

WE are the New Development Team

Our Southwest community of Christian Scientists is fortunate to have El Dorado Vista furthering the cause of Christian healing and equally fortunate to have our dedicated staff and volunteers serving on their behalf. It is an honor to serve on this Board for this important cause. But, I am lead to ask myself: "What more can I do for El Dorado Vista?" This becomes a dangerous question because there is always more to do and the activities are not always entirely fun.

I believe we should all be willing to step out of our comfort zones and do what is necessary to enrich El Dorado Vista. When we expose ourselves outside this zone, we should expect enthusiastic support from fellow board members and be willing to give it in return. We should expect to unselfishly give and then challenge each other to give even more without fear. We should challenge each other to spread our message and to engage other potential advocates of Christian Science nursing in our communities and churches.

I would like to suggest that we as interested participants in El Dorado Vista's daily work, need to be the clearest examples for the public that we are asking to help us. We must give more- more time, more effort and yes, more money. None of us should be outworked or outperformed. All of our collective enthusiasm should be contagious. And each of us should be responsible for matching each dollar that we expect to receive from our campaigns.

El Dorado Vista's patients need our constant support and prayerful work towards stability. They need our willingness to share our healing story with our Christian Scientist friends. They need us to become individual Directors of Development for the betterment of our cause. We need to become the largest, most active contributors and to broaden our base of influence. People will see that we mean business.

Each of our churches and church members need to hear from us. We have people in our churches that we can influence to help us with their productive time and financial assets. If they do not contribute to El Dorado Vista currently, they should be encouraged to; if they have in the past, they should do so again; if they are planning to already, they should consider giving more in the very near future. As I said, we need to show them the heartfelt rewards that come with helping others in need. I suspect that if we do that, they will be more inclined to give liberally and without question-especially if they see us doing it too.

We should make a promise to each other that we will do everything in our individual power to uphold The Manual provided activity of Christian Science nursing. Clearly, other organizations need our help and financial support and it is always a challenge to split our valuable time amongst other important activities. I just know that this Board work requires us to be awake and alert constantly and that our current and future patients need us to do our best to protect the future of Christian Science nursing.

Mrs. Eddy was inclined to give everything she had for her cause. In the First Church of Christ Scientist and Miscellany (pp. 214) she writes of her early and very solitary experience:

I had cast my all into the treasury of Truth, but where were the means with which to carry on a Cause? To desert the Cause never occurred to me, but nobody then wanted Christian Science, or gave it a halfpenny. Though sorely oppressed, I was above begging and knew well the priceless worth of what had been bestowed without money or price. Just then God stretched forth His hand. He it was that bade me to what I did, and it prospered at every step. I wrote Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, taught students for a tuition of three hundred dollars each, though I seldom taught without having charity scholars, sometimes a dozen or upward in one class. Afterwards with touching tenderness, those very students sent me full tuition money. However, I returned this money with love; but it was again mailed to me in letters begging me to accept it saying, "Your teachings are worth much more to me than money can be."

The above depiction projects how one small individual, Mrs. Eddy, was fully enriched by her charitable giving, all because she trusted her cause and her God. It further shows that through her unselfishness, many people experienced the healing Christ and the whole world was blessed. We will also experience trials and obstacles and we will hear negative words, but God will give us the means to overcome these hurdles and know the Christ message will always shine through the fog of fear and doubt. God has given us the ability to discover and witness his infinite blessings without fatigue, pain or failure.

Our private time is precious; our full-time jobs are important; our hard-earned money is powerful; but our ability to serve with vigor and clarity of purpose is heavenly. Who will not be blessed by our collective efforts to fill El Dorado Vista's account with contributions of kindness, in recognition of 40 years of Christ healing? The future of Christian Science healing is worthy of our efforts in the remaining 70 days of 2006 and 365 days of 2007. I'll bet that we can't even imagine the blessings that will come to our patients, our facility and to each of us if we were to focus on our own personal contributions to El Dorado Vista.

It is interesting to point out that if Mrs. Eddy would not have spent her own money on the Mother Church land in the Back Bay of Boston in a time of crisis, it would have been foreclosed, the Mother Church would have been lost and our movement would not be what it is today. Let us all use Mrs. Eddy's example of constantly giving as our guide. Our future development is in this room. We cannot expect someone else to save El Dorado Vista- we can do it ourselves.

I would like to make a pledge to you to do more for this important cause and become an example for my friends, my family and for you. Can't we all do more to ensure that financial development is growing, healthy, positive and perpetual? I hope we can discuss this in depth later in this meeting and at every future meeting.