

Word on the Street



WHEN TOLERANCE IS INTOLERANT
PG. 12



WORD ON THE STREET MAGAZINE (WOTS) is a UW-Stout affiliated publication released twice per semester that 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.



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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 provocative, while encouraging you to pursue a strong relationship with Jesus.

MEET THE WOTS STAFF: from three cities and 2 countries

UW-STOUT, Menomonie, WI

UW-Superior, Superior, WI

Cebu City, Philippines



TOLERANCE OR INTOLERANCE?



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5 ATHLETES YOU DIDN'T KNOW WERE CHRISTIANS

Word on the Street, a branch of Street Level Ministries, wants to know what interests our readers. So when Street Level hosted their annual Block Party at the beginning of the semester, we did a poll asking students what they'd like to read about in the magazine. Thank you to everyone that participated! We chose one article, but all of your votes and suggestions will be considered in upcoming issues. The topic chosen is "Jesus in athletics". Here are links and a short description of five athletes you may not have known were Christians. Type in the direct links below or go online to www.iamsecond.com and search for these athletes to hear their testimonies. Being a Christian is a way of life, not just a belief. God, if you let Him, can permeate everything you do. Being an athlete can be a way to shine for God using what you are passionate about. Listen to these guys tell about how they came to know God and the influence He has in the ring, on the field, on the ice and in the end-zone.

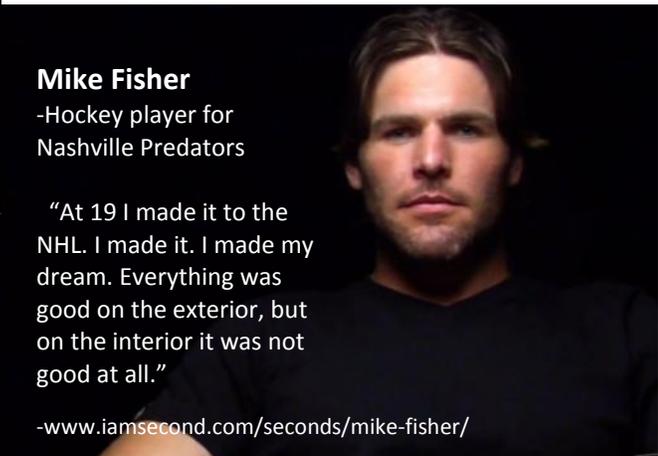


Josh Hamilton

-Outfielder for Cincinnati Reds

"The next night I asked God; I said I need help. I've been trying to do this so long that I can't do it anymore. I can't try anymore because I fail on my own. You do with me what you want to do with me. I surrender."

-www.iamsecond.com/seconds/josh-hamilton/



Mike Fisher

-Hockey player for Nashville Predators

"At 19 I made it to the NHL. I made it. I made my dream. Everything was good on the exterior, but on the interior it was not good at all."

-www.iamsecond.com/seconds/mike-fisher/

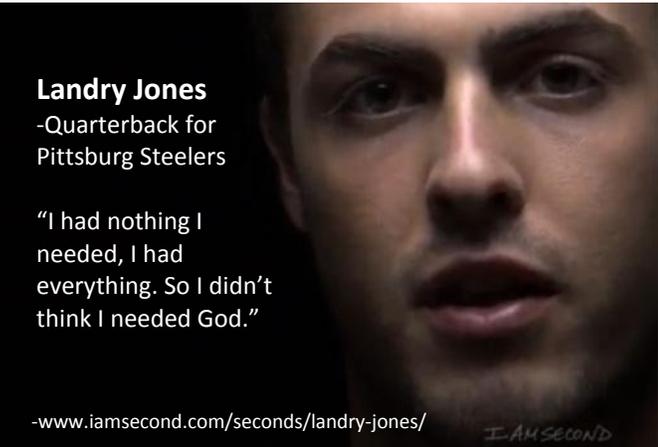


Clayton Kershaw

-Pitcher for L.A. Dodgers

"When I kind of relinquished control of my life was the day I got drafted. That was life changing...It is just an amazing providence God had in my life. God was there the whole time I just didn't bother to look."

-www.iamsecond.com/seconds/clayton-kershaw/

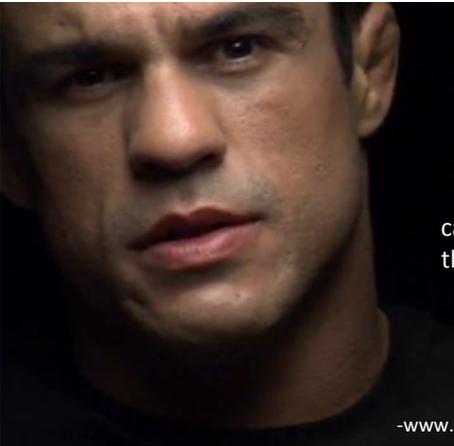


Landry Jones

-Quarterback for Pittsburgh Steelers

"I had nothing I needed, I had everything. So I didn't think I needed God."

-www.iamsecond.com/seconds/landry-jones/



Vitor Belfort

-MMA Fighter in Ultimate Fighting

"A lot of people say man, how can you serve God when you are there, you are punching, you are kicking someone? What about hockey or American football? Everyone is a fighter."

-www.iamsecond.com/seconds/vitor-belfort/



Student Trapped for 120 Hours in Art Building

21-year old junior Fine Arts student Michael Lindeman was reported to have been stuck in the cement-encased Fine Arts building for nearly five days as he worked on a fast-approaching deadline.

“At first it wasn’t so bad,” said Lindeman. “I was focused, and this 4x3 painting wasn’t going to paint itself. I stocked up on some vending machine snackage and went into the first all-nighter with ease.”

After spending the next few days within the dreary 70s walls, under fluorescent lights, Lindeman had begun to show signs of wear and tear. With baggy and bloodshot eyes Lindeman walked into class proud of his accomplishment and ready for feedback. But that fateful class critique proved to be too much, setting his mind into a frenzy with only a mere three days before his painting was due.

“All I told him was the truth; his piece was conceptually weak,” said Professor Finn Broadby, one of the art directors at the school. “Constructive criticism, right?”

Witnesses say that this is when Lindeman got serious. Tracy Mallone, a Graphic Design major, reported sighting a very frazzled Lindeman shortly after the critique with a paintbrush in hand.

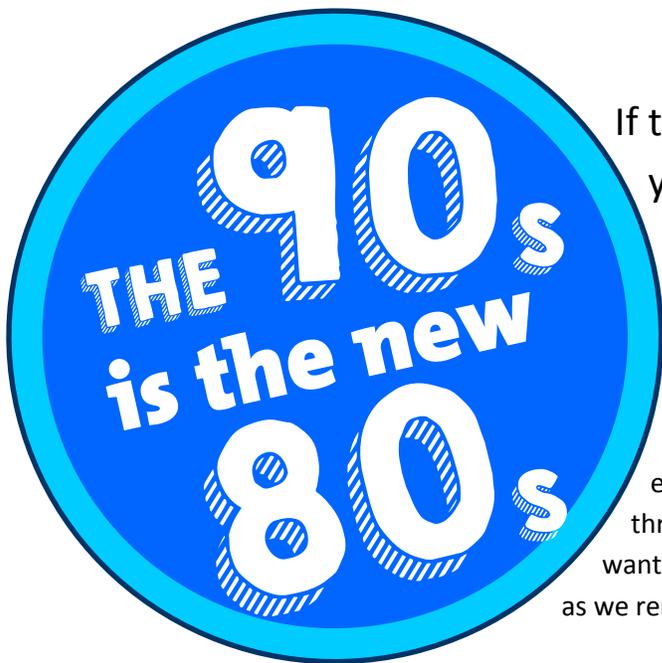


“It was horrifying,” said Lindeman. “I hadn’t left that building in at least four days, and it was closing in on day five.”

“By this point there was nothing left, I had feverishly painted with the last of my supplies. The only thing left to do was go out for a smoke.” Reportedly, his craving for nicotine raging, Lindeman tried fruitlessly to get the studio door open: the door to the room that was soon to become his cell.

“It was horrifying,” said Lindeman. “I hadn’t left that building in at least four days, and it was closing in on day five. I hadn’t slept, the pathetic snacks I had were long gone and, worse yet, I had to stare at that weak painting all those days.”

Eventually, a fellow student found Michael crunched up next to his easel and informed him that the reason for his entrapment was only because he kept pushing a door handle clearly marked “pull”.



If time proves anything, it has certainly shown that you can't keep a good decade down. Welcome back, 90s, you've been missed.

If you've recently sang at the top of your lungs when "MmmBop" resurrected from the dead on the radio, or if you've found yourself especially drawn to flannel as of late, you'll know that the 90s is quickly sending the 80s out the door. Perhaps you've caught a few episodes of *Boy Meets World* or *Saved by the Bell* while flipping through channels, or maybe you remember hugging a Beanie Baby and wanting to collect 'em all. Take a trip back to your early childhood with us as we remember some of the greatest gifts the 90s gave us.

ITEMS YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

Beanie Babies were the best animal friends a kid ever had. If you loved them as much as they loved you, you had a heart-shaped protector case on the tag and kept them safely on a shelf. Ignore your parents' opinions and keep your dust-covered collection—they'll be valuable one day. Really.

Best friend necklaces flew off the shelves at Claire's and Icing in the 90s. The most popular design was the heart with the jagged line down the middle. What a predicament it was to be the third friend. Thankfully, the "forever" portion of the necklaces was eventually released, saving countless friendships.

Oregon Trail is possibly the only game that made getting dysentery, cholera, and the measles not only fun but thrilling. We didn't know much back then, but we knew how to virtually hunt bear, bison, rabbits, and squirrels better than anybody. Step aside, Minecraft. The 90s did pixelated graphics before you were born.

Gum of all varieties was a must-have during the 90s, each kind having its own unique feature.

Fruit Stripes gave you a free tattoo, Big League Chew made you feel like a baseball player, and HubbaBubba allowed you to blow a bubble that you were still peeling off your nose a few days later. Your dentist is hoping that golf-ball-sized wads of gum will be the last 90s trend to make a comeback.



SONGS YOU CAN'T STOP SINGING

The fellas from One Direction owe a profuse "thank you" to the boy bands birthed out of the 90s. The catchy hooks crooned by *NSYNC or the Backstreet Boys will never leave your memory, whether you like it or not. Some classics are "Bye, Bye, Bye," "Tearin' Up My Heart," "I Want it that Way," and "Quit Playin' Games with My Heart". Go ahead, look them up if you need a refresher. My sincerest apology for the days of humming that will follow.

"Wonderwall", by Oasis, fit every occasion that found you in a soul-crushing depression—from minor breakups to failed projects to the popular kids not wanting to sit with you at lunch. It lifts you up and reassures you that someone out there will rescue you out of your melancholy state. Have you thanked that special person in your life for being your wonderwall?

Creed's smash hit "Higher" was the anthem to end all anthems. Scott Stapp belted out the infamous question "Can you take me higher?" and followed up with such contemplative statements as "where blind men see". The next time you're out for karaoke, you'd better pick this great tune.

"No Scrubs" by TLC was, and still is, the go-to song for independent women who don't give their love to just anybody. (And those women that are sick of the "Single Ladies" song by Beyonce.) This song classified a new type of guy to stay far away from. A "scrub", according to the hit, has no car, still lives with his mom, takes advantage of women, and has no money. Thanks TLC, for the warning.

"Jump Around" by House of Pain is the one-hit wonder to top all one-hit wonders. Even if you're quietly studying in the library, this song will make you move in your seat regardless of the strange looks you get. We can appreciate this song second hand because we were too young to dance to it in the clubs back in the early 90s.

MUST-SEE MOVIES

Robin Williams will be remembered as a legend, particularly for the numerous 90s films that encouraged the smiles of many kids—*Aladdin*, *Flubber*, *Hook*, and *Patch Adams*. One of his best roles was Alan in *Jumanji*. Your favorite part might be the man-eating lion, the suffocating vines, or the rabid monkeys. Who knew rolling dice could be so treacherous? Pop in *Jumanji* for your next dorm movie night to keep the 90s alive.

There is no doubt about it; Disney movies were a 90s staple. There are too many to choose from, but we would all agree that one has undeniable superiority: *The Lion King*. Its catchy tunes, loveable characters, and colorful animations made us rewind that VHS tape over and over and over. We would have killed our older brothers if they ever taped over our beloved movie with something as inane as wrestling.

Jurassic Park. Need I say more? There is nothing better than dinosaurs chasing scientists to take you right back to your childhood. Admit it. That Velociraptor looked SO real.

Before he was Sweeny Todd, Captain Jack, or the Mad Hatter, Jonny Depp was Edward Scissorhands. Even though his face was creepily pale, he lived alone in a giant mansion, had freakish hands and a talent for landscaping. *Edward Scissorhands* is a 90s classic and reminded us all that scissors and waterbeds don't mix.



LOOKIN' FLY

Slap bracelets, and their improper use, caused quite a commotion in grade school. If you used them with ill intent and they quickly became a weapon. If you choose to revive this trend, remember that any amount of soreness and scolding is worth the fashion statement.

If you think you're the first to cleverly wrap a flannel around your waist, think again. Baggy flannel was one of the earliest and greatest fashion trends of the 90s. Kurt Cobain lived and modeled this trend in all its grunge glory. While sporting your flannel, don't forget the messy, greasy hair. It adds so much.

Oh, overalls, where do we even begin? There were so many styles to choose from: two straps or one, denim or corduroy, pants or shorts. The options were endless; you could have one pair for every day of the week if your mom let you. Ever-flattering overalls are back on store shelves, and now that you make your own money you can have as many pairs as you want.

Remember walking down the halls of your school with a slight swish, swish sound every time your knees touched? We can thank neon windbreakers for that. Were they an attempt at appearing athletic, an easy way to plan an outfit, comfortable fall attire, or all of the above? We'll never know.



TV IDOLS

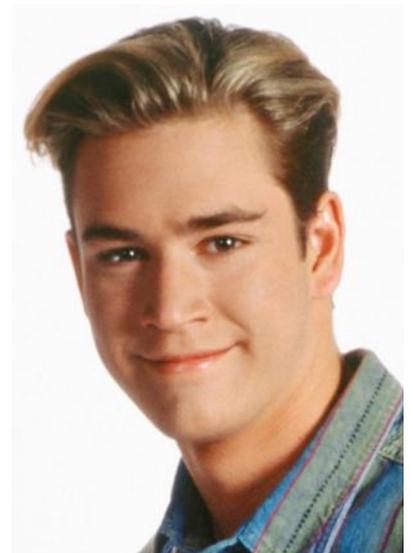
Where would 90s educational TV be without Bill Nye the Science Guy? Joy bubbled within us every time we got to watch an episode during the school day. Bill Nye made a 90s comeback of his own with cameo appearances on *the Big Bang Theory*.

Who was Mr. Feeny, really? A teacher, a friend, a neighbor, a mentor? He was all of these things to Cory Matthews in *Boy Meets World*, but he might as well have been all of these things to us, too. He was patient, wise, and always had the right advice. If only our own professors were like him.

Unfortunately for John Stamos, he will never be able to escape his *Full House* reputation as Uncle Jesse, the coolest uncle ever. We all wanted an uncle like Jesse, who was never embarrassing, and had his own band.

Zack Morris was the envy of all of us. How could one kid get away with so many shenanigans? Not only that, he had an awesome phone that would be hard to lose because it was so huge. Hmm... huge phones... sound familiar? He ruled his school in popularity like we only dreamed of doing.

The next time you don flannel, buckle your overalls, or sit through a round of Jock Jams at a basketball game, remember; the 90s did it first.



MODERN GENOCIDE



“THEY ARE SYSTEMATICALLY BEHEADING CHILDREN, MOTHERS AND FATHERS. THE WORLD HASN'T SEEN AN EVIL LIKE THIS FOR A GENERATION. THERE'S ACTUALLY A PARK IN MOSUL THAT THEY'VE BEHEADED CHILDREN AND PUT THEIR HEADS ON A STICK... THIS IS CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY.”

- Mark Arabo, National Spokesman for Iraqi Christians

More than a war our parents fought

A vicious catastrophe against our Christian and non-Muslim family is taking place 6,211 miles away. It's a grotesque wave of evil claiming the lives and security of thousands. To turn a blind eye would be ignorant, even hateful. "People are afraid of what's coming next. I'm not going back," said Lina, who fled Mosul with her family as the militants swept in and came to Alqosh, about 50 kilometers (31 miles) to the north. "Each day we went to bed in fear," the 57-year-old woman recalled as she sat in a house for displaced people. "In our own houses we knew no rest." Like other Christians who fled here, she spoke under the condition that she be identified only by her first name. Lina finished her statement saying, "I fear there will be a day when people will say: 'There were once Christians in Iraq.'"

Although almost no one thinks of Christianity when they picture

Middle Eastern culture, it has a rich presence in their past. Beginning in the 1st century AD, Christianity was embraced by the Assyrian people. These new believers went out and formed the Syrian Orthodox Church, the Chaldean Church, and Protestant denominations. Like many people groups, however, time brought problems. The Iraqi military carried out a large-scale attack on these Assyrians in 1932. The military dashed villages and made a mission of disintegrating churches and monasteries. The year 1991 brought its own challenges when the Iraqi Government was slapped with sanctions during the Gulf War. The Christians who lived for years with their Muslim neighbors packed up and headed west. Saddam Hussein and his regime persecuted the Kurds and some Shia areas more than the Christians and then decided to move on. Overall, the government's desire was for the oil-rich areas inhabited by

Christians. Christians could be found making their homes in the capital of Baghdad, the northern cities of Kirkuk, Irbil and Mosul.

Please, watch the news

Iraq is a pot brim-full and ready to boil over completely. The news and social media in recent weeks have been full of endless horror stories springing from the Middle East. From opposition armies being beheaded by ISIS and displayed on fence posts for all to see, to Christians forced to convert to Islam, pay an infidel tax, or die by the sword, the stories are as heart-wrenching as they are barbaric. As ISIS moves forward with their plan to annihilate Christians and other religious minorities throughout Iraq and Syria, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel had this to say, "They are beyond just a terrorist group, they marry ideology, a sophistication of strategic and tactical military prowess.... This is beyond anything we have seen, and we must prepare for everything. And the only way to do that is that you take a cold, steely hard look at it and get ready."

Mark Arabo, a national spokesman for Iraqi Christians and a Chaldean-American businessman, said the "evil" being carried out by ISIS militants in Iraq now includes shocking beheadings of children. "They are systematically beheading children, mothers and fathers. The world hasn't seen an evil like this for a generation. There's actually a park in Mosul that they've beheaded children and put their heads on a stick. And they have them in the park. This is crimes against humanity. The whole world should come together. This is much broader than a community or faith. This is crimes against humanity and they are doing the most horrendous, the most heartbreaking things you can think of," he explained.

Not the first time, not the last time

Persecution, which means to treat someone cruelly or unfairly especially because of race or religious or political beliefs⁵, has been around since the beginning and is nothing new to the Christian church. Note, however, that the majority of Christians, especially in the west, have probably never faced persecution that could endanger their own life. Acts 8:1 says, "Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the Apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria."⁶ Here a great Christian servant was stoned to death for everyone to see and it has been going on ever since. In no way are the actions of ISIS acceptable, but there is absolutely no doubt that God's plan for this world and the Christians in it will stand. The Bible goes on to record how persecution only advanced the Gospel. You can read Philippians 1:12-18 for more details. This has been seen not only throughout history, but also in places like China, where the underground church is thriving in the face of intense persecution. While the terrorists intended harm to the church, God allowed the scattered Christians to share Jesus with people in the countries to which they had been exiled.

What does this have to do with us?

Can you read this and remain unmoved? Does this seem surreal



because it's happening so far away? Sadly, we have the option to remain blissfully ignorant, but thankfully, we also have the option to watch video footage, read the news, immerse ourselves in their pain and join with these Christians in prayer and support. Sometimes we say things like, "I guess we need to be thankful for the freedoms we have and not take them for granted." This is true. But is this all the Christian should learn from what is going on in the world today: that we don't really have it that bad in America? We're so privileged here, but instead of using our resources for God and others, we become self-centered; a trait that has sadly come to define many American Christians. Please don't live your life just trying to learn how to not take things for granted. Read the articles; see the faces. Understand that these people are your brothers and sisters, and they deserve your prayers and acknowledgment. Don't forget, God is the only stable One we can rely on – not American safety and comfort.

How you Can Help

Has this stirred your interest in giving aid to those suffering in Iraq? Voice of the Martyrs (VOM), which is an inter-denominational organization, is currently assisting 2,000 Christians in Iraq by sending humanitarian items like clothing, water and food supplies. Members of the public are encouraged to donate to VOM through their donation page at www.persecution.com.

You can also give to Barnabas Aid at: <https://barnabasaid.org/> They offer specific options for where your donation money is allocated.

\$12 pays for a hygiene kit

\$17 buys a blanket

\$25 provides a family food basket lasting 10 days.

1 Answers.yahoo.com

2 www.huffingtonpost.com

3,4 www.christianpost.com

5 www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/persecute

6 All verses quoted from blueletterbible.org

Pictures: irannewsupdate.com/images

Coffee IQ a little low? Coffee smarts are easier to come by than you may think. Boost your caffeine know-how in no time flat.



Take a second to steep in our field guide. Make your next trip to the café an informed experience.

THE COUNTERPARTS

Frothed Milk (Mustache Material): A smooth, almost silky foam that sits on top of cappuccinos, lattes and mochas. The frothing comes from air being injected into the milk that is steamed. Talk about a two-for-one.

Steamed Milk (It isn't just mad; it's steaming): Just as it's described, this milk is heated with steam until it reaches a temp around 150 to 155 degrees Fahrenheit. Never has warm milk had it so good.

Espresso (Yahoo!): This isn't a specific bean, but is another way of preparing coffee. The process basically requires shooting pressurized hot water through finely ground coffee. Then, presto! You have espresso!

Cappuccino: Divided up into thirds: One-third espresso, one-third steamed milk, and one-third mustache material. Warning: Don't taint your taste buds with that gas station cappuccino - go straight for the good stuff at your local coffee shop.



Americano: Composed of one or more shots of espresso topped off with hot water. Classic, simple, eye-opening. Another plus? It's usually a cost-effective option!



Café Latte: Consists of one shot of espresso and two parts steamed milk with the option for additional frothed milk. To kick it up a notch, ask the barista for a flavor shot in your latte. We'd recommend vanilla, hazelnut, cinnamon or caramel.





Breve: If you prefer your latte to be a little creamier, try this. A rich latte with half and half substituted for regular milk.



Café Mocha: Similar to Café Latte, but with the addition of chocolate and the option of whipped cream. Do you want some whip with that?

NO CHEAP SHOTS

Espresso taste: Espresso should have all the good flavors of the coffee bean without the bitterness.

For this part, we interviewed two expert baristas from the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse in Menomonie. Here's what they said:

WOTS: What does a perfect shot of espresso taste like?

BARISTAS: When looking for a good shot of espresso there are two characteristics you want to see.

One: Does the espresso exhibit good crema? Crema is the froth-like foam that sits on top of the shot of espresso and occurs towards the tail-end of the shot being pulled. You can tell if you have a good crema by rolling the cup to see if you can get the crema to stick to the sides. Another way to tell is to look at the color of the crema. There should be a nice ivory coloring to it.

Two: Does the espresso have a pleasing aroma? Does it smell like a rich, cup of coffee or does it smell burnt and/or weak? If the shot smells like the latter, it will taste the same. The espresso should have strong coffee scent.

Do's and Don'ts of Ordering Coffee:

- Don't order like you're at a Starbucks unless you are there.
- If you ever find yourself in Italy, do not ask for a latte, otherwise you will receive a glass of milk.
- If you don't understand the coffee menu or an item on the menu, ask the barista. They would rather have you ask as opposed to guessing.
- Don't talk on your cell phone while placing your order: it's rude, and you may end up with the wrong drink.
- If the coffee shop doesn't have what you want, ask if they'd create a drink for you. Be daring.

Now that you're an informed coffee drinker, bop down to your local coffee shop and hone your skills. We recommend the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse, located three blocks from campus near Burger King. Check them out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/blindmunchies.

French Press: Not the Paris newspaper but a way to prepare coffee using coarse-ground coffee and boiling water combined in a bleaker-style device with a screen plunger. The plunger is used to strain coffee grounds from your coffee.

Steamer: A flavored latte minus the espresso. Add a flavor of your choice to make it a sweet sipper certain to put you in sleep mode.

Roasting: Chemically changes the coffee bean through heating it to various degrees for specified periods of time.

Body: The way the coffee feels in your mouth in regard to weight or thickness. The body is where you discover the coffee's richness, which includes aroma and flavor. Fancy, huh?

Iced Coffee Drinks: These drinks involve similar ingredients to their hot counterparts with the addition of ice and cold milk.

Barista: The person you should be nice to who makes and serves you coffee and coffee drinks.

KNOW YOUR BEANS

Light Roast: Beans are light brown in color, with a slightly tan body and no oil present on the surface of the bean. The flavor of the light roast can be considered a toasted grain taste with lots of acidity.

Medium Roast: The name already says it all. The bean is roasted to a medium brown color with more body than that of the light roast. The medium still doesn't have any oil on the surface. Unlike its lighter counterpart, medium boasts a balanced flavor, aroma and acidity.

Dark Roast: This will be the darkest of them all, as you can guess by the name. The surface of the bean will be covered in oil. The dark roast is where you can really start tasting the flavors of the roasting process. The coffee can be described as bitter and smoky or even as having a burnt taste to it.

HAVE TODAY'S CRIES FOR TOLERANCE BECOME A SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE FORM OF TYRANNY?

Years ago, it was rare to hear the word “cell” in everyday conversation. When uttered, it meant a cold, iron-barred structure for inmates; today it’s as common as the devices glued to our palms. “Sick” used to mean you weren’t feeling well – now it’s become a coveted description for clothing, cars and tunes. No one would argue that some word meanings change drastically over time. Such is the case with the current crowd favorite, “tolerance”.

Type “tolerance” into your Google browser, and this definition will pop up: “the ability or willingness to tolerate something, in particular the existence of opinions or behavior that one does not necessarily agree with.” You might tolerate your roommate’s bizarre choice of music just as much as you tolerate the pouring rain on your way to class. You aren’t partial to either of these things, but you allow them to go on alongside you because of tolerance. Tolerance typically results in peaceful or passive disagreement between two parties.

Intolerance, on the other hand, is defined as, “unwillingness to tolerate views, beliefs, or behavior that differ from one’s own.” Maybe you’re intolerant of the moldy ramen your roommate leaves in the fridge for weeks on end, so you covertly dump it out when they’re in class. You don’t agree that letting food go bad in a common fridge is acceptable behavior, so you do something about it. Intolerance usually results in action.

Life would be pretty difficult without a measure of tolerance. If you erupted in dispute every time you were confronted with beliefs, opinions or behavior that didn’t make sense to you, you’d end up friendless and homebound, because travel of any kind would be out of the question. Tolerance, in the classic sense, should be used to help us peacefully coexist alongside one another. We live in a generation, culture, and on a campus with people very different from ourselves. The Bible speaks about how we are to live in this kind of culture, “*Do all that you can to live in peace with*

everyone.” (Romans 12:18)¹ True tolerance says it’s OK to allow your roommate to like the Vikings (or Packers), to permit your dad to listen to Styx hits while he works on his car, or to allow your little sister to put up a One Direction poster without your interference. Some issues are a matter of choice, taste, culture, generation or location.

Time has done odd things to our concept of tolerance. Our practice of this ideal has morphed more than the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles in the past two decades. Tolerance has become the cool kid of the current generation. Ask anyone on the street, and you’ll hear new tolerance defined as: valuing and affirming everyone else’s opinion and lifestyle. What we’re really saying when we plead this new tolerance is: “You have to agree with *and* affirm what I believe.” Suddenly, we are no longer merely living peacefully with one another’s beliefs and choices; we want full approval of all of our personal choices. But disagreement is still acceptable in our free and modern society, isn’t it? Today, tolerance holds a picketing sign that reads: “Everything I do is acceptable; disagree with me and you bear the scarlet letter “I” for intolerant.” Disagreement these days can lead to ostracism and even labels like “bigot,” and “ignorant”. But should we be so quick to embrace a tolerance that disagrees with nothing and has been badgered into silence?



WHEN



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By definition, in order to “tolerate” anything, we must originally *disagree* with it. *You don’t have to tolerate someone who agrees with you.* You may need to tolerate your roommate chewing tobacco even though you think it’s disgusting – gross, but not necessarily wrong — so you put up with it without interfering. Increasingly, however, the ability to disagree has been robbed from those who would insist that absolute truth exists— those who stand on the belief that a standard for truth has been given to humanity in the form of the Bible. It’s amazing to watch tolerance become intolerant when someone tries to live according to what they believe. The open embrace of tolerance in these situations quickly becomes a pointing finger that says “You **HAVE TO** agree with us, condone our behavior, hop on our bandwagon and embrace our belief.” In refusing to allow views that oppose popular trends, the new tolerance essentially says, “Tolerate us. Or else.”

And here’s where it gets tricky. We’ve pleaded tolerance in so many areas of life for so long that we’ve forgotten about occasions where intolerance might actually be needed, helpful, or even right. During her sophomore year, my friend spent a scary semester in the dorms with a roommate who was beginning a love affair with crack. Her roommate had nothing but a bottle of Pepto Bismol and a pack of Newport Lights in

LERANCE



IS

TOLERANT



**Today, tolerance holds a picketing sign that reads:
“Everything I do is acceptable; disagree with me and
you bear the scarlet letter “I” for intolerant.”**

the fridge, and she was losing weight rapidly. She would go days without coming home and was beginning to forget important things like where she put her credit card and the fact that she was supposed to attend classes. In that case, would “tolerance” of her lifestyle have been right, or was it time to speak up and help her? It would have been easiest, and more comfortable, to stand, passively tolerating the situation and avoiding confrontation, only to watch her plummet and potentially end up dead. Is it possible that, in some cases, intolerance exercised in love could actually be a life-saver?

We are all intolerant. I don't tolerate people breaking into my house; I would call the police. New tolerance says that you'd be violating their rights as an individual to do what *they* believe is right: stealing. It's a dizzying ride on the tolerance merry-go-round. It's confusing because tolerance, to many people, has become the greatest good. If you are neutral towards everyone and purely "tolerant", then you are a "good person" according to the culture. But standing by and saying nothing in the name of tolerance can have devastating effects on others, causing them harm rather than bringing good. This passive approach would lead to a society with no shelters for the battered or homeless, no alcohol rehab programs, and certainly no criminal arrests or prisons. After all, wouldn't we be an intolerant society for suggesting that they needed help, or that maybe their previous lifestyle choices were, well, *wrong*?

Tolerance has created its own god. In his book *A Call to Resurgence*, Mark Driscoll describes the god of tolerance. "*The tolerant god did not write the Bible, is not troubled by sin, is incapable of wrath, does not damn anyone, and will save everyone. The tolerant god does not care what name you call him/her/it/they or what religion you adhere to. The tolerant god is curiously tolerant of everyone and everything except the real God—because the tolerant god is the same serpent who appeared in the Garden so long ago.*"²

THE CHRISTIAN AND TOLERANCE

For the Christian, tolerance is not the greatest good; God's limitless, selfless, rescuing love *is*. There is something better and more powerful than tolerance: love. God didn't just *tolerate* His beloved, created people spiraling downward as they gave themselves over to a lifestyle of sin; He did something about it. Instead of allowing us to die apart from Him with no hope, He sent His own Son, Jesus, to earth: a perfect Man who died in our place for the sin we could not escape. Romans 6:23 says, "*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*" He made the way possible for people to turn from their sin and be covered by the perfect life of His own Son. But God didn't just passively disagree with our sin—in fact Psalm 5:4 says that God hates sin. "*O God, you take no pleasure in wickedness; you cannot tolerate the sins of the wicked.*" If God had just stopped there and "tolerated" our sin,

For the Christian, tolerance is not the greatest good; God's limitless, selfless, rescuing love *is*.

we would be left alone, hopeless, and without love – a miserable existence.

God demonstrated selfless love instead of mere tolerance; He broke into our lives to confront and deal with sin once and for all, making it possible for sinful people to be in close relationship with a perfect God. This is a beautiful example of how love can be intolerant. "*But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*" (Romans 5:8)

This isn't the idea of going out and attacking other people if they believe something different than you. When Jesus came, He interacted with sinners—He ate and drank with them and hung out at their houses. If you've ever felt like God was distant and detached, or like you were too screwed up for God to love, maybe this verse will help: "*God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.*" (John 3:17)

True love sticks around when things are messy and painful, tells the truth, and then goes *beyond* by offering something better—even if that offer brings ridicule and accusations on the one suggesting another path. Few people wanted to hear Jesus' truth back then, just like most would prefer to avoid it today. The new tolerance is the same intolerance that put Jesus on the cross 2,000 years ago. They didn't like what He had to say about sin, so they killed Him. Let's not allow the new tolerance to turn our generation into people who agree with everything because we're too afraid of what it might mean to hear the truth.

Sources:

1: All verses quoted from the New Living Bible Translation (NLT) Charles Colson, *Against the Night*, p. 93.

2: Driscoll, Mark. "Toughen Up and Love." *A Call to Resurgence: Will Christianity Have a Funeral or a Future?* N.p.: n.p., n.d. 208. Print



True love seeks what is best for someone else, even if that requires pointing out something harmful to that person.

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NICK THE HICK



SHOPPIN'S LIKE HERDIN' CATS

6:00pm Arrive at Wal Mart Parking lot, ponder why I am shoppin here again I thought I gave that up.

6:05pm Struggle to find a parking space, I aint gonna walk clear across the parking lot, I may get shot. In a fit of rebellion, push shopping carts with car back to their rightful places.

6:15pm Enter store, believe that this time may not be so bad. I may find what I need and checkout in ten minutes like I was hoping for.

6:20pm Can't find what I was looking for. Coconut oil (I'm not a hippy it works real well frying that chicken in a pan) was not by the vegetable oil, the fish oil, or the 5W-30.

6:30pm Look for a friendly Wal Mart representative when I realize I am the only one in the store not wearing my pajamas.

6:40pm Located said representative, tell them last time I seen them they were knee high to a grasshopper. They take me to the correct section for Coconut oil.

6:45pm Make it to Checkout, find one of the four that are open

6:45-7:15pm Wait in line behind someone uppity who's credit card will not work and another who is fighting with their kin over whether they can get their gender sensitive Barbie.

7:30pm Skeddadle out of Wal Mart with 4x the amount of what I came there for. Thank God my wife usually does the shopping.

LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

WINTER 2014-2015

NOVEMBER

6 [thurs]: Open Mic Night– MSC Terrace, 8pm

7 [fri]: *Harbor and Home*

Concert and WOTS 60th issue Release Party! Blind Munchies Coffeehouse, 7pm free

13 [thurs]: Concert: We are the Willows, MSC Terrace, TBA

14 [fri]: Men's Hockey vs. Augsburg College, 7:30pm

15 [sat]: Men's Hockey vs. University of St. Thomas, 7:30pm

18 [tues]: Men's B-Ball vs. St. Mary, 6:30pm

21 [fri]: Men's Hockey vs. Finlandia University, 7:30pm

22 [sat]: Men's Hockey vs. Lawrence University, 7:30pm

26-30: Thanksgiving break, no classes

29 [sat]: Women's B-Ball vs. College of St. Scholastica, 5pm /Men's B-Ball vs. Wartburg College, 7pm

/Quality Inn Turkey Shootout B-Ball Tournament, 8am-7pm (MPR 1&2 Rm. 50)

DECEMBER

1 [mon]: Classes resume

4 [thurs]: Open Mic Night– MSC Terrace, 8pm

5 [fri]: *B-Movie Night, Blind Munchies Coffeehouse, 7pm free*

6 [sat]: Dance- Menomonie Holiday Classic, MHS, TBA /Women's B-Ball vs. UW La Crosse, 3pm

5,6,12,13: *It's a Wonderful Life* play, Mabel Tainter, 7:30pm

6,7,13,14: *It's a Wonderful Life* play, Mabel Tainter, 2pm

10 [wed]: Men's B-Ball vs. UW Stevens Point, 7pm

11 [thurs]: Winter Daze- horse drawn wagon rides on main/ winter light parade/fireworks over Lake Menomin, 4pm-8pm

12 [fri]: Art Senior Show, Applied Arts, 7pm

13 [sat]: Commencement

19 [fri]: End of Semester

31 [wed]: *New Year's Eve bash, Blind Munchies Coffeehouse 7pm, free*

JANUARY

3 [sat]: Women's B-Ball vs. UW Platteville, 3pm

7 [wed]: Men's B-Ball vs. UW Eau Claire 7pm

9 [fri]: Women's Gymnastics vs. UW-Whitewater, 6pm /Men's Hockey vs. Milwaukee School of Engineering, 7:30pm

10 [sat]: Women's B-Ball vs. UW Whitewater, 3pm /Men's Hockey vs. Concordia University, 7:30pm

14 [wed]: Men's B-Ball vs. UW Oshkosh, 7pm

16 [fri]: Men's Hockey vs. UW Superior, 7:30pm

17 [sat]: Men's B-Ball vs. UW Superior, 3pm

21 [wed]: Women's B-Ball vs. UW River Falls, 7pm

23 [fri]: Men's Hockey vs. Aurora University, 7:30pm

24 [sat]: Men's B-Ball vs. UW Platteville, Alumni game, 3pm /Men's Hockey vs. Aurora University, 4pm

DON ' T MISS THESE

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

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

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

OR THESE...

Harbor and Home Concert and WOTS 60th Release Party!

Friday, November 7th, 7pm
Blind Munchies Coffeehouse
621 Wilson Ave

New Year's Eve Bash
Wednesday, December 31st, 7pm
Blind Munchies Coffeehouse

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SHORT & STOUT

ACROBATS FROM CHINA LEAP ONTO CAMPUS

Remember your 5th grade talent show when Yellow-Belt Danny showed off his karate skills, Sally killed it with her hula hoop once again, and you proved to everyone that you FINALLY learned how to roll your tongue? Picture something like that, only a trillion times cooler. Sorry, Danny...

A traveling Chinese acrobatic troupe, The Fabulous Chinese Acrobats, made their way to the UW-Stout campus on October 7th to showcase their crazy talents. The performance consisted of four acrobats, ages 17, 19, 22, and 25. After ten years of training together, the bunch was hand-picked by the Chinese government to travel abroad and perform around the U.S. They were ranked as one of the top performance groups in China!

In an interview, we learned the stories of these artists. In China, it is common for families who are not able to provide for their children to send them to the school of acrobatics around the age of five or six. There, they go through ten years of intense training before they are allowed to perform on stage. In the school, they also learn of Chinese culture, much like a



regular school. An acrobat's career will usually end around the age of 28 or 29, when they must retire and find another job to support themselves.

"Acrobat" in Chinese actually translates to "person with outstanding talent." You'd understand why if you saw this performance. One woman rode an extremely tall unicycle while flipping bowls straight onto her head with her foot! All in all, the concentration that goes into the art of acrobatics is something we all can marvel at.

There is a branch of the same acrobatic school based out of Lawrence, Kansas, right here in the U.S. Check out thechineseacrobats.com to learn more about the group and see videos of what they can do!

You can thank Stout's International Student Office for providing opportunities like these on campus to push us all out of our Wisconsin bubble. For more information on global opportunities on campus, or if you're interested in serving as a friend to an international student, email globaled@uwstout.edu.





3 REASONS HARBOR & HOME DESERVES ITS OWN PLAYLIST ON YOUR SPOTIFY. NOW.

Word on the Street is excited to announce that Harbor and Home will be playing on November 7th at the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse for our 60th issue release party! Not only are they one of the top new bands in the Midwest, they're genuine about God, music, and seagulls.

1. They're clever and goofy. Ever heard of "Seagull Man"? Yeah, probably not. That's because the guys made him up. In an interview with the band at Street Level's Block Party at UW-Stout, they told us about a time when they were up in Duluth, MN for a show put on by Street Level Superior. Hanging out by the pier, the guys took notice of the numerous seagulls swarming above them, and created this character (cleverly named Seagull Man) who becomes such good friends with the seagulls that the birds actually swoop down to grab the man by the shoulders and fly him around wherever he wishes. The dynamic team fights all the evil villains together (or at least all the villains in and around the Superior area). Our point? These guys are genuine "goofballs" (a word choice of their own, mind you), and the kind of people you enjoy spending time with.
2. They're local. Growing up together just outside of the Twin Cities, they grew into something much larger than their hometowns. If you're wondering where you've heard their name before, you may have seen them at Sonshine Music Festival in Wilmar, MN either this year or last. Just after they formed, Harbor and Home competed in a Battle of the Bands at the festival and ended up winning the competition, earning them a spot on the Main Stage that year. This year was Harbor & Home's second year playing at Sonshine, and The Blind Munchies Coffeehouse hosted them for an acoustic set. H&H played their folk-y love and other tunes for listeners of all ages. The band has also played at the UW-Stout Block Party for two years now. The great thing about local bands is that there are lots of chances to hear them live. Hopefully they'll be back around again sometime soon.
3. They're crazy talented, but don't take our word for it. One 15-second clip of "Sun Rays" and you'll know what we mean. Instrumentalist Alex lets us know it may take the band months to create something new, but anyone who has heard their music knows it's well worth the wait. At Stout's Block Party, some WOTS writers got to tag along for an acoustic show. One of their bests, "I'll Be Around" echoed the soft, raspy voices of three band members around an empty parking lot. The guys say it's rare for them not to be making music. Alex admitted to being that one guy in class who just won't quit it with the pencil tapping on the desk. Thankfully, Kaleb swoops in (more gracefully than Seagull Man, I suppose) and helps him put some lyrics together. The result? That playlist on your Spotify that is now forming.

five LOCAL bands

(and their bizarre fantasy superpowers)

Street Level's Block Party was a blast! Word on the Street got to have exclusive interviews with all of the bands that played. Here's a taste of what five of these local bands are like. To read the full interviews, go to ReadWOTS.com. One of the questions we asked to each band member was, "If you had one superpower what would it be?" Below is a super-hero created from all of the band members' powers combined!

- **Marah in the Mainsail becomes Captain Nomad:** a seafaring super-being who transcends space, time and dimension to destroy musical mediocrity
- **Harbor and Home becomes Seagull Man:** To get the swoop on that, read the Harbor and Home review on the previous page.
- **Dust of Men becomes Earth Man:** This being flies around and his cape gives off reverb as he flies. He can speak to animals, has telekinesis, and all the powers of Spider-Man, of course.
- **Apollos becomes SpiderBat:** A powerful arachnid with a cool motorcycle; come on guys, give us something original here!
- **Brent Johnson becomes FarmBoy Fly:** The flying, Midwestern sensation soaring from pedestrian life to spectacular heights
- **The French Alps becomes Monsieur Avalanche:** An invisible being with super strength that freezes anything standing in its way, alters reality and controls time

APOLLOS

WOTS: How does the process of creating a song go for you? Is it usually improv or do you do one dimension at a time?

Apollos: It's all of those. When I started the project, I had a bunch of synth stuff and a lot of ideas that way, and then I would build on top of that and put beats in there and drum sounds and guitar. It was like an art project, where you start from scratch and add things so it progresses from there. So yeah, there are days where I feel like writing a song, and I could pick up any instrument and start with it. Sometimes I'll have a ton of stuff, and it'll seem like too much, so I'll take an acoustic out and strip it down and see if I hear anything different doing it that way. Usually, as the guys come in, I have a lot done for them, so when they come in they can just put the sparkle and the magic on top of it. It's a good thing, I put a lot of work on the top from the get go, but we spend a lot of time with our music, it doesn't just happen. Our music is a pretty long process.



Continued on next page...

MARAH IN THE MAINSAIL

WOTS: Do you have any quirky or funny memories that have happened while traveling?

MIM: We took a trip up north in Minnesota at one point, and we ended our show really late, and we were trying to find the house we were staying at, a friend of ours. We got to the neighborhood and didn't know which house it was. They didn't give us enough information, so we ended up walking from house to house, saying, "Is this it?", knocking on doors. It was late and awkward, but we finally found a place to sleep. At one point, we ran up to a house, thinking it was it. We looked in the window to see if we recognized anybody, and there was a little kid sleeping right in front of the window. We're pretty much nightmares for children now. It was a long time ago. That's my favorite story!

DUST OF MEN

WOTS: What is the meaning behind the song "White Robes"?

Grant: It's a river baptism song. When I was writing songs for the album, I was super obsessed with The Great Depression and old field recordings from the southern United States from the 1930s. There were all these grainy black and white photographs of people down by the river being baptized during The Great Depression wearing white robes. So, it was a whole visual of that stuck in my mind. And, I was thinking about my own transformation story and trading in darkness for light — going down to the river, and it felt like the classic moment of conversion to new life. So that song is about going down to the river wearing white robes, getting dunked and coming up brand new with eyes that can see.

BRENT JOHNSON

WOTS: What's the story behind the song, "I Need Grace"? Did you write it yourself, and how did you come up with it?

Ashley: It wasn't an argument we had, but the first time in our marriage that we had something we were frustrated about. It wasn't an argument though, just "hey, there's things we need to work on and communicate better."

Brent: Yeah, I need grace, I need forgiveness. But the song, I wrote it when I got the guitar. After our argument, she gave me some money, and I went to the store and got a guitar, and then I wrote this song.

THE FRENCH ALPS:

WOTS: How does the process of creating a song go?

The French Alps: It begins with us doing something together and then we add things; there is really no structure, it just happens. I think we found with our song is that once we have an idea/motive for a song and a couple sections, then we go from there. We have some songs where we want a wall of sound at the end, so we make it our goal to design all these parts that build up to that and have this huge drop at the end.



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SIGNS YOU ARE STARVING FOR SATISFACTION

Many of us will spend our whole lives ignorant of our condition - oblivious to the fact that we should be desperate for a cure.



There is an epidemic plaguing our nation.

It is nothing new; it has been spreading for thousands of years since a well-known couple ate a piece of fruit in a garden. It causes us to chase things we can never catch and leaves us feeling as though we are continually one step behind. There is a known cure, and it's free for the taking. The problem is that many of us will spend our whole lives ignorant of our disease - oblivious to the fact that we should be desperate for a cure. If you're concerned this condition could be lurking inside you, test yourself with the warning signs below.

Always looking to tomorrow: If you find yourself often thinking, "Once I achieve (fill in the blank) I will be happy," you may be displaying the warning signs of this plague. Those who suffer

from "tomorrow-ism" believe that when they graduate college, get a good job, make a lot of money, retire early, and travel, they will live the rest of their days happy. Today is only a means to get to a happier tomorrow.

The grass is always greener: If you feel like your desires have ADHD in every aspect of your life, and you are convinced anything besides what you have will bring you more joy, you may be suffering the early-onset symptoms of the disease. This could be anything from your girlfriend/boyfriend, to your career path, to your phone. You keep searching for something "satisfaction-guaranteed", but nothing meets your expectations.

Focusing on feeling good: If you've noticed that the pleasure of obtaining things or desired relationships only lasts for a brief period of time, chances are good you're lacking satisfaction. If, once the alcohol or drug wears off, the food is digested, or the sex ends, you are left with an empty feeling, you are a prime candidate for the Cure. The temporary good-feelings may cause you to chase that feeling again, but to try to make it better or stronger the next time so it lasts longer. Be aware that soon every decision you make will be based solely on your enjoyment level.



**WE ARE
DESIGNED TO
DESIRE, BUT
NOTHING
CREATED ON
THIS PLANET IS
ROBUST
ENOUGH IN
ITSELF TO
REALLY CURE
OUR RAVENOUS
LONGING FOR
SOMETHING
MORE.
THANKFULLY,
MORE EXISTS,
AND HE WANTS
US, TOO.**

Taking over the world: This symptom is identified with a desire to climb up the social, political, or corporate ladder. Victims may base their worth on who they have power over, and they are seldom satisfied with anything less than the best.

Clinging to life for . . . dear life: This symptom will cause the diseased to do anything and everything to have their hopes, dreams and desires come true. While seemingly harmless at first, this will eventually lead sufferers to compromise values, beliefs and relationships to pursue their goals. Warning signs include an insatiable desire to have things done their way, in their time, no matter what.

Do any of these describe you? If so, would you want a cure if one was offered? We are designed to desire – but nothing created on this planet is robust enough in itself to really cure our burning longing for something more. Thankfully, More exists, and He wants you, too. More is the God who made you – the God who sent Jesus to earth to show us how God’s love is able to satisfy a human soul.

The Cure begins when a fatally ill person has an encounter with Jesus. Read the instructions for the Cure in the Bible – specifically the book of John, chapter three. The key to finding satisfaction in God is surrendering everything to Him and trusting Him to be more than enough to fulfill any longings you have. When you see Jesus, it’s possible to give up your own desires and “life plan” and seek after what God’s desire and purpose is for you. This is the only cure for our satisfaction-starved souls.

When you stop feeding from an I.V. of the world’s version of “the pursuit of happiness,” you’re not left to slowly shrivel up and die. You *get* Jesus. He becomes your lifeline. You begin to experience His love, and His kind, near presence in day-to-day life. It’s so good to know Jesus, that you’ll soon forget why you were looking for fulfillment in anything or anyone else.

This might seem like a daunting task, and it will take time, but it is much simpler than you might think. Start by reading the Bible. It is God’s Word and how He primarily tells us about Himself. You can go to a Bible study and ask questions. Discussing issues with fellow Christians is a great way to learn more. Finally, get involved in a local church. This is where you get to worship and serve God, learn more about Him, and connect with others who are satisfied with Jesus.

The world will tell you, “Chase your goals, dreams, desires, emotions and pursue whatever you wish.” The world will feed the disease, but the world is not satisfied: it is starving. God has offered a Cure through a relationship with Jesus. “*He who loses his life for My sake will find it.*” -Jesus, Matthew 10:39. Are you ready to be satisfied?

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