



April 29, 1981

Dear Way Corps in the Northeast Region:

God bless you in the name above all names, Jesus Christ.

I would like to take this time with you to review some of the highlights of our recent Way Corps Weekend with Rev. and Mrs. Craig Martindale. In order for us to continue to grow into top-notch player-coaches in the spiritual arena, we must constantly review, evaluate, judge and move ahead in light of our coaching from God's Word as well as specific areas of instruction and exhortation which we receive from our coaches in the Word.

Dr. Wierwille, via the tape which we heard, exhorted us to get involved in each other's hearts as we are watchmen for one another. The Corps undershepherds the Corps. No one can do a good job of undershepherding unless he or she is directly involved in the heart of that person. The Corps is a heart commitment, and we must continue to be involved in one another's hearts to the end that we sharpen one another to grow and perfect ourselves in that commitment. We watch for one another and speak up when the need arises. On any championship athletic team, you will always see the players looking out for one another to help them perform their best. We've got to get more involved in one another's hearts. This will be accomplished as we first of all make the decision to do so, then take the necessary action to love one another with greater understanding, compassion, forgiveness and boldness.

Dr. Wierwille beautifully unfolded to us the truth that our calling is as special and unique as Mary's calling was. Just as she was "highly favored," (Luke 1:28) we are "accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1:6). Your individual function in the Body of Christ is just as unique, special and dynamic in fulfilling God's dream as Mary's function was. When I see you, pray for you and think of you, the vision I hold in my heart is that of your individual uniqueness and beauty in the Body of Christ. My first heart's response is one of thankfulness for your commitment and stand, then my next heart's response is a great desire for you to continue to develop your ministry to its full potential.

In Acts 24:16 the Word states that the apostle Paul exercised himself in God's Word. The word "exercise" comes from the Greek word "askeo" which means to work up with skill as from raw materials. Paul had great natural leadership ability, but he drove himself to develop the God-given abilities within him. He practiced and practiced and practiced to fully manifest the Christ within him. In athletics,

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anyone who relies on their own natural abilities and does not endeavor to perfect them will be very inconsistent in his performance and will fall by the wayside. As Corps, as sons of God, and as athletes of the spirit, we must continually perfect and develop the spiritual abilities that lie latent within us. There's no point of "leveling off," but a lifelong endeavor for the perfection of Christ fully manifested in our lives. This will cause the uniqueness of your individual ministry to add a tremendous outpouring of light and love in our movement of God's Word over the world as a synchronized, unified Body of Christ.

Another truth I'd like to mention here is that there can be no favorites among the Corps or with believers. Sometimes it may be necessary to spend more time with one individual than another because of the need they have in their life. As Corps, as leadership in the Body of Christ, we have to endeavor to bless all of God's people with all that we have and not play favorites with anyone.

Rev. Martindale made it very clear that we are player-coaches which involves a double commitment in areas of concern, interest and need. I think some of us tend to be a little heavy on the coaching side and not enough on the playing side, and some of us who are a little heavy on the playing side need to develop our coaching abilities. Your example of how to play the game will greatly aid your coaching effectiveness. As Corps I believe we have to teach by example more than we have been. We've got to show people how to witness. As you are witnessing with the individual, it is very easy to coach him in how to perfect himself in this area of his walk. We've got to undershepherd people with others at our side that we may be able to coach them by our words and example. This can be followed through in all the areas of our walk with God.

Craig emphasized the need for our Twigs to be coordinated with the same intensity in which we run a foundational class. We've got to raise our vision to see the Twig fellowship as important to the growth of our believers as the foundational class is to the growth of new students. This brings up an interesting point. I'm beginning to wonder how much intensity and commitment is being put into running ~~foundational classes. I see a great need for our class instructors~~ to view each foundational class as a unique individual spiritual event. I am seeing too much routine in running foundational classes. As a result, our grads tend to lose interest. It becomes routine for them because the class instructor is not walking by the spirit of God to the extent he could be to make each class a thrilling spiritual event for all involved. I think the class instructor relies too much on Dr. Wierwille's teaching of the class to satisfy the grads. You've got to dream and plan each class and be sure that you are performing God's will during that period of time. I believe there is a definite need to dream new ways (ideas will come as we walk in fellowship with God) to stimulate and activate the growth that is available to our grads through the Power for Abundant Living class.

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The same concept needs to be carried over into our Twig fellowship. Each Twig fellowship should be viewed as the last one our Twig coordinators will ever do. I know that a Twig fellowship is a 24 hour a day fellowship of believers, and each day should be approached with the preparation, prayer, believing and attitude that Christ is coming back. This is our standard for day by day living and ministering.

Devil spirits are our opponents, not people. Jesus Christ never viewed people as willful sinners. Even hanging on the tree, he said "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." There's a need to keep in mind who our opponent is. Then we will stay on the offensive. If we start looking at people as our opponent, we will be playing the Devil's game plan and not God's.

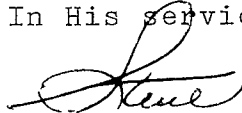
The same intensity that it took to chop off someone's head in the Old Testament is at least the same commitment and intensity required today to win in the spiritual arena. In order to stay spiritually strong for the competition, we must continue to watch our mental diet. You should do a checkup from the neck up and evaluate the profit of your mental activities. If they are not bringing the spiritual return that is necessary, then change. You should be feeding your mind with God's Word and pictures of victory and success.

Craig reminded us also that in order to communicate well, we must paint pictures for people. You can't paint pictures for others any better than the pictures you paint for yourself. We should become masters at perfecting and holding victorious mental images everywhere, every place, every time.

I'd like to close with a truth that has been ringing in my heart for weeks. You live in the room you make for yourself by your believing action or inaction. A man's gift makes room for him. That room can either increase or decrease according to what that man or woman is doing with what he or she has.

I love you very much, and I'm certainly thankful for your drive, commitment, ability, steadfastness and believing. Let's continue to move ahead as Corps in the Northeast Region with great boldness and love. Let's continue to challenge ourselves to do more of God's Word in a single day than we've ever done before. As we do, let's continue to remind ourselves that our Corps household is standing behind each and every one of us with all that the Corps household has which is the fullness of God in Christ in us.

Sincerely  
In His service,



Steve Strzepek

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