

Noontide News

NOONTIDE NEWS

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"...when saw we thee sick ...and came unto thee?" Matt.25:39

THE IDEA WAS ALWAYS PRESENT

Divine Love translates itself to listening hearts through the Christ. At this point we have this "treasure in earthen vessels" so an idea that we glimpse humanly must often develop and grow rather than appear as a finished result. The fixed fact is the Divine Love that impels the idea.

HISTORY OF THE NOONTIDE IDEA

Many questions that come to the representatives involve understanding the history of the Noontide idea. Consequently, let us then, at the beginning of a new year, begin at the beginning.

When the Newsletter Committee met to start the writing of a Noontide history all records and minutes and correspondence of Noontide were made available. As the committee went through these papers they were first staggered by the sheer amount of work and time devoted to this idea by the earliest workers, then deeply moved by their devotion to their fellow Christian Scientists. As they worked with this material they saw the importance of collecting the first hand accounts of these earliest workers, and requested that each of them either record or write their reminiscences, for the files of Noontide. To trace the development of this idea we have recorded the main events chronologically.

1964

Noontide came into being to fill a need. People who desired to rely on Christian Science for healing were being forced into hospitals for lack of nursing care. Cases were coming to area practitioners that required care, and yet several days to a week were elapsing between the call for a nurse and the arrival of a Christian Science nurse from another area.

Practitioners in the area constituted a metaphysical committee to work on this problem. In the Fall of 1964 a home in Saginaw was brought to the attention of this committee, but it became apparent that this property would be too costly to remodel. The committee gradually disbanded following the removal of some of its members from the area.

1965

The first property having been rejected, the need remained, but there was no activity. One devoted woman decided to keep it alive. She enlisted help from a local practitioner to tell the circumstances of this need to those who might listen and help. One of these calls was to a woman in the Flint area who was under the care of a Christian Science nurse, and knew personally of the need, and the healing effect of Christian Science nursing care. The interview resulted in eventual gifts to establish nursing services. The immediate need was some legal entity that could accept this gift, and so articles of incorporation were sought and Noontide became a legal entity on October 20, 1965. A letter was sent to the Department of Care of The Mother Church informing them of the things that had been happening so marvellously and asking for information and how this group should proceed to set up a Christian Science sanatorium or nursing home. Next, a meeting was called for interested persons at the Bancroft Hotel in early November. An encouraging reply was received from Boston saying that a first step would be to determine the extent of the need by contacting the practitioners throughout the area, and included a sample questionnaire to be duplicated and sent out. The questionnaires came back underlining the need and desire for a nursing facility and were sent on to the Department of Care for analysis. During this period the members of the group were seeking out property suitable for this purpose.

1966

In the latter part of January the questionnaires were returned by the Department of Care saying that they indicated that there appeared to be a need for a nursing facility in Saginaw. In February, a parcel of land near Bridgeport that seemed completely suitable was located and purchased. The Department of Care continued to supply counsel and instruction throughout the Spring and Summer explaining how such a group of Mother Church members seeking to meet a community need should proceed to establish relations with branch churches and their fellow Christian Scientists throughout the area.

During the same year, a library of Sentinels, Journals, Monitors and other books, valued at over \$10,000 was donated to Noontide.

The services of Paul Opperman of Adams, Howard and Opperman from Cambridge, Massachusetts were made available to draw up plans for the use of the property. Mr. Opperman is a well known land use specialist from M. I. T., who formerly was a resident of Saginaw. Throughout 1966, the main thrust of the committee was to present all of these developments at meetings throughout the area to attract the interest and support of the field. This activity in the mid-Michigan area was going on concurrently with developments in other areas of the country where this same need was being experienced. The Department of Care was having to evaluate all of these programs while they were all in developing stages.

In August, the Noontide Committee was informed by telephone that the Department of Care was preparing a report for the Christian Science Board of Directors and until new guidelines were forthcoming the committee was advised not to begin any construction. A search for an architect was going on at this time. Minutes during this period indicate the perpetual awareness of the need for deep metaphysical work, and the desire to avoid hasty decisions on the part of the officers.

In the latter part of September word was received from Boston that a sanatorium in this area might not be the ideal solution. Later developments proved that this was wonderful counsel, but to the eager group it was hard to accept at the time.

1967

In the Spring, members of the group journeyed to Boston for discussions with the Department of Care and with each of the members of the Board of Directors. In these discussions members of the group were first made aware of the idea of a Visiting Nurse Service.

Arrangements had already been made for the speaker for the annual meeting, so awaiting further counsel from Boston the committee laid the plans for the first annual meeting of Noontide on May 13, 1967. The speaker was Sylvia Prall Rhode, a teacher from Birmingham. The meeting was held at First Church of Christ Scientist, Flint, Michigan. The title of Mrs. Rhode's talk was "Children of The Day".

In mid-June, a letter was received indicating that the Department of Care had completed investigating the experience of all other existent sanatoriums and they recommended that not only the need for, but the available support for such a facility should be very definitely established in this area before construction should commence.

After the Annual Meeting the committee began to prayerfully consider the Visiting Nurse idea. The Visiting Nurse idea was a new approach to meeting the needs of the area. The summer months were devoted to prayerful work and were marked by a great increase in correspondence and telephone calls between Saginaw and Boston to enable the officers of Noontide to have a workable plan to present to the field.

The remainder of 1967 was devoted to educating the field as to the advisability of tabling the construction of a sanatorium or nursing home and of how to establish a Visiting Nurse Service.

1968

Many in the field and among the Noontide committee were deeply disappointed when the decision was made to go to a Visiting Nurse Service as the solution to

the nursing problem in mid-Michigan. There was the problem of the funds that had been specifically donated for that purpose. There was concern that the committee was in the position of having so much money tied up in property that we could not presently use. Looking back over the history of the Christian Science movement, we become more and more aware that at any given moment the final word has not been said. The final word is not spoken in any case by material words and actions alone. The Christ has the final word. We act as we are given light to see the path, and future events will either justify or condemn. It is not for us to do.

One thing is borne out by the records and correspondence of this organization. Here were devoted Christian Scientists seeking to help their fellow Christian Scientists with their prayers, their time, their money, and their talents.

June 1968 found the area with the services of Nana Perkins, our first Visiting Nurse. Fruitage from her work began to accumulate rapidly.

The officers were steadily building a committee of representatives throughout mid-Michigan, aiming at having a representative in each church. Under the rules of the Department of Care these representatives are not appointed by their churches (although the churches can help Noontide to find representatives) but under the democratic rules that govern Christian Scientists they have the privilege of reporting about Noontide to their church members. They provide information and arrange informational meetings in their areas.

During 1968, regular meetings for these representatives were held to keep them informed of the progress of the Visiting Nurse Service, of the rules governing their activities, and of the continuing changes and progress reported from the Department of Care.

During 1968, the original Noontide Corporation continued with the Noontide Visiting Nurse Service as part of its operation. It was also during 1968 that nurses helpers were needed and used.

Mrs. Rose L. Kempthorne, C.S.B., of Detroit spoke at the Annual Meeting. Her talk was given at First Church of Christ Scientist, Flint, Michigan. The title of the talk was "Angels of Mercy".

1969

Because the rules governing the Visiting Nurse Service preclude the ownership of property, it became apparent that there would have to be an entity to hold the property owned by Noontide separate from that which administered the Visiting Nurse Service. By April of 1969 this had been arranged. Noontide remained intact to hold the property and the new corporation Noontide Visiting Nurse Service was formally established.

May 28, 1969, marked the first full year of operation for Noontide Visiting Nurse Service. The nurse made over 600 calls during this period.

The Annual Meeting was held at First Church of Christ Scientist, Flint, Michigan. Mr. Paul Decker, C.S., of East Lansing delivered the inspirational speech. His subject was "In God's Loving Service Share".

Spring 1969. Several tape recorders were given to Noontide Visiting Nurse Service to be used for students who have difficulty in reading the lesson sermon. Throughout the years, the original donor of tape recorders continued making these gifts, which has been a continual blessing.

1970

December 18, 1970. A letter was sent to the Department of Care in Boston, Massachusetts pointing out the great need for nurses aides.

January 1970. Noontide Visiting Nurse Service for Christian Scientist is duly authorized - Non-Profit Corporation of the State of Michigan.

Noontide Visiting Nurse Service received accreditation during 1970 by the Christian Science Board of Directors. The requirements for accreditation by the Department of Care as a Visiting Nurse Service for Christian Scientists were fulfilled as of November 1, 1970.

In the Legacy of the late Clarence Haas, his home was given to Noontide. The Haas Home now was to become the Headquarters of the Visiting Nurse Service.

During 1970, a total of 1139 calls were made by the Visiting Nurse. Much fruitage was reported.

Dorothy S. Rader, C.S.B., was the speaker at the annual meeting held at First Church of Christ Scientist, Flint, Michigan. The meeting was held on May 9, 1970 and the title of the speech was "Our Brother's Need".

Great unfoldment took place during 1970. The comforting, encouraging, cheering, and healing ministrations of the nurse have blessed many patients under Christian Science treatment. A number have expressed gratitude that a nurse was available for the care of physical conditions that would otherwise have threatened hospitalization.

The Visiting Nurse services cost about \$12,000 for the year of 1970. The cost is made up from fees collected, and by contributions from churches and individuals.

1971

January 1971. Received letter from the Department of Care in reply to Noontide's letter of December 18, 1970, regarding the need for nurses aides. The department of Care indicated that guidelines for this activity and also a way of giving training was being currently worked upon.

January 28, 1971. A letter was sent out from Noontide to those who had contributed to the idea of a nursing home or a sanatorium, asking what they wished to have done with their contributions. In the reply each contributor was given credit according to his decision.

The nurse had another active year, and the fruitage became clear of the good work that was being done. 1185 calls were made during this year alone.

Noontide was also grateful for the unfoldment of a full time secretary. The Noontide Visiting Nurse Service was growing, and so was the need for employing a secretary to keep up with the increasing correspondence.

On May 9, 1971, Miss Norma Beyer delivered an inspirational message at the Annual Meeting held in Flint at First Church of Christ Scientist. The message was entitled "Why Be A Christian Science Nurse".

December 1971. The Christian Science Board of Directors announced approval for a Home Aide Training Program, which is intended to prepare selected Christian Scientists to serve as 'home aides'.

This year the cost of supporting the Visiting Nurse Service was approximately \$13,000.

1972

February 18, 1972. Notified by the Department of Care that the Home Aide training program would take place on June 26, 1972. Miss Elaine Tierney, home aide training coordinator, would be the instructor.

June 26, 1972. Twenty took the Home Aide Training Program held at the Haas Home. The course took 32 hours, and covered such areas as meal preparation, assistance with the activities of daily living, light housekeeping duties and companionship. The twenty Christian Scientists who took the course represented communities throughout the northern and eastern areas of Michigan.

The cost of supporting the Visiting Nurse Service for 1972 was approximately \$13,500.

The Annual Meeting was held at First Church of Christ Scientist in East Lansing.

Joseph R. Haddock, Manager of The Department of Care delivered his speech entitled "Supporting The Christian Science Nurse".

The Noontide News was implemented to spread the wonderful healing work that is going on. It is with gratitude that the Noontide Newsletter would become the media of communicating with the field.

At this point, it is worth repeating the words of the opening paragraph. Divine Love translates itself to listening hearts through the Christ... so an idea that we glimpse humanly must often develop and grow rather than appear as a finished result.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE



The Newsletter Committee consists of Marie Fleminger, Margaret Meek, Janet MacPhail, Arnold Smith, Larry Toft and Catherine Walpole. If there are any communications that you would like to see included in the Noontide News, please feel free to contact these people. A special research committee consisting of Marie Fleminger, Margaret Meek and Larry Toft worked on compiling records for this newsletter. We are all proud to be a part of this movement, and we are thankful to all those who have served in making the Noontide idea grow. These devoted workers would include lawyers, teachers, businessmen and women, housewives, lay people, as well as other professional people.

FRUITAGE REPORTS

The next newsletter will be published in April. You may wish to write an article of fruitage. Unless you so desire, we will not publish names. Letters of Fruitage and Appreciation should be sent to the Visiting Nurse:

Mrs. Alberta Brushaber
609 Sheridan
Saginaw, Michigan

WORKERS NEEDED

There is always a great need to find people who have a few hours a month to work with Noontide. There is a need for nurses helpers, office helpers, mailing committee as well as other meaningful jobs. For more information, please feel free to contact your area representative or any officer on Noontide.



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— URGENT —

We are in immediate need of helpers who can do Home Aide work in assisting the Visiting Nurse.

If you can do this work, please contact the Visiting Nurse, (517) 777-5840.

Noontide Visiting Nurse Service
