



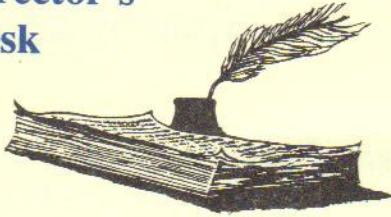
THE CONTENDER

April 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



"Narrowing a Broad Vision"

"... I being in the way, the LORD led me..."
— Genesis 24:27b

These often used words were spoken by Abraham's servant who was assigned the responsibility of finding a wife for Isaac. Imagine the odds, the obstacles and the questions this servant must have faced! Leaving all fear behind, he obeyed the call of his lord and **prayerfully** ventured forth. Out of all the possible distractions, he availed himself to the perfect leading and direction of God. Rebekah was the reward of his dependency on God!

"And I bowed down my head and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD GOD of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way..." — Genesis 24:48

The "right way" is what we are asking of the Lord at CCGM. Our circle of ministry has grown large, filled with opportunity and overwhelming in scope. On one hand we are privileged to be part of so many open doors while on the other, we see the crisis and need for in-depth evaluation and clarity of our purpose after three years of ministry.

Without taking you again into every detail of this ministry, we certainly

would challenge you to rethink the many issues of the Contender which have cried so many times a most critical agenda. **Urgency** seems to be the issue in question. What is really important and what does the local church see as important? Pray as we seriously evaluate the calling and priorities of CCGM and know that we wait upon the Lord to be led in the "right way".

Attention Financial Supporters

By Linda Ingham

Those of you who have supported CCGM in 1987 are receiving your copy of our 1987 Financial Statement with this Newsletter instead of receiving it through a separate mailing. We have done this to save on postage. Know that detailed and accurate financial records have been kept and our books are always open to your questions and comments.

Warden's Corner

By Jack Crans

Commissioner David Owens (Pennsylvania Bureau of Corrections), is so anxious to see a faithful delegation of State Prison Superintendents at the Commonwealth Prayer Breakfast (held on Tuesday, May 10) that he arranged an additional meeting of those same leaders at the same motel on the same day. We will be reporting on Commissioner Ron Powell's keynote address in our next issue of the Contender.

Also, several Pennsylvania Wardens are receiving Justice Fellowship's "Justice Report" on alternatives to Corrections and finding the contents both refreshing and right on target! I knew that would begin to happen because God's

wisdom is what men desperately need! Praise God for Wardens who are willing to be counted in these critical days.

This month one new Warden received a Bible.

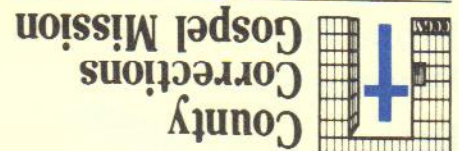
Word of Life Law Enforcement Weekend

By Jack Crans

I gathered with 65 full-time Police Officers and Corrections personnel for wonderful fellowship and challenge on April 29 - May 1 at Schroon Lake, New York. I wonder how **aware we really are** in the understanding of the difficult calling to which these men and women assume leadership. Instead of being honored they are often rebuked. Daily their lives are on the line as they confront both civil and criminal behavior which often is exposing them to heartache, crisis and extreme stress. As a result, the children and spouses of these dear peacemakers often receive these frustrations within their own homes. I wish I could put into words the joy and refreshing fellowship that immediately occurs when Law Enforcement and Corrections leaders retreat under the teaching and ministry of the Holy Spirit. I am absolutely convinced that the Christian community needs to be actively involved in the prayerful support and visible encouragement of this most special portion of God's family.

New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland law enforcers name only a few of those in attendance. Chief of Police Gary Stowell, and Mr. Larry Meachum (Commissioner of Corrections in Connecticut) were the Bible teachers who absolutely astounded me with their Biblical depth and obvious love for Christ. Next spring, Bob Vernon

Continued on next page.



(Assistant Chief of Police of Los Angeles) will be the featured speaker.

Until then, I look forward to continuing to use the gifts the Lord has given me in spending time in the continual networking and encouragement of these vital leaders, a most needed ministry in America today. You will be kept up to date with the continual development of the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers now in the process of total reorganization in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Tripler Trivia

Jehu was the man who was the fast driver (just like Jack . . . oops, only joking.) Which James was probably the author of the book of James?

Tripler Update

“To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under the heaven . . . He hath made everything beautiful in His time: also He hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.”

— Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11

We do not always understand the way the Lord works, but we can find comfort and peace in knowing that He is in control.

In August of 1986 the Lord burdened our hearts for the work of CCGM. After much prayer and counsel, we went before the Board of Directors and were

approved as missionary candidates in October. We began the process of deputation and through the Lord's working were able to work with the mission on a volunteer part-time basis from January 1987 to June 1987, and last summer we were able to work full time with the mission. Since we were not fully financially supported by last September, we had to find employment and the Lord thereafter supplied us with a position at LanChester Christian School where Stu taught a full load in half a day and worked part of the afternoon with the mission. We fully intended on settling down and ministering in the Coatesville area.

During our time with CCGM, we have been exposed to urban ministries and the need for the local church to be involved in it. (This is one of CCGM's goals — to see local church involvement in urban areas.) As early as last October, after seeing the great need of the church to be involved and dealing with our own frustration in seeing this lack of involvement, the Lord began giving us the desire to work in a local church that had a heartbeat for the masses in the cities. I remember remarking to Jack that if a church would offer me a position in which I could do much of the work CCGM sees the church called to do, including the training of others, I would consider that position.

To make a long story short, we received a letter last fall from the Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Red Bank, New Jersey, asking us if we would prayerfully consider taking a position as

Director of Christian Education, which would give me the liberty to perform many of the goals of CCGM through a local church. This church and pastor have a commitment to sharing the Gospel to the people who live in the city around them. We prayed and after exploring the position further and finding out that they were developing many of the programs that we were developing at CCGM, we prayed more intently. God moved on April 10 the people of First Baptist called us to that position which we will assume on July 11.

We will continue working with the mission through the end of June. During this time we will continue our work with the youth! Pray as we are trying to encourage three young men to attend Christian colleges. We will also continue our work at SESTU and helping in the office. The final week of June will see us at Word of Life with a team for their week long tournament. We pray that we will be able to influence the young men for the Lord in these remaining weeks.

Nancy, Johanna and I have been so very thankful for both the prayer and financial support that has been given over the past months. God's provision through His people has been bountiful!

Stu, Nancy & Johanna Tripler

In Memorium

We gratefully acknowledge financial gifts in memory of:

June Sheppard - Given by the June Sheppard Memorial Fund for Linda Ingham's ministry with the girls.