"So, too, the Holy Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleadings in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance."

There has been a considerable amount of controversy over the years in Christian circles relative to the gift of "speaking in tongues."

Recently, I was investigating, for my own elucidation, the writings of M. Basil Pennington, concerning "centering prayer." In his discussion of the use of Christian "mantras" as a form of meditation, he uses the following expression, "We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit Who has been poured out into our hearts cries Abba Father." What Pennington has done is to put together Romans 8:26 with Galatians 4:6, in order to come up with this statement.

In reading Galatians 4:6, it actually states that the Holy Spirit is poured out at the time of our receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit into our hearts as we cry, "Abba Father." Subsequently, no doubt we cry out "Abba Father" in our spiritual worship, but when praying for our infirmities and for the infirmities of others we truly do not know what terms to utilize. Therefore we use, coming from our spiritual hearts, words which are unutterable in our ordinary language.

In the Greek, the word "groanings" is the term, stenagmos which comes from the verb stenazo which means "to pray inaudibly." Could it be that the proper translation of this difficult phrase should be: "We do not know how to pray as we ought but the Spirit intercedes within us with sighing in prayers, not our usual speech." We are told in St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, I Corinthians 12:10, that speaking in various kinds of unknown tongues is an attribute or a manifestation of the Holy Spirit given to human beings as an evidence of his spiritual illumination for good and for profit. We are also told in I Corinthians 14:4, "He who speaks in a strange tongue edifies and improves himself...." In other words, this form of prayer is for personal edification and is given to man for his profit just as all of the other gifts are for this basic purpose. When praying regarding our needs, our infirmities, why not do what scripture prescribes, pray in tongues? Forget the mantras, the vain repetitions. (Matthew 6:7)

Living in an era when many strange ideas from the Far East are making their way into the Church and into Christian circles, we must be careful because the ideas of the religions of the world are basically in the psychic realm. Christianity, which is not a religion, a philosophical or a mental (psychic belief system), is walking with Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit into the Way of God through Jesus Christ, His only Son. The praying of mantras to the point of mental ablation is not only nonedifying, it is actually potentially a dangerous practice.

Isn't it about time to put all of the ideas of centering prayer, the use of mantras, and the use of Far Eastern meditative practices, to rest. Let us begin to glorify in the fact that the risen Christ is about to return. He is virtually on the threshold and we need to be deep in the Word and deep in Him, with our vessels filled with the oil of the Spirit and our hearts and our minds full of the glorifying presence of the risen Christ, our wonderful Redeemer, Who is in the process of His soon return.

23rd Annual Physicians' Conference of Christian Medical Foundation

September 27 - October 1, 1995
Sheraton Sand Key Resort Hotel
Clearwater Beach, Florida

CONTACT: Lyn Thornton
(613) 934-3688

Deadline for Registration: August 22, 1995
Dear Friends of the Littlest Angel,

Time passes so quickly and more so as the years fly by.

Another Doctors Conference will be hosted in the Tampa Bay area September 27 - October 1, 1995. For the Littlest Angel this means buying trips, sprucing up the shop, and planning for fall and Christmas.

Our new stock is rolling in faster than we can care for it, so our summer is a busy one.

Angels are still in the lead in items requested and more beautiful than ever. The Seraphine Classics Collection, in pastel marble, has added four new angels to their collection, a total of ten angels in all. They are individually named, and are still $49.95 each plus postage, a wonderful buy, and a very special gift for that special friend. Get your order in early as they are in great demand. Also, Roman is introducing a minature collection of the same series at $22.95 each. If you are interested, call me or drop me a note and I will send you more information.

August is Book Month at the Book Nook. All of our books and cards are 30% off during the month. A great time to stock up on good reading and again, shop for Christmas early. Books are such faithful friends to encourage, enjoy, and pass on.

Bless you and keep in touch. It’s wonderful to hear from so many friends. If we can help in any way, let us know.

Love,

Kay

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.
7522 N. Himes Avenue
P.O. Box 152136
Tampa, Florida 33684-2136

Address Correction Requested
August 1995

HELP US TO BE GOOD STEWARDS

[ ] Address Change
   Make changes on label at right

[ ] I wish my name removed from mail list

POSITIONS AVAILABLE/DESIRED

INTERNIST/INFECTIOUS DISEASES PHYSICIAN - Board Certified in both Episcopal priest involved in the healing ministry, the charismatic movement, and renewal, seeking an opportunity to integrate both parts of the healing ministry which the Lord has called me to. CONTACT: Rev. Fred Duncanson, M.D., 6 Long Meadow Dr., Monsey, NY 10952, (914) 356-3899, voice mail (800) 772-5012, mailbox or address = 5545.

NATIONWIDE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL PRACTICES available in all specialties. Choose from single and multispecialty group practices offering negotiable and competitive salaries including production bouns, paid malpractice, life, health and disability insurance, 6-8 weeks CM/VC time off, retirement plan, paid interview and relocation expenses. Excellent quality of life with outstanding on call coverage. CONTACT: Tim Donohue, 1-800-831-5475.

WANTED: B.C., F.P. wanting to join an evangelical practice. CONTACT: W.B. Hefda, M.D., 200 Allegheny Ave., Kittanning, PA 16201, (412) 543-7020, after 9:00 p.m.

REAL ESTATE OPPORTUNITY in Lake Wales, Florida. Several beautiful residences are available on a lovely lake and adjacent golf course not far from the Passion Play complex. These homes are the property of a dear friend of CMF who is a deeply committed Christian. CONTACT: Dr. William S. Reed at the Foundation, (813) 932-3688.

CALENDAR

AUG 10 Lakeland, Florida
Speaker - Dr. Reed, 7:00 p.m.
Carpenters Home Estates.
CONTACT: Darlene Brady,
(813) 858-3847.

SEP 27-OCT 1 Clearwater Beach, Florida
23rd Annual International Physicians’ Conference,
Sheraton Sand Key Resort.
CONTACT: Lyn Thornton,
(813) 932-3688.

. Have you Remembered CMF in your will?

An Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements are available upon request.

PRAYER, AMERICA
Imagine the Power...
Envision the Results!
-12 Noon Each Day