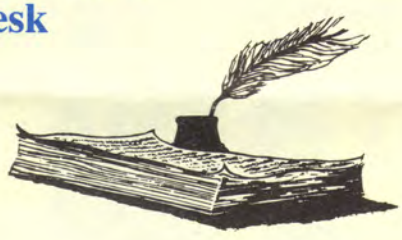
THE CONTENDER

April 1989

". . . 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



"Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord . . . watching . . . for the Son of Man cometh at an hour when ye think not . . . For unto whomsoever much is given, of him is much required." (Portions of Luke 12)

Dear Fellow Stewards:

One of the early Scriptures taught at the recent Law Enforcement Conference at Word of Life was: "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. **And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."** (I Timothy 6:6-8) Anything more than food in one's stomach and clothing on one's back is the starting point of wealth. When one personally applies these truths, it is readily seen that we are each a people of great wealth.

I was reminded later of the contrast of two individuals in Matthew 19 who better illustrated the above biblical truth. The rich young ruler was challenged to "go and sell" what he possessed, "and give it to the poor", whereby Jesus promised "Thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come follow me." It immediately continued: "But when the rich young ruler heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: **FOR HE HAD GREAT POSSESSIONS."** The subtle snare of riches was taught again to Timothy by Paul in I Timothy 6:9f when he described there again the "sorrows" of pursuing material things. Peter, in contrast, said unto Jesus: "Behold, **WE HAVE FORSAKEN ALL** and followed thee: what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them: . . . everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."

In a day when **materialism** is even consuming the "poor", one must wonder if America's blessings have actually become her curse. I was not really too surprised when the Washington, DC, Chief of Police said of the capitol city ghettoes and their drug crisis: "Our problem is capitalism . . . and the 'poor' are finding their own schemes to acquire wealth."

Did we hear the descriptive words contrasting the sorrowing young ruler and the hopeful apostle? The first **had great possessions** and the latter had **forsaken all.**

Today as I take inventory in my own life, I must ask: Where is my treasure? Where is my heart? Paul concludes his counsel to Timothy with these gripping words: "Charge them that are rich (having more than food and raiment) in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy: that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may take hold on eternal life." (I Tim. 6:17-19)

I believe this simple, but true, closing comment summarizes it best: "Forsaking all, I follow Him!" May this be our united cadence.

Your fellow steward,

Jack Crans

Needed: Warrior Monks

Eph. 6:10-20

In the midst of the unending strategies of Satan, let us also be comforted to know that conspiracy theories such as NEW AGE are a dime a dozen. None of them should cause us to put down the sickle and take up a spyglass. **If we must have a conspiracy, then let us be part of it, an invading Fifth Column, working toward the overthrow of darkness.** Our words and actions should spring forth not from the paranoia of the times, but from the forthright love and boldness of our God.

The Bible speaks of general conspiracy of evil against God and His rule (Ps. 2:1-3) and Satan's influence (II Cor. 4:4) but it never consigns the universe or history totally to demonic power. Christ, not Satan, has been given all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18-20; Col. 1:15-20). God owns the earth (Ps. 24:1,2) and Christ has destroyed the works of the devil (I John 3:8). Be aware, yes! (II Cor. 2:11) Fear God alone! (Prov. 1:7)

(Paraphrased from *Unmasking the New Age* by Groothuis)

The Work of Prayer

By Jack Crans

"Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee." (Ps. 102:1)

We need you to labor on our behalf immediately. You don't have to leave your home or tax your busy schedule. The determining fact of any ministry's fruit, however, is prayer.

Our networking is revealing a tapestry that only God could weave. The agenda of Mission Societies, Revivalists, Corrections and Law Enforcement leaders, Bible Schools, politicians and prison ministries all herald an urgent but often difficult theme. Each cries for the effective work of the local church... each yearns for the "effectual working" of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

Let us each commit ourselves to the labor of Prayer! The enemy is terrified by the faithful and persistent intercessions of the people of God.

Could we see a revival in our day? Do we want a revival in our day?

I believe that one of the ultimate determining factors in God's saving work is not the question of His concern for the lost, but rather the question of **our** concern for the lost.

Prayer is a work that convinces heaven of our hearts. Out of the heart the mouth will speak!

Real Prayer Takes Time

from *Herald of His Coming*
May, 1989

In the language of Horatius Bonar it may be said of protracted, groaning, speechless prayer — "It is the way the Master went. Should not the servant tread it still?"

Isn't it pitiable, regrettable, and indefensible that we try to operate almost all our churches on one "sweet hour of prayer?" Yet in actuality, the sweet "hour" is much taken up with Bible study. There certainly has to be Scripture read so that faith may be generated (Rom. 10:17) and we may have God's promises as a foundation for prayer.

But after all, the prayer meeting is a prayer meeting. The fact that far too many churches are combining the prayer meeting with a Bible study is the church's self-acknowledged prayer weakness. In short, the church is saying that it can not hold out in prayer, so it fills in the time with Bible study. Yet no church these days can operate on one hour of prayer a week, let alone on the half hour we are giving collectively to intercession...

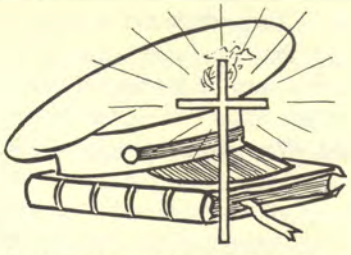
I believe most of us will need the tears wiped from our eyes when the books are opened at the judgment bar of God, and our personal prayer record is read.

Thoughts on Missions

Taken from *Roundtable*
(Jan-April, 1989) of the Association
of North American Missions

Over the past couple of decades, people from Asia, Africa and Latin America have been flooding into the U.S.A. in large numbers, representing one of the greatest opportunities for evangelism among foreign peoples that the church in the U.S. has ever seen. Many of them will eventually return to their own countries. Missions serving in North America have lacked the resources to make a significant impact among them. And mission agencies that are traditionally "foreign" have not been able to do much better.

According to Dr. Ralph Winter of the U.S. Center for World Mission, the problem is not so much the unwillingness of mission agencies to get involved (though some do indeed lack the will) as it is the failure of many churches and Christians to support missionary work in the U.S. — even though these same people groups would be prime targets "overseas".



Last year while keeping the peace of our communities, one officer was killed every 57 hours. Did we remember to pray for them?

Leadership Bible Training School at Lancaster Farm

By Jack Crans

The summer of 1989 will see the gradual increase of activity at our Lancaster Farm. Presently we are praying with several families concerning their coming to minister.

One of these families is that of Alan and Judie Clark (both graduates of Practical Bible Training School, 1988). Would you pray for these dear folk and others who daily bring their hearts before God and say, "Forsaking all, I follow thee!"

Alan and Judie Clark

The Leadership Bible Training School shall receive its candidates from prisons, jails, street corners and various other referring agencies. Pastoral support for each candidate is a major criterion for successful maturity.

Perhaps your Sunday School Class or Church Fellowship would like to consider becoming a partner to the task soon before us? Would you commit yourself to adopt a man in your prayers?

Indigenous evangelists for our high crime neighborhoods is our pursuit. By God's grace, by God's Word and by God's Spirit, we anticipate great fruit in this present challenge.

From The Bookshelf

The Phyllis Schlafly Report Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002. Published monthly at $15.00/year. Excellent newsletter addressing issues that ought to be breaking the heart of the Church.

Word of Life Law Enforcement Conference

By Jack Crans

Law Enforcers and Corrections personnel met at beautiful Schroon Lake, New York, on Friday, March 31 through Sunday, April 2, to both be refreshed in God's Word and to fellowship in their bond in Christ. Present at the conference were representatives of Canada's Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers (FCPO); the United Kingdom's Christian Police Association; International Cops for Christ; Good News Jail and Prison Ministry; Prison Fellowship; Corrections officers; Federal Bureau of Investigation agents; State Police; Secret Service agents; Navajo Police, and just about every branch of Criminal Justice. Oh, I almost forgot — I was there as well!

We heard a challenging testimony from Mr. Billy Burns (a Police Officer of the United Kingdom), who sustained and survived bullet wounds to the mouth and neck while in pursuit and apprehension of bank robbers. He recalled the details with humor, but certainly underlined the theme of God's wonderful peace when confronted with death.

(L to R) Sheriff Jim Hammond (President of Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers) Chattonooga, Mr. Michael Goehring (Secret Service Agent) Philadelphia

Bob Vernon, Assistant Chief of Police of Los Angeles, was the keynote speaker and brought four challenging messages (fully illustrated) from I Timothy 6:11-16. His basic outline described the four characteristics of a Man of God. A Man of God is known by: (1) What he flees from, (2) What he follows after, (3) What he fights for, and (4) What he's faithful to.

We also heard the moving testimony of Rev. Raymond Payne, who on July 23, 1988, lost his police officer son to a murderer's bullet. The sobering truth of a Peace Officer's calling under God was tender to each heart.

I had the privilege of participating in a panel discussion, but most importantly, attempted to network with and encourage these most special ministers of God. My added blessing was to spend the weekend with three cousins, 2 of whom are Corrections/Law Enforcers and the third a missionary to the Navajo Indians. We were privileged by your gracious gifts to help bring two Navajo leaders to this conference. One of these Navajo, Steve Yazzie, is looking to serve Christ after just completing 12 years of prison time while the other (Tom Yazzie), a Navajo Peace Officer, came to envision greater ministry among the native Americans.

Finally, a dear brother in Christ, an encourager and friend from Los Angeles, Mr. Ralph Evans, accompanied our journey from our home to Word of Life. A retired veteran of L.A.P.D. and a present security specialist and instructor, he has long been a special loving motivator.

I trust you will enjoy the pictures! Pray for each dear brother.

Pastors, Help! Summer Opportunity at Oak Street

By Jack Crans

The only thing hindering a powerful impacting of precious children in Coatesville's Oak Street Project is the possible lack of available laborers.

We are looking for mature teens or college age youth or willing adults who might want to prayerfully consider a summer ministry at Oak Street.

Four hundred children under the age of 12 live in this small county housing development. Our Kid's Club staff can assure you it's worth the sweat!

If we're too far from you, we would be more than happy to challenge and assist you in bringing tangible evidence of Christ to your own back yard. Call us or write soon!

(L to R) Dan Fredericks (cousin, Navajo Bible Church, Pastor), Tom Yazzie (Lieutenant of Navajo Police), Steve Yazzie (Ex-offender, committed to serve Christ)

Questions and Answers

from *Intercultural Advance*
vol. 1, Jan. 1989
Evangelical Free Church

"I'm confused! There has been so much talk about cross cultural, ethnic, intercultural, metro area, and inner city. What do these words really mean?"

Ethnic is a race or group of people bound together by actual or perceived common traits, customs, and language.

Intercultural occurs between, or relates to, two or more cultures. We have chosen this to express the interrelationship...between different language and culture groups on a share-and-share-alike basis with no single culture perceived as being superior.

Cross Cultural is that which moves over boundaries from one culture to another.

Metro Area is that which relates to, is characteristic of, or constitutes a city, including central city, suburbs, and fringe areas called exurbia.

Inner City is the sections of a large city in or near its center, especially when crowded or blighted.

"Must I speak another language in order to start an intercultural church?"

The most important language you need to know is the language of love -- love for a neighbor as yourself. That God-given love will go a long way in motivating a person or church to reach out to those without Christ. It will also motivate one to learn another language and culture as needed in order to really communicate the message of Christ.

County Corrections Gospel Mission
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April Report 1989

A Letter From Linda

By Linda Ingham

I am so encouraged! God has been so good to me as I continually see Him leading. I don't know what the exact end of His leading will be, but I have come to know His still small voice very well and it continues to keep and guide me! There are many, many ministry efforts I could go out and do, but for now God is only telling me to study and pray! He's bringing me a few special ladies who are becoming my helpers, support group and accountability, and we will be beginning to pray together on a weekly basis for this ministry. I am spending much time studying and developing doctrinal lessons and worksheets (a regular and simplistic version) geared toward a woman in prison or one whose life is broken by sin. Also, relationships with these girls are growing as God is working in their lives. Space doesn't permit me to share, but please pray for Sharon, Sherry, Nadine, Linda, Carla, Claudine, Clarissa, Maxine, Mary, Judy, Stacey, Shiree, Carol, April, Lori and Mariella.

God has taught and is continuing to teach me so much. One of the most important lessons I have learned is what it means to "walk in truth". Truth must be at the base of our total being not only before God and others, but within ourselves. Ephesians 5:9 says "For the **fruit of the Spirit is in all** goodness and righteousness and **truth.**" As we allow the Holy Spirit to control us, He shows us the truth of our hearts, and truth in other situations is discerned! What freedom! I am so glad God has allowed me to see not only from my personal experience but also from Scripture the important "truth of truth."

Your prayers for me are so much appreciated!

Bureau of Juvenile Statistics Presents Survey Results of Incarcerated Juvenile Offenders

An estimated 39 percent of th 18,226 juveniles held in long-term State youth correctional institutions throughout the United States during 1987 were incarcerated for violent crime, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, *Survey of Youth in Custody.*

Warden's Report

Two Bibles were sent out this month, one to a new Warden in New York, and one to the family of a slain Commissioner of Prisons in Oregon.

Areas to Designate Gifts

Bible Institute
Christmas
General
Ingham
Memorials
Oak Street Project
Shakida Tate Gray
Snack Foods
Warden's Fund

Note: All gifts are tax-deductible; a receipt will be sent.

Contender is a monthly publication of County Corrections Gospel Mission, P.O. Box 1136, Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320. (215) 383-9378

County Corrections Gospel Mission is a non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. Director, Jack Crans; Ministry Assistant, Linda Ingham; Secretary, Arlene Losch; Board of Advisors, Mr. Mark Blair, Dr. Howard Blandau, Dr. Joseph F. Eckman, Dr. Herschel Elliott, Mr. Joseph R. Pitts.