

HELEN WRIGHT: A LIVING MODERN EXAMPLE OF THE CHRIST

by Jack V. Scarola (January 2004)

My family moved from New York City to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in 1944. Our new residence was in the same rural hamlet as my mother's sister Julia, who lived nearby with her husband and their only child Bobby. A medical condition prevented Aunt Julie from having any more children. Being the same age, Bobby and I were classmates at the local elementary school.

At age 10 in March 1948, I witnessed an unexplainable and unforgettable incident. On 22 March, the 5th grade teacher sadly informed our class that cousin Bobby had passed away after his month-long stay at a local hospital. The following day on 23 March, my 7-year old brother Tom and I were at home alone for a few hours while our parents were three blocks away consoling Bobby's now childless parents. A paranormal incident occurred when Tom and I were in our kitchen on that bright, sunny afternoon. As I was looking out the kitchen window and Tom was looking in the opposite direction toward the dining room, he gave out a yell that I will always remember. When I asked him what happened, he insisted that a female apparition had suddenly appeared a few feet in front of him, and then vanished within a split second. According to Tom, she resembled the woman on the Dutch Cleanser - labels, except that she was dressed entirely in black. This strange event occurred just 3 months before my mother met a very special person who would have a permanent and very beneficial impact on Mom's life and the spiritual life of our family.

My mother Anne Scarola was introduced to Christian Science just three months after Bobby's departure. To supplement our household income, she worked for an agency that assigned workers to local clients who needed help in house cleaning and other domestic chores. In June of 1948, she was sent to a Bethlehem residence occupied by a corporate executive and his wife. Bethlehem Steel Corporation had recently transferred him from its Seattle steel plant in Washington state to its Pennsylvania headquarters, where his management expertise was needed on an important new project. My mother introduced herself to this pleasant couple and found them to be very likeable. She was very impressed with the lady of the house from the moment they met. This vivacious

and cheerfully optimistic woman was unlike anyone my mother had ever met before. Whereas previous clients would merely supervise and inspect my mother's housework, this executive's wife displayed a unique modesty and humility by actually working side-by-side with her. They got along so well that Mom was soon asked to work at this residence on a regular basis. My mother eventually learned that her new acquaintance followed a religious tradition known as Divine Science. As this charismatic lady continued to explain the fundamentals of this unique spiritual understanding, my mother became increasingly interested. The more Anne learned about this Science of Christ, the more she wanted to learn. Incidentally, the corporate executive's name was Bill and his wife's name was Helen. Their last name was Wright.

"Anne Scarola soon fell in-love with Christian Science and eventually became a close friend of Helen Wright. By 1949, Mom had abandoned her Catholic faith, and had severed all ties with the medical profession. When my sister was born in 1950, Mom utilized the services of a local



midwife. Though never belonging to a Christian Science church, Mom came to adore the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy as well as those of Max Kappeler, John Morgan, Herbert Eustace, and other scholars.

Divine Science has given our family countless demonstrations over the years. When a local hospital insisted that my 3-year old sister needed surgery to correct a painful internal ear problem in 1953, the medical staff was shocked when our family decided to solve the problem with Christian Science. The staff was even more shocked upon learning that all symptoms had vanished within a week, and that my sister was now completely healed. During the peacetime years of the Cold War era, I served in the United States Marine Corps on active duty in the Far East, where a 1957 Okinawa typhoon gave me a permanent facial scar. During this overseas tour, I witnessed the miraculous power of our divine Principle when Helen, my mother, and Science enabled me to solve a very serious non-medical problem.

By 1970, my mother was still living in Bethlehem, whereas Helen and her family had moved back to Seattle. But they still kept in touch. Anne was a favorite student of Helen and they had become lifelong friends. In June 1979, while I was living and working in New York City, my mother encountered a medical situation that was becoming increasingly serious. By July it was apparent that her long and difficult mission in our world was about to end, and that she would soon be entering the Paradise that we all think about. Though Helen was now residing in faraway Seattle, our family wished that she could somehow be with my mother during her final hours on earth. Miraculously, Helen happened to be attending a July conference not very far from Bethlehem. She was kind enough to visit Mom, and was extremely helpful in assisting my brother and sister as Mom went through the transitional state; and then entered the next realm of Life on 15 July 1979. Thank God Helen was there. The last time I saw Helen, Bill, and Marie was in 1992, when I paid them a brief visit on my way to a conference in San Francisco. In the late 1990's, I declined a job offer at the World Trade Center that would have placed me in the upper floors of the Twin Towers.

Seeing pictures of Mary Baker Eddy and noting the many blessings that Divine Science has bestowed upon our family over the years, my brother Tom eventually realized that the mysterious phantom that he had briefly seen during his childhood back in 1948 was actually a spiritual manifestation of Mary Baker Eddy. As adults, we both came to agree that God had sent this very transient symbolic image to signify our future path toward a spiritual understanding in Christian Science. I will always be extremely grateful for the miracles and blessings that Divine Science has given my loved ones and me. I thank God and Helen Wright for showing us the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

