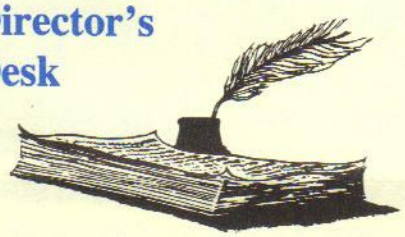
THE CONTENDER

November 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

From The Director's Desk



"Glorious Power"

First, let me say a resounding praise to God for those who faithfully hold this ministry together in prayer and financial support. God's care and grace are the only possible explanation of our experience in ministry.

This month I was privileged to speak in the Lorton Central Facility in Virginia and there I met dynamic testimony of changed lives. In my own studies at Chester County Prison, I am taken again and again to the marvelous provisions of the Christian life made available by the working of His grace. My heart is so filled with joy and strength as I share the exciting promises that men and women in prison can claim.

"Now unto Him that is able to do EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL that we ask or think, according to THE POWER THAT WORKETH IN US."

— Ephesians 3:20

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL PERFORM IT until the day of Jesus Christ."

— Philippians 1:6

". . .increasing in the knowledge of God STRENGTHENED WITH ALL MIGHT, according to HIS GLORIOUS POWER. . .

— Colossians 1:10,11

What a precious theme for Corrections—"**Glorious Power**"! Make no mistake about it — there is much power in prison. The prince of this world exercises his power, yet when God's Word is exalted and men, women, boys and girls witness His presence, there can and will be a **glorious power** that I am convinced can touch a whole system.

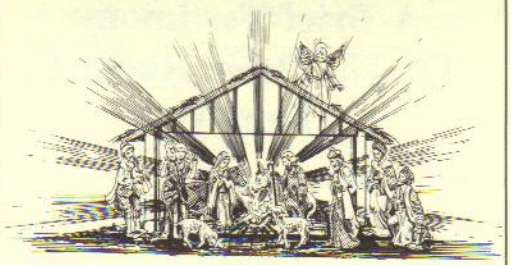
Oh that God would raise up Cuban, Black, Hispanic and inmate leaders who would manifest a **glorious power** that so transforms life that men would honestly be able to say of prison: **This is truly Corrections!**

"Therefore, if ANY MAN be IN CHRIST, he is a NEW CREATURE; old things are passed away, behold all things become new."

— II Corinthians 5:17

A Blessed, Holy Season From CCGM

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

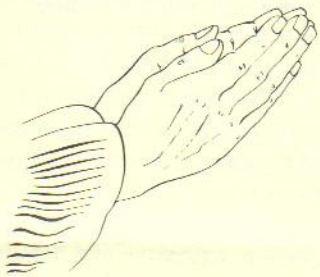


Jack, Sue, Jonathan, Timothy, Joshua, Shakida, Linda, Stu, Nancy and Johanna rejoice for each of you this Christmas season.

"May we each brighten our street with the **LIGHT OF HIS PRESENCE**."

". . .Christ in you, the Hope of Glory"

— Colossians 1:27



Special Prayer Request: Secretarial Replacement

By Linda Ingham

God has taken me down many paths of learning and humbling while I have been at CCGM. The first week I worked here Jack took me to jail and introduced me to ministry with the girls. I have always loved to go and have rejoiced to see how the girls have responded to the truth of Jesus Christ so beautifully. They want more truth and I want to give more truth, but my time in the office has not allowed me to do that. There are even so many girls right here in Coatesville who need to personally know Jesus Christ and the newness of life only He can bring.

After several weeks of prayer, approval of the Board of Directors and knowing God's calling on my life, we at CCGM are praying that God will send a new secretary so as to allow me to spend my days in full-time ministry borne out of the existing needs and the needs which stem from women in jail. The following is an outline of a position we have developed:

- Continue weekly Bible study with the girls at Chester County Prison.
- Counsel and disciple them one-on-one while they are at CCP.
- Minister to their families while they are at CCP.

Continued on next page.

Special Request - *Continued*

- Follow-up with them upon their release.
- Write Bible studies for inmates.
- Build relationships with the women Warden and Chaplains in Pennsylvania.
- Complete projects for CCGM, i.e., slide presentation, etc.

Please note, however, that the Board of Directors has stipulated that I cannot begin this position until someone comes to replace me in this job. This is a wonderfully diverse secretarial position for someone who is self-motivated and has had experience in running an office. Shorthand is required. There is a wide range of responsibilities including: correspondence, extensive and detailed filing systems, maintenance of various logs, follow-up, scheduling of appointments, handling mail and phone calls, extensive editing, logging and receipting of checks, banking, calculating and preparing quarterly financial reports, maintaining 10 mailing lists, Warden's Fund & outreach, errand running and more. If you are at all interested, please call me. Even if you feel over or under qualified, call me so I could more clearly explain the details of this position. Also note: you would have to raise your own financial support. Jack is very easy going to work for, and he gives you real freedom to develop the job in whatever way you see fit.

I get real excited when I think about this, and yet on the other hand I get totally awed because I know the spiritual warfare and responsibility that comes with such ministry. **But** above and way beyond that warfare is **my victory** in Jesus Christ. I am always reminded of the promises of Philippians 2:13 and I Thessalonians 5:24 as I have seen Him do His work in the past and I am certainly trusting Him for the future.

Please be in prayer with us for God's choice in God's timing! Thank you so very much!

Tripler Trivia

Paul was saved for about 17 years before he went with Barnabas to Jerusalem (Gal. 1,2). What prophet's name in the Old Testament means "burden" or "burden-bearer"?

Prayer Concerns

Facility for discipleship and youth ministry

Home-based ministry at Crans' home

Boys at Southeast Secure Treatment Unit

Basketball outreach in high schools

Developing inner-city leadership

Prison chaplains

All in authority

Tripler's financial support

More laborers

Social worker for City Gate

New secretary for CCGM (See article)

Warden's Corner

It was our privilege to send a copy of God's Word to Warden Gary Henman, Superintendent of the U.S. Penitentiary in Marion, Illinois. This penitentiary was called by *U.S. News and World Report*, the "toughest prison in America". We assumed that he must be a special leader to have been assigned so important a task.

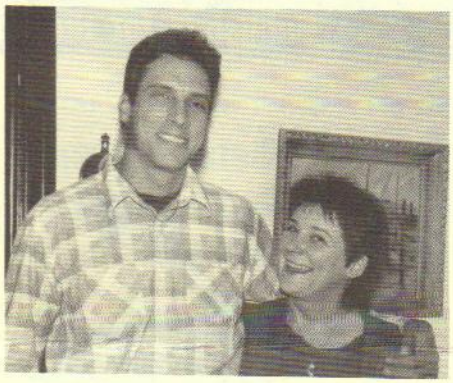
Please continue to pray for Pennsylvania State Commissioner, David Owens, as he has accepted our invitation to attend the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. in February. He continues to be faithful towards the encouragement of our hearts.

Tragedy To Triumph: A Brief Testimony Of The Peter Roomet Family

As told to Jack Crans

It was my special privilege to sit in the home of Peter and Theresa Roomet to personally prepare this brief testimony of God's marvelous grace. His hand-carved ivory cross hung around his neck held by a woven broomstring. "Someday", he said, "this cross and broomstring will tell the story of my life."

On May 5, 1985, Theresa and her two special children, Thea (9) and Philip (7), would receive word of a life-changing event. Daddy had an accident and a young man's life was taken in the crash. Little did Peter Roomet know that his blood-levels would still show signs of illegal substances the morning after an evening of alcohol and drug abuse. **He humbly and painfully remembers the little girl at the scene of the crash who said, "You killed my father!"**



Now 2½ years later, they can vividly recall the gracious hand of God in their total lives and experiences. From a self-employed skilled carpenter, his life would now be held in the balances of the criminal justice system. Theresa would have to re-adjust her entire life (already effected by cancer), and the trauma of this incident on the lives of two precious children would only just be beginning. For almost one year Peter trusted in money and lawyers to keep him out of prison until April 1, 1986, when the steel doors of his 7' X 11' cell would slam shut and begin for him and his beloved family a season of painful, yet marvelous lessons.

By July of 1985, he had desperately cried to God for salvation and the consequent season of incarceration would begin a period of maturity and strengthening that now speaks powerfully of God's ability and provision for the changing of lives. The Word of God coupled with the faithful stewardship of God's people would impact each member of his family and yield the fruitful praises of God's loving kindnesses.

Prison Fellowship relationships, visiting Believers and continual fervent prayer would yield one miracle after another. The prayerful support of God's people, a caring Warden (Mr. Thomas G. Frame of Chester County Prison) and a special working of God's hand through the court now allow Peter to be at home under the special watchful eye of an Electronic Home Confinement Device.

Though able to work from 6:00 a.m. til 6:00 p.m., he must otherwise stay within 100 feet of his home until released from his period of confinement.

There are still adjustments, problems and circumstances surrounding their lives that keep them always dependent and humbly leaning on their Savior. **They earnestly ache for the broken lives he has effected and live now realizing the marvelous grace and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ.** In talking to them, I was especially warmed in the vivid testimony of God's life-changing Scriptures and the faithful fruit of caring Believers. **I was refreshed as they contrasted over and over again the difference that Christ makes during incarceration.**

As God allows, they remain yielded and waiting to serve the remainder of their days to His glory and praise. Please pray for the Roomets as they continue adjusting and healing to the praise of His glory!

Cuban Crisis in U.S. Prisons

By Jack Crans

In 1980, 125,000 Cubans were boatlifted to the United States, but they never received legal entry thus leaving them without U.S. constitutional rights and unwanted by their own country.

I do not condone for one minute the lawlessness and desperate violence of Atlanta and Louisiana's Cuban prisoner crisis, nor do I pity the legal and governmental snarl of events that led to the destrution of property and endangerment of life. I do, however, stand reminded and challenged to be ever the more awakened to the need for Home Missions goals and strategies.

As I spoke with an Atlanta Cuban prisoner days ago, I was impressed to hear his hopes for life in America and also moved by his fear of atheistic Cuba.

Cubans, Eastern Europeans, East Asians, Mexicans, etc. are now only a small wave of a national phenomena which continues to grow. The world has fled to American shores (as our ancesters) and the American melting pot now comprises an international mission field of brokenness, hopelessness and desperation. **All too often these aliens are unmet by believing saints and met and processed by an already taxed and confused government.**

The world is knocking at our door. **May the flames of U.S. prisons echo a resounding cry for mission strategies at home.**

What's Influencing Our Youth?

By Stu Tripler

In answering that question, most of us would automatically think of sex, drugs, television and rock music? It may seem hard to believe, but the number one influence on kids today is still the family! Unfortunately, many of us as parents set the wrong role model for our children and inadvertently steer them in the direction of those other influences. Many times I hear young people say that their parents tell them not to do something, but then the parent does something very similar to what they told the youth not to do. Luke 6:40 teaches the idea that the student will be no better than the teacher. How high are our standards?

One study has found that 50% of parents spend less than 30 minutes a day in the same "space" as their children. I do not think that it was what Deuteronomy 4 or 6 had in mind when it stresses our obligation to teach our children. Evaluate your time at home. How much time are you spending talking or playing with your children? If you complain that your kids watch too much television, give them some alternatives such as table games or helping you with work around the house. (Do you realize that the average child by the end of high school will have spend the equivalent of one and a half years of eight hour work days watching commercials on TV!) Kids desire love! The question is: Where will they learn about love — a Biblical perspective from you or a fleshly perspective from the TV?

On The Homefront

By Sue Crans

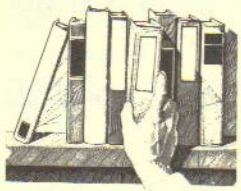
"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins." — Matthew 1:21

More beautiful words were never written concerning the announcement of a Savior who was to offer us salvation and eternal life. When I read these words, it gives me answers and hope not only for my life but also for the lives we come in contact with on a daily basis.

Our home ministry is growing in leaps and bounds, which only evidences the need for a facility. More young men are coming all the time, with the average of about 12 coming each night. It is real exciting to see the lives the Lord brings our way, and yet it's frustrating to know that there are hundreds more that we are not even touching.

The Crans' boys are all doing fine. They are healthy and happy! (Praise the Lord!) Shakida has had a problem with her knee, and she will be in a brace for about 15 days. Pray for healing for her as it is hard to keep her still. Also continue to pray for her family and the restoration we want to see.

I love you all and thank the Lord for how you minister in my life.



From The Bookshelf

This month we recommend the book, **Evangelism as a Lifestyle,** written by Jim Peterson and published by Nav Press.

Mission Field Alert

"Are we in America. . .prepared for the fact that most non-Christians yet to be won to Christ (even in our country) will not fit readily into the kind of churches we now have?"

—Ralph Winter,
U.S. Center for World Missions

November 1987 Report

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

County Corrections Gospel Mission

Ten Commandments For Working With Youth

THOU SHALT not allow sin to build up in your life.

THOU SHALT have a sense of humor.

THOU SHALT be flexible.

THOU SHALT be willing to do what you ask the youth to do.

THOU SHALT be committed and consistent.

THOU SHALT keep in touch with those around you who can help you with the youth's problems.

THOU SHALT give the youth responsibilities.

THOU SHALT help the youth grow as a whole person.

THOU SHALT keep in touch with the parents of your young people.

THOU SHALT pray daily for your young people.

Adapted from *Reaching Out to Troubled Youth* by David Spotts and David Veerman, Victor Books, USA, 1987.

New Frontiers Call For New Pioneers

"Most (at least one billion) of the unreached peoples of the world are not within the **normal** evangelistic range of any church anywhere. This fact is surprising since we know that there are now Christian churches in every country in the world. The problem is that ordinary evangelistic efforts simply do not carry effectively across the high barriers constituted by ethnic, cultural and social differences. **It is an embarrassing fact that the churches in the United States and around the world, which are geographically closest to these unevangelized peoples, or ethnic groups, are often the farthest away from them culturally and emotionally.** This amazing new element smashed the illusion many Christians have ha[d] that the world can be won if only th[e] world-wide church will evangelize the people with whom it is normally in contact."

Taken from *Evangelism as a Lifestyle*, written by Jim Peterson and published by NavPress.

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: _____

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

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