



HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, INC.

Our mission is to heal through practical, operative Christian Science.

March 2023

“Feed my sheep”

SHEEP — 3. Figuratively, God’s people are called *sheep*, as being under the government and protection of Christ, the great Shepherd. (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary)

This tender image of us as sheep—meek, tranquil, willing to be led and fed by the Good Shepherd—calls to mind a state of harmony and peace we all seek.

It reminds us that, like sheep, we cannot lead ourselves. If we try, we stray. We lose our way. We become prey. We stumble, fall, tremble with fear, live in constant danger. Then, when we finally tire of that fate, we turn back to the watchful, patient, “gentle presence” of our ever-on-duty Shepherd for direction and protection.

The Bible is full of sheep analogies. In the Old Testament, David sang, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters” (Psalms 23:1, 2). In the New Testament, Jesus proclaimed, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep” and “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine” (John 10:11, 14). After querying Simon Peter “lovest thou me?” three times and hearing Peter’s affirmative “Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee,” Jesus demanded proof: “Feed my sheep” (see John 21:15–17).



Photo by Jaka Skriep Unsplash

God’s sheep are *still* His lambs—just bigger. Similarly, so-called grown-ups are *still* God’s children. In God’s eyes, all of us are His forever-innocent lambs.

Continued ▼

This point is beautifully brought out in a recent [Daily Lift, Unearned love](#). In it, a small boy gets out of his dad's car and runs up to a stranger, who has just smiled at him. He pleads with her to stop walking along the roadside, where, he believes, she isn't safe. Have a listen. Does the word "guilelessness"—a lamb-like quality—come to thought when you hear what the little boy says next?

We may be feeling like little lost lambs when we call on Christian Science practitioners and Christian Science nurses for help. Gently, ever so gently, they steer us away from our fears and back to the Shepherd's fold. They cherish—and patiently remind us of—our true selfhood as the safe, inviolable children of our near and dear divine Parent.

Three years have elapsed since we introduced you to our Houston-area *Journal*-listed visiting Christian Science nurse, Susie Petersen. Those of you who are new to this letter might like to meet her in these pages—and later in person. (And we figure our long-time readers/supporters would like to greet Susie anew.)

MEET SUSIE!

Everyone who encounters Susie discovers in her a loving servant of God who is fully qualified to care for every human need. Her years of practical Christian Science nursing experience include both private duty cases and work in Christian Science nursing facilities.

Susie holds the distinction of being the first pupil in the United States to have received Le Verger Christian Science nursing instruction. [Le Verger](#), headquartered in Rolle, Switzerland, is authorized by The Mother Church to conduct nursing training at all skill levels wherever there are sincere Christian Science nurse candidates ready and eager to be taught.



First and foremost, Susie is a metaphysician. As she fulfills her client's practical needs with calm joy and quiet love, she is identifying each one correctly—as the innocent, valued, whole, free offspring of Spirit, subject to neither mortal beliefs nor material circumstances. Susie entertains no wavering, wondering, or wandering thoughts in her consciousness—not even for an instant!

To underscore this point, I'll give you an example of the type of mental pattern that my colleague Susie would *not* indulge while in the sickroom—and probably not even on the road!

Recently, while driving my small car to a Wednesday testimony meeting, I noticed the flat tire light was lit up on the dashboard display. It was dark and there were no convenient gas stations, so I prayed. The phrase “. . . Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads

the way” from our textbook (page 454) reassured me that I would arrive safely at church and return home safely. I did.

The following afternoon I drove to an air pump dispenser behind a local gas station. I was so sure the tires were drastically underinflated that I changed a \$5 bill into quarters to feed the pump dispenser. But before blindly adding air, I heard a little voice tell me to test each tire with a reliable tire air gauge. I complied. Twice.

Both times, the gauge showed that all four tires were *already* perfectly inflated! I was dumbstruck. When I started the car, though, the flat tire light was still lit. Hmmm. The same little voice instructed me to press the reset button. Voila! The light went off. Nothing had been wrong with the tires. Instead, I had wrongly assumed the light was right.

You can imagine the joy and humility I felt. That seemingly inconsequential episode taught me yet another lesson in the lifelong subject of identifying correctly what is always true and not unquestioningly accepting false information. In other words, once I returned to my sheep status and followed God’s voice, all fear, worry, doubt, and opposing voices—like the blaring insistence of car trouble—were silenced. The stilling effect of prayer is precisely why we call practitioners and Christian Science nurses like Susie!

If you know of a fellow Christian Scientist who may need the nursing care Susie so skillfully and lovingly provides—giving a bath and shampoo, cleaning wounds, applying bandages, preparing a meal, running simple errands, and, most especially, reading the Bible Lesson aloud—we urge you to contact her directly and discreetly at (713) 304-8384 or at susiepetersen3@gmail.com. She’s also available to drop by for a friendly non-nursing Christian visit. All visits, nursing or otherwise, are always confidential.

Thank you for keeping Susie occupied—and happy as a lark. Thank you, too, for your cherished prayerful and financial support. No prayer or gift is too small to contribute to the Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, which exists to benefit all area Christian Scientists and thus bless not only them but also their families and our entire community.

Financial Assistance Available

Any Christian Scientist relying upon the services of a Christian Science practitioner and/or a *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse may obtain financial support by applying to the [National Fund for Christian Science Nursing](#) (NFCSN). You may contact The Principle Foundation, which manages this fund, by emailing info@nfcsn.org or by calling (800) 873-2843.

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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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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.

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Donation

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

Christian Science Hymn 324