



County Corrections Gospel Mission

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

February 18, 1988

Dear

In the Old Testament Scriptures, often a trumpet was blown to call to attention a whole nation to prepare them for one of two critical situations. On one hand the need was to prepare for war while the other was to prepare for worship. Even though these two situations were critically different, each warranted the blast of the trumpet! In essence, the trumpet was crying, "Prepare the people!"

We live in a day of many voices that cry for attention. Everyone seems to be beating their own little drum and the overall sense of community and oneness has pretty much all but disappeared in the American neighborhoods. Bells could ring, trumpets could blow, newspapers could appeal, but no centralization of the people seems reachable. In each of our people groups are city councils, state legislators, school boards and governments. Elected officials abound, but there seems to be no common cry...no voice that all will hear or attend.

You, as a Corrections official, have your hand on a very select and representative body of our state and local citizens. Your institution reflects government powers, the law and certainly the representative needs of human crisis that surround us. Corrections is no small agenda! It is a profession and function of the powers of government that very powerfully has the potential for blowing a trumpet! You, as an elected official (in most cases), has within your sight and reach a reflective portion of our family concerns, our neighborhood's less fortunate and most assuredly human lives that reflect by careful study and concern a need for community participation and response. Corporately, wardens represent great critical issues needing to be addressed by our cities, churches and local government authorities. Individually as a warden, you house our neighbors, our children and perhaps our long-neglected responsibility for immediate and definite involvement.

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Who will blow the trumpet? Which leader either individually or corporately would see themselves as meaningfully responsible and personally anxious to cry out the true and long neglected agendas daily experienced and observed in the lives of the incarcerated? Please do not misunderstand me...no one knows better the overwhelming crisis of human lives than you! No one can wrestle with the root causes of crime nor the frustrations of Corrections than you. Legislators may represent the people, but you vitally touch them everyday. Preachers need to hear your concerns. School administrators, parents and local governments all need to hear a trumpet. Someone must cry the burden that you so clearly reflect of the thousands of incarcerated men, women and children under your care.

I believe the Scripture that so clearly proclaims, "Because of sin, the love of many would grow cold." In other words, things would get so bad and so critical that very few ever sensed a burden any more!

To you, my dear respected friend, please ask God to give you wisdom and courage to cry the evident and critical agendas that perhaps need laid upon us all! If you do not do it, who will? If no one else listens, I will!

I will close with this illustration. Little boys one day were playing war in the street. When a passer-by inquired as to why they were so quiet and seemingly having little to do, one lad replied, "We are all the generals. We cannot get anyone to do the fighting!" I write to encourage you, a "general"... don't underestimate the impact of your cries. Some of us out here want to really get involved with the issues.

Please circle Tuesday, May 10 on your calendar and look forward with me to attending this year's Governor's Prayer Breakfast in Harrisburg. Corrections will be the central theme, and I know that the opportunity will be one you will not want to miss!

May God richly bless and stir your heart! We need you very much to blow a trumpet!

I write,

With deep regards,

JACK CRANS
Director

JC/lai
Enclosure

P.S. Enclosed is this quarter's Daily Bread for your reading.