

Developing Harmony

By Rich Butler

I believe harmony for El Dorado Vista is in our midst. God has granted us all we need to fulfill his plan. His plan is met at El Dorado Vista each day in loving and helping our neighbors and being grateful for what He has already given us. To doubt his plan is to doubt that there is a God and to put our trust into something unnaturally discordant: fear, lack, pain, loss, corruption, death, etc.

We do not have to develop harmony. We do not have to worry that something must happen to obtain harmony or that something can't happen or we won't find harmony. Harmony is a frame of Mind. It is a quiet confidence in our all powerful God. In Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy, she refers to harmony as "heaven."

If we need reassurances of this omnipotence, Jesus instructed us in Matthew 6 to "enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." But what are we praying for?

Are we praying for a miracle of finding cash in our bank account? Are we praying for some benefactor to emerge and open his heart to our organization? These are all seemingly positive human ideals, but God doesn't know that we need them because he's already given us everything that we need. As Jesus pointed out to us further down in the book of Matthew, "when ye pray, use not vain repetition... for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."

We are not subject to cause and effect. We don't require superficial matter to gain harmony or happiness. Mrs. Eddy says on page 207 of Science and Health, "The Science of being repudiates self-evident impossibilities, such as the amalgamation of Truth and error in cause and effect. Science separates the tares and wheat in time of harvest." She also states on page 300 of Science and Health, "The temporal and unreal never touch the immutable and perfect. The inharmonious and self-destructive never touch the harmonious and self-existent. These opposite qualities are the tares and wheat, which never really mingle, though (to mortal sight) they grow side by side until the harvest; then, Science separates the wheat from the tares,

through the realization of God as ever present and man as reflecting the divine likeness.”

How do we see El Dorado Vista? Do we see it as a model of compassion for mankind or as a financial drain? Do we see it as a beacon of Christ or a non-performing asset? Do we see it as an island of calm prayer and quiet solitude or a physical 18 room structure with no future? If we see our nursing facility in each of the first examples, then we will realize that God has already masterfully done the work of separating the pure idea of healing, which is the wheat, from the impure and limited suggestions of imperfection, which are the tares. Clearly, we need to realize God’s perfect work.

If we realize this perfect work is intact, we might ask ourselves, “can something negative originate out of something good?” In The Bible, the book of James asks us, “Does a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren bear olive berries? Either a vine, figs? If we see and know that Christ is present and available for us and everyone else who comes in contact with El Dorado Vista, can that be extinguished by something contrary to Christ? We each know that the devil would have us doubt the permanency of Christ and make us believe that the Christ is susceptible to human rules. However, our fountain of good, which is the eternal Christ evident in our daily healings at El Dorado Vista, ultimately can’t and won’t produce bitter water. It’s an absolute rule that we can’t ignore.

Jesus gave us the greatest gift he could for all mankind: The Lord’s Prayer. If, in our moment of doubt, we only had to cling to this prayer for confidence, it would become so clear that it is all we need to change our outlook of ourselves, our facility, our staff, our patients, their families and as Mrs. Eddy says, it will “meet every human need.”

Let’s apply this prayer to our situation: **Our Father which art in Heaven-**Who would we rather have watch over us than a loving, caring, generous Father who gives us access to every blessing imaginable in Heaven? **Hallowed be Thy name-**His name is honored, revered and holy and we can trust that everyone will be led to and be rewarded by this goodness. **Thy kingdom come-**His kingdom is here with us, right now and it can’t be shaken or trivialized by any contrary power. **Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven-**God’s plan is complete, purposeful, perfect and pure because his ideas reflect heavenly originated beauty, grace and happiness without

earthly prejudice. **Give us this day our daily bread**-God supplies each of us with our daily spiritual nourishment. Our task is to express heartfelt gratitude by giving something of ourselves. **And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors**-Jesus tells us to forgive our friends and enemies who may not agree with us, who have seized something from us, or are withholding something from us; loving selflessly in this situation brings peace and consolation to everyone around us and harmony then becomes omnipresent. **And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil**-When we love more, human will won't be able to effect our pure ambitions and evil won't be able to influence our daily actions. The prayer concludes with a statement of authority: **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever**-God's kingdom is comprised of Substance, Spirit and Truth and it is permanently and perpetually available to all mankind.

This perception of perfection and harmony is absolute if we strive for it with all our hearts and realize it is already intact at El Dorado Vista.