



HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE

January 2020

New Year's Resolutions

Psychology Today reports that 80% of New Year's resolutions fail by February. Upon what hope may yearning humanity then rely? The Apostle Paul's wise and loving counsel lifts mankind with these words, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2). Paul's words essentially say that thought is transformed when the heart is renewed by the illuminating light of God, Love. His light ever shines. There's no need for resolutions; our job is to let that light brighten our path:



An Aspiration

Others may be art glass
Of rainbow hue;
I choose to be a windowpane
For the sun to shine through.
A clear pane,
A clean pane —
Is what I would be —
Unconcerned with temperament
And personality.
I would have Love shine through me,
So that my friends would say,
Not, "What a lovely pane of glass!"
But "What a lovely day!"

The Christian Science Monitor, April 26, 1940

Gratitude and Love Lead

This new year heralds a new decade, bringing with it untold blessings to all of us who are “leaning on the sustaining infinite” (*Science and Health* vii:1).

The Board of the Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service unites with the grateful hearts of all Christian Scientists who cherish the *Church Manual* provision “Christian Science Nurse,” found on page 49 of the *Manual of The Mother Church*.

We are profoundly grateful to God for His holy work sustaining power, and loving guidance. Fittingly, we also dearly appreciate all the precious financial gifts entrusted to our care, not just because they represent the oil of gladness that makes the HVCSNS engine run, so to speak, but because such kindnesses mirror the pure, grateful hearts of the givers. It is with joy and humility that HVCSNS gives thanks for the beneficence expressed to our organization in the past year!

May we take this opportunity to mention a few of the many treasures for which we are thankful:

- Your *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse, Susie Petersen, who continues to serve with selfless love and conscientious, cheerful vigilance.
- A glorious gift presented to the Houston Christian Science community last fall: An interactive workshop titled *Christian Science Nurse: A Manual By-Law for Every Member* and facilitated by Tina Bilhorn, a director of the School of Christian Science Nursing at Tenacre Foundation, Princeton, NJ.
- The integrity and helpfulness of our newest communication tool: <https://HoustonVCSNS.org>.
- The transformation of HVCSNS financial policies to bring them into full conformity with the Christianly scientific principles of transparency, immediacy, and utility.
- The addition of a professional bookkeeper who is a Class-taught Christian Scientist, who provides help to our volunteer treasurer, and who expedites our compliance with federal and state statutes.

In 2019, HVCSNS announced its intention to submit to the requisite audit/review process to become eligible for listing in *The Christian Science Journal*. The prayerful and practical preparation for this important step is ongoing. The Board regards *Journal* listing as both a protection to Christian Science nursing in Houston and a *proclamation* to all *Journal* readers who



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are seeking a vibrant, holy service that cares for all Houston area students of Christian Scientists needing Christian Science nursing.

The year ahead requires our constant prayer, coupled with the unction to *move* when and where God leads us.

For example, we are currently cherishing the anticipated Christian training of a certain class-taught member of our local Christian Science community who has a deep desire to make Christian Science nursing her career.

Another idea we hope will come to fruition in 2020 is the expansion of our five-member Board. We would love to hear from fellow Scientists who sincerely desire to join our ranks.

These and many other blessings will be revealed to us as we continue to pray to God with meekness and firm resolve. As we go forward, we are reminded of this description of “The New Woman” spoken of by our Leader in *Pulpit and Press*: “Her hand is tender — but steel tempered with holy resolve, and as one whom her love had glorified once said — she is soft and gentle, but you could no more turn her from her course than winter could stop the coming of spring” (82:5-9).

Spiritual Dimension of Care

“Spiritual Dimension of Care” will be coming to Houston! This interactive workshop is a result of months of prayer that has led HVCSNS to stand in defiance of the subtle errors of apathy and resistance to Christian Science nursing. It represents, as well, a leavening of thought, as we seek to embrace all Christian Scientists in the pure metaphysical aspects of Christian Science nursing. Please be on the lookout for an upcoming date and location.

Meet Our Newest Board Member, Salomon Ngalamulume

Salomon is an accounting graduate of the University of Houston and a member of Seventh Church, Houston. He is employed at The Branch School in the accounting department and will be transitioning in coming months into the role of HVCSNS treasurer. Salomon speaks four languages; his native tongue is French, which he spoke in the Democratic Republic of Congo before immigrating with his family to the United States and settling in Houston. He is married to his lovely wife Sarah. Welcome, Salomon!



Meet the Board

Dave Daniels, President – Ninth Church

Sue Merrill, Vice President – Bellaire Church

Linda Lindeman, Corresponding Secretary – Fourth Church

Susan Clay, Recording Secretary – Seventh Church

Salomon Ngalamulume, Treasurer – Seventh Church

Grace Duffy – Seventh Church

We would *welcome* a board presence from churches not currently represented.

Make a Donation

Our office is your home – providing care in the comfort of your residence.

Thank you for your support.

Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc. is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

Our service is grateful for the financial support from area Christian Science churches and individuals. Their contributions help us pay for our contracted staff and operating expenses.

BANKING CONTRIBUTIONS: To set up recurring donations to be deducted electronically from your checking account, please call our service at (713) 304-8384 and leave your name and contact number. Our treasurer will return your call and will be happy to assist you or answer questions.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY MAIL: We welcome checks mailed to us at:

Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc.

1834 Columbia Street, Houston, TX 77008-4348

“Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee”

Christian Science Hymn 324

