

# HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, INC.

September 2022

## Persistence Personified: The Saga of Marcus the Mariposa

(Part 2 of 3)

Welcome to Part 2 of our series. We trust you've already read [Part 1](#).

The whole time he was in my care, I refused to think of Marcus as beyond hope. I knew he was included in the *Science and Health* statement, "God is the Life, or intelligence, which forms and preserves the individuality and identity of animals as well as of men" (550:5-7). And I knew he deserved a Christmas gift: Christ healing. What I *didn't* know was that three days after Christmas . . .

**Day #28: Sunday, December 25, 2011**

Merry Christmas, Marcus! The Hallelujah Chorus roused him from his morning nap. After lunch, I brought him back to the neighbor's porch where I'd found him. But this time, he came indoors with me, where I sang carols to a carrot-crunching bunny, three millet-munching budgies, and a peaceful-looking butterfly.

**Day #31: Wednesday, December 28**

At 11 o'clock it was warm enough on my back porch to sit outside. I brought with me peanuts to shell for my squirrel friends, the Christian Science textbook, the Bible Lesson on "God," and my butterfly patient.

I put Marcus on a leafy branch I'd snipped from a



*Marcus sits on a leaf of the branch I placed in a glass of water next to me on the porch.*

Continued ▼

shrub and placed the branch in a glass of water at my side. He'd been awake since 5 o'clock, an unusually long stretch for him to go without a nap.

As I shelled peanuts, I prayed the Lord's Prayer and the Daily Prayer and sang Hymn 83: "God makes all His creatures free; Life itself is liberty."

Next I read the Q&A "What is man?" on page 475 of *Science & Health*. After every "man," I added "including Marcus."

In Section 1 of the Lesson, I pondered Psalms 91:14: "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name"—and applied it to Marcus and myself.

In Section 2, the definition of CHILDREN OF ISRAEL—"the representatives of Soul, not corporeal sense" and "the offspring of Spirit"—reminded me of this dear butterfly's purely spiritual identity.



*"Hey, Marcus, the shelled peanuts are for the squirrels!"*

Meanwhile, Marcus crawled from the branch to the back of my hand then inched his way to the toe of my sock. As if basking in the sun, he turned his head from side to side, stretched and curled his proboscis, and tucked two back legs up under his belly.

I noticed that each time I caught a new, "elevated" glimpse of a powerful spiritual truth, he responded by unexpectedly taking off into the air.

The first two liftoffs, he circled around the porch, just above my head. Once he landed on my awning and once on the lattice atop my brick wall. Both times I fetched him down.

At high noon, Marcus took off a third time. I stood up to retrieve him. To my shock, he circled ever higher. I called out his name. Surely he couldn't fly over the wooden fence that separates my porch from my neighbor's. *Could he?*

Yes, he could! Up, up and away he flew, over two neighbors' porches and beyond a tree, which obscured my vision. I was frantic, worried that he might fizzle out, land somewhere strange to him, shiver in the cold night air, get hungry—and lonely—and die.

Our yard man, Jorge, kindly interrupted his lunch break and checked out the long flat roof that connects four townhomes' garages. Marcus wasn't on the roof nor was he visible to Jorge on any of the porches.

Part of me felt shaken, the other part calm. The calm came from remembering a true tale I'd recently read on spirituality.com: ["How a seagull taught me to 'see more'"](#). Rereading it now, I became convinced that, as its author wrote, "Love will find us wherever we are, and remains with us as we gain our freedom."

The freedom Marcus experienced that day resembles the healings that Houston Visiting Christian Science *Journal*-listed nurse, Susie Petersen, witnesses when her clients emerge victorious over claims of illness. Susie joins me in joyfully singing:

"Praise the Lord, for He is glorious;  
Never shall His promise fail;  
God hath made His saints victorious,  
Sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation;  
Hosts on high, His power proclaim;  
Heaven and earth, and all creation,  
Laud and magnify His name."  
(Hymn 282, Verse 2)

Stay tuned for Part 3 on October 1st.

## Meet the HVCSNS Board

**Dave Daniels**, President — Ninth Church

**Sue Merrill**, Vice President — Bellaire Church

**Salomon Ngalamulume**, Treasurer — Seventh Church

**Linda Lindeman**, Corresponding Secretary — Fourth Church

**Susan Clay**, Recording Secretary — Seventh Church

**Lynne Clark**, Director — The Woodlands Church

**Grace Duffy**, Director — First Church, Durango, CO

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

## 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

Make a  
Donation

“Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee”  
*Christian Science Hymn 324*