THOUGHTS AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR

The New Year has begun and almost immediately the news is filled with tragedy and violence. We have just come through a glorious Christmas Season in which the love of Jesus was again shed abroad in all of our hearts. Epiphany really means "light upon us". The light of the Lord Jesus Christ has come upon us—those of us who sit in the darkness and in the shadow of death. The prophecy of Zechariah having to do with John the Baptist and with Jesus states, "That we should have deliverance and be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who detest and pursue us with hatred; to make true and show the mercy and compassion and kindness promised to our forefathers and to remember and to carry out His Holy Covenant. That Covenant He sealed by an oath to our forefather Abraham to grant that we being delivered from the hand of our foes might serve Him fearlessly, in holiness (divine consecration) and righteousness; that is in accordance with the everlasting principles of right, within His presence all the days of our life—because of and through the heart of tender mercy and loving kindness of our God a light from on high will dawn upon and visit us to shine upon and give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death to correct and guide our feet in a straight line in a way of peace." (Luke 1:71-79)

In Luke 4:18, Jesus had entered the synagogue in Nazareth and was handed the book of the prophet of Isaiah. He unrolled the book and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to preach the good news the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to announce release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind; to send forth and deliver those who are oppressed—those who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed and broken down by calamity; to proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord, the day when salvation and free favors of God profusely abound". As we face the New Year, we must remember that we are the children of Light. Those of us who are in Medicine must carry the light of Christ into operating rooms, into the sick rooms, into the areas where the dying and hopeless are and into the psychiatric institutions and prisons. Somehow we get so involved with the urgent that we neglect the essential and important. We tend to forget to love and to care, to touch and to witness.

The hope of the entire world rests upon those who have heard and accepted the Gospel message of the Lord Jesus Christ. It becomes obvious as life goes on that there is really no hope other than in Jesus, and no power that is truly effective on this earth other than the power of the Holy Spirit. Nominal religion is never going to change this Earth so that there will be hope. With all of our CAT scans, magnetic resonance techniques, great diagnostic procedures and operative inventions, including organ transplantation, man is basically not any healthier in 1987 than he was in 1950 or perhaps even in 1930. His life may be prolonged but the quality of that life may very well have deteriorated. We have allowed errors in our thought processes, resentment and fears, unforgiveness and moral laxity to enter our lives and our professions, and sowing the wind we have begun to reap the whirlwind. The only safe place today is to be in the hollow of the Lord's hand. Here we are shielded from the Chernobyl fallout, from the fears of destruction and from our apprehension concerning the future. It is time that modern man began to knock down the denominational barriers which separate him from his Christian brethren. The time of unity, the unity of Godly love, has come and we must begin to love one another and to care for one another before it is too late. This not only includes caring for fellow Canadians and fellow Americans, but also Christians behind the Iron Curtain and those who are suffering for the cause of Christ across a broken and a dying world.

We must also pray that truth will be revealed, the real truth in South Africa, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and in Nicaragua. Not the things that are written to us by a press with a prejudicial point of view, but the truth that only Jesus can reveal. May we have, as we face 1987, a new spirit of prophetic utterance and prophetic understanding. May our hearts through the light of Christ, lead us in the paths of righteousness and hope. May we begin to see that we are conveyors of the power of Jesus' resurrection and that the dead can be raised and the despairing can be given hope if only we would awaken from our slumber and see that God means to use us.

Eva Orr, who was a saint immersed in the Gospel of Christ, has gone on to be with Jesus, having left us the end of 1986. Also, one of our marvelous international directors of CMF of Canada, Jack Roberts from Halifax, Nova Scotia, went on to be with Jesus recently. These people and others like them, Jack
Thomson and those of a generation which are now beginning one by one to leave us, are irreplaceable. As the mantle of responsibility begins to fall upon our shoulders, will we have the strength, ability and the conscience to accept our own personal mantle and to carry it courageously with our hand in the hand of Jesus into an uncertain future? Only as Jesus gives hope and His wondrous care during the days ahead, will we have the infusion of divine power to allow us to enter into 1987 without some degree of despair and anxiety. It is our hope in CMF of Canada and CMF of the western world, as we join our brothers and sisters in Poland and Czechoslovakia and in Eastern Europe as well as those in the Soviet Union who love Christ, that the world may become one in Jesus and that 1987 will be a year in which we follow, with courage, the multiple guideposts on every hand leading us toward Christ’s wonderful heaven, heaven on earth and heaven to come. May God bless us all as we enter the New Year.

William Sandish Reed MD

OCTOBER 2 - 3  TORONTO, ONTARIO at the INN ON THE PARK

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL FOUNDATION OF CANADA — ANNUAL DOCTOR’S CONFERENCE

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STRESS

by William S. Reed, M.D.

Stress is only stress if you allow it to be.

It is big and strong and fearful just because you cannot see—

It begins to shrink—to handling size when you see it as it is,

Stress loses all its fearfulness when God says the battle’s His.

Stress is not in the Word of God or in Noah Webster’s dictionary.

It must be something modern man made up to confuse or make us vary.

Something you just know is there with pressure and oppression

No matter what the Bible says this stress can cause depression.

The brightest day is turned to dark when stress begins to grow

There’s no way out, the road is steep and no place is found to go

But Jesus said—I am the Way, I will make a way for you

The sun comes out and darkness flees, and faith leaps forth anew

Stress is a phantom, that can cause a stumble or a fall

A stumbling block or stepping stone—A doorway through—a big, thick wall

It all depends on you—and Christ in you—The Holy Ghost within your heart.

So trust—Hang on Begin to praise—God will help Just make a start.