

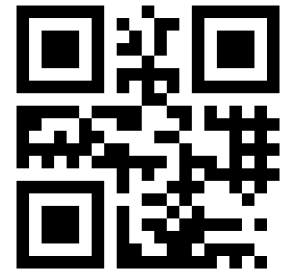
HOW
GOD
FOUND
ME

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Real stories of people found by God



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

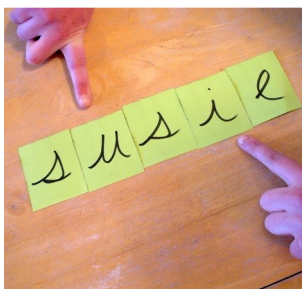
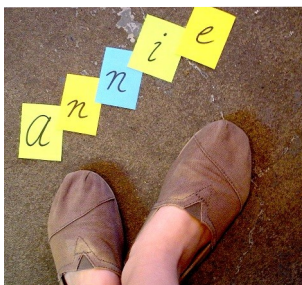
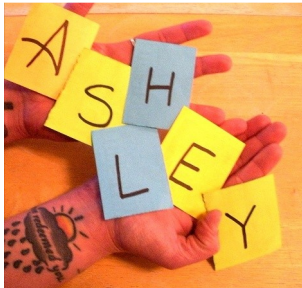
The WOTS crew can be found on campus each Monday while school is in session at Street Level Ministries' student organization meetings. Visit streetlevelministries.com for details. We hope the magazine is funny, challenging, and provocative, while encouraging you to pursue a strong relationship with Jesus.

MEET THE WOTS STAFF: from three cities and two countries

UW-STOUT, Menomonie, WI

UW-Superior, Superior, WI

Cebu City, Philippines



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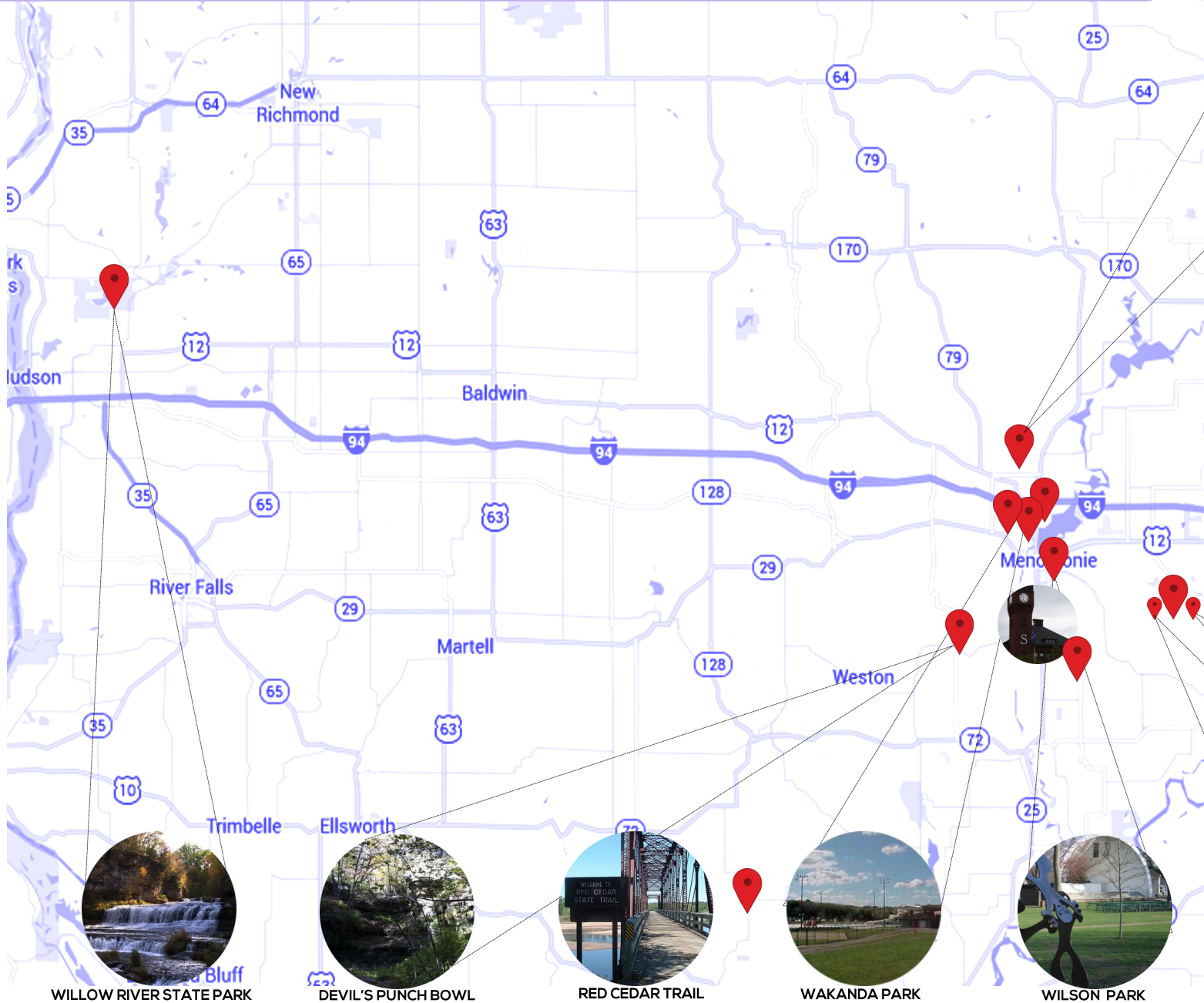
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Nick the Hick: Selfies

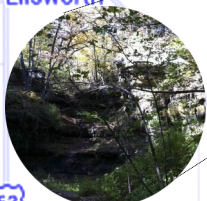
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WOTS THERE TO DO IN MENOMONIE FOR THE SUMMER?

You're in Menom-bomb for the summer...whether it's for a job, summer classes, what have you... What in the world is there to do here? We looked to our writers and some Street Level members for their own recommendations for summer fun in Menomonie.



WILLOW RIVER STATE PARK



DEVIL'S PUNCH BOWL



RED CEDAR TRAIL



WAKANDA PARK



WILSON PARK

LOCAL HOT SPOTS:

Wakanda

Waterpark, Frisbee golf, geo-caching

Farmers Market

Wednesday 12pm – 5pm

Saturday 8am – 1pm

Hoffman Hills

THE PLACES THAT FRIENDS OF FRIENDS WILL MOST LIKELY BRING YOU TO:

Outdoor Concerts at the Library

Thursday Nights

The Devil's Punch Bowl

Races – Dunn County Fairgrounds

Friday nights

Concert in the park (Bandshell)

Tuesday nights 8pm

Local Fairs

Dunn County, St. Croix County

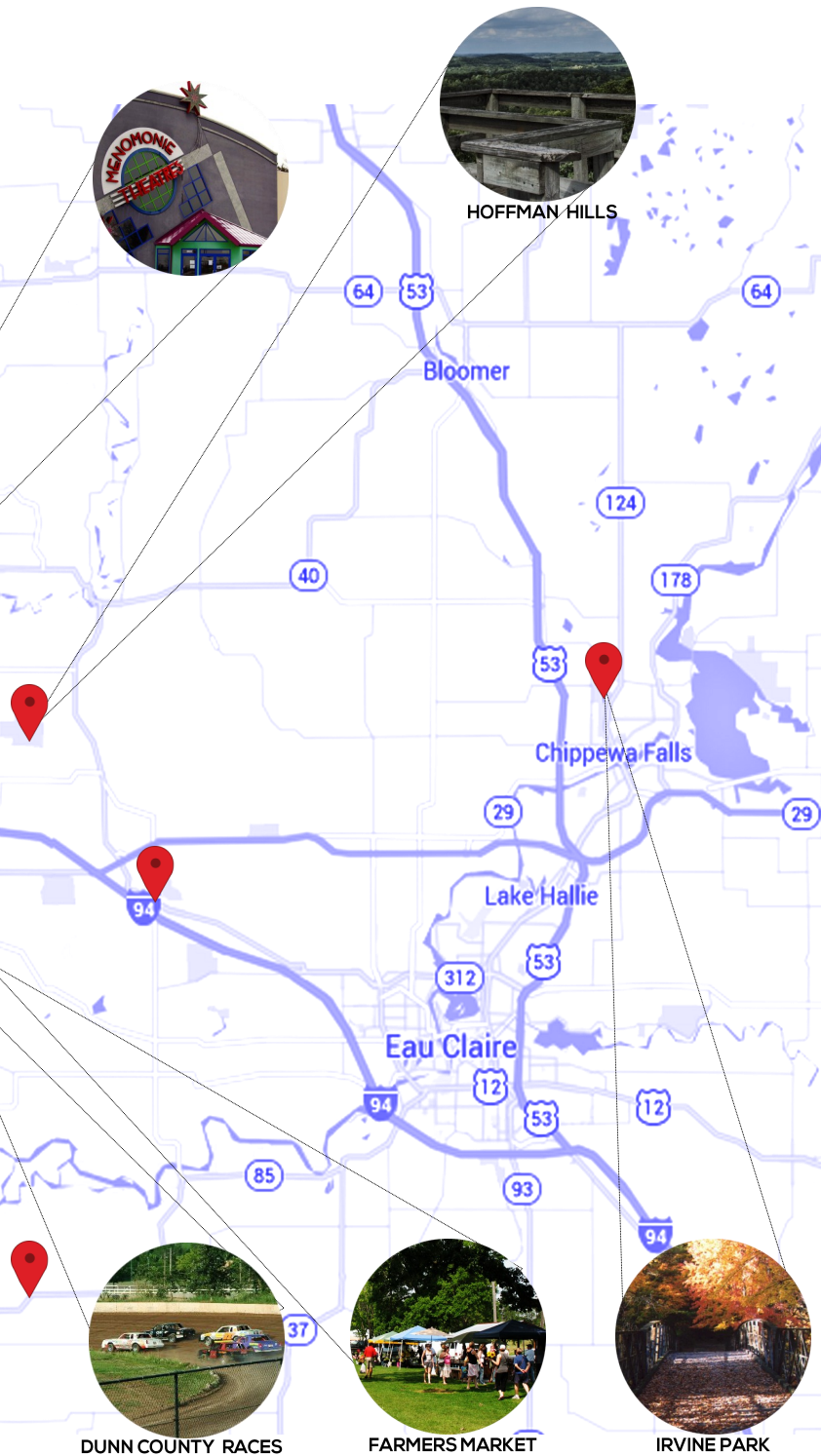
WHAT TO DO WHEN IT IS AS HOT AS A THOUSAND SUNS:

The Bottoms

Beach, swimming

Red Cedar

Trail, tubing on the river



PICK ONE! CAMPAIGN

How did UW-Stout go about encouraging new students to get involved? By bringing attention to all the ways to get involved in campus life, and encouraging students to at least pick one. This was introduced to freshmen and transfer students during summer orientation week. Students were given a deck of cards illustrating a variety of involvement opportunities on campus. There are so many orgs on campus, where does one even start to look? Start here. Think about your interests. What do you have a passion for? What are you naturally gifted at? Is there something you've never done but would like to try once? That is a sure way to narrow down your seemingly endless sea of options. Still not sure? There's help for that. The Involvement Center in the MSC has planning sessions to help you find your fit; you can also meet one-on-one with a Student Involvement Specialist. You can also peruse the org directory or attend any campus events. Why get involved? Does this really help the college experience? "Statistics show a marked improvement in retention and college success when students get involved," said Jennifer Lee, Associate Director of the Memorial Student Center.¹ Being involved can help in developing skills that transition into the workforce; it also can be a big part of networking and building your resume. Visit their website at <http://studentorgs.uwstout.edu/org/pickone> for more info and how you can Pick One!

¹ <http://www.uwstout.edu/spotlight/pickone.cfm>
<http://studentorgs.uwstout.edu/org/pickone>

YOU HAD PLANS, BUT IT IS RAINING. NOW WHAT?

**Humane Society
Local Movie Theatre**

THE OUT-OF-TOWNERS:

Pizza farm (Stockholm)
 Tuesday nights 4:30pm - 8:30pm
Garage sales (Elk mound)
Canoeing (Menomonie to Downsview)
Willow River State Park (Hudson, WI)
 Open 6 am to 11 pm vehicle admissions
 cost \$7 daily, \$25 annually
 waterfall, hiking, camping
Irvine Park (Chippewa Falls)

LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

SUMMER 2015

MAY

1-3 [fri-sun]: Stout Adventures, Backpacking: St. Croix State Park, \$60/students, \$65/Community /The Wedding Ringer movie, Applied Art 210, 6pm & 9pm
2 [sat]: Men's Baseball vs. UW-Whitewater, 12pm & 3pm
3 [sun]: Men's Baseball vs. UW-Whitewater 12pm & 3pm
6 [wed]: STEM Student Expo, Jarvis Hall, all day
7 [thurs]: The Millenium concert, MSC Terrace, 8pm
8 [fri]: Classes End
9 [sat]: Stout Adventures, Sandstone Day Climbing Trip, \$45/students, \$50/community /Undergrad Commencement /Men & Women's Prayer Bf-Fst, 621 Wilson Ave, 8:30am, Free
11-15 [mon-fri]: Finals Week
16,23,30 [sat]: Farmer's Market, Rec Park, 8am-1pm
16 [sat]: SummerDaze, Downtown Menomonie, Arts & Crafts Fair, Kayak Race, 11am
22-23 [fri-sat]: Street Level Thrift Sale, 1009 E. 6th St, 8am-5pm

JUNE

Every Sat: Farmer's Market, Rec Park, 8am-1pm
Every Wed: Farmer's Market, Rec Park, 11:30-6pm
5-7 [fri-sun]: Birds Bugs & Blooms Bash, Underground MSC
10,24 [wed]: Open Mic Night, Barrel Room, Downtown Menomonie, 6-9pm
14 [sun]: Layne Yost Acoustic Solo, Bull Frog Fish Farm, Menomonie, 1:30-4:30, Free
20 [sat]: North Star Bicycle Fest, Downtown Menomonie, all day
27 [sat]: Menomonie Airfest & Autorama, 8am-5pm, Free



JULY

Every Sat: Farmer's Market, Rec Park, 8am-1pm
Every Wed: Farmer's Market, Rec Park, 11:30-6pm
4 [sat]: Freedom Fest 4th of July Celebration, Wakanda Park, all day
8,22 [wed]: Open Mic Night, Barrel Room, Downtown Menomonie, 6-9pm
22-26 [wed-sun]: Dunn County Fair

AUGUST

Every Sat: Farmer's Market, Rec Park, 8am-1pm
Every Wed: Farmer's Market, Rec Park, 11:30-6pm
12,26 [wed]: Open Mic Night, Barrel Room, Downtown Menomonie, 6-9pm
16 [sun]: Celebrating 125 years of the Mabel Tainter, Heritage Museum, 1:30-3:00pm
21-23 [fri-sun]: Cucumber (Pickle) Fest, Boyceville

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

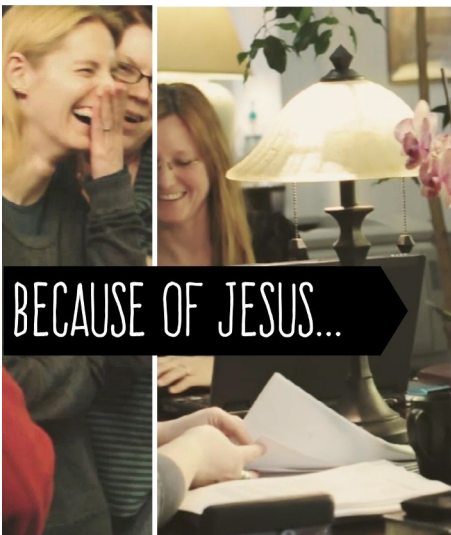
Real Breakfast
 Saturday Mornings, 9am-12pm
 Lunch at 11:00am
 Blind Munchies Coffeehouse
 621 Wilson Ave
 (\$2 with Student ID, \$3 without)

OR THIS...

Street Level Thrift Sale Extravaganza

Fri-Sat, May 22nd—23rd
8am-5pm

1009 6th Ave East



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PANCAKE DRE

Man Saves Surfers' Stomachs
One Pancake at a Time

MIAMI, FL—Bloated whales and letters in a bottle aren't the only things getting washed ashore anymore. Sources confirmed that for two weeks an estimated 28 surfers per day have succumbed to serious starvation after riding the waves back to shore. "First, birds falling from the sky and now this," one beach goer said, "It's a sure sign of the Apocalypse."

Starvation has affected the surfers differently. Some fall face-first into the sand to take a brief and gritty nap, while others get downright hangry (anger due to an unrelenting hunger). Sources report an increased number of demolished sand castles and a ghastly amount of ice cream cones being "dropped" because of the surfers.

The beach community is currently breathing a sigh of relief, though, after noticing an unlikely hero emerging from their midst. "Pancake Dre gets to the surfers before the surfers can get to us" longtime resident Elmer Belpolitz commented. "He sells his pancakes out of his wagon contraption. The surfers seem to really flip for them." Eyewitnesses claim the surfers turn into gentle giants after consuming Pancake Dre's concoctions.

We caught up with surfer, Brody St. John, whose social life was saved because of Pancake Dre. "Dre's got some pretty rad 'cakes, dude. He's my bro for life."

Catching up with Dre, on the other hand, proved a little more difficult. His life is as simple as his food concept, which means no cellphone. Thanks to a swarming crowd on the beach this afternoon, he was pretty easy to spot—five-foot-five and wearing a faded Jurassic Park t-shirt. His red pancake-splattered high-top converse covered what we can only imagine to be a well-earned sock tan.



Surfer Brody St. John indulges in Pancake Dre's famous hot cakes sans syrup

As we forced ourselves to the core of Dre's entourage, we couldn't help but notice a deep scar above his right eye—the kind where you want to look away but just can't. Rumor has it he got it in a spoon fight. A squawking seagull stirred us to our senses, and we finally asked Dre what his secret is. "I believe in the batter," Dre said. "Chocolate chips ruin it. Blueberries ruin it. Don't even get me started on syrup." At his suggestion, we let that argument rest.

"It took me a long time to perfect my pancake. For years it was just my griddle keeping me company until two, three o'clock in the morning. Some nights I was really fried and felt like I was just grubbing. A few months ago I borrowed my friend's red radio flyer, filled it to the brim with my 'cakes and just walked down the boardwalk. It was a dangerous venture, because seagulls attacked almost instantly. A few Band-Aids and recipe alterations later, I set out again—this time with my wagon covered. Tourists really liked them at first, and it just grew from there after the surfers learned I wasn't a Barney or a booger."

According to the swimmers, the surfers and the seagulls, the beach is a lot safer with Pancake Dre on duty. "I'm no hero," Dre said, "I just love pancakes."

VOCAB CORNER

barney (n.) - an inexperienced surfer, or someone who's no good at surfing
booger (n.) - slang for body boarders
grubbing (v.) - falling off your board while surfing

I WANT TO RIDE MY BICYCLE

The snow has melted, and spring is here; now is the time to rescue your old two-wheeled friend from its rusty, dismayed state. WOTS has some tips and tricks to nurse your bicycle back to health and some places to reignite your passion for biking. Here are a few things to help get your old friend up and running, ranging from checking your tread to adjusting the finer things, all without special tools.

TIRES (1)

Most bicycle tires lose air over the winter. Inflate your bicycle tires to the pressure stated on the sidewall of the tire. Don't have a tire pump? No problem. Just walk your bike over to Kwik Trip for some free, fresh air. Once you're done airing up, check your bike tires for signs of wear. Does the tire show signs of cracking on the side walls when inflated? Are the tires worn down to the point of the cords showing? Are your tires flat on top instead of round? Have your tires been punctured previously? If so, you will either want to bring the bike to the local bike shop or find a friend who has the tools to do a tire change.

DRIVE CHAIN (2, 3, 4, 5)

Is your chain frozen in time with no hope of ever moving again? The best thing to do is bring your bike into the doctor for a chain

replacement or phone a friend who owns the tools required to take apart your bicycle chain.

If your chain is a little rusty with a side of dirt, it probably just needs a good cleaning.

To clean it, lay down some plastic, paper or your roommates' clothes (just kidding on the last one) to avoid getting the floor dirty. Place a paper towel behind the chain as pictured in #4 to protect your bike rim.

Second, grab a can of lubricant—either WD-40 or Tri-flow—and spray the chain down, avoiding the bicycle rim. Follow up with a good wipe-down using a paper towel or old t-shirt as shown in #2. Repeat if necessary before moving onto the next step.

Once the bike chain is clean you will need to re-lubricate it using the appropriate chain lubricant. The right lubricant depends on your riding style and where your bike is kept. The best resource is to go to the local bike shop and ask what they recommend. (You may think the lubricant is really expensive, but you only use a little each time, so it lasts a while.) When the right lube is selected, apply a drop or two to each roller of the chain. Rotate the chain a few times around before wiping off the excess lubricant.

While you're at it, you may want to hit up your front and rear derailleurs along with brake and shift levers, with a spot of lube.

DERAILLEURS (6)

Let's shift gears to the next maintenance item. Do you have issues changing the speed or gear ratio of your bicycle while riding? Do you end up with a lot of grinding or have the chain fall off all together? It is likely that your bikes' derailleur or derailleurs are not in true alignment with the sprockets your chain rides on. (Please note that this adjustment method will only apply to indexing derailleur systems and not to friction.) The problem described above, most of the time, can be easily remedied by a few twists of the barrel adjusters on the handle bar of your bicycle. By the turning out or in of the barrel adjusters you should be able to bring the derailleur into alignment with your sprocket, thus bringing your ride into true harmony. Give your bike a test ride to be sure you have your derailleurs in the right spot before heading out across town.

BRAKES (7, 8)

Put on your brakes. We are not done yet. Take a couple minutes to inspect your brake pads and test to make sure they are working properly.

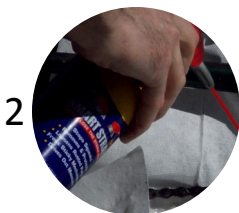
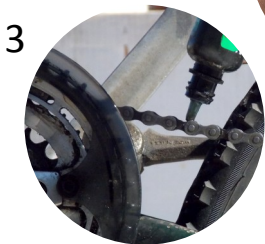
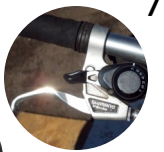
First, check to see how much pad is left and compare what you have with the photos shown. If your pads are worn to the point of showing no more grooves

then it is time replace them. You may replace them yourself or seek out a local bike shop.

Next, if you have to pull your brake handles a good distance before your brakes engage, tighten up your brake cables by turning out your barrel adjusters. While you're at it, check the straightness of your bike rims. Looking your tire straight on, focus your eyes on the part of the rim between the brake pads. Rotate the tire and watch for wobbling. If you find your rim to be wobbly, take it to a local bike shop where they can straighten the rim.

FASTENERS (9)

Finally, take a couple more minutes to do a final lookover of your bicycle's hardware. Check the tightness of all your fasteners, especially the ones holding bike tires on, before hitting the open trail.



TRAILS



Whether you're on a budget or not, there are plenty of trail options to reconnect you with your bike. WOTS has formulated a list of viable options from around Menomonie for all skill sets.

Free: Phelan park, a skate park for those who like to get tricky is located in South Menomonie, just off of 9th street. For those practical people who want to go shopping without having to ride the sidewalk to North Menomonie, check out the Junction Trail. This trail runs North from HWY 29, along the Red Cedar River, crosses over HWY 25 and then continues until Oak Ave.

Paid: Menomonie has a great trail that goes from Menomonie to Downsview called the Red Cedar Trail. The cost is 20 dollars per year, but it is well worth it. In addition to the Red Cedar Trail, the pass will get you on any of the Wisconsin State Trails. Please check out the Wisconsin DNR website for the trail maps and tons of other information.



AHA!

COULD A GOOD GOD BE THE ONE BEHIND THE ALARMS BLARING IN YOUR LIFE?

"Indeed the safest road to hell is the gradual one - the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts." - C.S. Lewis

Have you ever thought to yourself, "How did I end up here?" It's like you've lived your life in a slumber, half aware of where you were going. It seemed fine - good friends, decent grades and a five year life plan. Then, something slapped you awake to the reality that everything was not okay, and it caused you to stop and question everything. These 'AHA' moments are jarring and usually painful. Are they meant to be merely endured and forgotten, or could they be the most pivotal opportunities in life?

AWAKENING

* Alarm 1: 6:15 a.m. This is the time I would ideally like to get my day started. Snooze...

* Alarm 2: 6:30 a.m. If I get up now, I will still have time to get ready for the day. Snooze...

* Alarm 3: 6:45 a.m. Crap, I'm late! I need to leave now!

Every morning I set three alarms. They're all usually able to wake me up, but only the last one is fail-safe in getting me into action. The final alarm has the power to pull me out of my sleepy cocoon because the consequences of ignoring that alarm are far greater than the comfort I would temporarily have in sleeping through it. Are alarms going off in your life? Maybe it looks something like this:

Alarm 1: It seems like I mess everything up. I'm not who I thought I was. Snooze...

Alarm 2: I think I'm bringing destruction to my life and the lives of those around me. Snooze...

Alarm 3: It's sinking in that my time here is short; I don't want to spend it this way anymore.

What will it take to wake you up? Is it the dwindling bank account? The failed classes? Is it another ended relationship? How about that DUI or a semester with a "D" average. Maybe you've been recently awakened to a startling reality in your life. This is a good but critical place to be. You have two choices: be honest with yourself and take action, or do nothing, hit snooze and sleep until the next alarm.

HONESTY

Three common excuses often cause us to slap the primary alarms repeatedly. The first is denial that the alarm is sounding at all. At the moment, snooze may seem like the easiest option; ignoring the situation that caused us pain or embarrassment is one way we try to cope.

When that rude alarm sounds a second time in our lives, another warm, fuzzy option is blame-shifting. Excuses are like the cave of covers we duck under to mute the beeping. If that professor could just make class enjoyable, we would try harder. If people weren't such jerks, we wouldn't need to date one after the other after the other. The list goes on. While we protest, we're actually projecting our own downfalls onto other people to avoid having to push back the blankets and take responsibility.

"INDEED THE SAFEST ROAD TO HELL IS THE GRADUAL ONE - THE GENTLE SLOPE, SOFT UNDERFOOT, WITHOUT SUDDEN TURNINGS, WITHOUT MILESTONES, WITHOUT SIGNPOSTS." - C.S. LEWIS

The third way we hit snooze is by minimizing the severity of the issue. It was just one DUI after all. I could stop getting high anytime I want. I'm not hurting anybody. The more excuses we make, however, the more we lull ourselves back to sleep. If there is another alarm, chances are it could be even louder and more painful than the first. If you don't wake up from it now, will you ever?

We tend to view alarms as obtrusive, loud, annoying and even unwanted. So they seem. What if we learned to embrace the alarms in our lives and welcome the assistance they offer? What if our failures, heartbreaks and disappointments led us to something BETTER? What if they jolted us out of a cycle of confusion and pain and put us on the path we were created to live? What if a good and loving God was behind the alarms, ready to embrace you the moment you push back the blankets and decide to try living outside of snooze-land?

Maybe in response to an alarm, you acted. You allowed God to speak to you and began to ask Him to show you His plan for your life. You experienced some of the good aftermath of refusing to live in snooze mode. Can you coast now, content in the fact that this cycle of awakening, honesty and action is over because you 'arrived'? Sorry, no.

You're still going to have these 'AHA' moments when you awaken to the truth that you need to stop doing something and start doing something else. Becoming a Christian will not erase any of the tendencies to ignore, blame-shift or minimize the alarms either. We can still hit the proverbial snooze button and be lulled back to sleep. But growth will only occur by being honest with ourselves and learning to run to God with hearts that burn to know His true forgiveness and the desire to turn away from the life we're living.

ACTION

Everyone will have moments of awakening, and some will be honest with themselves, but very few will choose to do anything about it. God uses these alarms to show us a relationship with Him is the best thing a human can experience. Not sure where to start? Find a local church that teaches the Bible, spend time meeting God through reading the Bible, and get involved with other Christians. It's here that you will find what God wants for your life, and it is better than you could ever dream. Waking up may seem harsh, but isn't it great to get up and get going?

For more in-depth reading on AHA moments, check out Kyle Idleman's book AHA.

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HOW GOD

FOUND ME



He's three-and-a-half feet tall, six years old, and scared. He's staring at a sea of legs – none of which belong to his papa. He presses his back up against the cold steel of the grocery store shelving and waits, unsure of what to do next. It's there, in the midst of the chaos, carts and spaghetti sauce jars that a strong, sure, hand reaches down and picks him up. **That's when FOUND becomes more than just a word. Rather, it's a tangible encounter with the only person who matters.**

God always finds His children. The Bible says in Matthew 4:18-20, *“One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him.”* The moment Jesus met these brothers and called them to follow Him, they immediately left their former way of life and pursued Him. Fast forward a few years, and these uneducated fishermen were preaching the truth about Jesus Christ and building the foundation of the Christian Church that's still here today. **A meeting with Jesus on the beach changed the course of their entire life, but it all started with one interaction.**

Jesus didn't reserve these dynamic meetings for a few people on the pages of biblical history. Ask anyone who has met Jesus Christ, and you will find similar stories of very ordinary people who experienced the profound change that comes when God found them. **Anyone who meets Jesus Christ will have a completely changed life; these people's lives are proof.**

**IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU ARE
WHEN GOD FINDS YOU. MAYBE YOU
DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE LOST.**

UW-STOUT STAFF: PAMELA HOLSINGER-FUCHS

Pamela is 55 and lives in Tilden near Chippewa Falls. She was born in Denver, CO but grew up in Midland, MI. Right now she serves as the Executive Director of Enrollment Services and Director of Admissions at UW-Stout in Menomonie, WI.



WHERE did God find you?

Boy, God has found me a bunch of times, but as a young girl I gave my heart to Jesus. My dad was an avowed atheist and my mom didn't go to church at that time as she wanted to avoid my dad's anger. There was a Nazarene Church within walking distance that I went to and found the love of Christ and people.

HOW did God rescue you?

I left the church and my relationship with Christ for a while in college, but renewed my commitment after I was out on my own working. I met a nice guy and told him that if he didn't want to have faith as part of our relationship it wasn't going to work out. That guy ended up becoming my husband, and we went to live for two years in an intentional Christian community called Holden Village. After that we lived for an additional five years at a Bible College in Washington. God had my heart but was present in many ups and downs during that time.

WHAT is God leading you to do and be right now?

There is a favorite prayer that we call the Holden prayer and it says: “O God you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot know the endings, on paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown, teach us to go out with good courage not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.” I try to live that in a daily way in terms of being open to the needs around me.



RECENT STOUT ALUMNI: BRITTANY MENOR

Brittany is 22 years old and lives in Menomonie, WI but is from Marinette. Brittany currently works as a Graphic Designer for Markquart Motors.

WHERE did God find you?

I grew up in a Christian home where I got straight A's and everything I ever wanted. I thought I was better than the other kids in my grade because I didn't swear, drink, or smoke like they did. I had a great relationship with my parents, I was dating a guy I thought I was going to marry, and I had just started down the journey of my college career. Life was exactly how I expected and planned that it should be. I was a good, moral, all-American person. But I still felt... empty.

HOW did God rescue you?

I believe God had been pursuing me my entire life, but I was pretty good at avoiding him. I remember asking him for his help and figured he would just bless whatever I decided was best. Little did I know that he was weaving threads in the intricate tapestry of my life. It was when my boyfriend and I broke up that my world came crashing down. The man that I put my entire hopes, future, and trust in left me. But somehow, God kept weaving the broken threads of my life and showed me that only He could satisfy the love that I so deeply craved. He put people in my path that encouraged me, prayed for me, and eventually revealed to me the truth of who Jesus is and what it

looked like to be a radical, born again Christian. My entire world changed when I truly met Jesus and realized that yes, I am a broken sinner and could never be moral enough to earn his love. God revealed to me the truth of His unending grace and that he loved me, even when I felt so unlovable. I didn't know what the future held, but I met the one who held my future in his hands. So I plugged into a local church (Jesus Fellowship of Believers) and campus ministry (Street Level Ministries) and haven't turned back since.

WHAT is God leading you to do and be right now?

As I mentioned earlier, I got plugged into a local church while I was still in college. I started attending, forming relationships with people within the church, going on retreats, and serving in whatever ways I could. Through that, God has been revealing to me my purpose in life and that I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be. The people that I go to church with are closer than family and the work I get to do there is more fulfilling than any hobby or job I've ever had. I have gone on a couple mission trips with Street Level to Sonshine Music Festival and I'm going on my first international mission trip this spring to the Philippines. I don't know if it'll be my only trip there or just the beginning of many mission trips. Either way, I just want to deepen my relationship with God and share Jesus with the world. I also get to do that at home, knowing that my day-to-day mission field is at work, on campus, and throughout the Menomonie area. It's great to be a part of all of this, but the biggest lesson that I've learned over the past year is that my greatest goal is God. Honestly, I've tried "doing all the things" to be a good Christian, but only knowing who God is through the Bible, prayer, and serving Him is what matters. I've honestly tasted and seen that God is truly, truly good. I don't know exactly where I'll end up five, ten, or fifty years from now, but Jesus knows and I want to follow him wherever he takes me.

PHILIPPINES COLLEGE STUDENT: ADRIAN ATENTAR

Adrian Atentar is 19, is from and lives in Cebu, Philippines. He is majoring in Advertising Arts at the University of San Carlos.

WHERE did God find you?

I came from an environment where vices, drugs, fraternities, and gangs were what we call "in". If you didn't join them, you were considered not cool. I was an achiever when I was in high school, and I received awards and top scores in my science and math exams, but due to so much peer pressure, I came to a point where vices and drugs became my comfort zone. I practiced atheism, and every time problems came to me, these were the things I ran to. I leaned on friends who gave worldly advice, where every answer to any problem was at the bottom of a bottle.

HOW did God rescue you?

The turning point in my life where I can say God found me was in the summer of my first year of college. My mom became so sick that every month she was admitted to the hospital. That's when God touched my heart for He knew my biggest weakness was my mom. I didn't have anyone to run to this time. I did have a friend from back in my high school days that I knew was so close to God, and she was the one who comforted me in my tough times. I just told her that I wanted to come with her to church and to introduce me to that God she was always talking about. At that point, my questions weren't fully answered until someone came to me and did a one-on-one mentoring with me. I wasn't fully restored at that time, and in one of our sessions, I was still so high on drugs that I hadn't slept for two days straight. I was so strung out that I couldn't focus on what he was saying, but after the sessions we had a retreat. God touched me so deeply there with the baptism of the Holy Spirit that I was crying so hard that I don't even know why. I could just feel God touching my heart and comforting me that day, and I just poured out all of the anger and

anxious thoughts I always had ever since growing up. On that day, I found my Ultimate Comforter, a friend, a father—my one and only God. Every time I have problems, I just look back to that day and feel His comfort again that apart from Him I could've been in jail or even dead right now. But He has given me a reason to dream, to hope for something better and a reason to stand up even when life knocks me down so hard, just like the quote from the Rocky Balboa movie, "It's not about how hard you hit, but it's about how much you get hit but keep moving forward." I believe this not because I can stand on my feet, but because God gave me the grace and love I needed to stand up again



WHAT is God leading you to do and be right now?

Right now, God has impressed me with so many things, of how sovereign He is, how much He loved me that He picked me up even when I didn't believe in Him, how gracious and merciful He is. These things are the ones fueling me to reach out to people like me, whose security is in this world, and tell them and minister to them that there is this one God who could restore us and clean us from our sins. I want to share with them about how I'm happy, alive and hopeful for the future because God reached out to me and touched my heart. Every day I enjoy this gift He has given me, and right now God is telling me to share this blessing He has given and to lead people to the truth. Right now I'm leading small groups on our campus and also doing one-on-one mentoring with students and serving in the Church as a graphic artist. God has given me the grace to do all these things, and He is calling me to share the things He has done for us with students who are lost and who need the hope, comfort and love He has given me throughout the years.

INDIA COLLEGE STUDENT: SIJOMON PC

Sijomon is 27 years old, and is from Kottayam, Kerela, India. He is currently enrolled at the Master's College of Theology and is going for his bachelors in Divinity.

WHERE did God find you?

I was born and brought up in a Christian family. I believe God found me through my parents as I was growing up in a Pentecostal Christian background.

HOW did God rescue you?

As I was growing up in a Christian family, I got involved in Sunday schools and youth meetings, which gave me a tremendous interest to work among the youth. I believe God called me to do the above mentioned ministry.

WHAT is God leading you to do and be right now?

After my graduation, I would like to work among youth, especially that of young people who are addicted to any form of intoxicant substances. I want to lead them to Christ to liberate them from their bondage. Ultimately, I would like to see them as the future leaders of the churches at large in India.

continued on the next page....

UW-SUPERIOR STUDENT: JESSE MOSS

Jess is 23 and is from Lake Nebagamon, WI. He currently lives in Superior, WI and majored in Secondary Science Education although he is doing carpentry work at the moment.

WHERE did God find you?

I grew up in a "good Christian home." I attended church pretty much every week and knew who God was and what Christ had done for me on the cross. However this knowledge had no impact on the way that I lived my life. I wanted to live my life however I desired, which involved striving for financial success and worldly acceptance. I started my college career with the plan to go to school, graduate, and become wealthy.

HOW did God rescue you?

While I was going to school I'd go to church, agreeing with everything I heard and then I would leave the building trying to leave God right there as well. I lived that way for a long time, ultimately leading to a miserable life. I found no joy in the world and in sin because I had constant conviction that there were things I was doing that I shouldn't be and I found no joy in God because I didn't even know Him and had definitely never allowed Jesus to

be lord of my life. At that time I started attending a different church where I heard the Bible preached and saw it lived out by people in a way that I didn't even know was possible. God quickly revealed to me that I could know Him and that I could and in fact needed to live a life different because of my relationship with Him. He revealed to me who He was and what He done for me which left me no longer practicing religious traditions, but instead reacting out of love and thankfulness for what Christ had done for me.



WHAT is God leading you to do and be right now?

Following Christ has completely changed my life. He has given me a new life with new desires, purpose, and direction. I now seek to live my life doing whatever God has for me because it is in surrendering control to Him that I have found true joy. God has allowed me to serve Him in some really cool ways from overseas and domestic missions, teaching in the local jail, and serving in my churches coffeehouse. God has shown me that he can and will do great things in and through me if I continue being faithful to God and my local church. I now desire to be used by God however possible and be taken as far as He will take me.

CURRENT STREET LEVEL MEMBER: FELTY BORNTREGER

Felty is 25 and is from Bertha, MN. He currently lives in Menomonie, WI and is a logger and construction worker.



WHERE did God find you?

I grew up going to a very religious church that had a lot of rules to follow, so after I turned 18, I moved out of my parents' house. I quit going to church and just started living for myself, always looking for the next best thing to keep me happy, which included going from job to job, moving from state to state and never being satisfied with anything. I thought that as long as I was a good person I would be ok with God.

HOW did God rescue you?

I was invited to come to a church service at Jesus Fellowship of Believers in Menomonie, and I was blown away by the way that Pastor Tim was teaching the Bible; I had never heard anyone teach like that. I started coming around more, and the following spring I was invited to a conference where we talked about being a fan of God or a follower of God. I realized I was just a fan and never was a follower, so that weekend I gave my life to Christ. After that I really started getting involved more in church, started going to Street Level at UW-Stout and also started serving in the Radio Ministry at church.

WHAT is God leading you to do and be right now?

Right now God is leading me to be a leader in the Radio Ministry at Jesus Fellowship of Believers, serving as a high school youth mentor and helping out with the youth whenever I get a chance (which is funny, because I'm not a natural-born leader, but with His help I can anything). My vision has changed so much now that Jesus found me; now I live my life for God and do anything I can to help other people and not just live for myself.

UW-STOUT STUDENT: TYLER MICHALETZ

Tyler is 21 from a small town in Minnesota (Aitkin). He currently lives in Menomonie, WI and is going to Stout for Graphic Design.

WHERE did God find you?

God has always been a part of my upbringing and life, which is rare, and a huge blessing. I grew up hearing about Jesus as my savior, and I believed it, but I was also interested in my own desires and pursuits. I was always attending church willingly and enjoyed being involved in it. But, as I stated, my hope of success and an "enjoyable life" was a huge weight. I focused far more of my heart, soul, mind, strength on things like school, art, intellect, relationships, etc. These are all great and beautiful things that derive from God's grace, but I used them as a focus, rather than a result of chasing the Creator of the Universe.

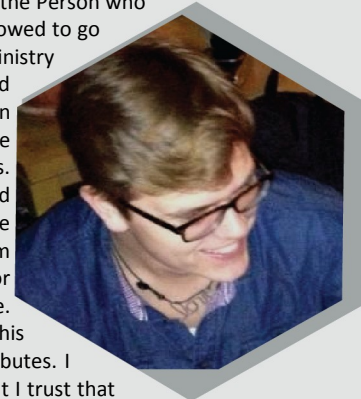
HOW did God rescue you?

God has constantly been pursuing me. I don't believe he suddenly wins your heart, but slowly, for lack of a better term, woos us into a beautiful relationship with him. Ever since I was young, and naturally assumed He existed, he has been revealing to me his beautiful and perfect attributes. The most wonderful, and clearway to understand my own story with God is to think of His pursuit just as a relationship with two people. Initially, there is acknowledgment. This happened when I was very young. Next, there is a building of relationship. This happened slowly throughout my elementary

and secondary education. Then there is a 'defining of the relationship'. This, I would say, happened late in High School when I was worshiping God, and realized, "What is this? Do I have a real relationship with You? If not, let's start now." Finally, two years ago, I came to a point where I wanted to be completely surrendered and eternally bound to My God.

WHAT is God leading you to do and be right now?

Ever since I surrendered my life direction under God's reign, God has shown me such kindness and blessing. He has allowed me to do so many of the things I had hoped to do, but now, it is with the blessing of the Person who created all things from scratch. I have been allowed to go to the Philippines, and participate in his Ministry there, as well as use my love of design and creativity to serve His work and Church here in Menomonie. After these, I was able to move into a leadership role in Street Level Ministries. This, in combination with being in a committed relationship with a lovely girl {who has a humble spirit towards God that I am inspired by} I am learning a lot about what it means to care for and lead others with grace, service, and love. This has forced me to pursue God and ask for his help because I don't naturally have those attributes. I do not know exactly what God has planned, but I trust that it will be powerful, and perfectly designed for my fulfillment, and His glory.



"I HAD BEEN RAISED TO HEAR HIS VOICE AND COULD NOT ESCAPE IT NO MATTER HOW FAR I RAN. THEREFORE THE THINGS OF THE WORLD JUST NEVER BROUGHT ME THE FULFILLMENT THAT I WAS SEEKING. I WANTED LIFE TO MEAN SOMETHING." –TIM

**MENOMONIE PASTOR:
TIM DODSON**



Tim is 54 years old and currently lives in Dunn County, Wisconsin. He's originally from Des Moines, Iowa. Tim is the Lead Pastor at Jesus Fellowship of Believers church in Menomonie, WI.

WHERE did God find you?

I was raised in the church by parents who truly loved Christ. They served the Lord and He was a priority in our house. At some point, like so many young people in our culture, I attempted to find my own way with God, though His existence and sovereignty was never in question within me. I simply wanted what I wanted, and I wanted it now. I had been raised to hear His voice and could not escape it no matter how far I ran. Therefore the things of the world just never brought me the fulfillment that I was seeking. I wanted life to mean something. No doubt my earthly father had a great deal to do with my response to God. He was the quintessential 'real man' and he loved God deeply; In that, there was no denying and ultimately no escape for me.

UW-STOUT GRADUATE: LISA SEVERSON

Lisa is 28 and is originally from Cumberland, WI. She currently lives in Menomonie, WI and works in Human Services. She recently graduated from Stout in Vocational Rehabilitation.

WHERE did God find you?

My parents got divorced when I was younger, and they both got into some physically and mentally abusive relationships. I mostly lived with my dad, and I saw my mom every other weekend. My dad remarried, and I got to live with seven other siblings. Even though I lived with what felt like a miniature football team, I still felt really alone, sad, and angry all the time. I felt like I couldn't tell anyone anything, so I learned to rely on myself and put more of myself into other relationships like my friends. Then, I would get angry at them because they could never live up to my expectations.

HOW did God rescue you?

God, knowing me, put a Christian friend in my life and she became my best friend. She wasn't perfect, but I could tell that there was something different in her. After high school I didn't really know what to do, so I followed my best friend to college and we were roommates. In college, I had deaths in the family, and I became

HOW did God rescue you?

His pursuit of me was relentless. I have always been a driven person, and God let me run myself to the end of myself, and then picked me up on the far side. It was a 'surrender' in the classic sense. It was not an issue of knowledge or even understanding, but rather an issue of capitulation. I have no doubt that my true conversion/salvation came early in my life. But my true practical surrender and baptism in the Holy Spirit came much later. As a child of God, there is no peace apart from Him. But I simply had to find that out for myself, and I did.

WHAT is God leading you to do and be right now?

Certainly God had plans for me that I had not anticipated. Ministry in any form seemed far away in its possibility. I was, however, keenly amazed and thrilled to be able to serve Him in any capacity, as I was always 'wide-eyed' to His glory, majesty, and involvement in the lives of His creation and the world around me. Thus, I could not - and to some degree even now cannot - easily accept His willingness to allow me "on the team." I feel like I'm a 5 year old in the World Series. I long to minister for God and His kingdom in any way possible. To preach the living Word is a 'rush' that is unparalleled (for me anyway!). I want to do this until He takes me out of here. I want to finish well this life race. I am where I belong and I am, like Paul the apostle, compelled to preach the gospel.

really emotional and depressed. She was struggling with guy issues so she turned to Jesus for help, but I turned to myself. What I was doing just wasn't working, and I didn't know what to do. Even though her struggle didn't go away right away, I got to see her faith and love for Jesus during her times of struggle, and I wanted that. I wanted Him. I wanted a God that would gladly love me no matter what and take me at my lowest time. I just asked God to change my heart and for His help and forgiveness.

WHAT is God leading you to do and be right now?

Right now, God is leading me to do different things in my life which ultimately have the same purpose. I get to serve God at work. I get to be part of serving God at my church through the coffeehouse ministry. I also am part of our campus organization called Street Level Ministries at UW-Stout. I am also preparing to go on a mission trip the Philippines. I get to have five lovely ladies who I know God has placed in my life to live with. God has brought me to an awesome church. I never thought in my entire life that I would be used in the way that God has used me so far. Looking back, I can see moments of my life where I know now that God was there, even when I didn't know Him. I don't always know what is next for me, but God does.



It doesn't matter where you are when God finds you. Maybe you didn't even know you were lost. You might even be *hiding* when He finds you. But, at the moment He picks you up, you'll know you're FOUND. The Bible says He's searching the earth, looking for those who will love Him with their whole heart and all the life that's in them. (Paraphrase of 2 Chronicles 16:9) Are you ready to know how it feels to be found?

SUMMER

PLAYLIST

Some songs are just better during the summer: wind whipping through your hair as you drive the open road, shades on, sun shining, windows down (because it's above 40 degrees for once) that perfect song blaring. Strolls through the park, picnics and grill-outs are always better with the right soundtrack in the background. We've provided a few of our favorite artists, along with a link to our WOTS Summer Spotify Playlist, to compliment the best moments of your summer.

JOHN MARK McMILLAN



Who he is:

John Mark McMillan was born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina. He spent his early years in and out of local rock bands before a personal loss drew him to a more spiritual life. His deep, gritty voice soars over a plethora of instruments and achieves a level of rare richness.

Reasons to listen:

Today, we see the results of his conversion with music full of metaphors that twist around themselves, accompanied by images and adjectives that are both literal and figurative. McMillan never avoids the hard questions but hits them head on with Johnny Cash-like bravado. His newest album *Borderland* describes itself: "life between the crevices; life on the verge."



DREW HOLCOMB & THE NEIGHBORS

Who they are:

This Nashville gang is comprised of longtime friends, former neighbors and spouses whose one rule is that all music has to be played on actual instruments.

Reasons to listen:

Although they wanted to stay away from synthesizers and computerized loops, they still push buttons by blurring the lines between folk, pop and California country-rock. Their newest album *Medicine* centers on honest performances that range from introspective to full-on "Springsteen-like" heartland rock. Somehow, at the same time, they achieve an intimacy that transcends folk, country, and rock altogether.



THE OH HELLOS

Who they are:

The Oh Hellos are Maggie and Tyler Heath, intentionally independent self-produced musicians hailing from the great state of Texas.

Reasons to listen:

These siblings bend and blend styles and genres into a unique mixture of eclectic folk rock. Joined on stage by a rotating cast of characters, sometimes as many as 13, The Oh Hellos weave a sound that is one moment warmly inviting, the next explosive and joyful. Catch their newest album, *Through the Deep, Dark Valley*, that came out earlier this year.



Who he is:

Originally born in Eugene, Oregon, Mat Kearney attended California State University where he studied literature. After his junior year Kearney, went to Nashville with intentions of only staying for the summer to “lay down” a couple of songs with a friend. However, after offers for recording deals started coming, he decided to remain in Tennessee to seriously pursue songwriting.

Reasons to listen:

Have you ever listened to hook-filled, hip-hop influenced, electro-pop music? Well, this guy is a natural. For his newest album *Just Kids*, he built a portable studio on his bus and cut tracks across America, Sweden, and his home studio in Nashville. We’re impressed, Mat.

RAVENHILL

Who they are:

Here’s another rock band hailing from the state of Tennessee that’s been building up steam for the last couple of years. As a result, they are scheduled to play this year at Sonshine Music Festival in Somerset, WI!

Reasons to listen:

These rockers bridge the seemingly improbable gaps between rockabilly, blues, and good old-fashioned rock n’ roll. If you ever wanted to know what the handsome lovechild of Jerry Lee Lewis, BB King, and Elvis Presley would sound like, look no further.

There are far too many great musicians out there to list them all, so head to [OUR SPOTIFY PLAYLIST](#) to catch some more. We’re sure you’ll discover some new tunes to add to your soundtrack this summer!

<https://open.spotify.com/user/wotsmagazine/playlist/55YdUNGB3BYoHOUIEE1osJ>

MAT KEARNEY



Don't Panic

3 Things To Consider When Battling Stress and Anxiety



No matter how you look at it, battling depression and anxiety is difficult. The weight that drags the mind and heart down is soul-deflating. Some people experience this weight more heavily than others. Recognizing what causes anxiety and stress, admitting that we have it, and dealing with it are essential keys to being freed from joy-sapping anxiety and fear. In fact, through the Bible, God has a lot to say about anxiety and stress. *"Always be joyful, never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) People often wonder about God's will for their life, and here God has explicitly told us that it is to be joyful and thankful regardless of circumstance. He tells us to not be weighed down by anxiety about day-to-day life. What does the Bible have to say about battling these feelings so we don't become a slave to them?

Ask yourself these questions: Am I stressed out and anxious every time things are not working out like I thought they would? Am I worried about things going south every time they *are* working out? Think about that

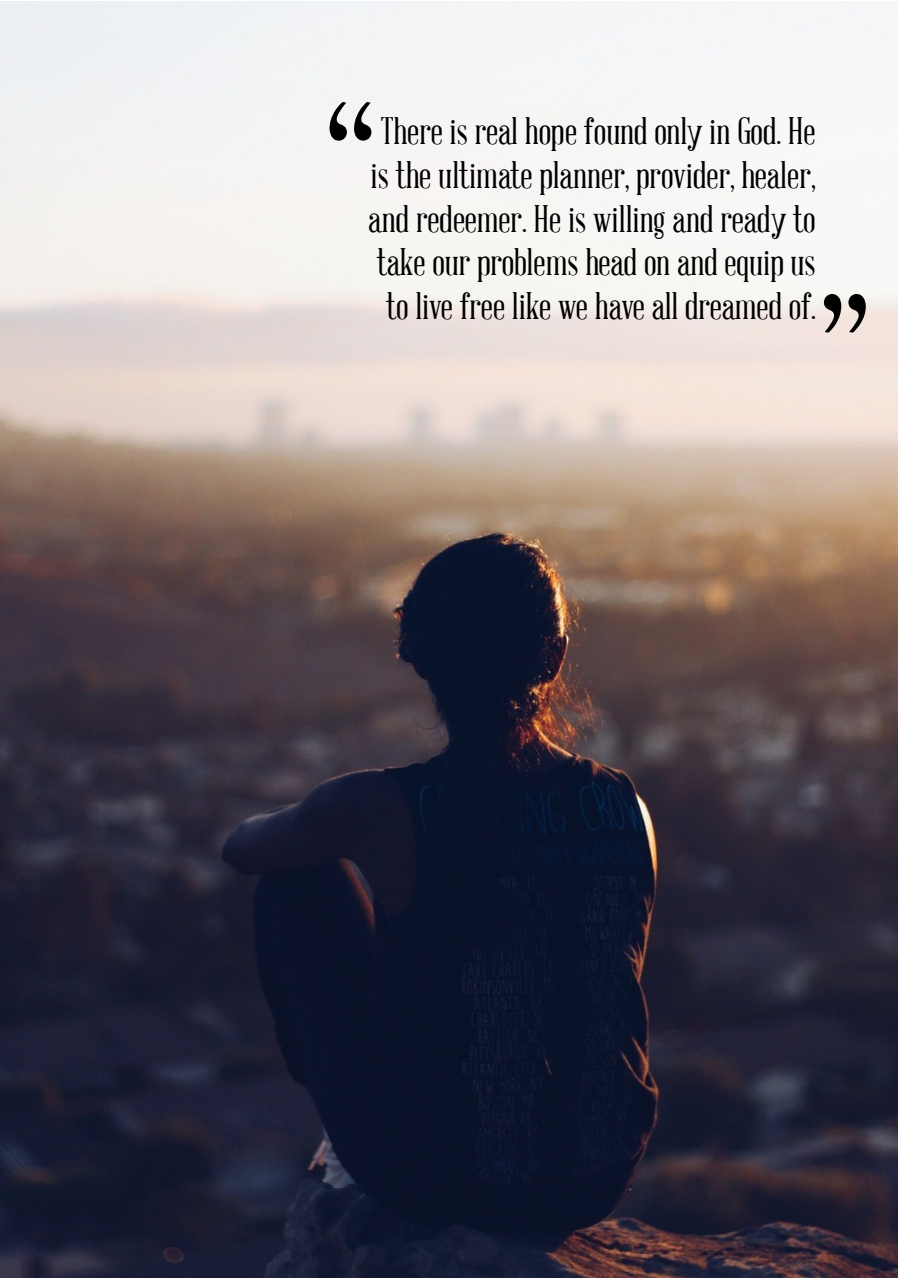
relationship you had that you honestly thought would fulfill you and bring you joy and peace. Think about the last time you took on too many responsibilities because you thought it was the right thing to do and that by fulfilling them they would take the weight off your shoulders. Maybe you've felt threatened recently, have experienced an illness, or someone close to you is suffering. What about when your parents got divorced? Maybe the breaking point was when your internship fell through and you felt miles away from a job that was supposed to pay your student loans? Life is full of these worries and questions. Some are self-inflicted and some are uninvited; both are invasive. You're not alone if you have asked these questions, and there is a way to battle these doubts and fears when they come.

For many of us, when we're dealing with stress and anxiety, we try not to let anyone notice. We have that Midwest-mentality that says, "Well, it's just part of life; at least I am still alive." In doing this, we settle for a life of merely surviving and reacting because we're trying to keep a stiff upper lip. Chances are, there are some root problems in your life that are crippling you from doing the things you were created to do. It helps to try to dig down and pull them out. First, identify if this stress is self-inflicted or if you are experiencing the weight of multiple trials life has recently thrown at you. Understand that we all have weaknesses (yes, even you that just scoffed) and recognize those weaknesses. Are you a control freak? Do you find yourself unhappy if everyone's pattern of thinking does not match yours? Have you put yourself in a financial bind? Are you jealous of someone else's success while feeling that you're on the sidelines?

I am by no means above the struggle with anxiety, and it has much more of a grip on my life than I'd like to admit. Often, I think I am the only one having a difficult time with something; for example, spending too much time thinking about what other people are thinking about me. I deem myself as a high priority in other

people's lives without actually saying it. Apparently I think my peers do not have better things to do except critique me. Can you see how this attitude can be destructive? *"Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?"* (Matthew 6:27)

Being part of a community is also huge, because, as Peter wrote in 1 Peter 5:8, *"The enemy prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour."* Just as a lion wants a gazelle to step away from the herd to destroy it, so the enemy wants you away from people so he can destroy you. When you are facing anxiety, depression and condemnation, being by yourself is extremely unhelpful. Being alone too long can send you into "self-destruct mode," and your thoughts can begin to own you. Immersing yourself in the lives of others and attending to their needs may be just what's needed to get your thoughts off of only *you* and into the mode of loving and helping others. A great way to fight sadness can be closeness to people with whom you can be open and honest, letting them know what's going on in your life. As simple as it sounds, sometimes it just helps to say things out loud so you can drag them into the light and realize how silly they sound in reality. I need people in my life to bounce ideas off of, and to share dreams with. I also need people to encourage me with kind words, or tell me the truth when I am being an idiot.



“There is real hope found only in God. He is the ultimate planner, provider, healer, and redeemer. He is willing and ready to take our problems head on and equip us to live free like we have all dreamed of.”

While honesty, community and serving others are great tools for battling the difficult times in life, real and lasting hope is found only in God. He is the ultimate Planner, Provider, Healer, and Redeemer. He is willing and ready to take our problems head on and equip us to live free like we have all dreamed.

"Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24) As someone who makes a habit out of living too much in my head, this has become an important verse in my life. Sometimes we think having perfect faith is required for God to help us. But why would God help someone who is already perfect? He just asks us to believe and lean on Him because we're so weak.

God does care about these anxieties and stresses in our lives, and He wants us to put them onto Him. As hard as that sounds, or as mystical as we can chalk it up to be, it is a very concrete reality that God wants to help His children as they navigate the ups and downs of life. *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."* (Philippians 4:6) The Bible offers us the very words of God for us; and they're written so we know what to do when life seems like too much. Pray that He will open up your heart and help you understand what He wants to say to you.

The ironic part of anxiety is that by indulging in things meant to cure us of it, we can miss out on what God wants to do with it. The world is surprising in its depravity, and even though we see it, we will never be able to do anything about it, or ourselves, on our own. By spending some time serving other people, God can start to lift you out of your worries and fears and onto Him. By living for Him now, He will show you the reason He made you the way you are, in the generation you were born into, and in the exact place you're at right now. Look up Matthew 6:25, *"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"* Pray and look through the Bible for more of what God has to say. Why go through life lugging a burden that God has offered to help carry?

How **STOUTIE** Are You?

Hey, Stout students! Just how Stoutie do you think you are?
Take our quiz and find out if you know the deats about this place...

1 What building on campus is there a secret screen porch for students to study in if they check out the key from the front desk? – 3 points

- a. Jarvis Hall
- b. Library
- c. Vocational Rehabilitation
- d. Micheels Hall

2 What does “RA” actually stand for? – 1 point

- a. Resident Administrator
- b. Resident Advisor
- c. Roommate Advice-giver
- d. Readily Available

3 What mystery food is handed out each Monday to students at various places around campus during the warmer weather? – 2 points

- a. Ice cream
- b. Muffins
- c. Apples
- d. Artichokes

4 True or False: The DuJoir Bar in Price Commons serves pizza, burgers, and hot dogs for students to enjoy. – 1 point

- True
- False

5 Where is the Glass Lounge located on campus? – 2 points

- a. Memorial Student Center
- b. Heritage Hall
- c. Price Commons
- d. Jarvis Hall

6 Blue Devil Productions puts on awesome movie nights, FREE for students. Always new releases. When and where are they held? – 2 points

- a. MSC – Great Hall
- b. APPA – 310
- c. MSC – Terrace
- d. APPA – 210

7 True or False: Students have played to the death (ok, not really) in Canoe Battleship: a Stout Adventures original that joins the beloved board game “Battleship” with canoes and the pool in the UW-Stout Fieldhouse. – 2 points

- True
- False

8 How many acres does the UW-Stout campus cover? – 3 points

- a. 98
- b. 206
- c. 191
- d. 124

9 What is the UW-Stout’s Blue Devil mascot’s name? – 1 point

- a. Blaze
- b. Blu
- c. Flame
- d. Freddy

10 True or False: While usually operated on an electronic timer, The Bowman Clock Tower is rung by the same woman each time for various occasions and celebrations. – 1 point

- True
- False

SLIGHTLY STOUTIE (0-6 POINTS):

Hey, you know the basics, right? No need to fear; you’re not being graded on how many visits you make to the Muffin Lady on Mondays anyway.

SATISFACTORY STOUTIE (7-12 POINTS):

We stumped you on Question 4, didn’t we? Hehe... Don’t worry, you could have done worse. Or you just didn’t want to show off... We get it.

SUPER STOUTIE (13-18 POINTS):

There’s no denying it. You know your stuff. From the Muffin Lady to the screen porch, you know your Stout secrets and stats. You could write the quiz for us next time!

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theblindmunchies@gmail.com

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 _____

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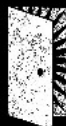
Yes, send me a Bible.

Yes, send me the
online link to new
"WOTS" issues when
they're released.

HOW'RE THE RESOLUTIONS GOING?

It's impossible
to quit
on our own...

Restoration
Ministries
provides a
seamless path
from a lifestyle
of addiction, pain,
and loneliness
into a
Christ-centered
community.



RESTORATION
ministries



THURSDAYS
AT 7:00 PM

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

Puppy Journal



Loosely based on a true story...

Hello to all you college students from your furry friend, Fritz. Interacting with a puppy during finals week for de-stressing seems to be all the craze these days and may seem like a good idea, but let's not forget that puppies have stress of their own. I grew up in the Midwest, born from the fifth litter of a wonderful mother who did the best she could. My brother and I spent eight weeks together before we parted ways to different owners. I was then adopted by a local Twin Ports family, having to learn to take care of myself, and I became the equivalent of their child. I've learned a great deal about watching humans and their perception of puppies, but I believe there are a lot of misconceptions lingering about what goes on in the mind of a puppy.

First of all, puppies are not all just "eat-play-sleep-poop". Our daily lives are just as stressful as your exams, finals, relationships and jobs. I frequently hear humans comment how it would be nice to sleep and

nap like puppies. A nap is not some casual, passive activity like you humans think! For me, a nap is the time for my brain to restore and give me sanity: it's not like I nap because I'm lazy! The highly advanced brain that I have needs lots of restorative REM and stage three sleep. I literally have to force myself to slow down and nap throughout the day.

Besides the napping, I don't understand all the hoopla about going to the bathroom. I'd never seen such excitement on a human face when I first went to the bathroom outside! It doesn't make any sense that humans can do their business in the same roof and building where they sleep (not to mention in a bowl that is filled with refreshing, cool water), but when I try to do my business indoors, it's like Armageddon is coming. Anyways, it's not like pooping and peeing is that big of a deal, but when humans get all uppity about it, it makes me anxious. Think how you would feel to have someone constantly trying to figure out where you're going to use the bathroom and watching you like some savage. I have decided to do my business outdoors just because I want to be left alone!

Speaking of being alone, if you humans only understood the half of what goes on when you're not at home. I've heard various conversations about the concept of separation anxiety between puppy and owner when they must leave home, but the truth is, there could be no better time for rejuvenation. Most of us pups put on a big show and whine when you leave so you'll feel wanted and important, but what we're really hoping for is some time to rest. Humans seem to have this desire to be praised and worshiped, and that takes a lot of energy out of us pups. We need this alone time for recuperation. I never quite can predict what my owners are going to be like when they get home, so I've got to be ready and on my game for any mood, from tired to rambunctious, which can be daunting at times.

However, the most frightening experience in my life is this thing you call a vacuum cleaner. It seems like every couple of weeks my owners grab this machine, but they never

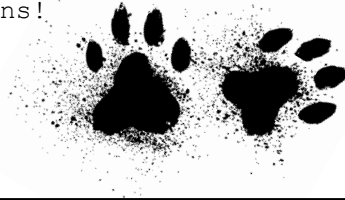
really seem excited to do so. It's like this thing has a pull of necessity but minimal joy. It makes the most horrendous, loud noise and runs around the carpet. I don't see the point; it just fluffs up the carpet for it to be trampled back down again. I fear this machine will one day suck up a human if they're not careful. Vacuum cleaners should not be trusted if you ask me, mark my words!

Puppy life isn't all work and fears; there are also some times of relaxing. Humans have parties, Friday nights, and hangouts, but let me tell you what we dogs have in two awesome words: dog park. The dog park is this fantastic place that has a fence to protect us from all the weird humans and provides no leash-barred interaction. The truth is that the dog park is more like the dog dating scene. It's not extra time to run and sniff around the ground (but you do get lots of time for that); it's more like making your best impression with the opposite sex. Sure, we sniff each other's front and back, but it's not that different from you humans and your proverbial butt-sniffing as you bolster yourselves with words instead of truly sniffing to know each other. We are just more transparent; we don't try to put on some fake scent but rather let our true selves emanate. The dog park gets a little cliquy sometimes, and occasionally the Rottweiler or Black Lab

"Think how you would feel to have someone constantly trying to figure out where you're going to use the bathroom and watching you like some savage."

gangs move in, but for the most part it's a safe place. I just wish the owners could see the value in this more often; it would be nice to be there a few hours every day!

Thank you for listening to my inner monologue thoughts. I'm not sure where the term 'puppy love' originated, but I hope you understand there is no such thing as love without work. We puppies are not just mindless, flippant creatures; we have lots to busy ourselves with. I cannot count the number of times I've seen my owner say, eat, do or think about doing things that I know are going to harm him, and I've had to intervene. I know my owners need my protection and my compassion; I can say the feeling is mutual, but it isn't easy. This world is a tough place for all creation; you humans don't have a patent on that but at least we've got each other for the ups and downs!



NICK THE HICK: Selfies, Sellfees, Selpheese, Selphize or However you Spell it.



In my travels, which are many, I experience a lot of new fangled activity. The latest to be brought to my attention is all the hoop law surrounding the practice of the selfie. The first selfie I ever saw I thought was a "before" picture for Pro Active paid programs. You know the one about fixing zits. Then there is the matter of the news. News was just fine before they started reporting. For one, the reporter usually struggles to talk clearly, now you're going to make them hold a camera on a stick? Such madness. You should never be holding anything on a stick

unless you intend on eating it. Last time I checked, a Canon is hard to swallow. I'll admit it, I tried this selfie after many shanks of peer pressure. It felt wrong, everything about it did. But then again I am 25 years behind the general populous in my acknowledgment of new trends. Just do me a favor? Like the old saying in construction "measure twice cut once", before your selfie, "check your face twice, snap once."

**ADMIT IT.
YOU DON'T
HAVE IT
ALL UNDER
CONTROL.**

**FIND OUT MORE ON
MONDAY NIGHTS @ 7PM**

WILLOW/WALNUT ROOM

MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER

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