THE CONTENDER

Summer 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

I am one of a generation that has enjoyed the richest blessings of a free America. Through the graces of God, I have enjoyed the privilege of prayer in public schools and Christ-loving parents. My own eyes have witnessed the spoiled and thankless rebellion of the 60's, 70's, and 80's. From "Hamburger Hill" to "Desert Storm" . . . "Watts" to "South Central" . . . I've watched authority be depised.

God the Judge declared "all foundations of the earth out of course" in Psalm 82 and HE clearly holds authorities ("gods") most accountable.

Who are these authorities or "gods" of whom the Psalmist writes? Quite clearly, they are the delegated authorities of all generations: the spiritual, family and governmental powers of each passing era. To better clarify: these "gods" are none other than rulers of governments, pastor/elders and fathers.

What does God require of authorities? Perhaps above all else, contrition and soberness of heart. during the great season of repentance under John the Baptist, one could readily discover three major movements: (1) The turning of the unrighteous towards the wisdom of the just; (2) the quickening of father's hearts to their children; and (3) the preparing of people made ready for the LORD. To reveal the consistency of God's expectation of authority, note HIS reason for choosing Abraham: "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which HE hath spoken of him."

Let us who profess to understand the patriarchal, prophetic and apostolic lessons, reflect a sober holiness that incarnates itself into the most darksome places of our own backyards.

For HIS Sovereign Purpose,
Jack Crans
Exodus 33:15-17

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONS AUTHORITIES WELCOME CONFERENCE ON "ETHICS"

On Monday, May 23, Assistant Chief Robert Vernon (retired) of the Los Angeles Police Department addressed a five-hour gathering of 218 Law Enforcement and Corrections Administrators at The Valley Forge Sheraton and Conference Center. The refreshing and much needed emphasis upon "morality and ethics" was readily received and appreciated. To see administrators, wardens, chiefs and commissioners welcoming Bob Vernon's testimony to God-fearing leadership was a hiatus of my own life and ministry.

Jack and Sue Crans with Bob and Esther Vernon

An opinion survey revealed a hunger for continuing opportunities for conferences of this content. When the luncheon concluded, more than 45 leaders indicated a personal response to acknowledge Christ as Savior and Lord. (The luncheon was paid for with grants from The Stewart Huston and Huston Foundations).

Mr. Vernon has permitted me to share his most recent letter with you. I trust you will prayerfully apply his challenging call to us.

Dear Jack,

I'm sending you a letter similar to one I prepared for some leaders in cities I have worked with. It lays out some of the ideas and principles we've been talking about.

First of all, I am excited about what you have going on in your city. It is very apparent that you have already taken the most important step in moving toward a spiritual revival and awakening. That is, you have recognized the need for it, and have gathered a group of believers that are willing to do whatever is necessary to start the process. Once that is done, all you have to do is follow God's direction

Deputy Commissioner Blackburn, Bob Vernon, and Commissioner Walp.

I believe King Hezekiah's actions outlined in 2 Chronicles 29 through 31 offer us a Biblical Model to follow. We do need real wisdom to understand the principles of that model and how to apply them today. I believe God will give us that wisdom, if we ask for it.

Step One: *Hezekiah publicly declared where he stood. He opened the doors of the temple (they had been nailed shut). That was a very visible declaration of his intent to lead his people back to God. Likewise, we need to publicly declare that we are going to do what we can do to put our relationship with God as number 1.*

Step Two: *He called the Levites and Priests to cleanse themselves and humble themselves before God. In other words, he went to God's representatives and ask them first to pray and prepare for revival. Likewise, God's representatives...the church...in each city must come together in prayer and preparation. I suggest that in each target city a core of committed believers do this. Perhaps 30 to 50 believers will commit themselves to pray daily for revival for a given period of time....perhaps 30 to 60 days. During this time of prayer (and for those who are so called-fasting), I suggest the group join in corporate prayer at least weekly.*

Step Three: *Then he shared his vision with the Levites. I believe that this can be done during the times of corporate prayer. Perhaps I can be involved in this part of the process in some way because of my knowledge of the mess our society is in. I would, of course, include the Biblical Principles. This group would participate in the development of the plan to take the next steps.*

Step Four: *Then he went to the "Princes of the City", and declared his intentions to them. It does not say that they all agreed with him entirely; but they did endorse his basic idea. I believe that your group of "Levites" need to identify some key "Princes of your city" to target. They may be elected officials, businessmen, religious leaders and just plain leaders.*

Step Five: *Hezekiah held a "Pep Rally". In other words, he built the "hype". He had the priests remind them of the past deeds of the Lord. They audibly read the Psalms wherein they praised the Lord for HIS mighty works in their midst. At this point the "Princes of the City" need to be exposed to facts similar to those contained in the videos available through David Barton.*

Step Six: *He sent out a proclamation throughout the land asking the people to come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. He asked the people at large to return to God. Although many laughed them to scorn, many did come and repent. I think we can expect the same reaction. I think many will put down this effort. But I honestly believe there will be many who repent and come to the Lord. Once the first five steps are taken, the committee of "Levites", with the support of the "Princes of the City", should take a tangible step to call the people of each city to repentance. I don't know what form this will take. Plans need to be developed based upon each cities individual situation.*

I am excited about your vision. The Lord has given me a similar one. We (the Body of Christ) need revival. Once this begins, under God's sovereignty, the nation will follow.

Sincerely,
Bob Vernon

GREAT IS HIS FAITHFULNESS

by Sue Crans

It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22,23

I am writing to you from the perspective of financial secretary rather than Kids' Bible Club leader. It never ceases to amaze me how the Lord provides so wondrously on a daily basis for our ministry. I could write volumes on His blessings, but I thought I would share some specific times He has provided in amazing ways.

At Christmas we always have a special Christmas party for our Kids' Bible Club children. It's always a heart-warming event watching the children receive gifts that have been provided especially for them by churches. This year was no different and we were all prepared with gifts for ninety children. As the bus and vans pulled up and the children found their seats, we suddenly realized that we had a lot more children than we were prepared for. My heart sank to think that some of these children would not receive gifts. As the last of the children came in, I heard Jack heartily greeting someone at the kitchen door. Here stood a man from a foundation whom Jack had met a few months earlier. In his arms were bags of gifts all beautifully wrapped and marked . . . each child there received a gift and we even had some left over!

The needs at Old Mill have really been demanding on the finances.....and yet the Lord provides faithfully....not just monetarily but also with people who's hearts He touches to help cook, clean, mow, build, plant, repair and teach.

What a Blessing! Watching the Lord work in strange and mysterious ways His wonders to perform is one of the encouragements I receive . . . I'm in the place to see all of these things happen! I know He's still in the miracle business!

The work of our financial secretary and the counsels of our CPA accounting firm of Noll and Company have all been gloriously rewarded month after month by the blessings of God's hand through you! Truly, God has faithfully met our needs, our visiouns and our continuing

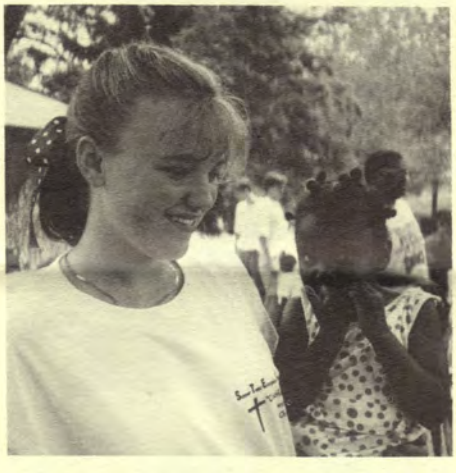
prayers for HIS GLORY at CCGM.

As I concludes, please enjoy the smiling faces of two of our most regular Kids' Bible Clubbers . . .

Devin

Christina

"TENNESSEE AND SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH RECOGNIZE AMERICA'S MISSION FIELD"



Heritage Baptist Church and Oakwood Baptist Church sent us 50 youth and adults who turned "The Camp at Old Mill" into a missionary compound. Using the camp as their base location for training, fellowship and worship, they ventured forth for six days of ministry and evangelism to Kensington and Lehigh Avenues, Independence Mall, City Gate Mission, South East Secure Treatment Unit (SESTU), Chester County Prison and the housing developments of Oak Street and Parkway in Coatesville.

The tears flowed often as these dedicated youth and their leaders immersed themselves in the lives of the homeless, the fatherless, the poor, the imprisoned and the indifferent. They touched the hearts of urban missionaries, incarcerated mothers and the children of our cities.

This use of The Camp at Old Mill is clearly its main purpose for being in existence!

Perhaps richest above all, was our own encouragement as CCGM staff to know the love and prayers of these youth for our own ministry.

"FELLOW HELPERS OF THE TRUTH"

3 John 1-8

A most sincere word of praise to God for the exemplary service of the following saints in the preparation of most excellent meals for the Youth Missions Camp of June 18-25. Truly each of these servants, though unpaid, shall know HIS "well-done."

Joanne Ash
Barb Mellinger
Alice Stiles
Mary Henry
Robert Newman

Dear Friends and Prayer Warriors:

It is with much thankfulness I write to you. In my first year with CCGM, I have truly seen the Lord work in many different ways. The Camp at Old Mill has seen much development physically, but more important are the many lives that have already been touched.

Janel and I would appreciate your prayers as the Lord recently surprised us with some news....we are expecting a baby! We know that all things come with His perfect timing and we look forward with anticipation to the next eight months

Janel has been joined by Mr. Shannon Butterfield for the summer of 1994. Shannon continues to mature into a great leader with deep spiritual training from Word of Life, Friends of Israel Bible Institute and recent studies at Pensacola Christian College. He is clearly a `father to the fatherless.'

Presently, Janel is seeking willing, Christian families that would be anxious to be matched with available and interested homes in the Parkway and Oak Street Developments. The most effective relationships are anticipated as strong, Christ-centered homes come-along-side these waiting relationships.

If you are interested in a "family opportunity" for ministry....this is one that will meaningfully effect lives for generations to come. Please inform us of your desire and availability at the office of CCGM.

Thank you again for your prayers and support!

God Bless,
Dave Trout
Galatians 2:20

NEEDS OF THE CAMP AT OLD MILL

-Gas-powered Leaf Blower
-Chain Saw
-Willow Trees
-Treated Lumber (for Chapel Porch)
-Large Garbage Bags
-Paper Products: Paper Towels, Toilet Tissue, Cups, Plates

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

Summer Report 1994

THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN PEACE OFFICERS RETREAT IN WESTERN CONFERENCE

Retreat Photo from Glen Eryie

Mark and Diane Kroeker, Assistant Chief of South Central L.A.P.D. and his wife, led the teaching and fellowship of gathered sheriffs, Police and criminal justice personnel in the May 13-15 conference of the FCPO at The Navigator headquarters in Glen Eryie, Colorado.

An excellent job of hosting the conference was administrated by FCPO's Executive Director, Mr. C. Grant Wolf from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

What a joy for Sue and I to participate with the men and women who serve our cities and nation through the ministry of the Peace Officer.

Mark Kroeker will be returning to the conference for the FCPO at Keswick in New Jersey for the weekend of October 7-9, 1994.

I'M PRAYING FOR YOU!

Dear Family in HIM:

I'm so thankful for HIS calling on my life to this position in HIS work...HE gave me a vision and, as HE is always so faithful with HIS follow through and provision, HE touched my heart and led me with HIS long-suffering patience to this very spot `for such a time as this'! Although I've not had the pleasure, as yet, of meeting many of you in person, I do get to speak with some of you on the phone and to see firsthand your notes of encouragement and gifts of financial and sacrificial support. I appreciate your faithful prayers and the love HE sheds abroad through your hearts to us.

Oftentimes, you mention the needs and concerns in your own lives; sometimes with very specific prayer requests; and I want you to know that I'm often praying for you. I pray as I open your mail to us, as I ready return mail to you, as I come across your name on the mailing list and whenever HE brings you to mind.

May you know the daily peace of HIS presence and abundance of blessed rest in HIM in every situation....`for HE careth for you.'

In HIS Care,
Dottie Shirk
Philippians 2:3-6

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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