County Corrections Gospel Mission

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Dear Warden:

If there are so many Christians in the United States, why aren't we affecting our world?

We treat the faith like a section of the newspaper or an item on our "Things to do today" list. We file religion in our schedules. It's just one of the many concerns competing for our attention.

If Christianity were nothing more than a moral code, one could categorize his "spiritual" life. BUT Christianity claims to be the central fact of human history: the God Who created man invaded the world in the person of Jesus Christ, died, was resurrected, ascended, and lives today, sovereign over all. If this claim is valid, if Christianity is true, then it cannot be simply a file drawer in our crowded life. **It must be the central truth from which all our behavior, relationships and philosophy flow** "When principles that run against your deepest convictions begin to win the day, then battle is your calling, and peace has become your sin; you must, at the price of dearest peace, lay your convictions bare before friend and enemy, with all the fire of your faith." (Kuyper) As C S. Lewis warned in Screwtape Letters,

> "The greatest evil is not done in those "sordid dens of crime" that Dickens loved to paint.. it is conceived and. .moved, seconded, carried and minuted...in clean, warmed and well carpeted offices. by quiet men with white collars and cut fingernails and smooth-shaven cheeks who do not need to raise their voices."

Was Solzhenitsyn, the Russian dissident, right when he said, ". .the fight for our planet, physical and spiritual, a fight of cosmic proportions, is not a vague matter of the future; it has already started. The forces of Evil have begun their decisive offensive. You can feel their pressure, yet your screens and publications are full of prescribed smiles and raised glasses. What is the joy about?"

When Jesus announced His ministry, he said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to **the poor**, he hath sent me to heal **the brokenhearted**, to preach deliverance to **the captives**, and recovery of sight to **the blind**, to set at liberty them that are **bruised**, to

preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18) "...When they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Jesus out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might cast Him down headlong. .**But He, passing through the midst of them, went His way**!" (Luke 4:28-30)

Nothing would be more tragic than for those having known the truth to resist it. Perhaps most fearful of all would be the same said of us: "He, passing through the midst of US, went His way!"

This is our "one moment in time"! May we not be accused of mediocrity in a day which languishes for truth!

Let's go for it. We're in a place of great opportunity!

Respectfully,

Jack Crans
Director

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