

BELIEFS & Values

Christian Science ministry is her profession

By Susan Steinnueller
STAFF WRITER

For Norma Terova of Bloomfield Hills, healing through prayer is natural.

Terova grew up in a Christian Scientist household in Detroit, and says she has seen many spiritual healings, something Christian Scientists rely on. Among them: her aunt was healed from tuberculosis, and she was cured of childhood illnesses.

Today Terova is a full-time practitioner of Christian Science, the religion founded by Mary Baker Eddy in 1879. A Christian Scientist practitioner devotes full time to the healing ministry on a professional basis.

"It's a desire to serve God and to help others with spiritual healing," said Terova of her profession. "Jesus expected us to heal, too. It's wonderful work. There's nothing I would rather be doing."

Christian Science healings are not miracles, she said, explaining, "Miracles are often considered once-in-a-lifetime, or the result of an intervention."

In contrast, with Christian Science, "You are just awakening to God's perfection that has been ever present. Since God is entirely good, the loving Father of all, disease and other problems can be healed through a better understanding of Him."

Founded in 1879

Mary Baker Eddy, born in New England, lived from 1821 to 1910. According to Christian Scientist literature, she spent many years in ill health and searched for healing in many methods. Then she was healed of a serious injury as she read about one of Jesus' healings. That led her to discover what she came to understand as the science of Christianity, which she named Christian Science.

She spent the rest of her life sharing it. In 1875, she first published her book, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures."

In 1879, Eddy established the First Church of Christ, Scientist. Today, worldwide, there are 2,400 branches of The Mother Church, which is in Boston, Mass.

At Sunday services, Eddy's book is read along with the Bible by designated readers. Terova describes Eddy's book as "like our pastor." The religion has no ordained clergy.

Each branch church maintains a public reading



STAFF PHOTO BY GUY WARRAZ

Turning to prayer: "It's wonderful work," said Norma Terova of Bloomfield Hills, (right) of her profession as a Christian Scientist practitioner. Terova is pictured with Joanne Andric, who calls Terova for prayer when she has a need in her life.

room where the visitor may read, borrow, or purchase the Bible, Mary Baker Eddy's writings, the periodicals published by The Christian Science Publishing Society, the weekly Lesson-Sermon for the Sunday service and The Christian Science Monitor.

In Oakland County, branch churches and reading rooms are on East Maple Road in Birmingham, West Maple Road in Bloomfield Township, Grand River Avenue in Farmington, and on Main Street in Rochester.

Each issue of The Christian Science Journal publishes church and reading room locations worldwide.

The journal also publishes names of practitioners such as Terova. There are about 2,600 practitioners worldwide. They are self-employed and paid by patients on a fee basis like other professions.

A practitioner may pray with the patient in person or over the phone, said Terova.

Increasing acceptance

As interest in spirituality has blossomed in recent years, there has been increasing acceptance of Christian Science as a religion. But there has been controversy, too, such as when healing does not occur.

"We are not claiming 100 percent, and neither is the medical profession," said Terova. "There are cases lost and that is a tragedy. But we have enough proof of healing to stay on the path."

She added that the religion does not prohibit church members from going to doctors or receiving medical treatment, and that such decisions are left up to the individual.

Prayer for all needs

Although she is not a Christian Scientist, Joanne Andric, a Warren mother of two, is one of those who calls Terova when she has a need in her life.

Andric discovered Christian Science in 1996, and felt that it "was the answer I was searching for," after reading Eddy's book.

Last year, Andric had a mammogram and because of a cyst that appeared dense, Dr. Deborah Ruark, a surgical oncologist at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and Troy who specializes in breast cancer, recommended a biopsy.

Andric called Terova for prayer, fearing a possible malignancy. Her fears were dispelled through prayer. When the cyst was diagnosed benign a couple weeks later, she said she was not surprised.

The best part of turning to prayer for healing, said Andric, is that unlike medication, "there are no side effects."

Reached for comment, Ruark, a Rochester Hills resident, said that while the cyst had not been of great concern, it did need to be checked.

Terova added that turning to a practitioner means "turning wholeheartedly to God through the prayer of both the practitioner and the patient."

"Whether it's depression or physical illness or any other problem, it is based on the belief that man could be separated from God," she said. "But, she said, citing the Bible, "Fear not for the Lord thy God will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Being healed or helped is about "finding out your inseparable relationship with God," she added.

COMMUNITY MESSENGER

Community Messenger features announcements from Oakland County religious institutions. Write: Community Messenger, c/o Beliefs and Values Editor, Observer & Eccentric! Newspaper, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham.

PRINCE OF PEACE

Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 4300 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, features a series of theologians throughout Lent. "Stewardship of Time" with Father Robert Wurm will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 18; "Peace and Justice Awareness" with Sister Pam Smith will be 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 22. Call (248)681-9424.

SHIR SHALOM

Temple Shir Shalom, 3999 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, will host its annual Congregational Passover Seder at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 1. Catering is by the Unique Restaurant Corp. Cost is \$31.93 for adults; \$15.97 for children 12 and under; no charge for children under four years old. Respond by March 19 through the temple office at (248)737-8700.

ST. ANASTASIA

Lenten Days of Prayer and Reflection continue at St. Anastasia Catholic Church, 4571

John R., Troy from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, March 20 and 27. The Book of Job will be reflected on, presented by Father Ken Kauchek. For more information, call (248)889-8380.

FIRST BAPTIST

B'Jazz Vespers, a free professional jazz concert, features the popular African-American women's jazz group "Straight Ahead" at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 21, in Birmingham, in the gothic sanctuary of First Baptist Church, corner of Willits and Bates, free adjacent parking in the lighted city lot. Special guests appearing with the jazz trio will be the Blessed Hearts Chorus of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Detroit.

Between jazz sets there will be twenty minutes of non-sectarian worship to celebrate Women's History Month. Dr. Stephen Jones, pastor of First Baptist Church, will speak on "On Watching Women."

Casual dress; a free-will offering will be taken for the musicians. (248)644-0550.

GRACE BAPTIST

A new study entitled "The Book of Revelation" is the subject of the Auditorium Bible Class at Grace Baptist Church of Birmingham, taught by pastor Dr. Charles J. Whitfield. This last book of the Bible has been called "the Book that unveils the future." The class begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 21. The

church is at Lincoln and Edgewood, four blocks west of Woodward, in Birmingham. Nursery and childcare are provided. For further information, call (248)648-2000.

EILU V EILU

Eilu v Eilu offers meaningful learning for adults seeking to connect with Jewish history, holidays, culture and Torah. It is sponsored by the conservative movement of Metro Detroit. Everyone is welcome to attend programs. For information on programs, call (248)737-1931.

The current Latke & Learning series with Rabbi Aaron Bergman continues on Monday, March 22, with a session on "Poetry in the High Holiday Prayerbook." Tuition is \$5 per session for members of Eilu v Eilu sponsoring institutions; \$7 for others.

From 2:15 - 3:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, "Passover — in Spirit and In Practice," a pre-holiday study series, continues with Nehama Glagowar at Hillel Day School, 32200 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills. Each session is self-contained and can be attended independently. Members of sponsoring organizations pay \$5 per session, others \$7 per session.

SHIRTIKVH

Congregation Shir Tikvah, 3900 Northfield Parkway in Troy, will host the following events:

For the first time, Congregation Shir Tikvah will hold its annual Passover Seder in its own building. It will be at 6 p.m. on April 1; dinner is 7:15 p.m. Reservations are required by March 18. Prices per person range from \$7 for children 5 and under to \$33, depending on meal chosen and Shir Tikvah membership. A portion of the fee will be donated to feed those less fortunate. For information, call the Temple administrator, (248)649-4418.

Spring Hebrew classes begin March 23. Member and non-member adults over the age of 18 interested in learning to read and chant Hebrew prayers and in being able to understand key phrases during services are invited to enroll. There will be four levels of Hebrew taught from beginner to advanced. All classes will be on Tuesday and Thursday for ten weeks at the temple. For registration, call Dorit Edut, (248) 543-4255 in the evening.

ST. FABIAN

Mary Anne Lusche will speak on the physical, social, psycho-

Please see MESSENGER, B5

CONGREGATION

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