County Corrections Gospel Mission

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

September 26, 1990

"How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made He it; the pen of the scribes is in vain. The wise men are ashamed; they are dismayed and taken. **Lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?** - Jeremiah 8:8,9

Dear Warden:

Perhaps no question gets to the bottom line of who we are more than the following: **"Is anything wrong with anything?"** The answer any one of us would give would reveal to one degree or another our conviction concerning moral law at least. The question itself sounds rather simple, yet it touches at the very issue that paralyzes our present culture: the myth of neutrality.

I, like you, am an individual with deeply held convictions. I've come to hold tenaciously to a world-view which deals clearly with four basic questions: (1) Where did I come from? (2) What is my moral/spiritual condition? (3) How can I be changed? and (4) Where is my life ultimately headed? In short, these questions are basic to all systems of faith: Origin? Condition? Salvation? Destiny?

It has been said most recently that the present moral vacuum brought about by Godless secularism has fueled the pandemic pursuit for pleasure and/or power. Perhaps even the current despair evidenced in rock music is partially the fact that it is a message to man from himself to himself.

One way or the other, man will fill his emptiness with the pursuit for something which will satisfy. **The need for a transcendent truth becomes more obvious.**

Corrections is only one of many mirrors which reveals a generation in need of a "savior". Too often, every level of spiritual authority has become morally bankrupt. The family, the church and the government have retreated from the delegated responsibility of representing righteousness. Tragically, there is growing the question: "Who speaks for God?"

The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that God has spoken. Truly there is a right answer to our original question: "Is there anything wrong with anything?" The issue becomes one even more risky and costly: "Who will speak on behalf of God?"

G.K. Chesterton said, "The problem with Christianity is not that it's been tried and found wanting...rather, it has been found difficult and left untried."

If ever an American generation of children and youth needed a few daring people of moral certainty and conviction it is the present one. If ever a corrupt era was terminal with lawless pressures and powers it is ours. As a recent headline so aptly warned, "World Leaders Move Us Towards the Abyss".

I could easily comfort myself in Biblical prophecy which clearly declares the present wars and moral dilemmas. I know America won't last forever. I even believe with certainty that God is ultimately in control. BUT, do we not possess a present and urgent stewardship of responsibility to represent the truth? Shouldn't we be communicating profound thoughts which concern our moral and spiritual dilemmas? Don't we face the challenge of formulating our convictions and heralding them? If we don't, you can be sure someone else has an agenda!

It is my prayer that the professional relationship we have shall see and hear more than ever the heartfelt urgency of "leadership with convictions".

> "Most gracious LORD, please free us from the shackles of neutrality. Fill us with Your words and Your will for these pivotal hours in our national and world concerns. Make us to see and know Your calling and expectation of our lives while there yet remains time. **Help us to be communicators of Thy Truth in the midst of a terminal generation.** Cause us to sense divine duty in the carrying out of our administrations. May our children and those under our authority see in us the character and purposes for which You have spoken in Your Word. In Christ's name, Amen!"

I welcome your thoughts...

Respectfully,

Jack Crans
Director

JC:al