



HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, INC.

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

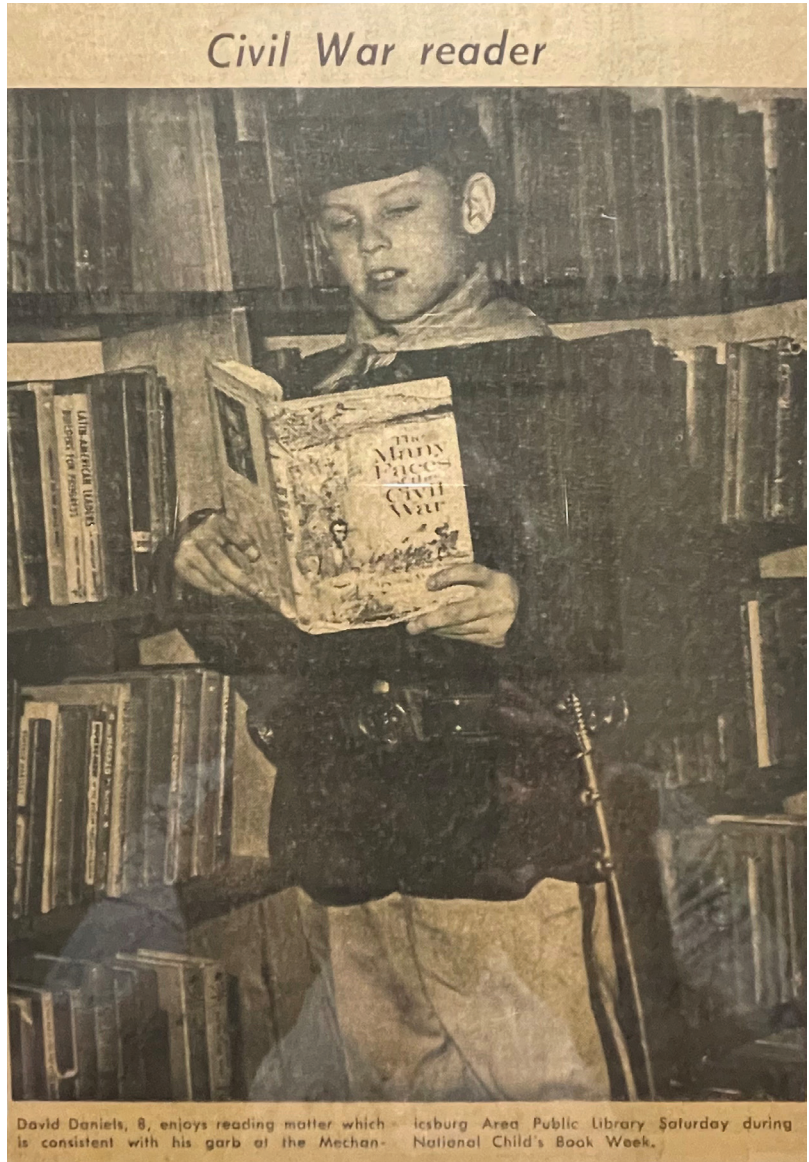
July 2023

Freedom:

I remember marching from my house down 313 East Main Street to the Mechanicsburg Public Library on the corner of Simpson and Walnut streets, which was nearly a mile away. I was serious about being a soldier. My mom had outfitted me in her old high school blue coat, adding gleaming gold buttons. I looked like a real Civil War Union infantryman, complete with a kepi on my head and plastic gun belt and cavalry sword at my side.

Running around the neighborhood, I fought dozens of imaginary Confederates. I'd charge with plastic sword waving and plastic Army Colt pistol blazing. 'Twas not for my own glory, though: I was fighting to preserve the unity of the United States of America.

For the sake of authenticity, I took regular dives, flopping on the ground as if wounded. Each fall bent the sword scabbard in half, so I had to bend it back—never breaking it but leaving several permanent crimps. The imaginary bullets I endured for the cause were how I learned self-sacrifice.



David Daniels, 8, enjoys reading matter which is consistent with his garb at the Mechanicsburg Area Public Library Saturday during National Child's Book Week.

Continued ▼

Everybody in the family knew of my fascination with the four-year (1861-1865) American Civil War. Dad took me frequently to Gettysburg, which was only 30 miles from our house. There, I happily climbed on the giant granite boulders of Devil's Den and hiked up the hill of Little Round Top, from where I could see the same panoramic view of the battlefield that the actual Northern troops saw. After that, we'd drive over to the site of Pickett's Charge, where General Lee's valiant men were repulsed in a deadly clash that would become known as the high-water mark of the Confederacy. The Southern forces never fully recovered from that defeat.

As a college student, I fancied myself fairly well versed in the Civil War until a history professor asked us a simple question that stumped me.

The question: What lesson did we learn from the Civil War?

The answer: It represented our nation's inability to compromise.

The Civil War isn't on our minds much these days. Few of us know its details or can imagine the bloody battles and broken-up families.

We all know, though, that the points of view of North and South were at great odds. And isn't that the nature of strong human will? It inflames our passions. It divides us, often pitting neighbor against neighbor, friend against friend, even family member against family member. Stubborn will thrives on opposing viewpoints, keeping well-intentioned humans forever at war. It perceives the other party as not just wrong, but evil.

Mary Baker Eddy, who was in her fourth decade—and on the cusp of discovering Christian Science—during the Civil War, understood, from her lifelong love of the Bible, that human will must be subdued by, must surrender to, Divine will.

Years later, when celebrating her nation's independence with 2,500 members of The Mother Church, whom she had invited to join her at Pleasant View on July 4, 1897, she spoke these words, which remain relevant in our day:

To-day we commemorate not only our nation's civil and religious freedom, but a greater even, the liberty of the sons of God, the inalienable rights and radiant reality of Christianity, whereof our Master said: "The works that I do;" and, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation" (with knowledge obtained from the senses), but "the kingdom of God is within you," — within the present possibilities of mankind" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, 251:12).

That God's kingdom on earth is a present possibility gives me a much

greater thrill than the battlefield victories of my active boyhood imagination and the present-day fireworks spectacles accompanied by Sousa marching music.

Let us pray that the horrible human toll wrought by that war and all wars be mitigated through mankind's improved understanding of our true nature as the spiritual, thus pure, and perfect, sons and daughters of God.

Mrs. Eddy may have been thinking that very thing when, in the same Fourth of July message, she observed:

From the falling leaves of old-time faiths men learn a parable of the period, that all error, physical, moral, or religious, will fall before Truth demonstrated, even as dry leaves fall to enrich the soil for fruitage (MW 251:25).

Failure to compromise is one of the characteristics of intransigent human will that masquerades as our thinking. In Christian Science, we learn that divine Love destroys the mortal belief of many minds, of at-odds opinions, with the immortal fact that God, the one and only Mind, is omnipotent, supreme, All.

This truth sets us free from the temptation to be willful; to stay stuck in obdurate, inflexible positions; to resist our Father-Mother's humane command to sometimes—at all the *right* times—cede some ground to our brother man.

The Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc. exists to provide the Christ's healing touch of freedom to all Christian Scientists throughout our area who are in need of metaphysically based physical assistance. The loving labors of our *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse, Susie Petersen, attest to our Leader's Bible-based declaration:

God made man free. Paul said, "I was free born." All men should be free. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (*Science and Health* 227:16-19).

Let freedom ring!

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.

Meet the HVCSNS Board

Dave Daniels, President – Ninth Church

Sue Merrill, Vice President — First Church, Bellaire

Salomon Ngalamulume, Treasurer — Seventh Church, Houston

Pauline Nesbitt, Corresponding Secretary — Seventh Church, Houston

Susan Clay, Recording Secretary — Seventh Church, Houston

Lynne Clark, Director — First Church, The Woodlands

Grace Duffy, Director — First Church, Durango, Colorado

Sherry Garrett, Director — Seventh Church, Houston

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.
815 Valley Ranch Drive, Katy, TX 77450



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

