

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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St. Jude Hospital

(Jerry Fite)

The late Danny Thomas sought to do what he could to help children battling cancer and brain tumors. Etched in the panels of a pavilion on the grounds of St. Jude Hospital in Memphis is the saying of Mr. Thomas: “*No child should die in the dawn of life*”. His dream of helping children live to adulthood became a reality when the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital opened on February 4, 1962.

Over \$500 million is raised annually through more than 30,000 fund-raising activities. Of the daily operating costs of \$1.5, \$1.34 million is provided daily by charitable contributions. St. Jude reports that over the last five years at least 81 cents of every dollar received supports research and treatment. St. Jude’s doctors and scientists have helped increase the survival rates for childhood cancers from 20% when the hospital opened to now over 80%. Upwards of 260 young patients are treated each day, and their parents pay nothing. Here is an organization manifesting stewardship and compassionate care for families. It is effective in lowering the per-

centage of children dying in the dawn of life.

Should Christians contribute to St. Jude?

St. Jude Hospital is Danny Thomas’ fulfillment of his promise made when praying to St. Jude for direction and success in his own life. When struggling as an entertainer and anticipating the birth of his first child, he prayed to the saint who is recognized by the Catholic Church as the Saint *for lost or desperate causes* – St. Jude. Jude is the apostle “Judas, son of James”, also named “Thaddaeus” in Scripture (*Luke 6:16, Matt. 10:3*). A prominent statute of this apostle holding an image of Christ’s face over his heart welcomes all to the hospital. Danny Thomas and all those in carrying on his legacy connect the hospital with the false doctrine of the Catholics praying to their patron saints, who will encourage God to fulfill their needs.

Two Scriptures come to mind: “*In vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men*” (*Matthew 15:9*); and, “*Let us do evil, that good*

may come” (*Romans 3:8*) which Paul condemns as slander.

People who love God honor His Word. Where do we read in Scripture that we should pray through Mary, the mother of Jesus, or to any apostle of Christ? Jesus is the one mediator who, through his death and resurrection, established His authoritative name we recognize when we pray directly to our heavenly Father (*I Tim. 2:5, Phil. 2:8-9, Matt. 6:9*). Scripture instructs us to cast all our anxieties on God, not on Jude, for He cares for each one of us (*I Peter 5:7*). He will answer our prayers according to His will, not according to the influence of Jude (*I Jn. 5:14-15*). Danny Thomas’ Hospital is a shrine to false doctrine!

Giving to help others is not in itself evil, and certainly can lead to much good. However, giving to an organization established upon the false doctrine of Catholicism, and unashamed to still promote such falsehood should cause the Christian to soberly reflect upon his actions before giving to St. Jude.