My dear, sweet, adorable, beautiful Brian,

(Yes - this letter is going to be sappy!!)

I am sitting here on Day 2 still reeling from all of this. I feel every emotion a person can feel, all at one time, all the time. There are so many things I want to say to you - so many things that I want you to know. First of all - I found a present for you for Christmas that I had already bought so I wanted you to have it. (Season 2 is not out yet) Also - I remember that real frosting was something you really wanted so I made it for you. I hope you like it. (Keep it in the refrigerator + if it gets a little hard put a little milk in it)

I would have made sugar cookies but did not have them.

I think I remembered you have some dough in your refrigerator

There are no words that can describe to you how sad I will be on Christmas + New Years Eve. I will know for sure that what we are doing is right - but I will still miss you + be so sad. Also on the anniversary's 16th + 17th - will you please pray extra hard for me on those days + please have your parents call me? Most everyone will not even mention it to me + so I know I will need someone to talk to. Thank you. + I will remember that you would be there for me if you could. I want you to know how thankful to God I am for you + your new life. I am so proud of

you - following God like this. It is so incredible to me that you have come so far in such a short amount of time. We both have. Our hearts are completely different + I am so thankful to God for that. Remember how in the past I was always telling you I was not happy + that something was wrong with me. I tried (we tried) to come up with hobbies for me - + I felt so bad that I did not have a passion for hobbies the way that you did. I would also tell you how I wanted to volunteer + do "good deeds" - of course I never did - but in my mind I thought it would make me

be happy. I was so so lost. This Purpose Driven Life Stuff has brought me focus in my new Christian life which I needed so badly. + by doing these purposes that God created me for I will (+ do) have joy + peace (not just being happy but real joy) + for the first time in my life I got to feel real joy in that instn. (when Dana became a christian) I am telling you - it is an addictive feeling + I want to feel it again. I pray I will during this 40 days be used by God to bring someone to Him. Pray for that for me to. It is a passion that I have - isn't that great?!? I finally found

peace (living one life following God daily)
joy (sharing Jesus with unbelievers)
passion (inmates + other lost people)

Everything I ever wanted was right in front of my face the whole time. And I already ~~knew~~ knew it all but I had not feel it in my heart + now I have + do every day. The Lisa Beamer book was the beginning of my heart knowing the truth. I could write to you forever. Anyway - the point of all this is that the Purpose book + Video (every wed night after church 8 ish) I will be doing every day during these 40 days + the memory verses. This is my commitment to you + God. I know the Devil will try to keep me from it but I

will remember my commitment to you + God + keep it. I hope you will do the same. I believe God put the 40 days in our laps - I do not believe it was an accident - + it is pretty exciting to see Him work like that isn't it?!? + the opening of the front door - I do not believe that was an accident either. I think we were both ready to make a move - a serious move - and the wind opened the door. + I think we both know who controls the wind!! God is real + He is working in our lives + I am so thankful!!

Another commitment I am making is

to keep a journal ß these 40 days - it might not be daily - but any significant thing that occurs cl will record (good or bad). clf at the end ß 40 days we can be in a relationship cl want you to have full knowledge ß the important things cl went through - problems / solutions, temptations / failures / successes / situations / devil / God / etc. Bk cl know everything is not going to go perfect for me or you + cl want to be honest with you abt the separation time + cl need this from you also. Please commit to do this for me also - cl need you to be honest + cl will

need to know what all you went through good + bad in order to move ahead with you if we are allowed to. I know you understand + I hope you will do it. I will be honest (even if it's not all good) + I hope you will to. The last commitment to you + God is to not waste these 40 days + to live for God every one of them. I am not saying I won't get depressed b/c I will - that is why I will be seeing Ron through this process - but I will be committed to learning + growing through my sadness + Ron will help me. I will start with him next week. I will call him Monday 12-15-03 to

Set up an appt. for that week. + whenever
I get in to see him, I will go after that
with Patti to the lake. This whole time
I will be trying to grow spiritually -
Purpose book/video, lake, my parents, witnessing
giving, serving - basically I am committing
to putting into action my purposes. (which I
try to do every day any way -) but now I
will have more time to focus. I pray that
you will be committed to do the same +
that when this is over I can read
your journal + see progress in your
spiritual life like I hope you will see
progress in mine. I could keep

writing to you forever. My plans for these 40 days as of know them right now are Thurs- Sat. 12-11 12-13 Tennessee, Sunday 12-14 night 5:30-9:00 Melting Pot / Marie w/ girls - Anslee at Cheryls, work all the weeks normal M, T, Th until 1pm, Wed until 3pm except week of Christmas - of switched WD/TU - so Christmas Eve of will get off at 1:00pm. This coming up week of have a dermatology appointment + a hair appt. of have still not got my pap results back - so of should get those soon - but all the other stuff was good results. Thank God. of know that one night close to Christmas we +

just called Christian Heritage - I want to take Anslee to their Christmas program - it is supposed to be amazing - it is Sat 12-13 Sat 6pm + Sun 12-14 + its free - no tickets needed - so I am taking Anslee at 1st night at 5pm. I will get back at 5pm + meet Carla in town + go straight to the program. I am so excited - it will be so great!

Ansley will go with Blythe & family to look at lights & Oven Park. (We have done that for a few years in a row). I know that Leigh Ann comes in the 28th Dec. & I will be seeing her - I am sure we will have a dinner / lunch together. I hope my grand-parents will come for Christmas but I doubt it. If they don't come - I still will not be going back. I plan to be in town the whole time. I am off work Christmas Day & New Years Day. I will be w/ Ansley for both. I will not go to Secular Christmas parties or Singles groups or be looking for a man. I will be following God through this

time + cl hope you will also - cl hope you will not go to parties, singles groups or be meeting women. (cl think there is a Christmas party for couples - like my SS class + families can go - cl might go + take Arslee if Heather + Jonathan go - but cl don't even know if there is one - but cl just wanted to let you know.) But nothing Singles related!!

This note is so long - but cl don't want to go. cl am trusting that anything & significance that occurs with Kathy that you will let me know. + that if cl don't hear from you that her plans are the same. When cl think & you - which is constantly + cl

am only on day 2 - & pray. it helps & reminds me why we are doing this - so try it. God is the only way we are going to get through this. God acted again when you told me "if you try to keep your life for yourself you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life". Matt. 16:25 - Jesus speaking. Also v. 24 Jesus says to be my follower you have to give up your selfish ambition. When you referred to this scripture & knew God was working b/c when & read that it hit home for me about us & always reminded & it a few days ago & & believe it is what got all of our conversations

started to get to the point we are now. You have to read Matt 19:29 - Jesus said "And everyone who has given up houses, family or property (basically something that they dearly loved), for my sake, will receive 100x as much in return + have eternal life". In the other verse - if you try to keep your life you will lose it - You have been my life, + in this verse You have been my family + my most valuable possesion. I know you understand this + feel the same - + we are doing the right thing + we will be blessed. I am so proud of us + when I am the saddest + ~~[illegible]~~ so lonely - I am going to try to

+ I will read the information on fasting + I will try to remember when you don't call + don't wait to see me that you are fasting for God.

remember these verses. cl will finish Matthew + be asking your mom for the videos. cl plan to watch them New Years Eve. cl hope you will finish Matthew + ~~watch~~ watch it also. cl will still go to the gym - + miss you terribly!! cl will continue to go to TRBC + go back to SS again - the same couples class. cl will still go on Wed. nights also. cl will not be going tonight b/c Anslee's classes are practicing for the christmas program + she won't be in it. we will be at home finishing the tree + packing ← cl will go Christmas Eve to TRBC & cl think 5:30) + then cl invited my parents/ SIS/ over for pizza + S'mores over the fire place - cl think they are all coming. On the past on Christmas Eve cl have let Anslee open 1 present - (her art set) + she works on cards for

everyone for Christmas. Her first card has been a B-day card for Jesus - & I will keep that tradition this year also. (& of course the pizza) I am done shopping for her - I just have to finish the bed. It has been fun so far. I pray you & Stafford will have a happy time together over the holidays - I know you will miss him when he is not around. I will take care of myself - I tend to not eat & sleep too much when trouble comes - but I will try my best (with God's help) not to do that to myself. I know one thing for sure - "It's not about me!" & I will ask God to help me not to focus on myself.

Brian, there are about 100+ more things I want to say, but I know I can't write forever. Thank You for loving me the right way + for caring about me + listening to me + for forgiving me. Words cannot describe how thankful I am to you for all of those things + to God for allowing us to see these MIRACULOUS changes in each other!! I hope in the end God wants us to be together + we can love each other the right way forever - but in the meantime I will be praying for God's will bc He knows best. I am so proud of you + I will keep my commitments. I love you more than ever -

Denise

I made a copy of this letter so I will remind myself of my commitments.