



# County Corrections Gospel Mission

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

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Dear

I trust this letter finds you very well and prospering! May I share with you one of my favorite verses of Scripture?

**"Where there is no vision (burden), people will surely  
perish!"** -- Proverbs 29:18

This verse has been a constant reminder and catalyst to my daily priorities and labors. My earnest prayer is that I will never be complacent and will always see men as God would have me see them. Admittedly, some men grieve my heart -- others even create feelings of disgust, but I know that my burden and passions grow only deeper when I couple my observation of men with the potent and unmatched wisdom of the Holy Scriptures.

"Peering into the mists of gray  
That shroud the surface of the bay,  
Nothing I see except a veil  
Of fog surrounding every sail.

Then suddenly against a cape  
A vast and silent form takes shape.  
A great ship lies against the shore  
Where nothing has appeared before.

WHO SEES A TRUTH MUST OFTEN GAZE  
INTO A FOG FOR MANY DAYS;  
It may be very sure to him  
Nothing is there but mist clouds dim.

THEN SUDDENLY HIS EYES WILL SEE  
A SHAPE WHERE NOTHING USED TO BE.  
Discoveries are missed each day  
By men who turn too soon away."

-- Clarence Edward Flynn

This little poem captures the necessity of **VISION** and promises the reward of perservering in the midst of seemingly hopeless days.

I just returned from three days in a county prison. As the hours progressed, conversations deepened and once cold impressions melted into tender relationships and hope. The Warden warmed my heart as he supportively prayed for God to work.

I am convinced that we are facing as Dickens once said, "The best of times and the worst of times. Depending on our vision, we will experience more of one or the other!"

May I leave you this month with a quote of our U.S. Senate Chaplain, Mr. Dick Halverson (June 10, 1983)...

Believing Isn't Seeing

A victim of the visible.

Believing only what he sees -- if that.

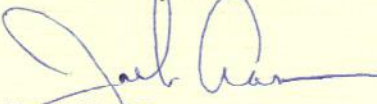
Assuming nothing is happening simply because he doesn't see it happen.

He needs to learn faith:

- faith that holds to the God who is infinitely more concerned, more caring and more loving than we;
- faith in a God who works when and where and how He pleases;
- faith in a God who is faithful to his own sovereign purpose;
- faith in a God who does not fail;
- faith in a God who is not overwhelmed by circumstances, who is never asleep or on vacation or indifferent;
- faith in the Biblical sense, not holding on to God, but realizing God holds on to you!

It may be error or sin to believe God is involved in something when he really isn't. But, it is infinitely worse to live as though God is not involved in something when he really is.

God loves you!



JACK CRANS  
Director

JC/lsi