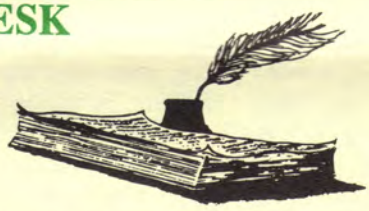
CCGM

THE CONTENDER

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

Wishing You A Blessed Holy Season

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." Hebrews 13:20, 21

The **Glorious Declaration of Christmas** is that God brought us **HIS PEACE** through the gracious offering of His Son, Jesus Christ! The **Grievous Denunciation of Christmas** is the languishing cry of untold millions who yet need to know and experience His Peace.

It is within this gulf between **'good tidings of great joy'** and **'them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death'** that we appeal to you this day.

Words fail to embody the emotion that flows from the reading of some prisoner's letters. Their appeals of deepest shame and helplessness continue to echo in my soul long after the words have been spent. This pathos is a malignant reminder of the victims of crime, the abuses of childhood and the incessant spiritual darkness being passed from generation to generation.

The **Prison-House** is a mirror. Look into its reflections! It's the place of punishment, the house of shame, the fortress of 'sinners' and the chamber of judgment. It is the home of discontent, the gulag of failure and an incubator for violence. It houses mothers, dads and children..... teachers, preachers and friends.

The **Prison-House** stands like a Goliath, mocking the people of God! Clothed like a fortress and spewing forth threatenings, this intimidating giant calls for us. Where are the Davids, Joshuas and Esthers who would lay their own lives before this scoffer?

Too long, in most every county of our nation, this giant is claiming an unchallenged victory. Take a look, one of his strongholds is just over the hill from where you worship and live!

May every assembly of God's precious people lay these concerns to its heart! Make '95 your year for Prison Ministry!

Sincerely,
Jack Crans
Proverbs 24:11,12

THE CAMP AT OLD MILL REPORT DAVID TROUT, DIRECTOR

In Philippians 4:10-20, Paul thanks his friends and the Lord for their support in the meeting of his needs. Janel and I praise the Lord for meeting our needs here at The Camp at Old Mill. Our prayer is that God will continue to lay this ministry upon hearts and that He will raise up 25 more individuals or churches to support us at $25.00/month.

The Summer of '94 was great with many children and youth visiting from Brooklyn, Chester and Coatesville. Teen Mission Outreaches from Tennessee and South Carolina made the summer even more effective for the reaching of children and neighborhoods in crisis. Pastor Guy Roberts of Oakwood Baptist Church in Anderson, South Carolina expressed it this way: "It would be impossible to put into words what this experience of ministry has meant to the youth and adult workers of our church. Having the Camp at Old Mill as a base of operation produces a place to prepare hearts to serve. Statements like: 'I saw that God could really use me to be an influence' and 'we went to minister to them (prisoners and 'at-risk children') and they ministered to us' reveal what God did in our hearts. This opportunity to serve the Lord in this capacity enabled us to experience the life of Jesus. Giving of ourselves with no expectation of a return and loving people before which we never knew was a great experience for us. It has made all the difference in the world in many of our teens. One teen sums up the influence of this ministry: 'I've probably learned more the last two summers than in all my years in church.' For me, this statement says it all!"

The Fall Season has rapidly filled with visiting youth teams and work projects. I want to personally thank many of you who have labored to develop the camp to what it is today.

IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY/ WILDERNESS ADVENTURE '95

We are currently looking forward with anticipation to the Summer of '95 and **THE WILDERNESS ADVENTURE** that The Camp at Old Mill will host from **July 15 through July 28.** These two weeks will focus on the children of Coatesville's Parkway and Oak Street Developments. We are currently seeking applicants for counselors from 11th Grade thru College. Junior Counselors are also needed from the 8th thru 10th Grades.

WILDERNESS ADVENTURE '95 will be two fun-filled weeks offering a unique camping experience for both counselor and camper.

Counselors will be trained in pre-camp sessions in how to present the Gospel clearly, encouraging others towards spiritual growth, ministering with a servant's heart and maintaining respect for authority among the campers.

We look forward to your input and trust you will assist us in the search, recommending and building of this **'Wilderness Adventure' Team.** This will be an opportunity for both impacting your own youth and the 'at-risk children' of our own back-yard.

1994 IN REVIEW

Church of the Open Bible Parkesburg, Pennsylvania: Served actively as Interim Pastor between CCGM pulpit commitments. Refreshing growth and evidence of God's Supreme Priority: The effective work of the local church. What a joy and privilege to study, pray and weep with this precious assembly!

Philadelphia College of Bible addressed the following themes: The Missionary Character of the Scriptures, Understanding Jails and Prisons, The Collapse of Authority and the Crisis of the Nation's Prisons, and Death of the City: An Examination of the Behavior of God's People.

Chester County Prison: Coordinated the Chaplaincy Program for the 600+ residents of our county's prison-house! Ached for the deeper involvement of our county's strong, Bible-believing churches. Continue to wonder if the 'reflections' of the prison-house ever really touch the heart and agenda of most local pulpits.

Family: Enjoyed a special night away with Joshua (13), our youngest son. Took in a Hershey Bears Hockey Game, counseled concerning adolescence and prayed together. Wonderful!

Administration: Represented our burden, work and needs to supporting churches, pastors and committed friends. Sharpened skills and was encouraged by growing network of 'fellow-helpers.'

Planned move of Administrative Office to The Camp at Old Mill facility.

Prison Ministries: Meaningful fellowship and communication with the following organizations: The City Gate, Onesimus Prison Ministry, Behind the Wall, Hope Aglow, Prison Fellowship, Justice Fellowship, The Coalition of Prison Evangelists, The Saints Prison Ministry, Crossroads Prison Ministry, Pennsylvania Prison Chaplains Association and the John O'Cain Evangelistic Association.

Randy Brashears (Baltmore County Police) and Skip Alexander (F.B.I.). "May God be praised through the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers"

The Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers (FCPO): Participated in both the Colorado and New Jersey Conferences and was nominated to the Board of Directors. Joined with many law enforcement and corrections professionals to share in the powerful training and teaching of Los Angeles Police (Assistant Chief) Mark Kroeker.

Lessons From the Firestorm Seminar w/ Bob Vernon: Co-Directed with Ray Meese (FBI), a gathering of 218 law enforcement and criminal justice administrators an 'Ethics and Authority Seminar' at the Valley Forge Sheraton. Evaluations indicated a rating of 'excellent' and near to 45 leaders indicated a personal response to the Gospel. We are discussing Bob's return in the Spring of '95.

Fourth Sunday Gatherings at the Camp at Old Mill: Los Angeles Assistant Chief (retired) Bob Vernon initiated a series of four great meetings at the old camp. "Solemn Assembly" was the call of the hour by Chief Vernon.....he indicates that God has been blessing this urgent theme in his meetings throughout the world! The Summer of '95 holds great promise with the June arrival of the Sutera Brothers and the Canadian Revival Fellowship.

Justice Fellowship (JF): Serving on the Pennsylvania Task Force and observing a fermentation of ministry that is guaranteed to yield great challenge and hope for our Commonwealth's urgent concerns. Two of at least eight 'Public Hearings' have been completed and the crescendo of activity and planning promises to impact the call for a rational debate concerning 'Crime and Punishment.' Call us for more information! Pray for Dan Tonkovich, State Director of JF.

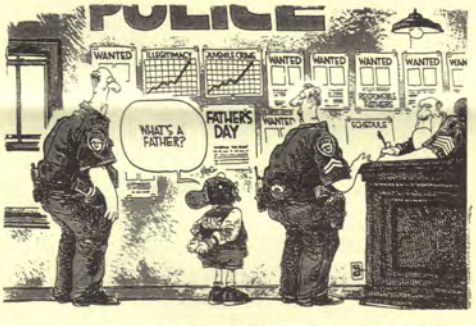
Youth/Missions Outreach: Besides hosting 60+ high schoolers for Philadelphia College of Bible's 'Network '94', we were able to house, train and send scores of committed high schoolers into the following locations: Chester County Prison, South East Secure Treatment Unit (SESTU), Kensington Outreach Center, Independence Square of Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and the public housing areas of Coatesville.

The Camp at Old Mill: More than 2,000 individuals visited Old Mill for one occasion or another. Area pastors

are encouraging the Summer Meetings and construction projects continue. By early '95 there should be a new roof on the Old Mill Building and this winter the 'Boys Dorm' has all the comforts of home. David Trout welcomes your labors and sends a call for 'help!'

Dick Hostetter, Elder Church of the Open Bible. "Loving tomorrow's leaders!"

Children's Bible Clubs: Marked growth in numbers has given cause for an over-whelming sense of burden for participating children. Weekly volunteers for our Thursday clubs has grown near to 20 and never are we without an increased awareness of our children's family needs. Consequently, a fellowship and Bible Study has commenced in the Oak Street 'Hillcrest' Building each Thursday for moms and the interested women of the neighborhood. The impact of Children's Bible Club upon the whole burden of Prison Ministry is undeniably real! Sue Crans' burden for this ministry has been kept strong by the very willing sacrifice of faithful teachers and helpers.



Today we don't seem to have moral authorities that anyone listens to anymore. Because no one is setting standards, there's a vacuum. The worst leaders in our society-and they are leaders-are taking over.

Prisoners: A two-day seminar at Clarion County Prison, letters from scattered, incarcerated friends and letters from imprisoned strangers continued to challenge and often embarrass our control of time. Appeals from prison cells cry for a friend, **someone to intercede**, to visit children and to comfort family. The heart- breaking realization of 'too many voices' and 'so much need' can render to one who cares, a vexation of the soul! Invitations to other country's prisons, open prison doors and gracious administrators continue to both excite and frustrate our hearts!

The Priority of Missions: No local labor in ministry can be better focused than to test it against the urgencies of Missionaries World-Wide. Hence, we labored this year with full realization of 'fellow-laborers.' The cries of Haiti, Africa, Bosnia, Cuba, and their attending missionaries were heard. Countless newsletters pour across our desks.....the heartache of missionary, child and nation is heard! It is with these urgencies in mind and heart that we must labor all the more sincerely and precisely!

AN URGENT CRY FOR YOKE FAMILIES

It literally took the action of The Pennsylvania State Police and local law enforcement authorities to establish a peace in the Oak Street Housing Community. This is the same neighborhood from which our children come for weekly Bible Clubs at The Camp at Old Mill.

Ninety-plus children and more than a score of mothers are actively participating in one phase or another of CCGM's ministry. These same households have indicated a sincere desire **to be yoked together with a solid, Christian family**. What remains a critical problem is not the disinterest of 'at-risk' mothers, but, the lethargic response of the 'solid, Christian home.'

Although I deeply appreciate and honor the professional and caring ministry of Law Enforcement, I still maintain that Oak Street's greatest hope for lasting and affordable peace will come only through the presence and involvement of committed, godly mentors.

Surely, the invitation of Oak Street's homes ought to bear upon our conscience!

YOU ARE

INVITED TO

COMMIT YOUR CHURCH

FAMILY TO THE GROWING

NEED AND CRY OF THE CHESTER

COUNTY PRISON. COME AND SHARE

YOUR TEACHERS, YOUR SONGS AND YOUR

MANY RESOURCES WITH THE PRISONER AND

THE PRISONER'S FAMILY. YOUR RESPONSE AND

SERVICE WILL TENDER YOUR HEART TOWARDS GOD

AND THE VERY REAL CONCERNS OF YOUR OWN COUNTY.

MAKE 1995 THE YEAR THAT YOU IDENTIFIED WITH THE

TANGIBLE CRISIS OF YOUR OWN BACKYARD. BELIEVE ME,

GOD'S BLESSING AWAITS YOU!

A BLESSED

AND HOLY

CHRISTMAS

TO YOU!

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320

County Corrections Gospel Mission

Summer Report 1994

THE BROKEN GIFT

Well, strange as it may sound, this year I'm asking to receive and to even share with others 'a broken gift'....you see I'm realizing more than ever my daily need for an ever more-broken heart that pleads at HIS THRONE for so many lost and dying souls, a broken heart that seeks for ways to encourage others in the knowledge of HIS WORD and then for the spending of the treasured power of HIS SPIRIT through the outpouring of my life to do HIS will that HE might be glorified through this Holy Season and on into the new years!

After all the greatest Christmas gift for all of mankind which will last for all eternity is a broken gift....**THE SAVIOUR-CAME TO EARTH THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS AND CARED ENOUGH TO STAY AND FULFILL HIS FATHER'S WILL; HE GAVE HIS ALL...A BROKEN. AND POURED OUT BODY ON CALVARY FOR YOU AND ME!!!**

Imagine the effective working power that would flow through HIS BODY if daily and moment by moment the fullness of the greatest BROKEN GIFT were permitted to permeate each of our lives....will you join with me this Christmas in requesting a broken gift that can keep on giving....just as the shepherd had to break the leg of the little lamb to teach him the obedience to stay close and learn to more fully love and trust his master....**Lord, break me for your use and glory!**

Have a Blessed Holy Season as together we serve HIS callings!

Dottie Shirk
Psalm 51

OUR YEAR END WISH!

"The supreme want of all missions in the present day is the manifested presence of the Holy Ghost.

"Few of us, perhaps, are satisfied with the results of our work, and some may think that if we had more, or more costly machinery we should do better. But oh, I feel that it is *divine* power we want and not machinery! If the tens or hundreds we now reach daily are not being won to Christ, where would be the gain in machinery that would enable us to reach double the number? Should we not do well, rather, to suspend our present operations and give ourselves to humiliation and prayer for nothing less than to be filled with the Spirit, and made channels through which He shall work with resistless power?"

Hudson Taylor (1892)

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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