"And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." (Matt. 25:6)

As Christmas approaches we are again reminded of the time when ancient Israel was busily going about its affairs, burdened and occupied with its economic problems much as we are today throughout the world. In those days men of God were looking for the Messiah although most people expected Him to arrive as a conquering king or perhaps they had begun to intellectualize and consider the Messiah idea just a mythological opinion held by a few "fanatical Pharisees".

Today, Judaism is continuing in some of its sects to look for the Messiah, not believing that He already came down from Heaven and overcame the world system for us. True Christians look for Jesus to come again "as a thief in the night", no man knowing the day or hour. We are told that there will be a midnight cry. The Scripture also relates that there will be the sound of a trumpet, a shout and the voice of the archangel (I Thess. 4:16).

At midnight man is at the end of his day. In general work has ceased and most are asleep. Some are engaging in the works of darkness; evil, drinking, carousing, committing crime, doing bad things, planning evil.

St. Paul tells the church: "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."

"Ye are the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him."

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you: And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men."

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesying. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. Brethren, pray for us. Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss. I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you, Amen." (I Thess., Chapter 5)

WSR

May Jesus, Himself, bless you and yours this Christmas tide more than at any other time in years past. May the New Year find us ready and listening for the "midnight cry!" He's coming soon! He's coming soon! Maranatha!

In Jesus' Love--

William and Kathryn Reed
and your CMF Family.

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NEEDED: A Christian retired or retiring physician for Penny Farms Retirement Community, Jacksonville, Fla. Also, anyone interested in short term missionary duty in Honduras should write Dr. Bob Hagstrom, 9th Ave. No. at Broadway, Billings, Montana 59101
DAILY PRAYERS 1 PM IN THE CMF CHAPEL. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!

MONDAY - Every Monday - 6:30 AM. Men's Prayer Breakfast, CMF House. Come!!

TUESDAY - Every Tuesday - 10 AM. Ladies' Bible Study and Sandwich Luncheon. BRING A SANDWICH, PLEASE! Kay is now teaching Luke's Gospel. The Clinical Correlation of the Gospel by Dr. Reed at 1 PM. Healing Service at 2 PM.

FRIDAY - Dec. 5 - 8 PM. Dr. Reed and Kay at FGBMI Dinner at 1st Christian Church, Waycross, Ga. Contact: Richard Stewart, 912/242-5955.

SATURDAY - Dec. 6 - 10:30 AM (Teaching Session), 7 PM (Covered Dish Supper) Dr. Reed and Kay (FGBMI) at the home of Richard Stewart, 1222 Brighton, Valdosta, Ga. 912/242-5955.

SATURDAY - Dec. 13 - 11:30 AM. Kay Reed at Women's Outreach, Johnson's Restaurant, Plant City, Fla. Contact: Mrs. Janette Crowley, 813/737-1447.


FRIDAY - Dec. 19 - 8 PM. St. Petersburg CMF Station Meeting at St. Petersburg Federal Savings & Loan, 83rd Ave. at 9th St., St. Petersburg, Fla. Dr. Reed speaking.

SATURDAY - Dec. 20 - 8 AM. Plant City CMF Station Meeting at Johnson's Restaurant, Plant City, Fla. Dr. Reed speaking.

SATURDAY - Dec. 20 - 7:30 PM. Tampa CMF Station Meeting at CMF House, 4821 Memorial Highway, Tampa, Fla. CMF "Family Christmas Party." Memorial to Marie Anderson. Dr. Reed speaking.

FRIDAY - Dec. 26 - 7:45 PM. Orlando CMF Station Meeting at Dover Shores Branch of First Federal Savings & Loan, 3212 Curry Ford Road, Orlando, Fla. Dr. Reed speaking. For information call 305/647-4667, 445-2511, or 894-6150. Please do not call First Federal Savings & Loan.

SATURDAY - Dec. 27 - 7:30 PM. Daytona CMF Station Meeting at Holy Trinity-By-The-Sea, North Grandview at Ora, Daytona Beach, Fla. Call Father David Dillon, Jr, 904/252-8997. Dr. Reed speaking.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: The year 1975 is coming to an end. For all of us here at CMF it has been a wonderful year. We look forward with great anticipation to our Centennial Year! At this year's end it is my recommendation to all friends of our work that consideration be given to giving a gift to CMF for running expenses ($6,000 per month needed) and for the Bethesda Project ($150,000 needed to begin construction). It may be that Congress will not allow tax-deductible gifts to Foundations in the future. This is a real possibility. Thus, if you are planning to give to CMF, pray and seriously consider making a major Christmas gift to CMF this year! May Jesus bless you as you give this your most serious thought!

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