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For Dr. Wanda Walborn

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Philosophy of Ministry

Theological Foundations

As someone who feels called into ministry eventually at a full-time capacity, it is crucial to develop a philosophy of ministry. Being clear in stating my beliefs about serving is beneficial so that I would not lose sight of why I am doing what I am doing, and that I could have guidelines to look back to ensure that my practices are aligned with my values. Ministry is partnering with God in joyful obedience.¹ Being ready and willing to move when He says move, and to wait when he says wait. I believe that in living a life of obedience, this ministers to those around us, and this ministers to the heart of God.

When I think about what I believe about ministry, first and foremost I am reminded that there is nothing that I can do out of my own strength, but only because I am empowered by the Holy Spirit.² I should not boast in the things that I have accomplished but should be excited to give the honour and glory to God in my successes. Both in the mundane things of life such as administrative work, organization, daily supporting tasks, and in the not so mundane things like physical healing, deliverance from demons, things that seem impossible that have been made possible through Christ, I want them all to be examples of how Jesus has worked powerfully in

¹ Matthew 28:20 NIV

² Philippians 2:13 NIV

my life. Through this, my hope is that others would be encouraged to see that they can experience God's fullness in the same way, but unique to them.

As believers, we know that we are in the world but not of the world,³ therefore we should be diligent to avoid being hypocritical and instead lead by example.⁴ In John 10:10 (NIV) we read the words of Jesus, "The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." We as believers should be tearing down the work of the enemy, and walking in a full life as Jesus has given to us. We have not been left alone in the world to do God's work, but he stays with us. One of the verses that has remained as a steady source of encouragement in my life is Joshua 1:9 (NIV) which states, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." It is a constant reminder for me to walk in faith towards obedience, and because He will be with me, I am a carrier of the presence of God to others who are waiting to encounter Him.

Statement of Faith

I believe that God is real, and Triune in nature. God is one being, but three persons, the Father, the Son who is Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.⁵ The Trinity, together, created everything in the spiritual and natural world, and humankind was created in the likeness of God.⁶ Because of the sin of disobedience, humankind fell away from God and was separated from God, unable to work their way back to unity with their Creator. God sent Jesus down to Earth to take on the debt of sin by sacrificing his life and dying on the cross, then in three days He resurrected and then

³ Romans 12:2 NIV

⁴ Titus 2:7 NLT

⁵ Matthew 28:19 NIV

⁶ Genesis 1:27 NIV

ascended to heaven so that we could live by the Spirit,⁷ and be reunited with God eternally.⁸ Jesus is fully God and fully man,⁹ His conception was immaculate and He was born of Mary who was a virgin,¹⁰ and after his death and resurrection we are anticipating His return.¹¹ I believe that the Holy Spirit is a person and a gift given to us,¹² to be our comfort¹³ and to empower us to do the will of God.¹⁴ I believe that the way to the Father is only through us choosing to follow Jesus because He is the truth.¹⁵ The Bible, the Old and New Testament, are holy and written works inspired by God.¹⁶ Through the Holy Spirit, we can still experience works of healing, deliverance, and miracles in the natural world because of the authority that we have been given as believers in the victory of Jesus Christ over sin and death.¹⁷

Core Ministry Values

The core ministry values which I will use to guide me through ministry are Sabbath, prayer, worship, soul care, and discipleship/relationships. These core values are meant to be things that I seek to keep consistent in my personal walk with the Lord, and by leading by example, guide those in my ministry to pursuing in their lives for their ministries as well.

Sabbath Keeping

Understanding my physical and emotional boundaries has been a learning process. My intentions of keeping the Sabbath holy are not out of a legalistic mindset, choosing to tick off the

⁷ Romans 8:3-4 NIV

⁸ John 3:16 NIV

⁹ Colossians 2:9 NIV

¹⁰ Matthew 1:18 NIV

¹¹ Acts 1:11 NIV

¹² John 14:26 NIV

¹³ John 14: 15-17 NIV

¹⁴ 1 Corinthians 2:12 NIV

¹⁵ John 14:6 NIV

¹⁶ 2 Timothy 3:16 NIV

¹⁷ James 5:15-16 NIV

right boxes so that God might give me a gold star, but to better understand how I need to rest when it is time to rest. When Jesus is confronted by the Pharisees because his disciples are doing work on the Sabbath, he says to them that “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”¹⁸ The Sabbath was made for us as a time to be intentional and rest with the Lord, it helps us realize our boundaries and allows us to extend ourselves further because of being intentional with resting. Keeping the Sabbath helps us avoid burning out and develop a rhythm of rest in our lives.

Prayer

My theology of prayer comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, “¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” As we walk through life, prayer is continuous, without ceasing. Our communication with God is not broken, but we are constantly in connection with Him. When it comes to prayer it is not just about making our requests to the Lord, but we can see that it goes hand in hand with thanksgiving. Our gratefulness is required when we come to the Lord with our needs. Philippians 4:6 NIV tells us “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” My heart is glad when I come to the Lord, I am thankful for how He has provided for my physical needs, and that His grace is sufficient for me¹⁹ when I must endure suffering. When I come to the Lord to be with Him, I am not focusing on prayer as an act of righteousness, but as a means to knowing who my Father is. When Jesus teaches us to pray in Matthew 6, we are praying for the will of God, “¹⁰your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Jesus is showing us the character of God when He teaches us to pray. He tells us this a few verses early when He said, “... close

¹⁸ Mark 2:27-28 NIV

¹⁹ 2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV

the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you [...] your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”

Worship

My approach of worship comes with the verse Psalm 150:6 (ESV) in mind, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!” We are all called to give our praise and worship to the Lord, but the way in which we do so can be taken from Romans 12:1 (NIV) “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.” Paul is saying to the Romans that how we give our worship to God is in the form of laying down our lives. We can lift our voices and sing in worship unto God, but we also give our worship by denying our flesh and living sacrificially.

I grew up in a church with a family who taught me that worship is a lifestyle. It is not confined to a 45-minute period once a week before the sermon starts on Sunday morning, but worship is meant to be deeply integrated into my life. To live as a living sacrifice includes my attitude towards work, being diligent as if working for the Lord, because our reward is our inheritance from Him.²⁰ In a lifestyle of worship it shows the importance of walking in humility, realizing that we cannot be perfect, but we are continually being transformed as we make decisions that impact our daily, weekly, and long-term plans. Though I might face a difficult season of life where it feels as though the Lord might be far away, I should praise Him even for my suffering because it shows me even more how much I need Jesus to be my Savior.

Soul Care

²⁰ Colossians 3:23 NIV

A holistic understanding of ministry is a crucial part of preventing burn out and pursuing greater freedom through the power of the Holy Spirit, because of the authority we are given because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.²¹ I believe that soul care is an integral part of pursuing holistic ministry. I will explain the two aspects of soul care that resonate with my core values and the Biblical reasoning for why they are essential to reaching our fullest freedom potential through Jesus. The first is inner healing, which I would describe as the summary of many small breakthroughs via different spiritual practices coming together, and the second is deliverance,²² when practiced in the soul care model of inner healing first, will produce a lasting freedom.

Inner Healing

The practice of pursuing inner healing can feel daunting for some and impossible for others. Our responsibility as Christians to live a life worthy of the calling that has been given to us by the Lord is inclusive of digging deep into our souls and pursuing healing that can only be found in Jesus. A ministry is only as strong as its weakest member, and so to build each other up so that a ministry can grow and better disciple others, we must have the hunger and desire to open ourselves up and let God move within us. When we choose to call out the lies in our life, and replace them with truth, it is a form of spiritual warfare against the lies that the enemy wants us to believe about ourselves. When we remind ourselves of the truth, we remember our identity in Christ.²³

Choosing to come before the Lord and confess my sins and repent is part of inner healing as it releases us from the hold that sin has on us when we choose to walk away

²¹ Luke 10:19 NIV

²² Rob Reimer, *Soul Care: Seven Transformational Principles for a Healthy Soul* (Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2016).

²³ Wanda Walborn, *Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God?* (Franklin: Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2020).

from it and turn towards Jesus and His power instead. Being aware of the unhealthy family sin patterns can help reveal places of necessary healing that may or may not have been obvious for me. When I realize the normalized behaviours in my family that are not aligned with the way of the Father, I can start healing in that area to come near to Him. As patterns, lies, and wounds become exposed this process is painful in the beginning but is worth it in the end. Replacing lies with truth, walking in repentance, recognizing the family sin patterns, treating emotional and spiritual wounds, offering forgiveness, and overcoming fears are all steps that bring us inner healing and help us become ready for deliverance from demonization.

Deliverance

Being open to deliverance plays a vital role in soul care to pursue holistic freedom and freedom. Rob Reimer says that we need human solutions for human problems, and spiritual solutions for spiritual problems. “You can’t cast out human and you can’t counsel out a demon with therapy.” As important as therapy contributes to inner healing of a person, deliverance is the only way to address demonization of a person. I am fortunate to have been familiar with seeing deliverances performed since I was young, but the method of deliverance was a painstakingly long process to freedom, and left portals and gateways open for re-entry of the spirits. The method of deliverance in the book soul care lead me through the necessary healing and forgiveness that I needed to go through so that any potential grounds for a spirit to reside within me would be broken and when Jesus says to go, it’s time to “cast that sucker out,” as Dr. Reimer would say. After receiving deliverance, I do feel lighter, physically and emotionally, and I feel as though I have an increased awareness of God’s presence with me. We have a responsibility to

guide others towards this freedom and grow in intimacy with Christ by breaking the strongholds of the enemy by doing deliverance.

Discipleship/ Relationships

All my core values are part of the last one I will explain in this paper which is discipleship/relationships. We are commissioned to make disciples²⁴ and I believe that discipleship is fostered out of genuine relationships with people. I personally respond more positively to those who I can sense are putting in effort to make a connection with me, or those people in life that I can click with on a not so serious level. I feel that the foundation of good relationships are often having a friendship to build on top of. The connections that I have made with both believers and nonbelievers have started from seemingly insignificant conversations, but later form trust between one another that we can mutually share deeper concerns in our lives.

I value relationships that I can feel comfortable to share openly about my hurts, but I also feel celebrated for my accomplishments. I believe that every relationship is a discipleship opportunity, not in a prideful way that I believe that I am a mentor, and the other party is the mentee, but in a mutually beneficial relationship where we are both learning and growing in self-awareness and recognizing the voice of God to follow the Holy Spirit's leading, wherever that might be.

Non-Negotiables

Environment Fostering Equality

²⁴ Matthew 12:28

Anti-discrimination of race and gender is one of my non-negotiables if I am deciding on an organization or church to partner with in ministry. It is important to me that there is visual representation of the picture we see in the book of Revelation, of every tribe and tongue coming together to bring worship to the King of Heaven. As a person of colour who is also female, I recognize that in the evangelical world I am already at a disadvantage when applying for jobs, strictly because of the body I was born in. I believe that it is important to create space for all to sit at the table, and that the voices of those who have been silenced for so long will get their moment to be heard and understood rather than patronized. It is in these environments where we can foster a ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Christ-Centered Lives

Christ-centered ministry is a requirement. Doing things with others that are Christlike is barely scratching the surface of living a Christ-centered life, but choosing to pursue Christ together is a deeper commitment to one another and to Jesus than ticking of the checklist of “godly behaviours for the day.” We can often mistake our “doing for God” as fruit to show that we are putting Jesus as the center of our lives, but if our primary calling is being with God²⁵ than there is an urgency that we may miss out on. I do not want to look back on myself and realize that my ministry was more focused on producing the right actions out of people rather than fostering transformation in the hearts and lives of those that Jesus has called me to.

Transparency

Complete and total transparency among members in leadership is necessary as I have suffered from the experience of how secrecy can break trust and create an unstable foundation for a ministry to build on. We are meant to live in community as the body of Christ. This is not

²⁵ Kevin and Kay Marie Brennfleck, *Live Your Calling* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005).

simply a physical command that we should not isolate ourselves or become hermits, but applies to the attitude of our hearts. If one is choosing to hermit their emotions, grievances, sins and temptations, and their hardships from others in their community then we cannot support each other as we should. When we gather in the name of Jesus, we are inviting the presence of God in that moment to dwell among us.²⁶ By living in transparency, we invite the Lord to speak into our situations and there is trust and accountability fostered.

Willingness to Laugh

I am the first to admit that I do not take myself so seriously that I am unwilling to be lighthearted and laugh when it is appropriate. At times, it can be considered unprofessional to laugh with ones coworkers or even clients, but in ministry, I think that laughter should be a natural part of interactions with one another. It is not that I believe others should be forced to laugh or share a sense of humour, but that wherever it is that I am serving there is a willingness to be open to humour and to share moments of pure joy with one another, often coming from laughter. This is related to a desire for transparency, as I do want to serve with others who are willing to show themselves to me, including their sense of humour. I have heard from Ron Walborn that life is too short to work with people that you hate, and though it's a given that not everyone I work with will be a match with my personality, but I hope that I will be confident to share my playful personality with those around me, both my partners in ministry and those I am ministering to.

²⁶ Matthew 18:20 NIV

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