November 1, 1999

A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE AT CENTURY’S END

"O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shades lengthen and the evening cometh, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work done. Then, Lord, in Thy mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” An ancient prayer from The Scottish Prayer Book

Dear Friends of Christian Medical Foundation,

As we are at this Thanksgiving time approaching the end of a century, we find ourselves looking toward the year 2000 and beyond with mixed emotions. We think back on all the happenings in the past century of which all of us have lived in, all of it or most of it.

Tom Brokaw has written in his book “The Great Generation” that this was indeed a most magnificent generation. Our fathers before us fought in World War I. At that time there was introduced into our civilization, not only the use of aircraft but also various forms of destruction including the great cannon and even the use of gas, which was utilized to create a great destruction.

Subsequent to World War I, which never achieved any true solution to the world’s problems, World War II came along and in the generation which I will term “my generation”, many lives were lost and even more destructive means of retribution against our enemies were brought about. It seems, in retrospect, as we look back upon those years, that again not much was solved, since the world at the end of the century is still involved in the convulsions of lack of peace, hatreds, and national problems, which we should never have suspected would be the case. One wonders what will happen as a new century begins.

As we think on all of this, we also contemplate in terms of Thanksgiving, the fact that the United States is experiencing a time of affluence and prosperity. We also have lengthened our life span and the majority of people in the nation, who are living moral lives, are healthy and reasonably happy. The rest of the world does not seem to be in as great a condition as the United States. In the end of what was the Soviet Union, there is still dissention and trouble, not only economic but also difficulty in the level of unification of the Russian Empire. There is trouble in Africa with the possibility that in South Africa, many of the young people who are living at the present time with AIDS, will not see the age of forty, so it is assumed. The AIDS epidemic that hit Africa and again across the world is something, which we would never have assumed, would arise to trouble us at this time. However, it is there, and new forms of illness are also in the archives of our medical publications.

So what is there to be thankful about this Thanksgiving? Can we be thankful to God for the unity of our families, when the divorce rate is over fifty percent and rising?
Can we be thankful in light of the fact that millions of babies in the womb have been destroyed since Roe versus Wade? Is there room for thanksgiving for our morality and our brotherly love when we allow infanticide and euthanasia increasingly in our society?

Despite all of this, those of us who have our anchorage in Jesus Christ, the power of His resurrection, and the living church, have much to be thankful and grateful about. Here at Christian Medical Foundation we have an unprecedented membership of loyal physicians, nurses, paramedical people, and clergy and laity. Our endeavors extend not only across the border into Canada but also into the rest of the world. We have had an impact for Christ in our time, which has been most gratifying.

Thus, we are at this juncture extremely thankful to God our Father, to Jesus our Savior and Lord, and to the Holy Spirit, who empowers us and gives us the means of standing against the darkness of the age. We are most thankful to God for our salvation, for eternal life, and for the fact that death has been defeated. When we leave this life we will be involved not in death or in sleep, but in transition.

We pray that in the year 2000 we will see the answer to the cancer problem and the profound psychological problems that are associated with the use of drugs and narcotics that we are seeing increase in our world society. We are thankful that Jesus Himself does give us peace, a peace that truly passes all of our understanding. At this time, I lift up the banner of Christ and thank Him for my wonderful family, for my beloved children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and a wonderful wife who has supported me in our work throughout the years. I am thankful for the great Board of Directors of Christian Medical Foundation who have been loyal throughout our many years. I am thankful for the many doctors, nurses, paramedical people, and people in general, who are part of the Christian Medical Foundation.

We have the means and the mechanism whereby we can make a great impact in this world in the year 2000 and beyond. So let us give thanks to God, who gives us His wondrous blessings, and the power of His Holy Spirit, Who gives us the means and the path which we should follow. Recently, at a meeting of the Right To Life, one of our Tampa doctors stated, “The world does show increasing darkness and the forces of destruction will increase rather than decrease, but there is a path, a wonderful path, leading to the cross of Christ where we can find our peace, our salvation, and our hope.” This way is still open to us, thanks be to God. Let us walk in it and sing forth our great choruses of thanksgiving as this century ends.

Faithfully in Him,

William Standish Reed, M.D., M.S.
President

Can You Help?

We hope to hold Christmas and New Year’s Services at the “Little Chapel” on Lynn Street near our center. Our need to finalize the rehabilitation is $20,000. This is an immediate need. The funds must be in had by mid November. Please remember CMF in your year-end giving.

"For with God Nothing Shall Be Impossible"—Luke 1:37