



County Corrections Gospel Mission

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

October 8, 1986

Dear

"And I sought for 'one' 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 22:30

The theme of Prisons has crescendoed into an army of interest groups all seeking a piece of the pie. Motives vary from most sincere to sinister, leaving you the Administrator to sift through the maze of programs and ideas. If ever a discerning and careful duty were upon you, it is now. Corrections has spiraled into a major "industry" and by no fault of its own has been made responsible to heal the Criminal Justice problems.

I pray for you and long to see our Pennsylvania Wardens and Superintendents both able and anxious to truly wrestle with the opportunities of their trade and profession. Too many issues are at stake and lives in the balance to underestimate the marvelous challenge and ministries before you.

Often times we see television specials which bring the heartaches and tragedies of the world's peoples to our homes. We meet celebrities who donate their time and influence to appeal for justice and mercy on behalf of the destitute and forsaken. Millions of dollars pour into relief efforts as America's heart is stirred and occasionally we might hear report of a miracle of love and restoration. The point is, there are some issues so big and so tragic that mankind is moved to act on its own behalf.

You are so close to a human tragedy and its associated community and family agendas that I write to hold up your arms in hopes of strengthening you for a much needed revival of tears and concerns for our own nation's plight. ACA conventions, Association meetings of Wardens, nor even the gatherings of U.S. church fellowships have yet so agonized over growing national concerns as to admit our need for divine intervention.

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You sit in a seat so vital to human needs that I can only hope to continue near to your side. My heart breaks for seeing men and women personally touched on a daily basis by the reflections and efforts of a redemptive and righteous penal system. Pennsylvania is exemplary in its Warden's fellowship and certainly has a network of mutual hearts to anticipate greater developments perhaps true to its keystone history.

No greater leaders will ever be fashioned than those tested and shaped on the anvil of God's revealed truth and grace.

A little boy once looked into the eyes of an aged Lighthouse Keeper as he tenderly stared into a foggy harbor whose troubled seas began swallowing a fragile vessel. "You can't go out there!" he cried, as the old man launched his frail little boat. "I must go, but I don't have to come back!" was the old man's reply.

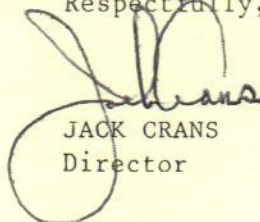
Ours is a day that really needs a few leaders who have counted the cost, seen their worth and raised themselves to the occasion of a perilous and vitally distressed generation.

My continued desire and prayer is to reflect the compassion and wisdom of a wonderful God in the midst of a challenging agenda of needs.

Launch out, my friend, launch out!! A growing "industry" looks to you and needs your most sensitive and refreshed zeal for effective Corrections!

We remain in your support and care!

Respectfully,



JACK CRANS
Director

JC/lsi
Enclosure

P.S. I look forward to seeing you at the Warden's Symposium the end of this month. Also, enclosed is one of Chuck Colson's newest pamphlets which I think you will enjoy.