



County Corrections Gospel Mission

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

March 23, 1987

Dear

"Thus saith the LORD, stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein."
-- Jeremiah 6:16

In recent weeks, a staggering number of teen-age suicides have been occurring in the Philadelphia area. Four youth in a suicide pact died in a garage. Two others attempted days later, and just yesterday I heard reports of a father taking both his life and that of his 6-year old son. Finally, a 16-year old boy blows away his own stomach and cries hours before death, "I'm sorry, Dad! Please don't let me die!"

What a gruesome way to begin my letter, but how necessary to reflect a growing disillusionment in our youth. Without placing blame, there is no question that we are watching a generation grow up in a nation where God has been shoved to the side. Rights are no longer believed, and issues such as truth, hope and purpose are beginning to carry less and less meaning! Man without God is man without hope. We are losing the sense of the eternal, and our children and youth are thrust into a chaotic world with little understanding of themselves or their unborn. George Orwell in 1984 said, "If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face -- forever".

I believe in a personal, living God! I raise three sons in the light of the Scriptures, and live in the definite hope of knowing His care and guidance in this life. I can face each day with definite purpose and direction, and I establish personal goals which cause me to desire my best performance for God's glory and fulfilled purpose in my life. Our lives are very significant to God when lived within the boundary of His revealed purpose and plan.

Not only do our children and youth cry for truth, so do many within our institutions! As I said earlier, "Man without a personal, living God is a man without definite hope or eternal values!" It is no wonder that youth are so

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disillusioned when they have struggled to see someone - anyone - still believing in the old paths (the directions of obedience and submission to a caring, revealed God).

As Jesus stood before the Roman Governor, Pilate, he heard the governor admit to finding no fault in His righteous life, but the crowds who cried for His crucifixion yelled, "Let this sin be on us and on our children!" Can you imagine being a child and hearing your father anxious to kill the one who brought forgiveness, joy and peace? I believe today as Corrections leaders, we face a world which has both subtlety and boldly declared God to be dead. The culture of drug and alcohol abusers have lost sight on the eternal. The problem only grows and who will stand against it?

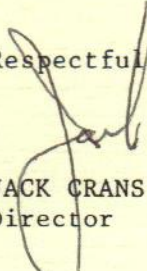
In the days of the prophet Ezekiel, the Holy City, Jerusalem, was so violent that God addressed it as the "Bloody City". And God said to the prophet, "And I sought for someone among them that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found no one!" (Ezekiel 22:30)

Warden, may I ask you to consider these burdens? Can you agree with me that our generation needs again to see and know the personal and revealed purposes of a faithful and eternal God?

May God strengthen you for the unfinished task of "Corrections".

I write,

Respectfully,



JACK GRANS
Director

JC/lsi
Enclosure

P.S. Please enjoy the enclosure somewhat related to this month's theme, and do know that I will look forward to seeing you in Altoona!