THE CONTENDER

May 1986

". . . 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

A Message From The Director

Dear Faithful and Understanding Friends:

Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus, the Christ!

If I were to title my letter this month, I would call it, **"The Insulting Assault".** In a nutshell, Satan leads a many-pronged assault on broken, lost humanity and quite frankly, we Christians should be insulted!

There is a lie being perpetrated in the lives of youth and adults today. Even children are captive to the superficial luster and deceiving appearance of its trade. This lie has a source of power second only to God himself. It's allurement and scheme is as pleasing as it is destructive. This lie manifests itself as the great pretender of success, and happiness yet is filled with the crippling potentials of the worst disease. Our souls should be more and more sickened by this great LIAR and his lies, and quite frankly, we can begin exposing him right now.

First, the LIAR was named by Jesus himself in John 8:44, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and **ABODE NOT IN THE TRUTH,** because **THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM . . . FOR HE IS A LIAR, AND THE FATHER OF IT . . . "** He was also named by Paul as " . . . the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience". (Ephesians 2:2) Elsewhere he's been referred to as "the king of death", "the ruler of darkness", "the deceiver", "the destroyer", "the enemy" and "the tempter." I want to go on record as believing in his existence. (I studied in seminary under a professor who denied his existence.)

We know from personal experience and also the understanding of God's Word that sin does not just invade us by some method of the LIAR, but we are sinners by nature, thus creating double jeopardy at best. Added to these two realities of Satan's program and sin's presence, we are reminded also of the allurement of this world. It is in the understanding of these three enemies that we can better know the devastating issue before us.

Allow me to take you into a moment's glimpse of a typical urban area. Please know that I am aware of dear, weeping saints in these same streets, but for the purpose of this article, I focus on the obvious. I observe a growing mood and behavior of **Practical Atheism.** By this term, I mean to relate the growing trend of godlessness. Those who are wealthy are often just as godless; however, it's the poor, visible, urban dweller we see. Though no one can truly admit to Atheism, behavior patterns and mores obviously ignore the reality of a God who has spoken His mind, displayed His love, manifested a Savior and proved His forbearance. All of these attributes have been seen in the various dispensations of history and in these last days most evidenced in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

". . . turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if He will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind Him . . . " – Joel 2:12-14

A public outcry of the Church against ungodliness is so needed while the license to sin has been comfortably granted to all who would so indulge even publically. Young ladies speaking perversion, drunkenness, loss of a work ethic (sloth), sexual perversions of all kinds, reveling (partying), carousing, idleness and disdain for that which is good and disregard for God-ordained authority only uncover the sore. It hurts much to say the following, but I am convinced that many do not want the things of Christ nor the cries of repentance and conversion. (Romans 1:32)

Young people today are being desensitized to any reverence for God, as a culture more and more accepts sin as a way of life. **No longer do there seem to be penalties or resistance to the public behavior of the Practical Atheist.** The LIAR says, "Be a father, but don't be a parent". The LIAR says, "Be a sloth, you couldn't get a job anyway!"

I echo with many, that it is time the Christian begins to address the issues and resist the present disintegration of America. **The LIAR continues his assault – it's time to be insulted and agonize for Revival in the Church.** When Revival comes to His church, it will be evidenced in full pews **and** crowded altars. A mind and heart for the impending judgment of God will come pressing in . . . Nehemiah, Jeremiah, Josiah and Ezekiel wept and

pleaded for Revival. In each situation, **the people of God had been disobedient in their culture.**

Oh, The LIAR! How obvious are his schemes and deeds. **Does our callousness and insensitivity allow him to operate so openly? Are things so bad that the devil need not even be cunning?**

We are not naive to the path of the wicked, nor are we blind to the pregnant lies of Satan. Though we echo a painful reality, there are a few things we want the revived church to know.

1. **The Bible-believing, obedient church** is the only organism through which **God's great program** of evangelism and discipleship will be met.

2. Missions like CCGM exist only in submissive, faithful cooperation with the believing church. At best, **we serve the church** in spear-heading the eventual need for the ministry of the local church.

3. **Our greatest burden** is for the effective work of the local, Bible-believing church in high-crime areas. Where the church already exists faithfully, we **encourage** and **assist** ministry. Where the church is not operating faithfully, we will work towards the **planting** of a permanent ministry outreach and discipleship; consequently, another church would result.

4. CCGM is listening to the counsel of God's pastors, and we will pray and labor for a useful and **effective training seminar to help equip** those churches needing assistance in the **penetration** of urban/cross-cultural neighborhoods. Our goal for completion of this project is October 1986.

We love you all and know that we are only continuing by your faithful prayers and gifts.

In His Vineyard,

Jack, Sue and boys

A Thought: "Humanism is not new. It is, in fact, man's second oldest faith. It's promise was whispered in the first days of the creation under the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; ye shall be as gods."

Authority – Part II

In our April "Contender", we made the statement: "Except for those still moored in the Scriptures, there remains no longer even the awareness that Authority implies accountability."

What a privilege to be in authority! To be among those who lead and direct. But what if my leading is misleading and my direction wrong? Am I responsible for those in my charge? To Ezekiel God said, "... if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity: but his blood will I require at thine hand." Here we see tremendous obligation laid upon the head of preachers for failing to preach and warn the sinner! (33:8)

David's sin caused the death of his son and the rebellion of another. The rule of wicked men causes mourning of the people and the sins of the fathers visit succeeding generations. There is definitely going to be life of responsibility drawn from the actions of those in authority and those under their care.

Without hesitation or apology, I have no doubt as to the universal application of II Timothy 3:16, 17 to all spheres of authority, whether in government, church or family..

"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."

To be the authority God has delegated us to be, it is most helpful to accept the following truths from this statement of Paul to Timothy:

FIRST: God has literally breathed into WORD His unchanging will.

SECOND: This WORD is the Bible, God's perfect and preserved revelation. All of its words are of God, not man.

THIRD: All portions of His WORD are useful and life impacting.

FOURTH: His WORD is the DOCTRINE or absolute standard of TRUTH. Negotiation, debate and tradition must yield to its supreme teachings.

FIFTH: His WORD will reveal error and transgression thereby uncovering wrong paths. Hence, a warning of disobedience is revealed.

SIXTH: His WORD will reveal right paths and actions. It will direct one to right and conforming patterns to TRUTH.

SEVENTH: His WORD when daily used and meditated upon will train and mature its adherant in consistent godliness and favor.

EIGHTH: His WORD assures wholeness and strength.

NINTH: His WORD equips and suits us towards the accomplishment of performing up to our fullest measure and delegated tasks.

I submit to you, that an authority figure in any level of structure in society who adheres faithfully to the authority of the Word of God shall consequently labor for the success and peace of succeeding generations.

As we look back on the earlier article of this issue pertaining to the LIAR, note emphatically "that the truth is not in him".

II Chronicles 34:19 ***"And it came to pass, when the KING (authority) had heard the WORDS OF THE LAW (scripture) that he rent his clothes . . ."***

e Result – A generation of repentance, reform and reading of the Word of God.

A Thought: Revival – the inrush of the spirit into the body that threatens to become a corpse!!

Board Member Spotlight

This month you will be hearing from Dr. Joseph Eckman.

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to be serving the Lord as a Board Member of County Corrections Gospel Mission. I have a great and growing respect for Jack Crans. I have known him since he was first called to prison ministry, and I have watched him grow in his commitment to the dispossessed. Jack and Sue personify the incarnation of Christ to the streets of Coatesville.

Like Jack, I was born and raised in Coatesville, and grew up in a fine Christian home. I grew up under the istry of Dr. Hans Evans at Coatesville Presbyterian urch where I met my wife, Ellen Ann. After two years in the Philippines as a navy dentist, I returned to Chester County and established my dental practice in Kennett Square. We have been in Kennett Square since 1970 and are actively involved in Willowdale Chapel along with our two children, Kathy Ann (13) and Joey (8).

Please continue to pray for the work of CCGM as God continues to work mightily.

May's Overview

Home and Headquarters . . . Constant, daily contacts with Coatesville's youth and adults. New computer donated to our office. Sue's always busy cooking, cleaning or doing laundry, plus she counsels and loves our many visiting friends. NOTE: City life has led to new puppies in July!!!!

Wardens and Correctional Staff . . . Monthly letters touching all Wardens in Pennsylvania, as well as growing list beyond Pennsylvania. Attended Pennsylvania Warden's Symposium and had the opportunity of dialoging with many Wardens. Wardens were visited (Lebanon, Franklin and Berks Counties), tracts published by CCGM d Bibles were carefully distributed. Superintendent Owens of the Philadelphia Prison System graciously shared in a Philadelphia Leadership Breakfast with Jack. We have been especially encouraged this month by letters from Wardens regarding our literature.

Youth Center/Housing . . . We have been exploring everything from old hotels to garages... from rural to city. Please pray and look forward to great progress and soon approaching maturity in this need. Visited "Freedom Gate" housing in Reading.

Addressed Churches . . . in Phoenixville, Coatesville, Parkesburg, Downingtown and Kennett Square.

Law Enforcement . . . Spoke to Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers in Franklin County. Please remember that we will be attending the Word of Life Week for Corrections/ Law Enforcement Personnel from July 12 - 19.

Chester County Prison Ministry . . . Weekly teaching and discipleship with both women and men.

Dialogue . . . with International Union of Gospel Missions regarding local church priorities.

Prison Seminar . . . Conducted first three day in-prison seminar at Wayne County Prison.

Content of Seminar: Proverbs 1
Romans 1 - 3; 6 - 8
Ephesians 6

Results: 14 decisions for Christ
3 church contacts
Building rapport with caring Sheriff/Warden Bluff

Chester, Pennsylvania . . . Met with five great pastors which now enhances clear and faithful cooperation of church resources for this troubled city.

A Letter From Linda Ingham

I haven't written for two months, but please know that I am still alive and well and very happy here at CCGM! The last two months have been very busy in the office as usual. As Jack stated earlier, someone donated a computer to CCGM for which I am very happy. This computer is for our mailing list only; it does not have the capability for letters, articles, etc. We will soon be receiving from Leaman Advertising an updated general brochure detailing the work of CCGM and updated prayer cards. Once again, we really appreciate Mr. Clair Leaman for his generosity and tremendous work accomplished on behalf of CCGM.

During the months of April and May, I had the privilege of speaking at five churches and also representing CCGM at the Manna Bible Institute Urban Conference. I spent the last week of May on vacation in Columbia, South Carolina, with some very special friends. I had a tremendously relaxing time, which prepared me to return to the office for the dictation of 80 letters, not to mention everything else I have to do!! (I am now dreaming at night what it would be like to have a word processing system to handle this heavy load!!!)

Our Bible study at prison is doing well. At times, however, it gets frustrating because so many girls come and go too quickly. This continues to prove to me the need for the local church to get involved in all aspects of

County Corrections Gospel Mission
P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

May 1986 Report

Corrections. Doris Haley and I cannot do the job on Thursday afternoons; Jack and Sue Crans cannot do the job; **but the local church can do the job through effective outreach into their own community!**

Along this same note, please pray for us at CCGM this summer. Many churches are desiring to be more effective in their community but are not quite sure how to go about such a great task. We are, therefore, going to be preparing a Seminar to take to churches to train them how to reach the street corner, the inmate, the family of inmates, etc. We're real excited about it, but it will take many, many hours of preparation and wisdom from the Lord!

It's hard to believe I have been here at CCGM for one year already! It's been a year of spiritual growth not only through the ministry, but through the teaching of the Word at Hephzibah Baptist Church. This last year has also made me appreciate more and more God's grace in my own life not only through my salvation, but also through His giving to me such a special mom and dad. God could have allowed me to be born into a family in the deep jungles of Africa where Christ is not known or taught, or He could have given me a dad that served me alcohol as a child, or dealt me drugs, or he could have given me a mom that taught me prostitution. But He didn't – He bestowed His grace on me and gave me parents that desired me to be conformed to the image of God and not the image of the world. I have seen too many broken homes, Christian and non-Christian, this past year, and I know that I want no part of that. **How I love my mom and dad, and how I love my Lord for being so gracious to me!** I challenge those of you who have come from a Christian background to drive through a ghetto area and **stop and look at the people standing on the corner or laying in the gutter with no home. Never forget that if it wasn't for God's grace in your own life it could be you on that corner or in that gutter with no home.** How I praise God for the health and sound mind He's given me. I can take no credit for what He's given me through His grace; I can only return to Him in love and through service what He has so abundantly given to me!

Please read this entire Newsletter as it cries to you, a precious child of the King and member of His Church!!

Prayer Needs

That God would give us **wisdom** in preparing a **semir** to be presented at churches to teach them effective ministry in their own community, high crime areas and prisons.

That we would **honor God** this summer.

That God would encourage and further burden **Bible-centered Chaplains.**

That God would direct and confirm His will pertaining to **youth center/housing** for discipleship.

That God would draw committed **staff** to labor under CCGM.

That **God** would be **praised and honored** for His faithfulness to us daily.

That God would return us to His Word and bring **revival** so as to touch the marketplace of lost thousands.

That God would bring **Justice and Peace** to the wife and six children of a Philadelphia "Peace" Officer just slain.

That God would touch the hearts and lives of boys at **basketball camp**.

Praise for the new assignment of Rev. Wilbert Brett to the Chaplain's position of **Delaware County Prison.**

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