



THE CONTENDER

July 1986

"... it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith..." – Jude 3

Published for the faithful supporters of County Corrections Gospel Mission

A Message From The Director

Dear Beloved, Faithful One:

"Bear not a single care thyself,
One is too much for thee;
Thy work is mine, and mine alone,
Thy work is – rest in me."
– Hudson Taylor

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." – John 15:16

May I personally speak to you right now as though it was just the two of us talking alone? Could we but take the next 15 minutes and together share in most critical and serious conversation? I write to you because I am believing you do care – you do listen!

The mission field of Corrections and more critically, urban streets is completely overwhelming. I find an absolute **insufficiency** to accomplish a single agenda. The precious reminder of Hudson Taylor above brought me back to the **sufficiency of Christ**; in Him I dependently press on!

If you would turn with me to the 18th chapter of Luke's Gospel, I will share with you a most encouraging parable of **His Unfailing Fellowship**.

"... men ought always to pray, and not to faint;... And shall not God avenge His own elect, which CRY DAY AND NIGHT unto Him, though He bear long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?"
– Luke 18:1, 7, 8

The dear, persistent widow in this parable resembles

so much the common dilemma once stated by God's people in a foreign land: "How can we sing the Lord's song?" (Psalm 137:4) Troubled by her earthly adversaries she cried out night and day for relief. **"Oh Lord, please make things right!"**

Peter's testimony of Lot (2 Peter 2:8) who in "seeing and hearing" (the filthy lives of the wicked) vexed (wore down, labored down, burdened) his righteous soul from day to day.

Dear Christian friend, we need to literally cry night and day in faithful prayer: **"Lord, make things right!"** Until that great and marvelous appearing of Jesus Christ, let's be found with both a burden for righteousness and a life poured out in obedience! The call of God upon our lives has never changed!

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
– Romans 12:1, 2

Your personal calls or letters will be much appreciated as the bulk of our agenda is becoming more and more confidential due to adverse hearts somehow gaining access to *"The Contender"*.

Know this – we stand first with the Bible-believing Church and then as fervently with all in Correctional ministry and leadership who honor the agenda and Christ of Scripture!

We love you and depend on your prayers!

Jack Crans

"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?"

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

– Jeremiah 32:27; 33:3

CCGM'S GREATEST PRAYER: "The Pouring Out of the Local Church"

"God's program for the evangelization of the world involves the local church. Unless local congregations are firmly established in each population center that has been evangelized, there is no satisfactory way of conserving the results of evangelistic efforts. Planting churches is the ultimate goal of all missionary work. Missionary labor, either at home or abroad, no matter how brilliant will have little permanence unless this is accomplished. **ONLY THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF LOCAL CHURCHES SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE POPULATION CENTERS, INTEGRATED IN PART TO THE CULTURE OF THAT AREA, AND INDEPENDENT OF ALL OUTSIDE CONTROL AND SUPPORT, CAN AN AREA ORIGINALLY DESIGNATED AS A 'MISSION FIELD' LOSE THAT TITLE. Mission fields are areas where there are no churches.**" – Arthur Glasser

Ours is a nation of many churches. If one contented themselves by how many steeples rose above the city blocks or sat upon a rolling hillside, I guess by Arthur Glasser's definition, as quoted above, one would say America is not a Mission Field. I want to go on record as clearly believing that **AMERICA IS A MISSION FIELD!**

Before you yawn and roll your eyes, let me make a few observations.

If tangible evidence of an evangelistic church were measured by its "outreach", one would find in most every case a listing of programs that occur under one's own steeple. The primary message would be "Come to Our Church". If we were to honestly open the Biblical record, we would see unending church agendas which heralded a message of "Go to the Lost".

Can we be content to leave any troubled neighborhood without a permanent and established witness for Jesus Christ?

I rejoice in the home base ministry of the local church, and pray that it might be more and more poured out in yielded lives and **ministries that settle permanently among the peoples which are lost.**

We must prayerfully and willingly examine our agendas as priorities. Are we willing to penetrate a dying, perishing world? What future goals have we set for church planting in an unreached neighborhood? Are bus ministries and Awana youth programs, for example, **targeting areas that need their own pastors and churches?** Who will go? Who would specifically focus on **a particular neighborhood** that perhaps today needs a daily permanent Christian community? If prison ministry reveals anything, it certainly has shown the absence of Biblical churches in difficult neighborhoods. Or could we say, **difficult neighborhoods suggest the absence of Biblical churches?**

It is these brief thoughts that we will be addressing in the preparation of an outreach seminar.

On The Home Front

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

– Isaiah 55:11

Things have slowed down somewhat over these summer months as many of our boys have gotten summer jobs and are playing summer basketball. They do trickle in now and then so we have not lost touch with them.

More than ever my heart is very heavy with a burden of knowing how to disciple these boys. Unless you see them and love them on a daily basis, they have a real struggle walking with the Lord Jesus Christ. Jack and I need **real wisdom** for discipling them. Helping them to move along in their walk at times seems like an impossible task. They have this concept that being saved is enough and then they can live like they want. Satan loves to discourage us through disappointments, but we also know that this is part of the work.

We need you to pray diligently for Jack and I as we deal with the boys. Pray specifically that the Holy Spirit would open their eyes to a real understanding of God's Word and its application to their everyday lives. Above all, pray that they will settle into Bible-believing churches which will mature them to His honor and glory!

For those of you who faithfully remember us either through prayer, financial support, supplies or faithful interest, we especially extend our gratitude!

Looking forward to a fruitful season,
Sue Crans

Warden's Corner

Would you believe it? We traveled hundreds of miles to personally deliver a beautiful copy of God's Word to **17 Pennsylvania Wardens** this month! The following county prisons were among those visited:

Lehigh County – Allentown
Northampton County – Easton
Monroe County – Stroudsburg
Pike County – Milford
Wayne County – Farview
Susquehanna County – Montrose
Wyoming County – Tunkhannock
Lackawanna County – Scranton

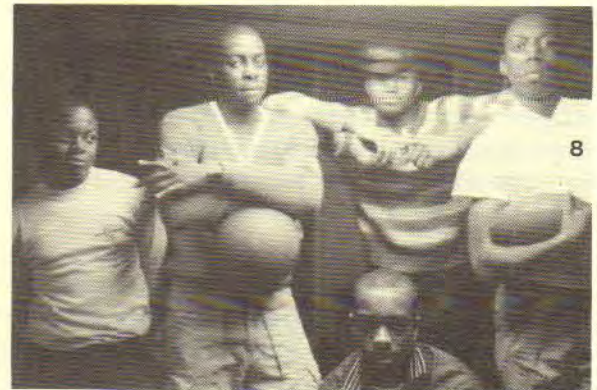
Luzerne County – Wilkes-Barre
Carbon County – Jim Thorpe
Schuylkill County – Pottsville
Chester County – West Chester
York County – York
Adams County – Gettysburg
Fulton County – McConnellsburg
Mercer County – Mercer
Beaver County – Beaver

Pray that God's Word, personally bearing each Warden's name will serve as a reminder and encouragement to the leaders of these spiritual offices. (Romans 13)

CCGM Highlights

Here are a few of the many faces and lives of which you pray and support. We hope you will know our great honor in serving you in a common burden for souls.

1 - Jack with Warden Tom Frame, Chester County; 2 - Mark & Sue; 3 - Wayne County Prison Seminar; 4 - L to R "Wink", "G", "Steve"; 5 - Off to Basketball Camp; 6 - Joshua, "G"; 7 - Mission Secretary, Linda; 8 - Kenny, Philly, Mike, Bay Bay & Ronnie.



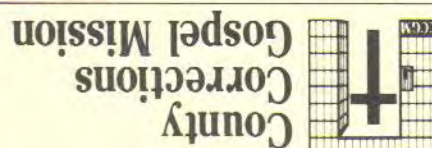
New England Visit

Jack and family traveled to Boston where they visited for one day with Rev. Don Moberger, the Institutional Director of the New England Evangelistic Association.

The fruit of surrendering the entire Correctional system to God's most perfect working has yielded today a marvelous spiritual condition in New England's institutions. From state government to grass root ministries, Jesus Christ has been clearly evidencing His sovereign

will and glory! Networked into New England's diverse prison communities functions a called out body of believers who daily effect the critical agendas of the incarcerated and their families.

Remember to labor daily on this behalf – that Jesus Christ, His Word and Grace might have free course in both the political and religious arenas of Corrections in Pennsylvania.



Justice & Mercy Conference

I recently had the privilege of traveling to Wheaton, Illinois, to attend the Justice & Mercy Conference. This was presented by the Institute for Prison Ministries, one of the many evangelistic outreaches of the new Billy Graham Center located at Wheaton College.

The Conference had four goals: 1) Education 2) Personal Renewal 3) Communication and 4) Inspiration. These were accomplished through workshops, messages, fellowship time and excellent musical presentations.

Among the many tremendous speakers were Chuck Colson, John Perkins of the John Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation and Development, Evangelist Bill Glass, Harry Greene of the Good News, Jail and Prison Ministries, Norman Carlson of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Chaplain Ray of International Prison Ministries and Ralph Lonergan the Assistant Warden at Leesburg Prison in New Jersey. There were also very informative video interviews of Chief Justice Warren Burger, U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield and U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese.

While attending this Conference I became acquainted with many, many prison ministries across the United States. Since this Conference was open to Corrections personnel, my main goal was to find any Christians who work full time in Corrections as the uniqueness of CCGM is that of ministry to Corrections personnel. Praise the Lord I met four Christian Wardens whom we have since written to!

The days were long and filled with hours and hours of detailed information (praise the Lord for shorthand). How I praised the Lord to learn of all the wonderful evangelistic outreach in prisons through the (at least) **1500 prison ministries across the United States, yet how distressing to know that our prison population has doubled in the last ten years!** I came away from the Conference

more convinced than ever that we, the local Church (possessors of victory over sin and the key to an abundant life) must work together to defeat the Adversary in these days of lawlessness through effective community outreach!

I was personally challenged through the truth of God's Word and was certainly inspired by the tremendously edifying music!

Please pray with us that the Lord would manifest one of the greatest periods of Christian revival!

For His Glory,
Linda Ingham

Prayer Concerns

Home Missions Outreach . . . Church Seminar and its preparation.

Fellowship of Christians in Corrections . . . It's growth. State and county **wardens, chaplains** and **correctional staffs . . .** That God will be glorified in them.

Nick Barbetta as he directs National Prison Invasion for Pennsylvania.

Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers . . . It's growth.

Chester pastors and establishment of definite outreach goals.

Youth Center/shelter for Coatesville . . . Funds and staff.

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