THE SHADOW OF DEATH

"Through the tender mercy and loving-kindness of our God, a Light from on high will dawn upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death" (Luke 1:78, 79). "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of intense darkness, the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined."
(Isaiah 9:2)

So often as I make my hospital rounds day by day it becomes more and more apparent that illness and the places where the ill are placed are situations of darkness. This is particularly true in those hospital areas where the patients have hopeless or chronically debilitating states. So few of our American hospitals have units for enlightened care of the dying. Despite the fact that we at CMF believe in divine healing and the miracle-working power of the Lord Jesus, we also realize that there are those who are going to die and this, one day, will include ourselves, unless the "rapture" comes about prior to our exodus through death. So as Christians it is necessary for us to view death and to realize that in general we do a poor job of taking care of the terminally ill.

This is particularly true in American Medicine just now because our modern philosophy is to keep trying and to keep treating right through to the bitter end, no matter what. One of the tenets of American Medicine is the prolongation of life. It must be seen that there are those situations where it is almost torture to allow the patient to continue on and on being sustained only by our heroic and, in the end, futile efforts to keep the dying patient alive. It seems that life in utero in modern medical thought is to be snuffed out without consideration but once delivery has occurred every effort must be made to prolong life regardless of the circumstances.

The Christian believes in life--and in life preservation. He does, however, possess a Hope--that life in truth is not the physical or psychosomatic phenomenon which we erroneously presume it to be. Life is, however, a spiritual quality which has to do with our life in Jesus and in the Holy Spirit. In this sense, life will never end and actually our whole life will not begin in its complete sense until our psychosoma is laid aside in death.

If we can ascertain for ourselves that this is true we should then begin to re-evaluate what we are doing to our patients and ourselves through inordinate measures of life prolongation. Thus, when we as doctor and patient (including his family) can determine that in an individual instance death is approaching there should be different attitudes and changed methods of patient approach and therapy. I must view with alarm the Hospice movement instituted by the Federal Government in which the spiritual aspect of patient care is excluded (or the HEW's definition of spiritual care is followed). Somehow, Hospices or Palliative Care Centers must be established which are Christ-centered and Holy Spirit empowered. Anything will ultimately be just more of the same--more of what we have at present, called by another name.

Only Jesus can give the dying hope. Only prayer can give the dying solace. Only the Holy Spirit can give the dedication and the capability to the staff to work in the Hospice environment. Only God's Word can bring comfort to patient and to family. Only Spirit-filled doctors, nurses, and clergy can determine the new medical thought and practice necessary for such a radical departure from the pragmatic into the wholistic approach to patient care (for those who lie in "the valley of the shadow").

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PLEASE NOTE that a new Cable T. V. Station has been added to the list of those showing the Tuesday CMF Bible Hour and Dr. Reed's "Clinical Correlation of the Gospel" programs. It is Channel 6 in Mobile, Ala.
Christian Medical Foundation International, Inc.
4821 Memorial Highway, Tampa, Fla. 33614
Phone 813/884-7559

January 1977

DAILY PRAYERS AT 1 PM IN THE CMF CHAPEL! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Tuesday - Every Tuesday - 10 AM. Ladies' Bible Study and Sandwich Luncheon. (PLEASE BRING A SANDWICH!) Kay is now teaching a series of lectures, "The Inward Adorning and Beauty of the Hidden Person of the Heart." "The Clinical Correlation of the Gospel" by Dr. Reed at 1 PM. Healing Service, 2 PM.

Saturday - January 8 - 10:30 AM. Kay Reed at Women's Outreach, Winter Haven, Fla. Contact Frances Edwards, 813/324-6196.

Sunday - January 9 - 8:45 and 11 AM. Dr. Reed at Men's Day, First Baptist Church, New Port Richey, Fla. Contact Rev. Tom Bennett, 813/849-4210.

Friday - Thursday - January 14-20. Dr. Reed and Kay at North Florida Camp Farthest Out, Lake Yale Baptist Assembly Grounds, Eustis, Fla. Contact Lareeta Davis, Secretary, Box 389, Forsyth, Ga. 912/994-6131.

Saturday - January 15 - 8 AM. Plant City CMF Station Meeting at Johnson's Restaurant, Plant City, Fla.

Saturday - January 15 - 7:30 PM. Tampa CMF Station Meeting at CMF House, 4821 Memorial Highway, Tampa, Fla.

Friday - January 21 - 8 PM. St. Petersburg CMF Station Meeting at St. Petersburg Federal Savings & Loan, 83rd Ave. at 9th St., St. Petersburg, Fla.

Saturday - January 22 - 7:30 PM. Daytona CMF Station Meeting at Holy Trinity By-The-Sea, No. Grandview at Ora, Daytona Beach, Fla. For information call Father David Dillon, Jr. 904/252-8997.

Sunday - Sunday - January 23-30. Dr. Reed and Kay at The Parrish Church of The Most Holy Trinity, Nassau, N. P., Bahamas. Contact Father E. Bowleg, P. O. Box N-8696, 809/322-3012.

Friday - January 28 - 7:45 PM. Orlando CMF Station Meeting at Dover Shores Branch of First Federal Savings & Loan, 3212 Curry Ford Road, Orlando, Fla. For information please call 305/894-6150, 424-2511, or 647-4667. Please do not call First Federal Savings & Loan.

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Sony Video 3/4 Inch Cartridge Tapes are available from CMF on such subjects as Coma, Malignancy, Euthanasia, Abortion, Patient's Bill of Rights and Morality in Medicine. These are interviews with Dr. Reed (Roy Leep, moderator). SPECIAL EQUIPMENT IS NECESSARY FOR VIEWING. Write CMF for details.

Tapes of the CMF Tuesday Bible Study Hour with Kay Reed and the Clinical Correlation of the Gospel by Dr. Reed are being shown weekly on cable TV stations in the following locations: Bradenton, Lakeland, Melbourne, Fla. Augusta, Brunswick, Jessup, Savannah, Ga. Augusta, Charleston, S. C. Spaside Beach, Caroline Beach, S. C. Lancaster, Oh. Wellington, Texas. Nachochez, La. DeRidder, La. Hattiesburg, Ms. Freeport, Adrian, Pa. Madisonville, Ky. Beatrice, Ne. and Modesto, Ca. Check local listings for dates, stations, etc.

Cassette Tapes of a series of lectures entitled, your home, Christ's Sanctuary by Kay Reed are available from CMF. Please write for further details.

Christian Medical Foundation International, Inc.
4821 Memorial Highway
Tampa, Fla. 33614

Address Correction Requested
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