



County Corrections Gospel Mission

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

June 18, 1986

"An epidemic is abroad in America, as pervasive and as dangerous in its way as the plagues of medieval times...We have, by some accounts, become the most drug-ridden society in the industrial world."

-- Richard M. Smith
Editor, Time Magazine
6/16/86

Dear Warden

"Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words, AGAINST this place, and AGAINST the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD."

-- King Josiah
II Chronicles 34:27
624 B.C.

Oh, may God cause you to read this letter! Quoted above are two individuals of two eras. Both realize a great disease of the human heart and both cry in perhaps similar fashion for the awful dilemma of a people. One cries to the public and the other to God. It is time the public cry goes before the living God!!

We are in a world that seems unable to solve its own puzzles. We co-exist in our cities with clashing ideologies which vary as night to day. On one corner a church and on the other corner a gathering of pimps and addicts...it seems sad, but the two seldom meet!

I once heard it said, "it's not so tragic when children are afraid of the dark; but most tragic when grown adults are afraid of the light!" We need answers and we need them very soon -- the system's failing -- lives are perishing and a generation of little ones deserves to know why.

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I could be writing to senators or preachers, but due to my continued burden, I address you, the Correctional leader. I am rather tired and frustrated with man's worn out "solutions" and new thought on criminal behavior and application of law. I may be old-fashioned but I want to go on record as holding to a return to the precious Book now almost ignored in our nation's courtrooms.

This precious Book, the Bible, has been the one steadfast anchor of America -- it has been lately ignored, scoffed at and even spit upon. Regardless, it still preserves for my children and my loved ones, a steadfast, trustworthy course for life and godliness. It reveals a right path and all essential elements needed to achieve it's glorious end.

The Old and New Testaments are filled with lessons of men's failures and God's faithful deliverances. Their pages are complete with examples of obedient leadership and godless tyrants...therein is explained good government, true justice, mercy, family, corrections, love, patience, tenderness, meekness, self-control and the holy, good and just qualities of the law. In short, if one really wants to succeed or fail, the ultimate test of one's true character is mirrored within its rich and valuable pages. I might add, however, that wisdom is never found by those who refuse to seek her out!

I know that many faiths are represented among Wardens but can safely share three things we all know and agree upon by nature of our being created in God's image:

1. We know, according to God's Word, that there is one true and almighty God and that He is holy.
2. We know, according to God's Word, that we are personally sinners and confirm this by conscience if not the application of law.
3. We know, according to God's Word, that the holy, living God will one day judge the sinner.

These three facts, which cannot truly be denied, bring each of us to a dilemma: what can I a sinner ever do to satisfy a holy and loving God?

God himself has answered this dilemma in sending a Savior, Jesus Christ! In the Old Testament and New Testament God has always required sin to be punished and His righteous demand was always met by an innocent, willing animal's lifeblood -- finally and forever, He completed His mercy for sins in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is at the place of the gracious provision of God's mercy that we find our lives humbled and drawn to His fellowship.

I know that what I am saying is perhaps not totally understood or even well received, but regardless, it is for me the greatest antidote for the frustrating and crippling disease of man's present predicament. One can attend seminars on one human invention after another, but my most honest conviction is ever the more colored by the mandates and steadfast truths of God's Word.