

A More Expansive Love
Annual Meeting, Wide Horizon
October 11, 2008
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Recently I watched as two ospreys soared nearby – appearing to float effortlessly. Suddenly, one of them dove straight down. A few minutes later, he shot back up to cruising altitude, just as if he were a rocket! It occurred to me that his cruising altitude was ideal for his vision, which was geared to seeing from a distance. At ground level, he would not be as effective. I am a lot like that osprey. I need to stay at an altitude above “ground level thinking” to see things in a much bigger context. The wings of prayer propel me to where spiritual vision kicks in; I tackle what needs tackling, and then rise again to that altitude where I belong.

Here in Colorado you’re accustomed to the higher and wider views that one gets from a mountaintop! And this organization’s whole purpose is to remind us that higher, spiritual views and experiences are available here and now! That’s what the full range of services at Wide Horizon is all about!

At ground level we lose perspective, can’t see, aren’t as effective at accomplishing things, and it often looks as if issues are major problem. We debate, worry, take sides, and draw hard lines. I keep a Petosky stone (having 350 million year old fossils in it) on my desk to remind me to ask if the issues that seem so pressing today will still be around and important 350 million years from now. (My 149:22) We want to be able to “see London,” to stay at “cruising altitude,” to use our spiritual vision to see Wide Horizon, Christian Science, Christian Science nursing and practice, ourselves, and one another!

Through recent events in Houston – like a visit from Ike – we’ve been learning a lot. Like, what we MOST need is NOT clean water or electricity – not refrigeration or air conditioning (even in Houston!) or street lights! “What we MOST need is the prayer of fervent desire for growth in grace, expressed in patience, meekness, love, and good deeds” (S&H 4:3-5). Grace is a word that is often used to describe the largeness of God – the universality, impartiality, and greatness of His love – the fact that His All-goodness is constant, not fleeting or optional, and that it is not a response to our good behavior. Grace is a quality that that comes more clearly into focus when you think of related words in other languages: graze in Italian and gracias in Spanish mean “thanks,” and our English word “gratitude” comes from the same Latin root. The graces of Spirit – including patience, meekness, love and good deeds -- are the outpouring of a heart filled with appreciation for God’s infinite love, His superabundant goodness.

Calvin’s sister, who is single, adopted two children from Brazil a couple of years ago. Picture this: A 9 year old boy living on the streets of Recife Brazil; he’s never attended a day of school. And his 11 year old half-sister, living in an orphanage, who loves her brother and begins insisting that he be brought into the orphanage, as well. She insists so persistently that there is an article written about it, and he is finally brought in. Meanwhile, in Houston, Jane is praying to let her love bless two children, so she works with an adoption agency and after some dead ends, these two children appear on her radar and come into her life. That’s evidence of God’s grace! There are so many wonderful vignettes about this new family, but one of my favorites is of the three of them watching a movie snuggled with their new mom in Houston a week or so after arriving there, and the girl looks up at Jane and asks in Portuguese, “Mommy, is this what families do?” Yes, Julianna, and so much more, thanks to God’s grace expressed in the experience of us all.

I’ve learned in the past few weeks that **as we see this superabundance of love that God is always pouring out – not in dribbles, but in buckets!** (Did you ever think that “my cup runneth over” because it’s just too small!?) – as we see it, feel it, know it without a doubt, we just **can’t be anything but patient!** How could we ever be impatient, when we know and are realizing that God’s love fills all space? When we are in awe of God’s goodness, power, grace, it is impossible to be self-centered! Meekness is divinely natural, because spiritual awe and humility are one. As we grow in grace, outgrowing a focus on our own petty problems and rising to the osprey view, love is the outcome, and it is expressed as good deeds.

When people ask me what I do these days, I often say, **“I’m in the kingdom business!”** Christ Jesus has said that the **kingdom is at hand** and that it is **within us**. So this isn’t something we have to struggle for or about. It’s easy. There are directions in the lesson every week as to how to go about this kingdom business! This week the facts as to the kingdom are VERY clear, and the rules about doing business as a representative of this kingdom are abundant! I invite you to look for them each week and join me in this wonderfully profitable, steady business that has no ups and downs and is not dependent on anything but God’s forever goodness. Christian Science nurses are always about their Father’s business. And each one of us can engage in this joyous work and enjoy the fruition of laborers in this great harvest of blessings which is always at hand.

What I feel led to share with you today is not complicated. It’s in three parts which will be easy to recognize, but I’ll tell you as we begin each new section:

1. A few very simple things I do to help me find “cruising altitude” in the kingdom business and stay there!
2. Focus on Christian Science nursing and what it has to do with those simple things; why it’s so important that EACH ONE OF US appreciates, practices and utilizes it.
3. An experience Calvin and I had on the Isle of Skye last year.

Part 1. First, some simple things.

I’d never heard of Christian Science until I was 16, when I told a date about my private prayers; that I could identify with BIG things, like infinity, and that I felt that I was made of those things. He shared thoughts that blew me away. “God expresses in man the infinite idea, forever developing itself, rising higher and higher from a boundless basis.” “Man is the compound idea of God, including all right ideas.” This opened the door that ultimately led me here today. This is REALLY BIG news. Sometimes we have a very small conception of just how big it is. Don’t you love to consider that **“Man reflects infinity”!** And that **“All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation”!!!!** These are **BIG ideas that STRETCH thought**, as Mrs. Eddy says this Science does – making it more elastic!!!! (S&H, p. 128)

The Hebrew word for “salvation” literally means “to be broad; to become spacious; to enlarge; to bring into a large place”! And contrary to our popular belief, the word “mortal” came from a root that originally meant “limit.” “Mortal man” is just a limited view of the only man that is there; “mortal mind” is just a limited view of what Mind is, knows, and expresses; “mortal sense” is a limited sense of all that is forever NOW, at hand. Mrs. Eddy uses the word mortal to mean a limited or limiting sense. (S&H 255:11)

Dorothy Stoddard-Watson, who is a Christian Science teacher in England, studied linguistics before becoming a Christian Science. In a graduate level linguistics class, a professor off-handedly mentioned that the word “mortal” came from a root that originally meant “limit.” Like most of us, Mrs. Stoddard had pondered Mrs. Eddy’s use of the word “mortal,” taking as her starting point the Latin root which our dictionaries say means, “death.” But when she asked her professor what more he knew about the origin of the word “mortal,” this professor said that the derivation had been traced further back to reveal that the Latin root originally meant “limit,” or “boundary.” He said that as the Roman community was being established and Latin was being invented, a new word “morte” was used to describe the border of a property. Later this word, “morte,” was combined with the word “vita,” which meant “life,” and the compound word, “morte vita,” came to mean “the limit of life, or death.” Later, other words were used to indicate property boundaries and limits, and the “vita” was dropped from the phrase *morte vita*, so that *morte* alone came to mean death. But, originally, *morte* meant limit!

So...long story to explain what is a very helpful piece of information, which sheds light on the meaning of phrases such as “mortal man” and “mortal mind.” It helps us see even more clearly that mortality is not another creation at all. When you see that “mortal” means “limit or limited,” then it’s evident that mortal man is just a limited view of the only man that is there all along – “the full representation of Mind.” And “mortal mind” is just a limited view of what Mind is and knows and expresses. “Mortal sense” is a limited sense of all that is always, forever NOW, at hand.

That's exactly how Mrs. Eddy uses the word "mortal" – to mean a "limited" or "limiting" sense. She writes in *Science and Health* (255:11):

Mortal man has made a covenant with his eyes to belittle Deity with human conceptions. In league with material sense, **mortals** take **limited** views of all things. That God is corporeal or material, no man should affirm.

There is nothing limited or limiting about the only man there is – you and me – and we can demonstrate this RIGHT NOW! We are forever identified with God, with the fullness of His glory, the fullness of His blessing, the fullness of His promise and its fulfillment! "Man is the compound idea of God, including all right ideas!"

Small cage habit. Paul Stark Seeley ("Our Within is Our Without" CSS 2/24/1945), using an example of a bear in the city zoo, likens mortality to what's been called the "small-cage habit." He writes that the bear, "...though enclosed in an area where he had ample room to move about with considerable freedom, did not do so. Instead, visitors observed him taking a few steps forward and a few steps back, forward and back, hour after hour, indifferent to the freedom afforded him. When asked why the bear did this, his keeper replied: 'He has the small cage habit. He became so accustomed, when young and confined in a small cage, to the limitations it imposed on him that he has remained mentally bound by them, even though he is now physically free to move about in a larger space.' "

In the book *Flatland*, written during Mrs. Eddy's lifetime by a British mathematician, the people of Flatland are bound by mental concepts that keep them in imaginary fetters of their own making. (Sound familiar!? "Your decisions will master you, whichever direction they take." S&H 392:21). The editor remarks, "All of us are slaves to the prejudices of our own dimension." The main character learns of a much wider world of possibilities and endeavors to help others break through their limited perceptions but encounters resistance, incredulity, mockery, and persecution. Nevertheless, he cannot turn back. Someone just told me last night, "Once you've put the leaven in, you can't take it back out!" That's the kingdom business!

I tell someone every day, "You are not stuck!" The Revelator tells us (Rev. 3:8): "Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it." There is nothing limited about reality. It's BIG and we can experience it here and now. (S&H 265)

To help myself practice this, I highlight in the lesson each week BIG ideas – that stretch thought, make me use my elasticity, and call forth a larger demonstration.

- ☞ GREAT and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty...
- ☞ The GREAT spiritual fact must be brought out that man is, not shall be, perfect and immortal.
- ☞ I heard a GREAT voice out of heaven, saying, Behold...
- ☞ Truth is an alterative in the ENTIRE system...
- ☞ The basis of all health, sinlessness, and immortality is the GREAT fact that God is the only Mind...
- ☞ God is INFINITE, therefore ever present, and there is no other power nor presence.

Big ideas are often "absolute." My favorite definition of absolute is: not dependent on or modified or affected by circumstances or by anything outside itself; free from conditional limitation; operating or existing in full under all circumstances without variation or exception; independent of arbitrary standards of measurement; free from qualification; final and not liable to modification or termination; free from the variability and error natural to human perception and human ways of thinking.

As I read the Bible lesson, I take note of absolute statements, to which there are "**no exceptions!**" Words like **all, every, always, only, one, every, whatever, never, forever, and no.**

- To Truth there is NO error, -- ALL is Truth.
- Look unto me and be ye saved, ALL the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is NONE else.

- Bless the Lord, O my soul: and forget not ALL his benefits: who forgives ALL thine iniquities; who heals ALL thy diseases.
- His kingdom reigns over ALL.
- ALL that really exists is the divine Mind and its idea, and in this Mind the ENTIRE being is found harmonious and eternal.
- God, Spirit, is ALL, and there is NONE beside Him. There is NO disease.
- Truth is an alternative in the ENTIRE system, and can make it “EVERY whit WHOLE.”
- EVERY function of the real man is governed by the divine Mind.
- And God shall wipe away ALL tears from their eyes; and there shall be NO more death...neither shall there be ANY more pain. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make ALL things new.

This BIG sense of the **infinite** and **eternal**, the **universal, invariable, dependable,** and **true**, to which there are **no exceptions**, is to be **known and experienced here and now**. Everywhere and always, it is FOREVER present.

“**Universal Love** is the divine way in Christian Science.” This isn’t just a making ends meet kind of love. It is to be embraced, witnessed, loved and lived, individually, wherever we are, at every here and now of all eternity, no matter what the circumstance.

Christian Science is about **universal Love and individual demonstration**. It’s about rising, individually, to the practical realization of universal Love here and now. It’s not possible to practice Christian Science in “group think.” It doesn’t work to lean on one another. We lean individually on God. “To those leaning on the sustaining **infinite**, today is **big** with blessings.” When Mrs. Eddy first published “Feed My Sheep” in 1887, the first verse was in first person PLURAL (*Shepherd, show US how to go...We will listen for Thy voice...We will follow...*). The next time we see “Feed My Sheep” it is in first person singular. The structure of the church organization changed from a more democratic (we/us) structure to what someone has called “a democracy of prayer” – individual prayer and demonstration – “show me...”, “I will listen...lest my footsteps stray,” etc. (Man. 19:1)

I also highlight in one color God’s job description and in another color my job description. After laboring under a heavy sense of personal responsibility, it occurred to me that I was taking on God’s job, which made it hard to do my own. **God’s job:**

- ☞ He forgives all thine iniquities...heals all thy diseases...redeems thy life from destruction...crowns thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies
- ☞ I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand...I will help thee; I will make a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth
- ☞ He makes all that is made.
- ☞ As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
- ☞ God, Spirit, alone created all, and called it good.
- ☞ Divine Mind can and does destroy the false beliefs of pleasure, pain, or fear and all the sinful appetites of the human mind.
- ☞ Truth destroys falsity and error.
- ☞ Every function of the real man is governed by the divine Mind. The divine Mind that made man maintains His own image and likeness.
- ☞ He will swallow up death in victory...wipe away tears from off all faces...He will save us
- ☞ Truth, Life and Love save from sin, disease, and death.
- ☞ Truth works out the nothingness of error....
- ☞ The ministry of Truth, message from divine Love, carried John away in spirit and exalted him.

And here are a few aspects of my job description:

- ☞ **Bless the Lord, o my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.**
- ☞ On thee do I wait all the day.
- ☞ I shall be safe: **I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.**

- ☞ **Fear not.**
- ☞ Thou shalt **rejoice in the Lord**, and shalt **glory in the Holy One of Israel**.
- ☞ You can **discover the spiritual fact by reversing the material fable...**
- ☞ **Be astounded at the vigorous claims of evil and doubt them and no longer thing it natural to love sin and unnatural to forsake it – no longer imagine evil to be ever-present and good absent.**
- ☞ **Behold...**
- ☞ I will arise and go to my father!
- ☞ **Repent of sin and forsake the unreal...**to fully understand the unreality of evil.
- ☞ Conquer error by denying its verity.
- ☞ Touch the garment.
- ☞ Know the Truth! (and the Truth will make you free!)
- ☞ **Insist vehemently on the great fact which covers the whole ground, that God, Spirit, is all, and that there is none beside Him.**
- ☞ **Realize the presence of health and the fact of harmonious being, until the body corresponds with the normal conditions of health and harmony.**
- ☞ **Fear not: believe only.**
- ☞ Weep not.
- ☞ **I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name.**
- ☞ **We have waited for him; we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.**
- ☞ **Become conscious of the spiritual facts of being...**
- ☞ **Hold forever the consciousness of existence...give up material beliefs and admit immortal facts of being.**
- ☞ **Admit the facts of divine Science.**
- ☞ **Live and move and have our being in the infinite God!**

I also look for **specific statements that are addressed to or about me as an individual.**

- ☞ All that is within ME, bless His holy name.
- ☞ Bless the Lord, o MY soul...
- ☞ Show ME thy ways...teach ME thy paths...lead ME in thy truth and teach ME: for thou art the God of MY salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.
- ☞ If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning ...even there shall thy hand lead ME, and thy right hand shall hold ME.
- ☞ Teach ME thy statutes.
- ☞ Oh Lord, thou art MY God; I will exalt thee, I will praise Thy name...

MY individual realization of divine Love's presence and power, together with **MY** individual demonstration, are key. It's **my** privilege, **my opportunity**, a **promise to ME**. It's about working out **MY OWN** salvation, my understanding of omnipresent Love. Mrs. Eddy writes: "Let neither fear nor doubt overshadow YOUR clear sense and calm trust..." I can let that clear sense and calm trust, together with all right ideas, work together for good as my experience. As each one of us does this, it blesses – like leaven, light, or salt!

Part 2. Christian Science Nursing.

The By-law for the Christian Science nurse helps us awaken to: **universal Love** (the **BIGNESS** of God's love) and the **individual demonstration** (of who and what we are and forever shall be).

In an article entitled, "Mental Digestion" (My 229), Mrs. Eddy writes: "Notwithstanding the sacrilegious moth of time, eternity awaits our Church Manual, which will maintain its rank as in the past, **amid ministries aggressive and active**, and will stand when those have passed to rest." The *Manual* will maintain its rank throughout "eternity." This could qualify for my BIG list: It will stand the test forever! It could also qualify for my "no exceptions" list. But there's MORE! The article continues: "This church is impartial. Its rules apply not to one member only, but **to one and all equally**. Of this I am sure, that **each Rule and By-law in this Manual will increase the spirituality of him who obeys it, invigorate his capacity to heal the sick, to**

comfort such as mourn, and to awaken the sinner.” Aha! It also qualifies for “my job description” list: The rules and bylaws in the Manual are for **EVERY** member of The Mother Church – that means **ME**. Mrs. Eddy says **she is SURE** that “**each** bylaw” (“**no exceptions**”) will “increase the spirituality **of him who obeys it**, invigorate **his/her capacity** to heal the sick, raise the dead and comfort such as mourn”! That’s **individual demonstration!**

As far as I know, we’re all for increasing spirituality, being better healers and reflecting the Comforter more effectively in our experience! The bottom line is that there are spiritual demands in EVERY ONE of the bylaws, which increase our spirituality and put it to use. They have everything to do with our identity;

Spirituality is our very **identity**: “**sameness of essential character, even in different instances.**” I asked God to give me some examples that would illustrate this idea of **identity**. The first example an angel gave me was “hair”! Okay! You can cut it, color it, curl it, straighten it – but it stays hair! The next example was “a diamond”! A diamond’s **identity** remains the same whether it’s in the earth, being mined, or when it’s been cut and polished. Great! Then it came to me that **Jesus** knew without a doubt what could never change about him: his Christ-identity as the son of God. This enabled him to demonstrate love, peace, patience, purity, and dominion.

Both the noun and verb definitions for challenge include: “an order to halt and prove one’s identity.” Challenges aren’t bad things, they’re blessings. So the bylaws **challenge** us to **prove what we’re made of** – obedience, grace, love – and they remind us what our job description is! But what about this bylaw for “The Christian Science Nurse”? Some presume that “...eternity awaits our Church Manual” – with the decided exception of this Bylaw, which they believe will not be needed once we’ve reached perfection! Nursing is an aspect of reality. It’s forever. Just listen to how the dictionary defines the **verb, to nurse: to promote the growth, development, or progress of; to cause to develop; to hold in one’s heart or mind. Synonyms: CULTIVATE, NURTURE, FOSTER, CHERISH.**

It’s not possible to **practice Christian Science without nursing** – without cultivating, nurturing, cherishing, promoting progress, development (like a picture that’s already complete, just needs to be brought to light). Nursing is an aspect of all true being – of our identity. It’s forever. Every spiritual idea nurtures, blesses, promotes growth. It’s divinely natural and it ALWAYS accompanies reality, healing and growth. No exceptions! I challenge you to look for it and find it – all around you! Then appreciate it – and watch it bless you! Wherever there’s healing, there’s nursing. I’ve noticed that Jesus’ healing work was always accompanied by this BIG sense of nursing – as well as the practical manifestation of it. I find it hard to draw a hard line between Christian Science nursing and spiritual healing. It’s **all the practice of Christian Science**; it’s all the reflection of divine Love! No exceptions!!

Mrs. Eddy opens her chapter on “Christian Science Practice” with six pages of discussion about this big concept of nursing as the essential foundation for one’s healing practice. Nursing qualities (“aids in sickness” in the marginal heading) are cheerful, orderly, punctual, patient, full of faith, receptive to Truth and Love, which involve the practice of Christian Science.

Be alert about the world’s concept of “care.” From the dictionary: **care** Function: *noun*. Etymology: Old High German **kara lament**, Latin **garrire to chatter, talk**, Greek **gērys voice**,

1: suffering of mind: GRIEF, SORROW

2 a: a burdened or disquieted state of blended preoccupation, uncertainty, apprehension or fear, and consideration of expedients b: a cause for such state

3: ... attention accompanied by caution, pains, wariness, personal interest, or responsibility.

Synonyms: SOLICITUDE, CONCERN, WORRY, ANXIETY: care designates a troubled, preoccupied, or oppressed mental condition induced by responsibilities and duties or by doubts and apprehensions.

(S&H 248) So we must be alert to the imperfect model of care as an imposition, a fake concept of nursing. When we think of a nurse, we often think of someone who cares, who takes care of people! Who expresses a caring approach! Remember Jesus saying of Martha that she was “careful and troubled about many

things.” We need to be alert to what we mean by the word care, and how we use it. This helps us understand why Mrs. Eddy put the word “proper” in front of the word care in the bylaw for the Christian Science Nurse. As she urges us, we must identify the perfect model of Christian Science nursing in thought and then begin to practice it; this will help us understand the bylaw for the Christian Science nurse – a bylaw that she is sure will **increase our spirituality and** invigorate our capacity to heal the sick, among other things!

A perfect model would have to be **absolute – unconditional!** It would have to be pure. According to Webster, **pure** means: Free from dust, dirt, taint; Spotless, stainless; Absolute; Sheer; simple; complete; Faultless and uncontaminated; perfect; having an unmixed ancestry (straight from the Father-Mother, not Spirit AND matter); that which is the essential character of a thing (IDENTITY!!!!); unmixed, undiminished; unchanged.

So, what IS the sheer, simple, essential, unmixed, and eternal character of Christian Science nursing? What will never change about it? Because nursing is to be around forever, throughout eternity, the demands on it must be spiritual, not merely material or physical. They are demands on our identity – that which never changes, remains the same, even in different situations.

Ralph Wagers used to say that, “The strategy of animal magnetism is to substitute the lesser for the greater and get us so involved in the lesser that we lose sight of the greater.” Isn’t this what Mrs. Eddy is saying in those paragraphs about perfect models? That the world is holding before our gaze models that would turn us away from the pure concept of anything? She’s told us this, but it’s up to ME to get it and to follow through with it in relation to Christian Science nursing; to see that Christian Science nursing is **NOT an accommodation, not a compromise, not a concession, and not merely a health care system**, but a **CALL to EACH member of The Mother Church to 1) learn to love like Gabriel! and to 2) learn to fight like Michael!**

As we do this, we aren’t “so heavenly minded that we’re no earthly good.” We shine forth as Love that is Life – a living love that is spiritual, prayerful. It heals. When you live it, stand back, because what happens is that it blows away false concepts of self and of labor and of care. It’s not about “taking care of another” until we get it right! It’s not about compensating for missing the mark and waiting it out until we awake to the realization of spiritual perfection. Because nursing is not a temporary thing! It’s not based in imperfection, neither does it condone imperfection. It’s forever. It springs directly from divine Love. It’s pure and perfect. It’s really about right identification of all being. So, Mrs. Eddy is giving us a heads up in the *Manual* Bylaw! It’s a ministry which every Christian Scientist should embrace and support! I am convinced that Mrs. Eddy gave it to us, at least in part, to call forth the remembrance and demonstration of who and what we are!!!!

Part 3. Our experience last year on the Isle of Skye.

Some Christian Scientists feel guilty or embarrassed about needing to call on the services of a Christian Science nurse. But that is an argument of the carnal mind, suggesting that calling on a nurse is admitting there is a problem. Hogwash! Calling on a Christian Science nurse is realizing that Mrs. Eddy has established a standard for those who are willing to be witnesses to the truth right where a lie is suggesting itself as legitimate. When the phone rings, the first thought of a Christian Science nurse is, “That’s a spiritual idea calling to be recognized!” And his/her work is to witness and verify that with each thought, word, and healing touch.

My husband and I had an experience on the Isle of Skye which has nudged open my understanding of Christian Science practice, including nursing, a bit more. We’d started at sea level and climbed several miles to see a beautiful rock formation called the Old Man of Storr. But as we climbed, the mist rolled in, and when we arrived at the Old Man, we couldn’t see him until we were right upon him, even though he is 50 meters (about 150 feet) of black basalt rock rising straight up out of the mountain. After stopping for a rest, we began our journey back down. Very soon we found ourselves at a fork in the way, and because we couldn’t see to move more than a foot or two ahead, we were totally disoriented. It was impossible to tell

what was up and what was down. There was very little hope that anyone else would decide to make the climb in this fog. But that's exactly what did happen. Out of the mist a young man appeared, as if it was broad daylight, and greeted us. He was able to help us determine which way to go, and down we went, with grateful hearts.

I'm sure you're seeing a connection between this and the allegorical "second account" of creation in Genesis! Following that magnificent vision of Mind's creation of man in His image and likeness, we read: "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them....But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground."

Everything is finished. Complete. Whole. Perfect. When we were up on Storr Mountain, nothing had changed. The path was still there, the Old Man of Storr was still there, the mountain was still there. Up was still up and down was still down. But we couldn't see any of it! In a mist, you just can't see what's there all along – what's already been created and is perfect (perfect God and perfect man), the spiritual kingdom that is "at hand," already complete, perfect, whole, abundant, etc. But just because you can't see it, doesn't mean it's not there. A Christian Science nurse is like that hiker who came along in the mist. We all need help navigating our way through what appears pretty foggy from time to time. (S&H 205:15). The mist is not personal. The mist didn't pick on us. It didn't come because we'd done anything wrong. It wasn't there because we were bad people.

Wide Horizon and the nurses here are working hard to be very familiar with the path, with what is always at hand. They are there because they love the mountain and the path. But it's not always easy. Even Christ Jesus asked for his disciples' support from time to time! "Can you not watch with me one hour?" The demands to watch and help one another actually lift us up – they are blessings, not burdens! "What blesses one, blesses all!" **NOT** what blesses one, burdens others, or what burdens one, blesses others!

I believe that you were brought here to be a part of something that is essential to the preservation of our church in this day and age. "Eternity awaits our Church Manual," and it is up to us to actively embrace and help other members actively embrace each and every bylaw, including Article VIII, Sect. 31, Christian Science Nurse. Our church needs us to do this. (Mis 127:1) (Mis 1:4)

As each of us demonstrates the truth that God expresses in man, the "...infinite idea, forever developing itself, broadening and rising higher and higher from a boundless basis," we will see this as a secure and ever-more expansive expression of Christian Science nursing in our midst.