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## College housing crunch yields to prayer

Beverly Goldsmith

It was the third week of the semester and the university dorms were full. She urgently needed a place to live. She was sleeping on a friend's floor. She'd been at desperation point when she noticed our sign on the door—the word *Christian* had impelled her to come in and ask for our help.

Those of us who attended the weekly testimony meeting at the Christian Science organization (CSO) on campus had heard about the dire lack of student housing that year. The problem was so big that it seemed the university was overwhelmed by it. Since none of us could share our housing—and it was obvious from her story that she'd done everything she could to find a place to live—the only option left was prayer.

Sometimes people don't consider prayer a practical solution, but those of us in the CSO had proved the power of prayer in many aspects of our lives. I told her how, through prayer, I'd experienced God's love in my life. I'd been healed of migraine headaches, many warts on my fingers, fear of exams. I'd even found a place to live. The Bible and Mary Baker Eddy's book *Science and Health* had shown me that God had made me and everyone in His image and likeness. And I assured her that this wasn't because I was especially favored by God. Everyone has the divine right to a happy, healthy, abundant life.

She asked us if we would pray with her right then. As I closed my eyes, I recalled these words *in Science and Health*. "In divine Science, where prayers are mental, *all* may avail themselves of God as 'a very present help in trouble.' Love is impartial and universal in its adaptation and bestowals."

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### ***No situation was too big for God.***

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This reminded me that no situation was too big for God to resolve. As God's daughter, this girl wasn't left out of His sheltering care. She was included in Love's provision of home and harmony.

I silently prayed, "Dear Giver-of-all-good, You have a place for this girl, who is Your daughter. She cannot be alone or homeless because You are caring for her. You have no lack, so Your daughter lacks nothing. You have abundance and You created her to be abundant. You love her and You are guiding her every moment."

When we ended our prayers, I asked the girl if she knew the 23rd Psalm. She wasn't sure, so we opened the Bible and read it together.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

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### ***We encouraged her not to give up.***

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This psalm, I told her, promised both of us that God was providing suitable accommodation for her right then. She would find it and we'd keep praying with her. As she left, she thanked us for our prayers and for encouraging her not to give up.

A couple of weeks later at our CSO meeting, the girl popped her head around the door. With a big smile she told us that two days after we prayed with her, she found a place to live and it was perfect in every way.

We were so happy for the girl and for the opportunity we'd been given to pray with her about the lack of student housing. Her request for help had lifted our thoughts out of our individual concerns to pray about this larger issue, and there had been results. Not only had she found a home, but we heard that the housing situation for other students had also been resolved.

Every child of God truly has a suitable, safe habitat in which to live. Divine Love has a solution for those who are homeless, displaced or dispossessed—no matter how desperate the requirement for shelter may be. The active prayers of caring people can lead to active healing, as we found out when that student came to us for help at the university.

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*Safe at home:*

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**Science and Health:**

[12:31-3](#)

[254:31](#)

**King James Bible:**

[Ps. 91:11](#)

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