

Twelveacres

The First and Final Answer

By Mark Fleming, Executive Director

“There are no problems, only opportunities!” was a maxim constantly proclaimed by my grandfather. He was an engineer who daily pursued solutions to workplace “opportunities.” Inspired by his approach, I adopted a “can do” spirit, both in my personal affairs and in business. As my understanding of Christian Science grew, I realized that my grandfather’s mantra not only applied to everyday challenges but also illuminate a spiritual truth.

Any challenges we face can be viewed as God’s opportunities for doing good! By humbly and faithfully relying only on God’s presence, power, intelligence, activity and grace, we can confidently overcome any problems we face—and counter the false beliefs associated with them.

Mary Baker Eddy used divinely inspired logic, reason, and revelation to solve challenges in her life and in her study and application of Christian Science. Heeding the commands and the example of the Way-shower, Christ Jesus, she proved man’s dominion over the false claims of matter, sin, disease and death. This passage in her textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* captures Mrs. Eddy’s approach to problem-solving: “The foundation of mortal discord is a false sense of man’s origin. To begin rightly is to end rightly. Every concept which seems to begin with the brain begins falsely. Divine Mind is the only cause or Principle of existence” (262:27–31).

At Twelveacres, we follow the Master Christian and our Leader in our own study and practice of Christian Science. We reject claims of developmental challenges and physical limitations, of heredity and aging, of behavioral and health challenges. Our prayers are based on the divine Principle of existence, which is elucidated by this sentence: “The Christlike understanding of scientific being and divine healing includes a perfect Principle and idea, — perfect God and perfect man, — as the basis of thought and demonstration” (SH 259:11).

The truth of “perfect God and perfect man” is the first and final answer to every problem our residents seem to face. When they find a new freedom, they are affirming that their full capabilities always existed and are simply being revealed now. These healings, rather than being a process of progressive steps, serve as proof that God has made our beloved residents already complete, always whole, forever free.

This spiritual viewpoint—seeing everyone as a perfect reflection of God’s infinite abilities—not only results in physical healings, but also applies to all aspects of Twelveacres’ operations and resident care. We are being led to make inspired adjustments that are benefitting all parts of the organization, including families and residents, staff, and external community stakeholders. It is a joy to share the inspiration, healings, and activities taking place at Twelveacres in this newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our mission and for joining us in acknowledging man’s full and infinite capacities.



“
The foundation of mortal discord is a false sense of man’s origin. To begin rightly is to end rightly.
”

SH 262:27–28



Don't Be Impressed

By Jeri Tippetts, Resident Life Facilitator

As a caregiver in a Christian Science home setting of adults with developmental challenges, I have learned so much about prayer. I thought that raising four children would have prepared me for this “mother”-type work; but my previous parenting, it turns out, had barely scratched the surface. I find that in this new post, constant correction of thought is required. One reason I tend to feel a responsibility for the residents well-being far beyond typical mothering is that it is not always evident to me when the residents are cognizant of my words or actions.

Mrs. Eddy's regular reference to and prayer that our Father-Mother God is always present has become one of the first ideas that comes to me as I know that each resident is parented (with all that entails) by Love. I am ever amazed and satisfied by the receptivity to the Christ, Truth, that each resident embodies without exception.

Here's an example: A sweet woman started a conversation with her practitioner by sobbing. As she listened to truths being voiced to her, the look on her face changed from distress to calm, then to joy—all within minutes. At other times, I notice that my heartfelt statements, “All is well, you are the loved child of Love, you are God's perfect child,” are immediately embraced with childlike acceptance. It is evident to me the resident is feeling God's near and dear presence.

One night, while working the night shift, a resident came to find me and cried that her stomach hurt. That could mean many things. But rather than try to figure out what kind of hurt she was experiencing, I got out that week's Bible Lesson and read to her. I then read some hymns to her. After that I prayed aloud all the truthful statements that came to me about this precious individual. At some point I ran out of words and was quiet. She took over the job and started repeating what I had declared (in her way) and added in her own statements of truth. Soon she was calm enough to return to her room. Before she went back to sleep, we prayed the Lord's Prayer. I then reminded her of her spiritual identity. Of her own accord, she went to her bookshelf and, although she does not read, pulled down *Science and Health* and started flipping through the pages. At the same time she repeated “the scientific statement of being” with some accuracy. (SH 468:8). I had to smile. The Christ was so evidently there with us, guiding both of us. She then got into her bed and slept peacefully the rest of the night.



Later, the next day, she again complained of physical discomfort. So, on her behalf, I called her practitioner, whom I had spoken with a couple of times before. This time, she demanded of me, “Don't be impressed by the matter picture!” Wow, that was a wakeup call. I thought I was working correctly, but now I realized that I had been waiting for matter to correct itself instead of already seeing the true identity of the individual. That was a turning point for me. I saw so clearly that I was feeling falsely responsible for this resident's physical well-being instead of truly knowing her perfect nature. The physical discomfort apparently vanished then and there. One great thing about the residents is that they don't hold on to error. They expect to be well! Sure enough, once the discomfort was gone, this dear one was immediately back to her spunky self. From this experience I learned much-needed lessons, for which I am grateful.



Join Our Matching Campaign

“Seeking his own in another’s good”



As part of the Twelveacres community, we value your active part in our mission to uplift thought and bring healing to individuals, communities, and the world. Our unique purpose provides support for adult Christian Scientists with developmental challenges as we foster a God-centered and thriving life for the residents and staff, Christian Science and Love being the foundation for our services. Every individual has daily opportunities to demonstrate their full abilities in a family home environment which includes 24/7 care and life-skills coaching. We see Love’s power expressed and are grateful for the commitment many have made to ensure the Twelveacres mission is accessible and realized. Love truly is being reflected in love.

To continue our mission and to help meet the financial needs to support the Twelveacres residents, we are pleased to announce the kickoff of a Twelveacres Matching Campaign themed, “Seeking his own in another’s good.” A group of donors have generously pledged \$100,000 to match all donations raised through November 2021 (or until the match is met). This matching fund provides an opportunity for individual campaign donations to be matched/doubled dollar-for-dollar with the goal of raising a total of \$200,000 to support Twelveacres.

To make a Matching Campaign donation please go to our website at twelveacres.org; click on the “Donate” button and submit a donation that will be matched. Donations can also be mailed using the enclosed envelope. For more information, contact Tim Ames, Twelveacres Donor Relations; 408-341-0400, x105 or tames@twelveacres.org.

**Help Us Raise
\$100,000.
Donations Will
Be Matched.**

“

*Love - What a word!
I am in awe before it.*

”

*Miscellaneous Writings
249:28*

“

*I make strong demands
on love, call for active
witnesses to prove it,
and noble sacrifices and
grand achievements as its
results.*

”

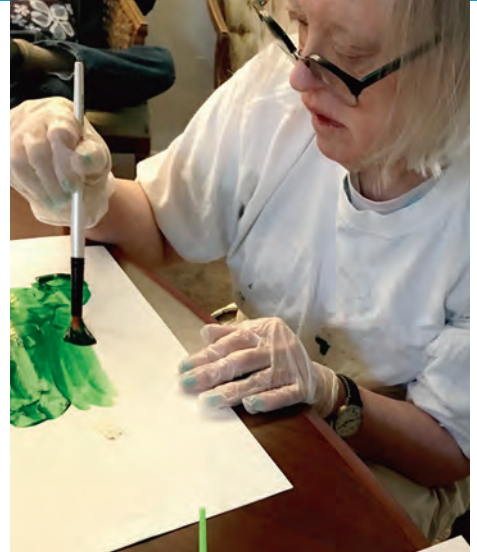
*Miscellaneous Writings
250:16–18*



Progress And Healing*

*Photos on this page are not attributed to the specific comments shared.

- ✓ In the past, a resident spent most of his time in his room, engaged in quiet activities and sometimes talking with an imaginary person. Now his horizons have expanded. He asks staff to go out to the backyard with him so he can do stretching exercises. He then goes in to the multipurpose room to exercise on the stationary bike. The staff has noticed that his conversations with the imaginary person have subsided.
- ✓ A resident complained about her teeth hurting. She had a hard time eating and sometimes refused to eat. Her Christian Science practitioner was called. Soon the discomfort in her mouth disappeared, and she was able to eat.



- ✓ Two residents often converse when in each other's company. This happens whenever and wherever they are together, whether waiting for their meal to be served, sitting out in the backyard, or meeting in the hallway. One speaks and the other listens, then responds. While the staff don't comprehend what they are saying, it is obvious that they enjoy communicating and that they fully understand one another. It's a wonderful evidence of oneness!
- ✓ A resident used to have a very difficult time allowing new staff to work with her. However, earlier this year, when a new staff member was assigned to work with her, instead of yelling and screaming or refusing to cooperate, she welcomed the new staff member's care for her.

SHARE YOUR TALENTS AND LOVE IN HELPING FELLOW CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS
TO VOLUNTEER PLEASE CONTACT JERI TIPPETTS AT JTIPPETTS@TWELVEACRES.ORG OR 408.410.2194

Measuring Every Thought

Heather Beck, Director of Christian Science Nursing



While recently walking on the beach, enjoying the beauty of the sun sparkling on the water, I asked God what He wanted me to think about. The waves were loud, but I heard Him say, “Spirit is immortal Truth”—a phrase I recognized as part of “the scientific statement of being” (SH 468:11). As I pondered this statement, I realized I needed to be more spiritually radical in my thinking about everything. I acknowledged that I am quick to pray about issues that come up suddenly, but could I honestly say that I was just as nimble with the subtler forms of error? What about discouragement and fear? Or worse, criticism, frustration, ingratitude? Sometimes these kinds of thoughts fly through consciousness so quickly that they are hard to catch. Or perhaps they are so entrenched that they go unnoticed. Hearing God’s answer comforted me. It also quickened me to pray for spiritual discernment, which illuminated some un-Spirit-like thoughts that needed to be catapulted from consciousness.

I didn’t waste time feeling guilty that I hadn’t been alert to catch these errors earlier. Instead, I focused on the message God, Spirit, had given me—namely, to measure my every thought to be sure it was aligned with Him. This I did for the rest of my walk and into the evening. The next day, I felt more faithful and obedient. I continue to do this quiet listening and thorough cleansing. As a result, I am more poised to minister to the wonderful Twelveacres residents and staff—and to others when they are in need. How humbled and grateful I feel to have received this wake-up nudge from my Father-Mother Mind. How blessed we all are that God is talking to us in just the way we need to further our spiritual growth.



No Limitation

Nancy Battey, Board President

Have you ever thought of Twelveacres as a bunch of protesters? Likely not. But we are! Residents, staff, families, board members, Christian Science practitioners, and friends of Twelveacres like you have been protesting for years that man has *NEVER* been born into matter, into a life of limitation. Indeed, we are dedicated to denouncing this most pervasive, erroneous belief of mortality, which prevents us from beholding the perfect man—the only man of God’s creating. Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, states in *Science and Health*, “Divine Science rolls back the clouds of error with the light of Truth, and lifts the curtain on man as never born and as never dying, but as coexistent with his creator” (557:18—21). She also writes: “The human capacities are enlarged and perfected in proportion as humanity gains the true conception of man and God” (SH 258:21—24).



At Twelveacres, overcoming beliefs of limitation is one of our core values. Limitation may appear in the form of physical challenges or as complications in caring for residents or as a lack of resources—monetary or otherwise.

Countering those claims is this statement by Mrs. Eddy in *Miscellany*, “. . . the true knowledge and proof of life is in putting off the limitations and putting on the possibilities and permanence of Life” (177:13—15). And in *Miscellaneous Writings*, she writes, “[We] are going out to demonstrate a living faith, a true sense of the infinite good, a sense that does not limit God, but brings to human view an enlarged sense of Deity” (282:1—3).

Each day, Twelveacres' residents, staff, and all associated with our organization acknowledge God’s power and the capacity of every individual—the “perfect man” Jesus beheld (see SH 476)—to express God-given freedom. We see practical evidence of the effectiveness of our right knowing in loving personal interactions, in joyous community participation, in congregational singing, in cooking delicious meals, in nonstop spiritual learning and growing. No one here is waiting around, like the man at the pool of Bethesda, for eventual physical healing. Rather, all of us are bearing witness to our true identity as God’s whole man *NOW!*



Your Matching Gift Is Essential

Twelveacres

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We Need Your Help
To Ensure Twelveacres Is Accessible
To Those Who Will Benefit From Our
Services And From
Christian Science Care.

PLEASE GIVE

Your gift helps sustain a healing
environment; attract and retain staff;
maintain our homes; and
welcome new residents.

Please also consider us in your charitable
estate planning. Our joint prayers and
actions foster a life of freedom.

Our Purpose

We foster a God-centered and thriving life for residents and staff, Christian Science and Love being the foundation of our services. Every individual has daily opportunities to demonstrate their full abilities in a family home environment which includes 24/7 care and life-skills coaching. We see Love's power expressed and are grateful for the commitment many have made to ensure the Twelveacres mission is accessible and realized.

Love truly is reflected in love.





ANNUAL MEETING

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 7, 2021
2:00 PM PDT**

Our meeting will be online this year via a Zoom webcast.

TWELVEACRES.ORG

To attend our Annual Meeting, please register on our website under the Events tab.

Twelveacres

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Help us more easily and efficiently send you newsletters and other important updates.

Today, please either email us at info@twelveacres.org or go to our website.



Do you have a friend or family member seeking Christian Science care and healing of developmental challenges?

If they would benefit from a family-centered residential environment, please contact us for a consultation.

Amy Hellyer 408.341.0400 x104
program@twelveacres.org

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