

**Christian Science Nurse Service of New Hampshire  
Board Report  
Annual Meeting 2021**

**“How to gather, how to sow, how to feed thy sheep.”**

Several years ago, our Board gathered with a colleague from another organization to think about the future of our organization and Christian Science nursing in New Hampshire. After listening to some of our thoughts, she gently challenged us to view our work differently - she asked us to consider the answer to the following question:

*“What does the full demonstration of Christian Science nursing in New Hampshire look like?” – already and present tense – complete, whole*

Note that she did not say:

- “What would the full demonstration of Christian Science nursing in New Hampshire look like?” or;
- “What does the current demonstration of Christian Science nursing look like”? or;
- What do you think it should look like?

In strategic thinking all of these iterations are very normal ideas. Yet all of them include the assumption of incompleteness. It’s so common when talking about an organization today to discuss the need for additional resources, the need to grow, the need for constant improvement, strategies to acquire this or to divest that.

But this was not the model she was suggesting, was it? She very clearly asked: *“What does the full demonstration of Christian Science nursing in New Hampshire look like?”* Present tense... not future tense.

Her gentle challenge was to see the demonstration of Christian Science nursing in New Hampshire as it truly is... already complete, whole - not partial, not needing anything to be made whole, but as a complete spiritual expression of God’s infinite ever-present care for his family.

Her challenge has stayed with us over these past two years, and is becoming the cornerstone of how we metaphysically view our visiting nurse service. It has helped us realize we must more clearly see the spiritual ideas behind our Service

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that God had already built. As we've considered how to do this on a more consistent, practical basis, several key questions presented themselves:

- How do we dig deeper to see these spiritual ideas behind our visiting nurse service?
- How can we awaken thought to see more of what God has already created, as our colleague suggested?

About the time we started to consider these questions, The Principle Foundation sponsored an OPEN DOORS CONFERENCE titled: "FOLLOW THOU ME -> INSPIRED LEADERSHIP". One of the exercises was to take our Leader's answers to the question: "What is man?" on p 475 in Science & Health, and where the word man appears in the answer, to substitute the name of an organization. If you've never done this, it's a very interesting and thought-provoking exercise – well worth doing. Doing this for our visiting nurse service opened a new vista of new ideas.

Here are a few of my favorites – where needed I'll abbreviate our full name (Christian Science Nurse Service of New Hampshire) to CSNSNH to keep this simpler:

- *"CSNSNH is spiritual and perfect; and because it is spiritual and perfect it must be so understood in Christian Science."* (SH p475:11-13 to.)
- *"CSNSNH is the compound idea of God, including all right ideas"* (SH p475:14-15 to;).
- *"CSNSNH has not a single quality underived from Deity;"* (SH p475:19-20 to;).

We also found Mrs. Eddy's definition of Church (SH p. 583:12) offered us much to consider: ...Following the same premise of The Principle Foundation exercise, we found we could say that:

*"CSNSNH is built on the structure of Truth and Love; it rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle."*

We also realized that Christ Jesus certainly didn't stop to conduct any market research to identify the capacity of local bakers and fishermen before feeding the 5000. He knew that this need was already met. And he also knew there could be no limitation on this "full demonstration" from any human concerns regarding needed preparation time, limited serving space, limited finances purchase the

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food, limited wait staff, no event management expertise to manage such a large crowd – nothing could impede this immediate and “full demonstration” of infinite good.

All of this certainly helped to shift our perception in the right direction. And Mrs. Eddy is rather specific regarding what happens when our thought begins to lift: *“As mortals gain more correct views of God and man, multitudinous objects of creation, which before were invisible, will become visible. When we realize that Life is Spirit, never in nor of matter, this understanding will expand into self-completeness, finding all in God, good, and needing no other consciousness.”* (SH p. 264:13)

Wasn't this getting a little closer to what our colleague was suggesting? Wasn't our task not to identify and try to add what human sense was saying our visiting nurse service might need, but give thanks as Jesus did before feeding the 5000, and to know that *“multitudinous objects of creation, which before were invisible, will [now] become visible.* (SH p. 264:13-15)

And Mrs. Eddy adds this thought in S&H: *“Beyond the frail premises of human beliefs, above the loosening grasp of creeds, the demonstration of Christian Mind-healing stands a revealed and practical Science.”* (SH p. 98:15–18)

This kind of brings us back to the what “the full demonstration of Christian Science nursing in New Hampshire” might be, doesn't it? ... *a revealed and practical Science.*” Not something we have to invent, create, or acquire, but already exists, is perfect, and is already included in the constant unfolding of God's omnipresent good... that is available... and visible to all of us.

So, on a day-to-day basis why is this important to your visiting Christian Science nurse service? This past year has seen an unprecedented surge in our work levels and demands on our Christian Science nurse and organization. As Paula will discuss in greater detail in her Christian Science Nurse's report, growth in the number of cases, nursing time and travel time did not increase by 25% or 50% over this past year, but at rates far exceeding these levels.

And while demands for care have now returned to more historic levels, it became quite clear to that - after operating our service primarily with a volunteer board

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and one or two Christian Science nurses for over 25 years - we now need the capacity and skills of an employee-based staff to provide support for our nurses and leverage their capacity further. (I should add that we continue to actively seek a second Christian Science nurse to add to our nursing staff). And with more and more Christian Scientists choosing to live at home, the need to identify ways to offer some form of in-home care to complement and support our Christian Science nursing work has become even more important.

As our understanding regarding “what the full demonstration of Christian Science nursing in New Hampshire looks like” has grown, so has our realization that this is work for all of us. We invite you to join us in this demonstration, whether it be simply helping us identify fellow church members who may need assistance, to serving as a member of our board, to volunteering a particular skill you might have as “A Friend of CSNSNH” to including this full demonstration in your daily metaphysical work – there is much we can all do together. As St. Paul noted in Romans 8:28, For “... *we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*”

Each year at our annual meeting, we announce a new metaphysical theme for the next 12 months. Given the challenge to understand “what full demonstration of Christian Science nursing in New Hampshire looks like”, we selected the following verse from Mrs. Eddy’s poem “Feed My Sheep”.

“How to gather, how to sow, how to feed Thy sheep.”

I’ve always been fascinated by her subtle reminder that, in Science, we must first gather. Unlike the normal agrarian pattern of first sowing in order to reap and then feed – in Science we must first realize that all is already finished in Mind, before we will be able to sow with truth and feed his sheep.

It’s fair to say there is much on our table as we move further into the year. Yet it is also fair to say that much is beginning to unfold, and we remain very committed to prayerfully understanding and witnessing this full demonstration of Christian Science nursing in New Hampshire. As stated on page 519 in S&H: (SH p. 519:9–11) “*Thus the ideas of God in universal being are complete and forever*

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*expressed, for Science reveals infinity and the fatherhood and motherhood of Love.”*