

July 21, 1988

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Dear ^F2^:

"By mercy and truth iniquity is purged; and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil."                      -- Proverbs 16:6

Your pausing from a most pressing schedule to read these thoughts is very appreciated. I pray you are doing very well in spite of this hot, hot summer!

Thoughts essential to the theme of both Corrections and Law Enforcement seem to be addressed in the above verse. Allow me to restate this Scripture in my own words: "Sins or trespasses of men are cleansed when mercy and truth are applied; and men keep themselves from the presence of these evils or areas of sin when they remember the power and majesty of the living God." I readily see in this verse the heart of Corrections which is the carrying out of the law's penalty and the application of mercy, while at the same time I see the issue of that which deters crime. **Mercy, truth** and the **reverential fear of the LORD** hold great force in the arena to which you are spending a career. Mercy is meaningless without the application of truth, and truth has everything to do with the esteemed honor of the LORD. Could one really experience and know grace if he had not come under the law? Doesn't the law drive each of us to grace? Corrections enjoys the unique and challenging privilege of ministering daily to those in need of mercy. When the law has been applied, the plea is heard for grace. Corrections rests in the constant interplay and tension of these two truths: mercy and law.

Lastly, "men depart (turn) from evil" when they acknowledge the "fear of the LORD". This portion of the verse speaks of **deterrence**. No society can exist very long if men do not govern their own character, and men cannot govern their character when there is no reverence for God. I am firmly convinced that present day lawlessness and national violence are attributable to the related theme of "no fear of God". The Old Testament says, "Because sen-

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tence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore, the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

I respectfully submit to you that the Scriptures are a powerful, supportive and stabilizing resource for the support and promotion of Criminal Justice agendas. In a day when many search for Corrections alternatives, it behooves us to research the Word of God.

As you continue in a ministry of touching many lives, may you know the peace and joy of loving God. I trust you!

Gratefully yours,

JACK CRANS  
Director

JC/lsi

P.S. Galatians 3:11,13 "...no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident; for, the just shall live by faith...Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us..." Symbolized by the familiar Cross, County Corrections Gospel Mission is committed to declare the precious TRUTH that Christ died for our sins. Suffering Capital Punishment (the Roman Crucifixion), He declared so clearly the awfulness of our sin and the remedy provided only in His substitutionary death and shedding of His blood for us.