



“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” ~1 Peter 3:15

 *The Roe's Hatch* 
May 13, 2006



Dear Partners,

With 50 million books sold and a probable international blockbuster movie adaptation on the way, *The Da Vinci Code* is having an effect. Although the story is fiction, it's shaping people's understanding of the most significant realities. The story blends facts, legend, and falsehood interchangeably together so that many of its readers are accepting untrue claims as factual. Because these claims contradict the historical origins of the Bible, the truth about Jesus, and the orthodox understanding of the Christian faith, *The Da Vinci Code* is dangerous.

There have been many books and movies which have been anti-Christian, but this story has an ability to undermine faith and cause skepticism and unbelief in an alarming way. The reader is caught up in a gripping, action-oriented plot where the characters seem to make authoritative assertions which, as the story proceeds, begin to create an absurd, yet somehow, convincing argument that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, fathered a child who's lineage continues in France, meaning that historical Christianity is a sham and cover-up. I wouldn't have thought this story could have had such an effect, except that I have heard people on campus, TV, and newspapers taking it in. Christians are shaken and unbelievers are duped.

No doubt many read the story, find entertainment, and think nothing of it. But my fear is for the millions in the church and out who don't know church history or the Bible and are being misled whether to a small degree or great.

Every year, I see how students on campus, even ones from good churches, generally have less and less knowledge of the Bible and their faith. If there ever was a time in our history when such a book or movie could play havoc due to the ignorance of the American people, it is now.

Although we are concerned, we want to respond wisely and act with tact and shrewdness. We see the need to shepherd our students in the truth. We also want to seize this enormous opportunity to communicate the Good News of Jesus to a world with a peeked interest. In the spirit of 1 Peter 3:15, we always want to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have, and we want to do this with gentleness and respect.

With this in mind we have offered two resources to students on campus. One is included in this letter. We sent this 20-page magazine to the 6000 students living on campus. This is useful to those who know the story as well as those who don't. Perhaps you will find this short tool helpful for you and someone you know or run across.

Campus Crusade has posted more articles and resources addressing The Da Vinci Code and faith you may find useful at www.JesusandDavinci.com.

(You can view this magazine online at www.campuscrusade.com/DaVinciquest/Pdfs/DaVinci_Guide.pdf)

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One student who received this magazine sent us the following message through our Web site.



Monday, May 1, 2006, 4:38 pm

Because I don't know who's receiving this, I'll make this as general as possible. I'm a student here at UW-Madison and I received in my dorm's mailbox today a brochure on the Da Vinci code and the inaccuracy of it. I just want to thank you guys SO MUCH because I know that the money and time involved to get that brochure written, printed, and sent out was significant. It was really helpful for me to read up on it so I know how to discuss it with non-Christians and even some Christians who have taken Dan Brown's novel as historical fact (or close to it). The info within the brochure is EXTREMELY helpful and an excellent tool. Walking down my hall I saw three people in their rooms with their doors open, engrossed in it. Again, THANK YOU. I really appreciate [Campus Crusade] and the its staff, as well as Josh McDowell and other Biblical scholars who lent their insight and knowledge, and everyone involved in getting this information out. And the jesusanddavinci.com website as well as links to other websites is AWESOME. I will totally be coming back to them again and again. God bless you guys for whatever part you played in putting it together!!!

The second resource we made available on campus was Josh McDowell's new book "*The Da Vinci Code: A Quest for Answers*". With the help of Inter-varsity Christian Fellowship, we dispersed this among the fraternities and sororities on campus. We also gave hundreds of these books out to students wanting to form 3-week discussion groups over the summer with friends. The hope is that good, truth-based discussions would flow through these students' relationships resulting in solidified and new faith in the real Jesus.

We appreciate your prayers in upholding truth and responding sensibly to this opportunity. We'd love to hear your ideas and successes as you take advantage of this opportunity or any opportunity to share your faith. We always welcome your calls and e-mails.

We're grateful for you!



P.S. Some people have wanted to see updated pictures of Julia. We can see why...she's wonderful! You are welcome to go online to uusi.org/scottandbonnie and click on "photos".

Please Also Pray For...

- ◆ ...about 30 UW students going on summer missions trips with Campus Crusade for Christ this summer. Pray for successful outreach and personal growth. You can lift up the many who are raising personal support now to attend.
- ◆ ...us to maximize our summer as we seek needed additional support.
- ◆ ...the right family vehicle. A couple auto mechanics who've been working too regularly on our minivan recommended we get a new vehicle. Pray for wisdom and provision as we decide what to do. I don't like the car process, but God has always been faithful to meet our needs in the past.