

Crimson & White Connection

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

The C&WC is produced and funded through **Crimson & White Ministries, Inc.**, a nonprofit corporation, supported only by contributions.

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
 Birthday cards: Jeanette Bare
 Proof reader/censor: Marie Dymmel, R.N.

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!

Nov 28, 2004

What's Your Purpose?

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

Jeremiah was about 20 years old when he was called to be a prophet. Just a little older than some of you reading this, and a bit younger than others. And, just like most of us today, it wasn't easy to be one of those that spoke up for God. So you have that in common.

No, it isn't easy for you today, and it wasn't easy for Jeremiah either. The world hasn't changed in a lot of ways. People still don't always prefer to do things God's way. The call of all that "stuff" like pleasures for the moment and selfishness, that eventually cause ruin and damage to bodies, minds, and relationships, was there in 625 B.C. just like it is today.

And people don't necessarily *like* being told about their faults today, just like then. Jeremiah wrote about being persecuted by his fellow townspeople (chapter 11 verse 21, his family thought he was a fanatic (12:6), in danger from the priests and prophets (26:8-9), the king ((36:19), and the military (38:4). However he remained faithful to the Lord and his calling in spite of persecution. (*Liberty Bible Commentary*, p1426)

So what is YOUR calling? Will you be a school teacher or professor that models Christ and encourages students? Will you be a person in the business world that practices honestly and has a reputation for fair dealings? Will you be a parent that is an example of God to your children? Maybe your purpose is to be on mission for God in a clinic in a place far from "home" or a replacement for Billy Graham or the leader of your youth group or YoungLife or volunteer or staff in a crisis clinic ... or ... or ... WhatEVER your purpose, you will encounter opposition. If you are working for God in this world, Satan will try to oppose you and/or discourage you. - One thought: if you aren't experiencing any opposition, maybe you aren't being effective for God, and Satan doesn't need to trip you up or oppose you. Just something to think about there.

In chapter 7, Jeremiah gives a sermon and says that the people's ways reflect their relationship with God. They were serving other gods, they oppressed the poor, it was a mess. God had lost His priority with them. 'You return to Me, and you'll be safe. If not, I'll destroy you like I did at Shiloh. You think that just coming to church gives you license to do all kinds of stuff? Wrong! Straighten up!' -- That's my loose paraphrase of the bottom line here. You might want to read it for yourself.

Jeremiah knew his purpose and he decided, even when opposed, he would follow through and do what God had for him to do. How about YOU?

"The world today needs more Jeremiahs who, in the midst of opposition, are true to the standard of the Bible, patient in the proclamation of the gospel, gentle in the hands of persecutors, committed to the protective care of the Chief Shepherd, and burdened for the souls of lost men and women. Satan and the world may conspire against a servant of God, but the conspiracy is really against God, and God is invincible!" (I.L.Jensen, *Jeremiah and Lamentations*, p48, quoted in *Liberty Bible Commentary*, p1451.)

God has a wonderful, perfect plan for you. You can yield to it ... You can fight Him and resist ... You can seek His will and plan ... You can wander ... You can make crappy choices and "mess up." But even if you have "messed up *big time*," God can take all the broken pieces of your life and create something wonderful and beautiful ... if you let Him. ... If you LET Him. But for Him to fix your broken life, you have to bring and give Him all the pieces.

In Christ, Rich

In this C&WC are several devotionals and commentaries about priorities, what's important, and what motivates you ... what you believe.

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. -

PLEASE remember to send me your new addresses. To keep the C&WC coming to you, PLEASE tell us when you change home address or school address, or email address. - Thank you so much.

**A NEW MINISTRY
E X P A N S I O N
WE NEED YOUR 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, "Let No One Deke You," is the third article we've used. Help us put positive messages in YOUR school paper.

It's almost December. Growing up in Michigan, it brings back thoughts of ice on lakes, cold, hockey season, ... actually my mother-in-law and my sister-in-law called the day before Thanksgiving to say they had snow on the cars and stuff. Brrrr. Here's a hockey related story. C&W bought space and put this in a student paper. Help us find more student papers, high school and college, where we can put articles.

Let No One Deke You

I have never been much of a hockey fan and have trouble figuring out the red line and icing the puck. But since my oldest grand-daughter is the only girl on her hockey team and since they are playing this weekend for their regional championship I thought I ought to learn some more so I can talk to her. Now I know what a "hat trick" is and "deking." I hope I don't insult you by defining these terms because you probably already know them. However, just in case there is someone out there as ignorant as I, a "hat trick" occurs when one player scores three goals during a game. "Deking" or "to deke" is when a player deceives the opposition with a crafty play like going right after a fake to the left.

Will there ever be enough time in life to learn all this useful stuff? In Matthew 4 Jesus scored a "hat trick." Three times Lucifer tried to "deke" Jesus into sinning and Jesus scored a victory all three times. Now I am sure someone is rolling his or her eyes and saying, "Oh, please." However, I am fascinated by this word "deke."

Paul wrote, "My purpose is that . . . you may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive (deke) you by fine-sounding arguments." Colossians 2:2-4 If you want to understand life and why you are here the treasured answer is found in Christ.

(By Roger Bothwell. Used with permission.)

Have you considered that all this "church stuff" might be right and you've been "deked" into a wrong path? Have you considered going to the YoungLife group? Have you tried the Young Men of Destiny group? How about "church"?

Signs:

**God was showing off
when he made you**

**Freedom came with
responsibilities**

**Build sand castles ... requires a lot
of energy and effort. ... and they
won't last. ... Build a relationship
with God for eternity.**

**We think we're holding on to Jesus. - Re-
member the picture of Jesus carrying the
lamb? That little lamb is defenseless - no
claws, no hoofs, - it is Jesus holding on to
the defenseless lamb.**

BreakPoint with Charles Colson
Commentary #041110 - 11/10/2004
The Faith of a Child:
Doubt and Belief in THE POLAR EXPRESS
 (Reprinted with permission)

The story in the tenth chapter of Mark is a familiar one. When disciples discouraged people from bringing their children to Jesus, He rebuked them, saying, "Let the little children come to Me." Generally, the story is interpreted to indicate how we should treat children. But we need to pay closer attention to what else Jesus said: "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." Children show us how to approach Jesus: with wide-eyed belief and unquestioning faith.

A new film opening today reminds us of what it means to have faith like a child's. Based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg, *THE POLAR EXPRESS* takes us on one boy's journey from doubt to belief. On one level, the story can be interpreted as a retelling of *THE MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET*, but for Christians, this film can also be seen as a homecoming story, a tale about a return to untainted belief.

In the movie, a young boy struggles with his belief in Santa Claus. He lies in bed on Christmas Eve, hoping to hear the bells on Santa's sleigh, but his doubt grows. Later, he is awakened by the loud and surprising arrival of a train in his front yard. He walks outside, and the conductor greets him asking, "Well, are you coming?" Boarding the train, we find, is the most important decision he makes.

Along with many other children, the boy travels to the North Pole, where Santa will present the first gift of Christmas. During the trip, the boy continues to struggle with doubt, at one point trying to wake himself up. He also meets a girl whose own faith is intact but lacks the confidence to lead; a know-it-all boy who thinks he has all the answers; and a lonely young boy from the "wrong side of the tracks" who's never trusted anyone.

Two messages from the movie stand out. First, as the conductor later remarks to the boy, "It doesn't matter where you're going; what matters is deciding to get on." Often we allow life's disappointments to make us cynical, and we no longer trust. Or we expect to get something for our faith. But life usually doesn't work out according to our plans. So yes, what's important isn't what God has in store for us or what we are going to get, but that we trust God enough to turn to Him and act.

Second, the conductor also reminds us: "The most real things in the world are the things we can't see." That's when we need the faith of a child to ask what Max Lucado calls the "fundamental question": "Can I afford to believe in what I have never seen?"

"We all go through that passage . . . to that world of adulthood where that magic and wonder is gone — or maybe deeply buried," notes the film's screenwriter Bill Broyles. As we enter the Advent season in a couple of weeks maybe we can rekindle a sense of the wonder and awe of our Creator and Savior. *THE POLAR EXPRESS* is a wonderful holiday film with a story even the youngest child can understand — and a message that is profound, about faith and belief, that no adult should miss.

Copyright (c) 2004 Prison Fellowship THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED. "BreakPoint with Chuck Colson" is a daily commentary on news and trends

from a Christian perspective. Heard on more than 1000 radio outlets nationwide, BreakPoint transcripts are also available on the Internet. BreakPoint is a production of The Wilberforce Forum, a division of Prison Fellowship: 1856 Old Reston Avenue, Reston, VA 20190.

FOR FURTHER READING AND INFORMATION Visit the POLAR EXPRESS website, and find materials from HomeWord parents and pastors can use in discussing the film with children and others.

<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7145&et=T&s=3421>

<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7146&et=T&s=3421>

Chris Van Allsburg, *THE POLAR EXPRESS* (Houghton Mifflin, 1985).

<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7147&et=T&s=3421>

Mark Moring, "From Doubt to Belief," *CHRISTIANITY TODAY*, 3 November 2004.

<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7148&et=T&s=3421>

"THE POLAR EXPRESS Journeys to Real Meaning of Christmas," Christian Activities Online, 12 October 2004.

<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7149&et=T&s=3421>

Bill Zwecker, "All aboard 'The Polar Express'," *CHICAGO SUN-TIMES*, 31 October 2004.

<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7150&et=T&s=3421>

Duane Dudek, "'Polar Express' runs on 2 tracks," *MILWAUKEE JOURNAL-SENTINEL*, 9 November 2004.

<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7151&et=T&s=3421>

Rotten Tomatoes includes a fascinating discussion of the "performance capture" technique used in *THE POLAR EXPRESS*, the first feature film to use the technology.

<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7152&et=T&s=3421>

John Horn, "Zemeckis guides 'Polar Express' into digitized-acting era," *ARIZONA CENTRAL*, 5 November 2004.

<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7153&et=T&s=3421>

Duane Byrge, "The Polar Express," *HOLLYWOOD REPORTER*, 23 October 2004.

<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7154&et=T&s=3421>

Susan M. Wolfe, "Santa Is Not an Anagram of 'Satan'," *BREAKPOINT ONLINE*, 2000.

<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7155&et=T&s=3421>

T. M. Moore, "Seeing Through to the Unseen Things," *BREAKPOINT ONLINE*, 30 May 2003.

<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7156&et=T&s=3421>

Robert K. Johnston, *FINDING GOD IN THE MOVIES* (Baker, 2004).

<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7157&et=T&s=3421>

NOTE: Referral to websites not produced by Prison Fellowship, the Wilberforce Forum, and BreakPoint is for informational purposes only and does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of the sites' content.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

In *FINDING GOD IN THE MOVIES*, the authors present a unique resource to help believers engage and enjoy films of faith. Included are resources for understanding and discerning the Christian message relevant to thirty-three recent movies now available in video or DVD formats.
<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7157&et=T&s=3421>

Just what do you believe in?

What you believe in will and does shape your actions.

[*Couldn't resist the 'teacher' in me. A little history and a lesson.*]

BreakPoint with Charles Colson
Commentary #041125 - 11/25/2004

Pilgrim Fathers . . . and Kids: The Real Reason They Came to America

Why did the Pilgrims really come to America? Most of us think we know the answer: They came seeking religious freedom. Well, yes, they did, in part. But they also came because their teenagers were giving them fits.

This forgotten aspect of Pilgrim lore is a wonderful lesson for us this Thanksgiving — especially for Christian parents.

The story begins in 1608, a time when the Church of England was the established state church. Christians who objected to aspects of the official church were called Separatists, and they were often thrown into prison for worshipping in their own way.

Determined to worship as they saw fit, a group of these Separatists escaped to Holland in the spring of 1608, including 17-year-old William Bradford, who was to pen a famous journal of their adventures. But after a dozen years of living among the Dutch, these Separatists were becoming desperate: It was proving difficult to make a living in Holland. As Bradford recounts in his journal, many of them found it difficult to endure the “great and continual labors” and were getting old before their time. Fellow Separatists still in England, observing their backbreaking trials, actually preferred prison in England to liberty in Holland.

Most lamentable of all, Bradford writes, many of their children were losing their faith. They were influenced by the “great licentiousness of youth in that countrie” and were being drawn away by evil examples. Some of these kids were even leaving their families and living dissolute lives, Bradford records, “to the great greefe of their parents and dishonor of God.”

It seemed clear to the Separatists that they needed to seek religious freedom in a land that not only offered an easier living, but also would not corrupt their children. After much prayer, they began to plan their historic journey to America.

The story of the Pilgrims illustrates the fact that parents have always had to contend with cultural influences tempting their children away from faithful obedience to God. In the seventeenth century, those temptations likely took the form of saloons and prostitutes. Today's kids are surrounded by a culture that celebrates recreational sex, drug use, and total rebellion against God's laws.

Now, we don't have the luxury of packing up our kids and moving to another country — assuming we could find one free of temptations. Still, we have to do everything we can to keep the corrosive forces of American culture from eating away at the character of our youth. We can do that by limiting their exposure to immoral films, music, videos games, and television programs when they're young. And then, when they're older, we need to help them understand the worldview implicit in these products. We must teach them that the culture war is a cosmic struggle between the Christian worldview and the various secular and spiritual worldviews arrayed against it.

This Thanksgiving, when your kids are devouring their pumpkin pie, point out that the Pilgrims did not come to America just to find religious freedom: They already had that in Holland. The Pilgrims embarked on that dangerous journey to an unexplored continent for another important reason, as well.

They came for the sake of their kids.

Copyright (c) 2004 Prison Fellowship THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED. “BreakPoint with Chuck Colson” is a daily commentary on news and trends from a Christian perspective. Heard on more than 1000 radio outlets nationwide, BreakPoint transcripts are also available on the Internet. BreakPoint is a production of The Wilberforce Forum, a division of Prison Fellowship: 1856 Old Reston Avenue, Reston, VA 20190.

FOR FURTHER READING AND INFORMATION

Dorothy Honiss Kelso, “William Bradford,” Pilgrim Hall Museum, 18 September 2000.
<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7868&et=T&s=3421>
Learn more about the journal of William Bradford.
<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7869&et=T&s=3421>
BreakPoint Commentary No. 031127, “Dead Pilgrims Society: Putting the Thanks Back into Thanksgiving.”
<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7870&et=T&s=3421>
BreakPoint Commentary No. 031104, “‘God’s Instrument’: The Story of Squanto.”
<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7871&et=T&s=3421>
Elesha Coffman, “Eat, Drink, and Relax,” CHRISTIANITY TODAY, 19 November 2004.
<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7872&et=T&s=3421>
Eric Metaxas, SQUANTO AND THE MIRACLE OF THANKSGIVING (Thomas Nelson, 1999).
<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7873&et=T&s=3421>
Charles Colson, ANSWERS TO YOUR KIDS' QUESTIONS (Tyndale, 2000).
<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7874&et=T&s=3421>

NOTE: Referral to websites not produced by Prison Fellowship, the Wilberforce Forum, and BreakPoint is for informational purposes only and does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of the sites' content.

NEW ON BREAKPOINT

The death of Yasser Arafat brings to a close one of the most tumultuous and tragic lives of our times. The man William Safire would label “the only lifelong terrorist to win a Nobel Peace Prize” was a man of contradictions and controversy from the very start. Read “Moses in Reverse” by Albert Mohler (reprinted from Crosswalk.com).
<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7876&et=T&s=3421>

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Get your child or grandchild a copy of SQUANTO. This outstanding children's book tells the story of Squanto, a Native American who became known as the “special” instrument sent of God, who changed the course of history.
<http://msg1svc.net/servlet/Gateway?p=pfm&u=7873&et=T&s=3421>



Are you on our 'daily email' list? Then you read these.

I wanted the rest to get these, too.

11/25/04 Th - On the 'light' side

Used with permission.

=====

Daily Encounter ~ Thursday, November 25, 2004

Know God: <http://www.911Eternity.com>

=====

By Richard Innes. Published and (c)
by Acts International <http://www.actsweb.org>

On the Light Side

"No one lights a lamp and hides it! Instead, he puts it on a lamp stand to give light to all who enter the room" (Luke 11:33, TLB).

Lieutenant John Eisenhower, son of the late General Dwight Eisenhower [and later elected President], was a member of his father's staff during World War II. On one occasion General Eisenhower gave his son a message to deliver to a colonel on the front line.

The young lieutenant said to the colonel, "My dad says to watch your right flank." The puzzled officer replied, "Really? And what does your mommy say?"

Obviously the colonel didn't know who young Eisenhower was. Eisenhower didn't make himself known. He hid his light under a bushel as it were.

We don't want to drop names either or ride on somebody else's coattails but to make any kind of an impact in our circle of influence, it is important that we are known for who we are—not by rank or title—but by our fruit.

That is, do people know that I'm a Christian—do they "see" Jesus in me—or do I just melt into the surrounding group in which I find myself and thereby hide my light under a bushel?

No matter how small our light is, "All the darkness in the world cannot put out the light of one small candle."

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, help me to be as Jesus to someone today. Let them see your light shining through me. And in the words of the hymn writer, 'May your beauty rest upon me, As I seek the lost to win, And may they forget the channel, Seeing only Him [you].' Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully in Jesus name, amen."

<:)))><<

For help to be sure you're a real Christian without having to be religious: <http://www.actsweb.org/htbs1.htm>

11/26/04 Fr - Goals, direction, purpose

As I read this I immediately thought of several things. First I thought of two books: *If You Don't Know Where You're Going You'll Probably End Up Somewhere Else* and *The Purpose Driven Life*. - Then I thought of people. Some people have a direction and purpose. They know where they are going. They have principles and values that are guiding their decisions. And then I thought of a few people that have let circumstances guide them into bad decisions, or they ignored principles, and another who has let circumstances affect his attitude.

In the piece today he uses the word shipwreck. I showed my classes a Discovery channel program on the "Mystery of the [sinking of the] Edmond Fitzgerald" which happened in a storm on Lake Superior on 11/10/75. One theory is that she came too close to the shoal and hit bottom because the captain reported taking on water and the pumps were just holding their own. That ship still lies wrecked at the bottom of the lake. The captain apparently didn't stay far enough away from the hazard. And then I thought of other wrecks that have been restored

after great damage. Like I have a set of pictures from the USS Cole that was bombed in the Yemen harbor and had a hole 20' x 30' blasted in her at the waterline. She has been restored. — In one case the storm took a permanent tole. In the other, the damage has been repaired and restored.

Life brings storms and choices. If we're not careful, we make decisions that take us too close to the dangers, or let us be vulnerable to dangers, the results - nothing might happen, damage that can be repaired, or maybe a damage that is irreparable. - - So be on guard, be wary. Be vigilant. Be directed. Know your purpose and stay on course. ... A piece I'm using in the C&WC says "Guard your heart."

We're going to head for the grandchildren for the next couple days. God bless.

Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. God is SO good.

Rich

Used with permission.

=====

Daily Encounter ~ Friday, November 26, 2004

Know God: <http://www.911Eternity.com>

=====

By Richard Innes. Published and (c)
by Acts International <http://www.actsweb.org>

Insignificant Goals

"Cling tightly to your faith in Christ, and always keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked" (1 Timothy 1:19, nlt).

"Some years ago a headline told of three hundred whales that suddenly died. The whales were pursuing sardines and found themselves marooned in a bay. Frederick Harris commented, 'The small fish lured the sea giants to their death. They came to their violent demise by chasing small ends, by prostituting vast powers for insignificant goals.'"1

Over the years I've asked numerous people in many groups how many of them believe that God has a purpose for their life. Almost all hands are raised in agreement. But when I ask what their God-given life purpose is, very few have an answer. I get lots of vague generalities but very few have a clearly defined life-purpose.

If we don't know specifically where we are headed in life, instead of making life happen, we allow life as it happens to make us. That is, instead of directing our life we are directed by the circumstances of life like a rudderless ship with no real sense of direction, wasting our God-given potential on pursuing happiness, riches, or insignificant goals. Unless we know where we are headed there is a danger that we, like the whales, may make shipwreck of our faith or even of our life.

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, thank you that you do have a God-given life purpose for me. Please help me to discover what it is and with your help do all in my power to achieve that purpose. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen."

1. John C. Maxwell, *Developing the Leader Within You*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publications, 1993), p. 31.

<:)))><<

2. For help to be sure you're a real Christian without having to be religious click on: <http://www.actsweb.org/htbs1.htm> (or cut and paste the URL in your browser).

From *On the right note* September –November 2004; from K-LOVE Radio

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 4

“Guard your heart.” Proverbs 4:23 NIV

How s your heart?

We think of the heart as the center of our emotions. But it’s more; it’s the origin of our desires, imaginations, motives and intentions. That’s why God says, “Above all. . . guard your heart. . .it is the well-spring of life.”

Just as low-grade fuel makes your car perform badly, Jesus says, “The things that come. . . from the heart.. .make a man ‘unclean’.. .evil thoughts, murder, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander” (Mt 15:18-19 NIV). And again He said, “A.. .person produces good deeds from a good heart, and. . . evil deeds from an evil heart. Whatever is in your heart determines what you say” (Lk 6:45 NLT).

So, how’s *your* heart today? Do you get upset easily? Do you constantly compare and resent? When you hear gossip, do you silence it or spread it? What kind of thoughts do you entertain? Your answer depends on the state of your heart. Jesus said that those whose hearts are pure, will *see* God in everything and act accordingly (See Mt 5:8 NLT).

Only by going directly to the source and cleaning out the pipeline, can you get a pure product. We reverse things by trying to clean up the outside first. But it doesn’t work! If a tree produced bad fruit you wouldn’t just treat the fruit, would you? No, you’d treat the root! Likewise, it’s not enough just to try and change your bad habits; you must go to the heart of the problem - which is the problem of the heart! David realized this, so he prayed, “Create in me a clean heart, O God” (Ps 51:10 NLT). Think maybe you should pray that too?

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 23

“Under pressure, your faith is forced into the open.”

James 1:3 TM

Your faith is on trial today!

If you’re in a fiery trial today, be advised - it’s your faith that’s on trial! Faith is such a key issue in Christian living that folks in the early church were called “believers” because of their great faith. Here are 2 things you need to know about faith, if you’re going to use yours effectively.

(1) Faith cannot alter purpose; it’s only God’s agent in fulfilling it! If God’s plan requires that you go through tough times in order to accomplish His will (and it usually does), then faith is what enables you to endure. It’s like the night watchman that protects God’s purposes in your life.

(2) It’s wonderful when God prospers you, but don’t make temporal success and creature comforts the barometer of your faith! In Hebrews 11 we find two groups of people; those who demonstrated such faith that their very shadow healed the sick; “and others” whose faith enabled them to bleed to death beneath a pile of stones for the cause of Christ (Heb 11:37); Notice, both groups “obtained a good report through faith” (Heb 11:39).

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego discovered that when God is with you, 3 things happen: (a) You’ll go through the fire, but instead of destroying you, it’ll refine you and reposition you for greater blessing. (b) Situations that cause others to falter or give up, will cause you to triumph. (c) When you come out, you’ll have something to say that’ll convince both friend and foe alike.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 24

“Do the hard work of getting along with each other.”

James 3:18 tm

Don’t be a Porcupine!

Unlike creatures who travel in packs, porcupines travel solo. When they encounter other animals they respond by withdrawing, or using their quills to attack. Once their deadly quills become embedded the wounds fester, causing suffering, even death. Now porcupines don’t necessarily want to be alone, they just don’t know how to get close without hurting others or themselves.

Sound familiar? If so it’s not surprising, because as human beings we employ attack and withdrawal strategies every day. We each have our own set of quills; things like: gossip, anger, pride, competitiveness, insensitivity, greed and control, to name just a few. By aiming them at others, we damage relationships, hurt people and end up lonely. Now, while it’s not always easy, porcupines want to be able to get along together if only to ensure future generations. Their only other option is extinction. The same goes for us too!

That’s why Paul writes: “Live in harmony with each other. Don’t try to act important . . . enjoy the company of ordinary people” (Ro 12: 16 NLT). It matters to God how you get along with your family, your neighbors and your co-workers. The Bible says: “Give more honor to others than to yourselves. Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others” (Php 23:4 NCV). And James writes: “Do the hard work of getting along.” Come on, you’ve got to work at it! Pull in your quills today and ask God to help you build loving relationships with the other porcupines who share your space!

—— Guaranteed to Roll Your Eyes ——

I manage a large discount bookstore and was amused by a phone conversation one of my salesclerks had with a new computer user. The caller asked if we carried “Linux for Dummies.”

“No,” the clerk replied, “but we do sell “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Linux.”

The man groaned and said, “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Linux is way over my head!”

Dear Marty

Dear Marty,

I have been unable to sleep since I broke off your engagement to my daughter. Will you forgive and forget?

I was much too sensitive about your Mohawk, tattoo and pierced nose. I now realize motorcycles aren’t really that dangerous, and I really should not have reacted that way to the fact that you have never held a job.

I am also very sure that some other very nice people live under the bridge in the park, too. Sure my daughter is only 18 and wants to marry you instead of going to Harvard on full scholarship. After all, you can’t learn everything about life from books.

I sometimes forget how backward I can be. I was wrong. I was a fool. I have now come to my senses and you have my full blessing to marry my daughter.

Sincerely, Your future father-in-law.

P.S. Congratulations on winning the lottery!

Thanks to Pastor Tim for this joke! <http://www.cybersalt.org/cleanlaugh>

**Me And You Is Friends ...
You Smile, I Smile ...
You Hurt, I Hurt ...
You Cry, I Cry ...
You Jump Off A Bridge ...
I’m Gonna Miss You.**

Crimson & White Connection

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

U.S.Postage

PLEASE, if the student has a NEW address, would you send that to me? To forward this, you need to put a 37c stamp on it before mailing. To return it, just cross out or correct the address and drop in the mail, and the P.O. will return it.



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.

Nov 28, 2004
What's your purpose?
We NEED YOUR help (p.2)
The Polar Express
A history lesson
Fun stuff on p.5-6

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.

Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.
Proverbs 20:11 NIV

If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything.

"If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."
Isaiah 7:9 NIV