THE CONTENDER

Summer 1993

". . . 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 Friend in Christ:

Almost half of the individuals who receive this newsletter know little about the tremendous open doors that God has loaned to the County Corrections Gospel Mission. I ask that you would take 10-15 precious minutes and allow God to use this simple communication to grasp your ear and heart!

Time has slipped away from each of us since the early bidding of God upon our lives in the late 60's. We have enjoyed almost 25 years of prison-related ministry and have continued under the supply of our Savior through the faithful prayers and support of HIS CHURCH.

We are still earnestly crying for the imprisoned and all that they reflect to the people of God! We have had our wings clipped along the way, but, we are probably a little more wise than we used to be!

You may think I have a one track mind, but, I am still as convinced today as I was in 1968 that our response to the broken 'nearest us' is a true reflection of our maturity in HIS WORD.

Eight years of tendering in the prisonhouse gave birth to The City Gate Mission in 1980, the beginning of County Corrections in 1984 and the reviving in 1992 of The Old Mill Bible Conference (now known as The Camp at Old Mill). Still, the people of God remain a sleeping giant! The **urgency of our present age catches us adrift from the callings of the unchanging GOD!**

We beg GOD for HIS PROVISION and for HIS GLORY in these days of building and battle!

Because of HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS,
Jack Crans
Luke 16:16/Matthew 11:12

Leadership Appointed at The Camp at Old Mill

"On July 16, 1992, the acquisition of The Camp at Old Mill was transacted between Philadelphia College of Bible and County Corrections Gospel Mission. By October of '92, the camp was fully paid for and the renovation and reviving of the facility was underway. The progress of this first year will be reported in another article, yet, we are happy to announce the recent appointment of **Mr. David Trout** to the responsibility of **Director of Development and Ministry** at the base camp of County Corrections Gospel Mission."

-Jack Crans/Director of CCGM

Greetings in Christ! I am David Trout, appointed to missionary service on July 1, 1993 to The Camp at Old Mill. I am twenty-two years of age and am blessed to be the first graduate from the Camping Ministry Program of Philadelphia College of Bible. This program required that I spend two years of intensive camp training in Wisconsin and two years of intensive Bible study at the main campus of Philadelphia College of Bible.

I grew up in Alburtis, Pennsylvania, just 15 minutes from the Doe Mountain Ski Area near Allentown. My home church is Salem Bible Church of Macungie. I have a loving and supportive, Christian family: David, my father; Maryann, my mother; and, Amy, my sister.

On December 17 of this year I will be marrying Miss Janel Thomas (niece of Jack Crans). Janel loves the Lord and has been serving HIM all of her life. She has labored in camping ministry much of her life and at present, is serving as a Senior Counselor at Mt. Gilead Camp in the Poconos. Janel has pursued the Bible/Social Work degree program at Philadelphia College of Bible and will complete her full requirements in December of 1993.

Already, I rejoice in what God is doing in the lives of young people at the Camp at Old Mill. Just last week, one of the counselors told me that his camper had accepted Christ as his personal Savior. This is what the camp is all about-**changing the lives of inner-city youth with an emphasis upon MISSIONS and EVANGELISM.**

Improvements in the appearance and use of the Camp occur almost daily. In the short weeks since my coming, I have

witnessed the exterior replacement of the Snack Shack, the painting of buildings and the installation of new water lines.

I will appreciate your prayerful support as I trust God for His leading and provision in the early months of this ministry. At the present, we are in need of your financial support in helping us gain full sponsorship as missionaries of CCGM. We will be living on the campus of The Camp at Old Mill and presently seek God's supply for the completion of windows, siding and appliances for our missionary cottage.

We know that many of you are committed already to the wide range of ministries which continue under County Corrections Gospel Mission. The requirement that we raise our full, financial support is one for which we must trust God. Should you desire a part in our personal, missionary work, I ask that you call or write the office of County Corrections Gospel Mission.

Thank you for what you have done already and know that Janel and I look forward to trusting Christ in this challenging task!

David Trout
Missionary

Growing Children's Bible Clubs Call For Helpers!

by Sue Crans

The successful leadership of a volunteer teaching staff has caused us to anticipate a banner year in Kids' Bible Clubs! With the acquisition of The Camp at Old Mill, the bridge between housing projects and the camp will be more busy than ever before!

Beginning Thursday, September 23, Bible Clubs will resume! We plan on filling vans and a bus if leadership is raised to the occasion of opportunity!!! This is a great avenue of ministry for Junior and Senior High Youth as well as men and women who want to commit approximately two hours per week to the tender and energetic hearts of broken children.

Drop us a note concerning your interest! Thank you!

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Governor's Office

Governor Casey Appoints Pennsylvania Commission on Corrections Planning

A twenty-inch stack of papers rests on my office floor, the reminder of my appointment to the above commission on February 11, 1993. Now, almost weekly, a trip to Harrisburg or Philadelphia entails a deep wrestling with the major issues that confront federal, state and county prisons. ''Nightline,'' ''20/20,'' and daily reports of ''CNN'' seem to reflect the physical, moral and growing crisis of our nation's criminal justice systems. I want to say: ''the bottom has fallen out'' but more honestly cry: ''the foundations are being destroyed!'' A **moral consensus** has been sacrificed before our very eyes and the above commission only bears greater evidence of America's fast approach to national peril.

It's a great honor to serve on the Pennsylvania Commission onCorrections Planning. ''Fiscal'' concern seems to be the Governor's primary cause for such a labor at this time. The cost of lawlessness and incarceration has plummeted all levels of government into a moment of unparalleled ''fiscal urgency.''

Somehow, I must keep reminding myself that an 'urgency' exists regarding justice and mercy. While agonizing through the volumes of 'red-ink' resulting from the costs of crime, I somehow beg God for the patience and wisdom to speak for HIM to a generation in despair.

I sit quietly in many meetings... aching deep within over the sad commentaries which pile one upon another in commission hearings. I think of the day when Joseph brought deliverance to Egypt during its devastating famine and gave cause for his king to exclaim: ''Here's a man in whom the Spirit of God is!''

Beloved, the world around us is perishing without a Savior! ''Foundations are out of joint'' and the focus of our ''urgencies'' are seldom that which mirror the priorities of the living GOD.

Pray that I can discern the **real urgencies** and that God's perspective be reflected in some part of the commission's final report to the Governor and our state's legislators.

The commission is to complete its work by September of 1993.

Missionary Update: Mr. Shannon Butterfield

Hello! It's been some time since I have written anything personally, but, thanks to Jack, he has from time to time made you aware of my whereabouts, plans and ministries.

Just to refresh some memories and to catch you up, let me share a part of what God has been doing in my life. In June of 1990, I was a full-time Chaplain at the Chester County Prison and served in that capacity until September 1992. At that time, I entered The Institute of Biblical Studies under the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry as a full-time Bible student. While in school, I managed to come home on most weekends to minister at the Chester County Prison. I also worked in the Ancora State Prison and Southern State Prison of New Jersey. While in school, I had the privilege of visiting Israel for two weeks (mandatory for graduation) and then graduated on June 4, 1993. Since graduating, the Lord led me to work in the Oak Street Project of Coatesville under the missionary outreach of County Corrections Gospel Mission.

My ministry at Oak Street requires that I organize and assist "Youth/Mission Teams" in reaching out to the children of Oak Street often from their base, The Camp at Old Mill. Work crews, Open-Air Evangelistic opportunities and just being available has opened many doors of ministry that naturally arise in the midst of such concentrated needs. All of this and many other blessings has permitted me to simply sow seed, water it and trust the Lord for HIS increase.

Since completing my studies at the Institute of Biblical Studies, the Lord has been speaking to my heart and leading me in a call to the Pastorate. This scares me to death, yet, I can only obey HIS voice.

In order to properly prepare, I sense HIS leading to complete my education which will entail at least two more years of Bible study at Pensacola Christian College. I have been accepted into this school and prayerfully wait upon God's provision for entrance on September 9, 1993.

The way seems hard and unattainable, as it did through my Word of Life ('88/'89) and Institute of Biblical Studies ('92/'93) experiences. God was faithful then and I know He will be the same today and tomorrow. I simply ask you to continue in prayer for me and that you would ask the Lord what role He would have you to take in assisting me to fulfill His divine will in my life.

In closing, I send my love, my prayers and say "Thank you!" for all you have done, are doing and will do.

In the Love of Christ,
Shannon L. Butterfield
Numbers 6:24-26

Prophets and Builders

In the sixth chapter of Ezra, two questions are asked by the opponents of God's Workings:

Question #1:

> "Who hath commanded you to build this house, and to make up this wall?" (6:3)

Question #2:

> "What are the names of the men who make this building?" (6:4)

Please notice, these were direct assaults by the **OPPONENTS OF GOD'S WORKINGS!**

Question #1 seems to lash against the *authorization behind the work* while Question #2 takes lethal aim at *who has been authorized to perform the work.* These same questions came up before Jesus!

> "For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may secretly shoot at the upright in heart." -Psalm 11:2

As we have set forth to rebuild The Camp at Old Mill, we are watchful in regards to these same questions. I know that there exists those who ask: "By whose authority do you do this thing?" The same must ask: "Who performs the work?" I am so anxious to let you know that God sanctified the 18 acres at the Brandamore site in 1933. Men of God covenanted to secure this place to God's use until Christ's triumphant return. Great human failure allowed the hallowed ground to grow fallow, but, this only gives fuel to greater resolve to finish the original mandate as set forth in the Spirit-directed beginnings.

"Who performs the work?" This is God's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes! Since, July 1992, the buildings and grounds of the Old Mill Camp have been experiencing a reviving of their original purposes. Through God's financial blessing and the faithful work of HIS builders, we are able to manifest the testimony of HIS FAITHFULNESS to HIS CALLINGS of 1933.

Before the camp was even acquired by CCGM, God had already prepared workmen and resources for the present reviving! "Builders for God," a fellowship of gifted families and craftsmen visited the camp in June for one full week of ministry. The almost ruined 'Boys Dormitory' was restored to the praises of Almighty God! Ernie Blevins, a neighboring steel worker, immediately set to work in the early weeks of the Summer of '92 to exalt his SAVIOR through his gifts of plumbing, electric and construction. Countless children, youth and adults have been raised up by God for such a time as this!

The calling for such an endeavor and the resources to complete it must absolutely be of God! We feel the 'secret shootings' of the enemy but say with the Psalmist: "In the LORD put I my trust . . .The LORD is in His holy temple!"

Justice Fellowship National Task Force Leadership Advisory Group - July 22-25

Throughout these last several years, I have had the privilege of serving on the Pennsylvania Task Force for Justice Fellowship. By the time you receive this issue of the *Contender,* I will have participated in the above conference held in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Important to the re-organization of Justice Fellowship and the clearer focusing of our own priorities at County Corrections Gospel Mission, I will be one of three Pennsylvania delegates to this critical strategy meeting of the Justice Fellowship Ministry that is led by Charles Colson.

The agenda of Justice Fellowship runs parallel to the concerns of the Pennsylvania Commission on Corrections Planning and clearly calls for Restorative Justice as directed in the sacred scriptures.

With nearly 1.5 million adults in our nation's prisons and jails, the crime rate continues to soar. Present construction of seven new Pennsylvania facilities will still find our state institutional-bed capacity 8,000 cells short by the year 2000.

Pray with me that God will direct my life so clearly, that I will discern whether or not to focus valuable energy and time on the widening regions of ministry.

We want nothing more and nothing less than God's callings and our own faithfulness to that portion of the harvest to which HE commissions us!

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

Summer Report 1993

County Corrections Gospel Mission

LOCAL JAILS: ARE THEY AFFECTIVE?

If you listen to anyone these days, you will almost always hear the same opinion: "Incarceration fails to effect behavior." In brief, anyone with any sense of integrity and wisdom must confess: "Corrections" is a misnomer!

I realize that I just opened a can of worms, but, let me make my point respective to this concise little article. **The most searching answer to the above question is in fact another question: Are local jails affective in my own life and personal behavior?** It's a documented fact that jails and prisons *do not* deter criminal behavior. At best, they incapacitate the offender for a stipulated period of time. This is fact and not mere opinion.

If jails have any long-term impact at all, it must be upon the heart of 'the beholder'.

Several months ago, Ted Koppel of "Nightline" was to lead the Dedication Service of the National Holocaust Musuem in Washington, D.C. We just visited this profound exhibition of human cruelty and depravity. Etched on the wall of the museum, above the 'eternal flame' are the words of Deuteronomy 4:9:

> "Only **take heed** to thyself, and guard thy soul diligently, **lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen,** and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life; but, teach them to thy sons and thy sons' sons."

Ted Koppel began his comments with these sobering words from Jeremiah the prophet as stated in Lamentations 1:12:

> "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? **Behold, and see** if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, with which the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of His fierce anger."

BEHOLD AND SEE...LOOK INTO THE PRISONHOUSE! LET IT TOUCH YOUR VERY HEART AND MIND!

What grieved me most about the Holocaust Museum is the continued slaughter of the unborn in my own generation...the present genocide of African and Soviet peoples...the myriads of broken lives who daily perish without a savior...! (A small "s" is used intentionally to emphasize the importance of *our* need to be concerned and involved for others.)

What does all this have to do with 'affective jails'? The real question today is this: Are jails affecting me? Once again we turn to the prayer of Jeremiah to make the point:

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.

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"Mine eye affecteth my heart!!" (Lam.3:15)

I've cried the following to the point of being unwelcome in several pulpits: "Jail and Prison Ministry is the **plumbline** of the local church!"

If God's people are truely concerned with fishing for men, a 'hole' full of fish awaits their nets!