CCGM

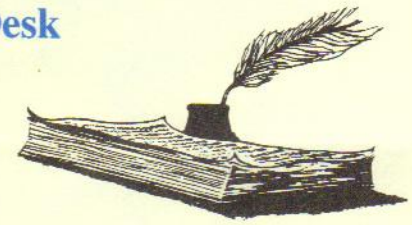
THE CONTENDER

August 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 Companions in Ministry:

"Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"

— Jeremiah 23:29

Oh, that we might grab on to **the Word of God** with an urgency that is kindled into flame by the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit? If only we would thirst after the Living Waters as the deer after the waterbrooks. Would it be possible that we could **thrust the Sword of the Spirit into the Enemy** with holy zeal? Oh, that we might venture to risk the high cost of selflessness, to search the treasures of God-breathed truths.

The Word of God looms as a mountain before us! Sitting on my desk it looks ever so small! How easy one would think it is to pick up its pages and read. Little do many know that **a great host of darkness bids us to leave it alone.** What trouble we would cause if this Holy Book were to seize our minds and hearts. What awful fury would we bring against the Evil One if this Mountain of Holy Treasure were to possess our very hearts and minds. Oh, to be wholly consumed!

A tyranny of urgent matters crowds our brief hours, volumes of information compete for our allegiance and emotion, and the encroaching world dilemmas park on our own doorstep and children cry for well-needed nurturing and attention. Violence and brokenness ooze out of our enlarged institutions and God's people find it hard to have a burden.

Jesus warned that when sin abounds, "The love of many shall grow cold". The poor get poorer, the rich get richer and **Christendom "matures" into a sophisticated library of "how too's" with seemingly little passion or effect.**

Do we really know the relationship of mercy to justice, and do we truly obey the mandate to **"go into"** the world? Why is the government so indebted and the Church so wealthy? Who gets and who gives? Who spends and who wrestles with the issues of our day? Who is really wrestling with the homeless, the outcast, the addicted and the delinquent?

There's a mountain of truth sitting on my desk — one little book! Will I pay the price of pursuing its wealth? Will I sacrifice time and agendas to be so possessed by its waiting claims that I vigorously contend for its power and truth? Do I see hungry souls waiting to be fed? Oh God, prepare me, mold me, use me, possess me!

Oh Lord, awaken in us a blaze of truth and fuel Thy fire with unending oil of the Spirit! May the obstacles frustrating our quest of the mountain be removed and may we know a zealous commitment to love Thee and **hate the Evil One!** Yes Lord, consume us and use us to exalt Thy name in all the earth! May your greatest work be right where we are! **The ultimate test of our allegiance to the Cross will be the measure of our surrender to the pages of Scripture.**

Written with peaceful urgency,

Jack Crans

Faith Church Of Worcester Evidences Christ In The Marketplace

By Joseph Autovino

The following article is written by Joe Autovino, Mission Project Coordinator for Faith Church of Worcester, Fairview Village, Pennsylvania.

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

— Colossians 3:23,24

This message from the Apostle Paul was the watch word of the Oak Street/Parkway Work Project performed by members of Faith Church and some very dedicated adults and youth from the Coatesville community on August 16-20, 1988.

The goal of the project was to bring improvements to the community through Christian loving care. The efforts centered on restoration of facilities and playground areas so as to begin an outreach program that will include Bible clubs for children, sports programs and other family oriented programs

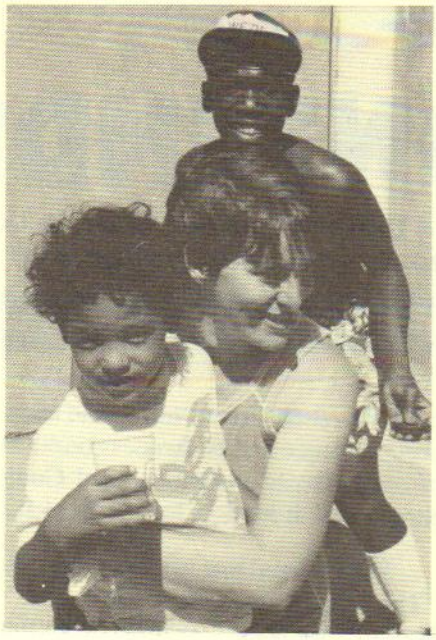
Continued on next page

Faith Church - *Continued*
designed with an emphasis on **meeting the needs of individuals in the community through the Lord Jesus Christ.**

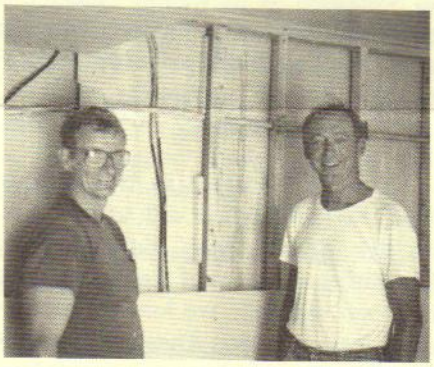
The week-long project included refurbishing the community center, applying plaster board to some very dilapidated interiors, sealing up five large double door openings with cinder block and installing windows. Painting inside and outside and repairing the outer stucco wall of the center was also accomplished. A new tile floor was installed by the Chester County Housing Authority, and at the end of the week all but the finishing touches had been completed.

In addition, the team was also able to make enhancements to three playground areas in the Oak Street Parkway complexes. These playgrounds included basketball courts and had been unusable due to their poor condition. As a result, the team repaired seven backboards with hoops and nets, swept the courts, painted existing equipment and lines for sports games, installed swings and cleaned the perimeters. A path between the two projects, which was overgrown with weeds, was cleared and now provides easier access to and from the field and community center and from complex to complex. **By the end of the week a place that was quiet and dark was now bright and full of kids.**

This project, dedicated to the glory of God, would not have been possible if it were not for the faith and trust in the Lord by all who participated. The Lord burdened the heart of many within the community to provide funds, services and materials at either low or no cost.



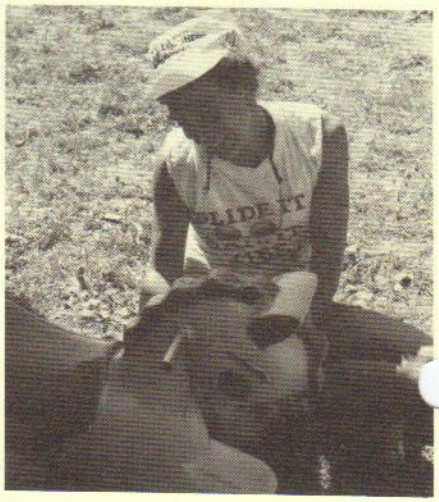
The Huston Foundation, Ecam Asphalt, the Chester County Housing Authority, the City of Coatesville, Windle Masonry, Dana Beach, Maitland's Paints and Mariano's Deli, all had a part in this effort. In addition, the adults and youth from the community and members of Faith Church were also blessed by the Lord for doing this important service to Him. **The impact of the blessing of serving in this way has not yet been fully felt by the members of Faith Church and the Coatesville community, but they do sense that God will use their work as it was prompted by love and will deepen their commitment to Christ.**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:
WHO WILL CARRY ON?

This mission, although successful, is only the initial phase in a vision which hopefully will incorporate the entire Christian community in Coatesville. We need many others who feel led to do work for the Lord in this community. Whether you have organizational skills, teaching skills or a love for children, your willingness and service is so needed to transform Coatesville. **The immediate need is for men and women to help with organizing fall programs for the children, including Bible club and recreation.** There will also be need for leaders to work together to form programs to begin to reach out and meet the needs of the community's adults.

Prayerfully consider a personal commitment or whether any of these resources exist in your local church or mission program. **Pray for the Coatesville community that we may do all we can to fulfill Christ's great commission and bring a message of love and redemption.**



A Letter From Linda

By Linda Ingham

This month I can truly praise God for the work of His Holy Spirit in saving two girls in jail. Pray for Debbie, Stacey, Tanya, Rhoda, Patty, Alice, Danielle, a different Debbie, Carmella, Dee-Dee, Lynda and others. The Lord even led me this week into the McDonald's in Darby (my hometown) to meet one of the girls, Cynthia, whom I had spent much time with at the Lydia Center in Syracuse, New York last April. She now lives in Darby and I'll be networking her with my family to care for her. He leads from Syracuse, New York to Darby, Pennsylvania! How exciting! When I see God's detailed work and leading not only in my life, but in the lives I work with, I can't help but rejoice in the following verse:

"And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee . . . and [thou] shall be turned into another man."
— I Samuel 10:6

Even in the Old Testament when man was not sealed with the Holy Spirit, we saw men changed by the work of the Holy Spirit on certain occasions. I see the Holy Spirit changing lives **quietly and little by little** as dear ones yield and oh how I praise Him!

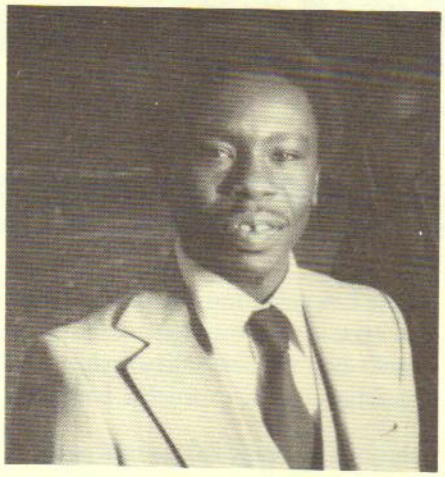
I need your prayers right now concerning **my filing system.** We have been doing so much networking within the field of Corrections, and as a result I need to revamp that area of filing for the most efficient system. Everything else in the office is operating as normal.

Also, my financial support level is just about okay! I am so thankful for those of you who support me financially and pray for me every day! I rejoice in seeing God doing a work through your support! **Thank you so very, very much!** Have a good day and expect God's work in the little things of life! It brings such joy to see His steady and quiet work!

THOT

"It is possible to have such sympathy for our fellowman as to be guilty of red-handed rebellion against God."

Bible College Scholarships



On September 16, **Shannon Butterfield** will begin studies and practical training at **Word of Life Bible Institute in Schroon Lake, New York.** Through concentrated Bible study, disciplined leadership skills and outreach experience, he can prepare for unlimited usefulness for Christ! What a joy it has been to see Shannon successfully complete discipleship programs at both Keswick and the Bowery Mission and now move on to Bible Institute.

The full cost of these 12 months for Shannon will be $5,000. **It is our desire to see a scholarship fund developed whereby we could see many lives made new and hopeful in the privilege of a Bible education.** We launch out by faith believing God to make a way for our commitment to this beloved Brother in Christ!

Several years ago, a memorial gift of one person gave birth to the Warden's Bible Fund. Little did we know then that scores of Bibles to Wardens would be a reality! Could Shannon be the beginning of something much larger? We commit this question to you and the sovereign hand of God.

Looking Ahead . . .

Implementation of family outreach and children's ministry in **Oak Street** and **Parkway Housing Projects.**

Address Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers in **Baltimore.**

Address staff and volunteers of Northampton County Prison in **Easton, Pennsylvania.**

Network with Dan Fredericks of United Indian Mission regarding growing **Indian jail outreach.**

Serve on **Coatesville Youth Forum.**

Continue maturing of ministry in **Chester County Prison** under Chaplain Jim Christmas.

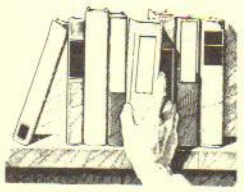
Participate in **Pennsylvania Chaplain's** Meeting.

Participate in **Pennslyvania Warden's** Symposium, October 27 - 30. Special speaker is Dr. Daniel VanNess, President of Justice Fellowship.

Participate in **Word of Life Law Enforcement/Correction Retreat** March 29 - April 2, 1989.

Seek **laborers,** office **facilities** and **volunteers.**

Represent needs of **SESTU.**



From The Bookshelf

This month we recommend, *Ten Steps to Church Renewal* by Dr. Tony Evans, published by Moody Press, Chicago, Illinois. Is Urban America much different than the Sodom and Gomorrah that God destroyed? Dr. Evans compares life in those two doomed cities with life in American cities today. He demonstrates the need of the Church to be renewed, asking "How can it be that we have so many churches, so much preaching and praising, so many programs and at the same time so little impact? He offers ten specific principles and practical suggestions for the Church to follow as it seeks renewal.

Also a copy of the **Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Investigation Report** on "Satanism" is available from CCGM upon request. Next month we will be continuing this topic from our July 1988 issue.

August 1988 Report

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

County Corrections Gospel Mission

Warden's Corner

Jack attended the Summer Conference of the **American Correctional Association** in Denver, Colorado on August 14 - 16. The Conference theme was, ''Corrections Overload: Turning Problems Into Opportunities''. **Networking with Corrections leadership was the primary purpose of this trip.** Meetings were held with both Corrections and Prison Ministry leaders in continued hope of deepening relationships of Christians in Criminal Justice. Please intercede regularly in prayer for this growing burden and do remember the names of Warden Dennis Earhardt, New Hampshire Commissioner Ron Powell, Connecticut Commissioner Larry Meachum, Mr. Don Smarto, Mr. Bill Glass, Mr. Guy Sier, Mr. Harry Greene, Mr. Jim Hammond, Chaplain Ray, Chaplain Hanawalt, Mr. Don Moberger, Mr. Nick Barbetta, Mr. Chick Gerber, Mr. Alan Chambers. The list could go on and on. The need is to seek the face of God in this matter of networking Corrections/Criminal Justice Believers.

This month we also saw the distribution of **two Bibles to two new county Wardens.**

Prayer Concerns

Our little girl, **Shakida,** just entered first grade at Lan-Chester Christian School. Pray for her and especially her mommy, **Shiree.** Her little brothers, **Kevin** (7 months) **Malique** (3 years) are with Children's Services of Chester County.

Our high school graduates:
Brian Hoggard, Lincoln University
Ron James, Lincoln University
Lonnie White, East Stroudsburg College

Secretarial load and **Linda Ingham**

Sue and the boys - **Jonathan** (15), **Timothy** (11) and **Joshua** (7)

Staff needs: Urban missionaries willing to raise support and serve in the marketplace of the poor.

Shannon Butterfield at Word of Life Bible Institute

Oak Street Housing Project Ministry

City Gate and its Director, **Jim Davis**

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