



ISSUE EIGHTY-ONE



PRESENCE OF GOD

PAGE 12

PAGE 12

PAGE 07
ONE GIRL'S
TRUE STORY

THE FIGHT TO REGAIN WHAT HAS BEEN LOST

PAGE 08
WHO IS
JESUS?

PAGE 16
DRAGONS,
ELVES AND
MAGIC
SPELLS

FEBRUARY-APRIL 2020

WORD ON THE STREET
Street Level Ministries' Magazine

READWOTS.COM



Word on the Street

readwots.com

WOTS is available in the USA on the UW-Stout, UW-Superior, and UW-River Falls campuses. We're a global magazine with versions published in Southeast Asia, Amsterdam, and the Philippines.

As a publication of Street Level Ministries, check out how you can become a part of it by visiting streetlevelministries.com.

Word on the Street (WOTS) Magazine is written, laid out, and printed by young adults who love Jesus and want to write about God, life, and college. We hope this magazine is helpful, challenging, and thought-provoking as it encourages you to pursue a strong relationship with Jesus.

Word on the Street (WOTS) Magazine is released four times a year and has been published since 1999.

CONTRIBUTING LOCATIONS:



Upper Midwest
USA



Cebu City
PHILIPPINES



Amsterdam
NETHERLANDS

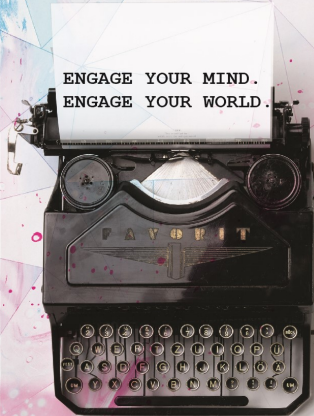


Southeast Asia

**WANT
TO
SHARE
YOUR
IDEAS?**

**WRITE.
SKETCH.
CREATE.**

ENGAGE YOUR MIND.
ENGAGE YOUR WORLD.



Submit your writings, photos, poetry, illustrations, etc... for publication consideration.

**EMAIL
WOTSMAGAZINE@GMAIL.COM
WITH YOUR CREATIVE WORKS!**

**CHECK US OUT ON
SOCIAL MEDIA**



wotsmagazine



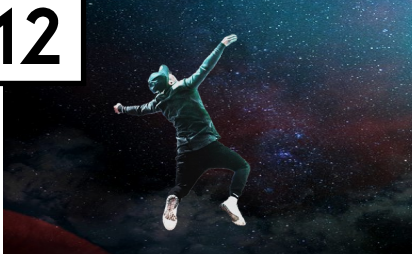
wordonthestreetmagazine

what's inside...

ISSUE 81

F E A T U R E D

12



PRESENCE OF GOD
THE FIGHT TO REGAIN WHAT HAS BEEN LOST

05



SECOND SEMESTER STRONG
10 TIPS ON REPAIRING YOUR STUDY HABITS

08



AS A MATTER OF FACT
WHO IS JESUS?

10



ONE STEP FORWARD CAN CHANGE YOUR PATH
AN INTERVIEW WITH
STEPHEN ROSE

07

ONE GIRL'S TRUE STORY

THE UNFAILING LOVE OF GOD: MENDED BROKENNESS

09

QUARTERLY MUSIC BEAT

AN UPDATE FROM OUR FRIENDS AT BURNING DOG RADIO

11

DEAR LAURA

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO THE DINOSAURS?

15

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SOMETHING TO CHEW ON

18

THE TWENTY TENS

RECAPPING THE LAST DECADE: 2010-2019

20

GET OUT OF TOWN WITH THIS DAY-CATION GUIDE

A COLLECTION OF MUST-VISIT PLACES IN EAU CLAIRE AND HUDSON

22

THE LEEK: DISNEY SETS SIGHTS ON A WHOLE NEW WORLD

A NEW REALITY TV SHOW TO AIR ON DISNEY+

23

NICK THE HICK

ANOTHER RANT FROM YOUR FAVORITE REDNECK

16



DRAGONS. ELVES. AND MAGIC SPELLS
OUR CURIOUS CRAVING FOR FANTASY STORIES



FEBRUARY

- ⇒ **EVERY SAT THRU 4/11** WINTER FARMERS MARKET AT THE RAW DEAL, 9AM-1PM
- ⇒ **THURS 1/2—MON 2/27** WINTER AFTER HOURS AT PINEHURST PARK, EAU CLAIRE 6-8PM
- ⇒ **SAT 2/1—TUES 2/4** LASER TAG AT MSC
- ⇒ **SAT 2/1** STOUT INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD, 11:30AM
- ⇒ **WED 2/5** MEN'S BASKETBALL VS UW-RIVER FALLS, 7PM
- ⇒ **FRI 2/7—SUN 2/9** HUDSON HOT AIR AFFAIR NEAR ST CROIX RIVER IN HUDSON
- ⇒ **FRI 2/7** WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS VS UW-LA CROSSE, 6PM
- ⇒ **FRI 2/7** MEN'S HOCKEY VS UW-STEVEN POINT, 7PM
- ⇒ **SAT 2/8** MEN'S BASKETBALL VS UW-PLATTEVILLE, 3PM
- ⇒ **SAT 2/8** MENOMONIE POLAR PLUNGE AT WAKANDA PARK, 2-5PM
- ⇒ **SAT 2/8** MEN'S HOCKEY VS UW-STEVENS POINT, 7PM
- ⇒ **WED 2/12** WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UW-LA CROSSE, 7PM
- ⇒ **THURS 2/13** MEN'S HOCKEY VS UW-SUPERIOR, 7PM
- ⇒ **SAT 2/15** WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UW-OSHKOSH, 3PM
- ⇒ **WED 2/19** MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UW-STEVENS POINT, 7PM
- ⇒ **THURS 2/20** STAND UP AT ZYMURGY, 7:30PM
- ⇒ **SAT 2/22** WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UW-WHITEWATER, 3PM
- ⇒ **SUN 2/23** COLFAX FFA ALUMNI FARM/TOY AND CRAFT SHOW, COLFAX HIGH SCHOOL, 9AM-3PM



A City Church in a Small Town

JFBELIEVERS CHURCH

Menomonie, Wisconsin

SERVICE TIMES:
SUN // 10:30AM
WED // 7:00PM

BIBLICAL · MISSIONAL · RADICAL
JFBELIEVERS.COM

MARCH

- ⇒ **TUES 3/3 — WED 3/4** EAU CLAIRE FARM SHOW, MENARDS CONFERENCE CENTER, EAU CLAIRE, 9AM-3:30PM
- ⇒ **THURS 3/5** EMPTY BOWLS, FEED MY PEOPLE, FLORIAN GARDENS, EAU CLAIRE, 11AM-7PM
- ⇒ **FRI 3/6** BLUE DEVIL BLADES FIGURE SKATING SPRING SHOW, FANETTI DUNN COUNTY ICE ARENA, 7-8PM
- ⇒ **SAT 3/21** FOUR FATHERS OF COMEDY, MABEL TANTER CENTER FOR THE ARTS, 7:30-9PM
- ⇒ **MON 3/23** VOTER REGISTRATION, UW-STOUT MSC, 10AM-3PM
- ⇒ **THURS 3/26** STAND UP AT ZYMURGY, 7:30PM
- ⇒ **FRI 3/27** RED CEDAR SPEEDWAY CAR SHOW DAY 1, 3PM—11PM
- ⇒ **SAT 3/28** RED CEDAR SPEEDWAY CAR SHOW DAY 2, 9AM—11PM
- ⇒ **SAT 3/28** BASEBALL VS. UW-OSHKOSH, 1PM
- ⇒ **SUN 3/29** BASEBALL VS. UW-OSHKOSH, 12PM

APRIL

- ⇒ **WED 4/1** WELLNESS FAIR AT UW-STOUT SPORTS AND FITNESS CENTER, 10AM—2PM
- ⇒ **WED 4/1** BASEBALL VS. NORTHLAND COLLEGE, 1PM
- ⇒ **FRI 4/3—SUN 4/5** FAMILY WEEKEND AT UW-STOUT
- ⇒ **SAT 4/4** BASEBALL VS. FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY, 12PM
- ⇒ **SAT 4/4** SOFTBALL VS. UW-LA CROSSE, 2PM
- ⇒ **SAT 4/5** BASEBALL VS. FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY, 12PM
- ⇒ **TUES 4/7** VOTER REGISTRATION, UW-STOUT MSC 8AM-7:45PM
- ⇒ **SAT 4/11** LITTLE BIT O' EVERYTHING CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW, DUNN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 9AM-3PM

BURNING DOG RADIO IS YOUR

COLLEGE SOUNDTRACK



Burning Dog Radio
 WRJF-LP101.7fm
 College Radio
 Menomonie, WI



burningdogradio.com

Second Semester

STRONG

10 TIPS ON REPAIRING YOUR STUDY HABITS



T

There are all sorts of things that keep us from studying, like simply not knowing where to start, or maybe it's just wanting desperately to finish another chapter of that book you're reading. If you struggle when it comes to studying, then take heart because the start of the second semester means a fresh start! Take a look at the following ten tips to reinforce what you probably already know, but have maybe receded in the wake of all night cram sessions that were the hallmark of your fall 2019 semester.

SLEEP

How well do you actually pay attention in class and how invested in your homework are you when you pull an all-nighter? Not everyone needs eight hours of sleep to be fully functioning during the day, but everyone needs sleep to function well. In order to actually retain what you're studying during the day, good quality sleep is crucial because it improves concentration and productivity.¹ There's just nothing else quite like it. Sorry, Red Bull.

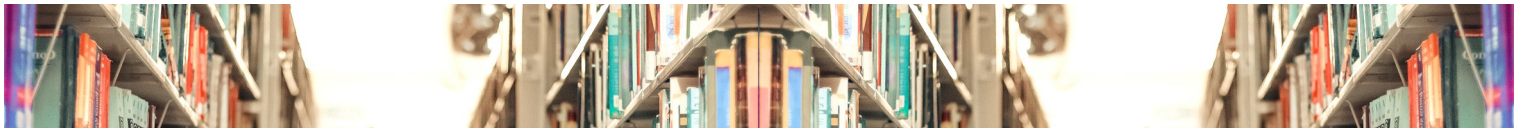


STAY ORGANIZED

Have you ever written something down on a to-do list that you already finished just for the satisfaction of crossing it off? No? Just me? Well, how about getting a "list-crossing-off" high by writing down all the things you need to keep tabs on this week? Instead of merely listing what you need to get done, write out a realistic schedule that includes time for Bible devotions, rest, grocery shopping, and even laundry. By blocking out your week with all the things you need to do to keep functioning as a human being, you'll avoid overbooking and actually leave enough time to study in between work, student orgs, and that party Friday night for once. Some people prefer good old-fashioned paper and pen versus an online format, but there is no right or wrong way to write out your schedule. Just find out what works for you and stick to it.

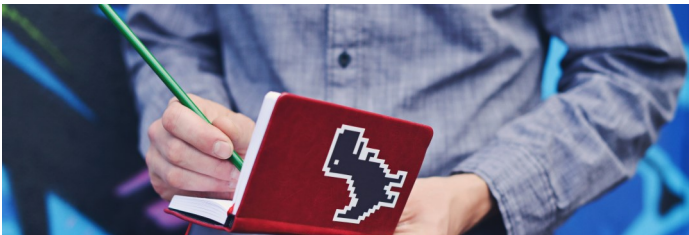
GO TO CLASS

The best way to learn what you're studying is to go to class. After all, college isn't cheap so you might as well get your money's worth, right? Your professor will emphasize the important concepts and give you a better idea of what is important and what you should focus on.² Not all exams are based straight from the material, so it is crucial that you attend class. Showing up also gives you the opportunity to take your own notes, which is going to be far and away more effective than getting notes from a classmate or your professor.



TAKE GOOD NOTES

Well written and understandable notes are a great way to be prepared for that exam next week. Don't worry about getting every word, but pick out the main ideas. If you are worried you've missed something, you might be able to record the lecture with your professor's permission, or compare your notes with a classmate. After class, reviewing your notes can be overwhelming and even more confusing than the lecture you just sat through. Instead of letting your notes get the best of you though, get the best of them. Rewriting your notes is a great way to review and notice information you missed the first time through.



STOP PROCRASTINATING

Procrastination and distractions are a huge study blocker. Often times, technology gets in the way of productive studying. As we all know, having an episode of *Brooklyn 99* playing in the background, or blaring your favorite songs while trying to finish that eight-page paper due tomorrow, can be distracting. Putting off your homework or letting yourself get distracted leads to a poor outcome. You'll feel more anxiety, stress and disappointment in yourself, and you'll have lower motivation because you put off that huge project until last minute. All of these things can be avoided by being diligent and staying on top of your homework.

STUDY SPACE

Find a study spot that works for you. Try to avoid studying in your dorm room though. Your dorm room is meant to be a place you can sleep and relax, not for the stress of studying. Most people commit to one place to study, but going to different places is extremely beneficial. Learning new things is correlated with colors and experiences, so try switching up where you study.³ Some favorite places UW-Stout students like to study are the campus library, study rooms in the dorms, the MSC, or coffee shops in town. Pro tip: Check out The Blind Munchies every Saturday for a \$2 student breakfast because we're pretty sure a good breakfast goes hand-in-hand with good grades, and it's cheap, which pairs nicely with the average student budget!

START SMALL

Spending too many hours staring at the textbook in front of us or flipping through the notecards we've gone over 15 times already is something you may be guilty of. An easy way to avoid

this is to break it up and start small. Decide what is going to take you the longest to finish and what will be the quickest. Be real about it too! Start with something you know you can finish because this will help you feel like you're getting somewhere and will only make the rest go smoother. Break your study time up as well. Quit staring at that textbook for an hour straight. Instead, read for 20 minutes and then take a short five-minute break to get up and stretch or look at your phone you've been dying to check.

REPEATED PRACTICE

There are many different ways to practice and absorb the information you need to know for that exam you've got in a week. Flash cards are a popular way to get repetitive memorization practice. Redoing past assignments is also helpful to keep concepts fresh in your brain. Going through practice exams is also a great way to review what is going to be on the upcoming test and to learn what material you need extra help on.

STUDY GROUPS

Having a study buddy or group is a great way to keep you motivated, honest, and responsible. You can take opportunities to ask questions, explain concepts, review material, and exchange ideas. Everyone will have different perspectives which, when heard, can help you reach your own conclusions about the material at hand.



STAY POSITIVE

Have you ever noticed how hard it is to get something done when you're in a bad mood? It's not easy. In order to best absorb the given material and to finish your homework quickly and well, your attitude needs to be in the right place. You might dislike the topic you are working on and it might be difficult, but with a negative attitude, it's hard to accomplish much of anything. Find a few things that help you have a positive attitude like having a good cup of coffee, stopping and talking to a friend, or looking up cat videos on YouTube. With a positive attitude, you will be more open to the information and material you have in front of you.

¹ blog.bulletproof.com/sleep-hacking-1-million-people-prove-sleeping-5-hours-is-healthier-than-sleeping-8-hours/

² math.uh.edu/~tomforde/AttendingClass.html

³ princetonreview.com/college-advice/back-to-school-study-tips

One girl's TRUE STORY

THE UNFAILING LOVE OF GOD: MENDED BROKENNESS

This testimony is from KC, a member of Street Level Ministries in Cebu City, Philippines

A At a very young age, I was taught the act of prayer. I remember my grandma wrote a prayer for me to memorize as my daily request. Then I was introduced to church services and community involvement. Through that, faith came into my consciousness and became the first step as I began to acknowledge God in my life. In short, He pursued me even before I knew Him. Yet along my walk, I encountered a very serious challenge that tested every bit of faith I had.

My mom did something terribly hurtful that broke my dad's heart. Seeing him hurt like that made me resent her and distance myself. It wore me down and made me question the existence of God. I could have clung to Him, but instead I came to the point where I started doubting, distrusting, and falling under the burden of thinking I would never forgive or love again. My worship turned into grief, prayers turned into grumbling, and love turned into hate. As days went by, I continued living full of hatred towards my mother, and I was ashamed of what people might say if they found out.

I could not pray, and I put all the blame on Him for allowing it to happen. The only question I could utter was, "If He is a good God, then why did He allow such a bad thing to happen?" It affected how I treated people, dealt with problems, and how I viewed life. I even tried to reconcile because I wanted to heal our relationship, but I failed. I failed to understand, failed to talk it over, and failed to forgive. All that because I failed to ask Him for help.

But the story did not end there. During a Bible study with the Street Level Ministries group I attended through my university, we talked about forgiveness. I had heard of that word multiple times, but this time it felt so different. It was as if I was hearing it for the first time. Days passed and I was still bothered by the sensation of the word. It had been almost three years of keeping my hatred and doubts a secret until I finally decided to open up to someone. I was uncertain what would happen, but after the tearful talk, I felt surprisingly relieved, like thorns were pulled out of my body. After that heartfelt moment, I fell down on my knees and cried out in prayer over every bit of the pain I had, and it turned into total forgiveness.



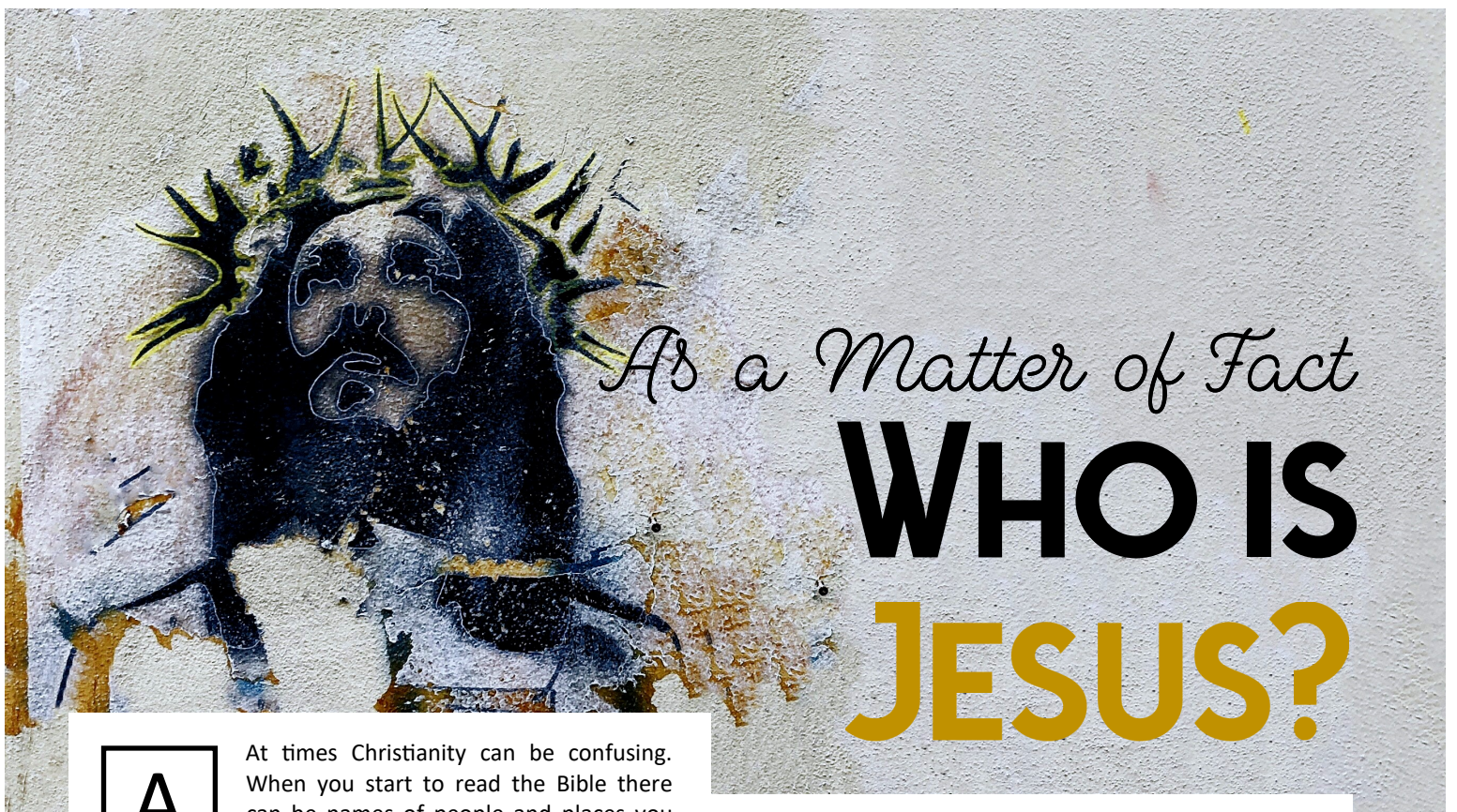
“I WAS UNCERTAIN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, BUT AFTER THE TEARFUL TALK, I FELT SURPRISINGLY RELIEVED, LIKE THORNS WERE PULLED OUT OF MY BODY.”

Since then, the words of God have opened my heart again. Listening to His voice through prayer, I feel peace of mind and deep adoration towards Him. I've realized that I became lost and blind because I let myself be covered with hate and doubt. Now I have a strong belief that the power of someone's love can cast out someone's hate. Finally, I could get to love, know, and show Him the greatest thanksgiving I could ever give, which was to finally reconcile with my mother. Through constant prayer and seeking God's guidance, speaking with my mother has become easier and lighter because I know that she has been forgiven and I have been saved. Today I'm in a season of complete transition as I work out who I used to be, which was buried in isolation and suffering, and into a person who rejoices in the hands of God through anything.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33, NIV).

Because of Him,

KC



As a Matter of Fact

WHO IS JESUS?

A

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 then even more confusingly, words that you may know, but in the context of Christianity they might have even greater depth of meaning. Knowing that, it can at times be overwhelming. *Word on the Street* is going to go back to the basics to tackle common questions. These are questions that are not only integral for the curious and new believer, but they are critical for the long time Christian. They are truths that you never move beyond.

Who is Jesus? No individual has ever had more written and said about them than Jesus Christ. From the time when Jesus walked this earth until today, His identity has sparked momentous debate. Some have said that He was a liar and possessed by demons. Still others called Him insane and even identified Him as a blasphemer against God. Others, though, said He was a good teacher and maybe even a prophet. He has also been known as Lord and God. People desire to create their own version of Jesus. They attempt to twist His identity into being exactly what they want to believe rather than face the consequences of reality.

With all of these opinions out there, we need to make sure our view of this carpenter from Nazareth comes from the truth of the Bible. The entire Bible is full of the truth of Jesus. Here are five essential characteristics of Jesus' identity straight from Scripture.

“NO INDIVIDUAL HAS EVER HAD MORE WRITTEN AND SAID ABOUT THEM THAN JESUS CHRIST.”

- 1 JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD** “Suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased’ “ (Matthew 3:17 NKJV).
- 2 JESUS IS THE EXACT IMAGE OF GOD** “He is the image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15 NKJV).
- 3 JESUS IS GOD** “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily” (Colossians 2:9 NKJV).
- 4 JESUS IS THE SAVIOR** “For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11 NKJV).
- 5 JESUS IS LORD** “At the name of Jesus every knee should bow...and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11 NKJV).

Those facts mean next to nothing if they end at your intellectual understanding and fall short of your life application. Knowing Jesus is a savior is of no use if you don't let Him save you. Consenting that Jesus is Lord matters very little if you don't actually do what He says. Jesus is the One who should be held in highest regard. He is the Father to listen to with absolute obedience. He who we should follow wherever He leads.

In the end, people's opinions of Jesus don't change who Jesus is. Jesus is exactly who He and Scripture says that He is. You can either believe it or not. You can choose to turn to Him as your only hope for salvation and then submit to Him as your Lord, or you can deny the reality of who He is. However, don't be quick to dismiss the issue or to assume you already know the real Jesus. Your very life depends on who Jesus is to you.



TUNE INTO 101.7 FM
IN MENOMONIE

QUARTERLY MUSIC BEAT

AN UPDATE FROM OUR FRIENDS AT BURNING DOG RADIO

ALBUM REVIEW: *Wake Up* BY Ecclesia



Need to shake up your Spotify playlist rotation? You've come to the right place. This issue we have an album review you don't want to sleep on. Get up, grab your earbuds, and open your laptop to listen to 'Wake Up' by Ecclesia (that's *eck-luh-see-uh*).

From West Palm Beach, Florida, the trio is led by Andrew Padilla, who defines the musical project like this in a Youtube interview with Montell Fish: "We make music for Jesus. We like to push the boundaries of what we can do with that sonically. We're passionate about drawing from different cultures and honoring different people, and representing the full church, every tribe, every tongue, and every nation." This album screams "Use me, God!" Many Christian musicians make worship music, but after listening to this album for a while now, we're concluding that for Ecclesia, writing lyrics is worship, producing music is worship, and performing music is worship.

After you hear just one song from the album, you'll know that their mission is to encourage Christians to serve God and live radically for Jesus. Most of the tracks could have been scribbled in a prayer journal. This isn't music you'd hear during worship at church, but it comes from the same heart. Their song "Radical" exclaims, "I'll trade it all just to be with You / No turning back, no more / I wanna be radical for Jesus."

The album is cohesive, but each song has its own experience. The first half of the album is energetic, anthem-ish, and other drivers will definitely see you rocking out to these songs in your car. "We Could Be the Ones" has some really fun, layered percussion and the message of the song is pivotal in any Christian's life: Do I have a desire to be used by God for



His purposes? If yes, this song will encourage you. If not, it will challenge your view of being a servant of God. The second half of the album will breathe life into your "chill" music selection. A couple of the songs have some hip-hop inspiration, while others boast sounds similar to X Ambassadors. "Covenant" is written from the perspective of God, pleading with His lost kids, "Sin leads to the death of you / The demons want to beat you down till you're black and blue / I'm tryna set you free in Me."

Padilla says that the album was written to be a wake-up call to Christians that are living the "Christian country club" life by just sitting around enjoying nice church services. For me personally, this album is a beautiful motivator in my walk with Jesus. Check it out on Burning Dog Radio. We will be featuring this and more on 101.7 FM in Menomonie.

LISTEN ON  **Spotify**

Search *burningdogradio* for our playlists!

ONE STEP forward CAN CHANGE YOUR path



AN INTERVIEW WITH STEPHEN ROSE

About the writer: Hi, I'm Rebecca. I'm a part of Street Level Ministries at UW-River Falls in River Falls, Wisconsin. Last summer I had the chance to visit France... Read on to find out more about my chance encounter with an amazing servant of Christ!

T This past summer I had the privilege of serving in France and interacting with local Parisians and short-term teams who came to participate in the ministry happening in France. One of the teams that arrived from the US was a small group of middle-aged couples. Stephen and Lori stood out to me because they were eager to talk to anyone and everyone about who God is and the love, grace, and peace He offers to each one of us. I fell into conversation with Stephen and was awestruck by the joy and rawness of his story. So, I asked if I could interview him and he happily agreed.

Q: HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD WORKING IN OR THROUGH YOU?

A: God has used me to bring people to Christ and return when they have strayed. I attained my MA in Biblical Counseling in the USA, and one of my specialties in counseling is past sexual abuse. God has also used me to revitalize three churches, two in the UK and one in the USA because He led me in ministry to dying churches before specializing in counseling. I

also went to Haiti after the earthquake in 2010 and led a team training in how to deal with PTSD. God is always at work.

Q: HOW DID YOU FIND YOURSELF AT THIS PLACE IN THIS MINISTRY?

A: Soon after I became a Christian, I went on a vacation to Scotland to backpack around Loch Ness. I felt the presence of Jesus very close to me. One day I decided to walk into a nearby village, and as I entered the village there was a funeral going on and a coffin was being wheeled in. I looked up and said to God, "Okay Lord, we are going to end up that way so what is this life about?" The presence of Jesus went away, so I turned to see where He had gone. Fifty yards down the road stood a figure glowing with a bright white light. He waved His hand indicating I should follow and said, "Come on Stephen, we have work to do." After a few more days I started reading through the Psalms. While backpacking, all I had was my New Testament. I got to Psalm 40, and I read, "You took me out of the mud and mire and set me upon the rock." I

"FIFTY YARDS DOWN THE ROAD STOOD A FIGURE GLOWING WITH A BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT. HE WAVED HIS HAND INDICATING I SHOULD FOLLOW."

read verse 10 about speaking to the great assembly. I knew what that meant.

Q: DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE WAY TO REACH OUT TO PEOPLE OR GET TO KNOW SOMEONE NEW?

A: I love humor and making people laugh.

Q: WOULD YOU RECOMMEND OTHERS GO ON MISSION TRIPS EITHER DOMESTIC OR ABROAD?

A: Absolutely. I am originally from London but now live in the Midwest USA. My thinking was to broaden my horizon and I love the challenge of different cultures.



Dear Laura



Laura don't lie like that other science guy.

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO THE DINOSAURS?

Dear Laura:

I learned a crater caused by an asteroid is the reason dinosaurs were killed. Is this true?
-Wondering in Cebu

Dear Wondering in Cebu:

In the article "What Killed the Dinosaurs" author Thomas Sumner indicated that scientists are still working on a timeline for the dino apocalypse.¹ As part of their research they are reevaluating evidence left by the events of long ago. They believe at the impact sight, an asteroid, or maybe a comet, crashed onto Earth's surface, and mountains formed in minutes. Then, a tsunami buried plants and animals resulting in a massive die-off that took place around 66 million years ago. Everything became extinct during this time including the *Tyrannosaurus rex* and microscopic plankton.

If you believe what you have read so far, *why* do you believe it? Have you heard or read about it somewhere? Do you know it as fact?

Genesis 1:20-25, 31 tells us that earth and the dinosaurs existed around 6,000 years ago. God made the dinosaurs, along with the other land animals, on day six of creation week. All animal kinds, including dinosaurs, were on board Noah's Ark. It is important to remember after the flood, which occurred around 4,300 years ago, land animals including dinosaurs continued to live in the world with people.

The Bible gives us a framework for explaining dinosaurs in terms of thousands of years of history, including the mystery of when they lived and what happened to them. If you are still wondering exactly what happened to the dinosaurs and if a comet crashed onto Earth's surface I encourage you to be a thinking person and study bible passages like Genesis 1:24-25 and Job 40:15-24, and also check out answersingenesis.org.

-Laura

If you have a nature, science, or philosophical question for Laura Don't Lie, send them our way at wotsmagazine@gmail.com.

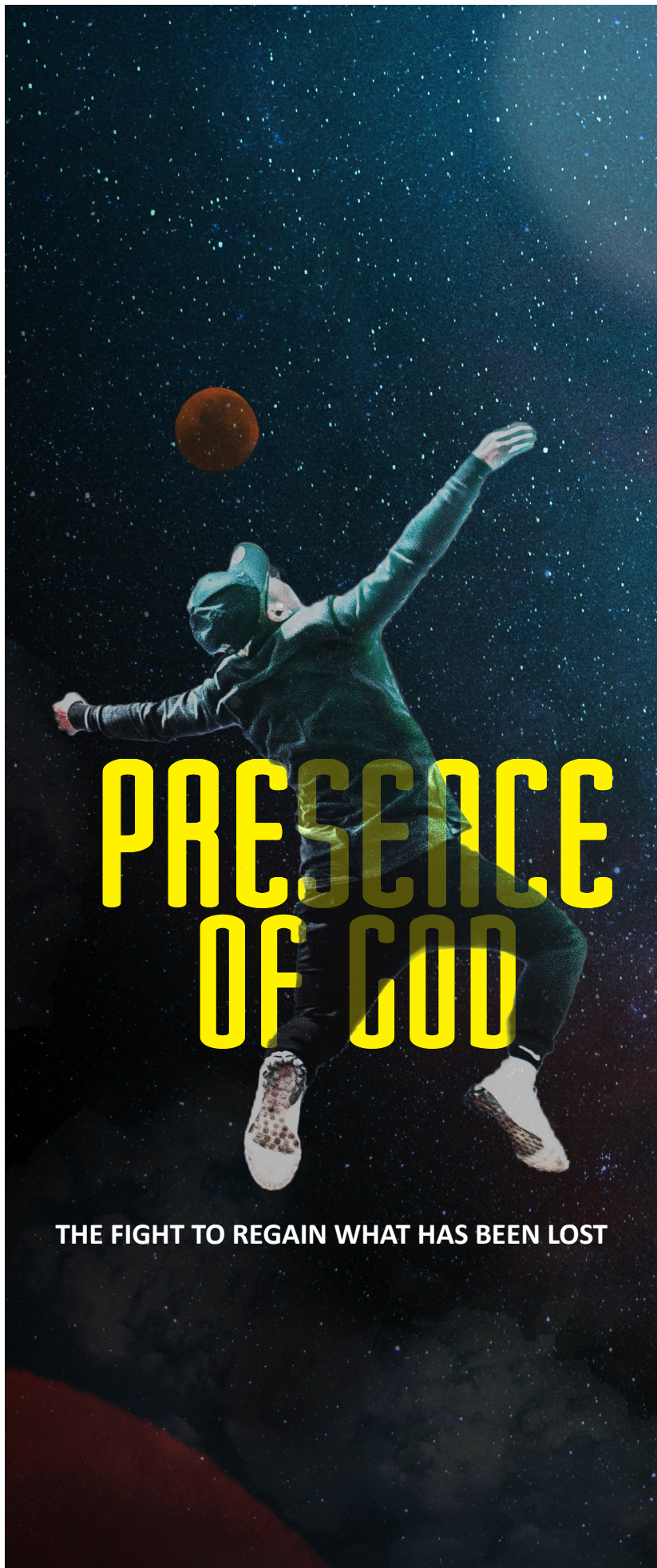
LAURA DON'T LIE. REAL ANSWERS FOR REAL QUESTIONS!

Laura Don't Lie has been studying and preparing Science Creation Lessons for students in Cebu City, Philippines. She recently started to take her lessons on the road and is sharing them with students around Cebu.

¹ Sumner, Thomas. *What Killed the Dinosaurs?* January 31, 2017. sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/dinosaurs-extinction-asteroid-eruptions- doom.

THIMBLE





“If you knew what heaven was like would you even want to go there?”

A pastor posed that question at the very first Christian retreat I ever attended. I was surprised by it. The answer seemed obvious. Yeah, of course I wanted to go there. It’s a place where nothing bad ever happens and everything is perfect, which sounded pretty good to me. I was missing the point though. Going to heaven means being in the presence of God for all eternity, which is incredible and we should all want to go there. However, I’d venture to say that the vast majority of people, even those claiming to be Christian, would rather avoid God’s presence altogether. I know that up until that retreat I certainly wanted to.

How can we run from a God who is everywhere? Aren’t we always in His presence? God is omnipresent, which means He is everywhere all the time. You cannot escape Him. No matter how far you travel, or how fast you run, you will never get away from Him. So, if we are naturally surrounded by His presence, why would the Bible say over and over again to seek Him? Is He lost? No. The only thing that is lost in this situation is effort on our part to consciously turn our wandering mind and heart back towards Him. Seeking Him means our mind is increasingly aware of His reality and our heart is tuning into His desires. The key to understanding how this works, however, is that it is *not* effort fueled out of willpower. It all boils down to a love story that God initiated.

GOD’S PRESENCE IS THE POINT

Have you ever lost something? How frantically did you search for it? If you’re a typical human, the more valuable the item is, the more frantically you search to find it. I’m guessing no one would tear apart their whole house by turning over everything in a panic just to find a misplaced blank sheet of paper. But if that piece of paper was their university diploma, they might. The more value the item holds, the more earnestly we seek it. God is far more valuable than a diploma or anything else we might search for, so we should seek Him above all else.

If you were to look at the whole story of God and His relationship with people, you would see that experiencing His presence is the whole point. Let’s look at the beginning when God created Adam and Eve. Before they rebelled against Him they had a perfect relationship, but then they ruined it

“JESUS DIDN'T DIE SO THAT WE CAN CHECK THE 'CHRISTIAN' BOX UNDER RELIGIOUS PREFERENCES. HE DIED SO THAT WE COULD KNOW HIM LIKE WE KNOW OUR OLDEST AND GREATEST FRIEND. THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS THE WHOLE POINT OF ALL OF CHRISTIANITY.”

with sin and messed it up for the rest of humanity in the process. Immediately they began hiding from God and were no longer in His presence. They didn't want His love. But as soon as this happened, God put into motion a plan for the human race so they could still know and experience Him in various ways. In the Old Testament, the Temple is introduced as a physical place where the presence of God would dwell. Then Jesus, God Himself, came into the world as a human to live with people. After Jesus was killed, rose to life, and then ascended to heaven, God sent His Spirit to live inside those who believe in Him. He didn't stop loving them then, and He hasn't stopped loving us now because it doesn't end there for believers. All those who earnestly seek Him, because they love Him in return, will one day be in His presence for all eternity. That is a very brief synopsis of the entirety of the Bible, so I encourage you to read it for yourself and pay attention to how God has always made Himself available so people can be close to Him.

WORTHY

Take a moment to think about the worth of God's presence. The fact that God—the Creator and Sustainer of the universe who holds everything together, who created everything, who knows everything and is in charge of it all—would desire to have a deeply personal relationship with you individually is extraordinary. The fact that He would even know who we are, let

alone allow us to be close to Him, is incredible. And to say that is putting it extremely lightly. He knows exactly what you like and dislike; He knows your thoughts and motivations. He is a God who desires to be in relationship with us, and the magnitude of this offer can be found nowhere else. God's presence is of ultimate worth. So, if His presence is of ultimate worth, it would only make sense that we should more earnestly seek it above all else. But so few do.

TOO EASILY PLEASED

A.W. Tozer, a twentieth century American pastor and author, wrote, “For millions of Christians, God is no more real than He is to the non-Christian. They go through life trying to love an ideal and be loyal to a mere principle.” It is a sad truth that many Christians today are content with a Christless version of Christianity.

We are far too easily pleased. Isn't that the truth? In modern-day Christianity I believe we are satisfied with mere activity and outward devotion without actually experiencing the presence of God ourselves. We settle for experiencing worship only while singing songs at church, instead of a daily personal occurrence. We settle for reading the Bible to gain knowledge or check it off the to-do list instead of allowing it to change us as we get to know its Author. We settle for repeated and memorized prayer instead of a continual, honest conversation with our Creator. We

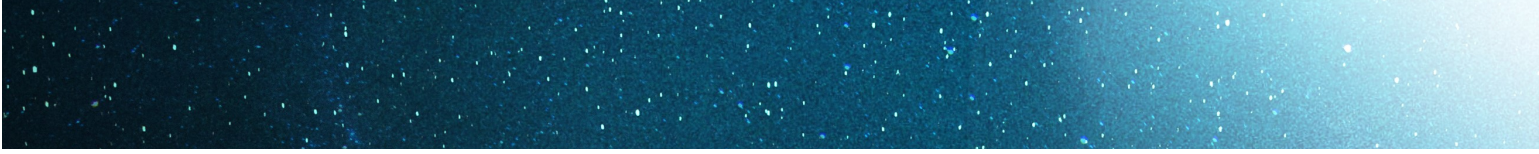
settle for a dry and meaningless religion instead of pursuing God Himself. Jesus didn't die so that we can check the “Christian” box under religious preferences. He died so that we could know Him like we know our oldest and greatest friend. The presence of God is the whole point of all of Christianity.

King David, an ancestor of Jesus and the second king of Israel, is famous for many things. One of those is how earnestly he sought God's presence. He was an author of parts of the Old Testament of the Bible, including Psalm 63 where he described what seeking God's presence was like for him. He wrote that he sought Him early, which meant that it was his highest priority because he was desperate for His closeness. He said it was better than life itself, and this allowed Him to praise God with joy despite his less than ideal circumstances at the time. In Psalm 16:11 he wrote, “In Your presence is fullness of joy.” If God's presence is so wonderful, why do so many people miss out on it?

HOW TO SEEK GOD

“When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice, my soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me” (Psalm 63:6-8. NKJV).

FIGHT TO REMEMBER WHO GOD IS. We do not remember the power and worth of God. We forget who



He is and what He has shown us. We forget for an assortment of reasons but simply put, we are easily distracted by the things we can see directly in front of us. What do you “remember on your bed” in your last moments before drifting off to sleep? Are you worried about an upcoming exam? Wondering when you’ll find your significant other? Thinking of what adventure the upcoming weekend might hold? When we instead remember who God is and our relationship to Him, our entire perspective shifts and our mind becomes more focused on His reality.

“MOST WOULDN’T ADMIT IT, BUT PERHAPS WE DON’T SEEK GOD BECAUSE WE DON’T ACTUALLY WANT TO BE THAT CLOSE.”

FIGHT TO BE DILIGENT. Meditating on God, as David writes in Psalm 63, takes time and effort. Any good relationship takes time and effort, which makes sense among people, but the concept seems to be forgotten when it comes to God. Even though we have access to words He speaks to us, we fail to take the time to read them. We can communicate directly with Him, but it’s easier to check out and scroll through social media. It is far more comfortable to not think deeply about things that have importance. It is easier to float along in life without care or concern. But, when we fight this lazy approach to Christianity and actually take the time to read the Bible, pray, and think about our faith, we will find our heart and mind changing to be more in tune with God’s thoughts and ways.

FIGHT TO BE OBEDIENT. If we don’t personally know that God has our back and that He is good, we will never be able to say, “He has been my help,” or, “In the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.” We don’t put our trust in God and instead turn to a multitude of other things when the going gets tough: people,

money, drugs, alcohol, success, and even more commonly, ourselves. If we trust God, we’ll do what He says, and if we are honest, that is a scary thing. But faith and obedience go hand in hand, and Hebrews 11:6 says that it is impossible to please God without faith.

FIGHT FOR LOVE. Most wouldn’t admit it, but perhaps we don’t seek God because we don’t actually want to be that close. Who is the God we worship? Where is He going that we would follow Him like David describes: “My soul follows close behind You”? Jesus, God in flesh, went to the cross to be crucified and calls His followers to do the same with the way that they live. Frankly, most people would rather avoid the hard things in Christianity. We would like to pretend that we can just add a little Jesus to our life as it is instead of completely giving it up to follow Him. Maybe we’ll go to church on Sundays, but change the trajectory of our life and lay down our dreams and desires to go after what He wants us to do? Hardly. We are offended at what God says, shocked that He would actually ask us to do anything, and ultimately don’t love Him like we like to say we do. But when we actually see God for who He is, and understand what He has done for us and how good He is, there will be an outpouring of love towards Him.

Why do I say fight to remember, fight for diligence, fight to obey, and fight to love? Because it is a fight. We are at war against our sinful desires, the world around us, and the evil forces at work in it. Left on our own, there is no way that we would choose to seek God (Psalm 14:1-3). There is no way we would win this fight. The good news is we are not on our own. The greater news is, the One who is on our side is more powerful than ourselves, the world, and the devil. God gives us His presence as a glorious and wonderful gift. All we have to do is ask. He is right there, and He has always been there. Go seek Him.

“You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13, ESV). ●

FOOD *for* THOUGHT

SOMETHING TO CHEW ON



A Ask five people what it means to eat healthy and you will get five different answers. Some reasons are based on hard science, some on personal preference, and some on availability. We won't claim to have all the right answers regarding your eating habits, but we hope to provide some food for thought.

FOOD AS A GIFT

Food is a gift from God, it nourishes our body, and on many occasions it brings us together. Many of our fondest memories occur at events or situations that involve a wonderful meal shared with others. But like any good thing, man has found ways to grossly misuse it. There is truth to the saying, "You are what you eat." Live only on soda and bakery alone, and you won't be living much longer! We're not saying you can't have any "fun" food and still be a Christian; even Jesus celebrated with good food. We do God a disservice, though, if we only put trash in our body or idolize our eating and workout habits.

PASSION GONE WILD

Passion about food and eating habits can take on a troubling form. If you become unmovable and opinionated about your view on health, your friend list will start to shrink. Be careful not to put the same rules on others that you practice. Helpful suggestions from a friend regarding advice with food may be welcome or necessary, but not everyone has the ability or desire to only buy the purest, highest quality foods from the most reputable sources

with the best marketing behind them. There are ways to live with your own convictions without pushing them onto everyone else around you. "Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him" (Romans 14:3, ESV). It's also possible to see your healthy eating as an insurance policy against dying early, but that's impossible to determine. If that makes you wince a little, remember that we have no control over the length of our days. That is God's prerogative alone, which should be a freeing concept, not a scary one.

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" (Matthew 6:25, ESV)

WHAT CAN WE DO?

What we're describing here applies to more than just food. God didn't make us to be consumed by things that are trivial and temporary. There's something about a new year that compels us to put hope and willpower into things like healthy living and exercise. Our hope is to be found in Jesus alone, however. Instead of agonizing over our inability to stop eating sugar, He asks us to read His Word, talk with Him about the concerns we're having, and then do what He's saying. "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31, NKJV).

HELPFUL SOURCES

- ⇒ desiringgod.org/articles/you-become-what-you-eat
- ⇒ desiringgod.org/interviews/does-junk-food-dishonor-god
- ⇒ dailyverses.net/food/esv
- ⇒ desiringgod.org/articles/thank-god-we-have-the-meats



Dragons, Elves, and Magic Spells

OUR CURIOUS CRAVING FOR FANTASY STORIES

W

We're taught that there is no supernatural world. What you see is what you get. There are no dragons, no elves, and especially no magic spells. Logically, this should create a world of rational people, focused on the here and now. Tell a lizard that only desert exists, and he will happily accept without much question. He's built for desert. He'll have no reason to dream of rainforests. Escaping his natural habitat would even sound foolish to him. Curiously, the same cannot be said for us humans.

In our world that supposedly lacks the supernatural, we seriously crave stories filled with enchantment. We love books with other-worldly creatures like *Alice in Wonderland* and the *Chronicles of Narnia*. Millions regularly participate in role playing games like *Dungeons & Dragons* (D&D) and *World of*

Warcraft. Epic, multi-book sagas like *Lord of the Rings* and *Harry Potter* are so well loved that they have been turned into box office-topping film series that are watched and re-watched over and over again.

If on the outside it seems we have accepted our desert of "natural", our obsessions betray us. We are not content. We spend a suspicious amount of time dreaming of other worlds. We want to escape. For many, these cravings are semi-satisfied with fantasy stories.

A curious set of desires

Fantasy is, "the power or process of creating especially unrealistic or improbable mental images in response to psychological need."¹ Fantasy stories, or fairy tales as they have been traditionally called, scratch an itch deep inside us that is challenging to put into words. They are oddly satisfying. For a time, they quench a thirst within us, whether

we're aware of it or not. Timothy Keller, theologian and author, said that fantasy stories "seem to fulfill a set of longings in the human heart that realistic fiction can never touch or satisfy."²

What is this set of longings? Keller goes on to describe them as the desires "to experience the supernatural, to escape death, to know love that we can never lose, to not age but live long enough to realize our creative dreams, to fly, to communicate with nonhuman beings, [and] to triumph over evil," just to name a few.²

Not every fantasy story satisfies every one of these desires, but many stories include a lot of them. We love the idea of a supernatural, unseen universe that affects our own like the wizarding world of *Harry Potter*. It brings an odd sense of hope that dead party members can be resurrected by spells in D&D. Part



“WE ARE NOT CONTENT. WE SPEND A SUSPICIOUS AMOUNT OF TIME DREAMING OF OTHER WORLDS.”

These realities may feel harsh, but that fact by itself isn't very special. This is just the way things are. A lizard in the desert is extremely dry and hot, but he's not upset about it. Deserts are just harsh, and no one asks questions.

The curious part is what these harsh realities do to our hearts. We hate them. They are true, but they seem wrong at a deep, unsettling level. They make us feel cursed, and we desperately desire a way for that curse to be broken.

The possibility of escape

Fortunately, professor, author and fairy tale enthusiast CS Lewis pointed out that, “Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water.”³ We desire for our curse to be broken, so there must

be a way out. The question is, how? Many have found the answer in another Story. The Bible openly acknowledges this curse we all feel. It also uncomfortably points out that humanity is no innocent damsel in distress. This curse is our fault, and there's no chance of us breaking it on our own. We are effectively damned.

The good news is that there's a Hero. God has embarked on an epic rescue mission by becoming a human named Jesus. He broke our curse with His blood. As a result, the door on our prison cell has now been wrenched open. It's magic. This Hero offers a love that can't be lost. Good has officially triumphed over evil, and we can come back from the dead, indefinitely.

Timothy Keller explains, “The truth of Jesus means all the stories we love are not escapism at all. Jesus Christ is not one more lovely story pointing to all these underlying realities -- Jesus is the underlying reality to which all the stories point.”⁴ The old, worn out theory that we are merely physical beings in an un-enchanted world is insufficient. The desires that lead us to consume story after story point to a deeper reality. We are cursed, but there is a way out.

of the reason *Lord of the Rings* was so satisfying was seeing the good guys crush the evil Lord Sauron in the end by destroying the ring of power. No one story is entirely satisfying, but each offers its own measure of fulfillment, and because of this, we can't get enough of them.

Are we cursed?

Line these desires up with what's normal and there is an obvious contrast. In our world, good often loses to evil. There is no magic. Every loving relationship you have will eventually be lost. And in the end, death is inescapable. The things we adore most about our beloved fairy tales do not happen in the typical human experience.



1 - merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fantasy

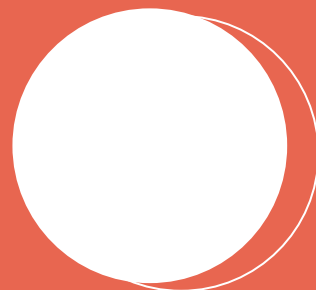
2 - Keller, Timothy. *Hidden Christmas: the Surprising Truth behind the Birth of Christ*. Penguin Books, an Imprint of Penguin Random House, LLC, 2018.

3 - Lewis C. S. *Mere Christianity*. Simon and Schuster, 1996.

4 - Keller, Timothy. *Hidden Christmas: the Surprising Truth behind the Birth of Christ*. Penguin Books, an Imprint of Penguin Random House, LLC, 2018.

THE TWENTY TENS

RECAPPING THE
LAST DECADE: 2010—2019



T

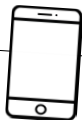
*The start of a new year
is reason to celebrate.*

The start of a new decade? Even more so.

As we stepped into 2020, we had a good time looking back at the happenings of the “twenty tens.” Our findings made us both laugh and cringe. Take a walk down memory lane with us and remember a few highlights (and lowlights) of the last ten years.

THE SELFIE

The selfie originated in 1839 with a photographer and amateur chemist from Philadelphia, Robert Cornelius. But in 2013, the selfie went down in history when it was selected by *Oxford English Dictionaries* as word of the year: “a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website.”²



This is Robert!



INSTAGRAM



In October of 2010, Instagram is launched by two developers in San Francisco: Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger. These guys were looking to create an app that focused on communicating through images alone. It was named to represent the “instant telegram” users send with an upload. After just two months, Instagram had 1 million users and jumped to over 600 million in 2017. Instagram was bought out by Facebook in 2012 for \$1 billion.¹



HIPSTERS

The early use of the word hipster came from the 1930's term "hepster", which was used to describe someone who was interested in or particularly knowledgeable about jazz. "Hipster" was defined in 2011 by the *Urban Dictionary* as "a subculture of men and women typically in their 20s and 30s who value independent thinking, counter-culture, progressive politics, an appreciation of art and indie-rock, creativity, intelligence, and witty banter." Still known for their iPhones, bikes, beards, and tattoos, hipsters of the decade hone their focus on living an organic, minimalist lifestyle and are conscious of their personal ecological footprint.



TINY HOUSES

Since the housing crisis in the late 2000's, the tiny house movement has become more mainstream. Small houses, obviously, have been around forever, but in the last decade it has been popularly accepted as an ultra-positive living alternative. Since 1854 when Henry David Thoreau published *Walden*, which recorded his life in a 150-square-foot cabin, to 2014 when HGTV debuted "Tiny House Hunters," the tiny house movement has encouraged homebuilders to consider living with less.³



SUPERFOODS

American cuisine has come a long way since the casserole of the 1950's. A huge decade for organic, vegan, and gluten-free options, the twenty tens had us snacking on smoothie bowls, avocados, chia seeds, and glorified "superfoods" like acai berries and blueberries. Espresso drinks, craft beers, and kombucha were popular beverages. But don't worry, the "edible cookie dough" craze and growing popularity of food trucks kept us from getting *too* health-conscious.



FASHION

We wouldn't be doing our job if we didn't call attention to the "man bun," which made a large splash in 2015. In the last decade, many trends came and went, but women could almost always be seen debating whether leggings are "real pants." Chokers and scrunchies made a comeback in the later years of the decade. Shaved undercuts, messy buns, and intentionally silver hair are popular women's hairstyles. A confident few rocked the Crocs with socks. Athletic clothing became a fad again, which made it semi-more socially acceptable to go out in sweats (but only if they're joggers).



TUNES

The music scene has changed immensely since 2010. Hymns made a comeback this decade. Folk and indie were popular. Rap diversified alongside the growing popularity of spoken word and spoken word with music. Goth also made a comeback, with bands like Marah in the Mainsail showing us that even chains can be an instrument. It's necessary to pause here to say thanks to our pals at Burning Dog Radio (BDR) for filling us in on the music trends of the decade. We couldn't help but laugh when they informed us that, in general, the population hates country music less. Who knew?! Don't forget to check out BDR's column, *Quarterly Music Beat*, on page 9!

Who knows what kind of crazy trends will come in the next ten years. We're excited for new foodie ideas, technological advancements, and hairstyles we'll laugh about in 2030.

¹medium.com/@obtaineudaimonia/how-instagram-started-8b907b98a767

²publicdomainreview.org/collection/robert-cornelius-self-portrait-the-first-ever-selfie-1839 (and photo)

³curbed.com/2017/7/19/15974554/tiny-house-timeline

GET OUT OF TOWN WITH THIS

Day-cation Guide

A COLLECTION OF MUST-VISIT PLACES IN EAU CLAIRE AND HUDSON

H

How does a daylong break sound right now? Stop spinning your wheels and start turning them as you head off to some of these great locations for an afternoon or a whole day getaway. It doesn't need to be some elaborately planned out day to escape the clutches of Menomonie. We have a couple of places you could take a crack at located in both Eau Claire and Hudson.

EAU CLAIRE

BIG FALLS:

You are sure to fall in love with this place.

It is hard to believe something like this exists in Eau Claire County. Pile in the car with some friends and check out this natural wonder. Just so you know, there is a north and south entrance into the area which will provide two different views of the falls. A small fee is required to enter the park.

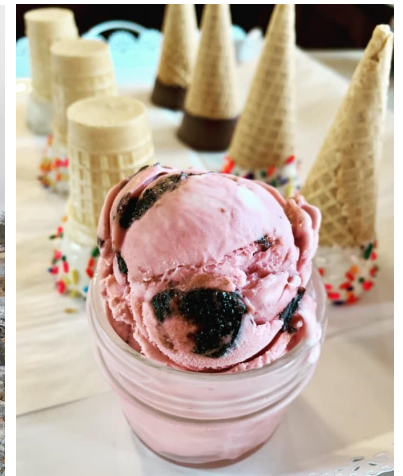
HIGH ROLLER SKATING:

The name says it all.

Are you hankering to strap on some four-wheeled devices after being cooped up all winter? Check this place out for open skating and other special events.

PHOENIX PARK: River much?

This is a great place to walk the trails and view the collision of the Chippewa and Eau Claire rivers, which lures in many for fishing. The park is also home to the farmer's market during the spring and summertime.



SHIFT: What is this?

It's both a bike shop and coffee shop! Sip on your favorite coffee beverage while simultaneously eating a mini waffle and looking for your next two-wheeled ride.

MOUNT SIMON PARK:

Winter disc golf anyone?

How about some old-school, downhill sledding? This park has multiple tiers which include many picnic pavilions, a

volleyball court, baseball diamond, and boat landing to the Eau Claire River.

RAMONE'S ICE CREAM PARLOR:

Ice cream with an attitude.

This place is just a hop, skip, and a jump from Phoenix Park. They feature Wisconsin-sourced ice cream and soda served up with a twist for your enjoyment.

HUDSON

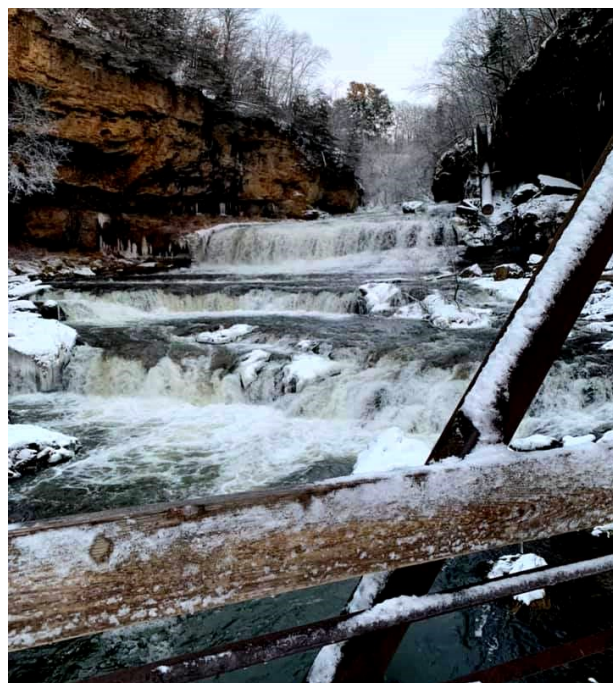
KNOKE'S: Sweet Tooth Paradise.

With both ice cream and chocolate in this one-stop shop, how could a person go wrong? And for all those Harry Potter fans out there, this place just might be the closest you'll ever get to stepping into Honeydukes.



WILLOW RIVER STATE PARK: Take a hike!

Skip the gym and interact with nature since there is nothing like hiking through the woods in the winter to get you ready for the summer. Pro tip: If you don't want the long walk to the falls (a must-see), just drive down the road to the Willow Falls parking lot. Just a heads up, you will need to buy a parking pass to enter into the park, which is per carload.



PROSPECT PARK: Oldest Park.

This historical park is perched on a hill and overlooks the St. Croix River and the city of Hudson. In addition to the fantastic views, this one comes complete with a pavilion and a fireplace.

LAKEFRONT BOARDWALK: Walk a while through the St. Croix.

This park is all boardwalk with a bonus beach at the end. You'll feel downright proper strolling along this wide walkway as you take in the view of the river before you and the receding city behind you.

BILL'S GUN SHOP & RANGE: Oh Shoot!

Git your Wisconsin on with firearms. You may rent many different guns and practice shooting them at their indoor range.

BADLANDS SNO-PARK: All day tubing.

Get together with some friends for some real down-to-earth fun. They are sure to have some special events going on during their 50th year in business. Snackage is available for purchase if you find yourself working up an appetite. Be sure to ask for a demonstration of how one should catch a ride back to the top of the hill via the lift system.



Hope these places help you to break up the day for the sake of your brain. Whatever direction you choose, it is sure to be an adventure. It may be a good idea to also add in a stop at a great restaurant to help you overcome your sugar coma from all the ice cream though.

What other great places did we miss? Please help us add to our list by emailing wotsmagazine@gmail.com.

DISNEY SETS SIGHTS ON A WHOLE NEW WORLD

A NEW REALITY TV SHOW TO AIR ON DISNEY+

Tension in the race between TV streaming services is reaching new heights, literally, as Disney+ is set to debut a new reality show in which contestants will compete for a trip to Mars. Titled *Real Lives on Marz*, the show's 14 contestants have no experience with outer space or basic science whatsoever. Throughout its run, the contestants will compete in a series of elimination games. The last person remaining will win a trip to the red planet. This announcement from Disney comes as the TV audiences cool to near-Mars-levels on its recently launched platform. An internal survey from the House of Mouse showed that 79% of Disney+ subscribers plan to close their accounts immediately after they finish watching *The Mandalorian*.

To address this, Disney added in its statement that the money raised from the show's views will be the sole funding source for the trip to the solar system's fourth planet. This announcement has received backlash of astronomical proportions.

"We explicitly told Disney that this was an incredibly dangerous project," NASA spokesperson Al Ian told The Leek. "On the one hand, the show could be massively unpopular. If that's the case, they won't raise enough money, and their rocket will literally have to run on fumes. And, the astronaut selected won't even have the proper equipment to live on Mars. They'll just be left stranded there Matt Damon-style. On the other hand, the contestants may act out in all sorts of insane ways in order to generate revenue. There could be

violence and real people could be hurt."

"Yeah, it's basically a terrible idea," said Space X CEO Elon Musk. "The only thing out of this world are Disney's chances of raising enough money from subscriptions and ads. I should know. I'm a smart guy. The Internet says so."

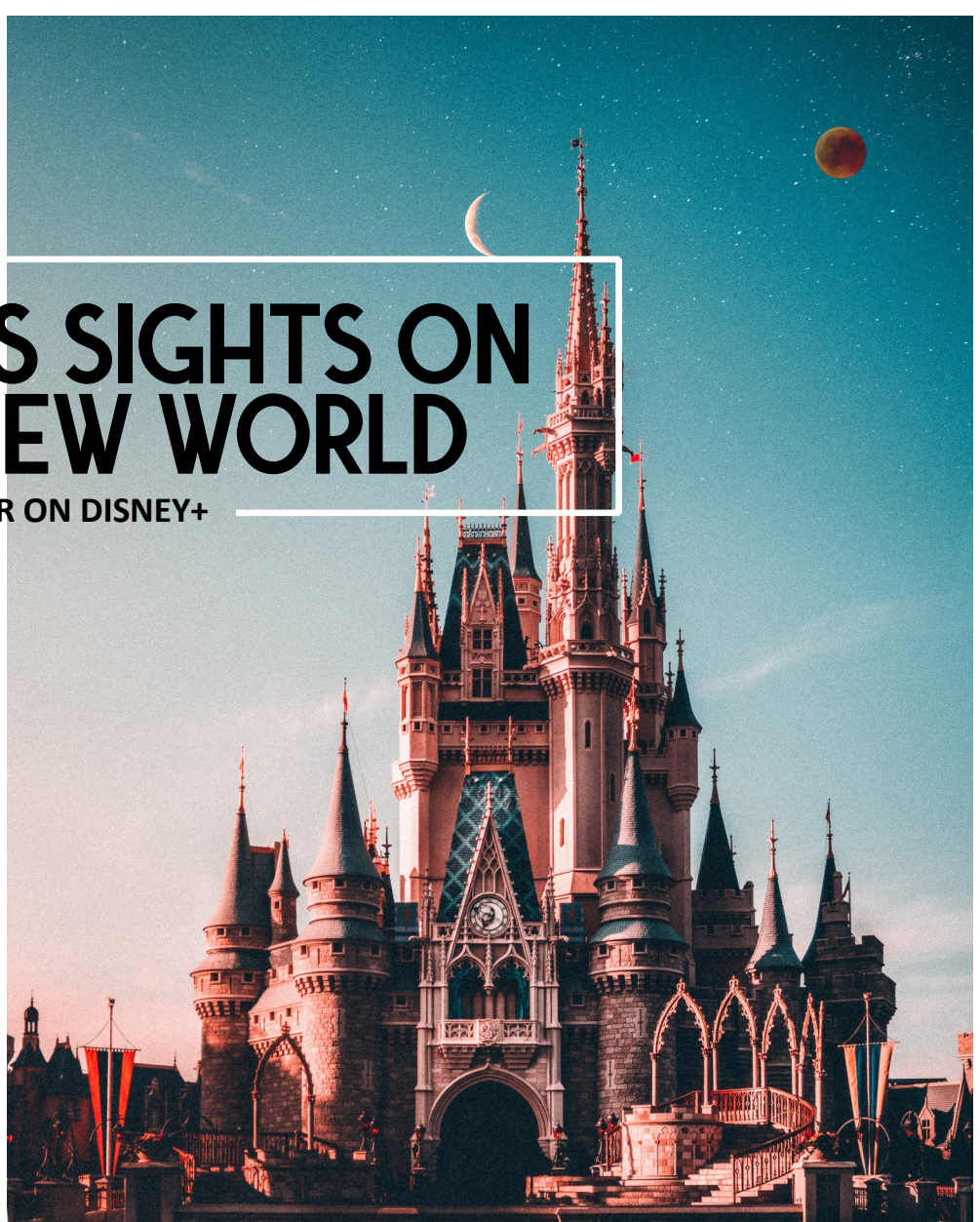
"We are highly concerned for the cast members of *Real Lives*. We ask that all sensible TV viewers cancel their Disney+ subscriptions and switch to an alternative streaming service until further notice," stated a press release from Netflix. "Besides we still have, like, five Marvel movies."

For the sake of journalistic integrity and fair coverage, The Leek reached out to Disney for comment. "Oh boy! I guess you'll have to tune in to see what happens, haha!" said Mickey Mouse.

One cast member, Sonny, appeared optimistic, explaining, "My mom always told me to reach for the stars. I'm still reaching, don't get me wrong. But I'm so close to realizing my dream. I can't give up now."

President Donald Trump also weighed in on the controversy, tweeting, "The Apprentice is still the BEST SHOW in the history of reality TV!! Marz Show is a TOTAL HOAX by the globalist schmucks at Disney...taking over Pixar, National Geographic, and Twentieth Century FOX wasn't enough for poor Walt...LEAVE. MARS. ALOOOOONE!"

Real Lives on Marz premieres this Friday at 9pm ET/6pm PT. Or, does it?



FUEL UP FOR THE WEEKEND



**\$2 Student
Breakfast**

Saturdays 9am-12pm

w/student ID



Breakfasts Rotate
Each Week



THE BLIND MUNCHIES COFFEEHOUSE

YOUR LOCAL NON-PROFIT COFFEEHOUSE

621 WILSON AVE, MENOMONIE

THEBLINDMUNCHIES.COM A BRANCH OF STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS INVITED TO THE

SUPER BOWL PARTY

TO DISCOVER REAL AMERICAN CULTURE



SUNDAY

FEB 2nd

5 pm

PLAY SUPER
BOWL BINGO

WIN PRIZES

FREE SNACKS



THE BLIND MUNCHIES COFFEEHOUSE

621 WILSON AVENUE THEBLINDMUNCHIES.COM



NICK THE HICK

Another rant from your favorite redneck



DO YOU CATCH MY DRIFT?

Nick the Hick and Ben There Pun That, Talk Winter

N: Let's try to keep this conversation chill.

B: Not to be flakey, I like winter but it can be a challenge. Snow matter what you have to make the most of it.

N: I agree Ben, but it takes one to snow one. What's your favorite winter activity?

B: I like sledding. This conversation is really going downhill. What's yours?

N: Icy watch ya did there. Building snowmen.

B: Who you bringing to the Snow Ball?

N: Me, myself, and Ice Queen? How about you?

B: I'm going with Mini Snowta. This conversations drifting away. Little to fluffy for me.

N: Yeah it's trailing off, nothing's crystallizing. I'll talk to you later.



Street Level Ministries

A UW-STOUT ORGANIZATION

DO SOMETHING GREAT.



UW-STOUT // MONDAYS

DINNER 6PM // BIBLE STUDY 7PM

STREET LEVEL HOUSE // 1009 6TH ST E MENOMONIE

STREETLEVELMINISTRIES.COM // STREETLEVEL@UWSTOUT.EDU // 715.235.4977