



# County Corrections Gospel Mission

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**"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."**

**-- Ezekiel 22:29,30**

Dear Warden

I send you warmest greetings and heartfelt honor. Above mentioned is a statement of God concerning the condition of leadership in Israel's day just prior to her fall. As in every generation, there seems always to be a famine of committed God-fearing leaders. I am sure as an administrator, you can appreciate the value of faithful staff as well. God, too, seeks faithful laborers to lead family, church and government. It is clear that He has delegated authority in each of these three spheres. You have a great privilege of executive leadership in the field of Corrections. I want to remind you of our support of your leadership, and can only send occasional notes of encouragement which I hope by now you've learned to understand.

I realize that sometimes I am not fully understood in my interest of Wardens. First, I find them to be leaders in authority and this requires prayer of my life. Second, I find Wardens to be in touch with failing Justice systems and this creates atmosphere and reason for my study of the Scripture pertaining to this theme. Third, Wardens see daily, the broken results of sin and lawbreaking...this causes me to more fully understand grace. Finally, Wardens witness recidivism and sometimes human ruin so as to cause my heart to cry to the Bible-believing church, the need for compassion and obedience.

Just for interest's sake, I developed a little acrostic of the title, "WARDEN" which expresses a portion of my own understanding of your most vital and exhausting ministry:

Wise Counsellor  
Authority under God  
Representative of Justice  
Defender of the Meek  
Encourager of Righteousness  
Noble Administrator

A Wise Counselor. "Unto me men gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel." (Job 29:21) A Warden can be in great position to comfort, teach, correct and advise. The Bible says that disobedient hearts will be turned to the wisdom of the just. (Luke 1:17)

An Authority under God. "Whosoever resisteth the authority, resisteth the ordinance of God...for he is the servant of God to thee for good." (Romans 13:24) What greater advantage can one have than to be a faithful ambassador of the living God?

A Representative of Justice. In a day when right is becoming wrong and wrong is becoming right, you by the very nature and symbol of your office are in position to represent equity and fairness. "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." (Ecclesiastes 8:11)

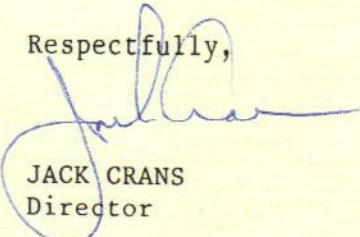
A Defender of the Meek. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy..." (Matthew 5:7) There are those lives under your care who are broken and desiring wholeness; to them you are friend, encourager and safe-keeper.

An Encourager of Righteousness. If preachers, fathers and Corrections personnel do not excite obedience, who will? We can be stirring more faithful response to the degree of our example.

A Noble Administrator. You would be surprised how many people follow your lead. As you represent the best of God's calling upon your life, it will be contagious!

I stand by you and trust you will continue forward to encourage a most discouraging and troubled society.

Respectfully,



JACK CRANS  
Director