



County Corrections Gospel Mission

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

January 10, 1986

Dear

"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise..."

- Proverbs 13:20

"My help cometh from the LORD, who made heaven and earth."

- Psalms 121:2

As I write to you, I am overwrought with a mixture of great anticipation and doubt. I anticipate because out of great struggle there often arises change and healing. I doubt because serious looking forward reveals an America we have never known.

The Los Angeles Times recently reported that 22% of all Americans are victims of child abuse. Four and one-half million "latchkey" children between the ages of 6 to 10 are presently going home to empty houses as a result of working parents, and the arts and entertainment media continue to spill poison on video, T.V. and literature. You, my dear friend, will be continuing to house the broken results of America's declining church, entertainment and family life.

In recent weeks I have talked with two State Prison Commissioners. They refreshed me as they spoke of their love for God, their love for family and their unmoved zeal of caring for the incarcerated. I was encouraged as they each related a reverence for the Scriptures and recognized their mutual burden for Corrections in America. No institution is more ripe for failure and disappointment than a prison, yet no other organization besides the Church now holds the potential for greater impact and influence in the secular world.

I can assure you, Warden, that more and more individuals and churches are now praying and caring for you than ever before in Corrections history. The care will increase and the visible response of believers continue to evidence itself as the next few years unfold. I am encouraged that the living Almighty God cares for the hearts and concerns of men. As David said, "When I consider the heavens, the work of Thy hand, the moon and stars that Thou hast created; what is man that thou art mindful of him?"

It is my prayer that more and more "wise men" lead in Pennsylvania who fear God and plead his assistance. America was built "under God" and shall know solidity and confidence only as she remains dependent on His revealed truths.

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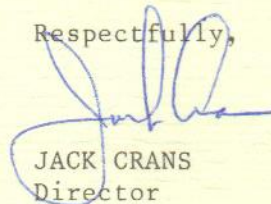
I again write to call to your memory our continued prayers, labors and purpose to the end that you might be counted amongst our nation's wisest leaders!

Before I close, let me tell you that I will soon be completing a brief but helpful statement on the Biblical implications of Capital Punishment. When it is completed, I will send you a copy for your own consideration and files.

Although I am extremely challenged by southeast Pennsylvania's great needs know that we trust God for continued opportunity to one day meet every Warden so they know our support.

May God richly bless you with health and wisdom in 1986.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack Crans", is written over the typed name and title.

JACK CRANS
Director

JC/lai