



ISSUE SEVENTY-TWO

THE STORY

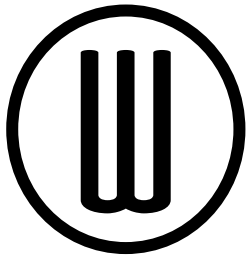
Your Place in the Grand Narrative p.12

Street Level Ministries
November 2017 - January 2018

Word on the Street

Your Defender of Free Speech p.18

ReadWots.com



wotsmagazine@gmail.com

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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 helpful, challenging, and provocative, while encouraging you to pursue a strong relationship with Jesus.



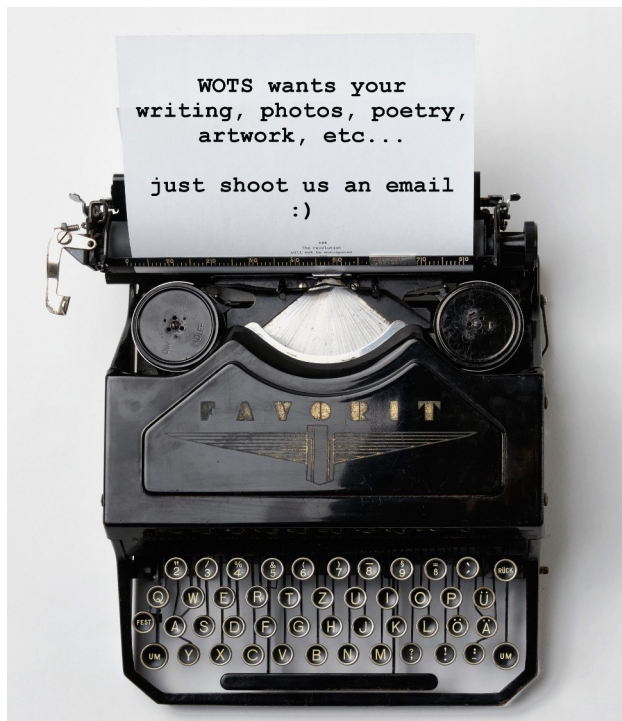
MENOMONIE, WI



CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES

DULUTH, MN

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LOCAL EVENTS

WINTER 2017-2018

WED- MON 11/22-11/27 -
THANKSGIVING BREAK

SUN 11/26 - WBB VS ST. CATHERINE UNIVERSITY,
2 PM

WED 11/29 - UREC CLIMBING TIPS &
TECHNIQUES, UW- STOUT CLIMBING WALL, 7-8
PM, FREE

WED 11/29 - MIKE PARAMORE,
BDP UW- STOUT, TBA

WED 11/29 - MBB VS BETHANY LUTHERAN, 7 PM

FRI 11/30 - OPEN MIC, BDP UW- STOUT, TBA

FRI 12/01 - MHOCKEY VS UW- SUPERIOR,
7 PM

SAT 12/02 - WBB VS NORTHLAND COLLEGE, 3 PM

SUN 12/03 - WINTER BAND CONCERT,
MSC GREAT HALL, 2 PM, \$5

THURS 12/07 - KAYAK JONES,
BDP UW- STOUT, TBA

SUN 12/10 - MBB VS FINLANDIA, 12 PM

THURS 12/14 - WINTERDAZE,
DOWNTOWN MENOMONIE, 4-8 PM

FRI 12/15 - MHOCKEY VS CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY, 7 PM

SAT 12/16 - COMMENCEMENT, UW- STOUT

MON- FRI 12/18- 12/22 EVALUATION WEEK,
UW- STOUT

TUE 01/02 - WINTERM CLASSES BEGIN

FRI 01/05 - MHOCKEY VS ST. OLAF COLLEGE, 7
PM

SAT- SUN 01/06-01/07- RED CEDAR TRAIN
SHOW, MENOMONIE, STARTS AT 10 AM

WED 01/10 - WBB VS UW- OSHKOSH, 7 PM

SAT 01/13 - MTRACK VS ALUMNI MEET, TBA

MON 01/15 - MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, 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)



October 27
TO
May 13
SAT,
9am-1pm

Short & Stout

STUDENT TRAVELS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENT TO WORK WITH INMATES IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONS



Rachael: I think this may lead me to want to work in restorative justice in the future, yes. However, I have an interest in other career options as a substance abuse counselor or in treatment court as well. Wherever I go, I know I will rely on faith when I help others, and show God's love to those who need it the most.

WOTS: *What's your favorite part of being a criminal justice student at UW-Stout?*

Rachael: I've made some really good friends in the program and the Vocational Rehab program, and I like my professors as well! I get lots of good advice and appreciate their words of wisdom from years of experience. The criminal justice program is still having some growing pains from being a new major, but I was glad to be part of it in its first years.

UW-Stout's own Rachael Anderson, a junior in the Criminal Justice program, will be going to South Africa in the spring to work with Hope Prison Ministry, a group that works to prepare prison inmates for life on the outside. *Word on the Street* sat down with Rachael to get the scoop.

WOTS: *Tell us about what you'll be doing in South Africa next semester.*

Rachael: I will be working for Hope Prison Ministry as one of my internships for the Criminal Justice program at Stout. I'm working with Jonathan Clayton in his Restorative Justice & Victim Offender Dialogue Process. I will be working in multiple prisons and shadowing the workers and volunteers. I hope to learn about South Africa's justice system, culture, and restorative justice.

WOTS: *How did you hear about Hope Prison Ministry?*

Rachael: My cousin, Chris Lund, worked there about a year ago and says he had an incredible experience. He highly recommended it. From how he talked about it, I know this will have a great impact on me career-wise and spiritually.

WOTS: *How did you first become interested in criminal justice and prison ministry?*

Rachael: I've been interested in the criminal mind and the justice system for a while. I decided on my major halfway through freshman year. I wanted something that was different and challenging every day. The prison ministry is a new interest for me, but I'm excited because I think combining two interests of mine is a fantastic opportunity! My faith has always been important to me, and my parents brought me up in church, and to love Jesus. Hope Prison Ministry quotes the Bible from Matthew 25:36: "I was in prison and you came to me." That verse really speaks to me. For me and for many, Jesus is a comfort and Healer. Many people in prison are searching for answers, and I believe Jesus is the answer they are looking for.

WOTS: *Are you nervous?*

Rachael: Yes, but my excitement currently overwhelms the nerves!

WOTS: *Do you see prison ministry as a long-term interest?*



So, there you have it! You can learn more about Hope Prison Ministry at <http://hopeprisonministry.org/>.

MSC DINING DEALS:

TRUE THOUGHTS ON THE BLUE DEVIL MARKET



CHEESE CURDS (\$3.19):

"At first I think, woah, that's out of my budget! But if you're in the mood, it's what you need." –Melissa
"This is a whole family of cheese curds." –Andy

CHICKEN PEPPERCORN SANDWICH (\$1.89):

"I like that they don't toast the bun. Who puts a patty between two croutons?" –Andy
"The lettuce is soggy, but I don't care about the lettuce. It's about the sauce." –Rachel

CORN DOG (\$1):

"This is a dang good corn dog." –Rachel
"The corn dog has a crunchy breading, which is refreshing." –Melissa
"I meant refreshing like nice to see! Not like cool and refreshing..." –Also Melissa



“Open up the grilled cheese, yo.” These are the thoughts of nearly every student after four hours of homeworking in the MSC, amiright? WOTS met up with some students at the Blue Devil Market to review their choice of menu items. The smorgasbord was comprised of the beloved weekly dollar deal (the corn dog), a chicken peppercorn sandwich, cheese curds (we went for it), waffle fries, and a grilled cheese sandwich. These are our thoughts, but don't take our word for it...



CROSS CUT SEASON FRIES (\$1.19):

"Without ketchup, they're a little overdone." –Rachel
"Actually, I was liking the amount of crunch!" –Melissa

GRILLED CHEESE (\$1.29):

"It's like a little pie made of cheese." –Andy
"The cheese could be melted more, but the bread is perfectly buttered." –Rachel
"There's enough cheese for your dollar." –Melissa





a beautiful design

REVIEW & STUDY GUIDE

A TEACHING SERIES BY MATT CHANDLER
FROM THE VILLAGE CHURCH - FLOWER MOUND, TX

"Society tells us who we should be as men and women, but its message keeps changing. However, the Bible teaches us exactly who we are - men and women created equally but uniquely." This is a quote from Matt Chandler, a pastor from The Village Church in Texas. Over a 9-part sermon series called "A Beautiful Design," Chandler discusses what the Bible has to say about manhood and womanhood, and also spends time laying out God's design for marriage. Note that marriage is not in the books for everyone, but if that is where you are led, God has a beautiful design for it. Biblical manhood is described throughout the series with one word in particular, which Chandler openly admits has archaic connotations: headship. God has given men the responsibility to lead their wives and families further into a relationship with God. Ephesians 5:25 says this is done by the husband loving his wife "as Christ loves the church in that he gave himself up for her."

Later into the series, Chandler shares how women, as God designed them, are given the

role of "helper" to their husband. Chandler offers up many times in Scripture where God Himself is described as a helper. Hebrews 13:6, Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 54:4, Psalm 40:17, John 16:7... Chandler puts it this way: "God being called helper throughout the Scriptures brings honor to the position of helper. Since God has been called the helper, a helper cannot be inherently inferior. So, if woman has been made a helper fit for him, a woman as helper to her husband cannot mean the woman is inferior in any way." The series also addresses sins that men typically fall into, which are selfish aggression and selfish passivity, and the tendency of women to struggle with comparison and perfectionism.

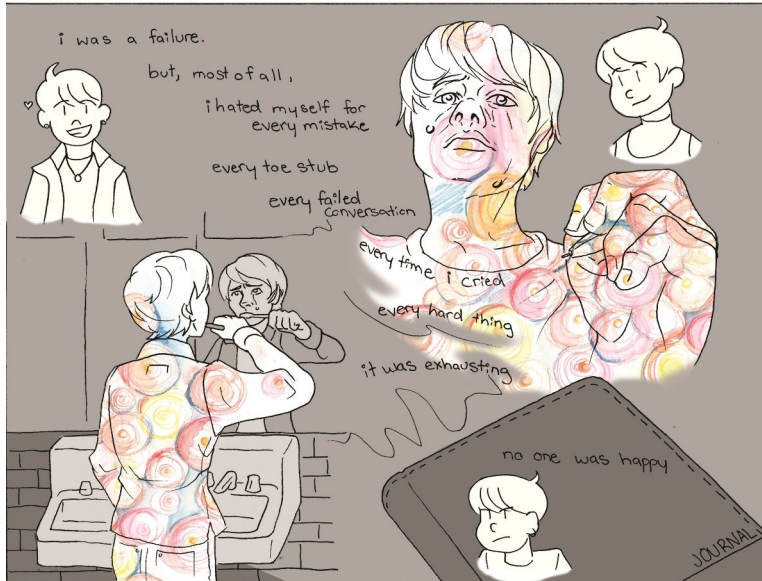
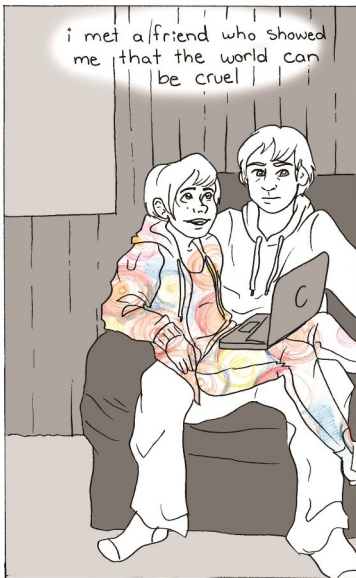
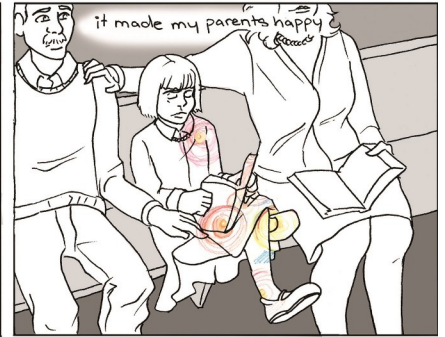
The intent of these messages is to explain the ways in which God's design for manhood and womanhood propels humans forward into a society that is vibrant and flourishing. If you're interested to know more, you can find these messages online at www.tvresources.net/resource-library/sermons/by-series/a-beautiful-design.

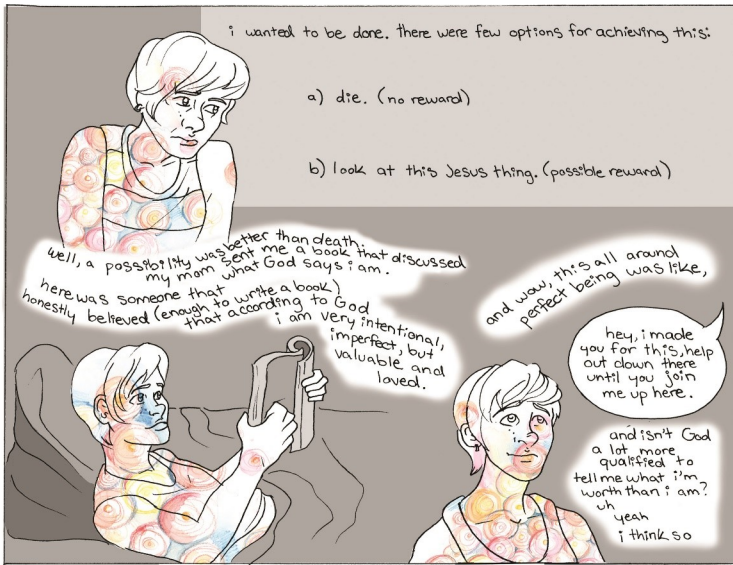
Study Guide

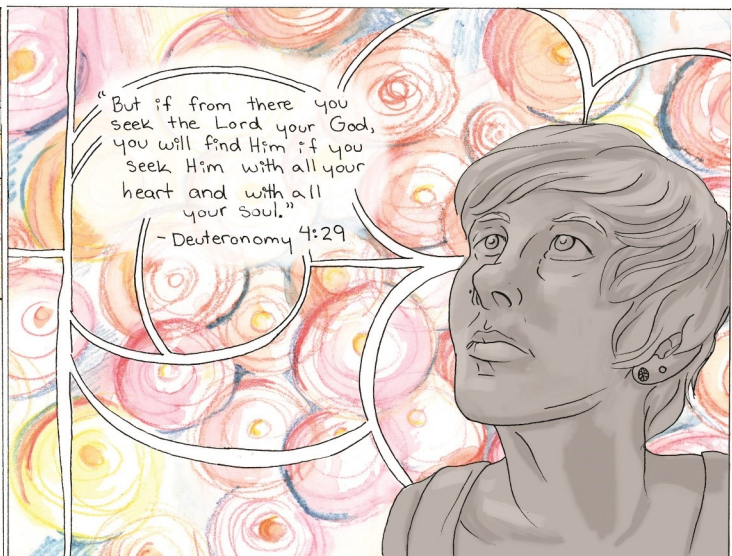
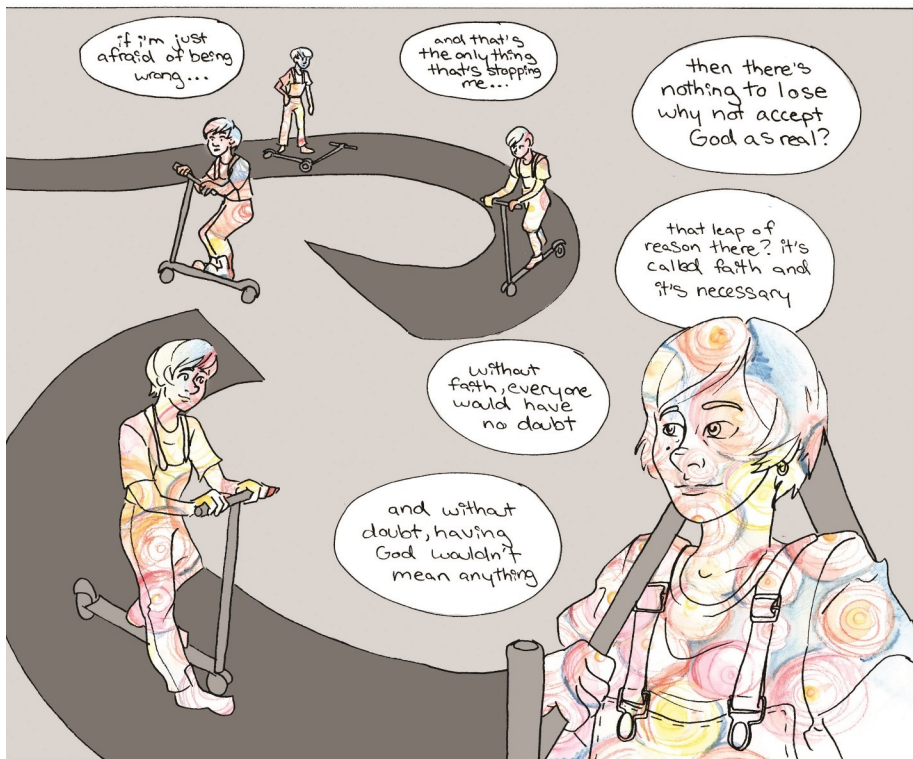
1. What is your current view of "manhood" and "womanhood?" What people or experiences in your life have shaped your opinion of gender?
2. In light of the material in this series, do you struggle with accepting God's design for the world?
3. What aspects do you bristle at? What areas seem to make sense to you after hearing them?
4. How does the view of gender in our culture differ from the view of gender in the Bible?
5. In what ways could you start to explore for yourself why you can trust in God's good design for your life?

How I Didn't Die

HOPE FOR TOMORROW
ANNA LUNDIN









THE LIFE OF

HELEN ROSEVEARE

COUNTING IT
ALL
AS PRIVILEGE

“From the moment I fell in love with Him, everything else was secondary to one thing – becoming a missionary.”²

Helen applied to the World Evangelization Crusade (WEC) for service in Africa, after graduating from Cambridge as a medical doctor.³ She was first assigned at the Ibambi, Congo (later called Zaire) station, becoming the only doctor to two and a half million people. In Helen’s first two years in Africa, she founded a training school for women to serve as nurse-evangelists, who would later go on to run clinics in other regions.²

Just like any other pioneer missionary, Helen was not exempt from frustrations and challenges. She had difficulty learning the Swahili language. She had misunderstandings and conflicts with fellow missionaries. Helen had a hard time treating some diseases, and she also had frustrations within herself, but the Lord continued to change her, making her realize that her attitude was essentially rebellion against God and His purpose for her life. He brought her to repentance and forgiveness.

When she returned to the Congo after two years of furlough, it was with renewed commitment and added confidence towards God. But three weeks after returning, civil war broke out and violence against whites began. Helen was put under house arrest by rebel forces and later imprisoned.² Helen was severely beaten and was raped. However, on that dark and dreadful night, she sensed the Lord saying to her, “You asked Me, when you were first converted, for the privilege of being a missionary. This is it. Don’t you want it? . . . These are not your sufferings. They’re Mine. All I ask of you is the loan of your body.”⁴ Hearing these words, she received an overwhelming sense of privilege that the Almighty God would deem her worthy to participate with Him in His sufferings (Philippians 3:10).

**“FROM THE
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MISSIONARY.”**

After returning to Africa in 1966, she soon left Nebobongo to establish a new medical center in Nyankunde, producing a 250-bed hospital, maternity ward, training college for doctors, a center for leprosy, and other endeavors. In 1973, Helen returned to the UK for health reasons, settling in Northern Ireland. She traveled, wrote several books, and served as a missionary advocate. She went to be with her Lord, from whom she counted it a privilege to suffer, on December 7, 2016, at the age of 91. In her Urbana '76 address, she said: “In the weeks of imprisonment that followed and in the subsequent years of continued service, looking back, one has tried to ‘count the cost,’ but I find it all swallowed up in privilege. The cost suddenly seems very small and transient in the greatness and permanence of the privilege.”

Those of us who have committed our lives to Christ have the same question to ask of ourselves as Helen: Was it all worthwhile? May we also, with her, answer in the affirmative ‘Aye!’ counting all of it as privilege to live with and in Christ.

Was it all worthwhile? The question had to be answered. As we look back to her missionary life in Africa, Helen did answer that question in the affirmative because she counted it all as privilege.

“I want people to be passionately in love with Jesus, so that nothing else counts.”¹ Helen Roseveare lived this philosophy ever since she came to personally know Christ as her Savior and Lord when she was a college freshman. Raised in a high Anglican church, Helen’s Sunday school teacher once told their class about India, and Helen resolved to one day be a missionary. Despite the Christian heritage of her family, and faithful attendance at church, Helen sensed a void in her life and distance from God. It was during the last night of her first Christmas break at college when she met God personally through reading Scripture. And that same night, she asked Him for the privilege of being a missionary for Him.

¹Lin Johnson, “Dr. Helen Roseveare: Passionate Missionary Doctor”

²urbana.org/blog/helen-roseveare

³blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/justintaylor/2016/12/07/a-woman-of-whom-the-world-was-not-worthy-helen-roseveare-1925-2016/

⁴Helen Roseveare, *He Gave Us A Valley*



THE STORY

Your Place in the Grand Narrative


When you do not understand why something is the way that it is, it is because you do not know its source. For example, when you experience a sore throat and stuffed up sinuses, it could indicate a whole slew of different causes. Is it the common cold? Is it allergies? Is it the start of the flu? Or is it something even worse? In the meantime, you attack it with throat lozenges, hot liquids, getting some extra sleep and maybe even taking some cold medicine. Sometimes it clears up and you never find out the cause. But other times, it requires a trip to the doctor and missing school or work to get to the bottom of it. It's common knowledge that treating the symptoms of something without a diagnosis isn't satisfactory in the long run. It prevents proper treatment, drags out the course of the illness, and produces consequences like doctor bills and loss of income. In order to understand why something is happening and how to address it best, you have to know its cause, right?

That's how it is with the whole of life, too. Why do bad things happen? Why can't we all just get along? Why is it so hard to be kind all the time? Honestly, why does everything have to be so hard, period? It's because we're missing the cause, the source, and we're failing to see the whole story.

Your life, your family's life, and the life of the community you live in is all a microcosm of the greater picture. You have probably all felt or seen glimpses of this. Why do all

humans universally know how to smile and have the capacity to appreciate beauty? Why is marriage a global concept? Why do we all seek, strive, and struggle our whole lives to create some semblance of "home?" Is it because we're all just wired that way, that it's in our genes? Is it merely learned behavior through mimicry or a tradition that's been passed down from generation to generation? Or, is there something larger at work...

"In the beginning, God..." (Genesis 1:1). These words were first written down thousands of years ago by a man whose life was literally the antithesis of what it could have been. He grew up as Egyptian royalty in an extravagant palace with every pleasure at his fingertips. His real parents, however, were Hebrew slaves who were oppressed by the royal Egyptian government, and when Moses sought justice by his own means, he ended up killing an Egyptian slave driver. Wanted for murder, he was driven into the desert and became a nomadic shepherd, but his story did not end there. God spoke to him and empowered him to go back and demand freedom for the Hebrew slaves – an impossible task! But God prevailed, and Moses soon became the leader for this huge group of people who wanted to be anywhere but wandering in a desert without the amenities of a home or a land to call their own, even if they had their freedom now. Moses didn't write those words, "In the beginning, God..." because he thought them up, nor did he lead a group of wayward people because he wanted to. Moses could have spent the rest of his life quietly eking out an existence as a shepherd, but God cut into Moses' timeline with a master plan that far



surpassed anything anyone could have ever thought possible. God was the cause and the source of the life Moses led. And He was the cause of Moses writing those time-defying words the Bible opens up with because He inspired Moses to record the truth of the origin of everything. And He's the reason you're here, right now, reading this.

We were planned and created to be a part of this same story before time existed because God is the Grand Master, the Author, of what is referred to as "life on earth." It's beautiful and terrible to step back and finally say, "...wait a minute...that's why?" Because when you stop deciding that everything is just a coincidence, or some belief, and that people are "just like that," and start to recognize the Author at work, you'll begin to see the world as He intended you to see it, as His creation. And that brings on a whole new set of consequences for your life's actions. Remember in the Matrix, when Neo takes the red pill instead of the blue one? That's what believing that God is the Master Planner behind life as you know it, is all about.

No one has to convince you that God exists. Romans 1:20 (NLT) says, "For 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." But it is true that someone or something has to tell you the story behind that nagging suspicion. That's what the Word of God, the Bible, was written for. And people who share scripture with others are passing it on so they, too, can grab hold of the true intent of life. The grand secret is that we were not made for ourselves. We were made for the Author – God. That's why Moses chose to live a life that makes no sense to the outside observer. He had everything! Why in the world would he have left it all behind? It's because He had a life-changing moment where God grabbed hold of him and forever changed the course of his entire life, and ours, too. Maybe you've heard the story where God spoke to Moses from a burning bush telling him to go back to Egypt where he was wanted for murder and defy a king who held millions of people hostage in slavery (Exodus 3,4). Again, this was not Moses' idea. It was God's, and it was part of the grand narrative He has been weaving since before the beginning of time.

Fast forward thousands of years, and it's difficult to connect how an ancient man relates to you today. However, the Bible wasn't written to be a collection of facts irrelevant to modern

life, but rather it's the revelation of why things are the way they are and what your role is. If you decide that that isn't true, that God isn't the Author of everything, then you've chosen the blue pill and you'll never know what you were created to play in the grand narrative. When I was 20, I almost chose the blue pill. I had just moved to Menomonie, Wisconsin as a transfer student to UW-Stout. I was at this crucial crossroads in my life

where I was hovering between deciding to not care anymore and to "let loose," or to turn to something I knew nothing about and I frankly didn't want anything to do with: God. Again, no one had to tell me He existed. I knew He did. But I was mad at Him. Life was not fun and I wasn't pleased with where it had all gone so far. Someone had recently told me to turn to Him and it made me bristle, intensely, out of anger. But, when I found myself alone in a basement bedroom in a strange town with no one to turn to, I tuned into some Christian podcasts I had found and it destroyed me. God was speaking, and I decided to finally listen in return. I took the red pill. That night forever changed me, and I never looked back. It's not been easy, but it's been infinitely better than I could have ever imagined because I'm tuned in now to the story of God and His creation. I'm not a rogue radio wave anymore trying to make sense of what's going on around me by diagnosing the symptoms of what I'm experiencing. I get it now. Not completely, of course. There's still some days where I feel like Cypher, that guy from the Matrix who said "Ignorance is bliss," and took the blue pill. But those days don't come as often as they used to. Honestly, knowing God and reading His Words and pursuing His plan for my life, instead of trying to make it on my own, has been incredible.

"THE GRAND SECRET IS THAT WE WERE NOT MADE FOR OURSELVES. WE WERE MADE FOR THE AUTHOR – GOD."

This article cannot possibly be wrapped up in a neat, little package for you. I can write things like, "Go find a Bible and read it," "Talk to God and He'll answer," and "Have faith that your life is part of the story," but it doesn't cut it. You have to decide that you want to know the Source, and never look back. Street Level Ministries is hosting weekly evening Bible studies on "The Story: Your Place in the Grand Narrative" during the fall and spring semesters of the 2017-2018 school year. Find your local group as they walk through the sequence of events that have led up to today as chronicled in the Bible. This fall, themes covered are: creation, the fall, the promise, exodus, wilderness wanderings, promised land, the kingdom of David, the writings, the temple, the prophets, exile and return. Be part of the story.

LIFT your EYES

*Finding Hope
in a
Worsening World*

Can I be honest with you?

When I watch the news or scroll through my social media feed, I get really emotional. Anger rages in me from the injustice of discrimination. Deep depression settles in when considering the effects of each passing natural disaster, and tears well up with every (what seems like daily) senseless murder.

Can you relate? Am I the only one that feels this way?

It seems like this world is deteriorating faster and faster, and the instantaneousness of social media expedites the devastation that is occurring around the corner and around the world. Furthermore, the Bible warns us that the world really is only getting worse. Our sin brings destruction and death, so we are not the solution, but the source of the problem. From simple mistakes to decades of genocide, the collective consequences of every person's sin makes us all groan for a sliver of hope.

"OUR SIN BRINGS DESTRUCTION AND DEATH, SO WE ARE NOT THE SOLUTION, BUT THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM."

Let me be even more honest. I've looked for hope in all the wrong places.

I've sought hope in education, in relationships, in a career, in a motivational coffee cup, in getting new things, in trying harder, and in giving up altogether. I know that last one seems like an oxymoron, but I've thought things might be better if I just didn't care at all. Can you relate, or is it just me? The list goes on and on and on with the things we look to for hope. Maybe for you it's finding a new start, living up to parental expectations, living the American Dream, being unique, standing up for personal rights—you fill in the blank. Whatever we pick, we try it for a while, and for a while it seems to work. But temporary hope is no hope at all. Eventually, anything we find hope in except for Jesus will crash and burn. Just give it enough time.

Hear me out. God has given us authentic hope in the form of His son Jesus who has been present since the beginning of the world. It was God's plan since the Garden of Eden that Jesus would die for the sins of the world on the cross and then come back to life three days later to break the power of sin and death. That means His death wasn't a Plan B God had to come up with to quickly salvage the outcome of the human race.

He had control all along. Therefore, our hope in Jesus stands on solid ground because it's a hope that has spanned beyond the length of time itself. Jesus says of Himself, "...take

Before I was a Christian, I thought all of that trust-in-Jesus-as-your-savior stuff sounded nice but I didn't get how it practically played out here and now. If your hope is in Jesus, what do you do with the

"OUR BIGGEST MISTAKE IS THINKING HOPE CAN BE FOUND SOMEWHERE HERE ON EARTH. TRUST ME, IT'S NOT. HOPE ALONE IS FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LIFT YOUR EYES."

heart, for I have overcome the world."¹

Jesus cannot be your hope by default. He cannot be your hope if you are distracted by all of those other things that compete for your attention. You have to consciously acknowledge that without Him, you are trapped in your own wickedness with no way out. The world is full of its fair share of devastation, but going one more day without His presence is the true tragedy. An Old Testament writer knew this all too well when he wrote, "But you, o Lord, are a shield around me. You are my glory, the one who holds my head high. I cried out to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy mountain."² You see, this is the greatest hope—that despite God's infinite greatness as the creator of the world, He still hears our cries and responds to our troubles as the perfect Father.

practical, day-to-day struggles you go through while waiting to see Him face-to-face? The first step is sharing our daily successes and failures with other faithful Christians. You simply won't make it on our own, and there is tangible hope and strength in going to war with an army beside you. The second step is realizing that hope is an action. As a Christian, you can redeem your time left on earth and use it to spread the hope of Jesus to others. He has given us the mission of being His ambassadors, and when we're busy serving Him, loving Him, and leading others to Him, our problems have a way of shrinking in comparison.

In the end, our biggest mistake is thinking hope can be found somewhere here on earth. Trust me, it's not. Hope alone is found in Jesus Christ. All you have to do is lift your eyes.

¹John 16:33
²Psalms 3:2-6

the PAIR IN THE NIGHT

Rapping on the wet wooden door, the Doctor and his Assistant gripped their cloaks tightly and awaited an answer from within. The metal slat flew back and two, ice blue eyes pierced into their own. A deep voice demanded their intent. The Doctor responded that they were looking for lodging. After a long, calculated pause, the slat shut. It was followed by a series of thuds and clanks. They were being let inside the fort.

Once inside, the pair made their way towards the only light visible in the bleak cluster of buildings. There were no civilians out on the streets, only the rain and the occasional uniformed Watchman. They slipped into the tavern and chose a booth near the back. A weary woman offered them two mugs of something hot. They accepted with no intention of consumption. Her skin was gray in the dim light, with hollow cheeks and an exasperated mop of hair hastily pulled back from her grim face. The Doctor called out to her. However, as she turned, he

noticed one of her most defining features, or lack thereof I suppose you could say. She had only half a nose left. The Doctor's heart sank when he saw, but he didn't let it show.

As he inquired about a room, he did his best to look into her eyes, one nearly opaque with a milky film, the other a familiar ice blue. As he spoke, he could see that she was studying the curious pair, comparing their health to her infirmity. She muttered something about having little vacancies, but before she could completely deny him, the Assistant produced a large wad of bills. She hesitated a moment, looking at his hand, noting that it was devoid of any sores or blemishes. Then she nodded, accepted the money, and scurried away.

By this point, the two had attracted some attention, as they always seemed to. A few men who had been lingering around the bar moved to their table. They shared a similar set of symptoms with the woman: gray complexion, ice blue eyes, and patches of festering wounds scattered about their features.



"THE DOCTOR'S EYES GLITTERED AS HE GLANCED UP AND PRODUCED A GLORIOUSLY SIMPLE ANSWER: THE CURE WAS COMPLETELY FREE. "

They asked about their business, and the two had no reason to withhold from them at this point.

The Doctor asked the men why they supposed there was such a difference in appearance between he and they. They obviously had been wondering the same, but had no answer for him. He then told them that he had some bad news. They listened intently as the Doctor told them that they were sick. Very sick. Overwhelmingly ill and nearing the grave. It seemed as if this pronouncement had struck them heavily. They didn't move or breathe, but it was apparent that they understood. The Doctor told them that this wasn't all. He was a physician, and he had a cure.

A cynical scoff broke out among them to cover the vulnerability they felt. One asked how much this 'miracle cure' was going to cost. The Doctor's eyes glittered as he glanced up and produced a gloriously simple answer: the cure was completely free.

The men could hardly contain themselves as they began to believe. Speaking over each other excitedly, the questions poured out as they motioned to various wounds and sores on their bodies. The Assistant finally quieted them, but just as he was about to ask them if they truly wanted the Doctor's cure, the front door of the tavern swung open. A parade of Watchmen flooded into the room

and surrounded them. They asked what the pair's business was. One of the sick men spoke out excitedly, unable to contain himself. The Watchman addressed the man, silently but severely. The Doctor's credibility was called into question. The men were verbally berated for believing such flowery nonsense. They weren't sick, the Watchman spat at them, the Doctor was trying to take advantage of them. Sorrow welled up in the Doctor's chest as he watched the hope drain from their faces once more. The pair was roughly escorted outside the city gate, and the wet, wooden door shut behind them with a violent thud.

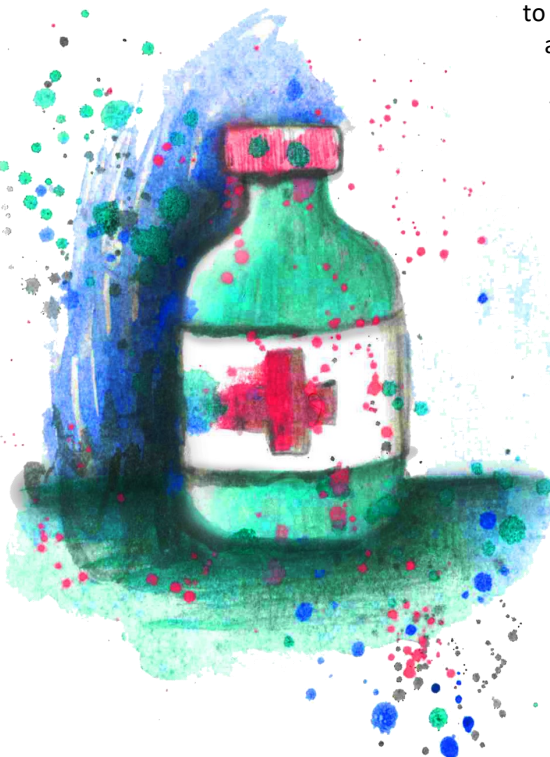
Denying themselves any detour into discouragement, the two turned from the gate and

continued out into the night. It had been so long since they had seen someone cured of the Sickness. On especially cold and wet nights, the only thing that kept them moving was remembering that they too had once been sick. Perhaps, in the next town, the people would listen.

However, before they were a stone's throw from the large, battle-worn gate, they heard a series of thuds and clacks, followed by a wet splash. Looking behind them, they saw one of the men from the tavern, lying on his belly in the mud. His soiled cloak was pulled around his sickly frame and he was scrambling to get up.

"Wait!" he sputtered as he managed to get on his feet again and hobble over to the pair. "Please...I've spent my whole life knowing that there was something wrong with me. I cannot be well in my own power. Please give me the cure so that I can be well. If you do, I cannot help but to devote my entire life to you both."

The Doctor and his Assistant tried to hold back their enthusiasm as they explained the ramifications of his decisions. The cure was a process; he would still need to fight the illness. He would never again be able to live undetected among the sick. There were long roads of darkness that lay ahead. However, the man would not be swayed. With great joy, the cure was finally administered. The man was well at last, and the two became three as they moved out once again into the night.





YOUR DEFENDER of FREE SPEECH

A THOUGHTFUL RESPONSE TO THE NEW BIGOTRY

Recently, *Word on the Street* magazine objectively covered Outpost Ministries in Issue 71. Despite the article's respectful language and uncritical tone, the response that followed was a mind-boggling array of nothing less than close-minded bigotry. Have those in opposition even read the article? That's a fair question to ask. If you had the chance to pick up the actual paper edition of the magazine, count yourself as one of the lucky ones. Copies across campus were quickly stolen from racks in what can only be described as blatant theft and a juvenile attempt at censorship. After witnessing such shortsighted intolerance gain local, regional, and statewide publicity, an educated and thoughtful response in Issue 72 was necessitated.

It was thirty years ago in our American history that a philosopher born in the 1930's authored a book that speaks directly to this fall's conflict. His publication was received with criticism in its day, but it ultimately proved to be prophetic. This would-be prophet was Allan Bloom, who authored the book *The Closing of the American Mind*, which was published in 1987. In it he described a cultural shift in American thinking that had taken place over the previous 30 years. Bloom, a secular thinker, referenced examples ranging from popular music to philosophy and recorded the effects he observed on the students in classrooms across America. He concluded that institutions of higher learning had failed the young people of his day by teaching them *what* to think, rather than *how* to think.

Bloom further explained what he saw as a troubling turn in popular thought and how Americans had become blinded to the irony that was closing in on them. Little did anyone imagine that in an effort to embrace open-mindedness, and the absolute acceptance of all ways of life as equally true, a

brand new, and ultimately closed, absolute truth had been declared. Higher education, which had once been the safe haven of free thought and speech, should have been leading the way in the recognition of this error in thinking. Instead, it had deteriorated into just another soapbox for indoctrinating a generation.

Jump ahead now 30 years to 2017. Prophetically, this closed mindset has become pervasive in our American society. Narrow-mindedness is so much a part of how we are currently taught that we don't even scoff at it anymore. Today, a word like *tolerance* has been washed in the detergent of "open-mindedness." *Tolerance* once provided room for civil disagreement between parties, but now no longer gives the slightest space for even hearing out ideas different than those of mass appeal. Instead, *tolerance* has come to mean *acceptance*. To disagree with the politically correct is synonymous with *intolerance*. Unfortunately, as Bloom predicted, our universities have matured from being a breeding ground for shortsightedness into champions of it. Once a safe haven for thinking outside the box, campuses now seem to be the new box itself!

Due to an article in our last issue, *Word on the Street* magazine (and by association, our parent organization, Street Level Ministries) was incredulously accused of promoting the highly controversial and offensive practice of "conversion therapy" because we featured information about a Twin Cities organization called Outpost Ministries. Let us be clear: this publication has never at any time supported or promoted conversion therapy and, for that fact, neither has Outpost Ministries. They don't "do conversion therapy" meaning they don't seek to change anyone's sexuality. The "counseling" that Outpost Ministries provides is actually a six month to two

THE QUESTION WE ARE EACH FACED WITH NOW IS WILL WE ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE TO DO THE WORK THAT IS REQUIRED TO BE TRULY OPEN MINDED, OR, WILL WE CHOOSE TO GO ALONG WITH THE CURRENT OF PREVAILING THOUGHT AND BATTLE AGAINST ANYONE WHO DISAGREES?

year discipleship bible study! The words “conversion therapy” or any reference to them do not exist anywhere in our article or elsewhere in the publication. Regardless of these facts, *Word on the Street* magazine, Street Level Ministries and Outpost Ministries were somehow alleged to be promoters of this offensive practice! In short order, the activists rose up with their boxing gloves. No longer is due diligence required; no questions were asked or investigation pursued. Rather, when politically correct definitions of right and wrong *seemed* challenged by the article, the activist community responded in order to criticize and ostracize. Veiled

threats were leveled against Street Level Ministries, a recognized UW-Stout student organization, and its representatives were asked to give an account of their organization and their credibility was called into question because of the allegations, not because of the facts. Even regional television failed in like fashion by reporting the situation as “news” without any real investigation.

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is all well and good, but if one dare present an alternative to the status quo, our society seems to rally around the cry, “Guilty, until proven innocent.” Interestingly, it would also seem that if you don't rally along to kick the offender, you will be in danger of getting kicked yourself. So was the fate of a lone *Stoutonia* reporter who *did* her due diligence by asking the necessary questions to all parties involved. She reported the facts objectively to help bring clarity to everyone involved. And the reward for her efforts? To have banners flown *on campus* by activist students which attacked her personally and depicted *her* as the *closed-minded!*

The closing of the American mind has indeed come to pass. However, the challenge to be a thinking individual still exists and is more important today than at any time in our recent history. The question we are each faced with now is will we accept that challenge and do the work that is required to be truly open minded, or, will we choose to go along with the current of prevailing thought and battle against anyone who disagrees?

LATE ADDENDUM PRIOR TO PRINTING:

In October 2017, the UW Regents voted to impose sanctions on students who “materially and substantially” suppress controversial speakers with whom they disagree. This action has garnered partisan support as well as criticism.

The UW Regent Robert Atwell was quoted by the *Cap Times* reporting on this issue, saying, “It’s absolutely critical not only to have free expression of ideas, but to recover the ability to talk to people with whom we disagree... The survival of our republic depends on it.”

Those opposed to the action of the regents have attempted to describe the shouting down of controversial speakers on college campuses as simply “contentious discussion.” However, Mr. Atwell accurately identifies that tolerance is indeed a lost art within our generation. While it is debatable whether punitive sanctions are effective in changing student behavior, the spirit of the action taken by the regents is commendable. The fact that the University system recognizes the seriousness of the issue at hand and has taken action would indicate that some doorways of thinking are not yet fully closed.



Unexpected Return

CANADIAN PASTOR IMPRISONED IN NORTH KOREA RECENTLY RELEASED

Imagine crossing oceans to visit those you love 110 times over 20 years, and then you're arrested and charged with a crime you didn't commit. This was the heartbreaking reality for Hyeon Soo Lim, Lead Pastor of Light Korean Presbyterian Church in Toronto, Canada. For over 20 years, Lim led a ministry that showed love and compassion to the people of North Korea by assisting with programs to feed the hungry, creating orphanages, homes for senior citizens, noodle and tofu factories, as well as establishing farming and educational programs. Lim was unaware why he was suddenly arrested and charged with "defaming" Kim Jong-un, which he says he did not do. It was clear the ministry work was needed and well-received by the people. The congregation was shocked when Lim was thrown behind bars.

Not many people know what really goes on in a foreign labor camp, but it's definitely not a sought-after place. Lim spoke of being in complete isolation. He

was assigned to dig holes in the dirt one meter long, one meter wide, and one meter deep, which in the winter was like trying to bust concrete with a shovel. He also spent time breaking up coal. But even in the pain and trial, Lim turned his sorrow and heartache into courage, joy, and thanksgiving, and later stated that he never experienced even one day of gloom. Despite the grueling work, Lim was allowed to have Sundays as a day of rest. He recalls spending those 130 Sundays during his imprisonment worshipping God. He was surprisingly allowed to retain a Bible his congregation sent him nearly a year into his confinement. Lim was not allowed to write anything down, but he compensated by growing his memorization skills.

Through the help of Swedish diplomats, Lim's release was negotiated and approved in August 2017. After being in jail for two years and six months, Lim was surprised and ecstatic to be

released on "sick bail," which he found out only 15 minutes before his release. Lim expressed great gratitude to the Canadian government and the Swedish diplomats, but ultimately believes God granted him release from prison. Lim is convinced prayer from different churches and concerned Christians around the globe made all the difference. Lim returned to Canada and had a reception at his church on August 12, 2017, where he celebrated with his friends and family. Lim even sang a few hymns he wrote during his confinement.

In our increasingly anti-Christian culture, we must remember that persecutions are here and will be more common. Matthew 5:11 encourages us, "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account."





Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

DON'T LET SMALL-TOWN LIFE MAKE YOUR LIFE SMALL

JF BELIEVERS WATCH

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

BIBLICAL. MISSIONAL. RADICAL.

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UW-STOUT // BLIND MUNCHIES COFFEEHOUSE // 621 WILSON AVE.

SUNDAYS // 4:00PM

November 12th & 26th
December 10th (christmas party)
Spring Semester dates to be determined

UW-RIVER FALLS // STREET LEVEL OFFICE // 115 W CASCADE AVE.

MONDAYS // 6:00PM

November 6th & 20th
December 4th (christmas party)
Spring Semester dates to be determined



a branch of...
STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES
715.235.4977 // streetlevel@uwstout.edu

TIME FOR A TUNE UP

*YOUR GUIDE TO
FINDING A LOCAL
MECHANIC*



Having your own transportation is great until it breaks down. It's hard to find a mechanic who does good work, charges a reasonable price, and who works with your schedule. Broken cars are never a joyful experience and usually throw a wrench in your plans. On top of all that, being in college means you can't rely on your parents or that mechanically-inclined uncle to take care of these matters anymore. Here are some tips for scouting out a good mechanic:

Check the list of approved mechanics from the AAA-Auto Repair Network at www.aaa.com/autorepair/.

The Better Business Bureau website will give you a review on an auto shop once you've found one: www.bbb.org/en/us/. Note that some shops may not be listed.

When looking into a repair shop, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is the shop clean and well-kept?
- Do they have a certified mechanic working for them? Look for the certification hanging on the wall in the lobby area.
- Are they genuinely asking you questions about what is wrong with your car?

WOTS met up with Roger, owner of The Loft Service in Osseo, WI, to get some expert advice from a mechanic who has been in the business for 35 years:

WOTS: What are some common car problems you see that could be prevented?

Roger: Changing oil and rotating your tires both are so important. Don't rely on your oil life indicator to tell you when you need an oil change. Your oil should be changed every 3,000 miles for conventional and 5,000 miles for synthetic. One of the other biggest things that gets overlooked is antifreeze/coolant changes. The manufacture states you should wait until 100,000 miles. However, after taking some classes, I found out it should be done about every 30,000 to 50,000 miles.

WOTS: What should someone look for when trying to find a good mechanic?

Roger: Word of mouth from people who have experienced service at the perspective mechanic is the best way. Otherwise, finding someone who has been in the business for a long time is

another great way. Independent shops are by far the best. Don't take your chances with someone who has just opened a shop or a shop that has recently changed owners.

So, there you have it! Keep yourself safe this winter by keeping your vehicle in tip-top shape.

HERE ARE SOME LOCAL PLACES TO CHECK OUT:

All Car Automotive
Cedar Country Cooperative
Integrity Automotive Center
TMS Tire & Auto
J&L Auto Repair
Imperial Automotive - Auto Repair
Churchill Tire & Battery Services
(Tires, brakes and light repairs)
Canon Auto & Bait

CHRISTMAS WITH

The Blind Munchies



We have a variety of gifts from India & the Philippines: Goat Leather Bags, Chai Tea Gift Sets, Jewelry, Notebooks, etc. We also have coffee & Blind Munchies gear. All proceeds go to missions.

THE BLIND MUNCHIES
MUSIC & COFFEEHOUSE
a branch of Street Level Ministries



Your Local
Non-Profit Coffeehouse
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SOUL BREAKFAST

Feeding your soul on Sunday mornings

SOUL + GOSPEL MUSIC
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9:30AM

burningdogradio.com

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NICK THE HICK

Another redneck rant from your favorite guy



SPEEDO BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Thanksgiving is near and Christmas is around the corner. For many, holidays are a kicking time with family and friends. There ain't a soul on earth who can't get down with turkey and gravy (us normal people stick to the dark meat), ham (preferably grilled), green bean casserole (made by anyone but me) potatoes, cranberries (for decoration), and the desserts. It's usually a splendid time had by all. I couldn't help but notice this year (maybe it's like this every year) the Christmas supplies hitting the shelves by the end of September. Now maybe it's no big deal but when I saw these atrocities being carried out by the big box store employees, my heart sank. I had thoughts like, "don't rob me of my last glimmer of summer." I came in here to buy a tube to float the river and now I'm swimming through a swamp of plastic Christmas trees. It's sad to say that the spirit of the holiday has been hijacked and twisted to try to maximize profits. Can't these places at least wait until the snow flies? I mean at least by that time, my Speedo is packed away for the season. By that time, I am at least thinking about getting a hot chocolate and picking on people for their pumpkin spice everything. Before I throw too many stones, I'll admit that my Christmas lights are up all year. But that's part of my DNA. Studies have showed that intertwined with the strands of redneck DNA is a strand with bulbs that light up. There has been great debate as to whether they are associated with Christmas lights or licking used car batteries but that's another story for another day. Long story short, stay cool and don't put your Santa hat on in September.

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