

Biography and History of Mildred L. Leblond C.S.B.

While most of you from personal knowledge have the following information, it is wise to have in writing the facts concerning our teacher and her work. Mrs. Le Blond became a member of The Mother Church on November 6, 1914. She was a member of Fifth Church, San Francisco, when it met in Native Sons Hall and before the present church edifice was built. In fact, she was president of that Church when the cornerstone was laid. Mrs. Le Blond has served her branch church in almost every capacity, and was a strong advocate of Local Self-government. (Manual Article XXIII, Sect. 1.) When she moved to San Mateo in 1951, she transferred her membership to First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Burlingame.

Mrs. Le Blond's Primary Class instruction was under Mrs. Eleanor V. Le Blond, C.S.B., who was a member of the 1910 Metaphysical College taught by Bicknell Young. As you know, Mr. Young was appointed to teach this College by Mrs. Eddy after the passing of Mr. Kimball, who had taught the previous Colleges. After the passing of Mrs. Eleanor V. Le Blond, our teacher attended the Bicknell Young Association in Chicago for many years.

In 1937 Mrs. Le Blond became a member of the Metaphysical College, also taught by Mr. Bicknell Young. Therefore, it will be clearly seen that our teacher had a most unique privilege in her teaching instruction in Christian Science, and thus in turn was able to give us this same unadulterated high quality. Ours, too, has been an unusual privilege, as the above facts indicate.

However, because of this high quality of teaching and fearless approach to all aspects of being, including the subject of government, Mrs. Le Blond is subject to criticism in the Field by those who do not as yet understand the importance of demonstrating the Science of being in every avenue life. There are even those among us who do not yet see the fullness of her teaching. Regardless of this lack of complete understanding within and without her Association, Mrs. Le Blond adhered steadfastly to divine Principle and worked tirelessly to teach her students subjective Being and to inform and awaken them to the dangers of collectivism and communism that they in turn could help awaken the Field and the country. Mrs. Le Blond often quoted to us Mrs. Eddy's counsel in this matter. "Religious liberty and individual rights under the Constitution of our nation are rapidly advancing, avowing and consolidating the genius of Christian Science." (My 200:1) With individual rights slipping away under the influence of collectivism, the "genius of Christian Science" cannot be avowed and consolidated. For your information, the first Association of 1939 contains an article on "Communism and Constitutionalism."

Mrs. Le Blond's reason therefore, and only reason, for teaching the subject of government in relation to the Christ was because of the growth of socialism in this country, and the consequent effect of an ever-increasing decline in the growth of The Christian Science Movement. One has merely to take a Journal of 1935, or earlier, and compare the number of churches and practitioners then with those listed now to see the truth of Mrs. Le Blond's warnings beginning with her first Association. Consider the number of lecturers, the attendance at lectures, the

attendance at churches and Sunday Schools, and the picture is indeed a grave one, particularly if Mrs. Eddy's prophecy for the twentieth century is to be fulfilled. (Pul 22:9)

Mrs. Le Blond has always been a pioneer. And the step she has envisioned for us to take may be startling to many both within and without our Association. But if we are of the same stalwart character as is our beloved teacher, we will go forward and carry out her desire fearlessly and happily, knowing it will bless not only ourselves but the whole of the Christian Science Movement, and then our "Blest America."

You will recall from your class references (some 700), your class and Association notes, and your own contacts with Mrs. Le Blond, that she continually emphasized the following words and phrases: "Consciousness is fundamental;" "self-government;" "Oneness of Being;" "work it out in life practice;" "nothing is matter." As you consider these and other related expressions, you will see her consistency and increasing vision of practical Christian Science in her desire that we, as advancing students of Christian Science, be willing to demonstrate this step of self-government for ourselves and as an inspiration to others in the Field and country.

In no way is the dissolving of our Association to be construed as affecting the activity of the student in branch church work. Rather does it encourage one to become more active in his branch church to assist in restoring local self-government.

Mrs. Le Blond began teaching in 1938 and has taught 24 classes. With the exception of the first three, all were full, and with a waiting list. (Applicants for the '62 Class, seeking an understanding of subjective Being and Christian government, were coming from all parts of the country.) Her 1961 class was indeed a joy to her, for they were mentally with her all the way, including the subject of government. They are indeed well-equipped to stand and demonstrate self-government.

In carrying out Mrs. Le Blond's directive to me and to you, I have herein endeavored to give you all the facts as I know them through my association with Mrs. Le Blond, from the time of her first class. I would be remiss if I did not tell you of my humble gratitude in being able to assist our teacher through these years to accomplish her every desire, of which this last one is no exception.

With loving regards,
VERNA M. HALL,
Association Secretary