

Word on the Street

GOD

DOESN'T

LABEL



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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 at the Street Level house each Monday while college is in session at Street Level Ministries' student organization meetings. Visit 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.

MEET THE WOTS STAFF: from three cities and two countries

DULUTH, MN



MENOMONIE, WI



CEBU, PHILIPPINES



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Short & Stout

STOUT GETS STUDIOUS, RENOVATED, AND GIVES ITS TWO CENTS WORTH



BEST STUDY SPOTS

NEW TO CAMPUS? LOOKING FOR SOME OF THE BEST STUDY SPOTS AT STOUT AND AROUND MENOMONIE? **LOOK NO FURTHER. WE'RE WILLING TO SHARE OUR SECRET (AND MORE OBVIOUS) SPACES WITH YOU.**

ON CAMPUS

PORCH IN THE LIBRARY

This one's got to be the **biggest gem** we could think of. Few people know that the library has a screen porch. Ask the circulation desk for the key, maybe bring a blanket, and get studying.

2ND FLOOR JARVIS - NORTH SIDE LOUNGE

The second floor Jarvis lounge has high ceilings, lots of natural light, and is a great quiet study spot.

MSC BEHIND THE GREAT HALL

Although there aren't always tables back here, a few quiet couches and a nearby bathroom all sit generally untouched. You can be sure you won't be disrupted all too often if you study here.

BALCONIES OFF HERITAGE HALL

Get some fresh air while you study. A crisp, fall day might require a blanket for this one. The balconies are open during regular building hours.



OFF CAMPUS

THE BLIND MUNCHIES

One of Menomonie's best kept secrets, this non-profit coffeehouse is located just a few blocks from campus. Here you'll find vintage signs, lots of greenery, local coffee brews, and a friendly face to brighten your day. It also has a conference room available for free by reservation.

RAW DEAL

Calling all vegans and ALSO anyone who likes espresso, smoothies, juices, bagels, and any ingredients organic and locally sourced. This large coffee shop located downtown Menomonie has lots of seating, earthy tones, a brick aesthetic, and a second floor balcony to fuel your studies.

ACOUSTIC CAFE

Another coffee shop on the list. This one specializes in hot hoagie sandwiches and some seriously delicious soups, along with espresso, ice cream, and wooden booths to help you make progress on that homework.

Confessions of a Stout Grad

WOTS had the chance to interview four Stout graduates about their time as students on campus.

...continued on next page



WATCH OUT ON CAMPUS FOR THE NEW BUILDING WITH AN OLD SKIN: THE BELOVED HARVEY HALL. THE GOOD NEWS IS IT'S FINALLY OPENING AGAIN! BEFORE YOU FIND OUT JUST HOW EXTENSIVE THE PROCEDURE WAS, AND TO SEE WHAT BECAME OF THIS GREAT BUILDING, YOU MUST GET TO KNOW THE OLD MAN TO REALLY APPRECIATE HIS NEW LIFE.

THE HARVEY HALL REVAMP



Harvey has undergone many changes even before its current renovation. The four-story structure opened in 1916 and currently houses the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. In the past, Harvey was home to Home Economics, Education and Human Services, and Liberal Studies. The name stems back to the first president of the Stout Institute: **Lorenzo Dow Harvey**. **Now that you've got your history facts straight, here's for the fun part. Come along on the guided tour to see the results of the year and a half operation:**

What all was tackled in this overhaul?

With an estimated \$28 million price tag, the building was first gutted to remove old insulation and asbestos. After demolition, and with not much more than an old shell, they completely replaced infrastructure, HVAC, electric, plumbing, etc. The intention of the project was to restore the building back to its original openness and flexibility.

Is it true that there is a tunnel linking Bowman and Harvey?

Yes, there is a tunnel but the tunnel is for piping (not people) going between the buildings. It is short in height and requires you to jump over piping.

Was anything neat/scary uncovered during the renovation?

Old memos and interesting bottles and cans which will be on display during the grand opening.

What didn't go as planned?

Some details regarding the technology didn't go as planned and we had some issues with the updated Harvey Theater. The building planning committee met every other week to problem solve issues as they arose.

How did they preserve the historic elements of the building?

We worked closely with the Wisconsin Historical Society to decide what elements to maintain. They felt the original corridors with their height and length, as well as the principle of letting lots of light in,

were important. The main stairwells were preserved. One of the elevators was also restored since the building originally had two but one of them was out of service for a long time. If you look at the light fixtures in the old stairwells, you will see a star underneath the light which signifies where the light used to be and also matches the symbol on the floor.

“THE INTENTION OF THE PROJECT WAS TO RESTORE THE BUILDING BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL OPENNESS AND FLEXIBILITY.”

What should college students look forward to?

The cafe and the writing center on the first floor. UW-Stout's Office of International Education is located in the basement to help to better integrate the international students with traditional students. The flexible classroom spaces have furniture that can move around so each teacher can set up what works for them. We also have new laboratories like the Digital Humanities Lab.

Now you can take the knowledge you've gained through this article and go explore Harvey for yourself. Don't miss the Grand Opening on September 22nd, 2016 at 3:30pm.

A special thanks to Dr. Maria Alm – Dean of College, Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences for the tour!

CONFESSIONS OF A STOUT GRAD

WHAT ORGS WERE YOU A PART OF?

During my four years at Stout, I was involved in AIGA, Prometheus (campus arts and literary publication) --- both helpful to my area of study --- and Cru, a faith community where I was supported and challenged by friends and mentors, many of whom I'm still in contact with today.

WHAT WOULD YOU RECOMMEND IN THE COMMONS?

I don't remember a lot about the food selection in the Commons, but I liked the pasta and stir fry bars, and also enjoyed the desserts available (maybe enjoyed them a little too much).

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR AND WHY?

I have regrets about my freshman year. For example, I was afraid to pursue leadership positions after joining organizations, even when encouraged by others. I felt too inexperienced for such responsibility, but I think that over-cautiousness cost me opportunities for growth and impact.

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST/EASIEST THING ABOUT TRANSITIONING FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE?

Finding your place in a new community is always challenging, especially when you're entering it alone. In college, there were so many options to choose from that it was hard to decide where to invest. On the plus side, it was easy to try lots of options before choosing the best fit. Everyone is in the same situation their freshman year, so you meet lots of people who are also trying to make connections.

Orgs were all very welcoming and there was a diverse selection to choose from.

WERE YOU A CHRISTIAN WHILE IN COLLEGE? IF SO, WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE TO YOUR FAITH WHILE IN COLLEGE AND HOW DID THAT CHANGE AFTER LEAVING?

When I started college, I had only recently become serious about my faith in Christ and didn't know much about applying that to the rest of my life. By joining a Christian community in college, I saw what it looks like to live in light of what the Bible teaches. To grow in my faith, I needed to step out of my comfort zone and challenge many of my previously held attitudes. Without community, this difficult task would have been impossible.



ANNA

"I WAS BY NO MEANS, CONFIDENT IN MY FAITH, SKIN, OR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD WHEN I GOT TO STOUT. "

WHAT ORGS WERE YOU A PART OF?

I was a member of the student senate and an honorary member of the financial affairs committee. I was part of the Resident Housing Association while I was an RA, a member of the rugby club, a participant in the American Foundry Society at Stout, and attended the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

WHAT WOULD YOU RECOMMEND IN THE COMMONS?

In the Commons, it really depended on the day, but I often enjoyed the staple diets of omelets for breakfast. Lunch and supper often consisted of a black bean burger, tacos, or steamed fish.

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR?

I would change what I was involved in and what I valued. School and classes went great, but that is just a part of the experience. Later in college I learned that my faith-based relationships and experience as a Christian were much more edifying than anything else I had done in the past.

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST/EASIEST THING ABOUT TRANSITIONING FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE AND WHY?

In high school I had a lot of fun with friends, played a lot of sports, was part of a lot of productive organizations, but all of that came to an end. That turned out to be a big wake up call for me. Life was not what I had wanted it to be.

WERE YOU A CHRISTIAN WHILE IN COLLEGE? IF SO, WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE TO YOUR FAITH WHILE

IN COLLEGE AND HOW DID THAT CHANGE AFTER LEAVING?

I was a Christian, but very uncommitted. I wanted what I wanted and I also wanted to be recognized as a Christian at the same time. Thankfully, God showed me my heart through a long chain of events and I was broken. I was able to commit my life to God more completely in humility and submission to Him. I was able to be led to a fellowship that was Bible-based, committed to

serving each other, and actively living out the Gospel together in everyday life. Now I don't see any other way than to rely on Christ to lift me up and carry me through this life.



JUSTIN

WHAT ORGS WERE YOU A PART OF?

Street Level Ministries since the first Monday on campus my freshman year! I also did backstage tech for the Stout Theatre Department for two years.

WHAT WOULD YOU RECOMMEND IN THE COMMONS?

My FAVORITE is the taco salad... Go to the taco bar, get your choice of meat and chips, then head over to the sandwich topping bar. There they have taco sauce, salsa, jalapenos, banana peppers, and sour cream. Add your picks, then go over to the salad bar, and add more cheese, black or green olives, tomato wedges (I like those better than the cubes), and did I say more cheese?! There you go, the best, most filling meal you can make with mostly ala carte!

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR ?

I would like to go back knowing what I know now: that I will never regret being bold. I wish I would have been bolder in making friends in my classes and following up with people more consistently. Remembering that my **reputation doesn't matter** and that my identity is not rooted in my popularity.

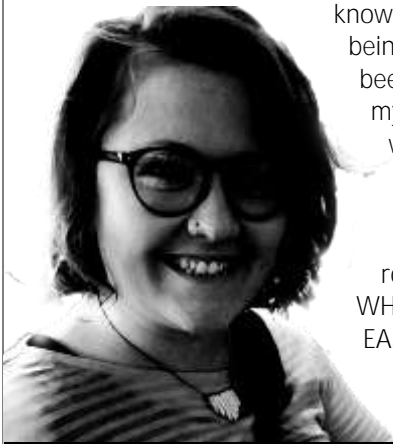
WHAT WAS THE HARDEST/EASIEST THING ABOUT TRANSITIONING FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE AND WHY?

I had social anxiety coming into college, and sometimes it pops

up now and again. I used to hide in my room unless people asked me to hang out, and even then sometimes I would say no. I had Jesus to talk to about it, which is the only reason I can unashamedly talk about it today, but it took a while for me to open up to people and let Jesus take care of my anxiety, which He faithfully did.

WERE YOU A CHRISTIAN WHILE IN COLLEGE? IF SO, WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE TO YOUR FAITH WHILE IN COLLEGE AND HOW DID THAT CHANGE AFTER LEAVING?

Yes! I met Jesus my senior year of high school, but I was, by no means, confident in my faith, skin, or knowledge of God when I got to Stout. My biggest challenge was comparing myself to others. Remembering that my identity is in Jesus was really hard for me, but it only got better with time, being a part of a church, having Christian friends to rely on, and reading the **Bible every day. I don't need to be someone else because God made me...me! That's hard to remember when our culture is trying to make us people we're not, and it doesn't end after graduation.**



RACHEL

WHAT ORGS WERE YOU A PART OF?

I was part of AIGA for one semester, and Street Level Ministries for all eight.

WHAT WOULD YOU RECOMMEND IN THE COMMONS?

The omelet bar was awesome. You get to put anything you want in a baked omelet. I always got everything except olives and mushrooms.

WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE ABOUT YOUR FRESHMAN YEAR AND WHY?

I would have spent less time worrying and stressing over every little thing I did, and trusted that God was going to work things out.

I naturally worry and want the current situation, that I think is difficult, to be over. I wish I would have enjoyed things more as they were happening. To be present. To merely enjoy and be content with what is in front of us can be difficult for some reason...

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST/EASIEST THING ABOUT TRANSITIONING FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE?

The easiest transition and the hardest transition was the same characteristic of a life at a university: freedom. I was out of my parents' house and was able to make my own decisions. This was enjoyable at times; I could go and do as I pleased, I could stay up, go to movies instead of working on a project, order Toppers on a bi-weekly basis, etc. But on the other side of the same coin, I would be held responsible for all my decisions. If I forgot about a deadline, slept through a final, or screwed up my finances, it would come back on me. I was now responsible for any ramifications that resulted from my actions.

WERE YOU A CHRISTIAN WHILE IN COLLEGE? IF SO, WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE TO YOUR FAITH WHILE IN COLLEGE AND HOW DID THAT CHANGE AFTER LEAVING?

Yes. I grew up in a Christian home and knew Christ sacrificed so that I could live in unity with God – to be part of His Kingdom and family. In college I found a group of Christians who were doing this, and I realized that is what I truly wanted. It was challenging and a struggle, but I laid it before God and He responded in love and grace. This has drastically changed my path and direction in life. His plan has been far better and more purpose-filled than anything I could have come up with. I have gone to the Philippines for missions, graduated this past semester, married the love of my life, and am staying in Menomonie and potentially starting a design studio with my wife. It hasn't all been easy, or even seemed great in the moment; Sometimes it felt like God didn't really know what was best for me, but He does – and He gives good gifts to His kids.



TYLER

One Girl's **TRUE STORY**

We all have a story to tell. For a while, I was reluctant to tell my story. I longed to let others know my struggle so I could help them through theirs, but I was stubborn to sustain a façade of strength. I thought that keeping my problem hidden made me stronger because it taught me to handle tough situations on my own. Rather, I became weak because my silence made me a prisoner to the confines of my own mind. I **discovered salvation in the midst of my anorexia, but it wasn't** until God made me vulnerable that I discovered the freedom of living for Christ.

I spent most of my childhood inside watching television. By eighth grade, I was discontent with how I looked. I tried to lose weight, but nothing really worked and I became increasingly discontent with my body. In tenth grade, I took it upon myself to join the cross country team. Once I discovered that running helped me lose weight, I pursued it with all my might. Around the same time, some of my closest childhood friendships began to dissolve. It was at this point that I became more secluded and independent and learned to suppress my emotions. I **subconsciously concluded that, if I didn't develop any more close friendships, I couldn't be hurt again.** I steeled myself to the pain of life. Cross country became my therapy. I coped with my emotions by running more and eating less. If I was angry, I would run. If I was hungry, I would run. If I was lonely, I would run. I analyzed what I ate, blindly believing that I could gain some sort of control over my life.

Then came the decision to house a foreign exchange student. I was on board with the idea, but as I progressed further in my anorexia, bitterness and envy emerged. I constantly compared myself to this girl. Thoughts festered in my mind for months and showed themselves in many evil actions and words toward her. In mid-December of 2011, at the height of my anorexia, I became conscious of how I had believed that my evil acts were justified. Though I grew up in a Christian home, **it wasn't until that night that I truly felt the weight of my sin,** had a desire to change, and took a step toward repentance. I confessed my sin to God and sought forgiveness. In the following weeks and months, I found that my attitude toward this girl was completely different. I apologized for my behavior and made an effort to befriend her. At times I stumbled into bitterness but instead of justifying it, I felt conviction and sought to be made right with God.

Through all of this, God produced in me a desire to serve others. Thus, I chose to major in hospitality and found myself

attending UW-Stout. During my time in college, I have seen God produce tremendous growth in me. I started off being shy and apprehensive about developing new friendships. Then, God changed my heart; I became more open and honest with myself and others. He has weeded out many idols in my life and drawn me closer to Him. Recently, in the search for a summer internship, God asked me to surrender my first choice to Him. He tested me to see if I would trust Him and I was extremely blessed when I did. At my internship, I learned to live on my own and discovered more of who I really am. My sin felt more exposed, but my heart felt more willing to give things up to God. It was during this time that God taught me that I am worth more than my looks. I realized what it meant to be loved for who I am rather than what I look like

“I THOUGHT THAT KEEPING MY PROBLEM HIDDEN MADE ME STRONGER BECAUSE IT TAUGHT ME TO HANDLE TOUGH SITUATIONS ON MY OWN. RATHER, I BECAME WEAK BECAUSE MY SILENCE MADE ME A PRISONER TO THE CONFINES OF MY OWN MIND.”

or do. When I returned to Stout last fall, God moved me to befriend the outcasts and the lonely because I know what it was like to be one of them. I also know how much it means to me to experience **God's unconditional love** and I want others to experience that as well.

God is continuing to refine me and smooth my sharp edges. Though more deep hurts and fears are being exposed in my life, I am quicker to let God dig them up and heal them. This refining process is painful, but I'm beginning to understand that it is for my good and my liberation. When I allow God to take hold of my life, great joy emerges out of the pain. I cling to the promises of God because they are steadfast and sure. I may not know what the future holds, but I am confident that God has an exciting adventure prepared for me.

- Maria



BAMBOOZABLES:

A SAYING OR PHRASE THAT IS HIDDEN WITHIN AN UNUSUAL ARRANGEMENT OF WORDS

<p>STORM TH</p>	<p>I right I</p>	<p>B E D</p>	<p>LIP LIP</p>
<p>POL4ICY</p>	<p>AALLLL</p>	<p>MIN BACK UTES MIN UTES MIN UTES MIN UTES MIN UTES</p>	<p>I fell I fell I fell I fell I fell</p>

SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 15



WE MAKE MARGINAL
CHRISTIANS NERVOUS

MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAYS.
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Answering a Loaded Question: So, How Was Your Trip?

The scrappy but lovable canine protagonist of the movie sputtered and choked on water as he struggled to bring himself to the surface of the choppy waves. His friend called out an encouragement for him to keep going: **“You’re doing great! Well, you know, not great--but you’re not drowning! And that’s saying something.”** My ears perked up in the cool, dark movie theater. Here I was reclining in a cushioned seat, stuffing my face with popcorn, surrounded by a group of my friends in Wisconsin, when a week prior I had been half-way around the world on a missions trip. I smiled as I thought of what had just been said in the movie and how perfectly it applied to my experience on the trip. While there were plenty of excellent moments bursting with blissful adventure, there were just as many marked by struggle, pain, and spiritual bumps and bruises.

It’s tricky business answering all the inquiries of how a trip went upon arriving back home. While one part of me wants to gush about the high points, another part wants to lay down the cold hard facts and difficulties. However, being aware that when someone urges you to tell them **‘everything’, they generally don’t actually mean everything,** my response typically boils down to a loaded, tight-lipped **“It was great...”**. But if someone were to press me, there are a few general things I could say about

literally your best efforts not to), you can begin to have a pretty bleak outlook on the entire trip. Are we even doing anything productive here? Did God really call me to be on this trip? I can’t do this... These doubts and discouragements are totally normal. Like Paul said about his missions endeavors to



Asia, **“...we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed we felt that we had**

received the sentence of death” (2 Cor. 1:8). I feel you, Paul.

In any Spirit-led mission trip, God allows you to be stripped bare. The magnitude of your enemy is revealed and your pitiful inability to conquer is made devastatingly plain. In these moments, you have two options. Option **#1: Straight up quit. Make the enemy’s day and cave into his intimidation.** Run. Shut down. Throw a pity party for one and ride it out. And then there is glittering Option **#2: Press in. Realize your inability, admit your weakness, and bask in the glory that King Jesus chose you anyways. We’re talking** about an all-powerful, all-knowing General of fierce angel hordes who was

well aware of your faults way before you were and wants to empower you to do what you cannot do on your own. Paul goes on to explain the epic-ness of these moments of realization, **“...but that was to make us rely not on ourselves, but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril and He will deliver us” (2 Cor. 1:9-10).** Talk about a sick battle cry.

One of the best things about getting to be a Christian is knowing that when my performance in stressful situations like a missions trip is far from great (like the scrappy dog from the movie), I have an epic King that will keep me from drowning. His perfect performance for me has **saved me and will continue to save me until I’m safe in His kingdom,** swapping battle stories with the Apostle Paul and reveling in the fact that we serve a King who loves weak and broken losers just like me.



getting to go on a missions trip.

First of all, stressful situations tend to bring out your true colors in a starkly truthful way. This is especially the case when you willingly enter into the frontlines of a cosmic, **unseen spiritual battle where people’s eternal souls are at stake** and the enemy is a fierce one who hates your guts and wants nothing more than for you to sit down and give up. Add to this war of epic proportions a motley crew of allies who are inherently jacked up (just like you are), and **you’ve all got some pretty rough seas on your horizon** for sure. After being let down by your teammates multiple times and then letting them down yourself (despite





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NICK THE HICK

Another redneck rant from your favorite guy



MINIMALIST OR MOOCH

Minimalist seems like such a large word for people who use so little. Now I am not fine tuned in the education department but I can smell a new funk in the air. I have heard about this lifestyle of being a “Minimalist.” Now at first I didn’t recognize what the word/phrase was, or I just brushed it off as being another fad folks were getting all ex-tat-ic about. Then it sank in my thick noggin. Ya’ll want to claim living with hardly anything makes you a special kind of person? It’s something like when your buddy sells his truck because he sees opportunity (I mean a way to live with less) and two weeks later asks if he can borrow your truck to pick up 12 free couches he found on campus. Or when you hear that lady who’s always drinking a Moch-a brag about only having ten items of clothing in her war-drobe for each season. Now we all know it’s healthy to get rid of stuff. No one wants to be on the next episode of hoarders gone wild. All I’m sayin is next time you think of yourself being pretty high up on the horse with no name think about all the people that don’t have a horse. And the guy you borrowed the horse from! Enough ranting for one day I have to figure out what to do with these thousands of baseball cards I’m living with.



There are labels for instructions and labels for warning: “DON’T GET YOUR HAND CUT OFF WHILE USING THIS VERY DANGEROUS TABLESAW!” There are labels for listing ingredients and components, labels for marketing, and labels for enticing consumers. We even have labels for people: Millennials and Generation Z, Democrats and Republicans, Rich and Poor, Pretty and Ugly, Fat and Skinny, Smart and Dumb, Fast and Slow. The longer we are alive, the more labels we get and label ourselves with. See exhibit A: This democratic Millennial likes the city, eating hoagies, and sipping tea while talking with friends about free education and social injustices. We label and categorize other people and ourselves like the things we buy.

We label each other because it is easier to assume why someone is a certain way than to actually get to know them. We also label ourselves to figure out who we are and how we are supposed to act. Society will tell us that it is okay to be a certain way because that is how everyone in that category acts, but that is the mold we are destined to break, not enter. God created us to be different from the world.

A MILLENIAL MUCH?

Generations are arbitrarily labeled to loosely explain the legacy and behavior of a large swath of society. Research shows that marketers use generational labeling to help promote their product by coming up with the most **enticing ads to catch the new generation’s eye.**¹ Teaching institutions also use it to better approach and engage with their students.²

Samples of descriptors used to capture the tendencies of people born around the millennial generation (approximately 1982 to approximately 1994) include: tech savvy, most educated of all generations, entitled, involved in politics, mindful of humanitarian efforts, confident, self-involved, dependent, expecting a job with flexibility for a balanced work life, compassionate, liberal and the list goes on. The newest generation, Z, is said to be more pragmatic and independent than its predecessors, yet digitally dependent, not knowing a **time where there wasn’t rapidly advancing technology,**



more realists than optimists,⁵ conscientious, hard-working, somewhat anxious and mindful of the future. Generation Z (approximately 1996 to the present), they say, stands apart from millennials when it comes to being more independent from their parents and more cognizant of this broken world.

Whether you are categorized as a Millennial or a Generation Z, God is never interested in letting that, or any other label we tend to put on ourselves be the definition of your personality and identity. He is interested in transforming you into, not your best, but His very best (Romans 12:2). Because God looks past the societal norms and transcends generational labels, He is able to give freedom to those who want to follow Him. In order for this to happen there is an exchange that has to take place. He asks us to give Him the life you know for an unknown one and to lay aside your wants and dreams in return for a new life that doesn't fit within society's labeling machine.

GOD DESTROYS LABELS

It has been said that true freedom comes when there are no rules and when we don't have a God that we have to listen to and obey. But in reality, we are bound to something whether we realize it or not. We could be entrenched in living like these generational labels dictate, or to fashion, popularity, or to being the wildest partier. We could be driven towards having a successful life, pleasing our parents, or being the trendiest Millennial out there. But that's not freedom. Real freedom comes only when you submit yourself to the Truth of the universe. Jesus said in John 8:32, "You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free."

So to be free from labels and the cookie cutter lives they dictate, is to follow the truth, which is to know and be known by Jesus. The rest is an illusion of freedom. A man with an incredibly successful life is bound to it and will bring nothing with Him when He dies. All that he stood for, all that he gained in power, wealth or popularity just decays right into the

“So to be free from labels and the cookie cutter lives they dictate, is to follow the truth, which is to know and be known by Jesus. The rest is an illusion of freedom.”

ground the moment his heart stops. But a life in God and for God is to give up those things we are bound to and live for the things that don't decay. This is the exchange: giving up this life's riches and titles in order to receive a deep, satisfying and overflowing life that not only has nothing to do with the standards we're used to, but determines our eternity.

We all have this itch in the middle of our back that we cannot reach. We search for various identities and relationships and experiences in order to scratch it but it doesn't seem to go away, ever. We figure there's got to be something more to this life and we're right about that. In order to know what we were made for and get past all those societal labels and scanty expectations, we have to come to the understanding that we need God. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)" So instead of looking to society to find out who we are, we can look to God who knows us deeply since He made us for an exact, specific purpose. Once we become His child, He rips off the labels we have piled on top of us and frees us to know and follow Him. C.S. Lewis summed this up best when he wrote, "Don't let your happiness depend on something you might lose." Knowing God is a forever thing.


NOT MEANT FOR REAPPLICATION

Your identity is different from a label. A label is what you call yourself or what society slaps on you, but your identity is who you actually are. Way back when

the early church was forming, Christianity was called 'The Way.' The term "Christian" began to be used as a derogatory term by those who opposed the faith to ridicule followers as it meant, "Little Christ." When we become believers, we may take on the labels that society wants to stick us with, but the ironic part is that none of it matters except for what is true. We're now His child, His friend, His follower, and "Little Christ's." We represent the King now! You don't need to impress the world or rebel against it to prove a point anymore. God now gives you the power to live a different life through His Spirit.

Some of the new characteristics that He imputes to us are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. (Galatians 5:17) Apart from Him, we're not capable of these new attributes of our identity. But with Him, we are capable of loving others who don't love us, forsaking former pleasures that negate our new identity and letting Him be in control of our reputations, ambitions and plans. It is only under God's direction that we have the opportunity to flourish into the person we were meant to be. He gives us His holy spirit to live inside us and empower us and lead us.

The world is always going to be changing. You know that beauty ideals, academic standards and even morals change with the seasons and whims of the times. One of the beautiful attributes of God, and there are many, is that He never changes. He never makes mistakes, lies, or changes His mind. You can actually rest in the identity He has chosen for you and forget all of the labels this world has given you. When God says you're His son or daughter now, it may take awhile to grown into that identity, but it doesn't change the fact that it's true. This is completely contrary to labels that wash away in the laundry or ones that move with us as we transition from punk teens to working professionals. When we're tempted to re-apply those old labels back on to ourselves, Hebrews 2:1 reminds us, "So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it." God made His children to love like He loves and to serve like He serves in the places He puts us. You can decide now to live out the enormous freedom that allows, rather than bow to the labels you are told to act like. Will you be boxed, labeled and shipped or freed, revealed and sent?



“One of the beautiful attributes of God, and there are many, is that He never changes. He never makes mistakes, lies, or changes His mind. You can actually rest in the identity He has chosen for you and forget all of the labels this world has given you.”

100 WORDS or LESS

Our writers took the challenge of writing short fiction stories in a 100 words or less.



HARRIET THE HIPPY

My name is Harriet. Yesterday I went to bed and it was '67 and I woke up to find out it was 2016. Apparently whatever juiced grass I drank last night sent me ahead into a future that scares me.

Where is the incense and tie

dyed? Stout is different; lots of people wear their long underwear around with no pants over them. I must find familiar territory. Tell me more about this Bernie Sanders that is coming to town? Will he know where I can get the stuff to send me back in time?



SIMPLE LIGHT

Flick on, off, on, off. Dang it, my light bulb is burnt out. I walked into the store. I like these home-town stores, they have just what you need. I looked for a light bulb. Since when did people become so obsessed with light bulbs? There were hundreds of them. I asked the man at the counter what to get and he pointed one out. So I bought two. Whew, good thing someone was there to help. I walked back to my house, screwed in the light bulb and flicked on the light. It is so good to see again!

_OH MOTORCYCLE

Oh motorcycle how you have been the one to keep me rolling. Oh how you have helped me feel the world around me from the wind to the rain how you let me bare it all. We grace the roadways from spring to fall. Never much to keep you running but a few dusty dollars. Oh motorcycle, how you have been my two wheeled companion from sea to shining sea. Oh how the years have began to wear without much care from wrinkles to rust we are inseparable .



ADOPTION

Some are sleek, modern, and don't have much to say. Some are overly large and humorous. Some were sweet and kind, endearing and simple. Daily, hundreds of them line up one by one.

"Who will bring me home?"

"Will I be tossed aside like so many others before me?"

Many questions flood their minds as they wait. Silently, patiently they wait. They wait for that special someone to love them and cherish them, a longing in all of us.

"Mom, I think dad will like this one. It says 'Happy Birthday to the world's greatest Dad'."

Finally adopted.



On a rainy Tuesday in May, two WOTS writers ventured around town in search of *Menomonie's perfect French fry*. The good news? We found it. The other good news? *There's more than one. Here are our ratings, but don't take our word for it.*

Go try them!



STOUT ALE HOUSE

Shape: Standard fry shape

Texture: Not crunchy, but crisp.

Price: \$3.32 (that includes tax) for a side order

Special Features: These fries are sprinkled with a special seasoning not even the waitress knew. We used ketchup, but it definitely wasn't necessary. Some fries even had the potato skin still on. These fries come pre-salted and are laid in a classic red basket. Bonus: They served our fries piping hot. Still not sure if we got lucky or if this is standard.

Overall Flavor: Amazing

LOG JAM

Shape: Standard fry shape

Texture: An audible crunch can be heard when you bite into these fries.

Price: \$4.22 with tax

Special Features: Beer-battered. Served with a parsley garnish in a black basket. You taste the breading slightly more than the potato on this fry, but we're not complaining.

Overall Flavor: Superb

THE WATERFRONT

Shape: Slightly thicker than standard fry shape

Texture: Medium crunch.

Price: \$4.21 with tax

Special Features: These are some seriously salty fries with a thick, crunchy batter.

Overall Flavor: Potato-y



SILVER DOLLAR

Shape: Rather skinny appearance

Texture: The soggiest fry we tried, but it's working for it. We prefer to say "bendy."

Price: \$4.22 with tax

Special Features: These aren't your ordinary fry. These are *parmesan garlic* fries. Let that sink in. Served in a black basket with black and white checkered tissue paper. The crowd favorite.

Overall Flavor: Garlic goodness



And don't worry. We understand dorm life. If you can't make it out and about for these fries, grab a frozen bag of Ore-Ida's crinkle cut and try one of these easy-to-make dipping sauces:

Fry sauce – Combine 2/3 cup mayonnaise, 1/3 cup ketchup, and 1 teaspoon of pickle juice. Stir until smooth.

Garlic Aioli – Combine 1 cup mayonnaise, 1 tablespoon

minced garlic, 2 tablespoons lemon juice, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and a pinch of black pepper. Stir until smooth then refrigerate for about 30 minutes before serving.

Cheese sauce – Cube 8 ounces of Velveeta cheese. Heat cheese and 1/2 cup of milk in a small pot on the stove over medium high heat. Stir until smooth.

LOCAL events

FALL 2016

STOUT & COMMUNITY

SAT. 5/21-SAT. 10/22 -
Menomonie Farmer's Market,
Saturdays 8am-1pm,
Wednesdays 11:30am-6pm,
Wilson Park
FRI. 8/19-Sun. 8/21 -
Cucumber Fest, Boyceville, WI
THURS. 8/22 - Harvey Hall
Grand Opening, Harvey Hall
Theater, 3:30-5pm
SUN 9/4, 9/11, 9/18 & 9/25 -
Hoots and Happenings at the
Fish Farm, local music and
fishing, 1:30-4:30pm,
Bullfrog's Eat My Fish Farm

SUN 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9,
10/16, 10/23, 10/30 - Fall
Pumpkin Festival, Valley
Pasture Farm E7631 N. Cty
Rd E, Elk Mound, 10am-6pm,
\$8.50/person
WED. 9/21 - Run With the
Cops 5K for Special
Olympics, 6-8pm, UW-Stout
Campus, \$15-25
WED. 9/21 - The Yellow
Barn Meals & Music, 5:30-
9pm, E4545 Cty Rd FF,
Boyceville, WI. Bring a chair.
SAT. 9/29 - Coffee with a
Cop, Menomonie Market
Food Co-op, 10am-12pm,
Bring Questions
SAT. 10/1 - Art Market of
Menomonie, Wilson Park,
Menomonie, 8am-1pm
SAT. 10/8 - Stout
Homecoming, All Day

SUN 9/4 - Transistor Radio
WED. 9/7 - First day of Fall
2016 classes, Meet
Menomonie 2016 - Johnson
Fieldhouse, 5-7pm
THURS. 9/8, 10/13, & 11/10 -
Buffet Style Community
Dinners, 5-7:30pm, Dunn
County Fish & Game 1600
Pineview Ave, Menomonie,
\$11 admission
THURS. 9/8 - Burger King
Classic Car Shows, 2833 N
Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire,
5:30-8:30pm

TUE. 10/11 - Tainter
Menomin Lake Improvement
Association Monthly
**Meeting, Dunn County Gov't
Center, Room 58 - 800
Wilson Ave, Menomonie,
6-7:30pm.**
SUN 10/16 - **Adult Writer's
Publishing Panel**, Volume
One Gallery, 205 N. Dewey
Street, Eau Claire, 3pm, Free
TUES. 10/25 - Advisement
Day, All Day
MON 10/31 - Halloween
Party, Street Level House,
1009 6th Street East,
Menomonie, 7pm, Free,
Costumes Encouraged
WED. 11/23 - SUN. 11/27
Thanksgiving Break

SAT. 9/10 - Chippewa Valley Farm
City Day, Alfalawn Farms N2859 290th
S Menomonie, 10am- 5pm, FREE.
Farmer Frolic 5K Run/Walk, (same
address). 8am. Registration \$25.
SAT. 9/17 - Ride for our Heroes,
Star Prairie, 9am-7pm, Cost: \$20
SAT. 9/17 - Hobbs Observatory
Astronomical presentation and
telescope observation, Fall Creek,
8-10pm
SAT. 9/17 - Eau Claire Downtown
**Farmer's Market, Phoenix Park
Pavilions Riverfront Terrance,**
7:30am-1pm

DON'T MISS THESE

Street Level Bible Study
Mondays 7pm
Street Level House
1009 6th St E | Menomonie, WI

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

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

ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY
@ Street Level House
Saturday, Sept 10th
2pm-10pm



STREET LEVEL'S FREE BLOCK PARTY

Super Heroes

WHY THEY CAN'T SAVE US

IT is a fact that super hero movies are dominating the box office left and right these days. What is it about these characters and their stories that are so alluring to us? Is it the super strength? The super speed? Ability to fly? Or is it something deeper than the obvious external powers that these characters possess: their leadership, selflessness and sacrifice, their battle for good over evil, or near moral perfection? Is it a possibility that we too want to be like them for their noble characteristics? To always fight for what's right instead of doing what's natural? To be able to help others at the drop of the hat? Or maybe you're not one of those people who want that great power,

as it does come with great responsibility of course. Maybe you just want to know that if something did go wrong there was a super hero who could save you from your troubles and danger.

The reality is that many of these super heroes are modeled after a real person who did exist. Someone who did live a perfect life of healing people, leading people, battling evil, and saving people: this real life Savior of a person, Jesus Christ. Moral perfection? Check. Super abilities? Check. It's no wonder that Super Man's origin stories are that of an only Son, sent away to be a savior to the people of Earth, whose name is Kal El, El being a Hebrew word translated to might, strength, or of

god. It's no wonder that people loved *The Death of Superman* storyline.

A character whose first appearance was literally punching Hitler in the face is still popular today even though WWII is long over. It's no wonder we love his stories too; unlike Superman who was born great, Captain America hails from humble beginnings. Born a nobody in the grungy parts of Brooklyn, Cap just wanted to do what was right, always humble, always helping. Then, after being exalted due to super hero steroids, he doesn't let the power go to his head. He fights for the people, for good, and for righteousness. He couldn't get drunk even if he tried to, but he can still take a beating if it means saving a friend, a stranger, or even an enemy. Captain is a character that suffers for the people, freezing himself for years to protect innocent lives. Hebrews 2:10 speaks of a greater Captain: *"For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."* NKJV

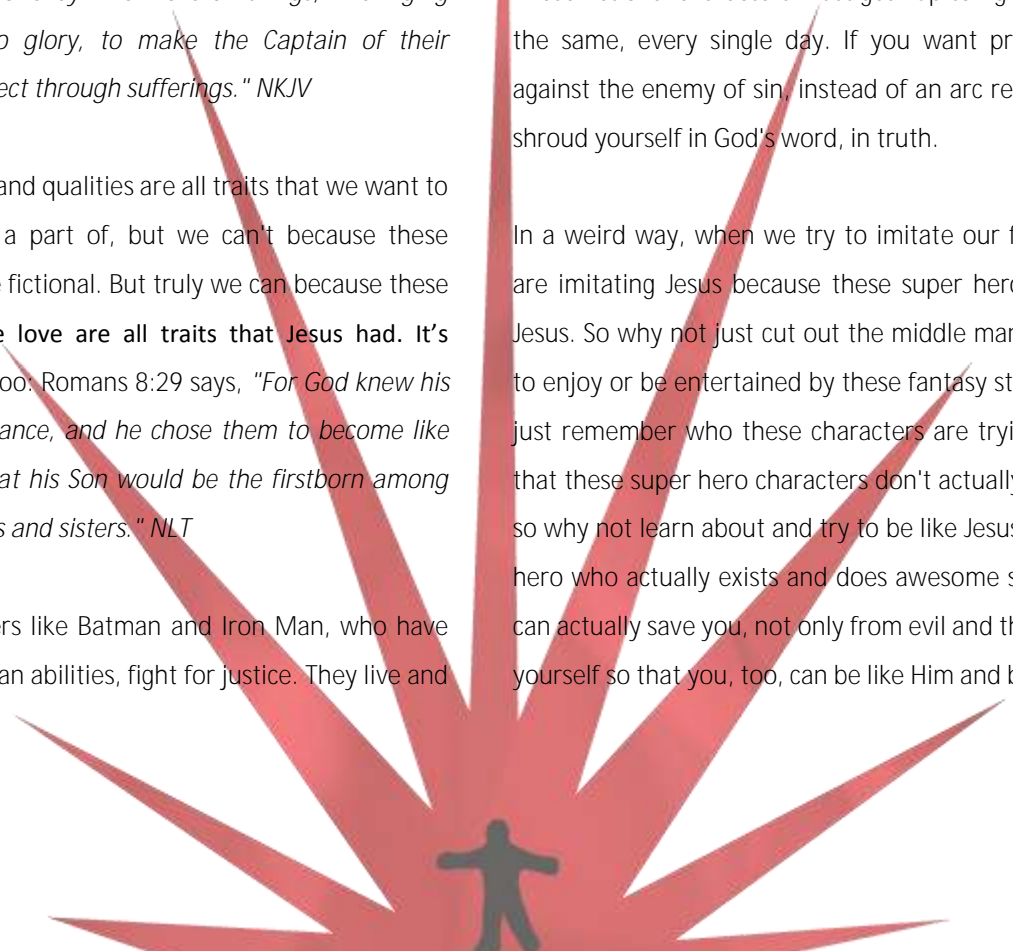
These stories and qualities are all traits that we want to have and be a part of, but we can't because these characters are fictional. But truly we can because these **traits that we love are all traits that Jesus had.** It's commanded too. Romans 8:29 says, *"For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."* NLT

Even characters like Batman and Iron Man, who have no super human abilities, fight for justice. They live and

"It is a fact that these superhero characters don't actually exist and can't save you, so why not learn about and try to be like Jesus Christ, the original super hero who actually exists and does awesome stuff?"

hide in a suit of armor, are fearless in the face of evil, selflessly fight for what is good, and protect people from evil, harm, and chaos. Every day they choose to put on their armor to protect themselves while they battle the enemy and help others, and the Bible calls for us to do the same. Ephesians 6:13 tells us, *"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."* ESV These fictional characters must gear up to fight. The Bible calls us to do the same, every single day. If you want prepare yourself for battle against the enemy of sin, instead of an arc reactor or a Bat-Utility belt, shroud yourself in God's word, in truth.

In a weird way, when we try to imitate our favorite super heroes, we are imitating Jesus because these super heroes are, in fact, imitating Jesus. So why not just cut out the middle man? It's certainly not wrong to enjoy or be entertained by these fantasy stories of super heroes, but just remember who these characters are trying to be like. It is a fact that these super hero characters don't actually exist and can't save you, so why not learn about and try to be like Jesus Christ, the original super hero who actually exists and does awesome stuff? He is someone who can actually save you, not only from evil and the bad guys, but also from yourself so that you, too, can be like Him and be part of His mission.



Movies From When You Were Born!

18 years ago, sometime between '97 and '98, millions of infants (who are now college freshmen) were brought into a world already exposed to hundreds of thousands of Hollywood films. Some were funny, some dull, some full of drama, some highly entertaining, and others just plain terrible. Early- to middle-aged women filed their way into cinemas across the nation to experience the jaw-dropping drama they called "The Titanic." As an 8-year-old I could only describe seeing this film as traumatic but I guess a lot of people loved the 17-year-old aristocrat named Leonardo. Who can forget "Men in Black" and the guys from INS Division 6. Somehow Will Smith booked a number of roles where he played a vital role in keeping the earth from being destroyed. Then there is Scream 2, and well, yeah, never mind. For the war movie lovers out there, Saving Private Ryan hit the screen and was an adrenaline pumper and a tear jerker. After three brothers are Killed in Action, eight men set out to find the fourth brother and bring him home safely. Antz stole the show in its day; Nothing beats millions of ants sticking it to the man (well, actually to the menace) that was trying to drown the colony. Of course Adam Sandler wrapped up the 90's singing to his love Drew Barrymore on a plane in The Wedding Singer. By the way, when was the last time you were at a wedding where there was a real live singer? Rush Hour with Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan was totally underrated when it came out. This duo could even make that grumpy old man you see in the park laugh. So the next time you have a couple of hours, check out one of these "old" movies (yes they are on DVD) call a few friends and see what the general population called entertainment the year you were born.

1997

The Lost World: Jurassic Park
Titanic
Good Will Hunting
The Fifth Element
Life Is Beautiful
Boogie Nights
Event Horizon
Liar Liar
Gattaca
The Game

1998

Saving Private Ryan
The Big Lebowski
Rush Hour
There's Something About Mary
American History X
The Truman Show
The Parent Trap
Meet Joe Black
Armageddon
Mulan



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**"WE DESPERATELY
NEED TO EXPLORE HOW MUCH
OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE
GOSPEL IS AMERICAN AND
HOW MUCH IS BIBLICAL."**

David Platt

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 *(baa-ya)*.

PLEASE MAIL HERE

**Street Level Ministries
621 Wilson Ave
Menomonie, WI 54751**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

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

WHY A CAMPUS MINIS

I can still taste the soggy residue from those styro-wafers they used to pass out during communion at church. They always stuck to the roof of my mouth. Trying to sneak the wine instead of the grape juice from the middle of that tarnished cup never seemed to sit well with my parents. But it was just what we did. Every Sunday. And then I went home and was glad it was over. Maybe you know what I mean, maybe you have no clue. Either way, rolling into college is generally not accompanied with eager aspirations of church attendance – I certainly had none. A trendy Christian campus organization might be where you **gravitate instead of an archaic church; after all, it's full of people just like you in age, interest, and style.** But that campus organization is not a replacement for a local, Bible-teaching church. **What if the church is not what you've known it to be – would you be bold enough to believe it's more than dusty hymnals, white robes, and old ladies who always seem to know your name?**

Are any questions bouncing around in your mind **after hearing such a statement? Aren't a Christian campus group and church basically the same thing? You're right, there are some similarities: both a campus org and the church ask for participation as part of fulfilling God's call and serving other people.** Each are groups of people united by common faith in the same God who are being taught what the Bible says and what that actually means and changes in life. If there is a difference, what is it? Like any good researcher would do when confronted with a challenging question, we will go to the original source: The Bible. If we want to know what God really

intended the church to be, we need to **check the original Author's work instead of convoluted tradition and opinion. It's like reading the book instead of just the Amazon reviews.**

The church is more than a group of people **who get together to learn about Jesus. It's more than bad coffee, shaking hands, and trying not to fall asleep. The Bible says it's an organized group of people who believe in God and are bound together in a covenant community (Acts 2:42-47).** A covenant differs from I-just-need-to-get-through-this-service-and-then-I-can-do-what-I-want; **it's a promise to stick side-by-side, no matter what. The church shares their entire lives rather than just meeting once or twice a week at appointed times. The church actually likes each other, they aren't being forced, and it's not weird. No matter how dedicated you are, in about four or five years you will no longer be committed to your college organization in the way that the Bible describes our commitment to the local church ought to be. Quickly, here are a couple other differences:**

God has designed the church to have specific positions such as pastors, elders, and teachers (Acts 14 : 2 3 ,

Ephesians 4:11-12).

Its leaders are to be more mature than other people in the church, both physically and spiritually (1 Timothy 3:2).

It baptizes believers (Acts 2:41).

It is the institution that God Himself has designed to display His wisdom (Ephesians 3:10).

The church is inter-generational, as evidenced by Paul instructing older men and women to teach the younger (Titus 2:4-8).

The church is the means through which God does His work in the lives of Believers so all may come to maturity, not just a specific age group (Ephesians 4:11-17).

To be completely honest, your attitude about church – the people – reflects your attitude towards Jesus Himself. The friction of different ages, nationalities, and people of varying social-economic status is uncomfortable; you will not find this in a campus

STRY IS NOT A CHURCH

organization. Making excuses to get out of plugging into a solid local church may be indicators of deeper bitterness or apathy towards God. God says that the church is like His bride – the love of His life – **that’s how He thinks about you if you’re part of it.** So, dissing the church is like walking up to your English professor and **saying you like him but can’t stand that woman he’s married to. Them’s fightin’ words. Christians want to be part of the church amidst all its imperfections, because that’s where Jesus is, and that’s why they are there. Now that we’ve got our minds wrapped around what the church really is, let’s talk about college.** Where does your Christian campus organization fit into a healthy spiritual life? During your time at school, commit to both a local church and a biblical campus organization who will challenge you, love you, and know your name. Here are some things to **keep on your radar as you’re looking**

for a campus ministry to join: Find a campus organization that partners with a local church in their ministry, mission, and teaching.

Be wary of groups who will make you a leader the moment you walk through the door. You **wouldn’t want that guy with drool on his chin from English 201 taking the professor’s place tomorrow... right?**

Find one where the people care about your relationship with God and will do everything they can to help you grow as a Christian.

Finally, take care of your own heart and mind. Make sure you go into your search for a campus ministry with a humble, willing heart to serve God. Look for a group of people you can serve, love no matter what, and be willing to have your thoughts and lifestyle challenged.

You really can honor God during your time at college.

Choosing to serve a

local church and a campus ministry in the way God intended will not be an easy or comfortable way to go through college, but it will be worth it. I stumbled into a Christian campus org as a sophomore at UW-Stout and ended up in a local church because of it – **I haven’t left in six years.** No one made me go, no one made me stay, and no one in my church has ever forced me eat those dry wafers and repeat-these-words after them. But people in my church do know my name, they do know the dark corners of my mind, and they do everything they can to push me towards a deeper relationship with Jesus. They ask me how I am **and wait for an answer that’s more than, “Good, how are you?”** **They’ve seen me dirty, sweaty, and crying in a bathroom stall (not all at the same time), and they haven’t left my side. People in my church laugh when I laugh, cry when I cry, and tell me to**

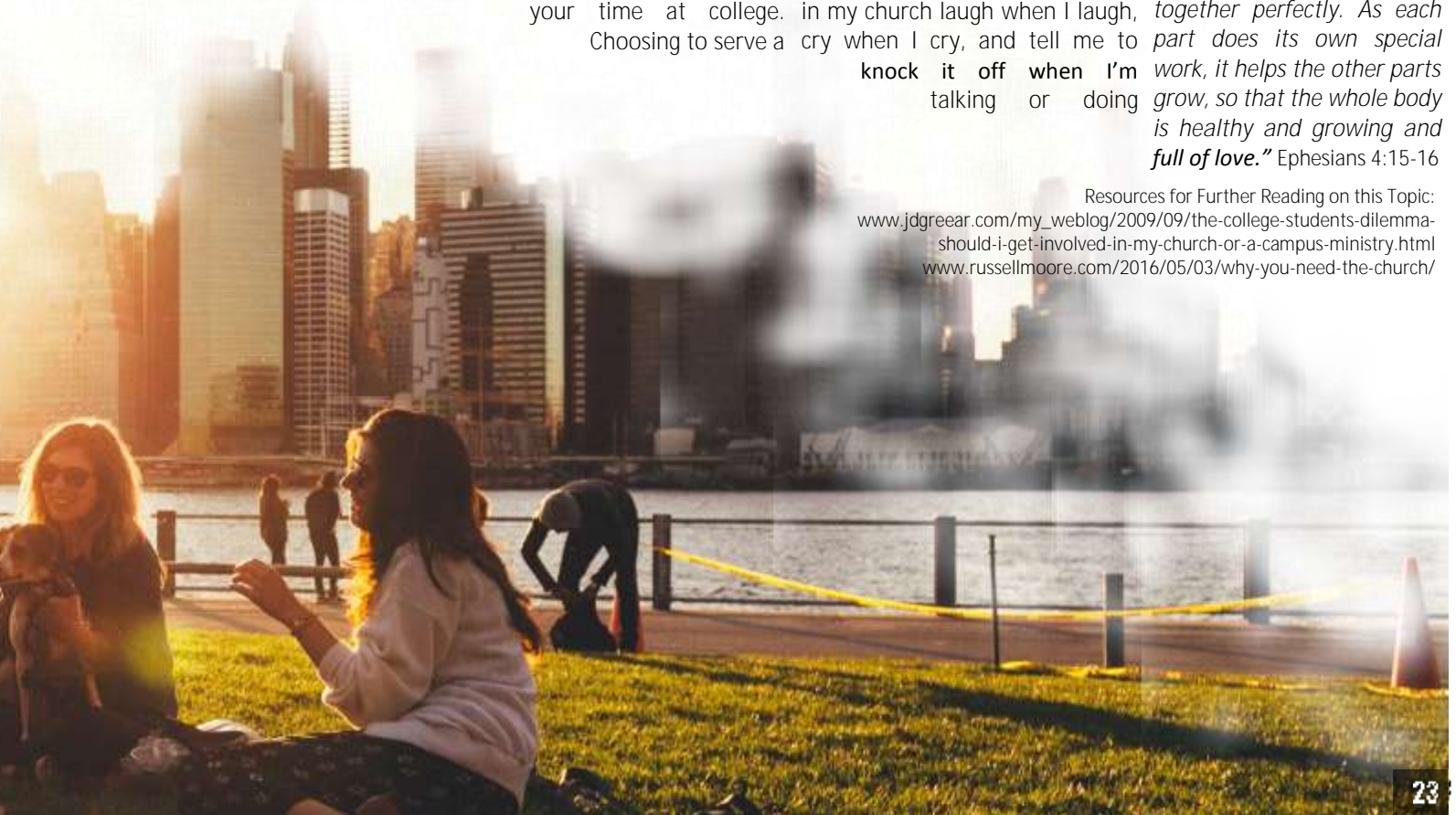
knock it off when I’m talking or doing

something crazy. We go out for coffee and stay up too late. We patch holes in each other walls, fix our cars, and talk about our hair. We link arms and work for God, **because He’s all that matters in the end, and there’s real purpose in what we do.**

So, get involved in a Christian campus org and a **local church. No one’s making you – after all, you’re free and clear in college – but I dare you to take God at His word, like I did, and hang on tight as He takes you on a forever-adventure.**

“Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” Ephesians 4:15-16

Resources for Further Reading on this Topic:
www.jdgreear.com/my_weblog/2009/09/the-college-students-dilemma-should-i-get-involved-in-my-church-or-a-campus-ministry.html
www.russellmoore.com/2016/05/03/why-you-need-the-church/



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READY
TO
BREAK
OUT OF
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