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County Corrections Gospel Mission

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Hosea 4:1,6."Hear the word of the LORD,ye children of Isreal: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land,because there is no truth,nor mercy,nor knowledge of God in the land.My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:because thou hast rejected knowledge,I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me:seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God,I will also forget thy children."

Dear Ones in Christ:

It takes little insight to see the devastation resulting from our society's move away from God. Verse 4 of the same text mentioned above marks our day,as youth and adults refuse to acknowledge a God who has most clearly spoken.

There is a COUNTER-CULTURE of morals and behavior making mock of the Judeo-Christians heritage so vital to the supporting pillars of this American nation. Sometimes I am forced to conclude that Christians have almost retreated from the field of law and most definitely am observing the absence of believers in the market place and concourse of our cities! Isn't wisdom to be "crying with her voice in the streets?" My friend,I'm becoming over-whelmingly convinced of a national tragedy:the rape of our cities by atheistic men. Drug and alchohol abuse are at epidemic levels as are violence,reveling and perversions of every kind. Are these issues our problem as the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ? Christian apathy or retreat at this moment in our nation's history will be most deadly to America's hope of another blessed generation. The politics of Communism may yet seem distant to our experience,however,the malignancy of Atheism is increasingly visible to the threat of our nation's life.

Prisons,courts and the various divisions of the Corrections field only serve to remind us over and over again of the growing harvest being reaped by our nation increasingly unwilling to acknowledge God as the LORD! The days ahead for the field of Corrections shall only darken as man continues to forsake God in his courts, society and personal values.

At the recent Warden's Convention in Pittsburg, CCGM was given the joy and priviledge of reminding wardens that God had not lost His love for them. We made known our interest in their profession and brought clearly to mind their task under God to bear rule. I had a very special time of fellowship with a warden's wife who most sincerely loves her Lord and her husband. I was asked rhetorically:"Can a man be a Warden and still walk closely with God?" What joy and blessing to know of the great harmony of law (that which is true and righteous)and grace as clearly met in Jesus Christ.(John 1:17) What a burden upon a man or woman if they must bear rule in a Prison and not know God personally! What a handicap as to the care of human life,though incarcerated,when a Prison administrator is not drawing upon God for wisdom and grace! Where more than a Prison ought there to be believers in authority?

I continue to pray for those in authority....Oh,that God would especially move in the hearts of Correctional Personnel and as a result bring wisdom and guidance

to the growing and abounding Prison Industry.

Godlessness and lawlessness are bad bedfellows.....it would be most needful that some in Corrections see a most obvious paradox:that those who represent and seek law and order,themselves be in submission to God.

I must apologize for the delay in this Newsletter but believe you understand the rapid growth of our outreach and the burden of having no secretary. Beginning Tuesday,June 4,Miss. Linda Ingham begins her ministry with us as full-time secretary. Pray for her needed support and also her new adjustments to Coatesville. I am most convinced that her coming to our office is going to make us more efficient and much better stewards of our growing opportunities.

Linda writes:"Time is passing so quickly and before I know it,June 4th will be here and my job will be very different. My plans are coming along real well and I am very anxious to begin my new ministry. I want to take this opportunity to invite each of you to my Commissioning Service at my home church,Colwyn Baptist, Third and Chestnut Streets in Colwyn,Penna. which will be held Sunday evening,June 23rd at 7PM. It would be special to have some of you there. The Lord has opened a wonderful provision for my housing so would take this moment to express praise for his continued leading."

Police fellowships seem to be increasing as many law enforcers are seeing their personal need for support and encouragement. Through the already existing organization of the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers (FCPO) we at CCGM are fanning the flame for officer participation and beginnings of new chapters. It is hoped that Correctional Officers would be welcomed and drawn into these vital fellowships in the coming months.

We are now in direct correspondence with excellent resources God has been raising up in both Juvenile and Adult Correctional areas. Also,recent interest and encouragement expressed by the Warden of Atlanta's Federal Prison convinces us continually of our God-directed course for CCGM.

Please pray for the following need areas:Increasing street-work in Coatesville, visits to Pennsylvania's Correctional leaders,literature preparation,35mmCamera,a typewriter(good quality,electric) and broken hearts for the effectual work of the local Bible-believing church .

A 29 year old man has been living with us for the last 7 weeks as we are seeking his maturity in Christ for a return to the desperate, spiritual famine of Coatesville's streets. Pray for "Wink" as he matures in Christ and learns surrender of his old life and problems. We enjoy his fellowship and trust soon to build a more private area for him in our downstairs,ministry area.

Your faithfulness is keeping us to the work and we surely want to let you know again of our joy in Christ because of you!

By summer's end,we ought to be rolling with more coordination and more personal communications. Your continued care towards CCGM and the burden to which we've responded is most critical. Never before has there been such a great need for the response of the Bible-believing community.At CCGM you are in the trenches.....We love you all!!

Because He Loved Even Me!

Jack Crans,Director.2 Cor.2:14-17