



HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, INC.

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

April 2023

Cherishing Christian Science Nursing

My earliest recollection of nursing occurred during an overcast and chilly spring day on my grandparents' farm. I was 12, a newly minted member of The Mother Church, when my grandfather, Pop, asked me to help him in the barn. It was lambing season—the time of year when newborn lambs enter the world. We welcomed any and all additions to the flock, for each one was critical to the financial viability of the farm. We couldn't afford to lose a single lamb.

Pop led me to where a small ewe, lying on her side, was moving her head restlessly to and fro. She was clearly struggling in labor. Her sister sheep stood by watching as I followed Pop's instructions to "hold her head down." Then Pop positioned himself behind the ewe and gently took hold of two tiny protruding hooves. Sensing her need for help was being met, the mother lay still as slowly, steadily, Pop pulled her lamb free. The becalmed mom rested a moment then stood up, ready to nurse her wobbling little one.

This experience has stayed with me. It was evidence of my grandfather's willingness to take whatever practical steps were necessary to assist—as noninvasively and inoffensively as possible—a fellow being.

Doing the most practical thing with tender love is also what Christian Science nurses do. The help they give may take the form of cleansing and bandaging a wound or bathing the body or preparing a nourishing meal. In other words, doing whatever a situation requires.



Photo by Tonia Kraakman on Pexels

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But even more than attending to physical needs, Christian Science nurses turn to divine Principle, Love, knowing that its action is *always* more potent, pure, and perfect than any human act and is *always* correcting any claim of discord.

Christian Science nurses realize that God alone is the healer and that His constant care maintains every one of His precious ideas, be they lamb or human. Supporting the Christian Science practitioner treating the case, a nurse keeps her own thought free of the false picture of illness or injury. She holds to the truth, either silently or audibly, that the one she is aiding remains a solely spiritual, thus always harmonious, child of God.

Recently I was reminded of a lovely letter written by a grateful family about our *Journal*-listed visiting Christian Science nurse and published in our December 2020 newsletter. It bears repeating:

To whom it may concern,

Our family wants to express our gratitude to the Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse [Service, Inc.]. We would especially like to highlight the outstanding work of and the blessings we have received from Susie Petersen. We have a family member who has been receiving the assistance of Christian Science nursing since December 2018, so we have had experience with many different caregivers over the past two years.

Susie stands out as truly exceptional amongst all the caregivers. Her skills are deep and diverse. They include helping a difficult patient prepare for a three-hour journey, aiding in showering and personal grooming, and styling her hair beautifully. Although the practical needs vary Susie's approach never varies. Whatever she does is done with love, care, and patience.

When I think of Susie's nursing, I'm reminded of Mary Baker Eddy's statement about Christ Jesus in *Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures*, where she writes: "The divine nature was best expressed in Christ Jesus, who threw upon mortals the truer reflection of God and lifted their lives higher than their thought-models would allow, — thoughts which presented man as fallen, sick, sinning, and dying" (259:6).

Susie has — on every occasion — exhibited the above sentence in her practical nursing. She lifts her patient's thought because she always comes prepared for a case

with the highest standards of what it means to be a Christian Science [*Journal*-listed] nurse.

Sincerely,
A grateful family*

*The family has given permission for us to publish their letter without a signature.

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.

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.

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Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc.

815 Valley Ranch Drive, Katy, TX 77450

Make a
Donation

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

Christian Science Hymn 324