

September 15, 1981

My Dear Way Corps:

WHAT IS THE WAY?

THE WAY is a fellowship of the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ for the manifestation of the more abundant life. A follower of The Way is filled with and manifests power from on high, holy spirit, and freely avails himself of fellowship meetings for spiritual nurture and growth. The Way fellowship is cemented together by the Spirit of God with each individual believer being transformed by the renewing of his mind according to the Word of God.

God bless and greetings to you in the wonderful name of our living lord and savior, Jesus Christ. This is the opening of another year for the continued outreach of God's Word. The greatness of the Corps Week and Rock is now a living memory only. This is another Corps year—a new year.

Spiritually, Corps Week is the most important time for the Corps household because we can all be together and share our love and open our hearts and be blessed with one another. I do not believe anything dare ever take the place of this unique week of The Way Corps fellowship. Corps Week must always be your top priority when planning your yearly schedule.

The Rock of Ages is the second most important yearly Corps responsibility. It is the welcoming home of our WOWs, our WOW Vets and our motivated believers and friends. The Rock of Ages is the Corps' act of love. You dare never lose sight of this opportunity in providing the best homecoming for the WOWs. By the way, the WOW program—promotion of it, functioning of it, blessing of it—has to be a top priority in the heart of the Corps. Get in there and spiritually fight for our WOWs and build the ambassadors for the future. Each Corps ought to win at least one for WOW every year.

In my heart The Way Corps is like the School of the Prophets in the Old Testament and the School of Tyrannus in the Book of Acts. Therefore, it is the love of Christ that constraineth you. You no longer live for yourself but for Him. As you walk in fellowship with Jesus Christ, you will be in fellowship with God. You will evidence and manifest that you are a new creation with a new nature IN Christ and that ALL old things are passed away; behold, ALL things are become NEW. God, who reconciled you, bought you back to Himself by Jesus Christ, has given to you the ministry of reconciliation, including the Word of reconciliation, so you could be a successful ambassador for Christ, reconciling others to God. You represent and are the righteousness of God when you are IN Christ Jesus. Yes, you are a worker together with God. What a joy and privilege, yet what an awesome responsibility in the NOW of this our times, the day of salvation! So walk and work, that the ministry be not blamed and that you stand approved as a minister of God. Live and speak the Word. Read II Corinthians 5 and 6.

If you enjoy and have the joy of watching T.V., of cardplaying and the joy of late nights, etc., as some of you apparently do, why not the joy of work? When the privilege as well as the responsibility before God for the ministry really hits you, you'll start enjoying the joy of work. None of you have given forty years of your life FOR the ministry, but you literally owe your life TO the ministry. Keep the facts straight. Read Matthew 12:46-50. Now read Mark 3:31-35; finally read Luke 8:19-21. To do the "will of my Father" in Matthew is doing the "will of God" in Mark, which is the hearing and doing of the "Word of God" in Luke. So the Word of God is the will of God; God is my Father also.

Matthew 10:37:

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Psalm 27:10:

When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.

Because you and I are identified with Jesus Christ, we are identified one with another. We are the household of God. There is no distance in God; so where you are, I am with you—in Him. We are together as one no matter where our physical location in the world may be.

I do so desire for the Corps to know this, to understand it and believe it. The "unity of the spirit" of The Way Corps is our oneness in Him. You want God's best, so be your best for God.

Think about tomorrow in terms of what you are doing today, and do today what makes for a bright tomorrow. You have so much to do in life and so little time to do it, so make each moment of your time a success. Remember, "tripping out"—"sloughing off"—today, will trip you up tomorrow, and you will fall flat on your face the day afterwards. Criticism is useless—constructive recommendations, valuable.

Proverbs 27:6:

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. Keep the "lock box" of your soul keyless.

Proverbs 18:7 and 8:

A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. The words of a talebearer are as wounds. . . .

Proverbs 26:20:

. . . so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

A FEW EXCERPTS FROM CORPS TO CORPS:

Excerpt I

Thank you for believing and loving the unlovable because five and a half years ago I was a woman with four "club feet": 1. an alcoholic, 2. a heavy drug addict, 3. a prostitute and 4. a lesbian. But thank God I'm none of these any more. Tears of joy and thanksgiving run down my heart and face as I write this letter because I know it could only be God, His Word and wonderful people like you that have helped transform such a confused woman.

I Timothy 1:12-14:

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Excerpt II

Ten years ago, on July 1, I finished my first class on Power for Abundant Living. Ten years ago, on July 2, I first met you, Dr. Wierwille. Ten years ago this August, I attended my first Rock of Ages. Ten years ago, I was first commissioned as a WOW. Remembering back ten years, at my first signing as a WOW, my heart swells with thanksgiving for the WOW program. It built heart and stamina in my life.

Tomorrow night one who was in my WOW family will be ordained, and I am one of his escorts. When he asked me, I couldn't even speak; I was so blessed that I just cried. His life and mine are great examples of what WOW builds into persons: yes, even in just a short ten years—yet the highest of all the highs—ORDINATION.

Excerpt III

When we were Limb coordinators the ministry always took such good care of us in order to give us the most time to move the Word. I was constantly amazed and humbled at how you and the ministry always saw to it that we had the very best in home, car, salary and so forth. I knew it was God who was supplying our needs through The Way Ministry, but really my mind had not yet come to the right place and the true greatness of it all. I never had to face up to just believing God—for instance, the opportunity to have God "plop" things in my lap when it looked like there was absolutely no way.

When you're a Limb coordinator, people just seem to have that special awe and respect for you, and especially so if you're ordained. They share their lives with you and do special little favors for you. But, that's not so when you "take over" a Twig at the level of the Twig and are asked to build a Branch by the power of God. You then have to prove your leadership to them, to get them to trust you and believe in your leadership. That's when I really learned to trust and believe God.

Also, please note that a Limb coordinator is not necessarily having problems if he is assigned to another type of leadership. As a matter of fact, it takes a great spiritual Corps man of meekness, tenderness, patience, and confidence to be assigned to an area where there is little to start with, but much to be gained.

Excerpt IV

I must admit that I have not been and am not doing well. The problem is as always simply I am not believing the Word. I have not intentionally tried to not do the Word, but it has been hard for me to believe in myself and what the Word says I am and have because of my past failures. I know the Word is true and not my experiences, but I have not been able to apply that Truth in how I think of myself. In my own eyes I have been a failure. Thus I am not coming to Corps Week or the Rock of Ages because I do not feel I can be actively involved with the ministry that gave me life. I am also in severe financial difficulty.

Now back to me, V.P.W.:

A question has come up about the loss of rewards. What are you worried about? Just live God's Word every day and you won't have to worry about losing rewards. There's no room for condemnation when you are in Christ Jesus. Believe; live; and move the Word.

Times and circumstances change, but the Word doesn't. We dare not fall into the error of tradition, of doing the same thing year after year because it worked for a few years. We teach the same Word all the time, but new situations demand new approaches. Do what you need to do NOW to move the Word. Once you move, God will show you which way you need to go.

Proverbs 3:5 and 6:

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Since there is no distance or time between us, be sure to develop and pray for your "lift list" at least three times a day—maybe at 7, 11 and 3. We as Corps are joined in heart, soul, mind, and spirit as ONE. God hears and answers prayer. Mark 11:24. John 14:13 and 14; 15:16; 16:23. I John 3:22; 5:14 and 15. John 11:22. Matthew 18:19.

The bank had closed; my earthly store had vanished from my hand; I felt that there was no sadder one than I in all the land. My washerwoman, too, had lost her little mite with mine, And she was singing as she hung the clothes upon the line. 'How can you be so gay?' I asked; 'Your loss don't you regret?' 'Yes, ma'm, but what's the use to fret? God's bank ain't busted yet!' I felt my burden lighter grow; her faith I seemed to share; In prayer I went to God's great throne and laid my troubles there. The sun burst from behind the clouds, in golden splendor set; I thanked God for her simple words: 'God's bank ain't busted yet!' And now I draw rich dividends, more than my hands can hold Of faith and love and hope and trust and peace of mind untold. I thank the Giver of it all, but still I can't forget My washerwoman's simple words: 'God's bank ain't busted yet!' Oh, weary ones upon life's road, when everything seems drear, And losses loom on every hand, and skies seem not to clear; Throw back your shoulders, lift your head, and cease to chafe and fret. Your dividend will be declared: 'God's bank ain't busted yet!'

-Alice P. Moss

REMEMBER

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Jesus Christ gave himself for you; he needs you to give yourself for others, to enjoy Him. The old man never gets better; he is not sick, he's DEAD.

Most people are slow learners. Be patient; be loving.

Christianity is what the Bible says, not people.

You are what the Word says.

Act your knowledge of the Word.

Service requires ability and heart.

My heart cries and breaks when I see our Corps—and worse, even our ordained clergy—being so slyly tricked by the Adversary that they don't even notice it is happening to them until the Adversary's "got'em": falling right back into the old sense-knowledge worldly stuff, forgetting what God trained them for in the Corps; not putting God first, not reading the Word first thing in the morning, praying, or even leading a "hot" Twig. Please read Matthew 13:3-9 and 18-23, noting carefully verses 21 and 22. Yes, my heart is not only hurt—it is torn apart. We are a specially called people. This brings me also to another tender spot in my soul for my Corps. Why don't you Corps men

marry Corps women and vice versa? I know men's and women's hearts. I know you Corps men and women, especially on your interim year, get lonely at times, but—listen—who would be better qualified to fulfill your life than a Corps companion—a Corps helpmate?

It might be a great idea to have a Way Corps Heart's Club—getting to really know each other better. Some of you Corps men are forcing great Corps women to look outside the Corps household for their life's companion. I'm not saying there aren't good men and women that aren't Corps. But—when you're single and on the field, the "grass really looks greener" out there, many times because of your circumstances and loneliness.

If you as a Corps man or Corps woman on the field, including all graduated Corps, need, and are looking and interested in a lifetime companion and helpmate; send me an honest but exciting résumé of yourself—your heart's desire, etc., and a pretty picture, and I'll see what Mrs. Wierwille and I can do for you and help you with.

You first year in-resident Corps—I know it's a new way of life for you; so quit right now trying to figure out, should you be here? Yes, you should—you are here—get with it. Be thankful—blessed—happy. Just get into everything and everything into you, that you are asked to do, and do it with joy. The walls the Adversary in the world has caused you to build around your heart will come tumbling down. Write spiritual partners faithfully and your parents, etc. Be sharp. Get honest and stay honest in the Corps—confront each other immediately when one or the other is off of the Word in his life and walk. We are building men and women today for tomorrow's competition.

According to a special report from the Plymouth Rock Foundation, there is a resurgence of religion in America. One of the reasons is "it helps to rekindle self-confidence in the face of adversity and provides a reason for enduring faith and optimism." They feel there is a "crisis of leadership," that there is an evident "lack of leadership and the lack of confidence in those in leadership positions," that the leaders tend to be less religious than the general public and that the leaders "may be out of touch with the current faith that appears to be gathering strength among the public." The survey also suggests that religious leaders are the one group most in the position to lead America at this time, that there is a wonderful spot for "a truly visionary leader." The Corps could be the key, if you've got the "makin's."

WHAT IS THE WAY CORPS?

Not ancient walls and ivy-mantled towers Where dull denominational traditions Rule with heavy hand Believers' deeply springing powers.

Not spacious pleasure courts
Or lofty temples of athletic fame
Where devotees of sports mistake a pastime
For life's highest game.

Not fashion or renown

Or wealthy patronage and rich estate;

No, none of these can crown the Way Corps with light

And make it truly great.

But equipped believers, ambassadors strong and wise Who teach because they love the teacher's task And find their richest prize

In eyes that open, and in minds that ask.

Faithfully, In His service,

Victor Paul Wierwille

Paul Winville