THE VISION AND THE AFTERMATH

“Where there is no vision, the people perish…” (Proverbs 29:18)
“Two things have I asked of You O Lord; deny them not to me, before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful to me, lest I be full, and deny You and say “Who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.” (Proverbs 30:7,8,9)
“Wherefore, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision.” (Acts 26:19)
“I press on toward the goal to win the supreme and heavenly prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward.” (Philippians 3:14)
“Hope is never ill when faith is well.” John Bunyan

The anointed vision, which brought Christian Medical Foundation eventually into actuality, came about at the University of Michigan Medical School in the Department of Pathology. One of our professors had joined St. Andrews Episcopcal Church in Ann Arbor, and I was in the same group of new Episcopalians. We were really searching for the truth of Jesus’ healing love, which we found in the Book of Common Prayer. In pathology we sensed that too many people were dying of cancer, leukemia, and a multitude of other afflictions. With all of our modalities of treatment fraught with too many failures, why hadn’t someone in science considered God in the challenging equation of life and death?

Thus, in my early surgical life, Christian Medical Foundation was born in the late 1950’s. The vision became vivid in 1958 at the Order of St. Luke meeting which concerned Christ’s healing power. Dr. George Richey of Richmond, Virginia spoke at that meeting and it became apparent that doctors and nurses were to join forces with ministers of the gospel to proclaim God’s kingdom. Ethel Banks, wife of the Reverend John Gayner Banks, who founded the OSL, wrote to me quoting Acts 5:20, “Go, take your stand in the temple courts and declare to the people the whole doctrine concerning this life (the eternal life which Christ revealed)”

This I accepted as a divine commission for me and for those in the healing arts as to what God, Himself, was giving me to do in my Christian and professional life. Since 1958, we have held multiple meetings throughout the United States, Canada and overseas, where doctors and nurses proclaim Christ our healing Savior.

We have sought support from no denomination and have relied on God’s people for the continuance of this great endeavor. For this I want to thank our Heavenly Father and His people for nearly 50 years of blessing to countless people in the chain reaction of blessing which occurs when men and women find Christ and His healing love.

Bioethicist Daniel Callahan has advocated that bioethics had to “push religion aside”. He is among those who believe that “to invoke God talk is bad manners” (quoted from Andrusko letter). CMF doctors and nurses do invoke God, Christ, and Holy Spirit talk and do proclaim God’s Word to a most needy world.

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Consider for a moment the many endeavors of the past century, which were financed by Christian donors in America and Canada, costing millions, possibly billions of dollars and which no longer exist. CMF has been a widow’s mite ministry, believing that “little is much” when God blesses the endeavor. It could be that those things, which evolve from our abundance tend to fail, whereas those things which come about from our poverty tend to succeed. (Mark 12:42, 43) This is not the “name it and claim it philosophy”. It is instead the pray and keep praying, thanking God and our precious Jesus for the ability to keep on serving Him for another day, another month, and another year as the mites and His wisdom allow.

If Jesus gives you the inspiration to help CMF, if it’s only a mite, send it. It will magnify to CMF and to you just as the Lord said to the widow, ”The jar of meal shall not waste away, or the bottle of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.” (Kings 17:14) He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Dear Ethel, we’ve declared the “whole doctrine” and we shall continue with God’s help until the day of Christ’s soon coming. The vision of the healing, saving Jesus proclaimed by physicians and nurses continues and the people rejoice as perishing abates and belief in Jesus’ love grows. (John 3:16-21)

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