



Wellspring for Healing

# CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING CARE ENDOWMENT

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

November 2004

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Dear Friend,

In our annual letter this year, we have encouraging news to report, as well as a serious challenge that concerns all committed Christian Scientists in Southern California.

First, the encouraging news. Throughout the Movement in Southern California, and throughout the world as well, there are signs of increased valuing of Manual-provided Christian Science nursing care and caregivers. More organized support for nurses, nursing services, and nursing facilities serving the Field (what we call the Christian Science nursing care community) is developing in a variety of ways.

- Dedicated volunteers and professionals throughout Southern California are working together to consolidate support and sharing among the several Christian Science nursing facilities in our area.
- New ways are emerging to enable those seeking Christian Science care to connect more easily and quickly with nurses, nursing services, and nursing facilities.
- The Endowment continues to reach out with financial assistance to those who need nursing care but cannot afford it. \*\*
- Recruitment of nurses, who are now in short supply, is receiving new attention, and financial assistance for nurse training is increasing.
- Branch churches are expanding their efforts to help their members better understand and appreciate the opportunities Mary Baker Eddy provided all of us through the Manual provision for nursing.

All this work is encouraging, especially when we realize it is occurring only as the result of the Christ opening up thought – ours and others – to Love’s infinite blessings.

And now to the challenge. Many of us are coming to the realization that individual Christian Scientists are generally unaware of the full range of services of the care community. In addition, some Christian Scientists may not fully appreciate the immediacy, effectiveness, and economy of this loving professional care. The remarkable growth of material medicine’s reach, invasiveness and costs should help alert us all to the value of what we have in its stead. From the vantage point of the Endowment Board, however, we see much evidence that the Field needs to be more aware of the aggressive claims made by material medicine, and more actively appreciative and supportive of the work of the Christian Science nursing care community.

We at the Endowment, as well as many others working in the care community, are seeking ways to remedy this apparent lack of awareness and appreciation.

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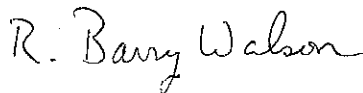
Here is one activity our Board has undertaken which we recommend to all who share our concerns. We have each been looking out for and then sharing with fellow Board members accounts of healing in the periodicals where the person healed mentions how the people and institutions of the care community supported them. In doing this, we have found ourselves slowing down as we read, often pausing, when the narrator mentions nurses and nursing institutions. At times the mention is only a sentence or two, but we find that as we ponder the events and ideas of the narrative and cherish that part of the story, however brief, our appreciation of the contribution and understanding of the nursing care community deepens.

The professional, loving support of the Christian Science nursing care community, no matter what form it took, did not just magically appear. It was available only because individuals with a calling to help and heal – Manual-provided Christian Science caregivers and those who support them – made a longstanding and dedicated effort to be fully prepared when the call came, when the individual needed it. We have found that the more fully we recognize and give gratitude for these individuals and institutions, the more direction and inspiration we have to advance our Endowment Board work.

We will continue to do this focused reading of the periodicals during the coming year, and would invite you to do the same. We are convinced that the more we value and are grateful for these contributions, the more we will be individually blessed, as will all those our thoughts rest upon.

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report to the Field. We would be happy to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

Sincerely yours,



Barry Walson, President

**\*\*Additional year-end information about the Endowment**

- During the six and a half years of its work, the Endowment has given close to \$500,000 in financial assistance to support nursing care in Southern California.
- 78 individuals have received this financial assistance.
- The principal of the Endowment is now close to \$1.69 million. All contributions have been added to the principal, and all expenditures have come from earnings.

The Endowment is not yet large enough to meet all the financial needs of those Christian Scientists who cannot pay for Christian Science nursing care because their personal resources are limited or their insurance does not cover it. Your contributions, which go directly into the endowment and remain there, support our efforts to ensure that our fellow Christian Scientists are not forced into medical care because of financial need, and that Christian Science nurses and nursing are supported.