harmonious action." (Science and Health p. 253).

Yes, divine Mind is the source of all movement in and out of discord, despair, and fear. God's plan is a plan of fulfillment and Christly direction which blots out all false beliefs, lifts thought from sickness to health, from abnormality to normality,

from error to Truth, and the body and experience respond to that state of thought inevitably.

Peter J. Henniker-Heaton in his book, *Jubilee and Other Poems*, wrote a poem about God's unerring direction, control, and harmony. It is entitled "My Father Worketh Hitherto," (p. 119) and it reads...

God has His plan and program for today, the day that He has made,
the master-plan conceived majestically, the smallest detail specified
and every detail good.

At first we may not see the workings plain,
The distant purpose that He sets in train to bless us in its season;
but we know God is at work.

And this we also know, that Love, intelligence, and power combine
to bring all things precisely into line.

God has His plan and program for today;
cause and effect in instant interplay
complete the purposes that He has willed;
hunger is satisfied and hope fulfilled.

Finding our God-endowed identity,
we lose alike self-love and self-ennui.
New talents, new capacities unfold,
as we upon the boundless basis build
of the one Mind that gives to every hour
purpose and zest and power.

God has his plan and program for today;
and even now we see with opened eye
the full achievement of man's destiny,
the unassailable fact of God and man
co-perfect since before the world began,
and still co-perfect in the eternal plan.

Founding our thought upon this rock,
we see today unfold in ordered harmony.

**This poem was published in the June 1944 issue of the The Christian Science Journal. The poem may be found at this link in JSH-Online: <http://journal.christianscience.com/issues/1944/6/62-6my-father-worketh-hitherto>*

Years ago, Peter addressed my husband's association. Having heard his wife, Rose, address mine the year before, I asked permission to attend his association. His wife had told us all about his marvelous healing that took 10 years. I didn't

want to close our talk today on “In and Out” to discourage anyone who has been studying and praying for what has seemed to be an eternity, to give in or give up.

Many of you are probably familiar with his healing which took 10 years during which World War II was going on, and England was under daily air raids. His wife, Rose, would open Science and Health and prop it up in front of him to study while she rode off on her bicycle to work. She told us she was always worried that they would have an attack, and he wouldn't be able to get down to their shelter in the basement. When he told about the experience at my husband's association, he said he was always concerned when Rose was home that if they had an attack, she would throw herself on top of him for his protection.

The complete healing came to Rose when after visiting their practitioner who said to her that “he'll be healed even if it takes 100 years.” She rode back to their flat, and the wheels of the bicycle seemed to be saying to her even if it takes 100 years. Well, it didn't take that long, but it did take 10 years!

And the Mother Church then asked them to come to Boston for him to work in the publishing society. Rose became First Reader and later on was on the Board of Lectureship.

Their departure from England was interesting. As they were boarding the ship to come to the United States, the purser asked Rose if they had a home in the United States?

Her reply was, “Yes, we have a home there, but we just haven't found a flat to put it in.” So where do you suppose they found their home? In London, it had been on the Thames; in Boston, on the Charles. In and out, they were always at home. So I will leave you with this thought. In heavenly Love abiding, no change our hearts shall fear! For safe is such confiding for nothing changes here. In or Out, we, too, are always at home in heavenly Love.