THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
by William Standish Reed, M.D., M.S., Founder and President of CMF

When Thomas Jefferson modified George Mason's statement in the Declaration of Independence to include the unalienable right of "the pursuit of happiness," there has been from that date infused into American life an idea which is hardly substantiable in the Old or New Testaments. The word happiness is not to be found in the concordance. Jesus is quoted as using the word "happy" on one occasion after having washed the disciples' feet, when He states, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither He that is sent greater than He that sent Him. If you know these things, happy are ye if you do them" (John 13:16,17).

When St. Paul was before King Agrippa in Acts 26, Agrippa said unto Paul, "Thou art permitted to speak for thyself." Then Paul stretched forth the hand and answered for himself: "I think myself happy, King Agrippa because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews."

Similarly, St. James in James 5:10,11 talks with reference to being happy in this vein, "Take my brethren, the prophets who have spoken in the Name of the Lord for an example of suffering affliction and of patience. Behold we count them happy which endure." It would seem that Jesus, St. Paul, and St. James speak of being happy when sacrificially doing things for others, such as footwashing, testifying to the cause of Christ, or as a prophet suffering afflictions for witnessing to the living God. Modern man, by contrast, thinks of being happy as being self-indulgent, enjoying himself through accomplishing business pursuits, winning money at the dog track, watching television, going to the movies, or any one of a thousand and one different activities which indulge the flesh and the mind.

In the present generation, many times people seek happiness through drugs, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, or other mind altering substances. St. Paul tells us in Romans 8:6 that the carnal mind is death, but the spiritual mind is life and peace. There is really nothing wrong with the mind of man as long as it is occupied in spiritual pursuits. When the mind is involved in processes having to do with carnality, sensuality, or any activity which is not involved and anchored in Godliness, it tends to produce death. We see ourselves living today in a time when man on every side is involved with the various methods whereby the cerebral cortex is neutralized or anesthetized in one way or another.

When one looks up the term "joy" in the concordance, he finds many references in both the Old and New Testaments to this laudable state of man. As one looks up the various references, he finds that joy is basically a spiritual term and pertains by and large to "the joy of the Lord," which is to be the strength of mortal man. St. Paul lists joy as a product or fruit of the Holy Spirit, along with love and peace and other virtues. At the time of Mary's salutation to Elizabeth, little John the Baptist leapt in Elizabeth's womb for joy and was filled with the Holy Spirit. The many references to joy in the New Testament indicate that joy is a true spiritual virtue and something which is a great gift of God to mortal man and not something which comes about as a result of self-indulgence, a product of the materialistic world.

Those things which have brought me personal joy and happiness in this life have to do with such things as when I first saw our children after they were born and our grandchildren. How wonderful it always was to hold the children in our
arms; to love them, to receive their love, inner harmony, and happiness in return. It always gave me great happiness to see my patients do well after surgery or to respond to the medications given them for the treatment of illness. What happiness it gives to pray for the sick and see them healed, and to see the power of the Holy Spirit at work on the earth today. It makes one happy to see his children succeed and especially to see them find Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Somehow, the obtaining of money, power and position, or the attaining of acclaim and prominence, do not produce the joy of the Lord.

As one views the people of the world, particularly those who are in the news from day to day, there would seem to be very little true happiness in the lives of most people. Those who have been married several times and continue to look for satisfaction in great estates, high-powered automobiles, personal airplanes and vacation homes in the Caribbean, all of these seem very hollow and truly unproductive of true happiness to anyone. In North Georgia, Kay and I have ten acres of undeveloped land fronting a rapidly flowing mountain stream not far from the Tennessee border. Nothing has ever been built on the land and it remains as virginal as it was when the Indians lived in the proximity and called its rushing stream, in their language, "Fighting Town Creek." It is a place of great quietness and peace and one can lie on his back and look at the clouds and the towering trees and feel a sense of God and His peace and joy which can rarely be found in the great cities of the world, in their museums, art galleries, or even their symphony halls.

When Adam Lewandowski finished one of his violins after months of conscientious endeavor, it was with a great sense of happiness that Adam’s sons and I were privileged to be the first to ever hear a bow drawn across the strings. Similarly, when a Catholic friend of mine sang a lyric which I wrote, and for which my Jewish patient, Lucille Pasick wrote the music, upon the hearing of my simple rhyming being sung, the thrill of true spiritual joy filled my heart. Such things are the nourishment of soul and spirit which make life succeed and for which the human somatic life so often dies as a result of spiritual malnutrition. Oh the happiness of being saved and the joy of being Spirit-filled! Such things cannot be pursued or sought after, they are given to us in quiet moments, often totally unexpected and totally undeserved. Our loving Father longs to give His joy, His peace, His true happiness to us each moment, each breath, and each heartbeat of our all too brief lives.

CONCERNING CMF FINANCES

Once when I was about to cross a busy street in downtown Los Angeles, I noticed a group of young people passing out Christian tracts. I quickly scanned the tract given to me and saw that it was Christ-centered and well written but on very poor paper. Turning back, I gave a young man $20.00 and told him to purchase some better paper. As I crossed the street a man came up to me and asked me what I had given to the young fellow. I told him, rather sheepishly, wishing it had been more. He then said, "God told me to give you twice what you gave him." He then gave me $40.00. What if I had given him $1,000, I thought!

We can’t out give God! Jesus tells us, "give and it will be given unto you." He actually means what He says. In Matthew 13:23 Jesus says, "As for what was sown on good soil, this is he who hears the word and grasps and comprehends it; he indeed bears fruit and yields its increase a hundred times as much as was sown, in another sixty times as much, and in another thirty."

A corollary is: If one does not give, he will not receive. Also, if one turns a deaf ear to God’s word, and rejects the Logos he will receive no blessing. "And He said unto them, when I sent you out with no purse or sandals did you lack anything? They answered, nothing!" (Luke 22:35).

CMF needs your financial help today. When you give you will receive. That is God’s word the Logos. It is truly for CMF and every Christ-centered endeavor. Please believe God, and begin to give. W.S.R.

ATTENTION PHYSICIANS:

HAVE YOU PAID
YOUR 1990 DOUBES?
DEAR FRIENDS OF
THE LITTLEST ANGEL

The past year has been a good year for the Littlest Angel. Business has increased on a daily basis and our Angel of the Month has become very popular.

When we started the shop ten years ago, angels were unusual items in gift shops. Today they have come into their own. We have angels from many parts of the world and are always looking for new ones. There is something very special about angels and their effect on people. Of course we who believe know it is because angels are very real and play an important part in the believer’s life. The word tells us that they are sent to minister to the saints, God’s chosen ones. “Are not the angels all (servants) ministering spirits, sent out in the service of God for the assistance of those who are to inherit salvation?” What a comforting thought. Whenever we see an angel, even a stained glass or porcelain angel, a quieting effect is produced.

It’s a joy to work with them in the shop. This month the Angel of the Month is the Reco “Hope” Angel. The Reco collection is of fine porcelain. We have already offered the Reco “Joy” Angel and the Reco “Peace” Angel. If you did not get one of these angels, we still have them, and it’s not too late to start your collection. Just ask for them by name, we will send one right out to you. I will be offering the rest of the Reco collection, eleven in all, throughout the year so don’t miss a single one.

Love,
Kay

ANGLER OF THE MONTH

The Littlest Angel is becoming computerized. Each $100.00 donated will bring an exotic angel for your house blessing.

ORDER FORM

Please send me____ Reco "Hope" Angels at $27.95 ea. Enclosed please find my: [ ] Check  [ ] Money Order for_____
Mail Angel to:
Name__________________________
Address________________________
City, State_______________________
Zip, Phone__________( )________
Make checks payable to:
The Littlest Angel
7522 North Himes Avenue
Tampa, FL 33614

Price includes postage and handling fee. Florida residents must add 6% sales tax.

TAPE OFFER

Conference Tapes
1. BIBLICAL BASIS FOR PUBLIC POLICY
   Dr. Herbert W. Titus
   #89-1019, HT

2. AIDS, DRUGS, AND CHRIST IN NEW YORK CITY
   Dr. Gloria DeCruz R.N.
   #89-1020, GD

3. EPHRAIM MCDOWELL PRAYING SURGEON
   James Barrett Hyman, M.D.
   #89-1020, JB

Kay Reed’s Tape
1. SPIRITUAL COUNSELING
   #87-0109

Please send me tape(s) at $5.00 ea.
#89-1019, HT ( ) quantity ___
#89-1020, GD ( ) quantity ___
#89-1020, JB ( ) quantity ___
#87-0109, KR ( ) quantity ___
Enclosed is $_______ for ___
(includes shipping and handling)

BOOK OFFER

This month we are offering "Fresh Frailty For Stretched Out Moms". The author, Barbara Johnson, is the founder of Spatula Ministries, which was organized to "peel parents off the ceiling with a spatula of love and begin them on the road to recovery." The price is $6.95 and it includes shipping and handling.

The following is a reproduction of a telegram from Dr. Posthuma of Louisville, Kentucky, which was to be read at the presentation of the 1989 Ephraim McDowell Award:

Dear Jim, I regret so much not being present as you receive this great honor. Psalm 75 says promotion comes from the Lord. He is among all of those gathered with you now, and it is His purpose that you receive this tonight. It is a great privilege for me to know you. May God daily anoint you for your ministry in His name and make you a blessing to all you serve and give you the great joy of the constant awareness of His presence.

Your Brother,
Millard Posthuma
NEEDED CHRISTIAN BC/BE associate in general ENT practice area of over 90,000. CONTACT: Allen Long, M.D., 505 N. Columbia Ave., Sheffield, AL 35660, (205) 366-7040.

MEDICINE AND MIRACLES SEMINAR June 2-16, 1990 Tulsa, OK. A spiritual skills course for health-care professionals with missions emphasis. For more information, write or call: Medicine that Ministers, P.O. Box 701025, Tulsa, OK 74170, (918) 494-7996.

CHRISTIAN HEALING MINISTRY to the poor: Birmingham, AL. For primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, and physicians assistants. CONTACT: Dr. Thomas Siler, 4823 Parkway Ave., Fairfield, AL 35064.

CHRISTIAN PEDIATRICIAN NEEDED. Group practice on Florida’s East Coast. CONTACT: Richard O’Hearn, M.D., Ph.D., 635 Park Avenue, Merritt Island, FL 32953, (407) 636-3066.

GENERAL PRACTICE AVAILABLE for successor dentist. Very reasonable price of only $25,000 (will partially finance) will get you off to good start with minimal investment. CONTACT: Theodore L. Taylor, D.D.S., 1110 South 8th Street, Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220, (414) 684-0123.

PATHOLOGISTS NEEDED to associate with Christian pathologists in private lab and 250 bed hospital (owned by free Methodist Church). CONTACT: Lynn Myers, M.D., Rm. 359, Family Medical Care of Tulsa, Inc., 7306 South Lewis, Tulsa, OK 74136, (918) 491-9185.

MARCH

1. CLEARWATER, FLORIDA
Speaker - Dr. Reed Thursday 11:45 a.m., Unit meeting of United Methodist Women, Skycrest United Methodist Church, 2045 Drew Street CONTACT: Betsy Wing (813) 734-8214

14. LAKELAND, FLORIDA
Speaker - Dr. Reed Wednesday 7:00 p.m., All Saints Episcopal Church, 202 South Massachusetts Avenue CONTACT: Church # (813) 688-4502

23 - APRIL 8 GUATEMALA MEDICAL MISSION
Missionary Ventures - Dr. Reed and other CHF doctors participating, CONTACT: Dr. Henry Dumas (407) 841-7290

APRIL

22. LAKE PLACID, FLORIDA
Speaker - Dr. Reed 6:00 p.m., Memorial United Methodist Church, 500 Kent Avenue, CONTACT: Church # (813) 465-2422

28. DAYTONA, FLORIDA
Speaker - Dr. Reed 3:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 620 South Grandview Avenue

1990 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
Midwest Regional Conference
May 18-20, 1990
Treating the Body and Spirit
Clinic Center Hotel
Cleveland, Ohio
Contact: Lyn Thornton (813)932-3688

Eighteenth Annual Physicians’ Conference
October 3-7, 1990
Challenges in Whole Person Medicine in the 90’s
Adam’s Mark Caribbean Golf Resort
Clearwater, Florida
Contact: Lyn Thornton (813)932-3688

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.
7522 N. Himes Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33614-3205

Address Correction Requested
3/90, 4/90