



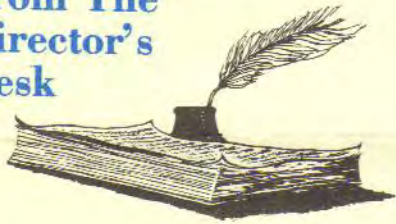
THE CONTENDER

November 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

From The Director's Desk



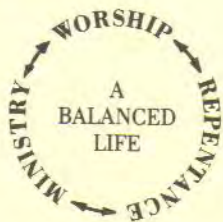
Dear Beloved in Christ:

After His birth, "... there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east and are come to worship Him.'" Matthew 2:1,2

After His death and resurrection, his disciples "came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him!" Matthew 28:9

O come, let us adore Him . . .
Christ the Lord!

I am an easy one to bounce from tears of joyful fellowship with my Lord to suddenly realize tears of repentance. One cannot be too long in His presence without wanting to be bathed and cleansed by His holy and gracious life. Tears are shed **in joyful worship, in repentance** and then **in ministry!** The result of His worship is our cleansing and the fruit of our repentance and cleansing is a servant life! Round and round for me the circle goes . . . like Peter whose feet Jesus washed, I cry: "Lord, wash all of me!"



Is this any part of your experience? Whether the circle travels from ministry to repentance to worship or from worship to repentance to ministry, the fact remains: **that a life lived in close communion with the Christ of Calvary will ultimately be broken and poured out in ministry.**

In Luke the 7th chapter, Jesus asked Simon the Pharisee: "Who loveth much? Who has a tender heart for worship and ministry? Only they who have been most forgiven!" The more I know my sinfulness apart from Christ, the more I realize the wonderful grace displayed on Calvary for me!

On this Christmastide, I trust each of us shall clasp His feet and worship His worthy name! "And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace . . ."

I believe we agree on the necessity of repentance for worship. Is it possible in ministry to so exhaust oneself that worship is lost? **Is all ministry a proof of worship?** I think not! The sad legacies go on and on of men who spent themselves in ministry so much as to even fail in the ultimate testimony of a Spirit-filled life. I have recently read the story of Mr. Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision, as written by his daughter, Marilee Druker. The book, **Days of Glory, Seasons of Night**, opens with a Spirit-filled man broken in heart for a world in crisis. He said, "So many suffer so much while so few sacrifice so little." **From a place of worship and repentance he launched out to win the world.** His burden so possessed him that he spent his wife and children on the altar of ministry. He left his own work, his family and almost lost his own personal self in **permitting the burden**

to destroy His worship. After a very tragic family story, he was called home to be with his Lord! At his funeral, Marilee recalled all the spending of her Daddy's life. She said, "you see, everybody gets hurt. Everybody suffers in this world! But, so many people suffer for no reason, for nothing of lasting significance or consequence. I am proud that what we gave was for this cause, **that Jesus might be glorified.**"

As I read this gripping testimony, I recalled many a "great" man who in their service for God **neglected the balance so needed in clasping the feet of Jesus. If we dare do ministry, we dare not forget to worship!**

In just days 1986 will be gone. Did we worship Him? I am thoroughly convinced that worship brings us to the safety of clasping His feet. **Only in the posture of true worship can I see my own daily needs and responsibilities.**

Oh, for the balance of a Christ-centered life for ministry.

We wish for each one of you . . .

A Blessed Holy Season,

Jack Crans

November's Summary

At least eight specific opportunities to minister encouragement in the lives of local church families. Pastors have invited our coming for the representing of our work, and quite frankly am seeing a definite common dilemma of church fellowships hungry to explode into ministry and growth. **How I praise God for the dear pastors who faith-**

Continued on next page

November's Summary - Continued

fully stand in the precious gap of perishing communities.

Saw continued **ministry development in Chester County Prison**, especially as Linda has seen a door open for great **discipleship** at prison. Tuesday mornings will be spent in cell visits, Bible study and discipleship in the women's division.

Met with the **Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers** in Lancaster and was once again blessed by their love and support of CCGM.

Spent precious conversation with **Philadelphia Police Captain, David Morrell** and **FBI agent, Skip Alexander** of Alexandria, Virginia. Both are dynamic Christians and excited about ministry in law enforcement.

We were greatly encouraged at my home church **Missions Conference** (Hephzibah Baptist Church).

Enjoyed specific conversation with **Wardens of Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties.**

Experienced the blessing of a new **1986 Toyota Corolla** which replaces the deceased VW dasher lost in action in October. How did God provide? Through dear, dear loved ones in Christ who literally provided \$10,000 for its purchase.

A great potential facility may be in the near horizon for a **residential discipleship training ministry**. We trust God for His leading!

Received word from **Coatesville School Board** that we will be provided free use of their **gymnasium** for the winter of 1986/1987.

Announcement Of New Missionary Candidates

It is my great joy to announce the appointment of Stu and Nancy Tripler to missionary candidacy at County Corrections Gospel Mission. **As the Lord provides their full support, we shall then proceed to place them on a full-time ministry of evangelism and church support.** Their initial role

will be in two areas: (1) spear-heading penetration into critical neighborhood areas needing church commitment and/or development (2) directing youth outreach in Coatesville specifically. As the doors continue to open, we will move them into definite base staffing of a discipleship ministry to drug and alcohol offenders. Right now we pray for that facility!

Before you read their brief testimony, know that we carefully and prayerfully reviewed their references from both pastoral, educational, professional and personal perspectives. **The Board of Directors of County Corrections Gospel Mission gladly places this dear couple and newborn daughter before you.**



Personal Testimonies of Stu and Nancy Tripler

Nancy was raised in a Christian family with a mixed church background in the town of Red Bank, New Jersey. Due to this fact, she attended Sunday services at both a Methodist church and a Plymouth Brethren Church where she accepted the Lord as her Saviour at the age of five. Realizing she needed to follow the example of Christ, she was baptized at the age of 12. While at the Word of Life Bible Institute, Nancy committed her life to the Lord to be used in His service. After serving as a camp counselor at the Word of Life Island, she realized her need to further her training as the Lord had put a burden in her heart for working with youth. Nancy attended Word of Life Bible Institute and Cedarville College in an attempt to gain a Biblical perspective on counseling and youth work.

Due to the fact that Stu's father left home when he was ten years old, he was raised by a Christian mother who at-

tempted to train him in the ways of the Lord. Going through many doubts at the age of sixteen, Stu reaffirmed his commitment to the Lord. The doubts arose as he was questioning a decision he had made at a young age while at Bible camp. His life lacked a commitment to the Lord and after his first two years of college he was unsatisfied with the direction his life was headed. He transferred to Baptist Bible College where he had the opportunity to work with young people in camps and churches. These experiences led him to dedicate his life to the Lord to be used in whatever area He would see fit.

Nancy and Stu met in the summer of 1982 at the Word of Life Island. Nancy was in charge of fourteen female counselors and Stu was co-directing a basketball clinic. The Lord allowed them to meet and share their desires of working with people and encouraging them in the ways of the Lord. One of their common desires is to have a ministry where they can work together and attempt to establish a Biblical role model for young people to follow. The Lord blessed them with a beautiful baby girl on October 31 named Johanna Michelle.

We praise God for His working and bringing them to this Mission!

Will you prayerfully consider your role? Approximately 8% of those receiving "The Contender" actually financially support its daily ministry. Although the Tripler's pray for the definite response and support of their own church family and loved ones, perhaps you now are ready to extend your means on their behalf. Remember, we exist totally by the faithful love, prayer and gifts of God's people. **Deputation is so critical to our continued growth and penetration into an ever increasing national spiritual crisis.** Perhaps even now, some of the 92% would make that first-time step of participation with us.

We are looking towards the starting date of February 1, 1987 by which time they will need \$1500 per month in financial support. Please see back page if you care to respond to this need.

May God bless you for caring.

What Do You Want For Christmas - Continued

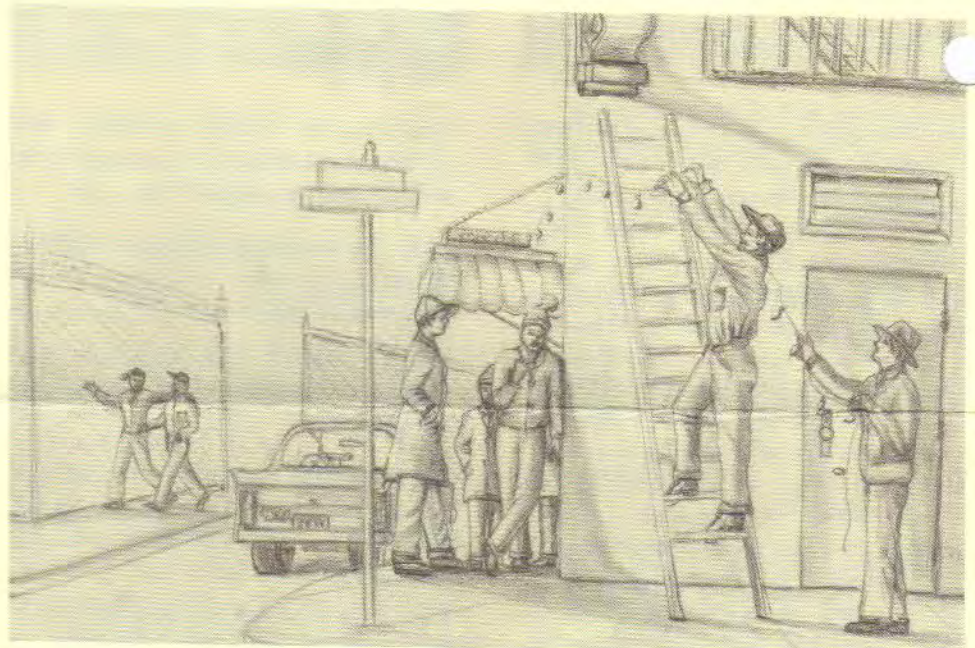
I can offer you no bed,
 No place have I to lay my head
 In shame I hung my head and cried
 How could I spurn the crucified?
 For 40 days without a bite
 Alone, He fasted day and night.
 . . . If He be God and died for me
 No sacrifice too great can be.
 For me a mortal man to make
 I'll do it all for Jesus' sake.

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

CCGM's 35mm camera was stolen from the Crans' house this month, so we thought we would at least bring you this chalk drawing done for us by Calvin

Buchanan. Pray for Calvin as we love him and want to see the Lord work salvation in his heart and life. Calvin drew this upon special request from Jack to portray "Christmas on the Corner". We were anxious to see what he would create:



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: _____