



# HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, INC.

January 2021

## What to Expect from a Christian Science Nurse

Though 2020 is now in our collective rearview mirror, some people predict the new year will be more of the same: non-stop COVID-19 coverage, continuing political strife, racial tensions, economic woes, and mounting personal fears—not a hopeful human outlook.

Christian Scientists instinctively know that the antidote to the tumult is right at hand: God, our Savior from any and every harm. Examples of divine control may be seen everywhere, including in the most mundane settings, such as at the grocery store.

Where I shop there are modified grocery carts resembling mock race cars, complete with steering wheel! Little children, secured by parents in the driver's seat, steer their "car" as if they're on a track, sometimes wildly spinning the wheel. All the while they believe they're in control, Mom or Dad is calmly directing the cart down the aisles.

Just as certainly, God is directing our lives. We are not the ones in control, though external images tempt us to forget that fact, especially when our world seems to be out of control. Impossible!

For, as our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, comfortingly assures us, "Mind's control over the universe, including man, is no longer an open question, but is demonstrable Science" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* 171:12-13).

It is also a comfort to know that dedicated Christian Science nurses confidently put God in control of every case and stand firm with Him, no matter how persistently mortal sense seems to scream for attention.



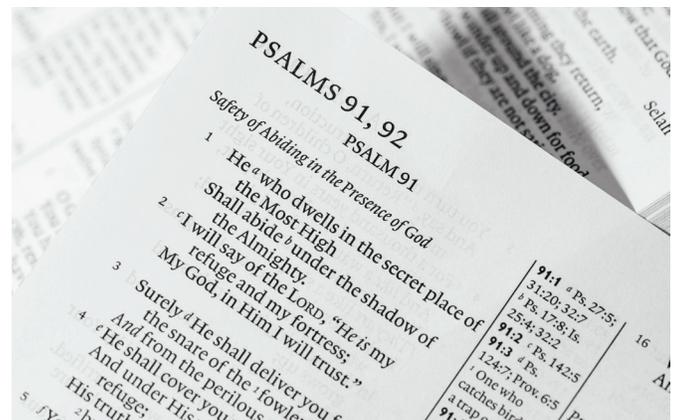
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We thought you might like to know what a client can expect when calling upon our devoted *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse, Susie Petersen:

## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SCOPE OF SERVICES

The care provided by the Christian Science nurse **includes:**

- Accepting a case with the expectancy of complete and immediate healing;
- Giving care that is consistent with the theology and ethics of Christian Science;
- Offering loving reassurance of God's tender care, ever-presence, and omnipotence, faithfully and consistently acknowledging man's spiritual perfection;
- Encouraging an individual's expression of normal activity and natural vitality;
- Reading to or with an individual from the Bible, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and other writings by Mary Baker Eddy as well as from other literature published by The Christian Science Publishing Society;
- Communicating in an ethical, moral, and loving manner with the client, family, friends, Christian Science practitioner, and others, including observing ethical and legal requirements with regard to private information about the client;
- Maintaining an atmosphere that is conducive to spiritual healing and supportive of harmonious care;
- Providing all necessary personal care to meet the needs of cleanliness and comfort;
- Assisting with mobility, including standing up, walking, moving about, sitting, lying down—with or without mobility aids or comfort items;
- Preparing and modifying nourishing food, assisting with feeding, giving appropriate encouragement to eat;
- Cleansing, covering, and bandaging to provide for cleanliness, protection, support, and comfort;
- Instructing the client and others (family members, for example) in how to provide care to meet individual needs;
- Being obedient to the laws of the land.



The care provided by the Christian Science nurse **does not include:**

- Making a medical diagnosis or prognosis;
- Assuming responsibility for making health care decisions for the client;

- Administering medication or drugs or using medicated, herbal, or vitamin-based products and remedies;
- Using and administering medically oriented techniques or technology, including, but not limited to, administering food or liquids with medical equipment—e.g., intravenous feeding;
- Manipulation, massaging, or giving physical therapy;
- Assuming responsibility for a client's financial or household business transactions;
- Intruding on the private relationship between the client and the Christian Science practitioner or between the client and his or her family;
- Giving personal advice and counsel.

Fundamental to the ministry of a Christian Science nurse is an active, prayerful confirmation of man's innate spirituality and responsiveness to God's harmonious government. This spiritual witnessing undergirds each aspect of the care a Christian Science nurse renders.

*Light edits were made to this document, whose content was updated by Christian Science Nursing Activities Department of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, in April 2018.*

## Meet the HVCSNS Board

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

*Christian Science Hymn 324*