



# HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, INC.

September 2021

## On Being Shepherded Through the Darkness

God's light of love shines even in the darkest hour. One dark period in my life was when my parents separated. As a sixth grader, I didn't understand why our happy family suddenly split up. Mom moved my sister and me to her parents' farm. As much as I loved being in the country and helping my grandfather with chores, I felt alone. I missed my dad.



One of my responsibilities was feeding the sheep. Strange as it is to me now, I held these innocent animals in contempt. I didn't understand how such timid creatures, who acted afraid of everything and anyone most of the time, turned into stampeding cattle at meal time, practically trampling me to get at their food.

One afternoon, when feeling absolutely abandoned, I was surprisingly moved by an overwhelming love for those sheep. They were resting in the cool of the barn. Startled at my sudden entrance, they crowded into a corner as far away from me as they could get. This time, rather than reacting to their fear, I quietly sat down near the open barn door, leaned against the wall, and let myself be filled with a strange-yet-welcome sensation of tender love for them. Looking back, I realize this was my simple way of reaching out to God, who is Love itself.

Sheep are curious by nature. Step by halting step, they followed each other toward me. One ewe actually lay down next to me and put her head on my thigh. I was transfixed—and even more surprised when a second ewe laid her head on my other leg. Then the rest of the flock settled down close by.

Those gentle creatures soothed the soul of a boy craving validation. As I looked down upon my

Continued ▼

woolly friends calmly breathing and resting their heads trustingly on my lap, I felt totally loved. My heart was healed. My thoughts, once dark, were filled with light. I was comforted. I was at peace.

That pastoral scene surely fulfilled the New Testament promise, “Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you” (II Corinthians 13:11 Be).

Interestingly, when I allowed myself to be shepherded by a flock of lowly sheep, I found myself, in turn, able to “shepherd,” if you will, my own thinking. The lonely feelings no longer controlled me. The darkness vanished in the light of divine Love—the Love that is our head Shepherd, guiding His little flock home.

Do you know anyone—maybe even yourself—who, like that lonesome lad of long ago, feels estranged from divine Love? Who is perhaps manifesting physical symptoms of thoughts darkened by lovelessness? Who is resisting seeking the spiritual help of a Christian Science practitioner and the practical aid of a Christian Science nurse? If so, it’s time to let that imposition of resistance be silenced by the calm assurance and assistance of our *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse, Susie Petersen. She is one of God’s humblest servants—the meekest of sheep! And she’s only a phone call away: 713-304-8384.

“When the stars together sang,  
Then the Truth triumphant rang:  
Be there light; And there was light.  
Gone are chaos, fear and night;”

— John Randall Dunn (excerpt from Hymn 310 in the *Christian Science Hymnal*)

## 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** – The Woodlands Church

**Grace Duffy** – 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*