

## **FRUITAGE REPORT FROM THE FIELD**

**June 2023**

I'm Jeffrey Deemer-White, the Director of Christian Science Nursing here at Clearview Home. It is my pleasure to share with you some wonderful fruitage of healing that we have witnessed over this past year. The experience I'm going to share with you was one that we felt answered my questions that we get asked and how we as a Christian Science Nursing Facility have been able to meet the needs the last few years. It'll be a little weird be we worked through it. I'll share the testimony from the field now.

"Although I've lived in the Madison, Wisconsin area for 35 years, I don't recall being aware of Clearview Home until the last few years. I'm sure I heard of it through church, but it wasn't an active awareness. Then about four years ago the Executive Director and other Clearview Home staff visited a small society I was attending and went out to lunch with church members after the Sunday service to become acquainted with us and talk about Clearview. Later, when Clearview held an open house to celebrate their new facility, I came with a dear friend with whom I shared a home.

These initial contacts opened the way for me to telephone Clearview late one night when my leg began bleeding unexpectedly and I was unable to stop the blood flow. The Director of Nursing answered the phone. He was very responsive and gave me practical instruction on how to position the leg and stop the bleeding. He also called within the next day or two to see if further help was needed. Little did I know that my contacts with Clearview would become fairly regular over the next year or so. For awhile my housemate was disinterested in eating, and this was a concern to me as well as to her out-of-state daughters who are not Christian Scientists. I also began to need to bandage my legs and wasn't sure how to do it. The Director of Nursing had numerous telephone conversations on these topics with me as well as with the daughters and also came to our home on several occasions. He was patient and generous with his time, providing useful ideas and recommendations as well as bringing us equipment on loan to meet various needs.

One day I fell in my home. I wasn't injured, but neither was I able to get up. I understood immediately that God was showing me that a change was needed. Our day-to-day living arrangements had become quite constricted and, despite the willing assistance of good friends, weren't really sustainable. EMTs came and took me to a hospital, while my sister who was visiting from California stayed with my dear housemate. The fact that my sister was present was further proof to me of God's precise control of events as I couldn't have left my housemate on her own. After a very few days in the hospital I was transferred to a rehab facility, where I stayed for several weeks until a place became available for me at Clearview.

During this time, I was again in regular contact with Clearview's Director of Nursing, who helped me understand what to expect at rehab, answered questions that arose, and kept me up-to-date on the timing of a possible move to Clearview. He was a valued lifeline in what was for me an entirely unfamiliar experience. At the same time he talked frequently with my housemate's daughters as they explored options for their mother's care. His extensive knowledge of other Christian Science care facilities and contacts enabled them to direct their search effectively rather than flounder around. Even now, after my housemate has been settled for several months in a setting where she's receiving exceptional and loving care (a beautiful story of divine coincidence which both her daughters acknowledge as the work of God), one daughter still calls Clearview's Director of Nursing occasionally to discuss things that concern her. Both daughters have expressed many times how much they appreciate working with the Director of Nursing and how confident they feel in the ideas he offers.

This is a fairly long story of care provided by Clearview that didn't occur AT Clearview. I wanted to share these details because they speak to how the services Clearview provides extend far beyond its geographical location and even beyond Christian Scientists themselves. Even if someone can't be accommodated as a patient at Clearview, they can still be greatly assisted and supported by the genuine interest and committed attention Clearview willingly offers.

I've now been a patient at Clearview for several months. The care I receive from the Christian Science nurses has been uniformly excellent – attentive, patient, thoroughly competent and gentle. I've particularly appreciated the quality of gentleness in regard to some bandaging I continue to require. The high standard of care was no surprise. But what I didn't anticipate was that a delightful sense of camaraderie would gradually grow between me and the nurses, as well as with the kitchen and office staff. Great stories and laughter punctuate the days, along with glimpses of others' life experiences that reveal character, courage, and adventure. Clearview most likely appears to be a small, rather quiet place – but actually, it can be rockin'!

Recently I clarified to myself what I most value about being at Clearview. It's perfectly expressed in Mary Baker Eddy's words, "hidden in sacred secrecy from the visible world" (Science and Health 118:6). While I engage outwardly with nurses, staff and friends, the inner experience of healing for which I came to Clearview is entirely secret and sacred. Nurses have shared spiritual truths at moments when a need has been apparent, and I'm often conscious of their quiet, prayerful focus, but there has been no intrusion whatsoever into what I'm thinking or how I'm working in Christian Science – whether I'm "doing my part" toward healing. Every morning and afternoon, at my request, I'm assisted to Clearview's pleasant library with its beautiful outdoor views and left to my own activity. A nurse would read to me or help me with researching references and articles, but I prefer to work alone, and that is respected without question. My perception is that the nurses and the Director of Nursing implicitly trust the leaven of Truth – and it's this leaven that's "hidden in sacred secrecy." Mrs. Eddy says "...this

leaven of Truth is ever at work. It must destroy the entire mass of error, and so be eternally glorified in man's spiritual freedom" (Science and Health 118:10). It's very clear to me, and to the practitioner supporting me, that this is actively happening even though the healing is not yet outwardly apparent. This is the clear-view that is making my Clearview experience a holy gift."

That is the end of the testimony. I'd like to thank you all for your support, the support we've received and the support we'll continue to receive. The Christian Science Nursing field needs support of metaphysicians like you to continue this mission of caring and healing. I look forward to sharing more with you in the future.