



HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE

August 2020

Pray With Us

In recent months, the Board of Directors of the Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service has been actively listening for divine direction on a subject that we are now ready to present to you for your prayerful consideration. It is this: We have a growing conviction of the wisdom of either building or buying and renovating a home that would be suitable as a spiritual rest and healing retreat for Houston-area Christian Scientists. We would love to have you join us in praying about this proposal. If divine Love leads you to share either metaphysical inspiration or practical suggestions on this subject, please don't hesitate to contact us at HoustonVCSNS.comments@gmail.com.

True Education

A great deal of media attention has been focused of late on the education of children. At issue is whether children should return to school this fall or remain at home. No matter what each family decides to do, the pervading fear that we are living in a pandemic-driven "new normal" can feel like a dark cloud overhead, dimming all children's educational prospects.



Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash

Actually, education is not confined to children. It includes each of us, no matter our age. It is lifelong learning. Thus, the *place* where education is happening is beside the point. That's the premise of education pioneer Mary Kimball Morgan, who founded Principia College in 1898. She writes:

"To know God aright is 'life eternal,' the Scriptures tell us. If it is life eternal for which we are fitting our children in this great educational movement, then every effort will be toward the establishment of right thinking, the conquest over evil desire, the overcoming of every obstacle to pure manhood and womanhood. Such work will be blessed of the Father, and teaching truly may be accepted as a divine calling" (*Education at The Principia*, p. 9).

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Morgan reminds us that true education involves putting God first. Education is not the mere accumulation of facts. It is not confined to formal educational timetables. Rather, it is the development of moral character, which is perpetual. Not confined to “the letter,” it embodies “the spirit” of the two great commandments: Love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.

It we fail to discipline our thoughts and lives in accord with divinely inspired moral values, we unwittingly sow seeds of chaos. Morgan puts it this way:

“Because children have been trained along the lines of least resistance from babyhood to college years, we find turned loose from grammar and high schools upon the business and social world, a lot of inefficient, self-assertive youths and maidens, who become simply a part of the mediocre crowd, who stand for nothing in the world but self-amusement, self-will, and love of ease” (*Education at The Principia*, p. 8).

Another deep spiritual thinker in the Christian Science movement who well understands that the consequences of human will have nothing to do with “the establishment of right thinking” is Barbara Cook Spencer, a longtime Journal-listed Christian Science practitioner.

In a talk given to Christian Science nurses at Fern Lodge in 1993, when she was still Barbara Cook, she says: “Human will is the essence of the belief in thought and action separate from God. It is chronic rebellion against divine authority. And this rebellion leads to the belief that the body, the subjective state of mortal mind, can be rebellious and disobedient, subject to all kinds of overactive and underactive behavior—like poor circulation, or abnormal cell multiplication. Disease is disobedience, a body in mutiny against government, as human will is mutiny against the Holy Ghost” (“The Dove’s Dry Land”, the closing poem this talk was published in [The Journal](#)).

From these statements we see that the goal of true education is to stir us to right thinking, which ultimately dispels belief in the generally accepted view that we are under the imposed confines of a “new normal”—or, indeed, that there can exist any limited view, whether new or old, of God’s perfect man.

What wipes out this wrong view of man as willful and disobedient and limited? Cook’s answer: “Our work—self-immolation [self-forgetfulness]—is to make room for the Holy Ghost.”

Yes, Morgan and Cook have described true education. Clearly, a physical place—whether school or home—has nothing to do with our acceptance of the Holy Ghost. With our lifelong learning of and growth in grace.

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

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