



HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, INC.

July 2022

Celebrating Global Independence

This July 4th commemorates the 247th year of our nation's independence. Being just three years shy of the quarter-of-a-millennium mark, we might as well start celebrating this historic occasion now!

Though various commentators will remind us of the many faults, injustices, divided opinions, and problems beleaguering our country, we will come together next Monday to honor an enduring fact: We are the United States, meaning that our 50 states were born *united* and remain *united*. Our gratitude for this unity is an example of what my mother used to call "magnifying the good."

Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, understood the supreme power of oneness. She perceptively reminded her followers—indeed, all mankind—that obedience to God "is the offspring of Love, and Love is the Principle of unity, the basis of all right thinking and acting. Love fulfills the law. We see eye to eye, know as we are known, reciprocate kindness and work wisely, in proportion as we love" (*Rolling Away the Stone: Mrs. Eddy's Challenge to Materialism* by Stephen Gottschalk, p. 211).

Mrs. Eddy recognized that when we allow ourselves to become fractionalized, or separated, we are inviting in a dangerous infatuation with human personality along with egotistical traits such as self-justification and self-will. In doing so, we create scapegoats, foment pessimism, nurse resentment, stir up dissension.



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Our Leader saw that devotion to divine Principle knits us together as one under God. Living out our oneness harmonizes strife, calms fears, gentles foes, and leads us to live the motto printed on all U.S. currency: "In God We Trust." This blessed concept of oneness is also emblazoned across the scroll clenched in the eagle's beak on our nation's seal: "*E pluribus unum*"—out of many, one. History buffs know this Latin phrase was adopted in 1776 to symbolize the emergence of the thirteen colonies into a new single nation. That's oneness!



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Oneness signifies more than states and citizens within a nation coming together. It describes our spiritual heritage as God's children—never separated from our Father-Mother, never split from our brothers and sisters in the one divine family. This perspective recognizes and cherishes the unfolding story of independence not simply within our own nation, but in other nations around the globe.

Let us acknowledge and prayerfully support the oneness and goodness inherent in all countries, including those that, like the U.S.A., are celebrating their freedom day this month. In alphabetical order, they are: Algeria (July 5th), Argentina (9th), The Bahamas (10th), Belarus (3rd), Belgium (21st), Burundi (1st), Canada (1st), Cape Verde (5th), Comoros (6th), France (14th), Hong Kong (1st), Kiribati (12th), Liberia (26th), Malawi (6th), Maldives (26th), The Netherlands (26th), Peru (28th), Rwanda (1st), Sao Tome and Principe (12th), Slovakia (17th), Solomon Islands (7th), Somalia (1st), South Sudan (9th), Vanuatu (20th), and Venezuela (5th).

Whether called a democracy or an autocracy, each sovereign nation is peopled with citizens loved by God. That's why Paul's words in Galatians 3:28 ring just as true today: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

One in Christ Jesus. One in Christ's healing, saving love. This Christly love binds up the wounds of nations with all the tenderness and effectiveness exhibited by our *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse, Susie Petersen, when she ministers to her Houston-area Christian Scientists.

And, just as nations proclaim their liberty, so do Susie and her clients insist that disease, sickness, injury have no place in the kingdom we live in, where "God made man free" (*Science and Health* 227:16).

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Members of Houston-area branch churches not currently represented on our board are *welcome* to join us.

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Christian Science Hymn 324