April 28, 1989

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"Where is it written that Corrections professionals should feel guilty about conditions that are beyond their control? The answer is 'nowhere'...

"As each day goes by, it becomes harder to meet the goals we set for ourselves when we started out...The road to correctional progress has always been bumpy, but now it seems more like a variety of hairpin turns and precipices that staff and administrators stumble over, never to be heard from again."

Anthony P. Travisono
Executive Director, A.C.A
from "On the Line",
March, 1989

Dear ^F2^:

In recent weeks I have had the great privilege of sitting under the instructive and wise counsel of two prominent Law Enforcers: Los Angeles Assistant Chief of Police, Bob Vernon, and Washington, DC Chief of Police, Maurice Turner. The occasion of each meeting was clearly that of providing encouragement and discerning wisdom in matters of national concern. One meeting lasted a weekend in the Adirondack Mountains of New York, gathering some 300 Law Enforcement and Corrections professionals who earnestly sought wisdom in the fellowship and communication of peers who turned often to the Bible for instruction and guidance. The Washington meeting was a luncheon just outside the nation's capitol where ten men and women gathered to listen to the deep burdens of a Law Enforcer's heart. Again, the Scriptures were read and prayers were made for national healing.

I remember the deep sense of hope I felt in both gatherings. **The dependence of powerful leaders on God was evident** and the solutions for any hopeful peace in our Law Enforcement and Corrections fields seemed totally surrendered to God.

After hearing of some of our city needs and witnessing them for myself, it was certainly within reason to think we face situations which will demand power and use of force. As these two godly leaders unburdened their hearts on behalf of real people and their real predicaments, I was coming to see that our options for order in society could be as diverse as leadership would decide to act. On one hand, one can almost envision the need for a military movement to regain some neighborhoods, while in the same thought realize another force with far less peril to life, that being a missions movement. In either case, power of some kind is needed to keep the peace.

One thing is certain: leaders in authority need wisdom for the task before them. I found in these two powerful men a character which claimed dependence on God and **an attitude of spiritual discernment** that is so vitally needed in the ministries of Law Enforcement and Corrections. Like unto Joseph of Genesis 39-41, they have risen to great power and not forgotten their God. "And the LORD was with Joseph...and the LORD made all he did to prosper in the land." (39:2,3) In the midst of national crisis, it was asked, **"Can we find such a man as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?"** (41:30) Our day of great adversity calls for such a leader!

As you chart the course before you, I trust you will be able to say from the heart, "Not by might, nor by power, but by God shall be our wisdom and glory!"

God bless you richly!

Respectfully,

Jack Crans
Director

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