



County Corrections Gospel Mission

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July 17, 1987

Dear Warden Fyock:

**Be strong!
We are not here to play, to dream, to drift;
We have hard work to do and loads to lift!
Shun not the struggle...face it...it is God's gift.**

**Be strong!
It matters not how deep intrenched the wrong;
How hard the battle goes...the day, how long.
Faint not; fight on! Tomorrow comes the song!!**

Prior to World War II, God raised up a man named Dawson Trotman who established a world-renowned organization entitled, "The Navigators". I was so impacted by his life's testimony in the book, Daws, that I needed to share with you my impressions and lessons learned.

Although his original burden encompassed our Navy men and their ships, his impact upon thousands of lives still occurs worldwide. Because of his life's commitment to Christ and the Bible, Dawson's care changed the lives of sailors aboard every ship in Pearl Harbor.

Our prisons may not be ships, but they are steel vessels floating in a world of many woes and heartaches. It is going to take leadership with new and convicting hearts to impact its passengers. Those of you who steer at their helms are so essential to the navigation of their success or failure.

The following thoughts inspired me to want to navigate my own life to the honor of God, and I trust they will gain your attention as well:

First, God can do more through one life who is 100% dedicated to Him than through 100 lives who are only 90%.

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Second, anything done for God must be done well. Mediocrity was forbidden, and preoccupation or double-mindedness was trouble. A single-eye to God's glory in the task was essential.

Third, development to full potential was seldom possible without some form of personal discipline to draw one towards excellence. Find those committed to God's glory in Corrections and build accountable relationships.

Fourth, emotion is no substitute for action, and action is no substitute for production. Agonize for results.

Fifth, love the Word of God and pray.

Sixth, ask for compassion and wisdom and serve God with eternity in view.

What made the difference in Dawson's life and work was his personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Many believe that God answered his prayer in the impacting of many lives for the glory of God. Dawson claimed God's promise made long ago to Isaiah the prophet, "I will give men for thee and people for thy life...they that be of thee shall build the old waste places...thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; thou shalt be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in..."

May our united prayer be as was his: "Lord, what do you want me to do that would please you more? What am I doing that I should drop or what am I omitting that I should begin to do?"

Please know that I would love to hear from you. I am convinced that dialogue would be so productive to a deeper fellowship and hope in Corrections.

True, I am a preacher and not a Warden or Prison Administrator. You might wonder when I am going to get lost or give up -- please know I sense a very special and deep commitment to keep trying to care! Perhaps I am a little like the following illustration:

"He accepted his role behind the lines with all the grace of a disqualified race horse pawing and snorting when he hears the derby's starting gun."

May God richly bless you!

I write as,

Your friend,

JACK CRANS
Director

JC/lsi