Each year as Thanksgiving comes upon us and ushers in the beginning of the Christmas Season, I find myself looking back on the previous year, counting my blessings--naming them one by one--as the old hymn says. We who are Christians should practice giving thanks not only in October in Canada or in November in the United States, but each day of our lives. Then we would be practicing "Thanksgiving" all through our lives. What joyousness would be ours if only we would do this, regardless of our circumstances. What a blow we would deal to satan's efforts to discourage and defeat all our endeavors to tell others about the abundant life available only through the blood of Jesus, if we gave thanks in all things.

This is a time when I want to express my thankfulness for the faithfulness of CMF of Canada and all the hard work and prayers and giving that has gone into making it a most wonderful and effective part of Christian Medical Foundation. Our travels to Canada are always a wonderful experience and we thank our Lord for all the laypeople, the medical personnel and physicians who love Jesus and have caught the vision of what CMF is doing. Each year we can see progress being made in presenting the deeper Christian commitment in Medicine as we reach out through our Conference and meetings in Canada. I want to say thank you for what was accomplished at our Toronto Canadian CMF Conference this year. This Conference received 10 hours of continuing medical education accreditation for all those who attended the meetings. I believe that receiving accreditation for our meetings in Canada will be instrumental in attracting many doctors to our 1985 Conference to be held September 13 - 15, 1985. Dr. Don Denmark, who did such an outstanding job in putting on our 1984 Conference is already hard at work on next year's meeting which I am sure will be even more successful. The dedication and hard work of Don and his wife, Anne-Louise and all those who made such a wonderful meeting possible, is something which Kay and I, and all those who are a part of CMF, are very thankful for.

This past year we have had a number of Regional CMF meetings in many parts of the United States, and the coming year many more are planned. We can reach physicians for Christ in these smaller meetings and introduce them to the larger scope and outreach of CMF. We envision similar Regional meetings being held in Canada to reach all physicians in all areas. As you read this, Kay and I have recently been to Ottawa and Sault Ste. Marie, speaking to doctors and others about how wonderful life can be when Jesus is at the center of our personal lives and our practices. Won't you join me in prayer and support for this vision?

As Christmas approaches and we spend time, thought and energy on purchasing just the right gift for our families and those we love, let us contemplate what is the best gift we can give our Heavenly Father "Who has everything." "The cattle on a thousand hills are His!" Jesus gave us the answer in Matthew 25:34-40. Let us feed the hungry, open our homes to others, clothe the poor and visit the sick and those in prison--not only at Christmas,
even the unbeliever does these things at the holiday season, but let us have an attitude of heart that keeps ever before us the words of Jesus all year. "When you did it to the least of these, you did it unto me."

The winter months are always a special time when our dear friends from Canada come to Florida and participate in the activities of Christian Medical Foundation. We urge any of you to be sure and come by for a tour of CMF here in Tampa. Also plan to attend our Tuesday Bible study meetings led by Kay at 10:00 a.m. and myself at 1:00 p.m. Come share in our fellowship of believers.

Let us not only keep Christ in Christmas, but keep Christ in our hearts and minds and every area of our lives and relationships throughout every day of the year.

Faithfully yours in Jesus Christ,

William Standish Reed, M.D.

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Continuing care available in a Christian rest home; for ambulatory patients, for former psychiatric patients and senior citizens.
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