THE CONTENDER

December 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:

"Jesus saith unto them, 'Have ye understood all these things?' They say unto him, 'Yea Lord.' Then said He unto them, 'Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of Heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.' " Matthew 13:51,52

The chokehold of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel on Israel "did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him." The spiritual compromise of Ahab caused great sin in the nation, but God all the while had a man to stand in the needful gap. Elijah (I Kings 17:1) prayed and it did not rain. James says of Elijah that he "was a man subject to like passions as we are and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain." (James 5:17) He took literally the understanding of God's Word as found in Deuteronomy 11:16-18a, "Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; and then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and He shut up the heaven, that there be no rain. . .lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you. **Therefore, shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul."**

Knowledge of God's Word makes us householders as described above in Matthew 13:51,52. A householder owns and manages precious goods which have become his property. Like a farmer who shares food through the wealth of his barns or a doctor who lends healing from the application of his balm, so is the scribe (or learner) or student who possesses the knowledge of the Word of God.

As one continues to read of Elijah, they soon discover the existence of a scattered remnant of hidden prophets. The scandalous and violent attack of Ahab and Jezebel on the servants of Jehovah caused them to flee to caves, but Elijah stood before the Lord and with prayer saw God's hand of victory and power over the adversary.

Two things concern me deeply regarding the need for proclaimers of God's Word. It is not only Christ's desire and will that we know and understand His will, but that we be able to teach others as well. Ezra, for example, was called a "ready scribe in the law of Moses" who was prepared in his heart to teach Israel. More familiar to us are the words of Paul to Timothy, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (II Timothy 3:16,17) The thought of being "thoroughly furnished" brings us back to the theme of householder. We can never impart to others what we do not possess ourselves.

My first concern is that we are householders thoroughly furnished and equipped to communicate God's Word. God's Word studied is the greatest asset on earth. The possessing of knowledge of His Word is both strengthening and motivating! It causes us to see not only the urgency of our times but the usefulness of our lives. Knowing Him is our greatest and most vital work. Secondly, **I am deeply concerned that those who are householders and possessors of the understanding of God's Word are all too often hidden from view.** The schools of the prophets organized in the ancient world were not only for the purpose of knowing the truth but proclaiming it. Believers have never been more blessed nor inexcusable than now in understanding the Word of God. There now exists an immediate urgency for God's Word to be brought to bear on all issues confronting our national health. I personally would love to see more Biblical exposition towards the broken lives reflected so often in Corrections ministry than the current popular trend of addressing more marketable audiences. Where is the scribe (householder)? Let his pen and tongue be a blessing to lost men!

In closing, I continue to appeciate your labors with us. Please know the sincerest burden with which I write.

Respectfully for Calvary,

Jack Crans

Prayer Concerns

SESTU and Oak Street volunteers.

Arlene and Linda in expanding office concerns.

Shannon Butterfield at Word of Life Bible Institute.

A.I.D.S.

By Jack Crans

A National Dilemma

Eighty countries have reported more than 88,000 A.I.D.S. cases to the World Health Organization. *Health Week* magazine reports that as many as 10,000,000 people are infected with the human imuno deficiency virus (H.I.V.), and an estimated 3,000,000 will develop acquired immune deficiency syndrome by the early 1990's.

The number of Americans with the disease, 29,679, doubles every 16 months according to the Center for Disease Control. More than 38,500 have died since June 1981. By 1991, A.I.D.S. is expected to be the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 25 and 44. Although homosexual and bisexual men account for about 70% of the casualties and intravenous drug users 20%, 4.3% of the victims are heterosexual with no risk factor other than an infected or susceptible partner.

In addition, epidemiologists say A.I.D.S. will afflict 1,000 newborns this year, most of them born to H.I.V. infected mothers. **By the year 1993, when confirmed cases of A.I.D.S. number 450,000 according to the Center for Disease Control, everyone in the United States will know someone who has died or is dying from A.I.D.S.** This figure of 450,000 can be compared to the number of state and federal prisoners recorded not more than ten years ago. To say that A.I.D.S. is a problem that won't affect the church is like saying prison ministry can be ignored. The economic, moral and spiritual crisis facing America brings the close of the 20th century to a place of critical hopelessness. It is our desire in this article to cause the church to realize it's role and responsibility.

A Medical Definition

(By Gary S. Madonna, Ph.D. Army Microbiologist, Armed Forces, Radiobiology Research Institute, Bethesda, Maryland)

"The name of the disease, acquired immune deficiency syndrome carries with it much of the description necessary for a basic understanding.

"This is an **acquired** (A.) disease. One is not, under normal circumstances, born with it. It is introduced into the person. The virus must gain entry in order to do harm.

"When it is acquired, it may cause an **immune deficiency** (I.D.). For example, a deficiency within the immune system. Briefly, the virus enters and rapidly destroys a particular type of white blood cell. Normally, these white blood cells, known to immunologists as T-helper cells are managers of other white blood cells in the immune system. However, after their function is crippled by the virus, they are incapable of managing an effective immune response. Thus, infected individuals are extremely susceptible to infectious organisms and malignancies which would normally be contained if the T cells could manage.

"The **syndrome** (S.) of A.I.D.S. is thus known by an increased susceptibility and frequency of infections caused by fungi, parasites, viruses and bacteria. Without the important cell managers of the immune system, these infections spread unchecked until complications result in death."

A Spiritual Indicator

This section of my report is a brief outline of thoughts recently taught by Dr. William D. Lawrence at the Center for Christian Leadership of the Dallas Theological Seminary. His topic concerned the following agenda, "A Biblical Perspective on A.I.D.S.".

Dr. Lawrence spoke much concerning homosexuals and began underlining the fact of God's creative and determinative choice in making human sexuality a relationship of maleness and femaleness. (Genesis 1:26,27) God clearly rejects homosexuality in His Word and two descriptive historical examples can be found in the account of Sodom (Genesis 19) and Gibeah (Judges 19). Dr. Lawrence was careful never to reject the homosexual in his teaching but carefully condemned the sin of homosexuality.

What most impressed me in Dr. Lawrence's study was his deep analysis of the spiritual conditions necessary for homosexuality to exist so openly. **"Homosexuality takes root in a society whose righteousness is silent."** While the Gospel remains captured in suburbia, the urban environment grows the more devastating. If one were to think back, homosexuality "came out of the closet" as did other sins when it became safe and there existed no opposition.

A few Scriptural thoughts bring tremendous accountability to rest on the church when one discovers the necessary victories which always precede these open sins. A.I.D.S. may be a great indicator that national judgment is already in progress and that homosexuality does not stand alone to blame. Jeremiah 23:14, says "I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah." **The spiritual climate of a nation determines much of the excess of open sinful practices.** Spiritual leadership is as much a cause as is a cure in these challenging days of national moral sin.

Ezekiel 16:49,50, says "Behold this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, an abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good." Here we see the historical and repeated withdraw of God's people and the testimony of His name from the marketplace.

The separation of God's people in the name of holiness has actually been a sin of arrogance and neglect of the poor. The atmosphere caused by the withdraw of God's people from the world has given license to sin and one cannot flee the personal responsibility of national immorality and it's consequences. **To some degree the withdraw of God's people from their command to be light and salt has robbed the moral soil of our nation of the nutrients of righteousness and holiness.** Instead of lighting a candle, we have all too often cursed the darkness. I Corinthians 5:9,10 calls us into the world not out of it. "I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: yet not altogether with the for-

nicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters: for then must ye needs go out of the world." Paul commands Believers to judge the immoral Christian Brother to cause him to return to God. He certainly in no way implies we should separate from this world.

There is much more to be discussed in our next issue of the Contender concerning A.I.D.S. For now, let's at least sense more responsibility for the problem.

City Gate Mission
Coatesville, Pennsylvania

By Jack Crans

Proverbs 1:20,21a "Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: she crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words..."

It was the summer of 1980 when God burdened my heart and others to place a visible testimony of God's saving grace in the marketplace of Chester County's high crime district. The address of 715 E. Lincoln Highway was the original site of this street mission until December 3, 1988, when Dupont Corporation **donated** to City Gate Mission its Coatesville building located at 17 N. 7th Avenue. Seventh and Diamond Streets (City Gate's location) is no stranger to drug addicts, homosexuals or crime. It remains a target area for Law Enforcement and Drug Enforcement agencies, and continues to be the concourse of broken lives.

Jim Davis receiving the deed from Mr. Bill Mancini of Dupont Corporation.

City Gate Mission was founded because of the evident cry of men for their own souls as seen in the Chester County Prison. Rev. Mike Davis, now Chaplain at Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago, was City Gate's first Director. Since November 7, 1983, Jim Davis has been the Director and we have seen God's marvelous hand of blessing in its ministry to the least and lost. It's staff has now expanded to a women's counselor, Joanne DiPalma, a men's counselor, Brian Rager, and resident facility houseparents, John and Alberta Ingham.

The purpose of City Gate Mission is to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the daily lives of these broken people. Transient men and women, wandering mental health patients, drug addicts, prostitutes and the like are the dear ones for whom Christ died. I Corinthians 6:11 says, "And such **were** some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

This new facility will eventually house approximately 15 men in a long term discipleship residential program. At present (according to incoming funds) work is beginning to construct a chapel, dormitory area, shower area, laundry room and even a kitchen to feed up to 70 people. We at CCGM would like you to know the present estimated costs of City Gate's relocation and construction needs with the prayer that God may lead you to prayerfully consider your role in this much needed ministry.

Completion of chapel dormitory area, shower area and laundry room — $15,000.

Completion of kitchen — $27,000

Yearly operating costs — $200,000

In closing, CCGM, is excited to bring the maturing of City Gate Mission to our readership as our longstanding relationship has continued to foster a mutual balance of ministry. While City Gate Mission tangibly ministers in a specific corner of our own back yard, CCGM will continue to see Corrections as a critical reflection of similar neighborhoods needing the penetration of God's people. Please pray for the continued maturing of both City Gate and CCGM, and know that together they find existence only under the support of the local church. Remember that there remains no greater hope for the nemesis of broken neighborhoods burdening Corrections ministry than the effective work of the local church in high crime areas.

Oak Street Project

By Sue Crans

"But Jesus said, 'Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.' " Matthew 19:14

I am sure that is a very familiar verse to many of you. It has really hit home with me these last four weeks. Every Thursday at 4:00 we are gathering from 30 to 50 children at the Parkway Project for a kid's Bible club. What an exciting yet challenging time we have had. We are doing the life of Christ at the present time which was very appropriate during the holiday season. It's great to see the excitement in their eagerness to learn and their eyes when they have mastered their Bible verse for the week. Our hope is that the Word of God would penetrate these children's lives so effectively that we would be able to start reaching their parents, too. Please pray for Betsy Blackwell and myself, as it is not always an easy task controlling that many children and finding effective ways to reach them.

If anyone is interested in helping or teaching, please let us know as we would be so very happy to include you.

A Letter From Linda

By Linda Ingham

December's been busy and challenging here in the office as I have been spending a lot of time with Arlene. She is performing most excellently, and has certainly been a blessing to all of us. By next month, I should be able to more definitely define to you my specific role here at CCGM.

One of the girls I have worked with for over two years had a 3-day furlough from her institution, so she spent Christmas with me and my family. It was a real blessing to have that opportunity!

P.S. Yes, that is my mom and dad mentioned in the article on the City Gate Mission. They moved here on December 17 to be houseparents.

December Report 1988

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

County Corrections Gospel Mission

Update

SESTU — Need trades people such as builders, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, etc. to assist 34 delinquent youth to teach practical skills. A wonderful opportunity to use your gifts to Christ's glory.

Oak Street — Thursday afternoon Bible Club needs helpers and teachers. See article by Sue Crans. Also, there are opportunities for those wishing to visit project homes inviting children and reminding mothers of the kid's club.

From The Bookshelf

This month we recommend to you the video entitled, *"A.I.D.S. How Should the Church Respond"* (two tape series) by Dallas Theological Seminary.

Interesting Tidbit

Analysts report that Universal Pictures lost $10 to $13 million on its film, "The Last Temptation of Christ" due to a nationwide Christian boycott effort.

Remember

Upcoming Word of Life Weekend for Law Enforcement and Corrections personnel. . . Friday, March 31 - Sunday, April 2. Call us or Word of Life at 518-532-7111 for more details!

Warden's Corner

This month the new Warden of Crawford County received a Bible.

Centre County was the location of great encouragement this month. A faithful fellowship of sheriff, parole and law enforcement personnel was host to our visit and a commitment to more involvement marked their spirit. Also, a most encouraging visit to Rockview State Correctional Institution in Bellefonte led us to know a committed Chaplain and Deputy Superintendent.

Young girls of Oak Street Housing Project.

Areas to Designate Gifts

Bible School Scholarship
Christmas
Facility
General
Ingham
Memoriums
Oak Street Project
Secretarial
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; Missionary, 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.