

Why A Facility For Discipleship and Maturity Of The Drug And Alcohol Abuser?

In this work of Home Missions, one cannot be honest about the reality of lost, unreached men and exist without a burden. It is wonderful and right to go to the ends of the earth as I personally hold dear ones in Irian Jaya, Ecuador, Bahamas, Haiti and Mexico, but this should **never** be done **to the neglect of my own nation and neighbor**. How hypocritical it would be to weep for a perishing Chinaman when we ignore a lost, broken neighbor. Guaranteed, one outreach seems glamorous, but take my word for it – it is not! Ask the missionary who spends all and more to reflect Calvary!

Our President recently instituted a 4.1 billion dollar war against drugs. This, my friend, broke my heart because drug abuse, alcoholism and all they breed, will never go away whether we spend 4 or 100 billion dollars.

The answer has too long been left to the secular agency. It is time we who profess a burden do something about it. **Pastors reading this letter know all too well the lack of resources in carrying forth the exhausting needs of addicted lives.** We send men off to New York City's Bowery Mission, New Jersey's Keswick Colony or Atlantic City's Rescue Mission. The beds are full, the waiting lists are long and how dare we ever preach against these precious servants who have helped us all. I am, however, tired of sending men 130 miles away. It breaks the family unit and divorces men from their local church, thereby discouraging the new convert.

Many are coming to Christ in Coatesville, but their needs are beyond the present available resources. Locally we can do something about it! A dear Christian brother heard me cry this burden recently and said, "Jack, do you see that chair over there! It has been reproduced probably thousands of times, but it never would have been possible without the design, labor and commitment to the first copy!"

A Letter From Linda

If you recall, last month I shared much concerning the needs of this office. We would appreciate your continued prayers as expansion takes much time and money. **Specific plans are underway to redesign the basement for a bigger office.**

Jack is busy speaking at churches. May I add that he is a great speaker to have if you are planning a Missions Conference, especially if you are having a theme of 'Home Missions' or if you can allow designated time concerning this much required outreach.

Thank you for and please continue to pray for my piano playing at the City Gate. I am getting better . . . slowly!

Many of you may recall my asking prayer for Beth Puffko some months ago. She is growing in the Lord, and on October 18, I will be a bridesmaid in her wedding!

Our Bible Study at Chester County Prison is growing in number and we certainly praise the Lord for this. The Chaplain recently told me that I can visit the girls any time I want to as I find the

In this most busy work we see the need to develop a local discipleship facility right here in the Coatesville area. In addition to the new believer himself, it will be most beneficial to pastors, the community, families and even the government's budget if we the Church do what needs to be done! Although I have had pastors confess they have never met a drug addict, let me assure you that Coatesville alone could populate its own facility.

As I have always said, this must be an outreach of the local church! Men who have come to Christ often need daily care and nurture. The Church usually functions more sporadically during the week and as a result the new believer's financial, family, emotional and physical needs are overwhelming causing him to faint and return to his addiction. Besetting sins are rough for many believers, and surely those having been dominated so long by drug and

need to talk to any one of them in a more personal way. I feel this is very much needed as our group is growing and there is much less opportunity for personal interaction with the girls. I really praise the Lord for this and am praying about fitting this into my already busy schedule!

One topic that comes up time and time again in our Study is that of "where can a woman go when she leaves prison and has no home base", or, "if I go home I will only get involved in the same sin that brought me here". I am convinced more than ever that as these women (and men) get saved they need to be in an environment that will consistently and daily disciple and encourage them in the Lord until they reach a strong emotional and spiritual stability to go out on their own. Please read Jack's article on **Why a Facility for Discipleship and Maturity of the Drug and Alcohol Abuser?** as it builds on what I have said here. Most of all please pray for wisdom in decisions to be made.

A verse which has really been a blessing and a challenge to me this last month is II Peter 1:3 which says, "**According as his divine power hath**

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alcohol abuse need the special care and patient encouragement of the Scriptures which can be given to them on a consistent and daily basis through a discipleship facility.

~~I have been asking you to pray concerning this matter for many, many months. Please don't stop now as we are spending many, many hours in the investigation of buildings, acreage and costs. Specific sites are in discussion and the project seems impossible unless carried out by many. It is our desire to make a decision soon, yet all within His perfect timing and will!~~

In closing, I might add that we are also anxious for a facility to meet the unique needs of women often unmet by existing ministries.

If you are with us, tell us! If you are praying, tell us! If you feel led, join us by participating in the coming challenging months!

On The Home Front

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven." — Ecclesiastes 3:1

Although there is something special about every time of the year, when summer ends I am always sad as our boys go back to school and our hurried pace quickens even more. As I look at the beauty of the trees and feel the coolness in the air, I cannot help but think what a wonderful and caring Lord we have that made four seasons of the year for us to enjoy — all different and all beautiful.

Many of the area boys are frequenting our home again. It was encouraging to hear some of them requesting prayer and Bible study. Last week we had 25 boys and girls in our family room for a time with a special speaker who shared his life of being the head of a gang in Harlem and how he met the Lord. We had a wonderful time and rejoiced in the great response of all who came.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Calvary Bible Church and Matta Memorial Church for their faithful supply of snacks, paper products, beverages, etc. You are a life saver!

Some specific names I would like you to be praying for are Rich, Anthony, James, Robbie, Kenny, Rod, Brian, Matt and Tionne. The list could go on and on as each has special needs. Please pray, too, for our sons as our home life is always a bustling place of the typewriter, visitors, counseling and a ringing telephone. Our desire and prayer is to raise Jonathan, Timothy and Joshua in this environment to God's praise and deserved glory!

For you who can imagine the demand of this work, we especially lean on your most personal prayers. We love you all!

Sue Crans

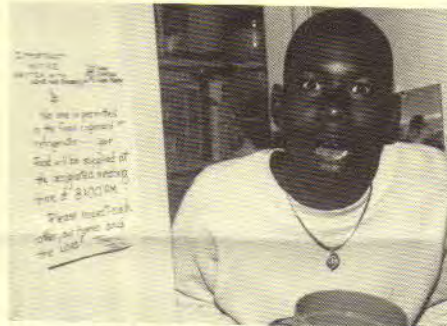
Praises & Rejoicings

Bowery Mission, Keswick Colony and the Atlantic City Rescue Mission.

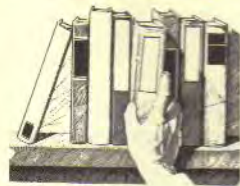
Continued positive follow-up of inmates who received Christ as their Savior at the Wayne County In-Prison Seminar last May.



Our 13 year old son Jonathan David



Little Hoggard caught in the pantry



From The Bookshelf

This month we invite you to obtain a copy of **The Rebirth of America** which is published by the Arthur S. DeMoss Foundation in Philadelphia. This book is a beautiful compilation of writings portraying the Biblical foundations of America.

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

Women — Linda Ingham & Doris Haley

Continued on back page.

Developments and Special Prayer Needs

A **drug and alcohol discipleship facility** is our most urgent need. Please read our article concerning this to give you more insight into this most important facility!

The **office** will soon be moving to the basement of the Crans' house next to the recreation room. This will enable Linda to have much more space for the continually growing office needs.

A **word processing system** is still in great demand in the office and so far \$100 has been donated for this purpose. Please continue to pray that God will supply funds for this most needed equipment.

Missionary Candidates for CCGM are being interviewed. God is moving in hearts to join our staff so we would covet your prayerful support for wisdom in knowing God's choice.

Warden's Bible Fund has been entirely spent! Please know that we want to continue placing personalized copies of God's Word in their hands. Feel free to send donations and designate it 'Warden's Fund'.

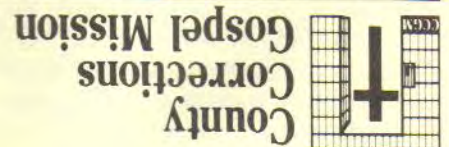
A **Christmas Ministry** will be made available to the women of Chester County Prison and the young men of SESTU (Southeast Secure Treatment Unit). Gifts and personal ministry will be carried on by CCGM with the intention of especially ministering to the children of the women and the specific needs of the boys at SESTU. Feel free to send donations and designate it 'Christmas Fund'.

September's Overview

September took us from the streets of Broadway in New York City (Cocaine Heaven) to the southwest corner of Pennsylvania.

We visited 7 counties and delivered 10 Bibles to Wardens in 7 county prisons and 3 state correctional institutions. (See Warden's Corner.) I was also present at the dedication service of the new Montgomery County Prison.

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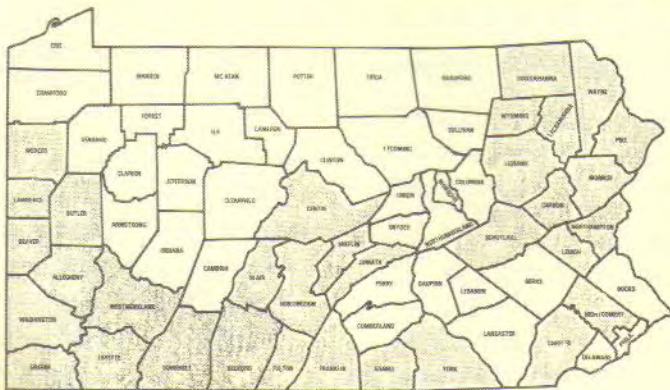
A Letter From Linda - *Continued*

given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue." We have been practically learning about this verse in our Single's Bible Study at Hephzibah as this verse points out that we have **everything** we need to live the victorious Christian life. We need not fall back into old patterns of sin as we gain a knowledge of Him through His Word and appropriating the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. As Paul says in Colossians 2:6, must be "rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith . . ." so as to know the victory we have.

- Linda Ingham

Warden's Corner

Seven more counties are shaded this month with the distribution of 10 more Bibles into the county and state facilities. Those counties visited were Bedford,



Overview - *Continued*

We preached in Blair, Lancaster, Philadelphia and Chester Counties.

We addressed 20 pastors in central Pennsylvania.

A special evangelistic meeting was held in our home with 25 youth and adults in attendance.

In-house ministry was carried on daily.

Weekly ministry and follow-up continued with the women and men in Maximum Security sections of Chester County Prison.

Many hours were spent in searching out land and facilities for a discipleship facility.

Administration and maturity of our office increases under the wise counsel of United Indian Mission director, Don Fredericks.

Somerset, Fayette, Greene, Washington, Allegheny and Westmoreland.

Prayer Concerns - *Continued.*

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.

Revival in the heart of every Christian.

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

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THE CONTENDER

September 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

The Church In This World

"... And when they were come and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles (heathen)." - Acts 14:27

As we read through the account of Acts and warm ourselves by the raising of the Church, we can see a powerful pattern of preaching, perseverance and leadership development. In short, we witness over and over the conversion of souls, their gathering together and the placement of elders "in every church".

The study of the Epistles would even more accentuate the patterns and doctrines of those fellowships providing an unchanging resource and guideline for effective and obedient evangelism and church growth.

It has always been the nature of God's heart to penetrate and redeem lost peoples. Whether Old or New Testament, Jew or Gentile, God has consistently in every generation called out a people for His name. The condition has always been grace and the means has always been "the just for the unjust".

As often heralded in the *Contender*, we hold so dependently to the unchanging, God-ordained method and mission of evangelism and church development. If we can trust God for any "fruit that remains", it must entail the

reviving or strengthening of the local church.

If you read the *Contender*, you know our constant cry for effective churches. Please understand, the vast majority of our entire daily outreach is to the unchurched and lost of America. So often we border on mental and spiritual exhaustion when attempting to go beyond the present work and activity of the local church. I am more understanding than ever of the need for the presence of Christ in the marketplace. As I read again of the precious accounting of Jesus' compassion for men (lost, fainting and scattered), I ache within to see the day when Christ's presence (via His Church) fills the streets of the world.

In seeing the multitude without a shepherd and without a flock, he said, "... **The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; PRAY ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest THAT HE WILL SEND FORTH LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST**". (Matthew 9:37-39)

How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (Romans 10:14) Rehearsed throughout the New Testament, we cannot justify any effective work without the present and yielded work of His Church! God especially prepared and set apart "... some evangelists; and some pastor/teachers ... for the effectual working in the measure of every part, making increase of the body ..." (Ephesians 4:11, 16)

I purposefully stepped down from the pastor/teacher responsibility to presently spend myself in Evangelism. However, no evangelist would be able to

really know joy if it were not for an effective and burdened local assembly in the region of his labors.

My dear ones, I wish my tongue could tell the **daily** tragic stories that confront CCGM. I am fully aware of pastors already overwhelmed with needs but will ache in heart until we become satisfied also with the outpouring of God's redeeming love and mercies on this crooked and perverse generation. Doors open every day. **What waits even now to be done is impossible without a fire of revival in His Church and a weeping for lost men.**

I will cry "Home Missions" til God calls me Home, and as stated earlier, **I am so anxious to see Christ's presence in the streets. But then, I am caused to remember that we are His Body, we are His witnesses and we must be obedient to make Him known.**

Soon ends the day of Grace. "... but now **once** in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself ... so Christ was **once offered to bear the sins of many;** and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the **second time without sin** unto salvation." Hebrews 9:26, 28

As so clearly stated in Hebrews 9, His first coming was an offer of redemption. It is ours to carry on ... the second time He comes as Judge wherein a generation presently unredeemed shall perish.

My dear ones, I am seriously crying for a movement of His Body (the Church) **into** a lost, scattered and fainting generation!

Jack Crans