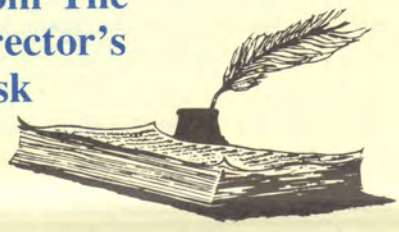
THE CONTENDER

Spring 1994

". . . 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



"How forcible are right words!" Job 6:25

Recent studies in Job have shed great light on the failure of human counselors. Job found greater heaviness and sorrow of heart in the grievous counsel of friends. "Yea, ye overwhelm the fatherless, and ye dig a pit for your friend . . . Oh, that ye would altogether hold your peace, and it should be to your wisdom." God Himself rebukes Job's friends and 'counselors' with these words: "My wrath is kindled against thee and against thy two friends; for **ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right** . . . take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant, Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering . . . lest I deal with you after your folly, in that **ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right . . .**"

Ours is a day that desperately needs 'right words'. God has given us HIS WORD and HIS SPIRIT for discerning and applying HIS COUNSELS. It is our prayer that we might deepen our love for HIS WORD and that we might display an inward possession of HIS TRUTH.

May we avoid the error of Job's 'friends' by taking heed to I Timothy 4:16: "Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee."

With Sober Thought,
Jack Crans

Kensington Outreach Center Ministering On The Edge Of Hell

Pastor Steve and Lynn Meyers, Josephine Phelps and the Craig Coulter Family are serving Christ in the jaws of 'the lion' at 2436 Kensington Avenue in Philadelphia.

Rats, frozen pipes, and recurring seizures of a missionary's child are just part of the current afflictions which have come upon their precious and worthy ministry.

It was some time ago that Lynn encouraged me with the words of missionary C.T. Studd: **"Some wish to live within the sound of church and chapel bell . . . I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell!"**

History will reveal the flight of the church to the suburbs . . . the city is left to languish and ultimately perish . . . this is so unlike the priorities of the scriptures! (Zechariah 7:8-14)

I feel compelled by the unchanging mandate of Holy Scripture to remind all who read this newsletter to remember such as the precious laborers mentioned above.

"...for His name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the heathen. We, therefore, ought to receive such, that we might be fellow helpers to the truth." 3 John 7,8

Encourage the Kensington Beloved:

KENSINGTON OUTREACH CENTER
PO BOX 29341
PHILADELPHIA PA 19125
(215) 426-2910

CCGM Establishes New Office in the Oak Street Housing Project

Beginning April 1, County Corrections Gospel Mission will launch its new presence into the "202 Hillcrest" office location of the Oak Street Housing Project. Through the focal point of years of Children's Bible Club activities, Oak Street families will now realize the daily presence of a CCGM office and the maturing labors of missionary, Janel Trout.

Janel is the wife of the director of The Camp at Old Mill, Mr. David Trout. She is a graduate from Philadelphia College of Bible and has prepared herself in both Bible and Social Work Degrees. **Her primary work will center on the yoking of established Christian families with willing and needful homes in the Oak Street and Parkway Projects.**

Rather than establish 'a program, it is more our desire to meaningfully match caring, godly families to the needs now evidenced in the Bible Club homes.

Pray that God will raise up the needed 'Yoke-Families' and that another missionary will be provided to lead and direct the Summer Recreation Program for the many 'at-risk' children and youth.

This new foothold within Oak Street requires the vital prayers of God's people. Pray that Janel will have the protection and grace to lead a ministry that is effectual in its witness to Christ and in its encouragement and strengthening of willing homes.

Monday, May 23, 1994 Marks Visit of Los Angeles Assistant

Chief of Police Robert Vernon

"When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."
Proverbs 29:2

"I exhort, therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and all giving of thanks, be made for all men, for kings, and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." I Timothy 2:1,2

Monday, May 23, will mark the day for the important gathering of law enforcement, corrections and criminal justice authorities for ***LESSONS FROM THE FIRESTORM:*** **The Ethics and Authority Seminar for Law Enforcement and Corrections Leadership** at the **Valley Forge Sheraton and Convention Center.** "Focus on the Family" published Bob Vernon's best-selling book: *L.A. JUSTICE: LESSONS FROM THE FIRESTORM* which vividly testifies to the 38 years of exemplary leadership of Chief Vernon in the Los Angeles Police Department. The vital warning signs of the Los Angeles Riots and the collapse of spiritual authority in government gives critical urgency to this soon coming conference.

Every committed church and pastor ought to be encouraging their prison, court and law enforcement leadership to attend. There is still room for another one-hundred registrants and the cost is only $30.00 (thirty-dollars) for the 8:00 am till 1:00 pm seminar.

The prophetic testimony of Bob Vernon to leadership will be an opportunity for greatest testimony of your own concern for the reaching of civil authorities.

Write or call us immediately for conference information and registration materials. Deadline for registration is May 15, 1994.

American Correctional Association Conference at St. Louis, Missouri August 7-11, 1994

Imagine acres of advertising booths filling a conference showroom and thousands of prison and jail administrators visiting each vendor to investigate items from bullet-proof vests to the latest in barbed-wire. Realize, also, that each stop among the hundreds of advertisers yields conversation, exchange of ideas and the establishing of relationships. Oftentimes, each advertising host will send his or her visitors away with a gift, a reminder or a word of encouragement.

Now, think of this! If God provides the necessary wisdom, support and encouragement, County Corrections Gospel Mission will participate in the August 7-11/St. Louis American Correctional Association Conference as a vendor. We will not be encouraging sales of bullet-proof glass or flame-retardant mattresses for prisons. We will represent a continued burden and commitment to the encouragement of leadership in Criminal Justice.

Consistent with the mandate for praying for authority, we shall personally represent God's urgent call for "Godliness in Authority".

Our 'vendor area' must be a communication of God's special concern for leadership. The networking of men and women in Criminal Justice who love the Lord is long overdue. Few areas of leadership in government hold greater sway over such brokenness in humanity as do those administrating our prisons and jails. A prophetic call is presently being choked in the stone and steel corridors of our correctional system. God has prepared leadership in the arena of Criminal Justice for such a time as this. . .I know that this visit to St. Louis will yield the beginning of this call to leadership!

The next several weeks will be critical to our preparedness for this conference. We need your specific prayers on this behalf and certainly urge you to join in helping us launch this long-envisioned concern.

What is most exciting is the fact that the American Correctional Association gathers twice annually as do the similar organizations of The National Sheriffs and The American Jail Associations.

An Introduction:
The Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers
PO Box 3686
Chattanooga, Tennessee
37404-0686

(EXCERPTS FROM FCPO MATERIALS)

The dual purpose of the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers (FCPO) is to:

1. Present Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to the criminal justice community, and
2. Disciple and train Christian criminal justice professionals to carry out the Great Commission.

What is a Chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers, USA?

As a member, you actually become part of a "team" of like-minded men and women called by God to share Jesus Christ with those in the criminal justice system.

This team is made up of local CHAPTERS found in communities throughout the United States. (FCPO also networks with Christian police organizations outside of the country.) These chapters meet on a regular basis for a number of reasons generating out of FCPO's commitment to reach and teach men and women in the criminal justice system for Christ...

As a peace officer or one working within some other element of the criminal justice system, you are unique! And your sphere of influence cannot be matched by any other segment of society. We believe that 'peace officers can best reach peace officers, etc.' That is why the strategy of a local chapter is so effective.

For More Information:

Mr. C. Grant Wolf
Executive Director
FCPO
PO Box 3686
Chattanooga, TN 37404-9939
(615) 622-1234

Children's Bible Clubs

by Sue Crans

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds has come and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land."

Song of Solomon 2:11,12

I am sure that you join me in rejoicing for the coming of Spring and the end of a bitter winter! The stormy weather greatly frustrated the hearts of children and teachers. Consistency is so vital to our little ones, yet, the storms often kept us from being able to meet. Though stressful, we trusted the Lord, knowing that He knew what was best for us.

Some weeks, when the storms blew hardest, Jack and I would go up to Parkway and Oak Street neighborhoods just to remind the children of our love and mutual longing for Bible Clubs. The blessing of these small-scale meetings were equally precious and perhaps even deeper to growing relationships.

The Lord has impressed on my heart the need for deeper discipling of specific children. Six (6) years of Bible Clubs with Parkway Children has produced real and lasting fruit in several boys and girls. Like you and I, they battle with a consistent, daily walk with the Lord. Pray with me as we continue to seek the Lord for the best methods of discipleship.

The pictures only begin to capture our Christmas Party when 130 children and parents gathered at The Camp at Old Mill for a wonderful time of singing, eating, sharing in gifts and the celebration of the Lord's Birthday.

Faithful teachers, aids and supervisors gather each Thursday from 4:00-6:00 pm to share in the Children's Bible Club Hour. You are always welcome to join with us in these challenging programs!

OLD MILL NEEDS:

Work Teams (Yard Work)
Roofers
Overhead Projector
Welcome Mats
Paper Products
Cleaning Products
Dehumidifier
Canoes
Work Light
Bench Grinder

The Camp at Old Mill

Groups will soon be pouring into camp as our calendar year is filled for the Summer of '94. We praise the Lord for the lives that we have seen changed at The Camp at Old Mill and anticipate a powerful continuation in the months before us. Youth Mission Teams from Johnson City, Tennessee and Anderson, South Carolina will kick-off the summer and will launch ministry into the Chester County Prison, South East Secure Treatment Unit and the area 'at-risk' communities. We anticipate children from Brooklyn, Chester, Coatesville and stand ready to support, encourage and strengthen the burden of any church wanting to serve and address the fatherless and poor of the city.

Your prayers and support have been greatly appreciated as Janel and I have entered into this new phase of our lives...Marriage! We've enjoyed our early months together and are settled into a cozy cottage on the camp grounds. Pray for Janel as she continues in ministry at The Oak Street Housing Project and for me as I develop present programs at the camp.

The facility has seen the evidence of new office areas, the final renovation phase of completing the Boys Dorm and the total revamping of the water and electrical systems.

We think of you much and look forward to seeing you on Saturday, May 7, 1994, for the Open House at The Camp at Old Mill!

May God Bless You!
Dave Trout
Psalm 42:1

The Camp at Old Mill

County Corrections Gospel Mission
P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

Spring Report 1994

Grace Greater Than All My Sin!

The avenues of need and numbers of requests for everything from prayer to physical items of money, food and transportation that come upon this ministry seem to far out weigh the moments of the day. And yet, **HE CONTINUES TO GIVE GRACE AND STRENGTH TO FACE EACH CHALLENGE WITH AFFIRMING KNOWLEDGE THAT HE WILL PROVIDE FOR HIS WILL TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.** All that He does through you, by your prayer support and sacrificial giving, may not always gain recognition from those served, but do know it is appreciated by us and most of all by our loving heavenly Father. Of all those HE helps through these revolving doors, few there seem to be who turn to Him with a "thank you"...**this knowledge has caused me to recognize with much humbleness of heart how very much my Lord shed His grace upon me and continued to love me to Himself with very little in the way of "thank you" from me until that memorable day when He transformed me for His own...and often times, even now, knowing Him as my Saviour...is He the object of all of my appreciation for all that He has done and continues to do...regretfully I know I too often fail at this...But He still holds on to me and keeps me confident 'that He which hath begun a good work in me will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:'** How can I say thank you for the things **HE** has done for me...for the unappreciated love **HE** didn't withhold from me? He is teaching me that one way to do this is by allowing Him to love and serve others through me no matter how they respond!

Thank you for all of your prayers, words of encouragement, and support of me in this ministry.

Under His Wings,
Dottie Shirk
Jeremiah 29:11-13

The Gathering of Friends at The Camp at Old Mill

Saturday, May 7, 1994
1 - 2:30 pm - service

Special Guest
Pastor F. Dickson Marshall
Director - 45 years of the City Rescue Mission
New Castle, Pennsylvania

Areas to Designate Gifts

General	Memorials
Old Mill	SESTU
Snack Foods	Warden's Fund

County Corrections Gospel Mission is a non-profit organization. Please make all checks payable to CCGM and designate your desired gift area; all gifts are tax-deductible; a receipt will be returned to you for your records.

The Contender is a quarterly publication of County Corrections Gospel Mission, P.O. Box 1136, Coatesville, PA 19320 (610) 383-9378

Director, Jack Crans
Financial Secretary, Sue Crans
Administrative Assistant
Dottie Shirk

Board of Directors:
Mr. Mark Blair,
Dr. Howard Blandau,
Dr. Leland Dittman,
Dr. Joseph F. Eckman,
Dr. Herschel Elliott,
Rep. Joseph R. Pitts.