



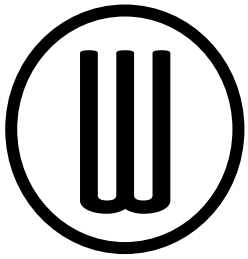
ISSUE SEVENTY-ONE

The "Neh" Mentality



STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES
SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2017
READWOTS.COM

How not caring
will kill you.



wotsmagazine@gmail.com
ReadWots.com

Word on the Street

is released twice per semester and has been published for 17 years. WOTS Magazine is written, laid out, and printed by members of Street Level Ministries on UW-Stout, UW-Superior and UW-River Falls 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 God, life and college.

Meet the WOTS Staff

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.



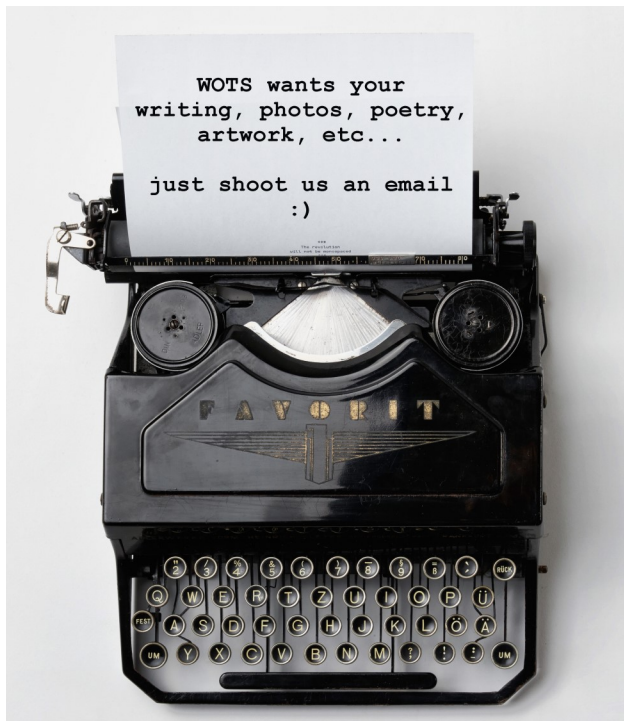
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wordonthestreetmagazine



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LOCAL EVENTS

FALL 2017

WED. 9/6 – UW-Stout First Day of Classes,
Meet Menomonie 2017, Johnson
Fieldhouse, 5-7pm

THURS. 9/7 – Burger King Classic Car Shows,
5:30-8:30pm

WED. 9/13 – University Recreation 100th
Year of Operation Celebration, UW-Stout
Sports & Fitness Center, 7-10pm

FRI 9/8 – Feast Before the Fest, Dinner at
6pm and Movie at 7pm, Street Level House
(1009 6th St E, Menomonie)

SAT. 9/16 – Music on the Hill: an Epic
Garden Party, Street Level House (1009 6th
St E, Menomonie), 5-10pm

FRI. 9/22 - SAT. 9/23 – Street Level
Ministries Fall Retreat
EMAIL streetlevel@uwstout.edu for info

SAT. 10/14 – Blue Devil Run/Walk,
Sports & Fitness Center, \$15 for 5K

MON. 10/23 – UW-Stout End of First
Quarter

TUE. 10/24 – UW-Stout Advisement Day,
no classes

WED. 11/22-27 – Thanksgiving Break,
no classes



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

JF BELIEVERS

**Jesus Fellowship
of Believers Church**
Sundays 10:30am
Wednesdays 7:00pm
621 Wilson Ave
Menomonie, WI



Real Breakfast
Saturday Mornings
9am-12pm
Lunch at 11am
Blind Munchies Coffeehouse
621 Wilson Ave
Menomonie, WI

(\$2 with Student ID,
\$3 without)



SUN 9/3-13
UREC FREE WEEK
Stout Adventures and
Sports & Fitness Center

“Welcome back students! To start the new school year right, Urec offers Free Week to all students! Stout Adventures and the Health and Fitness Center will be offering group fitness classes, use of the fitness center, and rock climbing all free of charge when showing your Stout Blue Card the first week of school.” See more at: www.uwstout.edu/urec/events/Free-Week.cfm



SUMMER MARKET

WILSON PARK
May 20 – October 21
WED, 11am-6pm
SAT, 8am-1pm

WINTER MARKET

RAW DEAL
October 27 – May 13
SAT, 9am-1pm

Short & Stout

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN UW-STOUT RUGBY

The men's UW-Stout Rugby club was founded in 1979 and has been building on tradition ever since. As members of the WIIL Division 2 Rugby Conference, the main season occurs during the fall semester. In the spring, the team attends various tournaments that last into the summer to socialize and build relationships within the organization as well as the teams they compete against. Some of the greatest aspects of the rugby culture are the opportunity for fierce competition, followed by a social after-match with the other clubs. It is a great way to network and learn from one another. Singing songs is a rugby culture tradition, which makes the sport very unique. Whether it is due to physical stature, demeanor, or one-time incidents, be prepared to be awarded a nickname within the organization. This name will typically stick with you for as long as you play rugby.

Rugby is a great way to stay in shape, build friendships, and learn life-applicable skills. Anyone can play rugby. Come out and give it a try starting this fall at the multi-purpose field next to the football stadium. Practice is from 4:30-7pm every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday starting September 4th.

Player Profiles:

Lucas Clark is a junior majoring in Business Administration. He is in his second year of rugby. "I joined rugby in the search of



something with contact where I could use my athleticism. I discovered more than just a physical outlet in my involvement with the rugby team. This is a whole different culture that has taught me a lot about friendship, perseverance, and teamwork. It is a brotherhood that continues after graduation."

Juan Camiro is a senior majoring in Business Administration. Juan is the social chair of the Rugby Club at Stout.

"Something that makes the sport very unique is the culture itself. Compared to football or other sports I have played, rugby teaches a sense of humility and teamwork. [Rugby demonstrates] the need to support your mates on and off the field and to sacrifice yourself. The reason I joined the

sport was because I missed the self-discipline it takes to be in a sport. In the position I was in, I needed that factor in my life. What makes Stout Rugby such a unique organization is the mentality and style of play; we are an uphill team that focuses on mastering the basics. We will beat other teams through consistency and hard work."

Nick Perez is a junior majoring in Health Wellness and Fitness and is the Vice President of the Rugby Club. "I joined Stout Rugby because I was curious about the sport. I played baseball and football my whole life and, up until now, I have never experienced a bond between teammates like I have playing rugby. It is a sport you can continue playing your whole life."

Lance Kapla is a junior going to school for Packaging Engineering and is the President of the Rugby Club. "I joined because I played in high school and wanted to keep playing. I was welcomed to this club, which has had a history of success on and off the field. There is a high standard for all players past and present and I have been proud to be able to wear the Stout Rugby uniform."

2017 FALL SCHEDULE

SAT 9/9
UW-Lacrosse vs. UW-Stout
SAT 9/16
UW-Stout vs. UW-Whitewater
SAT 9/23
UW-Milwaukee vs. UW-Stout

SAT 10/07
UW-Stout vs. UW-Platteville
SAT 10/21
UW-Stout vs. Northern Michigan
SAT 10/28
WIIL Quarterfinals
SAT/SUN 11/4,5
WIIL Final Four

YOUR GUIDE TO FINDING ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT



We get it: college is spendy. Luckily, UW-Stout provides many job

opportunities on campus, and searching for the perfect fit for you doesn't have to be hair-pulling. *Word on the Street* polled some recent Stout grads and current students on our Facebook page to find out their favorite on-campus positions. Here's what they had to say:

“I've had a couple of on-campus jobs, but my favorite was working as a ceramics lab monitor. My favorite parts about that job were being able to work on my own work, work with other people passionate about ceramics, help students with projects as needed and interact with them, and learn how to manage and maintain a ceramics studio space.” - **KELSEY**

“University Dining, dude. I get food in exchange for work.” - **NATALIE**

“Oh jeez. I worked for the Communication Technologies office,

as an office assistant for four years. I worked for Admissions, writing the student life blog. I worked for University Marketing, as a web content developer. I worked for Price Commons, serving up all that delicious food. I worked at Catering, serving up even more delicious food (but actually, though), and....I think that's it. Oh, yeah! I did freelance video work for the UXC (User Experience Center) a couple times. I love the people I got to work with and now have as lifelong friends! They all welcomed my weird self and helped shape my 'professional life' into what it is today.” - **RACHEL**

“Stout Adventures – leading groups of kids through the challenge course.” - **CLAIRE**

“I worked for University Housing for three years, one as an Academic Resource Coordinator, and two as an Administrative Assistant for a hall director in South Hall. I also worked summer staff at Stout, which was actually my favorite on-campus job. We turn the dorms into 'hotels' for camps to come and stay

in the residence halls during their conferences, etc.” - **ABBY**

“I've had several, including Learning Technology Services, Print Lab for the School of Art and Design, and Graphic Design and Promotions for University Athletics. My favorite part is all the different people you can meet on campus through working campus jobs.” - **MELISSA**

All on-campus student employment is posted on the CareerLink system provided by UW-Stout's Career Services. Once you log into the system, find the job vacancy lists tab and click on on-campus student employment for postings. There you'll find everything from desk and office assistants to group fitness instructors to food service workers. You can also set up auto email job alerts to be notified of new position openings. Happy searching!



ONE GIRL'S TRUE STORY

DANIELLE

Hi, my name is Danielle. I became a Christian in 2011. I grew up in a big family, fourth of eight kids, which meant a lot of friendly competition happened in our household. My family attended a church in Menomonie, called JFBelievers, for most of my life. Growing up, I knew that God existed, but I didn't really understand the concept of me having my own personal relationship with Him or what that looked like. For the most part, I thought that because we went to church and I was a "good person" that it was enough for God. In high school, I spent most of my time playing sports, getting good grades, and was always willing to attend church and youth group. I was also given the opportunity to have a Christian mentor as part of our church youth group. The woman I was paired with taught me a lot about God and how He cares about every detail of our lives. During high school, I thought I was saved

and knew God, but now I know I had never made a personal commitment to Him.

"GOD IS THE MOST FAITHFUL, TRUSTWORTHY PERSON THAT WE GET TO SHARE OUR LIVES WITH. AND HE IS ALWAYS WILLING TO BE THERE, WITH ARMS WIDE OPEN WHEN WE ARE READY TO BE WITH HIM."

Fast forward to my college years, I was attending church on a Sunday and heard Pastor Tim (Lead Pastor of JFBelievers) talk about how God calls each one of us individually to have a relationship with Him. He said that this relationship is not based on your parent's relationship with Him or your upbringing, but solely on your true belief IN Him, not merely OF Him. My mind started churning at this moment, questioning if I had made that commitment to God. Now, understand that at this point in my life I had been going to a good, biblical church for 15 years that spoke the truth and yet it still took me that long to see God's ultimate plan for me. I was also attending Street Level Ministries, a UW-Stout campus ministry at the time and found myself talking to the leader's wife that Monday after the service that really hit home for me. I told her that I didn't think I was a Christian, but

knew that God was showing me that at this point because He wanted to have all of me, heart, soul, and mind, not just my words and actions. He wanted ME. Over the next week, I remember I asked a lot of questions and really wanted to know Him. The next Sunday, I gave my life to Christ. God makes salvation an amazing gift. Our job is to embrace it. At that moment, I knew that God was now going to call all of the shots in my life.

Over the six years since I have been saved, I have experienced God in many ways. God shows us our sin gradually and then forgives us any time we are willing to give our sin up. This is not an easy task, but He wants us to call on Him to help us move away from our sins and towards Him. God also has constantly pursued me during our relationship, even when I don't see it. He has given me the ability to go to on mission trips to the Philippines and domestic trips as well. I also get to be involved in a great church and Street Level Ministries through UW-Stout. Most recently, God has shown me how I had made the idea of being married an idol in my life. He was showing me this for many months, before he moved in a drastic way to end what would have been a train wreck in the end. My fiancé of over a year broke up with me and moved. At times this feels overwhelming, but there is always the presence of God and I know He has a bigger plan for me than what I could ever put together on my own. I am learning through this situation that there is no better husband, or person, in my life than God. He is the most faithful, trustworthy person that we get to share our lives with. And He is always willing to be there, with arms wide open when we are ready to be with Him. I look forward to seeing what God will do with my life going forward.



Getting Alone with

GOD



8 WAYS TO CONNECT WITH GOD

(THAT DON'T INCLUDE YOUR SMARTPHONE)

Did you know that roughly 68% of Americans have smartphones?¹ Dr. Paul Booth, an assistant professor at DePaul University in Chicago, shared observations from his studies on how our face-to-face relationships are affected by social media. He found that when we converse online, our social connections are not as strong as they are when we get together in person. Booth also pointed out that the latest edition of the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) lists 'Internet addiction' as a mental illness, "marked by emotional shutdown, lack of concentration, and withdrawal symptoms."¹ Needless to say, the temptation for distraction has never been greater.

Some of us already admit that we see how our phones are changing our relationships. We feel it, right? It's that weird tension of feeling more "connected" yet more alone, and we don't know why. Are we really more connected or are we just distracted?

If our technology use is not put in its proper place, we can guarantee that we will not hear from God. God's voice, in His patience and care for us, is quiet. The way of the world is very loud. God, as a loving Father, wants to be alone with us. So, how can we get alone with God in a digital age?

1 GET ALONE – It's not too obvious because, clearly, we aren't doing it. Get away from work and away from people (no matter how much you like them – no offense to your friends). Get outside to a quiet place where you'll see beautiful things and be reminded that you are very small and your God is very, very big. Jesus was completely sinless, *perfect*, and he got alone with God. How much more should we go to God to face the things life throws at us? Psalm 46:10 shares with us the secret to getting alone with our Creator: "Be still and know that I am God."

2 TURN OFF THE DEVICES – Makes sense, right? Technology allows us to be socially plugged in even when we are physically alone. Don't allow yourself

¹www.pewinternet.org/2015/10/29/technology-device-ownership-2015/

"Get outside to a quiet place where you'll see beautiful things and be reminded that you are very small and your God is very, very big."

the temptation of a buzz to pull you away from a big God who wants to hear from and speak to you.

3 PRAY – The thing with prayer is that, if you don't do it all the time, it can feel like you're speaking to nothing. The good news is that 2 Chronicles 7:14 tells us, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." God also promises us in Jeremiah 29:13, "If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me." Tell God how you feel, what you're thinking about, and what you're worried about. Tell him what you're excited about! Allow yourself space to be completely honest with yourself and with God. In Hebrews 4:16, we are encouraged to, "Come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

4 OPEN THE BIBLE – God's voice is not the voice in your head. God's voice is the voice of the truth of Scripture. The Bible is our source of truth for the conduct of our lives. It also tells the grand story about God in His grace rescuing sinners for His glory. It explains the details of the life of Jesus and other individuals throughout history who spread the good news of the Gospel after His resurrection. Because the Bible was written by men but was and is guided by the Holy Spirit, we can find application in it for our lives today. In Hebrews 4:12 it says, "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." The Bible is one of the strongest ways God communicates with His believers.

5 SING – You know that feeling you get when you pop in your headphones and feel like you're able to escape everything around you? There's a reason for that feeling. Our ultimate purpose, as human beings, is to be worshippers of God. And while there are more ways to worship God than through song, music does have a powerful way of turning our hearts towards Him. Next time you're in the car or just sitting down trying to seek God, look up a song like "Margins" by Great Awakening or some Hillsong United, if that's your thing. Let the words of the song cut deep. Give the song your full

attention, the way you want your friends to do when you show them a new song you just found. Watch how God can pull you in close as you align your heart and mind towards Him.

6 CHANGE UP YOUR ROUTINE – We don't actively demonstrate love for things that we take for granted. Changing up your routine will help keep things fresh and not expected. Love needs spontaneity. Take a new route while walking to class or drive a different way to work. Changes in routine naturally give us a new perspective, hopefully one in which we let God catch our attention.

7 QUIT WHAT YOU NEED TO – Getting alone with God is going to be the thing we desire most if we deeply feel the love God has for us and realize what He did to be near to us. The pull of the world is bent towards self-sufficiency, but for the Christian, this is not so. We are weak bodies, dependent on a Lord for salvation and a heart change. If you desire this but feel like it is impossible to have time for God, start by setting your priorities in line. Knowing God is a priority, and we should do whatever we have to in order to craft a regular time with God in our lives. Wake up early, skip a meal, lay out your clothes the night before so you have less to do in the morning. Learn to say no. Do whatever you need to do to put time with God above everything else.

8 JOURNAL – Writing can help you see how God has been active in your life over time and how He answered prayers. You'll see how you've grown, how situations have played out in your life, and you can remind yourself of verses and how they spoke to you. What we see on paper can help verify for us what we believe.



NOTE – Following these eight steps will not automatically make you close with God. They are, however, ways that can help us clearly tune in to what God is saying. They are practical tips for drawing near to God. But a ninth tip is just as important: stop planning and just go to Him. We may be too busy, have too much to do, and need more sleep. However, changes in our behavior should be the result of us simply going to God, not where we place our energy. It's not about trying to form new habits; it's about building a relationship with God. Pray and ask God to give you focus to be close to Him.

12 WAYS YOUR PHONE IS CHANGING YOU



Has your smartphone become a part of you? With today's technology, we are never offline. We have the ability to answer emails, Skype, and communicate virtually anytime, anywhere. When was the last time you had dinner with friends, read a book, watched a movie, or journaled without your smartphone nearby? Have you ever just looked around a restaurant while a friend excused himself from the table instead of scrolling through your Facebook feed until they come back? Smartphones can be both extremely useful and extremely distracting. While they may be considered a tool, they can also become our master and change us in ways we are unable to see right away. The apostle Paul said, "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be dominated by anything. All things are lawful, but not all things build up."¹

In *12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You*, Tony Reinke shares insight from published studies and his own research. Reinke is a senior writer for Desiring God, the author of two other books, and host of the "Ask Pastor John" podcast. He admits the book is written *to him* as much as it is written *by him*, allowing

readers to see him not only as a teacher but also a fellow struggler. Though he benefits from using a smartphone daily, he also battles with the question we all face of how to live a balanced life in the digital age.

There is no doubt that smartphones have changed us in ways that we are not immediately aware of. In his book, Reinke discusses how we desire approval from our social group by posting selfies on Facebook and Instagram. We constantly check our notifications, desperate for our followers to tell us we are beautiful and attractive. Reinke also explores how we turn into what we "like" when the words and images we *share* influence others; the truth is that the words and images we consume *transform* us. Another major way that smartphones have changed us is in the way they cause us to think that no one is watching what we do. This propels us to wrongly think we can indulge in certain behaviors without any consequences. We have moved from computers to smartphones, bringing dating apps and porn to our fingertips and making them easier to view in secret.

Is your smartphone a negative influence, cultural trinket, or a tool? Whether you see it or not, smartphones are changing us both individually and globally. So, if you want to own a smartphone without being owned by it, take some time to read through Reinke's thoughts and research. Download a sample of the book at www.desiringgod.org/books/12-ways-your-phone-is-changing-you or purchase it online.



10 QUESTION QUIZ:

- 1 Do my smartphone habits expose an underlying addiction to untimely amusements?
- 2 Do my smartphone habits reveal a compulsive desire to be seen and affirmed?
- 3 Do my smartphone habits distract me from genuine communion with God?
- 4 Do my smartphone habits provide an easy escape from sobered thinking about my death, the return of Christ, and eternal realities?
- 5 Do my smartphone habits preoccupy me with the pursuit of worldly success?
- 6 Do my smartphone habits mute the sporadic leading of God's Spirit in my life?
- 7 Do my smartphone habits preoccupy me with dating and romance?
- 8 Do my smartphone habits build up Christians and my local church?
- 9 Do my smartphone habits center on what is necessary to me and beneficial to others?
- 10 Do my smartphone habits disengage me from the needs of the neighbors God has placed right on front of me?

LOVING GOD, DECLARING FREEDOM



**OUTPOST
MINISTRIES**

Diversity is part of what makes our communities great. Culture experienced through taste, conversation, and entertainment help usher in a genuine grasp of the worldviews of those around us. But for good or for bad, there is a constant wave of influences in culture today. Often we think we are original, but if we are honest we could map out the origins of why we think the way we do. Most of the time, drawing the line between our feelings and fact can be a difficult thing to figure out when we are bombarded with so many ideas and influences.

Certainly in our culture, having differing societal views is a challenge to anyone who holds a different viewpoint. It's no secret that many (if not most) would oppose the work Outpost Ministries does. Before rushing to judgment, it's crucial to recognize that no one is forcing anyone's hand here. Outpost Ministries is simply offering direction for someone looking for freedom from unwanted, same sex attraction. People are hurting. There is a dark blanket spread across the hearts and consciences of us and those around us all across our land. Outpost Ministries in the Twin Cities area of Minneapolis-St. Paul has been offering help to those dealing with sexual and relational brokenness since 1976.

"After the breakup, my heart was broken beyond what I thought could be repaired. I expected God to come at me with crushing truths such as, 'I told you so,' and, 'You deserve this pain for disobeying my commandments.' He would have been absolutely righteous in doing so. I had always known the truth about homosexuality, that God's Word forbids its practice. Instead, however, the Lord comforted me in a supernatural way. I could feel His distinct presence holding me close as snot and tears ran down my face each day that summer. Instead of accusations, He whispered gently to me. 'I'm so sorry. I'm sorry that you lost someone you loved, and

I'm sorry that you struggle with same-sex attractions. I love you more than you can possibly imagine, and we will get through this together.' - Ariel L

Read the whole story at outpostministries.org/2015/03/even-if/. The Bible declares, "Whosoever looks after a woman to lust after her has committed adultery in his heart."¹ This can be rightfully extended to cover all sexual sin, not just homosexuality. It certainly is not right for the church and Christians to "pick on" people who identify as a homosexual. In fact, the proclaiming Christian must look closest at himself in the mirror, and has no right to rate any sin as more severe than another. Outpost Ministries shares the belief that there is a difference between temptation and experience, temptation and lusting, and temptation and fantasy. They believe that temptation is not sin but that yielding to temptation is sin.

There are several ministries affiliated with Outpost. *Foundations* is a three-week introductory course for all new participants, interested family and friends, and pastors and ministry leaders. Young men, ages 18-28, struggling with same-sex attractions or other sexual and relational issues are invited to take part in *Joshua Fellowship*. *Living Waters* is a 21-week, Christ-centered program for those seeking healing and freedom from sexual abuse, sexual addiction, unforgiveness, fear, shame, insecurity, unwanted same-sex attractions and other relational brokenness. Worship, teaching, prayer and small groups helps participants to work through pain that impacts their lives today. *Elijah Company* is a prayer-based group for parents, families and friends of loved ones who are overcoming unwanted same-sex attractions or who identify as gay. Outpost Ministries offers a vast array of articles, blogs, and other resources on their website at <http://outpostministries.org/>.

¹ 1 Corinthians 10:23

² Page 52, *12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You*

¹ Matthew 5:28

The Meh Mentality

How not caring will kill you.

A casual browse through Twitter for #meh produces the following results:

"An alarm just went off and I have no clue what it's for."

"So much energy, so little motivation."

"I kinda want to get a job at a vegan restaurant and eat beef jerky in front of the customers."

"It's not every day that your fridge door falls off..."

"There's nothing like starting a paper that's due in 8 hours!"

With this much context, the word "meh" is easily defined as not caring, feeling apathetic, or the onset of boredom. It can be used in a wide variety of settings to describe moods, flavors, friendships, jobs, expectations, and more. "Meh" can be traced back as an expressive Yiddish word but it didn't gain cultural popularity until used on the television series *The Simpson's*.¹ Since then, it has slowly crept into everyday

vernacular. Used casually, "meh" is pretty harmless in and of itself. However, its familiarity has transformed it from a simple expression to a generational mentality. When apathy invades the ways we think, feel, and act, it can be easy to assume we're taking a neutral position by not caring one way or another. But, this is not true. The "meh" mentality will kill us, and there is no neutrality in death.

A Lethal Weapon

Imagine floating in a lake or the ocean, just a few yards offshore. Arms and legs are stretched wide; eyes are closed, embracing the warm sun above. The gentle rocking of the waves soothes and makes the distance from shore a fleeting thought. Before long, your trance is broken by an obnoxious seagull and you realize you are much farther offshore than when you started. Your feet can no longer touch the bottom and you hope your swimming skills are stronger than the current below. Without realizing it, you've drifted a great distance away.

Indifference is just like floating—it moves you farther and farther away from shore, one wave

“IF THE ‘MEH’ MENTALITY STARTS IN OUR HEARTS, INVADES OUR MINDS, AND EFFECTS HOW WE LIVE, THE ONLY REMEDY IS THE ONE WHO HAS PROMISED TO EXCHANGE OUR DECEITFUL, HARD, AND SINFUL HEARTS WITH A BRAND NEW ONE. JESUS—NOT THE LATEST SELF-HELP BOOK, A GOOD CAREER, OR TRYING HARDER—IS THE ONLY ESCAPE FROM APATHY.”

at a time. It is a daily decision and its effects may seem inconsequential but they accumulate quickly. For example, if you don't care about going to class one day, you'll probably get away with it. However, if that decision is made many weeks in a row, chances are that you'll fail the class. Gone completely unchecked, our apathy will lead to places that are humiliating, embarrassing, shocking, regretful, lonely, and more. In Hebrews, the author warns us to be careful: "So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it."² Those are our two options in life: we either obey the truth with intentionality or we drift.

Unfortunately, the more you drift, the easier it is to do. When your body is warmed from the sun, and you're rocked gently by the waves, don't you just want to stay there forever?

In addition to killing us gradually, the "meh" mentality kills deeply to our very core. It is not only a condition of our mind, but of our hearts because "out of the heart the mouth speaks."³ Who we truly are and what is living deep in our hearts is manifested by what comes out of our mouth. Therefore, if we repeatedly use "meh" language like "I don't care" or "Whatever," it reveals that our apathy sinks deeper than we may have known. There is no use in pretending that it doesn't. Jesus calls us out on denying our apathy when He says, "Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness."⁴ God can see through our

motivations and our deeds, and He knows when apathy strikes.

Furthermore, God pays close attention to our apathy because He hates the idea of not caring. In Revelation, He implores us to be either hot or cold because trying to walk the middle ground of not caring makes Him want to vomit.⁵ Don't be fooled—it's not only the people who outright reject Christ that are God's enemy. It's also the people who refuse to pick a side, who stand with their feet planted in indecision, who are the targets of His wrath.

Finally, the "meh" mentality kills permanently. God has some harsh words for those who treat Him and His Word nonchalantly. In the book of Hebrews, the writer states, "It is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit...by rejecting the Son of God they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again." And a few chapters later, he continues, "Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the son of God and have treated the blood of the covenant which made us holy as if it were common and unholy [they] have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to us."

Denying God's mercy and treating it as common is the worst thing the "meh" mentality could possibly do. When you say "meh" to your refrigerator door coming off, that is pretty inconsequential. But if we let the apathy spread to our ideas about God, the condition of our souls is at stake. The Bible is clear that if we treat God with contempt and do not honor the sacrifice of Jesus' actions on our behalf, then there is nothing left to save us and we are hell bound. Eternity is not something to ponder in your college philosophy class. It is real. Our lives don't end just because our physical bodies deteriorate and die. There is life after this one, and God is gracious enough to give us 80 years to make up our minds about Him. If we love Him and serve Him now, we get to do a lot more of that in the life to come. However, if we want nothing to do with Him in this life, spending eternity in hell is only getting what we asked for: a life apart from God.



The Only Antidote

If the "meh" mentality starts in our hearts, invades our minds, and effects how we live, the only remedy is the One who has promised to exchange our deceitful, hard, and sinful hearts with a brand new one. Jesus—not the latest self-help book, a good career, or trying harder—is the only escape from apathy. If we realize our need for him, Jesus promises to restore us. Ezekiel, an Old Testament prophet, wrote in reference to Jesus, "I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart."

Our hearts are in desperate need of this transformation because on our own we are incredibly wicked people. We lie, kill, destroy, and manipulate to advance the self-centered desires within us. If we do accomplish any "good" on the outside, it is often tarnished by the defiled motivations under the surface. We are sinners not only because of what we do, but because it's who we are. Thankfully, coming to Christ and having Him give us a new heart doesn't cost us anything. We can freely approach Christ broken, naked, and without anything to give. However, it did cost Jesus a great deal. His death on the cross wasn't just some kind gesture. It was a brutal payment meant for all of us that we no longer need to face if we trust Him.

We can trust Jesus not only because He died, but also because He still lives. After three days in the grave, He broke the power of death with His resurrection. Because He still lives, we can have an active, loving, and powerful relationship with Him. Christians don't just know a lot about God like facts and statistics, trying to do our best to follow some ancient rules. We follow a living God step by step who is intricately involved in who we are, and He provides the power to turn away from the sin that so enslaved us.

A New Way of Thinking

If the "meh" mentality we once had was like a blank, neutral canvas, when Jesus enters our life, He paints it with the brightest and most beautiful colors that we never knew we were missing. For the first time, we're filled with incredible desire that *wants* to be close to Him. Before, we couldn't care either way, but now there should be an intense passion for what God has done and what He is going to do. "Spirituality for the follower of Christ is a matter of a different world with a different reality, different energies, different possibilities, and different prospects."⁶

"JESUS CAME TO GIVE US THE FULLEST AND MOST ABUNDANT LIFE POSSIBLE, AND THAT IS WHY HE HATES THE "MEH" MENTALITY SO MUCH. IT SEEKS TO REPLACE VIBRANCY WITH MEDIOCRITY. IT SEEKS TO REPLACE LOVE WITH APATHY. IT SEEKS TO KILL PASSION WITH NEUTRALITY."



Such passion first shows up in our mind. Our minds used to run away with evil thoughts, imaginary conversations, secrets, and ultimately hatred against God. Now, Christ gives us the power to fight the battle in our heads. Knowing what the Bible says is like taking up a sword that enables us to "take our thoughts captive."⁷ We are no longer a victim to our own minds but can now destroy the thoughts that intended to destroy us.

In addition, the new heart God gives us enables us to love other people with a greater intensity than we knew before. We are no longer apathetic to the friends or strangers around us, but can now "love because He first loved us."⁸ We can put others first without feeling slighted, we can be glad for others' accomplishments without feeling jealous, and we can forgive and be forgiven all because we're awakened to new life. Jesus came to give us the fullest and most abundant life possible,⁹ and that is why He hates the "meh" mentality so much. It seeks to replace vibrancy with mediocrity. It seeks to replace love with apathy. It seeks to kill passion with neutrality.

In the end, we can let our cultural "meh" mentality leave us pacified with a boring blank canvas of a life. Or, we can fight apathy by adding color and by accepting the vibrant, passionate life Jesus died to give us. One choice means life, and the other death. Which do you choose? Remember, there is no neutrality in death.

¹ www.slate.com/blogs/lexicon_valley.html

² Hebrews 2:1

³ Matthew 12:34

⁴ Matthew 23:28

⁵ Revelation 3:15

⁶ "The Call" Os Guinness

⁷ 2 Corinthians 10:5

⁸ 1 John 4:19

⁹ John 10:10

MY SOUL AMONG LIONS



past 250 years or so. The reasons why Psalm singing fell out of fashion are complex and fascinating—an unhappy byproduct of the radical changes in church and society in the wake of the First and Second Great Awakenings and the Industrial

Revolution. It's a long story. But the outcome is that the church, in her worship, is no longer tethered to the Word of God as she used to be. And this bears out in the man-centeredness, effeminacy and sentimentality rampant in the Christian Music Industry. The Book of Psalms presents the perfect antidote to all this, and so, desiring very much to help reform the church along Biblical lines, this is where we turned our attention.

What are your favorite Psalms?

Some Psalms are easy to love and others for one reason or another more difficult. Our appreciation for both kinds has grown as we've worked with the first thirty Psalms. But the greatest increase of affection has come with those Psalms that are challenging to our assumptions about God and godliness. It's been interesting to observe how those passages where God is most holy and the Psalmist most indignant have become the most precious and encouraging to us as we've embraced them in faith.

What are your musical influences?

Like most folks, our influences are wide and varied. Because of our former training, each of us appreciates music from the classical tradition. But then we also bring to the work the sounds that we and our families were into growing up. For Jody, our front man, that's southern gospel and old-school country. For Andrew, our guitarist, funk and rock. For Phil, our drummer, 80's pop/rock. It's not always easy for us to get along!

What is the hardest part of the music writing process?

What is the most enjoyable part?

Starting a new song is always difficult. Also completing it. Finishing, though, is pretty sweet! But by far the most enjoyable part of our work is seeing the children of our church joyfully singing God's Word. Many of them know all the words to our songs by heart. Whenever we get discouraged, it's the enthusiasm of the children that keeps us going.

Like any really good music, their sound is hard to describe so you will just have to take a listen to them yourself at mysoulamonglions.com. Listen to them on Spotify and "like" them on Facebook for weekly updates.

My Soul Among Lions is doing something attempted by few others. The band is on track to set all 150 chapters of the book of Psalms to a beautiful blend of folk and blues in true Americana style. They are making the Psalms come to life in a fresh, new way. *Word on the Street* contacted the band to ask a few questions.

How did the band get started?

The three of us (Phil, Andrew, and Jody) have been serving as church musicians together at Clearnote Church in Bloomington, Indiana for around ten years. We came independently to Bloomington to study at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music thinking to pursue careers in Classical Music. But God had other plans. While in school, each of us came alive spiritually through the ministry of Clearnote and, at the same time, began to catch a vision for using our gifts to serve the local church. Worship leadership at Clearnote continues to be our primary focus and calling, along with shepherding our growing families. Between us we now have thirteen band babies with two more on the way! It's been a wild ride.

What inspired you to tackle the whole book of Psalms?

Several years ago, we became convinced of the need for churches to reclaim the lost practice of Psalm singing, which was almost universal throughout church history up until the

Beyond Borders:

ESTHER HAVENS

A HUMANITARIAN PHOTOGRAPHER



A young boy of elementary school age is wearing a yellow, torn t-shirt hanging off his frame, clad with red, striped shorts. His hands are raised in excitement as he jumps for joy and plays with the other children. There is a twinkle in his eye and a toothy smile that consumes his entire face. Why? Water. Refreshing, clean water. Is there relief behind the twinkle in his eyes? Is there joy? Is there any release from the tension and stress of searching for clean water? Does this child capture human strength?

Esther Havens is a humanitarian photographer whose life's work has been to capture true human strength from over 60 countries in the last decade.¹ Her photographs create compelling thoughts to provoke action and connect people to social awareness campaigns including access to education, clean drinking water, and jobs for families. One of her first nonprofit trips to create narrative through photography was with Invisible Children. Esther has also worked with Toms: One for One, Malaria No More, International Justice Mission, Living Water, Heartline, Wishing Well, and many more.





When she's not busy traveling, Esther can be found at conferences, workshops, or part of a co-working community in Dallas, Texas, called Weld.

In an interview with IF Gathering, Esther described seeing God provide so many rescues on the frontlines of humanitarian crises.² Despite overwhelming brokenness, He has shown himself in the faith of countless workers in what seems like the middle of nowhere in the world. Esther strives to serve the Lord faithfully even while she faces her own fears and what makes her uncomfortable. "Your safety is in me [God]," Esther reminds herself all the time. She strives to take the jumps and go where He says no matter what.



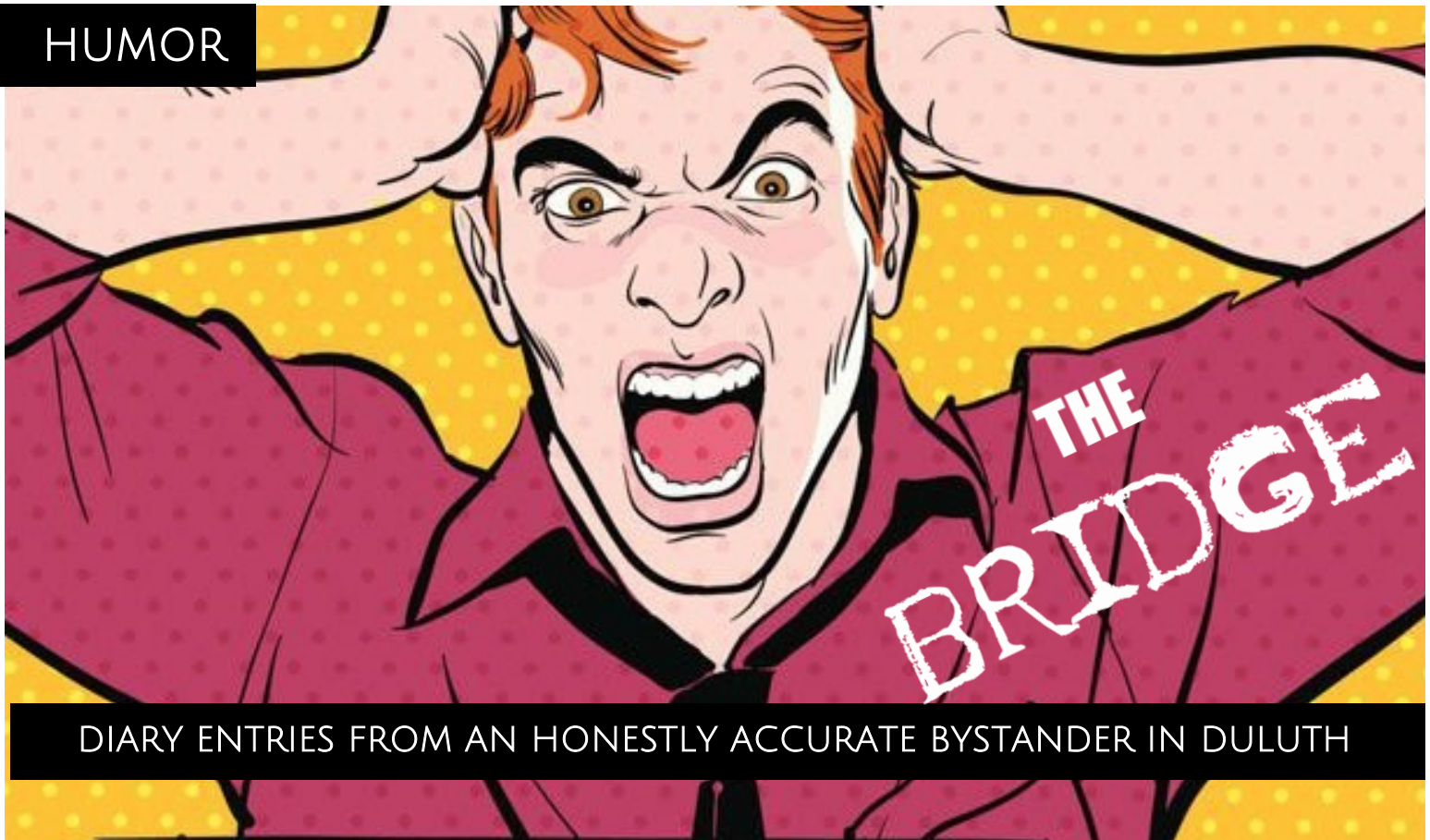
¹ www.estherhavens.com

² thegreatdiscontent.com/interview/esther-havens/lfgathering.com/2016/10/26972/

* All photos are sourced from www.estherhavens.com*

You can find Esther at her personal website: www.estherhavens.com or on Facebook via Esther Havens Photography and Instagram at www.instagram.com/estherhavens.





DIARY ENTRIES FROM AN HONESTLY ACCURATE BYSTANDER IN DULUTH

June 1, 2017 11:53 am

Dear Diary: It's been four hours since the Lift bridge has been stuck in the up position. I just want to drive my Lexus into Canal Park, or maybe my Range Rover? Ugghhh... these choices would be so much easier to make if things just worked! How long is that bridge going to be stuck like that? I have a brunch meeting that I'm likely going to be late for.

June 1, 2017 2:58 pm

Dear Diary: Seriously. Bridge is still stuck. "Famous Duluth Aerial Lift Bridge" definitely doesn't live up to its name. More like, "Stupid bridge needs maintenance therefore preventing me from leaving stupid Park Point because today is stupid."

June 1, 2017 6:19 pm

Okay so I fell asleep on the beach and could I have woken up to good news? Could it have all been a bad dream? No. According to Facebook, they don't even know when this bridge will be fixed! I could have to wait until tomorrow to buy things! Why is life so unfair?

June 1, 2017 6:22 pm

Side note - why didn't they ever build a grocery store on this island? I'm going to go inside and sleep.

June 2, 2017 9:32 am

I went out and saw the bridge is still up. My feet hurt. I usually only walk this far for Starbucks. My world is ending.
P.S. The Oreos are all gone. Just like my happiness.

June 3, 2017 4:15 pm

I haven't been able to reply to any Snapchats because there's no power so my friends probably all hate me by now, or forgot about me. Or both. Ugh, I just want this bridge fixed so I can connect with like the real world again. I miss WiFi and iced pumpkin spice lattes... I wish I had a boat.

June 5, 2017 3:16 pm

I finally knocked on my next door neighbors house for help. I can't believe I had to do that. His house is like so much smaller than mine so it's a bit embarrassing to be honest. Apparently his power is out too and he left a note on his door saying he's leaving in his yacht to find fresh food and Internet. My life could literally not be worse.

June 7, 2017 9:53 am

My life literally just got worse. People are starting to leave their homes in droves with picket signs. Maybe if we yell loud enough the City of Duluth will realize our need and air drop food on to the island or something. They better drop gluten-free bagels.

June 14, 2017 10:30 pm

Well. I had a good run. It looks like most people have swam off the island and gone the whatever like 130 yards across to Canal Park, to Caribou, to WiFi, to freedom. Send my regards to the cleaning lady who hasn't been here to dust in like two weeks. This place really is a mess.
P.S Send more gluten-free bagels. I wonder if this is what the Walking Dead is like?

STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES



4

CAMPUSES

> 30

MEMBERS

1

MISSION

Street Level Ministries (SLM) is a group of people who want to know God and be used by Him in a big way. Started in 1998, Street Level began as a student organization of UW-Stout. Its goal was and is to equip students to pursue God by teaching what He says in the Bible, pointing students to find the right church, and illuminating them to find God's purpose for their lives. SLM wants to see young people know God and follow Him with passion and zeal. SLM values what it means to be a deep-rooted disciple and desires to see young people who push each other to pursue a life-long relationship with Jesus. In addition to UW-Stout, Street Level Ministries is also established at UW-Superior, and there are start-ups at UW-River Falls and all the way on Cebu Island, Philippines.

Street Level is made up of students and college-age individuals that want to live life for God, and be friends while doing it. Every week they get

together, hang out, laugh, eat, drink coffee, study, and discuss the Bible and how it applies to life today. In the summer, things switch to hang out nights or work nights for various projects.

The members of SLM live radically for what they believe in, but they also know how to not take life too seriously. SLM hosts many events throughout the semester such as annual Halloween and Christmas parties, outdoor movies, and bonfires. They've even had broomball competitions (better bring your 'A' game). On the UW-Stout campus each semester, SLM hosts three concerts either outside, at the Street Level House, or at the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse in Menomonie. It's always an awesome time to serve the community, meet new people, and enjoy some good local music.

The SLM UW-Stout chapter is a student organization that meets off campus. If you're in Menomonie, you

may have noticed a big white church house right behind Jarvis Hall located at 1009 6th Street East. You can find SLM gatherings there on Monday nights at 7pm, with a no charge dinner beforehand at 6pm.

If you are interested in learning more about why Jesus matters, go hang out, ask questions or just go to listen.

Be sure to check out streetlevelministries.com or email streetlevel@uwstout.edu for more information.

**BE
PART
OF THE
STORY**

**DON'T LET
SMALL-TOWN**

LIFE

**MAKE YOUR
LIFE SMALL**



JF BELIEVERS

WATCH

SUN 10:00AM ON THE CW // CHANNEL 18.2

LA CROSSE
EAU CLAIRE
THE CW

BIBLICAL. MISSIONAL. RADICAL.

JFBELIEVERS.COM



FIRST YEAR PIT STOPS

YOUR GUIDE TO MENOMONIE



Welcome to the community. Here is a kickstart guide to places and things in Menomonie to give you a footing in the city. Some of them are obvious while others are off the beaten path. Not everything within Menomonie can be found through a quick Internet search, so be sure to explore these places on Google Maps with this link - <https://goo.gl/Z96ULB>



COFFEEHOUSES (aka Community Study Spots)

THE BLIND MUNCHIES COFFEEHOUSE: Enjoy a seriously good \$2.00 breakfast every Saturday with a Student ID. Plus, they're open all week long for self-serve coffee and bakery. On Friday evenings, they're either hosting a great local band or showing a classic movie hit.

RAW DEAL: This joint is perfect for those looking to score a fresh food fix or a great cup of espresso. They're always displaying artwork for sale from a local artist and on Saturdays during the warm months you can get a \$2.00 cold press from the Farmer's Market.

ACOUSTIC CAFÉ: They serve some great hoagies, but they're not telling anyone what's in the secret sauce. It's also a great place to go on your birthday to get a free 1/3 hoagie and a lemonade or coffee.

MARION'S LEGACY: It's the only place in town to purchase chocolate truffles and pour over coffee. Also, if you happen to catch one of their freshly-made bacon cheddar scones, you might just have the best day ever.

CARIBOU COFFEE: Looking for mainstream? There's not one, not two, but three Caribou Coffees in town. The nearest one to the Stout campus is located inside Dick's Fresh Market.

EATING SPOTS

THE LOG JAM: They're always a great spot for burgers and fries, but their secret specialty is their Saturday and Sunday only brunch menu. Did someone say biscuits and gravy or pesto egg sandwich?!



TABBY'S CATFÉ: This brand new café just opened up in Menomonie June 2017. THERE ARE CATS! All cats are available for adoption through the Dunn County Humane Society. They serve sandwiches, wraps, bagels and specialty sodas as "admission" to see the cats or you can pay a suggested \$2.00 donation.

MENOMONIE FAMILY RESTAURANT: If you're looking for a "down home" place to go for breakfast, this is the best place in town with ruffled curtains and seriously classic home style cooking.



RECREATION

RED CEDAR DAM: There's great fishing below the dam on the Red Cedar. Parking is available on the south side of Hwy 25 by turning left at the stop lights by the public library and taking the first left after that.

JUNCTION TRAIL: This paved trail runs from North of the Red Cedar Trail along the river until it crosses at Hwy 25. Continuing on from there, it cuts its way up to Oak Ave in northern Menomonie. This is the only spot to walk from south to north Menomonie without the traffic and it is alongside a scenic stretch of the Red Cedar River.

GALLOWAY CREEK NATURE TRAIL: This grassy, mowed trail begins off of 5th St. W at the dip in the road before Menomonie High School. The start of the mysterious trail leads to the Red Cedar River. Make sure to wear plenty of DEET to fend off the wild insects and wear some good walking shoes or sandals if you wish to get your feet wet.

WAKANDA PARK: This expansive disc golf course boasts 18 holes alongside and within the woods and hills of Wakanda Park. Be sure not to throw it into Lake Menomin, however. Pack something to grill so you can chill after a grueling game.

BRICKYARD: This 9-hole course will test your skills out as the course brings you through the woods. Be sure you are ready to meet some new hairy friends since it's located next to the dog park.

MAYO HEALTH SYSTEM COURSE: This is a great course for evening playing as the sunset will show beautifully over the hill. Half of the 18-hole course lays on a hillside behind the Menomonie Middle School on the east side of town.



Saturday Plans?

\$2 BREAKFAST | with Student ID \$3 without

Locally roasted coffee, bakery, free meeting space with reservation



Extreme Scrambled Eggs

Blueberry Crepes

French Toast & Fruit

Pancakes & Bacon



THE BLIND MUNCHIES
MUSIC & COFFEEHOUSE

621 WILSON
AVENUE

We don't just serve coffee, we feed your soul

BURNING DOG RADIO
more than music



WRJF-LP 101.7 FM
BURNINGDOGRADIO.COM

NICK THE HICK

Another redneck rant from your favorite guy



MILLENNIAL SPEAK

Surly I'll be taking a few pot shots at myself in this one considering by birth I'm a bonafied millennial. It has come to my attention that the gap between what us younger folks understand and those a little more seasoned by time, is growing larger. I suppose because of the location I was placed in life us rednecks are somewhere in the middle, assuming we are even on the same timeline. I looked up "things millennials say that no one else understands" and found some results. "**Adulting**" otherwise seen in the form of **#Adulting** is a common one that refers to putting your pants on one leg at a time. Except after your pants are on you go to work instead of spending all day texting your "**Bae**". A name used by millions to refer to their significant other. Reminds me of that old children's rhyme, "Bae Bae black sheep have you any wool". The use of the phrase "**Humble Brag**" is an oldie but a goodie. "Hey Daryl, I know you failed, but I can't believe I aced my test to become an official sewage pumper. I didn't even study. So whether you're in your late teens or have been adulding for a while, brush up on some modern lingo and well, hopefully something good comes from it!

DOES IT EVEN MATTER WHAT I BELIEVE?



STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES



6:00PM
FREE MEAL
(uw-stout)

UW-STOUT // MENOMONIE

MONDAYS // 7:00PM // STREET LEVEL COMMUNITY HOUSE // 1009 6TH ST E
streetlevelministries.com // streetlevel@uwstout.edu // 715.235.4977

UW-RIVER FALLS

TUESDAYS // 7:00PM // STREET LEVEL 115 W CASCADE AVE RIVER FALLS
streetlevelministries.com/riverfalls // riverfalls@jfbelievers.com // 612.405.9033