Mr. and Mrs. Jack MacDonald Thomson, Jack is one of the founding members of Christian Medical Foundation of Canada.

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL FOUNDATION OF CANADA

In 1961 following the international meeting of Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship in Washington, an invitation was extended to me to speak at the group's meeting in Toronto. At the Washington meeting prior to the Toronto meeting, there had been a large delegation present including the Rector of St. Margarets In The Pines Anglican Church, Tom Harpur. When I had the privilege of speaking to the Full Gospel group, I also was invited to speak at St. Margarets. What a beautiful morning that was, and the fellowship with Tom Harpur and his parishioners was something I shall never forget. One of the songs which was sung was "We Are On The Lord's Side," which is a hymn rarely sung in the United States, but certainly one which says it all as far as I am concerned. In the ensuing years there has been in my life a continuing crescendo of association with Christian brothers and sisters in Medicine and Nursing and in the body of Christ across Canada. Mrs. Reed and I have been privileged to visit most of the provinces in Canada from Gander in Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia. We have also been as far north as Fort Nelson and as far southeast as St. Andrews, New Brunswick where we were honored to speak at the Anglican Church where Johnny Jones is Rector. Johnny's daughter is now a physician and we are all along with Johnny and his wife, very proud of Shawnie.

Strangely enough, Christian Medical Foundation of Canada had its original roots in Fredericton, New Brunswick. This was through the graces of Byron and Miriam Phillips, Bob and Eileen Lindsay and many wonderful friends in the Fredericton area. The first tentative trial meetings of CMF of Canada were held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, November 11th and 12th, 1977.

The original meetings of Christian Medical Foundation of Canada in Toronto began in October, 1979. Along with this move there were contacts with physicians and
nurses in St. John, New Brunswick as well as many other parts of this province and St. Johns, Newfoundland. Meetings have also been held in Sioux St. Marie, Ontario Regina, Saskatchewan, as well as Saskatoon and in Winnipeg, Manitoba on two wonderful occasions. We have also had the privilege of being in Edmonton and Jasper, Alberta, as well as Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia. During the winter one year we flew to Fort St. John and spent a most wonderful time with dear friends in the wilderness north of Fort St. John in Wonicon.

All of this was in the nature of sowing seeds across Canada which have begun to grow and to multiply. Under the leadership of Rod Davison and Roman Buchok of Winnipeg and Don Denmark and a number of his colleagues in Ontario, CMF of Canada has begun to make its presence known. Along with all of this Margaret Perkins and a number of Canadian nurses have caught the vision of what CMF of Canada can mean to the nursing profession and to the care of the whole patient.

What is the possible future of Christian Medical Foundation of Canada? As I see it, the primary objective of CMF worldwide is to reacquaint the modern physician with the fact that the patient is more than just a Body Mind entity, that he is actually spiritual and on an eternal journey. We should like to reinforce doctors and nurses that spiritual non-development can create illness and that every illness has its spiritual therapeutics. It is really not good medicine we feel, to ignore the spiritual aspect of the patient and spiritual care. To do so, is to lose empathy and to ignore the fact that one of the greatest therapeutic modalities in the treatment of illness is the medicament of the physician himself. In order to himself be part of the positive therapeutic endeavor of the treatment of the whole patient, the physician must discover himself and his own relationship toward God and toward Christ. When he has done this, then he can share his deeper side of his life with his patients. This is particularly important and increasingly so, in the treatment of the terminally ill, the dying.

In the treatment of the dying patient spiritual care becomes more and more important as the routine medical and scientific endeavors begin to be of less and less import. Since most physicians in Canada and the United States are Christian or at least were raised that way, CMF feels that the physicians need to begin to share this truth and the deeper aspect of their own lives and feelings with their patients.

Dr. Paul Tournier has taught us that what we give out we receive. If we give out to the patient cold professionalism we receive much of that same冷漠 from the patient. If we give love and care, we receive beamed back from him love and care and healing ourselves. It is thus very healthy to give out love and deep spiritual care to our patients. This brings about in ourselves—doctors and nurses—a healing of our inner man as well as our bodies and souls. Jesus himself told us that when we give it shall be given unto us; "good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38 KJV)

Wiliam Francis Reed M.D.

THE REEDS' ITINERARY

PLEASE NOTE: Dr. and Mrs. Reed will be at St. Andrews Church, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA OCTOBER 25 - 27 beginning 7:15 p.m. Friday. For further information, please contact: The Rev. Bruce Roberts (902) 422 3157