

An occasional column, recording insights and experiences from members of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship as they travel the world, speaking on Christian Science and its healing mission.



THOUGH CLEARLY

a lecture is about conveying Christian Science with words, I continue to find the real effectiveness of a lecture to be in proportion to how much of the spirit of Truth and Love I'm confirming in my own life. The audience will hear the words, but they will feel the message more effectively if I have the conviction of the Truth of which I speak.

I find this conviction in what the disciples of Christ Jesus learned and accomplished—that the works confirm the Word. After Jesus' ascension, it's recorded in the Gospel of Mark that his disciples "went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following" (16:20).

I can gather from this that preaching and healing go hand in hand under the guiding care of God's wisdom, power, and love. The Word must be confirmed. My words must be backed up with healing.

This is why it's important for the lecturer and a sponsoring branch church or society to stay close to the example of Christ Jesus. Following his call to heal the sick and free those caught up in sin brings conviction to what we say. The healing power of divine Truth and Love demonstrated brings a growing confidence that God is, indeed, with us.

The words of a hymn are a constant humble prayer in my thought as I prepare for each lecture: "So let your works confirm your speech" (Violet Hay, *Christian Science Hymnal*, No. 12).

Because healing is the foundation of a lecture, I focus my preparatory work on healing in my own life. And I often invite the branch church or society to join me in a commit-

ment to healing before the lecture. It makes us honest in our words, and it certainly brings wonderful results. Preparing in this way has brought healing for both the church members and me—of long-standing physical illnesses, financial problems, strained relationships, fear of sharing Christian Science—and all before we even gave the lecture!

Just recently I was coming down with flu-like symptoms the day I was to give a lecture. Immediately, because of the earlier preparatory work, I knew that nothing could keep me from proving that the Word of God heals. I stayed with the fact that the promised Comforter is here, as revealed to Mary Baker Eddy, and that neither Christian Science nor the true appreciation of the life of its Discoverer could be brought down, stopped, rejected, contaminated, dismissed, or reversed. I prayed that both I and the branch sponsoring the lecture were all under the protecting influence of divine Love. I knew that the Mind that impels its own message, protects the message, and therefore the lecture hour was in its care. The symptoms disappeared quickly. I was perfectly well and free to give the lecture.

An interesting follow-up came after the lecture, when someone spoke with me about having difficulty accepting the idea that healing is the natural outcome of practicing true Christianity. But because of my earlier healing that very day, and all the healings I've had and seen over the years, I could with tender patience and assurance tell him that no one is separated from God's healing love. At that moment, both the man asking the question and I could feel the spirit of genuine trust in Christ-healing. He left more confident that he, too, would see the Word of God confirmed in his own life.

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