

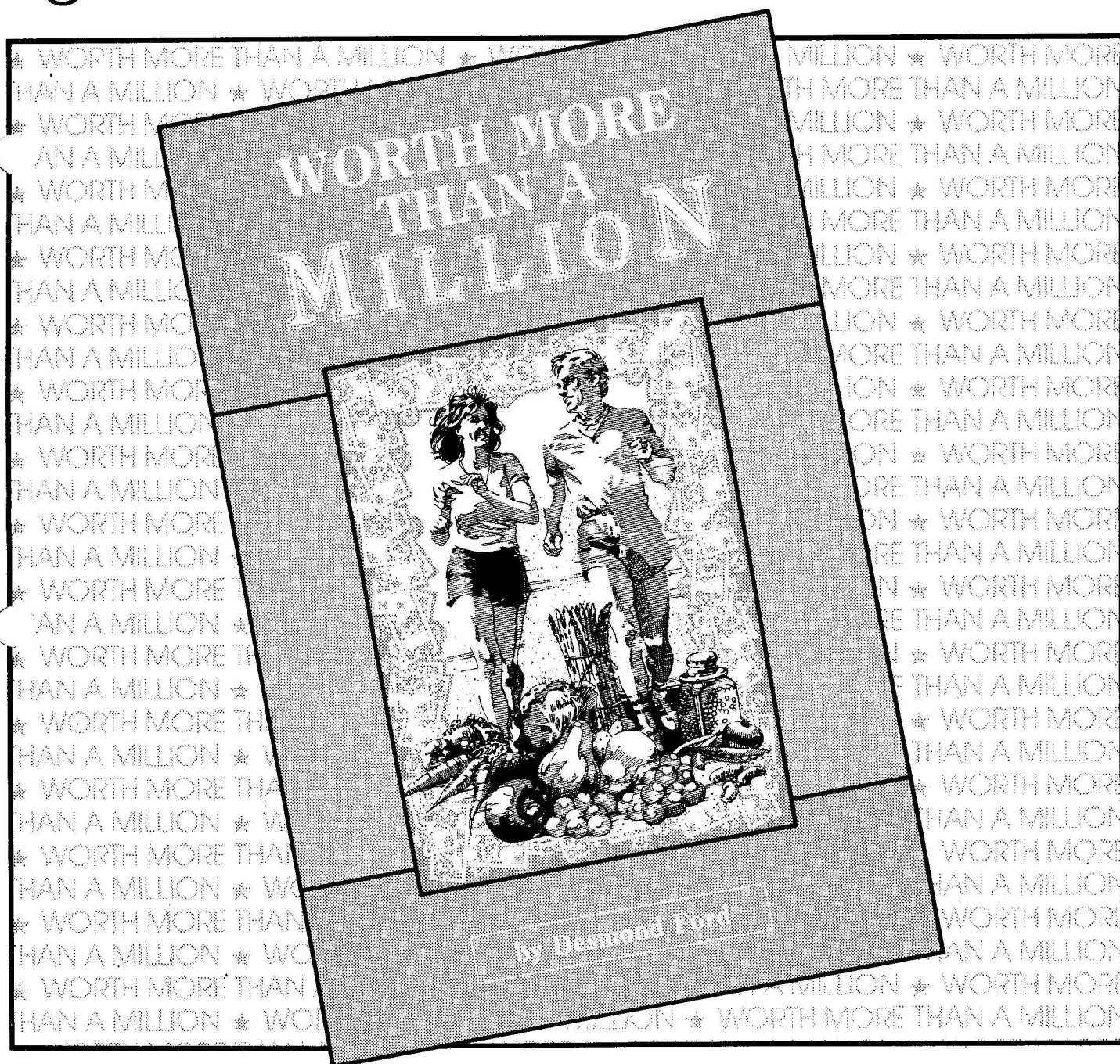
GOOD NEWS

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SPECIAL FEATURE ISSUE



August 1987

Word to the Wise

THE OCEAN BREAKS FAR BELOW, almost silent. High above Stinson Beach, the old WW II lookout is abandoned, the paths through the brush deserted. The California mist slows vision and time. The air trembles, as though from the Angelus. The wind blows ashore an ancient question. Sitting alone on concrete crumbling from salt air I hear sigh: "What is truth?"¹

[Had agnostic Pontius Pilate only reached out before him, he could have touched Truth. Touched, embraced, and kissed on both cheeks.]

Some writers suggest Pilate be adopted as patron saint of their profession (assuming the legend of his later conversion is true). Did he not answer his own question with the dictum "What I have written, I have written"?²

Like orthodox Christians, writers look for truth in the written word. Christians read the Bible; writers write.

The answer to Pilate's question was in *what* he wrote, rather than the act of writing: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.³ This title, hung above the crucified Savior, was written in Aramaic (the language of the people of that time and place and thus the language of revealed religion); Latin (the language of government, law, and the ruling classes); and Greek (the international language of culture, science and philosophy). Pilate's written sign declared Jesus of Nazareth rightful king of Israel [Hebrew: "God contends"]. Jesus, who alone truly kept the law of God, has striven and wrestled with the holy God on our behalf. Being altogether blameless, Jesus is the only One for whom God can justly contend. Jesus is true Israel, God's Chosen One. All who believe in him are true Israelites indeed. We have grappled with God in Christ; now God contends on our behalf against the accuser.

That which is true in the writings of revealed religion, government and law, culture, science and philosophy affirms Pilate's title. The best of the written language of the common folk, the rulers, and artists does the same.

This edition of the GNU magazine celebrates the best of the writing talents of Dr. Desmond Ford. His newest book, *Worth More Than a Million*, is hot off the press. While he'd be the first to tell you that the book is a cooperative effort—family, GNU staff and printers have all helped with proofreading, editing, research, etc.—it's Des' book. And it has taken a prodigious effort on his part. We are proud to feature it in this magazine.

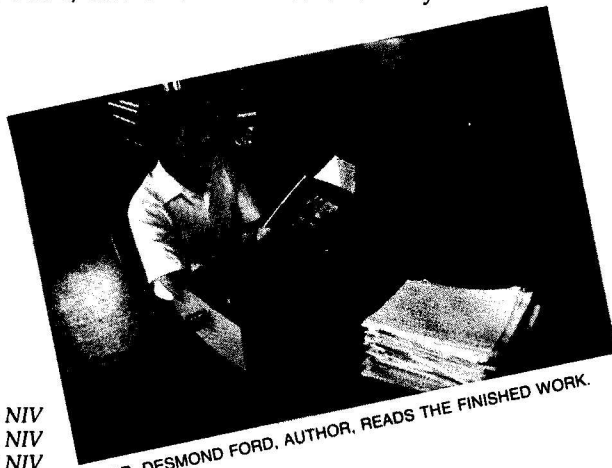
Please be sure to read the Interview for background on the book.

Sample the condensed chapter to catch the flavor of the book.

Enjoy the photos of the many involved in the production of the book.

Order the book using the handy order envelope.

Read the book, and find its benefits to truly be *Worth More Than a Million!*



1. John 18:38 NIV
2. John 19:22 NIV
3. John 19:19 NIV

DR. DESMOND FORD, AUTHOR, READS THE FINISHED WORK.

by Roy Gee

Editor: Good News Unlimited

Roy Gee

Editor: Good News for Kids

Gillian Ford

Editors: Good News Australia

Paul Porter

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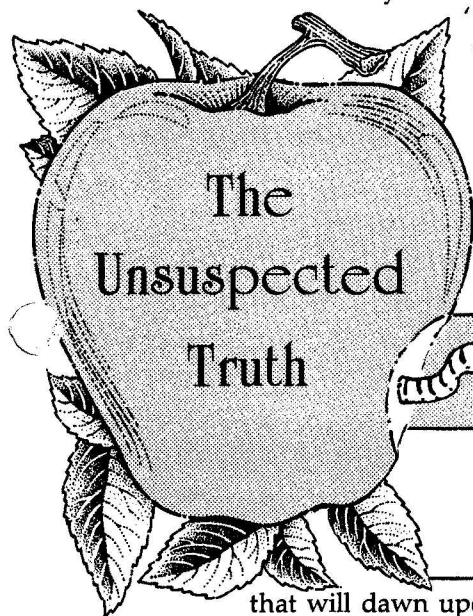
OUR PRIDE AND excessive self-concern are responsible for much of our sickness. The Christian way of humility and love is also the way of health.

Christ, the Truth, was despised and rejected of men. God always comes to humanity, this side of Judgment Day, incognito. Thus it was at Bethlehem and Calvary. "Him they knew not."

"He came unto his own and his own received him not." In the great Judgment Day the damning truth

This is particularly true of many who reject the gospel. In rejecting Christ people reject his way of life, not knowing that they reject happiness and health. For if all other things are equal, the tragic cause of unhappiness for the majority is their rejection of not only Christ, the Truth, but Christ the Way and the Life—the abundant Life.

We should have learned this from the introduction to Christ's Sermon on the Mount. There Christ spoke about happiness and health. When he said, "Blessed are the peacemakers" his Jewish listeners knew that



About the Best of

H + E + A + L + T + H

by Dr. Desmond Ford

[This article is a condensed Chapter 46 of Dr. Ford's new book *Worth More Than a Million*. Though heavily abbreviated it will give you a preview of the quality and gospel spirit of this preventive medicine volume. — Ed.]

that will dawn upon the lost is that God continually came to them in the person of the sick, the suffering, the hungry, the imprisoned, and the poor; and "inasmuch as ye did it [love] not unto them, ye did it not unto me—God."

So it is not surprising that the most vital truths even about health should also be despised and rejected of men. The best treasure is never where people look for it. John Bunyan, in *The Pilgrim's Progress*, pictured a man with a muckrake intent upon his garbage all unaware that an angel stood over his head offering him a crown. It is always like that.

Sickness like sin has many roots, but unlike sin the root cause need not lie within ourselves. In an imperfect world we all function with an imperfect heredity and develop and wither in an imperfect environment. It should never be forgotten that many of God's greatest saints have suffered terribly from ill-health through no fault of their own. But far more often sickness is our own fault. The curse causeless does not come for most of us. We reap what we sow even when we sow in ignorance.

blessedness meant happiness, and that peace meant wholeness and health—the abolition of all discord.

What a paradox we have in the Beatitudes! Those who are poor, mourning, meek, hungry, and persecuted are the ultimately happy ones! How can it be? How can Christ declare blessed those who are treated by the world as the offscouring of all things?

Health, Like Happiness, Is a By-Product

The best philosophers, psychiatrists, and sociologists could tell us. Happiness, like coke (not the drink but the fuel made from coal), is a by-product; and so is health. We do not find happiness when focusing upon it. And the truly healthy person is not a valetudinarian, a hypochondriac, but someone outgoing whose main thoughts are never riveted upon him or her self.

Self-centeredness is not only the root of sin but also of suffering and, in many cases, sickness. Think of that glorious medieval prayer [attributed to Francis of Assisi] which never grows old:

Experience is not what happens to us, but what we do with what happens to us.

Lord,
 make me an instrument of Your
 peace.
 Where there is hatred let me
 sow love;
 Where there is injury, pardon;
 Where there is doubt, faith;
 Where there is despair, hope;
 Where there is darkness, light; and
 Where there is sadness, joy.

When the Box of Selfishness Is Broken, Then the Fragrance Flows

There we have an image of the truth—that it is the idol of self which pretends to guarantee us happiness—but in vain. For years self intrigues to escape the death demanded by the gospel. Till self lies shattered before God, the riches he wishes to bestow are restrained. When the alabaster box is broken, then the ointment fills the house with its fragrance. For there to be wine, the grapes must be crushed. Until the seed of self falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone without fruit. But once it submits to burial, it is born again purified and yields a bountiful harvest.

Luther so believed. On one occasion he affirmed that it is our love of self which is the root of all our disquietude. How much pain is averted by the graces of humility and meekness! When proud self is all alive clamoring for recognition and preeminence, no wonder it is often hurt by a world containing 5 billion other selves all seeking the same position of priority.

Read the biographies of every age. They are replete with illustrations of how emotional upsets—due to wounded pride, disappointed hopes, and unrecognized superiority—are frequently followed by illness. "Out of the heart are the issues of life."

Now observe this key point: *experience is not what happens to us, but what we do with what happens to us. How we interpret a situation is the all-important factor which determines whether our bodies will rebel abnormally, or remain stable. If the ego has never been restored to its true size by the experience of conversion, it is ever being threatened and bruised—which results in physical upsets.*

The Saints Are Agreed as to the Way of Health and Happiness

The meekness of which Christ spoke in the Beatitudes is the opposite of proud flesh. Meekness makes no demands in the material realm. It lays no claim to human recognition. Consequently, it is not hurt when passed by or unfairly treated. Of course, the temptation to be hurt will be present, but the indwelling Spirit of Christ will not

O divine Master,
 grant that I may not
 so much
 Seek to be consoled
 as to console;
 To be understood as
 to understand;
 To be loved
 as to love;
 For it is in giving
 that we receive;
 It is in pardoning
 that we are
 pardoned; and
 It is in dying that we
 are born to eternal
 life.

This prayer echoes the spirit of the Beatitudes. It is splendid theology.

But it is also good medicine. The outgoing soul who seeks to console rather than to be consoled, to love rather than to be loved, to give rather than to receive—that soul has health of soul, and also with it health of body. Not as it were by accident, but by consequence.

The saints of all ages have known this secret. It is found not only in the Old and New Testaments, but in the writings of Catholic and Protestant saints. You will find it in Fenelon, Madam Guyon, Thomas A' Kempis, Luther, Calvin, and Wesley.

History tells of Mahmud of Ghazni who conquered much of India, destroying the idols of every city which he took. Ultimately he laid siege to the great city, Gujarat, which contained a costly Brahman shrine wherein was a gigantic idol fifteen feet tall. The devotees of the temple knelt before the invader and begged him to spare the idol on which, according to them, the good fortunes of the city depended (until that point). But Mahmud struck the image with his ax, and the idol broke apart, shelling thousands of precious gems before the feet of the conqueror.

The outgoing soul who seeks to console rather than to be consoled, to love rather than to be loved, to give rather than to receive—that soul has health of soul, and also with it health of body.



For there to be wine, the grapes must be crushed. Until the seed of self falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone without fruit.

Interview With the Author

GNU: Dr. Ford, *Worth More Than a Million* is your sixteenth book. What's it about?

DF: *WMTM* is a gospel view of Christian life-style.

GNU: Keep going.

DF: *WMTM* takes seriously the fact most people do not die, they kill themselves. In the West, suicide is the main cause of death—suicide by knife and fork, that is. In the typical family, two people die of atherosclerotic diseases [diseased arteries], while one dies of cancer. *WMTM* offers a gospel view of Christian life-style, putting emphasis on preventive medicine.

Living in obedience to God-dained natural laws enables us, qualitatively and quantitatively, to live as much as possible to the glory of God.

GNU: Is this book a departure from your regular Bible study, inspirational and devotional books?

DF: It's different from them because it's a book on preventive medicine; it's like them because it stresses the gospel as the motivation for all amendments of life. *WMTM* draws primarily from Scripture as authority, but also uses evidence from medical science to buttress Scripture's statements. For the first time in history nutritional scientists and health researchers are fairly much agreed on the main causes of unnecessary, premature death.

GNU: Are you sure you're not wandering away from the gospel in writing and circulating this book?

DF: That's an appropriate question. Health is not the gospel, but it is included in the fruit of the gospel. Of course, the gospel is prominent in this book—particularly in the section on psychosomatic medicine—but preventive medicine is its theme. Let me give you a biblical rationale for this book.

Scripture says it is our Lord's great desire that we prosper and be in health, even as our soul prospers (3 Jn 2). The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19). The Bible doesn't teach the medieval view of

the soul distinct from body like a jewel in a sack of dung. Therefore, we esteem the body-temple, and wish to do our utmost (like our Lord) to see it in health. Our Lord spent far more time in caring for the body than apparently he did for the soul in his ministry among the people. He saw healing as a medium of reaching the heart. And GNU would like to take that principle seriously.

Furthermore, we have our Lord's instructions to the disciples to go heal the sick. Surely such admonitions are still binding upon us. Since the miracle of the gift of God's Son on the cross, God has not chosen—on a large scale—to heal miraculously; though it is God's sovereign right to freely do so whenever and wherever he wishes. But today, God mainly works through natural law, and education regarding Christian life-style.

One can't read first and second Corinthians without seeing Paul's emphasis, that what I do with my body I'm really doing with the body of Christ. He says, "Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot?" (1 Cor 6:15). In other words, I am not my own, I am bought with a price.

"Therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor 6:19,20). In 2 Corinthians 7:1 *NIV* we read, "Let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit"—the Bible is concerned with both. Romans 6 can speak of presenting our bodily parts as instruments of righteousness. How can we do that, if we are sick? At best, we have to admit it is then more difficult.

On health depends service—that's why health is so important.

GNU: Are there any historical precedents for your views?

DF: It's interesting that if one looks at church history there's been a tremendous interweaving between the relationship of health and

ministry. Calvin suffered from every disease in the book, and could have lived perhaps another 23-30 years had he given more attention to his health. Some of his diseases may even have affected the more dour aspects of his theology—no one knows for sure.

Many great preachers like Moody, Finney, Billy Graham, have come close to breakdowns, and found they had to change their whole pattern of health habits. Billy Graham got the help of an exercise physician who changed his whole life-style. Wesley's most famous book was a book on health, *Primitive Physick* (later retitled *Primitive Remedies*)—his most well-read book. Wesley lived into his eighties and was still walking many miles a day even then.

The New Testament gives no credit to disparaging the body. Because of the Incarnation the body is glorious and wonderful. It's God's gift. God pronounces it very good. It doesn't belong to us, it's the purchase of the cross. Every cell of it is his, and is to be cared for to his glory.

GNU: How is the book organized?

DF: Into five different divisions. The first section deals with the reason, the rationale behind preventive medicine. Medicine today is on the verge of a great housecleaning. It is now well acknowledged that 70 percent of diseases are diseases of choice.

Governments are finding the expenses of diagnostic and curative medicine outstripping inflation. They can no longer maintain the tremendous financial burden. So beginning with Canada—and now being pursued rapidly by the UK, the USA, and other countries—an emphasis is beginning on preventive medicine.

The next section, "Chasing Methuselah," deals with the chief causes of death, and their prevention.

Next, "Sex, Crises, and Hormones," deals with some of the joys and sorrows associated with God's great gift of sex. This includes



discussion of love and marriage from the Christian standpoint, PMS, male mid-life crisis, and AIDS. The chapter on AIDS is one of the largest in the book, and is an endeavor to present what is known at this date. Particular stress is put on the fact that all, including the homosexual community, acknowledge promiscuity as the original mainspring of this disease. If everyone in the world would keep faithful to just one partner, the disease would stop.

The last section deals with "Psychosomatic Medicine: Relationships Between the Mind, Body, and Spirit." Our philosophy of life, thought patterns, habitual tendencies of thinking, are of particular importance to health. Chapter topics include the necessity of faith, hope, love, trust, and positive thinking.

Psychosomatic problems such as fatigue and worry, are also dealt with.

The book closes with about a hundred pages of Questions and Answers on nutrition, specific diseases, medical practices, etc.

GNU: When did you begin work on this book?

DF: When I was in the womb. Before I was born my parents had studies on health with a colporteur. As soon as he left the topic of health, he also left the house—they were not interested in doctrine. My mother became very interested in nutrition. Today, she's 87 and firing ▶

by Roy Gee

Interview With the Author Continued

on all cylinders.

By the time I entered my teens, I was reading on health matters and have continued to read regularly on preventive medicine, for over 40 years.

Many of my friends are familiar with the fact that I intersperse occasional references to Christian life-style even in gospel talks, because I think it's part of the fruit of the gospel. Not the root, it's not the gospel. Nothing can take the place of the gospel. It is the fruit of the gospel that we should live to the glory of God, and half the spiritual ills from which people suffer have a physical origin—that's quoting Henry Ward Beecher. Today I was reading a Roman Catholic scholar who said the same thing. My own experience confirmed this for me. As a youth I tended to be somewhat moody, but I found that my moods largely had to do with my health habits. So it became

important to me to avoid those habits that caused me to plummet downwards. If Christians want to be cheerful and positive, they must care for the body.

Though the book began before I was born, the hard work—the committing it to paper—began about a year and a half ago. Noel Mason had made the suggestion at one time that I write a book on health, and I think that suggestion was simmering in my mind. GNU wanted to go on television. When we approached a TV station, they suggested that Americans are very interested in life-style. How to Live is the topic in the mind of Americans. Even more important than politics. This country's becoming increasingly nutrition conscious; has been exercise conscious since the days of Dr. Kenneth Cooper; and positive thinking has long been very prominent. So from the time

that GNU decided to go on TV, I began to prepare both television programs and the book.

The book was prepared in Europe, in the USA, in Australia—wherever I've had the chance to get into a research library. It's really been done night and day, often for hours before breakfast, and much more than a normal day. It's been done in addition to the regular GNU work. Traveling for meetings, radio and TV, letters, articles—all have been maintained. The book has been an extra.

GNU: How will GNU benefit?

DF: GNU is paying the expenses of the book. While the book is largely meant to be a service in connection with our TV and radio ministry, we hope it will also bring in some profits for the gospel work. The book will be in Christian bookshops across the nation.

GNU: How will the reader benefit?

DF: It can mean a whole new life. In many cases all we need to do to improve health is to remove the pressure of our wrong habits. Then the natural resiliency of health will reassert itself. And this book will help readers do that. It may literally prove to be worth more than a million dollars to them.

GNU: How can we buy the book?

DF: People can either write to Good News Unlimited, 11710 Education St., Auburn, CA 95603-2499; or Desmond Ford Publications, 7955 Bullard Drive, Newcastle, CA 95658. Or use the handy order envelope stapled into this magazine. During Summer Congress season there is a special suggested donation of \$19.95. After September 15, the suggested donation will be \$25. □

About the Best of Health

Continued from page 4

permit that inclination to dominate the soul. But the individual who believes the world owes him or her happiness is easily hurt—not only in spirit but ultimately in body.

Next to the example of our Lord, that of Paul has most to teach us. Consider the philosophy of the man, implied in the following passages, who suffered more from a hateful world in a few years than most of us do in a lifetime: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 6:3-10; 12:7-10, NIV.

Compare with these, Paul's triumphant vistas of 1 Corinthians 13, and Romans 8:28-39.

How vital it is to see that Christ is calling us not to self-sacrifice just for the sake of sacrifice. It is the very condition of joy, blessing, and fruitfulness. Consider that he plainly tells us that all is a matter of exchange, not of loss. "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

The Cross Is Now and Is Lifelong

To see the will of God as our ally and friend, to recognize human selfishness and pride as the great enemy, to acknowledge the cross of Christ as our supreme motivation, is to find health of soul. And God, the great Giver, often links with soul health the health of body.

An anonymous poet summarizes the science of Christian living:

For all through life I see a cross,
Where sons of God yield up their breath;
There is no gain except by loss,
There is no life except by death;
There is no vision but by faith,
No glory but in bearing shame,
No justice but in taking blame;
And that Eternal Passion saith
Be emptied of glory and right and name.

Anon.

But the individual who believes the world owes him or her happiness is easily hurt—not only in spirit but ultimately in body.

[Many of you by now have heard Dr. Ford's fascinating tape 1207 "To Australia and the Philippines." Though his gospel journey took place back in March—April, 1987, I insisted he write a brief account for the magazine. The stories are still fresh, especially those about the three Drs. Solijon.—Ed.]

Through many dangers,
toils and snares, I have already
come,
'Tis grace hath brought me safe
thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

—John Newton

JUST A FEW DAYS ago I arrived home from a journey equivalent to a trip around the world, involving the use of seventeen planes, fifty other vehicles (including Jeeps), and the back of a motorbike. Over fifty meetings were taken in thirteen different areas throughout Australia and the Philippines. As I think of the hundreds of rejoicing Christians I had the privilege of meeting, and of the gladness that was universal wherever the gospel was proclaimed, my heart is filled with gratitude to God for his goodness. As I contemplate the risks involved in constant travel, particularly in Third World countries, I am grateful for the Lord's protecting care.

The generosity of our Australian believers made it possible for America's GNU to be represented across that great southland. The equal generosity of the GNU fellowship at Toronto, Canada, enabled us to speak on the islands of Luzon and Mindanao in the Philippines.

It took approximately twenty-three hours to cover the distance from home, near Sacramento, to Miami, Queensland, Australia, my first stop. Within a few hours of arrival, I was

speaking to a gospel group at Palm Beach, some miles further down the coast. A few days later I left for Perth, where Ron Allen and Neville McKenzie, our Australian GNU ministers, joined with me in our first congress. It was a happy, rejoicing time that whole weekend.


Next, Ron and I flew to Adelaide where we had a crowded room of listeners, including many of my former students and ministers from the district churches. The next morning we went to Hobart, Tasmania, and spoke for two nights at the university there. Next on to Melbourne and Victoria for our second congress. At the conclusion of that, I flew to Sydney for a 10:00 p.m. meeting over Australia's main radio station. This was a talk-back show hosted by Dr. Gordon Moyes, an old friend who had read my Australian "Signs of the Time" question corner for

decades. This program can be heard for hundreds of miles north, west, and south of Sydney itself.

Then came the Sydney congress. The attendance was exceptionally fine, and we were grateful for the hundreds of people that we met in that great city. The following Wednesday found me speaking at a place near Avondale College (where I taught for approximately fifteen years). The attendance, which was excellent, included teachers from the college. The following weekend was our Queensland conference, which we climaxed with a showing of one of our GNU television video tapes. Over an hour of questions and answers followed.

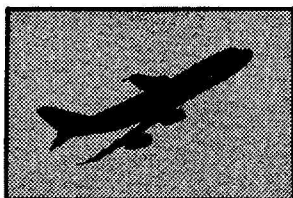
The next day I spoke for the Uniting Church in Logan, Brisbane. The morning

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come, 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.



A Report On The Recent GNU Itinerary in Australia and the Philippines

by Dr. Desmond Ford



after that I set off for the Capricornia Institute of Higher Education, in Rockhampton, Queensland, there to speak on two successive days.

After some days with my eldest son, Paul, in Gladstone, I spoke to his Rotary group. Members there wanted me to speak at many other centers, but that weekend I flew out to Manila, in the Philippines. With me also were the gleanings from research done in eleven Australian libraries in preceding weeks for inclusion in the new GNU book *Worth More Than a Million*.

My visit to the Philippines shall never be forgotten. My first whole day in the Philippines was Palm Sunday, and before 6:00 in the morning I walked in the capital city which was preparing for the sacred weekend. Half of the city's main road was filled with joggers and people riding bicycles, some of which had sidecars. Music blared from radios carried on the cycles, and one of the latter carried two dogs as well. People were still asleep on the pavements, while women carrying huge bundles on their heads threaded their way through the sleepers. Soldiers with weapons were very much in evidence. The majority of people I saw were young people characterized by joy and vitality. Some stopped every now and then to do push-ups and then continued their jogging.

In a land where the average inhabitant earns only the equivalent of about two U.S. dollars a day, I found the people happy, rejoicing, generous, and hospitable. I will never forget my association with them. My main meetings were taken at the Mindanao State University, at Iligan City, with a group of Adventist alumni. This group of over 100 habitually went with Adventist doctors throughout the poverty-stricken areas of the Philippines to minister to the poor without charge. They gave their time, their hearts, and their energies freely, and this has been going on for thirteen years. What a wonderful group of people I found them to be!

The Solijon family in Mindanao, has exerted a tremendous Christian influence throughout that island in particular. Three members of the family are women doctors who have inspired enthusiasm in scores of young people to join with them in medical ministry from year-to-year.

The work began in the early 1970s and continues to the present. We hope and pray that some of our readers may be led of God to help these fine Christian doctors in their unselfish service of love so much like that of their Master.

My daily program for the University alumni consisted of a three-hour morning session, a three-hour afternoon session, and a two-hour evening session. In addition we had an early morning jog at 5:30, followed by worship. It was a very intense program, but very rewarding. After nearly a week with these wonderful people, I flew back to Manila, and journeyed to a large Christian college nearby, where I spoke to over twenty-five ministers and answered questions at great length.

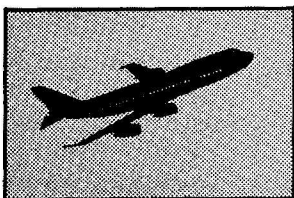
Following another meeting in Manila, I prepared for an early-morning exodus to Japan. Through most of my stay in the Philippines I had been granted an escort in case I was kidnapped. In the Philippines, Swiss, Americans, and Australians have been kidnapped in recent months. Everywhere in evidence are soldiers with weapons. Vehicles in which I traveled were scrutinized by the military. On two of my travels I was accompanied by armed members of the National Forces.

After leaving Manila, a short stay in Tokyo, Japan, permitted me to go to the Hiroshima War Museum, with its terrible memories of the atom bomb in 1945. There I listened to two lengthy documentaries about the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. About those things I may speak in more detail on another occasion. My return via Japan was made possible because that route saved as much as \$700 on the fare. Had I returned to America via the Philippines it would have meant over thirty hours of travel, whereas going by Japan was only approximately half that time and distance.

As I review the congresses, the single meetings in cities and isolated places, and the many individual conversations, I rejoice in the evidence that the Spirit of God is moving strongly upon many hearts everywhere. Thank you for your prayers about this itinerary. They were needed—and answered. Gospel believers in the Philippines and Australia would like me to convey their love to you all.

[For those who would like to make contact with the Drs. Solijon, the address is: 737 Constanca St., Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines.] □

In a land where the average inhabitant earns only the equivalent of about two U.S. dollars a day, I found the people happy, rejoicing, generous, and hospitable.



Chapter 13

Marley Is Vindicated



[You'll remember that Marley had been accused of pushing Willy Wolverine into a raging torrent at the school picnic. It was the latest in a series of persecutions by Sam Shrew (Marley's cousin)—brought on originally by an argument over the creation of the world. In our last story about Marley, he seemed in deep trouble in court until an owl who witnessed Sam's plot made his presence felt. At home Mr. Mole told the story of King Maon and Mishma, his faithful captain of the guard, also falsely on trial. Mishma, like Marley, was also declared innocent. In this, our conclusion, Marley is honored by his friends at school and gets to have the last word.]

NEXT NIGHT, after missing four nights of school, Marley trudged his way back again on the well-beaten track. He felt rather light-headed since he'd had a hectic week and was still wondering if he would ever get over the shock of Willy's disappearance. The court case had straightened everything out, but Marley felt exhausted by the emotional discharge he had experienced, swinging from despair to exultation. He yawned into the night.

Hearing an owl hooting overhead, Marley instinctively drew into the shadows. But he wasn't in any actual danger. It was the owl whose testimony had saved him

who was watching over him, taking a special interest. Marley would be safe wherever he went in this area while the owl was alive but, of course, he didn't know it. So, like any normal mole, he withdrew into the darkness.

He wasn't passing any other animals on the way to school which he thought was very strange. The clock at home must have been wrong, he thought. "I must be awfully late," he said to himself, hurrying on. Soon he came to the entrance of the tunnel which led to his school. Glancing up and around him quickly, he found the sky clear and bright. He hurried in.

There were no children playing outside. Classes must have begun. "I must be awfully late," he thought again, worried at what the teacher would say. He reached the door of his classroom and gingerly opened it. There was a moment of silence and then a sudden gust of noise which made Marley jump six inches in the air and nearly pop out of his skin. How could he stand it? From despair to elation and now just plain fright. His little whiskers stood on end and his

paws trembled. As the noise subsided, he spied his teacher in the group and stammered, "I'm sorry, I'm late."

Everybody laughed and said, "You're actually twenty minutes early, Marley. It's all right. Don't be confused—we all came early to plan a surprise for you." Marley gasped in disbelief and looked around. Why, everybody was smiling at him, and on the desks were plates of party-food, and glasses and drinks.

His eyes took it all in at a glance. Then he looked back at his teacher with a questioning look in his eyes. So his teacher decided to make a speech.

"Marley, we all want you to know that we think you're a hero. We are all so proud of the way you have handled yourself over these last few days. I and the other teachers knew how spiteful Sam and the others have been to you. They thought

we didn't know but you can't hide evil all the time. We've always admired you because you wouldn't be intimidated by their cruelty. We have been waiting to catch them in their mean tricks, but they were too clever till the other night. We knew you were innocent at the picnic, and I want you to know that even if the evidence stayed as it was before the owl spoke, we would have defended you.

"...God watches, and though those who love and obey him suffer, he is measuring it. The time always comes when he judges between good and evil and the good wins (though it sometimes takes years)."

"Now, Marley, it may have seemed to you over the past few months that innocent people suffer and God just lets it happen. But let me tell you that God watches, and though those who love and obey him suffer, he is measuring it. The time always comes when he judges between good and evil

and the good wins (though it sometimes takes years)."

Marley felt very embarrassed at all these nice words. "Thank you," he said uncomfortably and then to change the subject, "What will happen to Sam and the others? Won't they just try to get their revenge?"

The teacher told him that Sam and the others would have to face a higher court on a charge of planning to assault Marley. "They'll be punished and they've been warned that if they try to get their revenge on you or the other children they will end up in reform school for a long time."

Marley said, "It's really very sad. Why do people like to do wrong? Why can't they just get on together and be happy and not spoil it for everyone?"

The teacher shook his head. "I'm sure I don't know, Marley. The greatest puzzle in the world is why folks appear to wish to be unhappy. But let's sweep away all unhappy thoughts and enjoy this party." He began to sing, "For He's a Jolly Good Mole," and all the children joined in. Marley was picked up and bounced around the room, put in a sheet and thrown up and down. But the teacher soon stopped them. "You'll make him giddy and then he won't be able to eat." So they put him down. A girl mole called Matilda sidled up to him shyly and said, "Marley, you're my hero." He was covered with confusion and quite tongue-tied for the next half hour.

Then they began the games. First, two groups were made and divided in lines on each side of the classroom. There was a huge space at the end of the room where they were, for the desks had been lined up at one end with the food on top of them. Someone was chosen to stand in the middle of the room and he was "Mr. Wolf" in the game. The children on one side of the room called out, "Please, Mr. W-o-l-f, please, Mr. W-o-l-f, may I cross the road?"

Then they ran for their lives to the opposite sides of the room causing a lot of bumping and confusion. Mr. Wolf had to catch as many as he could. Some got through but a lot were caught

because Marley was the first Mr. Wolf. These had to sit on the sidelines and watch.

After that they played blind man's buff and they made Marley wear the blindfold again. It took him a while to catch someone. Wasn't he embarrassed when they took off the blindfold and he saw he'd caught Matilda, or rather, she'd let him catch her!

"Now this is not a birthday cake," he said. "Let's just say that the candle represents a light set on a hill in an evil world."

Many games later, to finish them all off, the teacher organized the class into a long line of two in a row. Again Marley went uncharacteristically quiet when somehow Matilda ended up as his partner. This was the grand parade and the leaders were to march and lead the line wherever they liked. Of course, Marley and Matilda were chosen to lead out, and they were allowed to go in or out of the school. "But," said the teacher, "I am trusting you not to be public nuisances in the village."

They set off and decided to examine the school. They went into each classroom and disrupted it. The students in those classrooms were happy to have their classes stopped and to take part in the fun. Even the teachers didn't mind and told their students they could tag on behind. So the grand parade grew and wound around the school like a giant snake.

Marley had been feeling very shy most of the evening, but now he got his confidence back and started to warm up. From then on he was hilarious—cracking jokes, and keeping up a running commentary, inventing harmless pranks on the way, and taking the group into the funniest of places. Why, he even went into the showers, and as he turned to go back, switched on the faucet and soaked the animals behind him. How everybody laughed.

Everyone deserves a Marley day in their life—a day when everybody says you are OK, and makes you feel like a prince or

princess. That was how Marley felt—as though he was full of bubbles. It was so exciting.

The grand parade went out of the school and the other classes followed. Up and down tunnels, they went. Round and round the village square, and down the main street, they marched. They went into the churchyard which was a bit scary. But they soon got over it when they saw they had an audience.

Many of the villagers hearing the noise came out to see them and when they saw Marley, they reached out and patted him and said, "Well done!" They all had so much fun, but fun runs out, so eventually they had to go back to school because some of the young ones were almost worn out.

By the time they got back to school, they were famished and, after singing the blessing, they set about to level the mountain of food on the desks. Finally a cake was brought in by the headmaster and in the middle of it was a single lighted candle.

"Now this is not a birthday cake," he said. "Let's just say that the candle represents a light set on a hill in an evil world."

Marley said, "Well, then we mustn't blow it out. Let's take it and put it on the windowsill." So they did, leaning it in a cup. It kept on burning for ages.

After everybody had had their fill, the teacher called them all to attention. "Now, pupils, we are supposed to be in school!" Everybody groaned, but they cheered up when they found out the teacher wanted Marley to make a speech about his experience of the last few weeks. ▶



Gillian Ford

Marley felt very shy standing up. He thought they wouldn't be interested. When they all quietened down and listened with rapt attention, it gave him courage. He coughed and began.

God made us in the beginning and at the end we'll be with him—that's about the sum of what we're told. It seems that he's more interested in our being saved today.

"You all know," he began, "about the argument I had with Sam over how the world was made. Remember, he believed that we weren't made by a loving God and said that the Bible story about creation was just a fairy tale. I don't know why it irked Sam so much that I disagreed, but you all know it made him furious.

"I found out from lots of discussions with my dad that the reason a lot of people have difficulty with the story of creation in the book of Genesis is they try to treat it as history or science. I don't think that's how it's meant to be used at all.

"It's a story, you see, which was originally written to oppose the creation stories of Babylon. Simply, it taught that there was only one

God, Jehovah, and he created all nature and all life. Worship him, it said, not his creatures. Don't be like the pagans with their many gods. I found out that the way the story is written is to teach how to be saved. It begins with God, and then comes chaos, which on one level is like the fall of man. Then out of the floods of trouble come the symbols of separation, resurrection, light, fruitfulness, and rest. You see, it's a spiritual story and these symbols of renewal are taken up and used to teach salvation all through the Bible.

"I learned a lot these last weeks. I found out that while many people are superinterested in where they came from and where they're going when they die, the Bible does not dwell on either subject. God made us in the beginning and at the end we'll be with him—that's about the sum of what we're told. It seems that he's more interested in our being saved today.

"The trial I went through recently reminded me of being saved too. In reality, we are all on trial down here and are all found guilty before God. We can only be saved if God sees us (his creation) as good, just like he did in Genesis. And he can only do it because Jesus took our place, paid for our sins, and gave us his life. God sees us as good through Jesus, not in ourselves.

"I found the trial and being bad

friends with Sam and Freddy and Willy really hard, but I think I learned a lot and maybe one day I'll feel what happened was for the best. At the moment I still feel a bit torn about it.

"Well, thanks for listening, and hey guys, thanks for the party!"

At that, Marley sat down to a resounding ovation.

Too soon it was time to go home, and Marley was escorted by his friends singing and skipping all the way home. His parents greeted him at the door.

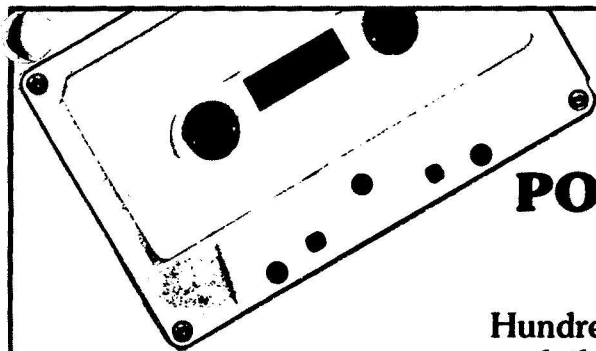
"Oh, mom and dad," Marley cried out. "What a great time I've had. But you must have known—of course you did. They had a party for me." He told them all about it, the words spilling out like bricks dumped at a building site.

But just before going to bed, Marley wanted to hear how things turned out for Maon and Mica and Mishma.

So his father told him how Maon lived on for many years and was the wisest king the Molks ever had. He told how Maon rebuilt the temple and how peace reigned for many years; how Mica had first a son and later other sons and daughters; how Mishma was made prime minister and proved an excellent friend and counselor to Maon till his death.

But that, of course, is another story!

THE END



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Side A: "The Gospel in the Story of Joseph" – Desmond Ford.

Side B: "Is the Second Advent Credible" – Noel Mason.

Letters

What a Joy!

Dear Brother Ford,
Greetings in the lovely Name of our Lord Jesus!

I want to tell you how thoroughly I enjoyed the tape you sent to me on your trip to Australia and the Philippines. I truly enjoyed every word of it and thought it had a tremendous ending with the Christian brothers and sisters in the Philippines. Thank you for sending it to me.

May the Lord continue to use your life for Jesus' glory and praise.

With Christian love,
Virginia M.,
Mountain View, CA

[Have you noticed how the Letters page has brightened up? Let me tell you the reason why: More of you are writing, and writing in such a way that your letters just cry out—to this editorial eye—for publication. Thank you very much. Please keep those letters coming. We thrive on them.—Ed.]

Three Caring Sisters

Dear GNU Staff,

In last month's tape telling of Dr. Ford's experiences on his last trip abroad, he made mention of three sisters who were doctors in the Philippines, giving of their talents and lives to care for the poor and needy. Dr. Ford said they were dependent on contributions to carry on their work, and that help in this area is desperately needed.

What address do we use to send funds to these very worthy ladies, and their cause? Perhaps it could be printed in the GNU newsletter. Thanks for the tape. I

enjoyed it immensely.

Sincerely,
Ruth B.,
Paradise, CA

[Great idea, Ruth. It's wonderful that you want to help the Drs. Silijon. You can reach them at: 737 Constanica St., Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines. —Ed.]

God Is Good

Praise the Lord,

I tuned in to catch your program. I have been needing a book like this **[Worth More Than a Million]**. I lost a mom to cancer. Nutrition is a must. I will be sending for more books, but please send me one at this time for my personal use. I'll spread the word to my congregation. I'm in seminary to become a minister of the Word. God is good to me.

Linda V.,
N. Highlands, CA

Lift My Spirit Up

Dear Brother Gee,

I regret very much to have to tell you I will not be able to attend [Congress] for various reasons. First, I have been very ill. Secondly, I have to stay real close to my daughter Gloria who is recovering from cancer of the esophagus (she had to have both vocal cords removed and cannot speak anymore). I will soon be 83 years old, and I am not able to travel. Perhaps you will understand my position. I would very much love to be able to attend.

My husband passed away, three years ago... I try to reconcile myself to this fact... I try so

desperately to lift my spirit up to God, in prayer and praise. This I find the hardest task I've ever had to face, but I am improving. But the physical pain and loss still remain.

In appreciation of the tape on the Australian tour I want to thank you all at GNU. I enclose a check for Congress expenses. May God always be at your side, throughout all eternity.

Lovingly,
Kay M.,
San Diego, CA

God Accepts Me

Dear Dr. Ford and Staff,

I am writing primarily to order tape number 2024. . . .

I also would like you to know that **Good News Unlimited** has been my main source of instruction, enlightenment, and encouragement since I received Christ with all my heart almost a year ago. It is hard to find Christians who really understand what salvation is all about. So many go to one of two extremes—"cheap" grace or legalism.

I knew in my heart that neither was right. It was Dr. Ford who made clear to me that salvation does require taking up the cross, but that God accepts me in Christ even when I fail Him in my weakness. I love my Savior and want to serve him more. Please pray for me that He will show me a career in which I can best serve Him. I want to be a counselor, but am considering some other fields also.

Again, thank you! I pray for Dr. Ford and the ministry also.

Love,
Mary C.,
Winston-Salem, NC

Choosing Right Life-style

Dear Dr. Desmond Ford,

I watched your program this morning on Channel 52 [Sunday, 7:30 a.m., KVEA, Los Angeles, CA]. You offered a magazine **Good News Unlimited** free. You also offered a copy of a book *Coping Successfully with Stress and Distress*, for a \$10 donation. I would like the magazine and also the book.

I am a 75-year-old widow. . . . You spoke about how we can live up to 30 years longer if we choose the right life-style. . . .

Sincerely,
Mrs. A.M.,
Hemet, CA

[Go for it, Mrs. M! By the way, your letter—which we found sad where you told of your husband's illness and death—was the first letter received at the Office in response to new TV outreach in southern California. We were thrilled!—Ed.]

Christ's Great Love

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have greatly enjoyed Dr. Ford's messages on our Lord's Passion and Crucifixion, which he has delivered these past weeks. They not only illustrate Christ's great love for us, but have shown this listener how seemingly unrelated Old Testament stories (which I have heard since I was a little girl) all point to Christ, and His sacrifice on the Cross.

I wish to receive Dr. Ford's book *Jesus and the Last Days*. . . .

In addition to listening on KFIA, Carmichael, CA, I also enjoy reading your newsletter.

Thank you,
Lori L.,
Paradise, CA

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