

# 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",**

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 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!**

## Oct. 30, 2004

### Indescribable

By Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D.

There is a relatively new song out that has captured my attention. Usually, even among the CCM artists and the variety of styles, and variety of "moods" they offer, I guess I'm still an "old guy" and I prefer smooth, flowing, music and words. Oh, it can be upbeat! But my emotions are swayed to a peacefulness or closeness to God by that music... usually. - - But this past week I (1) keep thinking of this song and the lyrics. Then (2) I was reminded of a Southern Gospel artist and dug the cassette tape from the archives. He has two songs I REALLY like. So let me tell you what has been running around in my head this past week.

First is Chris Tomlin's song *Indescribable* (from the CD: *Arriving*). - The leaves are just beginning to turn into a beautiful panorama around here. That also means I've been 'mowing' leaves and did the first small raking and burn pile today, too. - We have a Southern California transplant at our church. He has never seen "Fall colors." The people he is staying with were driving somewhere and commented on all the colors, reds, golds, ... He said, 'Are there any blues?' - Anyway, "Indescribable" includes the spectacular Fall paint job God does.

*From the highest of heights* (from majestic mountain peaks like in Colorado or even along the Blue Ridge Parkway) *To the depths of the sea* (I'm fascinated when they show ocean exploration on the Discovery channel and all the wonder that is down there. The deepest ocean trenches are deeper than the highest mountains are high.) *Creation's revealing Your majesty* (It is SO complex and intricate. Those who think it "just happened by accident" can't have really thought through the intricate interdependency. That can be a whole discussion another time.) *From the colors of Fall To the fragrance of Spring Every creature unique And the song that it sings All exclaiming... Indescribable, uncontainable You placed the stars in the sky and you know them by name You are amazing, God All powerful, untamable Awestruck, we fall to our knees As we humbly proclaim You are amazing, God.*

And then this week in a devotional from RBC, reference was made to a discovery in the sky. I found the article (Diamond Star Thrills Astronomers; <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3492919.stm>; BBC News UK Edition; 16 February, 2004) 50 light years away, where we can't get to it to mess with it, astronomers have discovered a diamond! Now most girls would like a nice pretty sparkley from their beau. Marie got a 1/4 carat diamond the first time. It cost me \$225. It was my entire life saving account then. I think it is her favorite still :-), even though I've bought her several more since then. - But what we consider valuable here on Earth... a high quality one carat diamond can easily cost a over a thousand dollars... In God's space... I think He has a sense of humor and laughs at our foolish value systems, and does things like this... "You think diamonds are valuable? Just wait till you find some of the ones I've hidden around." ... I see Him placing this out there so one day we'll find it... and it is 10 decillion carats. Know what a decillion is? That's 10 with 33 zeros, 10 billion trillion trillion carats. It is bigger than any girl could wear on her finger; it is 2500 miles in diameter! The collapsed carbon center of a white dwarf star. - - - *Indescribable, uncontainable You placed the stars in the sky and you know them by name You are amazing, God All powerful, untamable* - - The astronomers named it Lucy, also BPM 37093. I wonder what God had named it. - - He put Lucy there; He knows the [continue on p.2]

[continued from p.1] number of hairs on my head; He knit me and you together in the womb; He is amazing... and He wants to have an intimate relationship with us like between a loving Father and a child. Unfathomable. Unbelievable, yet true. *You see the depths of my heart And You love me the same. You are amazing, God.*

Are you trusting in yourself to get you out of or through whatever it is that is going on? Or do you trust in the Amazing God?

*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. –



**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.]

Rich, .... It has definitely helped me grow- I am sure you can see so many or hear of so many students who are growing .... D...

*This is where YOUR note, comment, etc. would have been, but I didn't receive it.*

*Are you doing something that would encourage someone else? Did you find a good resource? Did you read something in the C&WC that encouraged you or made you think? Write to us.*

**PLEASE** remember to send me your new addresses. From our last mailing, the Post Office returned FOUR copies with no forwarding address and SEVEN "moved to ..." notices were returned by the P.O. We will end up deleting several of these because we won't be able to contact them at all. To keep the C&WC coming to you, PLEASE tell us when you change home address or school address, email address. - Thank you so much

**A NEW MINISTRY  
E X P A N S I O N  
YOU CAN HELP**

C&W has started creating short articles and purchasing space in campus newspapers. But **we need your help**. You can contact your school paper and find out who we need to contact to place a positive, thought provoking article in YOUR school newspaper. Then send us that information. At the end of the article is a short statement that the space was paid for by a nondenominational religious organization and how to request a free sample issue of the C&WC and that subscriptions are free.

The article on page 3, "The Kid Who Will Not Quit," is the second article we've used. Help us put positive messages in YOUR school paper.

*Jenni and Allen are engaged.*

*Mark & Kristen are engaged, planning for the Spring.*

*Congratulations!  
We wish you God's very best.*

*Tim & Kristen were married  
Sunday, September 19th*

*Frank & Marilyn were married  
Sunday, October 24th*

*Congratulations!  
We wish you God's very best.*

## THE KID WHO WILL NOT QUIT

Dr. Richard Dymmel, Ed.D. Editor & Publisher of  
Crimson & White Connection

We are each handicapped. What's your handicap? Too smart – and lack character? Someone said, "The world has enough smart people. What we need are more GOOD people." Or maybe it is physical – I don't run well any more since the aerobics class did a number on my knees. Or learning? Or whatever. We all have SOME kind of handicap. The BIGGER questions are how you handle deal with your handicap and how you deal with other people. I ran across articles about Ben.

What some athletes lack in ability, they make up for in heart. What some are missing in strength and skill, they compensate for in sheer determination. And sometimes it's the kids who have no chance of winning at all who most inspire their teammates, friends, and people who don't even know them.

Sports Illustrated writer Rick Reilly told of just such a young athlete—a high school junior named Ben Comen. He suffers from cerebral palsy, yet he's a member of the Hanna High School cross-country team and runs every race. The winner usually runs the 3.1 mile course in 16 minutes; it takes Ben 51 minutes.

Reilly equated his style of running to "a man whacking through an Amazon thicket." He trips on Twinkie size rocks. Falls on his face since he can't react fast enough to use his arms to break his fall of over liquorice size twigs and takes literally minutes to get back up on his uncooperative legs. But he gets back up, sometimes bloody, and keeps shuffling along until he reaches the finish line. When he gets near, half the student body runs out to pace him in. The rest of the team goes back to pace with him the last ten minutes. Everyone cheers!

Why does Ben do it? He explains, "I like to show people that you can either stop trying, or you can pick yourself up and keep going."

So how about you? Do you give up when it gets tough? Have you got what it takes to keep on going... in your classes, in doing what's right? in living a life of character? in living a pure life based on Christian values and Biblical principles? Or do you give up when it gets tough?

(Based on articles from Soul Journey, RBC, 7/10/04; and "Worth The Wait," Sports Illustrated, Reiley, 10/20/03)

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The Crimson & White Connection is a FREE letter to students on values, character, relationships, and the spiritual life, published and mailed to students about every three weeks, about 18 times a year. You can get a free sample issue to see if you'd like to get the C&WC, by writing to C&WC, 4401 Wild Oak Lane, Greensboro, NC 27406 – or RDymmel@AOL.com. C&WC is a non-profit 'conservative' religious publication, not associated with any church.

## Origins

Dr. Richard Dymmel, Ed.D. 2004

Your view of the world and how it works is directly related to your view of origins. Your view of origins will determine your world view. When it comes to origins, there are ONLY TWO alternatives: Either God created the heavens and the earth, or He didn't. (God Is In The Small Stuff and it all matters. Bruce Bickel & Stan Jantz. 1998. Barbour Publishing. p.67,68.)

Genesis chapter 1 is foundational to the whole book. If the book starts out with a lie, none of the rest can be true trusted. But that's not the only reason to (just) believe it.

Some time ago I ran across a book by Henry Morris, *The Genesis Flood*. Fascinating reading if you're into "scientific stuff." Morris was a hydrologist and an atheist, a professor at Virginia Tech (I think). He set out to disprove the possibility of the flood in Genesis. The more he researched ... well, he became a believer and eventually started a group in California called the Center for Creation Research.

Have you ever considered the complexity of ... of anything? Has "science" ever created so much as a leaf?! A simple plant leaf? ... Simple leaf? The structure of the cambium layer under the bark draws water from the roots in the ground; the leaves combine sunlight and minerals and water and create food for the tree; feeds it back into the growth layer, the tree grows.

- Some scientists went to God and said, We don't need you, God. We can create life now." "Oh, yea?" "Yea. We'll show you. Let's have a contest to create a man from scratch." "Okay," God says. So the scientist reaches down and picks up a handful of dirt. "Oh, no," says God. "You have to make your own dirt."

How did God do it ... How long ago ... Don't get hung up on when or how, just accept a designer. It isn't reasonable to accept that a cake just accidentally happened, or a watch, how absurd to accept that frogs and puppies and people "just happened." Have you ever thought of how the same people that will show you how an anomaly is rejected and not reproduced, will turn around and tell you that a partial organ was developed over tens of thousands of years rather than be rejected and eliminated, until it eventually became a functioning organ? Contradictory? Sure is. The only way it would work is if it functioned fully.

Plants need the CO<sub>2</sub> from the animals; animals need the plants to absorb the CO<sub>2</sub> and return O<sub>2</sub> to the ecosystem. It is a delicate balance. Plants without the animals ... for millions of years ... would consume the CO<sub>2</sub> and die off. - It's not "blind illogical faith. Creationism is better science.

"The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship." (Psalm 19:1 NLT) "God's glory is on tour in the skies, God-craft on exhibit across the horizon." (Psalm 19:1 The Message)

Recognize that you can't get holy in a hurry.

It's a good thing to delight in the Lord, but how much better when the Lord delights in you.

(God Is In The Small Stuff and it all matters. Bruce Bickel & Stan Jantz. 1998. Barbour Publishing. p.38-39.)

## Not For Sale

Dr. Rich Dymmel, 2004

One of my favorite Southern Gospel artists... We took a student with us to a S.G. concert a couple years ago; it was their first S.G. exposure; the seats we had were excellent - just in front of the stage and off to the side, elevated, an excellent view of the performers; however they were also directly in front of the speakers which were the size of semi-trailers hanging from the rafters, maybe 50 feet to our right; LOUD doesn't BEGIN to describe it; not a good concert experience; not good at all ... Anyway... How can I describe Michael? The only thing that comes to mind... Picture if you can Johnny Cash... You know, all in black, voice a little rough, and "sings two octaves below the song." Well Michael is "short," does a ballad style, more baritone, even tenor maybe... Can you picture a short tenor Johnny Cash?

Anyway, for whatever reason I pulled out his tapes and stuck it in the van. Two songs I really love... "Not For Sale" (Not For Sale, 1999) - "... Listen to me--- This heart belongs to Jesus-- Cause He saved my soul from hell; This heart belongs to Jesus; This heart is- Not for sale! ... I'm not for sale-- No way sir-- I'm not for sale. .... If you're livin' for Jesus there'll come a day; The devil's gonna try to get you some way (It may be sex, drugs, a relationship, attention, fame, fortune, a guy, a girl, security, ... ) He'll try you and tempt you with his lies straight from hell; Just say-- I belong to Jesus and devil--- I'm not for sale!! .... Not for sale! Not for sale! Not for sale!"

I am not for sale! I've been bought and paid for. I'm committed. More than just interested, I'm committed. I've taken steps beyond decision. I'm into the area of, ... like the Nissan commercials used to say, I'm "driven." - - That's because of, in the words of another of Michael's songs, "There's somebody in me but it ain't me. It's the King of Glory livin' in me. Sometimes I like to think it's me, but it ain't me. It's the lovely Jesus livin' in me."

Which brings me to a question or two - - Are you for sale? What would it take to buy you? Would attention from a guy/girl get you to give in on moral principles? Would you compromise principles for profit? Would you forfeit someone else's well-being to benefit yourself? What drives you? What is your inner motivation? Who do you serve? Who / what is inside you?

There is a direct relationship with the desire to know God and the struggle that follows.

Feeling good about God does not bring you closer to Him.

Rather than worry about what you don't know about God, concentrate on what you do know.

You begin to seek God for who He is when you stop seeking Him for what He can do for you.

(God Is In The Small Stuff and it all matters. Bruce Bickel & Stan Jantz. 1998. Barbour Publishing, p.20-21.)

(Picked this up on email...)

### Wherever we go God is there

*How can I experience God's presence in my life?*

**". . . when you pray, I will listen . . you will find me when you seek me.** " Jeremiah 29:11-13 NLT

Seeking and finding God requires consistent and purposeful prayer.

### Wherever we go God is there

*The Lord wants to be with us and will respond when we seek him.*

**"Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you.** " James 4:8 NLT

When God feels far away, it is we who have moved. He is always there.

### Wherever we go God is there

*How can I experience God's presence in my life?*

**"Sing praises to God and to his name! Sing loud praises to him who rides the clouds! His name is the LORD—rejoice in his presence!** " Psalm 68:4 NLT

When we live in harmony with the Lord, it is a joy and delight to linger in his presence.

### Wherever we go God is there

*When are we afraid of the presence of God?*

**"Stand in silence in the presence of the Sovereign LORD, for the awesome day of the LORD's judgments has come.** " Zephaniah 1:7 NLT

To walk into God's presence with a heart bent toward sin is to invite the Lord's judgment.

### Wherever we go God is there

*What is the evidence of being in God's presence?*

**"When Moses came down the mountain . . . He wasn't aware that his face glowed because he had spoken to the LORD face to face.** " Exodus 34:29 NLT

When we walk close to the Lord, somehow people sense that we have been with him.

All scripture is from the New Living Translation (Tyndale House Publishers, 1996).



www.christianitytoday.com/cr/2003/002/7.28.html

Christian Reader, March/April 2003

## The Sex Lives of Christian Teens

[The entire article can be found at the address above. Excerpts printed under guidelines for reprints from Christianity Today.]

.... Despite signs that things are improving, the reality of sexual temptation remains—and Christian young people are not inoculated against these pressures. Hearing their voices, in fact, suggests that their plight might be even more precarious than their non-Christian counterparts:

"I know the Bible says you can't have sex before marriage. But why can't you, if you're in love with the person? It doesn't feel wrong. — Kendra, 14

"My boyfriend and I don't want to mess around anymore. But how do we keep this commitment? I never realized how powerful passion can be." —Shari, 15

"Kids at school are pressuring me and my girlfriend to have sex. I want to wait until marriage, but I worry about how this makes me look." —Darryl, 17

"I feel cut off from God. I want to do what's right, but I can't seem to. Recently I had sex with a guy, thinking that it would bring us closer. I know now that was a mistake, and I feel totally ashamed." —Aimee, 16

A lot of Christian teens are having sex and suffering painful, sometimes devastating consequences. Meanwhile, those not having sex are thinking a lot about it, many of them wavering between fear and curiosity.

Parents, youth pastors, and other concerned adults might hope that the influence of biblical principles on their young would help them withstand the onslaughts of peer pressure, physical longings, and conflicting signals from secular voices ("Don't have sex, but when you do, use a condom"), but the several teens who spoke candidly with *Christian Reader* reveal a far more complicated picture.

### The battle to stay pure

At 17, John was a handsome and energetic high school senior with a charming smile and winning personality. Popular for his athletic prowess, he had learned that such recognition brought with it certain expectations.

"Of course, there was always a lot of pressure to have sex, from teammates and other kids," he says. "I was a football player, you know. And the girls—they really come after you. But the Bible is clear. No sex till marriage."

Now 18 and studying business administration in college, John says the main thing that helps him maintain a biblical standard of purity is a steadfast emphasis on his objectives. "I haven't given into drugs, alcohol, or premarital sex because I see where indulging has taken a lot of my peers," he says. "You have to stay prayed up and know what you want out of life. You don't want to limit yourself. Having babies or getting AIDS is not on your route. If you're focused on your goals, peer pressure shouldn't faze you."

Asked about Christian friends who gave in and became sexually active, John answers knowingly. "It starts out as curiosity. They want to know what it feels like. I want to know, too. I really don't want to wait. But I don't want to pay the costs of not waiting, either."

And John isn't just talking about physical costs. "I've seen some Christian guys and girls who start having sex, and they change. They still go to church, but their spiritual lives become fake. When you are consistently doing wrong and know it, your spiritual life becomes empty and you get farther and farther from God," he says. "Sometimes you end up not really believing in anything."

....

"A few of these freshman may have been part of a 'True Love Waits' campaign or had their parents give them a 'promise ring' along with the reminder not to sleep around until marriage," Duin continued, "but the other 90 percent hadn't heard much in the way of gripping reasons for staying chaste."

If Christian parents, pastors, and youth leaders hope to help Christian teens avoid the tragic consequences of bad sexual choices, the adults must help teens discover those gripping reasons for waiting until marriage for sex.

....

As Marilee Friedrich points out in her 2001 book *Sex, Drugs, and Jesus: Teenagers Share How Christianity Affects Their Lives* (WinePress), many young people who commit to abstinence until marriage do it with admirable deliberation. Clearly, many Christian teenagers have enough spiritual maturity to learn, with the help of adults, not only how to say no to premarital sex and other risky behaviors but perhaps more importantly, *why* to say no.

### 'I don't want to hurt God'

Michelle, a quiet, attractive 16-year-old, says she enjoys school, loves God and her church, but finds her youth group a little dull. Asked whether the group talked much about sexual issues, she replies, "We don't talk about it at all." She wishes that her youth leader would address some of her and her peers' real-life questions—"Maybe if we talked about some of the stuff that's going on with us, then it wouldn't be so boring."

Michelle says it's not peer pressure but curiosity that led her to lose her virginity at 15 to a boy she barely knew. "I wasn't really thinking about how God would see it. And I didn't really regret what I did until later, when I talked to my mom about it.

"I didn't intend to tell her," Michelle continues. "She asked me, and I didn't want to lie. But after we talked, I felt a lot closer to her."

Michelle says she believes that it's better for teens to save sex until marriage, as the Bible directs, but she struggles now with her recommitment to purity. "And I have more questions about my faith now," she says. "I guess I need to study the Bible more."

Calvin, 18, is a college freshman and active in his church choir. He said that he experiences the most pressure to have sex from members of the opposite sex. "In high school, I decided to have sex, just to try it. I felt bad later, when I thought about what the Bible said. I've prayed, but I still don't feel forgiven."

He adds, "I want to have control over my sexual behavior and to not have to feel bad about it. But I don't know how to make that happen."

Maia, 16, was raised in a Christian home and has an older sister who became an unwed mother at 17. "My parents were so angry and disappointed," she recalls. "My dad especially was so hurt."

"I think about sex, too," she says. "I'm curious, especially after what happened with my sister. But all I know is that what she did really damaged our family. And my parents are, like, watching me, all paranoid now. I don't want to hurt God or my parents the way my sister did, or even by having safe sex."

.... Kara Eckmann Powell, who coauthored the 2001 book *Good Sex: A Whole-Person Approach to Teenage Sexuality & God* (Zondervan), believes that one reason a lot of abstinence programs fail is because they have too narrow a focus, both in time and attention. ... "Too much of sex education in churches has focused on slogans and single commitments," Powell asserts. "While these are worthwhile, they aren't enough. An ongoing commitment needs to be reinforced throughout the year..."

**[... and so the C&WC occasionally and regularly says it: Sex is not bad. God designed it to be in marriage, so it is BEST when done that way.]**

Faith@Work September 23, 2004

## Humility vs. Self-sufficiency

“So humble yourself under the mighty power of God, and in his good time, he will honor you.” I Peter 5:6

I have a character flaw, — it’s called self-sufficiency. I have lived for many years proving to myself and to “the world” that I could and can survive on my own. I can pay bills and take care of insurance, I have a home and a car, plus a job which I love. And while I can’t just run off and do anything I want, I have enough to live comfortably. Not only that, but that job which I love, I’m pretty darn good at, if I say so myself.

Now back to my flaw. Somewhere along the line, I, and a good many others, have come to operate on the premise that we don’t really need anyone. Do you know what happens when one is self-sufficient in life? One tries to also be self-sufficient in faith. Oh, you know all the right things to say and do, so that people don’t think that you are religious, but the bottom line is that we have been living like we don’t really need God in our daily life here and now.

Now about eternity, I’m all over that with God. He’s in charge, but here on earth today – thank you, I’m doing just fine. Well, you know what? I’m not. You are not. Even if God is still working through you in spite of you, you and I are missing out on the life he has intended for us, because we don’t live as if we really need him everyday, every hour, every second.

God’s call to humble ourselves is a call to submission and trust. It’s a call to let go of our perceived self-sufficiency and realize we do need him and can trust him all the time. And then — this is the big step, because it is the call to humble ourselves — we are to let go of our will and do his. Do you dare? Are you willing? Because I believe the life he wants us to have is so much more, I am willing to submit my will to his, and do it his way. Humble yourself today, and see where God lifts you up!

### Bringing It Home:

1. Do you live a self-sufficient life? How about your faith life? Where do you live as if Jesus doesn’t really need to show up today?
2. Today, take the time to really and truly get on your knees and humble yourself before your Maker. Repent, let go, and give all to him. Trust him to provide for all your needs. Let him lift you up to things you have never imagined.

Prayer: Giver of Life, today I humble myself before you. I admit that I live my life as if I am in total control. I admit that I live my life as if I don’t really need you for today. I admit that I am wrong. Today, as I lay my life at your feet, I let go of my will and choose yours. In complete trust I lie in your arms and wait – wait for you to choose to lift me up. I pray this in your strong name, Jesus. Amen.

Jane Jebesen, Youth and Family Minister  
Joy! Lutheran Church / Gurnee, Illinois  
Please feel free to share this devotion with others.

Faith@Work October 13, 2004

## It’s Never too Late to “Ask for Directions.”

“Cry out for insight and understanding. Search for them as you would lost money or hidden treasure. Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord, and you will gain knowledge of God. For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” - Proverbs 2:3-6

“Directions? Who needs directions? I’ve put a million of these things together. I don’t need directions!”

“I don’t need directions to run this DVD player – they all work alike. I don’t need to read the stupid manual!”

“I am not lost. I know we are close. If I just turn left up here – or maybe it was right. Maybe I should have asked for directions.”

It’s always better to ask first, so that what we set out to do in our lives will go more smoothly. But, for various sinful and prideful reasons we sometimes set out and find that we are now in need of help. We get down on ourselves for not seeking out God in the first place – knowing that we have gotten ourselves lost or in trouble – we often worry that we have messed it up so bad, that it is too late to get back on track. Not so with God. God sent Jesus to earth – to die for our sins and provide us with the best example of a truly godly life – because we failed and because we are lost. Jesus comes in the midst of our brokenness and lost state and guides us to the Word of God and the base of the cross to receive everything we need to get on the right pathway again.

It is never too late to ask for directions when you are putting something together. It is never too late to ask for the manual to properly run your DVD player. It is never too late to ask for directions when you are lost. It is never too late to ask God to pick you up, forgive you, and set you on the right pathway of following Jesus Way.

### Bringing It Home:

1. Whatever in your life that is broken or lost – Jesus is ready to walk with you and set things right. Start by admitting to God that you are lost.
2. Pray for God to provide you with the direction you need, so that you can get on the pathway that God intends for your life.
3. Trust in the directions God does give you.

Prayer: Lord God, I know that I should seek your guidance all the time and in everything – but I once again have set out on my own, thinking that I know better than you do. Forgive me. I am lost. I can’t get out of this without you. Show me your way, Lord, and I will follow. Amen.

John A. Holm  
Shepherd of the Lakes Church, Grayslake, IL  
Please feel free to share this devotion with others.

# Mostly just for fun...

## \*———— Guaranteed to Roll Your Eyes ———\*

I almost got thrown out of my sister-in-law’s house one year at the holidays. I told them that I was thinking of opening a restaurant (I did this with a straight face, so they thought I was serious).

Her and her family at the time were vegetarians, but I said I was going to open a restaurant that specialized in venison dishes. I was going to call it, “The Buck Stops Here,” and my slogan was going to be, “Bambi: You’ve seen the movie. Now, eat the star!”

## \*Longevity\*

A tough old cowboy once counseled his grandson that if he wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a little gunpowder on his oatmeal every morning.

The grandson did this religiously and he lived to the age of 93.

When he died, he left 14 children, 28 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren and a fifteen foot hole in the wall of the crematorium.

## \*Headstones\*

In a Thurmont, Maryland, cemetery:

Here lies an Atheist  
All dressed up  
And no place to go.

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On the grave of Ezekiel Aikle in East  
Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia:  
Here lies Ezekiel Aikle, Age 102.  
The Good Die Young.

~~~~~

In a London, England cemetery:

Here lies Ann Mann,  
Who lived an old maid  
But died an old Mann.  
Dec. 8, 1767

~~~~~

In a Ribbesford, England, cemetery:

Anna Wallace  
The children of Israel wanted bread,  
And the Lord sent them manna.  
Old clerk Wallace wanted a wife,  
And the Devil sent him Anna.

## \*Lost Bible\*

The devout cowboy lost his favorite Bible while he was mending fences out on the range. Three weeks later a cow walked up carrying the Bible in it’s mouth. The cowboy couldn’t believe his eyes. He took the book out of the cow’s mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, “It’s a miracle!”

“Not really,” said the cow. “Your name was written inside the cover.”

\*Thanks to Pastor Tim for this joke!\* [www.cybersalt.org/cleanlaugh](http://www.cybersalt.org/cleanlaugh)

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“One time we were driving through a construction zone and the sign said, SPEED LIMIT 35 AHEAD. And there were four of us in the car. We were through there in no time.” —Geechy Guy

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Ever notice how it’s a penny for your thoughts, yet you put in your two-cents? Someone is making a penny on the deal. —Steven Wright

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“How come when you mix water and flour together you get glue . And then you add eggs and sugar and you get cake? Where does the glue go?” —Rita Rudner

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## 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:

4401 Wild Oak Lane, Greensboro, NC 27406-8306

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

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*To subscribe, check ‘Yes’ below and fill in completely.*
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**Birthdate** \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

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

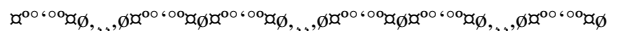
8 9 10 11 12 HSgrad. F S J S Col.grad. GrdSch PGr

‘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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**Oct. 3, 2004**

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Expanding - Please help us wit information

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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.

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freedom in Christ is  
perhaps the most press-  
ing and demanding  
issue we will ever face.**

**“There are  
some things  
you have to  
believe to see.”**