



THE CONTENDER

October 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

A Message from the Director

Dear Faithful and Caring Ones:

Our Living Savior so faithfully promised and delivered "power" to accomplish a witness to the whole world! "Jerusalem . . . to the uttermost" was the scope, and our own day is not surpassed in opportunities and challenges to His Commission!

Before our very eyes, we are watching our own nation rise to become mightfully "unchurched" and "spiritually bankrupt". People groups swell in large numbers who have no light, no witness, no "sent one". In this very sophisticated day of conservative Bible-based church growth, we still must come to terms with the exhausting field of perishing souls within our very reach. Regardless of the country or people group, there must be a faithfulness to home missions in that place.

Street corner society, urban cultures, high schoolers, children, the imprisoned, the elderly, the stranger, the immigrant, the professional, and our broken neighboring poor all need a visitation and **STAYING PRESENCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE!**

The hymnwriter, Fanny Crosby, wrote of this burden so well:

RESCUE the perishing, CARE for the dying, SNATCH them in pity from sin and the grave; WEEP o'er the erring one, LIFT up the fallen, TELL them of Jesus, the MIGHTY TO SAVE!

Ours is a day in which many organizations have sprung up for the cause of

reaching the unreached. Mission societies, though often questioned, have been organized through the years. Hudson Taylor founded the China Inland Mission. WEF, UFM and TEAM were also born for evangelism and church planting world-wide. Baptists, Methodists and all denominations have found this necessary to the accomplishment of their individual goals and burdens. I have personally studied with individuals now serving in fields of the world such as Africa, Central America and Asia. Because of these mission organizations, the local sending churches have been able to spearhead and vitally support a faithful commitment to the Great Commission. It is nothing new that agreeing churches cooperate together to enable support of missionaries whom God has prepared under faithful pastors in the local church. Through the various channels of the mission society, these "sent ones" go forth!

CCGM is a mission with a definite agenda and burden. We surely pray for the day when we are seen in the context of a mission society. We see the great unfinished task of establishing local churches and also evangelizing and encouraging in areas where churches perhaps now struggle in the swelling American crisis of lost peoples.

Since when is there no need for missionaries to be sent to our own dying neighbors? Even recently I have known of an effort to send a Jamaican into a neighboring Pennsylvania urban center for church planting. The mentality that places "missions" only overseas is not Biblical and certainly has helped create the very vacuum which has given rise to many "para" church burdens.

I pray that there will be no rest in our

hearts until the true mandate for Missions be mirrored in "sending churches" who equip the believer with a burden which includes our own backyard. Communities right now need "pastors", right now need "sent ones", right now need believers sold out to the Great Commission.

My heart is so plagued with frustration when I see perishing thousands because we've not implemented our "overseas missions" burden at home. There are cultural, economic and racial barriers right here in America. There are dear ones who could be loved, won and taught if only we would go or send someone.

Are seminaries training church planters? Are local Bible-believing churches truly convinced that the local, urban poor might need our burden, too? Again, praise God for the dear saints who labor in evangelism whether in Breakfast Missions, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Youth for Christ, Campus Crusade, etc. Until an out-pouring of God's Spirit breaks our own hearts for America's perishing millions, these faithful shall continue in the gap of **unchurched** population centers!

"How can they hear without a preacher and how shall they preach except they be sent?" - Romans 10:14, 15

Do we need another mission society? I believe we do! CCGM is growing to know, without a doubt, the need for called out lives for lost America. A meeting of the missionary mandate at home will only fan the flame abroad! Let's not believe we are really that missions minded until the balance of faithful work begins at home.

Continued on next page

Lost men need a Savior! The means has always been evangelism and church planting. CCGM prays that God shall break our hearts for these growing national concerns. Right now is the time to respond. Too long we have practiced a missions mentality that often neglects home application!

In Acts 13, it was the local church that determined who should be commissioned to the missionary work. (Acts 13:3-4) The fields are white to harvest and the laborers are few. If men and women have trusted God to send them to China, isn't it possible He would call one to Chester? If God can burden a man for Malaysia, He is able to call one to Modena.

Do you realize that every continent has now been met with the Gospel? The issue is quickly becoming a question of faithfulness at home, whether home means China or Africa or North America!

I am ready to labor and exalt Him and can only wait and see what God shall do! Whatever our commitment, our allegiance or burden, I trust it shall be known of us all - "They encouraged the work of the LORD!"

Respectfully in Him,
Jack Crans

A Letter From Linda

I am continually amazed at the awesomeness of God as I see His hand in control of all things. Not only am I overwhelmed with the absolutely beautiful colors of the leaves on the trees at this time of the year, but I also see His constant provision of our needs here at CCGM.

CCGM has now been in operation for two years, and we marvel at how God has opened doors for ministry. There is not a day that passes by that I am not reminded of the faithfulness on the part of so many precious people to contribute to this work. There are those who support us financially each month, and it is because of such faithful people that we can move forward in a consistent and progressive manner. There are also times when people will open our hands and give us \$5, \$10, \$25 or even \$50 to use

for ourselves personally. Mr. Clair Leaman continues his faithful stewardship of his advertising business in providing for us, free of charge, our office paper needs, our literature and this newsletter. In addition, we have those who give of their time in counseling us, helping us send out this newsletter and writing us encouraging and supportive letters which is so needed! People have donated food and office equipment, and we even have dear people who cut our hair and provide excellent dental care. I, too, am so grateful for the absolutely beautiful apartment I moved into three months ago which is twice the size and less expensive than my former apartment. All of this is due to people who care about this ministry and the burden the Lord has given us! We love each of you so much and do want you to know how much we appreciate your every effort. Living on other people's gifts of money is quite overwhelming to me! Thank you so much!

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."

- Philippians 1:3

Above all of our material donations, we earnestly covet your prayers for this work! I have been learning and experiencing in my own personal life the power of prayer as it is such a joy to go before God in the early hours of the morning and commune with Him. Please continue to pray for those things we have outlined in this Newsletter!

Please pray for a beautiful 20 year old girl named Carol who was recently born again at Chester County Prison. She is so hungry for the Word of God, and it has been my privilege to disciple her. Remember Beth . . . She is happily married and doing well. God is working in other members of her family, so do pray for their salvation as well.

Do know that our most supreme desire is to see people come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and then to spiritually mature so that Christ will become Lord of their lives.

For those of you who give so much of yourselves to us, we praise God, we love you and most sincerely extend our thanksgiving to you!

A Letter From An Inmate

The following is a word for word excerpt of a letter from a young fellow whom Jack had the privilege of leading to the Lord. We praise God for his spiritual growth as evidenced below:

"I have taken the time to read Psalm 139. I was over joyed with rejoicing, when I read about God's personal attention towards us. Sometimes I can almost feel God's love jump right out of the pages at me. Jack, my friend, what a great Lord and Savior we have in Jesus. He knows about our thoughts even before they happen. Like you have said, he knows when we stand up and when we sit down. What a friend we have in Jesus. One of my favorite verses is: 'If God be for us, who can be against us'. Just that verse alone will get me through the last three months, and twenty nine days. Well, my friend, all I can do is keep trying my best. Even my best is never good enough to God. Mainly for two reasons. The first one is that 'God is no respecter of persons' and the second is that 'we all have sinned, and are short of the glory of God'. But still He will judge us by how hard we try while we are still in the flesh. What a great day it will be when we receive our new bodies through Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. Praise the Lord and his precious name!"

"Jack, my friend and brother in Christ, there isn't a day that goes by that you and the Gospel Mission aren't in my prayers. I pray that you have a full and joy filled life. I also pray for the Gospel Mission to touch others as it has touched me. My friend, which the Lord knows, my eyes are now seeing, my ears are now hearing. Behold I have put away the darkness to walk in the light of the world. This heart of mine is no longer hardened, but is filled with love from the Holy Spirit. From this moment on, the only high I will ever need will be coming from the Holy Spirit. As the days are passing, my faith is ever increasing in faith. My Heavenly Father will be with me every step of the way. I'll never be afraid of anything again, because I have the Lord's understanding, along with his helping hand. Whatever happens from here on it will be the Lord's will. My life

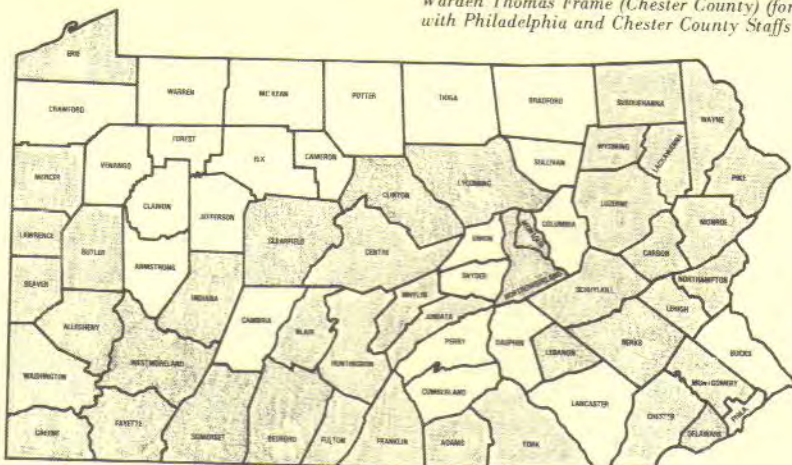
now is completely and truly in his hands."

- Anonymous

It is our prayer at CCGM that a good Bible-believing church will wrap their loving arms around him upon his release so that he can continue to grow and abound in Christ!

Warden's Corner

More counties of Pennsylvania are getting shaded in as ten more Wardens received Bibles this month. The Wardens represent the counties of Berks, Northumberland, Montour, Lycoming, Clearfield, Indiana, Clinton, Erie, Delaware and Lebanon.



Warden Thomas Frame (Chester County) (foreground) with Philadelphia and Chester County Staffs



Jack with United Indian Missions, It'l. Director Don Fredericks



How we praise God for encouraging letters we have received as shown below!

PETE FLAHERTY
COMMISSIONER

TOM KOENIGER
PRESIDENT

BARBARA HAPER
CHAIRPERSON

RECEIVED OCT 1 1986

OFFICE OF THE PRISON
County of Allegheny
140 ROSS STREET • PITTSBURGH, PA 15218

CHARLES J. KOZAKIEWICZ
WARDEN

JAMES J. GREGG
SUPV. WARDEN

EDWARD P. CUNNINGHAM
ASSISTANT CHIEF WARDEN

EDWARD URSAN
NATIONAL RELATIONS COORDINATOR

September 29, 1986

Jack Crans, Director
County Corrections (some) Division
P. O. Box 219
Coatesville, PA 19320

Dear Mr. Crans:

This letter is written to acknowledge receipt of your gift of God's Holy Word to me and to express my sincere appreciation.

Your leadership of Pennsylvania's Corrections has significant spiritual impact on many of the inmates, and your support within this institution is certainly appreciated.

I look forward to meeting with you in the near future and welcome your monthly letters.

Sincerely,
Charles J. Kozakiewicz
Charles J. Kozakiewicz
Warden
Allegheny County Jail

CHJ:ksa



The most encouraging Warden - Mr. Raiger (Lebanon County)



Pa. Corrections Commissioner Jeffes
Western Penitentiary - Pittsburgh Supt. Petsock
Ms. Cunningham - Pres. Elect ACA

Continuing Prayer Concerns

All those in authority in the United States.

Pennsylvania's prison Wardens, Chaplains and Correctional employees.

Fellowship of Christians in Corrections.

F.C.P.O. (Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers)

Chester County Prison Bible Studies:
Men - Jack Crans (Maximum security)

Women - Linda Ingham & Doris Haley

Coatesville Youth and Sue Crans as she daily sees the Crans' home becoming a headquarters and base of ministry to youth and adults.

CCGM: Present staff
Wisdom in operation
Finances
Constant need of snack foods

Local church penetration and ministry development in population centers.

Revival in the heart of every Christian.

God's blessing on our financial & prayer supporters.

October's Overview

Studied building models for residential/discipleship program.

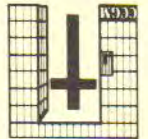
Chester County Warden, Thomas Frame, attended a banquet Chuck Colson spoke at in Wilmington and Mr. Colson warmly embraced him as he recalled a very personal dinner we shared together in 1977.

Two fellowships of Christian Peace Officers Meetings continued.

Weekly Bible studies at Chester County Prison in Maximum Security and the Women's Section.

Addressed a very burdened church in West Chester, a missions support fellowship in Bucks County, a wonderful Missions Conference of a supporting

Continued on back page



Overview - Continued

church in Roslyn and a church in Lancaster, as well as two Pastor's fellowship groups.

Touched base in North Carolina, Georgia and Illinois with Corrections leaders and Christian workers.

Saw the beginnings of an outreach to older addicts in Coatesville.

Encouraged pastors in West and North Philadelphia which are extremely ripe areas for revival and evangelistic efforts.

Great movement and opportunity continues in Chester through 5 obedient pastors.

Encouraged by CCGM Board of Directors Meeting.

Had a tremendous 4-day visit and counselling time with the Executive Director of the United Indian Mission, Mr. Don Fredericks (my uncle . . . see picture).

Received and are distributing 2,500 copies of the Rebirth of America from the DeMoss Foundation.

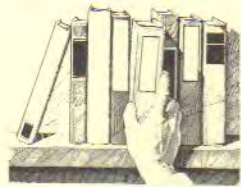
Attended in and participated in a 2-day Pennsylvania Warden's Meeting in Pittsburgh. I counseled and was encouraged by many Wardens, and I met those who really love the Lord! (See pictures.)

Received another invitation for another in-prison seminar.

Ministered everyday to the disconsolate and broken.

Availed our home daily to all (and there were many) who would come - young and old.

Many want to know the Savior and grow in Him - Pray!!



From The Bookshelf

This month we invite you to read the book, **The Master Plan of Evangelism**, which was written by Robert E. Coleman and published by Fleming H. Revell Company.

Developments and Special Prayer Needs

Continue to pray for wisdom in God's choice for **Missionary Candidates** as this is a very long process.

Our **Church Seminar** is developing slowly.

The **Warden's Bible Fund** received \$25 this month and we praise God for that amount. In the meantime, we are drawing money for the Bibles from our General Fund.

We received our first \$100 for our most urgent need for a **drug and alcohol discipleship facility**. We praise God for this!

We are anxiously waiting to proceed further on the items listed below, but must be patient in allowing the Lord to provide the necessary funds:

Redesign of the office

Word processing system - Presently has \$100 towards it

Christmas ministry - Women of Chester County Prison and the boys of SESTU (Southeast Secure Treatment Unit), a detention center for boys.

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; Secretary, Linda Ingham; Board of Advisors, Mr. Mark Blair, Dr. Howard Blandau, Dr. Joseph F. Eckman, Dr. Herschel Elliott, Mr. Joseph R. Pitts