

ISSUE 56

Word on the Street

in this issue:

SCARS

Every scar tells a story.
pg. 12

November–January, 2013–14

Street Level Ministries, UW–Stout

ReadWots.com

WORD ON THE STREET MAGAZINE (WOTS) is a UW-Stout affiliated publication released twice per semester and has in publication for 15 years. WOTS is written, laid out, and printed by members of Street Level Ministries on UW-Stout and UW-Superior campuses. We also print a version of the magazine on Cebu Island in the Philippines. We're Christians who love Jesus and want to write about life, God, and college.

The WOTS crew can be found on campus each Monday while school is in session at the org. meetings for Street Level Ministries, a Christian student organization. Visit streetlevelministries.com for details. We hope the magazine is funny, challenging and maybe even controversial.



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SCARS

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FEATURED COVER ARTIST:

Helena Magnusson Ogburn
Richmond, Virginia

Helena is a Christian painter, a wife and mother of two. Originally from Sweden, she named her online shop, "LivsGlad," which stands for "Glad for Life" in Swedish. Her paintings are featured on the cover and on page 12-14. To buy her paintings go to: etsy.com/shop/LivsGlad.

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the adventures of #hipster pigg

Dear Ma and Pa,

Today is the day I make my escape from this place. See, ever since I was a wee little piglet, I have felt destined for something more. I need more to look forward to than this same mud hole in Podunk, Wisconsin. If I remain here, I will likely end up in some human's skillet. No sir, not by the hair on my chinny chin chin am I just going to waste my life and end up as bacon. I'm not entirely sure where I'm going, perhaps somewhere out west.

I hear Seattle is on the cutting edge of the latest movement, which sounds very exhilarating. I have packed my vintage traveling suitcase full of essentials for the long journey ahead. If the farmer panics about his missing flannel shirts, I am sorry. I hope you understand my reasons for leaving; I wish you all the best. You can follow my travels and adventures on Instagram.

With love,
Your son Leonard H. Pigg



Goodbye home. Hello open road. #adventure



Finally a group that understands my love for the banjo
#folkmusicisnajoket #apickingoodtime



Getting this organic latte all over my new
'stache. #coffee craving #haironmychinnychin

the adventures of franco the bean

My name is Franco. My home is Columbia. I am told I sound like Antonio Banderas as "Puss in Boots", but I do not care. For I am Franco. I am a coffee bean.

I am the eldest of 7,000 brothers and sisters, all harvested from the same tree. We never knew our real mother, but a kind, elderly bean named Maria Marquez took us in. She raised me from a young bean to become the man I am today. She raised me as a strong bean. I, in turn, helped her raise my siblings. We all looked to mother Maria to take care of us. Then, one day, things changed.

One evening, after eating Thursday nachos, the 7,000 of us went for a walk. One of the youngest beans (Juan Gomez Marquez) saw something out of the corner of his eye. Without thinking, he ran over like an excited child to get a closer look at the shiny object. Before anyone could do anything, the ground began to thunder, and the young bean was taken up into the sky by what looked like giant bags. Mother Maria screamed and ran after young Juan, but again, just as before, the ground shook, and she was taken up as well.

Immediately, all of the young beans began screaming and scattering. I yelled at them to run back into the forest, but the bags peeked up one young bean after another... into the sky. I tried the best I could, but alas, few of us made it to the safety of the woods. I made sure I got as many of the young beans as I could back into the forest, but as I myself ran into the forest, I lost my footing and fell to the ground. The last thing I saw was mother Maria being put into a giant circular object with giant letters that said "FOLGERS".

When I awoke, I found myself lying face up inside some kind of dimly-lit room. Smoke filled the air. "Hehehe. You took quite a fall there bean," a laughing voice said, so fast I could barely comprehend it. It had an accent that sounded much like Speedy Gonzales mixed with that of a gnome. I sat up and looked around. There, in front of me, was a short, squat figure. He was no mouse, but he was definitely Mexican. He looked like a coffee bean, yet he was different... "Who are you?", I asked.

"Hahahaha, who am I? Who am I he asks? Hahaha", the laughing voice said again, quick as can be. "Why, I'm Esperanzo Salvador. I'm an espresso bean. Who the heck are you? Haha!"

I leaned forward, looked into his eyes and answered, "I am Franco. I am a coffee bean. I do not have time to play games", I said most seriously. "Where am I? What has happened to the other young beans?"

"A coffee bean, eh?", the espresso bean replied, quick as ever. "Well listen here, coffee bean. You're lucky I found ya when I did. I was out mindin' my own business, and I heard these screams, you see. Came up and saw those bags pickin' up beans left and right. From the looks of it they got all of them. I pulled you out of the way into this here crack in the wall just in time. Got every last bean, they did."

I jumped up from the bed and frantically grabbed Esperanzo by the collar. "Quickly, Espresso bean! You must tell me, where have they taken them?"

"Hehe, well, I, uh", the espresso bean nervously stammered, "I've lived here a long time, Franco. Bags took some friends of mine once too, a long time ago. I followed 'em to a big place, BIG place, near the ocean, hahaha, but that's as far

as I could go. They just bring 'em into a giant building with huge smoke stacks. Not sure what the place is, not sure at all. I get scared goin' out there, but I still do it anyway. Out to that factory...haha...HUGE stacks, Franco, HUGE! I tried to find a way in, but I haven't found one yet. Sometimes they see me and try to get me, haha, but they can't catch me, see, I'm too fast for 'em."

Again, I looked seriously into Esperanzo's eyes. "Esperanzo, you must tell me, do you know ANYTHING else about this place?" I asked with a spark of hope, wondering if this could be the place that Mother Maria and the young beans were brought to.

"Hahaha. Well..." Esperanzo nervously stammered again, "I know that it's called the FOLGERS place," Esperanzo quickly rattled off, grinning.

I let go of Esperanzo, letting him fall back into his chair. I sat back down, looked at Esperanzo and calmly told him, "Esperanzo, that is the place. Mother Maria and the beans are there, and YOU are going to help me rescue them!"

Read the next issue to find out how Franco and Hipster Pigg cross paths.



Stout Student Poll

Word on the Street wanted to know:

What's the craziest contest you've ever participated in? And did you win?

(Because sometimes life gets crazy and you end up chugging a bottle of maple syrup.)

A photograph of two young women, Autumn and Brooke, standing side-by-side and smiling. Autumn is on the left, wearing a brown t-shirt and a backpack. Brooke is on the right, wearing a grey t-shirt.

AUTUMN & BROOKE

A photograph of a young man, Wesley, standing next to a yellow bicycle. He is wearing a white t-shirt and has his hands on the handlebars.

WESLEY

AUTUMN:

"Stacking hamburger buns at a car show. My dad puts cars there and I just do all of the games. It was how many buns you could stack before having them tip over. I think I had stacked 14 buns. You couldn't smash the buns. You had to set them nice and perfectly on top of one another. It was kind of hard, like Jenga. I won, and I actually got five dollars out of it."

BROOKE:

"I was supposed to eat a whole tablespoon of cinnamon and not puke. It dries up your throat as you try to swallow it whole. Very bad for you. It is pretty much like doing the choking challenge instead of the cinnamon challenge. I did not win. I ended up coughing and the cinnamon went everywhere, but luckily I did it over the sink so I just got the window."

WESLEY:

"My friend Jake and I once raced 10 miles running. I won."

A photograph of three young people standing together. On the left is a woman in a grey hoodie, in the middle is a woman in a black top and green scarf, and on the right is a young man in a yellow polo shirt.

CHARLES

CHARLES:

"I was on a bus, and we were supposed to eat as many jalapenos as we could. That is what I did. The jalapenos were dried; I ate a lot. I had a whole bag of them and another guy and I went through all of them. I don't know if I won or lost because the guy got off the bus right at his house but I had another 10 minute bus ride, plus, I had to walk a mile to get home. Also, I didn't have anything to drink. I think I might have lost that one."

A photograph of a young man, Mike, standing outdoors at night. He is wearing a pink short-sleeved shirt over a white t-shirt and has a guitar strap over his shoulder.

MIKE

MIKE:

"I did an egg toss competition at Stout to see how far we could throw it without the egg cracking. If you get oozed by the yoke you lose. My team lost. It was between the Stout football team players. I think the quarterbacks won."

HOW'S
IT
GOING
SO FAR?



CHANCES ARE, YOU'RE FLYING THROUGH THE SEMESTER FASTER THAN TONY KANAAN AT THE INDIANAPOLIS 500.

However, the difference between you and Tony (other than a lot of money) is that he's smart enough to know when to pull in for a pit stop. You may have missed an extremely helpful guide to college life while you slept through your high school physics class. As your teacher droned on about laws of motion, chances are, you zoned out during a real gem, a.k.a. inertia. The principle of inertia, as described by Sir Isaac Newton in his First Law of Motion, states that "an object will continue moving at its current velocity until some force causes its speed or direction to change." While it might still bore you to death, there's an underlying application here that more than matters for your life. Put simply, it's really hard to get a fast, large object to change direction and even harder to make it stop. You, my friend, are a big, speedy object.

College is like a freaky, four-year (or five-year) Formula One race. We have to prepare. It costs a ton of money, and our daily laps of classes, work, friends and homework constantly burn fuel. We all come to college with high hopes; nobody thinks they'll bomb it. But what we expect to experience and accomplish at college doesn't often match what actually happens, and in the end, it can lead down side roads we never thought we would be on six months ago, much less barrel down at 120 mph.

It would be easy to go over the list of "college problems" that line the coffee tables of every college guidance office in this nation (hit list: drinking, procrastination, peer pressure, etc.) and then offer advice on how to properly socialize and study hard. Or, we can whittle it down to one simple question that only you can ask: How is it going, really? When is the last time you took a pit stop to assess?

One of the most eye-opening things you can ever do is to stop, violently rip off the veneer you've welded on, banish any and all of the assumptions you hold, and cry out to God. Lose control on purpose. He isn't bound to our way of thinking, and He certainly

knows exactly where you are, what you're wearing and how best to satisfy you in the areas you are currently substituting with cheap pleasures. He alone can answer the deepest longings of your heart and give it to you straight (something a professor spouting from a lecture or your bestie counseling you through another freak-out session at 2 am could never come close to accomplishing).

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.'"

(Isaiah 55:8-9)

Pull over—now.

Drop everything you're doing and give God your attention.

Go and find a quiet, chaos-free spot.

Read the Bible.

Let Him (finally) have all of you.

This isn't a once-in-a-blue-moon idea, nor is it how you somehow "get right" with God. This is real, tangible, life-and-death relationship with the Creator of the universe. It's where you learn His voice and His plans for you. It's where He can reveal to you exactly what is wrong so you can be healed. He gives you more than mere replacement parts; He makes you completely new and ready for the race ahead.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you," says the Lord, 'thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.'" Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

PICTURE SOURCE:
<http://cdn.3oneseven.com/wp-content/uploads/HLIC/ferrari-f1-racing.jpg>

CREATING

You don't have to be an art student to get creative.

Create: (v.) cre-ate [kree áyt]

- a. *make something:* to bring something into existence
- b. *give rise to something:* to result in something or make something happen
- c. *produce inventions or art:* to use imagination to invent things or produce works of art

In an effort to knock off a couple of general education credits, I recently enrolled in ARTH 222—Introduction to the Visual Arts. I didn't think much of it at the time; I like pretty things and don't have a difficult time looking at them to extract meaning. However, after listening to one lecture, my mind was bursting with unexpected inspiration. My professor discussed the necessity of art and aesthetics to human beings, regardless of how "creatively challenged" you may think you are. The way we arrange and decorate our living spaces—art. The kinds of clothes you wear—

art. That dream truck with a lift-kit and a camouflage decal—all art. It helps us express ideas and emotions, gives tangible form to the unknown, commemorates and records significant instances, and affects the way we see the world.

God created everything, and He created us to enjoy His beauty and respond with gratitude and creativity. Unfortunately, art seems to have developed a notorious reputation. It has been set aside for the creative elite—individuals who are presumed to lounge about and avoid work at all costs while they puff away on their long cigarettes under floppy French berets discussing their feelings on the latest modern sculpture installment. Art is not a practice reserved for a few culturally refined individuals. Anyone can express themselves through the simple creation and appreciation of art. Here are a few ideas and artists to get you started:

artist biography



ARTIST BIO: ERIC SAMUEL TIMM

Eric Samuel Timm abandoned his previous stellar corporate career in California to obey the "crazy" calling God gave him to be an artist. In his own words, "I'm not qualified, formally trained, worthy, or able in my own strength, yet the path was set." In one night, God invaded his life and eventually led him to begin a ministry called "No One Underground", a name that references 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Today, Eric travels the country speaking and creating artwork before live audiences at schools and music festivals with the aim of showing the power and love of Jesus Christ. His work contains stark imagery and typography that he blends together with brushes and hands for heightened meaning in a wild mix of charcoal and paint. For more details and to watch his videos, visit his site at nooneunderground.com.

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PICK UP A CAMERA

Quirky, up-and-coming photographer Austin Tott showcases a prime sense of lighting, composition, and skill in his most recent works. My favorite series of photos was a collection of ordinary people surrounded by some type of out-of-place object. I also enjoyed his collection of hyper-organized items arranged in a grid-like pattern.

His photos definitely draw the viewer in, evoke emotion (even if that emotion is one of confusion) and could certainly provide some inspiration for your next project.

tottphoto.com

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DO IT YOURSELF

If all this creativity has got you itchin' to try your own project, we recommend choosing a favorite quote, grabbing a pile of old magazines, some Mod Podge, paint, brushes, a scissors and some scraps of colorful paper to make your own wall hanging.

1. Compile old magazines, paint, and a large Masonite board or a canvas.
2. Begin painting the background and collage scraps of paper and magazines to create mixed media texture.
3. Use paint or magazine cut-out letters to apply your favorite quote to the background.
4. Cover the whole canvas with Mod Podge when complete to give it a glossy, durable surface finish.

For ideas like the one to the left, visit the blog of mixed media artist Mae Chevrette. She's a pro at transforming quotes into true masterpieces.

togoittotheworld.blogspot.com

PICTURE SOURCES:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRDoV7m7idl
tottphoto.com
togoittotheworld.blogspot.com



Finger Lickin' Ribs

Calling all barbecue lovers! What you are about to read may have you juggling to hold onto your keys as you hop, skip, and jump into your car. The center of downtown Nelson (south of Durand, which is south of Menomonie) is home to a gem of a “ma and pa” restaurant. J&J BBQ pit offers top quality smoked meats at a fair price. In an age of mega franchises, it’s nice to know there are still some small diners around to carry on a slice of small-town Americana. A mesquite scent surrounds the country atmosphere and hundreds of antiques and antique signs. The Friday special is a hearty helping of two

pieces of chicken, a half rack of ribs and two sides. You won’t get a meal like that for nine dollars at Applebee’s. I was expecting a bit of a wait, but they had our delicious smoked food to us in five minutes.

The pork was perfect. It was tender, yet did not fall off the bone and make a mess. It was meaty, so you did not feel like you were getting a plate of bones. They served it up with an AMAZING Carolina barbecue sauce! If ribs and chicken are not your thing, J and J also has juicy burgers and hearty wraps. Even for a poor college student, the trip to Nelson is well worth it. This mouth-watering

meal will satisfy your manly taste buds and clear your palate of all that ramen you ate the first four months of college!

J&J Barbecue and Catering

208 North Main
Nelson, WI 54756
715-673-4717

Hours:

Wed & Thurs: 10:30am-7pm
Fri & Sat: 10:30am-8pm
Sunday: 10:30am-6pm
Closed Monday & Tuesdays

Sriracha: Easier to Eat than Say

From the foot hills of South Carolina to the dorm rooms of UW-Stout, Sriracha has become a staple condiment for all sorts of people. Created in Vietnam, the spicy sauce made from sun ripened chilies came to America in the late 1970s when its creator, a Vietnamese refugee named David Tran, sought asylum from the post war regime. The chilies are ground into a smooth paste along with garlic and then packaged in a convenient squeeze bottle.

Tran raves about using only the highest quality ingredients and never adding any artificial colors or flavors. Try some of these flavor-packed recipes that may make you want to replace your ketchup with Sriracha. Remember, if your grocery store does not carry Sriracha you probably shouldn’t to shop there anymore.

To spice things up, shake some Sriracha onto your eggs, ramen, pizza, fries, in your sour cream, and on your burger. If you are really smart, bring it home on Thanksgiving and spice up your Aunt Jill’s beans a bit.

Sriracha Ketchup

¼ cup ketchup
¼ cup Sriracha
¼ teaspoon fish sauce

Eat with a corn dog or some potatoes

(Try the same with cream cheese but ditch the fish sauce.)

Buffalo Chicken Wings

- 2 1/2 lbs. chicken wings (12 to 15 wings)
- 1/4 cup Sriracha Chili Sauce
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine, melted
- 1 Tbsp. of Worcestershire Sauce (optional)

Split wings at each joint and discard tips. Pat dry. Place on a rack in a roasting pan and bake at 425 degrees for 1 hour; turning halfway through cooking time. OR Deep fry at 400 degrees for 12 minutes or until completely cooked and crispy. Combine butter, Huy Fong Foods Sriracha Chili Sauce, salt, and Worcestershire sauce.



Not a Coffee Snob?

"I'll have a venti no-foam vanilla soy Frappuccino with an extra shot of espresso, and a caramel swirl on top... hold the whipped cream." Ordering espresso drinks can sometimes be overwhelming. It can feel as if you have been transported to a foreign land and are forced to order something without knowing the language. Let the confusion and worry pass and prepare yourself for a serious espresso education that may even earn you a spot in the Coffee Snob Hall of Fame.

Obviously, all espresso drinks contain espresso, so what you really need to decide is what to have with it. You could go plain; some think drinking it this way makes them a man, but they are missing the finer things like a chocolaty mocha, creamy breve, and many others. You could even discreetly cut out our Espresso Field Guide and tape it to your mini-fridge until you get it down.

Be a Dorm Room Barista

As a lone college student, your best bet will be a single-serve coffee maker. It will taste just as good as what you'd pay \$4 for at your local café. Check out different home coffee makers at www.nespresso-us.com/machines. If you're not into espresso, you could try a steamer. Just heat up some milk and add a shot of hazelnut or caramel syrup. Take some time, try some new stuff, and when you really get to be a smarty, start inventing new drinks.

Sriracha article source:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Tran
www.huyfong.com

Picture sources:

jandjbbq.com

blog.zagat.com

pixelsham.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/espresso.jpg



SCARS

LIFE: tears, joy, pain, smiles, shame, strength, weakness, victory, and failure.

It's a battlefield. We carry wounds and scars that tell of the waging war encircling us. Some scars come with an epic tale; they bear witness to an awesome adventure or a near-death episode. Others are less warrior-like. They are the consequence of our own mistakes and foolishness. Still other scars simply develop from being in the wrong place at the wrong time. All scars are the result of some sort of trauma, and we can either learn from them or become hardened. If we choose to learn from our scars they can become motivation to push forward; a reminiscent badge of honor. Scars are significant. The most significant scars in the history, however, don't belong to you and I. Our scars reveal humanity's need for finished work that brought nail scars to the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.



BATTLE WOUNDS

Usually we view scars as nothing more than a flaw or blemish. A scar is defined as a mark remaining after the healing of a wound or other morbid process. It can also refer to a lasting aftereffect of trouble, especially a lasting psychological injury resulting from suffering or trauma. Scar is also the name of the evil villain who killed Mufasa in *The Lion King*; what a jerk! All are ruthless, a punch in the face, a shocking reminder of war, and they all have a common thread. They are usually painful and never cease to remind us of the tragedy that caused them. But not all our injuries are visible. Many of our wounds throughout life are internal, and the pain is often buried deep within us.



THE INCIDENT

A student starts out well but gets so overwhelmed with her job, school, and student orgs that she starts to slip. She can't remember the last time she went to church or opened her Bible. She gives up on it all and decides to party for a night to forget the struggles she is facing. As she wakes up hung-over in bed with a stranger the next morning, she just wants to forget it all. The guy decides to let all his buddies know that he scored, and that's just another knife thrust in her gut. She drinks again to forget her shame and then ends up in another stranger's bed. Girls are still nice to her face, but call her a tramp behind her back. A scar begins to form. She thought she could do it on her own without other Christians to lean on. She thought she didn't need God, and now she feels too dirty to approach Him.

A quiet guy comes to college to pursue his degree and dreams, but it is different than what he thought it would be. People are cold and they already have their friends picked out before he has the chance to make any. It's been hard for him to just jump into a group of friends. He saunters through the hallways, feeling invisible to everyone around him. A guy approaches him, and it seems they are becoming friends. However, he soon realizes he is being used for his parents' money. He walks up to his so-called "friend" while he is talking to a group of people and overhears cruel jokes about himself. A scar forms as he trudges to his dorm questioning whether anyone is worth talking to anymore.

Another scenario occurs a little closer to home. Your mom and dad have been fighting for years, but that's the norm. People fight, right? Sometimes it got a little out of control, but they said they never meant it. They said they would never get a divorce, but then they broke that promise. Now they tell you they stayed together until you were in college so it wouldn't be a burden on you. You can't even concentrate on school right now! You wonder who to trust if you can't trust your own parents.

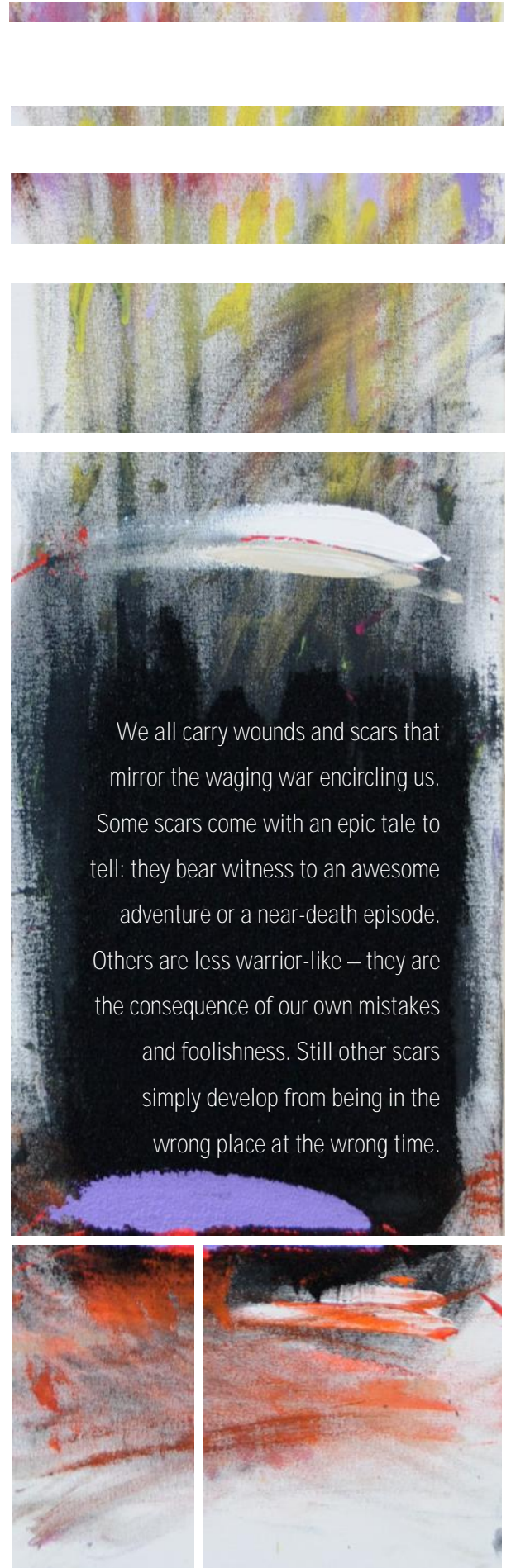
Bad breakups, betrayal, abuse, losing a loved one to a painful disease or accident — all of these incidents, and many more, can dramatically change the direction of

our life. We're not alone in this pain. We can look to Jesus, who was figuratively stabbed in the back by a close and trusted friend when Judas handed Him over to the religious leaders to be murdered. The very people Jesus had served and healed turned brutally against Him and hurled insults at Him. Jesus could have wandered aimlessly. He could have given up on all people and decided not to die for humanity because men and women are backstabbers, but that is not how history went down. Jesus kept walking, He kept teaching, He kept letting people in and loving them even though so many had betrayed Him. He kept pursuing God's plan for His life even though it would end in His death. When events happen, do we dig deep into ourselves, resulting in depression, or do we dig into Jesus who went through the same things and came out of the battle victoriously?

HARDENED SCARS

No matter the incident, nobody's scars are quite the same. Two people may end up with different scars, even though the source is similar. Some of us show no sign of scarring while others form large scars similar to a keloid scar. A keloid scar happens when the scar tissue grows excessively, forming smooth, hard growths. They are often much larger than the original wound. Our reactions to the pain from life can become like a keloid scar. If we don't take care of our injuries, bitterness will grow, burying the issue deep down. But healing is not within ourselves.

In this calloused prison of our own creation, it is difficult for anyone to break through these overgrown barriers. We may



We all carry wounds and scars that mirror the waging war encircling us. Some scars come with an epic tale to tell: they bear witness to an awesome adventure or a near-death episode. Others are less warrior-like — they are the consequence of our own mistakes and foolishness. Still other scars simply develop from being in the wrong place at the wrong time.



Have you ever noticed that when someone else has a wicked scar you can't help but ask, "How'd you get that?"

think if we never open up to anyone, never trust, then we can't get hurt. If we don't marry, or if we don't allow failure, we will be safe. Some people will stay hardened for the rest of their lives and become bitter old men and women who have no joy, no peace, no smiles. Have the circumstances of your life caused you to build up a keloid-like barrier around you heart?

BATTLEFIELD TALES

Instead of building barriers we can tell tales. We can find support as we look upon our wounds and the scars of others. Have you ever noticed that when someone else has a wicked scar you can't help but ask, "How'd you get that?" After hearing their gory story, you may walk away amazed that a human could survive being dragged behind a 4-wheeler, cut open from neck to navel for surgery, or getting sliced by a rusty car part. Soldiers in a war may even draw encouragement from the scars of others. Their scars prove they're in it together and their pain won't be wasted. After we have been through something traumatic, whether physical or spiritual, the scars we get along the way are reminders not to go down that road again. We remember what it was like when we walked alone, relying on people to satisfy us instead of God. Only God can satisfy; only God can be fully trusted to never leave us or abandon us. He can give us love for people and a heart willing to forgive as He does.

Hopefully if we've gotten a nasty scar, we learned something from it. It may be as simple as, "Don't walk on gravel with bare feet," or "Don't stick your hand in a Northern Pike's mouth to get the hook out." Usually, scars result in a lesson learned. The apostle Paul, whose life is chronicled in the New Testament of the Bible, was known for the scars he received for following Jesus. He stated in the book of Galatians, "I bear on my body the scars that show that I belong to Jesus."¹ Paul was beaten for His faith multiple times. His wounds were a result of following Jesus. Wait a minute! You mean as a Christian I will still have to go to battle? And I will still get hurt? Yes, the Bible states that we live in a fallen world with all of creation groaning for a time when relief from sin comes.² Our existence is a battle, but what are you fighting for? Is there any hope in the warfare of life?

VICTORY

Jesus had scars. Jesus lived on this earth, and He was victorious in battle. Granted, He was God, but He was also man. The Bible says in Hebrews, "This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for He faced all the same testings we do, yet He did not sin."³ In the book of John we see Jesus urging one of His disciples, Thomas, to touch the wounds in His hands and the wound in His side after He rose from the dead as proof of His resurrection,⁴ a true victory. The gaping wounds in His hands

definitely beat any "super sweet scar shaped like the state of Florida." Not only did Jesus receive physical scars from crucifixion, but He also lived a life full of rejection, abandonment, sorrow, and grief. His family left Him, His friends betrayed Him, and ultimately God turned His back on Him when He took on the world's sin, becoming a sacrifice for our rebellion against God. If anyone could justify complaining about the hard war of life it would be Jesus, but He didn't. Jesus looked forward to the cross because of the great joy it would ultimately bring.⁵ Jesus now sits at the right hand of God: His scars were only half the story. God raised Him from death to eternal life in heaven. He will do the same for us! Because of Jesus, our scars can be worth something. The pain we go through does not have to end with just more pain. The Bible says that Jesus makes all things new.⁶

God knows we are weak and easily scarred. He knows we're hurting and wounded by life in this world, but He provided a cure that lasts forever. Jesus can heal our wounds; it might take time to forgive and for the pain to go away, but He changes everything. These scars we carry can be used for good, to be there for someone who is going through what we have gone through, but ultimately our pain and weakness brings us into closer intimacy with Jesus; that is the real end goal. Emotional or physical, scars can remind us of God's presence with us in the past and His assured presence in the future. 2 Corinthians 12:10 states, "That's why I take pleasure in my weakness, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Choosing to follow Jesus and not the rest of the world will result in scars, but they will help us remember that God is all we need, because the world will continually let us down. Will our wounds be of any value? Will we gaze on our scars and declare as Paul did, "These wounds are worthy; for they show I belong to Christ.?"



- 1: John 20:24-29
- 2: Galatians 6:17
- 3: Romans 8:19-22
- 4: Hebrews 4:15
- 5: Hebrews 12:2
- 6: Revelation 21:4-5

Article Sources:
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 -ask.healthline.com/health/keloids

UPDATE FROM THE PHILIPPINES: After the Earthquake: An Eyewitness Testimony

October 15, 2013 — Cebu, Philippines. It was a holiday, so my normal morning alarms were off, allowing me to wake up whenever. Around 8:00 am, I heard my brother's voice waking me up, and I wondered why he had to shake my bed; but he did not shake the bed. It wasn't just the bed that was shaking, it was the ground below us. I was still half-asleep, and I did not know what to do. My brother told me that we should go out to find open space, so I grabbed my blanket and followed his lead. Outside the apartment, some people were running, some stood really still, some were shouting in fear, and parents were gathering their children. The earthquake lasted more than 30 seconds, but it was one of the longest 30 seconds I have had in my life. When it stopped, everyone reached for their phones to call loved ones to check if they were safe, but the networks were busy. Then, an electrical brown-out followed.

An earthquake of 7.2 magnitude hit the Visayas Islands. The epicenter was the island of Bohol, right next to Cebu, and 183 people died. It destroyed one hundred-year-old churches, and many lost their loved ones and property. It was followed by a 5.4 magnitude earthquake that same day. The earthquake happened



on a holiday early in the morning, and, because of these reasons, schools and most offices were closed. The malls were not yet open, so not many people were inside the tall buildings. Aftershocks still plague the island every now and then and are expected to totally cease after three weeks. So far, there have been around 2,000 recorded aftershocks.

Relief operations are going on, and it is overwhelming to see the Filipinos united and helping each other. In the midst of all this, God remains faithful and in control of everything, and our help comes from the Lord.

NICK the HICK



ANOTHER RANT FROM YOUR FAVORITE BARNYARD FRIEND

Hipster Christmas is December 23rd because apparently it is too mainstream. What in the wherl is this stuff I have been hearing about hipsters all the time? I still am not to sure what that means so I done some research. At first I thought PBR was making a comeback, and then one day I overheard this fella who had to shave his legs and rub them down with Crisco to get those things on. At first I thought they were painted on but I didn't look to close. I swear I did not look with detail. At any rate he spoke of this being some new hipster tradition and I thought o lordy another hippy tradition. This one is right up there with holy jeans and facebooks. Then it turns out that one of the religious notions

among this group is to grow the real long beard. These guys are like you took duck dynasty and bred it with the big bang theory and then threw in some stop sign running peddler bikers. Now don't get me wrong, I like all sorts of people, I just come to understand them better after I make them sound crazy. Turns out not everyone is not quite like me. And if someone is not like me it does not automatically make them a hippie so I am sorry about that. So if you like yourself some cold dark coffee (I think they do) or PBR or skinnier jeans, or long beard, and long boards remember that December 23rd is your day. Just be careful because you tell to many folks and you'll be mainstream!

LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

WINTER 2013-14

NOV.

- 1** *FRI* / Awesome Halloween Party—FREE
Blind Munchies
Coffeehouse, 5:30pm
- 3** *SUN* / Repair Café—FREE,
Blind Munchies
Coffeehouse, 2—4pm
- 6** *WED* / JFB Impact
Studies, 7pm
Call 715-235-4977
- 8** *FRI* / Classic TV Nite +
B.S., **Blind Munchies**
Coffeehouse, 5:30pm
- 9** *SAT* / Men's Prayer
Breakfast, **Blind Munchies**
Coffeehouse, 8:30am —
11am
- 12** *TUES / THURS* / Kayak Roll
Clinic parts 1&2 (14th)
Stout Adventures,
8-10pm
- 15** *FRI* / FREE Music: Hyland,
Blind Munchies
Coffeehouse, 7pm
- 21** *THURS* / Lead Climbing
Clinic
Stout Adventures, 7-9pm
- 22** *FRI* / Classic TV Nite +
B.S., **Blind Munchies**
Coffeehouse, 5:30pm
- 23** *SAT* / Climb and shop the
Twin Cities (Shuttle)
Stout Adventures,
9am-8pm
- 27** *WED* / Thanksgiving Break
Begins,
No Classes
- 29** *FRI* / Classic TV Nite +
B.S., **Blind Munchies**
Coffeehouse, 5:30pm

DEC.

- 1** *SUN* / Repair Café—
FREE, **Blind Munchies**
Coffeehouse, 2—4pm
- 4** *WED* / JFB Impact
Studies, 7pm
Call 715-235-4977
- WED* / Classes Resume
- 6** *FRI* / FREE B-Movie: The
Thing from Another
World, **Blind Munchies**
Coffeehouse, 7pm
- FRI / SAT / SUN* / Mabel
Tainter Theater, A
Christmas Story
6th: 7:30-9:30pm
7th: 7:30-9:30pm
8th: 2-4pm
- 7** *THURS* / Crate Stacking
Competition
Stout Adventures,
8-11pm
- 13** *FRI* / Classic TV Nite +
B.S., **Blind Munchies**
Coffeehouse, 5:30pm
- FRI* / Classes End
- 14** *SAT* / Commencement
- 16** *MON* / Evaluation Week
Begins
- 20** *FRI* / Classic TV Nite +
B.S., **Blind Munchies**
Coffeehouse, 5:30pm
- FRI* / Evaluation Week
Ends
- 27** *FRI* / Classic TV Nite +
B.S., **Blind Munchies**
Coffeehouse, 5:30pm

JAN.

- 1** *WED* / JFB Impact Studies,
7pm
Call 715-235-4977
- 3** *FRI* / Classic TV Nite + B.S.,
Blind Munchies
Coffeehouse, 5:30pm
- 5** *SUN* / Repair Café—FREE,
Blind Munchies
Coffeehouse, 2—4pm
- 6** *MON* / Winterm Classes
Begin
- 10** *FRI* / Classic TV Nite + B.S.,
Blind Munchies
Coffeehouse, 5:30pm
- 14** *TUES* / *Word on the Street*
Magazine—Newest issue!
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racks around UW-Stout and
the Menomonie community
or go to ReadWOTS.com



DON'T MISS THESE

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Bible Study
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Cedar Maplewood, MSC

Jesus Fellowship of
Believers Church
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Wednesdays 7pm
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Blind Munchies
Coffeehouse on Friday
nights!*

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FEATURES

Live Music
Hyland
Nov. 15, 7pm

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band from **Minneapolis**. This
pop rock band is coming to
Menomonie. Don't miss this
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www.hylandofficial.com

B-Movie Night
*The Thing from
Another World*
Dec. 6, 7pm

Enjoy laughing at ridiculous sci-fi
classics? Come watch this
vintage horror flick in the style of
Mystery Science Theater 3000.
There will be savory food
available for purchase along with
all-you-can-eat popcorn,
espresso drinks and bakery. As
always, this event is **FREE**.

One Woman's TRUE STORY

Wow...where do I start. I guess I will start from the beginning. I have always known that there was something missing in my life. Even as a little child, I knew. It felt like an emptiness so deep, that no matter what you would try to fill it with, it was never quenched. Finally in 2005, after graduating college, obtaining a great job, having a very active social life and still feeling empty, I finally "gave in". I knew what I needed to do. I heard God calling me, but for whatever reason, I ignored Him. When I finally let Him in and accepted Him as my personal Lord and Savior, I had no idea what He had in store for me. My life changed in so many ways. I could have never been prepared for what He did with my life. I found myself thinking, "Why had I not done this sooner?"

Fast forward; in 2011, I married my best friend. I know that he is the one that God had picked for me. How do I know this? I tried and tried to pick the "one for me", and God always had a way of reminding me that I was wrong. My husband, Brian, is a strong man, a God-fearing man, a gentle, hardworking, loving and caring man. God has blessed me beyond words with Brian. It goes to show that if you just wait and learn to be patient, God will give you what you need. I know beyond any doubt that God knew I would need Brian, as I am about to share with you.

In January of this year our life changed forever, and not in the fairy tale kind of way. Everything up until January had been going perfectly. We bought a beautiful house, had good jobs, were planning a family, traveling, etc. and then... Bam! You have cancer. Yep, cancer! Not just any type of cancer but AngioSarcoma, a very rare and deadly cancer. I was officially diagnosed with Primary Cardiac Angiosarcoma with metastatic disease to my liver and lungs. If you know anything about cancer when it metastasizes, this is never a good sign. So many emotions, so many decisions, so many questions. My husband has been the rock that I know God wanted and designed him to be in my life. God provided him with the tools that we would so desperately need to get to where we are today.



Some would say there is no manual when you're diagnosed with cancer...for a time I thought the same. Until I realized one day that the manual was sitting right in front of me. My Bible.

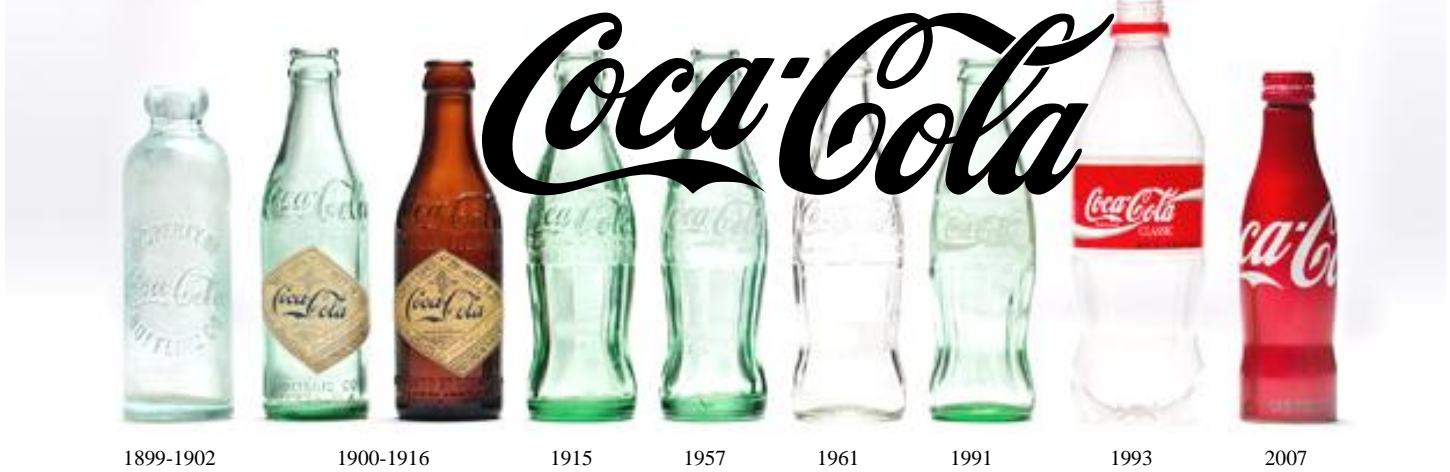
Some would say there is no manual when you're diagnosed with cancer...for a time I thought the same. Until I realized one day that the manual was sitting right in front of me; my Bible. God has given me so much strength, strength I couldn't get from anyone or anywhere else. God has a funny way of reminding me that He is here. There are days that, I cannot lie, are bad. No matter how much you pray, no matter how strong your faith is, there are just going to be bad days. But if you listen, God is there to remind you that He is there. Two examples: I was getting off the elevators recently at the Mayo Clinic where I receive treatment, and I hear Amazing Grace being played on the piano in the lobby and all these voices singing away. I initially walked the opposite direction and something pulled me back. I walked over and joined in. I instantly broke down into tears. I could feel His presence. I knew God was there. Then when I thought I couldn't be anymore overwhelmed by His love and presence, this old man sitting in a wheelchair next to me grabbed my hand and said, "God bless you." "Ugh", I thought, "Okay God, I get it." But see, God knew I needed to feel Him. He knew that I was going through a tough time, and He knew I was feeling alone. Most recently last week, I was admitted to the hospital. I was sitting in my room as my husband was out taking care of things, and this lady walks in, sits down, and tells me everything will be alright, that God is here

and He is helping me. She told me something that there is no way she could know. I had just revealed to my husband what I thought God's plan was for me a few hours before. She revealed that to me. How could she have known this? Again, another sign from God that He is here. I have had so many of these moments throughout my journey.

I have been taught so much about how to be patient, fully trusting in God, and humble. Oh, the humility! As a young woman (33) losing my hair, my eyebrows, lashes was hard. Really hard. But after awhile, you realize you would rather be as bald as a hairless cat and be alive. I am not going to lie, it is not always easy placing all your faith and trust in God. You want to be able to control everything, especially when you feel your life spinning out of control. But no matter what is going on in your life, believe me when I tell you, it is so much easier, and you will feel so much better and lighter when you give it to God. If I could make you hear anything out of all of this, it's "Give it to God". It will open your eyes, heart, and mind to what God has in store for you. No doctor can tell me when my time is over here on earth, only God. He is my Doctor, my Father, my Decider. He will call me home when He is ready, and I have found so much peace with that. I am able to live my life, the life God intended.

-Valerie Walz

Worldwide Uses for



WHAT IS AS VERSATILE AS A SWISS ARMY TOOL AND COMES IN LIQUID FORM? The answer, of course, is Coca-Cola. Coke makes more than just a fizzy drink in a curvy glass bottle; it also has numerous other benefits which span across many regions of the world.

Dr. John Stith Pemberton invented Coca-Cola in Atlanta, Georgia, back in the late 1800s, where it made its first splash as a medicine. Coca-Cola received its name from two ingredients the syrup contained before Coke became the

company we know it as today. The first of the two ingredients, which has long since been removed, is cocaine. Cocaine was known to be used in many medicines back in 1885. However, for your information (or maybe to your disappointment), according to snopes.com, Coca-Cola became 100% cocaine free in 1929. The other ingredient contained in the first cola was kola nut extract. Although Coke may have begun as a patient medicine, it sure has set its straws on many other uses. WOTS has compiled a list of cross-regional uses for Coke to keep you thinking.

Menomonie, Wisconsin

- Are those pesky iron mites eating away at your car body? Try using some Coke to clean it up, and while you're at it, pour some on your battery terminals for good measure.
- Age documents and photos for an antique look: Apply Coke, pat with paper, leave to dry. (It's better than starting the paper on fire and a good way to please your art history teacher.)
- Remove gum from hair: Dip the mangled hair section into a small bowl of Coke, leave soak a few minutes, and the gum will wipe off. (This is a particularly good tip for those soon to become teachers.)
- Out of Shout? Grab a can of Coke and add to the wash to remove those pesky smells and stains. **Warning: Might not want to add this to your whites.**

Superior, Wisconsin

- If you drink it, your accent will thicken...fer sher.
- Message in a Coke bottle: After you've drank a bottle, write an S.O.S. letter, place inside, toss it into Lake Superior, and maybe someone will rescue you from the frozen tundra.
- Skunk smell removal: Mix one can of Coke, one gallon of water, and some laundry detergent. Supposedly, this helps decrease the stench of skunk.
- Use the edge of an empty can as an ice scraper.
- Spray it from a squirt bottle to ward off seagulls. **Warning: Do not shake before spraying brown substance in spray bottle.**

Cebu Island, Philippines

- Neutralize a jellyfish sting... in case you get stung in the ocean off the coast of Cebu.
- Remove or fade dye from hair by pouring diet Coke over it. Did a friend help dye your hair? If it didn't turn out so well, then you may want to try this trick.
- Make chicken or cakes with Coca-Cola: Enter "Coke" in the search bar at allrecipes.com for great finds!
- Connecting the dots: Although Coke may have been invented as a patient medicine, it has spilled over to encompass much more. We at *Word on the Street* challenge you to put some of these uses to the test or to even come up with some of your own. The varying uses of Coke can be found all around the world, from the tropical paradise of the Philippines to the Midwestern plains.



Fun Fact :

Bottles aren't just for babies; they can serve as a thumb print. Before 1916, Coca-Cola had many different shapes of bottles that competitors would copy to steal some of Coke's success. However, to end the imitation, Coca-Cola hosted a contest of who could create a bottle that would be recognizable in the dark. The bottle shape Coca-Cola comes in today is the same one chosen back in 1916.

Sources: heritage.coca-cola.com/ urbanpeek.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/The-Coca-Cola-bottle-timeline1.jpg

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they're released.

STOUT SENIORS TO KNOW



Michelle Counsell/Art Education/Elkhorn, WI

Michelle is currently working on a project for her Painting III class. The students begin by choosing an artistic direction and working at their own pace. Halfway through the semester, they assess their progress and discuss any possible changes that could be made to their pieces. To begin, she chooses a piece of art from years past and builds on it through scraps of paper, color, and clippings from pop culture to create a mini-collage. "These are sort of the beginning of the process," Michelle explains. "Once I have these finished, I'll use them as a reference and paint them onto canvas, paper, or tile."

The idea behind the work is to comment on modern-day commercialization and body image for both genders in the media. She incorporated bright colors, familiar faces from Hollywood, and bits of nature. As Counsell walked me through the ideas behind some of her pieces, she pointed out her use of sea slug images in each of them. "I really like the bright colors that each slug has and how different they all are," she says with a smile. "It's kind of hard to tell what they are at first glance. You'll have to look at the painting for awhile before you see them, and I really like that about them too."

Michelle is graduating in May and will be working on her senior seminar next semester as her capstone course. In this class, she will have the opportunity to showcase pieces from her years at Stout in the student art gallery (room 209 Applied Arts). Not all of her current pieces will be in her show, but she hopes to showcase a few of them. "This project has been a pretty sharp turn in a different direction from what I normally do, and I may turn another direction next semester. But I'd like to at least show a few of them. I think they will turn out really well!"



**Keith Catalano
Game Design and Development—concentration in Art & Multimedia Design
Green Bay, WI**

Capstone Project: Game Design and Development — 3D animated short, tentatively titled "The Submarine", roughly two to three minutes

"I am currently wrapping up pre-production work on the short. Then, I will be finalizing my storyboards and concept art and begin production. The process is long, but it will really help to make everything go smoothly during production. I am very excited to dive in!"

Senior Year Goal: "To finish with my sanity intact. I hope to finish with a strong body of work and give everything I have."

After Graduation Plans: "I will likely be moving to the Minneapolis area to pursue 3D modeling and animation and/or web design and development."



**Tiffany Lauersdorf
Applied Science – Biotechnology
Perkinstown, WI**

Capstone Project: "I am working in Dr. Daughters' cell biology research lab on the effects of gene expression and stem cell differentiation. It is going well. I am learning a lot from Dr. Daughters about cells and factors that affect the differentiation as well as developing proper lab technique."

Senior year goal: "I would like to develop my project enough to get published."

After Graduation Plans: "I am going to be taking the MCAT and applying for medical school to become an Oncologist."



**Kevin O'Donnell
Real Estate Property Management
Stoughton WI**

Capstone Project: "Writing a financial management plan for CPM certification, currently reviewing the physical conditions and surroundings of my property."

Senior Year Goal: "Send the UW-Stout hockey team to the national tournament."

After Grad Plans: "Complete certifications and find a job."

BIBLE 101

DISCOVER
THE WORD
OF GOD

Have you ever tried to read the Bible and failed? Maybe you've never even opened the gold-gilded pages of the "good book". Say you didn't know where to start, or you got into it and stopped at Leviticus in total confusion. Maybe the only Bible you ever owned was your grandmother's moldy King James written in Old English, and you just couldn't make it through the "thees" and "thous". On the other hand, you might be a seasoned Bible reader, looking to study further. Thankfully, no one who really wants to hear from God needs to be limited or overwhelmed by the language or scope of the Bible. Here's how you can dig in.

People may have avoided the Harry Potter series, not because of the content, but because of the sheer thickness and never-ending volumes. The Bible can be overwhelming at first glance as well, especially since it isn't just one book but rather a collection of 66 books, and it was written over a time span of sixteen centuries by more than 40 different authors!¹ Despite the variety of people who penned the Bible, all of the books coincide to reveal the entire plan of God to save us. The Bible is split into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Both of these center around Jesus Christ and His role in God's plan of salvation. Now on the other hand, *unlike* any other book you've ever read, the Bible is a book that actually "reads you". It is God's tool to communicate with us, as described in **Hebrews 4:12** which says, *"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."*

NO ONE WHO REALLY WANTS TO HEAR FROM GOD NEEDS TO BE LIMITED OR OVERWHELMED BY THE LANGUAGE OR SCOPE OF THE BIBLE.

So you've read the so-called blurb on the back of the Bible, and you have a general idea of what it's about. Now, where is a good place to start? A great jumping off point is the book of John in the New Testament. John was one of the disciples who walked with Jesus in person. The book of the Bible he wrote is called one of the gospels because he records what Jesus did during His time on earth, including His death and resurrection as part of God's plan to save humanity from our sin. John is a good place to begin because, not only do we read about what Jesus did historically, but we can discover His character and come to know Him personally. After reading John, you could move on to the book of Romans. Romans is a letter that was written to a church in Rome, and it explains how to practically live out the Christian life.

You won't find the name "Jesus" written anywhere in the Old Testament. His name often took forms such as "Messiah" or "Yeshua", but you will discover everything in the Old Testament points to Him. Hundreds of years before He was born on earth, the Old Testament predicted over 300 prophecies about Jesus Christ, dozens of which were actually fulfilled historically in the New Testament.² You can get

a printable plan to help map out your read through the Bible. Websites such as biblegateway.com/reading-plans/ and bibleplan.org have tons of options and printable reading plans.

Most of us can't get through an entire book in one night, and the same is true with the Bible. Skeptical? Try it, you'll find it takes about 77 hours to read the Bible out loud, cover to cover – that's 4,642 minutes.³ So don't cram it into a short period of time; you may experience symptoms of dizziness, shortness of breath, or dry mouth. Choose a small section and read through verse by verse. If something doesn't make sense, ask yourself a few "W" questions: Who, what, when, where, and why? But the most important thing to ask yourself is, "What does this mean for my life?" Simple questions, but they will help you realize how the Bible relates to *your* life and how to actually step out your front door and live it out.

Maybe you've read the Bible before, and you're looking to go deeper. You want to know Jesus more personally and see the detailed, miraculous plan God has for the world. Investing in a study Bible, such as a Life Application Study Bible, with commentary notes in the margins will help you get a little more information behind what is written. Out of cash? There are hundreds of free online resources to help you study the Bible. Websites such as blueletterbible.org, biblegateway.com, and olivetree.com have free commentaries, study tools, maps, and other resources to go beyond what you've already read. The most important resource you can have to go further into understanding the God behind the Bible is to plug into a local church. The Bible CANNOT be lived out if you are outside the context of a local church; it says so right in its pages. **Hebrews 10:25** states, *"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another."*⁴ (Emphasis added) **Ephesians 2:19-22** parallels this verse, saying, *"...You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Together, we are His house..."* (Emphasis added)

When it comes to the Bible, we get a VIP pass behind the scenes. The author is obviously the best person to ask about how to read a book. The author of the Bible is God, and He inspired and worked through ordinary people to pen its words. We can pray to God to help us know Him better as we read through His words. James 4:8 says, *"Come close to God, and God will come close to you."* God wants you to know Him, and He will help if you sincerely desire to meet Him.

For you hands-on learners, we've compiled an example guide for how all this looks in real life. Here are the first steps:

1. **GET** a Bible written in an understandable translation (New Living Translation and English Standard Version are good).
2. **OPEN** your Bible.
3. **FLIP** to desired page (finger lick optional).
4. **READ** the most epic adventure ever written...

continued on next page

BIBLE 101 continued...

Let's get down to business. You know *what* to do in reading the Bible, now here's the *how* to do it. We'll pull apart a section from the book of John in the New Testament and show you how it's done.

John 1:1-11

"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God."

WHO

Who is the audience?

Everyone – Jesus wants everyone to know the message about who He is and what He has done.

Who is the Word?

We see in the passage that the Word was "with God" and He "was God". He "existed in the beginning" and "nothing was created except through Him" The Word "gave life to everything" and "gives light to everyone". The Word "came to his own people", and we read later in John that the Word is Jesus Christ.

Who is John the Baptist?

John the Baptist was only "a man", and he was "not the light" (Jesus Christ). He was "a witness to tell about the light"; to proclaim the identity and truth of Jesus.

Like John the Baptist, Christians are called to tell others about Jesus as a "witness", one who testifies to the truth. Just as a witness on the stand tells the truth about a murder he or she saw, a Christian tells the truth about the character of Jesus Christ.

WHAT

What did/does the Word (Jesus) do?

The Word "gave life to everything". The word "life" in this passage translates in the original Greek to "zoe", which means "the life principle" and encompasses both natural and spiritual life. It does not mean "bios", which is the Greek translation for mere biological life. Jesus gives us abundant, true life in all its aspects, not just basic, primitive survival.⁵

WHEN

When does this take place?

This takes place "in the beginning" or before the world began and only God existed.

When did the Word come into the world?

Jesus began His public ministry, according to **Luke 3:23**, when He "began to be about thirty years of age", just slightly after John began preparing the way for Him to come. This translates to be approximately 29 A.D. if Jesus had a three year ministry and was crucified in 33 A.D.⁶

WHERE

Where was the Word first?

The Word was “with God” and “in the beginning”. The Word “came into the very world he created”. Since we know that Jesus Christ is the Word, by saying He came into the world that He created implies that the Word and God are one, not two completely separate or independent gods. This is backed up by verse one where it says, “the word was God.”

WHY

Why did the Word come?

The Word (Jesus) came as a “light shines in the darkness”, and “to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.”

PARALLEL VERSE: Galatians 3:26 “*For you are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.*”

Why might someone reject the Word?

The passage states that the “darkness can never extinguish it [the Light, Jesus]”, so one who rejects Jesus may be living contrary to the life Jesus lived (aka, in darkness).

HOW

What does this mean for my life?

I need to figure out if I “recognize Him (Jesus)” and if I have “rejected Him”, because it is only “to all who believed and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.” Have I personally given my life to Jesus and accepted His free gift of salvation?

How do I live this out?

E. Olson in *Walks through John’s Gospel Volume 1* states this in reference to verse five: “In connection with the statement that Christ, as the Light, was not comprehended by the darkness, F.B. Meyer has given a soul-searching word. He said, ‘There are two methods by which darkness is produced. One by absence of light; the other by loss of sight. It is dark when the sun sets—it is also dark when the eye is blind. And the darkness mentioned in this verse is not the first but the second.’”

Jesus is “shining” His truth and His free gift of salvation right now, everywhere. You need to take the step of asking God to open your eyes and show you who He is and what purpose He has created for you. If a room is filled with light, shutting your eyes, no matter how tight, will not negate the fact that the light is still shining. Jesus isn’t asking you to solve world hunger or be a better person before you come to Him – He’s asking you to open your eyes because He’s here and He will never leave.

Sources:

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