

Crimson & White Connection

A ministry of prayer and encouragement to "High School, College, & Singles" (& others, too)
Values & Character + Spiritual Life + Relationships + Fun stuff

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 For a free subscription, update your address, feedback, comments or to submit an article, contact us at:
 4401 Wild Oak Lane, Greensboro, NC 27406-8306
 Ph.: 336-674-7564; e-mail: RDymmel@AOL.com
 Editor: Dr. Rich Dymmel

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 50% of the mailing list is students, middle and high school and college, and 25% are age 22 to 30, and we'll just leave ages unsaid for the last 25% 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.

Our goal is mail in your mail box about 15 times a year. We're trying to say that you are important enough for us to put this in your mailbox. We care about you and want to encourage your character growth and your spiritual walk. We also distribute a daily email devotional.

Another part of the ministry is prayer. We pray for those on our mailing list as the mail is prepared. When you get mail from us, you know someone prayed for you.

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

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 substi-



The Rebel Bugle....

December 15, 2008

Merry Christmas

Whichever masthead you're familiar with, "Crimson & White Connection," or "The Rebel Bugle," which has been our family Christmas card since 1985, ...

*We wish you a most joyous Christmas Holiday,
 and the Peace and Joy of the King of Kings*

Rich & Marie Dymmel

Where will you

W  rship

for Christmas?

(c) Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D..

I am writing today after getting home from a December wedding. Oh it was a breathtakingly magnificent church. Tall, narrow, long. Stone, walls and arches rising to about 70 feet to wood beams straddling between the walls; and a pipe organ; and gorgeous stained glass windows maybe 10' wide and 40-50' high.

Chandeliers hung from the towering ceiling. Reminiscent of a medieval castle somehow.

Or maybe your church more "contemporary" of the 1950's. Or modern of the 1990's and "functional? I'm not quite sure how else to simply describe these styles.

Or I know there are churches that meet in the Elks Club, or a school. And there are those that rent space in shopping malls. One I know bought an entire mall and converted it to their church.

It doesn't matter where you worship. What matters is (1) what and who you worship and (2) that you are worshipping.



When Jesus met the Samaritan woman, she diverted Him to talk about where they should worship. He answered her (John 4:21-24, NKJV) 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22... 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

See? It's that we worship God the Father, in truth and spirit. It's from within that we worship. That's not to discount going to "church." But our worship is a constant, all the time, with everything we do.

So at Christmas, going to church should not be something we do special now. And Christmas isn't just a time to think about a baby in a stable. Christmas was created as a reminder, a time to remind us to remember, to think about God sending us Jesus as a gift, a gift that would be perfect enough to pay for all the sins of mine, yours, everybody's. God used Jesus coming to show us how to connect with God's reaching down to lift us up.

What more fitting time of the year, if you have not given God the gift of yourself, now, at Christmas, when we celebrate God giving us the gift of Jesus, now would be a good time to make the decision to give yourself to God and let Him in.

In Christ. Rich

Christmas Free behind bars

On this day called Christmas
I sit behind the bars.
I once thought that no one cared
But now I thank my "lucky stars."

So now when life becomes unbearable
And much harder than it may
I praise my Jesus, my Lord,
Who was born on this day.

So if one who is in prison
Can be free to share His grace,
How wonderful t'will be
To see His glorious face.

So I praise The Lord and God above
For all He did for me.
He was born as a man with love
To save a wretch like me.

Douglas Dymmel

Florence Crane Correctional Facility
Coldwater, Michigan
Dec. 7, 2008



Because
He was **b**orn,
there is **h**ope.
Because **H**e was **b**orn,
there is **L**ove. **B**ecause **H**e
was **b**orn, there is **j**oy. **M**ay
you seek **H**im and **k**now **H**im **t**his
Christmas.
Luke 2:10-11

from Jordana Hart, Hickory, NC, 1999
a student at Gardner-Webb Univ., Boiling Springs, NC



Wise men still seek Him.

T'was The Night Before Finals

http://www.marklowry.com/funnies/more_funnies.html

Mark Lowry's web site. Mark is part of the Bill Gaither Vocal Band

T'was the night before finals,
And all through the college,
The students were praying
For last minute knowledge.

Most were quite sleepy,
But none touched their beds,
While visions of essays
Danced in their heads

Out in the taverns,
A few were still drinking,
And hoping that liquor
Would free up their thinking.

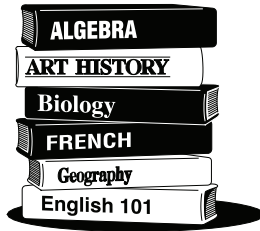
In my own room,
I had been pacing,
And dreading exams
I soon would be facing.

My roommate was speechless,
Her nose in her books,
And my comments to her
Drew unfriendly looks.

I drained all the coffee,
And brewed a new pot,
No longer caring that
My nerves were shot.

I stared at my notes,
But my thoughts were muddy,
My eyes went abur,
I just couldn't study.

“Some pizza might help,”
I said with a shiver,
But each place I called
Refused to deliver.



I'd nearly concluded
That life was too cruel,
With futures depending
On grades had in school.

When all of a sudden,
Our door opened wide,
And Patron Saint Put It Off
Ambled inside.

His spirit was careless,
His manner was mellow,
All of a sudden,
He started to bellow.

“On Cliff Notes, on Crib Notes
On Last Year Exams.
On Wingit and Slingit
And Last Minute Crams.”

His message delivered
He vanished from sight.
But we heard him laughing
Outside in the night.

Your teachers have pegged you
So just do your best.
Happy Finals to All
And to all a Good Test.

—Anonymous

Especially for the “students” ... at the end of the semester.

The Oldest Profession

forwarded from Ken Tucker

There was a doctor, a civil engineer, and a computer scientist sitting around late one evening, and they got to discussing which was the oldest profession.

The doctor pointed out that according to Biblical tradition, God created Eve from Adam's rib. This obviously required surgery, so therefore that was the oldest profession in the world.

The engineer countered with an earlier passage in the Bible that stated that God created order from chaos, and that was most certainly the biggest and best civil engineering example ever, and also proved that his profession was the oldest profession.

The computer scientist leaned back in her chair, and with a sly smile responded, "Yes, but who do you think created the chaos?"

When you get something forwarded on the net, well, it's accuracy may be in doubt. So I did some research at the San Diego Zoo and their reindeer exhibit. Part of what I found is included at the end. - Rich.



REMEMBER THIS AT
CHRISTMAS TIME

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring.

Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

We should've known... **ONLY** women would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and **NOT GET LOST!**

http://www.sandiegozoo.org/kids/animal_reindeer.html
San Diego Zoo site

Zoo Name: Tundra
Species: Siberian Reindeer
Reindeer Games

.... Both male and female reindeer grow antlers, and drop them at different times of the year. And since females have their rack of antlers in winter, to help protect food sources and unborn calves against the males... Yep, you guessed it! Santa's reindeer are females!

Christmas Carols for the Psychiatrically Challenged

DEMENTIA - I Think I'll Be Home For Christmas.

NARCISSISTIC - Hark The Herald Angels Sing (About Me)

MANIA - Deck the Halls and Walls and House and Lawn and

Streets and Stores and Office and Town ...or Deck the Halls and Spare
No Expense!

PARANOIA - Santa Claus is Coming To Get Me.

PERSONALITY DISORDER - You Better Watch Out, I'm Gonna Cry, I'm Gonna out, then MAYBE I'll tell you why.

DEPRESSION - Silent anhedonia, Holy anhedonia. All is calm, All is pretty lonely.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE - Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell
Rock, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell Rock, Jingle Bell, Jingle
Bell, Jingle Bell Rock, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell Rock,
Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell Rock, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell,
Jingle Bell Rock, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell Rock, Jingle
Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell Rock, Jingle Bell...

BORDERLINE PERSONALITY - Thoughts of Roasting in an Open Fire.

PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE - On the First Day of Christmas My True Love Gave to Me (and then took it all away).

SCHIZOPHRENIA - Do You Hear What I Hear?

The Famous Joke of the Day One Liner!

Those who dance are considered insane by those who can't hear the music. — George Carlin **[Do you hear the music of Christmas? The *real* music?]**

A Christmas parable

From: Ken@_____ (Ken Tucker) 12/13/1999

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty."

Then the second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull."

Finally the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me."

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, "This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter" ... and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree a woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree, I should be able to sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship. When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true.

One of the woodsmen said, "I don't need anything special from my tree so I'll take this one," and he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled

with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for. The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end.

The third tree was cut into large pieces and left alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams. Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and he stood and said "Peace. Be still." and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, He will give you great gifts. Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined. We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.

Stranger

We were at a mall in Raleigh with Lauren. There was a group of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders from Lee's Christian School singing selections from their Christmas CD. Lauren sat on the floor with Marie. The next song was "Stranger In The Manger." She turns to her Gramma and says, "That isn't a stranger in the manger. It's Jesus." ...She knew. Lauren was 3 1/2. (Dec. 03)



*Don't be too critical of the inn keeper
for not having room for Jesus if you
don't have room for Him either.*

Kartoon Knuggets used with permission



Kartoon Knuggets

www.christiancartoons.com/kartoons

Unto us a child is born...



Unto us a Son is given!

knechtoon@sidestream.com

© 2001 Troy Knechtel

A personal note from Rich & Marie

We have another addition to the family. Caleb was added to the "East Coast Dymmels" (Matthew, Jessica, Lauren, Gabe, and Caleb) on April 25th of 2007, Gabe's 3rd birthday. Caleb celebrated his 1st birthday on Gabe's 4th birthday. And while that was taking place, the "West Coast Dymmels" (Tim, Kristen, and Nicole) welcomed Natalie to join her big sister Nicole in the San Francisco Bay area. She makes grandchild #5 for us, but only 3 birthday's to remember since 3 are April 25th!

We flew out to California and were there for the week before Father's Day to visit. Nicole and Natalie were dedicated on Father's Day at church. The second week in Calif., we were to spend three days seeing sights in San Francisco. After church that Sunday, in the parking lot, Marie fell in the parking lot and broke her leg! We did SFC, but with Marie in a wheel chair. - There were a few advantages... she didn't get tired walking, when we went places like the bay cruise they took her right to the front of the line for special attention and fast access to the boat. ... But all things considered, she'd have preferred not to have had a broken leg.

When the girls were being dedicated in CA, Lauren was being baptized in NC. (We missed that.) Right after that, Gabe started asking to be baptized. He understands it's telling people he has Jesus in his heart. So he was baptized in September. Their church meets in the Elks Lodge now (used to rent space at a school), and they baptize in the ocean at a campground/park. They baptized 15 that Sunday afternoon.

We spent Thanksgiving at the Atlantic coast for the day with the kids there. Christmas, that part of the family is retreating to play in the snow in the North Carolina mountains. We'll see them for a 2 day stopover in-route. Then we'll fly to California for 6 days to spend time with that branch of the family.

Marie is still supervising at the hospital. Rich is still teaching in a private Christian high school teaching a combination of math classes and computer classes.

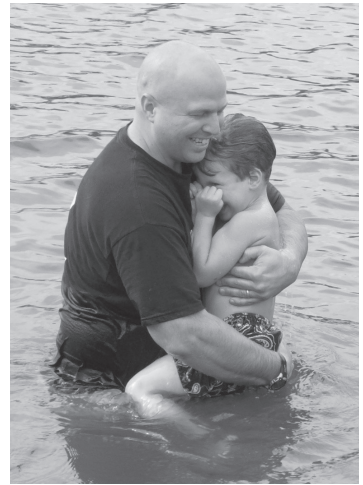
That's all our news. So A special Christmas blessing to you all.

Love all ya'll (that's plural),

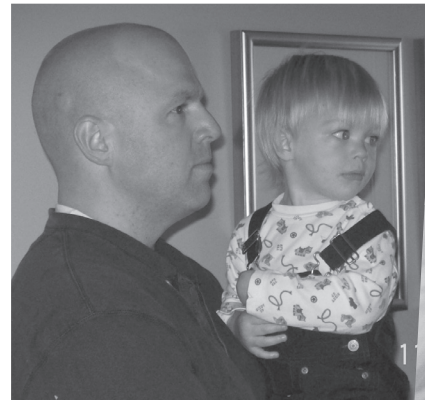
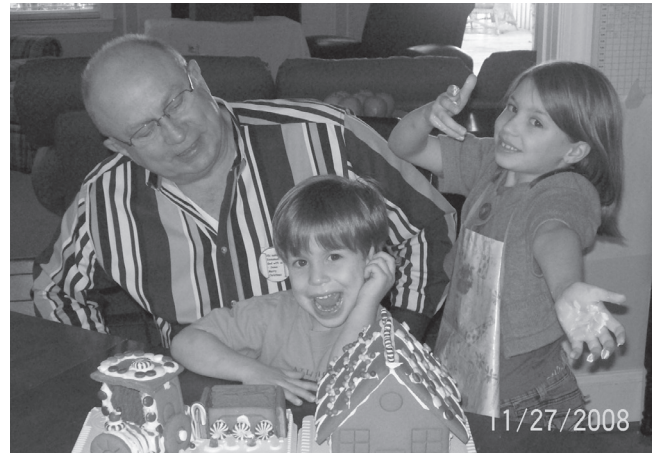
Rich & Marie

Photo Gallery ...

Matt baptized Gabriel
Sept. 21.

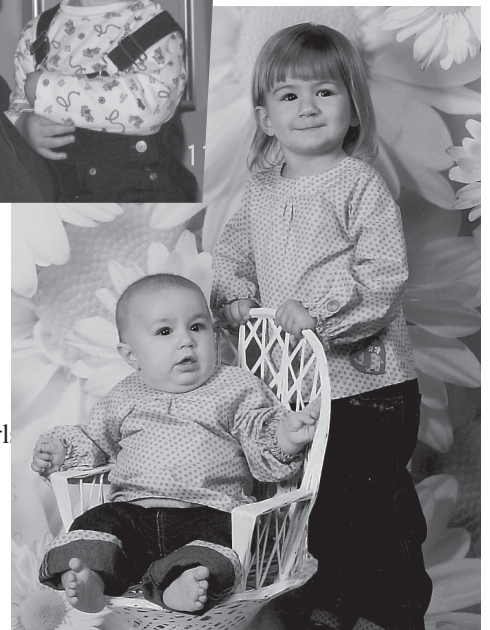


Thanksgiving... Grampa (Rich), Gabe, & Lauren made a gingerbread house and a train



Matt & Caleb
(Thanksgiving)...

Nicole &
Natalie
(Our "California girl")



From www.cvc.org/christmas/index.

Central Valley Christian School, Visalia, California

The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas and Epiphany (January 6th), which is when the three wise men supposedly arrived on the scene. It is NOT the twelve days before Christmas as many erroneously believe.

The tradition of giving a gift on each of the twelve days is pretty much gone. However, in some families, the tradition of giving Christmas gifts on each of those twelve days persists.

Most people know of The Twelve Days of Christmas from the song of that name.

ORIGIN OF "THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS"

An Underground Catechism

Most folks, I believe, are familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas". If you listen to the words carefully, it seems like nonsense set to rhyme and music. However, it was written with a serious purpose.

It is more than just a list of twelve silly gifts. Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829 were prohibited by law to practice their faith either in public or private. It was illegal to be Catholic. [Note: Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England in 1829.]

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the basics of their faith. In short, it was a memory aid. Since the song sounded like rhyming nonsense, young Catholics could sing the song without fear of imprisonment. The authorities would not know that it was a religious song. Actually, the catechism to which it referred was rather ecumenical so could probably be claimed to be protestant if cornered.

The song's gifts had hidden meanings to the teachings of the Catholic faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, but it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. i.e. the church. The partridge in a pear tree is Christ Jesus, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

Here is a complete list of the 12 symbols with their meanings*:

- 1 Partridge in a pear tree = The One true God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ
- 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity
- 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch" which contain the law condemning us of our sins.
- 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments of the Catholic faith
- 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

*original source of symbol meaning: an article from *Catholic Information Network* that we discovered in 1995 by Fr. Hal Stockert of Fishnet. We then discovered some other resources that backed-up this article.

A Christmas Poem

-David Keen (12/21/1990)



My little girl asked just the other day,
Daddy, will baby Jesus be on the sleigh?

Well, I knew this question, it came from the heart.

We had to talk, but where should I start?

Daddy, on that first Christmas Day,

Did Santa Clause put baby Jesus on the hay?

I paused, I thought, and pondered a while.

What do I say to this confused child?

Well, little girl, to you Santa is real and that's okay,
But Santa Clause wasn't there that first Christmas Day!

God sent baby Jesus to that manger stall.

A special gift of love to one and all.

To every girl and boy that's done good deeds
Santa brings toys they want and things they need.

Daddy, children need Jesus and adults do too.

Now that's a statement I know is true.

Christmas is Jesus' Birthday all over the world

Thanks for reminding me, my little girl.

Baby Jesus will be at my house on Christmas Day.

But I know he will not come on a sleigh.

[Visit KingdomNet at WWW.KINGDOMNET.COM]

[Also visit www.godtoday.com/christmascollection.htm for more Christmas stories, poems, etc.]

www.cstone.net/~bry-back/holidayfun/hannukah.html and www.everythingjewish.com/Hanukah/origins.htm

Do you know what Hanukah celebrates?



[Since Jesus was a Jew, my guess is that he celebrated Hanukah. We're told to pass our heritage and our faith on to our children by retelling the stories, by writing it on our doorposts and gates. See Deuteronomy chapters 6 and 11.]

The origins of Hanukah or the Festival of Lights are an event that happened 200 years before the birth of Christ. A king named Antiochus attempted to have all Jewish persons under his reign to follow the Greek religion. For all its beauty and accomplishments, especially in the fields of athletics, theater and philosophy, Hellenism had a dark side. In ancient Greece, behavior that is today considered deviant, such as infanticide, pedophilia, adultery and institutionalized prostitution, were routine and even encouraged. To Jews, who valued the Torah and purity of family life, these aspects of Hellenistic culture was incompatible with their own.

Under the leadership of Judah Maccabee, there was a rebellion.

After three years of fighting, the Maccabees drove the Greek soldiers away. The Maccabees wanted to rededicate the temple, but were only able to find enough oil for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted eight days; long enough to make new oil.

An important part of the Hanukah celebration is the menorah. This is a candleholder with eight candles and a shammash or servant candle. One candle is lit by the shammash for each of the night of Hanukah.

After the lighting of the candles, people give gifts to one another. People sing and make merry. A popular food for Hanukah is potato pancakes, or latkes, cooked in oil in honor of the miracle.

Children enjoy playing the dreidel game. This is a top game played with nuts or gold-covered chocolate coins. There are four letters of the top which stand for nun, gimme, hay, and shin and give the directions for what to give or take during the game. The letters also stand for "nes gadol hayah sham" or "a great miracle happened there."

Crimson & White Connection

Dr. Rich Dymmel, Editor
4401 Wild Oak Lane
Greensboro, NC 27406-8306

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Dec. 15, 2008 Christmas

Where will you worship?

Free Behind Bars

Origin of 12 Days of Christmas

Christmas Fun

Christmas Parable

After Christmas, Besides Christmas

Someone PRAYED for YOU and mentioned YOUR NAME before God's throne
as this was prepared for mailing. God bless and watch over you today.

**You can't be good enough to deserve
heaven. And you can't be bad enough
to be beyond God's forgiveness.**

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, counter-
culture publication. That's what Christianity is - a
counter-culture. This should have a warning label.



Cartoon Knuggets

www.christiancartoons.com/kartoons



Lift HIS name on high! Psalm 7:17

© 1999
Trey Knechtel

knechtel@sidestream.com

You are cordially invited to

A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!!

Guest of Honor: Jesus Christ

Date: Every day. Traditionally, December 25

but He's always around, so the date is flexible....

Time: Whenever you're ready.

(Please don't be late, though, or you'll miss out on all the fun!)

Place: In your heart.... He'll meet you there.

(You'll hear Him knock.)

Attire: Come as you are... grubbies are okay.

He'll be washing our clothes anyway. He said something about new white robes
and crowns for everyone who stays till the last.

Tickets: Admission is free.

He's already paid for everyone... He says you wouldn't have been able to afford it
anyway... it cost Him everything He had. But you do need to accept the ticket!!

Gift Suggestions: Your life.

He's one of those people who already has everything else.
(He's very generous in return though. Just wait 'til you see what He has for you!)

**Entertainment: Joy, Peace, Truth,
Light, Life, Love, Real Happiness,
Communion with God, Forgiveness, Miracles, Healing, Power, Eternity
in Paradise, Contentment, and much more!**

For those of you whom I will see at the party, share this with someone today.