

MEMO



March 1989

TO: Clergy, Way Corps, Country Coordinators, and Special  
Guests at the Leadership Meetings of 1986

FROM: L. Craig Martindale

God bless you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Since you were present with us or heard about some of the leadership meetings that occurred at The Way International over the past three years, I wanted you to be aware of the Board of Trustees' heart to the salaried Staff of The Way International regarding insubordination or loving and godly loyalty to the Board of Trustees.

Thank you for your love and prayers for the outreach of God's Word around the world.



March 1989

Dear Full- or Part-time Staff Member of The Way International:

God bless you in the name of Jesus Christ.

The time has come to draw the line. I understand it is not the will of the Lord to follow personalities above God. I also understand I Corinthians 3 and what carnality is. It is, however, God's will for believers to work together in love, believing, and mutual trust. The lines are so obviously drawn that it's time to bring it forth in common, plain talk, allowing you as a salaried Staff member of The Way International to decide and express which way you're going to go. God first, but you must decide with whom you want to work and fellowship. To stand with God means to do His Word and will. That includes walking with mutual love and respect and like-mindedness and one accord. Each of us must decide with whom we want to do that.

To the best of my ability and with all my heart, I have endeavored to heed the godly reproof and correction that Rev. Chris Geer passed on to me personally and to us as a leadership body. With a pure conscience, I very objectively and clearly say that I did my best to follow his direction and instruction. Those approximate three years were the most difficult of my life and I know for many of you, as well. I finally had to recognize that for the last year to year-and-a-half, Rev. Geer's relationship with me has gone towards destruction and not edification and that, in his eyes, I have not progressed a bit. I also had to decide, and now need to express, that I disagree with that opinion and appraisal of my life. I understand that Rev. Geer has shared with some of you a transcript of a meeting that the Board of Trustees had with him in November of 1987, in which he indicates our admitting that we, the Board of Trustees, would not change. That is an absolute falsehood and void of validity. That is his false interpretation of our hearts. I have seen a manuscript of what Rev. Geer purports to have happened, and it is absolutely slanted with his accusative mind-set. What he "read into" concerning statements made is flabbergasting.

I gave Rev. Geer every resource in my life and every resource in The Way Ministry, for a long period of time, to enable him to help us. Initially, I saw profit in several categories, but as of late it's not there. He and I failed in working together to develop a full sharing relationship. I did all I knew to do. I am sorry, but that is the situation.

Almost without fail, those of the leadership body that I have observed who have endeavored to stay in one accord with Rev. Geer have turned a cold shoulder to me. In many cases this is manifested by obnoxious resentment, adamancy, and hard-hearted callousness...not only in the sense of apathetically ignoring anything I have endeavored to communicate, but also in the sense of discourtesy and unkindness even in my very presence at different times (not to mention the mail!). This is wrong and has become almost intolerable. Although many of them say they love me, their actions do not indicate it. Why is it, as one clergyman shared with me, that many of those who visit Gartmore come back with a more calloused, suspicious, and hard heart towards Don, Howard, and me? Is there a correlation here? Is there a sowing of seed that is not really producing godly benefit and godly fruit?

Why is it also that the more many of you "put on the Word" by your endless hours of tapes and transcripts (much of it gained by illegal and unethical means), the less the Word of God moves and the more vicious and calloused you become? This is what I observe time after time. I don't believe that is right. God's Word says that knowledge puffeth up and charity edifieth. Where is your heart going? Where is your tenderness, love, and compassion? Where is your "longsuffering and doctrine"? I see very little, if any, in many of the lives of those who have become so inclined. Love covers a multitude of sins, not knowledge, or personality, or techniques, or discipline. Jesus taught his men they'd be recognized as his disciples by their love, not their adamancy, egotism, or knowledge.

In the past year I have been involved in teaching Rise and Expansion seminars in different parts of the country. It intrigues me how the believers are so abundantly blessed after these teachings while some of the salaried leadership sit stolidly unaffected and adamant. Well, there's a fly in the ointment some place. It sure reminds me of Titus 1:15: "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled."

I have endeavored to be patient and longsuffering, as the Word of God exhorts. I have been patient and longsuffering many times to a fault... allowing vicious, hard-hearted men who have moved their minds into the category of "Phariseeism" to contaminate people's hearts against the true tenderness and love of God, and certainly against my life in particular. Some of you have steeled your minds against anything that I would endeavor to share to bless God's people simply because it's me. Some adamantly believe that I have not changed and am out of alignment and harmony with God and His Word. I have done all I know to do to live and share the Word of God. If that's not enough evidence to convince you that I have changed, then I have nothing else to do but invite you to leave. If you cannot whole-heartedly stand on God's Word with me as you continue to be full- or part-time with The Way International, then you should resign. Some of you have continued to function in your positions even though you adamantly and, in some cases even, publicly speak against me and The Way International and continue to obstruct the movement of God's Word.

Another major category of "Phariseeism", as I call it here, is this whole penchant, mind-set, and lust to catch a man in his words. A whole pattern of thinking has been fostered to the point of total suspicion. I cannot work with you if that is your mind-set with me. Even in the secular world, nobody could sell soap working with people with that kind of attitude. If you're not willing to give the Board of Trustees an honest and basic "benefit of the doubt" in decisions made and policies set, then I cannot work with you. So many things are just simply a difference of opinion, and so many of you differ just because it's me. If you can read to me from the Word of God in clearness (not just vague, general scriptures and boring clichés), then I am willing to heed and listen, as I have continued to over these past years. Even in a court of law, a man is considered innocent until proven guilty; and honestly speaking, ladies and gentlemen, I have rarely been afforded that right by some of you. This attitude of suspicion and this lust to catch one in his words, this adamancy and these defiled thought patterns cannot be allowed to function anymore on the Staff of The Way International. I imagine some of you think you're doing God a favor by continuing to work and do things with this attitude, but I certainly don't agree that it's doing God and His people any good. What about Philippians 4:8 and I Thessalonians 5:21? Also, doesn't it say in God's Word that a believer is to esteem him (leadership) very highly in love for his work's sake? That reality is very nonexistent in many of your minds and actions. This whole mind-set of suspicion has been fostered and built to the end that a man is not esteemed highly in love for his work's sake, but is condemned and considered guilty before he even has the opportunity to prove anything. That is certainly the case in some of your minds, although not all of you I am sure.

I no longer have any communication with Rev. Geer. We do maintain some business relationships with Gartmore, but I no longer have any fellowship with him or any access to him as far as his advice or counsel. That was first his decision a number of months ago when he refused to answer letters and phone calls of mine; and finally I have come to the point that it's my decision now also. There is no profit in it, and we do not work together. If that influences your mind and heart as far as your position on the paid Staff to work with the Trustees, then you should be honest about it and resign. We will do our best to trust the words and actions of those who choose to stay with us. We cannot continue to allow our day and time to digress back into a "Book of Judges" period, where everyone is "right in his own eyes." I believe I am on God's Word and doing what I was commissioned and ordained to do by our wonderful father in the Word. I am doing my utmost to move that Word. I am teaching Sunday Night Services, coordinating The Way Corps, endeavoring to oversee the WOW program, and teaching the Book of Acts to many of our Twig coordinators, as well as the other details of the ministry. I have not quit. I have not maligned or criticized any man, although I have pointed out what I believe the Word of God states regarding certain people's behaviors that needed to be addressed to the believers, which I am responsible to do. I want to live the more abundant life and share God's Word with like-minded believers, as Dr. Wierwille lived and showed me how.

The Trustees are aware that some Staff members have been suggesting and even advising that abundant sharings received in our Twigs in the U.S.A. be sent to Argentina or Scotland. That is unethical, dishonest, and certainly contrary to the expressed desire and actions of Dr. Wierwille, and quite simply should not be done. It is a shame that some people have consequently discontinued abundant sharing at all and are not reaping the promises of God in that category, and in fact, are reaping the consequences of unbelief.

Let me add that the Board of Trustees plans to continue supporting the programs and activities that Dr. Wierwille began, some of which are: Sunday night teachings from International Headquarters with available audio and video tape; the church in the home according to the Book of Acts; the Power for Abundant Living class series; Way Family Camps; Way Corps; Word Over the World Ambassadors; The Way College Biblical Studies program; The University of Life; The Way Magazine and other publications; Bookstore; various seminars on the field and at our Root locations; the Rock of Ages; as well as anything else we can do, by God's grace, to lovingly help meet the expressed godly desires of those choosing to fellowship within The Way Ministry.

I am thankful for anything godly any of you have done in the past or will do in the future. I am sorry that things have come to this point, but I need to have men and women working with me who truly want to do so. I do not choose to handle any more of the backbiting, hypocrisy, and fatalism (such as: "There are no solutions"; "It's over") disguised as spiritual understanding by those who continue to draw a salary from us, yet do not stand with or support us. A line has to be drawn; so make up your mind whether you are going to stand with us as Staff moving God's Word or go the route that has been set in the last couple of years, which I believe has gone very sour. You do what you decide to do. The stipulations for remaining are obvious. I expect an honest response from you in writing as to your intent on or before April 5. Please mark your envelope "Staff Response."

Sincerely,  
In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Craig Martindale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "L".

L. Craig Martindale

LCM/ps