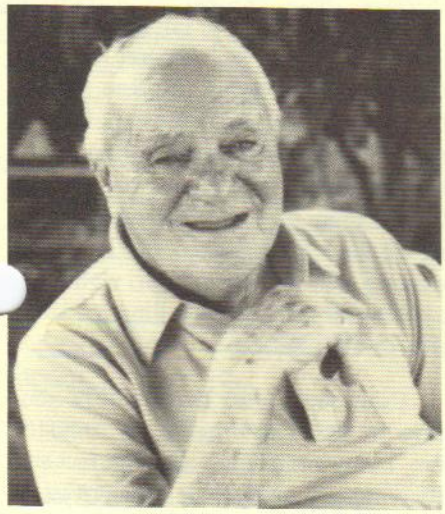
THE CONTENDER

May 1988

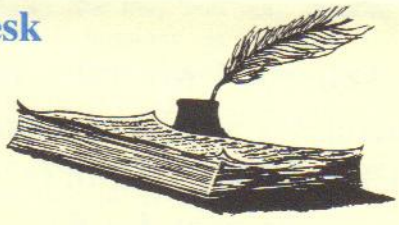
". . . it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith . . . " – Jude 3

Published for the faithful supporters of County Corrections Gospel Mission

This issue of the Contender is dedicated in memory of my most precious friend, prayer supporter and grandfather, the Rev. Raymond John Fredericks. He has come to know face to face Him who he knew so well by faith. He was called home to glory on April 24, 1988.



From The Director's Desk



"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." — John 10:16

When Jesus spoke the Kingdom parables of Matthew 13, He addressed the subject of a **hidden treasure** and a **pearl of great price.** Many great scholars, including C.H. Spurgeon, believed these parables to teach that men really convinced of the importance of salvation, will give up everything to win Christ and eternal life. The sinner sees in Christ an endless treasure and a precious pearl and will make any sacrifice to win Christ. Though sounding correct, there's error in this teaching.

In the parable of the hidden treasure, Israel is to go into hiding and Christ will suffer and die. Through the shedding of His blood, He will purchase the pearl. That pearl is the Church. **The pearl was to be a product of His sufferings.** "Christ . . . loved the Church and gave Himself for it." (Ephesians 5:25) He "sold all that He had, and bought it." (Matthew 13:46) He gave Himself for it "that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing: but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Ephesians 5:27)

In all of this we must not fail to see **the lowly origin of the pearl.** It began as a grain of sand amidst the mire and muck of the sea. "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt." (Isaiah 57:20)

The pearl is never formed instantaneously. It is not produced in a day or a week or a month or a year. Layer upon layer, over a long period of time, the pearl is produced. One of these days, and it could be soon, the pearl will be completed. **Through all eternity the whole creation will see the trophy of His grace produced through the sacrifice of His Son.** "Unto you that believe He is precious." (I Peter 2:7) "That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:7)

Herein is the joy of this ministry: To know the complete power of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to seek and to save the sinner! What a marvel to anticipate the transformation of broken, filthy sinners into the beauty of Jesus Christ.

"For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith." (Galatians 5:5)

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (Galatians 6:14)

With great hope in believing,
Jack Crans

God's Word Exalted at Commonwealth Prayer Breakfast, Tuesday, May 10

Over 300 leaders gathered at the Holiday—Inn Town, Harrisburg at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 10, to be graciously and boldly challenged by the keynote address of New Hampshire Corrections Commissioner, Mr. Ron Powell. His text was Jeremiah 10:23, **"O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."**

Commissioner David Owens had 100% attendance of State Superintendents and scores of Corrections/Law Enforcement executives filled the room.

Mr.Powell exalted the Scriptures as the Word of God and challenged Corrections leadership to prayer. " . . . there

Continued on next page.

God's Word - *Continued*

is no policy area or arena where there's a greater need to bathe policymakers and implementors of policy in prayer than in Criminal Justice, and I don't mean a brief nodding of the head prayer . . . I mean impassioned prayer, persistent prayer — prayer that is corporate. **Prayer is an admission that we do not have all the answers."**

He continued, "Prayer is the antithesis of this kind of arrogance, and pride and self-sufficiency — that we all have the answers — we can do it our way. Prayers today are an acknowledgement that the dilemmas of formulating sound policy in criminal justice is nothing less than the dilemmas of human nature itself. **Prayer today is also an acknowledgement that there is a spiritual dimension to our response to crime."**

He commented concerning drugs: "This problem is a deep, spiritual hunger and a deep spiritual impoverishment within the people of our nation. And the paradox is — the more we feed on drugs the more famine of the soul and spirit increases. The prophet Isaiah wrote, 'Why spend your money on what is not bread? And your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen to me and eat what is good and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.' " (Isaiah 55:2)

On and on the challenge rang — the address was simply overwhelming! I praise God for raising up such leadership for these challenging hours within Corrections.

— By Jack Crans

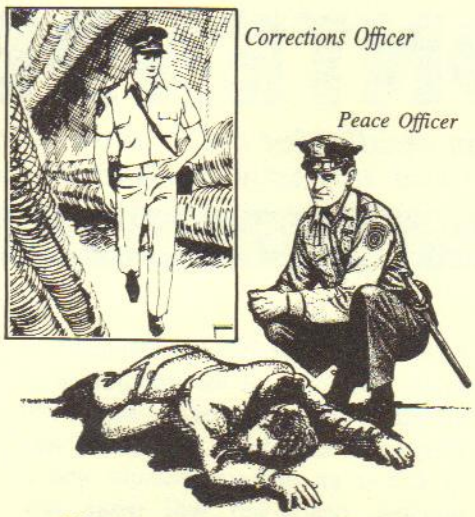
Bible Institute Scholarships

Would you begin to pray with us at CCGM regarding this exciting possibility Plans are in process right now to finance this special young man through Word of Life Bible Institute.

Shannon Butterfield

Righteous Authority

By Jack Crans



Corrections Officer

Peace Officer

The blood of the martyr has not recently been spilt on American soil. A conflict is arising and is ultimately inevitable, however, as the powers of this age and those of Christ's faithful come into an intersecting of ways.

We have long enjoyed the American privilege of free speech and freedom of religion, but are ever increasingly beholding the choking out of man's pursuit and hunger for faith in Christ.

Ours is a day of "open-mindedness". A day in which being "discriminate" is looked down upon — a day in which standing hard for anything can cost you your life. "This folly means that men are not permitted to seek for the natural human good and admire it when found, for such discovery is coeval with the discovery of bad and contempt for it." (Blum, "Closing of the American Mind")

The Bible clearly states throughout that, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." (Proverbs 29:2) It also states that, " . . . rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil . . . a revenger to execute wrath upon Him that doeth evil." (Romans 13) And finally, Scripture clearly implies that peace, quiet Godliness, honesty and even men coming to the knowledge of Christ is all assisted by the indirect, yet inseparable blessing of "all that are in authority" for whom we should be persistently praying." (I Timothy 2:1-4)

May we not take for granted the call to encourage righteous authority.

A Letter From Linda

God still has not provided someone to be full-time secretary to replace me. I do not always understand God's ways, but I know God is God and He is leading me and working His will in spite of what appears to be silence! What a comfort and joy to **rest in Him** and allow Him to have His perfect way!

I rejoice this month because I am starting the Scofield Bible Correspondence Course; a gift from my home church. This type of study fits my schedule real well. It is in three parts and I have until December of 1989 to finish part I. Please don't pray that I get good grades; pray that I'll be drawn closer to Christ through my studying and that God will use my study in the lives of the girls I am working with.

My Bible Study at jail continues to go well. As I have said before, I am getting to know so many of these girls in Coatesville, yet I continue to hold back in building relationships with many of them because I don't have the time to disciple them the right way while maintaining the full secretarial job. I am only working closely with one girl right now as that is all the Lord is telling me to do with my limited time.

Continue to pray that I will be sensitive to God's leading in my ministry here. I only want God's most perfect and satisfying will to continue. Thank you so very, very much for your love shown through your financial and prayer support of me!

Liberty University to offer "The Correctional Chaplaincy" Course — August 1 - 5

In cooperation with the Good News Mission of Alexandria, Virginia, Liberty University now offers this challenging study of prison ministry for students, pastors, chaplains, lay or professional Christian leaders. The course cost $177. We would recommend that you call or write: Liberty University, Box 20000, Lynchburg, Virginia 24506-8001 (1-800-522-6225).

Tripler's Departure

By Jack Crans

" . . . These only are my fellow workers unto the Kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me."
— Colossians 4:11b

At the close of the International Word of Life Tournament, July 2, Stu, Nancy and Johanna Tripler will be departing for Red Bank, New Jersey, where they shall assume leadership in the First Baptist Church. The Triplers have been fellow workers and comforts to CCGM. The burden of basketball ministries, SESTU, and myriads of helping roles have made them indispensible.

I rejoice for their new placement but sense great loss in their departure. My most sincere peace comes in knowing that they have labored well, exalted Christ and honorably carried out all functions with great grace. My heart is warmed at their success and surely anticipates hearing continued reports of their penetration of broken lives. Be it known that they shall carry our burden with them and by God's leading make a difference in the marketplace of New Jersey.

God surely blessed our year together.

Mistaken Church Mission Policy?

"Many churches have mistakenly set policy that they will only support "foreign" missions as opposed to "home" missions. Most people in these churches never realize that a vast part of what is called "home" missions is another culture with the typical language and religious differences that we find on the so-called "foreign" field. This erroneous thinking has allowed Satan and his emissaries to gain a greater and greater foothold among people he has enslaved for generations."

— Excerpt from United Indian Mission Executive Letter by Donald G. Fredericks

Word of Life Tournament News

By Stu Tripler

The college and career team sponsored by CCGM has won their second tournament championship! On Saturday, April 16, Youth Spectacular of Philadelphia hosted a basketball marathon. We sponsored both a high school and college age team at the marathon. While the high schoolers ran into stiff competition and took third, the "old men" went undefeated and captured their second trophy of the season. Jack was the featured speaker and during the invitation over 30 young people responded for salvation. One incident I want to praise the Lord for was the response of one of the high school guys. In the heat of the game, a young man challenged one of our guys to a fight. He looked at him then walked away. Praise the Lord for even little evidences of growth!

For Your Information

Four components of Criminal Justice:

Law enforcement: Responsible for the prevention of crime, investigation of crimes that have occurred and the apprehension of criminals.

Jails: Responsible for detention of accused persons prior to trial and, in some cases, for short sentence confinement and rehabilitation.

Courts: Responsible for determination of guilt or innocence and type of sentence.

Corrections: Responsible for long-term confinement and rehabilitation.

Secretarial Fund Started

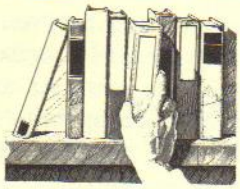
It has been decided by our Board of Directors that a Secretarial Fund be started. We believe that by starting this fund and watching our budget, we could hire someone who would not have to raise their own support. Some people who have financially supported the Triplers are continuing to support CCGM by way of this Secretarial Fund.

Quotable Quote

"I defend the Bible in the same way I defend a lion — I open the cage and let it out." — C.H. Spurgeon

Warden's Fund

This month one Bible was distributed to an Acting Superintendent of one of our State Correctional Institutes.



From The Bookshelf

"Teenager, Someone Does Care!" by Fletcher Brothers, Sword of the Lord Publishers, P.O. Box 1099, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37133

Summer Missions Project

Faith Church of Worcester, Pennsylvania, is planning a Summer Missions Project in the Oak Street Project of Coatesville. Pastors Sam Seymour and Dave Zipley are excited and challenged by their churches' desire to serve in this capacity.

Salt must be broken before it can be used.

County Corrections Gospel Mission
P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320
May 1988 Report

An Example of Godly Leadership in Authority!

By Linda Ingham

I know that I am a little prejudice, but how we rejoice today in the great leadership of my dear Brother-in-Law, Larry Scanlan! Larry has been the President of the Community General Hospital of Reading for almost two years. At his first Board of Director's meeting, he told his Board that he only operates on Biblical standards of leadership in maintaining a hospital. As a result, he has gained tremendous respect and honor from both his Board of Directors and staff.

One of his primary goals as President was to abolish abortions there. Due to the trust his staff and Board have in his Godly leadership, abortions were abolished on April 22 by a 12 to 2 vote of the Board of Directors! We praise God for the Godly standard raised in Reading, Pennsylvania!

Our respect and honor goes to Larry and his dearly supportive wife Patty (my sister)! An example to all of us to be faithful to Godly standards wherever we work!

The Path of the Just is as a Shining Light

"Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings . . .He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what the LORD requires of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" — Micah 6:6,8

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Pray for the Emerging Mission Field of the United States of America

"Yonder . . . is a gold mine. I will descend and dig, but you at home must hold the ropes."
— William Carey