Gifts

Christmas is a time of joy and peace. It is also a season of beauty whether it be the Christmas tree, the pageantry, the singing, the happy occasions, the worship or the lovely little package, delicately wrapped, presented with a loving smile. None of this would be possible if it weren't for Jesus, God incarnate - given to mankind with this message, "Fear not." The angels also told the shepherds, "Peace on earth, good will to man."

What a wonderful message in a world where Saddam Hussein is said to have chemical weapons sufficient to destroy all life on planet Earth. There are those nations including America who have the atomic potential to destroy whole continents. St. Paul told us, "In the last days, perilous times will come" (II Timothy 3:1). Surely the amazing gift of God awaits man today: The Second Coming of Jesus, bearing eternal life and the destruction of all evil. In truth, Jesus did this at His first coming but as Jeremiah says in Jeremiah 6:16 "Stand at the crossroads and look, ask for the ancient path, then walk in it and you will have peace in your souls..." But human beings then as now will not listen and walk in God's ways.

Robert Burns prayed that God would "The giftie gie us - to see ourselves as others see us." Beyond Bobby's "giftie" we need the gift of true sight (achievable by being born again) and the gifts of wisdom and knowledge (I Corinthians 12:8). St. James tells us "We have not because we ask not, or when we do ask, we ask with the wrong motivation" (James 4:2,3). When Solomon was given the opportunity to receive anything he desired, he asked God for wisdom and knowledge (II Chronicles 1:10).

Here at Christian Medical Foundation in Tampa we are tremendously thankful for having received the wondrous gift of Jesus and God's Spirit into our hearts and lives. Our triune God has given us His Divine contagion as we carry His Truth to places near and far, as He directs trusting that many will find the Way. Here we have served Jesus since arriving from Texas in '63. We started in Spanish West Tampa in Iglesia Cristiana at a small Christian Church. After four years we moved to our center west of the airport, building the center on property donated by the Reed Family. God truly blessed CMF for twenty years at that beautiful facility. We then moved our buildings to a new location near Carrollwood Hospital. Dr. Reed gave his surgical building to CMF at that time.
The location was a place of wondrous peace and healing. Most recently the CMF center has been sold to Youth with a Mission - an organization with a vision similar to our own.

So we have moved to a lovely location on the Hillsborough River surrounded by giant oaks and pine trees. The new center is very beautiful, and God's healing presence continues to be with us abundantly. We do not have our chapel but it is my hope that funds will come in to allow the building of a new chapel where healing services can continue to be held.

Please remember to make your year-end contribution to CMF now since it is urgently needed. Your Foundation is truly more vital than ever with the increasing interest in Medicine and in the Church generally in spiritual healing.

Do pray for us as we continue to follow the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. God is with us and the "power of God is present to heal (Luke 5:17). Greater things than ever lie in the days ahead as we stay anchored in Jesus and His precious Word. He is our true gift, need we ask for more?

Wishing you -
A Blessed Christmas
A Holy Advent and

William Standish Reed, M.D.

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