CCGM

THE CONTENDER

Christmas 1993

". . . 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 Faithful and Beloved Friends:

The demands of daily appeals can easily bring barrenness and discord to the human soul. Hence, warnings have been heralded throughout the ages: **"Beware of the tyranny of the urgent!"**

Similarly, I will argue: **"Beware of the tyranny of the unimportant!"**

Simply stated: Though it be necessary to caution ourselves against the burden and forces of 'the urgent,' let us not be wasted in the burden and forces of 'the unimportant!'

What issues and concerns will occupy us in 1994? Will our calendars and hours be filled with the concerns of 'the urgent' or 'the unimportant?'

In the final hours of Jesus' earthly ministry, He cried: **"Occupy till I come!"** He warned of the day when He would return and require of every man an accounting of 'how much he had gained.' (Luke 19:11-27)

The unfaithful steward must answer with fear: "Thou art austere. . .thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow!"

This principle of **God's Austerity** is one needing close investigation and understanding.

What is it that God requires of us? Is it true that HE REQUIRES AN ACCOUNTING OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN THIS LIFE? Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission understood this truth and sighted it in Proverbs 24:11,12. **"If thou resist to deliver those who are drawn unto death, and those who are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that weigheth the heart consider it? And he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he render to every man according to his works?"**

I am absolutely convinced that God requires of us according to what He has given to us! The Apostle Paul declares in his first letter to the Corinthians (4:2), **"Moreover,it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."**

The "austerity" of God is based and conditioned upon the graces of God to each and every believer. The steward of Luke 19 had received a gracious portion of wealth from the hand of his king. The hour of reckoning inevitably came upon him.

As I review 1993, I know that I have been a recipient of God's bountiful graces. So true are the words of II Corinthians 9:8: **"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."**

King David learned the following through chastening: "Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. But who am I, and what are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee."

I trust that 1993 was for each of us: "The Year of the Faithful Steward!"

Because of Wonderful Calvary!
Jack Crans/Director
I Chronicles 21

Jack, Jonathan, Sue, Timothy and Joshua

Our Christmas Prayer for You

One HOLY GOD on a HOLY NIGHT
Gave a HOLY GIFT on a HOLY HILL
To an UNHOLY WORLD In an UNHOLY AGE. . .
May we answer with HOLY LIVES and HOLY DAYS
And unending, eternal HOLY PRAISE!

PCCP

The Pennsylvania Commission on Corrections Planning

In order to address the social and fiscal impact of Pennsylvania's current corrections policy, especially in a time of dwindling federal, state and local resources, in the Fall of 1992, Governor Robert P. Casey established the Pennsylvania Commission on Corrections Planning (PCCP) pursuant to Executive Order 1992-1995. This order called for the appointment of an eleven member study commission.

It has been my deep privilege to serve as one of the eleven members of this study commission. The final work is coming to a conclusion and soon the Governor of Pennsylvania will be presented with our findings.

In Fiscal Year 1993/1994 somewhat over $600 million of taxpayers' money is being spent to house over 26,000 Pennsylvania inmates; even more shock awaits since it is projected that by the year 2000, Pennsylvania taxpayers will be spending over $1 billion a year to house 33,000 prisoners.

Full disclosure of the commission report is just around the corner. Pray that God will soften the hearts of HIS PEOPLE in owning more responsibility for both understanding and responding to the cries of the prison-house!

"Liberals, who believe most social ills can be cured through "full funding" of this or that government program, cannot accept that there is little the government can do to improve men's souls. That is the province of churches . . . real churches,not the namby-pamby kind." (*The Patriot*/columnist Mona Charen)

Youth Can Make A Difference

The youth of Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church of Easton, Pennsylvania are a great example of the value of ministry experience at The Camp at Old Mill in Brandamore, Pennsylvania.

Early in November, they took it upon themselves to spend a weekend of ministry encouraging the children of Coatesville's Public Housing and also blessed the Old Mill facility through the labor of their own hands.

The pictures below help to capture in a small way the vital impact of these special youth upon our lives here at CCGM. It wasn't many weeks later that I was able to preach in the pulpit of the Cornerstone Church in Easton and saw first hand the zeal for souls and commitment of these precious young people!

Three great truths resulted from the love of these exemplary youth: (1) Their own hearts and lives were drawn closer to a commitment and availability in serving Christ. (2) The Camp at Old Mill was improved and strengthened through their servant hearts. (3) The boys and girls of the Oak Street and Parkway Housing Projects were loved and encouraged to love Christ and to live for Him.

Bob Vernon, Assistant Chief of Los Angeles Police (retired) to conduct *"Lessons from the Firestorm"* Seminar on May 23, 1994

The Sheraton Valley Forge Hotel and Convention Center will be the selected site for the MAY 23 Law Enforcement and Corrections Leadership Seminar co-hosted by County Corrections Gospel Mission and the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers.

It is hoped that 350 leaders representative of government, law enforcement and corrections will attend the four-hour seminar that deals with the incident of the Los Angeles Riots and the root causes which gave rise to such a devastating calamity.

The conference will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. and will continue until the noon hour. A formal, complimentary luncheon will follow that will feature the personal and powerful testimony of Bob Vernon.

We are asking that prayers be offered constantly on behalf of this historic conference. The crisis of authority in our nation is worsening and May 23 can be a day to long remember as a standard of righteousness is lifted above a nation in rebellion.

Will you sponsor your Police Departments' participation? Can we count on you and your church to encourage the authorities of your city, county and state to be present?

Please pray for the committee of peace-officers who labor with me in this challenging opportunity! The added labors to the CCGM office will require much wisdom and prayerful encouragements. I trust that you will mark your prayer calendars now for MAY 23, 1994!

Dear Family and Friends:

It's been a fast three months here at The Camp at Old Mill. In those three months I have evidenced the Lord's hand working through all areas of the camp.

Spiritually I have seen many lives changed. At our Thursday afternoon Kids' Bible Club we are seeing the youth of Coatesville's Projects grow in the Lord. This is a challenging ministry, but I am glad we can reach out to our local youth through our camp.

Thanks to the help of many of you who have volunteered of your labor, time and talents the camp has physically seen many blessings in the past few months. The boys' dorm is very near completion; much work has been accomplished! We hope to move beds into it soon and anticipate having full use of this building in the very near future.

Much has also been done on the girls' dorm to include a new roof, outside painting, and the addition of some especially attractive new curtains to the upstairs windows.

The director's cottage, my new home, has been revived by the addition of new insulation, siding, paint, carpet, hot water heater, bathroom and even a loft area. **It looks great!**

I thank the Lord for all of the many volunteers who have helped me with these special projects. The camp is looking beautiful and I look forward to having you visit with me for your personal tour of the facility.

Janel and I are looking forward with anticipation to our wedding on Friday, December 17. We will appreciate your prayers as together we enter into this new phase of our lives.

As one appointed to missionary service on staff at CCGM, I am in the process of raising my own support and have a requirement to have raised the first half ($10,000) of my support by the end of the first year (July 1, 1994). By the end of my second year (July 1995), I will need to have raised my total yearly support of $20,000.

Janel has her degree from Philadelphia College of Bible in Bible and Social Work. We believe the Lord desires for her to fill a missionary position here with CCGM where she would be responsible for ministering to the needs of the local children and their families, especially those of our Kids' Bible Club. For this position, she would also be required to raise her own level of support.

We are seeking the Lord for His will and we would greatly appreciate your concentrated prayerful attention to these items of concern. We know that many of you support us in prayer and some have already taken us on for financial support...for this we are grateful and we thank the Lord for you. However, we are still trusting Him to raise up several more churches and individuals who will make a firm commitment to this need. Should you feel led to financially join us in this endeavor, please remember all checks must be made payable to CCGM and designated 'for the ministry of David Trout.'

Again, we appreciate you...let us hear from you and know that we look forward to having you visit us at the camp.

In Christ,
Dave Trout
Philippians 1:3

Children's Bible Clubs and the Camp at Old Mill

Thursday afternoons pose one of the greatest challenges to our entire ministry at County Corrections Gospel Mission. The emotion I experience in a visit to prison is not to be compared to the deepening grief one experiences in Children's Bible Clubs.

Driving up the hill to the projects one can see the leaping bodies and waving arms and hands of scores of little children. The time is 4:00 p.m. and our vans are arriving for the transporting of boys and girls to The Camp at Old Mill and the gathering of Bible Clubs. Sometimes as many as 20 volunteer leaders will converge at the camp and for 90 or so minutes we find ourselves amidst the joys and pains of 75 little ones.

A painful, pecking game seems to be the sport-of-choice for many of the children. Rivalries, neighborhood and family dilemmas seem to give rise to anger, hostility and sometimes even minor bruising amongst the 7 to 12 year old participants. Songs of praise to God filter through the cries, raps and isolating behaviors of children jammed in maxi-van seats. The neighborhoods seem happy that we have taken the children away for a few hours. We feel almost saluted by the youthful drug dealers who recognize the love of God when they can see it!

I said to Sue just a few club meetings ago: "I wish we had one youth or adult to match with everyone of our kid-clubbers! We can't be much more effective without such a response from the family of God! We are out-numbered ...we need reinforcements."

Oh, how I praise God for Sue and for her faithful team of volunteer teachers and helpers!

When you sit and meditate on what God is doing, you have to be both encouraged and overwhelmed! On one hand He has given us a facility such as The Camp at Old Mill to accommodate and develop an effective ministry of evangelism and discipleship. HE has opened the doors of the housing projects to our heart's desires and HE has equipped us with the Word of God and the Spirit of God for effectual ministry.

Imagine with me if God would supply godly families, individuals and churches as personal sponsors to our children of the Bible Clubs! We welcome you to come to The Camp at Old Mill for the purpose of bearing with us in this special yoke of ministry!

For most who read The Contender ...we're just a few miles away!

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

Christmas Report 1993

HIS Sufficient Grace

Even as a churched but unsaved little girl, there was a great desire in my heart to one day be 'on the mission field'. Then as a 'grown up', I chose to turn my back on ever having believed of HIS existence. But one very special day while so far from family and home, HE showed me of my need and drew me to call on HIM. HE touched me with the warmth of HIS love, HE spoke to me through HIS WORD, HE taught about HIS forgiveness of my sin and HE chose me to be HIS own. HE placed me on HIS mission field and today HE fulfills the desire HE placed in my heart so many years ago. . .how I praise HIM for the blessing of being HIS child and now to be a part of HIS team at CCGM. It's a blessing beyond anything I could have ever dreamed possible. . .but then HE reminds me that with HIM all things are possible! HIS grace is sufficient.

These past 14 months have been a joy beyond words. Thank you for all of your prayers, words of encouragement and support. May you have a Blessed Holy Holiday Season and a New Year that is focused on HIM. . .HE will surely carry you through.

Because HE Is,
Dottie Shirk
II Corinthians 12:9

From The Bookshelf

No Quick Fix by Keith Phillips, Executive Director of World Impact, 2001 S Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90007.

Bringing Christ to Urban America: "As soon as our Bible club teachers arrive for club, children flock to them. Sometimes the youngsters are so excited they hardly let us get out of the car. Some are so hungry for a hug it is nearly impossible to carry our Bibles or other teaching materials. The children love to make crafts, eat snacks, sing songs and listen to Bible stories. They are ecstatic about going on field trips or camping in God's great outdoors. . .But most of all these children want to be around Christian adults who love them, care about them and take time to listen to them. In these adults our Bible club children see Jesus-and they like what they see!"

-Keith Phillips

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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