



County Corrections Gospel Mission

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

September 12, 1986

"...for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."
-- I Samuel 16:7

Dear

Once again it is a very special privilege to have you take a moment to read this brief but sincere note of encouragement. I trust your summer was most satisfying and somewhat able to refresh you for a meaningful Fall and Winter season.

In just a few weeks, the Pennsylvania Prison Warden's Association will be meeting in Monroeville to enjoy the selected theme, "Enhancing the Integrity of the Public Perception of the Correctional Professional". The above Scripture declares two special agendas that I believe enlighten our thinking in preparation for the Conference.

First, people are looking at the outward appearance of our activities and agendas. You are constantly in the public eye and often made to represent very difficult issues and problems. Let me encourage you to know how impressed I have been in the personal acquaintance and openness many of you have shown towards me. I only wish I could earn such trust as to really tap the special burdens and observations you must have in the care and oversight of the incarcerated, as I am sure the watching public would be awed at your personal insights and sensitive hearts towards the daily, pressing agendas of your profession. As public officials in so vital a field of service, you possess an enviable position for affecting the changing priorities of Corrections.

Second, as expressed in the above Scripture, the LORD looketh on the heart. You, like myself, might be misunderstood by the skeptics and cynics, but be assured that the LORD knows our hearts! When Israel looked for a king, everyone looked on a man's appearance and accomplishments. Our day, also, has put too high a value on one's physical and political status, neglecting to see the heart. The heart is another word for the will, motives or purpose of one's life.

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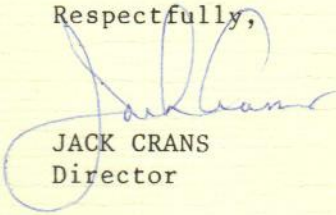
As we think of this year's theme of the Fall Symposium, let's be sure the inward motives and purposes are as sincere and impressive as the outward credentials. What greater success could be had in Pennsylvania Corrections than for God to see the sensitive, yielded hearts of our Prison Administrators.

I believe that we need not fear public perceptions when we can confidently admit God-directed purposes and concerns. Once again, may you rest in the satisfying Word of God which says:

"He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

-- Micah 6:8

Respectfully,


JACK CRANS
Director

JC/lisi

A Closing Thought:

"You can always determine the heart of a people by its leadership!"

Psalms 12:8 "The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.

Corresponding Truth:

"When the righteous walk on every side, the humblest, and gracious of men are exalted."