

This tribute is lovingly presented
in recognition of
the life and ministry of
our Teacher.

Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille

December 31, 1916–May 20, 1985

Reaching the World with the Word:
Our Commitment

Rock of Ages
August 12, 1985



Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille

The Wierwille family, which has been traced as far back as the 1300s, is of French descent. For almost 300 years, the Wierwilles lived in a city in France named *Vierville-sur-Mer* (Wierwille by the Sea). Victor Paul Wierwille's ancestors, who were part of a group of Huguenots (French Protestants) that staunchly resisted the Roman Catholic attempts to dominate Europe, moved to Ladbergen, Germany, in the 1500s to escape persecution. Three hundred years later, they became early participants in a large German movement to emigrate to the United States for religious, political, and economic freedom. Henry Wierwille and his son Adolph, Dr. Wierwille's great-grandfather and grandfather, were two of the first of his ancestors to come to the United States. They arrived in the New Knoxville, Ohio, area in 1839.

It was just outside this village that Victor Paul Wierwille was born on December 31, 1916, in his family's farmhouse. Dr. Wierwille was the youngest of Ernst and Emma Wierwille's seven children: Ella Maria (who died at three months old in 1896); Lydia Elizabeth (born 1897; now Mrs. Martin Kuck); Otto (1900–1930); Sevilla Magdalena (born 1904; now Mrs. Walter Henkener); Harry Ernst (1907–1977); Reuben Adolph (born 1912); and Victor Paul (1916–1985).

The first seventeen years of Victor Paul Wierwille's life

were spent near the small, rural village of New Knoxville. Here, both he and his future wife, Dorothea Kipp, were raised with and influenced by the self-reliance and frugality that characterized the hardworking people of this German farming community. These were some of the characteristics which later contributed to the establishing of The Way International.

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Victor Paul was reared in the First United Church of Christ in New Knoxville (then called the First Evangelical and Reformed Church). It was here that Dr. Lohman, a strong, dynamic missionary who spoke at the church one Sunday, asked the young Victor Paul what he wanted to be when he grew up. Victor Paul answered, "A man of God like you." Dr. L.H. Kunst pastored this church for the first seventeen years of Victor Paul's life and greatly influenced his desire to serve in the ministry. Dr. Kunst confirmed Victor Paul in this church on March 29, 1931. His confirmation verse was Revelation 3:20:

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

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Victor Paul's formal education started in a one-room schoolhouse located less than a mile from his home. After the sixth grade, his education continued at the local high school in New Knoxville. During his junior year, he nearly left school. Because of the encouragement of his older sister Sevilla, however, Victor Paul not only completed high school, but he also developed a deep desire to attend college. His father wanted him to stay home and take over the family farm; but with the gentle influence of his wife, Ernst Wier-

wille changed his mind and allowed Victor Paul to attend Mission House College and Seminary (known today as Lakeland College) in Wisconsin, which their church supported.

During his college years, Victor Paul studied with some of the finest teachers of the time, from whom he learned many of the academic skills that he would later use for Biblical research. As a college freshman with a strong desire to help people, Victor Paul thought he might study to become a doctor (an idea influenced by his hometown sweetheart, Dorothea Kipp, who was studying to become a nurse). As a sophomore, Victor Paul thought he might become a lawyer. By his junior year, though, he was convinced of his great love for teaching God's Word and decided to go to seminary.

During his years at Lakeland College, Victor Paul's strong organizational and leadership abilities became apparent. As a very aggressive forward on his college basketball team, Victor Paul won a place in Lakeland College's Hall of Fame for outstanding basketball achievement. As a diligent student, Victor Paul was known among his teachers as a strong, independent thinker. And as the president of his fraternity, he was known as a progressive leader. Upon his elopement with Dorothea Kipp on July 2, 1937, Victor Paul became one of the first students of Lakeland College to be married before he graduated.

Victor Paul Wierwille received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1938 and his Bachelor of Theology degree in 1941 from Lakeland College. Also in 1941, Victor Paul received his Master of Theology degree in Practical Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary.

At this time, he was invited to do his doctoral work at Oxford University in England; but he was eager to teach and to serve as a pastor. Therefore, he postponed the work toward his doctorate and was ordained as a clergyman at the First Evangelical and Reformed Church in New Knoxville on June 29, 1941.

Several years later, when Rev. Wierwille was ready to pursue his doctorate, he decided that attending Oxford University

was not as important to him as studying under Dr. H. Ellis Lininger, a well-known homiletician who was then president of Pikes Peak Bible Seminary and Burton College in Manitou Springs, Colorado. Rev. Wierwille received his Doctor of Theology degree there in 1948. The principles of education that he learned from Dr. Lininger are a vital part of the teaching methods found in the Power for Abundant Living series, The Way Corps training, and other academic activities of The Way Ministry today.

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Immediately after his ordination in 1941, Dr. Wierwille began his first pastorate at St. Jacob's Evangelical and Reformed Church in Payne, Ohio—a small, conservative farming community. Dr. Wierwille was filled with high expectations and enthusiasm for his work, but within the first year of his ministry he became discouraged because of his inability to really help people. Even with a Master of Theology degree from Princeton, he still did not have the answers to life's fundamental questions for himself or for others. Thus began in the life of Victor Paul Wierwille a very serious and intense time of searching for answers. For many years he not only read every Christian publication he could find, but he also traveled whenever possible to meet any person he felt might have something to teach him.

The early phases of his search brought him to a missionary by the name of Rosalind Rinker, a strong, vivacious woman who jarred his thinking when she challenged him to lay aside all other reading material and study the Bible as the Word of God—a truth Dr. Wierwille had lost during his theological studies. Though he took her advice and started intensely studying God's Word in the late summer of 1942, Dr. Wierwille did not find his answers, even after a month of serious Bible study.

At this point Victor Paul Wierwille sat in his office in

Payne, Ohio, and prayed to God. He said he was going to quit the ministry unless God would give him answers that he would never have to back down on. That is when God spoke out loud to Dr. Wierwille and promised him:

I will teach you the Word as it has not been known since the first century, if you will teach it to others.

The next day in his office, because he could hardly believe that God had talked to him, Dr. Wierwille closed his eyes and prayed again. He asked God to show him if He had really spoken to him; he asked God to make it snow. Then he opened his eyes. Where he had seen a crystal blue, autumn sky, Dr. Wierwille now saw a sky so thick with snow that the gas pumps only seventy-five feet from his office window were not visible. He was thrilled. Though he did not fully understand this phenomenon, Dr. Wierwille knew that God had spoken to him. He knew that God would teach him His Word as it had not been known since the first century as long as he would teach it to others.

This incident set in motion the events that led to Dr. Wierwille's founding of The Way. In contrast to the healing and evangelistic ministries with which he was surrounded, Dr. Wierwille's faithfulness built a ministry that emphasizes the integrity and accuracy of the Word of God, with signs, miracles, and wonders following those who believe.

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Approximately one month after God audibly spoke to him, Dr. Wierwille began a weekly radio broadcast on October 3, 1942, which continued for thirteen years. During these years, as the ministry grew and changed, the changes were reflected in its names. In 1942 the radio broadcast, which aired over station WLOK in Lima, Ohio, began as the "Vesper Chimes Hour," because it ran during a Saturday evening, or vesper,

hour and featured chimes. In 1944, when the ministry was able to afford broadcast time at noon on Sunday, the name was changed to "The Chimes Hour." In 1947, the ministry became incorporated as "The Chimes Hour Youth Caravan." "Youth" referred to the young people who performed on the program, and "caravan" referred to their traveling performances. The radio program reached its peak in the early 1950s over the Cincinnati radio station WLW, which broadcasted throughout Ohio, as well as parts of Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, and even Canada. The radio broadcasts ended in 1955, shortly before the Wierwilles went overseas. In 1955, the name of the ministry was changed to "The Way"—the name originally used by the Christians of the first century.

While continuing the radio broadcasts, Dr. Wierwille resigned from St. Jacob's in Payne, Ohio. After three years in Payne, Dr. Wierwille felt that there was no more room for growth in that church. He had raised the active membership of his congregation to the maximum that could be expected for a small, over-churched community—from approximately 60 to 125 people. And he also felt he had reached the limit of his personal growth in that position.

Dr. Wierwille's priority at this point was to have time to continue his research, as well as his teaching, of God's Word. Therefore he declined an offer to pastor one of the largest churches in his denomination—an offer not usually made to so young a person as Dr. Wierwille. Neither did he accept an offer to be assistant to the vice president of the A.B. Dick Company. Instead of seeking prestige or wealth, Dr. Wierwille sought the freedom to research and teach God's Word. He chose to pastor St. Peter's Evangelical and Reformed Church in Van Wert, Ohio. St. Peter's was one of the poorest churches in Van Wert: the salary would be less than St. Jacob's; and the membership was so small that the denominational heads wanted to close it down. But Dr. Wierwille had met some of the congregation of St. Peter's through his radio

broadcasts, and he believed they loved him and would allow him the freedom to research God's Word and teach it as it unfolded to him.

So in Van Wert in 1944, and continuing for the next fourteen years, Dr. Wierwille's life was full of self-examination and self-confrontation, as he challenged lifelong beliefs with the truths of God's Word. It was a time of great learning and of gaining practical experience that has so greatly influenced many aspects of The Way International today. Dr. Wierwille's search for truth not only led him to devote long, concentrated hours to Biblical research, but also brought him in touch with many great men. Some of those men were guests of "The Spiritual 40 Club" (a group of forty people who raised the money to bring special guest speakers to Van Wert), men such as: Glenn Clark, the founder of "Camps Farthest Out," a Christian camp ministry which influenced the development of The Way Family Camps; K.C. Pillai, who introduced Dr. Wierwille to the Eastern customs of the Bible; George M. Lamsa, who introduced Dr. Wierwille to Aramaic, the language of the original texts of the Bible; J.E. Stiles, a pastor who led Dr. Wierwille into speaking in tongues in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1951; and B.G. Leonard, who taught Dr. Wierwille about healing and other aspects of the Holy Spirit field. From these men and from his years of Biblical research, Dr. Wierwille developed, and then taught for the first time in 1953, what is now the Power for Abundant Living class series. By 1956, the PFAL class became the focus of the ministry's outreach.

While in Van Wert, Dr. Wierwille published the first edition of *Receiving the Holy Spirit Today* (7th edition published 1982), a bold exposition of the gift of holy spirit from the accuracy of the Word of God. He also wrote numerous booklets, pamphlets, and monographs detailing many of the truths from God's Word. His long hours of research during those years laid the groundwork for over 400 magazine and newspaper articles and eleven major Biblical research works, the

latest published in 1985.

Dr. Wierwille was learning and growing in a knowledge of the Word of God as he taught Power for Abundant Living classes and continued the radio broadcasts. But people's lack of spiritual hunger and responsiveness to God's Word became apparent. Because Bishop Pillai told Dr. Wierwille that he would be able to see the power of God in operation in India as he had not been able to see it here in the United States, in 1955 Dr. Wierwille decided to travel overseas to see if people there would respond more readily to his teaching of the Word of God. He also wanted to see firsthand the missionary work in India, which he had heard about in churches since childhood.

After selling most of their belongings to raise the money for the trip, Dr. and Mrs. Wierwille and their three teenage children (Don, Karen, and Mary) traveled overseas to Great Britain, India, the Bible Lands, and Europe from September 1955 to April 1956. (Their fourth child, John Paul, then a baby, stayed home with Mrs. Wierwille's sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Fischbach.)

The Wierwilles' time in India was not only a time of great personal growth, as Bishop Pillai had said it would be, but it was also an experience that would ultimately add to the tension between Dr. Wierwille and heads of his denomination. Dr. Wierwille's teaching on the Holy Spirit field and his publishing of *Dilemma of Foreign Missions in India* in 1956 (an exposure of the corruption of foreign missions) were just two of many factors that brought Dr. Wierwille before the heads of his denomination in Ohio. Though he did not want to leave the church, he could not deny what he had seen in India or compromise on his Biblical research. Therefore, Dr. Wierwille resigned from his denominational associations in December 1957, and his name was officially erased from the roll of Evangelical and Reformed ministers on May 22, 1958.

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After Dr. Wierwille resigned from St. Peter's, the Wierwilles rented a large, beautiful house at 649 South Washington Street in Van Wert, Ohio. Dr. and Mrs. Wierwille opened their home to those desiring to be taught God's Word, and 649 South Washington became the headquarters of The Way. Here Dr. Wierwille taught the first Sunday morning fellowships and the first Sunday night services of the ministry. These years in which Dr. Wierwille first worked the ministry full-time were not easy years. Few people gave financial support. Class donations barely paid for Dr. Wierwille's traveling expenses. The ministry's future was uncertain, but Dr. Wierwille was convinced that the Word of God is the will of God. He knew it worked whether anyone believed it or not. Though there was little in the five-senses realm to hold on to, Dr. Wierwille remained unmoved and never stopped teaching the Word of God.

Though Dr. and Mrs. Wierwille realized that the ministry needed a permanent headquarters location, determining to move the headquarters of The Way, Inc., to the Wierwille family farm outside New Knoxville was not an obvious decision. The entire farm had been deeded over to The Way in 1957, after Dr. Wierwille's father died in 1956; but the family farmhouse needed major repair. Also, there were no facilities for holding large classes or fellowships. Therefore, during the next two years, Dr. Wierwille considered several other locations for a ministry headquarters.

In 1959, soon after his brother Harry Ernst (H.E.) Wierwille said that God had inspired him to pay for the remodeling of the family farmhouse, Dr. Wierwille decided to move The Way Headquarters to the family farm. Even though it seemed an unlikely choice, Dr. Wierwille believed that God wanted the ministry headquarters located in this rural setting. In the midst of Ohio's rich farmland, this peaceful location—without all the distractions and pressures of a city environment—would provide the quiet atmosphere for the work and decision making of a headquarters that would become a great

spiritual nerve center reaching all over the world.

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On February 2, 1961, the coldest day of that year, Dr. and Mrs. Wierwille and their children that were still living at home moved into the new headquarters location. Despite the freezing temperatures, the heavy snowfall, and the strong east winds, the Wierwilles—along with a few friends and relatives—had the first fellowship there that very evening. They thanked God for blessing the location and for the outreach of the Word of God that would take place from their new home. When Dr. and Mrs. Wierwille moved to this headquarters, they would have been thankful if only fifty people believed God's Word and stood with them.

To provide a teaching center at the new headquarters, Dr. and Mrs. Wierwille completed a basement with a separate entranceway to the family farmhouse. Here, Dr. Wierwille taught Power for Abundant Living classes and led teaching services, as well as other activities for the believers. Dr. Wierwille's teaching of the accuracy of the Word of God drew people to The Way, and soon the basement was filled to capacity.

To meet the need for more space, a prefabricated home was purchased and redesigned as a teaching center to seat approximately seventy-five people. The Biblical Research Center, as the building is called today, was later enlarged in 1965 to provide for the continued growth of the ministry. The Biblical Research Center housed the spiritual pulse of the ministry for almost twenty years. Dr. Wierwille taught more of God's Word there than anywhere else in the world, living his life as "The Teacher."

During the 1960s Dr. and Mrs. Wierwille conducted Summer School classes, Way Family Camps, and various Advances in the Biblical Research Center. Aside from live Power for Abundant Living classes and personal study, these activ-

ities were the greatest opportunity for PFAL graduates to become "rooted" in God's Word. Summer School sessions, which began in June 1962, were the foundation of the academic program of The Way International, in which believers were and still are taught how to research God's Word for themselves.

The Way Family Camps, held at Headquarters during the summer, were considered the highlight of the ministry's yearly activities at that time. Dr. Wierwille, with the help of a Pilot Council, ran each camp according to the needs of the people present. In addition to these larger gatherings, smaller groups of believers came to Headquarters throughout the year for weekend Advances.

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From approximately 1958 to 1968, the Wierwille home in Van Wert and, later, the Biblical Research Center were the primary locations for the teaching of the rightly divided Word of God. The growth of the ministry during these ten years could be described by the word "addition," as used of the early growth of the first-century Church (Acts 2:47). Early in the first century there was only one central location, Jerusalem, from which the Word was taught and where people could be added to the church. Similarly, the headquarters at New Knoxville became the central location for the outreach of God's Word.

During this time, Dr. Wierwille was the primary teacher of God's Word. Although other men and a woman taught several Power for Abundant Living classes and assisted Dr. Wierwille, he carried the major responsibilities of every aspect of the outreach of God's Word. He taught open, introductory sessions of the class, registered people, found teaching locations, and carried out the details of class setup. Moving and teaching God's Word, Dr. Wierwille spent many hours counseling people, personally leading them into speaking in

tongues, and ministering healing—the same responsibilities that the Twig, Branch, Area, Limb, and Region coordinators of The Way International carry out today.

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As the work of the ministry grew, Dr. Wierwille and the other Trustees of The Way, Ermal L. Owens (Vice President) and H.E. Wierwille (Secretary-Treasurer), saw that the Power for Abundant Living class needed to be filmed. Dr. Wierwille could only be in one place at a time. With a filmed class, simultaneous classes could be run anywhere.

As early as 1961, Dr. Wierwille began planning for a film class every time he taught. In 1963, Dr. Wierwille considered filming the class by using a television program he was already doing called “The Teacher.” These programs were 15- and 30-minute segments of Dr. Wierwille teaching Power for Abundant Living. However, because of the lack of technology at that time, the finished product was not good enough for a film class and this idea was dropped.

In 1967, interest was again generated for filming Power for Abundant Living. “The Teacher” television programs from 1963 were used to raise money for the project. As these were shown to believers in different areas of the country, people began to recognize the importance of having a film class and to realize what it could do for the outreach of God’s Word. Within less than three months, nearly all of the \$30,000 needed for the project was donated to The Way.

From November 28 to December 12, 1967, Dr. Wierwille taught the PFAL class before a movie camera. The two months of preparation for the class and the twelve days of actual filming took much discipline and renewed mind. Dr. Wierwille’s eyes were severely burned by the lighting during the shooting of the early sessions. In spite of a doctor’s warning that he would be blind for the rest of his life if he continued the filming, Dr. Wierwille completed the class.

The film class not only captured The Teacher at his best, but was one of the turning points in the outreach of The Way International. With several copies of the class available by the summer of 1968, and others to follow on audiotape and videotape, multiple teachings of Power for Abundant Living became possible, and the growth of The Way began to take place by “multiplication” (Acts 9:31; 12:24).

In January 1968, the day before Dr. Wierwille was about to leave to visit a small group of PFAL graduates in California, he read about a group of Christian hippies in San Francisco in a copy of *Christian Life* magazine. He was inspired to seek out these young people. During his one-day visit with them, Dr. Wierwille taught from the Word of God and led all of them into speaking in tongues. He invited them to be guests of The Way Ministry during Summer School 1968. Those that attended Summer School from this group told the others about the program when they returned to California. Many of the others traveled to Headquarters for classes and Summer School in 1969.

These young people opened up other cities in the United States to God’s Word. PFAL classes were run in Wichita, Kansas, and eastern New York State; both became dynamic centers for the outreach of God’s Word, and the ministry grew rapidly.

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During this time, Dr. Wierwille saw the need for more leaders, for committed men and women trained in God’s Word and prepared to handle ministry responsibilities. He began to devote more and more of his life to raising up leaders who would not only steward God’s Word and the ministry, but would also fulfill a vision of something much greater than themselves—the vision of moving God’s Word over the world.

In 1969, Dr. Wierwille started The Way Corps. During the

first several years of the Corps, Dr. Wierwille personally trained and raised up this new generation of ministry leadership with the help of Ermal L. Owens and H.E. Wierwille. Others who shared his vision and commitment—George H. Jess, the first Director of The Way Corps; Howard R. Allen, International Manager of The Way; and Rev. Walter J. Cummins, Dr. Wierwille's research assistant—aided Dr. Wierwille in teaching practical Biblical principles to The Way Corps. By 1974, the growth of the ministry required Dr. Wierwille to travel more, and he began working with Rev. L. Craig Martindale, a graduate of the Second Way Corps, to oversee the expanding Way Corps training.

In order to spur the move of the Word over the world, Dr. Wierwille began the Word Over the World Ambassador program in 1971, giving people the opportunity for accelerated growth in God's Word as they devoted one year of their lives to open up new areas of the world to the greatness of the Word of God. In August 1971, he welcomed the first wave of WOWs home to Headquarters at the first Rock of Ages. This festival of music, fellowship, and teaching became an annual ministrywide event. Today, believers from all over the world travel to Headquarters to join in the Rock of Ages celebration, greeting returning WOWs and sending newly commissioned WOWs to their assigned areas.

From 1974 to 1978, Dr. Wierwille worked with the other Trustees to provide for the ministry's growth and future expansion by developing additional locations for teaching and training leadership: The Way College of Emporia in 1974; The Way College of Biblical Research, Indiana Campus, in 1976; Camp Gunnison—The Way Family Ranch, also in 1976; and LEAD Outdoor Academy International in 1978. Dr. Wierwille was vitally involved in the remodeling, building, and future planning for each of these learning centers.

During the 1970s, from principles of organization he saw in God's Word, Dr. Wierwille established a system of communication and leadership to ensure that each believer would

have abundant spiritual nurturing available to him. This concept of The Way Tree became the basic structure for the growing ministry. A nucleus of personal support and love for the believers and those new to the study of the rightly divided Word of God was made available. Graduates of Power for Abundant Living began to meet in small fellowships (usually in their homes) called Twigs. A group of Twigs form a Branch; Branches form a Limb; Limbs combine into a Trunk. Each part of The Way Tree, including each believer, is fed and nourished by the Root—International Headquarters.

Dr. Wierwille worked to oversee the growth of the United States Trunk throughout each of its following stages: two Regions with eleven Limbs in 1972; seven Regions with thirty-five Limbs in 1976 and with forty Limbs in 1977; eight Regions with fifty-one Limbs in 1979; ten Regions in 1982; and eleven Regions with fifty-two Limbs in 1984.

As the Word of God became firmly established in the United States, Dr. Wierwille began working with many individuals to pioneer international outreach in the 1970s, which is blossoming in the 1980s, the decade of Word Over the World. Some of the many firsts in the history of international outreach are: 1971—the first WOW Ambassadors to be sent overseas were commissioned to Australia; 1974—the first WOW training outside the United States took place in England; 1975—the first PFAL class in another language was recorded in Spanish; 1976—*Power for Abundant Living* and *Receiving the Holy Spirit Today* were the first books to be translated into another language (Spanish); 1979—the first South American PASMO (Word Over the World) festival took place in Chile. By 1985, the Power for Abundant Living class had been recorded in nine languages and had been taught in over seventy countries around the world.

During the 1970s, the Board of Trustees began preparing to transfer the major responsibility for the ministry to a second Board of Trustees. On October 2, 1977, Donald Ernst Wierwille (Dr. Wierwille's oldest son) and Howard R. Allen (Inter-

national Manager of The Way) were installed as Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of The Way International. These two men served on the Board of Trustees at the center of the ministry with Dr. Wierwille (Founding President) for five years. Then, on January 25, 1981, Dr. Wierwille announced that Rev. L. Craig Martindale, the second Director of The Way Corps and a man who had worked very closely with him, would be the second President of The Way International. For the next year and a half, Rev. Martindale worked consistently with the Board of Trustees to prepare for this responsibility. On October 3, 1982, the Fortieth Anniversary of The Way International, Dr. Wierwille transferred the presidency to Rev. L. Craig Martindale.

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During the last three years of Dr. Wierwille's life, he saw many of his dreams come to pass. At SOUND OUT '84, a harmony of the Gospels was first presented—a work that Dr. Wierwille had desired to see produced for many years. Also during SOUND OUT '84, the last two productions in the first High Country Caravan series—a television series featuring “entertainment for all people by Christians”—were videotaped at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Wierwille, as the executive producer of the series, was the enthusiastic innovator and leader of it, as he had been of every aspect of the ministry's Way Productions since the Vesper Chimes Hour.

In 1983 and 1984, Dr. and Mrs. Wierwille often traveled on the Twig Hopper, a specially designed motorcycle that was provided at the Fortieth Anniversary for their use in visiting Twigs all over the country. In 1984, Dr. Wierwille was blessed to see some of his long-range dreams in the international outreach of the ministry come to pass: the first South American Way Corps training locations opened in Argentina, Chile, and Venezuela; and the first European Root and Way

Corps training location was dedicated in Scotland. In December 1984, Dr. Wierwille was also able to do one of his favorite things—he personally taught the Power for Abundant Living class to a small group of students at Camp Gunnison—The Way Family Ranch, in Colorado.

A great blessing to Dr. Wierwille was the opening and dedication of The Word Over The World Auditorium on March 16 and 17, 1985. Ever since his years in Van Wert, Dr. Wierwille had dreamed of having a teaching center that would enable men and women to serve God's Word on a silver platter, as it should be. The Word Over The World Auditorium is a beautiful and multifaceted teaching platform from which The Way International can move God's Word over the world. Its overall design and construction, overseen by The Way Builders, is a great example of how believers in the Body of Christ can walk in the unity of the spirit, which Dr. Wierwille so diligently taught.

The twenty-four hours of prayer, which opened and preceded the dedication of the auditorium, were lovingly arranged and directed by Dr. Wierwille himself. He also personally planned the first ten Sunday night services to be held in The Teaching Center of The Word Over The World Auditorium.

On April 21, 1985, Dr. Wierwille taught his first and last Sunday night service in that auditorium which he had envisioned for so long. The topic of his teaching was particularly significant—"The Hope." After this teaching, he and Mrs. Wierwille traveled to Gartmore, Scotland, to see the new European Root and Way Corps location—the property of The Way that Dr. Wierwille said was the most beautiful of them all. On May 20, 1985, Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille fell asleep. His body was laid to rest on May 22, 1985, in the Garden of Living Waters at The Way International.

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Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille was a man dedicated to moving God's Word over the world and to teaching "faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Timothy 2:2). He and his beloved wife, Dorothea, raised a family of five children in the nurture and admonition of the lord. Their children—Donald, Karen, Mary, John Paul, and Sara—are raising Dr. and Mrs. Wierwille's sixteen grandchildren in the same manner. Along with them, his brother, Reuben, and two sisters, Sevilla and Lydia, are among God's faithful and, with thousands of others, are committed to reaching the world with the Word.

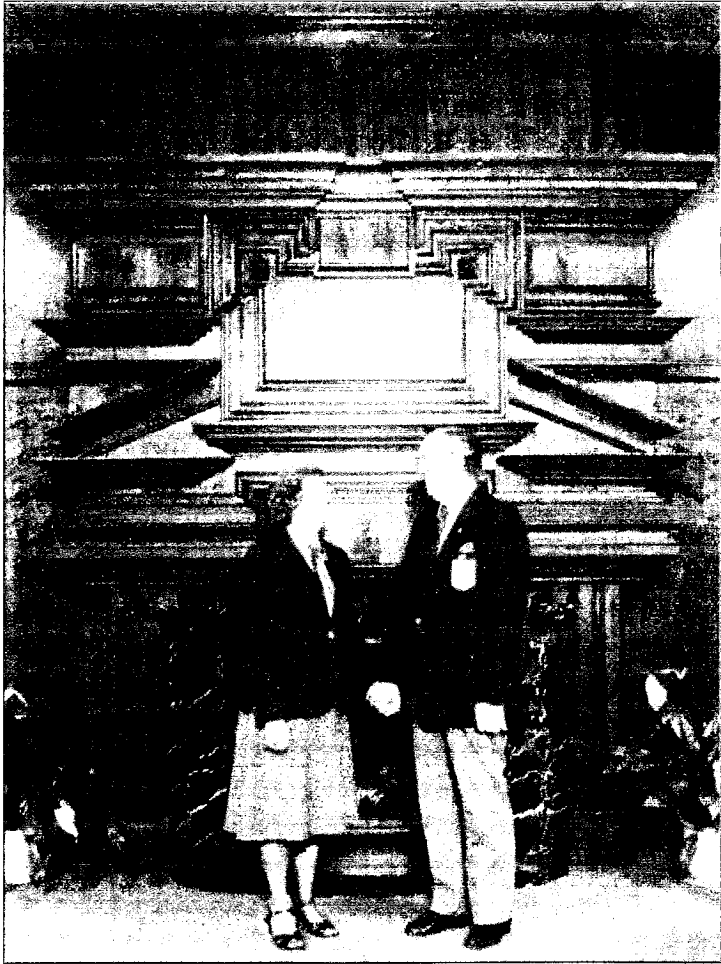
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Dr. Wierwille was our example of studying God's Word, knowing God's Word, applying God's Word, and teaching God's Word.

Philippians 4:9:

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

A precious trust is in our keeping—the accuracy of God's Word. Through the life and ministry of Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille, we have learned the rightly divided Word of God. It is our privilege and responsibility to share that Word, to be a vital part of the ministry of reconciliation, to move God's Word over the world.



*Dr. and Mrs. Victor Paul Wierwille
in the Founder's Room of The Word Over The World Auditorium*

- 1916 Victor Paul Wierwille born (December 31)
- 1931 Victor Paul Wierwille confirmed (March 29)
- 1937 Victor Paul Wierwille and Dorothea Kipp are married (July 2)
20 and 21 years old
- 1938 Victor Paul Wierwille receives his Bachelor of Arts degree from Lakeland College
- 1940 Donald Ernst Wierwille born (August 11)
- 1941 Victor Paul Wierwille receives his Bachelor of Theology degree from Lakeland College and his Master of Theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary; Victor Paul Wierwille is ordained as a clergyman of the Evangelical and Reformed Church (June 29); Rev. Wierwille starts first pastorate (June)
24 years old
- 1942 Karen Ruth Wierwille (Martin) born (April 11); snowfall phenomenon (early fall); first radio broadcast (October 3)
25 years old; two children
- 1944 Rev. Wierwille starts second pastorate (June); Mary Ellen Wierwille (Somerville) born (July 10)
27 years old; three children
- 1947 Rhoda Becker (Wierwille) starts work as first paid Staff member (September 28); incorporation of The Chimes Hour Youth Caravan (October 30)
- 1948 Rev. Wierwille receives his Doctor of Theology degree from Pikes Peak Bible Seminary and Burton College
- 1951 Dr. Wierwille visits missionaries in Honduras (April); Rev. J.E. Stiles leads Dr. Wierwille into speaking in tongues (Tulsa, Oklahoma; December 12)
34 years old
- 1952 The Georges are the first people Dr. Wierwille leads into speaking in tongues; first camp (forerunner of The Way Family Camps) held at the United Methodist Campgrounds in St. Marys, Ohio; Harry Ernst Wierwille becomes Secretary-Treasurer of the ministry

- 1953 Dr. Wierwille writes *Receiving the Holy Spirit Today*;
Dr. Wierwille teaches first Power for Abundant Living class
(October 10-26)
36 years old
- 1954 Bishop Pillai takes the second PFAL class (January) and
teaches Dr. Wierwille Biblical Orientalisms, from Genesis to
Revelation (summer)
- 1955 John Paul Wierwille born (July 9);
ministry name changed to The Way, Inc. (October 24);
Ermal L. Owens becomes Vice President of The Way, Inc.
- 1955/56 Wierwilles travel to Great Britain, India, the Bible Lands,
and Europe with their three oldest children (September to
April)
38-39 years old; four children
- 1956 *Dilemma of Foreign Missions in India* published
- 1957 Sara Kathryn Wierwille (Guigou) born (May 17);
Dr. Wierwille resigns from denomination and moves to 649
South Washington (December)
40 years old; five children
- 1961 Wierwilles move The Way Headquarters to the Wierwille
family farm (February 2)
- 1962 First Summer School opens with dedication of original
Biblical Research Center (June 10)
- 1967 *Are the Dead Alive Now?* published;
filming of PFAL class completed (December 12)
50 years old
- 1968 Dr. Wierwille first visits the Haight-Ashbury district of San
Francisco (January 29);
young people start to get involved in the ministry
- 1969 The Way Corps training begins
- 1971 Word Over the World Ambassador program begins;
Published: *Power for Abundant Living*; *Studies in Abun-*
dant Living: Volume I, The Bible Tells Me So; *Volume II,*
The New, Dynamic Church; *Volume III, The Word's Way*
- 1972 First Way Corps graduates
- 1974 The Way College of Emporia acquired (dedicated October 6)

- 1975 *Jesus Christ Is Not God* published;
first recorded translation of PFAL class—Spanish (June)
58 years old
- 1976 The Way College of Biblical Research, Indiana Campus, ac-
quired (dedicated May 29, 1977);
Camp Gunnison—The Way Family Ranch acquired (dedi-
cated July 14, 1977)
- 1977 PFAL '77;
Donald Ernst Wierwille and Howard R. Allen installed as
Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of The Way Interna-
tional (October 2);
*Studies in Abundant Living: Volume IV, God's Magnified
Word* published
- 1978 LEAD property acquired (LEAD home dedicated December
16, 1980)
- 1979 Advanced Class '79
- 1980 *Jesus Christ Our Passover* published
- 1982 LIVING VICTORIOUSLY;
Jesus Christ Our Promised Seed published;
The Way International's Fortieth Anniversary and the
presidential transfer;
The Reverend Mr. L. Craig Martindale installed as President
of The Way International (October 3)
65 years old
- 1984 SOUND OUT '84 (January);
The Family Motorcycle Club Calgary 1984 Tour (July);
the opening of three South American Way Corps locations
(Argentina, Chile, and Venezuela; October 3);
live PFAL class in Gunnison, Colorado (December 22-29);
dedication of the first European Root and Way Corps loca-
tion in Gartmore, Scotland (December 28)
- 1985 Opening and dedication of The Word Over The World
Auditorium (March 16 and 17);
*Studies in Abundant Living: Volume V, Order My Steps in
Thy Word* published;
Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille fell asleep on May 20 and was laid
to rest in the Garden of Living Waters at The Way Interna-
tional on May 22.
68 years old