County Corrections Gospel Mission

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

November 28, 1990

Dear Warden:

Several years ago, a young family man suffered with alcoholism. He called me late one evening, having just wrecked his family's car. His patient wife and three timid children were finally able to expose their painful existence. Suffering the loss of jobs, reputation and loved ones, this special man signed himself into a recovery program. While in recovery, he created a beautiful plaque which now hangs on my office wall. The scene beautifully pictures a series of crashing waves on a rocky coast. One's perspective is that of looking toward the vast and foamy sea. The inscribed words proclaim: "While some see **a hopeless end**, others see **an endless hope.**"

Even as I address you today, we each face a somewhat unpredictable future. Our eyes perhaps are fixed on a prison or jail. The personal dilemmas of our residents are absolutely overwhelming. Who of us can restore the lives wrecked by time? Who of us can heal the hurts of the fatherless? Who of us can really say, "We have an endless hope"?

As I duly walk the corridors of our county jail and visit broken neighborhoods, I could easily despair were it not for my understanding of God's truths and His power to impact this present darkness. A thinking individual could easily conclude that the end is hopeless. Any honest evaluation of our national predicament should cause critical concern. All levels of authority appear spiritually bankrupt: the Church, the Government and the Home. Leaders seldom pray...seldom weep...seldom agonize...seldom hope?

Hope must have an object to which it looks. All rests on one's understanding and commitment to the revealed character of God. The Bible declares that He can be known, He is holy, He is in control, He holds the future, He cares, He empowers, He gives wisdom, He grieves, He waits, He acts, He creates, He destroys, He is predictable...**HE GIVETH HOPE.**

Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that **He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.**"

David the Psalmist asked, "Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? ...Why art thou cast down, O my soul? Send out Thy light and Thy truth...**HOPE THOU IN GOD, WHO IS THE HEALTH OF MY COUNTENANCE, AND MY GOD.**" (Psalm 43)

May this be your song:

"O God our help in ages past,
Our HOPE for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home."

Corrections without God's empowerment and direction is like football without a goal line...there's no point to it.

Respectfully,

Jack Crans
Director
Psalm 90:1,2

JC:al