

PLEASE NOTE:

*This transcript of a testimony of healing gives you a written version of the audio presentation. Other than deleting some verbal repetition, this is a direct printout of the healing and will read quite differently from testimonies found in the Christian Science periodicals, which have been edited for ease of reading.*

*Each testifier was asked to relate an account of healing as though it were being given in a Christian Science church at a Wednesday testimony meeting. The natural verbal shorthand means that when this testifier uses such terms as “nurse” and “practitioner” she means Christian Science nurse, Christian Science practitioner, etc.*

*The footnotes in some of the testimonies serve as a clarifying reference to some partial quotes by the testifiers.*

## TRACK 6

It was about nine years ago in the summer, and I was planning to visit my dad in Savannah, Georgia, and many of my childhood friends, none of whom are Christian Scientists. And I actually woke up in the morning that I was supposed to take the plane down there, and I was extremely ill. I was completely, I would say, incapacitated. I was unable to walk. I could barely get around at all. And I knew that I wasn't going to be able to make the trip. Because the Christian Science practitioner I usually work with was out of the country, I called two friends from my branch church, and within 20 minutes, they were there, and they had brought a Christian Science practitioner who had just moved to town. I did not know her, which also was, I think, important in this whole healing experience, because it proved so much to me that the work a practitioner does isn't personal. It was really just proof that it's God's love expressed. Well, no sooner did the practitioner and my friends from church arrive, than they took one look at me and called a Christian Science visiting nurse. And she was there very very quickly, and she took a look at me and suggested that I actually go to a Christian Science care facility. And I lived in Connecticut at the time, and she called the Chestnut Hill Benevolent Association, and it was just wonderful, cause immediately they said “Of course we have room.” And I have to say that at that moment, I felt a great sense of fear dissipating, and a sense of relief. I'd been really very frightened, I should say, when I woke up and all these really very bad symptoms. Nothing was functioning. I won't go into the symptoms, but it was pretty scary. And I had also canceled my trip, and did not tell my dad what was wrong with me, because I knew that he and my sister, who's married to a doctor, would really be concerned. Even after all these years, after all the healings they've seen, I knew that they would actually want to get me into a medical facility, and that really wasn't what I wanted. There was no doubt in my mind that through Christian Science and the wonderful care facility I would be okay. And that

was just totally from my heart, my choice. It was a two hour drive from my house in Connecticut to the BA, and literally, as we drove in to the beautiful grounds and pulled up at the door, there was a nurse waiting with a wheelchair for me, and I just felt such a sense of relief. I guess I have to say, it's the first time I'd felt safe since I had woken up that morning, and I knew I was safe. More than that, I knew I was going to be all right. And I have to say, it didn't look that way. I couldn't walk. And for somebody—at that time I ran at least three, four miles a day and played lots of sports—this was not a usual experience for me. It was pretty dramatic. But the nurse wheeled me upstairs to a room where I could look out, and it was just trees and beautiful things outside, and the practitioner who I was working with was talking about how much God loved me, and that He had created me in His image and likeness, and He also maintained me in His own image and likeness so that I reflected all those spiritual qualities, and she just helped calm my fear and just, you know, had me really working the best I could to pray to accept this. I have to say, at this point, I really couldn't even read, and I couldn't get up and out of bed too much by myself. The nurses were so loving. Without saying anything bad about the medical, I recently had had relatives in, or friends in, medical care facilities, I'd visited them, and it just, this was what I needed. This was, I could call at any moment, and boy, I did. During the night, nurses came and sang hymns to me. They read to me. They held my hand. They told me I was going to be okay. And they also took care of all my needs, physical needs. They kept me, helped me bathe and fed me, when I, first I couldn't keep much down. And there was such a sense of peace here, I mean in the BA, and such a sense of that God was caring for me, and I just knew that I could just “pour in truth through flood-tides of Love,”<sup>1</sup> as Mrs. Eddy says, and, you know I was able to do that by listening to, I could listen to the Bible Lesson on tape all the time. I could listen to all of the lectures. And I could listen to people reading *Science and Health* through, even though I couldn't at that moment really study, it just flowed into my thought, and just, you know, reassured me. And it was so nice, because I would just, I got stronger, and I remember I was able to go outside in the wheelchair. And then the next time I was able to push the wheelchair outside. And you know I walked around the grounds, and I've always loved nature, so to be able to sit outside and see all the beautiful things. Everything was in bloom. There were birds. There was even a little cardinal that came and sat on my windowsill. You know it was just, I'm sure, God's angels for me, personally, because that's what made me know that God's creation was intact, and that everything was going on and I was being cared for, you know that God was taking care of me, but this human evidence of His love was being expressed. And in that safe haven, where, you know, I have to also say about the nurses, not only did they, you know, just give me every kind, human support, and every help through reading to me and singing to me and declaring the truth of me, but you know I think also, from the very beginning, they simply did not see me as sick. They saw me correctly. And that just itself was just a

bedrock on which to build this healing. So this whole atmosphere that I was, really was, the “atmosphere of Love divine.”<sup>2</sup> And I was really learning slowly but surely to get a deeper sense of God’s care, a deeper sense of my perfection and His, just a shepherding sense. It was something that my teacher, when I went through class instruction, he just emphasized so much. God is the shepherd. Every single thing was geared towards my being able to listen to God. Nothing came into my thought that could stop to break that communion with God. And through that I began to get, of course, physically stronger. I don’t even remember so much now, but I do remember the steps. But I do remember, suddenly I was able to get down the hall by myself, soon I was taking a shower by myself, all these things that I hadn’t been able to do. I was able to eat normally. And then I do remember that I was then able to actually talk to other people, you know, who maybe hadn’t gotten quite as far in their healing, share some ideas, you know, and sit in the little room where I was reading, and somebody else might come in, and I remember meeting a couple of just lovely people, and it was such a support. And I have to say that when, again, the visiting nurse came and took me home, when I was ready, and I think it was within three or four weeks, I was at a Christian Science family camp and I was waterskiing. So this was, you know, a complete and beautiful healing, and it was just, it was so gentle. It was, I was gently shepherded through absolutely every step of the way to where the healing was such a deep healing, it became a foundational experience for me. I mean, the fact that I knew this was the right thing, I knew Christian Science healed, I knew it was the way I wanted to go. And I have to say, this was after having been brought up under the medical for many years, you know, until I was in my early 20s, and so I knew what I was choosing between. And this was a choice that I really trusted and wanted, and to also just see that just so beautifully proved, and I have to say that it was definitely having the BA to come to and to be in this atmosphere that enabled me to do the work that I needed to do. And sometimes that was pacing the floor at night and declaring the truth with a nurse present, in early days, holding my arm. And then it was maybe doing it by myself. That that was the atmosphere, I have to say, that I totally credit that, everything that the BA provided just made all the difference, and made the healing possible. My dad, who I really adore, and who really loved me, and at that time, he was in his early 90s. He was really worried about me, and even though he’d seen many healings, he’d seen his grandchildren healed, and he himself had experienced a couple of healings, he still had accepted the misconception that Christian Scientists are neglectful of the practical aspects of healthcare. So when I went to visit him after I’d been waterskiing at the Christian Science camp, I went to visit him in the fall. And I told him every step of that journey. I explained to him how when I wasn’t well, friends from church came. A practitioner came. The nurse came. The nurse got me to the care facility. And I talked to him about the care. And this is a man who actually loves his children very much. And I could see as he was listening, and his face, he was listening and thinking deeply

about it. And this is also a man who is extremely religious. And at the end of what I had said, he was very quiet for a minute, and then he said, “I feel so grateful about that.” He said, “I am so happy to see that you have a reliable healthcare system.”

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<sup>1</sup> *Science and Health*, p. 201.

<sup>2</sup> *Christian Science Hymnal*, No. 144.

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