May 25, 1991

"And seek the peace of the city...and pray unto the Lord for it; for in its peace shall ye have peace." Jeremiah 29:7

Dear Warden:

My primary purpose in writing to you is to encourage and lend support to your most important and yet difficult responsibilities. It doesn't require much thought to realize the vital impact of authority. Just as a father can bring havoc and burdens upon his children, so too can a civil authority upon his people. I believe it's for this reason that Scripture exhorts true believers to pray "for all that are in authority, that we might lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty, for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God, our Savior..." (1 Timothy 2:2,3)

A state prison superintendent recently said, "You can't feel with your heart what you haven't seen with your eye!" How very true! But God help the powerful authority who sees with his eye but doesn't feel with his or her heart Abraham Lincoln warned of the same inappropriate powers when he quoted Matthew's Gospel in his Second Inaugural Address: "Woe unto the world because of offenses! For it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh." (April 10, 1865)

God calls from heaven that we seek peace for the city, that we pray for its peace. We whose eyes behold so much ought best to ache for the nation's woes. **The collapse of families, morals, and everything sacred has come to rest at our feet.** Who more than Corrections authorities could feel with their hearts? Who more should?

I continue to seek wisdom in helping to awaken the church and the God-fearing community for such a time as this. Please know that your insights, frustrations and burdens are welcome here. Your deepest thoughts would quicken many needful concerns.

I pray for you...I pray for your peace!

Hoping to hear from you!

Jack Crans
Friend of Corrections

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