

Mrs. L. Adrienne Vinciguerra  
8837 Carmir Drive  
Santee, California

*to be read by Robert Schatz*

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This tape recording was made in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Schatz, 139 Longmeadow Drive, Los Gatos, California (at the Benevolent Association in <sup>San Francisco</sup> ~~Boston~~).

After the recording Mr. Schatz asked:

In the beginning you mentioned that the doctor had told you that you needed to know God better. Did you read Science and Health because you wanted to know God, or was that for some other reason?

Mrs. Vinciguerra answered:

No it was just to be polite, because he kept asking me every day if I had read the book, and apparently I read it to be polite. I had no desire to know anything about God. I didn't think there was a God, that He existed.

Courtesy of The Mary Baker Eddy Library  
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From:

1.

Mrs. L. Adrienne Vinciguerra  
8837 Carmir Drive  
Santee, California

1 I was living in Austria, in Vienna, ....

2 Well, let me start this way, because I feel that the way I  
3 found Christian Science has really proved that the function  
4 of the Christ to come to the human consciousness and to redeem  
5 it, this function cannot be handicapped or stopped by any  
6 form of government, by any authoritarian force, by any one  
7 person, by any border -- by no human power. The spiritual  
8 need is met with spiritual supply, and that's why I feel  
9 that my experience is really proof of this truth.

10 I was living in Austria, it was the year 1943,  
11 and all the CS churches were closed, the practitioners  
12 were not practicing -- they were not <sup>to</sup> permitted to practice  
13 -- the Reading Rooms were closed. There was no literature  
14 coming ~~through~~ <sup>to</sup> Austria, and yet I was ready to accept it.  
15 It was there for me and everything came at the right time  
16 in spite of the fact that Hitler had forbidden everything.  
17 For example, I had never heard about CS before, but in this  
18 camp -- at the time I was in Stalag 17A which was on the  
19 Hungarian border and which was for young people whose parents  
20 worked ~~for~~ <sup>in</sup> the underground, people who were not of Jewish  
21 background but they were undesirable and you couldn't do much  
22 with them so they kept us in this camp -- because I had very  
23 poor eyesight I sought the services of an eye specialist  
24 in The gentleman was quite a prominent  
25 doctor and a Roman Catholic, and I had corresponded with him  
26 and asked if I could come and see him. When he first  
examined me, he told me that he couldn't do anything for me,

1 that what I needed was faith in God. My answer was, how  
2 can I have faith in God? Do you want me to take it ~~w~~ out of  
3 the air? And he said no, that he would give me a book to  
4 read, that if I could understand God I could have faith.  
5 So he gave me the CS textbook, "Science and Health with  
6 Key to the Scriptures" by Mrs. Eddy which was in German and  
7 in English. I didn't read it. I wasn't interested in  
8 religion. I didn't want to know anything about God, but  
9 every day, every time I came to see him he asked me if I  
10 had started reading the book. Finally I started reading it,  
11 and I think ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~<sup>the</sup>/two things that startled me, that  
12 made me think that this was something tremendous, were, first  
13 of all, the definition of God. I thought that if a God  
14 existed, He would have to be the way Mrs. Eddy defined it  
15 in the beginning of the chapter of Recapitulation. And the  
16 second thing was that good had more power than evil and that  
17 we could prove this in our lives. To me this was tremendous  
18 because we seemed to be surrounded by the power of evil  
19 and nothing else at all. So when I had to return to the  
20 camp -- I only had two weeks of absence -- I wanted to take  
21 the book with me. At first the doctor didn't want to give  
22 me the book. You see you couldn't buy books at that time,  
23 so if he gave it to me it was gone forever, or at least until  
24 I gave it back to him, but I just thought I wanted the book.  
25 He offered to send me quotations but I wanted the book, so  
26 he gave me the book and he gave me a CS Herald -- a German  
Herald. And I returned to my camp and just the little bit of

1 reading I had done -- about a week of reading -- was enough  
2 so that the expression on my face had changed so much that  
3 some of the people in the camp didn't recognize me. I also  
4 picked up a Bible on the way to the camp, and when I went  
5 back to camp I just started studying day and night, it just  
6 absorbed all my thoughts. I sat in this one room that we  
7 had -- twelve women in one room -- with one *bullet hole*  
8 on the ceiling, and I sat on the floor and just spent  
9 every minute studying that I possibly could. They made  
10 fun of me, but it didn't stop me from going on. It just  
11 absorbed me. Never in my whole life was I ever interested  
12 in anything like this. I had gone through schools and  
13 certainly interesting things, but never in my life was  
14 anything quite so interesting to me. There was such an  
15 inner drive to go on and on and on. Now when I first  
16 received the book, that was in September of 1942, and  
17 sometime in January, 1943, I was studying and all of a  
18 sudden I caught a glimpse of what man is. It was just as if  
19 a fog had been let open and I saw that man ... as what he  
20 really is ... he cannot be detained in a prison, he cannot  
21 be confined in a camp, but he is all-inclusive, and it  
22 practically seemed ridiculous to think that you could keep  
23 man behind barbed wires, or confined within anything. So  
24 I picked up the Bible and Science and Health and my German  
25 Herald and a few personal things, and I walked out of this  
26 camp by broad daylight. I didn't try to hide anything. I  
just walked out the one street -- there was only one road  
out of the camp. There were watch towers, there were

1 continually soldiers on duty, and they had trucks, they  
2 had armed vehicles and I went down on foot for about two  
3 hours and a half to the closest railroad station and I took  
4 a train to Vienna. No one came after me; no one even saw  
5 me walk out.

6 My motive ... my only desire was to learn more,  
7 to understand more of this teaching because it seemed to  
8 me that I just couldn't understand any ... I couldn't  
9 understand the explanations about God, I couldn't understand  
10 the explanations about spiritual existence because all I had  
11 ever known was material existence and what we can see and  
12 feel and hear with our five senses. So I tried to find my  
13 father, who at that time was working in the underground  
14 against Hitler, and I got hold of him for half an hour in a  
15 street. I told him very quickly that I had found this  
16 teaching and I thought it was tremendous, and I had a terrific  
17 urge to find out more and that I absolutely needed some  
18 money from him to go and find people that could explain  
19 this to me. He thought that it was a sect and that it was  
20 something to ~~be~~ <sup>beware</sup> of, but he did give me the money I  
21 asked for -- it was a thousand German marks, which was quite  
22 a lot of money. My father was never that generous with  
23 money, but he gave it to me, and to me this was just part  
24 of the working out. It was the last time I saw my father,  
25 by the way, because he was executed later for high treason.  
26 I took this money and put it in a little postal book, which  
you can go to any post office and draw out what you need,  
and with the German Herald at hand I systematically tried to

1 find a practitioner somewhere that would help me. I  
 2 started with Vienna, and I couldn't find anyone except Mrs.  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_ who at that time was living with  
 4 Princess \_\_\_\_\_ in her palace as her companion. She  
 5 was willing to see me. She told me that the CS movement  
 6 was not permitted ... that they were not permitted to practice  
 7 or speak about CS in the Third Reich; that there were  
 8 churches and they were closed, there were reading rooms  
 9 and they were closed. She thought that the best thing I  
 10 could do was to study and listen and ponder, but to keep my  
 11 mouth shut -- not to speak about it. She assured me that  
 12 what the book contained, what Science and Health contained,  
 13 was the Truth and for me just to go ahead and study  
 14 quietly and not to talk about it. She said she couldn't  
 15 see me anymore, that I shouldn't come back -- that she  
 16 couldn't possibly receive me another time. So that was that.  
 17 I still felt such a need to speak to somebody that I  
 18 decided to go north to East Germany and find some of the  
 19 people that were listed in the German Herald. I first went  
 20 to *Kennedy* but I couldn't find anybody, then I went to  
 21 Dresden and I couldn't find anybody, then I went to ...  
 22 I can't remember where I went after that, but later I went  
 23 to Breslau and I found one lady that was listed in the  
 24 Herald there but she was so afraid to speak to me. She  
 25 wouldn't even let me into her apartment. She said she had  
 26 a son in the army and she had said that she would not speak  
 about ... she had given her pledge ... and she implored me  
 to leave and not to come back, and she refused to absolutely

1 tell me anything about CS. I was very discouraged when I  
2 left her, because I felt that finally I had found somebody  
3 and they didn't even want to talk to me. I can see now that  
4 there was something good in not being able to find anybody,  
5 because I had to learn to turn to Mind directly and just  
6 get my answers straight from Mind.

7 In the camp I had ... there was a young man whose  
8 parents were living in Eastern Poland, in Western Poland,  
9 excuse me, and there also were some people listed in  
10 in the Herald and I  
11 thought that if I couldn't find anybody in Germany I would  
12 go to Poland and try it there. I did go to Poland and I  
13 stayed with the parents of this young man for two months ...  
14 two and a half months. They had a mill and they hid me  
15 there and I studied as much as I could, and think that's  
16 when I started to rely just on Mind for explanations and  
17 for answers seeing that I couldn't find any human beings.  
18 After two and a half months they told me that I had to leave,  
19 that people were becoming aware of my presence and it was  
20 too dangerous to hide somebody. Oh I did forget to say that  
21 after leaving the camp I didn't have any identity card  
22 and it was absolutely necessary in the Third Reich to have  
23 an identity card because you were continuously checked  
24 on the trains, in the street cars, on the streets, but I was  
25 never checked. No one ever seemed to ask where I came from  
26 or what I was doing, although I really was of an age where  
people either had to work or they had to be in some form of  
effort to win the war. I also didn't have any food ration

1 card ever, because you could only get the food ration cards  
2 by having an identity card, but I always had a meal when  
3 I needed it. And not having an identity card also meant  
4 that I couldn't go to a hotel, I couldn't go to boarding  
5 houses, but at that time the station had quite adequate  
6 deck chairs because everyone was on the move. There were  
7 many soldiers coming from the front and there were people  
8 who had lost their homes through air raids, and there was  
9 a continual movement of people who didn't have homes, so  
10 it was quite normal ~~to~~ to spend the night in a railroad  
11 station and wait for another ~~to~~ train and no one ever  
12 questioned me. Well when I left Poland, I returned to  
13 Breslau, and by that time by reading the CS textbook I had  
14 received a conviction that God exists; also that He is very  
15 willing to take care of us and that we can ask Him for advice  
16 and guidance and that we would get the ~~answers~~ answers. I found  
17 that I would get very direct answers and very apropos.

18 I remember in Breslau I had no idea where I was  
19 going to go ... I didn't know what to do. So I just turned  
20 to God and said: What do I do now? and the thought came to  
21 me that I should go to Berlin. That was in 1943 when the  
22 air raids were quite frequent and no one in their right  
23 mind never went to Berlin because at that time it was  
24 very heavily bombed day and night. But I followed the inner  
25 voice. I got a ticket for the night train and it was all  
26 blacked out because of the air raids and the person standing  
closest to me was a soldier who had just returned from the  
Russian front. The train moved and we just stood there



1 hour after hour and he started pouring out all the  
 2 experiences that he had had at the front, and this sort  
 3 of intimate communication from the heart prompted me to  
 4 tell him about CS, to tell him what a struggle I had to  
 5 understand it ... that somehow I ~~was~~ felt it was a  
 6 tremendous thing but that I couldn't find anyone to explain  
 7 anything to me and I couldn't understand it, and yet that  
 8 I had had proofs and so I thought that it must be true  
 9 and it was such a wonderful thing if it were true, that if  
 10 I could only find someone to talk to, to find out if people  
 11 actually lived this teaching. And he said: Christian  
 12 Science! I've heard of it somewhere. You know I think I  
 13 have an aunt and she has a friend, and I think that friend  
 14 is a Christian Scientist, and her name is Miss Schroeder  
 15 and she lives in ~~Rostock~~, <sup>Rostock,</sup> ~~Berlin~~ <sup>Berlin</sup> Strasse 4. Go and see  
 16 her. I think she's a Christian Scientist.

17 So in the morning when we landed in Berlin, we  
 18 immediately had an air raid and at that time there was a  
 19 Count <sup>Wolfgang</sup> listed as a practitioner -- I think he was  
 20 a teacher -- and I thought I'd like to go and see him.  
 21 I felt that surely he would have the courage to talk to  
 22 someone <sup>who</sup> and/would not be afraid of Hitler. But I never got  
 23 out of the air raid shelter because as soon as I got out  
 24 there was another alarm and I went back down. So after  
 25 having spent one day in Berlin in different air raid  
 26 shelters I went back to the station and made my way to  
 Rothenburg which is northeast of Lubeck, in northern Germany,  
 a very small town. I found the lady. She lived at the

1 address that was given to me. She was <sup>in her eighties</sup> ~~eighty~~ at the time.  
2 She was a lovely person. She was not afraid. She was a  
3 CSt, and the reason they had all their books in the middle  
4 of the war was because they had a small informal group  
5 in Rostock. They were not listed in the Herald, they weren't  
6 listed in the Journal, so the Nazi government didn't know  
7 anything about them. They were never molested and their  
8 books were never taken away. They didn't hold any meetings  
9 at that time but they did have all the literature, and she  
10 said yes I could ~~z~~ come and I could talk to her and she  
11 would give me any of the books that I might want.

12 The wonderful thing was that obviously at that  
13 time I was ready for something beyond the textbook and I  
14 learned about the CS movement from her. She gave me  
15 biographies of Mrs. Eddy. She showed me how to do the  
16 Lesson-Sermon. She always did it with the right subject,  
17 from old Quarterlies. She did not get new Quarterlies  
18 at that time. She tried to answer all my questions, and  
19 when I think about her -- it was the erectness and the love  
20 she expressed which really impressed me, and the complete  
21 lack of fear. She did what was right, what she felt was  
22 right, in spite of threats -- she didn't receive any personal  
23 threats, but I mean it was well known that you just didn't  
24 talk about CS. It was also wonderful how I was supplied  
25 with living quarters right there, because I stayed near her  
26 for practically two and a half months, or three months,  
until August, 1943. She couldn't house me because she was  
living <sup>(with</sup> ~~in~~ a sister in a small apartment, but she told me that

1 I could come and talk to her anytime I wanted. So I thought  
2 it was important that I find ~~some~~ living quarters close to  
3 her, but I couldn't live in any hotel or boarding house  
4 or anything like that, so as had become my habit I stood in  
5 the street and I asked God what I should do. And the  
6 thought came to me to go to this hardware store and buy  
7 something very small, and as I entered the door I greeted  
8 the storekeeper in my Austrian way of greeting. Two  
9 gentlemen left the store and stopped short, they had  
10 recognized my Austrian accent, and asked me if I was  
11 Austrian. I said yes. They told me they were also and that  
12 they were working up there in war effort. They were both  
13 Nazis and they also had a car, and they asked if they could  
14 do anything for me because I was a fellow countryman of theirs  
15 and up in northern Germany was sort of far away from Austria.  
16 And I told them very frankly that I needed living quarters.  
17 They thought they could find them and they took me to  
18 *Vierwinden* which is a resort on the North Sea, or  
19 rather the East Sea It was filled with  
20 boarding houses and hotels. They all stood empty because  
21 everyone had been evacuated, it was a war zone up there,  
22 for fear that the British might land any minute. So they  
23 thought that I could just take any boarding house that I  
24 wanted and live there. However, as we drove there, to me it  
25 was just the working of Love again, they talked to each other  
26 and they thought it really wouldn't be too good if I just  
lived alone in a boarding house. And they thought of an  
elderly lady that owned one of these boarding houses that

1 had refused to leave. She just wanted to stay where she  
2 had always lived, and the police just left her there. She  
3 was about the only inhabitant of *Wismar* at the time.  
4 So they took me to her and asked her if she could put me  
5 up and she was delighted to have a boarder, and she gave  
6 me the best room she had, on the first floor with a view  
7 over the canals and the ocean and a big nice chair to sit  
8 in, and a nice comfortable bed. I stayed with her until  
9 August of 1943 going three or four times a week to Rostock,  
10 talking to Miss *Schroeder* getting a new book from her  
11 and taking the books back, and taking long walks along the  
12 ocean to read them. The only people there were in *Wismar*  
13 were soldiers, people who were there to protect,  
14 as a Coast. And I walked along the ocean reading my  
15 Bible, so one day one of these soldiers talked to me and said:  
16 You know I've noticed you day after day reading this book.  
17 What is it? And I showed it to him. I said: It's the Bible.  
18 And he said: Do you read the Bible? And I said: Yes I do.  
19 And he said: Well why do you read the Bible? So I told him  
20 about CS and I showed him the CS textbook. He was a  
21 well-educated person. He had a doctorate of philosophy  
22 from the University of Munich, and he was skeptical but  
23 quite interested. The only reason I'm saying this is  
24 because after the war he contacted me. He wrote me a letter,  
25 and he said that the few truths that he had imbibed during  
26 our discussion, in spite of the fact that he was skeptical,  
he felt that those truths were responsible for his  
protection when later he was put ~~under~~ on the Russian front.

1 Mrs. Eddy says that a grain of truth works wonders.

2 Also during that time I always found some, I  
3 always had a meal although I had no food ration card.  
4 And sometimes I got a meal in a rather strange fashion.  
5 One day somebody gave me a bread card for a whole month --  
6 just gave it to me, and I never saw the person again. And  
7 another time a policeman stopped and asked me if I already  
8 --- it was a Sunday, and I was going along the ocean with  
9 my book --- and he asked me if I already had eaten, and I  
10 told him I hadn't. He told me about a lovely place where  
11 they served gorgeous meals. Meals were sort of important  
12 at that time because you didn't get to eat too often with  
13 food ration cards -- I mean good things. And so I thanked  
14 him for the information and he left and I knew I couldn't  
15 go there, but then he came back on his bicycle and he said:  
16 I thought perhaps you didn't have the necessary ticket, and  
17 he just gave me exactly enough for the meal. He tore it  
18 off his meal card and his bread card, and card where you  
19 get butter and that sort of thing -- just enough for that  
20 one meal. I never forgot this, because here I was without  
21 an identity card and he could have arrested me; but instead  
22 he gave me enough tickets to buy a meal with.

23 It was a very fruitful time up there. I think I  
24 gained a great deal. I think the ocean and the wideness  
25 and the peace and the quiet helped me greatly to understand  
26 the greatness and the wideness of God. And towards the end  
of July I noticed that the two young men who were still  
living up there in in a different place,

1 sometimes I met them in the street, and it seemed to me  
2 that they asked me an awful lot of questions and that they  
3 looked at me in a strange way and I had a feeling that  
4 perhaps I had better leave. I didn't feel completely  
5 welcome or safe up there anymore, so I took leave from my  
6 landlady and I thanked Miss Schroeder for the many hours  
7 she had spent with me trying to explain CS. She said she  
8 had never had anyone who had asked so many questions, but  
9 she was always so loving and so willing, and the things  
10 she did for me after I left and could never thank her for  
11 it -- she gave my name and address to somebody who had an  
12 opportunity to get hold of the up-to-date Quarterly and to  
13 copy the whole thing. Well, this is the thing how it worked  
14 -- there were British prisoner of war camps up there, and  
15 the soldiers didn't ever receive the Quarterly, or at least  
16 there was an effort that they shouldn't receive it -- they  
17 were burned together with other literature -- and there must  
18 have been somebody on the German side who either was interested  
19 in CS himself, or at least he knew that someone wanted them  
20 and he always took one Quarterly and gave it to a person who  
21 would copy the whole Quarterly in type-written ... copy the  
22 whole thing on a typewriter, duplicate it and send it out  
23 to as many addresses as she or he had. I k never knew who  
24 the person was because there never was a return address on  
25 the envelope, but Miss Schroeder being the only person that  
26 knew me and knew that I was interested in CS, I just traced  
it back to her, but I never knew who the person was.

1                   When I left Rostock I went to Hamburg. I arrived  
2 in Hamburg on the 31st of July or August, I think it was July,  
3 of 1943. It was Saturday and I arrived in the afternoon,  
4 and at night a week-long air raid started. I think the  
5 British came by day and the Americans came by night, or the  
6 other way around, and they came continuously for one week  
7 until the whole city was <sup>razed</sup>erased ... to the ground, and the  
8 suffering was abominable ... of the people that were in the  
9 streets. Everything was burning naturally, and this was the  
10 first time that I could really prove the efficacy of CS.  
11 I was led to the 91st Psalm. Later I found out that the  
12 91st Psalm is the Psalm of protection. I didn't know it at  
13 the time, and yet this is where my Bible opened, and with  
14 this 91st Psalm not only I was comforted and protected;  
15 also the other people around me were comforted and protected.  
16 I read it to them in one of these air raid shelters -- it  
17 wasn't really a shelter, it was just a basement, and they were  
18 very peaceful and quiet... but then the house collapsed on  
19 top of us and we had to leave that shelter too.

20                   I had a few interesting experiences at that time.  
21 One of them was that -- it's difficult to ke~~ke~~ep track of time,  
22 but I think it must have been the next morning, which was Sunday  
23 morning (we never saw daylight ... the smoke was so thick  
24 that we never saw the daylight) and the suffering being so  
25 extreme I felt that I must go and help. I found a crew of  
26 young people, which was something like boy scouts  
except they were an organization formed by the Nazi youth,

1 and they were going into the cellars trying to dig out people  
2 and they laid them out on the street. Anyone who was willing  
3 to help was put into ... it was like nursing really. What  
4 your you were supposed to do was to see if these people were  
5 living...If they were living, wash their eyes and their nose  
6 ... wash the dirt off so they could breath, and open their  
7 eyes...And if they were dead to just go on to the next one.  
8 We were very short of water. I only had one of these ....  
9 canteens with water. But the interesting thing ... I had  
10 been studying so much and I was so sure of God's presence  
11 and His help and His love, that it really didn't occur to me  
12 that any of these people might be dead. Also I hadn't really  
13 seen any dead people, so I guess death didn't really enter  
14 my thought. So I knelt down by the first one and I talked  
15 to him about God, and that He was Life, and that they  
16 reflected this Life, and I just knelt there and talked to  
17 them until they opened their eyes. Then I washed their eyes  
18 and their nose and I went on to the next one. Now there  
19 was another crew of people working, and they took the people  
20 who had opened their eyes and that were obviously alive and  
21 they put them on a truck and then the truck took them outside  
22 of Hamburg in the surrounding villages where the people had  
23 all opened their houses and took in these people from Hamburg  
24 and fed them and let them come to. Well I remember that long  
25 line of people in the middle of the street, and there were  
26 two rows of burning houses. I just knelt down beside each  
one and told them about God and about Life, and it was so  
natural, the whole thing, and/then I washed their eyes and went  
they opened their eyes and



1 on to the next one. I don't know how long this went on ...  
 2 maybe a day, maybe two days ... and by that time it was about  
 3 Tuesday and someone took me and put me in a truck too and said:  
 4 You've had enough. And the truck took us outside, and I, myself,  
 5 was taken to a small place called \_\_\_\_\_, a small  
 6 village, and there were some people who took me in and they  
 7 fed me juices to drink. We all had very thick lips from all  
 8 the smoke, and swollen ankles, but otherwise I was fine.  
 9 I slept for the night and the next morning I woke up and I  
 10 wanted to help, I wanted to do something. So I went to the  
 11 Red Cross and asked them if I could help and they said yes  
 12 I could, and they put me into a school house that was  
 13 converted into a hospital, and there were just rows of people,  
 14 lying on the floor, mostly with wounds of burning, and there  
 15 was a doctor, two nurses and myself. We had 140 people to  
 16 look after -- 70 on each floor. One morning, at breakfast,  
 17 when was when the doctor and nurses could talk with each other  
 18 and I was able to sit with them because I helped (I wasn't a  
 19 nurse) and they were talking about not having any sedatives,  
 20 that they had completely run out of sedatives to help the  
 21 suffering of these people. And as they were talking I  
 22 remembered that Mrs. Eddy had experiences with sugar-coated  
 23 pills, no medication inside at all, and that they had the  
 24 same effect on the patient as any medicated pills, and her  
 25 telling us that it was the faith in the drug that brought  
 26 the results rather than the drug itself. Remembering this  
 I asked the doctor if we could perhaps take a nice <sup>blue</sup> cool bottle  
 filled with water, and that perhaps the head nurse could

1 announce that we had received some sedatives and to give  
 2 them to the patients. And the doctor said that he thought  
 3 that anything was permissible to alleviate the suffering of  
 4 these people. And that was what the head nurse did, she took  
 5 a blue bottle and she filled it with water from the tap.  
 6 She made a grand entrance and she said: Just think, we have  
 7 received some sedatives. And she went from bed to bed  
 8 and looked at their chart and just how much they should receive  
 9 and she gave each one exactly what they should have and after  
 10 two hours we had two rows of sleeping patients - first floor  
 11 and second floor - and this was really a wonderful proof of  
 12 the truth of what Mrs. Eddy said. All of these experiences  
 13 slowly showed me that ... *I was a doctor at the time -*  
 14 *and I saw the method* it was the truth and that it did work, we could practice it,  
 15 we could prove it. At the time everything was very natural  
 16 and this didn't make very much impression on my thought.  
 17 But looking back I can see that each step was really  
 18 indispensable for the next step.

19 At that time also I began to see that what Hitler  
 20 represented was really entirely false law, that he wasn't  
 21 supported by God at all. Therefore that I really didn't  
 22 have to obey his decrees and his laws, and that I could  
 23 firmly depend on God's law and obey it and know that I would  
 24 be exempt from the other. It is sometimes very difficult to  
 25 understand -- I know that my British friends stood in horror  
 26 when I told them that, because they felt that we had to be  
 law-abiding citizens. But today, after many years have passed,

1 I think that was right because we do have to decide what law  
2 we are going to obey, don't you think?

3 Well this is practically the end. I returned to  
4 Vienna ... there's a stretch of time in there that I just  
5 can't remember what happened, but I know that I was in  
6 Vienna towards the end of the year and that I claimed a  
7 whole apartment which was in my father's apartment house  
8 because I felt it was right for me, because under the war  
9 regulations I think it was a family per room, and here I had  
10 a four or five room apartment. It wasn't a desire to be  
11 grand or anything; it was simply that it was my father's  
12 apartment and I felt that it was ... he was gone, by that  
13 time he was dead ... that I should have it. I was married  
14 by that time and had a housekeeper -- another thing that  
15 was completely unheard of, because at that time no one had a  
16 housekeeper. I should have worked myself, and when they  
17 summoned me to the German office that regulates the housing  
18 and they questioned it, I gave them my arguments and I stood  
19 there knowing all the time that God's law was in operation  
20 and that their laws and their decrees just were completely  
21 powerless. And I left that office with their permission  
22 and to have it. This was completely unheard of! I was just  
23 one person -- my husband was at the front at the time. Also  
24 I got a letter a little later from the office that regulates  
25 labor -- I must have been about 22 or 23 then -- a healthy  
26 person certainly should have worked (I don't think I was  
quite that old, but I was in my early twenties anyhow).

1 I definitely should have worked to help win the war for  
2 Hitler. And I wrote them a letter, I prayed and then I saw  
3 that all their efforts were just in vain. I wrote them a  
4 letter telling them that I had died -- it was just too bad --  
5 and I had the housekeeper sign it and mail it. That was the  
6 last thing I heard of them. It sounds silly, but we came out  
7 of this with just a complete fearlessness, it just didn't  
8 exist anymore. Actually there's a whole year in there that  
9 I don't just exactly remember what happened, but I do remember  
10 that in the spring of 1945 the Russians came to conquer  
11 Vienna. They had conquered Budapest, had fought in Budapest  
12 for two months and it was rather a ghastly fight with a lot  
13 of cruelty and barbarism, and the radio was full of all the  
14 things they had done and that everyone should try to get out  
15 of their reach before they came. Also there were a lot of  
16 word-of-mouth stories because many of the Hungarians had come  
17 west, and Austria is west of Hungary, and they had brought  
18 their horror stories with them. Now I denied those stories  
19 simply on the ground that I felt that whatever was true was  
20 true about everybody regardless of nationality or friends or  
21 enemies. I just denied them to myself. Also, being half  
22 English, I didn't believe what the Germans said anyhow,  
23 I mean their propaganda I knew was a lie, so it was a  
24 combination of not believing the Germans because they had  
25 lied so often and also not being willing to accept anything  
26 that at that time I knew was not the truth from a point of  
metaphysics, from a point of view of God's perfect creation.

1 But I would have liked to leave Vienna, naturally, and one  
2 morning a friend of my husband's came with a truck and he  
3 said: Quickly, quickly, pack something. I'm going to take  
4 you over the border. ~~I'm~~ I'm going to take you away from  
5 Austria, if possible, over the border into Switzerland. It  
6 seemed wonderful at first because I had been brought up in  
7 Switzerland and it was a free country, and no war; it just  
8 seemed like a dream. And I ran back into the house to get  
9 some things together and thought this was the answer to my  
10 prayers. But I had constantly been confronted with such  
11 big decisions and with death with all the air raid and all  
12 that. I was so used to turning to God before anything I  
13 ever did, that I stopped in the hallway and said spontaneously:  
14 What shall I do? And the answer came as fast as the question  
15 had been asked: Whom are you running away from? There are  
16 no enemies. And I saw that, that in God's creation there are  
17 no enemies, there is no need to run. So I went back to this  
18 young man and I told him that I wouldn't be going with him,  
19 that I was going to stay right here. And he tried to  
20 persuade me -- naturally he thought he had an obligation  
21 towards my husband who was his friend to take me to safety,  
22 and he thought I was just being very foolish, stupid. But  
23 I stayed and I felt quite sure that this was it. By that  
24 time I knew that if I heard God's voice, I would obey it and  
25 I stayed. By staying I gave a home to a cousin of mine who  
26 had lost hers. I also gave a refuge to two French forced  
laborers, who had come and asked me to help hide them so they  
could wait for the Russians and be shipped back to their

1 country rather than being herded west by the German army.  
2 I didn't have much food. No one had any food at that time.  
3 But at the corner of my street only a few houses away, there  
4 was a grocery. And the grocerer was a very heavy, big man  
5 who would come to my apartment for peace and quiet, and rest.  
6 It was rather amusing because he was twice my size, and  
7 twice my age, and he would come and say: This is like an  
8 oasis. And every time he came he brought something -- he  
9 brought a loaf of bread or something else. Other people  
10 that came too would say: There is so much peace here.  
11 And everyone brought something. You know I always had  
12 enough food for the three people that I had to feed, and  
13 four with myself. There was a lot of fighting in the  
14 streets when the Russians came. We were conquered by the  
15 -- not by European Russians. We were conquered by the  
16 Asiatic Russians, who have customs that date back to the  
17 Middle Ages. When they come to a city, for three days they  
18 have complete freedom to plunder, and to loot, and to do  
19 anything they want to, and even their commandant couldn't  
20 do anything about it and told the population of Vienna that  
21 the only thing we could do would be to shut ourselves into  
22 our houses. And there were lots of Russians that came to  
23 my house, but I was completely fearless. I was so convinced  
24 of the truth that there is only one man. It never occurred  
25 to me that they might want anything else. Now I can see  
26 that some of them came with rather impure motives, but it  
never got to anything because, they might have come to steal  
but they finished up with one of those Russian dances to amuse

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1 my cousin and those two Frenchmen and myself, and they  
 2 left slapping everyone of us on the shoulder and calling us  
 3 . So actually it was complete protection.  
 4 Some of the people on my street, they noticed that and they  
 5 said: You and your house, you are a blind spot in the eye  
 6 of every Russian. And, oh, they brought food too. They had  
 7 been plundering. They brought food too, so we had enough to  
 8 eat. Мгхдссхсхсхсхсхсх

9 My desire to know more about CS -- I still felt  
 10 that I didn't understand it, and I still kept reading the  
 11 CS textbook from cover to cover (that was about the fourth  
 12 time by that time) -- made me feel by that time that as  
 13 soon as I could I'd like to go to England because I couldn't  
 14 find any CSTs in Austria. They had a little -- I think in  
 15 May or June there was a little group of CSTs who opened a  
 16 church meeting somewhere. We didn't have any transportation  
 17 so I had to walk -- an hour and a half to church, and an  
 18 hour and a half back. But somehow the things they said ...  
 19 Well, as soon as I had the opportunity, I went to England  
 20 and of course the English people had had wonderful stead-  
 21 fastness and staunchness, and they stood on the truth they  
 22 had learned -- the English CSTs. And the testimonies in  
 23 the English churches after the war were just absolutely  
 24 wonderful, and I was sure that this was it. So then I joined  
 25 a church in London, and very soon after became a member of  
 26 The Mother Church, and I went through class with Robert  
 Ellis Key. And that's it.

Dec. 1965 - VE