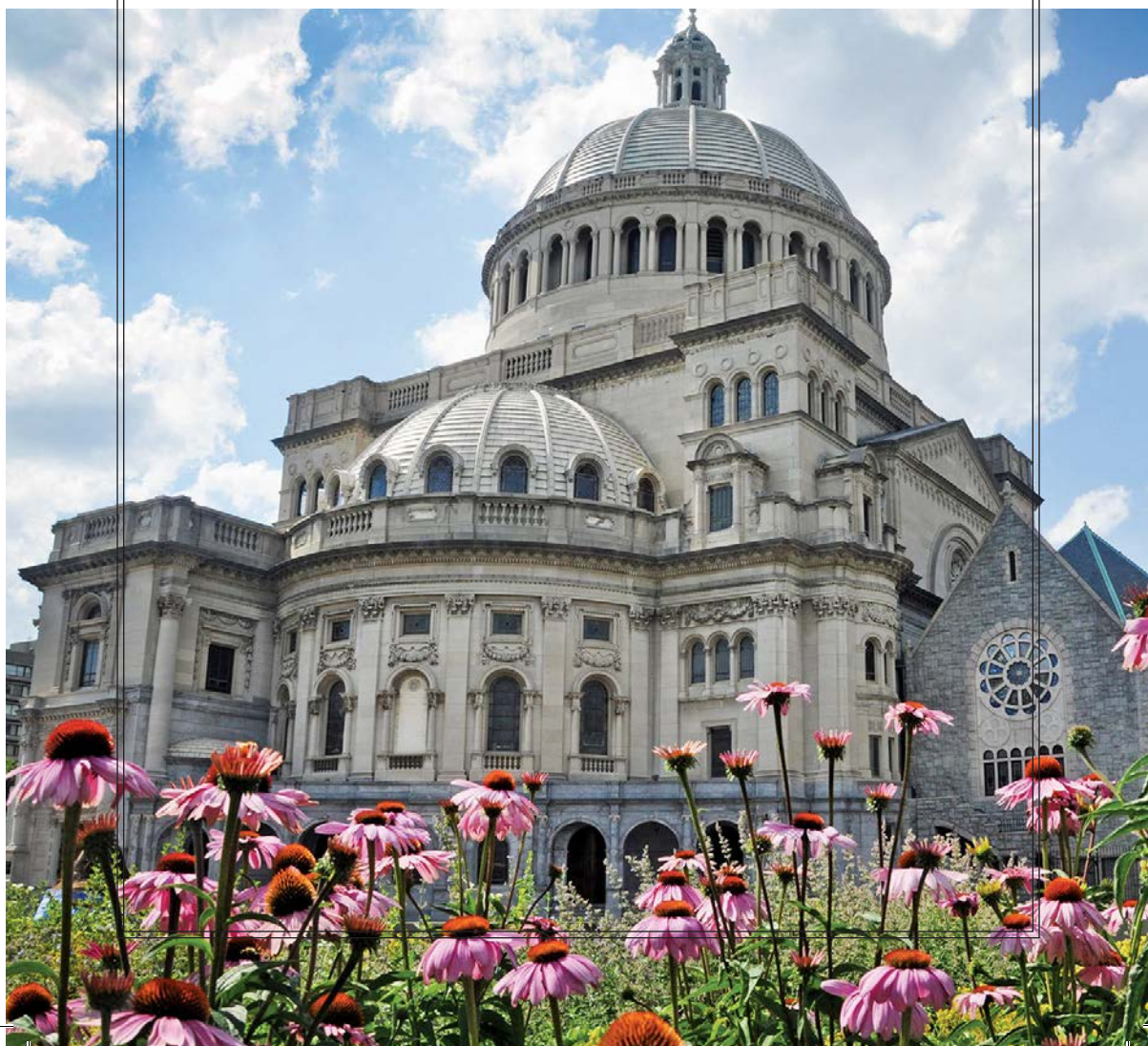


**‘A Spiritual Foundation
of Christ-healing’ —
The Annual Meeting of
The Mother Church, 2014**

Edited by ROSALIE E. DUNBAR



Dear Reader of the *Journal*,

You may be surprised to find that for the first time in several years, we are providing a close-to-complete text of this year's Annual Meeting. Because the theme, "A Spiritual Foundation of Christ-healing," (Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 136) and the content of the meeting are playing such a large part in setting the course for our Church in coming months, we thought all *Journal* readers might like to have it readily available in this compact format.

Through the prayer and efforts of many workers in the Field and at The Mother Church over the years, we have a lasting foundation to build on. And there was much spiritual building and good news to report at our meeting in 2014.

You'll find that the reports are much more than a required recounting; they are full of heart and spirit. The discussions, too, whether on *The Christian Science Monitor* or Christian Science nursing, point to the care the Comforter brings to a world in great need. They tell of living as Christian Scientists and what that means to a world crying out for peace, hope, and healing.

You'll read of some remarkable examples, and you'll notice as well a few pointed reminders. Self-sacrifice and fresh commitment are going to be needed now as we all gain increased awareness of the healing purpose that is the very life and vitality of this movement. As Mary Baker Eddy writes in her stirring words at the close of the message "'Choose Ye,'" on the occasion of the dedication of the Extension of The Mother Church, "Methinks this church is the one edifice on earth which most prefigures self-abnegation, hope, faith, love catching a glimpse of glory" (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 6).

Robin Hoagland, Lyle Young, Scott Preller,
Margaret Rogers, Allison W. Phinney

P. S. Let's devote ourselves to the work of fulfilling our Leader's vision for a healing church and then come together, both in Boston and online, to share the resulting fruitage and fellowship, love and unity, at Annual Meeting 2015.

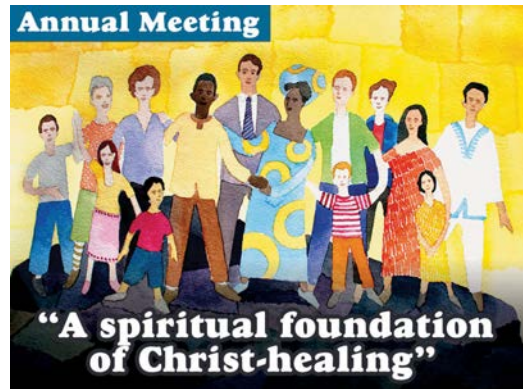
BEFORE ANNUAL MEETING STARTED, each of the Directors spoke from different parts of The Mother Church to set the metaphysical framework for Annual Meeting and its theme, “A Spiritual Foundation of Christ-healing.” Scott Preller began, speaking from the basement of the Original Mother Church, somewhere below the bell tower:

“When our church was first built, they had to drive huge wooden piles deep into the ground to ensure that our foundation was resting on solid material. Even today, workers at the Church have to tend to those piles to make sure they have a fresh stream of water covering them so they don’t deteriorate.

“The same is true of our Church’s spiritual foundation. We need a fresh and vital stream of healing to ensure that our Church and its spiritual foundation remain sound. That demands something more of all of us than just wishing we’d see more healing. It demands a deep devotion to the spirituality that brings about such healing. Wouldn’t it be remarkable if after Annual Meeting we all felt more than just that we’d heard inspiring reports, but that we felt the entire Church membership rededicating itself to more prayer and quiet listening with God, and an increased expectation of the healing results that would come from such prayer, to deeper study of our Pastor and to a profound and active love of God and our fellow man? Now, that’s a foundation worth building on!”

Inside the Original Edifice, Allison W. (“Skip”) Phinney spoke about the stained-glass window, “Window of the Open Book,” saying: “It gave me a tremendous feeling of awe at what had been set in motion

around the world by this one woman and this astonishing book. As I think about these two magnificent churches, this Original and the huge Extension, I realize that they were rising up, almost literally, from a spiritual foundation of Christ-healing. They were being impelled by an entirely new idea—the right idea of God—which was healing. People were tremendously grateful for these healings. They couldn’t wait to express their gratitude during Wednesday evening testimony meetings, and they also had a joy together in this discovery of the Science of Christ. When Mary Baker Eddy entered her church for the first time, she walked down this



aisle. She was moving toward the Readers' platform, and then something, to me, beautiful beyond words, happened. She went to the marble steps, and she knelt and prayed. It was tremendous humility. She, more than anyone else, knew where this had all come from, and she was thanking God. In every age and every place, it's the same God that uplifts and heals. It's unchanging Love—it's the sustaining infinite. It has the capacity to make all things new. Our Church grows because it is aligned with divine Principle, because it is impelled by God Himself."

Margaret Rogers spoke next: "That image of Mary Baker Eddy kneeling on the steps of the church in gratitude and humility before the great God is such a powerful statement of her leadership of the Christian Science movement. '[F]ollow your Leader only so far as she follows Christ' (*Message to The Mother Church for 1901*, p. 34), she told us. And she did follow Christ through constant self-renunciation and committing her life totally to this most radical Cause for freeing humanity from sin and suffering of every kind. I'm standing in the Board Room that was built in The Mother Church Extension, completed in 1906. You can almost imagine how those early Directors needed guidance as they thought about the forward movement of the Church. Naturally, they often asked Mary Baker Eddy for advice, but sometimes she declined to give it. She said she wanted them to learn to rely on the divine Mind, as she always had.

"We have many decisions to make here at The Mother Church, and in our branch churches around the world. There are new occasions. Humanity's thought is opening because of the leaven at work. We want to keep abreast of the times and also to meet new challenges, because in a materially scientific age there's an attempt to deny the possibility of Christian healing today. We're not alone. We have the Pastor she gave us—the Bible and *Science and Health*. These books contain every answer we need to learn how to be more effective healers in this age, and one of the chief lessons they teach is that to be a better healer, there needs to be more universal love. This Church is always looking outward to heal and bless the world."

Standing in the portico of The Mother Church, Lyle Young noted that from there it's possible to look outside and see the world. He said: "Although the headquarters of the Christian Science Church is here in Boston, the real center of this Church is your own heart. Thus, whether you're in Baguio City in the Philippines, in Boma, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, or in Kansas City here in the United States, it's your daily practice of Christian Science that constitutes the real essence of this Church. And everywhere

around the world where there are Christian Scientists, we're all members of this universal Church that's grounded in and advancing from a spiritual foundation of Christ-healing."

Robin Hoagland, the Chairman of the Christian Science Board of Directors, spoke from the auditorium of the Extension of The Mother Church and said that as majestic as the auditorium is: "of greatest importance every Sunday and Wednesday is what goes on right here and in every branch and society and group around the world, where we come together to participate in these healing services. Our Church was never designed to be an exercise in passive listening. It's where we feel the power of the Word, animating our hearts and activating our lives. We come to sing together, to pray together, to share with one another those experiences that have touched and transformed us. Each of us has a story of Christ-healing to inspire someone else. Each of us is making a difference. Just as in the early Christian Church with its few faithful followers, it's not the size of the congregation that changes the course of history—it's the spirit of it. Whenever we come together, we realize we're involved in a great movement of thought; we're part of a Cause—the Cause—that is bringing the hope and healing to humanity that it yearns for. This Christ-healing is the foundation of all that we are as a Church. It's the focus of today's Annual Meeting, where we'll be exploring more fully how it empowers us to care for one another, and to care for the world."

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the foundation of all that
we are as a Church.*

Robin formally introduced the officers of The Mother Church: Pastor Emeritus, Mary Baker Eddy; Lyle Young, who is also serving as Clerk; Lyon Osborn, Treasurer; Allison W. ("Skip") Phinney; Scott Preller; Margaret Rogers; First Reader, Judith Hardy Olson; Second Reader, Norm Bleichman; and the new President for the coming year, Linda Kohler.

Linda has been a Christian Science nurse for about 30 years, including service as a director of a nursing facility before working here at The Mother Church overseeing Christian Science Nursing Activities for the Field. In that capacity, she traveled the world, speaking to both those newly interested in, as well as those experienced in, Christian Science nursing. From 2011 to January of this year, she took those nursing qualities and her deep love for all the publications of our Church to her service as a trustee for The Christian Science Publishing Society.

Robin then turned the meeting over to Linda.

LINDA KOHLER: It is such an honor to be invited to serve this Church that I love so much, as President, but I feel that I'm sharing this honor with every Christian Science nurse.... And I know that I speak for every member of this Church in thanking our outgoing President, Bosede Bakarey, for serving so lovingly and prayerfully this past year. Bosede, your dedication to caring for others through your teaching, lecturing, and healing work, and especially your firm conviction in the truth, is an inspiration to me, and I'm sure it is to all of us.

Linda read these selections from the Bible, from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures and from Pulpit and Press by Mary Baker Eddy.

Exodus 15:26
Science and Health 135:26–2
Science and Health 138:18–22
Science and Health 366:30–9
Pulpit and Press 21:1–11
I John 3:18

This was followed by Silent Prayer and then the repetition of the Lord's Prayer. The singing of Hymn 299, Mary Baker Eddy's "Communion Hymn," followed. Via a video, Christian Scientists in Lagos, Nigeria, led the singing.

MOTHER CHURCH PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

After the hymn, Linda Kohler recognized the outgoing President of The Mother Church, Bosede Bakarey, who is from Nigeria.

LINDA KOHLER: We asked her if she would share a healing thought with us today. These are her words [which relate to the kidnapping of up to 300 girls by a terrorist group in Nigeria not long before Annual Meeting]: "No child of God is a captive or a captor, or is ever separated from Mother Love. We are a united church family praying for the freedom of these children, and everyone."

[Linda then began her remarks]: Christ-healing—when I read the gospel accounts of Jesus, I'm struck by how often Jesus talks about knowing where he came from, knowing that he came from God. It's a simple thing, but it's mentioned so often that I think it must be important. When we talk about Christ-healing, aren't we simply talking about the spiritual idea that comes from God? When we go to God in prayer, and in deep, humble listening

we feel this Christ-presence—something changes. A better understanding of God corrects a belief we were holding to, or our heart is softened by the touch of the Christ. This is the healing—Christ heals us. But it doesn't end there, because what we think will be manifested in some way in our lives.

In that sermon, “‘Choose Ye,’” which the Board invited us to study, Mary Baker Eddy speaks of Christian Science as “a persuasive animus, an unerring impetus, an ever-present help. Its presence is felt, for it acts and acts wisely, . . .” (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 3). It's this active, ever-present Christ that we're thinking about and focusing on today. And wouldn't you say that the best way, and really the only way to understand—really understand—Christ-healing, is to experience it? Our first report of the day illustrates this beautifully. (See Field Report: “Christian Science healed me,” p. 6.)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION REPORT

Linda Kohler then introduced Russ Gerber, Manager of Committees on Publication.

RUSS GERBER: Mary Baker Eddy was keenly aware of the world in which the healing mission of her Church was being fulfilled. It was a world in which she found extraordinary devotion to Christian Science, a world where many people were still unfamiliar with Christian Science, but also a world where impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science were becoming more aggressive. She noted in *Science and Health*, “The press unwittingly sends forth many sorrows and diseases among the human family” (p. 196). Today we're seeing the normalization of disease, but Committees on Publication are working to correct that. They're writing articles on health from the perspective of Christian Science, and they're being published in the media throughout the world, and it's beginning to bear fruit.

Russ mentioned three examples. One was from a Committee in Canada, who told of a woman who had read an article written by the Committee for the Village of Islington Times, and who had come to a Reading Room to talk about the ideas. In Germany, Michael Seek, Committee for Germany, attended a seminar titled “Young Doctors Describe the Patient of the Future,” and was well received. The third was from Mojisola Anjorin Solanke, the Committee in Nigeria (Western Region), who had a conversation with a workman who came to her office and saw copies of Science and Health, which he had already heard of and was eager to buy.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lyon Osborn, Treasurer of The Mother Church, began by alluding to Mary Baker Eddy's message "Choose Ye," which was written for the dedication of The Mother Church Extension.

In it, she acknowledged that the church building represented a remarkable demonstration of progress. But she didn't dwell on the material accomplishment or declare her mission complete. She used the occasion to call on members to strive even more to live Christian Science by loving God supremely and practicing the Golden Rule. As Treasurer, I see how you in the Field and employees here at The Mother Church are answering that call today. "Choose Ye" is packed with the moral and spiritual qualities required to follow Christ, such as meekness, patience, unselfishness, justice, generosity, fidelity.

It's clear from the notes many of you send in with your contributions that you are striving to live these qualities and demonstrate Christ-healing, and I wish each of you could work alongside the dedicated employees here at The Mother Church. They are making extraordinary strides and forwarding our Cause by reflecting and expressing Christly qualities. In fact, right in my own department I've seen remarkable progress this year—progress made by following the moral demands of Christian Science, progress supported by co-workers' patient encouragement and effective prayers.

FIELD REPORT: "CHRISTIAN SCIENCE HEALED ME"

Pam Herzer told of a time when she began to notice "very alarming symptoms" on her body, and was very fearful because some family members had passed on with these symptoms. Although she had been a Christian Scientist for many years, she opted to go to a doctor, who told her that she had cancer. During the two weeks between the end of radiation treatment and her doctor strongly encouraging her to start chemotherapy right away, she returned to studying Christian

Science and reading the Bible Lesson. She did not have chemotherapy. Besides studying, she had help from her Christian Science teacher and "other wonderful practitioners and teachers."

Six months later, there seemed to be a severe setback, and her husband brought her back to the hospital. Although the doctor told her the condition would probably need to be treated many times, she felt sure there would be a breakthrough, left the hospital, and kept praying. One

An example was successfully moving to new accounting software. During this major project, we were led to streamline and standardize many of our financial practices. One adjustment was shifting the Church's fiscal year, which is our accounting or budget year, back one month so that it ends in March instead of April. Before Robin shares the financial numbers that the *Manual* requires the Directors to report at Annual Meeting, I want to point out that because of this one-time shift, our last fiscal year covered an 11-month period instead of the typical 12.

Robin Hoagland gave the financial state of the Church: The amount of funds the Church has on hand is \$713 million. The Church has no indebtedness. The amount of expenditures for the 11-month fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2014, was \$80 million, and for comparison to prior years, the Church would have spent \$86 million in the 12-month period ending April 30, 2014. So, Lyon, how should we think about those numbers?

LYON OSBORN: The numbers reflect investment gains, responsible Church spending, your generous donations, and significant estate gifts from prior generations. These are all contributing to a sound financial position today, but the Directors have taken this opportunity to set aside some of these resources to provide for future needs of the movement, and it seems wise to do so until there is steady growth in active Church membership. Healing is the key to that growth, and each of you contributes to that with your own practice.

day after her children went off to school, she prayed deeply, saying, "Father-Mother God, I am done with this."

She was letting go of all other thoughts to be able to receive what God was saying. She says: "In that moment, I literally felt a beautiful light veil on my face, and it's almost like I walked from one room to the next in thought. This veil just gently touched my face, and when it had come off my face, I was standing in the presence of God. It was

the most beautiful Love I'd ever known.

"In the next three weeks following that beautiful moment, I started eating normally and putting on weight again—a normal weight—and I never looked to the body, ever again." About three or four weeks later, she ran into one of the doctors on her case, who seemed surprised to see that she was still alive. She responded, "Yes, Christian Science healed me."

At the end of “‘Choose Ye’” Mrs. Eddy thanked the membership for “dexterously and wisely” providing for The Mother Church. Like those who contributed to build the Extension, you are providing for our Church today. Your generosity reflects the same progress, unity, and love that impressed and encouraged Mrs. Eddy when the Extension was dedicated. Please know that your Church treasures you and supports your practice of Christian Science, and there is no stronger foundation for our Church to build on than demonstrating Christ-healing for the world.

DEMONSTRATING CHRIST-HEALING

ROBIN HOAGLAND: Each of the reports we’ve heard so far, from Pam, Russ, and Lyon, highlights the Christ-healing so central to our Church’s mission. The healing of disease, presenting to the public what constitutes true health, recognizing that our individual practice of Christian Science comprises the real wealth of our Church. All of this impels us to ask, “How can you and I be better healers? How can we see more healing in our own lives and in the world around us?”

We’re going to dive deeper into those questions by exploring how two *Manual*-based activities, Christian Science nursing and *The Christian Science Monitor*, strengthen and expand the daily practice of every member. Let’s begin by considering how this ministry of spiritual healing can be thought of as having two posts: One is a practitioner, giving metaphysical treatment to a case; the other is a nurse, uplifting the patient’s ability to feel the healing touch of the Christ. Both turn to God to unfold the spiritual facts that break through the human picture of suffering and need. But to gain a better sense of how each of us fills the post of a Christian Science nurse, we’ll look to you, Linda, to forward this discussion.

LINDA KOHLER: I’m sitting here with a dear friend, Lynne Scheiern. Lynne is a long-time Christian Science nurse and nurse educator. You know, Lynne, we’ve shared so many times how when someone calls on a Christian Science nurse, aren’t they really calling on the Christ? And like the Christian Science practitioner and the patient, the Christian Science nurse is listening and praying, but particularly to know what they can say and do to help that patient feel the presence and care of divine Love right there with them.

LYNNE SCHEIERN: The word *nurse* means to nurture, and to nurture means to comfort, and that’s where the tangibleness comes in. Christian Science nurses are comforters.

LINDA KOHLER: Talk a little about discernment. You've mentioned to me several times that Jesus was particularly discerning.

LYNNE SCHEIERN: He was always discerning the patient's needs, and it was always to bring about healing in that individual's life. He reached people through divine Love, and Mrs. Eddy says, "If the Scientist reaches his patient through divine Love, the healing work will be accomplished at one visit, and the disease will vanish into its native nothingness like dew before the morning sunshine" (*Science and Health*, p. 365), and I saw proof of this in my Christian Science nursing practice.

I was called in to sit with a woman and to be with her. It appeared that she was passing on, and I knew that the practitioner was working and praying, and I was listening to know how, as a Christian Science nurse, to uplift the patient, to comfort her. I really prayed at that moment, "What can I do?" And the thought came to read "the scientific statement of being" (see *Science and Health*, p. 468), and so I read it aloud. Pretty soon I turned to her, and said, "Any time you want to join in, go ahead." By the time I did this the third time, I heard a faint voice reciting those words until it became stronger and stronger.

She went home three days later, and those challenges that brought her into the facility in the first place had vanished.

LINDA KOHLER: That listening—the practitioner was listening too, I'm sure.

LYNNE SCHEIERN: She was listening—I'm sure she was.

LINDA KOHLER: That's such a beautiful story, and every time I hear you tell it, I think about that place in Ecclesiastes where it says, "A threefold cord is not quickly broken" (4:12). So many times one individual praying alone with God experiences Christ-healing, or one individual calls on a Christian Science practitioner to pray with them, and there's a beautiful healing. Most of the time, that's really all that you need. But we have a provision in our *Church Manual* for the third cord in that threefold cord, and that's the Christian Science nurse.

If you need the skills of a Christian Science nurse to help minister to you and to care for you when you're not able to care for yourself at that moment, or if you just need someone by your side, a spiritual witness standing with you in the truth, and maybe standing day and night,

there is a provision in our Church for that. Why wouldn't we, at a time like that, want to call on the full strength of our Church and its healing ministries?

I was especially struck with what you said about listening. Talk a little more about the intuitive way a Christian Science nurse listens.

LYNNE SCHEIERN: As Christian Scientists we all pray every day to let that Mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus (see Philippians 2:5). Often, before a Christian Science nurse even enters into a room or goes out on a case, they're praying to let the Christ go before them. In a facility, you'll see them pause outside of a door before they go in, just to be sure that they are listening.

LINDA KOHLER: We have an illustration of that. A few weeks ago, I had a conversation via Skype with another Christian Science nurse. She's

FIELD REPORT: CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING IN ACTION

Ute Keller is a Christian Science nurse at a Christian Science nursing facility in Germany. One day she was asked how the facility could reach out to people and to have them understand the way the facility and its staff care one for another. She and this other person prayed about it, and she says she "became very aware that Christ is already communicating the idea to all people." A few days later, after attending a testimony meeting in the facility, which included readings from the Bible and *Science and Health* about Noah and the ark, she felt impelled to go for a walk, even though it was winter and very cold (10 degrees F.) with lots of snow on the ground. She passed a man, then went farther into the village, and all of a sudden felt she should go back.

So she obeyed, and when she saw him again, she realized he had no jacket and that he was wearing slippers in the snow. When he tried to cross the street, she saw "that he was walking quite unsafely."

She followed him and offered help, but he rejected her offer rather aggressively. She decided to step back humanly and not provoke him. She says: "As I stood there, the ideas from Noah and the ark came back; man being safe in the ark, cared for, guided, protected. The idea came to me to call the nearby big medical nursing facility. I did. I asked them if they were missing a guest; they said they didn't know." She told them what had happened, and where she was.

She went on praying, for herself, "feeling God's presence, God's

from Germany. Her name is Ute Keller, and her story illustrates this listening beautifully. (See Field Report: “Christian Science nursing in action,” below.)

LINDA KOHLER: Well, as Ute said, this is something that’s natural to any Christian Scientist. She wasn’t acting in her official capacity as a Christian Science nurse at that moment, but she was being what Mrs. Eddy expected a Christian Scientist to be.

LYNNE SCHEIERN: We all reflect the qualities of God and are able to express them. We all have that ability to nurse; we all have that ability to nurture.

LINDA KOHLER: And part of what guides us is the Golden Rule that Mrs. Eddy mentions several times in that sermon “‘Choose Ye.’” “Do unto others as we would have them do unto us” is a wonderful guide.

love, God’s guiding,” and following the man’s footprints in the snow. She found him in the forest, and he seemed more peaceful. She says: “I saw how God cares for man, and how He is always doing it, and that man has always been safe in His care. And these ideas this time impelled me to go closer to him, no more to stay back, and his whole attitude had changed. He was calm; he was kind; he was friendly.

“He said, ‘I just wanted to go home,’ and, of course, I just could honestly reply, ‘You know, you are at home. You are so safe in the ark; you are so cared by Love. God just embraces you and holds you.’” She could see that he was cold, and she gave him her jacket. He also had a wound on his back, but this quickly stopped bleeding.

They headed back to the town, and as they went, a car from the medical nursing facility approached them. The people in the car recognized the man and drove both of them back to the medical facility. Ute and the man explained what had happened. The people at the facility said that “it was like a miracle.” “They asked me if I am from the Christian Science nursing facility, and I said, ‘Yes, that’s where I work.’ ... And then we talked about prayer, and of course they had seen how practical prayer is, and that prayer does not mean to neglect anything, but that prayer is real efficient care.... I really feel we all can experience something like that, just by listening to God.”

LYNNE SCHEIERN: As Christian Scientists, we just won't see a wrong picture and do nothing about it. Sometimes it might be just healing our own thought about what's being presented to us. At other times, there might be ideas and inspirations that impel us to go further, just like with Ute. I think about the parable of the good Samaritan, and what a wonderful illustration that is for God's care for man (see Luke 10:25–37). This man didn't just say, "I love you," and go on his way. He got off his donkey; he helped the man; he cleansed his wounds; he took him to an inn, and he told the innkeeper, "If there's more, I'll pay you when I come through again," and that was just such a wonderful sense of giving that completeness to care, and the follow-through, which is so important.

LINDA KOHLER: I think one of the points we're really trying to make to everyone today is we are all nurses on some level, and we should never underestimate what a difference it can make—the little things that we may do or say—not just to someone's day, but to their life.

LYNNE SCHEIERN: I pray daily in my practice to be led to where it is I need to go. I was waiting for a plane, and I noticed a woman who was waiting as well. She was dressed in Muslim dress, and I thought that she would be someone really fun to talk to. As we were boarding the plane, I thought, "It would be great if our seating assignments were together," and they were! I saw that she was afraid of flying. I turned my thought to prayer and asked, "Father, what can I do to comfort her?"

The thought from a hymn came to mind. I knew she had a reverence for God, and I said, "I'm so grateful that God's 'everlasting arms of Love are beneath, around, above'" (John H. Macduff, *Christian Science Hymnal*, No. 53). She turned to me, and she said, "I like that!" We talked for two hours, and when we landed, she said, "That wasn't bad. I don't think I have to be afraid to fly anymore." So, that was a wonderful example of being where you need to be, listening, and being able to offer that comfort and that inspiration.

After the interview with Lynne, Linda announced Hymn 175, and said a group that gathered for a Church Alive Summit in the Midwestern United States would be accompanying the congregation via video.

LINDA KOHLER: We've just shared how a Christian Science nurse listens to know how to comfort a particular individual. *The Christian Science Monitor* represents the Word of God going forth to bring hope and healing to every corner of the globe. For this report, Margaret Rogers will speak

with three *Monitor* journalists about the spiritual foundation of their work and about how the *Monitor* is reaching the listening ear with Christ-healing.

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR'S ROLE

MARGARET ROGERS: It's been a real journey for me to think more about the similarities between Christian Science nursing for an individual and *The Christian Science Monitor's* role as a nurse for the world. The world very often resembles a sickroom, and it takes that same kind of practical wisdom and discernment to go into the world for the purpose of healing—the faith in good that can bring healing and progress to any situation. That really is the purpose that Mary Baker Eddy gave to *The Christian Science Monitor*. She said she named it “*Monitor*, to spread undivided the Science that operates unspent” (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 353). That's a sentence that takes some reflection.

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
MONITOR®

Three people who are very well qualified to talk about the meaning of the *Monitor* are Marshall Ingwerson, Editor; Cheryl Sullivan, National News Editor; and Clay Jones, Chief Editorial Writer. Collectively, they have about a hundred years of experience thinking about the *Monitor's* mission “to spread undivided the Science that operates unspent.” Marshall, why don't you tell us what you've seen about that purpose?

MARSHALL INGWERSON: Mrs. Eddy uses the term “Science,” especially with a capital “S,” to refer to the laws of God. Progress is a law of God; harmony is a law of God; justice and mercy are laws of God. We may not normally associate progress and harmony with the daily news, but, in fact, there is a lot of progress going on all the time in the world, whether it's safer highways here in the US, or falling teen pregnancy rates, or rising standards of living all over the globe. It's important to register this progress for a lot of reasons. One of them is that progress inspires hope. Progress builds confidence that healing happens and that more healing is possible, and it inspires further effort along those lines.

MARGARET ROGERS: That is important, and although Marshall, Cheryl, and Clay are working in staff positions here in Boston now, they all have had a lot of experience actually reporting on the ground. Cheryl, what's it like when the world looks very much like a sickroom, where progress is the farthest thing from your mind? How do you deal with that?

CHERYL SULLIVAN: I think sometimes the tendency is not even to want to engage with the news or to think about it. Even though I'm in the news business, a little more than a year ago now, the shooting of young students in Newtown, Connecticut, was such a mind-numbing thing to have happened that I was having trouble moving forward to do my job.

I handed off my duties to someone else and started to think, "OK, what to do here?" And the thought that presented itself was, "Send a reporter. That's what you do when news happens," and I thought, "This will be such a media circus. Is it really going to be healing, to send a reporter to be one of hundreds of reporters?" But it was an insistent idea. I moved forward with that. The only idea that I could hold on to during this time was, "We're sending somebody to bear witness to the Comforter in this community."

Reports would come in about grief and mourning and anger and fear and confusion, but the *Monitor* was going to bear witness to the Comforter. That was the law of God, the Science operating in that community that we were to testify to. When the story came in, it was full of tenderness. For me, it was like the light shining on the situation. I had hoped the Comforter would be there, and the writer's on-the-scene reporting validated all of that. It made crystal-clear the overriding sense that the Comforter was there. It snapped me out of the mesmerism, and I was able to go forward and address other things on that particular tragedy. I would also just put out that the *Monitor* was the only newspaper there with the intent to see the Comforter at work. So that's what part of "spreading undivided the Science" means on a daily basis.

MARGARET ROGERS: Clay, I know you've seen that around the world, too—that the Comforter's not just what we're taking in, but that it's already there.

CLAY JONES: Readers of the *Monitor* can join with reporters in discerning the spiritual reality in the human condition. The *Monitor* offers a unique position in the media environment today to look at the spiritual reality in a situation, and Cheryl just gave a good example of that. It requires a lot of special reporting, and I think that readers can open their thinking to include the *Monitor's* work and help reporters know that the truth will come out.

I'll give one example of that. I was in the Philippines when there was a democratic revolution. The dictator at the time, Ferdinand Marcos, was on his last legs, and there were some soldiers who had holed up in a fort

on behalf of democracy. They were surrounded by civilians. Ferdinand Marcos sent a military unit of tanks to attack these soldiers.

I happened to be walking up the boulevard where these tanks were coming down. I was the only person there, and I realized that there had to be one Mind here, one Principle and Love that united the people. There were some universal ideals at work, and I began to talk to each of the commanders of the tanks, just to ask them what they were doing and to open their thought a little bit.

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They took a right turn down a boulevard and were stopped by a Volkswagen “bug” parked there. In the five minutes they fumbled to try to move the car, thousands of civilians came down and surrounded them. These Marines retreated into a field, and at that moment, the commander didn’t know what to do. Out of the crowd came one civilian who walked up and hugged the commander, and I found out later he was a classmate from the military academy.

At that point, the commander ordered a retreat; the Philippines became democratic; this people-power revolution spread widely. Taiwan became democratic the next year, then South Korea. Burma began its democratic revolution; a few years later Indonesia; and on and on. So I saw in action the Principle and Love that can act right there and can be available to anyone.

MARGARET ROGERS: When you told me that story a while back, you mentioned that you were actually thinking about *Monitor* readers at one point, and what they would want to know.

CLAY JONES: *Monitor* reporters work for our readers, and our core readers are Christian Scientists. It’s helpful in the daily practice for Christian Scientists to know what the spiritual reality is. The *Monitor* doesn’t need to provide a catalog of errors. It provides Christian Scientists an opportunity to open their universe wider, beyond their daily life, and take in humanity. As a reporter for the *Monitor*, I’ve had many occasions where I’ve had to apply that. I share that with the readers through journalism, and it has a leavening effect wherever it goes.

MARGARET ROGERS: I know your regular readers anyway appreciate that the *Monitor*’s there bearing witness to the good. Why is the *Monitor* so essential to our successful healing practice?

MARSHALL INGWERSON: To expand on Clay's last point just a little bit, the *Monitor* has a distinct way of looking at who the reader is. The reader is somebody who cares, who wants to think constructively and to have a positive impact in the world. They want to see the laws of God in operation. I think that's a starting point when you're reporting and when you're editing. It's how you think about the reader, and that's one difference the *Monitor* has.

The *Monitor's* mission is also to bless all mankind, and you can't bless all mankind without each and every one of us also blessing ourselves. The way that you deal with the problems of the world is connected to the way you deal with your own problems. Ultimately, we don't pray about "me," "ourselves," and then pray about "them." Ultimately, we're praying about us. There's a dissolving of the boundaries around self, and we are truly loving our neighbors as ourselves.

I'll give you just a modest illustration of that from my own life. I was reading a Washington story, and in this country our political culture feels very dysfunctional and ineffective. Similar things are true in many countries and take different forms. Here, it often seems like, as fine as many of the people

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in Washington are, there's a culture where everyone assumes the worst about others' motives, and people behave accordingly.

Instead of shaking my head in dismay, I asked myself, "Do I recognize any of these tendencies in my own thought?" And I did! I think the core issue in looking at both my own thought as well as Washington, was the fear that Truth and Principle may not prevail. So, to make sure in my own thought that I was understanding that Truth and Principle *will* prevail, and behaving on that basis, I found that it was not only really healthy on a personal level, but I looked at the Washington political culture in a different way as well. The problems seemed less impressive. I was seeing them through a different lens. So, that's a small example of the continuum where the "me" and the "them" become an "us."

CLAY JONES: I think Christian Scientists can participate in the *Monitor* news by seeing that there are more universal aspects to the news. A good example is the number of protests there have been around the world in the last few years: Turkey, Brazil, the Arab Spring, India, almost every day in China. There's a common thread to these, and that is people are

angry about corruption, but underneath that, the spiritual reality is that people want honesty and transparency in their lives and in their leaders. And the *Monitor* can offer an opportunity for Christian Scientists to pray for that spiritual truth.

CHERYL SULLIVAN: Going back to “spread undivided the Science that operates unspent,” I’d thought of it as the *Monitor* doing the spreading, but I’ve come to see it a little differently now. Yes, the reporters go in; they write what is on the ground, adhering to the underlying spiritual reality to inform how they write their stories; but the mission of the *Monitor*, that object “to spread undivided,” is a two-way street with us and the Christian Science Field because they are the ones who know how to pray effectively for whatever the world needs. We put out 35 or 40 pieces a day for them to consider, but the spreading undivided is the *Monitor* and Field, *not divided*, spreading “the Science that operates unspent.”

MARGARET ROGERS: That’s a great way to think about it. Certainly, I know the Field thanks the *Monitor* every day for what it brings to their own practice of healing, and the *Monitor* wants to thank you for what you do to join with the *Monitor*’s mission.

CLERK’S REPORT

LYLE YOUNG: This part of the meeting is the Clerk’s Report, and to constitute the Clerk’s Report, I’d like to give us all an opportunity to listen to some of the thoughts and observations of the full Board of Directors. But first, on behalf of all of the members of The Mother Church around the world, I’d like to say to the new members, those who just joined on Friday, “Welcome!” We’re so happy that you’ve joined; we’re so appreciative of you; we’re so appreciative of all the members of The Mother Church.

Second, we wanted to let you know that Annual Meeting 2015 will be viewable on the Internet, but you also can come and listen to the reports here at The Mother Church in Boston. We will welcome you with open arms.

So far in the meeting we’ve talked about the spiritual foundation of Christ-healing; we’ve considered together some of the ideas from that profound article, “‘Choose Ye.’” We invite you to continue to study that article this year. We’ve heard as well about the importance of each of us cultivating the qualities of the Christian Science nurse in our own daily practice of Christian Science, and in that way to be blessing our families, our com-

munities, and our branch churches—really blessing the whole world. And speaking of the whole world, we’ve just heard about the importance of embracing the whole world in our prayers in order to be practicing Christian Science fully. *The Christian Science Monitor* helps us do just that. But as you’ll all recall, we started this meeting with Scott down in the basement, inviting us to consider the spiritual foundation of this Church.

SCOTT PRELLER: It’s nice to have that image to remind us just how vitally important a solid foundation is to our Church, but I know the question that the Directors have been wrestling with is “How do we make sure that this year’s theme, ‘A Spiritual Foundation of Christ-healing,’ doesn’t become just a nice image that we think about today, and then tomorrow it’s on to business as usual? How do we as a Church make sure that this represents a rededication to what we’re all about as a Church—healing?”

It seems to me that the only way to answer that is how each one of us as members of this Church responds to that article that Mrs. Eddy gave us, “‘Choose Ye.’” When she provided that message at the dedication of the Extension, it was a pretty heady time for Christian Scientists. There was this beautiful new church, a fast-growing religion, but it seems to me part of what she was saying is, “Don’t let all that attention go to your head. Stay focused on what really matters—on God’s allness, living the Golden Rule, healing.”

Today in 2014, it can be tempting to feel like the mental atmosphere surrounding not just Christian Science but religion in general is much more one of decline and doubt, and it seems to me that Mrs. Eddy is saying to us today, “Don’t you let all that doom and gloom go to your heart. Stay focused on what really matters—God’s allness, on living the Golden Rule, and on healing.”

One of the things that I’ve been finding helpful to think about—that response to “‘Choose Ye’”—is a little image that’s a target. I was thinking of the outer ring of the target as the “what questions.” If somebody says, “What faith are you?” or “What do you do for a living?” you might say, “I’m a Christian Scientist,” or “I’m a practitioner of Christian Science healing.” But thinking about it at that level is not going very deep—it’s informative but it’s not going to light the fires of the Holy Ghost in my neighbor.

So we need to go closer in, and I think of the next ring in as what I’ll call the “how questions.” “How do you practice that healing?” If our

answer is just, “We do a lot of studying; we go to church; we pray a lot,” that can feel kind of mechanical. So we need to get to that “bull’s-eye question,” and, to me, the “bull’s-eye question” is, “Why are we Christian Scientists?”

We’re Christian Scientists because we understand that Mary Baker Eddy made a world-changing discovery about the nature of being. She discovered that “all is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation . . .” (*Science and Health*, p. 468). That means that as members of this Church, we see in advance of others that the good Jesus demonstrated in his healing ministry is available to us today to apply and practice, and that response makes all the difference. If when we’re going about our activities in church and in our own practice and we’re really feeling animated by that “why question,” that sense of “there’s been this discovery and that changes all the rules,” then we don’t go to church just because it’s time to go. We go because we’re so eager to hear what others have discovered and how they’re applying this, and we go so eager to share from our hearts what we’ve learned. Then the opportunities and possibilities of seeing how our churches are healing our communities are off the charts.

SKIP PHINNEY: When the Board was first discussing the Annual Meeting theme, along came the question, “Is there something we could suggest that people study that would be helpful?” I think we all felt this profound piece of writing “Choose Ye” by Mrs. Eddy would be a good starting point. The more that we dug into it, the more we saw that it was not just useful, it was pivotal, because Mrs. Eddy was seeing, I think, that there was a choice to be made by this Cause and this movement that she had founded in order to go forward with healing. For some time prior to 1906 when the message was written, she had been concerned with too many words and not enough works, and she kept saying that in pretty blunt terms to the movement.

She was realizing, I think, not only that people shouldn’t be overly impressed with the new and wonderful church edifice, but that they needed to get to the heart of the matter—they needed to choose between thinking of themselves as being helped by Christian Science within a human sense of existence and the actual revelation that she had had—the allness of God.

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There's a long sentence in "'Choose Ye,'" which begins, "Wholly apart from this mortal dream, this illusion and delusion of sense, Christian Science comes to reveal man as God's image, His idea, coexistent with Him—God giving all and man having all that God gives" (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 5). And she realized, I think, that for us to keep moving forward, we had to find this new way to think—not be using it ourselves, but finding out how God uses us.

LYLE YOUNG: In the Gospel of John, after the resurrection and after the disciples had already seen Jesus, Peter in effect said, "I'm going fishing; anybody care to join me?" (see John, chap. 21). And they did, but they were called back. First, that night they didn't catch anything, so it was kind of a frustrating experience for them—that going back to a merely human sense of existence. Then Jesus called to them from shore, and they realized that there was no turning back. They were in a different mental universe, and that different mental universe meant that they had a power and a conviction that was going to be taking that Church forward, and it's the same graciousness of God that gives us that power and conviction today.

SKIP PHINNEY: And joy.

LYLE YOUNG: And joy.

ROBIN HOAGLAND: Also, we feel our heart burning within us, don't we? And that's really the Christ speaking to every one of us in every generation, and our response to that is to participate in this allness that we've been given. We've been talking about being "all in" for Christ, and I think so much about what we're doing is not individually, incrementally, adjusting our lives; it's, as you were saying, Lyle, recognizing something different has happened. We think more deeply about not just our own advancement, but about how the world is progressing, as we've heard with the *Monitor*, or how we touch individual lives with nursing. We begin to see that, as Mary Baker Eddy wrote to several members in a branch church, they were "an active portion of one stupendous whole" (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 165). And that's what we're really beginning to see, aren't we, that we are part of this wonderful wholeness of a movement that's moving forward based on healing.

SKIP PHINNEY: We often focus on "How much do I know? How much can I do? Can I really do what I'm called to do?" And yet, we find again

and again that, as Mrs. Eddy says, “We are all capable of more than we do” (*Science and Health*, p. 89) because we are moved forward by spiritual being, by spiritual sense, by the joy of this new universe that we are walking into.

SCOTT PRELLER: And the more we’re feeling that sense of what God is doing and that it’s taking us with it, the more we realize that all the things we thought we couldn’t do were never valid—they were an imposition that this rekindled sense of what’s possible can just lift off. We can do what we naturally do as a Church, and that’s heal.

MARGARET ROGERS: When we feel that maybe our heart isn’t burning within us or we’re assailed by a sense of our own inadequacy, it’s so important to remember that command of Jesus to “watch.” We do not have to get pulled down by darkness. Immediately recognize it. It is not legitimate. We are the children of the light, not just “we,” Christian Scientists—the children of God are children of light, and darkness does not creep into light. Light creeps into darkness. And to just stand up for who you are—I think Linda brought that out earlier when she said Jesus knew where he came from—we know where true individuality comes from; it comes from the divine. It is an expression of the divine, and the divinity that is the truth of each individual can be seen and expressed by us. And I know that we want to thank every one of you who has chosen the Science of being as your prize and that means, really, that you are chosen, that you have accepted this Science, and God is giving you everything you need to demonstrate it.

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LYLE YOUNG: And certainly the disciples had their struggles after Jesus. I’ve heard it said that Christian Scientists lift up the standard of instantaneous healing, but you know, I’d like to think of that standard of instantaneous healing as lifting Christian Scientists up. Why? Because as we yearn to show forth that standard, it does lift us up. It forces us to reexamine ourselves. It forces us to want to have that vigilance about which you’re talking. It forces us to want to express and embody more graciousness and more humility.

ROBIN HOAGLAND: I actually love that statement you used, Skip, that we *are* capable of more than we do. It’s an affirmation, a declaration; it’s our nature, and I think we are so reassured by one another to see this

is a natural foundation for our Church and that each one of us, by being a member, chooses this, and it's this choice that makes all the difference.

SCOTT PRELLER: I think one of the strongest impressions of being on the Board is seeing the dedication and conviction of what's possible among so many who are here serving at The Mother Church. I hope the Field's as grateful for those serving here as those serving here are grateful for those in the Field because it makes me think of Annual Meeting next year and coming together to share the fruits of the seeds planted today and how those are bearing fruits. Whether people gather in their churches and in their Reading Rooms to share and be part of next year's Annual Meeting or whether they come here, it'll be wonderful to go forward with this sense of really feeling "on fire" with what God is doing with us.

LYLE YOUNG: That's true. This is a lay church of healers, and that means we have an opportunity to support each other as we go forward as healers. I know this next year the Board is going to be giving a lot of thought and taking some steps to really support, even more, the individual member of this Church as a healer right where they are in their community.

The meeting concluded with silent prayer, followed by the Daily Prayer from the Church Manual spoken aloud. The President, Linda Kohler, gave the benediction:

LINDA KOHLER: "God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations" (Psalms 67:1, 2). Amen. ●

