County Corrections Gospel Mission

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Dear Warden:

> "And **seek the peace** of the city to which I have caused you to be carried away captives, and **pray unto the Lord for it;** for in its peace shall ye have peace." - Jeremiah 29:7

Jeremiah has been called the "weeping prophet" because of his difficult calling which caused him to be identified with the disobedient and afflicted people of God. The fierce Babylonian armies were sweeping the Holy Land and massive destruction and captivity would follow The great temple of Jerusalem built by Solomon would be destroyed, as would the beautiful wall that "protected" the city. Even today, this sacred wall gathers thousands who pray earnestly for the peace of Jerusalem. Jeremiah cried, "Thus saith the Lord, stand in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk in it, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk in it.. Hear, O earth, behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it." (Jeremiah 6:16,19)

What does it mean to "seek the peace"? First, there must be a clear understanding that a severe separation exists in man's relationship to God and to his own neighbor Sin fractures all possible relationships. Crisis in the home, the city, the church and even the heart exists which robs the soul of peace. Like Jeremiah, we must identify those things that break the heart of God and confess them. True repentance would yield the ultimate fruits of peace. "Seeking" peace and "praying" for it clearly mark the vital requirements of such a precious experience.

"For the Son of man (Jesus) is come to **seek** and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10) "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1) "And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger...Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace.** " (Luke 2:14)

Peace never just happens!

It must be sought after, prayed for and ultimately recognized as belonging to God. Our peace with God required the sacrifice of Christ upon a cross. Today HE LIVES to graciously give us HIS PEACE: "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

In closing, if we were honest, there are so many agendas in Criminal Justice to take away our peace. It's a calling which promises a burden of the heart. Surely, like Jeremiah, "our eyes affect our hearts"! **PEACE** is needed in institutions, communities and homes. The good news is that God made peace. The question remains: Will we seek it and pray for it? Nothing more shall determine our national and personal destiny than this!

God strengthen you and give you peace!

Jack Crans
A Friend

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect (mature) in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen"

Hebrews 13:20,21