

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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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!

The C&WC will be mailed "home" through the Summer. If you have a summer school or "camp staff" job and give me the address and dates, we'll mail it there. Please keep your address up to date.

Apr 26, 2005

(I know. I'm really behind. I'll try to catch up during the summer.)

Summer cometh

By Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D., (c) 2005

As the end of school approaches, I've lost count of the times someone, a student or someone at church has asked, "Do you have anything planned for the summer?"

Well, I do have a couple things tentatively planned for the summer, a Promise Keeper conference, maybe a school workshop, maybe look for another job, attend a conference in Texas and try to talk about the C&WC with people I meet, and get in an actual short vacation or two. And we'll be sure to spend some time with the grandkids. I am on a list of possible sponsors for the youth mission trip to M-fuge, too. And there is getting out several issues of the C&WC to try to "catch up" on my getting behind a tad this past month.

What do you have planned for the summer? I've overheard a couple kids at school say, that summer will be one long p-a-r-t-y.

Maybe you're not going for an extended trip with World Changers. Maybe if you're going to stay home and work to get a little cash to contribute to the educational expenses, you might consider doing a few hours at VBS as a helper. - One of the things we used to do was say, "I can't go, but I can help someone else," and we would financially support so others could go. - Need some suggestions? Julie is still raising the funding to return to Mozambique on a permanent basis. Lindsey is putting off medical school for a YEAR to go to Romania. I know kids who want to go but can't afford to go to "camp."

"Our souls were made to contemplate deep thoughts of God. It does us good like nothing else. We were designed to wonder at the great mysteries and the great verities [truths, realities] of God. Like the longing we have within to climb high mountains and look on wide vistas, like the longing we have within us to gaze on large bodies of water, like the good it does our souls to gaze out into the clear night sky towards infinity, so our soul needs to think big thoughts of God." Ken Pierpont, Stonebridge Newsletter (Number 232) (5/2/05)

In reading this piece from The Stonebridge Letter, I was thinking that a good summer project would be to schedule and maintain a time to meditate on God and grow your relationship with Him. Reading good books by authors like Max Lucado. I have just started to read his stuff; I loved *Come Thirsty*. Maybe some appologetics stuff like *Evidence That Demands A Verdict* by Josh McDowell. Or science like *Genesis Flood* by Henry Morris. (www.icr.org - The Institute for Creation Research is a world leader in the creation science movement.)

The Purpose Driven Life is a 40 day Bible study on 'Why in the world am I here?' Aimed at adults, might be a little heavy for some, although one of my 11th grade students at school was carrying it every day for a while. *Addicted to God* by Jim Burns, "50 days to a more powerful relationship with God," is targeted at teens, or at least recent young converts even if they are a little past the teens.

Which returns me to the question, "What are YOU going to do this summer?"

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.]

Subject: RE: 4/18/05 Mon - pray right

Here is my mission letter—I'm going to Romania for a year in June. I know how you like to use things for the C&CW so feel free to cut it down to a usable size if you want. Also, this is random but since your devo today was talking about alcohol partly, I thought I'd send you a copy of part of my testimony which just went into an anonymous publication on campus about alcoholism. Feel free to print that as you want (I really don't care if people know my name or what not either, I feel no shame since I've been made new in Christ). I hope you're having a good week!
 Lindsay

"There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the Man Jesus Christ, who gave Himself as a ransom for all." 1 Tim 2:5-6

Subject: RE: 3/7/05 Mon - Maturity

Date: 3/7/2005 8:12:11 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: oneday @hotmail.com

hi rich! thanks for all the great devotions. just wanted to let you know that my address has changed tothanks and have a blessed week!
 jordana

Jordana gets our daily email devotions. How about you? Try it for two weeks. Just send an email to rdymmel@aol.com and say, "I want to sample the daily devotions for two weeks, please."

Subject: Thank You! Date: 4/28/2005

From: ju @ .edu

I got your birthday card in the mail and it made my day! Thank you!! :) Julie

The test of communication is not to be found in the words of the communicator but in the understanding of the listener.

...the Christian is a statement from God to the world that there is another option.

To be treated with grace is to taste redemption.

The command is not to do witnessing but to be Christ's witnesses. Evangelism is not merely an activity; it is a way of living.

~taken from Living Proof, by Jim Petersen

Share this copy of the C&WVC with a friend and tell them you like it and maybe they'd like to get it, too, and it's free.

From Ben in Baghdad

Subject: my "it's about time" update

Date: 5/8/2005 5:07:12 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: york_benjamin@hotmail.com

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." – 1 Peter 1:6-7

I debated about whether or not to include this verse as the heading to my email, feeling as though it is wrong of me to even presume that I can consider my struggles as "suffering" when I'm surrounded by people whom I would consider are truly suffering. But I suppose that my struggles are in many ways intertwined with the feeling of hopelessness that result from the current situations in Iraq. And thus the verse is more than just a little self-encouragement for me as I go through each day, it's my hope for this country, and my dream that one day I'll see how Jesus Christ used the suffering to bring praise, glory and honor to Himself.

The last time I wrote an update to my experiences here in the Middle East, it was right before the elections in Iraq. I had asked specifically for prayer concerning that event, and I thank you for doing that. I witnessed first-hand the joy that the Iraqi people felt as they made history and voted in their first election. And for a little while after the elections, there was joy and a sense of triumph that you could see in the faces of the people. It was a great time, and during those days there was a sense of hope that this country would one day be on its feet again. As time goes on, however, I'm not sure if it's the desperation of the insurgents or the growing courage in their tactics that seem to make this struggle in Iraq appear endless.

However, with all that said, I really don't want to dwell on what you all probably get enough of in the daily news. I would rather use the opportunity to remind you all, myself included, that we serve a God who is in control of all things, and who asks us to come before Him with all of our prayers and petitions. Please be in prayer for this country, for its leaders, for our leaders as they make decisions about this country, and for the failure of the insurgents and their tactics to destroy the chances of progress in the country.

I suppose an update should include at least a little personal news. Physically, and in particular - health wise, I can't complain. We're in the dusty months, which has led to a couple of small bouts with minor eye irritations and some very colorful mucus (I apologize for those who entertain vivid pictures as they read), but overall health is good. The temperatures are also on the rise, and I'm told that by the end of May, the days when the temperature falls below 100 degrees will be few and far between all the way until November. Still I can't complain, because I work in an air conditioned building (at least most of the time), and on my occasional day off, there is a pool where I can go to cool off and attempt to tan. My days are generally pretty long, starting around six with a little PT (physical training), followed by a shower and breakfast. At 0845, I drive to the building where I work and spend the day talking with people until around 1700. After that, depending on the outcome of my talks with people during the day, I spend another couple of hours writing reports. After supper, I usually make my way back to my living quarters, where I usually relax for an hour or so and then get ready for bed in order to have the strength to do it all over again. It's really a pretty routine schedule, and the time seems to fly by most often. [Continued on page 5]

A New Life

Lindsay Viet, Davidson College, April 2005

Not every person battling alcoholism presents the Hollywood symptoms of brandy for breakfast or nightly drunkenness. My father is the perfect example of another face of this disease. He had a successful law practice, good friends, and what would have appeared to be a happy family. I never saw him drunk enough to stumble or slur his words. There was always beer in the house, but I assumed real alcoholics must drink liquor. My parents fought a lot, but only later did I realize that these arguments were fueled by alcohol.

Even years after my parents' last bad fight, a loud laugh would wake me from deep sleep. While at home, if I went to bed when my parents were getting along I'd still easily be awoken by any noise that could be the beginnings of a fight: loud movies, a dropped book, or just a raised voice. I know with perfect detail what a phone sounds like when your father rips it out of the wall so no one can call 911, and then smashes it into the gravel driveway. I know exactly what ceramic dishes sound like as they crash onto a hardwood floor. I became privy to sound because until I joined the battlefield in the living room I couldn't see, I could only hear. Most of the time, I was never asked for help, but I learned to give it the only way I knew how, by putting myself in the middle.

Having seen the darker powers of alcohol, it would have been reasonable for me to never drink. But somehow I thought I would be able to maintain control, that I would never have a problem. Despite our cultural idea of success, my life was headed down the wrong path. Outwardly, no one would have guessed the turmoil I'd lived through; most days I couldn't admit it either. Violence and uncertainty had eaten away a part of me I thought I could never regain. I searched for love, contentment, and peace in places they can never be found. If the destruction of relationships based on alcohol and superficial intimacy wasn't enough to break my heart at first, it eventually wore through my outer façade of independence and control.

I believe we're all looking for greater joy in life. In that search many look down the wrong paths. The deceptive path of alcohol nearly cost me my life. A week into my Davidson career my new hall mates and I did what most freshman seemed to be doing: we found the parties off-campus. The next morning I found myself in my hall counselor's room, reeking of alcohol and throw up, with the worst headache imaginable. Slowly the details were pieced together: I passed out at a house party and my friends carried me home. By then I was hardly breathing, my heartbeat was dangerously slow and hard to find, and I ended up in the ER. I deserved to die that night, but I didn't. Sadly, that was not the last time I drank, nor was I the last girl I knew to end a night of "fun" in the hospital.

I was under the impression that I didn't have an alcohol problem even though I continued to drink most weekends, somehow trying to prove to myself that I could do so safely. I thought I was having fun with friends, but all the while my drinking was only preventing me from building

genuine relationships and tearing apart the ones I did have. By the end of sophomore year I'd begun to realize how much harm I'd caused myself and others by putting myself in relationships based around alcohol. I'd tried to stop many times by that point, and I always *could* stop but yet something always happened to make me not *want* to anymore. My father entered AA around that same time, but it didn't help him because he didn't believe he had a problem. He finally entered rehab after a few weeks of escalated fighting that led to a restraining order against him and the Bar threatening his license to practice law if he didn't seek help. Sometimes hitting bottom is the only way up.

In rehab they taught Dad that alcoholism is a spiritual disease and that the path to recovery must include filling your emptiness with a higher power. A couple months before that I'd learned the same lesson in a more specific way: only Jesus Christ has the power to free me from my loneliness and inner pain. At the rehab center there were a frightening number of Davidson graduates; doctors, dentists, and Davidson alumni seemed to be the common trend. Had I not found the Source of healing, I'm sure I could have ended there myself one day.

Jesus longs to break people free from the bonds of addiction; He wants to fill the hole in your heart that is searching for peace and fulfillment; He wants to be the greatest love you've ever known. In response to criticism of Jesus eating and talking with known sinners, He responded: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." There is no sin too great to be forgiven through faith in Christ.

People often think Christians believe what they do only because they were raised with that faith, or that had they ever experienced real pain, such a faith would disintegrate in the face of reality. I used to be one of those people, and now I'm the Christian who would prove my former-self wrong. It is pain that reveals the true healing nature of Christ, and it is He alone who can give fulfillment and satisfaction to those who find themselves hungering for true love and acceptance. I can sleep through the sound of voices now without the surge of fear and adrenaline that use to overtake me, and the hole I used to pour alcohol into is filled and overflowing with a radiating joy I'd never known before.

If you must play, decide upon three things at the start: the rules of the game, the stakes, and the quitting time. - Chinese Proverb

Treat everyone with politeness, even those who are rude to you—not because they are nice, but because you are. - Source Unknown

Even though you may want to move forward in your life, you may have one foot on the brakes. In order to be free, we must learn how to let go. Release the hurt. Release the fear. Refuse to entertain your old pain. The energy it takes to hang onto the past is holding you back from a new life. What is it you would let go of today? —Mary Manin Morrissey

Spring 2005

Dear friends,

A lot has happened since I last sent out a letter like this last summer as I left for my first mission trip. I've grown tremendously in my faith as God has continued to prove His patience, power, and love to me on a daily basis. Just as we are given new life through the Spirit of God when we trust Christ as our Savior, so everyday is a new adventure in walking with Him. There is nothing more exciting than being in His will. *Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23).*

One of my favorite Biblical characters is Paul. One day the resurrected Christ met Paul on the road to Damascus; one day He also met me in my heart in Beaufort, NC. No one walks away from a true encounter with God unchanged: the Bible shows us the drastic changes in Paul's life, and I hope some of you have seen the transformation in mine. On the road to Damascus, Paul received specific instructions from Christ:

"I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a servant and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you . . . to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me." (Acts 26: 16,18)

Jesus makes it clear that all believers have this same call to be servants and witnesses. We are to share the transforming power of rebirth and the gift of eternal life given to those who place their trust in Christ. Specifically though, this is the call that God has placed on my life to live out in my career as a missionary. Jesus also tells us, both through His Word and His example that we are to share the gospel *and* care for people's physical needs.

"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people." (Matthew 9:35)

After spending two weeks at an orphanage in Romania last summer, God did not let me drop the idea of returning. For over eight months I prayed for clarity of His will; He reconfirmed that I was to go back continually throughout that period but it wasn't until recently that the details my human mind needed began to come together. After I graduate from Davidson on May 15th, I have another month teaching high school Spanish. I will be attending UNC School of Medicine, but am deferring for a year. June 15th I leave for Romania again, this time for a year. For the first 2 months in Romania I will be focusing on learning the language while also helping at the orphanage in Criscior and the Christian center in Brad that I helped with last summer. I will lead Bible studies, help with English club, and take part in the daily activities of the orphans while I practice Romanian. In August through the following June I hope to be working at a center for trafficked women serving in any way the Lord leads.

We've all heard of the atrocities that occur in Romania orphanages: the neglect, the abuse, and the substandard living conditions. But institutionalized children are not the only ones who suffer. Many children end up on the streets of Romanian cities; they are normally fleeing abuse at home, running away from institutions, or else are abandoned by their parents. The reality of street life is incomprehensible to most of us who live in warm homes with well-stocked kitchens. Among the stories of Romanian children left to the street is that of three siblings, Cristina, Ionuts, and Mirel. Their mother became a gypsy's mistress. Fleeing his abuse, she went to Hungary; no one heard from her again, and the abusive man was left alone with their three small children. His violence did not stop. The children spent day and night on the streets to beg; they were his

primary source of income. The children were abandoned completely except for when their father collect the money they'd gotten. When Mirel, the youngest, was crying one night, his father beat him so badly that Mirel's gall bladder ruptured, requiring emergency surgery. They were so afraid that at ages three, four, and seven, they could barely speak. They'd received no medical attention for most of their years on the street and were extremely malnourished when eventually found by government officials.

The story of Cristina, Ionuts, and Mirel has a happy ending. The night government officials found them they were rescued from their abusive father. Now they are fed, cared for, and loved in the safety of a private Christian orphanage in Criscior. Cristina, the oldest, is now eleven; last summer she was the first to greet me with a giant hug. She'd take me for walks pointing to the flowers, a dog, a tree, and teaching me the words in Romanian.

In addition to criminal activities or drug use, extreme poverty leads many to prostitution. Although it is illegal in Romania, the enterprise of sexual intercourse is widespread even among children. Girls as young as nine have been found working as street or train-station prostitutes. Movies like Pretty Woman have given Americans the idea that prostitution is a high-income profession. The reality, however, is that these girls are not working for enough to live on, they are working for a little food, chocolate, or cigarettes, and their customers are often other street children, homeless men, and international truck drivers. Reliable data on the number of child sex-workers is nearly impossible to find, but a conservative estimate places thirty percent of the prostitutes in Bucharest as under eighteen. Many young women are also trafficked against their will to Western European countries to work as sex slaves. Once rescued these women have many psychological and physical wounds that need healing from months or years of rape and abuse. However, they also need basic job skills since some of them were first kidnapped and trafficked long before they finished school. All they know is prostitution, so giving them another way to support themselves is an important part of work in shelters for trafficked women. Centers for trafficked women provide these basic skills along with an environment of safety and love that most of these women have never experienced. Only Christ can give new life, and through His transforming power these women can truly heal.

Not all stories find these happy endings. Many children waste away, lonely and abandoned in orphanages or are beaten into sexual submission as child prostitutes. Worst of all, people die in this poverty every year without ever experiencing the transforming grace of God through Jesus Christ. As the economy begins to recover and Western aid organizations continue to bring financial aid and trained personnel, Romania is slowly beginning to see improvements in many ways. While it may only be one life at a time that foreigners can touch, that is one life which probably had very little hope otherwise. I beg you to join me in the fight against the forces of evil oppressing these innocent lives. Not all of us are called to travel to Romania, but we are all called to follow Christ's commands of praying, sharing hope in the message of His redemption, and boldly living the highly counter-cultural but Biblical life that puts people before possessions. We all have a role to play in seeking justice for the oppressed. Right now mine is to go; yours might be to pray. I encourage you to ask our heavenly Father how He would have you work for His kingdom.

Your friend and sister in Christ,

Lindsay Veit

Lindsay Veit

Email: LiveItForGod@hotmail.com

Mail will be forwarded if sent to my mother's address at:
4613 Friends School Road, Durham, NC 27705

I ask that as you think of me you would pray. In addition to the following personal needs, I ask that you would pray for the Romanian people and for trafficked women around the world. I once read a line that has stuck with me for many months now: *a spiritual battle fought with spiritual weapons produces eternal victory*. Many are living in the oppression that evil creates; true freedom is only possible through Christ. We must intercede daily for the needs believers and nonbelievers oppressed by the evil in this world. For me on this journey I ask that you would:

- Pray that God will pave the way ahead of me, preparing things He wants me to see, do, and experience, and ways that I can be of service to Him. Pray that I will grow in my knowledge and understanding so that I will be prepared to teach God's Word.
"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen." (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Pray that God will comfort me in times of loneliness, homesickness, trials, and persecutions so that I will be equipped to in turn share the comforts of Christ's love with those around me.
"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, the we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
- Pray for courage as I step out in faith; pray that I will not worry about earthly things, or seek anything other than God Himself.
"Therefore do not worry, saying 'what shall we eat?' or 'what shall we drink?' or 'what shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6: 31-33)
- Pray that the LORD will grow my faith by continuing to provide for my spiritual, emotional, physical, and financial needs each day.
"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)
- Pray for my safety and health as I travel.
"My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber." (Psalms 121:2-3)
- Pray that all of my actions, attitudes, and words will bring glory to God and will be used to serve His purpose. Pray that I act in wisdom and love as an ambassadors for Christ's kingdom.
"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves." (Matthew 10:16)

Continue Ben's letter from Iraq

Spiritually, my time here has been really challenging. Because of the long work days there isn't much time for Bible studies and prayer times (which they do have at the chapel). I usually don't get back until after they're over or at least mid way through. Also, I don't work with too many folk who are interested in Spiritual discussions. That being said, God has blessed me with a few opportunities to share my personal faith with some of my colleagues. Still, I haven't been able to find any Believer who I see on a daily basis and with whom I can share and pray with. That's led to some struggles with loneliness and a general sense that my Spiritual life is kind of stagnant. Finally, emotionally, this experience has been a roller coaster of a ride. Unfortunately, my job often exposes me to the rotten side of people, and that coupled with the daily news makes it hard to stay cheerful.

I feel like this update is going to leave you all depressed. I do hope that that is not the case. I know that there is not necessarily a happy ending in the email, but I see it as kind of being similar to Psalm 88. That Psalm is one of the few Psalms that doesn't seem to have a happy finale; it's just one author laying it all before God. I think for that reason it's become one of my favorite Psalms as of late, knowing that often the true happy endings aren't found written on the pages, but rather it's in the implicit knowledge that we have as Believers that no matter what happens, God is in control and He wants us to bring all and everything into His presence just so we can be with Him.

I love you all,
ben

"It is God himself, in his mercy, who has given us this wonderful work [of telling his Good News to others], and so we never give up" (2 Corinthians 4:1, tlb).

THE BACK PEW - Jeff Larson



In 35 years as neighbors, Arnie & Bart never knew they were both Christians. FUNNY.. isn't it? Do your neighbors know what you believe?

thebackpew used with permission

THE BACK PEW - Jeff Larson



PASSIVE WORSHIP is an Oxymoron
Mark 12:30 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.

http://thebackpew.com

Faith@Work April 15, 2005

The Power You Need for Victory

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." –
Philippians 4:13

In our struggle against the devil and his evil angels we soon find that our strength is insufficient. We need the help of Jesus and the Holy Spirit to be victorious. "Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing," as Martin Luther put it well. That man is Jesus, who sends us the promised helper, the Holy Spirit, so that we can successfully battle Satan and his legions.

On one of the occasions when I was rotating the tires on my car, my youngest son, Evan, then five years old, came out and asked me what I was doing. When I told him, he asked if he could help. I told him, "Sure!"

"What can I do," he asked? I said, "I need to take off a tire in the front of the car. Would you please pick up the car, so I can get it off?"

His look was classic. It said, "You're kidding, right?" I said, "Go for it."

He put his hands under the front bumper and starting trying to lift. With a defeated look on his face he said, "I can't do it, Daddy."

"Let's try it together," I told him. I put my hands under the bumper, too, and together we grunted and groaned and did our best to lift that car, but we couldn't do it.

"What now," he asked me. "I guess we can't do it on our own," I said. "We need some help. Let me introduce you to my friend, jack." I pulled out the jack from my trunk, set it up, and let Evan crank up the front of the car. His little eyes got wide as the front of the car lifted off the ground.

When we were done not only did I have a great children's sermon, but I had the chance to talk about our need for the power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Bringing It Home:

1. Have you experienced discouragement when attempting to fulfill a God-given mission? Have you experienced the Tempter's power of persuasion, convincing you that you can't do it? Have you finally given up? Or have you resisted Satan and trusted in the power of Jesus and his people to help you accomplish the task?
2. What God-given tasks are you now attempting, with goals so big, that only Jesus' power could make them happen? If you don't have any, spend some time in prayer. God wants to accomplish great things through you!
3. When have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit? Of the love of Jesus?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, on my own I can accomplish very little that makes a difference. By myself I soon fall victim to the deceptions of Satan. But when I open my life up to your power, I can help change a human life for eternity through the Gospel of forgiveness and grace. Teach me to rely upon you for all things, so that my life may be a winning witness for your Gospel of life and salvation. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

Please feel free to forward this devotion to others.

What do you have that you need victory over?

Under the guise of our heading of

Love, Relationships, and ...

we bring you the introduction to the Single Connection letter from Christianity Today and the web address for the followup feature article on Abstinent Again. I had put this in, then pulled it out... then I got an email asking a question... so it's back in.

[This material from The Single Connection letter from Christianity Today reprinted under their permission guidelines for non-profit use.]

Christianity Today

The Single Connection letter

Your guide to an abundant single life from ChristianSinglesToday.com

Thursday, April 07, 2005

Welcome

"I like sex," a childhood friend recently confided in me as we were talking about some of the tough parts of being single, including struggling with sexual temptation. This friend became sexually active during college and had been fighting valiantly in the past decade to make different choices. But it's been a tough road, and not without a few detours and mistakes along the way. "I know what I'm missing. I know it's great. That makes it even more difficult."

So what do you do when you've "been there, done that" and are now trying to live according to God's command to save sex for marriage? I have a feeling that honesty and openness about this sensitive topic, such as the kind my friend displayed as we were chatting over coffee, is a first step toward an answer. We in Christian circles probably aren't talking enough about the complicated issue of adult abstinence.

So to help remedy that, we asked those of you who are "abstinent again" for advice. This week's lead article is a round-up of these great insights. Don't miss this compelling and helpful read.

....

Thanks for spending some time with us this week!
Blessings!
Camerin Courtney

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/singles/newsletter/mind50406.html>
Christianity Today.com
Christian Singles Today.com

Abstinent Again

Nine singles who have "been there, done that" share their advice on staying sexually pure.

April 6, 2005

Crimson & White Connection

Dr. Rich Dymmel, Editor
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Greensboro, NC 27406-8306

U.S.Postage

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PLEASE, if the student isn't here, would you put a 37c stamp on this, change the address, and mail it to them?

If they have a NEW address, would you send that to me?

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.

Apr 26, 2005
Summer cometh
From Ben in Baghdad
Lindsay goes to Romania
A New Life
Abstinent Again

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.

**Why are you always running around looking for good?
Is he lost?**

Please keep your address current.

Every calling is great when greatly pursued.

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

-- Philippians 3:14