

## Review of the last year

In July, 2007, I was moved to write. I thought to myself of the many times that I would say something and everyone listening would go silent. I also thought of the papers I had already written that could be converted into articles for this publication. So I did it.

One of the first things I did was to decide on the length. I opened up Publisher and created a new document, which is designed to allow printing in a folded manner. Once the format was decided, I played with the length. Each single page has 4 pages on it (if you fold a piece of paper in half, you will get a front, a back, and 2 inside pages). But 4 pages was too short, so I added the equivalent of 1 more sheet of paper, another 4 pages. That brought the total up to 8 pages, and as I played with the length, I decided that that was the right length for my publication.

I then thought of possible titles. Remembering in high school how I would always be welcome to share my views in my classes until it came out that I was a fundamentalist Christian believer (I was not born again at the time. If I had been, I would have a better spiritual life now. But all things work for God's purpose.) Remembering this, I thought about God living inside of us and how in a book called the Christian Handbook, it had said, "How to Identify a Christian", showing 2 identical images, one titled "Christian", and one titled "Non-Christian". It then stated below those two images side-by-side that there was no way to tell from appearance alone. I thought how the cross was hidden inside us, not because we try to hide it, but because face-value examination is inconclusive. This is where the name Hidden Cross comes from.

After figuring out the title, I worked on the layout. A front page, 6 inside pages, and a back page. The front page would have the title on top and the index or table of contents on the bottom. The articles would be on the inside, and the back bottom portion would wrap everything up with an advertisement. To test the various designs, I created a basic outline file containing the basics. I still use this basic outline file as the base for all, or nearly all, of my issues.

Most people don't know that my first issue was July 2007, not August. The reason for this is because the July 2007 issue was never distributed. I used it only as a sort of advanced test. I wrote 2 or 3 articles that weren't really bad but weren't really good, either, just to see how big to make it and how long.

I then became wrapped up in the fair and forgot to publish my August issue. This caused a hasty organization of the articles, resulting in big gaps in the layout of empty space. If an article was only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a page, I just left the page unused for that last portion. I even forgot some parts of the articles.

My first published issue was August 2007. My first correction article was September 2007, where I profusely apologized and begged people to keep reading despite these problems.

For that first issue, I had 5 articles: The Simpsons Movie Review, Savior Soul Salute, Heavenly Bodies, Hog Roast Run-In, and the Christian Quiz. With few exceptions, this first format has been kept the same.

Then, of course, the September Issue (number 2) had my first correction article. In that issue, I refined my placement style and formatting scheme.

Most people don't know that one of the most popular sections, the Quiz, was just a flub. I just didn't have any article of the correct size, and I wanted something to conclude it, so I thought of the games in the newspaper – crosswords, Sudoku, word finds – but those would all take far more room than my publication allowed.

February 2008 marked the first time articles appeared on the cover. The articles were written because I had reached 10 people (I now send regularly to at least that many, and often more). This began the tradition of seasonable things or news articles on the cover (spring had a comedic environmentalism article; other news articles were put on other covers, etc.) The 10<sup>th</sup> person I sent to also became the first to receive HCN via e-mail. Of the 12 people who regularly receive HCN, only 3 are paper copies. The rest are e-mail readers.

Thank you, all my devoted readers. I hope that you enjoyed my first year of publications, and that my future issues will be true as well. If any of you wish to write an article or argue against one of my articles, if you saw that I made a mistake, or if you just want to make a suggestion, I welcome all honest and legitimate criticism (here it should be noted that the article that I wrote out of anger was not representative of normal criticism, but I should have handled it better, and I apologize for that). I am also always looking for other people's viewpoints, as long as I can critique them, so if you have something to say, write to me at Vertisai [at symbol] hotmail.com, for any of the reasons above, or any other reason at all. I look forward every day to reading e-mail, and I normally only get 1 or 2 e-mails a day, so send me an e-mail on anything you wish.

Brock Thomas Lee

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