March 30, 1989

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"Let not **mercy** and **truth** forsake thee: bind them about thy neck: write them upon the table of thine heart: so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man."

Proverbs 3:3,4

Dear ^F2^:

Warmest and sincerest greetings!

I will only take a few minutes out of your busy schedule so do know I appreciate your willingness to read.

It has been said that "ambition is the last infirmity of noble minds." Perhaps this is best illustrated in the Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar, when he said: "Is this not great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the Kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty? While the word was in the King's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O King, Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; **The kingdom is departed from thee...until thou knowest that the most High ruleth in the Kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will." (Daniel 4:30-32)**

What is needed today in Corrections are leaders with vision, not ambition! "Vision" means to have a burden. My favorite Scripture is Proverbs 29:18: "Where there is no vision (burden) the people perish." A leader with vision pushes on alone when his fellows see nothing left to explore. Great leaders are willing to suffer for the sake of objectives that are great enough to demand wholehearted obedience. As Corrections mirrors the growing hurts of our nation's streets, please know that you are in a position of great opportunity to make a difference. We pray that you will truly come to fully understand that your authority and leadership belong to God who gave it!

Whether we like it or not, there are many conspiracies of evil in this world. At the same time, I know that we have divine resources that are unmatched. If there must be a conspiracy, then let us be part of one...an invading Fifth Column, working under God toward the final overthrow of darkness. Our words and actions should therefore spring not from the paranoia of the times, but from the forthright love and boldness of God.

Surely the Scriptures predict a general conspiracy of evil against God and His rule (Psalms 2:1-3) and Satan's influence on non-believers (II Corinthians 4:4..."the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not..."), **but** Scripture never consigns the universe or history totally to demonic power. **Christ**, not Satan, **has been given all authority in heaven and on earth** (Matthew 28:18-20). God owns the earth (Psalms 24:1-2) and Christ has already destroyed the works of the evil one. (I John 3:8..."He that com-mitteth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.") For those who would lead with vision it would be wisest to fear God alone (Proverbs 1:7) and to constantly be aware of the enemy's devices and methods (II Corinthians 2:11).

If I were the enemy of our national prison systems, I would constantly fight the notion that effective authority comes from God. If I could keep the leaders in the dark, I'd surely have my way beneath them.

Just so you know, I'm aware of hundreds who among your privileged sphere of influence are carrying out their leadership consciously under the hand of the living God. This fact to me holds the greatest hope for the future of Corrections!

May you be encouraged in Him daily!

Respectfully,

Jack Crans
Director

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