



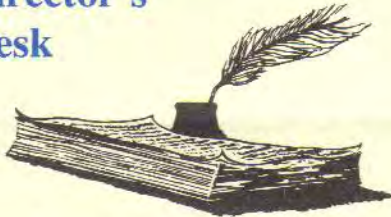
THE CONTENDER

October 1988

"... 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

From The Director's Desk



Dear Beloved:

I was recently addressing a Christian school chapel service and was attempting to communicate Jesus' statement, "... verily, verily I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you!" (John 6:53) When I found myself intensely frustrated about not being able to break it down to their understanding, I was quickly rescued by the simple, yet profound illustration brought out by a junior high school teacher. Often when seeing someone caught up in an activity or personal interest, we make the observation that they, for example, "eat, sleep and drink football". Another way of saying it is, "you have a one-track mind!" In short, Jesus was calling us to be totally wrapped up in Him! **Eat, sleep and drink Me!**

In John 4:34, Jesus was personally addressing the same concept when He said, "My **meat** is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work." It is not ironic that the very next verse challenges the disciples to see the urgency of the mission field. "Say not, there are yet four months and then cometh harvest? BEHOLD, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

Jesus Himself found His strength (meat) for the work in His fellowship with the Father. Our work is to be pre-

occupied by Christ! Our work is to eat, sleep and drink Him! Our work is to have a one-track mind! Is this fanaticism? Is this imbalance? Absolutely not! If spending on Him means the nourishing of our lives for work and ministry, I would believe God for the proper balancing of my life to accomplish all He has called me to do! This includes my role as husband, father and missionary! "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called... **Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**" (I Corinthians 1:24)

Let's be one-track minded by eating and drinking Him! Let's be able to really sing the old "Youth for Christ" theme song:

Christ for me, yes it's Christ for me
He's my Savior, my Lord and King
I'm so happy, I shout and sing.
Christ for me, yes it's Christ for me
Everyday as I go my way, it is Christ
for me!

Love in Christ and wishing
you a blessed Thanksgiving,

JACK CRANS

Attention Financial Supporters

By Linda Ingham

It's our desire to advise you that our books are always open to any questions you may have. How do we operate financially? All money is in our checking account except that designated for a Facility which is kept in savings. I keep accurate records of those who support the Secretarial Fund and I keep a running

total of my account, including gifts from supporters and my expenses. Jack's paycheck is drawn out of the General Fund.

Detailed records have been kept on paper concerning designation of money to specific funds. For your information, the following is a list of funds which have been established for people to contribute towards.

Bible School Scholarship
Christmas
Facility — In savings account
General
Ingham
Memoriums
Oak Street Project
Secretarial
Shakida Tate Gray
Snack Foods
Wardens
Word of Life Basketball Camp
Miscellaneous (as needed, never on-going)
— Car Fund
— Word Processing System
— Special Events

Any of these funds can be contributed to and will be noted accordingly not only in our books but on your receipt. Thank you.



From The Bookshelf

"*What on Earth is God Doing?*" by Renald E. Showers. The conflict of God and Satan rages through history and on into the future. The author traces Satan's maneuvers for power through history past and present, with a fascinating glimpse of what is yet to come.

Daniel VanNess of Justice Fellowship Addresses Pennsylvania Warden's Symposium

By Jack Crans



On Friday, October 28, at the Holiday Inn of King of Prussia, President Daniel VanNess of Justice Fellowship keynoted his address, "A National View of Alternatives to Incarceration." Likening the presidential race to a "Sheriff's Election", he was able to point out the major national issues related to crime and corrections. **U.S. prisons and jails house more people than live in Alaska, Wyoming or 23 countries of the United Nations.** Overcrowding already an issue, presidential candidates promise only more sentencing to prison. Construction of new facilities presently exceeds 5 billion dollars annually and costs of maintaining one resident exceed \$15,000 a year. It is less expensive to educate two students in most major universities than to incarcerate one person! The traditional probation program was also sighted as being quite deficient as 50% of the caseload commit serious crime within three years of probation. Those incarcerated one year instead of probation are even more likely to commit more serious crimes. The question is becoming one of how can we punish criminals without punishing ourselves?

Is looking for alternatives to incarceration a step away from first-rate justice? Can we see alternative incarceration worthy of our inspection. First, offenders are more accountable if their responsibility is directed more to the victim than to the state. At present, the victim of crime is pushed out of the process and we find clearly that it is "Commonwealth v. the offender" rather than the addressing of victim participation. **Restoration of the victim is better addressed in alternative programming as well as a greater call to community protection and public participation.**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics was quoted as researching that 35% of all state offenders are non-violent offenders with no prior convictions. Incarceration tends to create future problems for the non-violent offender and certainly contributes to the early release of dangerous prisoners who perhaps would have been detained longer were it not for the overcrowding. In Florida, inmates often only serve 20% of their time for the purpose of alleviating the overflow of cells.

VanNess rehearsed often the need for sound, effective and just public policy alternatives. Four alternative programs were reviewed by VanNess, which are:

1. **The Intensive-Supervision program** which calculated to prove successful when supervision of offenders was intense, daily and closely maintained. Probation caseloads of 20 persons/counselor is found effective in shortcutting violent crime and in lessening recidivism.
2. **The Community Control Program** (Florida) now comprising 8,000 men includes house arrest (electronic monitoring), restitution of victim, community service and education. 72% of these men were kept from having to go to prison. Legislators facing the financial crisis caused by crime stated, "We need 5,000 new beds and we will find them in the homes of our offenders!"
3. **The Restitution Centers** (Georgia) place property offenders in 14 state centers and focus on restitution, family support and community participation. In Pennsylvania, our Community Correctional Centers are a step out of prison. In Georgia the Restitution Center is a step which keeps one from entering prison.
4. **The Victim/Offender Reconciliation Program.** Twenty states are now implementing this concept. Once convicted, the offender is then met by his victim and through counsel brought into accountability for his community, his victim and the restitution of his offense.

VanNess closed his comments by saying that the purpose of Criminal Justice is to **repair injury to the victim, and to bring the community back into focus in the Criminal Justice process.** Seventy-three percent of all victims

seemingly would welcome the opportunity to meet their offender in a reconciliation/restitutionary process. The alternative issue is valuable not to just the alleviating of over-crowding but it is right! For too long Corrections has been left to repair the continually collapsing wall of Criminal Justice while the foundation goes unattended.

Justice Fellowship is presently working on a system model and welcomed Warden participation in the process.

I was personally thankful that Daniel VanNess was willing to attend and address the Pennsylvania Prison Warden's Association. Alternatives to incarceration ought to pose a challenge to pastors' fellowships, and hopefully will challenge our personal thinking in the application of Biblical truth to present-day issues!

Volunteers Needed

Southeast Secure Treatment Unit
(SESTU)



Juvenile
justice
system

15 - 30 couples/families needed to minister to the boys of SESTU. 1-2 boys per family. Orientation, training and ministry goals will be through CCGM and SESTU staff.

Oak Street Project



Kids clubs leaders needed including helpers and teachers. Exciting opportunities. Come participate in an exciting field of ministry.

Writing to an Inmate



Do you want to write to an inmate? Let us know!

Crisis in Black America

By Jack Crans

"There is a crisis in Black America, but there is also the dominance of the church in Black America which, if it does its job, can change the crisis into a spiritual celebration."

— Dr. Anthony Evans



Dr. Tony Evans has been raised by God to be an obvious spokesman to many in urban America who seemingly have been losing ground to secular thought and moral compromise. He addresses the community of Believers committed to the Scriptures and certainly outlines challenging symptoms of his own people. First, he calls for re-establishment and strengthening of the basic family unit and condemns sex outside of marriage. Secondly, he calls the black Church to better exposition of the Scripture and less attention to pulpitering. Third, he challenges the Church to minister wholeheartedly to the single parent family and the shattered lives often seen in the urban culture. Males also need to be reached and reshaped in a Biblical definition of manhood.

Although I firmly agree with Dr. Evans I must almost say that these goals and concerns are quite needed in many other people groups as well. What concerns me as much as the Church crisis of maturing disciples is the more unique problem of developing indigenous Christian leaders in the Black community. **There is presently a great crisis within many homes of minorities where going to the mission field or even preparing through Biblical training schools seems virtually out of reach.** The high cost of education, coupled with the lack of a home missions vision, poses a great present day discouragement to future urban evangelism and church growth.

Indigenous leaders are so needed today in the fast changing urbanization of our world. **Indians, hispanics and blacks name only a few of the many minorities who now have gifted youth and adults who seemingly are finding little opportunity to afford or contemplate full-time training and support**

for missionary service. Many have given up on Christian vocations because of frustration and lack of support.

I would like to go on record as supporting and encouraging the leadership of existing mission boards, Bible schools and especially missions-minded pastors to carefully consider this dilemma. The need and crisis of minority leadership has been experienced by us in so many ways. We ache for the day that opportunities are creatively discovered and implemented for our dear brothers and sisters longing to serve in full-time service.

Strong missions-minded pastors, Bible school presidents and mission board executives should be the first to address these concerns. Have we the ability to open new doors of opportunity? Do we see the need? Do we care? What are some of the problems? Have I overlooked some opportunities that you are aware of? Your dialogue is always welcome.

Satanism Articles Continue to Stir Great Interest and Activity Among Believers

By Jack Crans

Pastors, wardens and law enforcers have shown great interest in the State Police report quoted in last month's *Contender*. Dr. Renald Showers, Biblical faculty of Philadelphia College of the Bible, is sending his book, "*What on Earth is God Doing?*" concerning Satan's strategy to Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Investigation in Harrisburg, and we continue to get requests for this report.

I pray for the day when God's people really know the spiritual thirst reflected in Criminal Justice issues. Dr. Showers excites my deepest joy when willing to apply his rich knowledge of God's Word to the secular world! Too often Believers continue to address themselves when the very heart of Scripture begs for communication into the darkness of this world and its systems! As someone so clearly said, **"We must choose either to curse the darkness or light a candle!"**

Commission on Accreditation for Corrections Sets a Mood for Excellence

By Jack Crans



"It is a peer review process. It is people looking at how you do your job who know what your job is. When they see something, they know what it is. They're not surprised. And they know whether or not you're in compliance with the various standards."

— Warden John Rees

"I think it's a real plus to be able to continually look to our problems and concentrate on our areas of weakness. It's a good opportunity to evaluate what we're doing and strive for that perfection which the Commission requires."

— Harold Manley, Director of Bureau of Rehabilitation Washington, D.C.

"Accreditation has instilled a sense of leadership in our staff. It's given them motivation . . . and a sense of direction."

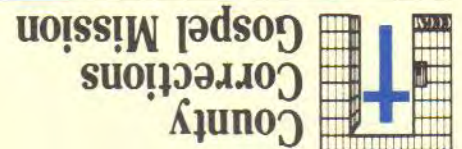
— Earl Dunlap

As I ponder upon the motive behind accreditation I could not help but wish that similar accountability existed among mission leaders and pastor organizations. Within the heart of the accreditation principle is a desire to be more effective, more correct and more responsible in the carrying out of one's task and calling!

Am I calling for accreditation among the peers of Christian ministry? Of course not! But hasn't the independence and individualism of Christian organizations hindered to some degree our greater impact and fulfillment of the Great Commission?

I trust wherever possible that those committed to the fundamentals of the faith will be a little less individualistic and a little more interdependent!

James 3:13-18 defines valuable guidelines for the interdependent networking of God's people!



Remember Shannon Butterfield at Word Of Life Bible Institute



The following is an excerpt of a letter we recently received from Shannon:

Hi Jack, and all who send their love, blessings and prayers.

As you have guessed, the full effects of studying and ministry takes practically all my time and the pressure is tremendous. About three weeks ago, the pressure was overwhelming, but God through His mercy and grace pulled me through and now I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Even as I write this letter, I could just scream with joy, and I praise God for it all. I would like to extend my most deepest and sincere love, blessings and gratitude for your much needed and appreciated support. We get the best teachers this country and the world has to offer. The learning is not a bore; it's a joy and the craving they build up in you to learn more is incredible. Even in my personal studies, I seek to get the most God's Word has to offer.

Wendall Calder was our speaker tonight and what he really said that stirred in me was, "If God can't find workers in a place like this, where can He find them?"

All my love and blessings,

Shannon

P.S. Once again, please extend all my love and appreciation to all. I plan to do so personally when I arrive.

Prison Fellowship Exalts Local Church

By Jack Crans



Alan K. Chambers, executive vice president, Prison Fellowship

Prison Fellowship/USA has always had strong in-prison ministries, including Bible-study seminars, one-to-one meetings, community service work projects for nonviolent offenders, and a penal program. But Chambers said their programs for released offenders have been weak by comparison, so "we've channeled most of our resources for the next three years to aftercare".

In particular, that means focusing on urban communities because that's the background of most offenders, both before they end up in prison and after they're released. However, Chambers said, PF/USA needs to avoid imposing its own agenda on urban churches and volunteers working with ex-offenders. It should be a mutual process — PF/USA working with community members to develop programs.

In Los Angeles, for example, 12 inner-city pastors have formed a PF/USA task force to look for answers to the problems of that city's ex-offenders. "The church continues to be the most influential institution in the urban community", Chambers said, noting that the church has served as a rallying point for many recent urban causes.

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