



ISSUE SEVENTY-FIVE

*Celebrating 75 Issues*

OF WORD ON THE STREET MAGAZINE

# FROM CAPTIVE TO CAPTIVATED

PAGE 12

PAGE 9  
AMSTERDAM,  
CITY OF FREEDOM

PAGE 16  
DATING BY DESIGN

PAGE 22  
DEAD  
BUTTERFLIES

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2018

STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES

READWOTS.COM



# Word on the Street

is released twice per semester and has been published since 1999. WOTS Magazine is written, laid out, and printed by young adult Christians who love Jesus and want to write about God, life and college.

wotsmagazine@gmail.com  
**ReadWots.com**

WOTS is available on the UW-Stout, UW-Superior, and UW-River Falls campuses. In addition to these locations in the USA, we also print the magazine in Cebu City, Philippines and distribute to various universities in the city. We're currently expanding to other international locations and have released two issues of a version of the magazine in Southeast Asia this year. Last, but not least, we're working on our first issue release in Amsterdam!

## MEET THE WOTS STAFF

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

**MENOMONIE, WI**



**DULUTH, MN**



**CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES**



**RIVER FALLS, WI • SOUTHEAST ASIA • & COMING SOON ... AMSTERDAM**



- 04**    **LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR**  
**STUFF TO DO IN MENOMONIE**  
FIND OUT WHAT TO LOVE ABOUT  
YOUR NEW HOME AWAY FROM HOME
- 05**    **SECRET MENU @ PRICE COMMONS**
- 07**    **ONE GUY'S TRUE STORY**  
I USED TO WORSHIP LUCK
- 08**    **QUARTERLY MUSIC BEATS**  
UPDATE FROM BURNING DOG RADIO
- 09**    **AMSTERDAM**  
CITY OF FREEDOM
- 10**    **SHAI LINNE**  
LYRICAL THEOLOGIST
- 11**    **CAN'T GO SOLO**  
UNICORNS, GNOMES, AND CHRISTIANS  
WITHOUT A COMMUNITY DON'T EXIST
- 15**    **FIGHTER VERSES**  
SICK OF ONLY KIND OF  
KNOWING SCRIPTURE?
- 16**    **DATING BY DESIGN**  
FOUR STEPS TO DATE GOD'S WAY
- 18**    **6 LOCATIONS, 75 ISSUES, 1 MISSION:**  
THE PAST AND FUTURE OF  
THIS MAGAZINE
- 20**    **FROM THE ARCHIVES**  
A BLAST FROM THE PAST
- 21**    **A SHORT & STOUT HISTORY**  
THE FOUR MENOMONIE FAMILIES THAT  
RULED THE ROOST
- 22**    **DEAD BUTTERFLIES**  
CHASING THE NEXT QUICK FIX
- 23**    **NICK THE HICK**  
ANOTHER REDNECK RANT FROM YOUR  
FAVORITE GUY



## LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR



## STUFF TO DO IN MENOMONIE

### AUGUST

**TUE 8/7** NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2018, 6PM

**FRI 8/31** MENOMONIE MARKET BRAT FRY, 11AM-1PM

WOMEN'S SOCCER VS HAMLINE, 7PM

### SEPTEMBER

**SAT 9/1** WOMEN'S SOCCER VS ST. CATHERINE UNIVERSITY, 7 PM

**WED 9/5** WOMEN'S SOCCER VS ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY, 7 PM

**SAT 9/8** WOMEN'S SOCCER VS UW-SUPERIOR, 2PM

**TUE 9/11** WOMEN'S SOCCER VS BETHEL, 7PM

**THUR 9/13** GREAT COMMUNITY COOKOUT, DOWNTOWN, 5PM

**SAT 9/15** WOMEN'S TENNIS VS UW-EAU CLAIRE, 9AM

**SAT 9/22** FOOTBALL VS CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY, TBA

**TUE 9/25** WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL VS HAMLINE, 7PM

**WED 9/26** WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL VS UW-STEVENS POINT, 7PM

WOMEN'S SOCCER VS UW-RIVER FALLS, 7PM

**SAT 9/29** WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL VS UW-LA CROSSE, 3PM

FOOTBALL VS UW- EAU CLAIRE, 6PM

### OCTOBER

**WED 10/3** WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL VS SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY, 7PM

**SAT 10/6** FOOTBALL VS UW-LA CROSSE, HOMECOMING, 2PM

**FRI 10/12** WOMEN'S TENNIS VS UW OSHKOSH, 3PM

**SAT 10/13** WOMEN'S SOCCER VS UW-PLATTEVILLE, 2PM

WOMEN'S TENNIS VS UW-WHITEWATER, 3PM

**WED 10/17** WOMEN'S SOCCER VS UW-LA-CROSSE, 7PM

**WED 10/24** WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL VS UW-EAU CLAIRE, 7PM

**SAT 10/27** FOOTBALL VS UW-WHITEWATER, 2PM

You're new to town and are fit for seeing, tasting, and experiencing new things. You won't find extravagant malls or large arenas in Menomonie, but you are sure to develop some hometown favorites during your stay.

When Friday comes and you're looking for a little more than Easy Mac, save a few pennies and head west by the Red Cedar River to Lucette Woodfire Eatery. Get a taste of wood fire cooked pizzas, calzones, and salads. They are bursting with flavor, made from mostly locally sourced ingredients. Or head east to 9<sup>th</sup> Street and find Netty Q's and Hang's Cuisine. The food at Hang's is superb! Not only is it packed full of flavor, it's also served extremely hot, which is always a plus! The average price at Hang's is 8 bucks so it's easy on the pocket book. The pork basil or the sweet and sour chicken won't let you down. Netty Q's will help you get your mama mia on. Reasonably priced and always tasty, you'll feel the Italian in your soul when you sink your teeth into the cheese ravioli.

Feeling stuck in the busy college life? Take a short drive to Hoffman Hills Recreation Area and stroll down the winding trails to the lookout tower to gaze upon this local beauty. Grab sunglasses and sunscreen so you don't look like the raccoon you passed on your way up to the tower. The Recreation Area is open daily from 7am to 9pm.



You can go walking, running, biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing on the Red Cedar State Trail along Highway 29 on the west side of Menomonie, or go kayaking/canoeing in the river itself. You need a trail pass, but don't fret, they are simple to obtain.

Looking to get some fresh air and exercise without running and looking like you're being chased? The Brickyard just west of campus is a favorite disc golf spot, plus you might just get a chance to pet some random dogs since it's by a dog park. Wakanda Park is another beautiful course.

The Blind Munchies Coffeehouse is a local college favorite. Need a meeting space? There is one available at the best price: FREE! With a 15-foot meeting table, seating for 10+ people, free Wi-Fi, power outlets as well as USB ports, and a flatscreen TV set up for PowerPoint and Skype, this is destined to serve your needs. On Saturday mornings, you can get the cheapest, bestest breakfast around. It's \$2 with a student ID, and \$3 without.



## SECRET MENU @ PRICE COMMONS

Secret menus are all the rage nowadays. Who knew you could add an egg to your burger at McDonald's? At the Commons, you can find such hacks as well. Want to make the Canadian favorite Poutine? Have dining service add fries to your mashed potatoes and gravy! Craving a meatball sub? If spaghetti and meatballs are being served, get a hoagie and request they put the meatballs on it!

**\$2 BREAKFAST**

**saturdays**  
9am-noon  
\$2 with student id | \$3 without

**classic american breakfasts**  
breakfasts rotate weekly

THE BLIND MUNCHIES  
your local, non-profit coffeehouse  
621 Wilson Ave. Menomonie, WI



theblindmunchies.com  
view upcoming mobile events

from the archives!

The Blind Munchies is Street Level's chill zone located on the corner of 7th street and Wilson avenue one block east of Burger King. Look for an old Church building. We're in the basement.

The "Munchies" is a place where you can study, chill, play some pool, eat fresh bakery, drink of the town's finest gourmet coffee and espresso, scarf down some pizza or burgers (at special times), and catch some awesome FREE concerts twice a month for the entire school year. Don't worry, no one will be signing you up for Church or cramming Bibles down your throat. If you have a question, someone will be around to answer it, but otherwise no one will ambush you.

We're donation based and have suggested prices to cover our costs. All donations at concerts go to the band. Questions?  
235-9300

## The Blind Munchies Coffeehouse

621 Wilson ave., Menomonie, WI

### HERE IS THE 2000 FALL SCHEDULE:

Sat. September 16th~ *WESHURPOLOOZA 2000*

Sat. September 30th~ *Jesus Rock Fest*  
Wellspring

rock

Fri. October 13th~ *Big Kuan*

east coast rap

Fri. October 27th~ *Chris Taylor*

modern rock

Fri. November 10th~ *Jeni Varnadeau*

pop/rock

Sat. November 18th~ *Mike Walsh* rock

with *Sister Pete* hardrock

Fri. December 1st~ *Beki Hemmingway*

smart alterna pop

Fri. December 20th~ *20th Avenue*

modern rock

Fri. December 15th~ *Slwelch*

alternative rock





# BELIEVERS CHURCH

We're about community.

SUN//10:30AM

WED//7:00PM

[JFBELIEVERS.COM](http://JFBELIEVERS.COM)

# One Guy's

# True Story

**W**hen I was reborn, I was told that God brings people to Him in different ways. Before that, though, my life was—at least on the outside—generally okay. I was convinced of that. I knew I wasn't perfect, but I still thought I was doing okay. I'd been told a lot throughout my life that I was generally a wise, smart, and friendly person, with good looks, and a good sense of humor. I liked and cared about people, and I wanted to be loved and cared about. Yet, many failed relationships and toxic friendships shaped me to feel inadequate despite what people generally said to my face. There was a deep longing for a kind of love that I had never had before, something that would last, regardless of the circumstances and imperfections in myself and other people. I felt as if I deserved it, due to how I cared and empathized with other people, but I wasn't getting it. This confused and baffled me my whole life. Growing up fatherless affected me in very subtle ways that I am still uncovering to this day.

I've always loved the idea of the complexity of nature and biology, the vastness of space, and the mysteriousness of the mind. I've always questioned the nature of reality. That said, I'm not very studious when it comes to formal philosophy, so I simply pondered in my head how beautiful, ordered, and vastly complex reality was despite the seeming chaos/luck that I had been accustomed to believing was the true nature of reality. I essentially worshiped luck and accepted that as the true nature of reality, without ever considering religion due to my precepts of their inconsistency and hypocrisy.

God entered my life subtly but intentionally through a series of fortunate events that I slowly began to realize had a divine hand behind them. I had begun my journey in the summer of 2016, when I was invited to a Street Level hangout in the park. I had been distant friends/acquaintances with some members since then, but as I entered the despair of a breakup in the fall of 2016 of a relationship that I thought would finally last, those people gently reached out to me. That experience was short-lived, as I believed the only way to cure the pain was to

**"I ESSENTIALLY WORSHIPED LUCK AND ACCEPTED THAT AS THE TRUE NATURE OF REALITY, WITHOUT EVER CONSIDERING RELIGION DUE TO MY PRECEPTS OF THEIR INCONSISTENCY AND HYPOCRISY."**

smoke a lot of weed and be as hedonistic as possible. When I finally felt ready in the spring of 2017 to pursue another relationship with intentionality, I fortuitously ended up at Street Level again and met someone who made me question reality once more. I had suddenly come to realize the validity of the Bible and Christ through a book that this person gave me to read. I was at a crossroads; I could either reject God and continue living in the pain that I had just come out of, wondering why I had to suffer, or I could accept Him and live the rest of my life in His peace, knowing that the pain I suffered was nothing compared to His glory.

I can truly say that I've experienced an immense transformation since that time. The beauty of God's creation and His majesty give me a greater sense of awe than I have ever felt before. Even though my emotions still tend to dirty the lens through which I view reality and God, I still feel His love for me. That said, I haven't felt any shortage of pain during this time, and I would say that my life has been somewhat of an emotional rollercoaster as I struggle every day to expose and throw out the residual, habitual sin that's built up over the course of my life. But God has been there next to me, in the car, the whole time. There is a much more acute sense of aliveness to the highs and lows of life with Him that I wouldn't give up for anything. It has certainly been humbling to realize that I don't deserve God, and yet His love for me shows up even when I don't *feel* it.





# QUARTERLY MUSIC BEAT

AN UPDATE FROM OUR FRIENDS AT BURNING DOG RADIO

**I**N May, a few DJs from Burning Dog Radio had the chance to go on a missions trip to the Philippines. Though we were thousands of miles away from our little station in the States, we couldn't help but bring a bit of our passion for radio and music to the scene. We prepared a remote set-up for two full-time missionaries in Cebu City and brought it over to teach them how to use it and go live on their online college radio station, Street Level Radio. Their mission is to prepare and equip college students in Cebu City to live for Jesus while in college and disciple them so they can disciple others (and hopefully share some great music with them, too).

We did two live broadcasts with our missionary friends. The first one was outside the Teofel Hostel, which houses businesses they know. We went the whole nine yards: fold up table, banner, laptop, mics, sound board, speaker, etc. There were four people at the broadcast, and two of us handed out flyers on the sidewalk, promoting a rooftop party our missions team was hosting for college students. Maybe many people don't realize this, but being in the radio requires a LOT of extroverted-ness. It's not all behind a mic. When you do anything for ministry, it requires relationship, and that's what we tried to foster as we greeted students walking by and invited them to the party.

A large group of students were brave enough to go on air and answer a few questions about their life. They even told our listeners about the rooftop party! They also sang part of Ed Sheeran's hit song, 'Perfect.' Not even we could do that!

The second live broadcast was outside a building where our missionary friends do their weekly Bible study. It is on the corner of a very busy intersection in an area with a lot of universities. USC (University of San Carlos) is literally kitty corner from this building, the Elicon Cafe. We handed out flyers, similar to the day before, but they were advertising for the online station.

Street Level Radio is similar to BDR because we have similar objectives. We both seek to reach the community we're in with music and relationships. We are excited for what the future holds for Street Level Radio and their mission in Cebu City. We're also excited to be able to do it alongside them (mostly over the internet). You can listen anytime at [streetlevelradio.com](http://streetlevelradio.com)!

LISTEN TO >>>>



**BURNING DOG RADIO**



From the archives!

Reality Brought to You by STREET LEVEL MINISTRY

**...NOTHING GOOD ON THE RADIO?**

**...SICK OF HEARING THE SAME OLD CRAP?**

**...DO THE LYRICS MAKE YOU TURN YOUR HEAD?**

**There's Hope for YOU!**  
*Chin-up, My Friend. Turn Your Dial to*  
**ONEWAY RADIO 101.1fm**  
**Cool Songs You Never Heard Before!**  
 Street Level is Cranking it this Fall with Live Shows In the Afternoons  
 We Play a WIDE Variety of Christian Rock Music Spanning Space and Time!

**TESTIMONIALS!**

"There ain't no dern commercials either."  
 Rupert Von Huvenstiegen

"I was listening to cool music I never heard before!"  
 Allen W. Winthorington





Every year, more than 5 million tourists visit Amsterdam. They come to visit the van Gogh museum or the Rijksmuseum (both more than 2 million visitors a year). Or to do a canal trip and see the more than 1200 bridges (over 3 million passengers).

# AMSTERDAM, CITY OF FREEDOM



People like to have the feeling of freedom when visiting Amsterdam. Some of them perhaps mean the freedom of smoking a joint (there are almost 200 coffee shops in the center of Amsterdam) or to see or to visit a sex worker (there are 400 windows in the Red Light District). Perhaps they like the idea that everything seems to be possible in the city and that you can totally be yourself.

Amsterdam is the gay capital of Europe and the gay pride is famous. On King's Day and King's Night the city turns orange and whatever you do, it is never too weird. So Amsterdam, place to be, to feel free, to do what you want...

But are we talking about real freedom here?

A lot of the sex workers are exploited, in a process of being enslaved with no way out. Also, the visitors of these women are often prisoners of their desires. The use of (too much) space cake has brought many tourists in total panic, thinking that people were running after them or thinking that they could fly. It didn't bring freedom; it hurts.

In the middle of Amsterdam we run a hostel, a Christian hostel. A hostel with a no alcohol and no drugs policy. A hostel where we have separate dorms for boys and girls, and where we like to share our faith in God.

What has that to do with freedom??

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Where

the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." And if you read the Bible, then you discover that God wants to give freedom. He wants people to do what they want. The only thing is that He wants to work on [and maybe change] what we want. And He does this by love. Our freedom should not be limited by rules and laws (what a lot of people and churches like to do) but by love. The more we learn about love the more we can live in freedom and do what we want. So, I hope that in our Shelter people feel freedom and see the love. And because we are still learning, we limit ourselves also a little bit by rules. That helps a bit in living together in order and not in chaos.

Enjoy it and perhaps we'll welcome you once in our hostel!



- Corné Platschorre  
Supervisor Shelter City



shai  
linne

lyrical  
theologist

**S**hai Linne, who likes to be known as lowercase emcee, started his Christian hip-hop journey after his turn from atheism in 1999. Using his love of hip-hop music, he started pointing people to Jesus Christ through music. He released his first album, *The Solus Christus Project* back in 2005. He released his most recent album, *Still Jesus*, in the summer of 2017 after a three-year break where he planted a church in Philadelphia called Risen Christ Fellowship.

The question that long-time fans and new fans want to know is how does shai and *Still Jesus* fit into the genre of Christian hip-hop? On the opening track, he answers this with his intentions:

ayo I'm back, but nobody has been asking where I've been  
because Christ-centered music is no longer the hot trend

This is what shai does. The main focus of his music is Christ-centered, and the term "lyrical theology" originated him and his recording label, Lamp Mode.

This album is focused on Christ to its core, a topic that isn't at the forefront of the Christian hip-hop genre anymore. He addresses this in his song "Ichabod" where he says, "The book of Hebrews 2:1 - CHH (Christian hip-hop) really gotta heed this today. We gotta pay close attention to what we heard from the Word otherwise we gonna drift away. I think we're seeing that, look at the content, a lot of self-glory, a lot of nonsense."

It is obvious to shai that some artists in the genre have lost focus of what

Christian hip-hop should be about: Jesus.

shai excels by leading the listener to Jesus Christ, and states that Jesus should be our motivation: "We exist for the glory of Jesus" he says in the song "Ichabod." He communicates the gospel exceptionally well in "Startling Mystery:" "But through Christ, watch God's savin' hand flex, redeemed the people, north, south, east, and west. Glorious robes, in the Promised Land, dressed we stand blessed, all because of the Lamb's death." If you are new to Christian hip-hop, you should definitely check out this album along with shai's other albums: *The Atonement*, *The Attributes of God*, *Lyrical Theology Pt. 1 and 2*, and *Storeiz*. You can find shai linne on Spotify and the iTunes store.



## Unicorns, Gnomes, and Christians Without a Community Don't Exist

**P**eople at college will be against your faith in God and your faith will be tested. Seek out a Christian community on campus that is true to the Bible because there is no stand-alone Christian. As followers of Jesus Christ, we need other believers to help us. In Matthew 18:20, Jesus tells His followers "...where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Likewise, in Proverbs 27:17, we learn that, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Early on in my college years, I was only living for myself. I didn't really seek out any spiritual growth at that time. I also thought I could muster up my own strength to live out the Christian life, but that wasn't the case. I struggled along the way, and my relationship with God struggled. I figured out the hard way that you cannot isolate yourself and continue to grow spiritually. Once I started getting involved with a ministry on campus, I saw changes in my life. They encouraged me to deepen my relationship with God everyday by reading His word and expressing my thoughts to God through prayer. I cannot stress this enough: Christian communities on college campuses are important for your spiritual growth. You will be challenged along the way, but it is so worth it. Being involved and invested in a community opens the opportunities for finding mentors who can help you in areas where you struggle. These are people who love you and care enough to remind you the truths about who God is and what He has done for us.

Once you're involved with a community on campus, take steps out of your comfort zone, which can be tough (it was for me). Your campus community should have different ways that you can serve God and love others on your campus, and I encourage you to take

steps (no matter how small) toward growing your faith and putting it into action. If you don't know what to do, consider asking older Christians in your community to get helpful insight because they may see something in you that you don't see in yourself!

A college ministry is a good place to start, but it isn't a church. A college ministry is a bridge for discovering more about Jesus and getting invested into the lives of other Christian college students, but it is temporary and ends after a few years. God is calling us to a body of believers, and a college community is not up to the standards of this; there is no pastor, elders, families, or worship. Find a church while you are in college that teaches the Bible and is alive and full of Jesus with people who are loving and serving their community. He has a specific place for you in His plan! God wants us to be a part of a college campus ministry and church to outreach into the campus and begin forming relationships with other students and drawing them into the family of God.

Charles Spurgeon once said, "Some Christians try to go to heaven alone, in solitude. But believers are not compared to bears or lions or other animals that wander alone. Those who belong to Christ are sheep in this respect, that they love to get together. Sheep go in flocks, and so do God's people."<sup>1</sup> We are relational beings. This means that we learn best when we learn from and love one another. What Spurgeon said still holds true today. We aren't supposed to go through the Christian walk alone. We need the accountability, love, and effort of being invested in other's lives to draw us closer to Jesus every day.

<sup>1</sup>Spurgeon at His Best: Over 2200 Striking Quotations from the World's Most Exhaustive and Widely-read Sermon Series. Written by Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Compiled by Tom Carter



# FROM CAPTIVE TO CAPTIVATED

HOW JESUS BRINGS TRUE FREEDOM

In March of 1998, ten-year-old Natascha was taken by a man to live in a cellar under his garage.<sup>1</sup> She was locked away, forced to work for him, beaten, raped, and threatened with death. She and her captor also enjoyed many breakfast meals together. He bought her gifts and allowed her some freedoms as long as she stayed with him. Finally, after eight years of torture, Natascha escaped. Realizing he would be found out and taken to prison, her captor killed himself. When asked her thoughts on this, she replied, "I mourn for him." It was a classic example of Stockholm Syndrome, which is when the victim paradoxically supports, loves, and even defends their abuser.

I've never been locked in a cellar, nor do I pretend to understand what those who have gone through traumatic events like this are dealing with. However, I have been held captive before. It was a captivity of the mind, body, and soul. My mind was

chained up to depression, a sense of worthlessness, and an overwhelming desire to be perfect in everything I did. My body was controlled by what I craved - attention, affection, and acceptance, which ultimately led to being manipulated by others in abusive ways. And more than all that, my soul was depraved. Some days I knew I was trapped and that something was terribly wrong, but no matter how hard I tried I could never fix it on my own. Other days, I decided things were not so bad, but these fleeting moments of pleasure were mixed into overall unrest. Even when I felt all right, I was still chained up with the keys just out of reach. The only way my captors would let me go was if I died. That was their ransom price.

As a former captive, let me introduce you to the captor, and how it's possible to be held captive, in the hopes of helping you gain your freedom.

## PROFILE OF THE CAPTOR

Just by watching the evening news, you can glimpse some of what the captor is up to, but he

also works in ways that are subtler than school shootings and car bombers. He can turn a human heart so proud that the person will never look to God for help out of their captivity. He opens wide the door to absolute and devastating slavery, all the while making his captive believe they are free. This enemy, the captor, is the devil (Satan). He prowls the world like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour, and the entire world is under the weight of his scheme. His goal is simple: death and destruction of the human race. His sway over the world first began when he deceived Adam and Eve into believing they could be like God by knowing both good and evil, if they would just ignore God in a "small" area. They completely fell for it, and because they listened to his lie, sin entered the world, which brought with it all sorts of pain, death, and disorder. The once perfect relationship Adam and Eve had enjoyed with God and each other was ripped apart, like a child kidnapped from their loving parents. You would think that what the devil was up to then would have been obvious, but the truth is that he is continuing his same exact method today, partly

because we simply don't believe he exists, and partly because he doesn't need to be creative when we keep falling for his same old tricks.

## PROFILE OF THE CAPTIVE

**MENTALLY CAPTIVE** - a slave to emotions, thoughts, and fears (Jeremiah 17:9, Ephesians 4:14, Romans 8:6)

Your own mind is a deep, dark place that holds you captive to the thoughts that come from within. It deceives you into believing all sorts of things, which determine how you live your life. When you're controlled by thoughts and emotions, life is like a rollercoaster full of sudden twists and abrupt decisions. Sometimes it's exciting and you're even applauded for living large, but in reality you are plummeting on a downward spiral. Or, perhaps you're not making much progress in life at all. You are anxious and fearful as you turn over multiple scenarios in your head. What if you fail? What if you look like a fool? What will they think of you? This mentally captive state quickly defaults to paralysis, which leaves you floating along in life until you reach the end having done nothing of lasting significance.

**PHYSICALLY CAPTIVE** - a slave to addictions and lusts (Romans 1:25)

You'll most likely never be kidnapped and chained to a basement floor, but if you're a part of the 33% of students who have binged on alcohol in the last two weeks, chances are you'll be chained to the consequences of that for a very long time. We all know on the outset that a lifetime of addiction to alcohol or something similar probably isn't the best route to take in life, but this isn't just to pick on those who struggle with alcohol. You might be the soberest person you know, but how about that phone you've checked ten times since you picked up

**"THE SOUL THAT IS CAPTIVE TO SIN IS OFTEN STRIVING FOR FREEDOM BY PURSUING EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE VERY ONE WHO COULD CLEANSE YOU..."**

this magazine? Do I dare mention caffeine? How about your appetite? You see, anything you desire because it gives you a temporary high, makes you ignore the reality that it will cost you everything in the end. Sounds like chains to me. It's so dangerous because for a short time, it is very pleasant. It does give you some momentary satisfaction. But then, like a great movie that's finished and you have to leave the theater and go back to real life, the feeling of emptiness comes back. But, since it worked for a while, you try it again and again. You're trapped in a vicious cycle of pleasure and disappointment. Watch this short video for a vivid illustration: [bit.ly/2tuxv2g](http://bit.ly/2tuxv2g).

**SPIRITUALLY CAPTIVE** - a slave to the god of this world, unable to free yourself (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

This one is about your very soul. Maybe it's tempting to skip this one or scoff at it because it seems old fashioned to consider your soul, or at least immaterial to this discussion, but listen up. Though a human captor can torture you mentally and physically, they have no control over your soul because it's not a material thing like your body is. Though your soul possesses no weight, it carries the most weight in this conversation because it's not something you can clean up yourself, unlike cleaning up after a house party. You're not able to clean it up because it is tainted by sin. Because of the sin you've willfully entered, the Bible says you "love the darkness" (John 3:19). You are held captive to it because you love your captivity. Without God opening your eyes to this reality, your soul remains chained to sin. Ironically, the soul that is captive to sin is often striving for freedom by pursuing everything except the very One who could cleanse you and open your eyes to true life. But you can never free yourself from this captivity because only a rescuer outside of yourself can do it. There's no amount of words or logic in the world that can convince you of that truth except the Holy Spirit Himself, so I pray that He will open your eyes like He did for me.

Remember when I said the ransom for my life was death? When God revealed that I had been held captive for 19 years, He also showed me the deep effects of living with my captor. My life was entrenched with sin, which meant I was doomed to

# "THERE IS NO NEED TO FEAR ANYMORE BECAUSE YOU UNDERSTAND THE ONLY OPINION THAT MATTERS IS GOD'S."

die because God requires the punishment of death for one sin. God the Father cannot be in the presence of sin because He demands perfection and holiness. I deserved to die in my chains unless someone else paid my ransom for me, but who would be willing? For a while it seemed hopeless, but suddenly like a stroke of a match, light. Hope. There was One who was willing to die for my ransom. In fact, He already had.

**"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to... proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed." - Jesus (Luke 4:18)**

## PROFILE OF THE PERFECT MASTER (Jesus)

So who is this Jesus who would come to set people free? Jesus came into the world and lived a perfect life in a human body. Since He was absolutely perfect and never ever even once sinned, He didn't have to pay the price for sin (death). However, He didn't come to earth just to prove His own awesomeness - He came to pay the price for everyone else. Jesus came to die the death we deserve so that we could go free and get the eternal life He bought for us. He was resurrected from death and came back to earth after He died so we could believe in Him and what He did for us. Then He went back to be with God the Father in heaven and sent everyone who believed in Him His Holy Spirit. This is the same way He changes people today from being captive to sin and the things in this world to being captivated by the wonderfulness of God. This enables people to live differently - to live to glorify God because He is totally worthy.

## PROFILE OF THE CAPTIVATED

**MENTALLY FREE** - to escape your own desperate mind and know the truth (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Imagine walking through a room you don't know in the dark. You stumble through the best you can, but you're stubbing your toes, falling over, and making a mess of

things. Now, walk through that same room in broad daylight. Since you can clearly see the layout of the room and all of its obstacles, you can now navigate the space smoothly and confidently. This is what it's like living with the mental freedom that Jesus provides. You will still have awful thoughts float through your mind, but now you have the power through God's Holy Spirit to step around them and not listen to or act on them. Instead of skulking around in your own dark, deceptive mind, God reveals the truth to you through the Bible so you can base your life on that and not your own fleeting emotions. Your life will be marked by love, joy, and peace, and not the pervasive anxiety that tagged along with captivity. There is no need to fear anymore because you understand the only opinion that matters is God's, and He already proved He loves you because He died to rescue you. Now, you are free to joyfully and confidently enjoy more of who God is, and how He designed you to live. He also commands and enables you to get out of your own selfish mind and love others. That alone is incredibly freeing.

**PHYSICALLY FREE** - to break the cycle of addictions (Romans 6:12-14)

Did you know that even in the most horrendous of circumstances you can be content, without needing anything physical to comfort you or numb your pain? When you are free, you will be able to see past the temporary pleasure physical things attempt to fulfill, and can instead be so captivated and satisfied in God that everything else seems lackluster. This is not to say you cannot enjoy nice things like coffee, sex, and even the occasional beer (once it's legal for you). God actually does want you to enjoy these things because He created them all and said it was all very good. But since He created them, He has a specific way that He wants you to enjoy them. A way that does not bring pain or addiction, but a way that actually brings you joy and Him glory.

**SPIRITUALLY FREE** - to know and worship the only God who is worthy (Romans 8:14-17)

<sup>1</sup>Harding, Nick "Kidnap victim Natascha Kampusch: 'When it's quiet and I'm by myself - then the flashbacks come' telegraph.co.uk/women/life/kidnap-victim-natascha-kampusch-quiet-flashbacks-come/

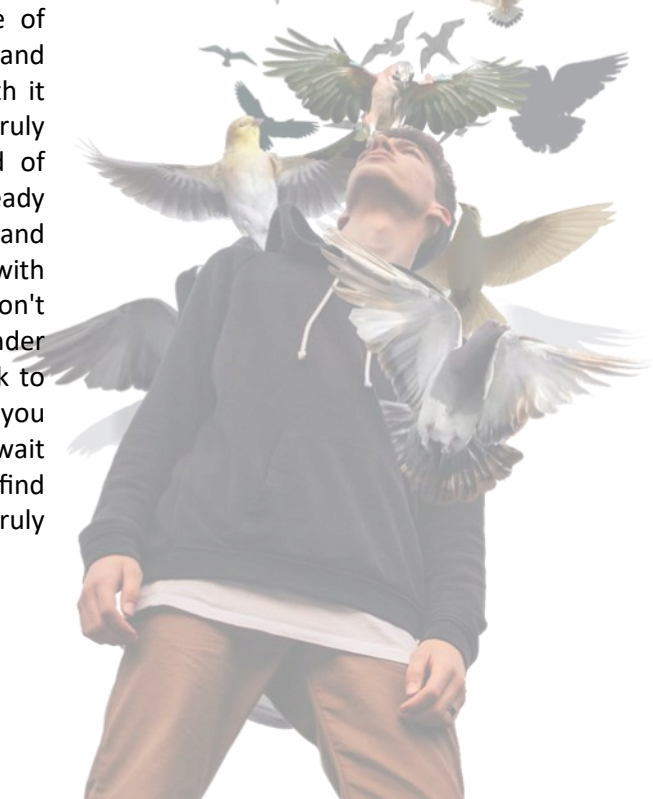
This is above all the most outstanding way in which you can be free. Before Jesus came to pay the price of your ransom (death), you were bound under the law (think all the rules of the Old Testament) and unless you could do them all perfectly, God would punish you eternally. But because of what Jesus accomplished through His death and resurrection, you now have an open door to God. You actually get to be in a relationship with Him. And this relationship is not just a flighty “on again off again” deal. No, this is forever - adopted as sons and daughters. That means a lot of freedom. You can mess up and make mistakes (and you will), but no matter what, God will look after you with love and grace. And that’s where you find total freedom, not only in this life, but life eternal. This means you’ll get to live truly free to be captivated by God, the perfect master, forever.

So, are you being held captive? Or are you free?

Remember, the captor is crafty - it might feel like freedom even when you are living in complete captivity. If at the end of your life you end up paying the price of your ransom yourself (death and the punishment that goes with it for eternity) you were not truly free. However, if at the end of your life Jesus declares He already paid the ransom for you and welcomes you into eternity with Him, you are indeed free. So don't let another minute go by under the sway of your captor - look to the only One who can make you free. Do not be deceived and wait until the end of your life to find out the truth! You can be truly free in Him, today.

*“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free... so if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”*

**- Jesus (John 8:32,36)**



## Sick of Only Kind of Knowing Some Scripture?



Ever seen someone recall Bible verses for just the right situation in a matter of seconds? How do they do that? If you’re wanting to build your skill in this, John Piper and his team at Desiring God out of Minneapolis, MN, have made a mobile app called “Fighter Verses” that can help with Bible verse memorization.

“Fighter Verses” has multiple quizzes to help aid in Bible verse memorization, artwork that can be saved for home screens, and the ability to set personal memorization goals.

Having specific verses memorized can aid us in multiple circumstances. Try using “Fighter Verses” to bring the truths about God with you wherever you go. Compatible with both Apple and Android systems, the app can be purchased at \$2.99.



# DATING BY DESIGN

## 4 STEPS TO DATE GOD'S WAY

**D**ating and relationships. Just seeing the words could cause your mind to be flooded with all kinds of thoughts about cheesy couples, longing for that perfect relationship, fear of never getting it, regret and pain over past experiences, etc. Relationships play a huge part in our lives. Our thoughts, words, and actions are inundated with dating/romantic relationships, both our own and others. We care about and desire a relationship, even though it can sometimes be a terrifying thing. Dating can seem daunting; after all, many of the relationships that we see around us seem to fall apart, cause pain, or are fake. Few things on this Earth have the potential to be more devastating than relationships. So, is there any hope? God has such a specific design for relationships and the pursuit of them, that if you follow His plan, it has the potential of bringing more joy than you'd ever think possible.

relationship is with Jesus Christ. Any other relationship will disappoint. Do not believe the lie that you must date. I had no business to begin dating when I did. I was selfish, financially irresponsible, prideful, lustful, and harsh. I had nothing to offer and everything to take. There was no way that anyone should have dated me, let alone have God lead one of His children to enter into a relationship with me. I foolishly dated and it did not go well; it only led to pain and disappointment. God will never lead you into a deep and intimate relationship with someone before you have a deep and intimate relationship with Him. If you are not dynamically following God, don't lie to yourself that God is leading you to date. You should be becoming someone of upright character, devotion, and sacrificial love before you even begin to think you are prepared to date.

### **1** *Don't date before you are ready.*

Many people believe that they "have" to date. It is as if life cannot be survived if they do not have another person intimately involved. We find ourselves believing a lie that romance is a necessary ingredient to the good life, and any life that is lacking that romance is lacking purpose, is lonely, and incomplete. We think that the fullness of life, ultimate pleasure and joy, are found in a relationship with a boyfriend or girlfriend, or a husband or wife. Now, it is true that ultimate pleasure and fullness of life is found in a relationship, but that

**"GOD HAS SUCH A SPECIFIC DESIGN FOR RELATIONSHIPS AND THE PURSUIT OF THEM, THAT IF YOU FOLLOW HIS PLAN, IT HAS THE POTENTIAL OF BRINGING MORE JOY THAN YOU'D EVER THINK POSSIBLE."**



# "CHRISTIAN DATING SHOULD INVOLVE COMMITMENT AND CLARITY WHICH IS SEVERELY LACKING IN THE REST OF THE WORLD."

## 2 *Date the person God wants you to.*

Once you have it settled that God does indeed desire for you to date, how do you figure out who it is that you are supposed to pursue? God has a lot to say about what to look for in a possible partner. One of the most basic criteria, though often overlooked, is to date a Christian (2 Cor. 6:14). If you are a believer, you should only date a fellow believer, no exceptions, and no hoping that they may eventually be saved. Men are warned throughout the book of Proverbs to avoid women who are disgraceful and contentious (Proverbs 12:4) and told that a noble woman is worth more than rubies (Proverbs 31:10). Both men and women should be looking for someone of godly character who fears God and is obedient to His word even when it goes against their desires. It is not as simple as just going and finding the first Christian of the opposite sex that appeals to you. God has predetermined acts for you to walk in and you need to find the person He has for you. Don't settle for anything less. Many people scoff at the idea of finding their own true love, but our God is in control of every aspect of our life and He has a perfect plan for it. It may seem daunting now that God has a person chosen for you, just one single person out of billions on this earth, but you don't have to panic. The same God who has a perfect plan for your life is sovereign over all of His creation. You simply need to follow and obey Him, and He will make your path clear to you. If you try to forge your own way, dating whoever you desire, it will only lead to eventual pain and disappointment.

## 3 *Date the way God intends you to.*

The Bible has very little to say directly about the actual process of dating. Search the Bible from start to finish and you will not find the word "dating" anywhere. However, this does not mean that there is not guidance on how it should actually be done. The Bible has much to say about our personal holiness and our interactions with other people all of which can and should be pulled into the context of dating. The relationship between two Christians should look drastically different than the average relationship. The most obvious difference is seen in physical boundaries; God demands purity. There should be real love, love that is serving the other person,

not using for selfish pleasure. Love that is sacrificing for the other, seeking their needs above their own. Christian dating should involve commitment and clarity which is severely lacking in the rest of the world. In a generation raised on "it's complicated" and "open" options for relationship statuses, actually knowing where you stand and intend to go is necessary for a healthy and godly relationship.

## 4 *Date to the glory of God.*

The first rule in dating is the first rule in all of life: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Deut. 6:5). You will not truly love anyone else if you do not love God first and most. And no one will truly love you if they do not love God more than they love you. When you date, your relationships should image the relationship of God with His people. A godly relationship will be noticed by others, will strengthen those involved in it, and will have an impact on the furthering of God's Kingdom. Some relationships are completely one-sided. They are selfishly motivated. These relationships do not show the beauty of the relationship God has with His people. There is a way to date that leads to your own enjoyment and satisfaction, but it leaves the other person feeling used, neglected, and hurt. God's love is serving and sacrificial; He is committed to His people. He doesn't take His relationships lightly. If we want to glorify God through our dating, we will love each other sacrificially. We will be loyal and committed.

Unfortunately, you can't just follow some simple list of steps and automatically have a better-than-fairytale love story. There's no app, no shortcut, and no magic tricks to help you along in this process. But, if you learn what God intends for relationships, and earnestly seek His will in this area of your life, I guarantee you will discover a joy that you'd never thought possible before, no matter what your relationship status currently says.

# 6 Locations 75 Issues 1 Mission



## Word on the Street Magazine

Former editor Faye holding Issue 1 with Becky and Susan holding Issue 74.

**R**ight now, in your hands, or on your screen, is issue 75 of *Word on the Street Magazine*. We can say it's been a whirlwind of a ride as we reflect on the last 19 years it's been in circulation. Since fall/winter of 1999, *Word on the Street* (WOTS) has been cranking out articles about God, campus happenings, and local events. Responses to a magazine about Jesus are expectedly unpredictable, so 75 issues in print is reason to celebrate.

### WHERE WE'VE BEEN

To get the insider's scoop on the history of WOTS, we teamed up with Faye, editor of *Word on the Street* from 2000-2009, along with Becky and Susan who wrote for the magazine at that time.

**WOTS: Where did the vision for WOTS come from originally?**

Becky (B): Underground zines were gaining popularity and we thought it would be cool to do a Jesus zine for campus.

**WOTS: How often was the magazine published when it first came out?**

Faye (F): It was four times a year. There might have been a stretch between the first and the second one.

Susan (S): It was that copy machine that gave us such a hard time! Becky, do you remember when we were writing about tolerance?

B: I do! "Tolerance" was all of a sudden being used in a different way. In the early years [of the magazine], the world "tolerant" started to change in our society. We debated about how to use the word correctly in writing and in sentence structure.

**WOTS: Did the original writers meet regularly together? What was the writing process like?**

F: We held meetings to plan what articles we were going to write, but we didn't get together and write articles together like you guys do now [Writers of *Word on the Street* meet together weekly on Thursday nights to brainstorm, write, and print the magazine].



August 2009:  
ReadWots.com is launched

January 2013: WOTS  
Philippines begins

February 2015:  
Distribution of WOTS  
Menomonie begins in  
River Falls, WI

1999

...

2009

2013

Fall/Winter  
1999: WOTS  
Menomonie  
begins

September 2009:  
WOTS Superior begins

April 2012: WOTS Menomonie  
hosts 50th issue release concert  
featuring Mitch McVicker at the  
Blind Munchies Coffeehouse.  
Celebrating 13 years of WOTS on  
Friday the 13th!

May 2014: Writers from WOTS  
Menomonie and Superior go to  
Cebu for Shofar Music Festival,  
meet the Philippines writers, and  
distribute magazines. Read about it  
in Menomonie Issue 59!

June 2016: WOTS Menomonie  
editor leads a writing workshop  
for students at Baptist  
Theological College in Cebu

**WOTS: What made writing for WOTS significant for you?**

B: I liked writing about the things of God and sharing perspectives about God that [readers] may not already know. We did a lot of "Say What?" articles like "Can Christians get tattoos?" and things like that. In the beginning, it was to share things about God's Word, then it morphed into relating to the campus. We also wanted to write to give people a schedule of events. I liked being a part of that.

S: I enjoyed having the group of it. We would have "The Big Pass-out" once a year and everybody would go and we would hit all the neighborhoods to pass out magazines. You never knew what you could run into, and we all came back with a lot of good stories.

F: I liked having the testimonies of people from Street Level. They really relate to students.

**WOTS: Do you have any stories you want to share?**

B: You had to sit and pray over the copy machine and it would still overheat and start smoking! It took two full days to print an issue because you had to fan over the machine!

F: We ended up going to Colonial Square Realty in town to finish printing the first issue.

B: We would have brainstorming meetings. God would bring ideas to your mind on who to talk to for article ideas to put in the magazine.

F: Some people from jails all the way in Illinois sent in the request for the free bibles. It was cool to see the magazine had reached that far.

**WOTS: When you think of *Word on the Street* now and where it's going, what comes to your mind?**

S: It's so student-focused. I think it's neat that you all serve together and have students be a part of the magazine. WOTS is offering something different than what they might have at home.

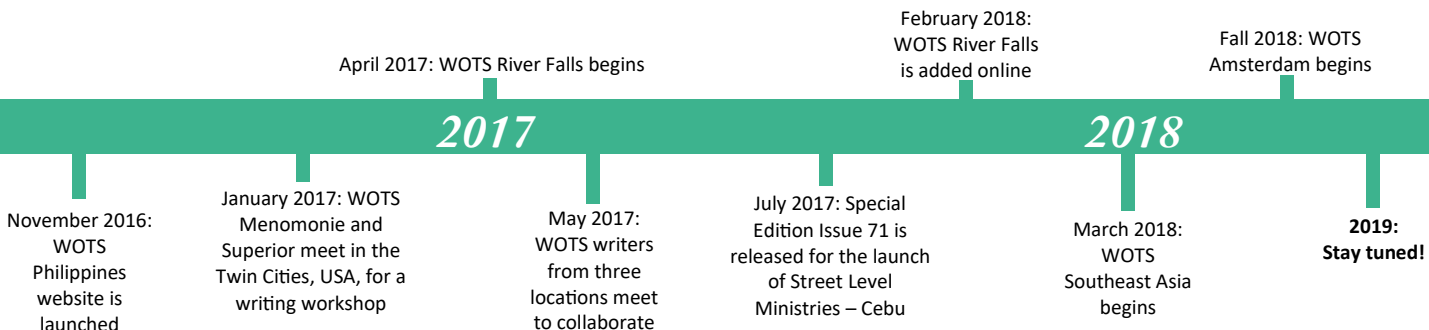
B: And Nick the Hick is ingenious! And I like all the new cartoons! I like that it's still connecting with students and still talking about God. It's filling a gap for the gospel at the university.

**WHERE WE'RE GOING**

Since its beginning, WOTS has extended its reach from its first location in Menomonie - WI to five other locations, both local and global: Superior - WI, Cebu Island - Philippines, River Falls - WI, Southeast Asia, and Amsterdam. Each location shares content but also has articles specific to their area. In a print-dying world, God is allowing the magazine to push the gospel further along into new places.

We've seen God use this magazine in powerful ways, in both the highs and the lows. WOTS has had its share of controversies, but God has used them to grow us as writers and push us to keep writing content that is challenging but true. Issue 1 described *Word on the Street* as, "a publication dedicated to questioning the norm, examining the controversial, and shedding light on true Christianity." In 2018, that's still our goal, and God-willing, we don't plan on stopping anytime soon. Lives have been changed when God has used WOTS to bring new students to Street Level Ministries' weekly bible study.

Since 1999, we've been committed to bringing you, the reader, a fresh perspective on the Christian faith. 19 years later, we're still hoping your heart and your mind are challenged by what you read in these pages. We hope the words push you to see for yourself the ways God is very much alive and active in our world in 2018. We hope you laugh while you're reading, we hope you share the magazine with others, but most importantly, we hope you close each magazine more intrigued by and inspired to know and love God, all because He loved us first.



# From the

# Word on the street magazine

## archives!

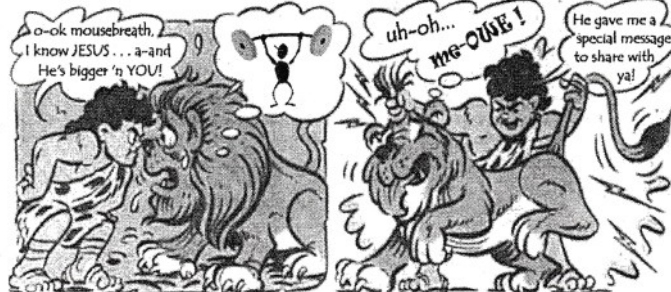
### Corner Beatnik's

Feels Fake?

"I love God,"  
I always say.  
But in my heart  
It's never stayed.  
Sundays - church.  
All nights - out.  
That's plain 'how it is'  
When you're at Stout.  
Religious Organizations  
I know well.  
All of their gods  
They try to sell.  
When I'm in church  
It seems so fake.  
The lame forced smiles  
I just can't take.  
Is there more to life  
Than all of this?  
So many questions.  
So many myths.  
What should I do?  
Why am I here?  
Future keeps coming.  
I'm gaining fear.  
I grab the Bible  
And start to read.  
My crying heart  
Begins to plead.  
"Speak to me God,  
If you're really there.  
It says that you love me.  
It says that you care."  
He tuned my ears,  
And opened my heart.  
I heard His voice...  
"A whole new start!  
Your sins - forgiven,  
Your slate - clean.  
Your heart I've heard,  
And your need I've seen.  
From this day forward,  
Through eternity,  
Adventures await you,  
Your purpose you'll see!"

Visit the  
uw-stout  
page at  
readwots.com  
to find  
all the  
juicy  
archives.  
We're  
slowly  
adding  
all 1-75  
issues  
...coming  
soon!

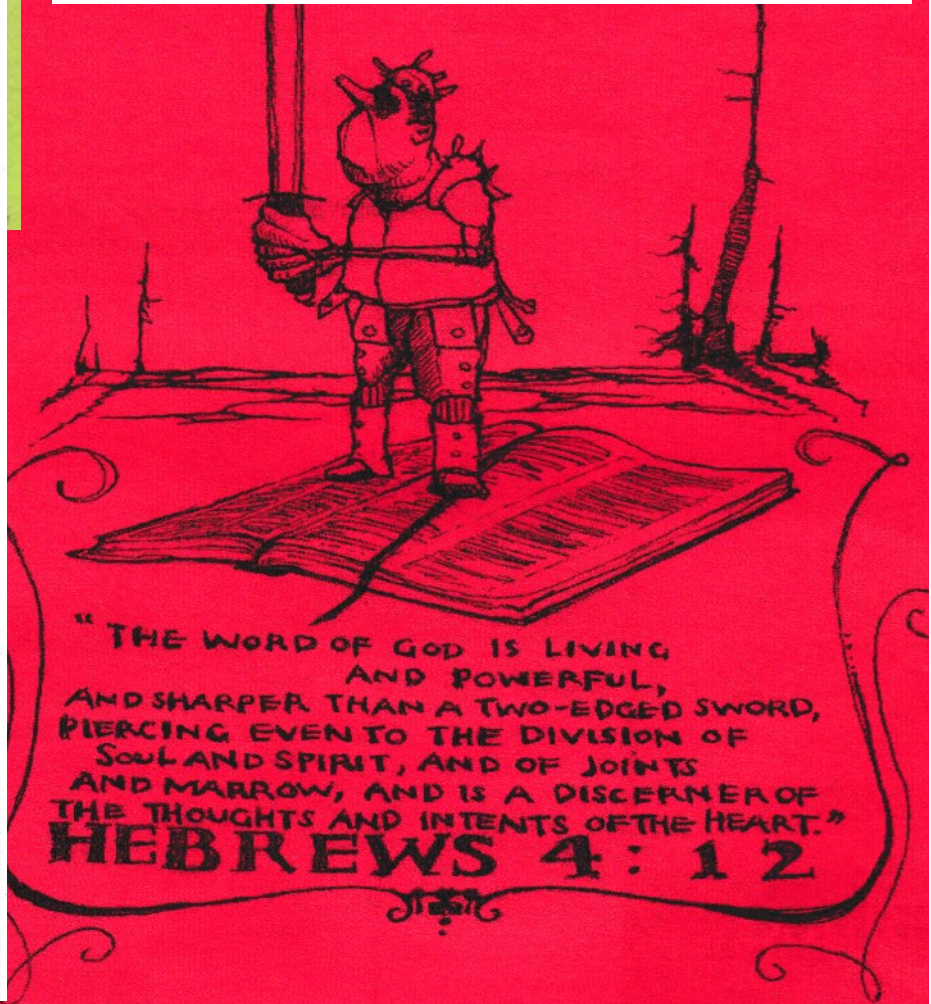
Hey There!  
Do YOU ever feel  
like yer bein' tossed  
"to an fro" by one o'  
satan's little Kitties?



Stand fast my friend. Christ has made you FREE! Don't be entangled by the bondage of sin.



Thats Right,  
Jesus has the power  
to overcome those  
pesky felines in your  
life... and He can live  
inside of YOU!



## THE FOUR MENOMONIE FAMILIES THAT RULED THE ROOST

# a short & stout history



**T**he history of Menomonie and UW-Stout is rich with details, artifacts, and adventurous stories about the past. We thought that the story of Menomonie's success and how the university came to be was very interesting. So, we wanted to share with the students and community of how our great school came to be.

In 1846, Menomonie had a logging company called Knapp, Stout & Co. It was owned by four families: Knapp, Stout, Wilson, and Tainter. By 1870, the four families owned the logging industry in the Red Cedar Valley. The company employed over 2,000 workers in the Menomonie area. Producing 85 million board-feet of lumber on average yearly from 1871 to 1896, its output made it the largest lumber company in the world.<sup>1</sup> Knapp, Stout & Co. created a way of keeping money within their business; it was by making their own money for workers. The money could only be spent at their company stores or for their housing properties.

The great town of Menomonie houses the Wilson's Place mansion at 101 Wilson Court, Menomonie. Captain Wilson was the first resident of the mansion. The mansion had been designed three times. The original house was three stories, and the width was big

enough for a ballroom to fit in the top floor. The first two times were mainly redecorating for the time period. The last was to downsize the house to a third of the size. The families that lived in this house were the Wilson's, then the Stout's, then the Wilson-LaPointes'. The four families were really worried about keeping the money and business within the family's name. So, in the early days, they would make arranged marriages. To learn more about this building, the Wilson's Place Mansion provides tours to the public.

James Huff Stout started a manual training school that then grew to become the University of Wisconsin – Stout. The school has always been a polytechnic school. Since the beginning, the teaching has been very hands on, with technical information. Stout became so invested with wanting to give his students resources that he would travel the world to buy art so he could create a gallery of worldly art just for his students. The university has the art statements on file, but the gallery has since gone missing. Dun duuu daaaaaaaa.

The University of Wisconsin – Stout is a small school. However, it has a rich history that is just waiting to be uncovered. You can go to the university archives to learn more. It is located on the fourth floor of the university library.

<sup>1</sup>[web.archive.org/web/20110814105516/http://www.discover-net.net/~dchs/history/exksc.html](http://web.archive.org/web/20110814105516/http://www.discover-net.net/~dchs/history/exksc.html)



# DEAD BUTTERFLIES

CHASING THE NEXT QUICK FIX

“I know I’ve been here before.” “How exactly did this happen?” As he lifted himself off the ground and leaned against what felt like sharp rock, his only thoughts were on the darkness.

“Hello?” he called out, only to hear his voice reverberate against the cave walls.

“Hello?” Again, no response. In a daze he began slowly moving forward, using the crumbling rock wall as his guide. Straining to recall what he was doing, he began spouting out words. “Trees...green grass...I remember falling. Brilliant, blue sky and a pond, the warmth of the spring bubbling up near the cliff’s edge. The cliff!” A mix of panic and excitement rushed through his head as he remembered how good it felt when plummeting into the water below. “Oh the rush... That high excitement, that brief, joyful feeling you get... I guess I must’ve slipped into this place near the pond.”

“Grotto,” a startling voice rang out. Frozen in fear he shrunk down, back against the rocks, trying to make himself as small as he could.

“Grotto?” he whispered under his breath.

“Don’t be afraid!” the confident voice boomed deeply. “I overheard you. You’re in a rock cave and there’s really only one way out of here.”

“How did you get down here?” he choked out, fear beginning to surge through him. “Don’t worry about that

right now. What you need to know is how you got yourself down here.” The voice was assertive and bold, yet calm and somehow comforting.

Heart pounding in his chest, he rose up and began going over how he woke up in this cave. “Well...” Fear still gripped him as he nervously began speaking, unsure of who, or what he was actually talking to. “I guess I was jumping into the lake below... and I must’ve slipped near some rocks.”

“Why jump in the first place?”

“Well, I guess... it’s fun. What’s wrong with that?” he answered.

“Nothing wrong with fun, or even jumping off into water, but think about what really drove you. That rush? That thrill for the next exciting thing? You’re chasing your emotions, those feelings, and those don’t last.”

“So I’m here because of feelings?” Confusion, panic, and disbelief quivered in his voice.

“It’s like chasing butterflies,” the voice began to whisper now. “They’re never satisfying, these feelings. Even if you’ve captured one, they, in time, die, and you’re left wanting more. Only ever happy when you think you’ve got it...just in time to watch it slip through your fingers altogether, leaving you more empty than when you began. Eventually the feelings change, the butterflies in your stomach die, and you’re left alone in the dark. Searching for that next quick

fix, looking for something to chase with no regard for anything, or anyone else. Much like here and now. Chasing that feeling lead you to this casket of rocks.”

“So, just stop chasing what feels good in the moment?” he said with pompous disbelief.

## SILENCE.

“Hello?” He was uncomfortably alone in the void and he knew it. A sense of urgency marked his tone as he could hear the echoing words of the shadow’s voice trailing off into dead noiselessness. The blackness of the cave began to swallow him up and his head was drowning in a toxic pool of anxious thoughts and fears. He squeezed his eyes shut and screamed.

Suddenly, he opened his eyes and saw swirling white puffs strewn lazily across a canvas of blue. His heart still pounding in his chest, he sat up, took a deep breath, and saw a group of butterflies flutter past his nose. Their colors caught his eyes and his head followed their path. They flew further along and farther away, closer and closer to the edge of the cliff where they traveled until they could no longer be seen in the vast distance. 🦋




WOTS IS  
PUTTING  
OUT A  
CALL FOR...

# CREATIVE SUBMISSIONS

- PHOTOS •
- POEMS •
- ESSAYS •

YOU KNOW.  
THE ARTS.



EMAIL [wotsmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:wotsmagazine@gmail.com) WITH WHAT YOU GOT

STREET LEVEL

# INTERNATIONAL

COMMUNITY

NEW TO THE  
COUNTRY?

FIND  
INTERNATIONAL EVENTS  
ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

STREET LEVEL  
 INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITY



## NICK THE HICK

Another redneck rant from your favorite guy



## BRING BACK THE IDIOMS

Now I may not always run in the most sophisticated of circles, sometimes it's a square or a cube with no gravity, but I certainly talk to a lot of people. In my travels I have noticed that we have lost our ability to enhance our speech with helpful idioms and filler words. Not to add insult to injury but we are a fast minded people. Always thinking about many things at once. Sometimes it pays to take a break and be cool as a cucumber. Let's get back to the drawing board, actions speak louder than words. Let's kill two birds with one stone, okay to make a long story short, there is a method to my madness. I'm just saying life can be more interesting and colorful. In the heat of the moment we say whatever comes to our head without formulating a picture for the hearer to follow. If it has to be different you're barking up the wrong tree because this is the best thing since sliced bread. Remember you can't judge a book by its cover and it shouldn't cost you an arm and a leg. But don't steal someone's thunder, give them credit where credit is due. Jump on the bandwagon it takes two to tango. Take it from me, helpful idioms can be the best ice breakers. Elvis has left the building.

LIFE IS MEANT  
FOR GOOD  
FRIENDS  
— a n d —  
G R E A T  
A D V E N T U R E



**STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES**

JOIN THE ADVENTURE



COFFEEHOUSE



DESIGN



RADIO



MAGAZINE

**UW-STOUT // MONDAYS**

Dinner 6:00pm // Bible Study 7:00pm  
STREET LEVEL HOUSE // 1009 6TH ST E MENOMONIE  
streetlevelministries.com // streetlevel@uwstout.edu  
715.235.4977

**UW-RIVER FALLS // TUESDAYS**

Dinner 6:30pm // Bible Study 7:00pm  
115 W CASCADE AVE RIVER FALLS  
streetlevelministries.com/riverfalls // riverfalls@jfbelievers.com  
612.405.9033