THE CONTENDER

May 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

"And Pharaoh said unto his servants, **Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of the Lord is?"**

Dear Loved Ones:

I sat waiting to preach as a children's choir sang a beautiful musical which communicated the blessings of Joseph's life to both Egypt and his brethren. I wondered: "How can I weave my ministry burden into their wonderful songs?" Then, like a refreshing stream, God's Word came alive in my heart through the rediscovery of Genesis 41:38. The question posed by Pharaoh in the midst of his national crisis was the same question being cried today in the hearts and hopeless minds of lost men.

Pharaoh faced a coming famine that was only averted through the wisdom of God as given to Joseph. Though rejected by his own brothers and falsely accused of immorality and imprisoned, God did not forget Joseph. God exalted Joseph above all of Egypt and gifted him with wisdom and discretion to run a nation.

As I sit among gatherings of wardens, legislators and other governmental leaders, I am more and more convinced I hear the echoing of Pharaoh's cry: "Can we find a man in whom the Spirit of the Lord is?" The national dilemmas mount daily as great leaders surrender to despair and hopelessness. Speech after speech ends with the same tragic words: "We don't have any answers!"

As I've studied the prophets and also the lives of the great evangelists and missionaries, I've never failed to discover that **they sat among the people they were burdened to reach.** They felt the anguish of their generations and they stood like firebrands snatched from the fires. They were men and women who evidenced the company of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They were a blessing to their generations and a voice of hope and wisdom to the adversities of their day.

Jesus, had He been eulogized, would have had said of Him: "He was acquainted with grief, a man of sorrows and a friend of sinners!" Those who sit among the least and the lost must be acquainted with grief. Those who would dare sit among the sinners must be full of sorrows.

Herein is the wonderful secret and mystery of the Church: that we might present Christ and His Word to a dying, searching generation that, like Pharaoh, seeks a leader in whom God's Spirit is!

As Corrections only mirrors some of our nation's crises, may our hearts anxiously enter this fallen, broken world with the Word of Life.

"Now thanks be unto God which **always** causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour (aroma) of His knowledge by us in every place . . .For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ."

II Cor. 2:14-17

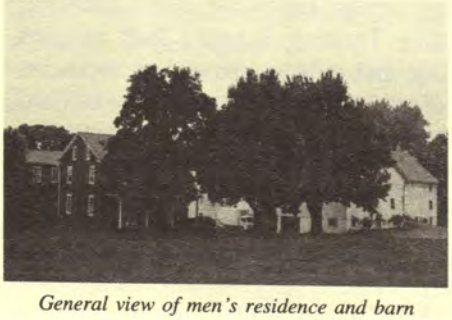
Leadership Bible Training School

(Lancaster Farm Update)

By Jack Crans

By the time you receive this issue of "The Contender" the farm should be occupied with residential staff as well as newly arriving men.

The last several weeks have been somewhat taxing with 4 acres of grass to mow and rake. God has faithfully supplied the needed strength, however, and the grounds look quite inviting to passing motorists.



General view of men's residence and barn

Alan and Judy Clark will be settling into the staff apartment with their two children and we anticipate resident staff to be soon situated in the large farmhouse. Mr. Paul Beyer, a gracious brother who serves the management needs of the barn and supply inventories for the Bowery Mission, has also been a daily blessing and helpful encourager.

Applications to the Leadership Bible Training School are already in process. Men whose lives have been pictures of hopelessness are anxiously looking forward to the blessing of being transformed through the teaching of God's Word. Men whose dreams for leadership have all but shattered are now facing the real

Continued on next page.

Bible Training School - *Continued*

possibility of becoming indigenous missionaries.

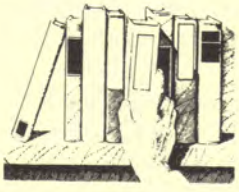
This new work is only going to prosper through prayer and waiting on God. The Scriptures will be paramount to anything while at the same time we are seeking to acquaint men with their new challenge to become leaders. Leadership is so needed in our streets. . . leadership is so necessary to each man's personal success. **Leadership best described is Lordship.** The farm will be a great setting where men who would lead will find Christ Who is Lord!

Staff apartment, classroom and garage

We are asking God to supply the supporting funds for the Leadership Bible Training School. Staff salaries, food and utilities are our greatest concerns! The Clarks are coming on faith in God's supply. We are venturing forward with a prayerful trust in God's provision.

Please intercede for us. This is no small undertaking and the dimensions of our vision extend deep into the enemy's territory.

Although we cannot afford losing support for the maintenance of CCGM's present ministry outreach, we do ask God for **new** financial support to "CCGM (Leadership Bible Training School)".



From The Bookshelf

Answers to Prayer, by George Mueller, published by Moody Press, Chicago, Illinois.

A Historical Note On Revival

By Jack Crans

One of the most heartbreaking issues in all revivals is the resistance often led by established "church" organizations. Whether Moody, Sunday, Wesley or Paul the Apostle, there was always a cynical resistance movement. While John Wesley prayed and labored to reach coal miners of England, the established church resisted his effort. What most aggravated the occasion was his effective ministry of planting new churches for England's coal miners. The result: Revival!

The Battle Of The Prison Bulge

The battle rages between the advocates of mercy and the advocates of justice. Here is voiced one side of the costly debate.

If the threat of prison is to discourage persons from becoming criminals, it must be a credible threat. It must be backed up with actual prison terms. In contrast, a Bureau of Justice Statistics study of prison entrants in 1979 found that, at the time of their admission, 28% would still have been in prison on an earlier conviction if they had served their maximum prior sentence.

Recent American history suggests that **reductions in the certainty of imprisonment** will lead to higher crime rates. When chances of imprisonment were high, crime rates were low. **Crimes deterred by available prison space are another cost savings to society that should be weighed against the costs of prison construction.**

New prisons cost between $50,000 and $100,000 per bed space. But the cost of **not building** new prisons is even steeper. The cost to imprison an offender for one year is $25,000. Simple arithmetic leads to a rough estimate of the damage wrought by a hypothetical offender. Multiplying the average cost of crime ($2,300) by the average number of offenses (187 the low end of the range of a professional burglar), we find that a typical offender in the survey is responsible for $430,000 in crime costs. The cost to imprison this offender for one year is $25,000. Thus, a year in prison costs $405,000 less than a year of criminal activity. For 100 such offenders, the savings would be $40.5 million. **A year of crime is 17 times more expensive for society than a year in prison.**

— Summarized from the article by the same name by Richard B. Abell, Assistant Attorney General for Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Dept. of Justice.

Prayer Concerns

- That God will supply His grace to Mr. Anthony Travisono (Executive Director, American Correctional Association)
- That God will lead Shannon Butterfield through a fruitful summer ministry while home from Word of Life Bible Institute
- That God will work in a special Prayer Fellowship of Mission Board leaders
- That God will establish and anoint the Leadership Bible Training School
- That God will give wisdom to Christian leaders in Corrections as he did to Joseph
- That God will expand the time, impact and personnel of Oak Street Kids Club
- That God will focus CCGM's impact on Corrections
- That God will guide the opening of The City Gate's residential program
- That God will create in us a double portion of His Spirit for evangelism and communication of His Word
- That God will multiply His Word following Jack's visit to Mexico City, Mexico's prisons and streets (June 6-10)

A Letter From Linda

By Linda Ingham

All of you know that I have had office space in the parsonage (manse) of the Coatesville Presbyterian Church for the last couple of months as they allowed me to use it for a 6 month trial period. Prior to my being here I had spent four very busy years developing the office of CCGM, and I had also spent much time in my ministry with the girls at jail. Being here (8 blocks away from the CCGM office) has allowed me to be away from the busyness of the office. Through taking this turn in ministry, I have come to spend real quality time in re-evaluating many things in my life and ministry. For some time I had been struggling with whether or not God would have me continue ministry under CCGM. When this office opened up for me, I thought, "Yes, Lord, that's great. . . You want me to stay". God had also moved my parents here to Coatesville, so I thought He certainly could not be taking me out of CCGM and possibly Coatesville. However, a see-saw continued. I finally stopped keeping God's will for my life in a box, and I started talking to God in a way that maybe He was moving me on. The beginning of May I was led to make a final decision to leave CCGM. Almost every day since then I have had confirmation of God's leading and June 30 will be my last day. In fact, by the time you receive news of this in the newsletter, I will only have a couple of days left to work. (My supporters were advised of this decision at the end of May.)

What's next for me? About a two month break! After that. . . I do not know as God has not shown me yet. There are opportunities out there I am real interested in, but I am waiting on Him to lead. I am open to whatever He has for me.

I can only give praise to God for all He has allowed me to experience and be taught during my four years here at Coatesville. In many ways I feel like I have been to a four-year Bible college because God put a few precious people in my path who taught me a most important Biblical truth for Christian living. That is, "to walk in dependence upon the Holy Spirit to perform in me all that Scripture asks me to do." That's what the crosswork of Jesus Christ and grace are all about. As I have begun to grasp this most precious truth, I have experienced a freedom I have never known before in my life. My deepest thanks, respect and love go to Mr. Harry Buckwalter and Larry and Roxanne Holcomb. . . precious teachers whom God has used in my life.

I extend my thanks also to Jack and the Board of Directors for all the opportunities afforded me while I have been here at CCGM. Thank you so much for praying for me these past four years. . . I feel like words are so inadequate! I don't like good-byes at all, so let me just say, "Good-bye until I see you in eternity". . .what a hope! Always remember: I John 2:27 "But the anointing [Holy Spirit] which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him."

Report of the Third National Female Offenders Workshop Hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

By Linda Ingham

On Sunday, May 21, I traveled to Pittsburgh to attend and represent CCGM at the Third National Female Offenders Workshop hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. This is a Conference held every other year and hosted by different states. Margaret Moore, Superintendent of the State Correctional Institute, Smithfield, planned and directed the entire Conference from Sunday afternoon until Wednesday afternoon. There were about 600 Corrections personnel from all over the United States in attendance, including many Wardens. The speakers and workshop leaders also consisted of various Corrections leadership from around the United States.

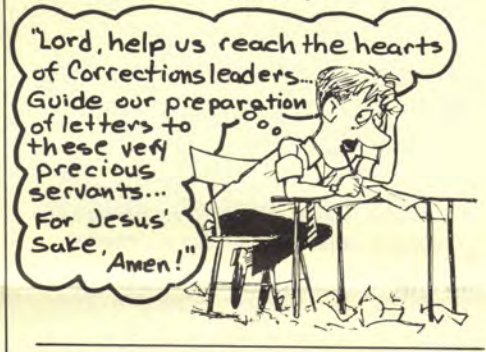
The purpose of this Conference was to inform those who work in the field of Corrections concerning the different and specific needs of female offenders and to allow people to network together with others who work in the field of Corrections.

The most exciting part was seeing Christ exalted through an ex-offender. During Judge Lisa Richette's speech on Monday morning, she gave the opportunity for any ex-offenders to come to the podium to share anything they wanted to about their incarceration. Two went forward. Ex-offender Sandy Woffard, shared with everyone how Jesus is the only answer to the field of Corrections! What a testimony it was! Then she was asked to sing her testimony at the closing breakfast on Wednesday morning. She sang her testimony about Jesus so beatifully that there was hardly a dry eye in the auditorium and she received a tremendous standing ovation! Christ was exalted in the Conference! Praise the Lord.

Warden's Report

One Bible was sent out this month to the Acting Warden of Dauphin County.

On Tuesday, May 16, it was CCGM's privilege and honor to host the Superintendent of Philadelphia's Prisons and his staff at the Philadelphia Leadership Prayer Breakfast. Superintendent Lyons has continually been an encourager of our ministry.



Infants Tortured By Drugs

(Selected thoughts summarized from Philadelphia Inquirer May 3, 1989)

Hahnemann Hospital doctors and nurses delivered 2,400 babies in the last year. One in ten of those children was born a victim of cocaine or other illicit narcotics and alcohol.

These extremely fragile children, often born prematurely, benefit from a medical segregation that insulates them

Continued on next page.

May Report 1989

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

County Corrections Gospel Mission

Tortured By Drugs - *Continued*

from the danger of disease and protects them with round-the-clock support systems.

Cocaine is a known cause of the precipitous separation of the placenta, the vital link between mother and baby during pregnancy. The results is that many drug-addicted infants are born with seriously under-developed organs.

With special care, most babies are able to leave the hospital after 30 days. Some go home with their mothers, others go to foster care. Boarder babies are those that become healthy but remain at the hospital because they have no homes. Their numbers are increasing. As Philadelphia's and the nations's drug dilemma expands, more addicted babies will be born with at least two strikes against them. Some are tortured by drugs in their system. They scream, are irritable and often suffer withdrawal pain. The long-term effect on those who survive is not yet known. **No one** has come up with an answer to the dilemma of pregnant women on drugs.

"By doing much too little and acting far too late to stem the tide of addiction, America has allowed a drug culture to fester and grow. America is in the middle of a silent epidemic that if left unchecked will destroy the fabric of the nation." (Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor, Mark Singel)

CCGM Represented at American Jail Association Meeting

By Jack Crans

On Sunday, April 30, through Wednesday, May 3, Jack and Sue Crans attended their first meeting of the American Jail Association (AJA) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The AJA comprises a growing membership of leaders who administrate and labor in the city jails, detention centers and county prisons of America. These leaders are distinct from many who belong to the American Correctional Association (ACA), which more favorably caters to administration of state and federal facilities.

We were encouraged by the generous reception of AJA members and look forward to ministry within both the AJA and ACA.

Sue has never accompanied me in my travels, but we took this occasion to celebrate our 18th Wedding Anniversary. It was a special time together with many open doors.

Areas to Designate Gifts

Bible Institute
Christmas
General
Ingham
Memorials
Oak Street Project
Shakida Tate Gray
Snack Foods
Warden's Fund

Note: All gifts are tax-deductible; a receipt will be sent.

Contender is a monthly publication of County Corrections Gospel Mission, P.O. Box 1136, Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320. (215) 383-9378

County Corrections Gospel Mission is a non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. Director, Jack Crans; Ministry Assistant, Linda Ingham; Secretary, Arlene Losch; Board of Advisors, Mr. Mark Blair, Dr. Howard Blandau, Pastor Leland Dittman, Dr. Joseph F. Eckman, Dr. Herschel Elliott, Mr. Joseph R. Pitts.