Crimson & White Connection

A ministry of prayer and encouragement to "High School, College, & Singles" (& others, too) on Values + Character + Relationships + the Christian Life Resources and some back issues available at www.CrimsonWhite.org

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For a free subscription, update your address, feedback, comments or to submit an article, contact us at:

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Crisis, emergency, or to "just talk about something", call: Your Mom; Your Dad; Your Pastor, or Rich or Marie Dymmel (336/674-7564 or 336/908-3652)

Crimson & White? What's this?

... This letter is part of a ministry primarily to students and singles. It started with college students. Now about 60% of the mailing list are college students, 20% middle and high school, and 10% are age 22 to 30, and we'll just leave ages unsaid for the last 10% since, well, they're old.. Articles are on character, values, spiritual life, relationships and more ... and some fun.

The theology position is "conservative," i.e. Jesus is God's Son, eternal, part of the single triune God, born of a virgin, sinless, crucified and risen, and is the *only* way to eternal life. We are free to choose Him. He has told us to be holy and that includes behaviors such as: sex outside of marriage is wrong.

This letter and post cards are sent about twice a month. We're trying to say that <u>you</u> are <u>important enough</u> for us to put this in your mailbox. We care about you and want to encourage your character growth and your spiritual walk.

A second part of the ministry is prayer. We pray for each person on our mailing list as the mail is prepared. When you get mail from us, you know someone prayed for <u>you</u>.

A college student reader chose the name Crimson and White Connection based on Isaiah 1:18 in the Bible "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." The cleansing of our nature and our sins is a universal need. If you base your trust for entrance into Heaven in Jesus, God's Son, and His death and resurrection on your behalf, then your crimson stains are made white as wool. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. There is no other way. If you admit that you can not reach God's standard, are repentant and sorry for your short fall (sin) and have asked Him to forgive you, then He has forgiven you. If you are truly repentant, then there will be evidence of that in your actions, your life. - - If the "religion police" were to arrest you, would you be turned loose for "lack of evidence"? Or would the evidence of your actions convict you of being a Christian?

If you have chosen to accept Jesus as Lord of your life, either the first time or again, we would like to know so that we can pray for you and encourage you. Write or call us.

You WILL BE and ARE a slave! But you can CHOOSE your master! CHOOSE God today.

John 3:16 is true. Accept no substitute!

July 4, 2007 It was for freedom we were freed.

I was thinking about the 4th of July and freedom and I remembered reading something by Ravi Zacharias and also this passage in Galatians:

It is for freedom that Christ set you free from rules and regulations and "the Law." If you let rules, like how often you attend church or how much you tithe, rule your life, you are a slave to the rules. If you are trying to be justified and aligned with God by obeying the rules, you have alienated yourself from Christ and removed yourself from His grace and forgiveness. The only thing that matters is faith expressing itself through love. (my paraphrase of Galatians 5: 1-6)

It isn't <u>obeying</u> the rules that aligns you with or makes you acceptable to God. That's backwards. It's when you decide to accept God's forgiveness – for whatever you've done, for everything you've ever done, for every thought of your mind and heart, for ignoring His offer of forgiveness – that you'll <u>want</u> to follow His rules.

Following God's "rules" can be viewed two ways. – There is the restriction of freedom view. Ravi Zacharias in his Fall 2000 issue of *Just Thinking*, wrote, "Just in case you think I am stretching a point, the truth slips out from the mind of the skeptic. Aldous Huxley acknowledged it when he wrote his book *Ends and Means*: 'We objected to morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom.'"

A second view is: God's rules don't restrict me, they protect me from consequences.

"But I want to experience the most possible ... I want to escape the limits others put around me ... I want to experience "the other life," a more exciting, fun life, all there is to experience in life." (It's part of the TGIG syndrome - 'the-grass-is-greener.' –"If the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence, you can bet their water bill is higher.")

Stuart McAllister wrote for Slice Of Infinity, 11/27/01 "This desire to escape is also voiced by many searching for "peak" experiences, whether through skydiving or another sexual encounter. Consider, for example, the world of extreme sports: It beckons the participant to take serious risks, conquer danger and pain, and in doing so, find something that is missing in everyday existence. And yet I am reminded of what I have heard my colleague Ravi Zacharias say on occasion. Says Ravi: "The loneliest moment in life is when you've just experienced the ultimate, and it's let you down." Yes, we can go from peak experience to peak experience, but none last, and we are left longing for more."

So what—or who—is big enough to capture this longing?

In Luke 4, Jesus is handed the scroll of Isaiah and he reads: 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim *freedom* for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to *release* the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.' and he says, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus declared that HE is the fulfillment of our need and all that we long for. <u>He releases us from *rules* and sets us *free* to *love*.</u>

Freedom ... isn't in lack of oppression, lack of parental rules, ignoring church "rules," or running free making your own rules. Freedom is in Christ. Let Jesus direct you to true freedom.

In Christ, Rich

Do you have a relationship with God where you know He has accepted you just as you are? If not, and you want that, call me at 336-674-7564. Or call 1-888-NEED-HIM. – With God, even if you have gone the opposite direction, you have never gone too far to turn around.

Galations 5:1-6 (New Century Version)

From the mailbox (Letters may be slightly edited. We also remove some personal content and identifying stuff. We won't blab your name or email address.) Your letters and notes encourage us, too. *Rich*

This from Jordana in Sweden:

"When we don't look for God as our true life, our desire for him spills over into our other desires, giving them an ultimacy and urgency they were never intended to bear. We become desperate, grasping and arranging and worrying over all kinds of things, and once we get them, they end up ruling us. It's the difference between wants and needs. All we truly need is God." ~ John Eldredge in Journey of Desire

Subject: prayer request

Date: 6/12/2007

mk 9@ .com

p.s. Rich, your devotionals on light have really helped. Thanks!

From:

If you have not seen this....please take the time to look at it. It is so moving!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8M4 IlbaZHA

judy

http://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=8M4_IlbaZHA&mode=related&search=

Subject: C&WC Date: 6/15/2007 From: emily @ .com Dr Dymmel,

I received your request for my change of address. I am letting you know that I would like to keep receiving the C&WC, however, I would like to get the email version instead of the snail mail one. This way you can save your paper and I can have a reason to check my email every month! This is the email address you can send them too.

I have graduated and will be moving to Raleigh in July.

Thank you for all of the encouraging and wonderful C&WC you have sent me over the past 4 years. I looked forward to checking my campus box and seeing one in there every month.

I hope this email finds you and your wife doing well and enjoying summer! Thank you again!

My prayers are with you for another successful and uplifting year of the C&WC,

Emily ...

¹We have freedom now, because Christ made us free. So stand strong. Do not change and go back into the slavery of the law. ²Listen, I Paul tell you that if you go back to the law by being circumcised, Christ does you no good. ³Again, I warn every man: If you allow yourselves to be circumcised, you must follow all the law. ⁴If you try to be made right with God through the law, your life with Christ is over—you have left God's grace. ⁵But we have the true hope that comes from being made right with God, and by the Spirit we wait eagerly for this hope. ⁶When we are in Christ Jesus, it is not important if we are circumcised or not. The important thing is faith—the kind of faith that works through love.

New Living Translation:

1So Christ has really set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

²Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: If you are counting on circumcision to make you right with God, then Christ cannot help you.

New International Version:

¹It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. ²Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all.

The Message:

¹Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

²I am emphatic about this. The moment any one of you submits to circumcision or any other rule-keeping system, at that same moment Christ's hard-won gift of freedom is squandered. ... ⁴I suspect you would never intend this, but this is what happens. When you attempt to live by your own religious plans and projects, you are cut off from Christ, you fall out of grace.

ATTENTION ALL MEN! (And they need gals to help at the conferences, too. I plan to be at the Columbia, SC conference at the volunteer registration table.)

Coach Bill McCartney—the Founder of

Promise Keepers— McCartney was the head football coach at the University of Colorado who turned around their program and led them to win the AP National Championship. He retired in 1995 to spend more time with his family and pursue a closer relationship with God. Since his retirement he has founded Promise Keepers among many other Christian endeavors. He has a heart for men and a passion for Christ.

PK does weekend conferences for <u>men</u> with fantastic speakers. When I checked, 6/4/07, this is the still coming conference list for 2007 posted at www.promisekeepers.org

I am attending the SC conference and will probably be at the volunteer registration table. - A lot of gals are needed as volunteers to pull off the conference. You can register to attend, or register as a volunteer at the PK web site.

July 13-14	San Antonio, TX
July 20-21	Nashville, TN
July 27-28	Orlando, FL
August 3-4	Columbia, SC
August 17-18	Cincinnati, OH
August 24-25	Fresno, CA

Promise Keepers

~~ Did you see this on TV or online? ~~ Classic 1957 Car Unearthed in Oklahoma Plymouth Belvedere Buried 50 Years Ago

TULSA, Okla. (June 16[, 2007]) - A concrete vault encasing a 1957 Plymouth Belvedere buried a half-century ago may have been built to withstand a nuclear attack but it couldn't beat back the natural onslaught of moisture.

(You can find the whole article and pictures at: http://news.aol.com/topnews/ articles/_a/classic-1957-carunearthed-in-oklahoma/ 20070615154009990001?ncid= NWS000 1000000001) What a MESS!

The objective, the plan, 50 years ago, was to create a "time capsule" for the future. 50 years ahead, they would uncover and reveal what had been stored. They put newspapers, photos, all kinds



of stuff in the car. Then wrapped it and lowered it into a vault that was to protect and preserve it. When it would be uncovered, someone would be selected to win this pristine, brand new 1957 Plymouth Belvedere. The winner was the person who had made the closest prediction of the population of Tulsa for 2007. The predictions and most of the "time capsule" was in a sealed box in the trunk of the car. It survived the 50 years well. Most of the rest did not.

"The contents of a "typical" woman's handbag, including 14 bobby pins, lipstick and a bottle of tranquilizers, were supposed to be in the glove box, but all that was found looked like a lump of rotted leather."

This article spawned two main ideas in my head.

* First... partly maybe because of my prior business being involved with cemeteries and funeral directors and all that, I thought about the vault in which the car was burried. - In a cemetery, caskets are now burried in a concrete vault. This prevents the casket and contents from rotting and colapsing. That is the cause of walking through old cemeteries and the ground being so uneven. - The second reason for the vault is that people don't <u>want to</u> think about their loved one being in the dirt and becoming part of the dirt. Yech.

SO... If I was the manufacturer of the vault and it had leaked this badly ... well, it just wouldn't be good for their reputation as a vault manufacturer if they were in the cemetery vault business. And even whatever business they were in, whatever kind of construction, this sure wouldn't be something I would want my name associated with. The *quality* just was *not* there.

* The second thought I had about this news story has to do with planning. ...

When we start down a path, we may plan that nothing nasty will happen. But even if we "take precautions," we're "safe," we just can't see the future and can't see where this is going to go.

These people, in 1957, thought they took lots of protective precautionary steps and plans. But the car and most of it's contents turned into a real *mess*. From the rest of the pictures, this car is <u>such</u> a mess and deteriorated, that, even though I think having a 1957 Plymouth might be cool ... Last weekend there was a gathering / show of probably 50 cars, hot rods, and classics like a '50 Lincoln, '57 Chevys, '70's Road Runners and Chargers, '60's GTO's, and a big beautiful red '67 Chevy Caprice convertible with white leather interior. (Marie did agree that it *might* be a fun car to own and ... well, she did agree that far.) Now these cars were pretty much mostly all spiffy and shinny and restored or a few just maintained in their original condition,

or some dressed up *better* than when they were new. ... Anyway, back on track... if you were to offer to GIVE me that car from the vault, I wouldn't want it.

LIFE and the choices we make CAN be like this car story. We make a plan to do something that might have a potential for unwanted consequences or put ourselves in an environment/situation that potentially could do damage. But we decide to "protect" ourself, or maybe say, "I'll only participate 'a little bit;' a little bit won't hurt." Maybe, "I like

to 'party' with my friends. I only drink a little." ... I just finished reading *Wake Up and Smell The Pizza* (Todd & Jedd Hafer, 2005, ISBN: 0-7642-0033-X). Good read. My kind of book - 40 short topics, no one section longer than 4 pages - I'm sure I'm ADHD. Here's what they say about parties (p.157-158):

We had all these great ideas for this chapter about partying. We were going to be philosophical and balanced and take a position that was reasonable-but still made us look cool. Our basic theme was going to be something like "Party Smart" or "Go Ahead and Party, but Keep These Guidelines in Mind."

Then Jenna Cooper changed our minds, without saying a word. Actually, Jenna <u>can't</u> say a word because she

died during the writing of this book. She was a beautiful, well-liked college student and soccer star. She was at a party when an argument broke out. She had nothing to do with the dispute, but, as it turns out, alcohol-fueled hotheads aren't the best shots. She was hit by a stray bullet and killed.

Wondering what the disagreement was about? Hoping that, at the very least, Jenna died as the result of an honorable dispute? Try this: Two partygoers were arguing about the whereabouts of some shot glasses. Just the kind of vital argument that is best solved by gunplay.

Reading about Jenna brought to mind other infamous parties we know of, parties that some of our friends attended. At two of them, girls were gang-raped. At another, a friend of ours overdosed and had to be held down by a half-dozen guys to keep him from killing himself or someone else. Then there was the time a guy was almost beaten to death

So much for being philosophical and balanced. Sorry, but we have to take the hard line on the party line. We can't think of <u>any</u> good reason for you to attend a party where alcohol, drugs, and/ or guns are present. ...

We know the possible arguments: "I'll go, but I won't do any of that wild stuff." "I need to be there to keep my friends out of trouble." "I can set a good example by not doing drugs or drinking." We used these lines too. But here's what we learned.

First, if you're at a party or a rave where people get busted doing. meth, Ecstasy, or whatever, you will be one of dozens of people who "weren't doing anything." Your excuse might be legit, but to a lot of people in authority it will sound like just one more half-baked excuse from just one more half-baked partier.

Second, if you're not going to the party to <u>party</u>, what's the point?

That's kind of like going to the gym to watch the other people work out, or going to the All-You-Can-Eat Buffet to watch the other people eat.

The Bible says to FLEE situations. Try 2 Timothy 2:22, 1 Cor 10:14, 1 Cor 6:18

Dabble a little... I say, "It will take you farther than you intended to go, keep you longer than you intended to stay, and cost you more than you intended to pay." The *only* way to be "safe" is to stay away from danger.

Subject: Julie's News from the Battlefield: Injustice 7/3/2007 8:18:13 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time Date: From: julieafricanews@gmail.com, mercies@aol.com To: RDymmel@AOL.com

Injustice.

Some days in Mozambique I am hit with the harsh reality of life a child I love deeply. Four months ago, at age 14, Shilo was sent orphanage I am helping to open in the north of Mozambique. away from the orphanage he'd been in for nine years. He was sent However, the government is now not allowing children to move to live with his father who he'd hardly seen during this time. Shilo from one province to another, and Shilo is caught in the middle. had arrived at the orphanage at age five when his mother died.

I visited Shilo in his home today. The first thing I noticed was his black eye and the cut beginning to scar his face. Shilo said a boy hit him because he wouldn't give him his water. (Everyone pays for water, even if it is just from a well.) The second thing Inoticed raising themselves. They are receiving food almost every day, was how sad he looked. The last time I saw Shilo, he could not stop talking to me. He told me about who liked who and all of the happenings of life in the orphanage. Leould hardly get a word in. Today Shilo was quiet; I did most of the talking.

When I asked Shilo where his father was, he said, "He is living old brother) are living by ourselves in our father's house. Almost

every day we visit our dad and he gives us 10 metacai (the equivalent of 50 cents) for food for both of us for the day. We eat erode away. mostly shema (ground corn) and tomatoes. We can't afford beans. Nete or I cook.

I then asked, "Why don't you stay in the same house with your dad? Is there enough space?"

Shilo responded, "I don't know. There is enough space. He wants (Micah 6:8). What is justice and mercy for Shilo? It is giving him a me to go back to the orphanage."

Although this broke my heart, I told Shilo, "I am so proud of you for fighting. I know it must have been very hard to leave all your friends, your school, your church, and your home. But I am so proud of how you are doing so well taking care of yourself."

I then noticed tears in Shilo's eyes. I told him, "Things are going to get better. I am going to fight with you. We are going to pray that Jesus will open the doors that you are to walk through and that you might have peace and joy. I am going to pray that you would know that Jesus is walking with you and that you are not alone."

I then shared my favorite verse with Shilo, Isaiah 41:9-10. He then showed me his Bible. He had written on the front page, "Julie, Sumate, and Deus (God)."

As I read this my mind flashed back to 3 years prior: "We're disciples", 11 year-old Shilo sung smiling as he followed me with seven other children as I did medical rounds in the different orphanage childrens' dorms. I had taught them that day about Jesus' disciples and our call to walk as disciples of Jesus.

I may be the only mother Shilo remembers. I thought of all of the times he sat outside my door waiting for me to come out and all the stories I'd read to him and all the pages he'd colored. I remembered how this past year he sat with me and prayed for hours when we found out my sister was in critical condition after a car accident in America.

here. Perhaps the hits would not be so painful if they didn't affect Over the last year I have fought for Shilo to live with me in the new Although Shilo clung to me, telling me he wants to live with me, he hasn't been allowed. Since Shilo has a living father, I am told adoption is not possible.

> So, 14 year-old Shilo and his 16 year-old brother Tene are now which is better than many Mozambicans, however, they are not eating any protein or fresh fruits and vegetables. They are not attending church and receive little love.

In the states we are careful about what school our children will attend, what they are eating, how much television they watch. I with his girlfriend. They don¹t live close by. Me and Tene (16 year-cannot even make sure this child I love receives a kiss good-night. No one was even there to hold him when he got his black eye. I am standing by watching as his sense of safety, security, and trust

> This injustice makes me so angry. A soft-hearted child thrust into a very harsh world...I can't help but think this begs the question, what is the life of a child worth?

> The Lord says he requires for us to act justly and to love mercy place where he can receive safety, hope, love, and have the childhood the Lord meant for him to have.

I don't know what this will look like or what it will cost, but I am going to fight for justice and mercy for Shilo and Tene. There are no easy answers for poverty and broken homes. But I know Proverbs instructs us, "Speak up for those who can't speak for themselves. Defend the rights of the poor and needy." I know it is actually the Lord who is the defender of the fatherless, and I trust in Him.

Thank you for all of your love and support. Please pray with me for the Lord to open doors of hope for Shilo and Tene. (names are changed for childrens' privacy.)

Love.

Julie

Shelter from the storm and security in Jesus for the children who live with us in Our Father's House . . . Worshipping Jesus and playing with legos!



Email: I love to receive emails and can be contacted at mercies@aol.com

Phone: My number in Mozambique is 011-258-825-389-336. you can call Mozambique from the U.S.A. cheaply using a net2phone phone card, a Sam's Club card, or the computer program SKYPE. Just keep in mind I am seven hours ahead of you! Of course I'd love to hear your voice and hear how you are doing!

Mail/Packages: Mailings to Mozambique are not secure and can take one to four months. My mailing address in Mozambique is: Julie Malacusky, Iris Ministries, P.O. Box 275, Pemba, Cabo Delgado, Mozambique. Mail sent to South Africa is more secure but will take even longer for us to receive in most cases. This address is: Julie Malacusky, Iris Ministries, P.O. Box 20017 West Acres 1211, Nelspruit, South Africa.

Prayer support: Our lifeline is prayer support. If you would like to be a part of our regular prayer support, please email Michele at <u>motherof5cherubs@fredlaverycompany.com</u> so that you can specify a certain time to commit to prayer, or just receive our monthly prayer calendar.

Tax-deductible donations: Please send to Connie Malacusky, 12920 110th Avenue, Evart, MI 49631 Checks are payable to WME (World Missions and Evangelism)

"Don't Tell Me How to Live!"

by Stuart McAllister 12/12/01

Forbes magazine once posed the question "If things are so good why do we think they are so bad?" The subject "we" referred to Americans, yet the writers addressed Western culture in general as well. One contributor, historian Gertrude Himmelfarb, responded in short, "We think [things] are bad because they are bad"

Wrote Himmelfarb, "While it is generally assumed that moral progress goes hand in hand with material progress, this assumption is rarely made explicit, because moral concepts, still moral judgments, are understood to be somehow undemocratic and unseemly. We pride ourselves on being liberated from such retrograde Victorian notions."

We encounter her critique again in her book *On Looking into the Abyss: Untimely Thoughts on Culture and Society.* Here we are reintroduced to John Stuart Mill's classic text "On Liberty," which was published in 1859. Two ideas govern Mill's thought and continue to influence our thinking today. See if they sound familiar: First, said Mill, each individual's independence is absolute. And second, human beings are essentially good.

Let's consider today his first assumption. Mill said there was "one very simple principle" in which society may interfere with the rights of an individual. He wrote, "The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not a sufficient warrant.... His independence is, of right, absolute. Over himself, over his own body and mind, the individual is sovereign." Or, in contemporary lingo: "Who are you to tell me what I can't do?"

Now perhaps to our modern minds, Mill's declaration does not appear extraordinary or even wrongheaded. However, his argument was unprecedented in his time. He disregarded the writings of Milton, Locke, Jefferson and his contemporary Alexis de Tocqueville, none of whom characterized the freedom of the individual as nearly absolute. Indeed, Tocqueville wrote that "liberty cannot be established without morality, nor morality without faith."

Perhaps you agree with Mill that each individual is the measure of [their own] right and wrong, and that moral expectations—whether from church or neighbor—are mere opinions or even infringements upon your rights. Yet isn't it odd when we find ourselves offended by someone else exercising their liberty? Why should we care whether they cheat or lie if their actions don't cause harm to us? Furthermore, how can we say that they're wrong to lie, because aren't we judging them by our standard and not their own? Haven't we actually set ourselves a trap? John Stuart Mill even falls prey to this trap of relativism. He said, "Mankind are greater gainers by suffering each other to live as seems good to themselves, than by compelling each to live as seems good to the rest." In effect, Mill declares, "Don't tell me how to live!"—yet he then spends sixty pages compelling us to live in accordance with his ideas!

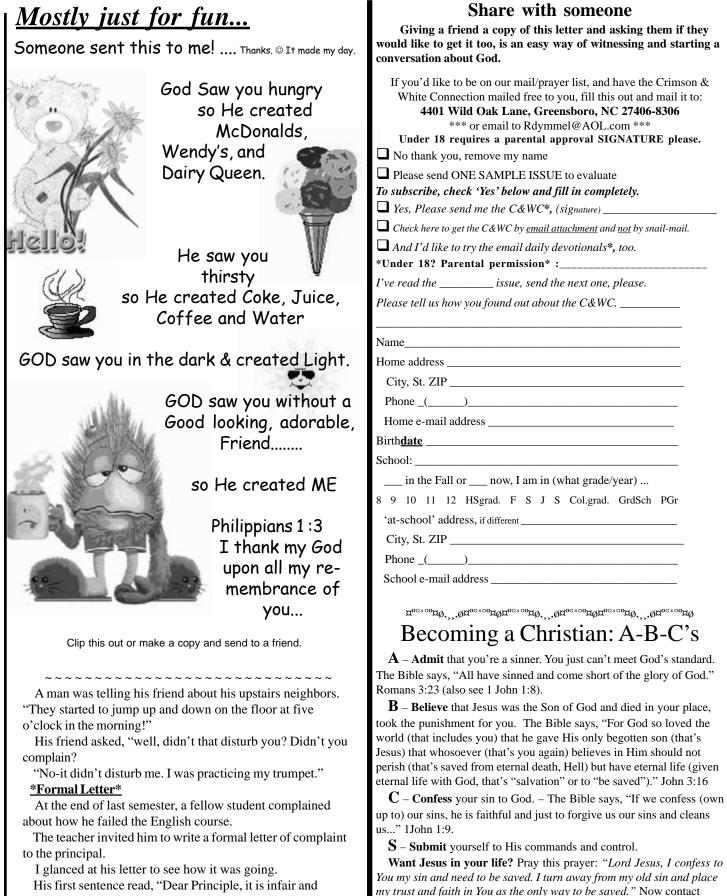
Perhaps we need to rethink this whole idea of relativism and the absolute liberty of the individual.

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God's rules don't restrict me, they protect me from consequences.

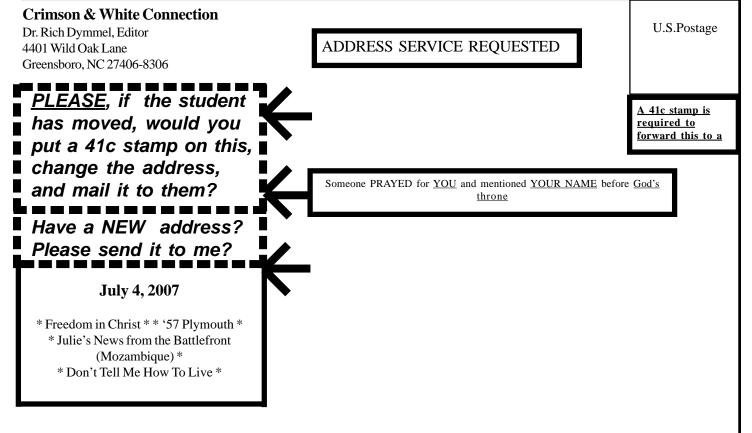
"The loneliest moment in life is when you've just experienced the ultimate, and it's let you down."

Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, my friend, Anyone can start from now and make a brand new end.



unposible that I faled english."

your pastor, or contact us at 1-336-674-7564, or call 1-888-NEED-HIM, and say, "*I just asked Jesus to be my Lord.*"



A publication so dangerous it now comes with it's own warning label.

WARNING

Do not read the Crimson & White Connection unless you want your HEART ENCOURAGED and your MIND CHALLENGED and your SPIRIT PRODDED

Yes! This is a subversive, challenging, counterculture publication. That's what Christianity is - a counter-culture. This should have a warning label.

Salvation is free... but not until you ask for it. "When you love Jesus, you don't care how they get there, just so they get to come and meet Jesus."

"Jesus never leaves us quite the way he finds us."