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Marlin Vander Wilt Letter

Marlin A. Vander Wilt

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Ministers

Glen O. Peterman

Marlin A. Vander Wilt

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

April 5, 1974

Dr. Theora England
Northwestern College
Orange City, Iowa 51041

Dear Mrs. E,

You--retiring? I don't really believe it. You may not be teaching classes, or serving as head of the theatre department, but I know you will not be retired. The kind of active involvement with people which is your forte will lead you into other active areas of life.

However, Northwestern without you will be a very different place. Very few persons in Northwestern's history can have had more influence on the life of the school, and I know that you are singular in relation to those who have influenced my life and thought. Through many other lives as well, you have affected the life of the Church, the nation and we might even say--the world.

The long hours, the total involvement of yourself in the theatre and the expression of Christian faith have not always been easy, I am sure. But then involvement with the deep issues of life and faith are not cheaply purchased because they are pure gold, which has gone through the "refiner's fire." I sincerely hope that you know and will continue to feel the warmth and depth of the appreciation which we must all have for you.

Do you remember Emily's question in Our Town? "Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it--every, every minute?" And the stage manager's answer, "No--saints and poets maybe--they do some." Maybe we do not "realize life--every minute" but we have discovered some of what it means to live through you. Thank you.

With much love and affection,

Marlin V. W.