

A Man By the Name of Null

A man claims to have been given free hotel and car rentals, just because he changed his last name to *Null*.

Caroline Mcguire, writing for the London *Daily Mail*, said Raven Felix Null, 24, from the United States, says he changed his surname after becoming an adult and claims the word *Null* is incompatible with a lot of computer programming, leading to many systems not recognizing him as a person.

The programming fault, Mcguire wrote, means that when an employee puts the word *Null* into the surname box on an IT system, it will recognize the word as meaning *an absence of data*, and refuse to validate it.

The glitch often results in IT failure where Raven isn't billed for the item he bought. But Raven is quick to point out that he didn't change his name to get free stuff. Rather, he claims he did it to reflect his estrangement from his family. He chose the word *null* because he said "it means nothing, meaning I am not connected to my family in any way anymore."

The story most people pick up on here isn't the real story. This isn't a story about getting the free stuff, as Raven insisted. It's a story about the great void in this young man's life in the absence of a loving family – a void that is felt so deeply that he chose to change his name to *Null*.

Sadly, there are many who feel the same way. But just because you grew up in a dysfunctional home doesn't mean your name has to be *Null*.

Instead, you can choose to turn to your Father in heaven, who loves you with an everlasting love. And although your earthly family may have abandoned you – leaving you feeling distant and alone – your Father in heaven will never do that.

Rather, He promises to fill you with His love, and He welcomes you into His eternal family, the church, and into the fellowship of Christ's love through faith in His Son, Jesus, as your Lord and Savior.

In too many cases in the centers of Life Care and Century Park, some of our residents feel abandoned and lonely because relatives seem to have forgotten them. We become their family, providing compassion and serving their needs. It is truly a ministry.

In John 15:9, Jesus is speaking: *As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.*

