

Face – A Development Report

Near the end of the book of Genesis is the story of Jacob and his brother Esau. The story starts with their dispute over rights of inheritance and Jacob and his Mother's trick to gain the father's blessing for Jacob instead of Esau. Jacob had to leave home and go to a neighboring country to flee Esau's wrath.

In the course of events, Jacob hears God's promise that all will be well for him to return home. By this time Jacob is married with a large entourage of family and livestock. On his way home he has trepidations about the wisdom of seeing Esau again. Jacob becomes very concerned when his servants, whom he had sent ahead, return to inform him that Esau is coming his way with 400 men.

Jacob divides his family and livestock into different parties and sends them before him. Each group is to inform Esau that these herds and goods are gifts to him from Jacob. Jacob then has a night of serious prayerful work on the subject at Peniel. And as the Bible account confirms, he was changed forever after.

When he does meet Esau there was a warm welcome for both. Jacob offered his gifts and Esau generously responded that he had all he needed already. Jacob continued to insist and says "Nay I pray thee if now I have found grace in they sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me." Gen. 33:10.

We are at the point in El Dorado Vista's development work to meet our supporters face to face and offer a multi-faced (many faces) program of care and support to those relying on Christian Science treatment. EL DORADO VISTA offers important opportunities for members and supporters to be engaged in the healing activity of a care facility. EL DORADO VISTA is part of the utility of church as included in Mrs. Eddy's definition of Church.

What we offer and what we expect is based on the work that has been done to strengthen the institution of EL DORADO VISTA. Now is the time for this development effort to move forward both to share the good news of EL DORADO VISTA and to welcome and gather the needed support. The quality of the work of EL DORADO VISTA gives a basis for confidence in going forward with the development work. We are doing our part by maintaining high standards, insuring proper accreditation, and providing all possible means for care to be available and affordable to those seeking the shelter of Christian Science Nursing during healing. Our program for development also includes the provision to meet more than half way. This work can go before us as we meet with people that have been loyal supporters, contributors, and the church community – much like Jacob and Esau with a gathering and sharing of plenty.

The healing in Jacob and Esau's case represented considerable struggle and work on Jacob's part. Esau's intentions looked formidable – he probably had reservations from his prior dealings with Jacob. Even if it takes a long night of fervent prayer, the purpose is important. We are willing to be changed forever. The record is clear as to the degree of dedication and consecration to the work of EL DORADO VISTA by staff, administration, nurses and board members.

We also can go forth expecting welcome and new avenues of support for our mission. We can continue our journey “home” to our rightful occupation and purpose. Our face to face contacts with our supporters will offer them many avenues to participate in ELDORADO VISTA's worthwhile mission. The good news of the healing that goes on here provides a foundation for their willing participation. Our support of Christian Science Nursing is rooted in Manual authority and is the high calling of this institution.

So, I would like to repeat:

“Nay I pray thee if now I have found grace in they sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face as though I have seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me. Gen. 33:10.

We are accredited, credible and sustainable.

Dale Lang
February, 2006