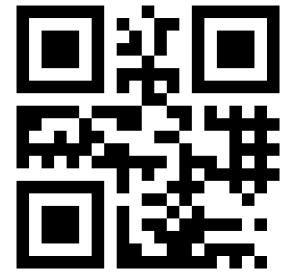


# THINGS WE DO WHEN IT ALL GOES WRONG



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

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](http://streetlevelministries.com) for details on how you can get involved. We hope the magazine is funny, challenging, and provocative, while encouraging you to pursue a strong relationship with Jesus.



wotsmagazine@gmail.com

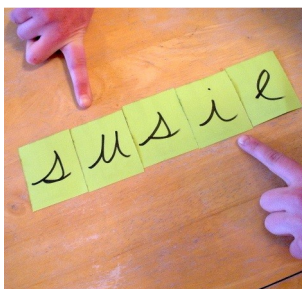
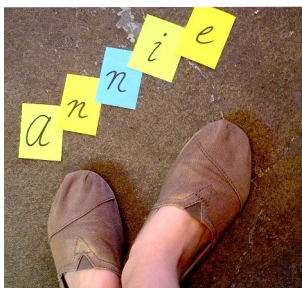
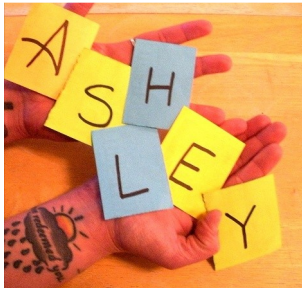
**ReadWots.com**

# MEET THE WOTS STAFF: from three cities and two countries

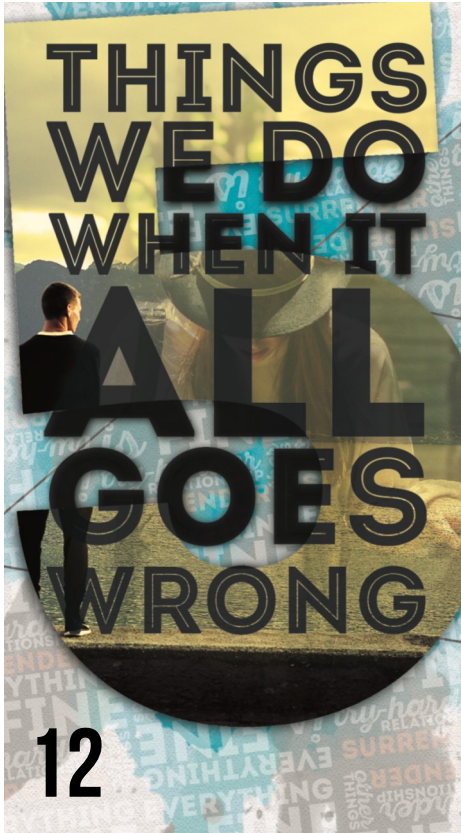
UW-STOUT, Menomonie, WI

UW-Superior, Superior, WI

Cebu City, Philippines



5 THINGS WE DO WHEN IT ALL GOES WRONG



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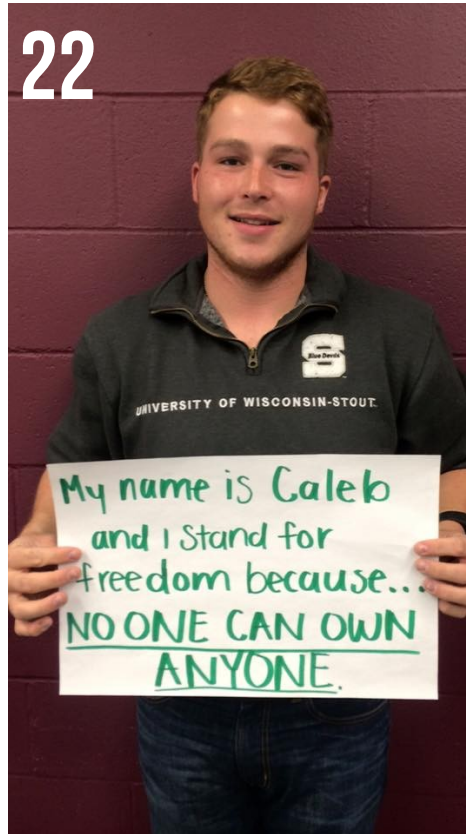
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# DON'T FOLLOW YOUR HEART

WE CAN'T ACTUALLY PULL OUR PULSATING BLOOD-PUMPER OUT OF OUR CHEST AND PUT IT ON A LEASH, SO WE NEED TO CLARIFY WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

## Heart. Gut. Intuition. Dreams. Passions.

What do these things have in common? They're all immaterial, and we've all been told to follow them at some point in time. We hear it when we're looking for guidance on a tough decision: "trust yourself", "just believe", and "follow your heart". It sounds so wise, comforting, and liberating, but what does it actually *mean*? Next time you're handed these words to chew on, think about it: is this life advice strong enough to build your entire future upon?

### WHAT DOES IT ACTUALLY MEAN TO "FOLLOW YOUR HEART?"

Encouraging another person to "follow their heart" is a cliché that seems to have lost its meaning over time and exhaustive use. We like the sound of these phrases because it gives us assurance that we can achieve what we're after. We can't actually pull our pulsating blood-pumper out of our chest and put it on a leash, so we need to clarify what we're talking about. Are we talking about giving in to feelings, or possibly following comfortable circumstances, or even just doing what seems right to us? Do we mean pursuing passion, or chasing the things that peak our interest? Is it possible that nobody really knows what it looks like to "follow their hearts," although we use this phrase as effortlessly as we talk about the weather?

Chances are, when we advise each other to follow our hearts, we're really just telling each other to do whatever we wanted to do in the first place. In moments of confusion and indecision, talking and reasoning through it enough with a close friend might just make us "feel better" about doing what we want. Think about examples in your own life; isn't it true that you can convince yourself of just about anything, especially with a little help? Having another person's stamp of approval on our decisions gives us a sensation of security and validity in our ultimate move.

### YOUR HEART IS NOT A RELIABLE GUIDE.

"Follow your heart" naturally assumes your heart is a good and trustworthy guide. What does your heart actually tell you? Think before you answer, because it gets schizophrenic in there fast; you might not want to repeat what you find. My heart tells me everything in my life should bow to my own desires. It tells me that I don't have to do my homework tonight because I don't feel like it, and I worked pretty hard yesterday. But really, I just don't want to do it. Homework is uncomfortable and requires thinking. My heart also tells me to hang on to anger because I *feel* so justified. If our hearts are really a trustworthy guide, why does it seem that the things it "tells" me often seem so unreliable and counter-productive? We think our hearts can point us in the "right" direction, but how can we really know whether a path is "right" if our own confused hearts are the ones that determine ultimate goodness and truth? The Bible says in Proverbs 14:12, "*There is a path before each person that seems right, but in the end it leads to death.*"<sup>1</sup> We think we know the way to satisfaction, but what if we're wrong? Could it be that the cultural motto to "follow your heart" leaves us just as lost and confused as we were in the beginning?

### YOUR HEART IS MEANT TO BE LED, NOT FOLLOWED.

This is the bottom line: our hearts will not save us; we need to be saved from our hearts; they are designed to be led, not followed. If I followed every desire of my heart, it would lead me only to arrogance, compromise, and, ultimately, a life eternally apart from God and true joy. True joy will come from a heart that is freed from small, shallow desires and replaced with purpose, hope, and love from a God who wants more for you than to wander through life. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "*The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?*" The word "wicked" in that verse means having a mental disregard for truth<sup>2</sup> -- not necessarily bashing kittens and starting fires -- just choosing your own ideas instead of what God says is right. This is why we need to direct our heart to Him; and His way is to follow Jesus. Jesus says in John 14:1, "*Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.*" Our hearts are inevitably given to our selfish nature, so this true joy we are searching for can only be found in receiving a new heart from Jesus, one that is no longer in bondage to the whims of feeling and guessing. We can draw near to a good God who says in His love for us, "*O my son, give me your heart. May your eyes take delight in following my ways.*" (Proverbs 23:26) Since our heart itself is the problem, we need a new one if our desires are ever to change from self-satisfaction to joyful fulfillment. This comes only from a relationship with God.

What if- instead of following our hearts—we followed Jesus? He lived the life we couldn't live and died so we wouldn't have to. Now we're all free to trade our broken hearts for His flawless one, and to receive the peace of knowing that when God looks at our messy lives, He will only see Jesus' perfect one in our place. God will never turn away anyone who is truly seeking Him, so let your heart echo along with the psalmist who cried, "*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*"<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>All verses taken from the New Living Bible Translation

<sup>2</sup><http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/wickedness/>

<sup>3</sup>John 14:6

<sup>4</sup>Psalms 51:10



# SHORT & STOUT

**STOUT GETS DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL**

## HEAVY METAL & MACHINERY

**Who said Machines and Music Don't Mix?**

On Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, the UW-Stout Symphonic Singers and Chamber Choir will be performing an unconventional concert at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (910 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue S). This is not just a concert but a performance "in an evening of music that amalgamates metal, machines and poetry." Some of the pieces they will be performing are work songs sung by miners, opera choirs and more. Let your ears resonate in the metallic harmony of the night.

*Symphonic Singers, Chamber Choir:*  
[www.uwstout.edu](http://www.uwstout.edu)



## ANTIGONE

**A sister struggles for her family's honor and dignity to be restored.**

The UW-Stout Theatre is performing a classic Greek tragedy that you don't want to miss. 'Antigone' was written around 441 BC, and is the name of a girl whose brother, Polynieces, died at the hands of a Thebes civil war and never properly put to rest. Out of family honor, Antigone fights to give her brother the proper burial he deserves. 'Antigone' will be performed at the Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts from November 11th-13th at 7:30 pm and November 14th and 15th at 1:30 pm. Go to [tickets.uwstout.edu](http://tickets.uwstout.edu) or the MSC Service Center for \$12 tickets. Don't miss out on this epic and ancient tale!



*Mable Tainter Pic: [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com)*

# LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

WINTER 2015-16

## SPORTS & REC

**MON. 11/23** – Stout Adventures, Turkey Top Out Climbing, 3 pm-10 pm

**SUN. 11/29** – Women’s Basketball vs St. Catherine, 2 pm

**THURS. 12/3** – Men’s Hockey vs. UW-Eau Claire, 7:30 pm

**THURS. 12/3** – Stout Adventures, Crate Stacking Competition, 8 pm-11 pm

**FRI. 12/4** – Men’s Hockey vs. UW-Superior, 7:30 pm

**SAT. 12/5** – Men’s Basketball vs. Buena Vista University, 3 pm  
12/7 – Standup Paddleboard Demo @ Stout Pool, Free w/Stout ID, \$5 for Community Members

**FRI. 12/11** – Men’s Hockey vs. Concordia College, 7:30 pm

**SAT. 12/12** – Men’s Hockey vs. St. Olaf College, 7:30 pm

**SAT. 12/19** – Dance at Eau Claire Regis Exhibition, TBA

**SAT. 1/2** – Women’s Basketball vs. St. Mary’s University, 2 pm

**FRI. 1/8** – Women’s Gymnastics vs. UW-Lacrosse, 6 pm // Men’s Hockey vs. Hamline University, 7:30 pm

**SAT. 1/9** – Dance at Spirit of America, Mall of America, TBA // Women’s Basketball vs. UW-River Falls, 3 pm

**FRI. 1/15** – Women’s Gymnastics at Winona State, 6:30 pm

**SAT. 1/16** – Men’s Basketball vs. UW-Platteville, 3 pm

## ENTERTAINMENT

**THURS. 11/19** – Free Live Music: Pho & Hustle Rose, 8 pm, MSC Terrace

**SAT. 11/21** – Holiday Bazaar in the Park, Rassbach Heritage Museum, 9 am-2 pm

**TUES. 12/1** – Comedian Kel Mitchell, 8 pm, MSC Great Hall

**THURS. 12/3** – Free Live Music: Homeless & Big Cats, 8 pm, MSC Terrace

**FRI. 12/4** – “Miracle on 34th Street”, 7:30 pm, Mabel Tainter Theater // UW-Stout Choir “Heavy Metal & Machinery”, 7 pm // **FREE Live Music @ The Blind Munchies Coffeehouse – Make the Call – 7 pm**

**SAT. 12/5** – “Miracle on 34th Street”, 2pm & 7:30 pm, Mabel Tainter Theater

**SUN. 12/6** – “Miracle on 34th Street”, 2 pm, Mabel Tainter Theater

**THURS. 12/10** – Open Mic Night, 8 pm, MSC Terrace

**FRI. 12/11** – “Miracle on 34th Street”, 7:30 pm, Mabel Tainter Theater

**SAT. 12/12** – “Miracle on 34th Street”, 2 pm & 7:30 pm, Mabel Tainter Theater

**SUN. 12/13** – “Miracle on 34th Street”, 2 pm, Mabel Tainter Theater

**FRI. 12/18** – “The Nutcracker”, 7:30-9:30 pm, Mabel Tainter Theater

**SAT. 1/23** – “Tonic Sol-fa” A Cappella Ensemble, 7:30-9:30 pm, Mabel Tainter Theater

## ACADEMIC

**WED. 11/25 – FRI. 11/27** – Thanksgiving Break, No Classes

**MON. 11/30** – Classes Resume

**WED. 12/2** – UW Stout Career Center, Job & Co-op Search Workshop, 12:20 - 1:15 pm

**THURS. 12/10** – UW Stout Career Center, How to Write a Resume Workshop, 1 - 2 pm

**TUES. 12/15** – Last Day of Classes  
Wed. 12/16 – Tues. 12/22 – Evaluation Week

**SAT. 12/19** – Commencement Day

**TUES. 12/22** – End of First Semester

**WED. 12/23 – MON. 1/18** – Winter Break

**MON. 12/28** – Winterterm Classes Begin

**SAT. 1/16** – Winterterm Classes End

**TUES. 1/19** – First Day of Classes



## DON'T MISS THESE

**Street Level Bible Study**  
Mondays 7pm  
Cedar Maplewood, MSC  
UW-Stout / Menomonie, WI

**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...

**FREE Live Music**  
**@ The Blind Munchies Coffeehouse**

**Make the Call**

**7 pm**

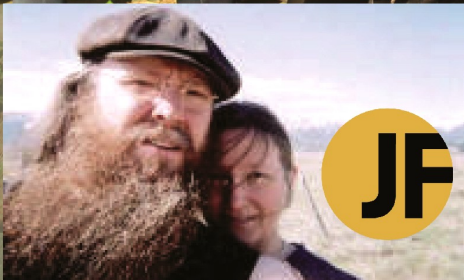


# WHO IS JESUS FELLOWSHIP?

STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES  
SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY SERVICES  
THE BLIND MUNCHIES COFFEEHOUSE  
COMMUNAL LIVING CHURCH HOUSE  
SINGLES & COUPLES FELLOWSHIPS  
PHILIPPINES SHOFAR MISSIONS  
BURNING DOG RADIO 101.7FM  
WORD ON THE STREET MAGAZINE

## THE CAMPUS CHURCH

621 WILSON AVENUE  
MENOMONIE, WI  
JUST 5 MINUTES WALK FROM UW-STOUT



SENIOR PASTOR TIM DODSON  
AND HIS WIFE SHARON



## BELIEVERS

*an intentional christian community*

JFBELIEVERS.COM

# CHOOSE YOUR OWN EXTREME ADVENTURE

Winter doesn't have to be a drag. Whether or not you have transportation or money, an extreme winter adventure awaits you. *Word on the Street* has compiled a list of things you can do to get out of your dorm or living room and into your own extreme winter adventure. Find the section that best fits you and enjoy the snow!

## **Snowboard, Ski or Snow Tube at Christie Mountain** – [www.christiemountain.com](http://www.christiemountain.com)

The slopes are open from Wednesday through Sunday. Friday night is college night, and your college ID becomes a coupon for \$5 off. Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday night are \$10 rental nights. A smart snow-lover can find good deals all around at this resort. Christie Mountain also has tubing available from Friday through Sunday. The rates are by hour: one hour for \$12, two hours for \$17 and three hours of downhill inflatable fun for only \$22.



## **Go Snowshoeing all around Wisconsin** – [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com)

After you head to the website above, search for the article titled *Six Great Places to Snowshoe in Wisconsin*. Although only five places are listed, the most adventurous location is the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore where you can snowshoe in caves and caverns along its Lake Superior coast. **Warning: Make sure it is frozen before you step!** For an added bonus, Stout Adventures rents out snowshoes for only five dollars a day.



## **Ski and Snowboard at Spirit Mountain in Duluth Minnesota**

[www.spiritmt.com](http://www.spiritmt.com)

One of the towering features of the Duluth, Minnesota skyline is Spirit Mountain. You can see the ski lifts and white covered slopes from miles away. Stay at any of the hotels nearby and ski or snowboard for the day. Go to their website or give them a call for day pass and rental prices. You'll find some of the best and most challenging runs in the Midwest.

## **Ice Skate at Outdoor Ice Rinks around Menomonie**

Practice your spins, jumps, puck-handling and spray stops for free. Although outdoor rinks are not silky smooth, they do the trick. Some of the free outdoor skating rinks in Menomonie are located at: Oaklawn Elementary, River Heights Elementary, the Dunn County Rec Park and, of course, Lake Menomin (the un-smoothest of all – yes, I just made up a word). **Disclaimer: Avoid the junk car by the bridge and the evergreens in the middle of the ice.**



## **Watch UW-Stout Hockey Games at the Dunn County Ice Arena**

Not up for skating yourself, but still want to yell, jump up and down and possibly get hit in the head with a hockey puck? Head over to the Dunn County Ice Arena for a Stout hockey game. Their first home game is November 6<sup>th</sup>. Check out the calendar on [www.athletics.uwstout.edu](http://www.athletics.uwstout.edu) for more games!



## **Broom Ball It**

Broom ball, established in 1910 on the docks of Duluth Minnesota, is like hockey but with brooms and boots. Get some friends together, find a slab of ice and play! Equipment needed: broom, dodge ball/soccer ball/volleyball, winter boots, and a goal. A large trashcan could work for a goal, or, if you found a rink that already had hockey nets set up, you are golden. The rules: There are no rules other than get the ball into the net.



## ANOTHER REDNECK RANT FROM YOUR FAVORITE GUY...



# NICK THE HICK

## Today's Rant: MEN'S HAIRSTYLES

Now that we are past the days where most men are men we must take a look at where we went wrong and examine the traits of the new male species. Guys have traded in their shovels for a brush and a mirror. Somewhere along the line men ran out of productive things to do and decided to "explore" their desire to mess with their hair. One of these styles is the man-bun. Now when I first heard the term man bun I immediately thought of how big a hamburger a fella could put in that man-bun. Then a soft-spoken voice explained that a man bun was a hairstyle that some woman found attractive. I thought, "O, okay." After I got passed my emotions I cringed and thought,

"I am outnumbered." The Fade Undercut is a common scalp warmer these days. Unfortunately you cannot wear one and wear a blaze yellow hard hat. Subsequently if you sport the "fade" you may want to hope and pray there are always IT and barista jobs available or you may fade away yer self. Last but not least there is the Disconnected Undercut. Curious in appearance I must say it is probably better than a disconnected underbite. This reminds me of a more flamboyant version of the bowl cut I always endured in elementary school. Now you all I know this is all and good fun so save the hate mail! For the right price I will fancy myself with a man bun. That's enough grousing for now. Peace.



# Local • Fresh • Pizza

**PHONE NUMBER**

715.231.6836

**EMAIL**

lucettewoodfireeatery@gmail.com

**LOCATION**

910 Hudson Road  
Menomonie, WI 54751

**HOURS**

Wednesday: 4-10  
Thursday: 4-10  
Friday: 11-10  
Saturday: 11-10  
Sunday: 11-9

(Pizza available one hour after open & one hour before close)





A pleasing aroma invades your senses as you walk into Menomonie's newest and,

arguably, freshest pizza place. As the waiter/waitress guides you to your glossy, hardwood table you cannot help but enjoy the openness and ambiance of Lucette (named after Paul Bunyan's wife) Brewery and Eatery. When a chipper server arrives to take your order, you're faced with the challenge of choosing one of their fresh, unique pizzas or several calzones (including one named "The Meat Sweatz Calzone").

So, we decided to dig in! We ordered the Muppy Pizza, which comes topped with tomato, pepperoni, mushroom, fennel sausage, and mozzarella. You can taste the freshness before it hits your mouth. One of the many strengths of Lucette's pizza lies in the ingredients. They buy local meats, cheeses and spices. The BLT Pizza, a seasonal special, tasted so good that we considered taking an extra one home for later. We didn't have time or stomach space to try each item on the menu, but what we tasted will surely prompt a second visit. Since the Lucette Eatery is just a short walk from campus, you can put down that paper-thin Jack's pizza and take some friends to eat fresh, local, wood-fired pizza right here in Menomonie.



# THINGS WE DO WHEN IT ALL GOES WRONG

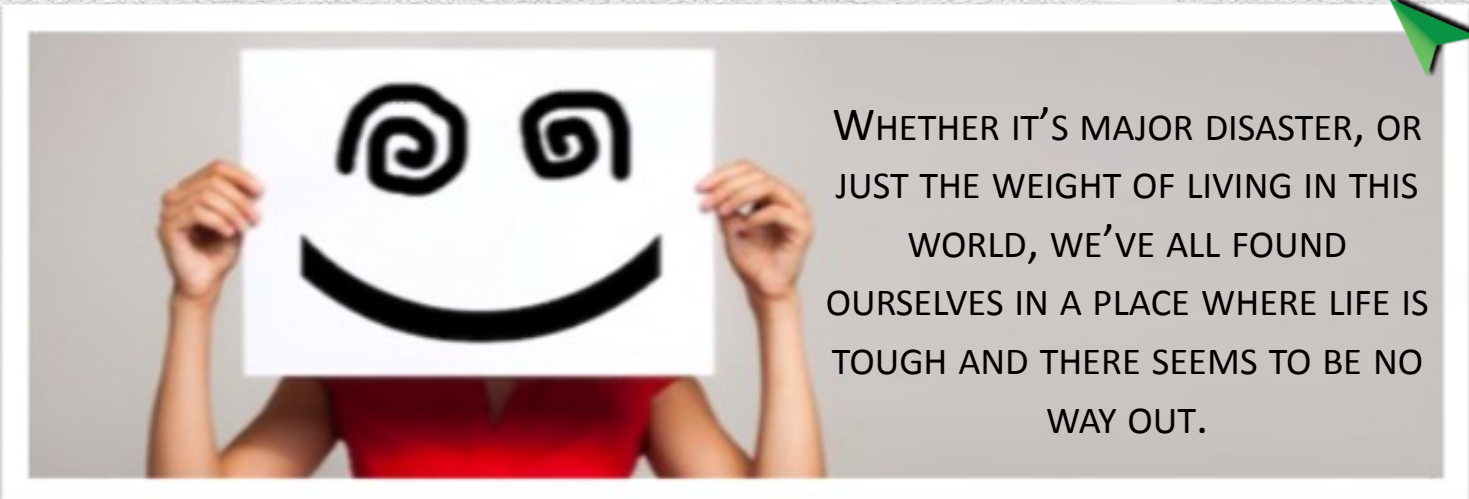
**H**e sat in a heap of ashes scraping his raw, wound-covered skin with a piece of broken pottery. His entire body was covered with sores, his livelihood gone, his children dead, and his employees slaughtered. His own wife blamed him and told him to commit suicide. If this sounds like the aftermath of a zombie movie, it's worse. It's the intro to a true story that dates back thousands of years in history.<sup>1</sup> It's the story of a man named Job who lived in the Middle East, and it's definitely worse than even the most messed-up day any of us has ever had. While Job's life may put even our worst day into perspective, we've all had times when it appears as if everything has gone wrong. Maybe you've changed your major for the fourth time, your tuition bill increased, and you just got a call from your mom saying she and your dad are getting divorced. Perhaps your boyfriend or girlfriend broke things off at the same time your job cut back your hours and your grades

came back less than awesome. Whether it's major disaster, or just the weight of living in this world, we've all found ourselves in a place where life is tough and there seems to be no way out. Exhausted and unsure of what the future holds, we cope in one of multiple ways: you might recognize some of your favorite survival methods below. If you're wondering whether there could be more to these tough times that just hanging on white-knuckled, read on. Spoiler: Job came away from the disaster mentioned above *better* off than before his world came crashing down, and we can, too.



## **Survival Method #1: The "Everything's Fine" Face**

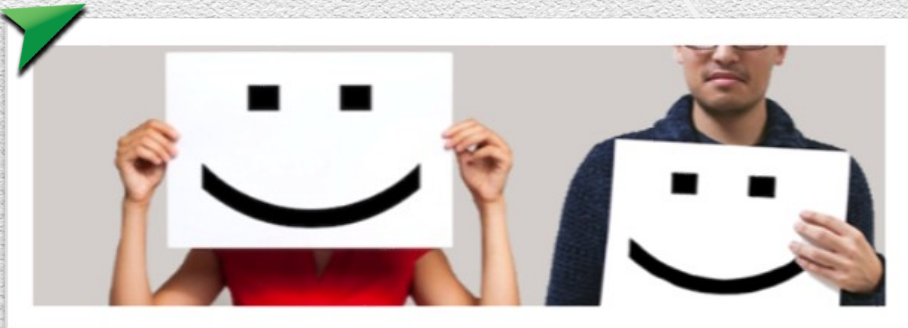
Feel your cheeks. If they've been forced into a perma-grin in the midst of your troubles, chances are you understand. Since "confidence is key" in our generation, we do everything we can to put our best foot forward. We keep our response to the question "How are you?" to a minimal "Good, and you?" We never admit to the people around us that we're weak; we don't ask for help. In the end we're left feeling more overwhelmed and alone than before.



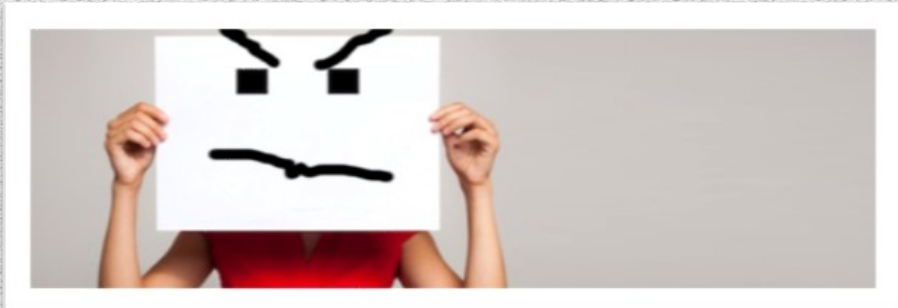
WHETHER IT'S MAJOR DISASTER, OR JUST THE WEIGHT OF LIVING IN THIS WORLD, WE'VE ALL FOUND OURSELVES IN A PLACE WHERE LIFE IS TOUGH AND THERE SEEMS TO BE NO WAY OUT.

**Survival Method #2: Escape Reality**

The funny thing about this one is we don't even realize that we do it. We all have a favorite reality-substitute. Are you the type to stay up into the wee hours of the night perfecting that paper because a B just won't cut it? Oh wait, that's me... Maybe it's work, music, cheap beer, excessive sleep or entertainment. Letting Netflix loop just one more episode buys us a little more time to put off the things in our lives that are waiting patiently for our attention.



**Survival Method #3: Find Someone Else to Fix Things** When everything around us seems to be crashing down, we all want someone to tell us that everything is going to be okay. We don't want to face our problems alone (and we most certainly weren't designed to). But sometimes our knee-jerk reaction to difficulty is looking for a person – most often a boyfriend or girlfriend - to make it all better... for now.



**Survival Method #4: Try Harder** It's exhausting to even think about this one. While we're willing to acknowledge the stressors in front of us, we wrongly think that if we just try a *little* harder, things will get better. Certainly more money, better grades, or a smaller pant size will be the answer. And, for a little while, we feel better, but we're essentially wearing ourselves out by frantically putting out miniature fires while the real problem still rages.

**Survival Method #5: Do Something Drastic** "Maybe if I move to Tanzania, all this will go away!" Perhaps your big change will be less drastic than that, but it's easy to panic in the midst of troubles and assume that you need to revolutionize your life in a major way at that very moment. So, you dye your hair purple, or you get a puppy and hide it in your dorm room for five months, or you go skydiving. Nothing wrong with a little adventure, but disillusionment will soon set in when the puppy and purple hair don't prove to be enough of a shake-up to truly produce change in your life.





GOD'S INTENTION IS THAT WE'D BE ABLE TO GO TO HIM AND TRUST IN HIM LIKE A KID BRINGING SOMETHING BROKEN TO A PARENT THEY LOVE.

**More Than Just Surviving:** Have you ever wondered if it's possible to have peace and even *joy* when nothing in your world seems stable? What did Job do? In a word, he trusted. Instead of pretending things were fine, escaping his reality, looking for a person to fix things, trying harder, or moving to a more tropical region, he *rested in God* even as his heart broke. In the book of Job in the Bible, chapter one, it's recorded that Job's response to hearing that his flocks and children were dead is as follows: *"Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. He said, 'I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!' In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God."* (Job 1: 20-22)

It's like when you have a "problem" when you're a little kid. Maybe your favorite Tonka truck wheel broke after you "accidentally" drove it over a huge rock. As your six-year-old world falls apart, you run to your dad – the only one who can make things right – and give him the broken truck, trusting he can do something about the problem. This is how God designed our relationship with Him to be. His intention is that we'd be able to go to Him and trust in Him like a kid bringing something broken to a parent they love.



When our stubborn selves get in the way of the simple father-child relationship God intended, we're left to fend for ourselves. Instead of running to Him, we try to hide our shortcomings, pain and fear. We think God is distant and uninterested and wouldn't be able to do anything to help anyways. We piece together ideas of religion, wrath and condemnation and assume that's how God would deal with our struggles in life – with judgment. We are broken, this world is broken, our hearts have been broken, and our relationship with the God who made us and loves us has been broken. But, instead of pointing an eternal finger

at us, God already dealt with all this brokenness and made a pathway to restoration. He made it possible to come to Him by allowing Jesus to do all the excruciating work of suffering and paying for sin on our behalf. With joy, the Bible proclaims, *"God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation."* (Hebrews 2:10, NLT) Jesus suffered more than any of us ever will, and He did it to make a way for us to have the kind of relationship with God, our Father, where we can run to Him when things go wrong instead of running away from Him and into our various survival modes.

Job's story ends with hope and restoration, and ours can, too. Being in a right relationship with God based on love starts with letting go of our survival methods and acknowledging that God is the only One truly in control of our life, others' lives, and the world we live in. Our own sin has separated us from God, others' sin has

caused us pain, and life in a broken world has knocked us around. But Job found hope when he listened to God's response. In paraphrase, God tells Job, "I made this world; I know how it works inside and out." Then, God goes on to give Job a detailed list of His creative power and artistry. There's no Oprah-lingo here, no Dr. Phil soothing speech, no self-help program or motivational speech. Basically, God's like, "I'm God, and you're not – and that's good because you don't have to understand all this; I do, and I love you."

Here's Job's humbled response: *"Then Job replied to the Lord: 'I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. You asked, 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?' It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. You said, 'Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.' I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance."*

Job was able to rest in the realization that God was in control. In the end, God restored Job's life on earth by giving him more land and livestock than he'd had before, and by blessing him with another family. The biggest blessing that came out of Job's trials, however, was the nearness he experienced with God as he went through disaster and learned that God was all he really needed. The moral of the story is not, "Trust God and he'll give you good stuff." But rather, "Trust God, because He's in control of even your toughest times, and His plan is to bring you closer to Him through them. He is all you really need in life." Have you ever experienced that kind of rest?

God designed us to find our greatest joy in knowing Him instead of just gritting our teeth to make it through another week. A life lived fully surrendered to a loving God is the only way we can have hope in the world we live in. It's not a program. It's not a self-help book. It's real life lived with our real God who really can handle all of it every time. In all our attempts to change, to try harder, to be better, to feel loved and accepted, to make our lives worth something, God is pointing us to Himself and away from our own feeble efforts. Only then will we be able to stand firm and find purpose and understanding in those times when it all goes wrong.

1: All historical accounts of Job's life taken from the book of Job in the Old Testament of the Bible



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# THANKFUL



## 3 THINGS THAT STEAL THANKFULNESS

**IF** you've ever had the pleasure of sitting on a fluffy couch in a mild food coma while watching football, you've probably celebrated Thanksgiving. Although our family traditions are as varied as our aunts' holiday sweaters, most gatherings include a ton of food, some friendly banter, and a ship-load of relatives. Most folks use the day as a reflection on our lives and a time to consider what we are thankful for. By design, this is a wonderful holiday. What is it, though, that causes us to relegate the practice of thankfulness to one day per year? More common is the practice of considering only the things we don't have.

Here are a few reasons you may be missing out on daily thankfulness, in the words of old, dead, famous people who know more about it than I do:

### **PRIDE and ENTITLEMENT:**

Pride slays thanksgiving, but a humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grows. A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves.  
-Henry Ward Beecher

We ought to give thanks for all fortune: if it is "good," because is it good, if "bad" because it works in us patience, humility, and the contempt of this world and the hope of our eternal country.  
-C. S. Lewis

### **NOT REALIZING HOW BLESSED WE ARE:**

No people on earth have more cause to be thankful than ours, and this is said reverently, in no spirit of boastfulness in our own strength, but with the gratitude to the Giver of good who has blessed us.  
-Theodore Roosevelt

### **THINKING TOO MUCH ABOUT OURSELVES:**

Let us thank God heartily as often as we pray that we have His Spirit in us to teach us to pray. Thanksgiving will draw our hearts out to God and keep us engaged with Him; it will take our attention from ourselves and give the Spirit room in our hearts.  
-Andrew Murray

The Bible also has a lot to say about being thankful. The word 'thankful' is recorded 98 times.<sup>1</sup> These references include passages such as, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."<sup>2</sup> And "Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"<sup>3</sup> These are mere glimpses of what it's like to live an entire life in a state of thankfulness to God. Knowing God and living out the life He has designed for us will give us a new heart that not only expresses gratitude once per year but overflows with thankfulness each and every day.

www.blueletterbible.com  
1 Thessalonians 5:18  
Psalms 106:1





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Nearly everything changes when we grow up – technology, style, our dreams and relationships with our friends. One thing that remains the same, however, is our favorite time of the day: lunch. College students everywhere faithfully line up every week for Taco Tuesday, reveling in a brief respite from homework.

The goal of any college cafeteria is to satisfy the thousands of students filtering in and out throughout the day. Savvy cooks know that variety is a must in order to please all diets and desires. Some favorites include cereal at all times of the day, personal pasta bars, and the infamous chicken patty station. The choices presented to us are so endless that by the time we return to our seats, our plates have turned into indistinguishable piles of just...food. Having so much variety day in and day out can be intoxicating to the point where we make choices on instinct and worry about the consequences later. We're a shameless buffet culture, and it doesn't stop with our eating habits.

We approach Christianity the same way. We pile our religious plates with a little bit of everything—attending church camp when we were eight, praying before we eat, sharing a Bible verse on Facebook, going to church on required holidays, saying “oh my goodness”, listening to local Christian radio, thinking we're not as bad as “that” person, and trying to keep to the ten commandments as best we can. We latch on to the latest Christian book, if it's popular, whether the author is truly Biblical or not. We tear up during movies like “Heaven is For Real” or “God's Not Dead”, because our emotions are easily played. In the end, it adds up to a plate of hollow, unsatisfying “spiritual” food. We pick and choose from so many sources, not realizing both the quantity and the combination is making us sick.

In addition, cafeterias are notorious for the constant mess students leave behind. We trail milk from our slightly-too-full cups to our seats; we drip salad dressing all over the counter; crumbs blanket our tables like sandpaper; and when we scrape our plates into the garbage the napkin inevitably falls on the floor. In the cafeteria, we're not really responsible for our own mess; there is always someone behind us, or under us, to clean up what we left behind. In general, never having to truly clean up after ourselves in college makes for an abrupt reality check when we move off campus. We have to learn the hard way what a half bowl of cereal left on the coffee table looks like after four days.

We can leave messes behind us as Christians, too. For example, when we're at fault in relationships and refuse to make it right, it leaves our hearts bitter and moldy. Refusing to acknowledge and change the sin that lives in all of us only drives that mold into deeper and darker places of the heart. Also, refusing to pursue Christian maturity can get really messy. It's easy to cling to the same verses, Sunday school songs, and Christian routines — all the while not realizing God wants us to grow up. This growing up happens when

we develop close relationships with other Christians, understand deeper truths of God's character, and learn to trust God in our trials. Ultimately, our relationship with God takes work, motivation, and trust. If we're not consistently challenging ourselves to go deeper with God, our relationship with Him will become soggy, like that leftover bowl of cereal.

Finally, though it is a privilege that schools provide us with meals in the cafeteria, we never fail to find something to complain about. We complain because we didn't have enough meal credits, and by the end of the semester we're rationing out which days we can eat. Or, we have too many credits left, and we complain because we have to use up our meal money on cases of soda and Rice Krispie bars. We are never truly satisfied, because our focus is on the details instead of the bigger picture. If we looked behind the scenes, we might appreciate the people laboring for us each day.

Complaining is not exempt from the world of Christianity, either. For example, we often complain that our church's music isn't good enough, or someone offended us so we go to a different church next time. We complain about people digging too far into our lives, so we show up just to make an appearance and nothing else. Sometimes our complaints against the

**We approach Christianity like a buffet. We pile our religious plates with a little bit of everything.**

church can go so far that we abandon Christianity altogether. In the end, we're at fault when we fail to look behind the scenes and remember what Christ is doing with His entire Church, not just us as individuals. While He loves us personally, He also loves us corporately, and understanding that will shape for us a new reality.

Ultimately, living a life like this is extremely unsatisfying. But true, authentic Christianity is anything but stale. We can begin to learn how to consume the Word of God and quit grazing on snippets of morality. Authentic Christianity also calls us to own our faith, which means actively engaging what we know and seeking answers to what we don't. Finally, desiring to walk the path Christ created for us will renew our hearts. The more we hunger for God, the more we'll see growth from the inside out. When we truly know the God of the Bible and come to Christianity to glorify Him, Jesus promises *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."* (John 6:35)

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# thanatophobia

**I WOULD ASK THEM THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS, AND ONE OF THOSE WAS, “WHAT DO YOU MOST FEAR IN LIFE?” THE MOST COMMON ANSWER WAS DEATH.**

## I USED TO CONDUCT THE INITIAL INTERVIEWS

of the applicants of a company. As a means of assessing their speaking skills, I would ask them thought-provoking questions, and one of those was, “What do you fear in life the most?” The most common answer was “death.” Hundreds upon hundreds of answers came out as reasons why they fear death - (1) They don't have any idea what the afterlife has for them. (2) They have big dreams to pursue, and death may come when they least expect it. (3) They don't want to leave their loved ones behind.

I remember that one applicant said death comes like a thief in the night, and she fears thieves. I've just recently learned that there's a concrete name for this fear: Thanatophobia. It comes from the Greek word “Thanatos,” which means death, and “phobos,” which means fear. Thanatophobic people get overwhelmingly scared when they encounter a trivial accident or when they suffer sickness. Thanatophobia, though, is not to be confused with Necrophobia: from the Greek word “nekros,” meaning corpse. This is the persistent and irrational fear of dead things, be it animals or people. Necrophobic people are afraid of things related to death such as coffins, tombstones, and ghosts. (They're the best people to bring to haunted houses.) While people with Necrophobia are afraid of things related to death, people with Thanatophobia are simply afraid of death.

Looking at all this, I came up with one thought: the reason that people (typical or Thanatophobic) fear death is that they are not prepared.

Death is the very reason humanity has redemption and hope. One death made it all possible—Jesus' death. But where did death start? Let's have a quick historical background. In Genesis we are told of the beginning. Lucifer, also called Satan, took the form of a serpent to trick Adam and Eve and caused them to sin by eating of the fruit from the tree of knowledge between good and evil (it was not an

apple). God instructed them to never eat of that tree or they “will surely die”. (Genesis 2:17)

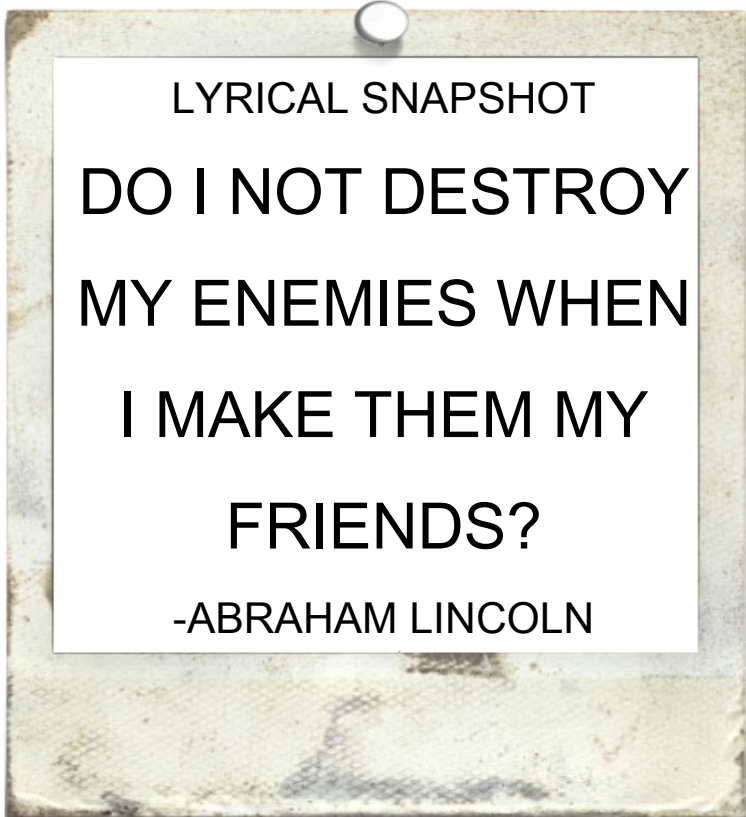
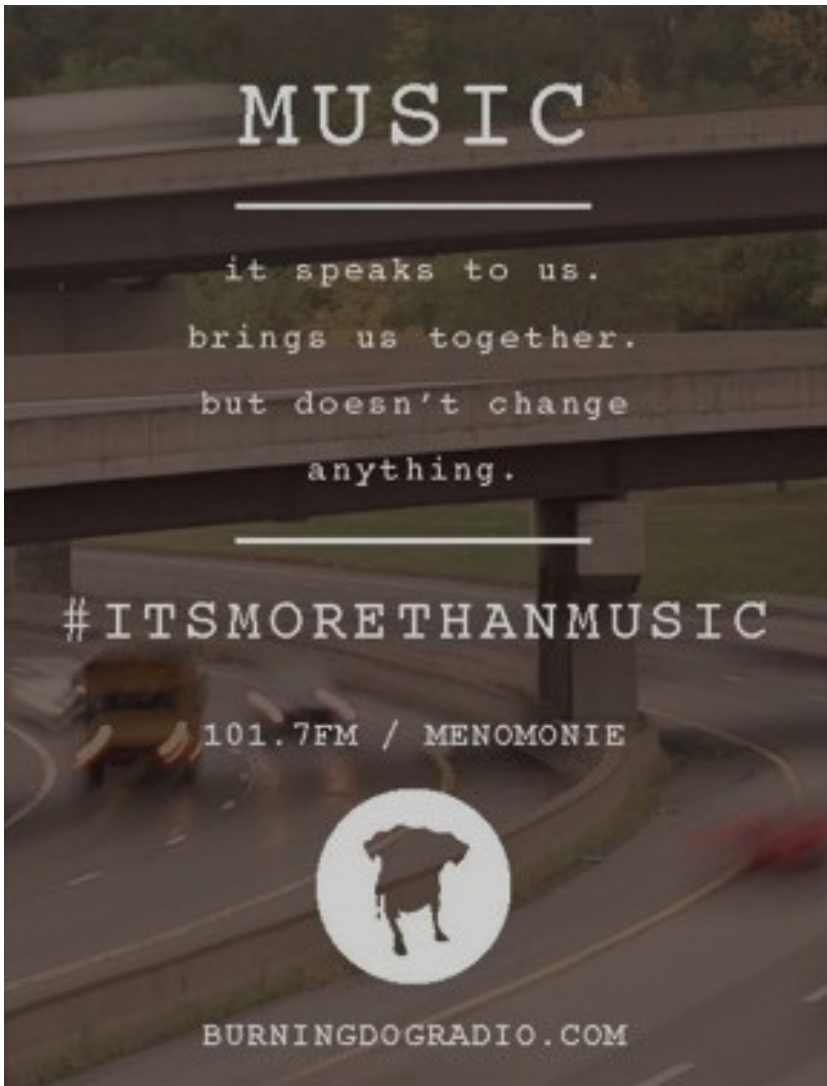
They ate, and so they “died”. They did not die in an instant, but they died eventually. That death also meant separation from God—being disconnected from a relationship with Him because of sin. Since then, death has become part of humanity.

But because God is a loving God, He didn't allow the story to end on a sad note. Because God so loved the world, He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die as a form of ransom for humanity's sin. This was the only way to reconcile man's broken relationship with the Father—through the death of a sinless sacrifice: Jesus Christ on the cross.

God sent Jesus to be born in human flesh, but He did not sin despite his humanness (2 Corinthians 5:21); this is why He was the perfect sacrifice to a Holy God. When He died on that Cross, He paid for our sins in the past, in the present and in the future, so we will not suffer death (separation from God) anymore if we believe. When He died on that Cross, he was thinking of you, of me—He was thinking of taking us back home to the Father where we truly and originally belonged.

And when He died, He didn't remain dead; He rose again after three days. Nothing could hold Him down—not Satan, not our sins, not even death. “*Death is swallowed up in victory*”. (1 Corinthians 15:54) The moment Jesus resurrected, Satan knew he had already lost the war. Jesus defeating death assures us that nothing is greater than Him.

When death comes knocking on your door, do not fear, because God and His love is stronger than death itself. There is no fear for a person who believes in Jesus Christ, because a person does not leave home when he dies; rather, he goes home.



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A new student org has joined the mix at Stout! Called UW-Stout Force for Freedom, this group of students is seeking to raise awareness on campus through education and action regarding issues of modern-day slavery such as human trafficking. President, Abbie Brandhagen, started the group up last year after hearing about the Force for Freedom branch at UW-Eau Claire. Every other Tuesday night at 7pm, the group gets together to discuss the reality of modern-day slavery and how they can raise awareness on campus and advocate in the local community. These student abolitionists are still finding their fit on campus and are discovering new ways to be

involved. Last year, Force for Freedom held "Walk the Walk," a candle-lit walk through campus late one night to show support for victims of sexual abuse.

Over 125 students showed up on October 20th, 2015 for Force for Freedom's screening of the documentary, "Nefarious: Merchant of Souls." Filmed in over 19 different countries, "Nefarious" walks the viewer through the reality of the human trafficking industry, both from the vantage point of the victims and their traffickers. Ex-prostitutes speak out on how they were rescued from their jobs and given hope in a new life

# FORCE FOR FREEDOM HELD “WALK THE WALK,” A CANDLE-LIT WALK THROUGH CAMPUS HELD LATE ONE NIGHT TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE.

apart from the industry, and individuals around the world share the work they've been doing to stop human trafficking. If you're interested in watching "Nefarious: Merchant of Souls," it is available to rent or purchase on YouTube, Amazon, and at most movie rental stores.

With over 50 campuses involved nationwide, Force for Freedom is growing in size. Force for Freedom is a branch of a global organization, rooted in the Christian faith, called International Justice Mission (IJM). IJM's mission is to work with the poor in the developing world to offer protection from violence. Here's how it works: (1) Victims are rescued from current danger. (2) Criminals are brought to justice by being held accountable in court. (3) Victims are restored by being given the support resources needed to heal. (4) Work is done with the local justice system to strengthen their methods in stopping the violence.

Want to get involved? Visit <https://www.ijm.org/> or check out UW-Stout Force for Freedom on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uwstoutforceforfreedom/timeline>





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