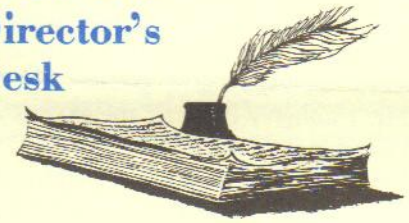
THE CONTENDER

January 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



"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness." – II Peter 3:11

Dear Faithful Ones:

The climate for ministry of the Gospel is at an all-time urgency. Never before have I been so deeply overwhelmed than now. The churnings of my spirit and mind fluctuate from the exciting prospect of revival to the impending sense of a heavenly judgment. Idle men and women continue to spill into the streets. Unwed mothers, teenage "fathers" and varieties of smut impregnate our culture at a sickening pace! Immorality and carnality abound – they have no limit, no resistance, no boundaries! The real, vital needs of the destitute and underprivileged are lost in a maze of welfare fraud, presumptuous sinners and vanishing spiritual leadership!

After reading II Chronicles 34, 35 again and again, I almost long for a Josiah to come and avenge the malignant rebellion of this indulgent and promiscuous age.

Please forgive me, but I am intentionally displaying a little jealousy for the holy and maligned name of a revealed Redeemer, Jesus Christ!

All too many of us have become too comfortable with the way things have developed in our perverted society! Oh, that God would give us continued grace to both exemplify His holiness and His compassion! Oh, that we would be pricked to make Him known.

Peter stated, as quoted above, that we who know the imminent judgment of the unredeemed, ought to diligently live holy and Godly in this generation! Paul said, "Knowing the terror of the Lord, I persuade men!" Jude said to show compassion, pull the perishing from the fire and keep oneself unspotted.

I urge you to pray with me for God's gracious hand to tarry. Oh, that our efforts, budgets, missionary zeal and purposes would materialize into unprecedented penetration of the city street!

The problems visible to our eye may be at first glance the corner-crowd and urban poor, but let me assure you as a Christian that in my 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. travels, you would be surprised who is in the crowd. As Moose Clubs, VFW's and VIP lounges empty their bars, revelling, perversion and breakdown of once sacred truths crescendo.

I pray for the day when we together make Christ's presence so available that sinners will find no comfort or escape from His attempt to reach them!

"May those in darkness be so aware of the light, that they must either be converted or constantly bear the discomforting presence of God's dear children."

Can we rest until we have exhausted awaiting opportunities and challenges? Is the local church going to meet the developing lostness of America's subcultures? Shouldn't the Bible-believing crowd lead the way in compassionate ministries to the real victims of sin?

Can you imagine someone saying, "I have a burden to fight fires but I do not think I want to bother with hoses, hydrants and trucks? Are we saying today that we have a burden to reach the poor but don't want to bother with housing and food? Are we saying we have a burden to reach the addicted but don't care to facilitate their need? Could we be saying that we want to reach young people but do not care to provide alternatives for their recreation and idle time? If we were going to fish or ski, just think what lengths and expense we would put forth to prepare for these pleasures. **Are we really expending any energy on the lost?** Am I?

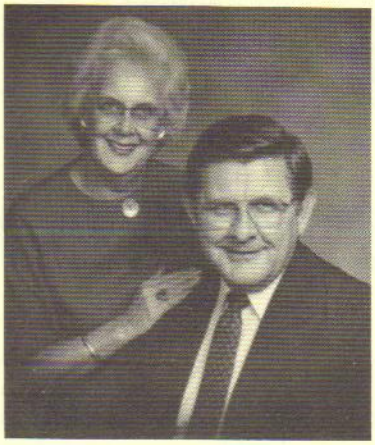
I close with this question – In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, what was it specifically that we were to go and do likewise? (Luke 10)

Most all of you are probably aching with me over these same issues. Before closing, please know that I am so excited to say that I have been meeting many pastors and churches who already are moving forward in tangible ways! One pastor really joyed my heart when he spoke of planting a church in the neighborhood long ministered to by their bus evangelism. As far as I am concerned, he's hitting the bull's eye of the Great Commission, as well as **touching Corrections where it hurts the most – the dying neighborhood!**

Most gratefully yours,

Jack Crans

Meet a Special Warden!



On Monday, January 12, I boarded an Air Atlanta Flight to attend my first National Conference of the American Correctional Association. Several goals were on my heart, a few of which I am not yet able to speak. However, there were two vital accomplishments I would like you to know: (1) I was able to make a first-hand assessment of the ACA's National Conference and its agendas and (2) I had the wonderful privilege of meeting some of the Christian leaders who exist within the ACA. I had specifically arranged for a private dinner with Retired Federal Warden, Mr. Jack Hanberry, of the United States Penitentiary in Atlanta. For the next few minutes, will you sit with me as I introduce you to a special Corrections family, The Jack Hanberry's.

The first joy of the evening was the meeting of Mrs. Barbara Hanberry, faithful wife and mother of two children, Cindy (21) and Scott (24). As we prayed to begin our fellowship at the Clock of Five Restaurant, I believe we all sensed the very special presence of Christ himself! Knowing the special strains of a pastor's wife, I was quick to discern the tender, wise expressions of this faithful woman who served supportively even in the eventual transition from Chaplain's wife to a Warden's first lady. What a marvelous testimony from a wife whose beloved husband sensed God's call and an open door to extend his ministry from Chaplain to that of a Federal Warden. Mr. Hanberry saw God's clear direction for his ministry and said with the Apostle Paul, ". . . a great and effectual door is opened unto me . . . " (I Cor. 16:9a)

In 1963, "Happy Jack" Hanberry (nickname) began as Chaplain at the Federal Correctional Institution in Denver, Colorado. Over the next nine years, he ministered the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Federal Correctional Institutions in Tallahassee, Florida, as well as Atlanta, Georgia. By 1972, it was evident that God had gifted this special servant for greater stewardship. Moving his loved ones to Kansas, he served there as the Administrator of Chaplain Services in Leavenworth and also as Executive Assistant to the Regional Director of the Federal Bureau of Corrections in Kansas City. These opportunities opened the unique door for Chaplain Hanberry to earn the position of Associate Warden of the Federal Correctional Institution in Texarkana in 1974. By obvious commendable leadership, he was assigned the Warden's post at the FCI in Milan, Michigan in 1975. Through the many years of transition and growth, he was awarded the difficult, yet highly regarded position of Warden at the United States Penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1977. Until July 3, 1986, the Jack Hanberry family resided in Atlanta and served this walled institution of stone and steel. The daily population exceeded 2300 Federal prisoners many of which were Cubans.

Reflecting back on this brief history, I could only imagine the special grace and strength which God so liberally extended to the children and wife of this Christian Warden. They each beamed with the joy of their Savior and humbly expressed their lessons and leanings upon His wisdom and counsel for their lives. God opened great doors and by faith the Hanberry's stepped forward – time after time – city after city – institution after institution. They trusted God to keep them and mold them for His glory! Scott and Cindy both love the Lord and this Warden's family survived the struggles and assaults that unquestionably accompany the high office of Warden.

I would like to recall a few special memories of this precious mealtime fellowship. First, **unique pressures confront a Warden and his family**. Beyond the accountability to the Federal Bureau of Corrections and political pressures, the Warden always faces the close and often critical eye of community, press and various interest groups. Maintaining family wholeness and mediating for staff needs often requires long hours and unselfish commitment of care. **He served with a balance of love and firmness and spent himself daily on behalf of inmates and staff.** Secondly, they recalled together the frightening November day in 1984 when 534 inmates took over Cellblock B. Although $15,000 of tear gas was expended, the Lord miraculously delivered all lives from injury. **Mrs. Hanberry recalled again and again, the necessity of trusting God for her family's well-being!** Threatening phone calls and harassment are part of being a Warden. Again, **it was the grace of God that they credited with their daily strength and peace.** Thirdly, Mr. Hanberry lived by the expression, "God loves you and I love you, too!" **He believed that right was right and wrong was wrong and trusted God to honor obedient decisions.** Whether inmate or staff, he "agonized" over his responsibility for each life under his care. As a Warden, he knew that **he was making recommendations and decisions that would effect homes, marriages, children and community.** Fourth, if he had the power to change anything in Corrections, it would be to more clearly inform the public of the efforts being attempted for the well-being of the inmate and institution. Concerning the often critical public, he commented with concern: **"We often 'fail' to do in two years what the home, church and school have failed to do in 30 years."** Lastly, Mr. Hanberry favors Capital Punishment for clear, decisive offenses and regrets that the courts have made the actual process so lengthy and drawn out. Death row can endure for a man up to 12 years or more. His desire would be to see justice honored within 6 months of a conviction.

Allow me to conclude with one final comment made concerning the Church... **He expressed a loving concern that the believing Church become more explicit in its attempt to reach and restore the ex-offender.** Too often, the ex-offender has his hopes and dreams frustrated in his return to the Christian community.

The Hanberry's faithfully worship and serve in continued Church minis-

tries, and often he preaches throughout the country. As advocates of the lives behind steel doors, **they cry for a caring, loving, active and visible Church.**

In conclusion, please know that the personal warmth of Christ was in the Hanberry's. The Federal Corrections System lost a great, exemplary leader. Pray for the Hanberry's as they continue from Lilburn, Georgia, to lead Hanberry & Associates (International Prison Consulting) and work with the Immigration Office towards the Cuban crisis in U.S. prisons. His company also assists in the assessment of Correctional Security Systems both in the U.S. and abroad.

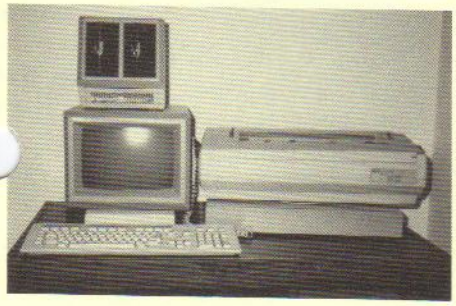
To God be the glory for these very special servants! May God continue to bless Corrections with such families as the Hanberry's.

A Letter From Linda

"It is of the LORD's **mercies** that we are not consumed, because His **compassions** fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy **faithfulness**."
– Lamentations 3:22, 23

Just as Jeremiah in the above lament points out God's mercy, compassion and faithfulness to His chosen people at a time of great chastening, I cannot help but be amazed, also, at God's continual mercy, compassion and faithfulness in 1987 to His own!

Speaking of faithfulness, note the picture of our brand new Exxon word processor. I have waited a long time for this and am anxious to have it operable. Please pray that I will learn it quickly and will have wisdom in working out the 'bugs'. (God made me a creative not mechanical person, so this will be another test of my patience when the 'bugs' appear and frustrate me.)



God continues to bless us here at CCGM so much as we see the Holy Spirit working in the lives of so many. It's most exciting to see the effectiveness of our unique ministry to Wardens. We praise God for only positive feedback and certainly we trust Him for continued opportunities for the spread of the Gospel and the development of fellowship groups!

A Discipleship Facility: It's Time Has Come!

Two specific facility/properties are now being seriously reviewed for extending the ministry of discipleship for believers confronting drug and alcohol abuse. One property is an inner city structure, while the other comprises an 18 acre retreat site. The purchase costs will be in the amount of $85,000 to $150,000 depending on the specific site and facility chosen.

It is our sincere conviction that such a facility will especially serve the Church and believing community in southeastern Pennsylvania. Pray for our final decision in this matter and consider God's will for your involvement.

Beginning this month, we feel it most necessary to begin a fund **long-needed** for this great challenge. If you feel led to give financially, designate your gift towards the **"Facility Fund"**. It will be our privilege to monthly report your actual interest in such a vision.

January's Overview

Home ministry to Coatesville youth continued daily.

CCGM basketball team began its second season. Monday evenings they scrimmage and practice at Coatesville's Scott Intermediate High School. We lost to Philadelphia College of Bible by two points and have just been invited to play our second game at Chester County Prison. All practices and games end around God's Word.

Attended the American Correctional Association's Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Presented this ministry to Bible churches in Harrisburg, Upper Darby and Lewistown and Manna Bible Institute.

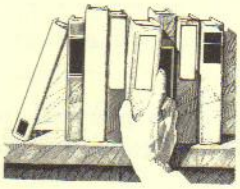
Weekly ministry was carried on at Chester County Prison in both Maximum Security (Jack) and Women's Section (Linda).

CCGM Board of Directors met for their quarterly meeting.

Visited Graterford State Correctional Institution and interviewed Superintendent Zimmerman.

Led youth retreat for Calvary Baptist Church in Bristol.

Investigated facilities for discipleship ministry.



From The Bookshelf

This month we invite you to read the book, **True Success**, written by Dr. William T. Monroe and published by Sword of the Lord Publishers.

Important Post Card Enclosed

January 1987 Report

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

County Corrections Gospel Mission

Warden's Corner

As you can see, our map is filling up. This month 8 Wardens received Bibles, those being in the counties of Crawford, Warren, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Philadelphia (Graterford), Dauphin and Somerset. (Note: Somerset has already been colored in, but they have since hired a new Warden.)

Below is a letter from The Deputy Warden of the Pre-Release Program in Philadelphia! How we praise God for your financial gifts which allow God's Word to go forth!

RECEIVED

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
PHILADELPHIA PRISONS

PRE-RELEASE PROGRAM

January 27, 1987

Mr. Jack Crans, Director
County Corrections Gospel Mission
P.O. Box 1136
Coatesville, PA 19320

Dear Jack:

I thought I would take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the wonderful Bible you gave me at Christmas time and for the many prayers that you have offered to the Almighty Savior in my behalf. I will not only cherish the Bible but I will follow the Commandments set forth.

The letters that I receive from your office since I have been a Warden in the Philadelphia Prisons System have been an inspiration to me. They have assisted me in providing good leadership and making sound decisions. I look forward to receiving them on a regular basis and I will also share them with my staff.

May God continue to shine his everlasting light on you, your family, and staff.

Your Brother-in-Christ,

Preas M. Groome I
Deputy Warden
Pre-Release Program

PMGltms

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Tripler Update

We are pleased to report that Stu and Nancy now have $310 a month pledged towards their financial support for coming on staff with CCGM. We are anxiously awaiting for their full support of $1500 to come in. Continue to pray about your role in their lives - a $5 monthly commitment goes far. Send the below response to our office if you are interested. Maybe your church would be interested in financially supporting them. Feel free to contact our office or Stu and Nancy directly at 53 Glenview Road, Glen Mills, Pennsylvania 19342.

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: _____

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