



# HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, INC.

February 2022

## What are we called upon to do?

February is jam-packed with special designations. Among the many worthy ones are Black History Month, the Chinese New Year, World Interfaith Harmony Week, recognition of the Battle of the Alamo (the 23rd), Abraham Lincoln's birthday (the 12th), and Valentine's Day (we all know what date *that* falls on!).

Maybe you have plans for World Interfaith Harmony Week—which actually starts January 29th and goes into early March! Perhaps you're planning to surprise someone on Random Acts of Kindness Day (the 17th). Or pondering how to honor World Thinking Day (the 22nd). These celebrations of humanity at its best are shoehorned between the spectacular performance called Super Bowl Sunday (the 6th) and the not-so-wonderful remembrances of World Cancer Day (the 4th) and Rare Disease Day (the 28th). Oh, and confirmed dog-and-cat-lovers will surely want to observe National Love Your Pet Day (the 20th).

But don't feel guilty if you can't keep up with the month's myriad proclamations or espouse every laudable cause du jour. As a Christian Scientist, you can take solace in knowing that our God of peace and love recognizes each of us individually, encircles all of us universally, and causes us to embrace everyone in love, the way "our divine Exemplar" Christ Jesus did. Such love is not finite—confined to certain people or to specified days—but infinite, all-encompassing, and expressed moment by moment for eternity!



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Stephen Gottschalk makes a similar point about the Discoverer of Christian Science in his book *Rolling Away The Stone: Mary Baker Eddy's Challenge to Materialism* (p. 163):

"In her relation with [adopted son] Foster Eddy, Eddy was forced to fulfill the demands involved in her words to Laura Sargent and Calvin Frye when,

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in early 1896, she told them that she was about to give them the whole of Christian Science in a nutshell: 'Is God Love? Is Love infinite? Yes. Can you get outside the focal distance of infinity? I love. I do not formulate what I love but I love. If we personalize or have an object, love becomes finite instead of divine and infinite, and we lose the divine reflection. But if it is impersonal Love it opens up boundless resources whereby we can do good in every way.'"

The divine Love so perfectly understood, beautifully articulated, and consummately lived by Mrs. Eddy is the high standard Christian Scientists are called upon to emulate. When our selfless prayers embrace the world, as hers did daily, we see that God's mighty-yet-tender love truly does dissolve hatred, misunderstanding, self-righteousness, fear, resistance to good, and every other foe to human progress. Just think—on World Thinking Day!—of the freedom found when we love inclusively and impersonally, as our Way-shower taught us to do and as our Leader exemplified for us.

The world seems to clamor for acknowledgment that all is not well. Indeed, the corporeal senses provide overwhelming evidence that current events and competing ideologies make our lives a constant battle against misery. Yet aren't our human struggles silenced whenever we turn toward and listen to "a still small voice"? (See I Kings 19:12.)

That gentle voice is the "Love reflected in love" that our *Journal*-listed visiting Christian Science nurse, Susie Petersen, brings to the sickroom. Like a bright sunbeam, her irresistible, impersonal love for God and her clients floods the room—consciousness—and promotes healing. This is the high calling with which she goes about her Father's business. Not just on Random Acts of Kindness Day, but 24/7/365.

Susie welcomes calls from her brothers and sisters in need who are ready—even if they don't realize it—to let go of all worries and doubts and fears, just as dark clouds and dense mist and freezing rain make way for the light and warmth of the sun!

## Meet the HVCSNS Board

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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*