



Wellspring for Healing

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING CARE ENDOWMENT

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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A mother's love is powerful. It comforts, soothes, guides, nurtures, and heals. These mothering qualities come directly from God, our own Mother Love. We each receive God's mothering Love through countless avenues in our lives whether it is expressed through our own mother, a relative, friend, coworker, or passing stranger who shows us kindness. In *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy writes, "The nurse should be cheerful, orderly, punctual, patient, full of faith, —receptive to Truth and Love" (p. 395). In an article titled "A spiritual foundation for motherhood", in the August 10, 2015 issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*, Inge Schmidt writes about how she realized that the qualities of motherhood such as cheerfulness, patience, and receptivity, were similar to those expressed by Christian Science nurses. Inge goes on to talk about four ideas that stood out to her as she thought about the connections between nursing and motherhood.

One idea she had was that, "practical care is impelled by divine Love." When needs are met with efficiency, patience, and love, it clears thought for inspiration to come through. Just as a mother comforts her child and removes fear from the situation, a Christian Science nurse comforts through their care because it is an expression of Love. The nurse performs their duties in a way that encourages peace and progress, which leaves the patient's mind at ease to work on their spiritual growth.

Another idea that came to Inge about the connection between motherhood and nursing was that, "it's important to nurture an understanding of man's true identity." The discipline of vigilance in thought regarding man's true identity is so beneficial in caring for a patient or child. When a mother is seeing her child as wholly spiritual, good, and cared for by God, the child is protected more effectively than any physical protection could provide. Likewise, when a nurse's thought is focused on the highest understanding of man's spiritual nature as they enter the room of a patient, it provides an environment of thought that is conducive to progress and healing.

Another activity that connects nursing to motherhood is, "honoring man's innate ability to heal." A mother and a Christian Science nurse are expectant of good and of healing. They do not need to feel a personal responsibility for the well-being of their child or patient because they are secure in the knowledge that we each are created and maintained perfectly by God. This fact removes fear. I have found that when I am being cared for by someone who isn't afraid of whatever my circumstances may seem to be, it lessens my fear as well. A mother's confidence that all is well when a child takes a spill protects them from harm and a nurse's confidence in God's care for their patient makes way for Truth to shine through any situation.

Finally, another idea Inge explored was that, "the spiritual qualities that are a part of mothering or Christian Science nursing are innate to each one of us." Not only do we have

the innate ability to heal, we all naturally express God's motherhood. Maybe you have provided someone with loving, practical care, kept a good thought for them, or stood your ground in affirming their spiritual identity. That is mothering and that is nursing. These mothering qualities cannot go unexpressed because they are a part of God's infinite nature.

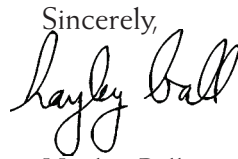
We have a wonderful opportunity to express the mothering that is innate to each of us though supporting the work of Christian Science nursing. The Christian Science Nursing Care Endowment has a mission to provide for patients needing help with the cost of Christian Science nursing care. In this way we can take one more fear out of the mind of patients and bring some peace of mind concerning financial means. Donations to the fund are carefully managed to protect the principle from market fluctuations and, to date, all donations have remained intact and have continually generated income to distribute.

Since 1997, the Endowment has provided \$1,919,016 in assistance money to qualified applicants and now has a total of \$3,244,636 in funding. I hope this holiday season that you'll join with other supporters in making a contribution to CSNCE and celebrate the fact that your donation will help us cover an even greater portion of the nursing care bills for those in need of mothering care.

In addition, there are several excellent websites we want to call your attention to that make it easier to find out about Christian Science Nursing Resources. One of these websites is csnresource.com. It provides valuable information on Christian Science Nursing Facilities, Christian Science Nurses, Independent Living, Assisted Living, Advanced Health Care directives, Financial Assistance, Information about Medicare, and selection of health insurance options.

Another website that has been in existence for a little over one year is the National Fund for Christian Science Nursing. This fund also supplies financial support for those who qualify and wish to receive Christian Science Nursing Care. The funds from this organization can be used together with funds from our endowment to cover more of the overall cost so we recommend you apply to both. Their website is nfcsn.org.

Finally, we have updated our website for the Christian Science Nursing Care Endowment so you can check it out at christiansciencenursingcare.org.

Sincerely,

Hayley Ball
Vice President