THE CONTENDER

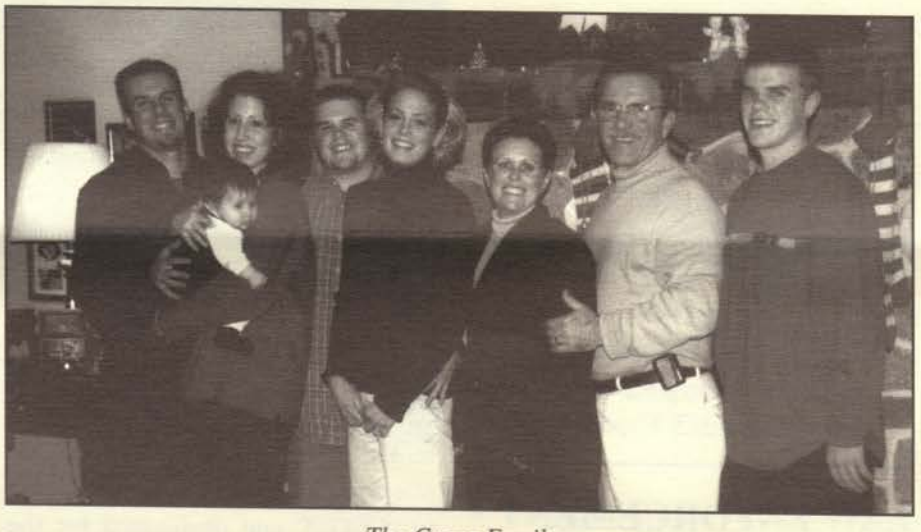
Spring 2001

". . . 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

"Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea..." Isaiah 48:17,18



The Crans Family

The *Jack Crans Family* greets you and trusts that you will rejoice with us in what God is doing through you in the ministry of *County Corrections Gospel Mission*. The above picture manifests the blessings of God in our lives. Jonathan, Sarah and Malea (our first grandchild) are busy in evangelism and discipleship under the ministry of 'Watermen for Christ'/Christian Surfers, USA; Timothy and Corrine serve together at the Wagontown Union Chapel in the work of 'Youth and Family Ministries' and Joshua continues in studies at Philadelphia Biblical University while working with us in the outreach to Coatesville's boys and girls at The Camp at Old Mill. Joshua's e'mail to me on 10/1/98 from Word of Life Bible Institute said it all: *'Dear Dad: Exodus 15:2 The LORD is my strength and song and He has become my salvation; He is my God and I will praise Him: My father's God and I will exalt Him.'* What greater wealth could Sue and I possess than to have three sons and their wives in loving service for Jesus Christ!

The year just past brought CCGM into formal relationship with the *Canadian Revival Fellowship* through which we have become an 'Associate Ministry' of CRF. While in Regina, Canada in late October with CRF's President: Harold Lutzer and its Board of Directors, I heard a great Bible Lesson on the above text and was reminded of God's desire for His powerful working in our lives. HE wants to move upon us and through us with great power and glory! The following poem speaks volumes concerning the coming *'tide of revival'* and deeply encouraged my heart.

- Jack Crans

The Tide is Sure to Win

"On the far reef the breakers recoil in shattered foam..While still the sea behind them urges its forces home.. Its song of triumph surges o'er all the thunderous din..The wave may break in failure, But, the tide is sure to win!

The reef is strong and cruel upon its jagged wall..One wave, a score, a hundred broken and beaten fall..Yet in defeat they conquer, the sea comes flooding in..Wave upon wave is routed, But, the tide is sure to win!

Oh! Mighty sea thy message in clanging spray is cast..Within God's plan of progress it matters not at last..How wide the shores of evil, how strong the reefs of sin..The wave may be defeated, But, the tide is sure to win!"

- John 7:37-38

SOLEMN ASSEMBLIES

Thursday, April 26th
Crime Victim's of Chester County's Homicide Victim's Memorial Service/Downingtown
Central Presbyterian Church
@ 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 29th
Law Enforcement Honor's Service
Hephzibah Baptist Church
@ 10:45 a.m.

Monday, April 30th
CCGM's Banquet
"Good'N Plenty" Restaurant
@ 6:30 p.m.

Friday, May 11th
Fraternal Order of Police / Memorial Service,
218 North Church St., West Chester
@ 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15th
National Peace Officers Memorial Service @ 12:00 noon
West Front of U.S. Capitol.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CHAPLAINCY

Police Chaplain *Gary Gambino* and his wife *Sharon*, formally commenced full-time missionary service with CCGM on January 1st of this year. Though having raised only 50% of their needed support, the Board of Directors have supported their immediate engagement for duty by committing their service to the *Caln Twp. Police Department* and the enlargement of CCGM's service to the law enforcement and broader criminal justice community of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Gary will be serving a portion of each week in the Chester County Prison's Chaplaincy, but, primarily focuses on the needs and concerns of the law enforcement officer.

Gary and Sharon Gambino look forward to God's fullest supply of their missionary support. New monthly prayer and fiscal support

The Gary Gambino Family

partners will be needed for the Gambino Family to continue into the year 2002. The urgency of manifest needs in the law enforcement community call us to move forward 'for such a time as this.' As God leads, we know that God will raise a faithful supply of new supporters for the strengthening of the Gambino's ministry with CCGM. Monthly or one-time gifts can be made payable to 'CCGM' and designated for the work of the Gambino Family. Pray for Gary and Sharon that God will embrace them through such as you. Need not only exists for their fuller financial support, but, that God might make a way for them to settle in the City of Coatesville and even supply them with a newer car.

SOUTH AFRICAN 'POLICE MISSION'

Through the ministry of *Pointman Leadership Institute* (under which I am both a 'Team Director' and 'Instructor'), I was able to be part of a week long mission for the presenting of 'Principle Based Leadership' Seminars to South Africa's National Police Service in three cities: Capetown, Johannesburg and in Pretoria. Our teaching team consisted of a Knoxville, Tennessee Sheriff: Mike Duncan, two South African Police Officers: Why Duvenhage and Quintus Smitt, Pointman Training Director: Sam Barber (formerly of LAPD Training Academy) and myself. The seminars always open doors for the primary purpose of this ministry: the sharing of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Near to 300 South African National Police leaders were addressed and

The Pointman Team/S. Africa

challenged to know the Savior. Visiting a refugee, squatter camp adjacent to the Capetown Airport was of deepest importance to me.

Officer Why Duvenhage (pictured 2nd from the left) was deeply moved with me for the reaching of the thousands of boys and girls whose lives are held in a vicious cycle of poverty and crime. Just that weekend, more than 12 murders were reported in Nyanga. The ministry of CCGM invested greatly in Officer Duvenhage's ministry to Nyanga and will continue to partner with him through both Pointman Leadership Institute and our mutual commitment to a movement of the Christian Police Association. Officer Duvenhage phoned during the writing of this newsletter and shared regrets that he *would not be able to attend the April 30th CCGM Banquet due to no available seats on U.S. bound flights.* The mutual burden we share for both law enforcement, prisons and the associated concerns for 'at risk' children will keep our ministries close for years to come.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE CLUBS

Prison Ministry at the 'County Prison' level demands that there be a visible and measurable response to the cries of the children in our cities. The City of Coatesville reveals a crisis of fatherless, poor and desperately troubled children. The heart of my precious partner and wife, Sue Crans, has been broken for both the children and their families. It's been through Sue's heart cry that a growing ministry to both women and children continues to grow in the life and priority of CCGM. The faces in the pictures provided can only begin to call forth our deepening burden for furthering our impact upon such precious lives. Not only will we continue to service such lives in our summer camps, but, a weekly labor of love is poured forth through selfless volunteers who number more than 20 in a weekly ministry that consumes each Thursday. The months just past have been blessed with rising numbers of boys and girls in bible clubs. Tragedy always comes to our children's homes, yet, God's great love more deeply counters the hurts and through tears, prayers, hugs and many affirmations of Calvary's love we are experiencing unprecedented joy and rewards in this service area of our ministry. Pray that God will continue to bless the hundreds of volunteers, staff and children whom He has so faithfully given to us.

CAMP AT OLD MILL

In our ministry brochure: "A Strategic Perspective" you can read a condensed statement of our ministry's vision:

"County Corrections Gospel Mission (CCGM) is an incorporated mission agency headquartered in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, established to address and serve the nation's spiritual crisis now partially reflected in Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Systems. A commitment to and burden for the development of a local, national and international strategy which Biblically focuses on the people groups most impacted by family breakdown, poverty and crime is the aim of its ministry heart." One of the greatest resources that God has provided for the ministries of CCGM is the 'Camp at Old Mill.' Here are just a few of the activities that take place at this 18 acre camp: base location of CCGM's central office, site of Children's Bible Clubs, Mothers' Bible Clubs, 'His Academy' (Home Schoolers), Wilderness Adventure Summer Camps, weekend retreats, and gathering place for training of urban mission teams and host site of Summer's 'Fourth Sunday Night' Meetings.

The 'Camp at Old Mill' exists under the auspices of County Corrections Gospel Mission. David Trout is the Director of its operations and coordinator of its many programmed activities. The Dave Trout Family are missionaries under the umbrella of CCGM and live on the campus of the facility. Since commencing their ministry with us,

The Trout Family

they have been blessed with three children: Daniel, Jessica and David.

It is our firmest conviction that the Camp at Old Mill is one of the many indications that God blesses our targeting of both the prisoner and the fatherless. It can be said with all assurance that God poured out His finest blessings because we realized the cries of the prison-house and their relationship to the most needful children and mothers in our own communities. The camp exists today because of the people groups whom God has committed to our stewardship and obedient service.

Quite frankly, one can never explain the benevolence of God's care of us without realizing the direct relationship of the targeting of broken lives to the provision of such a wonderful camp facility!

It is our conviction that God will so bless His Church when there is an obedient and measurable service of the Gospel towards the poor, the fatherless and the concerns of justice and mercy in our own communities.

FOURTH SUNDAY NIGHT MEETINGS

The Camp at Old Mill will be the site of three *Fourth Sunday Night Meetings* in the Summer of 2001. We ask that pastors and churches (particularly those without Sunday night meetings) participate with us in these open-air-meetings:

Sunday, June 24th @ 6:30 P.M.

Dr. John DeBrine of
'Songtime, USA'
(renowned radio broadcaster)

Sunday, July 22nd @ 6:30 P.M.

Rev. John O'Cain / Evangelist, Exhorter and Pastor of Rocky Grove Baptist Church, South Carolina

Sunday, August 26th @ 6:30 P.M.

Rev. Peter Dugulescu / Romanian liberator and Pastor, President of 'Jesus the Hope of Romania

WILDERNESS ADVENTURE CAMPS

June 18th-July 4th

More than 150 boys and girls participate in our Bible Clubs throughout the weeks of each year. These children normally represent families that are one-parent, poor and 'highly-at-risk.' Most of these children will have the opportunity to attend a week of summer camp for no more cost than $8.00-$10.00/child. A faithful staff of more than 24 counselors is needed who will devote themselves to the nurture and encouragement of each child. Interested young people who are either in Senior High School or College may apply for these weeks of ministry opportunity by calling David Trout @ 610-942-3316.

Specific needs that we have annually can be met by your faithful response. Below, a listing of items that you might want to supply for 'Wilderness Adventure Camps' is provided (inform David Trout @ 610-942-3316 or Dottie Shirk @ 610-942-9142 of your interest, questions or ideas):

- Fishing Poles (basic)
  small hooks, floats
- Canoes
- Fresh Fruit
  (apples, oranges, plums)
- Powdered Iced Tea/
  Flavored Punch
- Paper Cups
- Breakfast Cereals
- Camp T'Shirts
- Craft Items
- 4-Man Tents
- Candy Bars (all kinds)

POINTMAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Captain Don Dougherty (Chester County Prison) is one of more than 60 ranking officers who successfully completed the 8 hours required for graduation from the Pointman Leadership Institute's *Principle Based Leadership Seminar*. The training was led by its President: Robert L. Vernon (retired Assistant Chief of Los Angeles Police Department), Deputy Sheriff Del Walinga (Iowa), Sgt. Nick Sensley (Santa Rosa PD), Sgt. Randy Brashears (Baltimore County PD) and myself. A maturing level of commitment to principles of integrity, courage, discipline, loyalty, diligence, humility, optimism and conviction is evident within our prison's command staff. Follow-up seminars will be offered in the Spring and new opportunities made possible to the Chiefs of Police Association of Chester County.

CHRISTIAN POLICE ASSOCIATION(S)

In the waning years of the 19th Century, a caring woman reached out to the suffering police of the notorious 'Scotland Yard' in London, England. Her burden gave birth to the *Christian Police Association* and has since grown into an international ministry of the gospel to law enforcement officers and related authorities. Currently, CPA's exist in such nations as: United Kingdom, Kenya, South Africa, Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Romania and France. Most recently, 180 African Police Leaders gathered to represent their 16 countries in the first-ever: Pan-African Police Association Conference in Kenya. Through the prayer-filled labors of London-based International Association of Christian Police Fellowships, we have been able to observe and participate in a movement of God amidst police and prison authority.

Pray for the following: That the prayer meetings and Bible Studies that are now gathering at Tredyffrin Twp. Police Department, Chester County Prison and amidst the Chester County Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Office will bring forth a great revival of God's working in the hearts of Criminal Justice Authority. God has opened wonderful doors of opportunity throughout the United States and growing relationships connect CCGM with strategic leadership from the U.S. Attorney's office to the American Correctional Association.

A great opportunity for impacting such leadership will be our participation in the largest convening of the American Correctional Association in Philadelphia. More than 3,000 administrators of America's prisons will attend. Though costly, we hope to represent the good news of Jesus Christ to all attending leaders by participating as a vendor in its August training event.

Take a moment and try to understand the following issue that consumes my heart every day: *The scriptures are testimony to the instruction and warnings of God related to the failure of the people of faith in concerns such as: the execution of justice; showing compassion to the fatherless, poor and the stranger; the administration of authority within the community of faith, the family and the government. <u>The question to be addressed is:</u> How can those in authority and administration of Criminal Justice Systems be discovered, encouraged, equipped and organized for the prophetic and urgent voice now needed in the Church for the accomplishment of a missionary task 'at home' which must be in direct response to the reflected urgencies of exploding prison populations and the urgencies of law enforcement nearest its own place of ministry?*

God is clearly at work in the Christian Police Association movement. May your prayers and continuing faithfulness find great reward in the imminent revival now manifest in the turning of many hearts!

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

Spring Report 2001

County Corrections Gospel Mission

Extending Our Labors Through Increased Staffing and Acquisition of Property Contiguous to The Camp at Old Mill

We want you to be aware of two critical concerns which are now before us in the ministries of County Corrections Gospel Mission. First, we have a great need for missionary staff who will come alongside the growing needs of both the City of Coatesville's Police and the urgencies of our Mothers' and Children's Bible Club Families. God is calling several young families to heed His cry for laborers. I can only ask that you pray for such precious families as the Okimuras, Hymans and Sagesses, who among many others have strengthened our hearts and joined us in a labor that directly impacts such people groups. Jesus said it best: *"Do not say 'There are still four months and then cometh the harvest.' Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look to the fields for they are already white for harvest!" (John 4:35)*

Second of our concerns is the need for knowing God's will related to the 5 bedroom home and 4.5 acre property, barn and carriage house which sit contiguous to the Camp at Old Mill. We are experiencing a growing need for centralizing our entire ministry's base at the Camp at Old Mill and pray that God will open further housing for such missionary staff as the Gary Gambino Family who now live in Millersville. We pray daily for God's clearest leading for both our 1003 Stirling Street (City of Coatesville) headquarter/home and the courageous expansion which now consumes our daily prayers.

We ask that your personal prayers would include our present concerns in the two items noted above: First, that God would continue to raise up and provide for new missionary staff; and, secondly, that God would guide our understanding related to the expanding of our property and facilities at The Camp at Old Mill. At this very moment, prayer is the only thing we are asking of you. Perhaps, God may touch your heart for 'first time' participation with us!

County Corrections Gospel Mission is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. **Please make all checks payable to CCGM.** If you desire, you may designate to your desired gift area.

Areas to Designate Gifts

General Fund — Memorials
Old Mill — Warden's Fund

All gifts are tax-deductible; a receipt will be returned to you for your records.

The Contender is a publication of County Corrections Gospel Mission, P.O. Box 1136, Coatesville, PA 19320
(610) 942-9142
FAX (610) 942-9150

Director, Jack Crans
Financial Secretary, Sue Crans
Administrative Assistant, Dottie Shirk
Auditor, Noll & Co., Inc., CPA

Board of Directors:
Mr. Mark Blair
Dr. Leland Dittman
Dr. Joseph F. Eckman
Dr. Herschel Elliott
Honorable Joseph R. Pitts
Mr. John Sturgis