



## Grace To Go Forward

By The Board of Directors of Sharon House Corporation

Sharon House

Confronted with the vast sea ahead of him, one wonders if Moses had any inkling of the amazing outcome that his conviction would bring about. God would provide an answer and that answer was to lead the Children of Israel to safety right through the middle of the Red Sea. This was a defining moment in his life. Unquestionably he needed to draw on the divine grace that yields to the understanding of God as infinite Good. He listened to that understanding and with conviction proved the power of God. Let's now page back to an earlier time in Moses' experience when he was fearful, guilty and plagued with inability. He actually asked God if he could be excused from his mission, that a more eloquent man replace him in persuading Pharaoh to release the Israelites. But God would not excuse him and Moses went on to become a great leader. He came to understand through Love's bidding that once he handled the serpent of material history, of fear, doubt and inability he was able to do God's work.

I'm sure you're familiar with the statement from Mary Baker Eddy's writings that "the human history needs to be revised and the material record expunged" (*Retrospection and Introspection* page 22). So Moses, although reluctant at first, was willing to leave a false material history and move forward in the demonstration of his spiritual identity and ability. This identity was based solely on his spiritual history as a complete, whole, perfect, competent idea, created by divine Intelligence. The human history provided an occasion for him to realize his true identity. What happened to Moses' material history? He no longer operated under its negative influence and, having dominion over it, he became its master. Mrs. Eddy calls this realization the "ethics of Truth" in the following paragraph referring to the material record.

"Mere historic incidents and personal events are frivolous and of no moment, unless they illustrate the ethics of Truth. To this end, but only to this end, such narrations may be admissible and advisable; but if spiritual conclusions are separated from their premises, the nexus is lost, and the argument, with its rightful conclusions, becomes correspondingly obscure. The human history needs to be revised and the material record expunged" (*Retrospection and Introspection* page 21).

In this newsletter we review the material history of Sharon House. Yet the purpose is to "illustrate the ethics of Truth." These ethics invite participation from each one of us who has a connection with Sharon House, to search our thoughts for the justness, morality, uprightness, virtue, integrity and Golden Rule of the spiritual history of Sharon House. This spiritual history was impelled by divine Love's care for humanity and by the unselfed love for God and man expressed in individual demonstrations of this healing, nurturing idea. Its spiritual foundation was and is secured in Truth, Love and the two great Commandments named by Christ Jesus (Mark 12: 29-31). It finds its unique expression in *Church Manual of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass.*, By-law for the Christian Science Nurse (Article VIII, Section 31).

In this interesting walk through the past, you'll read about two early Christian Science workers who saw the need for this spiritual idea to be expressed. And through their genuine Christian thoughts and deeds Sharon House was brought into view. This idea developed over the years as various individuals embraced the spiritual vision. As we participate in this exercise together and catch the eternal light of progress, we'll find our view of Sharon House spiritualized, freed from lingering attachments to a material view and uplifted to benefit the race.

"Who knows how the feeble lips are made eloquent, how hearts are inspired, how healing becomes spontaneous, and how the divine Mind is understood and demonstrated? He alone knows these wonders who is departing from the thralldom of the senses and accepting spiritual truth . . ."  
(*Miscellaneous Writings 1883-1896* page 100).

Let's unite together in the spiritual truth of Sharon House and, like Moses, we'll inevitably move forward in scientific progress.

# Introduction to Historical Sketch

Just recently, a member of Sharon House inquired about the history of our beloved logo. Referencing our Employee Handbook, we were able to give the member not only facts about the logo but also a history of Sharon House. Now we know the history of Sharon House is a history of healings and demonstrations, but the actual development of this healing haven in red brick is an interesting one. We reprint it here for your enjoyment and information. Great gratitude must be given to Brian Zavitz, a previous Administrator, for the work he did in preparing this sketch for the Employee Handbook.

*Please note: we have made some minor revisions from the original to assist those unfamiliar with Sharon House and its mission.*

## Historical Sketch

In 1891, a young student of Christian Science by the name of Emily Shanklin began the public practice of spiritual healing in Toronto. Two years later, in 1893, another young woman by the name of Daisette Stocking came from Cleveland to receive treatment from her. She was healed, and remained in Toronto to pursue the public practice of Christian Science healing herself. Later that same year, the two moved together to a house at 317 Jarvis Street. As part of their practice, they began taking occasional patients who were receiving Christian Science treatment, and who also needed nursing care, into their home to provide them that care.

A year of two later, a young Presbyterian minister who had taken up the study of Christian Science, returned to Toronto, and became a frequent visitor in the young ladies' home. Among other things, William P. Mackenzie had a penchant for giving things poetic names, and began to refer to the house on Jarvis Street as "Sharon". The plain of Sharon is referred to in the Bible (e.g. Isaiah 35) as a place of rest, renewal and healing, and Mackenzie's poem of that name may have been written about this time:

### Sharon

Safely when the flocks are folded,  
Called from heights they scaled in vain,  
On the night air breathes a sweetness  
From the blooms of Sharon's plain.

Lowly are the modest lilies,  
Humbly their white bells they swing;  
But the roses, ah, the roses,  
Sunset fires to earth they bring.

Like the lily of the valley  
Love may hide in humbleness;  
But behold, the rose of Sharon  
Lifts its heaven-sent joy to bless.

Yet in sweetness, or in gladness,  
It is love that issues thence;  
And the giving forth of blessing  
This is Sharon's excellence!

"Heartsease Hymns"

The Cambridge Tribune Press, 1928



Mackenzie was eventually called to serve at the home of Mary Baker Eddy in Concord, New Hampshire, and Stocking was asked to serve there shortly afterward. They soon were married (eloping, in fact!), and later Shanklin wed Gavin Allen, an early practitioner and teacher of Christian Science in Toronto. The refuge called "Sharon" was no more.

However, about 1953, two Toronto practitioners, Florence Hamilton and Ethel Goss, began holding informal meetings to discuss the idea of establishing a Christian Science "nursing home". One of these ladies, most likely Mrs. Goss, had had some connection with the early "Sharon", and suggested the name "Sharon House" for the new facility.

Meetings continued, and the Sharon House Trust was established, the purpose being to provide income to "maintain Sharon House activities". By 1964, \$100,000 had been donated to the trust, as well as a further \$30,000 to purchase a house. Informal groups throughout Ontario contributed through their prayers, donations, and collective effort, the fund often coming from fund-raisers like bake sales.

By the end of 1968, Sharon House Corporation had been founded and registered as a charitable organization, and a house had been purchased at 173 Lyndhurst Ave. With Margaret Sorby as the head (and initially, the only) Christian Science nurse, Sharon House began operation.

The lovely brick house was situated in a neighbourhood of gracious homes, with a big front yard and a lovely garden overlooking a ravine at the rear. There were four bedrooms (two other rooms were later converted to guest rooms), a third floor apartment which the head Christian Science nurse used, and offices in the basement. However, features like the shared bathroom facilities and the many stairs made the building far from practical, so when zoning difficulties arose in 1979, the decision was made to move on.

Another house was purchased at 2133 Bloor Street West and a building fund was announced. Bloor Street was to be considered a temporary home for Sharon House and a goal was set for building a new facility in five years. Sufficient renovations were undertaken to make the house more serviceable than the Lyndhurst property had been, but there were still no private bathroom facilities, and the staff was still faced with the stairs in a three-level house.

The five-year time frame eventually stretched to over 20 years. Donations and interest had brought the building fund to \$354,000 by 1990, but lack of consensus as to the form the new facility should take had delayed progress. In 1991, the Sharon House Board of Directors undertook a fundamental rethinking of Sharon House's purpose, and a new vision of Sharon House's role in supporting Christian Science nursing began to emerge.

Concurrent with this, several large donations were made, and in 1996, the search for a new location began anew. After seven months, two adjacent properties came on the market in an ideal location, and were purchased. A design for a gracious and efficient seven room facility was executed, and an existing bungalow was renovated to provide office space. In August of 2000, the present facility at 24 Montgomery Road opened its doors.

This was a culmination of a long-held dream: that members of the Christian Science community in eastern Canada could have a place ideally suited to support the work of the Christian Science nurse, and the efforts of such individuals to achieve healing through radical reliance on Christian Science treatment. Also, for the first time Sharon House was able to provide gracious Rest & Study accommodation, in comfortable rooms apart from the nursing area, for those who wished a quiet retreat for study, prayer and reflection.

The drawing of the sheepcote, which has been used as the Sharon House logo since the beginning, was a gift of Thoreau MacDonald. A recognized designer and illustrator, he was the son of the painter J.E.H. MacDonald, member of the famous Group of Seven Canadian painters. His mother had been a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Toronto, and he had attended Sunday School there.



N.D. "Jack" Young, one of the Founders of the Sharon House Trust, and his wife Beatrice, were not only energetic workers in the establishing of Sharon House, but also patrons of the arts. They were close to the Group of Seven, and the MacDonalds were frequent guests in their home. When the plans for Sharon House began to take form, Thoreau kindly contributed this letter sketch, in illustration of one of the Biblical passages about Sharon, "And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks." (Isaiah 65: 10).

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## Open House 2010

Don't miss our Open House, Saturday, September 18, 1 pm – 4 pm.

Rain or shine, refreshments will be served and our dear friend Sam Kosakoy will provide beautiful music for your enjoyment. Due to the various other activities in and around Christmas time, we've decided to forego a Christmas Musicales this year. So our Open House will be a way of thanking you as members, our neighbours for being such great ones and sharing the great gift of Christian Science and Christian Science nursing.

## Sustaining Donor Campaign: this newsletter is all about our story, past, present and future.

In our scientific progress, we lovingly remind all supporters of Christian Science nursing that we accept donations via credit card (VISA or MasterCard), electronic funds transfer and/or cheques. To start your monthly donation or to increase your current level of giving, please contact us at 416-233-4447 or 1-888-859-6002.

We also accept gifts of publicly-traded securities. Please call our Administrator at 416-233-4447 for assistance. She will also explain about our Endowment Fund and its place in Sharon House's progress.

We are so grateful for the ongoing support of members and donors including those members who are now residing in the United States. Thank you one and all!

## Christian Science Nurses:

Laurie Brady-Knicker  
Ruth Matthews  
Elaine Scott  
Jenny Solorzano  
Dean Wolfe

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## Housekeeper:

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Anne Sorochinsky, Administrator  
Reet Tischenko, House & Home Manager  
Dean Wolfe, Coordinator of Christian Science  
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## Serving the cause of Christian Science:

There are many wonderful ways to serve the cause of Christian Science here at Sharon House. The role of the Board is to govern the affairs of Sharon House Corporation and it is done best when there is a seamless transition of Board members. Please check out our website for a Sharon House Board Position Overview. We'd love to hear from you if you would be interested in serving on the Board or would like to suggest someone who might like this opportunity of service.

## Have you considered a career in Christian Science nursing?

Now that our Letters Patent have changed, allowing us to offer visiting nursing service as well as instruction, we look forward to expanding our outreach. We encourage you to prayerfully consider this next step by reviewing the Christian Science Nurse By-law found in *Church Manual of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass.*, by Mary Baker Eddy (Article VIII, Section 31) and the qualities identified with nursing found in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, page 395, lines 17-20 and page 364, lines 32 - 14.

Then contact our Coordinator of Christian Science Nursing Activities, Dean Wolfe, at 416-233-9239 or [dwolfe@sharonhouse.org](mailto:dwolfe@sharonhouse.org). He's waiting for your call or email and would be happy to discuss this work with you! Our first class gets underway in September 2010. We are accepting applications for our next class starting in the spring of 2011.

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## Annual General Meeting 2010:

Check out our website for the reports presented at our 2010 AGM. [www.sharonhouse.org/news.htm](http://www.sharonhouse.org/news.htm).