

VWA Newsletter

October 2015



VICTORIAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Report of the AGM 2015

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by Karen Bartley titled
"In Him we live and move
and have our being"

The VWA is constantly grateful for the financial support we receive from individuals and organizations in the Christian Science community.

Since our AGM in May this year we have received two wonderful, large donations.

The first was a gift of \$65,000 from the Victorian Christian Science Nurses' Support Association (VCSNSA). This was in addition to the regular funds we receive from VCSNSA to cover our payments to Journal-listed Christian Science nurses who work in The

Residence at The Heights. Thank you VCSNSA for your ongoing generosity.

The second large gift was from the Christian Science Nursing Services New South Wales (CSNNSW). It was a very generous donation of \$100,000 which was part of the earnings from the capital invested from the sale of Fairhavens in Sydney.

The VWA Board has always viewed Fairhavens as our 'sister' facility in Sydney.

Now that Fairhavens is no longer operating, The Heights Residence is providing healing care and a Christian Science atmosphere for all throughout Australia who elect to rely on Christian Science for healing and well-being.

We have been advised that it is the intention of the CSNSNSW is to share a large portion of the income from their invested funds with the VWA on an ongoing basis, for which we are immensely grateful.

The first verse of hymn 199 in our hymnal sum up our feelings at this time.

*'Now thank we all our God
With grateful hearts and voices
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom the world rejoices;'*

Thank you VCSNSA and CSNSNSW. We rejoice with you in witnessing Christian Science healing in our community.

Sincerely

John A. Callaway

Honorary Treasurer and Board Member



Guest Speaker Karen Bartley CS with
VWA Board member June Buck



2015 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

presented by John Bruce

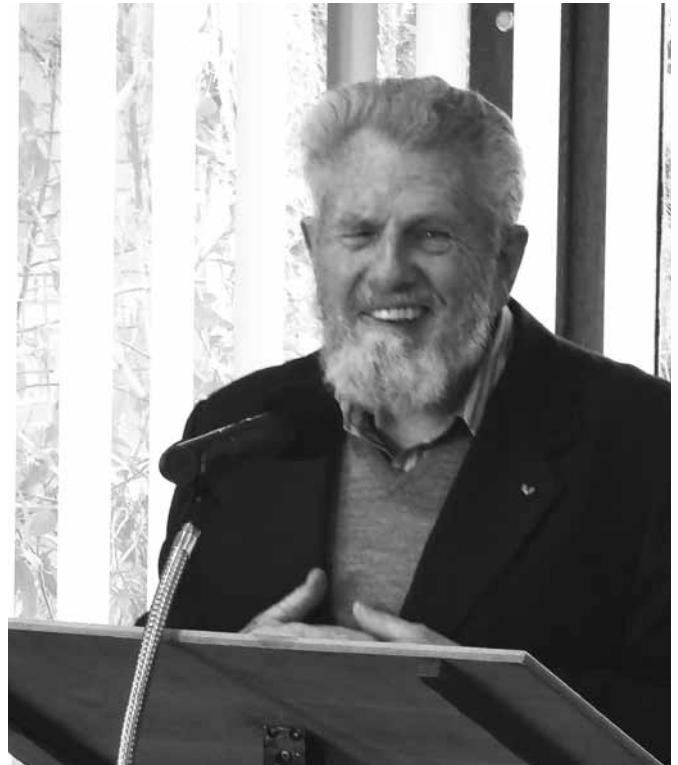
LEGALS

In July 2014 new legislation came into effect that enabled the VWA to incorporate our Care Facility within the registration under the Retirement Villages Act. Prior to that change we were required to be registered as a Supported Residential Service under the Health Department. While a degree of respect had developed with the Health Department as to how Christian Scientists cared for our residents, we are grateful for the changed registration which is we believe more appropriate for our situation and approach to care. We were able to tell you of this prospective change at last year's AGM. We can now report that the paper trail is well advanced. It has involved new 10 page contract formats for each type of residence, plus 'Declarations of Interest', Village Rules which include a required standard 13 page 'Internal Disputes Resolution Process' document. While this all sounds pretty heavy going, the legislation requires documentation in a prescribed format to provide thorough protection of prospective residents to ensure that they are fully protected and informed of their 'rights' before entering the contracts. We can appreciate and support their endeavours in this area. It does however give us a lot of work to be sure that every detail is meticulously covered. Your committee is currently studying over 60 pages of detailed legal documentation and expect to have final resolution after our next scheduled AGM with current residents to be held shortly.

MAINTENANCE

There are of course ongoing maintenance and development areas that are required and expected with such an organisation and the two properties concerned. We are constantly looking to check for termites, clear drains, trim trees, maintain gardens, keep technology up to date and as appropriate update facilities and fittings to maintain our high standards. This of course is in addition to the day to day operation of The Residence and the wonderful love and care provided to our residents by our fantastic staff under the leadership of our General Manager, Angie Parkyn.

Applause for the staff and Angie.



John Bruce, VWA Chairman

OUTINGS

The Heights

Our residents have again had a variety of activities during the year – as our chairman referred to in last year's report, including outings to CS lectures and Church Services, visits to the Camberwell Travel Club, various productions at Huntingtower, as well as in-house movies, concerts and travel talks and on-line TMC Testimony Meetings and Lectures. More recently the visits to the Camberwell Travel Club have been replaced by our own sight seeing bus tours to areas of interest to our residents.

A number of visits to the Ashburton Support Services have offered a broad range of group activities that are perhaps difficult to develop in house with the relatively low number of residents currently in our village. A program guide for a 2 month period is here for anyone interested to view which shows activities available including an art group, discussion groups, crossword and scrabble, armchair travel, Tai Chi, line dancing, gentle exercise to music, knitting and crochet, concerts and movies. Although The Heights usually is able to provide free transport to Ashburton, if for any reason that is not available, the Support Service will pick up and return home for a minor charge.

AS HOSTS

We have during the year been able to host or provide accommodation for a number of church based activities. In August and October there were Nurse Meetings. The October meeting was a one day seminar with Margit Peltzer from Le Verger Nursing facility in Switzerland, and Karen Bartley (Qld Nurse) to discuss the Le Verger Training Program for CS Nurses.

In February, the second of two 'Conversations on Nursing' – a meeting for Practitioners, Nurses, and Faculty staff at The Heights, was held at The Heights with Caroleen Scholet (Manager of CS Nursing Activities at TMC) and Linda Kohler (President TMC).

Arising from these meetings there are now specific developments of which you will hear more detail a little later this afternoon.

The committee from the Joint CRR meet here monthly, and as you may have already heard we will shortly be providing our facilities for the Practitioners Round Table Workshop led by Deborah Packer CS to be held here on 6th and 7th June.

PROMOTION

At last year's AGM we released the new brochure describing the basis and work of the VWA and encouraging ongoing support and use of our services. Since that date we have had prepared coloured plans to further describe the facilities available.

We have also set up a new web site. By simply typing in vwa.net into Google or your web browser you will find details - all the details that are included in our printed brochure and more, including cross references to TMC web sites.

SPACE AVAILABLE

The Heights Residence:

We currently have four long term guests in our Residence. At a squeeze we could accommodate 12, but certainly to cover costs of 24 hour available supervision, it would be a great help to our budget, and enriching to our community in terms of interaction with others, if we had more. One of our suites is set up for short term intensive care with adjacent accommodation for overnight on duty nursing if needed, and this has been and is used for short term special needs.

We have been happy to welcome a number of short term guests in The Residence during the year, and have also introduced a B & B rate with the option of other meals where that suited our visitors.

The Heights Units:

Originally there were 20 units that were constructed by funds provided by Christian Scientists committing to take up Life Leases. Changes in local town planning regulations have enabled small additions to some of these units and to meet the demand for larger units, four of the smaller units have been joined to provide two larger units. So we now have a total of 18 villa units. Of these 7 are currently Life Leased, 4 are rented, and 7 are awaiting Life Lease contracts. Four of these are furnished and are used for short term rentals until they may be required for Life Leases. There have been 17 short term lettings during the 2014 year.

COMPARATIVE COSTS and financial structure

When The Heights was being established the financial structure of other similar establishments was studied, and it was felt that the structure adopted by the VWA was the most user friendly. We are currently doing a review of the many Retirement villages that are now in and around Melbourne. Many are luxurious in the extreme and offer wide variety of choice and facilities. We are looking in particular at location, capital cost and exit fees/costs. To determine how The Heights villa units compare in value to other retirement villages.

Location: Glen Iris is very central. In fact this site was chosen because it was seen as being centrally placed in relation to CS branch Churches in Melbourne. A bus service stops at the front gate and train and tram services are nearby.

Capital cost: The cost of a Life Lease on a 2 BR villa unit at The Heights is at the bottom of the range. Two BR units in Melbourne range from \$250k - \$920K with most in the \$4-600k range. This shows The Heights as a very reasonably priced establishment. (We have been advised that if sold as freehold on the open market the value of a 2 bedroom unit at The Heights would be at least double the amount charged for Life Lease.)



Ellie Bruce and Liz Rindel at the meeting

Exit costs. It is standard practice in retirement villages that a portion of the original payment is retained when a resident moves out. This of course recognises that facilities and services in a village are in fact more than is provided by a simple own your own villa or flat. At most Retirement Villages, this is called a 'Deferred Management Fee' and varies from 20% up to 35%. Some establishments in addition charge the costs of refurbishing the units and legal and other costs relating to a change of tenancy. Some will not refund until a new resident is found and one organisation requires the outgoing resident to cover the cost of any shortfall in the amount paid by the incoming resident.

Of course there are many details that need to be considered that cannot be covered in a short resume such as this, but sufficient to say that at The Heights the retention amount of 20% is at the bottom of the range of charges usually applied.

This retention amount the VWA sees as a contribution to reimburse the original construction cost of the village as well as to update facilities as appropriate, and of course to support the caring services in the residence. There are no charges applied for fair wear and tear in the unit.

What a prospective resident needs to determine is whether the facilities, location and community is most suitable for their needs or wishes, and if they wish to be involved in and supportive of a CS community facility.

RELATIVE COSTS

– Life Lease and Rentals

From time to time questions are raised as to the relative financial contributions of rental as against Life Leasing, so I will spend a short time on this point.

As noted, the financial structure of The Heights was predicated on Life Leasing, firstly to raise the capital necessary for construction, and secondly as capital costs were recouped, to provide a resource to support the operation of The Residence. The capital provided by the Life Leases, invested by the VWA, provides a tax free income for the VWA that gives a higher return than rentals. While everyone's circumstances may differ, generally for the resident, if they invested the capital spent on the LL, they would have to pay tax on the income they receive from the investment, thereby reducing their earnings. The lost income for the resident from the LL money, even together with monthly maintenance and rates

charges, is still generally less than the cost of rent. (I am happy to discuss this in detail with anyone who would like further explanation on this.)

Rental Units

Special circumstances do arise, and to this end, we have agreed to some rental units but we feel we need to keep these to a minimum, and of course such residents do not have security of tenure that is provided for Life Lease residents.

Leslie House

Leslie house continues to provide a home for Christian Scientists with various needs. We have a range of residents from students to seniors. We also have 2 flats furnished for short term letting that are used by visitors - often from country or interstate here for Association Meetings. Besides the furnished flats that are kept for short term rentals, there are currently 5 flats available for long term leasing.

CONCLUSION

Friends may I close with an invitation to give earnest thought to share news of the work that is being done here, to alert friends who you feel may be interested in the services provided,

If you would like to take the opportunity while you are here today, Angie would be very happy to arrange to show you into a number of the unoccupied units, or The Residence, at the conclusion of this meeting.

As you may recall our new brochure poses the question 'what can we do to ensure the ongoing service', and it answers:

**We can cherish it,
we can use it,
and we can support it.**

I will conclude with verses 1 & 4 of hymn 266 from our hymnal:

*Our God is Love, and all His sons
His image bear, we know:
The heart with love to God inspired,
With love to man will glow.*

*So may we all with one accord
Learn how true Christians love:
And glorify our Father's grace,
And seek that grace to prove.*



2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

presented by John Callaway Treasurer

The object of the Victorian Welfare Association, as stated in our Memorandum of Association (Item 2 page 3) is to provide accommodation and care for the Christian Science community. Last year at our Annual Meeting I spoke about the pioneering work done in the 1970s and 1980s by those who purchased, planned and established this facility at Glen Iris which has blessed so many people over the past 4 decades. We are so grateful to that small band of dedicated workers who made The Heights a reality. They epitomise what Jesus said to his disciples in The Bible, Matthew 9:37 'The harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few.'

However, much earlier than this a need was identified by members of First Church, Melbourne for a care facility to assist senior members of their Church seeking supported accommodation. This was the genesis of Leslie House. For those unfamiliar with Leslie House it is currently operated by the VWA as rental flats providing independent living at below market rental levels for Church members and adherents of age groups from seniors to students.

As someone who grew up in Sydney and moved to Melbourne in 1966, I knew little of the background to Leslie House. I was pleased to recently unearth a brief history of the earlier years and would like to share excerpts from it with you. This was written in 1981 and gives some fascinating insights into how Leslie House came into being.

'In August 1943 a group of Practitioners met to discuss the idea of establishing a home where Christian Scientists could rest and study. By 1947 interest in this idea had grown enough to form an Executive Committee to take this idea and turn it into a reality.

By early 1948 the Committee had been presented with possible sites in Pakenham, Heidelberg, Healesville, Mt. Macedon and Dandenong.

Encouraged by the opportunities available, the Committee in 1950 legally formed the Victorian Rest Home Promotion Association. Although many of the sites presented were unsuitable eventually, in 1952 a Guest House at Eltham was chosen and rented on a trial basis for 3 months.

But although the trial was successful it was found that the support of the field was not yet strong enough to continue.



John Callaway, VWA Treasurer

The Committee became a little disillusioned at this and the activities of the Association slowed somewhat.

But the needs of the field soon spurred on the enthusiasm of the Committee and by mid 1953 they commenced a Home Aide service called the Home Visiting Service for Christian Scientists which was the first step towards fulfilling these needs.

At this stage the Committee investigated the idea of extending the original plan of a rest home into incorporating a nursing home. With this in mind they changed the name of the Association from the Victorian Rest Home Promotion which they felt limited their ideas to a rest home only, to the Victorian Welfare Association, which they felt left them free to cover all the aspects of 'welfare' that might arise.

But a nursing home could not be, as, at that stage in 1954, the 'State did not recognize the public practice of Christian Science' so the Committee continued with the project of a Rest and Study Home.

In late 1954 the property called Manor Court and some adjoining land in Hawthorn was acquired; and a shop in Prahran was rented to operate as an Opportunity shop whose profits would help pay for the new project.

Mrs Gallagher who was the driving force of the VWA took control of Manor Court Lodge and we are all aware of the wonderful success it was for the following 4 years.

But by 1958 the VWA found that the finance involved in the running of Manor Court Lodge and the building of the Manor Court own-your-own flats next door, was beyond their capabilities. Mrs Gallagher offered to buy Manor Court and hold it until the VWA was in a position to re-acquire it. This unfortunately never eventuated and Mrs Gallagher had to later dispose of the property privately. At this point the VWA involvement in the Home Visiting Service also ceased. This service had only been to assist around the home and no nursing had been involved. The Victorian Visiting Nurse Service was commenced by the Nurses at a later date to perform nursing.

The profits from the sale of Manor Court to Mrs Gallagher in 1959 enabled the VWA to purchase, with government financial assistance of 4,275 pounds, the property next door to establish, as Mrs Gallagher expressed it, "a home for aged students of Christian Science who were ambulatory." This



David Fletcher, VWA Board Member

property was called 'Leslie House' in memory of Mrs Gallagher's husband.

This same year the Benevolence Fund was opened whose moneys could assist any residents if the need arose. Also in this year the Opportunity Shop in Glenferrie Road, Malvern was purchased for 6,500 pounds as the Prahran shop was no longer available for rental. This shop operated until sales fell off in 1975 and the Committee felt that a regular income from renting it would be more desirable, and it has been rented since that time.

With its feet firmly on the ground financially, owning both Leslie House and the shop and having established a Benevolence Fund, the VWA made application to the Taxation Department for exemption from taxation on charitable grounds. The Department replied: "If Leslie House were separated from the VWA's other activities there could be a possibility of a deduction allowance being granted." The Taxation Department felt that the Shop constituted a 'profit making' activity, so individual accounts were set up for the Shop, the Benevolence Fund, a General purpose account, and the Leslie House fund. The exemption from Taxation for moneys given to Leslie House was granted.

With many donations coming in the decision was made to extend the existing old building, and again with Government assistance of 22,916 pounds, 12 single units, one double unit, a social room and laundry were built in 1961.

By 1962 it was agreed to pull down the old building and build 5 more single units, 2 doubles, and the Bay area with kitchen, bathroom and toilet. The Government again gave financial assistance of 20,004 pounds less the 4,275 previously given for the old building, making the total Government assistance for all of Leslie House 38,645 pounds.

Leslie House was quickly filled and by 1970 it became apparent that Leslie House could not fill the ever-growing needs of the field.

The Committee first attempted to obtain permission from the local Council to extend Leslie House upwards, but this was not allowable, so they started looking to purchasing a hostel or guest house. The project was not rushed and in the interim a number of alterations to update and renovate Leslie House were accomplished.

Eventually in March 1978 the property 'The Heights' at Glen Iris was chosen from the options available, and the project on this site is now being built.'

Document dated 27/4/1981

A couple of weeks ago, a long term Christian Science worker, Ken Smith passed away at the age of 97. Ken and his late wife Molly managed Leslie House for many years. Peter Freeland tells me that Molly cooked a Sunday roast every week for those residents who wanted to join them. Ellie Bruce remembers the Christian Science Monitor Youth Forum working bees at 148 Power Street, Hawthorn, at which weeds, thistles and undergrowth were cleared for building work at Leslie House.

So the VWA has an interesting and colourful history due to the work of those dedicated pioneers both at Hawthorn and Glen Iris. The VWA Board recognizes and thanks them all for enabling us to reach our present position of success and service provision.

FINANCES

Now to more mundane (but important) matters of finance. It is my pleasure to give a brief overview of the VWA's audited Financial Statements for 2014. I remind you that our financial year is the calendar year so the Statements cover the period 1 January to 31 December 2014. The audited report is some 18 pages in length so may I suggest that you not try to follow the figures now but do so at your leisure later. I will make some observations now which I hope will be helpful.

You may remember that in 2013 we had a large surplus of \$566,876 provided principally by the outstanding performance of our equities portfolio which had an unrealised gain of \$561,789.

In 2014 our total income figure was \$723,733, \$113,976 less than in 2013. Decreases in Board and Rent income, Life Lease unit ingoings and donations were partly offset by increased dividend income from our equities investments of nearly \$30,000.

On the expenses side our total expenses were \$883,391, \$50,769 more than in 2013. The major factor here was a loss on disposal of some poorly performing equities. The funds obtained on disposal have been reinvested in higher yielding blue chip shares and this has proved to be very positive for our dividend income.

Bringing the income and expenses together, the overall 2014 deficit from operations was \$159,658. (see page 5 of the report)

The large difference in the 2014 result and that in 2013 is that in 2013 we had an unrealised capital gain on the value of a huge \$561,789 while in 2014 the unrealised gain was 'only' \$118,001. When added to the operational deficit of \$159,658 we see that the deficit reduces to \$41,657.

Please don't forget that both the 2014 and 2013 results contain calculations of 'unrealised' gains from our share portfolio. The gain in 2013 was nearly 5 times what it was in 2014.

These 'write-up' figures are not real gains unless the shares are sold but they do represent 'fair value' for the portfolio at the time of the audit, so, although unrealised they are realisable. That means that capital gains accrue over time and their accumulated value is reflected in our invested funds. Thus we can view the 2014 deficit of \$41,657 as a relatively small reduction in the large paper-figure 'write-up' of 2013. This shows the vital importance of having our funds invested in growth areas like the equities market where we can benefit from the capital gains we have obtained from our blue chip shares in the ASX top 20 companies. I also remind you that about one third of our invested funds are Life Lease monies held in trust on behalf of our Unit Holders. This emphasizes the vital importance of Life Leases to the VWA.

Just a brief word about bequests. In considering the preparation of a new will many people, after providing for family and friends, specify that an amount or a percentage of their estate be willed to an organization. The late Elva Coleman did this leaving \$1,000,000 to the VWA in her will and that very generous bequest forms a large proportion of our invested capital. Elva's generosity is appreciated every day.

If you would like to know more about how to set up a bequest as a codicil to your will, please speak with Angie Parkyn who can refer you to a lawyer for detailed information.

Overall I believe we can be satisfied that the 2014 deficit of \$41,657 does not affect our day-to-day operation. Only a few years ago we were facing deficits of \$200,000 to \$300,000 every year so that situation has been greatly improved. Even Federal Governments frequently run deficit budgets!

To summarise our 'net worth', our total financial assets at the end of 2014 stood at \$3,808,475. This includes investments and cash. Non-current assets are our property, plant and equipment which are calculated at \$2,207,627. This figure includes the value of The Heights and Leslie House 'at cost'. Most of you will be aware that the current market values of these two properties is of the order of \$9,000,000.

When comparing total assets with total liabilities we had a members' equity in 2014 of \$4,648,878 compared with \$4,690,535 in 2013, the difference of \$41,657 reflecting the 2014 deficit.

So we are in a strong financial position. We carry no mortgage debt. We have the services of a highly regarded investment advisor in Kevin Lowther of Shaw Stockbroking whose fees for a not-for-profit organization like the VWA are about 10% of what we were paying a few years ago. Our auditors do a complex audit at very reasonable cost and our general Manager, Angela Parkyn, keeps a keen eye on cashflow management which is a top priority in any business. Our dedicated Residence supervising staff do a superb selfless job and our housekeeping and grounds staff support that work wonderfully. Our Board is strong and unified in furthering the effectiveness of the VWA and we are constantly grateful for the support of the VCSNSA in funding Journal listed Christian Science nurses who work at The Heights.

The VCSNSA each year disburses 80% of their profits from investment to Christian Science nursing or organizations run by and in support of Christian Scientists.

Of course in addition to all this, we have the love and prayers of all of you which is a very powerful force and greatly appreciated.

So we have much to be grateful for and gratitude is always the key to healing and progress. Mrs Eddy poses a question and then answers it on page 3 of Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures. She asks: 'Are we really grateful for the good already received? Then we shall avail ourselves of the blessings we have, and thus be fitted to receive more.'

Thank you all for your special part in bringing those blessings to the VWA and for supporting our ongoing work.

Metaphysical Talk

Given By Karen Bartley CS

Thank you for inviting me to speak with you today in these beautiful surroundings at the Heights. I feel very honoured to be the vehicle through which God is imparting His word.

The title of my talk is:

'In Him, we live and move and have our being'

These words are taken from The King James Bible Acts 17: verse 28 and from The Message, it says, 'We live and move in him, can't get away from him'.

We are spiritual ideas, never born into matter, moving in the harmony of Mind, with no material accompaniments, impelled by divine Love. Every function of the real man is governed by the Divine Mind.

As a drop of water is one with the ocean, a ray of light is one with the sun, even so, God and man Father and son are one in being. True freedom and harmony of movement are attained as we

recognise and affirm our spiritual oneness with the father.

Living good moral lives, in obedience to the ethical standards in The Bible, the 10 Commandments, Sermon on the Mount, the Golden Rule also turning to the Christian Science Church Manual for guidance, we naturally move in harmony with the divine Mind and all creation. Living in obedience to God's laws are a protection from evil beliefs and practices.

As a little Sunday School student once commented, "God is closer to me than my undies". What wisdom!

What Is Mobility ?

The dictionary defines it as the ability to move and be moved, easily and freely. The ability to move part of your body. Synonyms for mobility are: flexibility, action, progression, advance, flow.

Mind, is constantly moving. Ideas

move freely in Mind. All of God's creatures moving in the harmony of Mind are harmless, useful, indestructible. Our substance is spiritual. As we embrace this one all good Mind we feel at peace, move with harmony, freedom, normal activity and agility.

Mrs Eddy writes in Hymn 160, 'Love looseth thee and lifteth me'. Love is uplifting, enlivening, strengthening. Divine Love activates us to do good, resulting in freedom. This love has all the qualities needed to accomplish its goal. As we demonstrate love for God and man and live in accordance with the laws of Love, our freedom is assured, and the outcome is normal body movements.

Divine Love restores harmony.

A friend of mine had been grocery shopping. She was carrying 2 large bags of groceries through her front door. As she was walking down the hallway she felt strange sensations in her back

and her breathing was different.

Filled with fear of what seemed to be happening, she went straight to the phone and rang a practitioner for prayerful support. The practitioner spoke calmly to her about her inseparability from God, the creator of all good. She was firmly fixed as an idea of Mind. As a member of Church, she is the living structure of Truth and Love, all her movements are harmonious. The practitioner told her to stand porter at the door of thought, watch her thinking. This made her calm down and quietly consider the ideas that were just shared. After she got off the phone she kept still and listened. To her surprise, what she thought was the sound of her breathing was really coming from somewhere else.

she is God's perfect creation. She has her being in Him, in Spirit. She is completely free to express perfect movement. Whatever seemed to be the problem vanished and has never returned. There is no involuntary action. The divine Mind includes all action and volition, and man in Science is governed by this Mind.

Christ Jesus healed people with long standing mobility challenges. Luke 13:11 relates the story of Christ Jesus healing a woman bowed together for 18 years. That seems a very long time to be in that situation. Luke writes, the woman couldn't lift herself. What was lacking? What was needed? She needed the Christ to lift her. She thought it was a bent body needing to be set right but it was her thought that needed uplifting.

Once the woman was uplifted by the Christ, the divine Mind, she was free to express her God given dominion. Immediately she was made straight, restored to wholeness. Her natural state of being.

Knowing the Truth, 'that we live and move in God', blesses all I had been working in a live-in capacity with a patient. In the morning I prepared breakfast. I made myself a hot drink and in my rush to get things done I seemed to burn my mouth and tongue. I prayed but still seemed to be suffering. I had to do some grocery shopping for my client. As I was driving down the street a woman was walking towards the road. I stopped to let her cross. She seemed to be having great difficulty walking. As I watched her I thought about a talk given by Anthony Whitehouse, in the talk he said when you see something, say you see a tree, in reality it is the idea of a tree, when you see a person, it is the idea of a person. You see it materially but it is really a spiritual idea. If you see a person with a problem, that's not the true idea. Change the picture. Change your thinking. That's what I did. I started thinking of this woman as an idea of God made in his image and likeness, perfect, moving in the harmony of Mind, free, whole, complete. Mind is the same life love and wisdom yesterday, today and forever and all creation reflects that one, divine Mind.

The woman went on her way so I don't know what resulted from my prayer, but I do expect healing happened because she lives and moves in God.

I kept driving down the road and as I was driving I felt a tingling sensation in my mouth and the pain completely vanished. I was so grateful for this experience.



Leonie Tidd, David Weil and John Callaway, VWA Treasurer

She had been totally fooled into believing she had a breathing problem. She felt such a sense of relief that she started to laugh at how silly and easily tricked she had been. Now that she knew the truth about the breathing, she realised that she couldn't be mesmerised into believing a lie about her back either. That something could be out of place when in reality her movements are perfectly aligned to God because

The Christ freed her from infirmity. Was the infirmity an unhealthy state of the body producing weakness? Was it physical strength she needed?

Infirmity also means weakness of mind. It's the mortal mind which produces weakness because mortality is subject to deterioration and death. The divine Mind, the only Mind there is, affirms Life to be ever present.

It showed me how knowing the truth for others, brings the truth into my experience. How important it is for Christian

The Christian Science Hymnal is filled with encouraging messages

Science nurses to know, we live and move and have our being in God.

Mrs Eddy healed those with mobility challenges.

While living with Mrs Eddy at Pleasant View she [Julia E Prescott] told many wonderful things, proving more and more the power of her healing work through Christian Science. She told of a case of a child who was born helpless. While out walking one day, Mrs Eddy observed a small boy drawing another younger child in a cart. She inquired of the older boy what was the matter with the little fellow. He replied, "he is my brother and he has never walked." Mrs Eddy looked into the sweet face and beautiful blue eyes of the little boy lying flat on his back in the cart, his legs dangling over the edge, limp and helpless. In relating the incident, she said the sense of the perfect child of God was so clear to her that the little boy slid out of the cart and went running down the street, saying "See me run" He reached his home, which was nearby, crying out, "Mumma, see me run!" Julia E Prescott reminiscences.

Anatomy finds a necessity for nerves to convey action, but what does anatomy say when the cords contract and become immovable? Has mortal mind ceased speaking to them, or has it bidden them to become impotent? Unless muscles are self acting at all times, they are

never so, never capable of acting contrary to mental direction. Divine Mind includes all action and volition and man in Science is governed by this Mind. Mind produces action. If action proceeds from Truth, from immortal Mind,

there is harmony.

Christian Science Nursing: ministry moved by Love. All things work together for good to those who love God, is the dictum of Scripture. CSN is working together for good, employed by God.

I know a Christian Science Nurse whose mobility was affected by what she was seeing. One morning, she woke with severe pain limiting her movement. She had a patient to visit each day. She didn't let the challenge stop her from doing her work but the pain in her body didn't seem to yield. She spoke with the practitioner about it.

They diligently worked to uncover the truth about her. One morning the practitioner asked what was burdening her? She said nothing, absolutely nothing. However after the phone call she realised a family member of her client was often angry and short with her at each visit and seemed quite unhappy with her being there. The practitioners work uncovered the belief that there could be a place where God is absent. A place for evil. She knew there is no place for evil to dwell either at a clients home or in God's child who is spiritual, 'In whom we live and move'.

The CSN realised she was accepting a lie about God's perfect child. She had been mesmerised into believing that anger, evil, disharmony etc can abide in an idea of divine Love,

that's impossible! Once she woke up to the Truth, the painful feeling and anxiousness left her, and in its place was only gratitude for all the family member had been doing. It was a great lesson teaching her what she was seeing directly affected how she was feeling. Make sure we are seeing God's perfect child.

The Christian Science Hymnal is filled with encouraging messages for those dealing with mobility challenges like:

- *In atmosphere of love divine we live and move and breathe*
- *To thee O God we bring our adoration, to Love divine, in whom we live and move*
- *In thy Spirit living, moving, we shall neither faint nor fall*
- *I walk with Love along the way and O it is a holy day*
- *He that Loves shall walk with God*
- *Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to thee*
- *Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy Love*

Talk about living and moving in God! I'd like to tell you about Nick Vujicic who was born without arms or legs.

As a child Nick was bullied because he was different. In his teens he felt useless and even contemplated suicide because he no longer desired to live like this. His father was a minister so he grew up in the Christian faith. He would ask himself why? Why was I born like this?

One day he came across a passage in the Bible that spoke to him. It is the story of Christ

Jesus healing the man blind from his birth, that the works of God should be made manifest in him. Those words stood out. Nick felt the works of God are being made manifest in him to go and preach the gospel to others. He realised he does have a purpose. Today he is touring the world preaching the gospel and giving inspirational talks about his life. He has not let anything prevent him from living a normal life. He has learnt how to surf and swim. A remarkable man proving he lives and moves in God, good.

Church Movement

What we experience as the Christian Science movement is the expression of what is held in consciousness about this movement. Mrs Eddy says, 'Church is found elevating the race, rousing the dormant understanding from material beliefs, to the apprehension of spiritual ideas, Science and Health page 583. The Church is designed to be experienced as movement. Healing in Christian Science is always the result of a deeper understanding of spiritual ideas. Every idea engages in the demonstration of Church. The collective sharing of healings in the Testimony meeting, the Christian Science periodicals, and even in our daily conversations with friends and neighbours plays a key role in advancing the movement. Taken from the Christian Science Journal, question and answers by Todd Herzer.

It is mortal mind speaking when we hear there is no movement no progress in the Christian Science churches today. Our movement isn't as good as it used to be. Are we going to believe that? I am witnessing first hand a reversal of this suggestion. Progress is happening. Our Church Service is becoming more flexible and lively and attracting others. At our recent Lecture we had many newcomers

who are very interested in Christian Science. The result is they are coming to our Church Service. We are starting to hold Sunday School classes after many years. I doubt this would be happening if we didn't get together and actively pray for our community and consider our reason for being in the community.

I've been asked to answer a couple of questions:

For the next month I will be staying at the Heights mentoring two students in the Le Verger Christian Science nursing training program. The courses on offer are for those Christian Scientists interested in becoming Journal Listed Christian Science nurses.

There are 3 Le Verger Christian Science nursing courses: 1: Basic, 2: Advanced and 3: Extension.

To qualify for these courses you must be a member of The Mother Church, be an active member of a Christian Science Branch Church or Society, have had Class Instruction in Christian Science, accept and understand the standard for Christian Science nursing and attend a One Day Seminar for Christian Science nursing.

About the course

The Le Verger Christian Science Nursing: 1. Basic course covers: Ethics, Personal Care, Movement, Rest, Mobility, Nourishment and Safety.

Once the Basic course is completed there is 6-8 weeks mentoring, depending on how much support the student needs and the experience the student already has. After this period the student can apply for the Advanced course which involves more specialised care.

The students are already experienced Christian Scientists

with life and sometimes Christian Science nursing experience behind them. They may not need a lot of mentoring. If the student lives in another state, we will keep in touch by phone and Skype and if

Healing in Christian Science is always the result of a deeper understanding of spiritual ideas.

required from time to time I can fly to their location to give them more training. I also keep in touch with the directors of Le Verger to give them regular reports on how the student is progressing.

When ready the student applies for Journal Listing. This requires filling out a form from the Mother Church. The student will need references from Christian Science nurses and Practitioners they know personally and have worked with.

The second question is:

What is the Relationship between Patient, Practitioner and Christian Science Nurse? The relationship between Patient and Christian Science Nurse is one of mutual respect and love.

Both Patient and CSN work together in harmony according the teachings of Christ Jesus, the Christian Science Textbook and the Christian Science Church Manual.

The ethical guidelines for the Christian Science nurse are from the By Law for the Christian Science nurse in the Church Manual article 8 section 31 also page 395 of Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures-

'An ill tempered, complaining or deceitful person should not be a nurse. The nurse should be cheerful, orderly, punctual, patient, full of faith, receptive to Truth and Love also the Christian Science Nurse Scope of Services which is

given to each patient. It explains what a Christian Science nurse does and does not do.'

There is not really a relationship between CSN and Practitioner other than mutual respect for each other role. The Christian Science nurse would not normally contact the practitioner unless the patient is unable to do so. If for instance the patient had a hearing or speaking challenge or couldn't use the phone, then the Christian Science nurse would make the phone call or take notes for the patient but otherwise the relationship between practitioner and patient is very sacred. It is important for the Christian Science nurse to know that the patient has a practitioner and who the practitioner is, in case of a sudden need to make contact.

I'm going to finish with a citation from Mrs Eddy, Miscellany page 354:15...



Pat Wheeler, Chris Francis and Pauline Hutchinson CS

'A little more grace, a motive made pure, a few truths tenderly told, a heart softened, a character subdued, a life consecrated, would restore the right action of the mental mechanism, and make manifest the movement of body and Soul, in accord with God.'

Are you a Financial Member of the VWA?

Thank you to all supporters who renewed their subscriptions for 2015.

We are grateful to those of you who chose to take out Life Memberships. These members will no longer need to return the renewal form each year.

Annual Membership is \$20 and
Life Membership is \$300.

Renewal forms for 2016 will be sent out in March next year with the invitation to the 2016 AGM. If you would like to subscribe sooner or would like a copy of our new brochure, please email us at the address below, or phone to speak to the General Manager, Angela Parkyn, or one of our administration staff members.

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Ellie Bruce

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June Buck

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We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the fine contribution made by **Diana Colley** as a Board Member of the VWA for over 8 years.

03

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