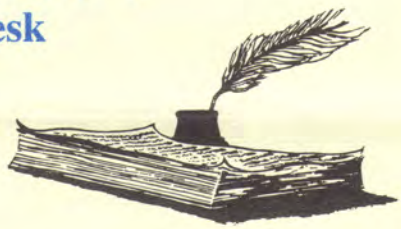
THE CONTENDER

June 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 Beloved:

"For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ!" — II Cor. 1:5

There is so much I've come to love in the character and ministry of the Apostle Paul. His tenacity for ministry was unparalleled apart from Christ and his constant impact on people was symbolic of the indwelling Christ.

In reading his second letter to the Corinthians, his experience of Christ in his life is so clearly manifested. What Ephesians and Colossians and Romans are to us doctrinally, II Corinthians is to us experientially. I challenge you to read this most encouraging letter of a Christian missionary. As summarized in the above verse, he learned how to abound both in suffering and hope. Christ was clearly his center point.

I so often need to be reminded of the spiritual conflict of this age. Reading of the war that rages against the Christ and His servants is one thing; experiencing it is another. Oh, to be able to stand like Paul and be able to say: "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of His knowledge by us in every place." (Chap. 2, V. 14)

Paul knew so well that he was only an "earthen vessel" who possessed a treasure. The manifesting of Christ in his life came by distress, by despair, persecution and by being cast down. He looked toward the unseen and like his Savior, set his fact like flint. He sought the glory of Christ in his life.

Please read his letter! I write to you today, identifying so very much with his themes. Perhaps, like myself, you may need the practical examples of Paul's painful course. Would you notice his love for the saints and his unwavering commitment to go forward? Would you hear his painful testings and his confident waiting?

Oh, dear one, can we enter the Scriptures and still be raptured in its truths? Aren't the fresh winds of the Holy Spirit blowing through you as you study these sacred pages?

I thank my God for Paul's testimony of praise and zeal for Christ's keeping of his life. "For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God..." (13:4). What a contrast! In weakness there is power.

If you haven't read or identified with Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, you would never identify my deepest heart's burden today.

The longer we serve in ministry and expose ourselves to the perishing souls around us, the more we understand the serious and costly calling of missions. Going for the jugular vein of the enemy is no small affair. "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have our conversation in the world . . ." (1:12)

Love in Christ,

Jack Crans

Leadership Bible Training Institute Opens

By Jack Crans

This month of June saw the occupying of the Lancaster farm for the building of the Leadership Bible Training Institute program. Mr. Shannon Butterfield is the in-house director of the men's residence and Mr. and Mrs. Alan Clark have just settled into the staff apartment. Although three men have already been admitted to the program, we want to carefully construct the curriculum and training materials. Already it is quite apparent that we must carefully monitor the admissions procedure as we could easily fill 16 beds with immediate requests for acceptance.

Shannon has led a successful month of ministry in June in preparing the grounds and facilities for opening. He has been a great encouragement to my heart and has been kept quite exhausted with the needs and demands of the men already in residence. Just today, as I write, I am preparing to interview a parole officer concerned with our admitting a dear brother from Frackville State Prison and also anticipate another man's entry. Please pray for grace and wisdom for both Shannon and the Clarks in these tender and vital weeks of adjustment.

I am placing great responsibility on Shannon and Alan for the maturing of LBTI. The focus and reputation of the farm is most definitely going to be the Scriptures and their application of our national dilemma as reflected in Criminal Justice and our city streets.

Nothing short of long hours in the Scriptures promises so much fruit. "By

Continued on next page

LBTI Opens - *Continued*

reason of use'' we anticipate with great confidence the impacting of God's Word on our men. The moment they enter the program we emphasize leadership. The hope of our greatest dreams rests in the power of God to change hearts and minds by the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God.

As you well know, this ministry can only mature and continue by the hand of God's blessing. We want you to know that we welcome donations of food, good men's clothing and prayer. The income of the Leadership Bible Training Institute is now in the hands of God. We must trust Him for food and maintenance of our staff's needs. Perhaps now is the hour that you personally would respond to this ministry. All gifts continue to be received through County Corrections Gospel Mission, but we will appreciate that all gifts to the LBTI be clearly designated.

God has provided the seed money for the Leadership Bible Training Institute. In just months, however, God's people will either have responded to the continued financial support of the work or the opportunity ceases. We can only labor faithfully and await God's ultimate will and blessing.

Please address all correspondence concerning the LBTI to our Coatesville address. If you desire to write an encouraging letter to Shannon Butterfield, Alan and Judie Clark, or our men, just write to: Leadership Bible Training Institute, 442 Old Strasburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602.

Warden's Report

Two Bibles were sent this month, one to a Warden in Florida, and one to a Chief of Operations in California. Both were acknowledged with grateful appreciation.

''I defend the Bible in the same way I defend a lion — I open the cage and let it out.'' — Charles Spurgeon

Children's Summer Bible Clubs

By Sue Crans

''All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.''

— II Tim. 3:16-17

This is one of our Kid's Club Bible verses for the month of July—why not memorize it along with the children? We hope to continue full force during the summer months. I thank the Lord for added volunteers that He has brought to us for this time. They will give Betsy and me a break and someone else an opportunity to share in the blessing.

Our emphasis during the next 2 months will be twofold. Our lessons will be on the theme of ''God's Word''. How did we get God's Word? and Why do we believe God's Word? The children will be learning the books of the Bible and other vital facts. Betsy will be sharing the life of David and how the Lord had His hand on his life even in days of his disobedience.

I wish you could hear our kids sing — they love to sing! Carol McAdams has been helping us for many weeks in this most needed area of Club. Drop by any Thursday at 4:00 p.m. and I'm sure you will hear the singing from the parking lot.

Pray that the Lord will really bless over the summer. We have a few special events planned for the children. A church will do a Bible School for us, we will be taking a day trip to Sandy Cove Bible Conference, and another church will do ''Christmas in July'' for us. Hopefully, this continuation of expressing Christ's love will have a really profound effect in not only the children's lives, but the lives of their parents.

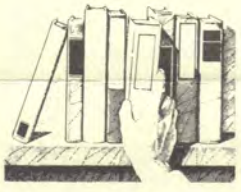
One closing concern...if anyone has a dehumidifier which could be given to us, it would needfully relieve a tragic situation of mildew in our Kid's Club building.

Thank you for your listening ear and caring heart. Please continue to pray on behalf of this ministry.

Pastor Leland Dittman Joins CCGM Advisory Board

We are pleased to report that Pastor Leland Dittman of Coatesville Presbyterian Church has joined our advisory board. Pastor Dittman brings to our ministry a Pastor's heart and insight into the needs and directions of our mission.

Pastor Dittman was married in 1961, after discharge from the Marine Corps, to his lovely wife, Lenore, but his search to fill the void in his life led him through politics and business, before the salvation and witness of a friend, formerly living a hippy lifestyle, led him to the knowledge of the offer of Christ's fulfilment. It was during his son's severe illness that Pastor Dittman realized the depth of God's love in giving His own Son to die for his sin. Surrendering to God's great love and conviction, Pastor Dittman went on to Bible School in preparation for the ministry. He also served as Chaplain for the Pittsylvania County Jail in Chatham, Virginia. Currently holding his Doctorate of Ministries from Antietam Biblical Seminary, Pastor Dittman is Senior Pastor at Coatesville Presbyterian Church in Coatesville, Pennsylvania.



From The Bookshelf

Freedom and Authority

by J. I. Packer
Published by International
Council on Biblical Inerrancy

The giving of decisive direction is what authority is all about. This 32 page booklet draws the great relationship of authority and biblical inerrancy into a clear and unavoidable relationship.

American Correctional Association Congress

August 13-17, Baltimore,MD

Jack will be attending the ACA's Summer Congress at Baltimore, Maryland on August 13-17. The Director of Corrections for the District of Columbia, Mr. Hallem Williams, Jr., announced the theme to be "Facing the Crisis in Corrections: Vision and Shared Responsibility". An event such as this occurs twice annually, bringing together Corrections leadership from the entire nation. It is our desire to soon represent our heart's burden in the exhibit area of these conferences. Our burden is unique to such an atmosphere, and certainly should be represented among the hundreds of vendors who busily promote their security, food and medical products. Those in Corrections administration who do assemble at these conferences spend considerable time visiting the displays and sampling their products.

Please know that we would hope to complete the exhibit hardware and script of our conference display by September 1. This would allow us to seriously consider placing our burden for Corrections administrators in future conferences of the ACA, the American Jail Association and the Pennsylvania Wardens Association, each meeting twice annually.

Boys At Juvenile Detention Center Touch Hearts

By Jack Crans

The young men of South East Secure Treatment Unit have been gracious hosts to visiting laymen of several area churches. The iron doors are unlocked to allow the entrance of Christian tradesmen each Tuesday evening. Small engine mechanics, an electrician, masons, engineers, carpenters and a welder have in one degree or another impacted these precious boys. Those being touched the most are the visiting men themselves.

Mr. George Welsh of Pequea Baptist Church has had his heart profoundly touched by the needs and the burden of these incarcerated boys. He has seen their hungry response to men who are willing to be consistent in their personal lives. One boy was so responsive to his masonry instructors that upon his release he was given the opportunity of working in the same masonry business. A welder has seen two boys trust Christ as Savior as he has been able to weekly spend himself on their behalf. A recent meeting of the Christian tradesmen revealed their earnest desire to continue their ministry through the summer months.

Consistency and faithfulness to the boys is the key, says Mr. Kenny Roberts of SESTU's administration. His urgent cry is for the caliber of men and women who will commit to SESTU's boys. The heart's burden of our own Governor is that the broken lives of incarcerated children be touched and impacted by faithful volunteers.

Mr. George Welsh will be spearheading the growing ministry at SESTU. He needs your prayers and personal support. His heart has been tendered by Calvary and he so earnestly desires greater and greater ministry on behalf of SESTU's boys.

Although we began with sixteen men, nearly half have for one reason or another been unable to continue. The number of boys far exceeds the present burden on the eight remaining tradesmen. Quite frankly, many boys are unable to participate at all due to the need for more laborers.

George Welsh's heart has been broken for these wonderful boys who have been incarcerated in our own back yard. He sees far beyond their crimes and has come to see boys for whom Christ died. He sees the sons of broken families. He sees their honest and real desire for consistent love.

You can talk to George Welsh personally at 384-4592, or write to him concerning your own involvement by sending your letter to P.O. Box 1136, Coatesville, PA 19320. Please note: SESTU's boys need more than tradesmen; they need committed believers who will love them consistently in any area of their lives. We want to boldly and clearly declare the need and desire for men of all ages. **Perhaps you are retired and praying for an opportunity to serve Christ.** This could be the great fulfillment of your heart. Have you ever imagined what it would be like for SESTU's boys to come to know men of age and experience who know and exemplify the character of Christ? You can almost be sure that the average boy at SESTU has rarely, if ever, known the love of a Dad or Grandpa.

In closing, remember that we even desire the assistance and involvement of the women in other capacities which might tender the hardened but so hungry hearts of these boys.

Please write and help make this aspect of ministry a growing and prospering testimony to your state's whole juvenile justice system.

Women in Prison—Facts

By Jack Crans

The nation's female prison population is exploding, largely because of drugs. In the last eight years, the number of women in state and federal prisons nationwide has risen from 13,420 to 30,834 according to the U.S. Bureau of Criminal Justice. It is estimated that more than 85% of those female inmates are mothers; many penal institutions have set up nurseries to care for their children.

June Report 1989

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

County Corrections Gospel Mission

CCGM Newsletter to be Published on Alternating Months

The Contender newsletter has been published monthly since 1984. The growing list of interested readers has increased to almost 1900 by 1989. The cost of printing has always been carried by the gracious heart of Leaman Advertising, Inc., and the postage has monthly been a costly item to CCGM's monthly accounts. As you know, we attempt to bring an overview of our burden and activity in each issue of *The Contender*. Our heart's concerns and thoughts are communicated to you as faithfully as possible. In short, thanks primarily to Mr. Clair Leaman, we have been able to bring you an excellent monthly update.

Beginning in August, we will be preparing *The Contender* on alternating months. Although many will still be receiving a personal letter from me, we are convinced it is good stewardship to curtail postage expense and a lessening of demand on our gracious printer.

Please respond to our "Important Notice" request and help us establish an accurate and improved mailing list. Many individuals are being asked to continue reading our burden as expressed in *The Contender*.

Finally, do know that **we shall be more personally addressing our most faithful supporters and friends.** This is a most difficult work and certainly cannot afford to curtail the continued need for clear expression of our activities and concerns. I personally want to thank those of you who have been so prayerfully and conscienciously close to this ministry. Be assured that we look forward to a continued rapport with you. Thank you for responding and know that we rejoice in your steadfast support.

Important Notice

The Contender mailing list has grown considerably over the last four years. **We need your help** in assisting us in the updating of our interested readership list. Please fill in the appropriate spaces and return to CCGM, P.O. Box 1136, Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320 immediately, **if you wish to continue receiving *The Contender*.**

I, _____ (Name), of _____ (Address)
am an interested reader of *The Contender*. Please keep my name on your interested readers' list. I **do want** to continue receiving *The Contender*.

Thank you!

_____
(Signature)

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Bible Institute
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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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