THE CONTENDER

March 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

SPECIAL BULLETIN

"America, You're Too Young to Die!"

"As believers, we must learn to live balanced lives in a society that will only get worse because **we are not the salt and light we ought to be."**

Dear Beloved:

Oh, how I praise God for you all! Please forgive my zeal, but I must highlight a very precious opportunity. On **Monday evening, June 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Coatesville Area Senior High School,** County Corrections Gospel Mission will be hosting an evangelistic outreach with strong patriotic themes. **Life Action Ministries** of Buchanan, Michigan, will be presenting, **"America, You're Too Young to Die".**

Let me share a few reasons why I am convinced this meeting is so vital:

1. **The evening's theme and program shall be an excellent opportunity to draw lost men.** Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no burden, people **surely** perish."

2. **Christ shall be preached and the ...er open for decisions.** Romans 10:14, 15 says, ". . .how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things".

3. **We at CCGM need a special night of fellowship with you.** I John 1:3,4 says, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His son, Jesus Christ."

4. **Those who are redeemed must be more visible in their witness.** Psalm 107:2 says, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!"

5. **America (certainly Coatesville) needs Revival.** Ezekiel 3:19 says, "Yet if thou warn the wicked and he turns not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity, but thou has delivered thy soul."

6. **The timing is excellent as June 15 is specially located between Memorial Day (the Constitution's Bicentennial Celebration) and Independence Day.** Esther 4:14 says, ". . .who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

7. **Veterans groups, Law Enforcement, Corrections and Government personnel will be personally invited to attend.** Read Romans 13:1-4 and Proverbs 29:2.

Our intention is first to call lost lives to faith in Christ, then to encourage the local church and finally to fellowship with you!

I know that many of you are beyond access to this special night, but we still need your vital prayers and concern. Others of you are close by – will you pray? Will you volunteer your home for housing one or two young people for an evening? **Will you participate?**

Please call or write our office and know **we will be very encouraged by your zealous response!**

> "If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, Then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." – II Chron. 7:14

Thanks for caring to participate! Please know that this event deserves our front page!

For Calvary,

Jack Crans
I Samuel 12:24

March Overview

> "And when they were come, and had gathered the Church together, they reviewed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles." – Acts 14:27

What special days to exalt Jesus Christ! I often live in the tension given to each of us of "putting off" the old man and "putting on the new." (Ephesians 4:17-24) On one hand I enjoy the excitement of wearing the protective clothing of His armor (Ephesians 6:10-18), but admit to often experienced battles wherein I know the destructive terror of the enemy. (Ephesians 6:11; I Peter 5:8)

My joy has come in weekly visits to

Continued on next page

March Overview - *Continued.*

Chester County's Maximum Security section where progressively we attempt to handle the Word of God amidst precious souls. Some of these men are quarentined with AIDS while others mirror dependency related to deep personal crisis.

Pastors meetings and Missions Conferences encouraged our hearts and the appreciative tears of Wardens blessed our feeble efforts.

Teenage youth at South East Secure Treatment Unit are anticipating our growing involvement, and the most cooperative director welcomes our input.

Meeting with Law Enforcers excited us both in local small groups and a city-wide prayer breakfast in Philadelphia's Fraternal Order of Police.

Coatesville's outreach only crescendos with each passing day. The touching of police, the addicted, the gay and the youth!

Ministry to high school students challenged us in visits to the contrasting character and reception of public and Christian schools.

Labor went forth in the final preparation and proposal for purchase of the Old Mill Bible Conference facility. A decision is now pending.

Doors for ministry were opened in West Philadelphia and Norristown, and six county prisons were visited with the Word of God.

I could go on and on but perhaps need to ask you to open a door of utterance that we might personally rehearse the many agendas of God's challenging blessing in our lives!

I especially want to praise my Savior for a special family who I know have spent much for this month's agendas. To God be all my praises for Sue, Jon, Tim and Josh! Oh how I pray for His hand of care on their precious lives!

A Letter From Linda

"And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability (security) of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure."

– Isaiah 33:6

I am so thankful for my almost two years here at CCGM. This ministry has certainly made me know my Savior in a much more real and personal way, especially as I spend so much more time in His Word! I cannot encourage you enough to dig deep into His Word and meditate on the truths the Holy Spirit brings to your mind! Somehow in these busy, busy days we've lost the priority and blessing of spending time studying His Word. What an inner joy, peace and strength comes from sitting at the feet of Jesus! The more time I spend at Jesus' feet, the more I **want** to give out to others not so fortunate as me! I recently heard a pastor state how thankful he was that God didn't allow circumstances to happen in his life before he was saved which would have caused him to spend an eternity without Christ! I had never thought of God's grace in my life in that way! It's so easy for us to either forget or be ignorant to the goodness and grace of God on our behalf!

God continues to open many doors here at CCGM, and to be quite honest there are not enough hours in the day to keep up with all the work. I constantly feel 'snowed under' even in these beautiful spring days we have been experiencing. Stu has been learning how to utilize the word processor for all of our various mailing lists. I have really appreciated that! (We are anxiously awaiting the day all three will be on staff – I am especially anxious to have 6-month old Johanna on staff – another single girl!!) Please pray concerning the development of an office staff as we are growing too fast for my hands to keep up with!

Paula and I will now be taking turns teaching at prison on Tuesday mornings. I am happy about this as it will not only free me for more of my own personal study, but it will also give her an opportunity to be so blessed in serving God this way! God continues to work in the lives of these girls!

As I close this month, may you take note of the verse quoted above which I think so beautifully promises us security in a day and age which so vividly evidences the total depravity of man in all walks of life! What a promise to those who desire and seek after wisdom and knowledge from our Lord and for those who truly understand all their salvation does for them.

Have a good month and saturate yourself in His blessings!

In His Love

Linda Ingham

Prayer Concerns

God's will in the final decision of Philadelphia College of Bible regarding our acquisition of The Old Mill.

The Crans family (Sue, Jonathan, Timothy and Joshua)

Linda Ingham (A great and "called-out" servant)

The Stu Tripler family as they seek support (see his letter).

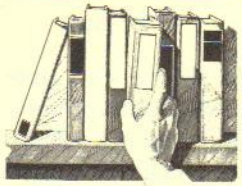
Word of Life International Basketball Marathon at Schroon Lake June 20–27. Scholarships are needed for 7 boys at approximately $160 per person.

Captain David Morrell (Philadelphia Police) for spiritual leadership.

Judge Nelson Diaz (Philadelphia Court Judge) for spiritual leadership.

Wisdom to determine priorities amidst many open doors.

Praise for God's unfailing provisions.



From The Bookshelf

The End of Man by John W. Whitehead and published by Crossway Books.

12 Sermons on Prayer by Charles H. Spurgeon and published by Baker Book House in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Living the Crucified Life

I said: Let me walk in the field.
God said: Nay, walk in the town.
I said: There are no flowers there.
He said: No flowers, but a crown.

I said: But the sky is black, there is nothing but noise and din.
But He wept as He sent me back, "There is more," He said. "There is sin."

I said: But the air is thick, and fogs are veiling the sun.
He answered: Yet souls are sick, and souls in the dark undone.

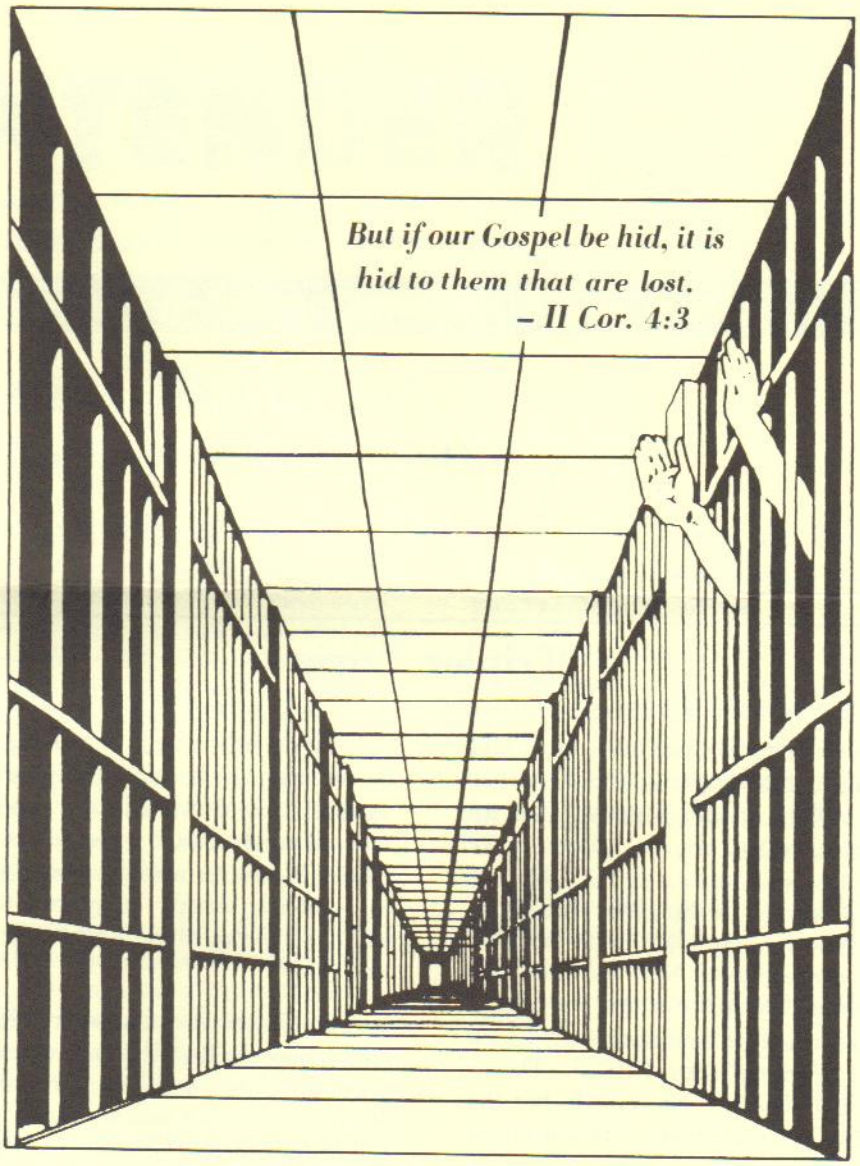
I said: I shall miss the light, and friends will miss me, they say.
He answered me: Choose tonight, if I am to miss you, or they.

I pleaded for time to be given:
He said: Is it hard to decide?
It will not seem hard in heaven to have followed the steps of your Guide.

I cast one look at the fields,
Then set my face to the town.
He said: My child, do you yield? Will you leave the flowers for the crown?

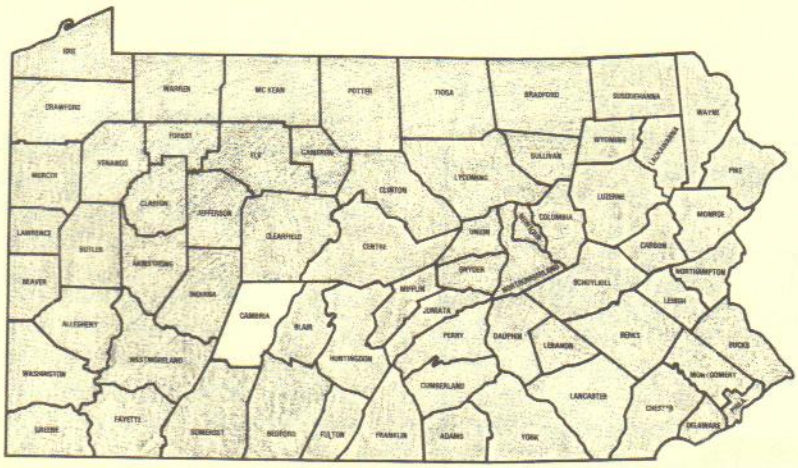
Then into His hand went mine,
And into my heart came He.
And I walk in a light Divine,
The path I had feared to see.

– Depicted rather well in the thoughts of George MacDonald



Warden's Corner

This month six Wardens from the counties of Bradford, Sullivan, Columbia, Union, Snyder and Bucks received Bibles.



A Personal Word

The Battle for our Nation's Future is Now in the Balance

Please pray with me as I want so very much to be in the center of God's perfect planning for CCGM. Needs are confronting us daily but certainly the Church must be mobilized. My earnest prayer is for a clearer dialogue with pastors! Pray!! Agonize!! Participate!!

March 1987 Report

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

County Corrections Gospel Mission

Tripler Trivia

George Muehler once said, "If we desire to strengthen our faith, we should not shrink from opportunities where our faith will be tried." Knowing that we would have to raise our support, we knew it would only be by faith that our Father who owns the cattle on a thousand hills would provide for us. We have been excited about how the Lord has encouraged us in numerous ways since last fall when we first approached Jack about working with CCGM. Things have not always been smooth, but the Lord truly has and will meet the needs of His children as they trust Him!

We are thankful for the opportunity to dip our feet into the work of CCGM. Working with the boys on Monday nights and occasional days in the office has wet our appetites to plunge in!! The opportunities the Lord provides for CCGM mound daily. Jack definitely needs help, and we pray that the Lord will enable us to encourage him with not just our willingness to serve but our physical presence.

Just last week, the Director of a juvenile detention facility encouraged us by saying that he would support the work of CCGM at his facility, and this will ultimately lead to a great impact for Christ! We ask for wisdom as we attempt to establish weekly programs which would encourage these young men spiritually.

Pray for the direction we are heading concerning the Old Mill as it would not only provide housing for Nancy, Johanna and I but also the ability to go full time with the Mission. We foresee our role at CCGM in the area of youth work and aftercare, both of which will be furthered by the acquisition of the Old Mill.

Pray that the Lord will provide our needed support to direct our total energies toward His work being undertaken at CCGM.

Because He lives,

Stu Tripler

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: _____

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