A New Year has begun and as usual in these months, which are quite cold in the north, many Canadian friends are present here in Florida. Jack MacDonald Thomson of Toronto and points north (including Keswick) is here with us again and has been, as usual, a tremendous blessing to us. A year ago when Jack was in Toronto he sustained what originally was thought to be a cerebro-vascular accident. He had a weakness on one side of his body and things looked quite grim for him for a matter of many hours. However, our gracious Savior Jesus Christ, in response to his prayers and the prayers of others, touched him and restored total function to his body so that he is back in excellent health. Jack has been a magnificent blessing to Christian Medical Foundation over the years, and we are delighted to have him a vital part of not only Christian Medical Foundation here in the United States, but also Canada.

Jack and Gertrude Roberts are back with us here in the Tampa area. Jack and Gertrude are Canadian Directors of CMF of Canada, and reside in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Their two sons are both ministers of the United Church. For a number of years the Roberts lived in Newfoundland and have been a vital contact for CMF not only in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but Newfoundland. For this we are most grateful and have truly appreciated their marvelous support in the past, not only in the United States, but also in our Canadian work. As with Jack Thomson and his beloved Florence, Jack and Gertrude are truly most beautiful and Spirit filled friends of our total CMF endeavor.

Carl and Ruth Laybourn have been with us since the October Conference. These beloved friends from the Toronto area, have been extremely vital in helping us at CMF in our bookstore at the Conference, also in our Tuesday meetings where Carl helps us in leading songs. Ruth helps us in prayer and in our devotions. They are joined in this by our dear friends, Al and Dorothy Hughes who are also from the Toronto area. One wonders as he thinks of all of this how CMF here in Florida would function if it weren't for our Canadian friends and their diligent prayers and support.

We have recently been informed that our beloved brother, Bill Walker (who heads up the Canadian CMF endeavor) has had to return to the hospital for further abdominal surgery. We ask the Canadian CMF to remember Bill in prayer and ask God to touch him, even as He did Jack Thomson. With God nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1:37) and we believe that God has indeed taken care of Bill's need. Please pray for Bill and Jean during this time of their physical and spiritual need.

Roman Buchok and Mary joined by Rod and Doris Davison are ardently laying plans for the April CMF Conference in Winnipeg. This year we are holding our annual Canadian Conference in Winnipeg at a different time of year rather than September, since it was the feeling of the Board of Directors of Canada, that this represented a better time to hold the annual meeting. Being in Winnipeg it allows people from the west---as well as the east to attend in a central location. Canada, being such a vast land with so many miles between cities---it is difficult to select a place which is comfortable to get to from both west and east. Last year's Conference in Winnipeg was a memorable occasion. The meetings were held at St. Boniface Hospital, as well as The Health Science Centre. The committee who set up the Canadian meeting in 1982 did an exemplary job. Most outstanding was the excellent job done in publicity handled by two dear Canadian brothers who had previously had no connection with our work. It is hoped that with their help, and with the excellent guidance and direction of Rod and Roman, the 1983 Conference will be even more well attended. It is planned at this point for Christian Medical Foundation of Canada to join with the Canadian Christian Medical and Dental Association in order that the impact upon Canadian medicine (as well as medicine in the Manitoba area) will be even greater than was felt last year. It should be an encouragement to Canadians to know that vital and positive steps in the direction of the moving of God's Holy Spirit in the healing arts is truly taking place on a national scale. In these days of economic depression and anxiety about the future from many different stand-points as well as political upheaval, it is well to know that God is still on the throne and He is moving not only in medicine but in every phase of Canadian life. In times of recession men tend to turn back to their basic principles of faith and prayer. God would doubtless tell all of us at this time that what He is expecting us to do is to look again to the basis of our
successes and blessings in times past and see that He was the one who truly blessed us. It was not our self endeavor. Again realizing this we can turn our hearts to Jesus. We can return to our knees in prayer. We can intercede for political leaders of the nation—whether we happen to like them or agree with them or not, and ask that God will save them, fill them with the Holy Spirit, and give them absolute guidance and direction for the future. One might also use the technique of putting the nation under the blood of Jesus and commanding the forces of evil and the demonic powers to be gone.

One is reminded that the Angel Gabriel told Daniel that it took him 21 days to get through the powers of the air over Persia after Daniel had begun to pray for assistance. No doubt the powers of darkness in the air above the United States, Canada and the world in general, are even more dense and more difficult than they were in Daniel’s day. Thus we should remember to be truly persistent in prayer and perhaps double the twenty-one day period or maybe even triple it insofar as our time in which to expect the answers to our intercessions. Too many times we only pray for twenty-four or forty-eight hours and then become discouraged.

A student at Melody Land several years ago—when Kay and I were there—said there were three rules for prayer. 1. "Get down on your knees to pray. 2. Keep praying. 3. Don't get up." I believe that this is still the case. Too often we don't truly bow our hearts and our bodies in prayer. Too often we do not remain on our knees praying until we sense the lifting of the burden "get prayed through", and also we tend to get up for either mental or physical reasons. The true prayer warrior and the true intercessor does not give up easily insofar as his prayers are concerned. Canada and the western world, again, need an army of real intercessors.

Please, dear Canadian friends, pray for the Canadian Conference. It will be open to doctors and nurses, para medical people, ministers and those who are interested in Christian healing. We expect a magnificent Conference this year because of the time of the year in which the meeting will be held, and because of the escalating numbers of people who have been coming to our Canadian Conferences of late. CMF of Canada truly is getting to be known. Doctors who receive this letter—-as well as nurses—should begin to talk up our meeting and put up announcements on hospital bulletin boards and on church bulletin boards. If we begin to be enthusiastic about CMF of Canada and its potential for the changing medicine in Canada in a Godly direction, we can be assured that CMF of Canada can be the means of truly blessing Canada, its churches and its people—-as well as the hospitals and those who are in beds of affliction—in the immediate future.

Faithfully yours in Jesus Christ,

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PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!