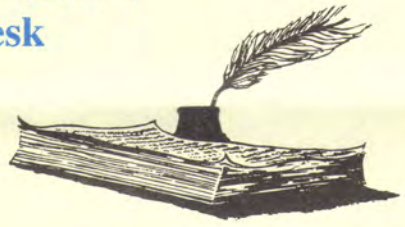
THE CONTENDER

February 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



Dear Faithful in Christ:

"But there was a certain man called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched (enchanted) the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from least to the greatest, saying, 'This man is the great power of God.' And to him they had regard, because that of a longtime he had bewitched (enchanted) them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." — Acts 8:9-12

What I'm about to write is not going to be easy. I have already struggled five hours to pen this letter, and right this moment am claiming the presence of mind to go on. I know we are on the front lines of a battle. The enemy is assaultive and powerful and full of fury. However, my God is assaultive and powerful and full of fury as well. Somewhere, sometime, there must be a clashing of these battlements. There is territory to be won and occupied in this war. This is no small thing and certainly nothing to be winked at. (I Cor. 16:9)

The struggle to write is primarily the issue stated above in Acts 8 wherein it is evidenced once again that **the preaching of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ are effectual in the tearing down of Satanic strongholds.** Our labors are daily in the midst of these strongholds, and we surely take as serious our need to stand fast in Him!

I need you to be standing with us in earnest prayers that God will find us faithful in the midst of the opposition. Please know that doors are so very open to us, and it is all we can do to wait on our Saviour for marching orders. We need to have great wisdom so as to be effective in the timely **application of God's Word** to each situation.

Right now, our minds can only be staggered by the challenges now confronting us on many fronts. Law enforcement, Corrections and streets pose as great arenas for manifesting the truth. Many in leadership are crying for answers and have held out their gracious hands for help and assistance. Who will answer them? Are our prayer meetings buzzing with these crucial areas of need? Are mission organizations and Bible schools wrestling before God over the urgent lostness of the American culture? Is there a desire to truly be in the battle?

Please know that we are anxious to represent our most heavy hearts to your ears. Many of your pulpits have not heard the cry of the streets and the prisons. Would you be stirred in your spirit to take your place in the battle?

Like Philip, we want to shut down the Simons of this world! We have a message and continue to pray for the presence of God's people for such a time as this. Darkness must seek a hiding place when the lights are on. Let's make every personal effort in Christ to be so yielded to Him that He will find in us the available servants necessary to complete the remaining tasks.

May the god of this world find no resting place in our cities! Oh to be a constant obstacle to the enemy!

For Calvary,

Jack Crans

Lancaster Farm Update

By Jack Crans

March 1 was the official day in which Christian Herald surrendered use of their Lancaster County facility to the use and development of County Corrections Gospel Mission. The five acre farm allows CCGM the total use of a large 16 bed farmhouse and adjoining classroom/chapel and three bedroom apartment. Although CCGM must maintain costs of utilities, the property itself has been made available for the fee of $1 per year for which we praise the Lord!

The farm has been called "Our Father's House" in the past but for the sake of less confusion of our ministry with that of Christian Herald, we have been advised to seek a change of facility name. This will be decided before we publish our next newsletter.

The task before us is most challenging as **we now actively seek the Lord for the most capable staff** who will carry on the vision and burden of this particular ministry. What will be the purpose of the farm now? (1) To network, expose and magnify a home missions field to the local church; and (2) to develop a discipleship/training institute for the maturing and preparation of men for indigenous Christian witness.

Continued on next page

Lancaster Farm Update - *Continued*

A Discipleship/Training Institute for Indigenous Leadership

It is a common burden in Missions around the world that God would raise up indigenous peoples to lead in the preaching of Christ on native missionary soil. (The candidate most likely to make a difference in the marketplace of any mission field is the one who has lived there.) This burden for leaders who are native to their own environment is nothing new. Somehow, though, I feel we have done more to train the poor of other nations than we have our own. I am seeking God to raise up indigenous leaders from the street corners and prisons of our own nation. Men who will know how to handle the Word of God and men who will not only be discipled in the Christian life but challenged to a vision for leadership and a part in the missionary task of the Church. If we have trusted God to raise up spiritual leadership in the tribes of the world, why can't we trust Him to establish Godly men in the marketplace of our city streets where Satan has presently established a stronghold?

After careful counsel with Corrections personnel, drug/alcohol counselors, mission directors and Bible school administrators concerning "aftercare" and "rehabilitation", we are convinced that no greater resource exists for permanent and true life change than that of Scripture and prayer. Many men experience this through residential programs. We would, however, like to take a man to the next step of training him to be a leader in his home environment. We believe that this training can be best accomplished in an atmosphere where accountability and intensive instruction are available. In the United States, Bible schools have become expensive, sophisticated and academically beyond the resources of so many. Therefore, this institute is born out of a burden to see broken lives trained to be leaders on a level attainable to their individual resource.

We will be relying heavily on local Believers and churches residing in the area of the facility to make these men accountable. The total development of this program rests also in the cooperative networking with prison chaplains, missions and Bible school administrators.

It is our prayer that this burden might be a catalyst to a broader vision that one day might carry over even to the campuses of our Bible institutes in North America and also be adaptable to in-prison training schools. We covet your prayers for His guidance in every area, especially the providing of staff.

From The Bookshelf

This month we recommend to you a book written by dear friends and companion ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Nick and Gretchen Barbetta. The book is entitled, *Nick and Gretchen,* and is a powerful testimony of how the Lord translated these two people from the darkness of sin to the eternal Kingdom of God. They are the founders and directors of Crossroads Ministries ministering to prison inmates. This book can be obtained through: Acclaimed Books, P.O. Box 18186, Dallas, Texas 75218.

The Need of the Hour: Vision, Prayer and Obedience

By Jack Crans

Evangelist Luis Palau recently challenged my heart, and I want you to know what he challenged me to know from John 14:12-15.

1. vs. 12 Dream great dreams!
2. vss. 13,14 Pray great prayers!
3. vs. 15 Obey great commands!

Think about it!

How Much of a Movie-Goer are You?

Where are the days of the good ol' Walt Disney movies? Did you know that today (1989):

Nearly ¼ of all PG/PG/13 movies have the 'f-word'.

61% take the Lord's name in vain.

71% contain vulgar references to excretion, intercourse or the genitals.

50% imply sexual intercourse.

13% show intercourse.

30% feature explicit nudity.

75% display moderate or severe violence.

74% depict alcohol and/or other drug abuse.

If you want a Christian perspective on Hollywood's latest movies, two biweekly newsletters are available.

Good News Communications publishes "Movieguide: A Biblical Guide to Movies and Entertainment" with a suggested donation of $30 per year for 24 issues. Write to Movieguide, P.O. Box 9952, Atlanta, GA 30319. (404) 237-0326.

Movie Morality Ministries also publishes "Preview Movie Morality Guide" with suggested donation of $23 per year. Write to Preview Movie Morality Guide, 1309 Seminole Dr., Richardson, TX 75080 (214) 234-0195.

(As stated by Focus on the Family "Citizen" magazine, January 1989.)

Crisis Pregnancy Center

If you wish to become a Crisis Pregnancy Center counselor, or if you would like to start your own CPC, write to:

Thomas Glessner, Exec. Director
Christian Action Council
701 W. Broad Street, Suite 405
Falls Church, VA 22046
(703) 237-2100

A Letter From Linda

I have so much to tell and so little space! Our Board of Directors have given me the title of "Ministry Assistant", a two-fold responsibility. 1) I will be overseeing the office and administrative functions of CCGM and the on-going responsibility of keeping this ministry focused as God leads. This includes reading everything that comes into the office and discerning what is to be done with it, compilation, writing and editing of this newsletter, overseeing the finances and more. 2) I will be developing a 3-phase women's ministry. Phase 1 is development of my present ministry. This includes a Monday night dinner and Bible study for girls who have been in jail, continuing my Tuesday morning Bible study at jail, writing a weekly newsletter for the girls at jail entitled, "The Comforter", more one-on-one counseling with the girls at jail, discipleship of any upon their release (very time consuming), developing a pen-pal system and training other women to be used in this type of ministry. Phase 2 (which I will begin when the Lord sends me an Assistant) is development of a day program to train girls in the Word of God and teach them practical life skills and Phase 3 is a Christ-centered residential facility for chemically dependent women.

That's where I'm headed, Lord willing! I get overwhelmed when I think of the responsibility God has given me, but yet I see God ordering my steps daily as I keep a balanced life spiritually, mentally and physically. God has been **so faithful** to me. He's had many lessons for me to learn in the waiting time for Arlene to come, but it has reaped a bountiful heart of joy in seeing Him accomplish His work of the Spirit! Romans 8 is so special to me and I always teach from that perspective. . .to walk today **by means of** the Holy Spirit! No pressure for me to perform! What a refreshing Biblical truth!

Also remember in prayer, Arlene as we load her down with many, many letters and work and Sue as she is doing the receipts and weekly billings!

I sincerely ask you for your constant prayer for me!

In His love,

Linda Ingham

The Burden of a Corrections Administrator's Heart

By Jack Crans

"Responsibility. The theme was on Harvey L. Crudup's mind when he took over as Director of the Youth Study Center last March, and it was still in the forefront of his thoughts last week as he left that post a scant 11 months later." That's right, in just less than one year, the Director of Philadelphia's Youth Study Center resigned.

"Throughout his brief tenure at the Center, he has come to believe more strongly than ever that adults must take more responsibility for children; responsibility for nurturing them, not locking them up. During his tenure at the Center, he supervised an experimental, intensive-treatment program for fifty children. The program began with extensive assessments of the children's psychological needs. He said that all but one were in need of psychiatric help. 'Why? what happened to put them at risk?' he asked? 'Life is different for children. Teenagers are faced with so many options today they weren't faced with before. They learn things from television that my generation never knew until they were adults. Secrets — there are no more secrets any more. A kid can come in at 3:00 in the afternoon and turn on the television and learn everything. A change of attitude is needed now!' he said."

I applaud this administrator's heart. I am saddened that he stepped down, but encouraged at his burden, his tenderness and his questions. I am constantly encouraged to find more of this type of leader who has not grown comfortable but always sensitive, always burdened, and always taking great pains to reflect upon his experience.

(Portions taken from February 20, 1989 Philadelphia Inquirer.)

Update on SESTU Ministry

By Jack Crans

Each Tuesday night from 7 - 9 p.m. approximately 14 laymen are continuing to impact the lives of 32 incarcerated boys. Through the ministry of their specific trade, these men continue to mirror Christ to the heart of each boy. The expectancy of both staff administrators and boys goes far beyond any hopes we initially had as we began this program. Expansion of a volunteer program seems to be naturally under development, and once again I am excited with the long range impact of this ministry in the lives of the 14 Christian volunteers. They are coming to know an increasing burden for the often hopeless prospects now confronting these boys. All of a sudden, out of the arena of a juvenile detention facility our hearts are again called to missions.

Who will follow these boys? Who will love them in their return home? Is an effective church going to meet them at home? Please pray as SESTU causes us to seek God's heart for the precious lives of these troubled boys. Pray for Mr. Alford, the Director of SESTU, and also his very cooperative and participating staff.

If you want to consider volunteering some quality time with a young man at SESTU, let us know.

Satanism in the News

1. This month a Michigan High School declared a state of emergency because of a large following of students in Satanism.

2. New York Department of Education is seeking counsel concerning the Satanism epidemic.

3. Satanic presence is clearly evident in Scripture prior to the proclamation of the gospel in each city. Could its evidence in America reveal how gross our neglect of home missions truly is?

County Corrections Gospel Mission
P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

February Report 1989

Oak Street Kids Club

By Sue Crans

What a blessing these last 12 weeks have been. I know the Lord is answering prayer. We are presently averaging about 20 children per week. The children seem to become more and more excited each week. They are learning their Bible verses and are beginning to bring friends. The Gideons supplied 30 New Testaments which many of the children continue to bring each week and are very proud of them.

The Lord has brought another helper to assist and more are calling to see where they can help. Would you like to help? It is my burden to have 2 or 3 Bible clubs per week and be able to break down our age groups for more effective teaching time. It would be a real joy to your heart to get to know these precious children, and to teach them the good news of Jesus Christ in their lives.

Please pray for us (Betsy, Carol and Sue) as each Thursday at 4:00 p.m. we desire to see God work in the hearts of the children. The next several weeks we will be sharing themes related to the Easter celebration — the message of Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

Warden's Fund

One Bible was distributed this month to a Warden in Wilmington, Delaware.

An Example to Imitate

(Portions taken from "Let Us Believe And Obey our Bibles", Editorial of *The Everlasting Nation*)

"Christian workers and church leaders in every part of the world have believed and practiced Romans 1:16 which says, **'...to the Jew first, and also to the Greek'.** Romans 1:16. Hudson Taylor, the famous founder of the China Inland Mission, used to do something every January which we have admired. For years he sent a contribution each January to John Wilkinson, founder of the Mildmay Mission to the Jews and attached the following message: 'This is the first money that comes to me this year which I send you for the Gospel work in your mission in accordance with the Scripture, 'to the Jew first.'

"To this Mr. Wilkinson usually responded by sending a personal contribution in turn to Hudson Taylor with a little note which read, '. . .and also to the Gentile..' "

In Memorium of Mrs. Lydia Styles

We gratefully acknowledge the financial gifts received in memory of our dear friend and supporter. Her faithful prayers and gifts were a steadfast encouragement.

Areas to Designate Gifts

Bible Institute
Christmas
Facility
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.

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