



County Corrections Gospel Mission

P.O. Box 1136 • Coatesville, PA 19320 • (215) 383-9378

April 16, 1987

Dear

"...be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."

-- Ephesians 6:10

I am convinced that deep personal convictions regarding our life's potential and purpose are often never openly expressed. It is easier to give in to the status quo or to frustrate ourselves in believing that the impact of our single life or opinion is either irrelevant or ultimately ignored. The more I observe, the more I am convinced that someone has been making their purposes and convictions known, and without exception, regardless of right or wrong, have risked their single life to the vulnerable critique and responses of other people. In short, some individuals take action while others react. Whatever our personality, we wrestle daily with the same ocean of needs represented within Corrections agendas.

If ever an era needed visionaries and pioneers, it is our own present hour. The insufficiency of rhetoric regarding Corrections woes and urgencies must be answered by convicted, impassioned lives which have substantially wrestled with the brokenness and heartache housed in and reflected by our Corrections system. I am personally thankful for the privilege of being a small participant in Pennsylvania's vast network of Law Enforcement and Corrections personnel, and am more and more encouraged by the growing team of committed laborers who do care, do weep and do want to agonize for a better and more corrective penal system.

Just this month I traveled to six county prisons and daily visited amidst broken families and neighborhoods. I was able to deliver a tear-stained challenge to many Pennsylvania pulpits and weekly called people to pray for Corrections.

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My heart is zealous to hear the burdens and dreams of Corrections leaders., I pray for convicted men and women who will allow their very special lives to impact many!

The Bible says, "Out of the heart, the mouth speaketh!" In other words, what we are saying is often what we believe. Oh that there may be a continuous, growing enthusiasm to constantly seek an improving justice system.

God says, "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, THAT HE UNDERSTANDETH AND KNOWETH ME, THAT I AM THE LORD WHICH EXERCISE LOVINGKINDNESS, JUDGMENT AND RIGHTEOUSNESS in the earth; for in these things I delight, saith the LORD." (Jeremiah 9:23,24)

If we seek our answer from the Holy Scriptures, then we can agree with the quote above. Our wisdom, our strength, nor our riches can solve the human predicament of often hopeless lives. In knowing and understanding the LORD, there seems to be the discovery of so needed a treasure -- lovingkindness (mercy), judgment (justice) and righteousness (right conduct) in the earth!

As another Corrections Conference approaches, let's listen and pray for the pioneers and visionaries. Perhaps this is the year wherein Corrections shall pivot to greater success because of greater convictions!

May God especially bless you!

Jack Crans /lsi
JACK CRANS
Director
I Samuel 12:24

JC/lsi
Enclosure