QUALITY OF LIFE

Recently I was talking with an old friend who was a resident with me at the University of Michigan over twenty years ago. He is now president-elect of the American Medical Association and a person who demonstrates honesty, integrity and a true love of Medicine. I spoke to him of my endeavors to re-acquaint American Medicine and Nursing with the basic fact that man is spiritual in addition to psycho-somatic and that we must begin to truly involve ourselves with the whole person. Dr. Tom Nesbitt grew very quiet as I mentioned my concern to him and then he stated, "I'm really pleased that American Medicine has recently begun to vitally take into consideration quality of life." With this statement everyone must certainly agree whole-heartedly. We come into problems however when we consider—what is quality of life and how do we improve it?

For a number of years Americans have thought that real quality of American life meant having a happy home, success, a comfortable existence, creature comforts, reasonable health, recreation and social status among many other things. Somehow, as we look about us we find that happy homes are few, success is truly unimportant to most and comfort, health and social status mean very little. A person I know, for example, with wife and children, a lovely home, success and social status, recently threw it all over and is now living in a bachelor apartment. Another associate interested in art and cars, having done much for the community where he lived, plunged into the strange night-life of New Orleans. That plunge cost him his life and cost his community a loss which can hardly be replaced.

Is quality of life merely having a place for as long as possible—physically? Is it purely the realization of my own personal desires and whims? Is it sex, or boozing, or women, or thrills, or drugs, or is it money and power? Is it doing what I want to do no matter what anyone thinks? Where does responsibility fit in? Is quality of life a physical quality or is it psychological or both? Or is it spiritual?

Walking through a nursing home recently, going down an unfamiliar hall to find a patient of mine, I saw bed patients, wheel chair patients, in their usual attitudes and positions—all of them precariously perched on the edge of death. Some were crying. Some were calling out, asking for help. Others were placid, drugged or simply unaware. I thought as I have often done over the years in similar situations in other times and other places—hell or purgatory can't be much worse than this. If these places have any life quality at all I wonder where it can be. The fact is that life as it is ebbing out sometimes leaves at a snail's pace and the process is lethal and generally quite dreadful. And hospitals with all of their gadgets, tubes, machines, IV's, monitors and paraphernalia do not add much when the battle is being lost. Oh—it is so great when we are winning! But it changes when there are hepatic metastases, or paraplegia, or coma.

Building big new places to put our sick and dying has not solved much. Cecily Saunders would stop the heroes, face the reality of death—meet it head-on with kindliness and sacrificial concern for the dying. But even with this I have trouble because she, and Kubler-Ross and Sylvia Loch and others seem only to speak of man psychosomatically and ultimately—when you boil it all down—the hospice movement is just more of the same—with even less hope than before.

Logo-Psychosomatic patient care should be hope-giving. It should be loving and truly caring. It should always be Jesus-involving and Holy Spirit-empowered. Real compassion should be there—total involvement with the whole being of the patient. If he is dying, help him to eternal life in Jesus, but don't, please don't continue to leave Jesus out. Don't leave prayer out, either, and remember to instill hope. We've been leaving Jesus out. That is what we've been doing and that's why Daddy's in an apartment now, and "Uncle Joe" got killed, and why our Society is falling apart and why Medicine and Nursing have lost their way. Yes, Jesus is the one who gives quality—real quality—true life—and even to dying. Until we bring Jesus back into our lives and practices across this broad land we will never have quality of life—in Medicine—or at home—or anywhere.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." (John 14:6)

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." (Matthew 5:13)

"Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved." (Luke 8:12)

WSR
MONTHLY HAPPENINGS NOTICE

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL, INC. 
4821 Memorial Highway, Tampa, Fla. 33614

APRIL 1978

Phone 813/884-7559

Canadian Address: P. O. Box 102, R. R. 5, Fredericton, N. B., Canada E3B 4X6

DAILY PRAYERS AT 1 PM in the CMF Chapel!!! Everyone is welcome!!!

EVERY TUESDAY - 10 AM. Ladies' Bible Study and Sandwich Luncheon. Kay is now giving a series of lectures, "The Women of The Bible." (PLEASE BRING A SNACK IF YOU PLAN TO BE HERE FOR LUNCH. Only beverages are served.). "The Clinical Correlation of The Gospel" by Dr. Reed, 1 PM. Healing Service, 2 PM.

APRIL 5 - 6:30 P.M. Dr. Reed and Kay at Seminole Heights Methodist Church, Central Ave. and Hanna, Tampa, Fla. Contact Rev. Billy Case, 813/233-3131.

APRIL 9-12 - Dr. Reed and Kay at Healing Mission for the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, Cathedral House, 275 No. Main, Providence, R. I. Contact Bishop Frederick H. Belden, 401/274-4500.

APRIL 14, 15 - Dr. Reed and Kay at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1219 Ratzer Road, Wayne, N. J. 07470. Contact Rev. Frederick R. Gutekunst, 201/694-1026.

APRIL 15 - 7:30 PM. Tampa CMF Station Meeting, CMF House, 4821 Memorial Highway, Tampa, Fla. 33614.

APRIL 20 - 9:30 AM. Kay Reed at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 706 W. 113th Ave., Tampa, Fla. Contact Mrs. June Swanson, 813/961-6239.

APRIL 21 - 8 PM. St. Petersburg CMF Station Meeting at St. Petersburg Federal Savings and Loan, 83rd Avenue and 9th Street, North, St. Petersburg, Fla. Dr. Reed speaking.

APRIL 22 - 7:30 PM. Daytona CMF Station Meeting at Holy Trinity By-The-Sea, North Grandview at 8th, Daytona Beach, Fla. Call Father David Dillon, Jr. 904/252-8997 for details.

APRIL 23 - 10:45 AM. Dr. Reed at Seacoast Cathedral, 869 Derbyshire, Daytona, Fla. Contact Rev. Charles McClure, 904/252-5567.

APRIL 28-30 - Dr. Reed and Kay at Episcopal Church of Holy Comforter, 1500 Miesesouke Road, Tallahassee, Fla. Contact Mr. Paul H. Fuller, IV, 904/877-2712.

CASSETTE TAPES OF TWO SERIES OF LECTURES BY KAY REED are available from CMF:

1) "Your Home, Christ's Sanctuary."
2) "The Women of The Bible."

Please write us at CMF for further information.

SONY VIDEO 3/4 INCH CARTRIDGE TAPES (Interviews with Dr. Reed, Roy Leep, Moderator) are available from CMF. These tapes are on such subjects as Coma, Malignancy, Euthanasia, Abortion, Patient's Bill of Rights, and Morality in Medicine. THESE TAPES REQUIRE SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FOR VIEWING. Please write CMF for details.

We would like to express our appreciation to those of you who have prayed for us and have shared in the CMF ministry financially. The need is great right now in both the General Fund and the Bethesda Project. Please ask the Lord how He would have you share in this, His ministry. Then let us hear from you. May Jesus bless you all.

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4821 Memorial Highway
Tampa, Florida 33614

Address Correction Requested
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