THE CONTENDER

Fall 1995

". . . 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

A Nobel Laureate, Elie Weisel, survivor of the 'death camps' of Adolf Hitler recently addressed a sober gathering of scholars and high ranking laureates concerning his 'Quest' in which he searches out the deep things of God as an 'insider.' "It is alright to question God if you believe in Him." As he tried so earnestly to draw upon his heart's pain, he reached a point of frustration with words. Not able to express his longings and his searchings, he turned to the example of the prophet Jeremiah and confessed that 'only he (Jeremiah) had words that touched his pain.'

"Let us search and test our ways, and turn again to the LORD. Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto the God in the heavens . . . Fear and a snare are come upon us, desolation and destruction . . . Mine eye affecteth mine heart!"

- Lamentations 3:40f

How true it is that words hardly describe the agony of the human heart!

These most recent months have caused my tongue to be bridled. Who can reflect the face and words of a man who has taken the life of his best friend? Who can echo the cry of the mother who's son has perished at the end of his own gun? Who can address the daughters and sons of a fallen hero, a father tragically killed? Who can nourish the spiritual drought of a Soviet State while tears of farewell fill a Moscow Airport? On and on the encounters with precious lives continue . . .

Can this issue of 'The Contender' reach your heart? Am I as incapable as Mr. Weisel in displaying my heart's inscriptions?

Believe this, that inscribed upon my heart and spirit are not only the myriad faces of prisoners, but, the memories of weeping families, police memorials, and powerful leaders!

God has so touched your life that we are able to continue in the heralding of sacred scripture and in the encouragement of both the imprisoned and those who have power to keep them!

Blessings and burdens abound! We are rich and we are poor! We know that our sufficiency will be found in an intimate fellowship with the LORD God.

"There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God . . . Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

-Hebrews 4:9f

With Most Sincere Appreciation!
Jack Crans
Jeremiah 17:12

Moscow, Russia . . . London, England

"Authority and Leadership in Criminal Justice"

The Police Academy team/Moscow, Russia. Mattios Lehman, Bob Vernon, Doug McCary, Sam Barber.

The critical days of October 8 through October 16 fulfilled my commission to network and encourage

Administrative office of Russia's Prisons. General Kalinin w/Security Staff, Henry Minder and Jack.

God's Authority amidst police and prison administrators in both Moscow and London. Through the faithful funding of CCGM providers and the faithful testimony and vision of Robert Vernon (LAPD, Assistant Chief, retired), I was permitted the wonderful privilege of being part of a support team both to Russian Prison Authorities and Police representing more than 23 countries.

An "Ethics and Authority" Seminar at the Police Academy in Moscow was prayerfully led by Bob Vernon and Sam Barber of LAPD along with Matthias Lehmann and Doug McCary of Germany and the USA. Also, accompanying the team was Henry Minder of Switzerland. With translator, 'Sasha' (Prison Fellowship Assistant), I was able to meet personally with the highest command of the Russian Prison System: General Kalinin. Doors were opened wide for such a time as this in communicating the need for spiritual and moral truths in the command of Russia's Criminal Justice Systems.

'Sasha' and Jack

The Gospel of Jesus Christ went forth clearly by weeks end. More than 40 high ranking officials participated in the Police Academy Conference with indicators revealing a glorious response to the precious news of the Savior.

The love of Christ made the difference in the relating of truths which covered themes from "integrity" to "management". I am convinced that the unquestionable authority of God was manifest in all aspects of the journey abroad.

Invitations to return to Moscow for a similar seminar for 'Prison Administrators' is currently under prayerful study. General Kalinin has already extended an invitation for this and also has requested assistance in more effective ministry to his growing juvenile population.

Before returning to the United States, the same team journeyed to London, England and participated in the first ever: "Federation of Christian Police Fellowships" International Conference. Here again, Bob Vernon spoke and shared the training hours with Robin Oake (Chief Constable of the Isle of Man Police). The theme of this conference was: "God's Mission to and Through the Police."

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"
-Psalm 11:3

In a day when 'all the foundations of the earth are out of course' it is absolutely a joy to share with you that Almighty God is still on His Throne and that He is raising up a faithful gathering of authorities who want to be obedient to their high and vital callings!

As Chief Constable Robin Oake declared: "We are **servants** of the Most High God . . . only understanding this precedent . . . can we do **service** to our communities." (my paraphrase)

Authority and Leadership

'Spiritual Territories'

Before God even formed the Earth (as we know it), an assault upon the very throne of God was attempted in the Heavens. Lucifer declared: "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High!"

This same rogue-angel is now 'the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience.' His name is indicative of his character: Apollyon or Destroyer. It is he of whom the Holy Scriptures declare: ". . . who made the earth to tremble, who did shake kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness, and destroyed its cities, who opened not the house of his prisoners."

Listen to the urgent appeal of a former communist country's police officer as he cries from his desperate and immediate observations: "Dear Friends, I am deeply convinced that organized crime is today such a disturbing worldwide threat to our civilization that we must at least attempt to coordinate a maximum number of forces in the struggle against this new totalitarian phenomenon. In the post-communist countries we feel the ominous repercussions of such criminal mafias with increasing impact. In Russia the situation appears to be almost beyond solution and crime is on the constant upsurge. We must not wait until the time when criminals will dominate the world political scene, so let us compel politicians and state officials to take rigorous action." (Written in Summer of 1995/Author Guarded)

County Corrections Gospel Mission is committed to addressing those in authority in both the Prison and Police Systems with the urgent necessity of surrendering to the absolute priorities of God and His Throne and His Command!

Though space does not permit me to unfold the precious promise of this next scripture, please meditate upon it!

"A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary (refuge)." -Jeremiah 17:12

Notes From the Camp At Old Mill

Dear Family and Friends:

We had a great summer at The Camp at Old Mill!

"Wilderness Adventure" our first camp that we programmed and staffed, went great. We hosted 22 trained counselors who did an excellent job working with the children, ages 5 through 12, from the Oak Street and Parkway Neighborhoods. Through this adventure we saw 16 young people accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior...Praise the Lord! We also had groups at the camp from Chester, Brooklyn and other various regions along the east coast.

Archery Class-"Wilderness Adventure"

Wilderness Adventure Counselors Kimberly, Kori and Rachel with campers.

Daniel Mark Trout was born on February 8, 1995 . . . by now, you can imagine the growth we have seen. He always has a smile on his face and he enjoys getting into whatever he can. We thank the Lord for a healthy son and look forward to seeing what God will do in his life.

Daniel Mark

Janel is busy trying to keep up with Daniel, as well as, doing numerous jobs around the camp. Dave is busy with groups which arrive each weekend now through December. Winter and spring weekends are filling up at a continuous pace.

We appreciate and thank the Lord for the several contributors who help in raising our support level. And, we thank you for your prayers and encouragements as we seek the Lord for the remainder of our support.

Continuing and faithful volunteers have been a blessing to the improvement of the camp facility. The potential uses of this facility grow more exciting with each passing day.

In Christ,
The Trouts
Dave, Janel and Daniel
Galatians 2:20

Children of Our Bible Clubs

This ministry of CCGM is a coalescence of diverse activities. The relationship of one activity to another is absolutely essential to the best working of the whole!

Whether a visit to the prison, a letter to a Warden, a 'Mom's Bible Club' or an after-school trip to the Old Mill for 'Kid's Bible Clubs,' we experience an inter-working of all parts to the better working of the total ministry.

In addressing the crisis of families and children, we are more able to mirror specific concerns to both the church community and to those professional organizations which seek to apply their resources to the households that manifest a desire for encouragement and support.

Sue Crans has led the Children's Bible Club Program for near to 10 years. A faithful team of 20 volunteers assists in the teaching, crafts, snacks, recreation, transportation and watchfulness over the boys and girls. The 'little girls' and 'little boys' of our earliest clubs are now maturing into young people whose lives are confronted daily with urgencies and demands.

Will you pray with us that God will continue to direct the precious, tender hearts of our 'clubbers' into meaningful futures that promise **HIS BLESSING** and **HIS USEFULNESS?**

Perhaps you want to directly touch a child in some way who is daily in the heart and experience of this ministry. On Thursday, December 21 at 4:00 pm, we celebrate our 'Christmas Party'! This event is always held at The Camp at Old Mill. Wrapped gifts for boys and girls are always needed. Just mark the package appropriately: Boy/Girl and Age and your gift will be placed in the hand and life of one of our children.

South East Secure Treatment Unit

SESTU or SOUTH EAST SECURE TREATMENT UNIT located on the grounds of the former Embreeville State Hospital is just five miles from the City of Coatesville and is quite convenient to much of the West Chester, Kennett Square and surrounding Chester County communities. This local, State Juvenile Facility has 'an open door' to churches, civic groups and particularly men who want to impact 'at-risk' teen-age boys in the midst of their incarceration under the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System.

In the past, CCGM was able to sponsor an effective 'Industrial Arts' Program that not only taught tool and job skills, but, also joined God-honoring men to the lives of SESTU's youthful offenders.

Do you have a desire to impact a young man in a most influential time of his life? Do you have a job skill that could be brought to the life of our SESTU boys?

We welcome your ideas and anxiously await your communication with us regarding this most urgent need!

Lest I be too narrow, know also that an 'Arts Program' under the direction of either man or woman is within the realm of possibilities!

Chester County Prison 'Wants You!'

County Corrections Gospel Mission continues to administrate the religious activities of Chester County's Prison. I want to recognize the fact that scores of volunteers, churches and prison ministries participate through-out the year. No one organization or ministry carries the load by itself!

Perhaps what is most grievous to me as Administrative Chaplain is the obvious absence of a 'prison burden' in the heart of many Bible-believing churches in the county!

Maybe my perspective is incorrect, but, it would seem to my own heart and Biblical thought that identifying the fatherless, the poor and the broken-hearted might best be through the targeting of the prison-house. Issues of 'mercy' and 'justice' hold great attention in the scriptures. Mercies toward the poor, the prisoner and at least, the prisoner's child, beckon attention.

A new year is just weeks away . . . perhaps 1996 will be **"The Year We Targeted the Darkness."** I welcome your pastoral and church attentiveness to the cries of our cell-blocks and those families and neighborhoods reflected therein!

The Camp At Old Mill

'Matching Fund'

From time to time, God brings special gifts our way and makes possible what seems a great advance in the rehabilitating of The Camp at Old Mill. On or before December 31, 1995 a 'matching gift' of up to $75,000.00 is available for special needs of the camp's facility. Perhaps God has already prepared this opportunity in someone's heart, so, we mention this in stewardship of His Goodness.

We have seen the hand of the LORD in providing for CCGM! The mortgage on the 1003 Stirling Street property was totally met in the first few years of CCGM's founding and the $75,000.00 needed to purchase the camp was provided in less than 90 days during the Summer of 1992.

Although the source of the grant wishes to be kept anonymous, the legitimacy and reputation of the source is a faithful and consistent witness to the Glory of God.

CCGM cannot afford for funding to be allocated away from it's normal income flow, but, God may have especially prepared a heart for such a time as this.

Any special gift designated to "CCGM" and directed to this Matching Grant will be applied directly to this special opportunity for The Camp at Old Mill.

50,000 Miles per Year

Auto Transportation Needed

'Rest in Peace'

This brief, but, important notice is to inform you that the CCGM Van pictured above has been laid to rest! Though designated gifts have currently amounted to $1,500.00 we are far short of being able to replace not only the capacity of such a vehicle, but, have

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presently become dependent upon one means of transportation.

With the promise of 'matching funders' we anticipate that a need of approximately **$10,000.00** still remains for this concern.

The fact that more than 90 children each week are transported to The Camp at Old Mill is sufficient evidence to warrant such mention of this need!

From The Bookshelf

Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer

He Is There and He Is Not Silent. Francis Schaeffer, Author. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers.

The late Dr. Francis Schaeffer was founder and director of L'Abri Fellowship in the village of Huemoz in the Swiss Alps. To this spiritual retreat have come thousands of questioning young men and women from many cultures-students from universities, professors, doctors, writers, pastors, engineers, musicians, and painters. The variety of seekers is endless, but the answer to their quest always rests upon the same basic truth: **"The infinite-personal God exists, and He may be known by man."**

A brief excerpt:

"We come back to a personal beginning for man, man created by a personal God. At this point we must recognize a second possibility, that man as he is now is not what he was; that man is discontinuous with what he has been, rather than continuous with what he has been. Or, to put it another way, man is now abnormal-he has changed...This involves yet another question and choice: If God changed him, or made him abnormal, then he is still a bad God, and we have solved nothing. But there is another possibility: that man created by God as personal has changed himself-that he stands at the point of discontinuity rather than continuity not because God changed him but because he changed himself. Man as he now is by his own choice is not what he intrinsically was. In this case we can understand that man is now cruel, but that God is not a bad God. This is precisely the Judaeo-Christian position...Man, at a certain point of history, changed himself, and hence stands, in his cruelty, in discontinuity with what he was, and we have a true moral situation: morals suddenly exist. Everything hangs upon the fact that man is abnormal now, in contrast to what he originally was."

Areas to Designate Gifts

General	Memorials
Old Mill	SESTU
Snack Foods	Warden's Fund

County Corrections Gospel Mission is a non-profit organization. Please make all checks payable to CCGM and designate your desired gift area; all gifts are tax-deductible; a receipt will be returned to you for your records.

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