CCGM

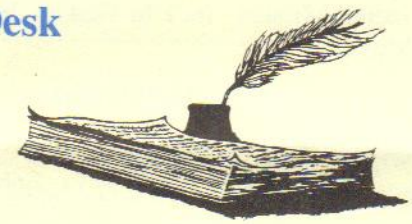
THE CONTENDER

June 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 Faithful Friends:

What can I say of the needs that I haven't already said? The harvest truly is great — the laborers few. Daily we are confronted with open doors — buildings need to be acquired, missionaries need to be appointed, broken homes need to be mended and our central office functions to maximum proportions.

Perhaps my thoughts are best brought to the front when you prayerfully consider the following letter reprinted from Sudan Interior Mission's 3/4/88 publication, *''NOW''*:

MEMO

TO: Chief Subversion Officer, Conspiracy Department, Agency for World Spiritual Conquest

FROM: Underworld Agent 666

SUBJECT: **Enemy Strength in the Homelands**

Dear Chief:

I must thank you for giving me this assignment. It has inspired me with new hope for winning the world for the Prince of Darkness. I admit that at first I wondered what had possessed you, if you'll pardon the expression, when you asked me to investigate conditions over here. I figured I could be doing more for the cause at my usual job in what these people call ''the foreign field''. But I see the shrewdness of your plan. If we know how the enemy stacks up at home, we can plan our strategy more effectively.

My assignment, specifically, was to appraise the major strengths and weaknesses of the home churches and relate them to their missionary efforts. **Are they really gearing up to fulfill the Great Commission as they call it?** How effective are their recruitment programs? How much ground are they winning on the home front?

I have the answer, Chief. They're bluffing. Before I infiltrated the local churches — the evangelical ones, that is — I had heard so much about prayer warriors and personal evangelism and ''sharing the good news'' that I was scared stiff. And the first few sermons I heard were so scriptual they left me absolutely limp. I trembled at the thought of scores of people going forward for salvation.

I needn't have worried. Christians don't bring unsaved people to their churches. In fact, half the Christians themselves don't show up on Sunday evening. I was alarmed about that for a while, thinking they were out ringing doorbells or having Bible studies with their unconverted neighbors. But the pastor assured me they were only watching TV or having a late supper, or something.

I admit that the missionary emphasis in some churches is frightening, but thanks to superb work by our agents, most congregations haven't caught on yet that missions is evangelism, and that **evangelism begins at home.** They have the idea, and we must encourage it, that missions is a cause somewhere else in the world.

Because of this, some of the missionary conferences I attended were an absolute pleasure. At first I was uneasy at all the reports of what was happening abroad, and all the films and videos and things, but when I found out that the major concern was the big thermometer at the front of the church, I was able to relax. ''Get the ribbon to the top!''. . . that's the thing, Chief. When the thermometer bursts, the missionary emphasis is over.

On a few occasions, mind you, I have been unnerved by the response to the call for commitment to missionary service, but usually those who come forward aren't followed up, and after a few months all is forgotten.

Now, back to those thermometers. There's a very important truth hidden in their ribbons, Chief. It seems that many people will give of their money rather than of themselves. They don't want to get involved in something as personal as somebody else's relationship to God, so they give money instead. In fact, it's a heart-warming experience to see people promise funds to send someone else to Ouagadougou, but never say a word to their next door neighbors. Anyway, Chief, when it comes to money, you're to be congratulated in your magnificent deception tactics. Through your entertainment strategy alone, some of these people, especially the young ones, actually give more to our causes than to their own.

You realize, I trust, that I have been speaking in general terms. I haven't singled out those churches that are really causing us trouble, partly because you are so painfully aware of them already, and partly because it hurts me to put their successes down in writing. Fortunately, there aren't very many of them.

As you can imagine, the atmosphere in those churches is downright

Continued on next page.

Memo - *Continued*

oppressive—what with their emphasis on obedience and **those dreadful prayer sessions.** That's the part that's really dangerous, Chief — the praying. I'm worried that these people are discovering our weakness. **I hope I'm wrong, because you know as well as I do how much damage just one person can do to us through prayer.** But most of them haven't caught onto that. If they had, more of them would be working at it, and we'd face utter disaster.

I suppose I should put in a word about family life, although with the conditions I've already spelled out, it should hardly be necessary. You can imagine how little we have to fear regarding any influx of missionary recruits when parents make little or no effort to encourage their children to volunteer. According to one survey I read, fewer than 40 percent of families in evangelical churches have any direct share in supporting a missionary. They may contribute through their churches, but thermometer ribbons don't have much going for them compared with the interest parents would create in their kids if they got involved in supporting a real live missionary.

And listen to this, Chief. It'll really make your day! Less than one-third of those families even have daily devotions together! Dare I say "Hallelujah"?

Stack that up against the brainwashing we are giving them on TV, the temptations of society, the pressure to succeed financially, and the general attitude of "I'm all right, Jack" and we're safe in assuming that missions will be hard put to maintain their present strength.

My carefully considered opinion, therefore, is that the homelands are safe, Chief. Our enemies are suffering from the most deadly weakness of all—**they are not in touch with their Leader.** If they were, we'd find ourselves back in the days of the early church, and I, for one, wouldn't want to go through that again. **Our real opponents are the ones who spend time with their Leader every day.** Then they go out and tell others. They're the ones we have to watch out for. But as I've already pointed out, there aren't very many such people around. Most have been sidetracked into a concern for minds and bodies, and have forgotten that missions is a soul business.

In summary, Chief, I think it safe to say that barring the dreadful possibility of spiritual renewal, we've got it made.

Cheerfully,

Agent 666

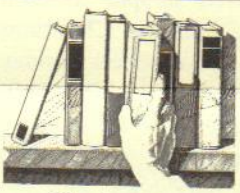
Your evident love and commitment to each of us kindles our increasing hope for great revival. I trust the above article seriously quickens our thinking regarding our testimony in this world system. The unseen war and all of its strategies must be taken seriously if we can expect God's blessings at all. **May our beliefs stir convictions and our convictions yield a burden and our burden blossom into opportunities bathed in prayerful faith!**

As always, you are indispensible to us!

I love you,

JACK CRANS

Shakida's family
(L. to R.) Sherie, Kevin, Shakida, Malik



From The Bookshelf

"Ledger Lines" from Lenny Seidel. This four-page newsletter is often a powerful source of information related to music trends which warrant Christian concern. It can be obtained through Grace Unlimited Ministries, 7124 Freshaire Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22153

"The Church Before the Mission", a tract written by Don Fredericks of United Indian Mission. It clearly defines the priority of the Church and Pastor in missionary preparation. It can be obtained through United Indian Mission, 2920 N. 3rd Street, P.O. Box U, Flagstaff, Arizona 86002.

Worship: The Unavoidable Priority of Ministry

I was recently very much encouraged and challenged by the wonderful example of Mary of Bethany as she modeled love for Christ in both Luke 10:38-42 and Mark 14:1-9. To complete the blessing, I received the following song sent and written by Martha R. Gushee, missionary to the native Americans who serves under United Indian Mission, Int'l in Gallup, New Mexico.

A Perfect Heart

A rushing stream diversified will quickly lose its power,
But channeled through steep canyon walls, it causes men to cower.
And so a beam of light diffused can never spark a flame,
But focused through untinted glass, makes fire no man can tame.

A perfect heart, Lord give to me;
That I may love you perfectly.
A perfect heart, wholely for You;
That others may see Your power through me!

So my heart diversified, goes wandering away;
Uncertain as to goal or aim, meandering through each day.
O, how I need to live for You with undivided mind;
And point the way with perfect heart, that others too may find...

A Perfect Heart, Lord give to me;
That I may serve You faithfully.
A perfect heart, wholely for You,
That others may see Your love through me!

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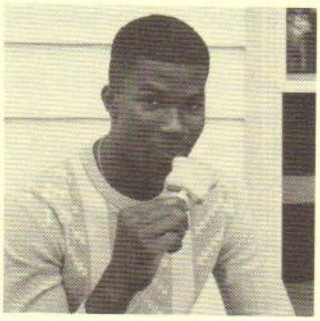


Mike Robinson - Young Christian friend to CCGM

Introduce Your Friends To CCGM's Ministry

We would be most honored and encouraged if you would prayerfully consider who else you think should know of this ministry. If you would send us the name and address of a potential ministry partner, we will send them a complimentary copy of *"Rebirth of America"* published by the Arthur S. DeMoss Foundation. Your prayerful consideration would be most appreciated and will certainly be a wise contribution to our expanding vision.

Warden's Corner

This month CCGM distributed two Bibles to two new Wardens in Pennsylvania. One warden just sent us a listing of the Directors of the 15 Community Service Centers in Pennsylvania as he feels they would benefit from our monthly letter.

U.S. Department of Justice: Obscenity Report

Between 1981 - 1985, reported child sexual abuse rose by 175% and estimates of juvenile prostitution ranged from 100,000 - 200,000 children on the streets daily selling their bodies for their pimps. The rape rate has skyrocketed 700% since World War II, up 43% in the last decade with the highest incident of rape victims being teenagers between 16 - 19. Recent studies of rapists reveal that a vast majority regularly consume pornography with 57% admitting actual imitation in the commission of their rape. a 20-year Michigan state policy study reveals over 1% of all sexually violent crimes involve hard core pornography either during the commission or immediately preceeding it. Chief Daryl Gates of the Los Angeles Police in the recent Commission Report stated that organized crime controls 85-90% of the estimated $7-$10 billion obscenity industry.

Fact: **The largest consumers of pornography in America are teenager boys and girls. Nearly 90% of all adolescents have examined pornographic material during the impressionable years between 13 and 15 years of age.**

What You Can Do

If you would like to receive information about how you can run a campaign against pornography in your city, contact:

National Coalition Against Pornography
800 Compton Lane
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231
(513) 521-6227

A Foreign Missionary Comments On America's Need

Dear Jack:

Our hearts are with you all the way concerning your burden to see the Church penetrating the urban areas here in the United States. There is no question that this area of need is a "mission field" and the meeting of this need is long overdue. There is no question in my mind that inner-city ministry here in the United States is every bit as challenging and certainly more risky than anything we have encountered in faraway exotic places like Borneo and Sumatra, with their dense tropical jungles and widespread wildlife. **So called native savages who come from a headhunting ancestry are not nearly as intimidating as a major city street gang that is often crazy with drugs.**

We have called our organization "Worldwide" Tentmakers because we see a mission field that begins right outside the doors of the church. The mission field of yesterday has moved right into our backyard. There are almost as many languages spoken in New York City as there are in the other population centers of the world. If you are burdened for a particular people you can find them there.

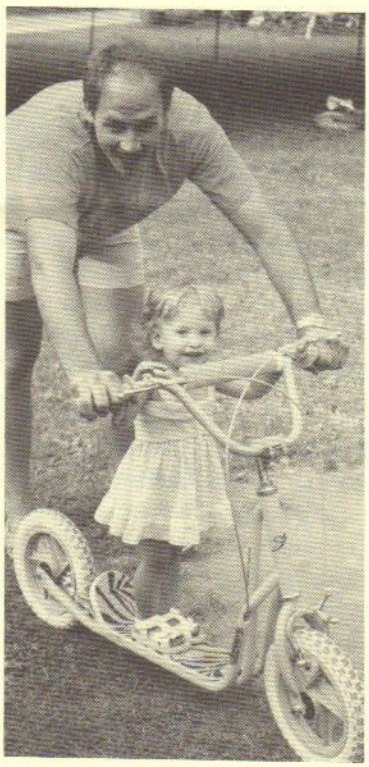
I think we need to be challenging our churches with the need of people who have a burden for missions trusting the Lord to take jobs in inner city locations and then take up residence there near their place of work with the objective of being a living life and testimony in both the workplace and the community which will lend itself to an active witness that can result in home Bible studies and an eventual local church in that area

The lines which have been drawn between foreign and home missions are becoming fainter all the time. I have always been burdened for the peoples of the world who have never heard (to the point of understanding) a clear presentation of the Gospel message, but that classification of people is no longer excluded to far away places, and in most cases there are people like that within a reasonable driving distance of most of us.

We are praying for you in earnest, and we are in full support of what you are doing. Our time is short but the Lord is able.

Tom and Selva Kweder

(Tom and Selva Kweder now direct Worldwide Tentmakers, Inc. in Anderson, South Carolina, and just recently left many years of ministry under New Tribes Mission.)



Stu Tripler w/daughter Johanna. We'll miss ya!

June 1988 Report

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

County Corrections Gospel Mission

Pray For These Critical Needs

1. Secretary and Missionary Staff
2. Home for Shakida's family — Pictured on page 2
3. Discipleship facility
4. Chester County Prison Ministry
5. Oak Street Housing Summer Project
   — Faith Church, Worcester
   — Housing Authority Staff
   — Mrs. Milbourne (President of Resident Council)
6. Corrections and Law Enforcement
   — Administrators and growing Christian Fellowship
7. Replacement for Stu Tripler for at least SESTU ministry
8. Growth of new converts like "T-Bone, Beaver, Shannon, Winkey"
9. Family of Tina Marie Sullivan (Recent murder victim whose funeral I conducted)

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Quotable Quotes

"People become Christians only when a Christward movement begins in their society."

"In whatever man does without God, he will either fail miserably, or succeed miserably." — George MacDonald

"...He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God."
— II Samuel 23:3B

So Send I You

"We are not called to protect gates; we are called to attack them. One of the problems we face as Christians is that many of us have developed a "protectionist" mentality about our relationship with the world. We build our fortresses and spend all our time manning the walls lest the enemy should catch us unawares. Nothing could be further from the Biblical view of our relationship with the world. Their gates are to be attached and our walls are to be torn down."
— Steve Brown