



February 26, 1980

Dear Way Corps:

Having just returned from the WOW Festival in South America, Father laid it on my heart to again open my heart to you as His and my Corps. I am believing that you will stay committed as long as you live or the Return will come before.

The Corps training is, I honestly believe, the best of all ages since the Apostle Paul days. The appreciation of The Way Corps is still at a rather low level because HEARTS are still too much into themselves rather than being committed "douloses." Believing for selfish reasons. We continue to like names and positions similar to the world. We "mouth" being trained for Twig leaders, but we don't really mean that or believe or desire to be that. "We are the Corps and I sacrificed four years of my life. I surely should be much more than a Twig leader." Or "I put in my time. Now, just let me alone to do my own thing in my own way in the world. I paid for the Corps."

I wish I could have had all of you with me in South America. Perhaps your understanding would have increased. Living in the U.S. has been, perhaps, too affluent and easy for you. Your honest appreciation may be at a low level because you have never had the need I again saw in other countries.

Well, so much for that, but I do want to share with you, also, what I've observed the past few years regarding Corps marrying Corps. We have some wonderful Corps men and women who could and should perhaps marry each other. Then, why not?

Some Corps men feel inadequate to assume the responsibility of a Corps woman because of her strong leadership. They're afraid of her. So, the interim year on the field they fall in love. Psychologically it is easy to understand. For instance, that little "WOW" or young believer is cute, sweet, nice, idolizes you and makes you feel a thousand feet tall and above all is no competition in leadership, not at all threatening to you in any capacity or ability. And, after all, I can develop her later because I can come into the "spouse program" of the Corps. Corps men, I believe that you may be missing the boat, not all of you but some.

You should never be threatened by a Corps woman with strong leadership ability, if YOU'VE got it. A strong woman of leadership and driving ability will, in marriage, bring out the best leadership in you, also. What are you afraid of?

You Corps women (again some of you) do not develop enough loving and giving heart along with your dynamic leadership. You seem to get calloused and somewhat conceited. There seems to be far too little endeavoring of the development of a submissive attitude and kindness that a Corps man must see in a woman. What I said about the Corps men on the field in their interim year may also apply to you.

Women, generally more so than men, get nervous if they are not married right after they graduate from the Corps. So, they're looking, if not in the Corps, outside. Strong personalities, dynamic leadership is an asset, not a liability. You Corps men and women, think about it.

No matter who you marry, it will and does take a lot of renewed mind learning and adjusting to live together as one according to the principles of the Word. But, it can and should be accomplished. The battle is only in your mind.

Thanks for your wonderful letters, cards, notes, gifts, etc. I am blessed hearing from my "kids" and I'm never too busy to get blessed or to bless.

Craley wrote in his book, "It is this ministry or oblivion." You will help to make it one or the other, not both. I believe Craley is right-on with what he said.

From a Corps grad letter, I glean for you the following:

"You know I can honestly say that as I look back on my Corps experiences, I see them not as the 'good old days,' a pleasant memory, or a pinnacle from which I can do nothing but decline. Rather, I see my Corps years as a launching pad, a proving ground where I was granted the privilege of making mistakes, burning the dross in my life and honing my abilities to a fine point. They are a foundation upon which I can build my whole future.

"Just recently I heard a Corps grad excuse his lack of enthusiasm and dulled responses with the statement, 'After all, I've been out of the Corps longer than you have.' I wish I could shout to the Corps household 'Men and brethren, these things ought not so to be.' You are never out of the Corps and at graduation the adventure is only beginning.

"I've had days when I've missed the luxury of having someone else to tell me my schedule and catching me when I fall, but victorious leadership demands a maturing self-reliance. Only in this context can we taste the full joy of accomplishments as well as the challenges of temporary defeat. I'm so thankful for my Corps training, but Doctor, you didn't send me on the field to slowly lose momentum and wait for a push. You sent me here to excel and discover the man that God wants me to be.

"Patrick Henry said, 'Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.' Teddy Roosevelt exemplified the 'strenuous life' achieving highest honors in many, many fields. Men have survived for weeks in snowbound mountain passes, sun-baked deserts and on desolate rocks in the North Atlantic. It is the pampered socialite who jumps out of hotel windows, not the working man.

"Sir, if so much can be accomplished by the body and soul, natural man, why do we, The Way Corps with God's limitless spirit in us, have so much trouble?

"This is just my—one man's—opinion, but I think too many of us are afraid of building our own lives according to the Word taught us (which we have really never made our own), with the Word at the center of our life.

"Too many of us will do one of three things: We will mimic the lifestyle of the natural man around us after we graduate. Others will attempt to be carbon copies of a Corps leader. But some may honestly believe that 'living the Word' solely resides in prayer, study, witnessing and everything else being 'off'. When they too wake up to the fact that they are human, they collapse in self-condemnation. Christ came to give life more than abundantly. Without a life to which we apply the Word, the joy vanishes. We become mechanized, unsuccessful Corps and PFAL salesmen.

"When an individual is afraid to enjoy life, he soon withers away. I even saw this while in residence. Individuals passed up the simple but deep joys they could have learned in the library, in the woods, in children's fellowship or by spending a day with people like Grace Bliss, Reuben or Mr. Jess. Instead, they watched the residents of Emporia flock to bars, drive-ins and have parties and actually envied them. Thus, to them, graduation became a release after which they, The Way Corps, could aspire to the same deadening pastimes as an Iowa Beef worker.

"Dr. Wierwille, this letter is not intended to be a commentary on The Way Corps for I have neither the wisdom nor the experience to allow me that privilege. But, simply by God's mercy and grace, I expect my life to return to the ministry abundant dividends on the investment which you so selflessly made in training me for selfless service.

"Whether the future holds a new great awakening or untimely death on the gibbet, I stand with you. I'm confident in our God who continues to grant us sweet victory as we stand together in His joy."

Letters like that sure bless a man. The study of the Word in the morning or any time should be a fun time with God for you because you just have to lay your will at the feet of His will because self-training requires self-discipline and every individual has to answer directly to God. Never allow yourself to reach a plateau of stagnation. If you become discouraged, I can assure you, you are not living in the Word nor is the Word living in you.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Error does not become truth by being continually promulgated, any more than truth becomes error just because no one sees it. Truth does not render homage to any new or old society."

I want to talk to you just for a moment a little about long distant telephone calls. They are usually a waste of money. You're much better off if you write, because writing provides you with the opportunity to express yourself more precisely. Usually telephone calls are simply laziness or an excuse and they're very costly. You can do it much cheaper by writing and you have the time. You'll have your mind much better organized when you do write. Generally when you start on the telephone, you just start "yaking" and talking without systematically and logically having prepared everything you want to talk about; or else, you could make your long-distance telephone call in about one, two or three minutes at the most. Think about it.

I've heard it time and time again that "The future is as bright as the promises of the Word." That is not true. NO! Not unless you and I live it.

Since the plans for our lives were all laid before the foundation of the world, who can avoid accepting such an invitation? Have a great day and remember, before God you are Corps.

Sincerely,
In His service,

Sister Paul Wierwille

Victor Paul Wierwille