

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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Crisis, emergency, or to "just talk about something",
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 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 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.

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 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 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 23, 2004

A Collage

by Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D. (c) 2004

I've found lots of things on my desk and email box that I wanted to send along to you. They're just a collage of topics. I hope you find these interesting and a blessing.

We recently went to the funeral of a C&WC reader. The second ever and the second this year.

Alvin was 84 years old. I took notes of a couple things said at the funeral. Alvin was a retired Air Force technician and trainer. -

"This life is the pre-game. The real game is next. He took flight from this world to the next ... without pistons, fuel, wings, or wind. I don't know how Alvin will get along in heaven where nothing needs to be fixed or repaired. -- Heaven will require none of the tools of this life, this Earth."

What are the "tools" you'll need for Heaven? Certainly nothing you can acquire here. You will need a key for the gate. Consider it an invitation. It has been offered. During the "pre-game you have to accept it.

Are you getting ready for the real game? Invitation accepted, in-hand? Alvin was 84, but none of us are guaranteed our next breath. There was a sign I saw one day: "Three miles to Princeton, one heartbeat to heaven." - - Justin was only 26 when a brain hemorrhage stopped him in December and his body finally gave out in January this year. He was working on a Masters, coached little league, an active young man.

We just returned from dropping someone off at the airport to catch a plane. They were there on time and had their ticket. When they call, "Boarding seats 18 and higher," or "Boarding all remaining passengers," they have to commit and accept and 'get on board.'

Justin and Alvin had their tickets and they were waiting. They got on board. People knew they had a ticket and were waiting to board. They were committed and when the plane pulled out, they were on board.

Are you deciding whether to get a ticket? The tickets are free, just accept it. The ticket has already been paid for. - One young person told me, 'They said it was free and there were no strings attached. Then after I accepted, I found out there WERE strings attached. Once you make that decision, you want to give up old stuff and start doing new stuff, like, going to church and IV and learning more.'

In Christ, Rich

Do you have a relationship with God where you know He has accepted you just as you are? A relationship like with a loving father? If not, call me at 336-674-7564. Or call 1-888-NEED-HIM. - With God, you have never gone too far to return. -

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Put this on MY charge, please! I John 2:2

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Are you kidding! These are better than lottery tickets! They're our invitations to a wedding! Go to the highways, inviting who you find to the wedding Matt 22:9

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From the mailbox

(Letters may be slightly edited to remove some personal content and identifying stuff. We won't blab your name or email address.) Your letters and notes encourage us, too. Rich
[As with a lot of "forwarded email" the original source gets lost. So for some of these the original source is unknown, so I can't give proper credits for those.]

Prayer List...

Liz is doing an internship with a church in Durban, South Africa for 10 weeks, heading home July 24th.

Julie Malacusky is working at a clinic in Mozambique.

Jennifer Nall is with the Peace Corps and at a children's home in South Africa.

Michelle is working at Gospel Light Christian Camp in Hillsville, Virginia this summer... cooking, cleaning, counseling, and lifeguard. "Each summer I go to camp hoping that I will be a blessing to some child, but in return they are a blessing to me. As Christians we are all in a ministry so as I Timothy 1:12 says, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." Please pray for camp as we begin on June 9 and end on August 8. I will also be working on a bus route at Gospel Light each Sunday morning, where we will be picking up children who want to come to church. Have a blessed summer everyone!"



Lindsey is headed to Romania -- Thank you for your prayers as I leave for and serve in Romania. I will be there from July 22nd through August 8th. I will be leading the youngest group of VBS kids- the 3 to 6 year olds! In the early afternoons I will be helping at the free medical clinic, and then in the evening is where I really need my prayer warriors at work: 4 nights a week I am leading the youth group Bible study. I will be speaking through a translator and have never lead a Bible study before, yet Jesus thinks I'm ready (reminds me of Moses, well, and most of those great Bible figures!). I hope to do essentially what you do with the C&WC, with my own style of course :-). I'll be addressing some of the larger Biblical themes (worship, service, etc) and some of the tougher life themes (alcohol, depression, eating disorders, sex) each day, for what I hope to be a real growing experience for everyone. Please pray for wisdom, guidance, and leadership skills as I rise to where Christ has asked me to serve Him.



In Him,
Lindsay

- Spring of Life -

H. Roger Bothwell

<http://www.religionworld.org/dd/archiv13/3709.htm> Roger's commentaries can be heard daily on KLOVE radio. Check at www.klove.com and find a KLOVE station near you, or listen online. Reprinted with permission.

Business Cards

Business cards are wonderful things. Properly created they provide an easy way to introduce yourself to someone and supply them access to you with phone numbers and addresses. Through the years I have had a host of business cards made. My problem is I never remember to carry them with me. On those great occasions when I could use one I never have one with me. I tried carrying a few in my wallet but soon they become shop worn from my sitting and rising and they look so bad I would be ashamed to hand them out. So I have a closet full of boxes filled with cards dating back decades.

I wonder what Jesus would have put on a business card. Who would He have given one to? Pilate? It could have read, "Messiah." There was no mailing address. There was no cell phone or fax number. No e-mail address. I guess He could have put "Galilee" down as a locator but He wasn't always there. If He gave one to the religious leadership it could have had "carpenter" under "Messiah." Somehow I don't think that would have been very impressive to the High Priest.

Perhaps the only business card He needed was His character and the fruits of His life. Hey, maybe that is the most effective business card any of us can have. If that is it then definitely we should not leave home without it.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

I'm Roger Bothwell

<http://www.religionworld.org/dd/archiv14/3876.htm>

So Much To Become

I had an uncomfortable but yet not unfamiliar exchange with a student today. We are at the end of the semester and she came asking me how to do a particular assignment I gave during the very first class. It is a large assignment and will be impossible for her to do with any depth. At this point she will pull an all-nighter and hand in the paper only to get a grade. It was evident she did not care about learning anything she merely wants a degree.

Sometimes I wish on the very first day of classes we would just give degrees to anyone who wants one. Then we would get to spend the rest of the semester with those who really want to learn something. I wonder how many students would be left? How many people go to school for an education and how many go for the degree? Degrees are merely pieces of paper.

I wonder how many of us want eternal life for the mansions and streets of gold as opposed to wanting to live forever because there is not enough time in this life to accomplish real worthwhile growth? There are so many things to learn, so many things to understand, so many talents to develop, so many poems, songs and books to write. There is so much character development to accomplish.

This is not "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" where Mr. Wonka said, "So much time and so little to do." This is about so much time and so much to become!

I'm Roger Bothwell

Subject: Fw: PUSH-UPS**Date:** 5/24/2004 2:46:03 PM Eastern Standard Time**From:** builders@.net**To:** rdymmel@aol.com

Maybe something for the C&W?

Matt

There was a certain Professor of Religion named Dr. Christianson, a studious man who taught at a small college in the Western United States. Dr. Christianson taught the required survey course in Christianity at this particular institution. Every student was required to take this course his or her freshman year regardless of his or her major. Although Dr. Christianson tried hard to communicate the essence of the gospel in his class, he found that most of his students looked upon the course as nothing but required drudgery. Despite his best efforts, most students refused to take Christianity seriously.

This year, Dr. Christianson had a special student named Steve. Steve was only a freshman, but was studying with the intent of going onto seminary for the ministry. Steve was popular, he was well liked, and he was an imposing physical specimen. He was now the starting center on the school football team, and was the best student in the professor's class.

One day, Dr. Christianson asked Steve to stay after class so he could talk with him. "How many push-ups can you do?"

Steve said, "I do about 200 every night."

"200? That's pretty good, Steve," Dr. Christianson said. "Do you think you could do 300?"

Steve replied, "I don't know... I've never done 300 at a time."

"Do you think you could?" again asked Dr. Christianson.

"Well, I can try," said Steve.

"Can you do 300 in sets of 10? I have a class project in mind and I need you to do about 300 push-ups in sets of ten for this to work. Can you do it? I need you to tell me you can do it," said the professor.

Steve said, "Well... I think I can...yeah, I can do it."

Dr. Christianson said, "Good! I need you to do this on Friday. Let me explain what I have in mind. ..."

Friday came and Steve got to class early and sat in the front of the room. When class started, the professor pulled out a big box of donuts. No these weren't the normal kinds of donuts, they were the extra fancy BIG kind, with cream centers and frosting swirls. Everyone was pretty excited it was Friday, the last class of the day, and they were going to get an early start on the weekend with a party in Dr. Christianson's class.

Dr. Christianson went to the first person in the first row and asked, "Cynthia, do you want to have one of these donuts?"

Cynthia said, "Yes."

Dr. Christianson then turned to Steve and asked, "Steve, would you do ten push-ups so that Cynthia can have a donut?"

"Sure." Steve jumped down from his desk to do a quick ten.

Then Steve again sat in his desk. Dr. Christianson put a donut on Cynthia's desk.

Dr. Christianson then went to Joe, the next person, and asked, "Joe, do you want a donut?"

Joe said, "Yes."

Dr. Christianson asked, "Steve would you do ten push-ups so Joe can have a donut?"

Steve did ten push-ups, Joe got a donut. And so it went, down the first aisle, Steve did ten pushups for every person before they got their donut. And down the second aisle, till Dr. Christianson came to Scott.

Scott was on the basketball team, and in as good condition as Steve. He was very popular and never lacking for female companionship. When the professor asked, "Scott do you want a donut?"

Scott's reply was, "Well, can I do my own pushups?"

Dr. Christianson said, "No, Steve has to do them."

Then Scott said, "Well, I don't want one then."

Dr. Christianson shrugged and then turned to Steve and asked, "Steve, would you do ten pushups so Scott can have a donut he doesn't want?"

With perfect obedience Steve started to do ten pushups.

Scott said, "HEY! I said I didn't want one!"

Dr. Christianson said, "Look, this is my classroom, my class, my desks, and these are my donuts. Just leave it on the desk if you don't want it." And he put a donut on Scott's desk.

Now by this time, Steve had begun to slow down a little. He just stayed on the floor between sets because it took too much effort to be getting up and down. You could start to see a little perspiration coming out around his brow. Dr. Christianson started down the third row.

Now the students were beginning to get a little angry.

Dr. Christianson asked Jenny, "Jenny, do you want a donut?"

Sternly, Jenny said, "No."

Then Dr. Christianson asked Steve, "Steve, would you do ten more Push-ups so Jenny can have a donut that she doesn't want?" Steve did ten....Jenny got a donut.

By now, a growing sense of uneasiness filled the room. The students were beginning to say "No" and there were all these uneaten donuts on the desks. Steve also had to really put forth a lot of extra effort to get these pushups done for each donut. There began to be a small pool of sweat on the floor beneath his face, his arms and brow were beginning to get red because of the physical effort involved.

Dr. Christianson asked Robert, who was the most vocal unbeliever in the class, to watch Steve do each push up to make sure he did the full ten pushups in a set because he couldn't bear to watch all of Steve's work for all of those uneaten donuts. He sent Robert over to where Steve was so Robert could count the set and watch Steve closely. Dr. Christianson started down the fourth row.

During his class, however, some students from other classes had wandered in and sat down on the steps along the radiators that ran down the sides of the room. When the professor realized this, he did a quick count and saw that now there were 34 students in the room. He started to worry if Steve would be able to make it. Dr. Christianson went on to the next person and the next and the next. Near the end of that row, Steve was really having a rough time. He was taking a lot more time to complete each set.

Steve asked Dr. Christianson, "Do I have to make my nose touch on each one?"

Dr. Christianson thought for a moment, "Well, they're your pushups. You are in charge now. You can do them any way that you want." And Dr. Christianson went on.

A few moments later, Jason, a recent transfer student, came to the room and was about to come in when all the students yelled in one voice, "NO! Don't come in! Stay out!" Jason didn't know what was going on.

Steve picked up his head and said, "No, let him come."

Professor Christianson said, "You realize that if Jason comes in you will have to do ten pushups for him?"

Steve said, "Yes, let him come in. Give him a donut"

Dr. Christianson said, "Okay, Steve, I'll let you get Jason's out of the way right now. Jason, do you want a donut?"

Jason, new to the room hardly knew what was going on. "Yes," he said, "give me a donut."

"Steve, will you do ten push-ups so that Jason can have a donut?"

Steve did ten pushups very slowly and with great effort. Jason, bewildered, was handed a donut and sat down.

Dr. Christianson finished the fourth row, then started on those visitors seated by the heaters. Steve's arms were now shaking >>>>

with each push-up in a struggle to lift himself against the force of gravity. Sweat was profusely dropping off of his face and, by this time, there was no sound except his heavy breathing, there was not a dry eye in the room.

The very last two students in the room were two young women, both cheerleaders, and very popular. Dr. Christianson went to Linda, the second to last, and asked, "Linda, do you want a doughnut?"

Linda said, very sadly, "No, thank you."

Professor Christianson quietly asked, "Steve, would you do ten push-ups so that Linda can have a donut she doesn't want?" Grunting from the effort, Steve did ten very slow pushups for Linda.

Then Dr. Christianson turned to the last girl, Susan. "Susan, do you want a donut?"

Susan, with tears flowing down her face, began to cry. "Dr. Christianson, why can't I help him?"

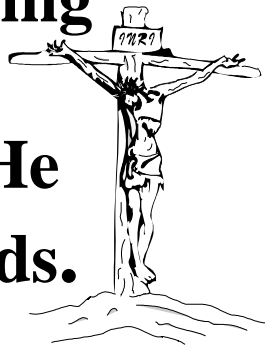
Dr. Christianson, with tears of his own, said, "No, Steve has to do it alone, I have given him this task and he is in charge of seeing that everyone has an opportunity for a donut whether they want it or not. When I decided to have a party this last day of class, I looked at my grade book. Steve, here is the only student with a perfect grade. Everyone else has failed a test, skipped class, or offered me inferior work. Steve told me that in football practice, when a player messes up he must do push-ups. I told Steve that none of you could come to my party unless he paid the price by doing your push ups. He and I made a deal for your sakes. Steve, would you do ten push-ups so Susan can have a donut?"

As Steve very slowly finished his last pushup, with the understanding that he had accomplished all that was required of him, having done 350 pushups, his arms buckled beneath him and he fell to the floor.

Dr. Christianson turned to the room and said. "And so it was, that our Savior, Jesus Christ, on the cross, plead to the Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.' With the understanding that He had done everything that was required of Him, he yielded up His life. And like some of those in this room, many of us leave the gift on the desk, uneaten. "Two students helped Steve up off the floor and to a seat, physically exhausted, but wearing a thin smile. "Well done, good and faithful servant," said the professor, adding "Not all sermons are preached in words."

Turning to his class the professor said, "My wish is that you might understand and fully comprehend all the riches of grace and mercy that have been given to you through the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He spared not only His Begotten Son, but gave Him up for us all for the whole Church, now and forever. Whether or not we choose to accept His gift to us, the price has been paid. Wouldn't you be foolish and ungrateful to leave it laying on the desk?"

**He was showing
His love,
that's how He
hurt his hands.**



Coins and other "games of chance"

*————— **Guaranteed to Roll Your Eyes** —————*

A spokesperson for the U.S. Mint announced that a new fifty-cent piece was being issued to honor two great American patriots.

On one side of the coin would be Teddy Roosevelt and on the other side, Nathan Hale.

Asked why two people were going to be on the same coin, the spokesman replied, "Now, when you toss a coin you can simply call... 'Ted's or Hale's'."

What makes craps dice so special?

To prevent some numbers from occurring more frequently than others, dice used in crap games in Las Vegas are manufactured to a tolerance of 0.0002 inches, less than 1/17 the thickness of a human hair.

Is a penny toss inherently rigged?

Yes, but not specifically intentionally - If you toss a penny 10,000 times, it will not be heads 5,000 times, but more like 4,950. The heads picture weighs more, so it ends up on the bottom more often. Still, one wouldn't recommend betting one's life on those odds!

These are even chances. So what's a **sure** thing? A sure thing is something you can bet you life on, literally. I know something that I think is more dependable than the sun coming up tomorrow morning.

It has been said that "There's not more to this life; there's more **than** this life." This life is the time when we will decide where we spend eternity. Like TRUTH sings, some people just *think* they're "heaven bound." Or are you? Or maybe you don't know for sure. John 3:16 says, "*God so loved the world (that includes you) that he gave his one and only Son (Jesus), that whoever (you) believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" And in 1John 5:13 it says, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **KNOW** that you have eternal life." That makes it a sure thing... if you really believe in Jesus. When this life and this earth are ended, Jesus will still be there. When God says it, it is more sure than the sun coming up tomorrow.

*————— **Guaranteed to Roll Your Eyes** —————*

An archaeologist was digging in the Negev Desert in Israel and came upon a casket containing a mummy. After examining it, he called the curator of a prestigious natural history museum.

"I've just discovered a 3,000 year old mummy of a man who died of heart failure!" the excited scientist exclaimed. To which the curator replied, "Bring him in. We'll check it out."

A week later, the amazed curator called the archaeologist. "You were right about the mummy's age and cause of death. How in the world did you know?"

"Easy. There was a piece of paper in his hand that said, '10,000 Shekels on Goliath'."

Wanted - Imperfect people.

"They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Mark 2:17

Relationships & Love & ...

Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D. (c) 2004

In the piece on "Choices" last time (July 9, 2004, p.1), I had said that the choice to lose your virginity was a one-time choice. I failed to follow that with a choice to say, "I've decided not to do that again." (Kick self now. I've always said that. Searched and found 14 times said that.) So at the prompting of an email from a reader, I went looking for an article from CampusLife and found it. Besides the *many* times I've said this, in *many* ways in the past, here's a piece on making a second choice. A good choice to correct a poor one. The first poor choice may have even been that you didn't know better at the time. Someone once said, 'Now that you know better, do better.'

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/teens/features/abstinence.html>

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<http://www.christianitytoday.com/cl/2001/001/8.38.html>

A Second Chance at Virginity?

by Tim Stafford

It sounds ridiculous.

Become a virgin again? Why not ask to relive last week? How is it possible to start over?

A man once posed a similar question to Jesus: "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" (John 3:4) Jesus answered by talking about a second spiritual birth. Humans can only reproduce human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven (John 3:6).

You can lose your physical virginity just once. If you did it, you did it. You can't get that first time back again. And the past carries with it physical and emotional consequences. If memories have been etched on your brain, you can't pretend they're gone. But spiritually, it is quite possible to start all over again.

Spiritual rebirth doesn't destroy the past. It transforms it. A second chance, spiritually, means there are no limitations to what you can become. The God who made the universe out of nothing can take your past and make from it something beautiful.

The apostle Paul talked about this transformation when he wrote to a group of Christians in Greece. They had plenty in their past to regret. But because they trusted Jesus to redeem them, the past had been transformed:

Don't you know that those who do wrong will have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, who are idol worshipers, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy people, drunkards, abusers, and swindlers—none of these will have a share in the Kingdom of God. There was a time when some of you were just like that, but now your sins have been washed away, and you have been set apart for God. You have been made right with God because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God have done for you (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

How do you begin that kind of transformation? You can't manage it on your own. You need God's power and forgiveness. And where do you find that? You ask for it. Spiritual transformation begins as simply and as mysteriously as that. You ask, admitting your need. And God goes to work in your life.

So when you've stopped having sex and asked for forgiveness, can you call yourself a virgin? Perhaps you are no longer a virgin in the physical sense. But because you have been purified by God, you are a virgin in his eyes. That may not clear up your reputation or your memory. But it does clear up your future with God. You are as good as new.

Once you've experienced God's forgiveness, you'll still have to deal with the leftovers of your past, like guilt. Feelings of guilt are your internal, emotional response. They aren't always reliable. What we call a guilty conscience is often a mixture of feelings like regret, loss, sadness and shame. These are natural feelings for someone who's been involved in a sexual relationship.

The sense of guilt won't instantly change. Like other natural consequences—pregnancy, disease, or painful memories—feelings don't necessarily disappear when God transforms your life. But their sting is taken away. So, even though you may still *feel* guilty, it's vital to know that, as far as God is concerned, you're *not* guilty. That's the truth of 1 John 1:9, where God promises to forgive us and cleanse us when we confess our sins to him. And that's the truth of Jeremiah 31:34, where God promises to forget your sins *forever*.

Jesus didn't die on the cross to take away your feelings. He died to take away your sins. Cleansed of sin, you can work on transforming your feelings into a useful tool for God's service. They need not lead you downward. Transformed, they can give you compassion for the pain of other people. And they can give you deep determination not to go wrong again.

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Faith@Work July 16, 2004

Grace and God's Patience

"The Lord is not slow to do what he has promised, as some think. Instead, he is patient with you, because he does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants all to turn away from their sins." – 2 Peter 3:9

On one of my favorite stretches of road today sits one of those gizmos that automatically displays your driving speed. The speed limit on this particular road is 50. My speed was 64.

In our town, when the police determine that drivers tend to speed on a particular road, they put one of those gizmos out for a week. After that week they tend to patrol that stretch of road heavily and enforce the speed limit. That's the law.

I should have received a speeding ticket today. My driving was careless and well beyond the legal limit. But instead, I received a gift of grace. A chance to see my behavior clearly. A chance to change (or, to put it in church language, to repent). That's the good news.

On the road of life I too often exceed the limits of God's intentions for me. I am less than kind, slow to forgive, quick to criticize, and selfish. But because of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ, I am given grace instead of punishment.

Through the Bible, Christian community, prayer, and the work of the Holy Spirit, I'm given a chance to see my behavior clearly. A chance to change. To repent.

Tomorrow I'm going to slow down, and as I drive that stretch of road, I'm going to give thanks to God for his patience and grace with sinners like me.

Bringing It Home:

1. How's your driving? If you've got a fish or some other Christian symbol on the back of your car, please remember that your driving is a reflection of your faith. Be a good witness!
2. Spend some time today in quiet reflection with God. Allow him to speak to you about your Christian walk. Ask him to show you any areas that need to be changed, and thank him for the opportunity to repent.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you are patient and kind, even when I am slow to recognize my own sin. Help me to see more clearly those areas of my life that I need to change. Send caring, Christian friends into my life, who will mirror my life back to me, and hold me accountable to the task of living my life for you alone. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Jeff Marian, Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH
www.ualc.org

Subject: Fw: Puppy Size**Date:** 2/7/2004 10:25:31 AM Eastern Standard Time**From:** [naxmas@...com](mailto:naxmas@...)

"Danielle keeps repeating it over and over again. We've been back to this animal shelter at least five times. It has been weeks now since we started all of this," the mother told the volunteer.

"What is it she keeps asking for?" the volunteer asked.

"Puppy size!" replied the mother.

"Well, we have plenty of puppies, if that's what she's looking for."

"I know...we have seen most of them," the Mom said in frustration... Just then Danielle came walking into the office.

"Well, did you find one?" asked her Mom.

"No, not this time," Danielle said with sadness in her voice.

"Can we come back on the weekend?"

The two women looked at each other, shook their heads and laughed.

"You never know when we will get more dogs. Unfortunately, there's always a supply," the volunteer said.

Danielle took her mother by the hand and headed to the door. "Don't worry, I'll find one this weekend," she said.

Over the next few days both Mom and dad had long conversations with her. They both felt she was being too particular. "It's this weekend or we're not looking any more," Dad finally said in frustration. "We don't want to hear anything more about puppy size either," Mom added.

Sure enough, they were the first ones in the shelter on Saturday morning. By now Danielle knew her way around, so she ran right for the section that housed the smaller dogs. Tired of the routine, Mom sat in the small waiting room at the end of the first row of cages.

Danielle walked slowly from cage to cage, kneeling periodically to take a closer look. One by one the dogs were brought out and she held each one. One by one she said, "Sorry, you're not the one."

It was the last cage on this last day in search of the perfect pup. The volunteer opened the cage door and the child carefully picked up the dog and held it closely. This time she took a little longer. "Mom, that's it! I found the right puppy! He's the one! I know it!" she screamed with joy. "It's the puppy size!"

"But it's the same size as all the other puppies you held over the last few weeks," Mom said.

"No not size — the sighs. When I held him in my arms, he sighed," she said. "Don't you remember? When I asked you one day what love is, you told me love depends on the sighs of your heart. The more you love, the bigger the sigh!"

The two women looked at each other for a moment. Mom didn't know whether to laugh or cry. As she stooped down to hug the child, she did a little of both.

"Mom, every time you hold me, I sigh. When you and Daddy come home from work and hug each other, you both sigh. I knew I would find the right puppy if it sighed when I held it in my arms," she said.

Then holding the puppy up close to her face she said, "Mom, he loves me. I heard the sighs of his heart!"

Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

Miscellaneous Notes...

Here's a deep theological truth:
Everyone is weird.

Have you ever stopped to ask what God thinks of you? What does your Father in Heaven see in you that is so valuable?

Any belief system that doesn't affect your behavior is nothing.

Perspective: If there is no God... nothing matters.

Did you hear about the dyslexic atheist insomniac? He stayed awake all night wondering if there really was a dog.

God's got your number. When you least expect, He might call....
Will you answer?

Do you spend any time with the God of the Universe?

Does God deal out consequences?

Jeremiah 7

The Israelites thought they had a talisman, the temple. As long as they had the temple, they thought God was with them. God said, (Jeremiah 7:12-14) 'But go ye now unto my place which *was* in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel. ¹³And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; ¹⁴Therefore will I do unto *this* house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.

What happened at Shiloh? According to the "Archaeological Supplement" in my Bible, "In confirmation of his [Jeremiah's] prophesy, the Philistines defeated Israel about 1050 B.C., captured the Ark of the Covenant, and left the town to sink into insignificance. Finally, fire reduced it to the scene of desolation pictured by Jeremiah.

"Danish excavations at Shiloh in 1922, '26, '29, and '31 ... found remains dating from the 13th to the 11th century B.C., but none from the period between 1050 and 300 B.C. This parallels the Bible record that Shiloh was destroyed by the Philistines."

What were they doing? The Israelites were not worshipping God, their actions were evil, they were not being fair, they were oppressing the weak and poor.

Your daily ways reflect your relationship with God. So be careful. What do your actions reflect?

Sodom and Gomorrah from Genesis, have never been found. "It is speculated from local traditions, that the ruins of these cities, if any remain, are under the Dead Sea. Mount Sodom, a mountain of crystalline salt, 5 miles long and 300' high, along the shore of the Dead Sea, is so named from the belief that Sodom stood near it." In Genesis, these cities were known as cities of immorality. Sodomy ... read about the source of this word in Genesis 18-19: The men of Sodom wanted to "know" the men visitors and rejected Lot's virgin daughters.

Because God does not punish sinners instantly, people feel it is safe to do wrong. But . . . those who fear God will be better off. Ecclesiastes 8:11-12 TLB

Mostly just for fun...

Summer may be when that school romance breaks up; or when that summer romance breaks up to return to school.

***Breaking Up Is Hard To Do*

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do...(especially when you share the same major!)

PSYCHOLOGY: Girl accuses guy of just using her as a substitute for his Mother.

SOCIOLOGY: Each claims to have been oppressed in the relationship.

ARCHAEOLOGY: One tries to bury the past, and accuses the other of trying to dig it up.

THEATRE: "OH! Life is... ENDED... as we KNOW it!"

PHYSICS: Both resign themselves to the fact that what goes up must come down.

JOURNALISM: "Today was the end of an era. Jack, 19, and Jill, 18, called an end to their relationship of 2 weeks..."

WOMEN'S STUDIES: "HE did it!"

BUSINESS: Both decide that they're spending way too much money together, and that it's simply cheaper to be single.

HISTORY: Each party argues the breakup was caused by something the other party did in the past.

GEOGRAPHY: Both people decide to simply move far away to avoid each other.

ECONOMICS: One party demands more than the other can supply.

One afternoon I was walking on a trail with my baby daughter, chatting to her about the scenery.

When a man and his dog approached, I leaned down to the carriage and said, "See the doggy?"

Suddenly I felt foolish talking to my baby as if she understood me.

However, just as the man passed, he reached down, patted his dog, and said, "See the baby?"

* _____ Guaranteed to Roll Your Eyes _____*

Q: What do you call a cat that has just eaten a whole duck?

A: A duck filled fatty puss!

I hadn't recorded a greeting yet on my new answering machine, so when my mother came to visit, I asked her to tape one.

"This is Marcia's mother," my machine announced. "Marcia is an only child; she never writes, she never calls. So why not give me a buzz? I'd be happy to talk to you. My number is..."

Everyone called my mother. She loved the attention.

* _____ Guaranteed to Roll Your Eyes _____*

George goes to the Birth Registration Office to register his newborn son.

The man behind the counter asks the name he wants to give to the boy, and the father replies: "Euro."

The man says that such a name is not acceptable, because it's a currency.

Says George: "What? There weren't any objections when I called my first two sons Mark and Frank."

Share with someone

Giving a friend a copy of this letter and asking them if they would like to get it too, is an easy way of witnessing and starting a conversation about God.

If you'd like to be on our mail/prayer list, and have the Crimson & White Connection mailed free each month, fill this out and mail it to:

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*** or email to Rdymmel@AOL.com ***

Under 18 requires a parental approval SIGNATURE please.

No thank you, remove my name

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To subscribe, check 'Yes' below and fill in completely.

Yes, Please include me (signature)

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School: _____

____ in the Fall or ____ now, I am in (what grade/year) ...

8 9 10 11 12 HSgrad. F S J S Col.grad. GrdSch PGR

'at-school' address, if different _____

City, St. ZIP _____

Phone _(_____) _____

School e-mail address _____

Becoming a Christian: A-B-C

A – Admit that you're a sinner. You just can't meet God's standard. The Bible says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23 (also see 1 John 1:8).

B – Believe that Jesus was the Son of God and died in your place, took the punishment for you. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world (that includes you) that he gave His only begotten son (that's Jesus) that whosoever (that's you again) believes in Him should not perish (that's saved from eternal death, Hell) but have eternal life (given eternal life with God, that's "salvation" or to "be saved")." John 3:16

C – Confess your sin to God. – The Bible says, "If we confess (own up to) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleans us..." 1John 1:9.

Want Jesus in your life? Pray this prayer: *"Lord Jesus, I confess to You my sin and need to be saved. I turn away from my old sin and place my trust and faith in You as the only way to be saved."* Now contact 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."*

Crimson & White Connection

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July 23, 2004

A Collage - Pushups -
- Puppy Size - History (Sodom and other) -
- A Second Chance at Virginity -
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**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 should
come with it's own warning label.**

WARNING

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White Connection unless you
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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.



**Jesus...
don't leave home
without Him.**

Christ must increase, I must decrease
John 3:30