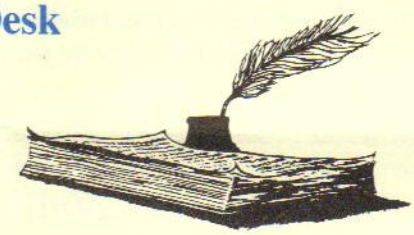
THE CONTENDER

September 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



Dear ''Christian'':

> ''. . . walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. . . ''
> — Ephesians 4:1

The first Believers to be called Christian'' were at Antioch (Acts 11:26). Without question, these particular saints were dynamically transformed by their yielding to the teaching ministry of Barnabas and Paul.

In a recent review of the book of Ephesians, I was impressed again by the overwhelming supply of God's wonderful grace. One cannot help but be impressed and excited with the calling of the child of God. The provisions made possible in Christ are literally unspeakable. The power, glory, redemption, wisdom and will of God are imputed to the Believer and the good pleasure of God seems obtainable according to His work in us. We are to be to the praise of His glory and the working of His mighty power promises to lift us far above our greatest hopes and thoughts. The ''fulness'' of God is to be our experience and the outworking of this marvelous glory is the challenge and test of the vocation (calling) wherewith we re called.

Every Believer has this calling — to balance life-style with the priceless privilege of a full redemption. Although Ephesians 1 - 3 lifts us to heights of glory, the remaining three chapters warn us of awaiting obstacles and victories. Enemies generalized in the world, the flesh and the devil are only conquered as we walk in the Spirit and our minds are sanctified and cleansed by the Word of God. Our world is literally dying to see a ''Christian''. **We must always keep our behavior balanced with our blessed privileges in Christ.** ''Finally, my Brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.'' (Ephesians 6:10)

The exhortation to ''walk worthy'' demands yielded lives. We ought to be under the control of the Holy Spirit and led along to confront this age with the precious Gospel and truth of a living Savior and Lord. Boldness, tenacity and love ought to mark our occupation of this temporary dwelling. Opportunities beg the church to ''come out''. Countless broken lives await the light of our presence. It behooves us to ''understand what the will of the Lord is.'' Mediocrity did not win Antioch Believers the name, ''Christian''. ''If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you.'' (I Peter 4:14)

In Him,

Jack Crans

Kid's Rally at Coatesville's Oak Street Project.

Pennsylvania State Police (Bureau Criminal Investigation) Missing Persons Bulletin

Satanism: The Law Enforcement Response

By Jack Crans

(The following statements are quoted from the above article and continue our July Contenter report on the Satanic influence of crime.)

''Satanism is on the rise in America. Hardly a day passes without reports of violent acts conducted by satanists. Across the country law enforcement organizations are receiving reports of homicide, mayhem, assault, suicide, child abuse and animal mutilations that are linked with the satanic occult.

''Law enforcement authorities have the responsibility to meet the challenge of the satanist with education, knowledge, understanding, cooperation and appropriate resources at all governmental levels.

''Only through knowledge and understanding of the organization, beliefs, rituals and practices of various occult groups, will investigators be able to successfully prosecute persons engaged in satanistic criminal behavior. There must be a renewed awareness of satanic overtones in certain crimes.

Continued on next page.

Satanism - *Continued*

The Beliefs of Satanism

"Satanism, also referred to as Black Magic, has existed since the dawn of Christianity. According to the Bible, God is the Father of all, including both Christ and Lucifer (the Devil). There was conflict in heaven between the forces of Christ and Lucifer, and the Lucifer forces lost and were "cast out into the earth". (Rev. 12:7-9)

"People have long realized the struggle between the righteousness of God and the forces of evil in the devil. This same struggle is recognized by the Satanist, who is committed with religious fervor to winning that battle.

"The satanist believes Lucifer rules the earth, and when the end of the world comes, the forces of Lucifer will overpower the forces of God and Christ and rule in Heaven. Therefore, the satanist pledges allegiance to the Devil, not only for his assistance in this world, but in the world to come.

"Authorities believe Anton LaVey, also known as the 'Black Pope', is probably the best known modern proponent of satanism. He was a con artist and used his theatrical showmanship to found The Church of Satan in April 1966 in San Francisco, California. The Church of Satan was the first legally recognized, tax-exempt, church of its kind. In 1969, LaVey published *The Satanic Bible* which outsells the Bible in many book stores.

"Most Black Magic occult groups have certain practices and rituals that are common to all. They are usually organized into 'covens' consisting of 9-13 members. Estimates have indicated there were approximately 135,000 by 1985. The members come from all walks of life, all ethnic groups, and all social and economic levels. Some join for reasons of personal gratification from the sadistic, anti-social or sexual behavior; while others may possibly find the religious aspect meets their needs.

The Heavy Metal Music Phenomenon

"One major contemporary movement exploiting satanism is the music industry and its punk rock and 'heavy metal' productions. The music attempts to promote such ideals as absolute freedom, irresponsibility and violence. This is done through lyrics advocating self mutilation, assault, mayhem, suicide, drugs, murder, sex, anti-establishment and antisocial rebellion against society, parents, education, law and order.

"Some people believe this music is only a fad. That may be true for some, but for others it may lead to a way of life that drastically changes their basic ethics and value systems.

Conclusion

"Law enforcement managers realize this renewed interest in satanism and the occult is a serious national problem. Authorities must meet the challenge by assuring these crimes are detected, reported and prosecuted for what they are: satanic related. This challenge is best addressed by a multi-faceted approach:

— An increased awareness of the satanic trend by all law enforcement personnel.

— County or state task forces to coordinate investigation of satanic related crimes.

— Allocation of adequate departmental resources.

— Generalized training at recruit and in-service levels.

— In-depth training for specialized investigators.

— Involvement of both community and private sector resources in combating this threat to the basic American value system.

"This challenge of satanism will be met by progressive and innovative law enforcement administrators. Through education, training, planning and mutual cooperation, this threat to our society will be contained."

The report goes on and on regarding vulgar and distasteful subjects. You might wonder why we would report this, but please be sensitive to the fact that Law Enforcers are involved in a dangerous and difficult profession. We ought to be shocked into very zealous obedience to Christ and also be more serious in our responsibility to pray for those who keep the peace.

The spiritual nature of crime is no new revelation to the Believer, but certainly this article awakens our privilege to apply God's victories and powerful Word to all dimensions of civil disobedience.

Perhaps our hearts ought to be stirred to make every effort to encourage and assist our local peace officers. Once again I ask, How can one possibly be in Law Enforcement and not see a need to be rightly related to God? Law Enforcement can only keep the peace when functioning according to the revealed plan of God.

Dates To Prayerfully Remember

October 27-29 — Warden's Symposium at King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. President Daniel VanNess of Justice Fellowship will be addressing a workshop on Alternatives to Incarceration.

November 19 — Fall Festival by Faith Church of Worcester for Oak Street Children. Your participation is welcome. Also, weekly film ministry for kids is beginning.

January 20-22 — Men's Retreat at Sandy Cove. Jack Crans and Russ Cadle will be speaking. Last year was the first of these retreats and we are trusting God for a powerful return.

March 29 - April 2 — Word of Life Law Enforcement/Corrections Weekend with Bob Vernon (Assistant Chief of the Los Angeles Police Department).

INTERNATIONAL WORD OF LIFE

A Letter From Linda

By Linda Ingham

In these past 3½ years, God has used Jack as a catalyst to network people together in the field of Corrections. What is this networking? It is Jack meeting Believers who work in the field of Corrections all over the United States and introducing them to other Believers in that same field, with the ultimate goal of seeing born-again leaders raising a Biblical standard in Corrections. We rejoice in God opening doors to even network Christians in Corrections with ministries that can aid in the raising up of this much needed Biblical standard.

My job in this networking has been to keep track of everybody. I have every person (408 so far) typed into my computer with information concerning them broken down into 13 fields. Within each field they are coded according to their specific type of work (warden, commissioner, chaplain, corrections missionary, corrections officer, policeman, private investigator, FBI, secret service, attorney, judge, legislator, government official, juvenile work, prison staff, prison volunteer, court staff, correctional organization professional), saved or unsaved, retired, state, county, telephone numbers etc. My wonderful computer does searches on the various fields depending on whatever kind of listing Jack would want for a specific mailing. Isn't modern technology wonderful!

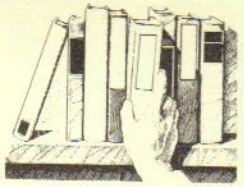
It's been exciting to see how God in the past years has opened doors for networking. This is a part of our ministry where you haven't seen a lot of visible fruit — yet. It takes much time, energy and direction of the Lord to be led in the right paths. We are begging the Holy Spirit to do His perfect work in opening the eyes and hearts of men in Corrections leadership so as to see America go back to its original founding principles.

With many open doors comes much satanic opposition. However, just last night the Holy Spirit again reminded me in Ephesians 6:12 that I "wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places". God went on to encourage me in verse 13 to **take** unto [me] the whole armour of God..." which is knowing all that I am in Christ and allowing Him to come forth as I stand on the "exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the **divine nature** having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (II Peter 1:4) It's easy to write that, but a lifetime to experientially learn! How I praise Him for His victory and patience with me!

I appreciate your financial and prayer support so much! Especially keep prayers going before His throne of grace! I am experiencing more and more that prayer **is** the work!

CCGM Prayer time is every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:45 a.m.

Why not join us in prayer where you are!



From The Bookshelf

Biblical Exposition: Unleashing the Power of the Word written by Dr. Anthony T. Evans, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, 1808 W. Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas, Texas 75232. (Video and study notebook series) This will help develop a deeper understanding of and commitment to Biblical Exposition, as well as to provide a tool that can be used to train others in urban America.

Statistics You'd Like To Forget

America's penal system adds the equivalent of 1,000 beds per week. $2 billion worth per year.

Projections set an outlay of $70 billion over next 30 years.

Texas' Corrections Budget rose 34% while its General Budget rose 6.8%.

America's 618 federal and state prisons, hundreds of jails and youth facilities, enclose some 900,000 men, women and children.

A man is twice as likely to be killed on streets of Chicago than Belfast.

Locking up 1,000 additional offenders would avert 187,000 crimes.

Costs range from $25,000 - $45,000 per year for each state or federal inmate.

Younger, active criminals are taking their place thrown into the same cycle of violence by shattered homes, poor education, joblessness and an ever-growing drug trade.

Drugs represent the principal economy in most large urban communities.

Pennsylvania Inmate Population Statistics As of May 31, 1988

State	17,094
County	13,714
Total	30,808

Looking For Relief?

Does this challenge our thinking?

September 1988 Report

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

County Corrections Gospel Mission

Unity Of The 'Spirit'

By Jack Crans

"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
— Ephesians 4:3

Leaders of some of the largest prison ministries are also some of the most approachable and humblest of servants. Bill Glass, Chuck Colson, Chaplain Ray, Don Smarto and many others have constantly exemplified an arm spirit of support and encouragement towards us. It's wonderful to hear them compliment one another and even more special to see the unique and critical callings each of them has been given. I am seeing more and more a shared vision and spirit of Christ among potentially competitive ministries. Richard DeHaan of Radio Bible Class (The Daily Bread) networks with a Manhatten Pastor while we presently enjoy a challenging opportunity with American Bible Society. I realize that God recognizes our differences but heartily recommend that church fellowships will gain more than they lose by seeing some things together!

Shannon Butterfield at Word of Life Bible Institute

Last month we advised you that Shannon Butterfield was going to Word of Life Bible Institute. He enrolled on Friday, September 16, and so far is loving every minute. He needs your encouragement, so feel free to write him at Word of Life Bible Institute, Schroon Lake, New York 12870.

Please remember to consider the **potential scholarship fund** for many that could follow in his steps. The **cost for one full year** at Word of Life is just under $5,000.

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

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Perfect fit! Fun in Christ's name

Clown helping to communicate Christ.

Future leader for Christ?