



# County Corrections Gospel Mission

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"Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."      -- Proverbs 3:3-6

Dear

It is always an opportunity to think that I can gain five minutes of your busy and vital agenda. Your reading of this monthly communication more than excites me as I am also humbled by the continued honor of God's Word consistently shown during my moments with you, a Corrections administrator.

If you have not guessed by now, I am partial to the wisdom and eternal truths set down in the Holy Scriptures. I believe there is always blessing in obeying them and eventually loss or dissatisfaction in their neglect. No one ever attains unto God's perfect will and plan for their life without seriously acknowledging the counsel of His Word.

I continue to meet Law Enforcement and Corrections leaders who without hesitation admit their dependence on the Lord. Corrections and criminal justice more generally demand the most keen of minds and the most sensitive of hearts.

My recent journey to New Orleans to attend the ACA's 117th Congress of Corrections impressed me like no other Corrections Conference I had ever experienced, and the serious heart cries of its delegates still ring in my hearing ears. Corrections leaders showed their pains, their tears and surely their concerns. They exposed themselves to the increasing agendas of their profession, and heralded a mighty voice of concern pledging to make a difference in the days and years ahead. Please know that as a preacher I have known about your caring hearts for a long time. I have seen Wardens cry and I have

known them as real people with real problems. I have listened to their burdened wives, heard of their multitude of critics and certainly interceded in prayer for those such as you on numerous occasions.

When the Conference opened its first plenary session, Chaplain Hanawalt of Brevard Correctional Institute of Florida, preceded his invocation by likening the ACA Conference to the difficulty factors involved in a space shuttle flight. He recalled the tragedy of our whole nation as the space shuttle, Challenger, exploded helplessly into the Atlantic, and he recalled the wisdom of Ben Franklin evidenced at the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia when he asked whether or not man could handle his own affairs without the help of God. "Can we handle it?", he asked. Would the ACA and its membership attempt to mount the insurmountable odds of Corrections without God?

I am glad to report that I came home with great news. The overall mood of the Conference was overwhelmingly clear -- our problems are big and getting bigger! What a great day to be in leadership and to wisely place ourselves in the trust and leadership of a caring, all-wise God. I believe He not only knows our needs, but He also offers the ultimate of solutions -- Himself! I trust there will be a real examination of this day of opportunity and that the eventual cry of Corrections would be for a return of this nation back to God.

Miss Cunningham, the President of the ACA, said, "There are tough times ahead -- we need the courage to assume our leadership roles and do what is right!" Is there a crisis facing Corrections? Will its leaders be wise and determined to glorify God in their performance?

As I close this letter, please know that I continue to praise God for the increasing testimony of many who trust Him for many victories, and although facing extreme odds have displayed a vital testimony of willingness to wrestle with the issues. My prayer would be for church leaders to ache as much in the arenas of crisis now facing this young but dangerously erring nation.

May your final days of summer be blessed with special joys, and do allow me to call to your hearts' concern, Warden Eugene Daugherty of Clarion County Prison, as he prayerfully awaits restoration to health from his very recent heart attack and surgery.

My heart and mind welcome your input. Thanks for reading!

Respectfully for Him,

JACK CRANS  
Director

JC/lsi