



July 1994

Dear U. S. and Canada Way Corps:

God bless you in the wonderful name of our living lord and savior, Jesus Christ.

Well, if you can stand it... here comes another letter that is going to stir things up. I'm sure it's going to make some of you angry, but I know what's right. It has to be done if we're going to continue to do what the Father wants done to keep the Corps household where it should be so that, truly and genuinely, the rise and expansion of this Word over the world can take place. By now you're of course aware of our further intense stand against the homosexual spirits and those related devil spirits that cluster around them, and that some in our Corps household have continued to entertain and get comfortable with; so I trust you're doing the job God called you to do to confront that kind of evil and get it out of your midst so that you and our people can move and live as believing believers, and genuine Way Corps leadership can function.

A few weeks ago when Rev. Fort told me that he had requested the Limb coordinators to ask you spouse Corps couples to write to me personally about your plans to come in residence or not, I was a bit disturbed. First of all, Michael didn't check with me first on that before he went ahead and suggested it. Next, as I began to read the letters I saw quickly that as far as any genuine believing spiritual heart, most sorely lacked that. Most of you spouse Corps couples wrote because you were asked to write, not because you really wanted to. Then, as I began to read the myriad excuses and rationalizations and the weak thinking on which your so-called "decisions" for coming in residence were based, I got more and more disgusted and frustrated. One of the first things that I decided spiritually was that I would not file any of these letters because, basically, it's just talk until I see you actually take action and begin to move in this direction. Next, though, I began to see that perhaps Rev. Fort was right to have you address me, because now I can see much more clearly the depth of unbelief and weakness and spiritual immaturity that essentially dominates our so-called "spouse Corps couples." Years ago, when the first group of Corps grads began to seek Dr. Wierwille's advice on what he thought of their marrying non-Corps, I saw him struggle to approach this in an honest way; and, of course, he involved me and others in these discussions. There really was no other logical way to go than for Dr. Wierwille to exhort the Corps grads to raise the non-Corps up to be "all Corps," because he couldn't work against their freewill choice to marry non-Corps people.

The most basic practical definition of Way Corps should be that the individual has gone through the in-residence training. As I mentioned, Dr. Wierwille struggled with this and did the best he knew. I have certainly backed that up, as have our other Corps, to include as much as we could those who married Corps grads into our hearts, into our commitment, and into our "salt," as well as into our meetings and fellowships and

discussions and decisions. However, after over 20 years of observing this and working with people and trying everything we could to raise up the non-Corps to be Corps, I have to honestly come to the conclusion that it cannot be done. The in-residence training is vital to someone's actually being Way Corps. Obviously, that does not automatically mean that everybody who has the in-residence training continues to stand as Way Corps. That's another issue; but to get this thing back to the simplicity and purity it needs to be, the Board of Trustees are in full agreement with my guidance and decision that anyone who has not gone through the in-residence training will now be dropped from active Corps. This obviously includes the Corps grad who is married to the non-Corps. There is no way I could continue to have you, the Corps grad, remain as Corps with your spouse not being considered Corps. That would certainly put a wedge into your marriage, and that would not be proper. Therefore, for you Corps grads who are married to non-Corps to again be considered active Corps, you must go through the in-residence training and receive a new Corps number and classification with your spouse.

I'm sure this will make some of you angry and will hurt some of you, but I believe it is the best spiritual decision that can be made and that needs to be made at this time; and I believe that overall in the long haul you will be blessed with this if you stay put on the Word of God and work toward what it means to be Way Corps and to stay Way Corps. Honestly, you will be "relieved" from the pressure of so much misunderstanding and failure. I have watched you spouse Corps struggle and struggle to justify what we expect out of the Corps with what you understand from the Word of God and life. You have not been able to put it together. We've known for years that being on Staff at a Root locale doesn't even approach what it means to be Corps. The conditions must be fulfilled. Simply marrying a Corps person does not classify you as Corps. If The Way Corps, indeed, is to train our spiritual leadership, then honestly there is no way you can "marry into" that without you, yourself, being called and without your responding to that call by getting the best training available. It is impossible to train someone to the level and extent and quality necessary without his or her coming in residence. First of all, none of you can do for these people what I can oversee to have done with them and for them, not only because I'm the one who best understands what needs to be done, but also because where you live in the world is not conducive to that level of training.

I do not want you Corps grads to mail me your Corps diplomas. You earned them. You just cannot be considered "active Corps" anymore, being married to a non-Corps person. I'm certainly not exhorting anyone to regret those decisions. I'm just making my decision based on what I know needs to be clarified as to what The Way Corps really is and should be. I'm just as thankful for your marriages and spouses and children as I can be; so I'm not asking you to doubt all of that at all or let the adversary drive it in that direction. I'm simply saying the Corps is the Corps. It is available, and certainly has been available, for you to get the Corps training if you meant business. But after reading these letters and seeing all the entanglements and excuses and rationalizations and lack of real desire and heart involved, this decision just has to be made. It is the right one for the future of our ministry. Again, my heart is certainly not to hurt any of you. That certainly is not my thinking or the thinking of the Board of Trustees, but simply to do what's right and best for our ministry and for The Way Corps of the future.

Be assured that if you apply to come in residence and do not measure up to the standards, then we will not accept you. You still must meet the requirements of health

and spiritual heart and maturity necessary, as well as the standards of families to get into the Family Corps; so this will all be evaluated honestly and up front as we do with everyone.

Love you very much, but this is the way we have to go, and this decision is effective immediately. Therefore all of you in spouse Corps situations are now considered dropped from active Corps, and it is no longer available to you to be a part of Corps Fellowship, Corps meetings (at any level, whether Root, Area, state), or receive Way Corps correspondence. Likewise you are no longer responsible in terms of The Way Corps responsibilities. If you are now coordinating ministry work, then certainly if you continue to show your caliber at that level, there's no reason for it to change. Those decisions have to be considered otherwise.

Some of you are so entangled with the affairs of this world, it will still take you years to even be free enough from them to get the training. You've made commitments to the world that bind you to debt, professions, families, etc. Some of you are so ashamed of your children's behavior that you don't want that exposed in residence. My heart goes out to you, but these weaknesses are not "It Is Written." My heart goes to God and His will first. Many of you have blessed the ministry over the years, and I appreciate that; but Corps is still Corps.

Obviously this decision would mean that, from now on, any active Corps grad who marries a non-Corps person will automatically be dropped from active Corps. Well, that's the best I know at this stage; so let's move ahead as God works within us to will and do of His good pleasure.

Sincerely,  
In Christ,



L. Craig Martindale

LCM/ps

PS. Make no mistake that this would in any way be a self-serving decision, because the Trustees have family members of our own who are affected by this decision, and we still feel it is the best for the ministry and The Way Corps.