



# Rejecting the **RAT RACE**

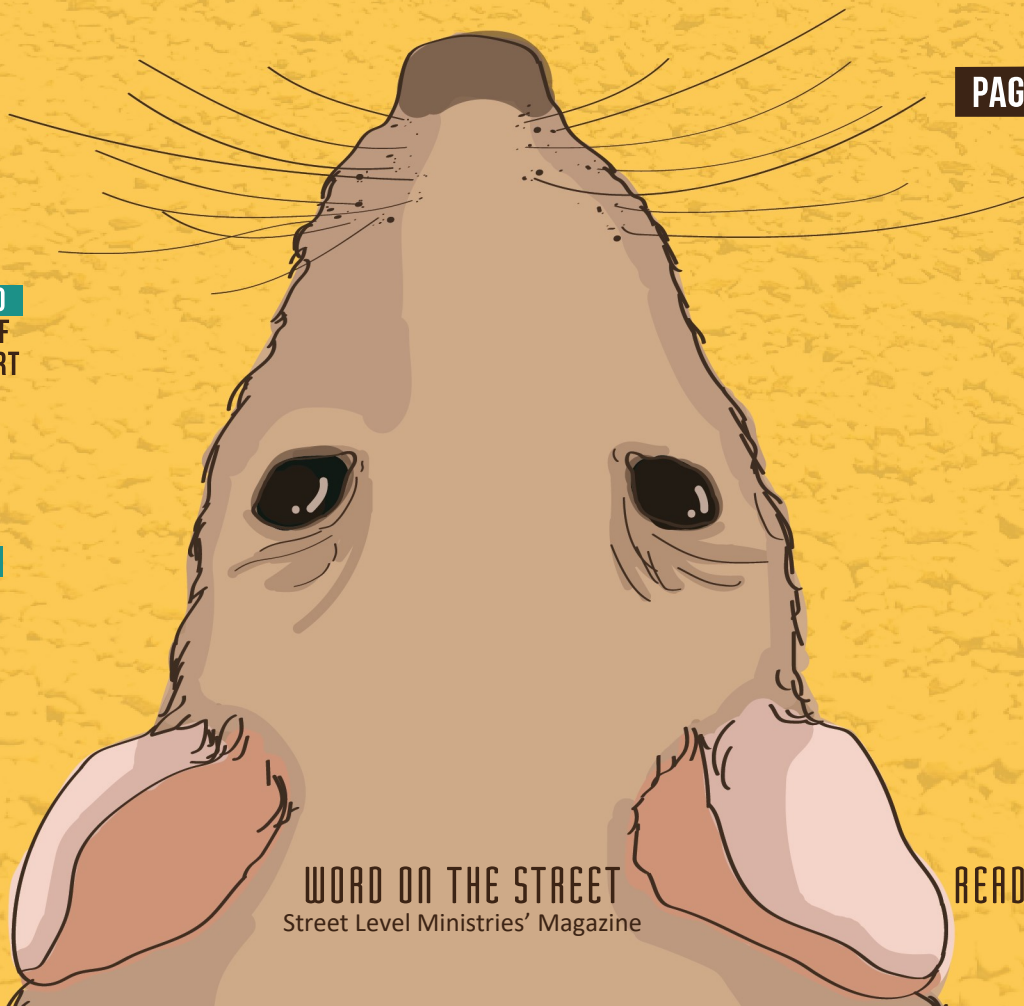
WILL YOU TURN AROUND OR RUN WITH THE REST?

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# Word<sup>on the</sup> Street MAGAZINE UW-STOUT EDITION

DISTRIBUTED AROUND THE GLOBE  
— AN INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE MAGAZINE —



University of Wisconsin-River Falls | **River Falls, Wisconsin**

University of Wisconsin-Stout | **Menomonie, Wisconsin**

University of Wisconsin-Superior | **Superior, Wisconsin**

Various College Campuses in **Cebu City, Philippines**

A special edition is also distributed in parts of **South Asia**

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## WELCOME TO WOTS

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Somehow you have stumbled upon a copy of *Word on the Street (WOTS) Magazine*. Maybe it was an accident, maybe you are just bored, but maybe it's because you want to know if it contains something worthwhile. We hope it does.

We exist as an outreach of Street Level Ministries, a college Christian ministry with groups in various cities. Check out how you can become a part of it by visiting [streetlevelministries.com](http://streetlevelministries.com).

This magazine is written, laid out, and printed by young adults

in cities around the Midwest as well as in the Philippines and parts of South Asia. What brings us together is our love for Jesus. Our desire is to write about topics focusing on God, life, and college. We hope this magazine is helpful, challenging, and thought-provoking as it encourages you to pursue a strong relationship with God.

*WOTS* is released four times a year and has been published since 1999. All credit goes to God. We're not sure how else to explain it!

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# HAVE A NO-NETFLIX NIGHT

Kickstart 2021 on the right foot (or maybe on the left foot, if you prefer) with some upcoming in-person Stout campus events. You can stay in the know about more events by checking out the Involvement Center's calendar on Connect at [connect.uwstout.edu/events](https://connect.uwstout.edu/events). Just don't forget to mask up!



## FIND MORE



### STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES WEEKLY MEETING

Start your week out by stopping by this on-campus prayer group held by Street Level Ministries, which happens every Monday evening. Afterwards, head to the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse for a free hot dinner and Bible study. For more information on what we do, check out our website: [streetlevelministries.com](https://streetlevelministries.com)

### Prayer

Elk Creek Room,  
Merle Price Commons,  
5-6 pm every Monday

### Dinner & Bible Study

Blind Munchies  
Coffeehouse (621  
Wilson Ave,  
Menomonie), 6 pm

### One student's review of Stout Bingo Night

If you're on campus this semester, you might see posters and ads about events still happening in-person on campus. Hesitations about going to such an event are normal these days, so if you have them, you're not alone. Maybe social distancing isn't being enforced, maybe you won't know anyone, or maybe it will be just plain awkward. I took the leap and went to an in-person bingo night on campus with a friend, and here is what we found out.



Bingo Night at the Terrace was a great way to get out and have some good old-fashioned fun with your friends. The Involvement Center has put on a few different bingo events for students. At each meeting there's a sign-up sheet with around 50 spots available each session. Students can either sign up before going or check in afterwards to see if there are spots still open. The seating is pre-spaced out for social distancing, and the bingo cards and markers are already placed, ready for use. Once seated, the games begin. There are around eight or nine rounds, and for each round there is a chance to win a prize. The prizes range from gift baskets to gift cards and Crockpots.

Overall, Bingo Night was a success, and I would 10/10 would recommend. Who doesn't want a chance to win a Crockpot, anyway?

### IN-PERSON BINGO

Check out these upcoming themed bingo nights in the Great Hall of the MSC. Spots limited. Register on the Stout Connect page.

#### Mardi Gras Bingo | Feb 17, 7 pm

Prizes: Beads and treats

#### Springo Bingo | March 10, 7 pm

Prizes: Gift cards and more

#### Eco-Bingo | April 21, 7 pm

Prizes: Green and eco-friendly stuff

### VIRTUAL BINGO

If you can't make it to an in-person bingo event, there is always virtual bingo most Wednesdays during the spring semester from 7-8 pm. Get a chance to win a gift card and other prizes if you get BINGO! Grab the link from Stout Connect.

## STAY COZY

### MAKERS NIGHT

If games don't pique your interest then how about getting your crafting A-game on? All you need to do is register and show up, and staff there will supply the rest.

Great Hall, MSC, 7 pm

- Geometric Coasters** February 21
- Wood String Art** March 7
- Succulent Pot Decorating** April 11
- Canvas Painting** April 25

### TRIVIA!

Go against your fellow Stoutonians in various game nights happening on Saturdays in the Great Hall, 7 pm. The Blue Devil Market will have a pizza special running so you can grab a cheap, delicious bite before or after you crush your foes with your "How-do-you-even-know-something-like-that?" knowledge.

Great Hall, MSC, 7 pm

- Jeopardy** March 6
- Stout Trivia** April 10
- Soundbyte Trivia** April 24

### HOT CHOCOLATE THURSDAYS

All you have to do to get a mug of steamed chocolate is head to the Involvement Center and grab a cup. The only catch is that you might find yourself in some conversation with a friendly staff member there. Darn, conversation *and* hot chocolate?

In the MSC from 9 am-2 pm every week in February.

## GET MOVING

### WORK IT OUT

UW-Stout Recreation is hosting group fitness classes at the MSC in Ballroom C. If you find yourself free on Mondays in February, check out Butts & Guts or Kettlebells (sounds interesting, doesn't it?). If that isn't intense enough for you, how about trying Smash HIIT exercising on Wednesdays? Find more classes and information on the UW- Stout Recreation events calendar.

### WINTER FUN

If you enjoy the snow, why not rent some cross country skis or snowshoes from Stout Adventures and go on your own adventure with friends? It isn't too hard to stay socially distant in nature. Lake Menomin Park, Hoffman Hills, and the Red Cedar Trail are some great places to snowshoe and ski.

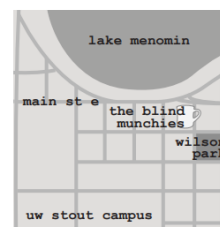
## COFFEE ON THE MIND?

Clip out this **FREE BREAKFAST COUPON** and head to the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse any Saturday morning!



Redeem this coupon for a **FREE Saturday Morning Breakfast** at The Blind Munchies Coffeehouse! Breakfast is served 9:00am-Noon

621 Wilson Ave, Menomonie WI  
theblindmunchies.com  
@ @blind.munchies



no cash value

# One girl's TRUE STORY

DISCOVERING THAT GOD IS BETTER  
THAN ALL THE WORLD



*This testimony is from Faith, a member of Street Level Ministries in River Falls, Wisconsin.*

**G**rowing up, I was not raised in a church. My parents tried their best, but because they were not fixated on Christ, they pursued things of this world. They instilled in my head and heart that things such as status, pride, success, and money were top priorities. As a young girl, I fell for this and lived my life in constant pursuit of stuff. I was always consumed by who had the best clothes at school. I worried about what others thought of me to an unhealthy level. I was in constant pursuit of people to befriend without looking at their heart or character because I just cared about being liked by a large number. I also longed to be the best soccer player on my team, in my family, and in my school, which overtook my identity. Every year, though, I went to a church camp called Koronis Bible Camp, and that is where I got all of my basic information about the Bible, Jesus, heaven, hell, etc. I remember hearing about salvation at a very young age, and I am sure I prayed the prayer of salvation many times, but it never actually meant anything.

My life changed at 14. It was a big mess. I lost a bunch of my friend group, I was losing too much weight because I wasn't eating, and I wasn't eating because I was overwhelmed, and I was filled with depression and anxiety because I wasn't playing well on the field due to torn ligaments in my right knee. I was drowning in self-hatred and dissatisfaction. It came to a point where I knew that my life was missing something. I kept thinking, "Is this really all that there is? Is this really how life is going to go?" I remember praying, "God, if You are who You say You are, then why are You doing this to me? Why do I feel so worthless and broken?" After confessing those words out loud, I felt like a weight was placed on my heart. Something was telling me to give my life up, allow Jesus to work in it, and to align my life with His. That night I prayed the prayer of salvation sincerely and, from then on, my life has changed. When that summer came around, I got baptized at the place that the Lord had spoken to me most, where I first heard the Word of God: Koronis Bible Camp in Lake Koronis.

Fast forward a few years and I am now a student at UW-River Falls in River Falls, Wisconsin. I attend Eaglebrook Church where I serve in the children's ministry directing and helping kids learn about who Jesus is to encourage them to make the decision to follow Christ. He also uses me through Street Level Ministries. I get to reach out to the town of River Falls, speak

**"BEFORE KNOWING CHRIST, I FACED EVERY HEARTBREAK... LONELY, POWERLESS, AND WEAK. NOW, IN ALL MY CIRCUMSTANCES, GOOD OR BAD, I AM EMPOWERED, CLOSE TO GOD, AND SO STRONG."**

the good news of Jesus, and serve in the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse dispensing some pretty rocking cold brew.

I still face immense struggles and go through times of hardship, but it is in such a different way. Before knowing Christ, I faced every heartbreak, medical news, or relationship struggle feeling lonely, powerless, and weak. Now, in all my circumstances, good or bad, I am empowered, close to God, and so strong. I just recently went through, and am kind of still going through, one of the hardest seasons of my life. I remember at the beginning I thought, "There is no way I will be able to do this on my own. God, please grab a hold of my anxieties, protect my heart, and bring me closer to you." And I can say now that I have never been closer with God, stronger in my faith, or more confident in what I am doing today. God strengthens my mind to fight against lies of the Enemy. Jesus secured my salvation. I now can have joy in all circumstances. I am not alone. Christ is alive in me.

-faith

# A CALL TO CONTINUE

## STEP BACK IN TIME WHEN YOU READ THIS ENCOURAGING LETTER INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE ITSELF

Greetings! This letter is from a disciple of Jesus Christ, called by the will of God. I am writing to all faithful brethren in Christ, including elders and ministers. Grace to you and peace from God our Father.<sup>1</sup>

First and above all, I praise our Lord Jesus Christ for His utmost, sacrificial love won on the cross that stretches out to each one of us so that you, my dearest brethren, who were once lost in slavery to sin, are finally found in our Lord's victory over it. Heaven was filled with joy after you were saved by the grace of our Lord.<sup>2</sup> And in the same manner that confirms me in mentioning you always in my prayer, unceasingly asking the Lord that you would open your hearts to Him, I now welcome you on the journey that our Lord has prepared beforehand. But how you must have toiled over what it means to truly believe. My deepest compassion belongs to you whom our Lord greatly loves, as I confess, I was also once in your place. You should know that the very reason for my immediate response after receiving the good news of your birth to a new life with our Lord, is to prepare yourselves to enter into full communion with Him.

I know and understand that it may look strikingly frightening at first glance, but be firm in conceiving that the things not of this world are obtained by faith.<sup>3</sup> And also, be affirmed that the faith you have received is a gift from God by which without works is dead.<sup>4</sup> May you continually grow in the truth that our Lord has delivered to our forefathers.

Now that you have received faith, be cultivated by the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit within you. Hold fast to what is true, and do not be quickly taken into the trap of our enemy, the devil. You must have learned from your minister that even the most infamous evil believes in our Lord. It should not be ignored that the devil uses one of his most powerful tactics, empty tradition, to expediently deceive even the most faithful looking humans. You must also never forget that those who disbelieve the existence of the devil are more likely his ally than those who fell under his wings initially. While you might be in a situation where it is seemingly strange to regard unbelief of the devil, be on guard by trusting our Lord that He will provide you a way of overcoming its temptations.<sup>5</sup> Learn to truly believe the gospel that reveals the truth that our Lord has made known to His first witnesses. The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.<sup>6</sup>

I believe that the very purpose of this letter I am writing to you is not a result of my works but by the unique prompting of the Holy Spirit. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ convicts me to do what is pleasing to Him. Likewise, to you who are now called to the life in Christ, abide always in Him and He in you. Listen to your church overseers and take hold of the teachings of God's Word that has been delivered to you. You must be compelled to understand that we have been given many privileges to access His words, so never take them for granted. Nourish yourselves in prayers and meditation of His Word daily so you acquire all its wondrous promises having been revealed through our Lord Jesus Christ. But also remember our Lord died for our iniquities so that we may receive His forgiveness and repair the brokenness

which sets us apart from Him. And now we have received this good news, that our Lord has told us that if anyone would come after Him, let us deny ourselves and die to our selfish

**“NOURISH YOURSELVES IN PRAYERS AND MEDITATION OF HIS WORD DAILY SO YOU ACQUIRE ALL ITS WONDROUS PROMISES HAVING BEEN REVEALED THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.”**

desires daily so that we may follow Him.<sup>7</sup> To you my dearest brethren, let us walk according to the ways of our Lord, delivering the truth to all, making disciples in all nations, and denying oneself daily. May our God transform you through His power and bring His good work in you to completion.<sup>8</sup> And in His grace and mercy, you shall live by faith so that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you and you in Him forever and ever.

Dear brethren, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow in maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.<sup>9</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Philippians 1:1-2 NLT <sup>2</sup>Ephesians 2:8 ESV <sup>3</sup>Hebrews 11:1 ESV <sup>4</sup>James 2:17 ESV <sup>5</sup>1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV <sup>6</sup>Psalms 147:11 ESV <sup>7</sup>Luke 9:23 ESV <sup>8</sup>Philippians 1:6 ESV <sup>9</sup>2 Corinthians 13:11-14 NLT

# As a Matter of a Fact: WHAT IS WORSHIP?

At times Christianity can be confusing. When you start to read the Bible, there can be names of people and places you have never heard before. There will be words that have little to no meaning outside of the world of faith. And even more confusing, there are words that you do know, but when they are carried over to Christianity they have an even greater depth of meaning than you ever realized before. Knowing that navigating concepts within Christianity can at times be overwhelming, *Word on the Street* is tackling some common questions that are not only integral for the new believer, but also for the seasoned Christian and anyone who is skeptical about the Christian faith. They are truths that you never graduate from. In this issue, we are going to discuss worship.

## WE ARE ALL WORSHIPERS

When you hear the word worship, what pops into your mind? To some, it's strolling into church on Sunday to sing a few songs. To others, they picture an ancient painting of people bowing to a statue or dancing in a circle to please a deity. But worship is quite simply what we do with our affections, and it manifests itself in who or what we ultimately bow to. Simply put, we are worshipers always worshipping something or someone. It is an innate, fundamental part of how God created us. However, not everyone worships the true God. Only those who really know Him can truly worship Him because their affections are now fundamentally rewired to love and serve Him.

## TAKING THE FILTERS OFF

Who calls the shots in your life? What is your top priority? What do you give your heart, mind, desires, and pursuits to? What do you think most

about? What is your greatest treasure (Matt 13:44)? That is what you worship. In every day context, common worship traps might be college, careers, family, and even yourself. Now, is it bad to get a college degree, have a family, or land a really nice job? No. But they can be wrongly worshiped when our affection dead ends on the thing itself, rather than fuel our affections towards God as we thank Him for them (Romans 1:25).

## THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Christians are called to work hard and be good students, but putting other priorities before God is what the Bible calls "worshipping the world" (Colossians 3:5-6). Without intervention from a holy God, we are stuck in this state. But when we meet Him, everything changes. Our former objects of worship look so dull next to Him! The life-giving relationship He forms with us transforms our minds that were formally consumed by created things rather than the Creator (Romans 12:2).

American author John Piper said, "The inner essence of worship is the response of the heart to the knowledge of the mind when the mind is rightly understanding God and the heart is rightly valuing God. We worship God authentically when we know Him truly and treasure Him duly."<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 13:15-16 records that this true worship of God shows up in two ways. One is what our mouth says: acts of praise and repentance. The other is what our body does: acts of love that reveal the Father to the world.

How is your heart today? Do you like God lately? You cannot worship a God you don't know, don't have any interest in, don't agree with, or merely tolerate. Now, if you're a Christian, you will not worship God perfectly. Frankly, there will be moments where you will barely

remember Him. But if you are truly a child of God, you will always be drawn back to Him. The gospel not only stirs us to worship, but it's the reason why we get to in the first place. Jesus died for our sins that we may know the Father—the Creator of the stars!





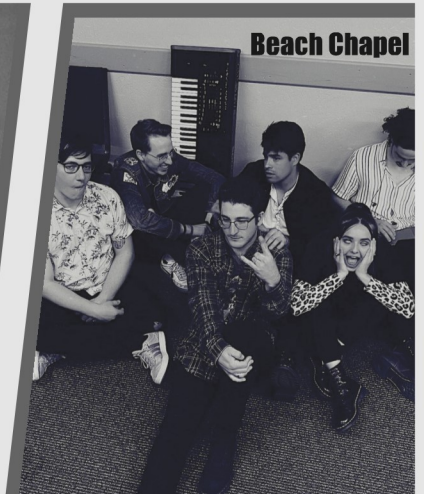


# QUARTERLY MUSIC BEAT

TUNE INTO 101.7 FM  
IN MENOMONIE

AN UPDATE FROM OUR FRIENDS AT BURNING DOG RADIO

## Featured Artist Review



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Burning Dog Radio is a low-power station broadcasting at 101.7 FM in Menomonie, WI. Now streaming online at [burningdogradio.com](http://burningdogradio.com).

**W**e at Burning Dog Radio would like to share some of the great music that helped get us through 2020 and will keep us going as we start off 2021. Each week we present a "Featured Artist" to our listeners, and below is just a summary of some of our recent favorites.

Feel free to check out our current "Featured Artist" every week on Spotify by following "burningdogradio." All of our Featured Artists from the year can be found on our BDR 2020 Featured Artists Spotify playlist.

### [ A TREEHOUSE WAIT ]

This artist has a gentle approach to speaking with friends, God, and friends of God. The singer Jenny Wahlström of Sweden has slight tones reminding us of Joanna Newsom (quieter, no apparent harp) with a good mix of styles that venture from what seems to be her core. Their song "Fool" includes soft beats that keep your attention while also allowing you to study.

### [ MIROURS ]

Mirours put out their first official album in 2019. Self-titled *Mirours* is intense lyrically, and border-line ambient otherwise. "517" has quite the catchy chorus and reminds us where we stand compared to the Lord. The entire album is worth studying as words and beats are concerned. The group is a husband-wife duo from California and has been featured on Spotify on playlists such as "Indie Worship," "Indie Spirit," and "Good Christian Music."

### [ BEACH CHAPEL ]

On a more upbeat note, Beach Chapel has a very forward-looking vibe that leaves you wishing you could have a worship-dance-party on the seaside. Singer Adam Lamah is based out of Oceanside, California, which could be the cause for the name and party vibe. The lyrics are very introspective yet reach out to God. Rapid-fire prayers are included in each of their songs and lead the listener to perhaps find Him as well. "Light Leaks" includes lyrics: "Save me. I'm lost carry me to the cross. Nail my spirit to that tree. Crucify my insecurities. Build my trust in you please," as one of the many calls.



# VIRUS OF THE HEART

## *A Cure for the Sickness that Ails Us All*

**A**s the sun peeks through the curtains of the window and meets my eyes, I know it is time to start another day. I dread this moment every morning. What will the day bring? It has been a week in the hospital already, but I can't find any relief from the pain. As my eyes slowly open, the shine that once came from within them can now only be seen by the reflection of the sun. No longer eager for living, but rather worn down with evidence of deep despair.

*How did this happen? Why did it get this far? Will I ever be cured?*

The thoughts come flooding back. In my mind, I travel step-by-step from the beginning, trying to figure out how I got to this point. It was only a thoughtless comment, but it became so much more than I ever expected. I can't get her words out of my head. They're on repeat all

day long. It was that moment – a single conversation – that sparked an angry fire inside of me.

*Does she even know what she did? How can I get revenge? Her words cut deep. Do my words have the same power over her?*

One moment. One conversation. One new infection. How easily the virus spreads.

Of course, I heard about the virus, but I thought I was immune to it. I preferred to dwell in ignorance rather than face the truth: I am weak and vulnerable, just like everyone else. Something that I took so lightly has suddenly become life or death. I'm slowly being consumed from the inside. What could I have done differently? Perhaps I was just destined to die this way. As they say, what goes around comes around.

Then I remembered.

On the day that I was admitted to the hospital, I met a patient who was being discharged. At first, I only saw him from afar, but even from a distance I could tell there was something different about him. As he got closer, still in a wheelchair, I could see that his body was weak. His bones poked at his sagging skin. His cheekbones were hard, as if he was a boxer who had been punched too many times. His hair was long and shaggy. He was disheveled, but not dismayed. His spirit was strong. There was light in his eyes. I wondered how I, too, could have that light again.

We met in the hallway as our wheelchairs passed each other. The moment his gaze matched my darkened eyes, he asked the nurses to stop. They reluctantly agreed. Apparently, he had been doing this a lot over the past few days. After his recovery, but before he was discharged, he asked to stop and

talk to every new patient that he passed by. I guess I really did look that hopeless.

Our meeting was brief. He explained how he, too, had caught the virus. It was a memory that he kept hidden inside since childhood. It was something he held against his father that finally, inevitably, spilled out. It exploded into something he never meant it to be.

That's the problem with the virus. It's never what you expect it to be.

But he beat it. He conquered it. He survived. And so, on his way out the doors of the hospital, he wanted to tell everyone how they, too, could have life again. Although the illness seems hopeless at first, that's all it is. It only *seems* that way. And he was living proof of it. The virus could be beaten. The heart could be healed.

He explained how he tried every treatment, but it only made him weaker. He tried to ignore the problem so he shut himself in. He wouldn't let anyone get close enough to know the truth of who he really was. None of the things he tried could heal the wounds that were deep inside of him. With each passing day, the bitterness spread throughout his body. It consumed him and he could think of nothing else. Every day brought him closer to his death. In his desperation, he admitted himself to the hospital to find the cure.

But it wasn't the treatment he wanted.

The doctor told him it was one of the most contagious diseases in the world, but also one of the most curable. He explained that the only way to beat it is to spend two weeks in isolation with the person whom he was bitter against. Nothing else would do. Everything else would only kill him faster. The choice was his: life or death?

Experience proved that nothing else would cure him. Deep inside, he knew he had to take the treatment if he really wanted to live. So, he admitted himself to the quarantine. His father – completely unaware of his own son's bitterness against him – was brought to the hospital. As they entered Room 612, neither of them knew what the next two weeks

had in store. The wounds were deep, but they could only be healed by bringing them into the light which seemed to shine so brightly on the sixth floor.

The first few days were the most painful. Confusion, anger, regret. It all came to the surface as accusations unfurled. Day six was silent. On the seventh day, something started to change. The patient realized he was no better than his father. He could see that his own bitterness made him equally as guilty. In that moment, his heart started beating again. It wasn't the raging heartbeat that he had before. No, this was something altogether new. It was as if his cold, dead heart had been made alive. He didn't want to hold any bitterness against his father anymore. The change inside drove him to break the silence. He forgave his father and asked for reconciliation. The virus inside was subsiding.

**“ALTHOUGH  
THE ILLNESS SEEMS  
HOPELESS AT FIRST,  
THAT’S ALL IT IS.  
IT ONLY SEEMS  
THAT WAY.”**

On the fourteenth day, the doctor discovered the virus had completely disappeared from the patient's body. In the meantime, the father had become immune to the virus. Apparently, the treatment worked, and he wanted everyone to know it.

When I first met him, I thought he was crazy. His story didn't make sense to me.

*How can anyone survive this virus? The pain is too deep. The treatment is too difficult to endure. He just got lucky. I'll never make it out of here alive.*

So, I ignored him. I wrote him off as one of those “special cases,” and told myself that I am destined to succumb to the virus. Really, how could any part of his story be true? But now, as I replay the conversation from my hospital bed, I'm starting to wonder if he was right. Maybe I should try the treatment. After all, nothing else seems to work. What do I have to lose?

I now know what I have to do. The choice is mine: life or death?

*“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” – Ephesians 4:31-32, ESV*



*Rejecting the*  
**RAT RACE**

**WILL YOU TURN AROUND OR RUN WITH THE REST?**



**B**eep, beep, beep. The all-too-familiar sound of the alarm clock jolts you awake and thus begins the game of, “How quickly can I shut this thing off?” After laying around for longer than necessary, you roll out of bed and throw on some clothes. You grab a mug of coffee from the still-dripping pot and slip on your shoes for another day. By 9 am you’re already exhausted. You blame it on a lack of sleep, but this tiredness has been around for months now, maybe even years. You run through your to-do list for the day but still can’t help feeling like you’re behind. The day goes on, and your suspicion that everyone else but you knows what they’re doing grows and grows. It looks like you’ve got a lot of work to do to compete with that. Nothing a little hard work can’t fix. You stifle your insecurity and put on a happy face. Fake it till you make it, right?

We’re living in an era of upgrades, and that seems to be fueling our already-present tendency to compare ourselves to other people. We always want more. New clothes. More clothes. A bigger house. A nicer car. The more and better stuff we have, the greater we think we look to other people. We tell ourselves if we can afford this or that, we should have it. Companies advertise how our lives would be better if we had their product or service, and we believe it. “Get more stuff, and you’ll feel superior.” “Build the life you want, and you’ll be happy.” So we replace what isn’t broken to get the newer, better version. We buy all we can to look better than those around us. We work hard, toughen up, and fight to be better than the next guy. Welcome to the rat race.

# “NOBODY WANTS TO GET TO THE END OF THEIR LIFE AND FEEL LIKE IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING.”

The rat race is the endless, unpleasant pursuit of the next best thing. The phrase reduces us humans down to mere rats and represents our exhausting attempts to compete with others for power, money, and the best reputation. The rat race demands that we pour ourselves out, at any hour, for our jobs at the expense of the people we love. It says we must buy *those*, eat *this*, or have *that* for our lives to be satisfying. It is the tiresome, menial repetition of our daily lives that leaves us grouchy and with bags under our eyes. The rat race is our never-ending search for ultimate happiness.

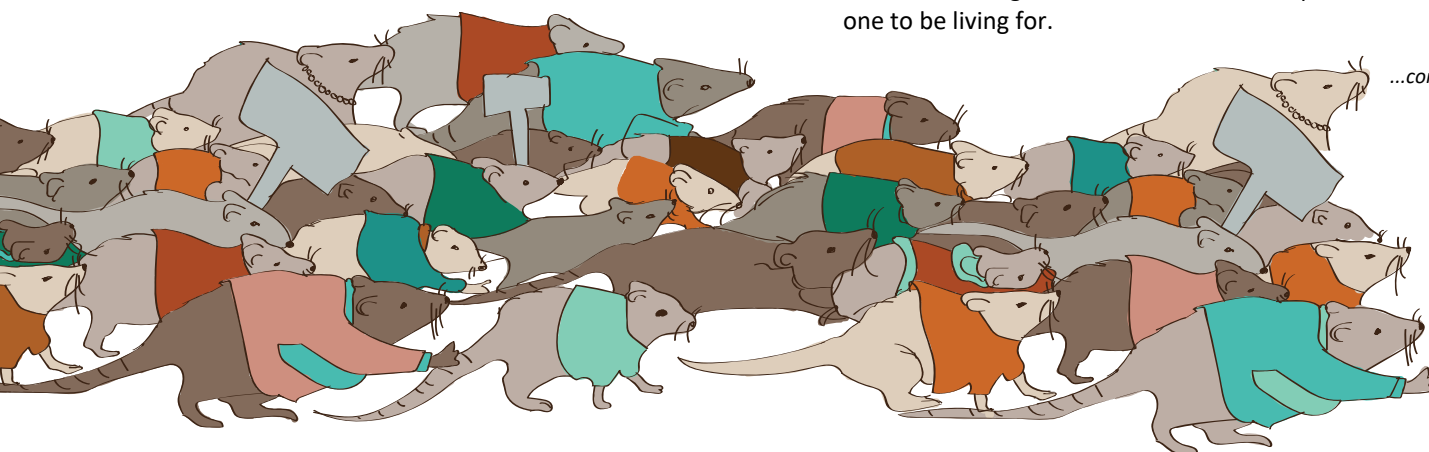
## WHY IT'S A LIE

Every now and then, we're given slivers of the truth that this life (work, dinner, sleep, repeat) *isn't* all there is. Quiet moments have a way of letting us experience a touch of eternity. Ever had that sense of wonder while gazing up at a canopy of stars? In a mix of awe and fear, we're faced with how small our lives are in the grand scheme of things and it's refreshing somehow. Don't we all, in those quiet moments, realize we have a longing for our lives to mean something? Nobody wants to get to the end of their life and feel like it was all for nothing. Even if we don't aspire for a life of fame or to earn a ton of money, we still want our life to count for something. We hope, deep down, that life has a purpose beyond the 80 or so (if we're lucky) years we've got. The rat race has been humanity's most desperate attempt to make our lives count, but it is exhausting, and it is failing us. We weren't made to live and die in the rat race. We all know it.

For some people, it isn't long before they realize the rat race of life won't satisfy. With an inquisitive mind and adventurous soul, they move forward with a deep belief that life was made for something more, something bigger. They ambitiously search for the meaning of life. E.M. Forster called them "round characters" in his 1927 book, *Aspects of the Novel*. Round people are complex, soulful, fervent, and eager to learn. They surprise us in some way. They see that life is more than work and recreation. They're ready to find out why they're here, convinced there's more to life than what meets the eye.

Then there are those who don't think too hard about what comes next. They're what Forster called "flat characters." Comfortable and predictable, these characters stay the same and rarely, if ever, develop. I'm willing to argue that more of us fall into this category, and I'm also willing to lump myself into that camp more often than I'd like to admit. We might ponder the meaning of life every now and then but for the most part, we're happy with our lives and don't feel the need to change or think too far into the future. We just want to be happy. We don't really need to worry about what happens when we die because, especially if we're young, we've got time, don't we? So, we accumulate. We pass the days away with work and food and family, buying all the things we want and can (or can't) afford along the way. We don't even realize we're filling up our lives with things that don't have eternal value. But eternity is a real thing. When we get to the end of our lives we won't be taking a single thing with us. The rat race is a lie because it tricks us into thinking this life is the most important one to be living for.

...continued



# “LIFE OUT OF THE RAT RACE IS THIS CRAZY UPSIDE DOWN WORLD WHERE THOSE WHO ARE LAST BECOME FIRST (MATTHEW 20:16).”

## OUR RESCUE FROM THE RACE

If all of our attempts at a truly satisfying life haven't brought us the contentment we're hoping for, it's clear that the only solution has to come from Someone outside of the rat race. This Someone can't be stuck in the mundane, repetitive lifestyle we find ourselves in. They must not be overcome by the same struggles we have. They must be strong enough to resist them. They must be Someone who knows what brings lasting fulfillment, and be able to say "no" to the things in life that don't. Jesus is that Someone. He came to earth where the rats were and lived a perfect life in pursuit of things that were eternally worthy, like "love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23, ESV). He came down into the rat race and showed us an entirely new way. He showed us that a life lived in close relationship with God and serving other people is the most satisfying life we can have.

Jesus' whole purpose was to rescue us out of our self-induced rat race. God planned for His death after He lived a perfect, sinless life, as a worthy sacrifice for you and I to be able to stand in God's presence someday. God sees us scurrying about, looking for cheese in an attempt to build a happy life, all the while standing back with open arms, inviting us to know Him. Through a relationship with Jesus, we can be adopted as God's kid, known and loved by Him, and made into someone entirely new. He'll change your mind about things you thought you already made a final decision about. You might have lived your whole life on cheddar cheese and suddenly you're taking a liking to Havarti. Our lives aren't constrained by the rat race because we're not looking for a reward for ourselves anymore. Our mission is to bring glory to God and to be used by Him to serve other people. We want to tell of the amazing God He is so that maybe others, too, will be brought into an eternal life with God, forever enjoying how good He is.

Life outside of the rat race, which is what Christians call living in God's Kingdom, is not about pursuing the best life for yourself. Life out of the rat race is this crazy upside down

world where those who are last become first (Matthew 20:16). It's where the highest calling is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, which is an awful lot (Mark 12:29-31). In this Kingdom, the meek are blessed (Matthew 5:5) and we're told to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God (1 Peter 5:6). Living in the Kingdom means letting yourself be cheated (1 Corinthians 6:7), turning the other cheek (Matthew 5:38-40), and laying down your life for your friends (John 15:13). God's remedy for the rat race is to give it up, to help everyone else succeed, and forget about yourself. That's what Jesus did for us.

## FULLNESS OF JOY

David, who wrote many of the Psalms, knew the satisfaction of life with God: "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11, ESV). David had discovered that his purpose in life was to know and be known by God. If you read about his life, you'll learn that he definitely didn't live out this relationship with God perfectly. Murder and adultery were involved, actually. David made a ton of mistakes that we might look at with judgmental eyes, and yet he is still referred to in the Bible as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). From David's life and the life of Jesus' first disciples in the New Testament, we see that living for God brings no guarantee of safety or success. But the knowledge of His love and what Jesus went through to be with us, brings the ultimate satisfaction we're desperate for. Living our lives with eternity in mind brings peace and hope as we consider Who we will share eternity with when this life passes away.

We created the problem of the rat race when we lost sight of our purpose, but God, who made us, gave us a purpose before we were born. The rat race tells us that we can be satisfied by working hard for what we want and pursuing a happy life, but God wants more for us than the disappointment of a whole life spent trying things that won't work. He doesn't leave us to figure out life in the rat race. He gave us a way out. Which life are you going to live for, this one or the next?



*"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers."*  
– 1 John 3:16, ESV



# 2020 CALLED. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Last year was different. That's why this page is a little different.

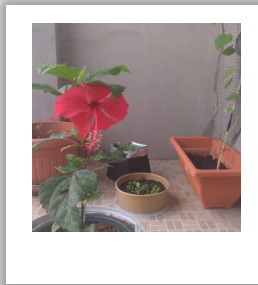
As WOTS writers, we've gathered some thoughts from 2020, and it was officially NOT a dumpster fire. God is good!

Last year really shook things up, and that's a good thing. God used this year to refine things in my life and bring further clarity and direction. Even though there were many times of what felt like total chaos, He's still in control. One of the highlights of the year was participating in a mission trip to Louisiana.

**Chelsey** | Superior, Wisconsin

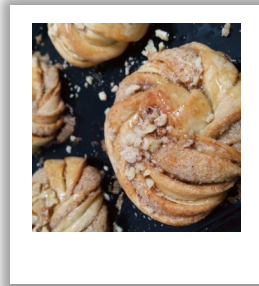
2020 life made me appreciate the tiny details and reflect on God's purpose in it. For example, after not being allowed to go biking after an accident I had 10 years ago, I finally got back on the road biking in my free time.

**KC** | Cebu City, Philippines



2020 didn't happen the way any of us planned. Since lockdowns and COVID restrictions started in April, joining Wednesday evening services and discussion groups has been a way to remain connected with the church. There has been more time to read, dream and scheme, and garden.

**Laura** | Cebu City, Philippines

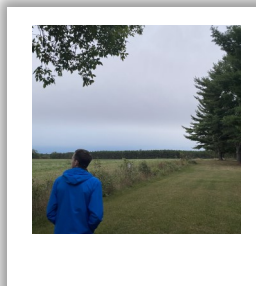


2020 marked the fourth year since I moved to the Philippines and the first full year that I never left its soil! I learned many practical things (like fixing broken toilets and catching birds in the house) as well as things that spark my curiosity (like speaking Cebuano and baking Swedish desserts).

**Brittany** | Cebu City, Philippines

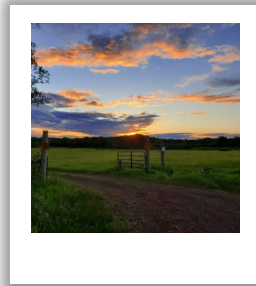
I can't minimize the fact that my wife and I have both stayed employed during this whole pandemic. There is so much to be thankful for even in this hard season.

**Ben** | Menomonie, Wisconsin



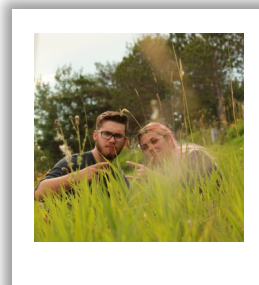
2020 was the year I learned I was going to be an aunt, explored more parks in my area than ever before, and celebrated one year dating my best friend.

**Abby** | Menomonie, Wisconsin



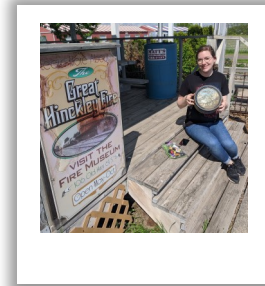
In true 2020 quarantine fashion, I was fortunate enough to expand my passions for cooking, reading, and admiring nature. By spending lots of time exploring His beautiful creation, this year the Lord repeatedly reminded me that the world is still in His hands.

**Lita** | Superior, Wisconsin



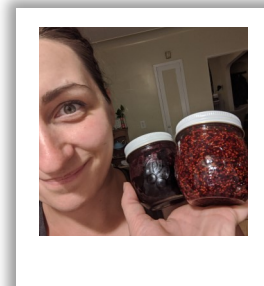
It sure has been a strange start to the end of my time spent at college. I never thought that I'd take fully online classes while living on campus. Despite the pandemic in 2020, I was blessed to spend more time alone in His Word and cherish time spent with my fiancé.

**Thorne** | Superior, Wisconsin



I'm thankful for 2020 because of the amount of time it gave me to enjoy the outdoors. A little fresh air helped me to process the effects of the pandemic, to spend time talking and listening to God, and to have fun by finding a geocache or two.

**Kelsey** | Superior, Wisconsin



I'm an extrovert and I love being around people, but learning how to be alone and quiet well is a good thing for me. Plus, it gave me time to go on lots of hikes and hone-in on my jam-making skills (still a work in progress).

**Claire** | Superior, Wisconsin

Right before the pandemic I expressed wanting to have better relationships with those in my church. God has been using 2020 to show stuff in my life that had been hindering that.

**Michaela** | Superior, Wisconsin

# I CAN'T BELIEVE I DID THAT

A Short  
Guide to  
Screwing Up  
Well

**H**ave you ever made a huge mistake? I mean a really, really big one? Have you ever said the wrong thing, let your emotions get the best of you, or ever ruined a relationship?

What did you do about it?

Many of us react in one of two ways: we either ignore the issue altogether or we wallow in self-pity. However, neither of those tactics make the situation better, do they?

God isn't surprised when we screw up, and we shouldn't be either. When those times come around, and they will, we don't have to be stuck. We can move on and do it well. Here's where to start.

## OWN IT

When we make mistakes, it is crucial that we take responsibility for what we've done. We can't blame our past, our emotions, our circumstances, or other people. Even if those things do contribute to our failure, we are still responsible for how we react to them. When we humble ourselves and genuinely admit fault, the Bible promises that

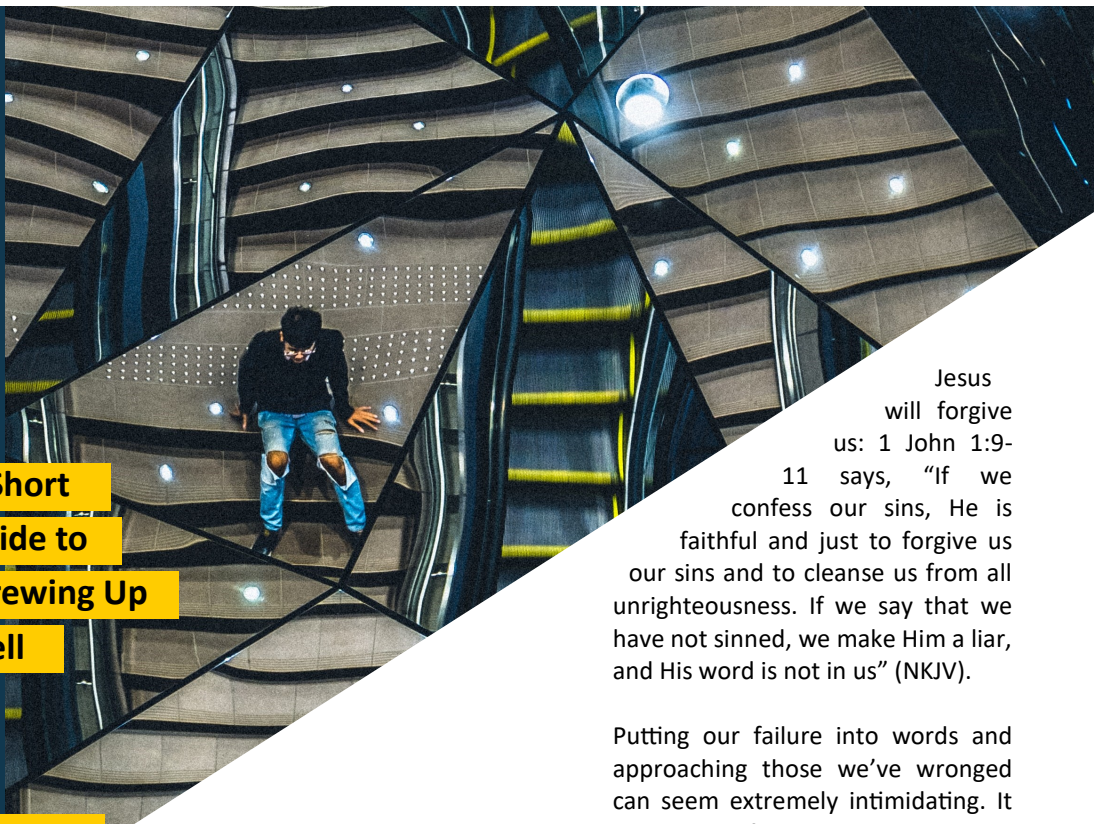
Jesus will forgive us: 1 John 1:9-11 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (NKJV).

Putting our failure into words and approaching those we've wronged can seem extremely intimidating. It would be far easier to let the relationship suffer or ignore it altogether. But, what we don't realize is what we're missing out on when we don't own it. Proverbs 28:13 explains, "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy" (NKJV). That's just it—when we keep these things bottled inside, we tell God, "Thanks, but I don't need or want your mercy," even though He is poised and ready to give it to us. There is much to be gained on the other side of our mistakes if we are willing to do the hard work to get there.

## LEARN FROM IT

This life is not easy, and the Bible is full of narratives of imperfect people just like us. Jacob literally wrestled with God who broke his hip, Jonah tried running away from God and got swallowed by a huge fish, David slept with his friend's wife and then killed his friend to cover it up, and Peter denied knowing Jesus at a very critical time.

Yes, all of these people failed in huge ways, but they all came out the other side knowing God better. They didn't waste their experience,





and we don't have to waste ours. We can learn how sinful we really are, what areas God is trying to point out in our life that need to change, and we can learn how faithful He is in the process. Some of the most intimate, real experiences with God happen when we're in the most trouble. As much as it hurts, failure is always an opportunity to learn something new.

### CHOOSE COMMUNITY

When we screw up, the people we have around us are crucial. If they are real friends, they won't abandon us but will help us through it. Pastor Drew Hunter elaborates, "We need companions who sit with us in days of darkness. We need them to embody and remind us of Christ's heart for sinners and sufferers. One of the greatest gifts we can give one another in depression is our companionship."<sup>1</sup>

True community is only found within the local church. The church is a place where fellow Christians build deep, sincere relationships, and they don't give up on each other. The commitment found there isn't mustered up by willpower but rather it's a reflection of how Jesus doesn't give up on us, either. Do you have a community like this? It's important to find where we belong as soon as possible so that others can help us when we mess up and we can also help them in return.

### HOLD ONTO HOPE

If there is anyone who knows what it's like to mess up big, it's the Apostle Paul (formerly Saul). Before he became an apostle, he persecuted and killed Christians until the day, "a great light from heaven shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are persecuting Me?'" (Acts 22:6-7, NKJV). With a past like that, one would think he had a heavy conscience. But, in Philippians he writes, "forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward calling of God in Christ Jesus" (3:13-14, NKJV). He moved on because he wanted to pursue God's calling in his life, despite his own failure. He had hope.

For us, it's hard to have hope when we are flooded with thoughts like, "I shouldn't have done that," "Why am I such an idiot?" or, "How could I hurt them like that?" In that emotion, we can be led to make irrational decisions that can be costly and that we will likely regret later. Instead, stay put regardless of how hard it feels. Remember that God is faithful when we are not, and this is not the end of the story. There is more to come.

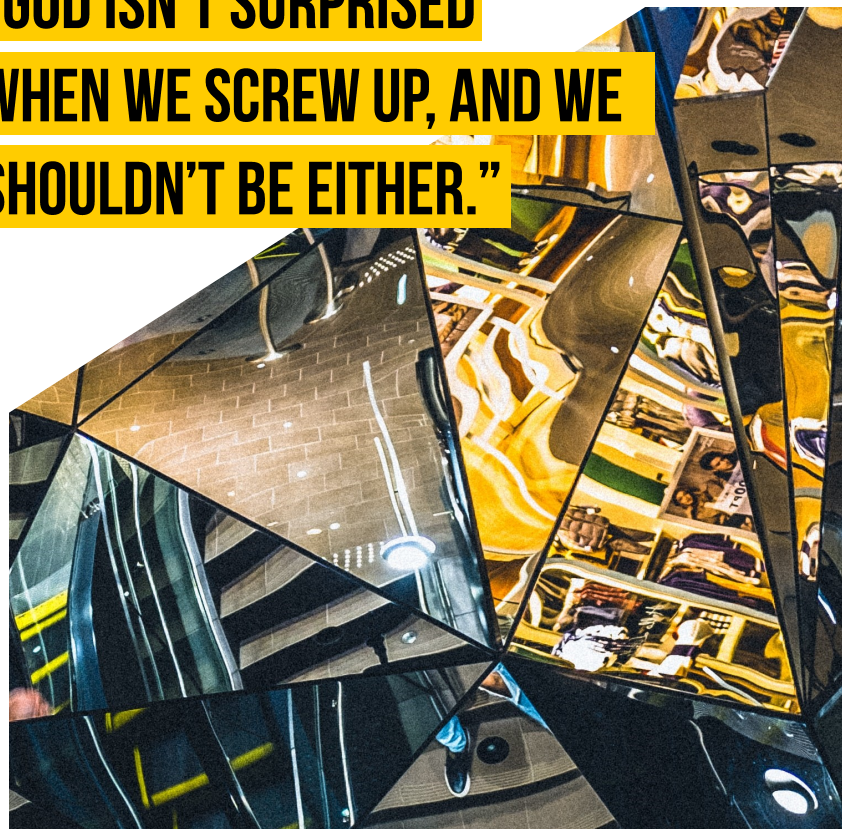
### GIVE THANKS

Finally, moving on well means being thankful for what God has shown us and believing that we still have a future. It's because of His kindness and mercy that we aren't squashed every time we fall. Rather, like a loving Father, He reaches out to help us back up. We have a lot to be thankful for because we can keep going, we can keep failing, and we can keep getting up. It's not over until we're dead. That kind of mercy should make us sing.

All of us will screw up and make big mistakes. D. Michael Lindsey, president of a Christian college in Massachusetts, provides a helpful perspective when we find ourselves in that place: "If you let the failure get you down and you stay in that pit, you rob yourself of potential growth. Your past isn't your future. It doesn't define who you are or what the rest of your life will look like. What matters is what you do after you fail and how you move on."<sup>2</sup>

It's not so much *if* you screw up, but *when*. So, what will you do then?

**"GOD ISN'T SURPRISED  
WHEN WE SCREW UP, AND WE  
SHOULDN'T BE EITHER."**



<sup>1</sup> Hunter, D. (2018, September 24). *You won't make it alone: Five reasons you need good friends*. DesiringGod. [desiringgod.org/articles/you-wont-make-it-alone](https://desiringgod.org/articles/you-wont-make-it-alone)  
<sup>2</sup> Lindsey, D.M. (2018, June 22). *3 ways to succeed in failure*. The Gospel Coalition. [thegospelcoalition.org/article/3-ways-succeed-failure](https://thegospelcoalition.org/article/3-ways-succeed-failure)

DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS WITH ORDINARY SKILLS:

AN INTERVIEW WITH TWO WOMEN  
PURSUING JESUS NOW

# Ministry Every Day

It's natural to think that if God calls you to full time ministry it must mean you either become a pastor or an overseas missionary. But these tired tropes miss an important truth. God calls every Christian to full time ministry. He calls the college student anxious to graduate. He asks her to set her worries aside and see the need outside her doorway at this unique time in her life. He knocks on the cell of the inmate and asks him to help those around him who don't know about Jesus yet. He asks the gas station worker to pray and reach out to the customers busily filing through the station. There's no special clause that exempts you from fulfilling your purpose now. It may not be glamorous-looking, but is any ministry work really glamorous?

*Word on the Street* reached out to Set Free, an organization in South Carolina dedicated to installing wells. We spoke with Claire and Afton, two women working full time using their ordinary skills to fulfill God's calling.



CLAIRE,  
COMMUNICATIONS  
COORDINATOR

## DESCRIBE A DAY IN THE LIFE OF YOUR JOB AT SET FREE?

**CLAIRE:** As the Communications Coordinator I handle all things writing. I send out regular mass emails, write campaign letters, handle some design work, and run our social media platforms. We're a small team of just five Americans working stateside to champion our indigenous partners in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and India, so we work together a lot. I get the opportunity to get creative, learn new things, and grow in my writing. The most consistent part of my job is writing – on whatever platform it may be.

# “ALLOW YOUR TWENTIES TO BE A TIME TO HONE IN ON THE SKILLS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU...ALLOW THE LORD TO USE THAT KNOWLEDGE TO LEAD YOU WHERE HE WANTS YOU.”



**AFTON,**  
MONTHLY GIVING  
COORDINATOR

**AFTON:** I get to have the opportunity to meet and interact with our incredible donors and come up with ways to communicate the work that the Lord is doing around the world. I feel privileged to get to go to work every day and hear the stories of lives and eternities changed. My daily activities range from writing thank you cards to making phone calls to presenting Set Free to board meetings or churches.

## HOW DID YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO PURSUE?

**CLAIRE:** I have always been a dreamer and very passionate about different causes and injustices in the world. In high school, I began praying that God would break my heart for what breaks His in this world and use me to make a difference. He was teaching me that we can fight against the bad things that happen in the world all we want, but it is only through a transformation deep in someone’s soul when they learn of the ultimate love that Jesus has for them that we truly start to see change. I can’t believe He led me to Set Free, truly breaking my heart for the darkness in the world, allowing me to so much better understand the Light that is Him.

**AFTON:** From mission trips together as a family to yearly summer trips with my youth group, it instilled in me a love for service from a young age. I knew that loving God meant loving my neighbor, and that often meant caring for those who I didn’t know. I’ve had several different jobs mostly in ministry, but some not, that helped me discover my passion for a job where I got to wake up every day knowing I was making a difference. But I’m a firm believer that God doesn’t need me to carry out His mission; instead, I’m blessed that He chooses to.

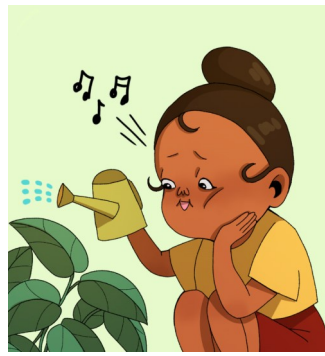
## WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AS THEY CONSIDER GOD'S CALLING ON THEIR LIFE?

**CLAIRE:** Keep praying and thinking about what God may be placing on your heart. Your passions aren’t an accident. If you don’t quite know what you want yet, that’s okay too. God still has a plan for you that actually leaves your dreams in the dust. If I’ve learned anything, the way God leads us when we allow Him isn’t always the most direct, and may not totally look like what we thought, but every single step has a purpose and He is equipping you through all of it to become who He created you to be. If you feel stressed out about what comes next, know you aren’t alone. It’s completely normal, and I think we all have felt that way at one time or another. Take a deep breath and enjoy where you are right now because right now is preparing you for what’s to come. God’s got you.

**AFTON:** Your job isn’t supposed to be merely the fulfillment of your passion. We all do things within a job that we don’t love, so constantly trying to find a job that satisfies your craving for purpose will end up leaving you frustrated. Allow your twenties to be a time to hone in on the skills God has given you. You might light up when giving a presentation or thrive on making cold calls. Find the things that you’re good at and that gives you life and allow the Lord to use that knowledge to lead you where He wants you. And realize that He can use you right where you are, dream job or not!

# QUARANTHINGS

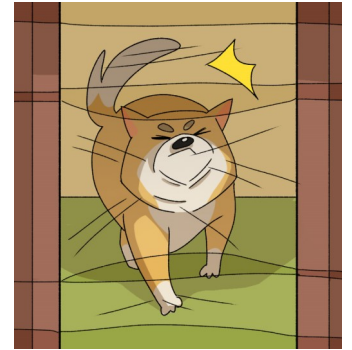
WHEN BOREDOM STRIKES DURING QUARANTINE



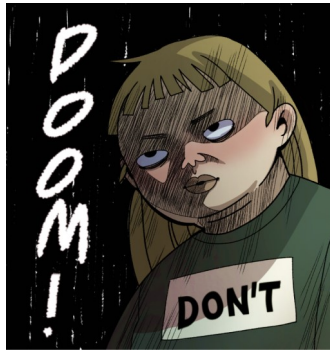
**BABY TALK** Have no one to talk to? Sometimes I “baby talk” to plants and stuff I find in my room.



**MASTER CHEF** Lockdown gave us an opportunity to explore things we haven’t tried—like cooking. Novice cooks like me are very proud to cook any food without burning it.



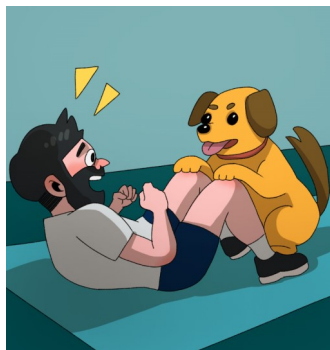
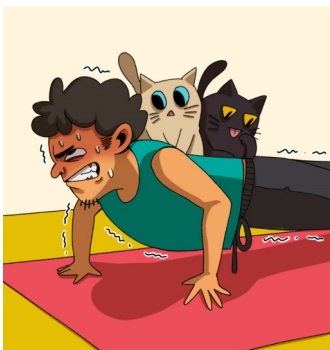
**PRANK YOUR PETS** Pet owners have always enjoyed their pets’ reactions to their silly pranks and behaviors. Now that they’re spending more time together, pranks have gotten sillier!



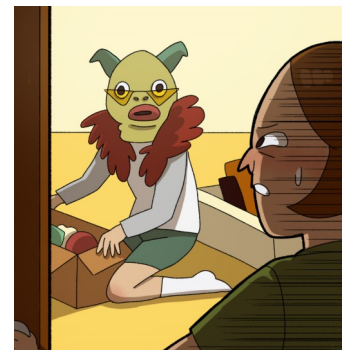
**DIY HAIRCUT** There are a lot of people, including me, who want to have a different hairstyle for a change of pace, but don’t consider the possible end results!



**MASK MAKING** It’s nice to see people unleash their inner creativity. Some of them are cool, but some are...weird.



**EXERCISING** Feels like the New Year, huh? Quarantine is the best time to build those muscles. Work out with things you find at home...or animal assistance?



**CLEANING & DISTRACTIONS** Have you ever thought of cleaning your room? It’s funny how you get distracted by random stuff you find.

# Save the Earth?

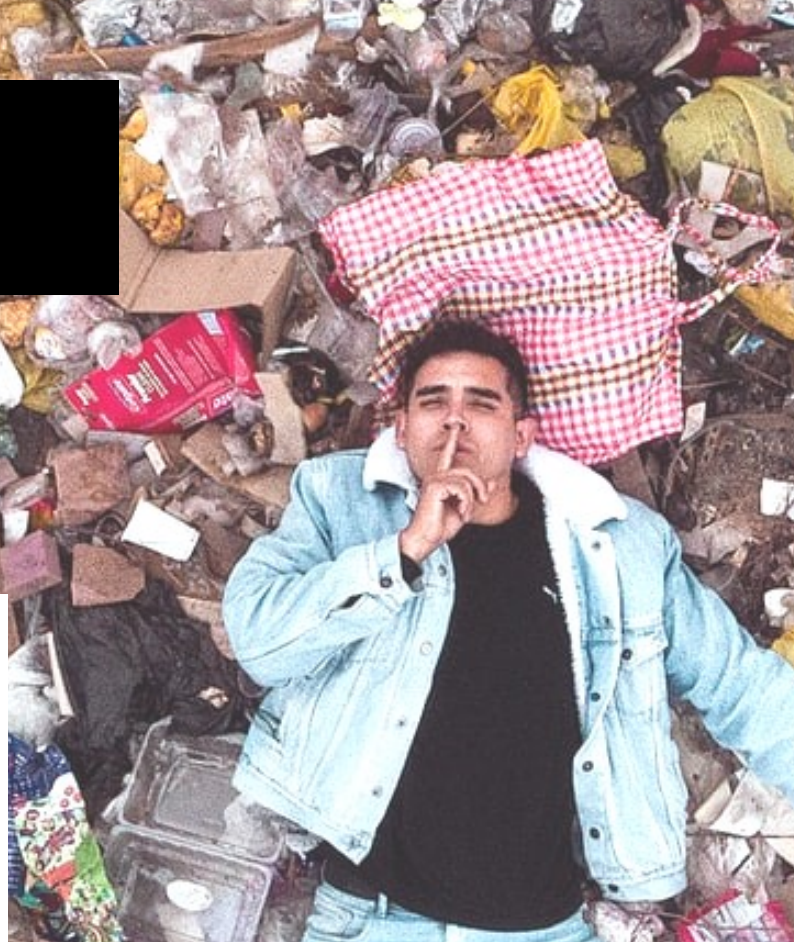
## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT BEING GREEN

If you want to be seen as a decent citizen of the world today, protecting our planet will have to be a priority. At the very least you have to *act* like you care. Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Only support brands who can prove that they're making an effort to minimize their ecological footprint. Don't forget to buy organic (other companies use pesticides!). God help you if you're ever caught slurping from a plastic straw (have mercy on the sea turtles!). With our beloved Earth seeming more and more like a sinking ship, popular opinion says that we each can and should do our part to save it.

If any of this is news to you, you'd better get to Googling. There's a lot to keep track of. The ice caps are melting, entire animal species are going extinct, and our ozone layer is wearing away by the second. To be honest, you'll look out of step with reality if you're not making some kind of an effort.

However if you're a Christian, you have the freedom to think about this issue more objectively. That could be said about any of the ideals popular opinion upholds. Being environmentally friendly takes a lot of effort. It will require your time, money, and thought. So, it's a wise thing to ask: Does God want this to be a priority for His people?

On one hand, God's made it clear that He wants Christians to be excellent caretakers of everything they've been given (1 Corinthians 4:2). That includes our planet. However, He's also made it clear that Earth is surviving on borrowed time (Revelation 22:12). The Bible says that everything is going to get worse and worse until Jesus comes back and ultimately destroys it all (2 Timothy 3:1, 2 Peter 3:10). Then, He's going to create an entirely new home for His people, no matter how polluted and run-down this current home becomes (Isaiah 65:17).



So, if the planet really is just like a ship that's doomed to sink no matter what, why would we spend our precious time, energy and money making engine repairs? However, before you start throwing your plastic bottles (and straws) to the wind in anticipation of the New Earth, consider how Jesus is described in the Bible. He doesn't exactly come across as the kind of guy who litters with reckless abandon. Also the Earth may be destined for destruction, but we could very well be on it for the rest of our lives. And our kids' lives. And their kids' lives. After all, a day to the Lord is like a thousand years, and no one knows for sure how long He'll wait until He comes back (Psalm 90:4, Matthew 24:36).

So while it's probably not the best idea to throw a tire-burning party just for fun, it also wouldn't be wise to invest all your resources into a ship that's ultimately going to sink. That's doubly true when you take into consideration that there are people on board who still very much need rescuing. Right now this old planet is the only hope most people have. But God would love for them to have an opportunity to hope in the next one that He promises to create. If you let yourself get too caught up in being green, who will invite them?

# WINTER BLUES TO

# Winter greens

## YOUR LOCAL PLANT GUIDE

**W**ant some greenery in your scenery? Plants add a dash of color to any room and can help provide much needed oxygen for more brain power during those late-night cramming sessions. Did you know you can dig up a variety of them right in Menomonie? The fun thing is that plants around this town may be found in some of the least expected places.



Artysta Boutique



Mood Boutique



Dick's Fresh Market



Fleet Farm

### DOWNTOWN

#### Artysta Boutique

You may discover plants with a personality here, meaning, they might be dressed up with googly eyes. You know, it makes them more personable and easier to talk to.

#### Mood Boutique

From air plants to new pants, you can get them here. These plants have no need for soil or toil. They just appreciate a good soaking or a gentle mist of water every so often and they're good to grow.

### ON 9TH STREET

#### Dick's Fresh Market

They always seem to have a variety of plants from succulents to African violets. The plants at this grocery store are typically situated right in front of the produce area, allowing for quick in-and-out access.

### NORTH MENOMONIE

#### Fleet Farm

They offer plants to match the seasons. You never quite know what you will stumble upon here but you can be sure it will rock.

### Walmart

You will also find plants to match the season here, plus other indoor potted friends. Sometimes, you may find dying plants at a bargain price. They're typically located out in the greenhouse, if they have any in need of rescuing.

### Dollar Tree

We're not sure about the live plant category but they certainly offer plant starter kits to get you off and growing. Also, if you are looking for a change in plant containers, this place offers some very inexpensive glassware and other containers suitable for harboring a plant.

### ROAD TRIP

#### Blind Munchies in River Falls

They have both caffeine and cacti for purchase. Satisfy your thirst for coffee and desire for plants in one stop. The plants are very portable and fit nicely in a variety of places like your desk or window sill. They even come with instructions for care.

Whether north or south, east or west, in Menomonie you have many options to earn (or maintain) the beloved title of "plant mom" (or dad!). Now that we have given you the dirt, go out and get some plants!



Blind Munchies

*enjoy*  
EVERY  
*moment*

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SERVICE TIMES: **WED // 6:30PM SUN // 10:30AM**

For everyone's safety, those attending in person will practice social distancing and wear masks.



# Break free from Ordinary

THINK FOR YOURSELF.



## STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES

MONDAYS // PRAYER & DISCUSSION // 5PM  
@ Elk Creek Room in Price Commons //  
Contact us for info about other happenings

An Official UW-Stout Student Org // [streetlevel@uwstout.edu](mailto:streetlevel@uwstout.edu) // [streetlevelministries.com](http://streetlevelministries.com)