

# Word on the Street

# LOVE ACROSS ENEMY LINES

SHORT & STOUT PG. 4

LAZY RIVER PG. 10

NICK THE HICK PG. 8

FOSSILS DON'T LIE PG. 9

LEAD ARTICLE ON PG. 12







wotsmagazine@gmail.com

**ReadWots.com**

**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](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.

# MEET THE WOTS STAFF:

from three cities and two countries

## ▼ DULUTH, MN



## MENOMONIE, WI ▲

## CEBU, PHILIPPINES ►





# CONTENTS

## FEATURED ARTICLES

- 07 Restless for a Purpose
- 10 Lazy River
- 12 Love Across Enemy Lines**
- 14 Leaving It All Behind
- 18 The World is a Scary Place



## STOUT EXCLUSIVES

- 04 Short & Stout:**  
*Professor Who?, Squirrel Diets & Student Org Officers 101*
- 06 One Girl's True Story
- 17 Local Events Calendar

## ODDS & ENDS

- 08 Nick the Hick:  
*Political Awareness*
- 09 Fossils Don't Lie**
- 15 You Body Believe It
- 20 Just for Fun



# Short & Stout

STOUT GETS PROFESSOR-IZED, SQUIRREL-IFIED, AND ORGANIZED

## ► PROFESSOR WHO?

An Interview with Dr. Koepke

My roommate once told me this story about one of her professors on the first day of class for the new semester. Groggy students ambled into the classroom (a few secretly hoping they had found the right room) and slumped down into an open seat. Minutes passed and before long the class should have started already, but something – someone – was missing. There wasn't a professor standing at the door, greeting students as they filed in. Nobody was up front fiddling with a PowerPoint or projector. Five more minutes passed while the room got antsy and soon enough, one "student" stood up and introduced themselves as the professor. The surprised students listened to their teacher question the things we assume about professors, beginning with what a professor looks like.

**"Whether your experience with professors has been hair-pulling or awe-inspiring, as a recent Stout graduate, I want to encourage you to get to know your professors this (or next!) semester."**

You might imagine that professors spend all their free time in the lab searching to find the cure for cancer, or something highbrow like that. And while I can't tell you you're wrong, your professors are definitely individuals who are on your side and want you to do their best to help you succeed in school.

A (favorite) professor of mine, Dr. Leslie Koepke, knows a thing or two about being a professor after 34 years of teaching at UW-Stout. Dr. Koepke recently retired after teaching for many years in the Human Development and Families Studies major on campus. Not only did the university's hands-on approach draw Koepke in, but the school was also looking for an individual to mentor undergraduate students upon their arrival to the campus. As one of her lucky mentees, I can safely say she filled these shoes with patience, determination, and commitment to her students.

So what does a prof like Koepke wish all students knew? For starters, she recommends students begin getting to know their professors early in the semester by simply stopping by their office. Share with them a fear you have about the class or what your goals are for the semester. Dr. Koepke also

recommends keeping your professor in the loop about what's going on over the course of the class: "If something goes wrong during the course of the semester (bad grades, depression, illness of you or someone you love, relationship break up), let them [your prof] know. Why? Because they will notice if you're not yourself in class and they will wonder what's going on. They will not think you are asking for special treatment or an excuse. They will appreciate knowing what's going on - and may be able to offer additional support, options, or simple kindness."

Whether your experience with professors has been hair-pulling or awe-inspiring, as a recent Stout graduate, I want to encourage you to get to know your professors this (or next!) semester. If you're asking why, hear me out. Not only do your professors have knowledge and experience working in the field you're paying to learn about, professors also often are conducting their own research in their downtime throughout the semester. Ask them about it; they'd love to share. Instructors are great resources to help you narrow down your search for a job after graduation. Remember: professors don't want to see you fail. And they definitely want to see you in class each day (yes, Fridays too!). These individuals are on your side, and they love teaching! They would have (or should have) found a new profession by now if they didn't. Now, don't be a brown-noser, but your professors will be more likely to help you out in the future if you have a relationship with them. You will have more leniency to make your education your education. So tomorrow when you're tempted to either sleep in and skip, or snooze into your textbook during Bio 111, cut your professor some slack and listen to what they have to say. You just might learn something new.





## SQUIRREL DIETS

This segment is about a freeloading species that has been entertaining and cleaning up after students for decades. But on the UW-Stout campus in particular, squirrels have simply grown strange. One test subject was observed devouring a whole slice of pepperoni pizza, and he seemed to prefer wedge-cuts over squares. Growing pickier over time, some have been spotted eating toast as plain bread will not do for these new age rodents. Because strawberry pop tarts include the sugar a tree dweller requires to reload on energy for flying off buildings, human college students have been observed in wrestling matches with squirrels eager to benefit from this nutrition. Additionally, there have been reports of squirrels experimenting with devouring a

partial bagel to wash it down with a carton of milk. The results of further study are not in yet but it is quite possible that this is what led to some procuring seasonal bagel spread selections such as pumpkin cream cheese. Times are tough for some but not for the campus squirrels.



## STUDENT ORG OFFICERS 101: FOUR WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUR MEMBERS

The beginning of the year brings in lots of new students into Stout's 170+ student organizations. Backyard Bash kicks off the year and encourages freshmen to get involved on campus from the get-go. You might have been told once or twice to PICK ONE! which is Stout's campaign designed to encourage students to find at least one organization on campus to become actively engaged in. Building friendships, developing leadership skills, boosting your resume, and feeling more connected to campus are all advertised reasons to get involved.

But you can only pass out so much free candy at your table at the Involvement Fair before you might start to wonder, "Are we even doing anything productive here?" The answer is yes. In addition to that, we've brainstormed a few more things you, as a student org officer, can do to help encourage your org members to come, stay, and be actively involved on campus.

**Know your mission** – Progress can only be made when you have a clear direction. Know what your org stands for and be clear about what you want to accomplish this year. Work in small increments and don't waste time on things that won't line up with your mission.

**Know your members** – Develop friendships with members in your group. Knowing people personally, by name, and being interested in their lives (especially outside of scheduled "org times") shows you care and want to be invested in them.

**Be an example** – Actively participate in events and discussions; don't just observe or fear looking silly.



Define servant leadership and display for your members what a hardworking participant looks like.

**Ask for help** – Your advisor is a great resource for helping spur along members to do great things. Utilize their knowledge and let them help you continue strong throughout the semester.

Rachel Hallgrimson, a former student leader of Street Level Ministries, suggests having events that are out-of-the-ordinary, like unique fundraisers that will intrigue people beyond the standard catchphrase: "it's for a good cause." Street Level puts on an off-campus thrift sale each spring to raise money. Annual events typically are a success because students get a chance to look forward to them after they've attended once or twice.

Helping other students get involved isn't always an easy job, but it will be worth it. Some good news? If you've been diligent to reach out to campus, spread the word about what your org stands for, and offered a friendly face to searching students, you may already be well on your way to impacting campus in a really awesome way.



# One Girl's **TRUE STORY: NATALIE**

I grew up in a Christian home. I knew most of the stories in the Bible, church was a weekly event, and my parents raised me to know Jesus Christ. I do remember the day that I became a Christian. I was about 7 years old and I was crying when Mom asked me what was wrong. I asked her if Satan was stronger than God because I felt like I just couldn't be good. She sat by me and told me the Gospel message: I was a sinner, we all are, which is why we do bad things that hurt others, but we don't have to live that way. Jesus paid for our sin and took it away when He sacrificed Himself on the cross. He died instead of me so that I would be blameless before a perfect God and could one day be with Him in Heaven. I understood it as much as a child could and prayed to accept Jesus' gift of salvation.

I do believe that I was saved that day, but my life was not perfect. Growing up, I experienced a lot of rejection, failure, and loneliness. I only felt affirmed when I was the center of attention. It became easier to seek after the affections of others rather than rely on God. In high school, "Christian" was just a way for me to label my holier-than-thou attitude. I did not read the Bible and I did not follow Jesus. I had essentially abandoned my relationship with God because it seemed too tedious and too boring, and traded it for the people around me. I had a boyfriend who was particularly horrible, but I allowed myself to be taken advantage of

because I so desperately wanted to feel loved. Unfortunately that need didn't stop with him. I talked loudly and swore to get a reaction from anyone. I dressed provocatively so people would look at me. I was miserable, depressed, exhausted, angry, selfish, and lonely. I excused my sin because as long as it felt good, it didn't matter. I lived selfishly because my only desire was to please myself.

I came to college and faced the same challenges for two more years. I was reluctant for others to get involved with my life. Out of obligation, I started going to church at Jesus Fellowship of Believers in Menomonie and slowly things began to change. I had never met a group

of people so willing to be my friend in spite of how I looked to them. I never saw people so enraptured by the Word of God. I never saw people with such close relationships with God. I didn't know how much I wanted that until I saw it in other people. I know now that God used them to get through to me. He showed me glimpses of what my life could be like if I lived for Him. Suddenly, all the pointless things I searched for in the world seemed less appealing. My outward appearance was not so important. It didn't matter how much people liked me. Boyfriends, clothes, money, and labels meant nothing to me anymore. I stopped excusing my sin and acknowledged how it not only hurt God, but it also hurt me and those I loved. God was offering me something much better.

It hasn't been easy. Rebuilding a broken relationship with someone takes time and patience. I have to ask God for discipline and desire for Him every day. God has called me to Himself, not because I'm a good person, but because He loves me and wants me to be with Him. I have done nothing to earn God's love and salvation, but I have accepted it wholeheartedly. The Bible says that He is going to do great things with me and that He has an amazing, perfect plan for my life. I have a purpose. I'm not alone anymore. I have found great love.

- Natalie





# RESTLESS — FOR A — PURPOSE

**“I’M BORED.”** I’m guessing that all of us have said that multiple times in our lives. Have you ever found yourself pulling out your phone waiting for the caramel macchiato that you ordered? Or put on a fake smile while you are behind that old couple at Aldi in the grocery aisle going 1mph? Let’s face it: We are impatient. We don’t like waiting, in lines or at stoplights. We just want to get where we are going. But once we reach our destination, we usually are found restless again, waiting for the next thing to start. The newest trend out there to kill this boredom is to be adventurous. And while sometimes we need to get away, vacation just goes by way too quick doesn’t it? Boredom stems from something deeper that is missing in our lives because we were made on purpose for a purpose, and our souls will be restless until we find what we’re made for.

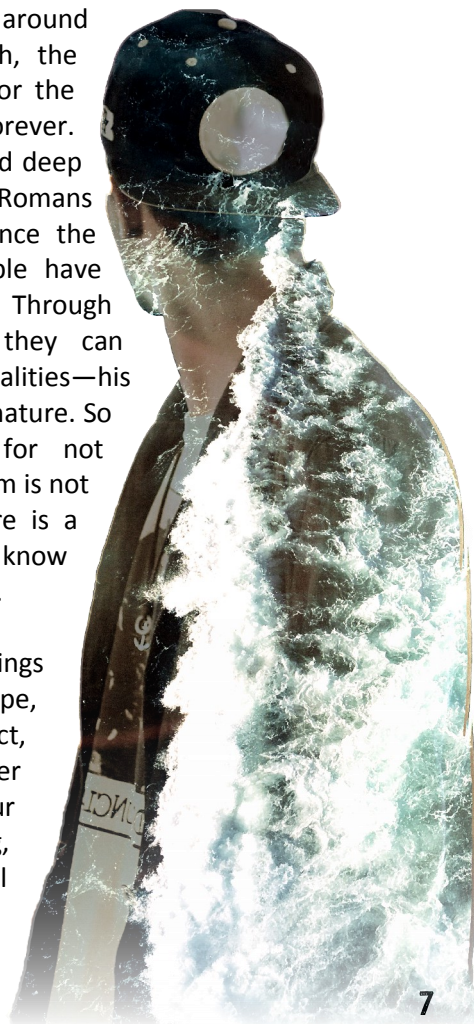
**“GOD KNOWS WE ARE WANDERERS BECAUSE HE MADE US TO WONDER AND EXPLORE, BUT HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN EVER SATISFY OUR WANDERING HEARTS.”**

We’re driven by a need to connect with people and explore our world. We look for great friends to love and laugh with, to share in our excitement and adventures. When I stood on the streets of Spain, the buildings were pieces of functional art and the country was littered with olive trees as far as the eye could see. It was literally a different world, different food, humor, smells, fashion, and languages. It caused me to wander all the more, wondering where they got their culture and traditions and humor. Once I got back to the States and back to my

routine, the excitement of the trip soon faded and I found myself wandering yet again.

God knows we are wanderers because He made us to wonder and explore, but He is the only one who can ever satisfy our wandering hearts. We get all these grandiose ideas and aspirations, but can never quite reach them, and even when we occasionally do, they are met with the thought, “This is it?” A great quote from J.R.R. Tolkien, the writer of *The Lord of the Rings*, sums up our culture today: “Not all who wander are lost.” Not all of us who wander around looking for the next high, the next mountain to climb, or the next vacation, are lost forever. We all know there is a God deep down even if we deny it. Romans 1:20 states, “For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.” The problem is not that we don’t know there is a God, but that we don’t know Him personally as our God.

When we go to other things for comfort and escape, whether it is an object, experience or even another person, it is a flare of our own conscience yelling, “I’m not fulfilled so I will try to find it here!” Verse





21 of Romans 1 goes on to say, "Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused." Every human being is poor in the sense of not experiencing relationships in the way that God intended, which translates into a severe and persistent restlessness.

We need to stop running from this truth. Give God a chance to blow your mind. Allow God space to be the one you look forward to each day instead of waiting for the day to be done. But how do you do that? Good thing He has already chosen you, and His first order of business is to save you from yourself, your stuff, this world, and its stuff. Next, as is His pattern and mark, He calls you out to the wilderness, for no other reason than because that's the best place to be free of distractions. If you get alone with His Word (the Bible) and seek Him through prayer, He absolutely will come flooding into your connection-starved, adventure-obsessed soul through the provision of His Holy Spirit.

So, you could ponder this article for a while and then go back to your restless wait, or you could seek to know a God that will fill your wandering heart. The choice is yours. God allows us to enjoy the time in between our destinations because He fills that restlessness with peace (Philippians 4:7). God goes deeper than our instant gratification and satisfies our need for connection to Him and opens our eyes to the beautiful world and people that He made. Now those little things that used to annoy us and those times of utter boredom don't bug us much anymore because we know the God that made the stars. Now that is an adventurous life worth living.

*"God is so vastly wonderful, so utterly and completely delightful that He can, without anything other than Himself, meet and overflow the deepest demands of our total nature, mysterious and deep as that nature is."*

—A.W. Tozer

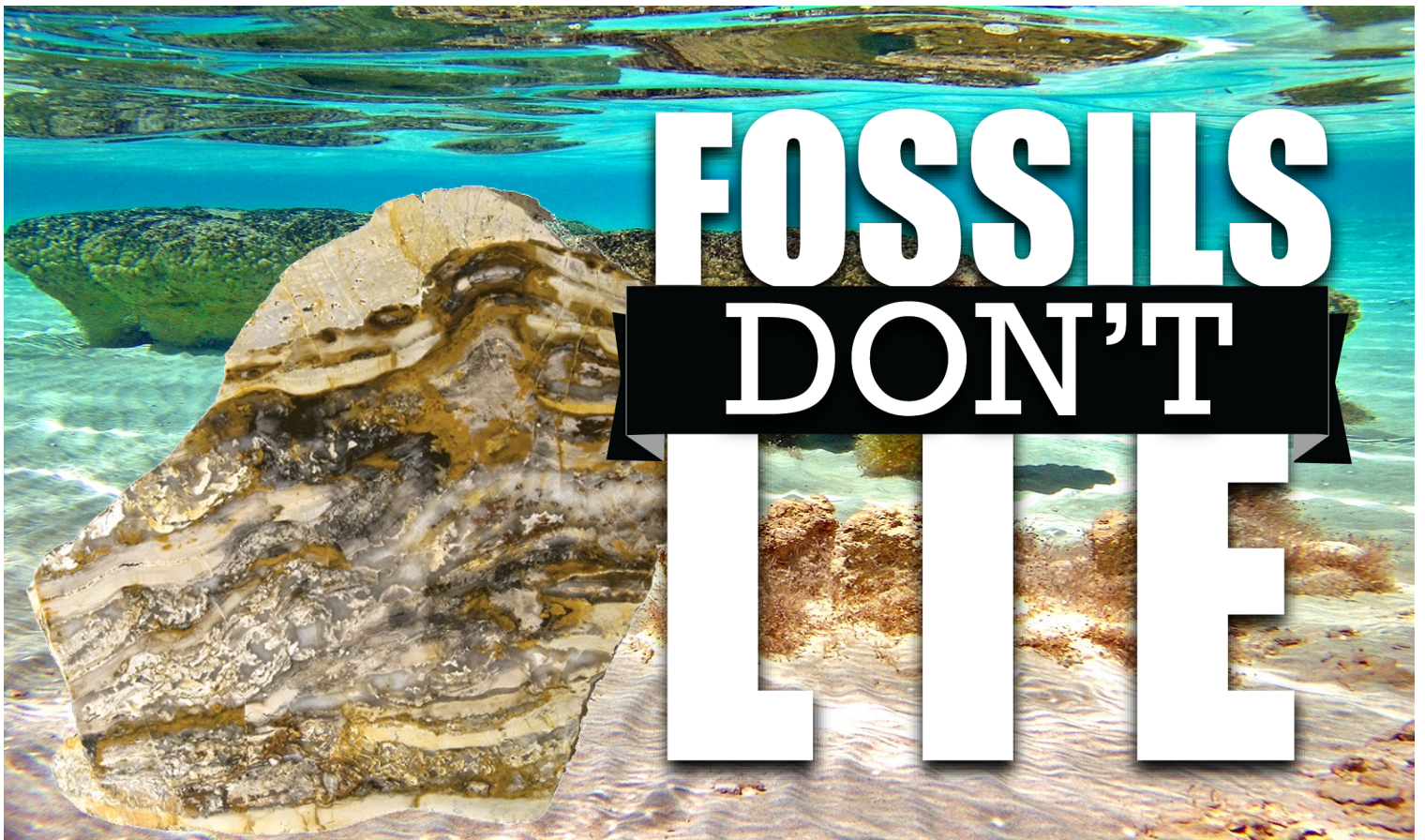
## NICK THE HICK

ANOTHER REDNECK RANT  
FROM YOUR FAVORITE GUY



## POLITICAL AWARENESS

Freeddom! Embrace the next couple years liberated from the jaw yacking of an upcoming election. No more radio ads like, "my opponent reeks of sloppy joes and said mean words in 5th grade about his teacher's mullet, resulting in 6000 people losing their jobs." Or, "89 out of 90 times congressman Turmanity voted to keep calling French Fries, French fries instead of American fries this resulted in a global collapse of fry exports." Now go back through and read those last two statements in your slow, deep voice. One more time. Okay good. If yer like me you get some feelers around political season but after your like, "what was I worried about again?" Don't get me wrong. This is serious bitness, but boy, I just dunno. Someday, if I live long enough, I will cringe when my grand kids go, "Pappi, what in the whirl was that hubbub about anyway in 2016? Maybe by then the elections will become a real live reality show. Like Survivor. "On the next episode of choose your leader, watch two competing senators have a town hall debate in the holler'. Faced with questions like "How come it gonna be eelegal to name all my boys Darryl if yer elected?" Or, "How come in Colerado they can smoke grass but I can't promote my micro shine brewery."? The winner goes to the White House, the loser is forced to perform 10 years of hard labor making 'Shine. Where can it go from here? Let's make a pact, we'll just cross that bridge when it gets here.



**O**n August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016, Nature.com published the findings of years of research from the oldest fossilized life found on Earth. This jewel was found in Greenland's *Isua supracrustal belt*, which is known for having the oldest rocks on Earth. The fossil is estimated to be 3.7 billion years old and has microbial structures called stromatolites.

Microbes that formed these stromatolites could perform photosynthesis, form communities, and are said to be descendants of the earliest life forms on Earth. Before this new fossil was found, microbes were said to be around 3.4 billion years old. Simple cell, oxygen-producing bacteria was said to have formed 3.6 billion years ago and water started to form on the Earth's surface 3.8 billion years ago.<sup>2</sup> According to Nature.com, this new finding pushes back the origin of simple cell bacteria to 4 billion years ago, which caused a ripple effect and pushed back the formation of earth as well. But this isn't the first time this has happened. In his article about the oldest signs of life on Earth, writer Joel Achenback shares about paleobiologist J. William Schopf and his discoveries: "*Schopf said that when he first began working in paleobiology half a century ago, the leaders of the field believed that life began on Earth only about a billion years ago. Discoveries kept pushing the start date for life further into the past.*"<sup>3</sup>

We all know the heated debate between evolutionists and creationists (intelligent design), but if you have only been exposed to one and not the other, how do you know if the other is wrong? Creationists believe in a different hypothesis for how the universe formed and have a theory to explain the fossils like this one found

in Greenland. They believe that God created the Earth and everything in it around 6,000 years ago.<sup>4</sup> You say, well what about all these old rocks? They believe that rocks don't actually take millions to billions of years to form. There was a rock discovered in 1975 with a clock in it. No one would actually believe that this clock was made over millions of years ago.<sup>5</sup> So how did the clock get inside? The rock formed around it, naturally. Therefore, these stromatolites that were discovered could be 3.7 billion years old or they could be only thousands of years old. You say might say, "Well what about the time needed for species to evolve?" Creationists believe that God created each species according to its kind,<sup>6</sup> leaving room for environmental adaptation but not for species' evolution. This would mean that billions of years are not needed in order to make the Creationist hypothesis plausible. If you are interested in learning more about the science behind creationism, visit [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org) for articles and findings from reputable scientists.

Could it be that we are more than chance or just evolved animals? Could it be that the reason we haven't found life on other planets like ours is because God didn't put life there? Could it be that the reason why we wonder how life started is that God, with the same mind, gave us minds of wonder and curiosity and a desire to explore the world He's made? Just a thought.

Sources:

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature19355.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://academictips.org/blogs/timeline-of-life-evolution-on-earth/>

<sup>3</sup> [www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2016/08/31/3-7-billion-year-old-fossils-may-be-the-oldest-signs-of-life-on-earth/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2016/08/31/3-7-billion-year-old-fossils-may-be-the-oldest-signs-of-life-on-earth/)

<sup>4</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/age-of-the-earth/how-old-is-the-earth/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/rock-layers/fossil-clock-how-fast-do-rocks-form/>

<sup>6</sup> Genesis 1:1-27



# Lazy's River

## WHY PADDLE UPSTREAM?

**W**hen I opened my eyes, there was thick, warm haze. When I mustered up the strength to move my head around, it was obvious that I was floating down a river and the sun was out. The water was cool as I drifted along and I felt safe. There was lush, green growth on both sides of the wide river, but I couldn't see beyond this. But that really didn't concern me; the warm feeling of floating along without a care in the world, with nothing to fret about or think about, was all I could focus on. Simple pleasure. It could have been hours, maybe even days, of blissful floating; I really don't quite remember. All I know is that it was good, and I liked it.

The sun seemed to always hang in the same spot. It gave off a constant, pleasant warmth that lulled me in and out of my hazy, foggy sleep. At least I think it was sleep. I never felt too rested. I just felt like I was there, rolling along wherever the water would take me. If I tried to think too deeply about it, I'd immerse my hand back in the river's current and remind myself that this was good.

I kept rolling along for what seemed like hours, maybe weeks, without much change. Whenever my raft would get close to anything jutting up from the river, the current seemed to guide me around any rocks or troubles, avoiding all danger of the fallen limbs of trees. It was good. It was nice to not have to think about steering around anything. It was nice to not have to think at all; the river did the thinking for me and it was good. It was a comfort to not be in charge of anything except to sit and relax in my raft, comfortably floating along without a care in the world, nothing but the gentle sounds of the water filling my head; and it was good.

It was around this time, hours maybe days later of the same numbing pleasure of the river, that I realized something. I opened my eyes just enough to see that I wasn't alone. Through the mid-day heat and haze I could finally see others on their rafts floating on this same wide river as well. All were floating along without any thought, rhyme, or

reason, and all that remained was the sporadic control of the river taking us along this journey of simple pleasure. Why bother to find out where we were going or how we wound up here? The river was good.

I opened my eyes further and the light hit a bit harder than I expected, but the gentle rolling of the river with the others reminded me I could close them again and forget about everything. I tried to keep them open and look at the others floating along this wide, familiar river but the faces seemed dark and blank. They seemed empty and distant. I thought to myself, "They must be happy." But by this point, I didn't know what happy even meant anymore. I figured they had to be happy because the river was good. The current was good and the cool water was good. Although the distance of the others made this trip a little lonely, it was comforting to know we were all heading in the same direction.

**"AND THEN FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT I CAN REMEMBER THE RIVER WASN'T GOOD. THE SHOCK OF THE WATER SENT CHILLS THROUGH MY SKIN AND I COULD FINALLY SEE WHERE THIS RIVER WENT."**

Slowly my eyes opened up further than ever before. The light hit them from all sides and for the first time I could see the darkness of the water and feel the coldness of the current. I looked to my side and saw people paddling their raft upstream in the opposite direction. Their faces seemed to glow as they helped one another along, fighting against the current and the river, shouting things I couldn't comprehend to the faceless people floating along with me. The strength of the river was no match for their strong




# vera

paddles, but it looked like hard work. Fools. Don't they know the river is good?

I pushed it from my mind, closed my eyes, and focused on the simple pleasures of the river; and it was good. I took comfort in the majority of us going in the same direction on the good river. The river has to be good. Only idiots would fight against it; I cursed them in my thoughts and continued to float along for what seemed like hours, days, weeks.

Then my raft hit what I imagine was a rock and threw me into the water instead of comfortably guiding me around it. And then for the first time that I can remember the river wasn't good. The shock of the water sent chills through my skin and I could finally see where this river went. The current picked up and I screamed out for help but it was too late. The river was at an end. A cliff? A waterfall? Death? Words that had never crossed my mind before hit me like a brick to the face. I looked around at the faceless others that the river had abandoned and left to drown. I didn't see comfort in the good river anymore. The warm pleasures of the raft led me to the cold depths of the rapids. I felt the crushing water come over me and I couldn't move. I sank to the bottom, wishing I could have done something different, something more. I felt the weight of the ice cold river surrounding me as the light disappeared from above and the once good water filled my lungs.

When I opened my eyes, there was thick, warm haze. When I mustered up the strength to move my head around, it was obvious that I was floating down a river ...




*Gourmet Coffee,  
Local, non-Profit, Bakery,  
and \$2 Saturday  
Breakfasts*

THE BLIND MUNCHIES  
MUSIC & COFFEEHOUSE

621 Wilson Ave // [theblindmunchies.com](http://theblindmunchies.com)

## Want to Share Your Ideas?



WOTS wants your  
writing, photos, poetry,  
artwork, etc...

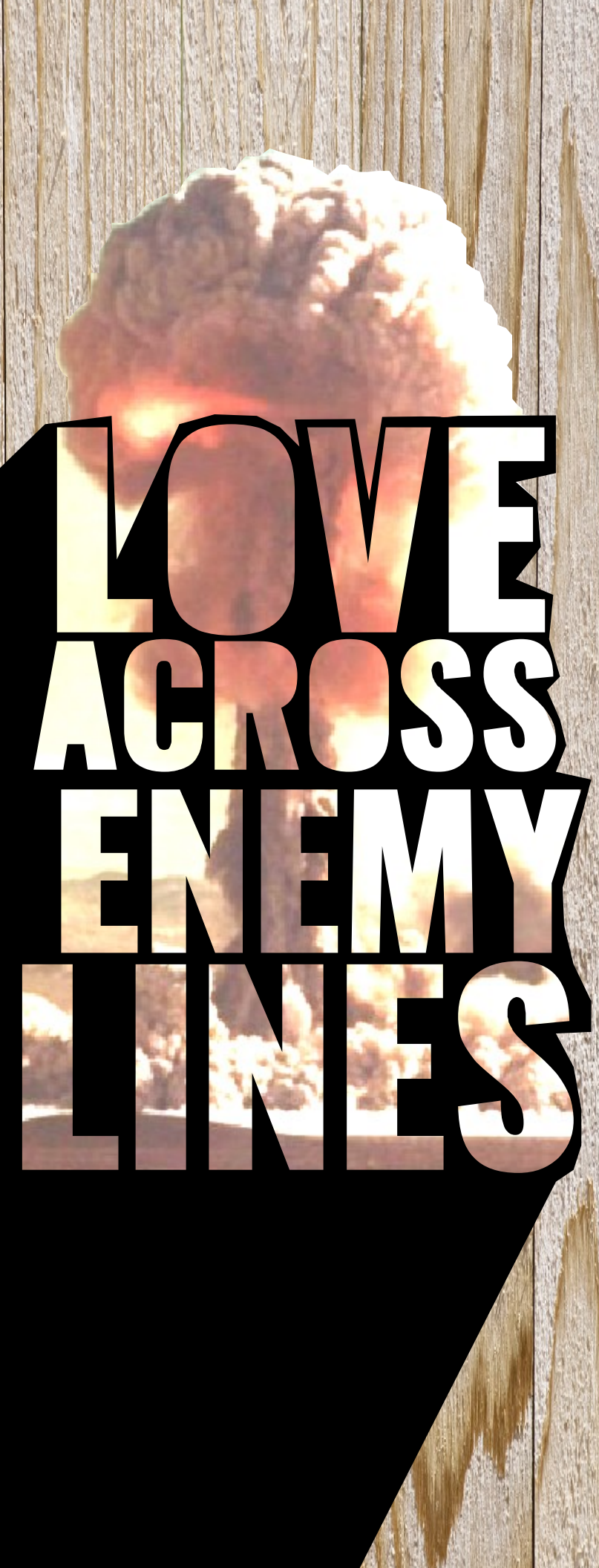
just shoot us an email  
:)

### Word on the Street

is a college publication made by members of Street Level Ministries, for students. We deal with issues of college life, Christianity, world news, local events, & more.

[readwots.com](http://readwots.com) | [wotemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:wotemagazine@gmail.com)





**W**ho is your greatest enemy? Is it your third grade rival who relentlessly declared your awkward tendencies to the world? Is it an unapproachable college professor whose ironclad expectations make students drop like flies? Does it go deeper to a family member who betrayed your trust, wounding you in secret, soul-scarring places?

When it comes to conversing and coexisting with people we don't see eye-to-eye with, we tend to act primarily on emotion. According to Ben Stuart of Breakaway Ministries in Texas, "Society is both overly sensitive and insensitive. Feelings have become the standard. If we disagree, there's less dialogue and more destruction. If you hurt me, I must destroy you. The more we dehumanize, the more we polarize."<sup>1</sup> Our generation is prone to thinking about the self so much that we can't help but dwell on who has hurt *me* and who disagrees with *me*. However, have you ever stopped to wonder who thinks of you as *their* enemy? Would it disturb you to know that one person who holds that position is God Himself?

It's true. Every single person is an enemy of God because, "As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable, there is none who does good, no, not one'" (Romans 3:10). And yet, God longs for us. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem," He says, "the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under wings, but you were not willing!" (Matthew 23:37). Finally, Romans 5:8 is the epitome of God's love towards us through our hostility, for it says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Because God is holy and perfect, we are by default separated from Him. However, though we start out as His enemy, we don't have to stay that way. Jesus Christ entered this world with the sole purpose of transforming our estranged relationship with God into one filled with love, healing, and hope if we are willing to trust Him. Because Jesus was willing to give up His own life for those who hated Him, as Christians we are both commanded to (and capable of) loving across enemy lines.

### **ASSESSING THE OPPOSITION**

Growing up, we're taught that "hate is a strong word" and therefore we are often discouraged from using it. Instead, we stuff that emotion deep down inside of us and put on a good face that shows we get along with everyone. If we're honest, though, most of us have hated someone at one point or another. Usually it's because of something they did or said (or a combination of the two) over a period of time that resulted in ill feelings. We ruminate over these situations and refuse to forget. Forgetting would be equal to forfeiting, and it seems ridiculous to let them off the hook that easily.

The Bible isn't as passive-aggressive as we are. God doesn't pretend to get along with everyone. When He created the world, it was meant to be filled with perfection, relationships included. It didn't take but three chapters before sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's actions. Because of their disobedience, they destroyed the perfect relationship they had with God and to this day we feel the effects of it: "When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned."<sup>2</sup> Therefore, we are enemies of God two times over—once for being born with a sinful nature and again for the sin we choose to commit. We can't just blame Adam for sin. It's our fault, too.

**"We do anything and everything to put distance between us and those we don't like. In relation to His enemies, God did something radically different. He sent Jesus, His one and only son, to live in a world where He would be hated and reviled. Jesus willingly entered enemy territory."**

Regardless of what culture says, sin is a big deal because it makes us filthy in the sight of God. Isaiah 59:2 exhorts, "It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore." In light of this blunt truth, it's foolish to insist that God will look past the offenses made against Him. Rather, God says He will "punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their sin. [He] will crush the arrogance of the proud and humble the pride of the mighty."<sup>3</sup> It's easy to get caught up in the disagreements and tensions of this world since many of them seem worthy of our attention. However, any enemy we have in this life pales in comparison to the fact that we are God's enemy first.

### **ENTERING ENEMY TERRITORY**

Thankfully, God doesn't treat his enemies like we treat ours. Our instinct is to build emotional barricades and cover ourselves in calloused armor to keep the enemy from invading any further. We do anything and everything to put distance between us and those we don't like. In relation to His enemies, God did something radically different. He sent

Jesus, His one and only son, to live in a world where He would be hated and reviled. Jesus willingly entered enemy territory.

The world Jesus entered was truly hostile. As a baby, He was almost killed by a nation-wide edict to kill all boys under the age of two. After teaching in church, an angry mob tried to throw Him off of a cliff. The religious elite of the day constantly circled like vultures around Him trying to exploit any fault in His theology. Even His loyal disciples denied Him publicly. None of these experiences compared to Jesus' own death, however. While Jesus was hanging on the cross, taking the punishment for our sin, God Himself turned His back on His own Son. The entire world hated Jesus.

Jesus' death on the cross wasn't a failed mission, but rather it was the purpose of God. Romans 5:8 says, "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." God knows that we can't clean up our act on our own since there is no amount of good deeds or moral behavior we can do that will make us acceptable to Him. That's why we needed a Mediator to step in on our behalf. Through faith in Jesus, we become part of His family and our relationship with God can be restored.

Jesus didn't shy away from conflict, and neither should we. We should expect to encounter as much hostility as He did. In fact, Jesus prayed to His Father about us, "And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I'm not asking you to take them out of this world but to keep them safe from the evil one."<sup>4</sup> The hostility in our





world is evident in the mass shootings, cultural conflict, and wars that dominate daily news. According to *Time Magazine*, 451 people have been killed or wounded in mass shootings in the United States since 2012.<sup>5</sup> Also, the city of Chicago has reported 500 homicides so far in 2016 alone.<sup>6</sup> This is the world Jesus has called us into. We are called to follow His example and enter enemy territory.

## LOVE IS WAR

Once we cross enemy lines, Jesus commands us to do the impossible: love our enemies. Matthew records, "But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you...If you love only those who love you what reward is there for that?"<sup>7</sup> Left on our own, we are selfish and only love those who love us back. But, Jesus' love that we're to emulate is sacrificial. It doesn't expect anything in return. This kind of love is only possible through the Holy Spirit, which is God Himself living in and through us. Once we have faith in Jesus, we become new people capable of new thoughts, feelings, and actions. He gives us the power to reach out to our enemies because we are deeply aware of what it cost Him to reach out to us. We love because He first loved us.<sup>8</sup>

The love God speaks of is not in any way related to the love so often thrown around in culture today. God's love goes beyond emotions and feelings to actions. We're not only supposed to love them in our hearts, but have that love extend to tangible things like sacrificing our time and resources, giving up our opportunities for revenge, and seeking their good. This is easier said than done

because it doesn't come naturally to us. We have to fight against our own selfishness to love our enemies. Also, sometimes our enemies won't let us love them. We get spit on, trampled on, rejected, and hated which can be intimidating. We'll get hurt in the process, and that's the very point. Loving our enemies means seeking their good over our own.

In the end, loving our enemies is only possible when we realize we are God's enemy first. He sent Jesus to die a criminal's death on our behalf and when that hits home with us it puts reaching out to our enemies in perspective. They haven't offended us as much as we offend God with our sin. Yet, Jesus deliberately entered enemy territory anyway. What will this look like for you? Will it mean extinguishing the hate in your heart for your third grade bully, actively engaging with tough professors, or confronting family members who have hurt you? Regardless of the circumstance, we have an opportunity to be like Jesus when we love our enemies. It's not remotely easy, but worth everything in light of what He endured for us.

### SOURCES

<sup>1</sup> Ben Stuart, "Jesus Among the Millennials"

<sup>2</sup> Romans 5:12

<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 13:11

<sup>4</sup> John 17:14-15

<sup>5</sup> [time.com/4368615/orlando-mass-shootings-chart/](http://time.com/4368615/orlando-mass-shootings-chart/)

<sup>6</sup> [cnn.com/2016/09/06/us/chicago-homicides-visual-guide/](http://cnn.com/2016/09/06/us/chicago-homicides-visual-guide/)

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 5:44,46

<sup>8</sup> 1 John 4:19

## PHILIPPINES UPDATE



During the latter half of Brittany Menor's time at UW-Stout she stepped into Street Level Ministries as a way to pursue and know God.

She then graduated in 2014 with a BFA and soon afterwards was given a position at Marquardt Motors in Chippewa Falls as a graphic designer, electing to continue living in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

However, on Halloween this year, she made the biggest move of her life. She left to fill a ministry post in Cebu City, Philippines for a minimum of a year and a half.

When asked why she decided to make the move from sleepy Midwest life to the chaotic unknown of ministry on the other side of the world, she said, "I want in on what God is doing there. It's been a few years now of God really working on my heart, changing my heart, just to even be willing to go."

This is not the first time she has been to the Philippines. The first time was for four weeks

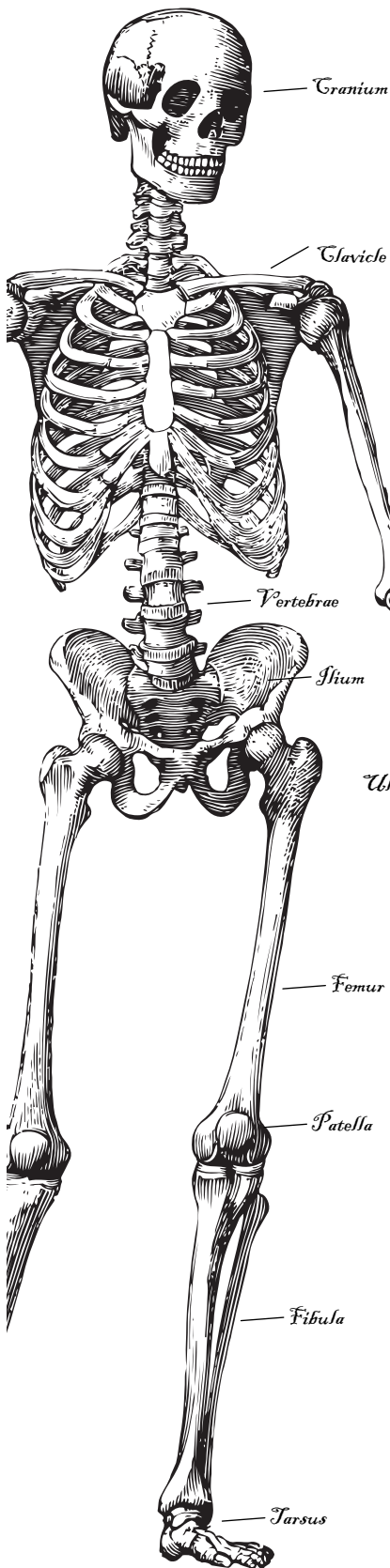
in the summer of 2015. After seeing God work in ways that confirmed His will that she be there, such as being able to keep her job upon her return, she was on her way to continue further missions work there. This past summer she stayed in the Philippines for two months.

"When I came back (this summer) I wanted to be here but I wanted to be back there also," said Menor, "A month ago I was listening to a teaching about how Jesus left the comfort of heaven to come here to us and I remember thinking that if Jesus can do that then I can leave the comfort of America and go wherever He wants me to go."

The next day she was asked if she wanted to go to the Philippines. As a young, single woman just wanting to serve God, it's not bold to say that God answered in a way far beyond expectations.

Follow the adventure at [jfbelievers.com](http://jfbelievers.com) and select the 'Missions Blog' link. ■

# You Body Believe It



**O**ur lives hang on by a thread. If any one system in our bodies fails for too long, we're goners. For example, remember the last time you burned your finger or hit your head on something? You never thought about your finger or your head as much as when you hurt it. We are unaware of the millions of exchanges and processes occurring constantly inside of us to sustain us through another breath. The following gives some perspective on the phenomenal nature of this thing we move around in every day.

Boards give structure to buildings like your bones do for your body. However, your bones do more than just make up your skeletal system; they are each a living organ.

One amazing fact about your bones is that they contain a life-giving substance called bone marrow. Blood cells are produced from it. Specifically, red bone marrow is a factory for your red blood cells, platelets, and white blood cells. Your bones also contain a yellow bone marrow, which is mostly comprised of adipose (fat) tissue.

More interesting yet are your flat bones (considered compact bone), which are responsible for storing most of the red marrow in your body. Your hip bones, ribs, shoulder blades and vertebrae are all flat bones. As you age, your body converts more red marrow to yellow. However, if needed, your body can convert it back to red. This is just one awe-inspiring thing about your body.

Not just to continue talking about blood, but do you ever think about the organ which filters it? How about the organ which also maintains vital electrolyte levels in your body? Your kidneys perform these functions, as well as others. Your kidneys are not just one solid filter but they are actually made up of many small filtering units called nephrons, numbering about one million per kidney. These nephrons are made up of glomerulus

(filter) and a tubule (tube). The blood flows through the glomerulus where waste is allowed to pass through the filter, and blood cells and large molecules are sent back into the blood stream. The waste then is passed through the tubule where the much needed minerals are reclaimed back into the bloodstream. The leftover product is considered waste which is transported to your bladder. Your kidneys combined filter about 1.2 liters of blood every minute. With the next sip you take, be sure to thank your kidneys for a job well done.

Do you have a clue what your first line of defense for your body is? It is not what you think. This system protects your respiratory system from viruses and other things which you inhale. This amazing feature is housed in your throat, as well as behind your nose and in other places within your airway. This system helps to transport mucus within your respiratory system. The mucus comes from none other than goblet cells. Just wait. The really awesome part is your respiratory system contains special cells, pseudostratified ciliated columnar epithelium to be exact. These cells help pull contaminants out of your lungs and other areas of your airway. This system is referred to as the mucus escalator because the little hairs, called cilia, in your airway actually move in a rhythmic motion to help continually bring mucus, containing contaminants, out of your airway and deposit it into your stomach where the germs are destroyed by your stomach acid. It may seem a little disgusting when you think about it, but it serves a very important job. Next time when you are surrounded by germs, just think mucus escalator.

Hope this article has invoked some thoughts about how awesome this body you're living in really is. We are a walking miracle, exquisitely designed for life on Earth.





# BORED WITH YOUR “CHRISTIANITY?”



**WE MAKE MARGINAL CHRISTIANS NERVOUS.**

[www.jfbelievers.com](http://www.jfbelievers.com) / SUN 10:30am & WED 7:00pm / MENOMONIE



# LOCAL Events

WINTER 2016

## STOUT & COMMUNITY

Thurs.-Sun. 10/20-11/27 – James Boyd Brent Exhibit at the Library, L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library, Eau Claire

Tues 11/15 – Women’s Basketball vs. Augsburg College, 7pm

Fri 11/18 – Men’s Basketball vs. Hope College, 7pm

Sat 11/19 – Men’s Basketball vs. Robert Morris College III., 3pm

Tues 11/22 Men’s Basketball vs. UW-Superior, 7pm

Wed-Sun 11/23-11/27 – Thanksgiving Break

Mon 11/28 – Classes Resume  
Thurs. 12/01 – Free Live Music: Tiny Moving Parts, TBD, UW-Stout

Fri.-Sat. 12/2-3 – Chippewa Valley Knife Show, Fri. 3-8 pm, Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Best Western Train Lodge, Eau Claire

Fri. 12/02 – Free Movie Double Feature: Home Alone 1 & 2, TBD, UW-Stout

Sat. 12/3 – 27th Annual Bridge to Wonderland Parade, Starts at 6 pm, Downtown Chippewa Falls

Tues 12/6 – Women’s Basketball vs. UW-Superior

Thurs 12/8 – Open Mic, MSC Terrace, sign up 7pm, starts 8pm

Fri 12/9 – Stout Game Expo, MSC Great Hall, 6-9pm, Free //Coffee with a Cop, Acoustic Café, 8-10am

//Larry Past and Al Julson, acoustic folk rock, Acoustic Café, 7-9pm, Free

Sat. 12/10 – Theatre Production “Rabbit Hole”, 1:30-9 pm, Haas

Fine Arts Center Eau Claire, WI  
Sat 12/10 – Women’s

Basketball vs. U of Dubuque, 2pm

//Men’s Basketball vs. U of Dubuque, 4pm

//Men’s Hockey vs. St Olaf College, 7:30pm

Tues 12/13 – Women’s Basketball vs. Gustavus, 7pm

//Men’s Hockey vs. Northland College, 7:30pm

Sat 12/17 – Commencement

Tues 12/20 – End of First Semester

Sun 12/25 – Christmas Day

Sat 12/31 – New Year’s Eve

Tues 1/3 – Men’s Basketball vs. Silver Lake College, 6:30pm

Wed 1/4 Men’s Basketball vs. UW-Platteville, 7pm

Sat 1/7 – Women’s Basketball vs. UW-Oshkosh, 3pm

Wed 1/11 – Women’s Basketball vs. UW-Stevens Point, 7pm

Fri 1/13 – Women’s Gymnastics vs. UW-Whitewater, 6pm

Sat 1/14 – Men’s/Women’s Track vs. Alumni Meet, 1pm

//Men’s Basketball vs. UW-LaCrosse, 3pm

//Men’s Hockey vs. St. Mary’s University, 7:30pm

Wed 1/18 – Women’s Basketball vs. UW-Eau Claire, 7pm

Fri 1/20 – Men’s Hockey vs. Concordia University, 7:30pm

Sat 1/21 – Men’s/Women’s Track UW-Stout Open, 12pm

//Men’s Basketball vs. UW-Whitewater, 3pm

# 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 7:00pm  
621 Wilson Ave

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

STREET LEVEL  
**CHRISTMAS**  
Party

DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>  
7pm

STREET LEVEL HOUSE  
1009 6TH ST E  
MENOMONIE, WI



# “Can we get a do-over for 2016?”

This question was brought up in casual conversation on a recent October evening. It's a perfectly legitimate premise when you think about the fact that this year's headlines were laced with creepy clowns, a surreal political season, dozens more natural disasters, a deepening refugee crisis, a new emergent health crisis heralded by the Zika virus, and countless mass shootings, yet again. Overwhelmed by the speed at which information travels, we are left with minimal time to even process tragic events before the next one rears its ugly self. It is rare that we are refreshed with good news in the world and when we do, it routinely involves cat videos. Since most of us are not directly associated with these soul-sapping events, merely living in the society that's producing them, it's crucial to reflect on the reality that we are not actually as far removed from them as we might imagine.

Fear is a natural response to the crazy world around us.

The more we feel the world is out of control, the less we want to associate ourselves with it. We're disturbed that people behave the way they do. Instead of looking to change it, we look inward to how we can pad our lives to avoid it. Instead of engaging with the uncertainties, we look the other way and embrace ignorance rather than compassion. Shutting down is just easier and safer.

We all want to have a safe place to live. Safety is a good thing. However, the reality is that safety and security is not promised to any of us. It doesn't matter if you're a rugged criminal or the clone of Mother Teresa; We're guaranteed to undergo the heartache and turmoil that generations past and present have experienced. Thankfully, God's hands are not tied in this matter. He has always been over and above the events that happen in the world and knows every excruciating detail. It is a

**THE**  
*World*  
**IS A**  
*Scary*  
**PLACE**

fact that God deeply cares and empathizes with what is happening. But the depravity of this world is a direct result of the truth that we never wanted God to be in control in the first place. We wanted to be. Please don't miss this. This is precisely where the beauty of our God's story shines its brightest.

Who do you lean on? What holds you up at the end of the day? God longs to be the answer, your answer, to that question. "Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me," said the psalmist of God (Psalm 23:4). Only with Him can we overcome fear and see what He sees when He views our world.

**“THANKFULLY, GOD’S HANDS ARE NOT TIED IN THIS MATTER. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN OVER AND ABOVE THE EVENTS THAT HAPPEN IN THE WORLD AND KNOWS EVERY EXCRUCIATING DETAIL.”**

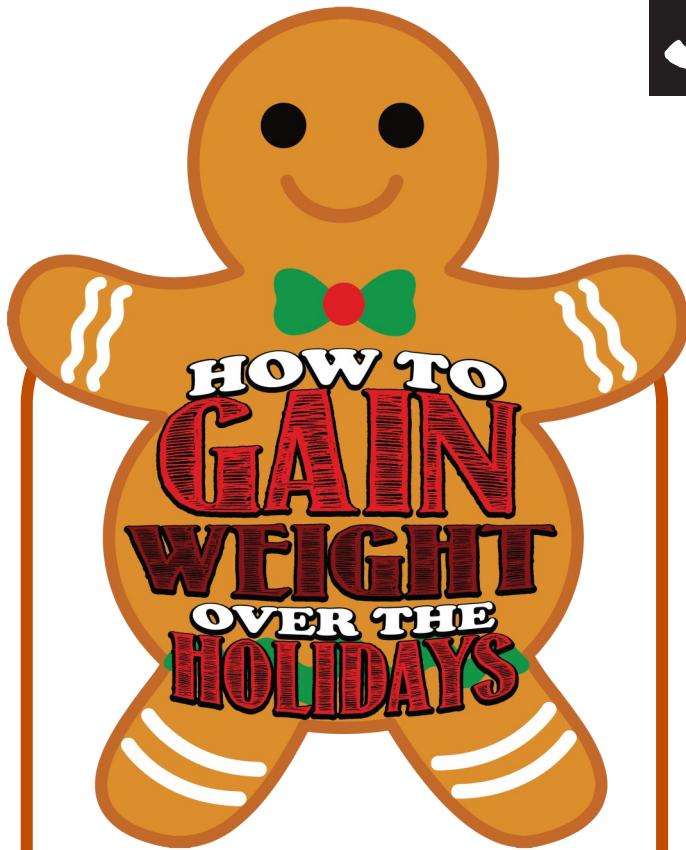
Anyone who claims to follow the true and living God cannot possibly draw the curtain shut against the world anymore. The Scriptures constantly emphasize that Jesus immersed Himself in the lives of the people around Him, and He had intense compassion for them (Mark 6, Matthew 14). Yes, Christ-followers should feel disturbed when we hear of yet more twisted headlines, but our reaction can be different now. If we spread out our discomfort to God through prayer and trust in Him, He is powerful and merciful to change our minds and change the world through us. This is because God alone has written the story that will restore His broken world. We are invited to come alongside what He is already doing in the fight against injustice as we speak of His hope and help those in suffering. "O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

No, we can't do 2016 over again. But we can know God and love His people today, tomorrow, and the next one. We can refuse to turn inward to fear and apathy. We can actually engage in the suffering we see and fight to proclaim His victory over it all. We can live the best, most joyful, most adventurous life in the most unexpected way because we surrender it to God rather than to fear. How? Through Him. Pray and move to be conformed to His story and not your own.





# JUST FOR FUN



## TONGUE TWISTERS: TRY 'EM

how much  
dub would a  
dubstep step  
if a dubstep  
could step  
dub?

The sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick.

Mr. See owned a saw and Mr. Soar owned a seesaw. Now, See's saw sawed Soar's seesaw before Soar saw See, which made Soar sore. Had Soar seen See's saw before See sawed Soar's seesaw, See's saw would not have sawed Soar's seesaw. So See's saw sawed Soar's seesaw. But it was sad to see Soar so sore just because See's saw sawed Soar's seesaw.

**1.** Finish your plate. Then grab more of mama's home cooking and don't stop until you can't move anymore. Eat colorful food too, not like fruits and veggies, but like M&M's, Skittles, and ice cream.

**2.** While you can't move from gorging yourself on the delicacies of home cooked meals, why not watch Netflix for fourteen hours and eat some junk food? Doritos, Twinkies, and sticks of butter are my personal favorites.

**4.** The only exercise you will need to do to gain weight is click buttons while you lay down on the sofa. Remember to not exert yourself too much and get plenty of fluids like Mountain Dew or Coke.

**5.** Take it easy. The semester was rough we understand.

**3.** Remember to treat yourself in between seasons of your favorite shows. There is no need to get moving and exercise, so why not order Chinese food while you figure out the next show you'll marathon?

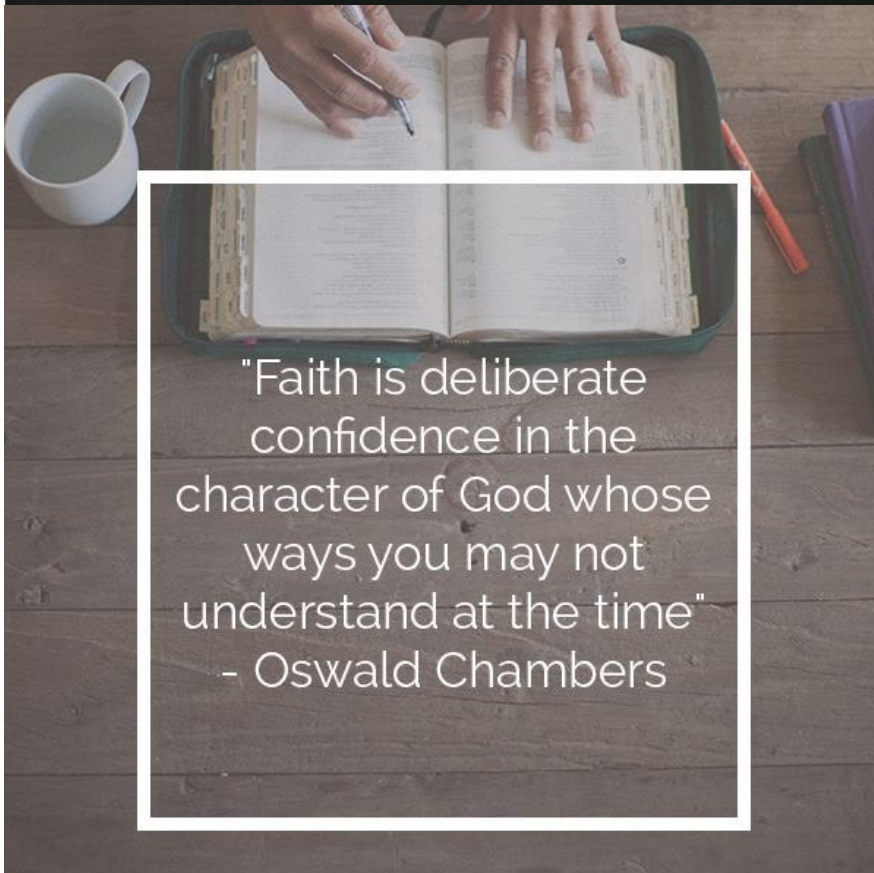


**SORRY  
MY MUSIC  
WOKE YOUR BABY UP  
IT'LL PROBABLY  
GROW UP TO BE  
AWESOME.**



**BURNING DOG RADIO  
101.7 FM**

**IT'S MORE THAN MUSIC.**



"Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time"  
- Oswald Chambers

# HOW TO GET A FREE BIBLE

----- Tear out this flyer and fill out.



Get an envelope.



Find a stamp.



Place in snail mail.



Retrieve your new Bible (*boo-ya*).

PLEASE MAIL HERE

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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





LOOK THIS UP: "MARGINS"

# Great Awakening

Ever heard of Zach Janicello and Cole Johnson? Okay, I hadn't either. But I had heard their music before I knew their names, and I hope you know what I mean when I say it was music that gave me the feels. Been there? Let's talk about it: I was on the fourth floor of the library on my college campus. YouTube had worked its never-failing magic of distracting me from a paper, with the help of my roommate who was searching for a song I just had to *listen to right now!* She lent me her headphones and the slow beat of a drum filled my ears as I closed my eyes. As a newly saved Christian, the words I heard cut deep: "Holy ground in the midst of hostile nations... I want to be your land, land that no one else can have. Set me aside like a garden that you come to rest in before I cross the line, from this world to thine. Make me your land..." "Margins," by Great Awakening, quickly became the song I'd play on repeat both that week, and in the days to come when doubt shook my faith in a God I cannot see.

Great Awakening is an indie-pop band made up of two guys – yep, Zach and Cole – both Christians, who joined together

in 2008 with hopes of extending beyond mainstream Christian music. On their website, you'll see that, "Great Awakening is on a journey to create art about God, life, pain, and faith." Zach and Cole want to make music that people can relate to and, through listening, can learn about who God is. Great Awakening has albums recorded and produced by Elijah Moseley, which were released by Come&Live. If you haven't heard of Come&Live, you're missing out, but we'll fill you in.

Come&Live is a worldwide community that wants to see the world radically changed by Jesus through art and music. Come&Live's mission is to see artists using their God-given creativity for His Kingdom and not their own. Spiritual and vocational training is offered through Come&Live artist relations. With Bible studies, book clubs, and



global opportunities for prayer and fasting, the ability to use the talents God has given you is encouraged.

If you're an aspiring artist who has a passion for sharing who God is with your audience, check out [comeandlive.com/](http://comeandlive.com/). For more information about Great Awakening, visit their website at [greatawakeningmusic.com/#intro](http://greatawakeningmusic.com/#intro) and be sure to check out their new single "Deathbed."





Judah and the Lion is a folk-hop band from Nashville, Tennessee that formed in 2011. Members include Judah Akers on guitar and lead vocals, Brian McDonald on mandolin and vocals, Nate Zuercher on banjo and vocals, and Spencer Cross on drums. The guys met at Belmont University in Nashville. A popular single of theirs, "Sweet Tennessee," debuted back in 2013 and the road has been good to them since. Their fan base has been gathered by

touring on their own, playing over 150 shows in 2015. Their newest album *Folk Hop 'N Roll* came out in March of 2016 and reached #4 on iTunes' Alternative Charts.

The band describes their music as fun, carefree, and youthful, which is the same way they like to live their lives. Their second album blends sounds from many genres (bass, hip-hop percussion, banjo, melodies), much like how the band itself

formed. The band members grew up across the U.S. and used their different tastes to create real and raw music for their ever-growing fan base. If you're looking for a good song to start with, "Hesitate" is sure to hook you in.

For more information, check out: [www.judahandthelion.com/](http://www.judahandthelion.com/)





# BE PART OF THE STORY

## STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES: UW RIVER FALLS

TUESDAYS // BIBLE STUDY 7PM

AG SCIENCE RM 120 // UW-River Falls Campus

[streetlevelministries.com/riverfalls](http://streetlevelministries.com/riverfalls) // [riverfalls@jfbelievers.com](mailto:riverfalls@jfbelievers.com)



## STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES: UW STOUT

MONDAYS // DINNER 6PM // BIBLE STUDY 7PM

STREET LEVEL COMMUNITY HOUSE // 1009 6TH ST E

[streetlevelministries.com](http://streetlevelministries.com) // [streetlevel@uwstout.edu](mailto:streetlevel@uwstout.edu) // 715.235.4977