



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
STANLEY J. RADGOWSKI CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

ROX 35 Media, Inc.
ATTN: L Nathan Butler
PO Box 27470
Albuquerque, NM 87125-7470

RE: Inmate Workshop, 3/13/2000

April 27, 2000

Dear Nate:

This facility serves as a medium security correctional institution with about 658 beds.

Thank you so much for choosing to come to Radgowski Correctional Institution, to bring the workshop and presentations on cartooning and the Christian faith. I was very pleased with the turnout and the responses from the participants; and, as you can see by the article previously forwarded, the press coverage gave us an opportunity to put a positive face on corrections.

Much more important than any of that was the way in which you showed that faith can be—in fact, must be—incorporated into every aspect of our lives together, embodying not only our doctrines and religious practices, but our every gift and ability. Your descriptions and personal anecdotes regarding cross-cultural communications were especially helpful in a context where many personal interactions can have potentially volatile racial and cultural undercurrents.

By your willingness to come and do something no one else has done (to my knowledge, based on seven years of professional correctional ministry), you demonstrated the very kind of faith that you seek to help others communicate through the visual arts.

Thanks as well for your willingness to be flexible and follow procedures ministering in this very specialized context. The wariness so many in the correctional community have of trying new things is often based in part on the failure of innovators to be sensitive to concerns for safety and security. It was so vital that your effort, the first of its kind at this facility, set the appropriate precedents to leave the door open for future efforts. You did exactly that, and I believe many will benefit in the future.

I do hope God opens a door for you to come back to minister in Connecticut again. Please know I am always interested in the possibility of a return visit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Byron Westbrook".

Rev. Byron Westbrook
Religious Coordinator/Protestant Chaplain

"Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."

Psalm 73:26