



County Corrections Gospel Mission

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August 7, 1986

Dear

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no nation has ever grown. But **we have forgotten God.** We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us, then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

-- April 30, 1863

President Abraham Lincoln's
Proclamation for a National
Day of Fasting, Humiliation
and Prayer

If ever Corrections was front-page agenda, it surely is now! As a matter of fact, some would even attempt to put it into Wall Street as an up and coming "industry!" Many seem to be jumping on the bandwagon of critiquing your role and profession. To some, the issue is "Private Prisons" to another, "Reform". Whatever the motive, Wardens and Prisons are getting attention. May I briefly say that I really appreciate your steadfast labors against many currents!

Abraham Lincoln's presidency seemed to be bathed in prayer and dependence upon God. To him, it was contradictory to be in the office of government and not reverence the real Chief Executive, the Living God.

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I always love the opportunity of introducing my three sons to men and women of great character. Reading a President's concern such as that quoted above, is a good example of what I mean.

In a most recent Commission Report on Pornography in America, it has been clearly warned that immorality is hazardous to people and a nation. I was surprised to find out, however, that a "similar" commission in 1970 deceitfully echoed the contrary. Under such persons as former Presidential candidate George Mondale, George McGovern and the leader of the American Civil Liberties Union, they portrayed a most innocent effect of the pornography industry. Although rejected by Congress, their report was heralded as truth for the last 16 years-- the results are not yet even begun! AIDS, teenage pregnancy, sexual crime and an illicit industry of child pornography has only begun to surface.

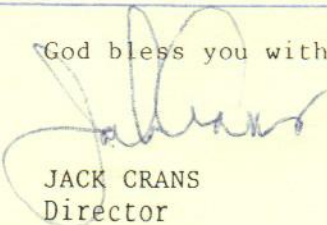
Spiritual leadership is at a premium. In a generation in which the family is failing, our best hope often remains in our institutions. I have heard Wardens often admit to the great benefit of a true spiritual climate in their institution brought about by the old-fashioned application of the Bible. In a day of skepticism and public examination of your growing profession, I trust close examination will yield the highest praise of your abiding faithfulness to His Word!

As far as I am convinced, the Bible and its precepts are the best source-book you will ever find on Corrections! It fundamentally holds up your institution, our Courts and government. As goes its place in our lives, so goes our ultimate failure or success!

Long before our statesman Lincoln, it was said of King Josiah of Israel who reformed his corrupt nation:

"He did that which was right in the sight of the LORD...declined neither to the right hand nor to the left." -- II Chronicles 34:2

God bless you with courage and wisdom,



JACK CRANS
Director

JC/lsi
Enclosure

"Civilizations do not just die. Their leaders and people are first deceived, then they are destroyed by God." -- An Historical Opinion