CCGM

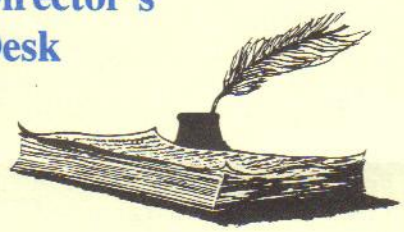
THE CONTENDER

December 1987

". . . 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



The Spiritual Nature of Crime

It was a senior class opportunity for me to host a topic for debate and study. Guest speakers were to address their area of expertise, and then fellow classmen would challenge and/or discern the issues at stake. I, being the guest speaker, was asked to lecture on crime and the related issues of Corrections. My basic format was to gain the interest of the class by mentally walking them through prisons and giving thought to the workings of Corrections and the causes of crime. The class seemed to be quite interested and apparently uninformed concerning most all that I presented. They asked detailed questions, and our relationship seemed to grow with each passing minute. Corrections was most certainly an area of their deepest interest and intrique. As I spoke to the issue of crime's causes, I knew that my material would lead to the spiritual root of SIN. Why even the secular psychologist, Menninger, in his discussion of crime asked, "Whatever become of SIN?"

It seemed as though I had fired a gun! The already interested students rose to the edge of their seats, the two faculty entered the debate with cynicism and the once undivided classmen seemingly became an emotional mix of pro's and con's. **Once the issue of crime became a discussion of man and his broken relationship with God, the enmity spoken of in Genesis 3:15 was vividly at work!**

What causes me to bring this brief sketch of this class reaction is the subtle yet growing awareness of law enforcers and courtrooms who are recognizing the shocking evidences of Satanic and occult related crimes. The Associated Press published on December 12, 1987 the fact that "Satanic tales were on the rise in child-abuse cases." Also, law enforcement leadership in New Mexico and Arizona spoke of high increases in occult related crime and cited evidence that would shock the average layman. Quite frankly, it is rather impossible and totally impractical to work in the field of Corrections and/or Law Enforcement and not be willing to deal with the spiritual issues involved in man's behavior and brokenness.

Whether wanted or not, the spiritual issues related to crime are eventually going to grow nearer the surface in conversation within the professions of criminal justice. Just as I am convinced in God's supreme authority over the offices of leadership in government, so also I am constrained by Biblical truth to herald the fact of man's basic separation and depravity apart from the redeeming and sanctifying work of the living God.

If it takes the ugliest of Satan's work to surface his reality, then may we be as zealous to address the more general and common of man's sins (crimes) as stemming from spiritual causes.

I close this brief article to ask that you would pray the more earnest that God would continue giving wisdom and boldness to all Believers in Corrections, Law Enforcement and related professions to the addressing of spiritual issues in what has become an almost secular humanist profession.

— Jack Crans

"Let us then . . . rejoice that we see around us at every hand the decay of the institutions and instruments of power, see intimations of empires falling to pieces, money in total disarray, dictators and parliamentarians alike nonplussed by the confusion and conflicts which encompass them. For it is precisely when every earthly hope has been explored and found wanting, when every possibility of help from earthly sources has been sought and is not forthcoming, when every recourse this world offers, moral as well as material, has been explored to no effect, when in the shivering cold the last faggot has been thrown on the fire and in the gathering darkness every glimmer of light has finally flickered out, it's then that Christ's hand reaches out, sure and firm. Then Christ's words bring their inexpressible comfort, then His light shines brightest, abolishing the darkness forever. So finding in everything only deception and nothingness, the soul is contrained to have recourse to God Himself and to rest content with Him."

— Chuck Colson

A Letter From Linda

How I praise the Almighty God of the Universe for His most perfect care of each of His children! As I exercise the promises of His Word, with the **faith** of a child, I can only sit back and joyfully marvel at **His** transforming work in those who abide in Him! Every Tuesday morning I get so abundantly blessed to see the power of the Word of God capture the minds and hearts of the girls at jail.

Continued on next page.

Letter from Linda - *Continued*

I get blessed by their testimonies of how the Lord worked in their life that past week, and I get super blessed at their hunger for the Word and the truths which free them from the bondage to patterns of sin!

This month I will be meeting with the women who responded to my need for women to follow-up and I am looking forward to that.

Please pray for the following girls:

Dee-Dee — She continues at Muncy State Correctional Institute.

Sharon — She continues at Gaudenzia House.

Melissa — She just entered Eagleville. Pray for Beth Dieter who also continues to work with her.

Annabelle — She will be entering a drug rehab center soon.

Billy Joe — Talk about a transformed life. . .she's precious!

Dara and Maria — Newly saved and growing in Him!

Judy — Pray that she will stop fighting the Lord and come back to Bible study!

Lori — She's still not too sure about salvation.

Nadine, Marie, Debbie, Gwen, Carmella, Danielle. Each one is so special and many have no one to pray for them but us, so please join us in concerted prayer that they would come to know abundant life in Christ!

It was a busy month in the office . . .many end-of-the-year items to be done! Please continue to pray with us for God's leading in His choice for this secretarial position. I know He has someone special who He is preparing right now, and in His time doors will open! **Please note that I am not leaving CCGM, but will be continuing under CCGM in full-time ministry.**

Do know that we are only humbled daily by your most abundant love to us through your prayers, finances and words of encouragement, and never take for granted our abundant love to each of you!

In His Grace,
Linda Ingham

For All Who Battle The Enemy

Beneath the blood-stained lintel
I with my children stand;
A messenger of evil is passing
through the land.
There is no other refuge from the
destroyer's face,
Beneath the blood-stained lintel shall
be our hiding place.

The Lamb of God has suffered,
Our sins and griefs he bore;
By faith the blood is sprinkled
above our dwelling door.
The foe who seek to enter
Doth fear that sacred sign;
Tonight the blood-stained lintel
Shall shelter me and mine!

Read and Reap

The quote below is from the Record of God:

"If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; if thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? And he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? And shall not he render to every man according to his works?" — Proverbs 24:11,12

The quote below is from the Record of Man:

"Jane is 12 years old. She is in the 7th grade and lives with her mother in a two-bedroom apartment in a South Philadelphia public housing project. She doesn't eat or sleep much at home. She has 3 older sisters, all in their teens, but they all have left home. Her mother has several boyfriends who visit frequently. Sometimes they stay for days or weeks sleeping with her mother on a mattress that serves as a bed in the larger of two bedrooms in the house. Jane sleeps in a smaller room on a mattress.

"Jane wishes she could be anywhere other than home. She hasn't gone to school much this year. She doesn't feel much like going to school. She has outgrown some of her clothes, so she simply doesn't go to school.

"That was Jane's world. Jane is not her real name. But her world and the world of an increasing number of children in this city is real. It is the world of children who are drug addicts or the children of drug addicts. Children are abused not only by outside drug addicts and pushers but, as in Jane's case, by their own parents.

"Jane's story, even though I changed her name, is based on a true case history. The house in which she lives and the conditions under which she lived, are real. Just ask social workers or professionals who deal in drug treatment programs in the city.

"They could give you dozens of names of similar cases. The people who keep statistics on the drug problem like the Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs (ODAP) of the Pennsylvania Health Department, say that alcohol continues to be the number one substance abuse. But since 1978, there has been an 170% increase in 'crack' addiction.

"The most alarming statistic showing up throughout the state is the increase in the addiction of children, some as young as 10 or 11 years old. Drug rehabilitation programs throughout the city are showing that the average age of the adolescents being treated has dropped from 16 or 17 to 13 or 14.

"There are hundreds of other Janes in this city whose drug and alcohol addiction is going unnoticed. There are treatment programs, but they can't keep up with the drug suppliers and those who profit from the trade. Until that problem is solved, Jane's story will be repeated hundreds of times."

— Philadelphia Inquirer
December 11, 1987

Our Favorite Christmas Card

From the Inmates and Staff of Carbon County Prison. Designed by Inmate Bill Craven and hand colored by Tracey Everett.

The Role Of Prayer In Spiritual Awakening

by Jack Crans

(The following are notes quickly scratched to wet your appetite for a great message of Dr. J. Edwin Orr, which can be obtained from Song Time. P.O. Box 350, Boston, Massachusetts 02101.)

"There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer."
— A.T. Pierson

Did you know that America was morally bankrupt during the wake of the American Revolution? That Chief Justice John Marshall said, "The church is too far gone to ever be redeemed?" That 15,000 were dying a year from drunkenness alone and crime and profanity were fierce? That schools such as Harvard and Princeton were actually absent of Christians and the few who named faith in Christ were persecuted? Latourette, the church historian, said, "It seemed as if Christianity were to be ushered out of the affairs of men."

But, in Scotland, then England and America, spread a concert of prayer for Revival and great spiritual awakening swept Connecticut, Massachusetts, the Kentucky frontier and the nation. A New England preacher by the name of Jonathan Edwards wrote a powerful challenge in his book, *A Humble Attempt to Promote Explicit Agreement and Visible Union of All God's People in Extraordinary Prayer for the Revival of Religion and Christ's Kingdom*, which strived for the call to prayer. Resulting from this revival of prayer was the birth of the great mission societies, the abolition of slavery and the formation of over 600 colleges by revivalists!

Though things grew cold by the mid 19th century due to issues of slavery and prosperity, by 1858 the famous New York editor, Horace Greely, was reporting "6,100 men in 12 prayer meetings" during mid-city lunch hours. Ten thousand per week were being converted and church bells rang at 6:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. to announce the daily calls to prayer. Meanwhile, in Chicago, Dwight L. Moody was beginning to see revival as churches were commonly growing from 121 members in 1857 to 1400 members by 1860.

Things waned again, but by 1905 revival fires swept again as cities like Atlantic City reported 50,000 Believers and Portland, Oregon, saw the closing of 240 department stores for 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. daily prayer.

Meanwhile, in Wales (1904), Evan Roberts was used of God to turn men to prayer. He saw tens of thousands obeying his call to:

1. **Confess personal sin to God and reconcile with those wronged**
2. **Put away doubtful habits**
3. **Obey the Spirit promptly**
4. **Confess faith in Christ publically**

The social impact was so great in Wales that judges had no cases to try and police were unemployed. Coal mines literally slowed down because horses and mules could not understand the new language void of cursing.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."
— II Chronicles 7:14

Special Weekend For Law Enforcers

Please note that Word of Life is planning a Law Enforcement Conference the weekend of April 29 - May 1. This is uniquely for Police, Secret Service, FBI, Corrections Officers, Parole Officers, Judges, Prosecutors and their spouses. The guest speakers are Dr. Ron Powell, the Commissioner of Corrections for the State of New Hampshire and Mr. Gary F. Stowell, Sr., the Chief of the Winslow Township, New Jersey Police Department. If you are at all interested, contact:

Word of Life Inn
Attn: Don Lough, Manager
Route 9
Schroon Lake, NY 12870

Tripler Trivia

The answer to last month's question was Amos. This month's question is what judge in the Old Testament was left-handed?

Warden's Corner

Our contact with Corrections officials slowly matures as does the personal nature of the relationship in many cases. Exciting hopes include a soon visit to the National Prayer Breakfast with Pennsylvania Commissioner of Corrections, Mr. David Owens, as well as exciting prospects for the Governor's Prayer Breakfast in May. Most important, however, are the grass root relationships which are becoming all the more meaningful in many Pennsylvania institutions as well as elsewhere.

The emblem, "Godly Leadership Makes the Difference" was designed for us by Leaman Advertising and was imprinted on a key chain for approximately 200 Corrections and Law Enforcement officials as this year's Christmas gift from CCGM.

This month we distributed two Bibles: one to the Commissioner of Prisons for the state of Delaware and one for the new Warden of Northampton County, Mr. Robert Olander.

Word Of Life Basketball Marathon

As the high school basketball season is now underway, it focuses our minds on the use of basketball as a vehicle for evangelism and discipleship. Last summer we saw the salvation of four young men while attending the WOL basketball tournament for a week in June. We are again this year being energetic and desirous of taking two teams up to the Island. For 12 players to go it will cost almost $2,000. We are asking each guy to contribute $40 to their bill, and we will provide scholarships for the rest. Pray and perhaps the Lord would have you to sponsor a young man for this outreach. There is also a need for someone to come along as an assistant coach. This would provide an excellent opportunity for someone to be exposed to youth ministry.

December 1987 Report

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

County Corrections Gospel Mission

SESTU Update

By Stu Tripler

Some people often ask why we bother to work with those hardened young people in juvenile facilities. Apart from the transformed lifestyle that salvation can impart, these kids and their families are doomed for a life of futility. One of the most revealing statistics that I have found is that only a small number of youth actually account for the majority of juvenile crime. In fact, in Philadelphia, less than 600 juveniles from 500 families account for over 60% of the serious juvenile offenses in the city. SESTU represents 5% of that total as most of the guys are from Philadelphia.

Praise the Lord for decisions that have been made and for the faithful ones who go week after week, month after month! Folks from the East Goshen Bible Church and the Blue Church made the Christmas season a very special one for the guys with their gifts and presents. We praise the Lord also for Living Word Academy in Lancaster and West Chester Christian School for their willingness to host the guys for basketball games. Continue to pray for more laborers for this field as the harvest is ripe!

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

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Tear off and return only as God leads.

Dear Jack:

☐ **I/we have prayed and sense definite leading to support Stu and Nancy Tripler. Here is my/our pledge to encourage them in their ministry at CCGM.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount per month: _____

Is Your Child Rebellious?

Two thoughts taken from Josh McDowell's book, *Why Wait*, provide suggestions for thought:

1. Rules without relationship leads to rebellion.

2. One marriage and family counselor estimated that in as many as 95% of cases regarding rebellious children, once the parents underwent marriage counselling for their own problems the child's behavior improved on its own.

Prayer Concerns

Wisdom regarding outreach facility.

Coatesville High Basketball Seniors seeking God's will for their lives.

Sam and Wendy Varnicle who faithfully labor with Steelton High School Basketball team.

National Prayer Breakfast, February 4.

Governor's Prayer Breakfast, May 10.

Law Enforcement/Corrections Officals.

Revival.

Need for more missionaries. . .Secretary for CCGM, Social Worker for City Gate, Youth Workers, Chaplains, Church Planters.

Praise for you in displaying God's faithfulness to us!