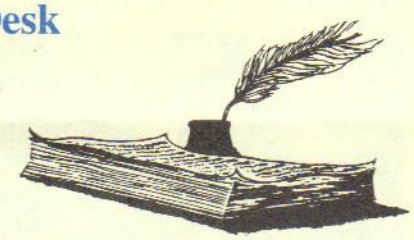
THE CONTENDER

November 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

From The Director's Desk



"In the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."
John 7:37,38.

Dear Friends:

Jesus still stands and cries to us to come to Him and drink. The thirst of our hearts can only be quenched in Him and the overflow of His presence causes great impact for the sake of His lingering appeal.

Living water flows from our hearts when rightly related to Him! This wonderful truth captures the essence of both Thanksgiving and Christmas as one views the receiving of God's best and the outpouring of the same in one dynamic relationship with Christ.

The blessed flow of His truth in us must break forth into streams of life-giving ministry. A "spiritual drought" does not need to be the evident situation of our immediate world but on the contrary that world should be rained upon with the drenching waters of poured out lives.

As we continue being thankful for the quenching of our thirst may we also pour out this Christmas an abundance of life giving waters. What a joyous privilege to think that we might be vessels through whom the **LIVING WATER** flows!

As we have received, so let us give. The work of God's Word in us promises a certain fruit. "So shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it."
— Isaiah 55:11

You'll read, much in this issue of the Contender for which we must of necessity apply the above truth!

Jack Crans

Director

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas!

Behold the Lamb

"We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets did write."
— John 1:45

Jack, Sue, Jonathan, Timothy, Joshua, Shakida, Linda and Arlene

Cocaine

by Jack Crans

It has been called the most versatile and the most addictive substance ever widely used in our society. Once considered a high-toned high, it has become affordable in the ghetto. It's liable to turn up anywhere. One former drug user described the sensation from "crack" as "10 minutes of total-body orgasm".

Crack is cocaine cooked with baking soda until it hardens into small stones or "rocks" which are then smoked.

Despite daily funding increases for drug enforcement from $800 million in fiscal 1981 to $2.5 billion in the current fiscal year and despite a threefold increase in arrests of major drug traffickers, the amount of cocaine coming into the country has exploded in this decade from 1,872 kilograms in fiscal 1981 to 35,970 kilograms in fiscal 1987. (U.S. News/World Report)

Drug's Toll on Body

(From Freedom Ministries, Clovis, California)

BRAIN — It takes five to eight seconds for crack to enter the brain after a user inhales its vapor, and the effect lasts about 15 to 20 minutes.

Crack use can cause the brain to go into convulsion from overstimulation, and it can cause outright coma. It overstimulates the release of neurotransmitters, masking a user's need for necessary body functions such as sleeping and eating. It stimulates the nervous system, stimulates reward centers and overstimulates the part of the nervous system that controls breathing and heartbeat. High doses produce severe mood swings. Crack use affects judgment, performance, mental acuity, motor coordination and sensation.

Paranoia is the most common response to smoking crack because crack overstimulates the fright center.

HEART — When crack is smoked, it's absorbed into the lungs and pumped back to the heart, sending cocaine-enriched blood to every organ of the body. The heartbeat increases to 120 beats per minute. The heart can go into ventricular fibrillation - weak, erratic heartbeats. Or the heart might just stop. Long-term crack use weakens the heart muscle.

SPINE — Crack takes 10 seconds to infiltrate the spinal cord.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM — Smoking crack constricts blood vessels, driving the blood pressure up. This increased pressure can cause a stroke. It also weakens the blood vessels, sometimes causing them to burst and hemorrhage. Important vitamins and minerals are depleted.

LUNGS — Crack causes breathing problems and damages lung tissue. Sometimes, hot rock "coals" slip past pipe screens and burn holes in the lungs.

REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM — Excessive use can cause impotence. Cocaine also easily crosses the placental barrier and leads to babies born addicted to the drug. During pregnancy, many addicts experience their placenta separating from the womb, causing miscarriage and in some cases fatal hemorrhage.

Mission Notes

Those countries receiving missionaries over the past 150 years are now becoming bases for sending missionaries. By 1980 there were nearly 400 active agencies and over 13,000 missionaries from two-thirds of the world, with an anticipated growth of more than 2,000 each year...It has been suggested that the **major final frontier is back across Asia from the Pacific rim** through the countries represented at Pentecost, which now are largely untouched by the gospel, **back to Jerusalem.**

— Center Line, Fall, 1988

95 years ago, there were only about 1.6 billion people on the face of the earth. Today there are more than that just in our cities - 2.308 billion to quote the 1988 World Population Data Sheet. That's 45 percent of the world's 5.128 billion souls. Ten years from now, we're told, we can expect one of every two people in the entire world to be living in a city. There **must be a renewed emphasis on strengthening present urban ministries and establishing new ones.**

— SIM-NOW, Nov./Dec., 1988

A Letter From Linda

After 13 months of waiting, God has provided Mrs. Arlene Losch to be hired as part-time secretary for CCGM. She comes highly qualified, and already ha been a blessing since starting on November 21. Her background consists of a bilingual secretary at a bank, a church secretary, a legal secretary, an apartment complex manager and other executive secretarial positions, all of which have included great experience with all sorts of word processing equipment. Her role here will strictly be that of performing secretarial duties, and she will be working 6¼ hours a day.

Her husband's name is Andy, and she and Andy have three children, Karen (17), Robert (11) and Joel (8).

We are slowly making the transition as I'm spending a lot of time teaching her the job and finishing up projects have not had time to do. Once that tran sition is complete (probably January 1), I will be spending more time developing ministry to women. I will still be handling the finances and various office projects. Sue Crans is now running receipts so that is a big help, too.

Thank you so much for your prayers concerning my role here at CCGM, and do know that I appreciate your encouragement to me over these months of waiting.

Love, Linda Ingham

Dallas Seminary Responding to Aids Crisis...Prepares a Teaching Video

We will be addressing the AIDS crisis in upcoming Contenders, but want you to know that we will be carefully critiquing available studies a resources. Please pray as we research this growing crisis. Also, know that present study is soon to address the drug crisis in our local newspapers.

America'a Children/ Coatesville's Children

by Jack Crans

President-elect George Bush says he is "haunted by the lives" of inner-city kids. He adds that the "national character can be measured by how we care for our children" (US News and World Report). Right now CCGM is working with children in a special housing area of our own city. We need your help! We once again see wide open doors and must appeal for laborers.

Are you available Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. til 5:00 p.m.? Are you concerned about broken homes? Are you looking to get involved in 1989?

Call us and perhaps prayerfully lay this burden before your Pastor and Church leadership. The need surrounds each of us - **the crisis of laborers is the most distressing problem of all!**

Children in Custody

Facts from the Juvenile Justice Bulletin, October 1988

According to the latest Children in Custody (CIC) Census, 53,503 juveniles were held in publicly run facilities in 1987, the highest number since the first CIC Census in 1971. Nearly all these juveniles, 94 percent, were held for criminal-type offenses, 86 percent were male and 82 percent were between the ages of 14 and 17.

Minority youths—blacks, Hispanics and other races—comprise more than half the juveniles in public custody facilities.

The number of juveniles held in 1987 for alcohol or drug offenses has increased by more than 50 percent since 1985.

Total annual costs for State and local governments operating public juvenile facilities reached nearly $1.46 billion—up 32 percent between 1982 and 1986.

The [CIC] Census surveyed more than 3,500 public and private facilities nationwide that provided custody and care for more than 80,000 children.

Juvenile admissions and discharges also increased—approximately 13 percent since 1983. Admissions during calendar year 1986 reached 590,654, the highest intake since 1977.

Nine out of ten (94 percent) juveniles were held for delinquent offenses: offenses that would be crimes if committed by adults. Close to 5 percent were in custody for status offenses such as running away, truancy, incorrigibility, or violation of a valid court order. Approximately one percent were detained or committed because they were abused, neglected, or dependent youth; other nonoffenders; or voluntary admissions.

Public juvenile facilities spent $1.46 billion on salaries, food, utilities, and other operating costs during calendar year 1986. This was a 32 percent increase since 1983. This figure does not include expenditures for new construction, major repairs, building improvements, or new equipment.

States operated most of the long-term facilities, while county and city agencies operated most short-term facilities. On a daily basis, State facilities held almost twice as many juveniles as local facilities. However, local facilities processed nearly three times more juveniles per year than State facilities.

Public facilities in the Northeast region had the highest cost for housing one juvenile for a full year at $45,300.

In One Day

988 children are abused
3,288 children run away from home
49,322 children are in public juvenile correctional facilities
2,269 illegitimate children are born
2,989 kids see their parents divorced

72 babies die before one month of life
110 babies die before their first birthday
9 children die from gunshot wounds
5 teenagers commit suicide
609 teenagers get gonorrhea or syphilis

2,753 teenagers get pregnant
1,099 teenagers have abortions
367 teens miscarry
1,287 teenagers give birth
666 babies are born to women who have had inadequate prenatal care

USN&WR-Basic data:
Children's Defense Fund

A Letter from Prison

Dear Jack:

. . . I felt like killing myself. There was a **little pocket Testament** in my cell. I wanted to get my mind off my situation and that was the only book I had in my cell. That night as I picked up the Bible, I noticed my hands were shaking. As I started to read, I felt a warmth come over me as I have never felt before. . . something kept telling me not to just read it to help pass the hours away, but to read it and keep it in my heart and mind.

. . . As I read on. . . I just started crying. I got down on my knees and I knew that at last I had found what it was I had been looking for all my life, **Jesus Christ.**

Ever since I first picked up that Bible, things have been happening to me that I never would have dreamed possible. I've been becoming aware of myself and other people more each day, I've been experiencing feelings that I had all but forgotten. Each day I've been applying some of the things I read to my life. I've become a new person. . . I'm motivated by different desires, affections, ambitions, goals and objectives. . . I'm a new creation. . .

With love and respect,

Your friend and brother,

C.N.

CCGM Consulting With American Bible Society

by Jack Crans

We are now researching the opportunity of providing American Bible Society with selected scripture for publication for prisoners. Mr. Charles Houser of ABS writes: "The sole purpose of the ABS, as you know, is the translation, publication and distribution of the Holy Scriptures without doctrinal note or comment. With all the Scripture portions we publish we make every effort to allow the Scriptures to speak for themselves." Please pray as we need disciplined time to complete this task!

County Corrections Gospel Mission
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November Report 1988

Southeast Secure Treatment Unit Presents Great Opportunity to get Involved

by Jack Crans

On the grounds of the Embreeville State Hospital just south of Coatesville is a building housing 34 delinquent boys who desperately need and desire the compassionate involvement of God's people. **We need families** that will volunteer themselves to develop a potentially great relationship with one to three boys. Ideally, we are praying for and seeking 15-30 family units that will commit themselves to this challenging open door.

CCGM and the most anxious staff of SESTU await your decision. I need to hear from you immediately. Please pray and know your place for such a time as this.

Also, we are looking for those of building trades, crafts and technical skills to prayerfully consider assisting in the development and organization of an Industrial Arts program for these young men at SESTU.

I can't think of a more opportune time than **NOW** for you to join in leadership within a most needed ministry. Call us today for details.

From The Bookshelf

The Spiritual Man by Watchman Nee, published by Christian Fellowship Publisher, N.Y.

Pray for a publisher to publish a new book written as a prophetic call to return to the priorities of the original Bible Institutes that trained students committed to Evangelism, Missions and the Pastorate. We choose to withhold the name of the author and book til we have proper notification to announce them.

Wardens' Fund

This month we saw the distribution of two Bibles: one in the state of Idaho and one in Mercer County.

A leather bookmarker will be sent to Wardens this Christmas with the following imprinted message:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: A Profession Whose Time Has Come! "May God's wisdom mark your success as you stand for something while many fall for anything." I Timothy 2:1-4 "...prayers for all that are in authority..."

"The Gospel is free, but it will cost you your life"!
— Sterling Huston

Areas to Designate Gifts

Bible School Scholarship
Christmas
Facility
General
Ingham
Memoriums
Oak Street Project
Secretarial
Shakida Tate Gray
Snack Foods
Warden's Fund

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

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