



# County Corrections Gospel Mission

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May 7, 1987

Dear

"For not from the east nor from the west, nor from  
the desert comes exaltation; but God is the Judge:  
He puts down one, and exalts another."

Psalm 75:6-7

I've been reading an excellent book entitled, "Spiritual Leadership," and thought again of your special place in Corrections.

Having just returned from the Pennsylvania Prison Wardens Symposium, I again was challenged by the critical issues now confronting each of you. Butler County Warden, Mr. Fenton, very graphically awakened our hearts with his stinging and pungent remarks concerning AIDS and the privatization of prisons. I'm personally still moved at his truthful insights and bold declarations....We laughed at his satire and special gift of public speech, but through the laughter we all knew the issues being confronted were a tragic reality. I'm convinced we would have been crying if not for the necessity we all had to take the harsh medicine of truth with some degree of sugar. Please do not misunderstand what I'm saying -- Warden Fenton was superb!

Years ago, a renowned clinical psychologist, Dr. Menniger, wrote a powerful book: "What Ever Became of Sin?" He saw man traveling away from the spiritual and hinted at our fall from divine perspectives. Instead of the biblical definition of "sin," he began defining acts of men as "crime" and finally "complex." He seemed to suggest a return to God -- a return to a perspective of man as seen in an accountable relationship with his God!

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My dear friend, please know that I want to herald from my deepest heart -- "Blessed (happy) is the one who delights in the law of the LORD.... for they shall be like fruitful trees drawing from the waters of God...." (My own paraphrase of Psalms 1:1-3)

A night never goes by when my wife or I do not pray with our three sons, Jonathan, Timothy and Joshua. Whether it's them, ourselves, an inmate, a street-corner crowd, or even special ones like you, the message and burden is always the same --

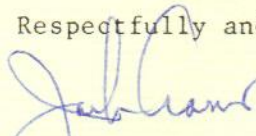
Thank you, Lord, for loving us enough to be our Savior and Lord....in other words, God provided us with a solution to our sin--the Savior, Jesus Christ, and continues willingly to be our Lord.

Living in Fellowship with God is vitally necessary if we ever hope to begin solving the tragic dilemmas facing the incarcerated.

My prayer is for your continued fellowship! I'll always look forward to hearing from you!

Thanks for letting me have a moment of your time!

Respectfully and Sincerely,



JACK CRANS  
Director

JC/ph

P.S. Psalms 119:126-128 (King David of Israel)

"It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law. Therefore, I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore, I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way."