THE CONTENDER

Summer 1991

". . . 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

"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all these things have fervent love among yourselves: for love shall cover a multitude of sins."
I Peter 4:7,8

Dear Beloved Encourager:

Often I feel misunderstood in my struggle to convey the primary burden of my heart, which is the urgent cry for the effective work of the local church among broken neighborhoods and families. "The effective work of the local church" is nothing more and nothing less than the goal of all missionary activity around the world. God's crowning choice for reaching the ends of the earth and the corners of our own cities is the church: nothing more, nothing less!

Peter exhorts the church of his own day to heed three primary thoughts: (1) understand without hesitation or compromise that you are living in the last days, the final hours; (2) consequently, be very alert and tender to the callings upon your life; and (3) pray with strategic watchfulness. In short, reflect a sense of urgency, wisdom and prayerfulness! Have a vision for the times in which you live, the people who perish and the God whom you would serve.

Most tragic to our own corporate testimony as the church is the constant fracturing of the local assembly of blood-bought believers. This is a very serious concern, as evidenced in the words of Paul to the Ephesian elders: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, **which He hath purchased with His own blood.** For I know this, that after my departure shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:28-30)

"After my departure", said Paul, would there be a fracturing of the church. As long as the spiritual man was present, the Word of God would be continually effectual. The spiritual vacuum left by his departure became an arena for the slaughter of lambs! With this graphic warning, Paul finished his course of ministry.

It is with this same fervency that Peter cries the following: **"Above all these things** have fervent love among yourselves: for love shall cover a multitude of sins!" Do we hear what he is saying? Above our understanding of the times, above our tenderness to the perishing and beyond our prayerfulness, love one another with a fervent love! To avoid being "sounding brass", Jesus said it most simply: "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another: **As I have loved you**, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34,35)

This newsletter could never capture the heartache we experience daily. It's too heavy. It falls under the category of "groanings that cannot be uttered". Please take time to read between the lines. Pray and see the fields that are white to harvest. "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. . . Is there no balm? O Lord, correct me, but with judgment: not in thine anger, lest Thou bring me to nothing." (Jeremiah)

With tender earnest,
Jack Crans

From *Resource Notes* of the Billy Graham Center Library, Wheaton, IL

"Although it is mostly biological, **Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world.** It is the number one religious immigrant group into the U.S. and is expected to surpass Judaism in North America by the year 2012, becoming the second largest religion next to Christianity. Muslims are no longer a 'foreign phenomenon': they are our neighbors."

Wardens Corner

Jack travelled to the Department of Corrections to acquaint himself and his burden with the new Commissioner of Pennsylvania's Corrections system, Mr. Joseph Lehman. Mr. Lehman expressed deep interest in both CCGM's commitment to Corrections administrators and also is anxious to work closely with Justice Fellowship's Pennsylvania Task Force, which Jack serves as Co-Chairman.

Three Bibles were personally prepared and given to Corrections leaders since June.

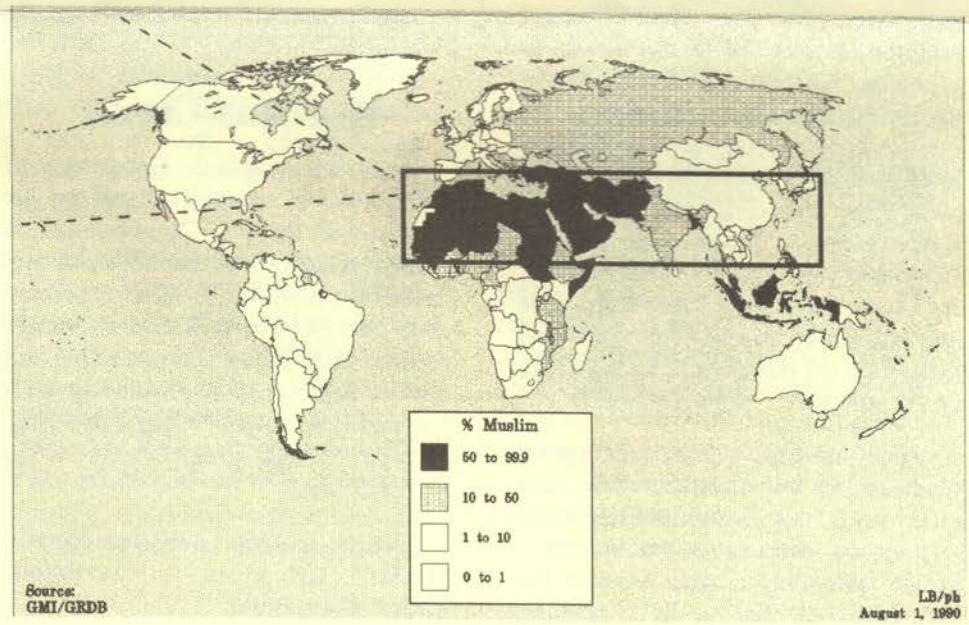
Missions: Getting to the Core: The 10/40 Window

a study by Luis Bush
Partners International
1470 N. 4th St., San Jose, CA 95112

Almost ⅔ of the total land area, almost ⅔ of the world's people reside in **the 10/40 window:** "A Belt that extends from West Africa across Asia, **between 10 degrees north to 40 degrees north of the equator".** Here Christ was born, lived His life, died on the cross and rose again. In fact, it was not until the 2nd missionary journey of the Apostle Paul toward the end of the biblical record that events of divine history occurred outside the territory identified as the "10/40 window". 97% of the 3 billion people who live in the 55 most **unevangelized** (people who have a minimal knowledge of the gospel, but have no valid opportunity to respond to it) **countries** live in the 10/40 window. Here is the heart of Islam. We must pray that just as Eastern Europe recognized that the atheistic ideology of communism could not stand the test of time, so also the "eyes" and the "hearts" of the Moslems will be opened to recognize that the Christ of the Koran (Islamic scriptures) is not only the highest prophet, but the Son of God, Who died for the sins of man and rose again for our salvation, and that millions of Moslems over the next decade will be saved.

Psalm 67:1: "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us, that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations." Christians need to focus on the 10/40 window because it is a stronghold of Satan. Extensive research and ministry within the 10/40 window has concluded that two powerful and demonic strongholds stand at the epicenter of the **unreached** (the 2 billion people who have never heard of Jesus as Savior, and are not within reach of Christians of their own people; some 2,000 peoples or nationalities in which there is not yet a vital, indigenous church movement) **world:** Iran (Prince of Persia) and Iraq (Spirit of Babylon). The focus of the concerned Christian community 200 years ago was for the coastlands of the world, followed by a focus 100 years ago on the interiors of the continents, and then, within the last century, the unreached peoples. Perhaps in the last 10 years, we need to concentrate on the 10/40 window. It does not mean that work going on in other places of the world in training, development and mobilization for missions be curtailed. Rather, it means that we need to significantly increase our efforts in this decade to reach those who are in the 10/40 window.

Note: A backdrop of the world's mission field can only enhance the urgency of the home mission field which is within our grasp. For this reason, we'll continue to echo the cry of those who perish abroad.



South East Secure Treatment Unit New Commitments for the Year

by George Welsh, Coordinator

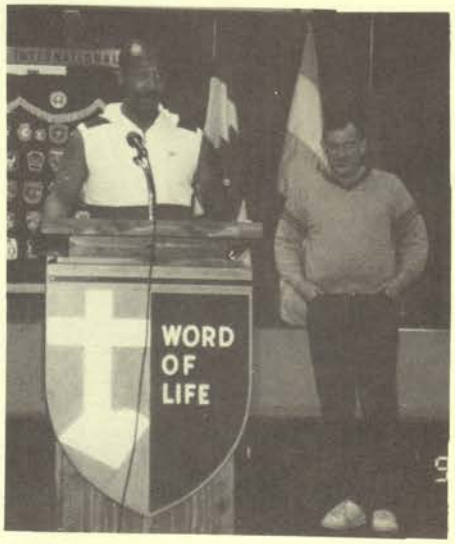
Maybe you have had a calling to do something very special and in a different way or for a special purpose. Maybe God is calling you to work with children or young adults. Think of the enjoyment you could have, working with our volunteer group with 22 delinquent boys at South East Secure Treatment Unit. It would only be two hours per week, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. each Tuesday night. We have a great group of faithful volunteers and the boys are a joy to work among.

We need more help and especially prayers for everything we do. Soon in our carpentry efforts we will start an **assembly line project** making such things as coat hangers, candle holders, wind chimes, etc. The boys would like to then sell their works, hoping to gain more incentives for continued development of their skills. Come on - get involved!

You can write directly to George Welsh, Jr. to tell of your interest by writing him at R.D. 9, Box 266W, Coatesville, PA 19320.

The SESTU Christmas Project is beginning to get underway as well. CCGM is looking for sponsoring Sunday School classes, churches and individuals who will promise both Christmas and year-round care of one or several of SESTU's boys. One of our boys who was touched last Christmas was just tragically murdered in the Philadelphia streets. Please tell us you want to make a difference while these young men are still in our grasp.

A **SESTU volunteer picnic** was gathered on July 23 and brought together almost 30 Christian volunteers with the 31 boys of SESTU. Testimonies, peanut scrambles, relay races and abundance of food echoed the atmosphere of a good ol' Sunday School picnic. Most wonderful of all was the unmistakable joy and appreciation of both the SESTU boys and their staff.



Word of Life Student Reggie Clark Needs Your Prayers

Reggie Clark was formerly a Leadership Bible Institute student who went on to Word of Life and is in his second semester. (Also pictured to Reggie's left is Sam Mann, who continues his studies at Word of Life.) Presently, Reggie suffers with cancer in the hospital. While at City Gate Mission in Coatesville, Reggie wrote the following poem. You can encourage Reggie by letter by writing to Ward 5C, Room 520; 113 Holland Ave.; VA Hospital, Albany; Albany, NY 12208.

The Gate

Before the foundation of the world
was formed,
Before light and land came to view,
God had ordained in a small Pennsy
town
A quaint mission on Seventh Avenue.
Even back then the Lord had known
Lost souls there had to be reached.
So in pillars of clay called Jack,
Mike and Jim,
The Word was instilled to be
preached.

No one suspected that a building
betwixt
A store and a pharmacist's bar
Would illumined with "light" move
'round the block,
And change lives both near and far.
Now here's an astonishing fact my
friends,
That could make sweat in any
realtor's collar,
All this you see and where now you
sit,
Was allowed by the Lord of "One"
dollar.

Even the staff that serves is unique,
From the "four winds" of the earth
they were hurled,
Some as close as Colywn, PA,
And some from around the world.
One worked on ships in south
Philadelphia,
One enjoys military strife,
There's a Liberian computer "whiz
kid" and crew,
And a grad from the school "Word
of Life".

The message of God is preached
there each day,
The accommodations are strictly first
rate.
And it's all neatly folded and
spiritually packaged,
In a haven we call "City Gate".

From Poverty with Satan to Glory with Christ Jesus

by Nathan Harris
SCI Dallas, PA

First, I wish to thank my Lord Jesus for all the wonderful blessings He has given to me. Some who read this letter will remember me and know of my life before coming to know Christ. For those who know me, I would like to say: "There is a way out of the pit!"

Sometimes I think of how my friends wanted me to take the first walk to see if it was okay. I truly believe that was because I was the kind of guy who would always take the first step into the dark things in life. When a new drug came out, I would be the first to do it...they would follow. I was first to want a fight...they would follow. I was first to do everything, but always had someone who would follow until I found myself alone with a coke habit and in jail. Even then I couldn't see what was happening to me until a few years ago when I found myself once again in a prison cell, not caring about my life whatsoever. Life doesn't matter when you are blind to it. I just started to realize that life had passed me by and I needed someone or something in my life. I no longer had followers with me. I was alone in a lonely place where no one wants to be. I asked Jesus if He's real and if there was any point in my life. I asked Him to come into my life, and it happened! It happened just that fast! **For the first time in my life, my eyes were open and the hurt and the habit of drugs left me. I was clean...a new being had been born!**

Friends, now four years later, I have never felt better. Life is wonderful in all of its light. As a Christian, I now walk in the light; there's no other way for me to go. The fight from the dark pits of Satan is only won by stepping into the light of the Lord Jesus. So to all my friends out there, take time out to ask Jesus into your life and begin to live and follow me to freedom in Christ Jesus.

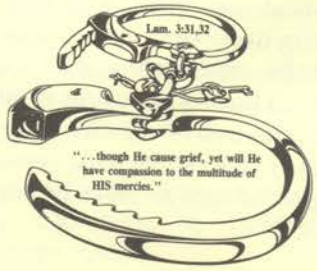
I'm still in prison at this time, but happy to say I'm still being blessed. Even in jail there's reason for everyone's life. To all those who followed me in the past, I want you to know it's okay. I welcome you all to step into the life of Jesus.

Your brother in Christ,
Nathan

Special Project Need

CCGM's 1985 Toyota Van has journeyed near to the 150,000 mile mark since being acquired in 1988. Although still running, October's inspection will be costly. If the Lord directs, we would be grateful and hopeful to replace the vehicle with a similar or comparable new van. Perhaps a special missions project might help us stay on the road for the years ahead!

Thank you for noticing the need: His will be done!



Col. James Irwin Astronaut Greets Prison Leaders

It was the privilege of CCGM to host Col. James Irwin (pictured above with Jack Crans) on April 28 for a time of fellowship and testimony. A special luncheon hosted at a local dining spot brought together several city and county leaders.

Irwin, a retired Air Force colonel, made history on July 26 - Aug. 7, 1971 when, as a lunar module pilot for the Apollo 15 mission, he became the 8th man in history to set foot on the surface of the moon. We praise God for the honor that was ours in hearing him testify so boldly of Christ. His recent death has profoundly touched all who shared in this timely occasion.

For more information, write:
High Flight Foundation
P.O. Box 1387
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Word of Life's Law Enforcement and Corrections Conference

Deputy Sheriff James Hammond (President of the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers), and Jack Crans shared the privilege of bringing God's Word at an Easter weekend gathering. The Conference was an extra blessing as United Indian Missions' Dan Fredericks traveled to the meetings accompanied by six Navajo who represented Law Enforcement and Corrections burdens of the Southwest. Word of Life hosts this annual fellowship the last weekend of each March. Next year, Bob Vernon (Assistant Chief of Los Angeles Police) will be the featured speaker. Pray that God might draw many to this much-needed ministry to these leaders.

I can think of no greater project than that you might plan to send your own city police or jail administrators to such an opportunity. Pray that God shall bring encouragement to all who attended this year and do take seriously the opportunity of sending the ''peace keepers'' of your own back yard!

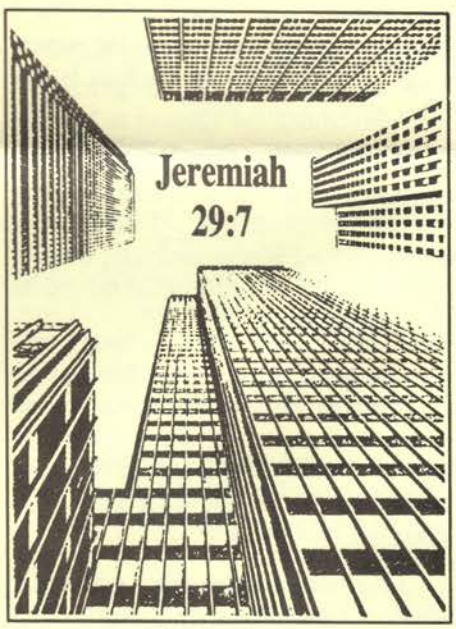
Shannon Butterfield Attends Jail/Prison Chaplaincy Training Conference at Wheaton College

From June 23-29, CCGM staff associate, Shannon Butterfield, attended the Good News Mission's annual Chaplaincy Training Conference on the campus of Wheaton College. Expecting it to be somewhat reserved, Shannon found the week to be extremely intense with classes daily from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Learning many new things and having many things already learned in prison ministry reinforced has broadened Shannon's skills as a chaplain.

Shannon reports that ''many people, even in the church, don't consider prison ministry as a full-time ministry simply because they don't understand all that such a ministry entails. For instance, not only are we concerned about the inmate's spiritual well being, but many times and most likely there are social, emotional and financial problems to be addressed. The need for discipleship, aftercare and multitudes of personal concerns can't be ignored.''

There is also the public relations side of the ministry. The need to acquire financial and prayer support are paramount. Also, the networking and support of other ministries is crucial to effective chaplaincy work.

In a nutshell, says Shannon, ''prison ministry covers the whole spectrum of everyday life.'' Shannon thanks all of you who do understand and who show their concern in so many personal ways.



The Long Walk

. . .Here I am thinking about me while my friend is going to die in about forty minutes! I was talking to him last night, and tonight I can remember all the things I really wanted to say, and what I could have said, but didn't. I want to think that he's praying with his heart now. No time for "what if's", only time for genuine prayer as honest as he can feel to pray.

37 minutes now, about twenty minutes until they move him into the death chamber and strap him down to the death bed. There's a live coverage show on the radio now. I can hear the people in the background singing songs. The man says they have candles lit and are wearing tee shirts that say "Don't kill for me".

32 minutes now until midnight. The execution is scheduled for 12:01. If carried out, it will be Oklahoma's first in over twenty-five years. I can think of many reprobates who were given life or less for the same crime, that are much more the candidates for execution than this repented man of God that I know. On paper he's still the man that was sentenced to die and that's the man the courts who decide his appeal see.

It's not easy to keep my mind on this pen and paper as I hear the mixed feelings of people being interviewed. Those who know Chuck speak of him as a friend; those who only read the papers speak of him as enemy: which is he? Who would know best?

11:35 p.m.... 11:38 p.m.; five minutes until he's moved into the death chamber... 11:40 p.m. - I would think they are telling him to get ready, without really having to say for what he should be getting ready.

These are novel events for all who are involved, so I'm sure nerves are on pins and needles, even though the prison staff has rehearsed the killing of a man several times, so they'll be good at it when the time comes.

I can only imagine what's going on inside of Chuck's mind. Is there still a feeling of hope inside this man as he sees everyone doing the opposite of what would support his hope? Does every unannounced sound stir a nervous response within him as he hears the sound of the clock's tick pounding inside his head? Can he even relax to think clearly enough to truly understand all that is going on around him? I wonder if the new prison blues he's wearing will witness to the next man what energies have moved through them.

11:47 p.m - I feel that by now he has been moved and strapped down to the death bed. Fourteen minutes until the plunger is pushed by the executioner. The twelve witnesses are sure to be watching his every movement, listening for whatever sounds a condemned man would make.

Seven minutes now: time sure goes by fast when it is most precious. What thoughts could he possibly be exercising to escape from such excruciating torment as so many work together to see him dead? Of course, EXCRUCIATING comes from the word relating to the CROSS.

There will be three drugs administered at once. I'm not sure how they work, but one is supposed to put him to sleep while the others collapse the heart and lung muscles. It takes about ten to fifteen minutes to execute from start to finish. Fifteen minutes is a long time to be feeling the clutches of death pulling on you.

12:00 midnight - He must know it's over for him, because there's a clock for him to see. Time is in slow motion, yet the clock is moving in fast gear. What can I say? It wasn't God's will for him to live.

12:01 - I'd presume that the executioner has pushed the plunger, and Chuck can now taste the drugs and feel them burn away at his life. He must be scared and praying as intelligibly as he can; I know I would be.

12:02... 12:03... 12:04... 12:05...
12:06... 12:07... 12:08... 12:09...

They are saying they'll interview the twelve witnesses after it's over.

12:10 - I'll say more as I hear something. The phone just rang in the media center: false alarm. It was for a media personality.

12:17 - Phone rang again: the execution is running behind schedule, says Mr. Massy. Something else for Chuck to wonder about as he watches those people stumble over each other in the process of taking what God gave him. A few moments of tears for me.

12:39 a.m. - The phone just rang again. Mr. Massy is shaking his head yes. Charles Troy Coleman was pronounced dead at 12:35 a.m. They had trouble getting the needle in his right arm, so after several attempts to do so, they stuck it in his left arm. It took 14 seconds to kill him once the drugs were administered. One witness said Chuck's body went limp in about 14-15 seconds after the warden looked at the executioner and instructed him to let it begin. Just shortly after midnight during the execution process, Chuck asked the warden to read Bible texts to him and asked the Chaplain to do the same, reading Psalm 23 as he was dying. The warden asked him if he had any final words. Chuck said just tell everybody "I love them, and I have peace in my heart."

During the reading of Bible texts, Chuck would say, "Thank You, Jesus." Once during the execution he looked at Mandy Welch, his lawyer, and smiled; he told her that he loved her. At 12:28 he took a heavy breath. Gurgling sounds were coming from him and his chest stopped moving. One witness said he took two to three breaths, lost color in his face and stopped moving. They said it was such a somber, peaceful event.

He just left the prison for the last time and this empty cell is calling for its next body to store away until the date of the long walk.

It's now Monday night: the death row guard who works the row just came to me with tears in his eyes. Monday is Canteen day, and every Canteen day Chuck would buy an insane man some canteen items and put them in his cell as Chuck went to shower. Sonny would wake up and they'd be there for him. He just woke up and there wasn't anything there. He asked the guard to go check with Chuck and see if he had something for him.

Forgive me if I stop here and cry.

Written by Don Wilson Hawkins
#153687 Oklahoma Death Row

County Corrections Gospel Mission
P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320
Summer Report 1991

Kid's Bible Club - Gearing up for Fall/Winter '91

Twenty-one high schoolers and college-age youth will blitz the Parkway and Oak Street Projects of Coatesville in mid-August for the purpose of promoting Kid's Bible Club in the lives and families of this strategic housing area. The building used for Club will be cleaned, painted and readied for a busy school year of ministry.

These same 21 young people will also visit the Chester County Prison and the South East Secure Treatment Unit. They represent a summer missions outreach of Philadelphia College of Bible entitled "Network '91". This is the second year for such a program and CCGM's second opportunity for participating in it.

It is CCGM's hope that a great impact will be made in the hearts of these young people and that they will see and understand an often neglected and tragically overlooked fact: that **an unmistakable relationship exists between the prison houses of our own counties and the children of our own backyard.** Ultimately, the church must answer for its neglect of such an arena of missions concern.

Eight of our Kids' Club boys were able to attend Camp Sandy Hill this summer, for which we want to thank Dr. Joe Eckman and the Sandy Hill staff.

From The Bookshelf

The Satanic Revival
by Mark I. Bubeck

Here's Life Publishers
P.O. Box 1576
San Bernardino, CA 92402

"Although this book exposes some frightening dimensions of the present revival of evil, that is not its major message. Rather, believers are called to renew their confidence in the almightiness of their God. Believers are called to participate in a God-authored spiritual revival strong enough to abate the flood of evil. Believers are called to recognize the power of doctrinal prayer and use it in a practical way. Believers, united with God, are called to rise up and use their victory." - Bubeck

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SESTU
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Note:
All gifts are tax-deductible; a receipt will be sent.

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