



August 2020



Christian Science Nursing  
**COLLABORATIVE**

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Since our last Collaborative newsletter, the world around us has changed a lot! Perhaps each of us is being asked to demonstrate a spiritual maturity beyond what we knew we were capable of. Speaking of the role maturity plays in our lives, Paul said: “we shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ’s full stature.” (Ephesians 4:13 GNT).

This spiritual growth is evident in each of your consecrated efforts to forward the cause of Christian Science nursing. It is also evident in the work we are doing through the Collaborative. Amid all of error’s tactics to create frustration and confusion, together we are bringing that spiritual maturity to all of our efforts. And there’s nothing small about that.

In the updates below, you will see clear evidence that our spiritual maturity is carrying the work forward — sometimes in small steps, sometimes in big leaps. Here’s a quick rundown:

- Annual Conferences of Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing (AOCSN), Philanthropy Forum and Collaborative — cancelled; alternative online inspirational and work sessions planned (p. 2)
- Youth Action Committee (YAC) — the creation and implementation of the Christian Science Nursing Youth Service Corps (p. 2)
- Continuing Education Working Group (CEWG) — the offering of webinars and talks to Christian Science nurses by the CEWG (p. 2)
- Valuing Christian Science Nurses (VALCSN) — the release of the results of the VALCSN working group salaries/benefits survey (p. 3)
- Christian Science Care Resource Center — the website development and pilot launch of the Call Center (p. 3)
- International Working Group (IWG) — the further development of the International Fund for Christian Science Nursing (IFCSN) with the intention to launch it before the end of the year (pp. 3-4)
- Updates from the AOCSN and CSNN (p. 6)



## Philanthropy Forum and Collaborative Conferences (and AOCSN) — Cancelled

You may remember that we planned to host two one-day conferences back to back following the Association of Organizations for Christian Science Nursing's (AOCSN) conference in late August. Those events have now all been cancelled. All three groups are hosting online inspirational talks, business meetings, and working sessions in lieu of the August events. For further information about AOCSN's activities, go to [aocsn.org](http://aocsn.org). For further information about the Philanthropy Forum and The Collaborative, stay tuned. We will be sending you updates soon.

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## Youth Action Committee (YAC)

The Youth Action Committee (YAC) has recently focused on one main initiative — developing a Christian Science Nursing Youth Service Corps (CSN-YSC). With a wonderful, hardworking, and energetic Committee, we have been developing this new national service initiative which will introduce young people ages 18-30 to Christian Science nursing.

We have designed a Pilot Project to take place for a nine-month period running from September 2020 through June 2021. In this project, we will partner with five Christian Science nursing facilities and recruit up to 10 participants for this paid service opportunity for young people. Given the current situation and the possibility of many colleges going to online-only this upcoming fall, many prospective students are reconsidering their plans and exploring other options — some are in transition or reconsidering careers. This is the perfect opportunity for the YAC committee to plant seeds and open hearts to the calling of Christian Science nursing.

We've secured a fiscal sponsor and the five facilities. We are now recruiting 10 young people and putting together the funding. The recruitment subcommittee has created a lively video that promotes this opportunity on several channels of social media. For those youth interested, applications are due August 23rd. Please visit our new website — [comforterscalling.org](http://comforterscalling.org). We are excited about this new initiative and trust you will be, too!

If you know of a young person (18-30 years old) who might be interested in this program, have them email [csnyouthactioncommittee@gmail.com](mailto:csnyouthactioncommittee@gmail.com) (Attn: Lauren Littel)

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## Continuing Education (CEWG)

The Continuing Education Working Group (CEWG) is grateful for the unfoldment of progressive steps in providing educational opportunities to Christian Science nurses throughout the world.

Key to our process has been the inclusion of representatives from the AOCSN Education Committee, the Christian Science Nursing Network (CSNN), and the Albert Baker Fund as active participants in this working group. Each group provides a connection with a vital element of our mission. The AOCSN Education Committee connects us with the Christian Science nurses who are actively offering training and education; the CSNN connects us with the Christian Science nurses interested in the classes and workshops being offered; and The Albert Baker Fund has helped us navigate the approach to providing financial support for both groups.

In January, the CEWG provided to the AOCSN Education Committee members a document outlining guidelines for successful webinars, since the survey conducted last year of *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurses showed that they preferred webinars and other online formats for continuing education.

The first continuing education webinar was offered in late February and they have been offered regularly since then. The response from Christian Science nurses throughout the world — ministering in the field as well as in facilities — has been gratifying. The sheltering-in-place requirements instituted in most areas in March have shown how valuable this format is, since on-site continuing education offerings had to be postponed. Additional webinars are planned for the months ahead, and will likely continue, even when on-site and field-based gatherings are deemed permissible.



## Valuing Christian Science nurses (VALCSNs)

A primary goal of the Collaborative is to find ways to better value our Christian Science nurses. An early working group, The Calling & Career Working Group, together with The Albert Baker Fund completed the Christian Science Nursing Evaluation Project a couple years ago. The results of that survey were useful in identifying challenges that keep individuals from either

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going into or staying in the field of Christian Science nursing. A key issue was salaries and benefits. And the work of our group has been focused this past year on providing more insights into that issue for those working either full or part-time (leading, managing, or nursing) in one of the Christian Science nursing facilities.

To shed more light on this issue, we partnered with Tenacre Foundation on an in-depth salary and benefits survey. This survey includes wage and benefit breakdowns for Christian Science nurses and assistants (working in facilities). The information is divided into four categories based upon cost-of-living rankings. For example, one of the main findings of the study was that regardless the location of the Christian Science nursing facility, the majority of the establishments offer either housing benefits, childcare benefits, or additional technical training to their nurses as a means to improve employee retention. The report also features an appendix which includes a list of every wage or salary for each of the 497 Christian Science nurses and assistants accounted for in the survey.

## Christian Science Care Resource Center

This initiative has two components:

- A comprehensive website of resources available to Christian Scientists to meet housing and care/support needs
- A call center to answer questions and provide further information.

The website is under development. A pilot call center began in April under the guidance of Kevin Massey working with The Principle Foundation. It is currently being staffed by four long-time Christian Science nurses who check messages and answer the phone a couple of hours each weekday. The experience we are getting from this pilot effort has been useful for developing the website, determining what the call center will look like, and offering additional resources to the Christian Science field at large. You can find the pilot call center's webpage here >> [CaringforChristianScientists.org](http://CaringforChristianScientists.org)

Once the website is ready to launch, the call center hours will likely be expanded, and these interwoven services will be administered by The Principle Foundation.

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## International Working Group (IWG)

The International Working Group (IWG), launched at our Dallas conference in 2019, is developing the infrastructure for the International Fund for Christian Science Nursing (IFCSN). The first region this Fund will serve will be the countries of Europe. The IWG, partnering with The Principle Foundation, has worked to establish policies for the IFCSN, and is now developing a common application, a structure for the grant teams, and systems to transfer the gifted funds to the recipients. We expect the fund will launch later this year or early in 2021.



## Communities of Christian Caring (CoCC)

While normal travel has been severely reduced, many are sheltering in place, and much of the world seems in limbo, divine Love certainly has been fully engaged. Without a doubt, those in the CoCC are seeing the value and necessity of solid, strong communities of Christian caring, both for Christian Scientists and for our global community. Never in our lifetime has the need been so apparent and so acutely experienced.

Due to all the unusual circumstances since mid-March, our group's collective activity has been largely on hold. However, at the beginning of June we felt the divine nudge to move ahead with our mission since these times are calling for greater and greater collaboration and support. Now, the question/issue is no longer "God, what would you have us to do?," but rather "Could you slow down a bit?" and, "What would you like us to do first?"

Some specifics —

- Pilot II development — we are developing a second pilot phase to further strengthen our structure and process. This outreach to both established and newer contacts continues in order to support their growing desire to form local communities of Christian caring, and to meet existing needs.

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- Partner organization — we are continuing to consider which existing organization in the CS movement might be best to partner with to provide long-term support of the expanding vision and scope of this work.
- Pilot I project — Working Group contact with those in the initial pilot project has slowed, since the group is not able right now to gather for some of the training it was planning. However, it is going forward effectively on its own and a couple of individuals have received support as a result of this CoCC network being in place.

This time of pause has been remarkable on many fronts. We are now moving forward into the expansive opportunities wherein divine Love is leading us, fulfilling Paul's words to his followers, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:10)

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## Metaphysical Support Team

This team has been supporting the right solution to the question of having our in-person conferences this year and supporting our Christian Science nurses and facilities during this challenging time. Words cannot express the gratitude for all the prayerful support that this group gives our Collaborative efforts.





## Philanthropy Forum for Christian Science Nursing Steering Committee (STC)

Over the last several months, our funders have been quite active finding ways to support our Christian Science nurses and facilities. To help better support each other and our missions, the STC has hosted several Zoom calls for our funders. These calls gave everyone a chance to reconnect and then discuss their next steps. These are the four areas identified to focus on:

1. Reach, grow, and train the next generation of Christian Science nurses.
2. Develop ways to inspire church members to find out more about Christian Science nursing — and become more aware of and support working groups who are exploring ways to recruit new nurses.
3. Create easier ways for working groups to raise funds.
4. Answer the question: “What more can we be doing?”

The Philanthropy Forum is planning two online workshops in the early fall to further explore what its members can do together.

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## Collaborative Coordinating Committee (C<sub>3</sub>)

The Collaborative Working Groups have made some truly amazing progress this year — proof that collaboration really works! So, thank you to the Chairs and working groups for such wonderful progress.

In lieu of the conferences we planned to host in August, the Collaborative Coordinating Committee is working on a plan for a series of Zoom/online get-togethers for

members of the Collaborative. These would allow us to assess what’s been done and to review and update the goals our member organizations (AOCSN, CSNN, Philanthropy Forum and The Mother Church) are focused on — and identify what we need to do next to continue working toward those goals. At recent meetings, we have identified some known priorities. These are issues we’ve discussed at numerous meetings and conferences but have not yet tackled. All support and enhance the field of Christian Science Nursing, including:

- Making it easier and more affordable to get Christian Science nurses’ training
- Supporting the ongoing efforts of the Continuing Education Working Group to further develop opportunities for all Christian Science nurses
- Increasing and enhancing the leadership and management skills of:
  - Christian Science nurses who aspire to manage facilities, VCSN Services, and other organizational settings
  - Christian Scientists serving on boards and trustees
- Improving the leadership and management skills of members of the Collaborative (our coordinating bodies and working group chairs, liaisons to C<sub>3</sub>, and participants). The aim is to increase our skills to facilitate moving the Collaborative efforts forward more quickly to specific outcomes.



## AOCSN Executive Committee Report

This has been an extraordinary year and we are so grateful and blessed for the diligence with which our Christian Science nurses have maintained the standard of Christian Science nursing with grace and strength.

### AOCSN 2020 Conference:

Though we are disappointed in not being able to have our annual conference in San Francisco this year, we look forward to our Annual Business meeting on August 24th. Much thoughtful prayer went into the decision to cancel. We hope we can meet in person in 2021, but we'll have to wait and see.

We plan to offer frequent inspirational talks and updates for Christian Science nurses and staff using Zoom/online formats over the next several months, starting with Sue Holzberlein at 8 am PST on July 28th, and Eric Nelson at 8:45 am PST on August 24th. Please stay tuned for more information on these short but inspiring online events.

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## CSNN Board Report

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20)

This could not be more powerfully demonstrated than what we are witnessing at this time with the Christian Science Nursing Collaborative. The Christian Science Nursing Network (CSNN) very much enjoys being a part of this group and is grateful for all the work the collaborative is doing to support Christian Science nursing worldwide. We are observing wonderful outcomes, as seen in this newsletter. The work is just beginning, though, so we will continue in our part and look for ways to grow and further serve and support.

Below is information on our current activities.

Our next News & Notices will be posted on July 30th. All submissions were due just before this newsletter was to go out. If you'd like to post something in future newsletters, please see our website ([CSNNNetwork.org](https://CSNNNetwork.org)) or contact our Board ([Board@CSNNNetwork.org](mailto:Board@CSNNNetwork.org)) for deadlines and instructions.

Christian Science organizations who may need or who have information or services for Christian Science nurses may find CSNN a useful tool for reaching the proper audience. Please feel free to contact us ([Board@CSNNNetwork.org](mailto:Board@CSNNNetwork.org)) to see how we can be of help to you.

Our website also posts schedule and contact information about current continuing education opportunities on an ongoing basis. Please keep this in mind when planning any webinars, classes, one-on-one trainings, etc.

CSNN sends emails to an exceptionally large group, but there is always room for more! One does not need to be listed in the *Christian Science Journal*, live in any particular area, or work in a specific environment to be included. Please let co-workers, staff, friends, and interested church members know of this community of Christian Science nursing devotees — we are always happy to add new names to our list.

If you would like additional information about anything mentioned in this newsletter or about The Collaborative in general, please email [info@cscncollaborative.org](mailto:info@cscncollaborative.org). We'd love to help you find what you are looking for.