CCGM

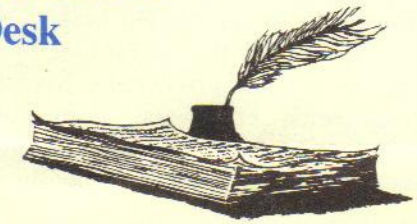
THE CONTENDER

July 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 Fellow-Helpers of the Truth:

Within the texts of John 1:29 and Revelations 5:6 are two wonderful "beholds". Each call us to adore Jesus Christ. One heralds Him as the **Lamb of God** while the latter as the **Lion of Judah.** One proclaims His redemption while the other His reign. One rejoices in Christ's sacrifice for sin while the other rests in Christ's rule as King.

Grace and truth meet in Jesus Christ! The Cross declares as much the beauty of redeeming love as it does the blackness of punished sin. On one hand we deliver the graces of God while on the other the unchangeable and irrevocable authority of God. As Lamb He saves and as Lion He rules. On one hand He's Savior, on the other hand He's Lord.

The daily application of the Gospel to the fabric of American society is constantly effectual in the wonderful relation of these two descriptive names, "lamb and lion". Daily we declare His invitation of love while at the same time His call to repentance and obedience. It is undeniable that the ark of Noah was as much an offer of salvation as it was a declaration of judgment.

"Now thanks be unto God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of His knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savor of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savor of death unto death; to the other, the savor of life unto life. . ." (II Corinthians 2:14-16)

Whether it is a letter to wardens, a prison visit, an opportunity to attend a Law Enforcement Conference, a personal crisis or an outreach into a housing project, the declaration of Jesus Christ must be paramount! We share great joy with you in presenting the LION as a LAMB and at times if necessary, present the LAMB as a LION! There are circumstances and behaviors that need gentle love and circumstances and behaviors that demand stern rebuke.

This ministry and those belonging to the heralding of the Cross shall ever live in the tension of presenting Christ as Lamb and Lion.

There is a time to sing, "Jesus Saves" and a time to sing, "Jesus Shall Reign". We ask that you might pray that we might know both meekness and boldness in this day of grace. Pray that we might penetrate dying, rebellious cultures while at the same time effectively confront the dilemmas of man's continuous rebellion against truth. Doors keep opening, yet we must more and more rest in Him that we might declare without hesitation the powerful unavoidable Christ of Calvary.

What an exciting, dynamic truth: He is the Lamb and He is the Lion! Oh, that we might behold Him in all of His glory and majesty!

I write,

With awe of Him,

Jack Crans

A Letter From Linda

I wanted to first pause and thank you so much for your care of me these past three years through your prayer and financial support. Your support has certainly brought forth God's work in me as He's put so many people and experiences in my life which have caused me to grow and draw nigh to Him.

I had a most wonderfully refreshing two weeks away, and I mean refreshing! The Holy Spirit worked so much in my time of rest through teaching me some precious truths from His Word. It never ceases to amaze me how His Word (and only His Word) feeds and satisfies my soul and spirit when I am still before Him, and as a result the Lord has given me such a rich and joyful perspective of who He is through the study of His Word, and it keeps getting richer and richer. No matter where I am in my walk with Him **He always has more for me . . . more till I see Him in glory!** I hope you never get so busy, busy, busy in your doing, doing, doing that you never have time to be feeding, resting, and abiding in Him! You miss out on so many of the

Continued on next page.

Letter - *Continued*
beautiful spiritual blessings and even the leading of the Lord.

My Scofield Bible Correspondence Course is going real well. I'm only on Lesson 2 but I'm learning all about the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew and all I have to look forward to!

This office is in such order and just ready and waiting for another secretary! I even came one Saturday morning to clean the office from top to bottom. I was so very careful in moving around my word processing system, but needless to say when I came to work on Monday it did not work. Clair Leaman (who is my repairman) was on vacation for three weeks. After three days Word Processing did work, but not Accounting. Hence, many of you have had your receipts delayed this month. . . sorry! What can I say but I'm not a mechanical person!

With all my heart, I leave you with this verse which I pray becomes your everyday experience, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the **communion of the Holy Ghost,** be with you all!" II Corinthians 13:14 Out of our communion with Him flows ministry!

In His grace,

Linda S. Ingham

Social Dynamite

By Jack Crans

The family has steadily eroded despite the social and political conservation of the 1980's. Writing in the "substantially revised" second edition of *What's Happening to the American Family? Tensions, Hopes and Realities,* Washington researchers conclude that increasing out-of-wedlock births, continuing growth of female headed families and a rising number of children living in deprivation are among "deeply troubling" changes in the American family structure.

The researchers noted a climb to 23 percent in 1986 of out-of-wedlock births. This figure is up from 5% in 1960. "If trends continue, **out of wedlock births will soon overtake divorce** as the primary cause of families headed by single mothers" they write. Children living with a single parent has climbed to 24% and cohabiting couples has increased to 2.3 million, doubling since 1980.

The so-called traditional American family is no longer dominate. **Just 10% of American households are now made up of a bread-winner husband, homemaker wife and children.**

Current projections indicate that 54% of first marriages by women ages 25 to 29 will end in divorce and about half of all children living in the United States will live with a single parent at some time before their 16th birthday. For black children, the number increases to nearly nine out of ten.

How can we as Christians not be aggressively active in ministry to this broken society? If statistics remain true, the present capacities of mental health and Corrections facilities shall yet demand excessive and costly expansion. May it be as true of the Church that we might grow and expand to meet the challenge!

Mandatory Sentencing For Drug Dealing Approved

On March 25, 1988, Governor Robert P. Casey signed into law House Bill 668 (now known as Act 31 of 1988) which contains mandatory sentencing provisions for convicted drug traffickers. The mandatory minimum sentences range from 1 to 5 years in prison and vary according to the type and amount of controlled substance involved.

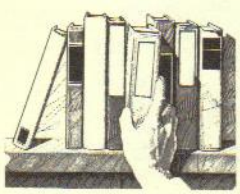
The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, working in conjunction with the Sentencing Commission, has provided estimates on the impact this newly enacted legislation will have on the Department of Corrections during the next several years. They predict that after five years of enactment the Department could receive between 543 and 916 new commitments. Based on those projections, we estimate that our costs will be approximately $11 million annually in operating expenses, and $44 million in one-time construction costs.

American Correctional Association Conference August 14 - 20

At this year's ACA Conference in Denver, Colorado, it will be CCGM's privilege to be networking an exciting meeting which will bring together leaders from Prison Fellowship, Bill Glass Evangelistic Association, Institute for Prison Ministries and many other representive ministries for the purpose of better coordinating an **all out effort to encourage and stimulate a most needed fellowship for Corrections leadership in the United States.** All have agreed that the need is long overdue. We are most privileged to have the participation of several Corrections leaders who have expressed a most earnest desire for such a fellowship.

Sandy Cove Hosts LAPD

Deputy Commissioner **Bob Vernon** of the **Los Angeles Police Department** (LAPD) will be the featured speaker at Sandy Cove Bible Conference on Sunday, **August 21 at 3:00 p.m.** This unusual opportunity is already exciting the hearts of many Law Enforcement and Corrections officials in the Philadelphia /Washington area. Mr. Vernon is an exemplary peace officer whose prestigious example has excited many to stand strong for Christ while performing their duties as peace officers and Corrections personnel to the highest honor. A special meeting is also planned with the Commissioner of Philadelphia, Mr. Willie Williams. Please pray that God might use these networkings for His glory!



From The Bookshelf

This month we recommend the reading of *The Strategy of Satan (How to Detect and Defeat Him)* written by Warren W. Wiersbe and published by Tyndale House.

"In Wake Of Deaths, Experts Warn Of Satan's Lure"

(This article is quoted from the Philadelphia Inquirer, January 25, 1988)

"After an eighth grader's fascination with Satanism culminated two weeks' ago in his mother's murder and his own suicide, authorities cited Thomas Sullivan's fascination with Satanic images, his drawing of strange beasts, what they called his obsession with a heavy-metal music that makes explicit reference to the devil and his immersion in the game Dungeon and Dragons, and most of all his transformation over the last three months into a rebellious and rude adolescent.

"They say that the number of adolescents dabbling in black magic is on the rise. These experts say that many teenagers, unhappy at home or school, choose to channel their rebellion into Satanic rituals and violence. Many teens were first exposed to such ideas through the songs of such heavy metal musicians as Motley Crue, Ozzy Osborne, AC/DC - Def Leppard. According to these experts, the songs which extol violence against women and use Satanic imagery are marketed with an eye to boys in their early teens.

"From 1% to 3% of heavy metal fans become seriously interested in the occult, according to Sandy Gallant, a San Francisco police officer who specializes in ritualistic crimes. Gallant said, the music convinces them that 'Satan is going to give them control over their lives and others. It's going to give them a sense of presence.'

"Juvenile dabblers in Satanism think: 'Maybe if I conjure the devil, I'll have the power to change my stinking life', said Larry Zilliox, Jr., Director of the National Cult Awareness Network of New York and New Jersey. Gallant said teenagers turn to Satanism when they fail to obtain what they want by adhering to conventional moral teachings. They often see themselves as more intelligent than their peers and believe they should be exempt from restraints imposed by society. Part of the Satanist's belief system is that you don't have to abide by the rules of society. You can set up your own rules and guidelines. You create your own system.

"Gallant attributes the growing interest in Satanism to change in American Society, 'It's more me-oriented now then we-oriented. We've become extremely materialistic, a society that wants everything now. The kids feel there is no future, that nuclear war is a reality in their lifetime. Satanism, she said, promises gratification immediately."

What you have just read, I hope, can in some way still shock you. For if we're past feeling, I greatly doubt any possibility of a missionary enterprise. You have just seen described many characteristics of Satan's counterfeit answers to the wonderful hope and purpose made possible in a life through a relationship with Jesus Christ. It is quite interesting that the secular press recorded the above article and we as members of Christ's body ought to be pricked the more to continue heralding the good news of Jesus Christ. In Him is a presence and power that makes life worth living. May God help us to hate complacency!

Note: Since writing this article, I have received a publication of the Pennsylvania State Police containing 12 pages of investigative studies on "Satanism: The Law Enforcement Response". What wonderment I now am experiencing as I want so much to respond to their discoveries of Biblical truth and present day influences such as the "heavy metal music phenomenon". More on this in our next Contender.

Been Thinking... About The Cross

By Martin DeHaan
Radio Bible Class

Without the Cross, the Bible is no comfort. What could be more threatening than to read hundreds of pages of legal requirements, every line of which exposes our personal failures? What could be more discouraging than to read page after page of instructions, all of which are beyond our ability to follow?

Without the Cross, the Bible is a dangerous book. Every page is like a many-sided razor blade. After leafing through the writings of Moses or the teachings of Jesus, our hands should be covered with blood. Every principle cuts deep into the flesh, which has so consistently fallen short of God's unreachable standards.

Without the Cross, the Bible destroys me. I read it for strength, but every statement shows my weakness. In principle, I have broken every law in the Book. The worst of my efforts are like federal offenses, each of which demands the death penalty. The best of my own efforts turns out to be no better. Everything is polluted by my own selfishness. Nothing is clean. I have not loved as Christ loved. I have not obeyed as He obeyed. I have never served as He served. I have never worshiped or prayed or listened or talked as He did. All of my own best efforts really are like filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6)

But praise God for the Cross! Every sin is paid for. The Cross has turned the Bible from a hopeless indictment into an endless source of wisdom, counsel and strength. The Cross has turned the Bible from a warrant for our arrest into a statement of our freedom in Christ. Because of the Cross, James could call the Word of God the perfect law of liberty! Praise God for the Cross! Without the Cross, we'd all be dead!

Pennsylvania State Police Call Of Honor

I am a Pennsylvania State Policeman, a soldier of the law. To me is entrusted the honor of the force. I must serve honestly, faithfully, and if need be, lay down my life as others have done before me, rather than swerve from the path of duty. It is my duty to obey the law and to enforce it without any consideration of class, color, creed or condition. It is also my duty to be of service to anyone who may be in danger or distress, and **at all times so conduct myself that the honor of the force may be upheld.**

July Report 1988

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

County Corrections Gospel Mission

Oak Street Project — August 15 - 19

The Faith Church of Worcester, Pennsylvania, pastored by Sam Seymour, will be sending a mission team to Coatesville for the purpose of stimulating greater hopes for a fall program that will include Bible clubs and growing penetration of homes and families of the Oak Street Housing Project. This will be accomplished by spending a week in work projects which include the beginning of renovations in a community center as well as reconstruction of playground areas for the children. Great support has been given already by the Housing Authority offices, and we are convinced that active participation of the local church here in the Coatesville area shall give rise to our expectation of God's glory being seen in this particular marketplace of our cities' need. Please know that volunteers are needed to assist not only in special work projects but even more importantly interested children's workers are encouraged to apply. Perhaps this is an opportunity for your local church and missions program to effectively target a specific group of people for your 1989 goals. We praise the Lord for Faith Church and their vision to be involved.

For more information, please call us at anytime.

7 leaders of the 20 member mission team from Faith Church of Worcester.

A small portion of the Oak Street Project.

One of the playgrounds of the Oak Street Project.

Filled And Overflowing

"Oh, to be filled with the knowledge of God's will! To be so filled with the presence of the Lord Jesus, so one with Him that His life may flow through our veins; that He may borrow our lips to speak His messages, borrow our faces to look His looks of patience and love, our hands to do His service and our fe to tread His weary journeys. The dear Master can never be weary again by the side of any well, but we may be weary by the side of many for Him . . . **Remember that the Lord's work is not our work for the Lord but the the Lord's own work through us and others.** He will not fail or be discouraged."

— Hudson Taylor

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