

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 old back issues available at www.CrimsonWhite.org

To subscribe, FREE, and get several issues of the Crimson & White Connection all year long, contact us at RDymmel@aol.com or at 4401 Wild Oak Ln, Greensboro NC 27406 U.S.A. (The C&WC goes by email across 18 time zones from Australia to Sweden. And 1/3 of printed copies go into prisons)

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

Crimson & White? What's this?

It started with 37 college students. in 1998. Now, in the 26th year of issues, less than 10% of the mailing list are "students" ages 14 to 24. About 40% are ... we'll just say "over 30" in the database, including several 80+ers. About 1/3 of our over ~900 print copies go into prisons in 24 states (9/1/21 count), a direction we never expected this to go. But "the spiritual life," and values are not age or marital status or gender or life situational specific, they are universal. -- Topics are character, values, spiritual life - "walk the walk, not just talk the talk" - relationships and more ... and some fun.

The theology position is "conservative," i.e. Jesus is God's only Son, eternal, born of a virgin, sinless, crucified, died, 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. Jesus said it comes down to 'love God and love your neighbor' (Matthew 22:37-40).

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 snow (Isaiah 1:18). Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. There is no other way (John 14:6). If you admit that you can not reach God's standard, are repentant and sorry for your short fall (sin) and rebellion against Him 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?

You WILL BE and ARE a slave! But you can CHOOSE your master! CHOOSE God today. John 3:16 is true. Accept no substitute!

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.

also previously known as... **The Rebel Bugle**

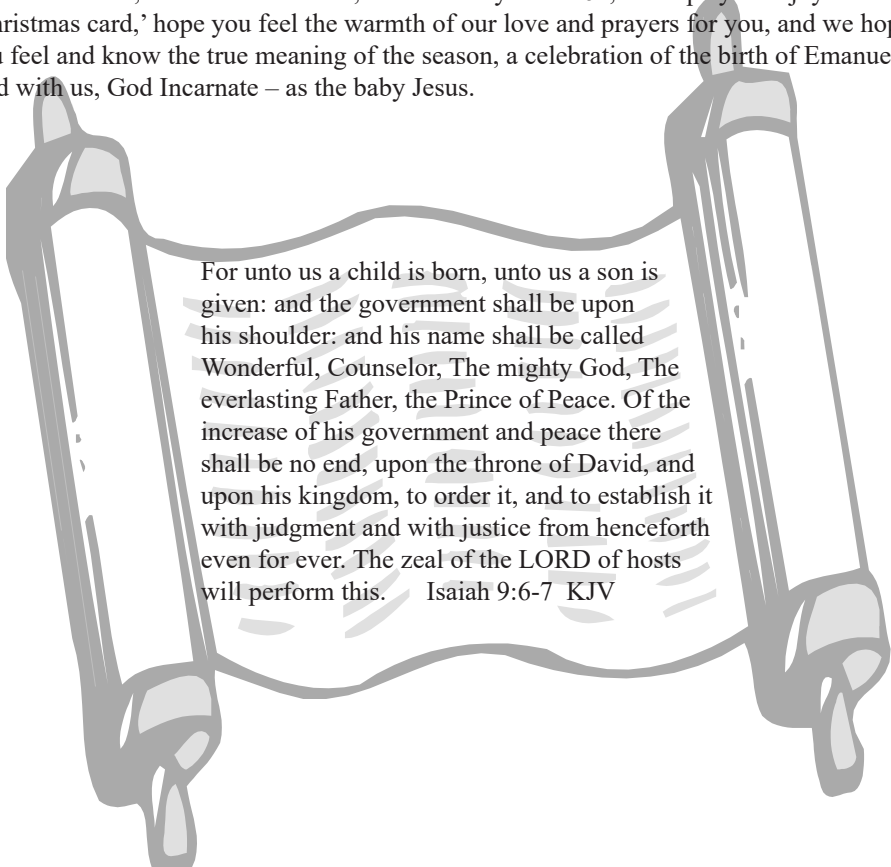
Dec 4, 2023 v26n08 (It's Dec., this is only #8 this year. I'm behind :-(!)

Christmas

© 12/02, 12/23 Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, BS, MA, MA, EdD

Whichever masthead you're familiar with, "The Rebel Bugle," or the "Crimson & White Connection," we wish you God's Peace and a very Merry Christmas. (In our 2002 issue, where some of this came from, this was called "The Rebel Bugle.")

Our C&WC list has grown, from 37 in 1997. We currently are printing 820, plus e-mail to 20 churches that reprint and/or distribute it, plus e-mail to 46 individuals; spanning 18 time zones from Australia to Sweden. That's 886. + our "personal Christmas list. So a short explanation ... - As the C&WC, this is our Christmas edition of the letter we originally wrote to "students" - Our personal Christmas card was called the The Rebel Bugle, which began when we first left family and friends in Michigan and moved to North Carolina in 1985. Whether you are on our "student/C&WC" list or on our "family and friends" list, or our "inmate" list, or our family list of 64, we hope you enjoy this 'Christmas card,' hope you feel the warmth of our love and prayers for you, and we hope you feel and know the true meaning of the season, a celebration of the birth of Emanuel, God with us, God Incarnate - as the baby Jesus.



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6-7 KJV

*Wishing you a most joyous Holiday,
and the Peace and Joy of the King of Kings
In Christ, Rich & Marie Dymmel*

A Letter to Santa

Author unknown

Snowflakes softly falling
Upon your window they play
Your blankets snug around you,
Into sleep you drift away.

I bend to gently kiss you,
when I see that on the floor
there's a letter, neatly written
I wonder who it's for.

I quietly unfold it
making sure you're still asleep,
It's a Christmas list for Santa
one my heart will always keep.

It started just as always
with the toys seen on TV,
A new watch for your father
and a winter coat for me.

But as my eyes read on
I could see that deep inside,

there were many things you wished for
that your loving heart would hide.

You asked if your friend Molly
could have another Dad;
It seems her father hits her
and it makes you very sad.

Then you asked dear Santa
if the neighbors down the street
Could find a job, that he might have
some food, and clothes, and heat.

You saw a family on the news
whose house had blown away,
“Dear Santa, send them just one thing,
a place where they can stay.”

“And Santa, those four cookies that
I left you for a treat,
Could you take them to the children
who have nothing else to eat.”

“Do you know that little bear I have,
the one I love so dear?”

I'm leaving it for you to take
to Africa this year”.

“And as you fly your reindeer
on this night of Jesus' birth,
Could your magic bring to everyone
goodwill and peace on earth”.

“There's one last thing before you go,
so grateful I would be,
If you'd smile at Baby Jesus
in the manger by our tree.”

I pulled the letter close to me
I felt it melt my heart.
Those tiny hands had written
what no other could impart.

“And a little child shall lead them,”
was whispered in my ear
As I watched you sleep
on Christmas Eve
while Santa Claus was here.

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Mary, Did You Know?

©RRD – 12/01, 12/02, 2023 –

The choir sang “Mary, Did You Know” (written by Mark Lowry and Buddy Green). Oh, what a beautiful piece of music. Love the music. Listen and think about the words.

Think about it. – Mary, a pregnant teenager, not yet married but espoused. It meant more than engaged, but they weren't yet married. No sex yet. And in that culture, and still in much of that part of the world, they were serious about the sex thing. Sex outside of marriage could get you killed. She was eligible to be publicly stoned to death for being pregnant.

When the angel tells her she is to bear a son, she asks “How, since I am a virgin?” (Luke 1:34) She's not asking whether God can do it, just how He will do it. (She didn't need a formal education to understand Sex 101.) – Willing to be used by God. – And then she is pregnant.

“Christmas.” A baby, the Lamb of God, born in a barn. Actually just down the road from Herod's palace. An animal feeding trough for a bed. The song asks, “Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?” (Matthew 14:25) Did she understand that He would do things that defy the laws of nature? Could she really comprehend that He was God?!

“Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save your sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? (2Cor 5:17) And this child that you delivered will soon deliver you?” – Her baby would be the sacrificial perfect Lamb of God that would take away the sins of the world. Could she possibly comprehend that? I'm not sure I can.

Some of this is beyond understanding, I think. It is in the realm of “super”-natural. I'm a fairly smart guy, maybe too

smart. I can reason through logical, scientific, explanations for creation and the flood in Genesis; provide proofs and arguments for a young, 6,000 year old earth, etc. Sometimes I try to use logic and reason to figure out spiritual things, and they get real confusing. Sometimes simpler is better. It's not by mental understanding – head knowledge, it's accepting it by faith – heart knowledge. Some people say “I'll believe it when I see it.” This stuff is “I'll see it when I believe it.”

“Mary, did you know that your baby boy would give sight to the blind man? (Matt 9:30, 12:22, Mark 8:22) ... calm the storm with His hand? (Mark 4:39) ... has walked where angels trod? And when you kissed the baby you've kissed the face of God.” – Can you see Mary? This young mother, holding her baby, gently kissing him, ... and this baby is ... God! God who will calm the storm with a wave of His hand and the words, “Peace. Be still,” and the men with him who were first terrified of the storm, said, “Who is this that even the wind and waves obey Him?!” (Matt 8:27, Mark 4:41) They didn't understand it yet and they walked and lived with Him.

“Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? ... will one day rule the nations? ... was Heaven's perfect Lamb? And the sleeping child you're holding is the great I Am. ... Did - you - know?” – He is “the Great I Am.” Can you comprehend that? That GOD! gave up His God-ness to become a baby? He will come again as ruler, but He came as a servant to SAVE us. To make a way for us to live forever with Him, deliver us, save us from the consequence of our sin: separation from God. “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23) Did YOU know that?

What are YOU doing with what you know about Jesus?

Rich & Marie

>>>Today's That >>> My new year's resolution is to read more. So, I've permanently turned on the TV subtitles.