

**FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
GOVERNOR**

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Commissioner's Office

431 N. Franklin Street, Suite 400
Juneau, AK 99801
PHONE: (907) 465-4652
FAX: (907) 465-3390

May 23, 2003

Honorable Loren Leman
Lieutenant Governor
P.O. Box 110015
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0015

Dear Lieutenant Governor,

I look forward to attending the upcoming Faith-Based and Community Initiatives meeting in Juneau on Thursday, April 24. Attending the meeting with me will be Portia Parker, Deputy Commissioner, Leitoni Tupou, Special Assistant, Mike Addington, Director of the Division of Institutions, and Mike Enschede, Chaplaincy Coordinator.

The Department of Corrections is committed to this initiative. Corrections was one of the first departments to become involved in President George W. Bush's Faith-Based Initiative by collaborating with Catholic Community Services in the Children of Incarcerated Parents grant-based program. This program is based on the premise that children of prisoners are unintended victims of their parent's criminal activities, being left behind while their parents are incarcerated. The program aims to ensure that the children are matched with services in the community and attempts to maintain the relationship between the parent and child when appropriate. The program also offers parenting skills classes to incarcerated parents to give them the skills to rebuild their families.

Most, if not all, of our current treatment programs are based on a medical model and, while this approach may work for some prisoners, recidivism statistics would indicate that it does not work for all prisoners. A goal of this administration is to review and audit the programs we offer, make changes to programs that are ineffective and try new, different or innovative programs that offer potential or that have shown promise in other jurisdictions. The Department of Corrections views this initiative as being an integral part of that goal.

Through the success of the several faith-based programs we do offer, we know that faith-based programs have a high degree of success because of the level of commitment to change on the part of the prisoners who choose to enter the programs. The Department of Corrections is exploring a number of proposals to expand and diversify the programs available to prisoners throughout the department (please see attached).

I look forward to talking with you at the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives meeting.

Sincerely,

Marc S. Antrim
Commissioner