THE CONTENDER

Christmas 1992

". . . it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith . . . " – Jude 3

'WISHING YOU THE WONDERFUL PRESENCE OF CHRISTMAS PEACE'

From The Director's Desk

Dear Friend in Christ:

You are receiving this issue of the *"Contender"* because we still believe that you care about both our family and our ministry. Our mailing list has been cutback on several occasions but for some reason we know you want to hear from us. Should I be mistaken, take time right now to drop me a note and we will comply with your written desire to be removed from our mailings.

If you are still reading, I'll assume that you've decided to stay on with us. These are perilous days and one can struggle to discern real from insincere needs. I send you this end of year communication so that we might better serve together in 1993.

I wrote the following thought inside my Bible's cover some years ago: "The tyranny of the urgent is a fact of life. . .the tyranny of the unimportant is the issue to be most feared!" One can't be inside a poor housing project or a prison too long before recognizing the tyranny of the urgent. People wrestle with issues of disease, violence, noise, aloneness and the quicksands of anger. Unmet emotional needs, abused childhoods and feelings of shattered spirits abound. Walking amidst such gloom, the believer in Christ has his/her heart broken and tendered towards the appealing mass of languishing faces. Unimportant agendas become divorced from one's thinking and only the urgent seems to exist. This, however, is not Christlike! We risk being effective and obedient when crushed only by the urgent! No one is capable of laboring long if motivated by only the urgency of a situation. If this were the case, spiritual exhaustion would soon displace the tireless prophet whose burden ran so deep. There must be another factor which upholds our reason for ministry and compassion. The need of men is ultimately met in the place of the holy. **The UNIMPORTANT-needs denounced... the URGENT-needs owned ...the HOLY-needs adored!**

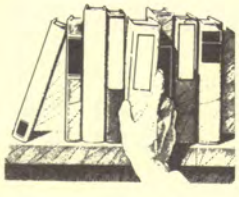
Habakkuk the prophet exemplifies the balance of these three central thoughts. **He denounced the unimportant! He personally owned the urgent! He truly adored the Holy!** Out of darkness and national judgement he wrote this beautiful song:

*"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: YET I will rejoice in the **LORD**, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The **LORD God** is my strength, and He will make my feet like hinds feet, and He will make me to walk upon mine high places."* Habakkuk 3:17-19

Quite frankly, **the adoring of the Holy guarantees the effective owning of the truly urgent!**

We at CCGM are touching the urgent. . . we're asking God to separate us from the unimportant and praying that we might adore the Holy! May the following articles encourage you to continue with us in these needful days of urgency and holiness.

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



From The Bookshelf

L.A. Justice:
Lessons from the Firestorm
by Bob Vernon

"Focus on the Family", publisher of this riveting account of the Rodney King incident, says early indications are that Chief Vernon's first-person, insider view, will become widely sought-after by readers both in and outside the criminal justice system.

You can own this book and encourage a wonderful ministry for a gift of $50.00 to:

Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers (FCPO)
P.O. Box 3686
Chattanooga, TN 37404-0686

*Please place your order through the FCPO office before December 31, 1992.

Law Enforcement/Corrections Conference
Word of Life • Schroon Lake, NY
March 26-28, 1993

Sober-Mindedness:

"The tragedy of all men is summed up in direct proportion to his responsible or irresponsible surrender to the revelations of God. In short, God speaks... man responds! God's revelation shall always outweigh man's response, hence, to some measure, all men write a tragedy!"

— Crans

Children's Bible Clubs

by Sue Crans

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

The great prophecy of Isaiah! What a comfort and a blessing to be able to share with 50 children, that, THERE IS A SAVIOR who cares about everything in their broken and disjointed lives. What else could I offer them?

Children's Bible Clubs have been both bitter and sweet this year...so many blessings along with so many heartaches. This has been the fifth year working with the children from Parkway and the investments have not gone without reward.

It has been so wonderful to be able to pack the children into two vans every Thursday and take them from the dreary projects to the beautiful Old Mill. We have enjoyed so many special times already. The children love to run around, swing and play at the playground, try to catch frogs, throw stones into the creek and all the things they never had occasion to do. Actually, we have more children than we can really handle.

The Lord has blessed us with eight faithful teachers and helpers. Two men have just adjusted their Thursday afternoon work schedules to assist with the needs of the older boys.

Satan always tries to hinder and discourage. Many of our little ones are from sad situations at home. Anger and bitterness often accompany them which often leads to violence and displays of hurt. Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom and patience in knowing how to love and care for them. We must lean heavily upon the Lord for His mercies as we travel the seven miles between the projects and the Old Mill Bible Camp.

I am really praying that the Lord will provide the resources which will allow for the renovation and use of the Old Mill Bible Conference facility. Its readiness for summer of 1993 will permit concentrated weeks of ministry in the lives of our special and loved children.

In closing, remember to pray for us on Thursdays! With each little child is the open door of a precious home for which Christ lived, died and rose again!

Encouragement

"The blacker the night around us grew, the brighter and truer and more beautiful burned the Word of God."

— Corrie ten Boom
Prisoner 66730
Ravensbruck Concentration Camp

The Old Mill Bible Conference It's Birth and Revival

On May 5, 1933, thirteen men signed into legal charter **The Old Mill Bible Conference Association.** The undersigned names were those of: Archibald McKinlay, Jr., Lorne H. Belden, W.A. Dean, Clarence E. Mason, Jr., C. Alfred Underwood, Henry L. Woll, Irvin S. Yeaworth, Donald Gray Barnhouse, Richard L. Bunting, Harold W. Yocum, William H. Hartman, Robert D. Kelso and Archibald McKinlay. They began their corporation with the following words:

"...do hereby declare, set forth and certify as follows:

1. That the name of the corporation is **The Old Mill Bible Conference Association.**

2. That the location and post office address of the initial registered office in the Commonwealth, is Brandamore, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

3. That the purposes of the corporation are:

A. Religious-the moral, mental and spiritual improvement of mankind along religious, benevolent-missionary and educational lines in harmony with the following principles:

1. The Deity of our lord Jesus Christ.
2. The need and efficacy of the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ for the redemption of the world.
3. The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the work of Redemption.
4. The divine institution and mission of the Church.
5. The divine inspiration, integrity and authority of the Bible.
6. The broad and binding obligation resting upon the Church for the evangelization of the world.
7. The consummation of the kingdom in the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ. And that this is a corporation which does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incident, or otherwise, to its members.
8. That the corporation is to exist perpetually..."

(Original Articles of Incorporation still displayed at Old Mill)

On July 19, 1992 at Philadelphia College of Bible, County Corrections Gospel Mission was enabled by Almighty God to sign into contract the acquisition of The Old Mill Bible Conference. The "is to exist perpetually" clause was reborn and we now face the

joy of upholding the seven other principles of the above quoted "Articles of Incorporation."

God has blessed all of us with this marvelous miracle at the end of the 20th Century. Little did Dr. Donald Gray Barnhouse and Dr. Clarence E. Mason, Jr. know that Coatesville would be such a vital location of such spiritual hunger! Located just seven miles from the troubled projects sits the reviving facilities and grounds of the historic and memorable Old Mill Bible Conference.

As we face the challenges of 1993, please know that we have something wonderful for which to praise our God! We need your prayers and your enthusiastic support. Don't wait for some other church or friend to get involved! Write to us today! **Join us in this precious stewardship of so great a legacy!**

For Such a Time as This?

Perhaps most people are skeptical or even cynical regarding the purpose and focus of Old Mill's revitalization. Our initial letter announcing the rebirth of the Old Mill Bible Conference facility fell on largely deaf ears and insensitive hearts. What I thought would be the celebrated joy of many kindred minds became the silence of hundreds.

To those who have sweat and toiled since July, we owe a great debt of thanksgiving. Countless hours have been spent, as well as, unmeasurable, donated resources. The grounds are turning from fallow to fruitful and the buildings strengthen and brighten with each passing week. Truly, there is much to anticipate!

Although the original incorporation of the Old Mill Bible Conference Association has been lost through years of neglect, we are committed to the eight principles as set forth in the original charter. **We beseech heaven for the future course of our timely acquisition.**

The concept of a Youth/Missions Camp is totally in line with the burden of CCGM and the former heart of Old Mill's founders. The launching of Youth Outreach Missionary Teams has already begun and training for 1993 Mission Teams for Portugal, Thailand and New Mexico is moving forward.

The camp has been purchased with the funds of several gracious foundations: The Lukens Foundation, The Huston Foundation, The Stewart Huston Charitable Trust and Intelligence Electronics. With no strings attached, you, **God's blood-bought people have been given a precious gift! The future of such a costly blessing rests on our response.**

Work Teams and Resources Needed!

The children who are fatherless and poor are most likely those who will benefit greatly from the facilities of the Old Mill. The only request of the donating foundations was that we minister to the children of Coatesville. Truly, this is the heartbeat of all we do! I've said it so many times but I will say it again: "The greatest prison ministry in the world is that which displays the effective work of the Bible-believing Church in high-crime neighborhoods."

Before launching your youth into a remote corner of the earth, consider a work team at Old Mill! **Effective, ongoing ministry at home will always yield the harvest of effective ministry abroad."**

Quite frankly, even the Church can become 'PARA-CHURCH' when not willing to reflect the call of both the Old and New Testaments in ministries of compassion and mercy towards the fatherless, the poor and the stranger in your gates!

We need painters, carpenters, plumbers, landscapers and the various trades and skills that could easily revitalize the Old Mill Bible Conference grounds and facilities before May of 1993.

Write to us and express your desire to invest in the opportunity of the Old Mill's resurrection. You can stay overnight, plan a working retreat or just come for a day. Your labors will directly effect and benefit the 'least of these.'

Specific needs of Old Mill

- Three new showers
- Gas Heater for Chapel/ Office area -$700.00
- Vinyl Siding for Boys Dorm and Snack Shack
- Canoes
- Lumber for one foot-bridge and many repairs - $5,000.00
- Roofing shingles
- Masonry/Carpentry/Electrical Technicians

Prisons: Reflections of Community!

As we enter 1993, we invite the many resources of your church, class, family or group to impact the ministry at Chester County Prison. As I continue as Chaplain, I would be most encouraged and honored to involve you in this prisonhouse. The grievous challenges behind steel and stone are all too often the crying and broken lives of our own neighbors and acquaintances. The languishing of shattered homes and contrite spirits are all too often forgotten! **Might it be said by the prisoner that 1993 was "The Year the Church Wept!"**

Southeast Secure Treatment Unit

Christmas Day will mark the third year that SESTU boys will awaken to a personal pile of Christmas presents. The gracious churches, families and individuals who blessed these 32 boys are near and precious to HIS HEART! The message of the Savior born is wrapped in the visible display of these untold Christian friends.

Thank you! May the warmth of your Christmas carry your thoughts to all the saddened and pained lives of this terminal earth!

Join our Tuesday night mission team as they plumb the depths of the SESTU CHALLENGE!

County Corrections Gospel Mission

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

Christmas Report 1992

Founder's Weekend and Dedication of The Old Mill Bible Conference

April 30 - May 2, 1993

Celebrating 60 Years
(May 5, 1933 — May 5, 1993)

Service

"Some wish to live within the sound of church and chapel bell... I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell"

— C.T. Studd

(Written inside "Thank You" note of a Philadelphia urban missionary.)

FINAL NOTE:

Canned Grocery Items needed for resident-volunteer worker at the Old Mill. "The ox that treadeth the grain shall eat!"

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Jack, Sue, Jonathan, Timothy, Joshua,
Shannon, Dottie, and CCGM Board

Areas to Designate Gifts

SESTU
General
Memorials
Snack Foods
Warden's Fund
Old Mill

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

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