

Word on the Street

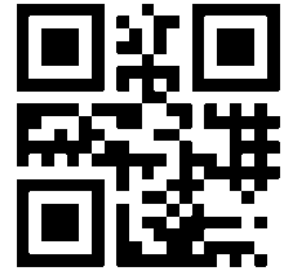


WORD ON THE STREET

**Three Editions Together in Cebu City, Philippines
for a Street Level Ministries Music Festival**



WORD ON THE STREET MAGAZINE (WOTS) is a UW-Stout affiliated publication released twice per semester and has been in publication for 16 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.

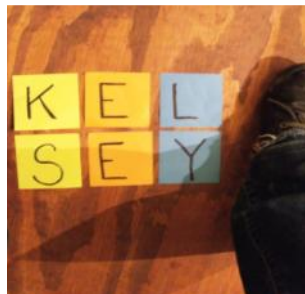
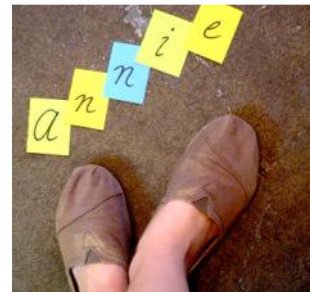
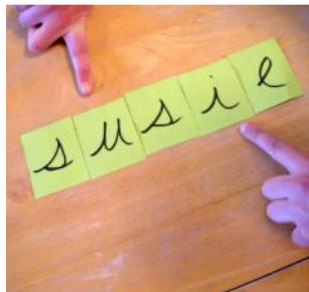


wotsmagazine@gmail.com

ReadWots.com

The WOTS crew can be found on campus each Monday while school is in session at Street Level Ministries' student organization meetings. Visit streetlevelministries.com for details. We hope the magazine is funny, challenging, and encourages you to have a strong relationship with Jesus Christ.

Meet
Our
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The Journal OF THE VERY UNFORTUNATE Edward Warren



In the vaults of the Stout Library was a key
to unlock the campus' darkest secret...

An Interesting Find

On the top floor of the UW-Stout library, in the last row of books, Ryan hugs an armful of seemingly ancient texts to his side while searching for one last written source that will complete the research for his first college-level paper. His disposition is anything but thrilled as he extends his free arm towards the spine of a book and slowly pulls it from its place. Much to his dismay, a small leather-bound book escapes from behind his selection and lands at his feet in a cloud of dust. Frustrated, Ryan lets the other books at his side fall to the floor and attempts to kick the small, black book out of his way, but he overestimates his own strength. He ends up flat on his back on the library floor and decides that it is time for a study break. Ryan sighs, rolls over to face the little leather book, and opens its yellow pages. On the first page he reads a formal, spidery handwritten title: "The Journal of the Very Unfortunate Edward Warren." Ryan is immediately intrigued.

An Unsettling Discovery

After flipping through quite a few odd stories in the small, black book, Ryan is perplexed. The book was written as if it was a journal, but he can't understand how one person could be so unfortunate. It seemed as if Edward Warren had been through almost every weird happenstance on campus one could imagine. With a mostly skeptical yet undeniably curious viewpoint, Ryan flips through the journal to read one more story near the end of the book.

Edward explains in his sprawled handwriting, "So there I was, sitting on the lawn studying for a test. Suddenly, I was bombarded with distractions: insects, sun, wind, and strange music coming from a fourth floor dorm window. Finally, when I was about fed up, a fearless squirrel teetered over and began sniffing at the tips of my shoes. I was taken back by this friendly wildlife display and very carefully set my book down to pick up my journal. However, the movement caused me knock down the brown paper bag containing my lunch. Before I had a chance to react, the squirrel had run up my leg, snatched my sandwich, and scurried away."



"Without much practical thought on the matter, I set off after the furry fiend. I followed the squirrel through the Administration building, up the flight of stairs, and right into the Chancellor's office where I stopped in horror. I watched the squirrel run up the Chancellor's arm and hop right into the top of the Chancellor's cranium, which opened like the hatch of a submarine! The hatch shut and the Chancellor spun around in his chair yelling at me to get out of his office. I ran out, the door immediately slammed behind me, and I paused only long enough to hear the Chancellor unwrap the sandwich and take a huge bite." Stunned at what he has just read, Ryan decides his study break is over, only to open the journal later on that night in his dorm room.

A Bigger Problem

Ryan reads page after page of hypotheses for Edward's discovery. Hallucinations...aliens... hyper-intelligent super-rodents bent on taking over the educational system one faculty member at a time? The possibilities were endless. Ryan reads on as Edward gathers the courage to bring the matter to the monthly faculty board meeting.

"The day of the meeting, I confidently dressed myself in my best suit, rehearsed my speech, and marched to the conference room with an iron resolve. When I arrived, I took a moment to gather myself, knocked on the door, and waited for a response. The din of voices inside quieted for a moment and I held my breath. However, after a few moments, the professors began talking once more. I was indignant. I decided that the matter was important enough that I would simply let myself into the meeting and apologize later.

I swung the door open and had to catch my breath. All of the teachers' heads were popped open just as the Chancellor's had been, and each had a mangy, diabolical-looking squirrel sitting at the helm. Thinking quickly, I slammed the door—just as they all turned their heads to assess my identity—and I ran as fast as I could."

Conclusion: Inconclusive

Ryan is now too engulfed in the story to question the validity of Edward's writing. He flips a few pages and skims for any hint of the squirrel conspiracy being solved, or at least some kind of closure on how Edward handled the situation.

What he finds is that Edward's obsession was growing. Edward continued to journal his thoughts on the matter including a wide array of possible explanations followed by plausible solutions. The last few pages consisted of Edward writing down every waking thought for fear of losing his sanity. Ryan skimmed quickly across the old, yellowed page about a research paper Edward was writing on the fabled *Inamabilis Sciurus Hirundinis*, or Leech Squirrel.

"I know that if I can find the book I am looking for, I can prove that this beast exists and free the campus from its tyranny. I am on the top floor of the library in the last row of books, and I know it is here."

Ryan gulps as he realizes that he is in the same exact spot Edward had been when he wrote those words.

"Aha! I have found it! Oh no...I am hearing what sounds like thousands of feet...thousands of tiny, terrible squirrel feet scurrying in the ceiling above me. They know. They know I am close to uncovering their schemes! I fear looking up, but I know I must."

The page was blank after that. Ryan frantically flips through the remainder of the pages, but there is nothing. Suddenly, he thinks he hears something in the ceiling above him. He holds his breath, fearing to look up at the ceiling, but knowing he must.



A bit of the ceiling falls onto the journal and Ryan throws the book across the room in a fright. Looking up, he sees nothing, but no longer feels safe tucked away in such an obscure part of the library. He gathers his books and quickly heads down to the lobby to check out.

The End?

Ryan taps his foot in agitation while waiting in line. Careful not to make eye contact with anyone, he moves to the front and lets his books thud onto the counter. The student worker slowly and methodically checks each book, enters Ryan's information into the computer, and spits out a due date in a slow, droning voice. Ryan checks over his shoulder several times during the process and gathers up his books when they are done being checked. Quietly thanking the student, Ryan catches the name tag of the student who checked out his books as he turns and heads for the door. He can almost feel his blood run cold as he recognizes the name: E. WARREN.

Moving as quickly as he can without drawing too much attention, Ryan practically sprints out of the library. Pausing for a moment on the front lawn, books in hand, he turns back to the building, questioning if he really saw what he thinks he saw. He spies a silhouette of the student who just checked out his books, and for a split second, it looks as if the top of his head is open... almost like the hatch of a submarine.



intentional christian community

STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES

a UW-Stout student organization
streetlevelministries.com

UW-Stout

What do you get when you mix a bunch of 20 somethings and students who are laid back in their approach but hardcore in their devotion to God?

A Christian organization on the UW-Stout campus that provides an opportunity to get to know God by studying and learning from His Word. We are a casual come-as-you-are people that live to love and serve one another. We are an intentional Christian community that meets on the UW-Stout campus every Monday night at 7pm.

Monday Nights:

Willow/Walnut Room, MSC



Who doesn't like a good video? Here we dig a little deeper into what the Bible says through various series about knowing Jesus and living a Christian life. Not sure what you believe? Have questions? Talk it out with other Street Level members in a group discussion.



Ever wondered how the Bible relates to men and women? We'll break up into guys and girls groups to search out answers and apply it to our walk with God.



Want to know what the Bible really says? We don't skip around. Dive in as Pastor Tom and other teachers take you through the Bible verse by verse without skipping the hard-hitting truth.



Are you Looking to plug into a community on campus? Laid back in our approach with a hard core devotion to God. Here there are opportunities to get involved with concerts, B-Movie night and retreats.

sonshine FESTIVAL

Every year, Street Level makes the trek to Willmar, MN for Sonshine Music Festival. We set up a mobile version of The Blind Munchies Coffeehouse and work alongside other vendors at this in-country mission trip.



BURNING DOG RADIO
101.7FM

Looking for a radio station that penetrates the walls of the university campus? Well look no further! Burning Dog Radio is a local college station that offers a variety of indie music from all over the world. Menomonie's only college radio station.

Tune in to 101.7FM

www.burningdogradio.com



Enjoy comfortable couches, free live concerts, and B-movie nights. While you're there, grab a coffee drink, fresh bakery, sandwiches, and hook up to the free Wi-Fi. Soak in the eclectic, antique atmosphere, enamel signs, and retro-nostalgic flair. A nonprofit, donation-based coffeehouse is operated entirely by volunteers where all proceeds fund missions projects overseas.

www.theblindmunchies.com

Word^{on}
the
Street

This is a Christian college magazine written, designed, and printed by members of Street Level on the UW-Stout and UW-Superior campuses. WOTS also prints a magazine in the Philippines, which is compiled by a crew on Cebu Island. Flip through to read about life, God, college, fiction, and much more.

www.readwots.com

Jesus Fellowship of Believers
an intentional christian community

Many of us attend church at Jesus Fellowship. We invite you to visit us before you decide you don't want to go to church. We will surprise you!

Services: Sundays at 10:30am,
Wednesdays at 7pm

www.jfbelievers.com



NEW MAJOR AT STOUT: CRIMINAL JUSTICE & REHABILITATION



What do CSI crime scene analysts and Stout students have in common? Well, nothing really. But a new major is crossing the crime scene tape and making its first appearance at Stout. The Criminal Justice and Rehabilitation program may not involve profiling serial killers or examining gritty evidence, but it does prepare you for many different types of positions within the field of criminal justice. Whether you decide to be a probation officer, a correctional treatment specialist, or a juvenile corrections officer, to name a few, you'll dig into why people do what they do and help them move in the right direction.

The criminal justice field is growing. Here's a stat for you: "According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of probation officers and correctional treatment specialists is expected to grow nationally by 18 percent from 2010 to 2020, about as fast as average for all occupations."¹ Whether that's good or bad news, you decide, but either way it means there's jobs.

Do you like to help others and work closely with people? This major may be for you. You'll get the scoop on operations in the field and get to be where the action is. But don't take our word for it; read more at www.uwstout.edu/programs/bscjr/ or contact Kyle Kleist at kleistk@uwstout.edu.

¹www.uwstout.edu/programs/bscjr/

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCES

Don't settle for silence. Sexual assault is real and serious. Know the facts now. Instead of an official sexual violence office, Stout has partnered with The Bridge to Hope to provide students with resources, protection, crisis intervention, and support groups. The Bridge to Hope is a local non-profit organization located at 1901 South Broadway, just past the football stadium. Bridge to Hope advocates come to campus to hold office hours each Tuesday from 11:30am-3:30pm in the Dean of Students' Office. They're here for you. Sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, stalking...they know it all.

You can make an appointment off campus at The Bridge by calling 715-232-1181.

All of their services are free and confidential. You are never alone; text 715-505-3640 anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

You can also visit the University Counseling Center on the fourth floor of Bowman Hall or access free resources on their website at www.uwstout.edu/counsel/sarv/index.cfm.

Get educated. Know what to do if it's you or a friend.





THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF STOUT FOOTBALL

Football games: an Americana icon. Often, they're branded by that guy right in front of you who brought his flat screen-sized poster or those girls next to you who took selfies the whole first half. Getting mixed signals about what to do at the game? We've got a few guidelines to clear up the muddled waters of college football.

Here is what you DO NOT want to do:

- Stuff snacks and soft drinks into your backpack. They will check them at the door, and that would just be embarrassing. Plus, your Cheetos from Kwik Trip would be ransacked and forever lost.
- Sit in the middle of the student section and cheer for the opposing team.
- Throw your nachos into the giant, white sousaphones in the band section. They may not be able to move after you quickly in rage, but what a waste of nachos...
- Get up and dance along to the cheerleading routine...or the dance team. There's a reason they are the ones out on the field.
- Harass Blaze, the Blue Devil mascot. He's much bigger than you are.

Here's what you should DO at your next Stout game:

- Bring your student ID. We're assuming you'd actually like to watch the game. Admission is free if you've got your credentials.
- Bring a blanket and/or cushion for your butt; those stone benches are merciless. It couldn't hurt to bring an extra for your unsuspecting friends.
- Wear Stout colors; a casual outfit could be mistaken for enemy propaganda. If you don't know Stout's colors, you're in the wrong place anyway.
- Get into school spirit: necklaces, face paint, pinwheels... if you're gonna go, go all in.
- Check the weather. Seriously, don't get caught in the rain/snow/sleet/typhoon. It's scientifically proven that football games are less enjoyable when your Converse are filled with water.



It doesn't matter if you're a rookie or seasoned fan; these guidelines will make anyone look good at the next game.

STOUT CAREERLINK

We've all had those ten hour days spent driving around in search of job openings, picking up stacks of applications. Wouldn't it be nice if you could find them all in one place?

Imagine a corkboard where employers post all their current job opportunities as they come up; you know the ones with those little tabs that you can pull off? That's what CareerLink does digitally; no more writer's cramp from paper applications. Almost every opportunity to be a student worker at Stout is listed on this site. Graduating? Don't worry, there's room for you too. Some employers post job opportunities for Stout graduates. So, if you're stressed out in the middle of your Senior Show and simultaneously applying for jobs after you graduate, this is the place to go.

Whether you are a student, alumni, faculty, or staff at Stout, you have access to this free resource. Just follow this link and find the tab that matches your current status:
www.uwstout.edu/careers/careerlink_menu.cfm.

Even if you're not looking for a job right this minute, you can still upload your resume and get hooked up in CareerLink for future reference. In the meantime, you can use it to search for employers that fit your interests and be alerted to full and part time positions on and off-campus.

STOUT CAREERLINK





WOTS staff from Philippines, Superior and Menomonie

**AV- Cebu City (Cebu Island, Philippines):
The Purpose**

When Word on the Street Philippines released its first issue in January 2013, it was a leap of faith. Life in the university is challenging. For some of us, it is the first time we leave home and live in the city on our own. It is an avenue to discover many new things about ourselves and the world around us. We are challenged not only in academics but in relationships and the decisions we make every single day. WOTS magazine wishes to bring something new to the campuses — a magazine that will not only cover difficult topics about life and college but also help us remember our identity in Jesus Christ.

WOTS Philippines is blessed by the partnership that we have with LifeBox. LifeBox is a nationwide campus organization that is passionate about preparing students for

LIFE (Leadership, Integrity, Faith and Excellence). They have been instrumental in helping us bring the magazine to campuses in Cebu.

When it is time to brainstorm for the new issue, the writers from all three campuses meet through Skype. Most of the time it is difficult to keep a good connection, but it's the closest that we can get to an actual meeting. Over the summer, some of the writers from Word on the Street Menomonie and Superior came to Cebu for the Shofar Music Festival (hosted by Street Level Ministries) and met the staff of WOTS Philippines. It was awesome to meet the writers from the other side of the world without time difference, static sound, slow motion videos, choppy lines and disconnection. We were in one place at the same time! It is wonderful how, despite the differences in our color, appearance and language, we have truly felt that we have one heart in reaching the readers of the magazine. And we must mention that we enjoyed our first group picture ever!

**Kelsey– UW-Superior (Wisconsin, USA):
The Plan**

Imagine standing on a street corner in a bustling city in the heart of the Philippines. Everyone that passes by stares at you, the beep-beep of honking

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horns muffles any type of conversation, and the smell of diesel exhaust and fried chicken overpower your senses. Sweat no longer absorbs into your soaked shirt as you go from business to business and person to person, inviting as many people as possible to a concert happening in a few short days.

Members of Word on the Street experienced exactly that in preparation for Shofar Music Festival, which was held on Saturday, May 31st, 2014. But, our prep didn't start there. Long before we even got on the plane there were bands and a venue to find all by international phone calls from the U.S. Also, there were banners and posters to design and print, not to mention numerous meetings about traveling and joining a new culture. A lot of prayer was in the mix as well, because we were fully aware we couldn't take on such an endeavor on our own. If God wasn't involved, what was the point?

That Saturday we loaded up our equipment and drove down from the mountain to the Elizabeth Mall. There, we met the Philippines WOTS staff as well as the three bands that would be performing—Sheep, Jericho March, and Frontline. Between all of the hands that were involved setup happened rather quickly, and before long we had a crowd head-banging and dancing to the music. Concert-goers came from all over the island to attend. Through technology, word of mouth, and a ton of posters, our advertising surely paid off. We've hosted concerts in the U.S. and the Philippines before, but we never stop wondering if anyone will show up. Thankfully, we had a pretty great turnout with over fifty people signing up to know more about Word on the Street. New faces showed up as well as familiar ones. We were able to reconnect with a lot of people we knew from neighboring churches, college groups and youth groups.

Ultimately, we wanted to use the concert as a way to promote WOTS in the Philippines. We gave away quite a few issues as proof. Also, it was an incredible opportunity to make known our global ministry by having staff members from all three issue locations present. Our mission and purpose was made that much more real by standing shoulder-to-shoulder with those we've only previously seen through Skype. More importantly, the concert was an incredible opportunity for people from all over the world to come together and worship Jesus. Through all of our work, the music, and the people, His name was proclaimed.

Claire— UW-Stout (Wisconsin, USA): The Perspective

Standing in the large, cool auditorium, I had a hard time imagining what it was going to be like filled with lights, music, and a crowd of dancing Filipinos. It's a weird feeling that comes with planning all events;

that little bit of doubt and massive cloud of excitement that flutters all around in the pit of your stomach right before everything takes off. We were to a point where the calls had been made, posters had been passed out, and the schedule was planned to the best of our ability. The only thing left was to wait, pray, and trust that God had it totally under control.

The next day we wheeled in amps, tables, piles of WOTS magazines, and all our sound gear out of the wet, Cebu City heat and into our venue to kick months of planning into action. Sitting in the still-empty seats of dark auditorium, I prepared what I was going to say from stage about Street Level Ministries, and had an opportunity to watch things come together. I looked down, scribbled a few lines, looked up, and drums had popped up. Looking down again, I read what I had written, wrote some more, looked up, and lights were filling the stage with color and shapes. Things proceeded this way until the stage was set, the Word on the Street table was assembled, signs were up, and we were ready to go. A few of us left to grab a quick lunch before everything began. We came back to an auditorium blasting with sound, Filipinos filing in, and a music festival in full swing.

After the first band, AV talked about Word on the Street magazine from stage, and I went up to explain what Street Level was, where we had come from, and why we were in the Philippines. As I looked out into the auditorium, it was a huge blessing to see rows of faces filling the space, listening to what was being said and waiting for the next band to take the stage. The day continued with a second rock band, a speaker, a short video, tons of issues of WOTS being distributed among the festival-goers, and a final band that left the audience thrashing and rocking out to the glory of God. After the final performance, us Americans got to mingle among the Filipinos, talking about the bands, finding endless similarities between us, and making a lot of new friends. In the end, Shofar Music Fest was a challenge, a dream and a blessing that God totally used to shape each of us involved and to continue to spread the Good News in the Philippines. It is my hope to see it become a tradition that more people are able to be a part of!

Susie— UW-Stout (Wisconsin, USA): The Performance

They came. They rocked. They worshipped God. A lot of times when you go to a concert you leave it behind forever once the last shout of 'encore' is over and the guitars get unplugged. But that's the difference between musicians who are there to get a drop of pleasure out of one good night, and those who are there to give back to an audience that's willing to respond. The guys who played at the first

annual Shofar Music Festival were composed of the latter type. They're pretty rare – the ones who set aside thoughts of fame and notoriety and instead stretch their vocals and gain calluses on their hands for a cause that's beyond them.

Sheep-

The first band, Sheep, opened the Festival with a wide array of hardcore songs that included their own compositions as well as covers by familiar American Christian bands. From my vantage point on the side of the movie theater-style seating, these guys were clearly rocking, and the audience was evidently enjoying it; but something was different. When I asked them afterwards about it, they said that whenever they play and whoever they're with, they want to get the message across to their audience to "Try God." So we hadn't just been listening to some good, live music, we had been worshipping God together.

Jericho March-

Jericho March, which began from a cell group of guys who played on the worship team at their local church, stormed the stage next. Their steely sound and driving bass beat made it impossible to sit still, and a group of dancers quickly formed in queue at the front. Later on after their set was over, they told me that the opportunity they have to play together, worship Jesus and use their music to minister to different audiences has been an extremely humbling, awesome experience. It isn't their desire to just impress people and sound good. Their goal is to leave their audience knowing they can believe God at His word. And I think they did it that day. There wasn't a soul in that room who couldn't at least acknowledge that these guys had passion for something (someone) beyond themselves. Check out the YouTube video for their song, *Thinking How Much* to get a taste of what they brought us on that stage.

Frontline-

The closing band, Frontline, fueled the impact of the message. They sang hard, lifted up His name, and just about everybody stood up and worshipped. The energy of the room jumped at the strum of the first chord. They strive to leave their audience with the knowledge that you don't have to be religious to know God. "Jesus is not boring," stressed guitarist, Nathan Gajudo, when he described their band's motive afterwards. It was clear that these guys have both a passion for rock music and a clear call to raise up a new generation for God.

Lordwin, Guest Speaker-

Lordwin of Lifebox Ministries was the guest speaker for the festival. Wearing a green polo shirt and a pair of jeans, he easily blended in with the audience that was made up of teens and 20-somethings. He spoke directly to the young generation before him by calling them to stand their ground in a world choking on selfishness. Everyone in the audience was silent at this point, listening raptly, maybe feeling guilty?

The eternal longings we have inside can only be satisfied by eternity. It's not temporal things. It's not money. It's not sex. It's not drugs. Or any form of created thing. It's only the Creator of all things...Young people, we need to stand up now. It's not going to be tomorrow, it's going to be now. As a follower of Christ, we've got to say, 'What He (Jesus) said is true. What He (Jesus) said is right.'

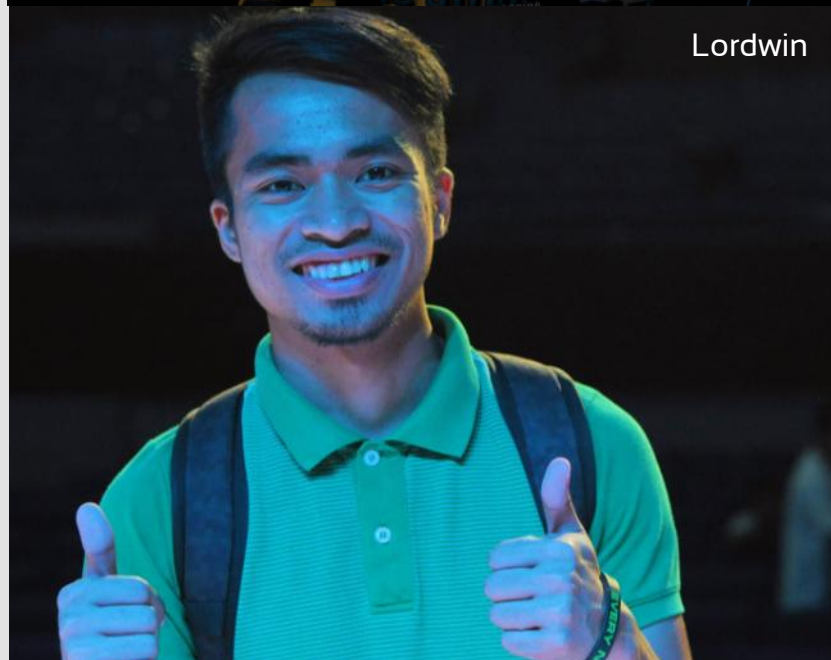
He was calling us to arms. At the end of his teaching, he prayed for those in the audience who had raised their hands to join the cause and to know the One who was worth everything. He had reminded us of the reason we were all there – the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords had willingly set aside all of Himself to serve and walk among us 2,000 years ago. The fact that He died in our place and rose again is no mere sentiment but the very pulse for the reason we can now be alive. How could your



Frontline



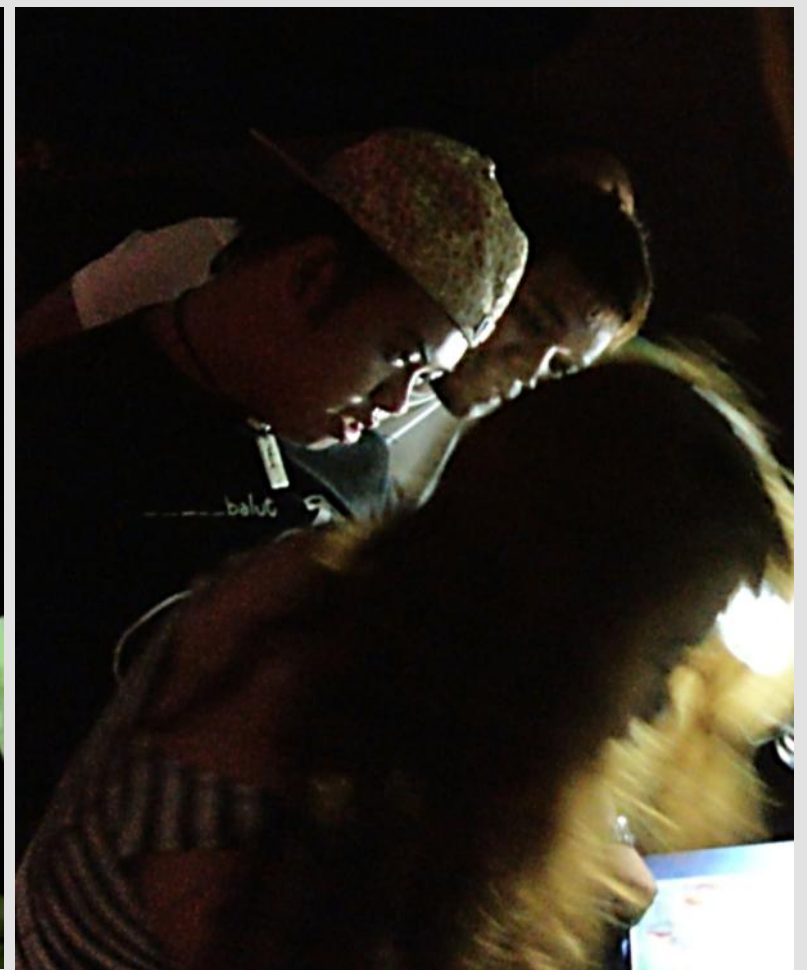
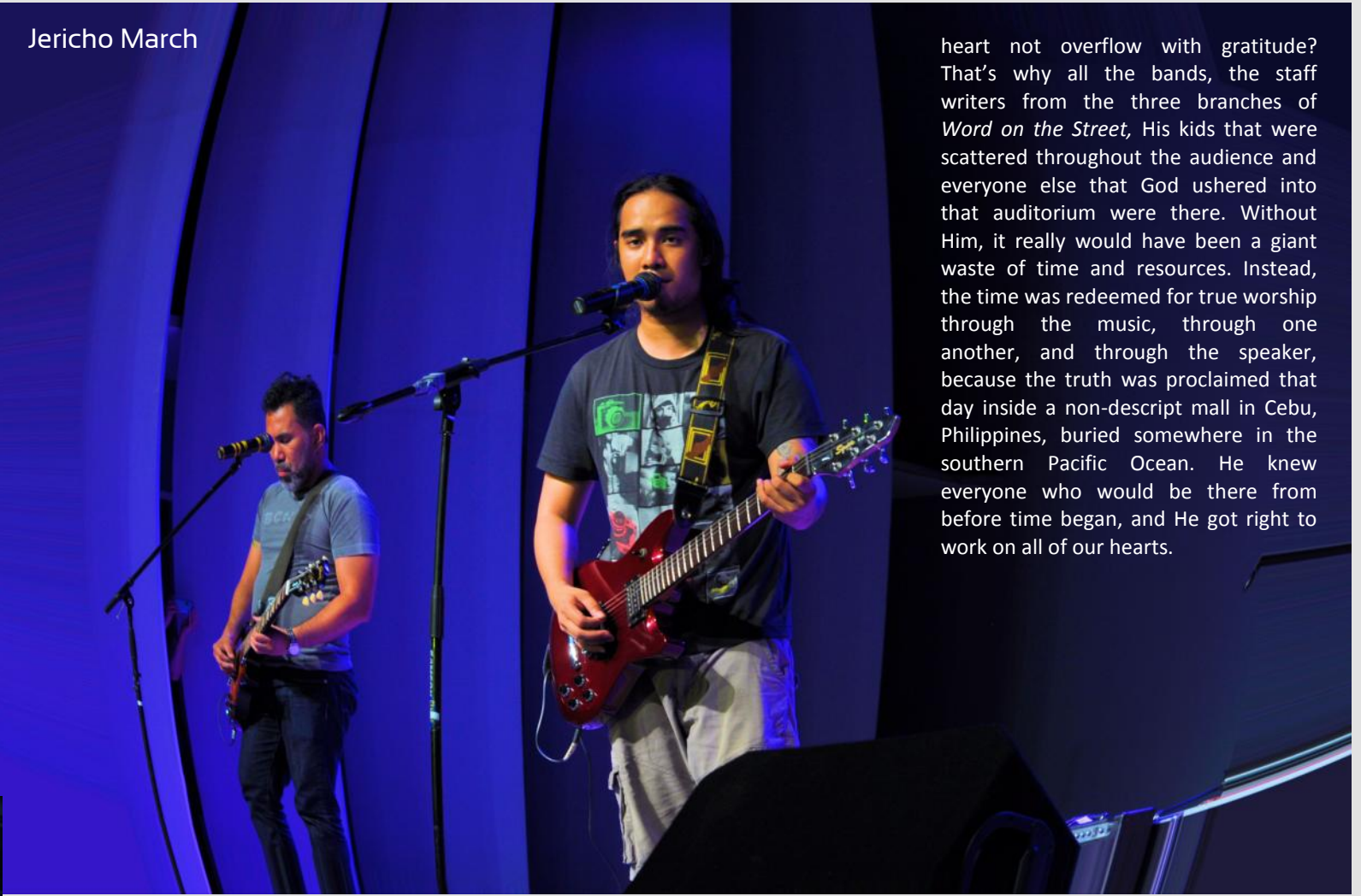
Sheep



Lordwin

Jericho March

heart not overflow with gratitude? That's why all the bands, the staff writers from the three branches of *Word on the Street*, His kids that were scattered throughout the audience and everyone else that God ushered into that auditorium were there. Without Him, it really would have been a giant waste of time and resources. Instead, the time was redeemed for true worship through the music, through one another, and through the speaker, because the truth was proclaimed that day inside a non-descript mall in Cebu, Philippines, buried somewhere in the southern Pacific Ocean. He knew everyone who would be there from before time began, and He got right to work on all of our hearts.





ONE GIRL'S TRUE STORY

It didn't seem to make any sense. I had everything I could ever want. My parents worked hard for the life they had given me. The guilt of my ingratitude ate me away because I didn't know why I wasn't happy.

College rolled around and since 'Christianity' wasn't giving me what I thought I deserved, I decided I wanted no part of it. I didn't want to be the church mouse anymore. I was ready for "the college experience" and was secretly thrilled to be on my own, making my own decisions. I came to Stout with church still a part of who I was, but I didn't feel as though I needed God because I thought my life was going in the right direction with or without Him. From then on out, I was going to create the life I wanted, with no restraints on what I could or couldn't do. Thankfully, God didn't let me wander too far. The night I moved into my dorm freshman year, campus was buzzing on the walk back from Blue-Rah, Stout's pep-rally for all of the freshmen. My roommate and I were joking around with some girls we had met on our floor when I noticed a pair

emptiness inside. He revealed sins I tried to justify to myself, or never knew existed in the first place. I became aware of how wicked my heart truly is. The thoughts I have sometimes, admittedly, are splattered with impurity, jealousy, discontentment, and genuine malice. The pride that kept me from accepting Jesus in the first place is still as real as it ever was. In those vulnerable times of conviction and repentance, I began to understand the reality and power of what Christ did for me, something I had never understood despite my presence in my church back home. I've realized that no thought of mine is evil enough to undo what Christ did on the cross. I've learned about what it means to be a faithful member of a Christian community and a diligent servant for God and man alike. And just now, as I'm writing this, I have realized that God was with me the whole time, leading me to and preparing me for the moment I would truly let Him have control over my life. I understand now that the reason 'Christianity' wasn't working for me before was because I didn't see the sin

You know what's got to be one of the hardest things in the world to do? Admit to yourself that you have a problem. That, in and of itself, was my problem. Growing up in the Lutheran church, I was heavily involved in every kind of church activity one could imagine. Sunday School teacher, Junior Catechism mentor, Senior Tribal leader in my youth group, Vacation Bible School leader, the whole works. I had been on two mission trips and was always encouraging others to do the same. By the world's standards, you could say I was a fairly good person. I didn't drink, do drugs, or sleep around. My 4.0 GPA and near perfect church attendance were the badges of honor I wore on my sleeve. My parents are still happily married in a world that has made this a precious rarity, and I lived in a beautiful, new home on a cul-de-sac in the suburbs. From the outside, my life was as perfect as a life could get.

On the inside, the pressures of being a teenage girl gained far too much control of my mind. Was I thin enough? Smart enough? Confident enough? I answered 'no' to all of these questions, which spiraled into a severe bout of depression. I asked myself the same questions many others ask themselves late at night. Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? Is there more to the world than the small walls of high school? I sure hoped so because somehow, in the midst of my fairytale life, it didn't seem good enough.

SOMEHOW, IN THE MIDST OF MY FAIRYTALE LIFE, IT DIDN'T SEEM GOOD ENOUGH.

of bare feet walking a few steps ahead of me. Curious, I whispered to my roommate, asking what her guess was for why he was doing it. Before I knew it, my roommate had pushed me forward and I was walking next to him. We got to talking and a few days later, I found out he was a Christian. Coincidence? I refuse to believe it.

Since that day, my life has been a rollercoaster of sorrows and smiles. After that moment, I slowly opened up to the idea that running from God is simply not an option. He will always find us because He loves us and longs to be in a relationship with us. I got involved with Street Level Ministries and Jesus Fellowship, and have been accepted with open arms into that family. God opened my eyes to show me that living for myself and for the fleeting pleasures of the world will bring nothing but

inside me. I now know that being a Christian is not just being a good person. It's about recognizing and turning from your sinful nature, and living to glorify the only One who can save you from it.

Today, I *know* why I go to church on Sunday mornings. I *know* why I say I'm a Christian. It's because I have chosen to believe in God and the promises He makes in His Word. It's because I am overjoyed that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is alive in me, molding me into something entirely new for His glory.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

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NICK the HICK



Fat Free and Stuff

Disclaimer: I will not assume responsibility for any massive weight gain or health conditions that arise after you read this article. We all saw it. Ya take the misses out for a romantic Friday night fish fried sandwich at the local Mac and Dons and in your blurred line of sight stands Marlie... again. Now this would not be a dill-emma and maybe in the grand scheme of things aint but for the 9th Friday in a row Marlie gets a double quarter pounder and a large Diet Coke. You see my point, ole Marie tells me she likes the taste of Diet Coke. I am pretty sure if you like the taste of Diet Coke you have been abducted and brain washed by some outside source. Could be Sasquatch, could be Aliens, maybe its Al Gore. Unless you purposely would like to not enjoy nothing' in life. At any rate I put on my shopping bibs, the ones with only 3 coon blood stains, grabbed a quarter for the

shopping cart and headed to Aldi, or All-Die, or A-Ladi, or however them Germanians say it. I made it to one of my favorite sections. The puddin section. I was dumb founded to find that 75 percent of the puddin was fat free. Now what in the Sam Hill? Who in the worl' wants fat free pudding? Is it just me or are people getting crazier. If im having a pudding, its going to taste great, dang it. Not like you took a Cliff Bar stuck it in the blender, added a gallon of water, and made it liquefy. Anyway I got to get back to my research on how to shed the winter weight. Think maybe I should start with a diet Oatmeal Cream Pie, or maybe a diet milk, or heck maybe I will drink a twelve pack of slim fast. The more you drink the faster it melts.

SEPTEMBER

- 1[mon]:** Labor Day, no classes
- 3[wed]:** Meet Menomonie, UW-Stout
MPR, Johnson Fieldhouse 5-6:30pm
/First day of classes
- 7[sun]:** Women's Soccer vs. College of St. Benedict, 1pm
- 11[thurs]:** Comic Collective: The Hundredth Monkey on Main Street, 6-8pm
- 11,12[thurs + fri]:** Menomonie's Great Community Cookout and Tailgating party, Main Street, 4-8pm
- 13[sat]:** Women's Tennis vs. UW-Eau Claire, 9:30am
*/Football vs. Loras College, 2pm
/Women's Tennis vs. College of St. Benedict, 3:30pm*
- 19[fri]:** Madison Ballet Performance, Mabel Tainter, 7:30-9pm
- 19,20[fri + sat]:** Punky Manor Race, Red Cedar Speedway, 7-10:30pm
- 20[sat]:** Women's Soccer vs. UW-Platteville, TBA
- 23[tues]:** Women's Tennis vs. Bethel University, 3:30pm
- 26[fri]:** Women's Volleyball vs. UW-Platteville, 7pm

OCTOBER

- 1[wed]:** Women's Volleyball vs. UW-River Falls, 7pm
/Women's Soccer vs. UW-River Falls, 7pm
- 4[sat]:** Women's Soccer vs. UW-Lacrosse, TBA
/Women's Tennis vs. UW-Oshkosh, 3pm
- 7[tues]:** Women's Volleyball vs. College of St. Scholastica, 7pm
- 8[wed]:** Women's Soccer vs. Hamline University, 7pm
- 11[sat]:** Women's Soccer vs. UW-Superior, 2pm
*/Football vs. UW-Whitewater (Homecoming), 2pm
/Blue Devil Run/Walk 3rs St. East, 7:30am*
- 15[wed]:** Women's Volleyball vs. UW-Superior, 7pm
- 18[sat]:** Women's Tennis vs. UW-Whitewater, 7pm
- 20[sun]:** Homecoming Golf Scramble, Golf and Country Club, 10am
- 22[wed]:** Women's Soccer vs. Gustavus Adolphus College, 7pm
/Advisement day, no classes
- 25[sat]:** Football vs. UW-Platteville (Hall of Fame Game), 2pm
- 31[fri]:** Women's Volleyball vs. UW-La Crosse, 7pm

DON ' T MISS THESE

Street Level Bible Study
Mondays 7pm
Willow/Walnut, MSC

Restoration Ministries
Thursdays 7pm
*Blind Munchies Coffeehouse
621 Wilson Ave*

Jesus Fellowship of Believers Church
Sundays 10:30am
Wednesdays 7pm
*621 Wilson Ave
Menomonie, WI*

Real Breakfast
Saturday Morning, 9am-12pm
Lunch at 11:00am
*Blind Munchies Coffeehouse
621 Wilson Ave
Menomonie, WI
(\$2 with Student ID, \$3 without)*

OR THESE...

Street Level's Free Block Party
Sat, September 6th, 2-10pm
*Live Music, No Cover
Johnson Fieldhouse North Lawn*

Street Level Retreat
Fri-Sat, October 4-5th
*New members go for free!
For more information, go to
streetlevelministries.com*



SUNDAY SERVICES: 10:30am & WEDNESDAYS: 7:00pm • www.jfbelievers.com



Dance for Salvation

Dance...Dance....Dance.

Dancing for God is like dancing for Fame, but instead we dance for the glory of his name. We dance for approval of other people, as if we need to be accepted by them, when my God accepts me for my work whether I can reject or jerk. Praising him by dancing sounds silly you say, when it clearly says in the Bible to dance in your own special way. Doing this for God brings happiness and joy, stuff that'll make me feeling alive instead of feeling deprived of all I had to do and strive to get this far. The spins, the turns, the sweat, the burns, is all just ways to get to the top, but without God, I'm just a janitor with a mop. So praise him, praise him with what you got, praise him with your 1, 2, 3 that fill you up with glee and your 5, 6, 7, 8 even though you may be kinda late. God doesn't accept of what kind of dance we do or how we do it, only that it is true and legit.

My God is a great dancer as well.

He's mastered styles before, now, and then. He's been foot stomping, legs jerkin, body rocking, arms waving, hand tutting and head spinning before we even thought of it. Now looking at all of this tells me that when we dance we give God the glory to continue this story of how we traded Fame for the glory of God's name and to dance for salvation.

BURNING DOG RADIO

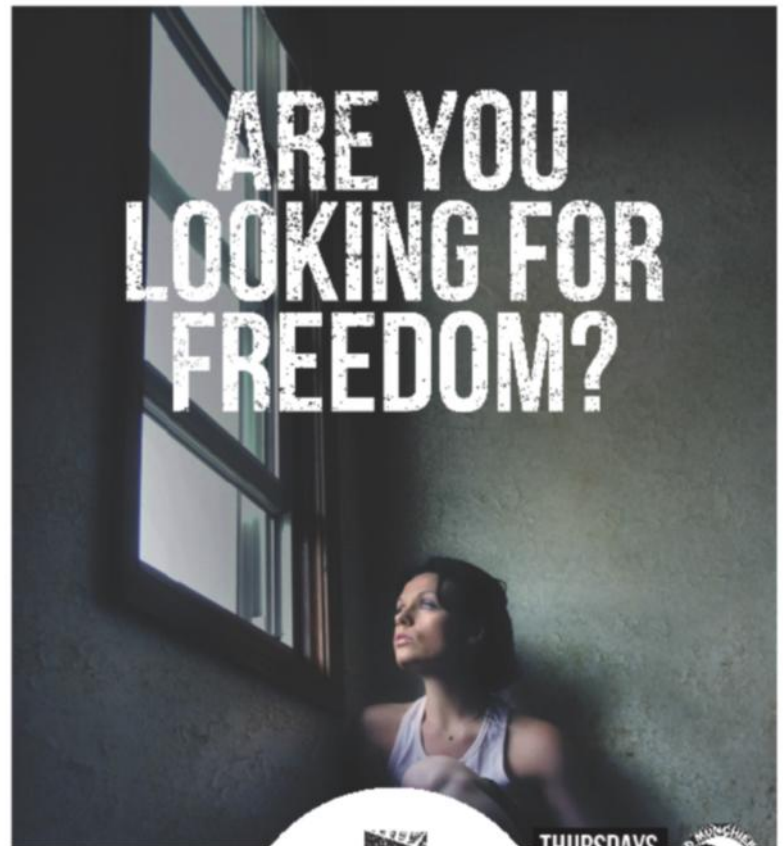
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from a lifestyle of
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and loneliness.



THURSDAYS
AT 7:00 PM



Attend a casual, come
as you are, open format
bible discussion. At the
Blind Munchies Coffeehouse
821 Wilson Avenue

STOP REINVENTING YOURSELF

ARE YOU PLANNING TO LOOK FOR THE 'NEW YOU' THIS YEAR AT COLLEGE? YOU MAY WANT TO READ THIS FIRST.

Fall classes have begun. It's a new year, a fresh start, and a good time to reinvent yourself. Some of us might be away from our parents for the first time. Some of us might be returning back to school, determined not to make the same bad run of decisions as last year. Maybe some of us are just happy to be away from the parents and want to strike out on our own. Whatever the case, college is often seen as the prime time to reinvent ourselves and experiment with the possibilities.

If you're approaching this year thinking, "I want to start over and reinvent myself," chances are you're looking for a good place to begin. You could Google it, and you would probably come up with various wikis, life-hacker articles, and blogs telling you they have the secrets (as long as you buy their book).

Before starting out on the quest to become the "new you", maybe it would be a good idea to first hash out what's wrong to begin with. Why do we constantly want a reinvented life? Is there something wrong with us that needs changing? Are we sick of the person we have become? Are we sick of the bad choices we inevitably make over and over?

Taking a look at who we are can help us understand why we want to change. After all, anyone who desires to change is clearly not satisfied with what's there. This desire to change hints at the fact that we know something is wrong — something deeper than our character flaws.

If who we are is summed up by where we go to school, our talents, our likes and dislikes, our looks, or our personality, then change is purely a matter of behavioral modification. This can lead to a long list of New Year's resolutions that fall flat by mid-February. We try to reinvent ourselves into who we *want* to be (skinnier, smarter, happier, more assertive), but we end up disappointing ourselves because there are deeper issues in our heart that keep creeping up and ruining our reinvention.

Perhaps it's time to consider that, as self-sufficient as our culture has hammered us into thinking we are, the power to change is not found within because we are helpless sinners. Instead, powerful change has to come from an outside source that doesn't have a tainted heart. The Bible says that only God is pure and He can bring lasting change into our lives. If we are willing to consider this option, we need to know what God has to say about it.

According to the Bible, there are two important things to know about who we are:

1. We are created in the image of God.

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." —Genesis 1:27

2. We have sinned against Him.

As a result, the world has been thrown into chaos. This is ultimately why our lives are so painful, why there is so much suffering and darkness.

What if everything we have ever done, said, or thought was on display for everyone to see? Would any of us *not* be ashamed? The Bible bluntly explains why we have those dirty little secrets, those nasty thoughts we don't want others to know about, those things we want to do but don't because we'd get caught, and ultimately why we desperately NEED change.

"No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one." —Romans 3:10-11 (NLT)

But God does not just leave us there and say, "There you are, now good luck with all that." No, there is hope because God is good. Jesus' death on the cross and His subsequent resurrection is something that changed the world (that's why we're still talking about it). It opened up rescue and liberation for us. The resurrection also unleashed the power of God that reverses death – the ultimate irreversible problem that needs change.

"Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous." —Romans 5:18-21 (NLT)

With Jesus, we have the promise of new life. When we put our faith in Jesus, God sends His Holy Spirit to live in us and give us a new start. God promises us that, in Christ, we become a new creation (not just changed, but transformed).

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!
—2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

Here is the deal; Jesus is the true catalyst of reinvention, not some surge of inner willpower or laundry list of good deeds and church attendance. No matter what we do on the outside, it will never change us on the inside. Whatever New Year's resolutions or life changes we make, without Jesus' love and power working inside us, we will always be the same person at our core.

"And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations." —Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NLT)

Trying to change by ourselves is a lot like trying to stick to a diet that only lasts a month because it is gross and all we want is a dang cheeseburger. It may have worked for awhile, but eventually we give up. That is not God's M.O. Following after God is like cooking a good-tasting, healthy meal that makes you realize you don't even want cheeseburgers anymore. God provides the food, we just have to take the time to make a meal of it. So come in and eat.



A LASTING TRANSFORMATION

The Munchies

STORE

in the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse
621 Wilson Ave, Menomonie



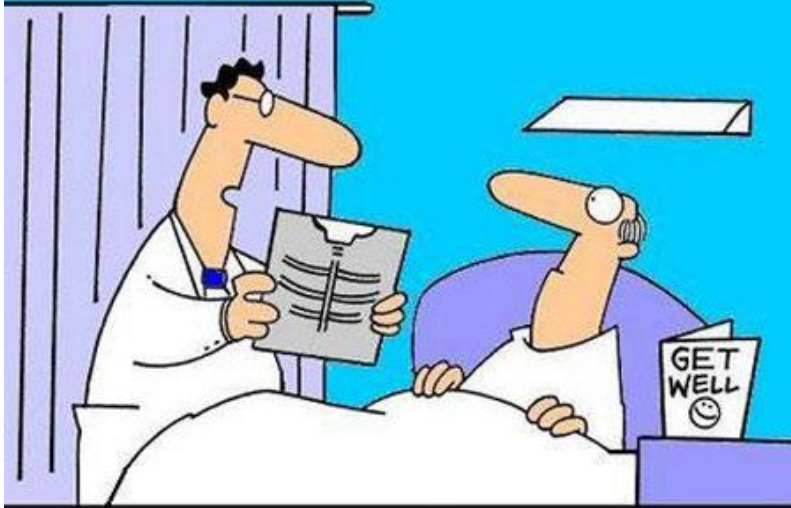
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INDIA & the PHILIPPINES



STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES
a UW-Stout Student Organization

WOTS That Now?



“Your x-ray showed a broken rib, but we fixed it with Photoshop.”

The internet is full of information and all of it is true! Okay, not so, but it can provide a gut-wrenching laugh or be a swell time sucker when you are looking for something to do on a rainy day. Our writing staff spent a dabble of time to look into some fake terms, mind-bending strange laws, and what some dead people said before they croaked. Here’s one joke to get you started: So why did the hipster burn his tongue on coffee? He drank it before it was cool.

Alternative Medical Terminology

“Doctor, where exactly did you get those heinous definitions from?”
“Well, son, they are fresh out of the alternative medical dictionary.”

Art-ery —The study of paintings

Mor-bid —A higher offer

En][e-ma —Not a friend

Fib-ula —A small lie

Ur-ine —Opposite of “You’re out!”

Nit-rates —Cheaper than day rates

State Laws?

“Officer, are you sure these are laws? Did you get your badge out of a Cracker Jack box?”

In Wisconsin, margarine may not be substituted for butter in restaurants unless it is requested by the customer

and livestock have the right-of-way on public roads.

In Sun Prairie, nuclear weapons may not be manufactured in the city limits.

One may not camp in a wagon on any public highway without risking a fine of up to ten dollars.

Famous Last Words

Now let’s honor the dead. Or at least hear what they had to say on their dying day.

“I want to die peacefully in my sleep like my grandfather. Not screaming in terror like his passengers.” —**Jim Harkins**

“I drank what?” —**Socrates**

“Go away... I’m alright.” —**H. G. Wells**

“...the fog is rising.” —**Emily Dickinson**

“Now comes the mystery.” —**Henry Ward Beecher**

“They couldn’t hit an elephant at this dist...” —**General Sedgwick** (Killed at the Spotsylvania battle 1864, imprudently looking over the parapet at the enemy lines)

“I see earth receding; heaven is opening. God is calling me.” —**D.L. Moody**

“Into Thy hands I commend my spirit! Thou hast redeemed me, O God of truth.”

—**Martin Luther**

Did you feel that? It’s the feeling of you getting a hair smarter, but it was only a hair.

HOW TO GET A FREE BIBLE

--- Tear out this flyer and fill out.



Get an envelope.



Find a stamp.



Place in snail mail.



Retrieve your new Bible (boo-ya).

PLEASE MAIL HERE

Street Level Ministries
621 Wilson Ave
Menomonie, WI 54751

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

Yes, send me a Bible.

Yes, send me the online link to new “WOTS” issues when they’re released.

Picture Sources:

Stop Reinventing Yourself, start sign:

miraclesarebrewing.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/stop-sign.jpg

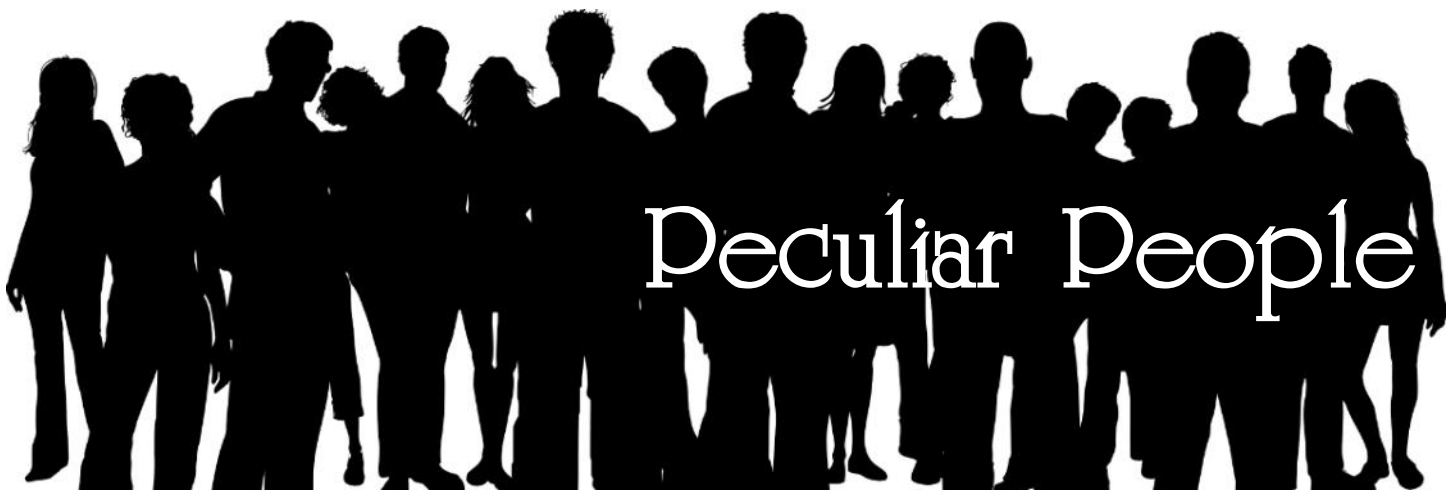
Wots that Now:

nerdnirvana.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/58801.jpg

themetapicture.com

Peculiar People:

abitofgeek.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/crowd.jpg



Peculiar People

Have you ever wished you could be part of a community that lasts forever? How about a place where relationships go deeper than Facebook, pizza, and parties? Do you long to be a part of a genuine community of friends? A relationship with Jesus Christ is essential in order to have those deep relationships with other people. The Gospel says that God accepts you in Jesus, so you don't have to prove yourself to people, and yet it also says that God calls us to love each other in a way that will lead to true and lasting relationships. Peculiar people — not perfect people — are what you will discover in a true, biblical church. We have been threaded together by our salvation in Jesus Christ. Community isn't the answer, the Gospel is. Let's dive into what a Christian community looks like with people devoted to God and to each other.

Who?

Anyone who has been born again is able to be part of a Christian community. Being born again is the result of coming to know Jesus Christ, accepting His death on the cross as the payment for your sins, and handing your life over to Him for keeps. When that happens, you are given a new life with God and His people, people you might not normally be friends with, I.E. the straight-A student body president along side a tree-hugging hipster. You become one of God's kids forever. The Bible talks about this rebirth in John chapter 3 and 1 Peter chapter 1.

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9

This group of newly-born Christians makes up the universal church. We are an intergenerational bunch that bridges culture, socioeconomic status, and language. Although we have different talents, backgrounds, strengths, and weaknesses, we still have the common thread of salvation through Jesus Christ. The local church also meets regularly to share life together. We are set apart to be God's hands and feet in this world.

What?

We gather locally to worship and thank God for the new life He has given us. But is that all church is, just raising our hands and singing songs? No, God wants to change us and use us. He has a purpose for each person in the church, something bigger planned than just a mediocre life. The local church learns and studies the Bible together, helps each other grow and mature, tells others about the Good News that Jesus Christ offers, and



“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25

reaches out to meet the needs of the surrounding community and is on a mission to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Where?

Christians can be found in many different places throughout the world gathering as a community. We live in a country where we can go to church and worship God freely and it seems like there is a church around every corner. But not every church is a true community that follows the Bible. Before you consider stepping foot in the door, check out their website and see if what they believe matches the Bible. Once you do go to a church, find a place where people are invested in one another's lives where people notice if you're gone and care enough to call you out. Find a place where you can get involved and be challenged; a church that isn't just a building but a true community.

When?

In our day and age, we look for things that are less formal where we can find God. However, a true Christian community should have structured meeting times. For example, Jesus Fellowship of Believers, the church that the writers of Word on the Street go to, meets regularly on Sundays at 10:30am and Wednesdays at 7pm. Outside of those regular meeting times, a

community could and should meet to weave even stronger bonds together. JFB has smaller groups, such as Street Level Ministries that meets on Monday nights, where you can connect and make friends with people your same age. While this is great, it cannot replace church. There is so much to learn from the grandpa that writes letters to inmates in jail and always has a smile on his face. There is so much to learn from a mother who still loves to dance and makes time to meet for coffee. There is so much to learn from a married couple who love each other even after 30 years. Campus groups are great, but don't let that replace the community of a whole church.

Why?

God has made us to be in a community. He Himself is in community all the time since God is three in one: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, also known as the Trinity.¹ God put it in our hearts to be a part of other people's lives, even though it is messy and it hurts at times. We look for it in the world but are never truly satisfied. There is something missing. When believers meet, they are united by God's Spirit, and there is a connection that goes deeper than even the bonds of family.

How?

Search for and plug into a church that teaches the TRUTH and where there are opportunities for you to grow closer to God and your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. For example, Jesus Fellowship of Believers is a verse-by-verse, Bible-based church with people who daily seek to love and serve Jesus. More information can be found at www.jfbelievers.com. However, we are not the only ones. More Bible-based churches are out there; find one, plant roots and let yourself be threaded to others.

Community isn't the answer, the Gospel is. However, community will be a by-product of one's love for Jesus Christ. God desires to have a deep relationship with us. When we respond to Him, this causes us to have deep relationships with other Christians. God chooses to work through biblical churches to be His hands and feet in the world, giving glory to God because of the love that His people have for one another. The relationships built between Christians and the work done together for God, goes on into eternity. Do you want to be a part of something that lasts forever? It can start now.

¹Genesis 1:26

“Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are.” John 17:11



Do college with a right perspective

BIBLICALLY • MISSIONALLY • RADICALLY

Street Level Ministries at UW-Stout
an Intentional Christian Community




MONDAY NIGHTS • 7:00PM
WILLOW/WALNUT ROOM
UW-Stout MSC
Org Meeting - Bible Study

All are Welcome

New students come to our fall retreat for FREE! Email us Today!

intentional christian community

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