This month we are sending as our Canadian Editorial excerpts from an interesting Pro-Life article written by Winifride Prestwich. She describes our Canadian CMF Conference last Fall in wonderfully complimentary terms. It was a great conference! Please read and know that CMF of Canada is becoming known.
- William Standish Reed

SEEDS OF HOPE

Perhaps it was because the 1986 Conference of the Christian Medical Foundation of Canada was permeated by a spirit of prayer that one came away with a feeling of hope for the pro-life cause. Perhaps it was because the physicians who gave papers on such subjects as "Life in the Balance," "Surgical Intervention for the Multiple Handicapped Newborn," and "Suicide Trends in Teenage Years," were men and women who practised their profession in the light of their Christian belief.
Whatever the reason may be, the 1986 CMF Conference, with its theme "The Physician and the Sanctity of Life," was a clear indication that many Christian doctors and nurses are unreservedly committed to working for the protection of the pre-born child, the handicapped and the elderly who are at risk.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Christian Medical Foundation is given in its Statement of Position.
"As Christian physicians, we unreservedly uphold the sanctity of human life from conception to the time of death.
"We believe man is created with spirit, soul, and body, and that life begins at conception with personal awareness and direct involvement with God the Creator.
"We believe that all human life, regardless of any imperfections, is precious in the sight of God. Any affront or assault on that life, by whatever means is contrary to scripture and to be condemned as inhuman.
"We believe that the Christian physician is committed to protect life and minister to the spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional needs of his patients."

The author goes on to say,

The recent doctors' strike in Ontario has had some side benefits. During the strike the various hospital committees were disbanded. One physician at the Conference revealed that following the strike, when new committees were being formed in his hospital, there was a quiet discussion and it was decided not to re-establish a Therapeutic Abortion Committee. There was a general agreement that most doctors - even those who call themselves "pro-choice" - hate doing abortions, and they do not like being on abortion committees. From further discussion it appears that other hospitals have taken advantage of the strike and quietly scuttled their Therapeutic Abortion Committees.

The example of pro-life doctors is also having its effect, especially in areas where there is a group that is clearly recognized. Again and again at the Conference there were stories of doctors who had decided they had done their last abortion. Many doctors have finally faced the fact that it is inconsistent, not to say illogical, to go from trying to save the life of a premature baby in one room, to the killing of a baby of the same age in another room in the same hospital.

Speaking Out

Peterborough, Ontario, is well known as a centre where pro-life doctors have a high profile and where their influence is important. Dr. David Hurst's address "Abortion and the Family Physician" went a long way to explain their success. His discourse covered every scientific and philosophical aspect of the abortion issue, and he demolished every argument put forward by "pro-choicers." He outlined the ways in which the local pro-life doctors have helped to found and maintain a pregnancy-aid centre in Peterborough. There is a special need for more "shepherding homes" in which families would shelter and care for pregnant mothers... He was insistent that pro-lifers - and he was speaking to medical men and women - must speak out more clearly on pro-life issues. Doctors and nurses must be ready to write letters to newspapers, to accept the challenges to speak on radio and on television, and to insist on being heard through and by the media....
The pro-life movement in Canada and throughout the world is a grassroots organization. Most groups began around someone’s kitchen or dining-room table, and, even today, that is where much of the most important work is done. The leadership has come from the ordinary people, and without money or influence the movement has grown and flourished. Abortion can no longer be tossed off as an unimportant issue. In the final analysis it will be the multitude of kitchen-table efforts that will elect a pro-life Parliament, close the abortuaries and stop the killing. That is why every pro-lifer is important.

Let us forget the pessimists who are unwilling to fight because they are afraid to lose. These are people who would drown because, in their opinion, it would be useless to bail out a leaky boat when there is a whole lake outside waiting to get in. Pro-lifers are going to win — we may have to bail out with teaspoons — but we are going to keep the pro-life boat afloat until it reaches harbour.

– by Winifride Prestwich
The Interim Magazine

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL FOUNDATION OF CANADA PRESENTS:
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