

# Crimson & White Connection

A ministry of prayer and encouragement to "High School, College, & Singles" (& others, too) on Values + Character + Relationships + the Christian Life  
**Now resources and some back issues available at [www.CrimsonWhite.org](http://www.CrimsonWhite.org)**

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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!**

## Sept 30, 2005

### Growing

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

Lauren and Gabriel spent Friday evening, Saturday, and most of Sunday with Gramma and Grampa (that's Marie and me). We did such simple things like Lauren helped mix the cookie dough and she and Grampa made chocolate chip cookies.

And Saturday evening we went to a performance by RocFish ([www.rocfishkids.com](http://www.rocfishkids.com)) where they did a updated, musical interpretation of the Prodigal Son starting at Luke 15:11. This version had a daughter on an Australian farm that takes her inheritance and goes to the city to become a movie star. She arrives at a 50's style diner and buys all her new friends sodas and sundaes and burgers... that is until her debit card fails when all her money is gone. At this point all her "friends" leave her, too. She works at cleaning up the diner and can eat any left over burgers before she throws them in the garbage. She doubts she can go home. The diner owner tells her she would always be welcome at home and she should go. She does. Daddy is delighted she has returned. - They gave a salvation message of always be welcome to come home to God, regardless of what we've done.

Well, it was a fantastic show with a great message for kids. Gabe, 17 months old, stood on my lap and was mesmerized for 45 minutes of song, dance, and story. Lauren, wanted to move to a center aisle seat to see better and was glued to the action. After she asked, "Why did her friends all leave her?" and Marie explained that they weren't really good friends. They just wanted to stay around her as long as she had money to buy things for them. Real friends do things and stay with you because they love you and care about you.

We got on the scale and measured how tall they were. Lauren just recently turned 5 years old and is 45" tall, at the 90%tile for 5 year olds, and 41# which is the 75%tile for 5 year old girls. Gabe is 18 months and is 32" and 30#, which is right at the 50%tile for height and at the 90%tile for weight. He's a "rock" of a toddler, just the "right" weight for a 3 year old.

In Sunday School on Sunday we touched on some data that says as many as 75% of "church goers" don't believe what the Bible says about being saved - Admit - Believe - Confess - the simple steps I include in every issue of the C&WC. They say things like "If I live a good enough life..." What is good enough? How can you know it was good enough? The Bible says you can KNOW that you have eternal life. So that must be "wrong thinking." "If the good outweighs the bad things..." well the balance you'll be measured in, according to the Bible is God's standard. How do you compare to Jesus? Opps. Not good enough. You lose. It's not "Do you know about God; do you know Him?"

One thing we said in the discussion was that "It's simple... just not easy." Why isn't it easy? Because it means that to confess Jesus as Lord, it means you have to give up control and let Him be in charge. Easy to say. Hard to do. - The Christian life is not a one step deal. It is a process. You take one step, then another step, and the more steps you take ... well, for some people it may be easier, for me it is always a struggle to let Him take over another part of life. But you know what? With each step most Christians find that even if it wasn't easy, it was worth it. And maybe I'm just a slow learner. I still have that part of me that wants to be in control. But I'm still learning and still growing and still learning there is even more and more to being a Christian. And not once, when I take another step, do I turn around and say, "Gee, this isn't working well, I think I want to go back."

Let me tie this together, I hope. Lauren and Gabe are growing in mind and stature. Gabe, even though he doesn't speak more than a dozen words that I understand, was soaking up all the story and songs Saturday evening. Lauren listened, asked questions, and is learning more daily. And they are certainly growing physically.

How about you? Are you growing spiritually? Have you taken that first decisive step of faith and believing that Jesus is God and paid for your sin? Are you growing?

*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: from jordana Date: 9/9/2005

just got the C&WC in the mail yesterday...what a nice surprise!! but i know it's expensive, so please don't worry about sending it snail mail. an attached copy to an email is just fine! :) not sure if you got it or not, so i'm sending a copy of a letter i sent out to friends last week. [See Sweden Update --->] hope you have a great weekend! in Him, jordana

Hey,

School is doing well for me, I just stay rediculously busy all the time (hence the long time it takes me to reply to emails). Thank you for showing continuous interest in me. My new address is: \_\_\_\_\_

Again thank you for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers.  
-Andrew

Rich,

Yeah I temporarily moved. I meant to email you my address, but I actually don't think I am going to be here much longer. .... I have been thinking about coming home for the rest of the semester so that I can concentrate on my school work. For now through the end of December just send it to my mom's house: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be back in my [school] address the beginning of Jan.

I appreciate your prayers since I had hoped the experience would be fun and relaxing and because of my difficulty in keeping up with my work it has become far from that. Thanks.

Ginger

Hi,

Firstly, I enjoy receiving your emails. They are an encouragement to read and I am pleased to hear about the progress of Crimson and White in its outreach. And with that comes a thanks from me. Thanks for the book, and for having an interest in where my spirit was.

All the best. God bless,

Matt.

**PLEASE help us by sending change of address information. Some Post Offices are not very dependable in sending us the forwarding address.**

You can get an encouraging word (almost) every morning. I select from several daily devotionals, I have a strong tendency to pick a lot of "Faith@Work" like these two here, usually add a comment of my own and email it out. Others are Ravi Zacharias, an occasional Soul Journal, Chuck Colson, ACTS, and even some things forwarded to me by "ordinary people." To try our daily morning thoughts, just drop me an email at RDyimmel@AOL.com and write "try the daily email please" and we'll send it for two weeks and then ask you if you want to continue or not.

**Personal Sweden Update - (Let God lead and provide)**

From Jordana Hart

[reprinted with earlier permission to print Jordana's broadcast email updates]  
30 August 2005

My dear friends and family,

I'm sure you're wondering just why it's been so very long since you've heard from me. I mean, I have been here almost a month now. I would certainly be wondering such a thing. Well, aside from the fact that I have had very little internet access, the explanation isn't an easy one, but here goes:

I left the Gordon family after staying with them for only two nights. Of course the Lord knew that I would end up in such a situation, and he provided friends for me along the way who were marvelous to open up their homes to me as well as to provide me with food and other basic needs. When Jesus says in Matthew 7 that he clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the sparrows and that he'll meet our needs in an even greater way, he isn't kidding. There were moments over the course of a two-week period that I didn't know where I would go next or how I would have enough money or food, but God provided in miraculous ways for my needs. He also reminded me during that time that he alone is in control and I need only to trust and depend on him in order for him to fulfill his will in my life.

During this time, I struggled considerably with the question of whether or not I had misheard or misinterpreted God's call on my life, to minister to the people of Sweden. I sought God's will and direction and discernment with all my heart, and he reminded me in small and large ways that he has indeed called me here and that he has a purpose for me here in Sweden.

Mia and Jonas, my fantastic friends who stayed with me a month this summer in Shelby, but who do not know the Lord, took me to a birthday party with them the day after my whole job catastrophe. One of the birthday girls, Maria, began to ask me questions about why I was in Sweden, which led to me sharing my faith with her. Within minutes, our picnic table of two was filled with eight attentive Swedes who all hung on what I had to say about God and Jesus. One guy, Martin, even leaned in and said, "What she's saying is true. I also believe it." I was amazed! God was working in and through me in the midst of my own "crisis." Glory to him!

Then, my dear Mia, slightly inebriated, put her arm around me and said, "You know, this is why I love Jordana. She doesn't believe the same things I do, but she doesn't force her beliefs on me. And she's very sincere about her faith and takes it very seriously, but she's not judging me. Unlike the Christians here in Sweden, she'll actually come to parties with us and hangs out with us and love us for who we are. I have so much respect for her because of that, and I really want to believe what she says."

I almost fell off my seat. Mia, with whom I have shared the Gospel countless times since we became friends in 2002, actually served as a witness of Jesus Christ! And later that evening, on the way home from the party, then sober Mia shared that she has prayed many times and that she really wants to have the faith I have. Praise the Lord, and keep praying for her!!

The following week, I went up to Stockholm for an au pair interview with another family. Although they were super nice, I didn't feel that I should work with them. As they were also trying to decide, they offered up their home to me for a week if I needed to stay there! God not only provided one shelter for me but several options! I stayed at my friend Malin's flat—she is a believer—for a few days while she was in England, researched many other jobs, and lined up interviews. Within days, I had arranged quite a few family interviews, and I began to get quite excited!!

The following Saturday, I went to meet the Öhman family in Bromma, just outside of Stockholm city. I instantly fell in love with the parents and their children and agreed to a trial workday the following week. Long story short, we worked out a contract, and I started working the following Monday, 22 August.

Before beginning work, I had to travel yet again down to see my friends Mia and Jonas, who live in Osby, a small town in the southern region of Sweden called Skåne. On the way down, I had the privilege of sitting next to Johanna, who asked me loads of questions about my faith and who wants to meet up with me soon for lunch in order to continue our discussion! Praise the Lord!!

As I write this, I am halfway through my second week of work, and, although it is quite challenging, it is indeed a blessing. I spend my mornings with two precious girls, Sophie, 10 months, and Louise, 2 years. We go to the park and the lake a lot, and, during our long walks, I sing them songs about Jesus and tell them how much he loves them, and they bless my heart!

In the afternoons and evenings, in addition to taking care of the girls, I also work with Markus, the Öhman's 6 year old, who has Asperger Syndrome, which is a high-functioning form of autism. As the Lord saw fit, much of the training I received while working at True's Kids in Gastonia this year has helped me know how to best deal with Markus and to help him function as normally as possible.

My adjustment to working with the Öhman family has been made easier thanks to Kimia, a girl in her early 20s who has worked with the family for two years but who must leave to begin medical school studies in Copenhagen, Denmark. I have been shadowing her and getting to know how she does things and what methods works best with the children. Additionally, I have had numerous opportunities to share my faith with Kimia, and she has begun to ask me many questions about Jesus.

Kimia invited me to her housewarming party a few weeks ago, and, again, I was able to share Christ with quite a few people, which is so exciting for me and for the Kingdom! Pray especially for Clem (nickname), who talked with me for almost three hours and couldn't seem to get enough, although he claims that he's a strong believer in science He does admit, though, that he admires me for being able to have faith and that he wish he could do that himself.

Finally, I must share that God has blessed me with a fantastic church family here in Stockholm. One of my friends, Julia, recommended that I visit New Life Church, which is a Baptist/Pentecostal church that conducts services in both English and Swedish. Other than the Swedish part, it is much like my fantastic church in Shelby. You can check it out for yourself at [www.newlife.us](http://www.newlife.us) if you'd like.

Upon my first visit, I was instantly greeted by several people when I entered the building, and two of them asked if they could sit with me during the service! We sit at small café-like tables and have *fika*, Swedish for a type of coffee/tea/pastries snack time, in the middle of the service as part of our time of fellowship. We sing many songs in both Swedish and English, and the pastor teaches straight from the Word, which is a great blessing! And most Sundays, the services last two hours! But no one goes out for lunch after church here, so I guess that's not a big deal. ☺

I had the opportunity to go with the church on a retreat this past weekend to gather with at least half of the 200+ attendees just outside Falun, four hours north of Stockholm. We spent loads of time fellowshiping, sharing, and worshipping together, and it was a great opportunity to make new friends. I also discovered that in this small church, five families currently serve as foreign missionaries, and that's not counting the five or so more of us who are local missionaries! Praise the Lord!!

I hope to join one of the cell groups soon if I can find one that meets when I am not working, which is difficult considering my work schedule. This Saturday, I will participate in an outreach event in a local Muslim community, Tjenstad. The city annually sponsors a type of festival for hundreds of poor children there, and the city board has agreed to allow our church to host a test this year, which is phenomenal!!! This festival will be an incredible opportunity to minister to the children of the Tjenstad community through various games, activities, and even fingernail painting!

In my spare time (ha, ha!), I will be taking Swedish classes twice a week starting on 19 September, and I am quite excited and

apprehensive about that. Most people speak English quite well, but I believe that learning the language and culture of a people group demonstrates a true sign of respect. If I want them to listen to and respect me and what I have to say, learning Swedish is the least I can do for them!

Well, I think I have made up for lost time here; hope you're not asleep yet! ☺ I promise that the next update will come sooner and will not be so long! Hopefully, my website will be up and running soon, and I will be able to post frequent updates in my blog in addition to photos. In the meantime, here are a few pictures for you to enjoy. Feel free to email me back if you'd like, but snail mail and phone calls are always greatly appreciated!

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SVERIGE/SWEDEN

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new email: [jordana.hart@gmail.com](mailto:jordana.hart@gmail.com)

#### prayer requests

- family and friends that I left behind, especially my mom, dad, sisters, step-mom, and doggie!
- Ann and Gustav, the parents, that they would have open minds and hearts toward the Gospel
- Mia, Jonas (her fiancé), Johanna, Kimia, Clem, and others, that they would forego their pride and begin an amazing life lead by the Holy Spirit
- Markus, Louise, and Sophie, the children, that the love of Jesus would radiate through me to them during our time together
- the festival in Tjenstad this weekend, that Satan would have no power there and that great advancements would be made in the name of Christ for the Kingdom!
- New Life Church, that God would continue to grow us and send us out.
- me as I witness to all I can around me, that my faith would be pure, evident, and sincere
- me as I begin my Swedish studies, that I would be diligent in my work, not afraid to make speaking mistakes, and a good manager of time.
- me to be surrounded by believers who will support and encourage me as well as hold me accountable in the Lord

Thank you for your prayers and support! I covet them and you as my friends in faith! Be blessed!

So, I just had this idea that each update will include learning a few Swedish words. You can get educated with me! ☺

- 1) **fika**: (FEE kuh): a nontranslatable word we don't have in English; sort of a snack time that many Swedes participate in several times a day: midmorning, afternoon, and after dinner; this is the first word most visitors to Sweden learn, so I'm helping you prepare for your visit. ☺
- 2) **bra**: (BRoh): not what you think...this is the basic word for *good*
- 3) **hej då**: (HEY doh): goodbye

Until next time, **hej då!**

Some words from the Word (in the English Standard Version):

"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock." ~Isaiah 26.3-4

Subject: **What if???**

Date: 10/10/2005

From: [hyn\\_angel@yahoo.com](mailto:hyn_angel@yahoo.com)

[reprinted with earlier permission to print Angela's broadcast email updates]

October 9, 2005

What if by Jadon Lavik

What if I climbed that mountain, what if I swam to that shore  
 What if every battle was victorious then would you love me more?  
 Would you love me more?  
 What if I were everyone's first choice, what if I went farther than before  
 What if I stood high above the rest than would you love me more  
 Would you love me more?

You say I belong to you apart from the things I do  
 You say I belong to you I'm in awe of why you do  
 Why you do, why you do, I'm in awe of you, ooh

What if I ignored the hand that fed me, what if I forgot to confess  
 What if I stumbled down that mountain then would you love me less  
 Lord would you love me less?

What if I were everyone's last choice what if I mixed in with the rest  
 What if I failed what I passed before then would you love me less?  
 Lord would you would you love me less?, oh no oh no oh no

You say I belong to you apart from the things I do  
 You say I belong to you I'm in awe of why you do  
 You do you do you do

What have I done to deserve your son sent to die for me?  
 What can I give I want to live give me eyes to see?  
 In a world that keeps changin' there's one thing that I know is true  
 Your love is stayin' there's nothing else I'll hold on to

You say I belong to you apart from the things I do  
 You say I belong to you I'm in awe of why you do  
 Why you do?

You say I belong to you apart from the things I do  
 You say I belong to you I'm in awe of why you do  
 I'm in awe of you I'm in awe of you

The way you love me, the way you do  
 The way you do , the way you love me, you love me , you love me  
 The way you do the way you do the way you love me,  
 the way you love you love you love

Aloha family and friends-

As I was driving home from church today, this song was playing on the radio. It is the exact words that I needed to hear to remind me that nothing I do affects God's love for me. Whether I am on the mountain top or in the valley, God loves me! Whether I am chosen first or chosen last in this world, God loves me! Whether I am married or single, God loves me! That is such a comforting thought in the whirlwind of emotions and everything that is going on. **GOD LOVES ME!!!** (and He loves you, too!!!) Christ's blood paid the price for my freedom. I am victorious no matter what the enemy may throw at me.

Many of you have been praying for preschool. Keep praying!! The young lady that came out to help as my teaching assistant is headed back to Louisiana on Wednesday morning. The emotions of having her husband of a year stationed in South Korea and her family in Louisiana has been overwhelming and she feels she needs to go home. So as my heart empathizes with her, it also cries out in need of a helper for preschool. Please pray that God will bring whom He wants down in preschool and that everything will go smoothly this week as we return from a two-week break. "Is anything too hard for the Lord???" Genesis 18:14 You are in my thoughts and prayers. If there is anything I can pray about for you please let me know. Much love and God's blessings,  
 Angela Calhoun

Angela Dawn Calhoun  
 PO Box 9 Hoolehua, HI 96729

I'd rather be ridin' a mule on Molokai!!!

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?  
 The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?" -Psalm 27:1

### Self-Labeled 'Proud Homophobe' in Campus Hot Water

A conservative professor at Washington University in St. Louis is under fire from students for declaring on his faculty website that homosexuality is sinful.

On Agape Press 10/11/05 <http://www.agapepress.org/>

## **WHAT IF IT'S TRUE? What if Jesus IS who He claimed to be?**

### **"You will never reach your full potential without the help of others.**

Tiger Woods is a better golfer than his coach." (Parable.com) To reach your full potential as a Christian you will need the help of others. "Where? How? Who?" you ask. By being in a teaching church, a Sunday School class that cares about each other. By being in a group like InterVarsity, FCA, BSU, etc., learning, caring, encouraging each other.

Subject: **the light at the end of the tunnel**

Date: 10/11/2005

From: [york\\_benjamin@hotmail.com](mailto:york_benjamin@hotmail.com)

[reprinted with earlier permission to print ben's broadcast email updates]

11 October 2005

Do you know what I personally have found to be the hardest part to writing letters...the introduction. I've often heard that you should write it last (at least when your typing the letter), and yet for me the introduction is what sets the tone...the mood if you will, of the whole letter writing process. I only say all this, because, as you've probably guessed I'm struggling with how to start this one. This will likely be my last "mass" email update from this deployment. I'm about three weeks from being "home." One year has come and gone quickly. My buddies and I are currently in the "dreaming" phase about returning home: the "welcome home parades and ceremonies"; the trips the Olive Garden, Outback steakhouse, Cracker Barrel, Krispy Kream doughnuts; and watching a live football game at a decent hour of the night instead of 3AM in the morning. Still with all the excitement of being homeward bound, there are the obvious moments of reflection on what has just happened over the last year of my life. I can honestly say that this has been a good experience. Not good because it was pleasant, or necessarily exciting, but good because I was challenged to grow. And so I will return to the US, to friends and family, and begin the process of peeling through the new layers "of me", and discovering how much I have changed. But first, a heartfelt "thank you" is in order to all of you for your support, encouraging words, and most of all for your prayers. I truly believe that I would have had a very different experience had it not been for all of you, my prayer warriors, my friends, my family. You guys are the heroes of my personal deployment. Thank you. I will gladly keep you all on my updates once I return, unless you ask otherwise, or unless I start getting "mail undeliverable" messages from your inboxes. The next part of my faith journey continues with my return to Ft. Gordon in Georgia, my preparation for language study courses in California, and my promotion. Oh yeah, I was recommended for promotion on October 5, which will effectively make me Sergeant York hopefully by December 1. Thank you all again. I wish for you all God's richest blessings, as there is nothing in life more rewarding.

ben

pss—a final prayer concern: Oct 15 is when the referendum for the new Iraqi constitution will be voted on. A "yes" vote means Iraq can finally elect a legitimate fully operating government in December. A "no" vote means the whole process starts over from square one. Regardless of the outcome, things are heating up significantly.

pss—I forgot to mention that I've added some pictures of Amber and Danny's wedding to the website. What can I say, I have a gorgeous sister, and an awesome new brother in law!

Subject: Fwd: **Define Evil.....**

Date: 10/11/2005

From: [KrehDaddy@.com](mailto:KrehDaddy@.com)

This might make some basic truths more clear to some people.

Subject: **Define evil**

The university professor challenged his students with this question:

"Did God create everything that exists?"

A student bravely replied "Yes, he did!"

"God created everything?" the professor asked.

"Yes sir," the student replied.

The professor answered, "If God created everything, then God created evil since evil exists, and according to the principle that our works define who we are, then God is evil."

The professor was quite pleased with himself and boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, "Can I ask you a question professor?"

"Of course," replied the professor.

The student stood up and asked, "Professor does cold exist?"

The professor replied "Of course it exists. Have you never been cold?"

The students snickered at the question.

The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Everybody or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-460° F) is the total absence of heat. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat."

The student continued. "Professor, does darkness exist?"

The professor responded, "Of course it does."

The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir. Darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally the young man asked the professor. "Sir, does evil exist?"

Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily example of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil."

To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light."

The professor sat down.

The young man's name — Albert Einstein.

Faith@Work April 30, 2003

## Discerning the Divine Plan for My Life

“You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me with honor.” Psalm 73:24

One of the most often asked questions people have of God is “What does God want me to do? What is my purpose? Why am I here on earth in this place at this time?” We all want to know that we exist for a reason. We all desire to live the life that God created us to live. How do we know?

Four things you must have are: 1. Trust in the knowledge that God has a vision for your life – because God does! The vision and future God has for you are connected to God’s greater vision for the whole of creation. 2. Acceptance of, and excitement about your uniqueness as a child of God, gifted in ways that are only found in you. 3. Knowledge of the world around you that God has called you to serve in. 4. Wisdom in the biblical sense of the word.

With these three things you can learn and grow into the person God created you to be, confident that the life you are living gives God honor and glory.

### Bringing It Home:

1. Not sure God has a blessed vision for your life? Read the book *The Prayer of Jabez* by Bruce Wilkinson. It will help you trust in the truth that God has a great and purposeful life for you to live.
2. Not sure you truly know and accept your unique spiritual gifts? Ask a trusted friend to tell you what spiritual gifts they think you have. Then, listen to them. They will affirm you in who you are and what gifts you have to offer in your life.
3. Not sure how to get started? Seek wisdom, discernment, and guidance through prayer and the Word of God.

Prayer: Lord, you are the almighty ruler of the heavens and the earth. I pray that you would rule me and guide me to become your faithful child in the world. I want what you want. I desire to be what you want me to be. Help me to surrender and to trust your will for my life. Amen.

John A. Holm, Shepherd of the Lakes Church, Grayslake, IL  
[www.shepherdofthelakes.org](http://www.shepherdofthelakes.org)

Please feel free to share this devotion with others.

## GIGO

GIGO can mean “garbage in garbage out” or can also mean good in good out.” How about finding some good Christian radio stations in your area? Put “good stuff” in your ears and into your head. Don’t know a good station? You can search the radio dial, or you can search the web. Most college dorm rooms are now wired for high speed internet access. That means that radio stations that may not even be in your area are accessible on the web because they stream on line. Stations like [www.klove.com](http://www.klove.com) and [www.wbfj.fm](http://www.wbfj.fm) are accessibly by anyone anywhere in the world. Check out [www.ChristianRadio.com](http://www.ChristianRadio.com) for a list of thousands of Christian radio stations. And the “old people’s Christian radio stations,” like [www.BBNRadio.org](http://www.BBNRadio.org) BBN and WTRU, often have GREAT programs like Ravi Zacharias who is a great college campus speaker, an apologist, and “Adventures in Odyssey” with terrific radio plays from Focus on the Family about kids in a neighborhood.

**There are links to [www.ChristianRadio.com](http://www.ChristianRadio.com) and several stations and networks on the Links to Resources page on the [www.CrimsonWhite.org](http://www.CrimsonWhite.org)**

Daily Encounter and Faith@Work are two of the resources used for forwarding a daily devotional to your email inbox. Email me at [RDymmel@aol.com](mailto:RDymmel@aol.com) and say “I want to try the daily email devotional for two weeks.”

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DAILY ENCOUNTER ~ Wednesday, May 14, 2003
Find GOD: <http://www.911findGOD.org>
=====

by Dick Innes
ACTS International <http://www.ACTSweb.org>

And now for today’s Daily Encounter:

## WHEN MY CHILD WAS LOST

“You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere” (Mark 16:15, TLB).

Dr. Leighton Ford tells the story about when his young daughter was young, several years ago.

I was minding the children while my wife was shopping. Debbie Jean had returned from school and was playing with her four-year-old brother in the back yard. When I called them to come in, Debbie Jean was missing.

I walked up and down the street calling her name — fearing the silence.

Later (after she was found) I reflected on the incident. During the nearly two hours that Debbie Jean was missing, nothing else mattered. In my study were books to be read, letters to be answered, articles to be written, planning to be done—but it was all forgotten. I could think of only one thing: my little girl was lost.

I had only one prayer and I prayed it a thousand times: “O God, help me to find her.”

“How often,” I ask myself, “had I felt that same terrible urgency about people who were lost from God?”

I had a similar experience when one of my baby sons was with his grandmother and I feared both were lost. I panicked a blue streak until I found them.

Suggested prayer: “Dear God, please help me to realize in the depths of my heart that people without you are lost for all eternity. I’m available. Please use me to be as Christ to every life I touch, and do all that I can, in as many ways I can to help win others to you. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus’ name, amen.”

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[2] FOR HELP to be sure you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, click on [www.actsweb.org/htbs1.htm](http://www.actsweb.org/htbs1.htm) (or cut and paste the URL in your browser) for the article, “How to Be Sure You’re a Real Christian.” [This is the first link on the “Links to Resources” page at [www.CrimsonWhite.org](http://www.CrimsonWhite.org) ]

## Am I doing it for God or for myself? - Motive and attitude



**Crimson & White Connection**

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**Sept 30, 2005**

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Yes! This is a subversive, challenging, counter-culture publication. That's what Christianity is - a counter-culture. This should have a warning label.

**The real walk with God doesn't start when we die, it starts when we get saved. The walk begins now.**

**“Try Jesus. If you don't like Him, the Devil will always take you back.”**