



HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, INC.

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

September 2023

Train up a child

Children in some states have already begun their school year, and more will return to the classroom soon. How wonderful to see them back at school, be it public or private or home-based. The restrictions that marooned many students—forcing them to learn online, in the solitude of their living rooms—have been lifted. Pupils are back to being their free and unimpeded selves!

Many of us believe school should be about more than just showing up in class, obeying administrative rules, and mechanically memorizing a bunch of facts and figures.

Indeed, we conscientious adults observe that true education is about guiding young peoples' thoughts away from a focus on "self"—being popular, making the cut on teams, winning awards, achieving high rankings—and toward concern for doing good to others, especially those classmates who need a helping hand academically or a warm, welcoming smile that makes them feel included socially.



Photo by Johnny McClung on Unsplash

We support schools where the youngsters, whether in class or on the playing field or on a stage, have plenty of opportunities to practice being kindhearted and thoughtful as well as brave enough to tackle new challenges without fear and to make new friends without fault-finding.

Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, had a clear understanding of how to mold young minds in the right direction and steer them away from

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worthless pursuits. In her seminal book, *Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures*, she wrote:

The entire education of children should be such as to form habits of obedience to the moral and spiritual law, with which the child can meet and master the belief in the so-called physical laws, a belief which breeds disease (62:4).

I learned a lesson about these two kinds of laws—one “so-called”—from my grandmother, a Christian Science practitioner. It happened this way.

My parents divorced when I was in sixth grade, and Mom moved my sister and me to her parents’ farm in rural Pennsylvania. There, she enrolled in a community college and earned a degree in teaching, ostensibly to support us as a working single parent.

Dad came in from Chicago to visit us from time to time. By then, I’d just started my junior year in high school. Apparently, he and Mom had been corresponding and had rekindled their affections. They sat us down one day to say that they were going to be remarried—to each other! We would all be moving to Mundelein, Illinois, to start fresh. Though I was overjoyed for them, I couldn’t bear to leave the farm. So my parents graciously allowed me to stay put until I was ready to join them.

Three months later, I told Gram it was time for me to go to Chicago. Without a murmur, she and Pop drove me there. (I could tell they wanted to keep me under their wing, but they knew not to say so.)

Just before she and Pop headed home to their farm, Gram pulled me aside and spoke to me in a very serious tone. “Davey, remember this. Be careful what you build a bridge to (she was inferring underage drinking and substance abuse), because it’s not so easy to get back.”

Believe it or not, this was a revolutionary idea to me. For the first time, I learned that I had the power to choose. Up until then, I’d heard desperate pleas from my mother to stay away from drugs and alcohol. But here was Gram presenting me with the magnificent power to be a free moral agent!

From that moment on, I never felt overwhelmed by peer pressure to drink, despite attending many social events as a high schooler. I knew exactly who I was: God’s perfect child, spiritual and untouched by those “so-called” physical laws. I blossomed at that new-and-strange-to-me public school. Not once was I tempted by the false attractions that swirled around me, for I was trained up right—trained to happily choose to be upright!

I'm reminded of the words of one of the psalmists, who, thousands of years ago, sang praises to the same God that had showered me decades ago—and still does today—with the blessing of forming “habits of obedience to the moral and spiritual law”: “Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children” (Psalms 90:16).

After high school, I entered a private college that at the time accepted only students of Christian Science. It was there, at Principia College, that I first read the following passage, which I loved then and still love to this day. It became my touchstone. It defines true education—not just for young people, but for all people. It gives each and every child of God a grad course for life!

Beloved children, the world has need of you, — and more as children than as men and women: it needs your innocence, unselfishness, faithful affection, uncontaminated lives. You need also to watch, and pray that you preserve these virtues unstained, and lose them not through contact with the world. What grander ambition is there than to maintain in yourselves what Jesus loved, and to know that your example, more than words, makes morals for mankind! —
Miscellaneous Writings, 110:4

Annual Meeting

What: Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc. Annual Meeting (approximately 75 to 90 minutes)

Where: Seventh Church auditorium
1740 Yorktown, Houston, TX 77056

When: Saturday, September 16, 2023 @ 2:00 PM

Who: For all Christian Scientists and their family members

Why: To hear George Nutwell III (Texas Committee on Publication) and Mike Holmes, Esq. inspire and update us



Photo by Anna Kolosyuk on Unsplash

Dear Friends,

You and your families are warmly invited to join us on Saturday, September 16th, at 2:00 PM at Seventh Church to hear George Nutwell III address the subject, "Handling Impositions on Christian Science." George is the Christian Science Committee on Publication for Texas. Following his inspirational talk, Seventh Church member and attorney Mike Holmes will share some important information on Medicare and legal protections for Christian Scientists, including our legal obligations after the passing of a loved one. After the Q&A, there will be cookies and fellowship in the foyer.

Lovingly,

Board of Directors,

Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc.

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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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

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Donation

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