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TRUST THE BIBLE?



our
GREATEST
FEAR
should not be of
FAILURE **BUT**
OF
SUCCEEDING
at something
that DOESN'T Really
MATTER
-D.L. Moody

THE SUCCESS STORY

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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.

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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 release the magazine in Cebu City, Philippines and distribute on various universities in the city. We're currently expanding to other international locations and have released these issues of a version of the magazine in Southeast Asia this year. Last, but not least, we've just released in Amsterdam!

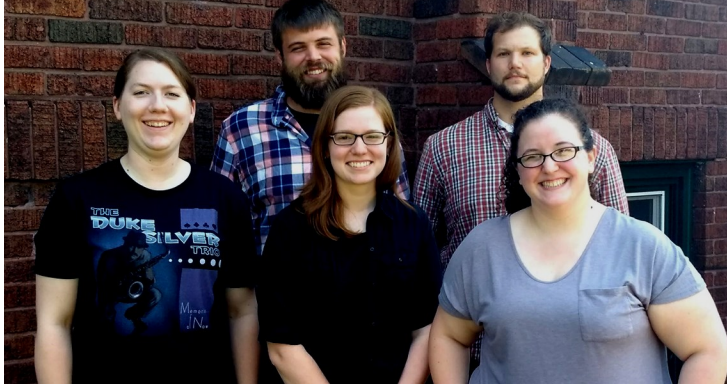
MEET THE WOTS STAFF

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

MENOMONIE, WI



SUPERIOR, WI



CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES



RIVER FALLS, WI • SOUTHEAST ASIA • AMSTERDAM



THE SUCCESS STORY

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**LOCAL
EVENTS
CALENDAR**

NOVEMBER

- FRI 11/16** MEN'S BASKETBALL VS MCMURRY UNIVERSITY, 7PM
- EVERY SATURDAY MORNING** STUDENT BREAKFAST AT THE BLIND MUNCHIES COFFEEHOUSE, \$2 WITH STUDENT ID, 9AM-NOON
- EVERY FRIDAY/SATURDAY NIGHT** COSMIC BOWLING AT BROADWAY BOWL, \$12 UNLIMITED BOWLING, CONTESTS/GIVEAWAYS, 7PM-1AM
- SAT 11/17** MEN'S BASKETBALL VS UW-EAU CLAIRE, 5PM
- HOW TO ADULT-** FINANCIAL KNOW-HOW, MENOMONIE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 3PM
- TUE 11/20** WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS HAMLIN UNIVERSITY, 7PM

DECEMBER

- MON 12/3** WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE, 7PM
- TUE 12/4** MEN'S BASKETBALL VS SILVER LAKE COLLEGE, 7PM
- FRI 12/7** MEN'S ICE HOCKEY VS UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS, 7PM
- WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS CROWN COLLEGE, 7PM
- SAT 12/8** MEN'S ICE HOCKEY VS NORTHLAND COLLEGE, 7PM
- JOE NICHOLS PERFORMING AT THE STOUT ALE HOUSE, 6:30 PM
- TUE 12/11** WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS RIPON COLLEGE, 7PM
- FRI 12/21** MEN'S BASKETBALL VS NORTHLAND COLLEGE, 7PM
- SAT 12/29** MEN'S BASKETBALL VS CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY, 3PM

JANUARY

- WED 1/2** WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS UW-LA CROSSE, 7PM
- SAT 1/5** MEN'S BASKETBALL VS UW-OSHKOSH, 7PM
- WED 1/9** WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS UW-WHITEWATER, 7PM
- FRI 1/11** MEN'S ICE HOCKEY VS HAMLIN UNIVERSITY, 7PM
- SAT 1/12** MEN'S BASKETBALL VS UW-PLATTEVILLE, 3PM
- MEN'S ICE HOCKEY VS AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY, 7PM
- WED 1/16** WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS UW-RIVER FALLS, 7PM
- FRI 1/18** WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS VS UW-WHITEWATER, 6PM
- WED 1/23** MEN'S ICE HOCKEY VS UW-EAU CLAIRE, 7PM
- MEN'S BASKETBALL VS UW-STEVENS POINT, 7PM
- FRI 1/25** MEN'S ICE HOCKEY VS UW-SUPERIOR, 7PM
- SAT 1/26** WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS UW-PLATTEVILLE, 3PM
- WED 1/30** MEN'S BASKETBALL VS UW-RIVER FALLS, 7PM

~~SURVIVING~~

THRIVING

ON A STUDENT

BUDGET



WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

As a college student, you may be familiar with the waves of anxiety that can come whenever you check your bank account. Questions flood your mind: What can I eat besides cheap fast food or ramen? Will I have enough money to purchase new clothes? What is there to do that's both entertaining and cheap? It might take a little searching and adventuring, but know that it is possible to survive AND thrive on a student budget; you just have to know where to look.

THE FOOD FIASCO

If you have a hankering for a home-cooked meal, cook something with your friends. Go in on ingredients together, have fun making a mess in the kitchen, and enjoy something that isn't campus or fast food. Plus, you'll have leftovers for the next couple of days.

If you want to go out, grab a \$2 breakfast with your student ID on a Saturday at the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse. You can get a nice breakfast at a cheap price. Quick grab-and-go sandwiches are often available at the Blind Munchies starting at \$3, along with delicious, fresh bakery. If you need to shop for groceries, consider going to Aldi, which has a great selection at low prices.

EAGER FOR ENTERTAINMENT

Did you know that Menomonie has quite a bit to do around town that doesn't cost an arm and a leg? There are free events during the year at the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse and Raw Deal on Friday evenings, and there are often concerts during the semesters in the Fireside Cafe at Stout through Blue Devil Productions on Thursday evenings.

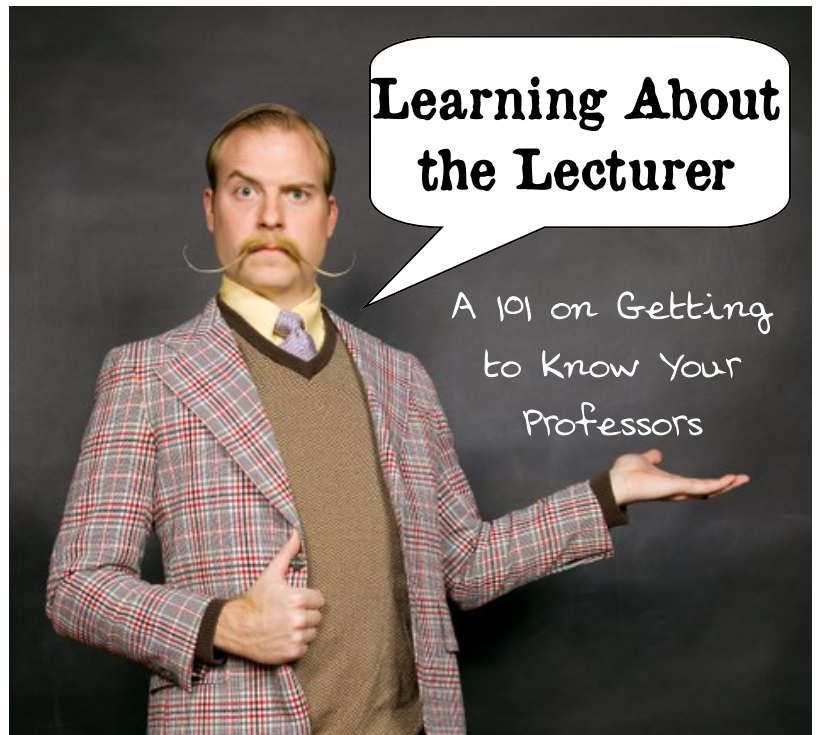
Want to go to a movie? If you go to the Menomonie 7 Theatre uptown (across from the road leading to Walmart) on a Tuesday, movies are only \$5. During the fall and spring semesters, the Applied Arts also feature various movies for free.

If you want to attend a sporting event, you can attend any of Stout's games for free with your student ID. If you're more into art, there are often student and faculty exhibitions at the Furlong Gallery and 209 Gallery in the Applied Arts building.

SAVING WHILE SHOPPING

If you're in need of new clothes, consider thrifting. In Menomonie, you can shop at Goodwill, Cherry Pickers, or the new Hope Gospel Bargain Center on North Broadway. If you find yourself in Eau Claire, you can go to Plato's Closet. Both Cherry Pickers and Plato's allow you to sell clothing that is not too outdated or overused, so if you have some current in-style clothing that you're not wearing anymore, consider selling it to make some money!

Living on a college budget doesn't have to be a fight for survival; it can be an opportunity to learn how to thrive on what you have in your wallet. Thankfully, we live in a town where there is plenty to do at a not-so-high price.



Getting to know people can be hard, especially if that person is someone who is grading your performance in a course. But professors are people too, and they want to be known just like anyone else. Plus, they can help out as a mentor, give you a recommendation, or even be a friend. Here are some practical ways to get to know your professor as more than a human who lectures you and gives you a final grade.

1 TAKE THE FIRST STEP

Class is over. Everyone is filing out of the lecture hall. You lift your backpack over your shoulder and begin to make your way to the door. But don't leave yet; instead, walk over to your professor and take the time to introduce yourself. I know, I know; it's an intimidating idea, but it's worth taking the initiative, as it will show your professor that you're interested and invested.

2 ESTABLISH YOUR REPUTATION

So, you've introduced yourself and made your impression. How can you keep this up? Consider sitting within their line of sight. After all, the saying goes "out of sight, out of mind," right? Aim to be attentive during their lectures and participate. When I was in college, I made an effort to do this in every class so that my

professors would know who I was. That way, it was less awkward to approach them with questions about classwork I had later on.

3 TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OFFICE HOURS

Here's a tip: keep your syllabus somewhere where you can access it easily. Don't just shove it in your pile of papers. Within the syllabus lies your professor's office hours. During these hours, you are free to go in and talk to your professor about your grade or assignments you're confused about. But that's not all you can go in for. You can go in to discuss your academic interests, challenges you may be facing, future career dreams and aspirations, and more. Trust me when I say that your professors care about these things in your life, and they want to help you to the best of their ability. After all, that's why they became teachers in the first place.

PROFESSOR PROFILES:



Geoffrey Wheeler
Program Director/
Professor
College: College of Arts,
Communication,
Humanities and Social
Sciences
Department: Art and
Art History
Program: B.F.A. Studio Art



Dr. Andrew Williams
Associate Professor,
Program Director
College: College of Arts,
Communication,
Humanities and Social
Sciences
Department: Art and
Art History
Program: B.F.A. Game
Design and Development

*Images and information taken off of UW-Stout Faculty Directory

WHAT THE PROFESSORS SAY: Q & A!

Q: What is the best way to get to know a professor?

A: "Introduce yourself, but don't stop there. Parents often tell their children to introduce themselves, but when you have multiple students in multiple sections coming up and introducing themselves, faces and names can become lost if there is no follow up. Follow up is key, especially in large lecture classes. If the professor asks questions [in class], try to answer, even if you're wrong. Doing so shows you're engaged, and teachers remember."

- Dr. Andrew Williams

Q: How can students get to know their professors on a more personal level?

A: "In a classroom format, especially a lecture class, it's not that easy to get to know them [professors] personally. There is automatically a certain formal distance in the relationship. Some professors like to share more about themselves with students than others do. If the professor is mentoring a student org, or offering any outside of class activities, where there is less of a formal interaction, and that is the best chance to get to know them as people."

- Geoffrey Wheeler

Q: Why should I care about getting to know my professors?

A: "Communicating [with professors] is good practice for general human interaction. You'll be interacting with other people in the future, including a boss. Some students don't have initiative or practice in communicating, and so taking the time to interact with your professors will help you get over potential social awkwardness that may come with talking with such figures."

- Dr. Andrew Williams

While getting to know your professors can be a bit awkward, whether it's because of the differences of status, their number of accolades, or because you don't know what to talk about, it's beneficial in the long run. I have a number of professors that I still keep in regular contact with even after I've long since finished their course. They are not only mentors to me, but also friends.



From a
READER

Hey,

I had a chance to visit Stout yesterday and was praying for the campus and students. How like God to have me pull your publication from the student center! I've read it cover to cover and am so thankful for you guys and the excellence and truth within.

I will be praying for you all.

I'm an alum who was a nominal Catholic when attending Stout and have since understood through Bible studies and God's grace the importance of Jesus Christ and God's gift of grace to me/us.

God bless you and fill you with hope for His ministry at U.W. Stout.

I am full having walked by your headquarters and picked up your publication!

Stay His course.

I'll be praying!

In Christ,

Claudia



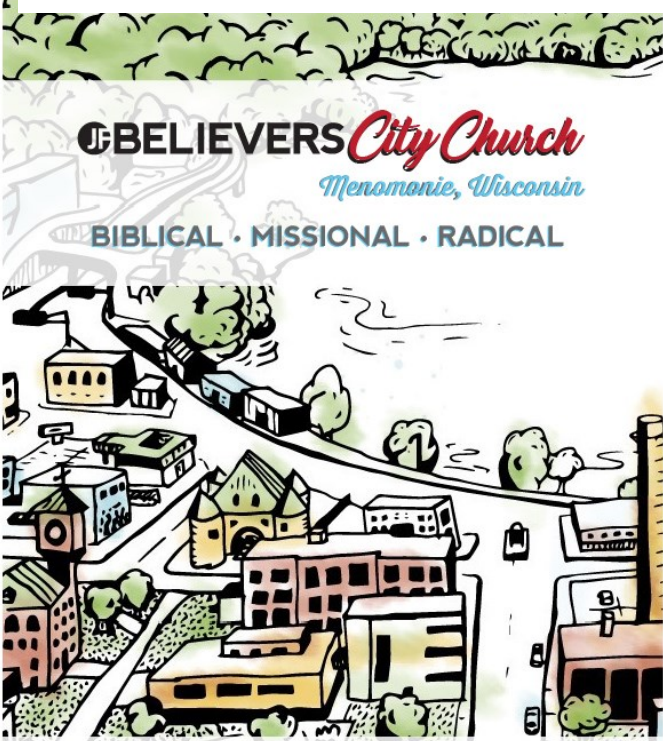
WOTS IS
PUTTING
OUT A
CALL FOR...

**CREATIVE
SUBMISSIONS**

- PHOTOS •
- POEMS •
- ESSAYS •

YOU KNOW.
THE ARTS.

EMAIL wotsmagazine@gmail.com WITH WHAT YOU GOT



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Menomonie, Wisconsin
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SUN // 10:30AM
WED // 7:00PM

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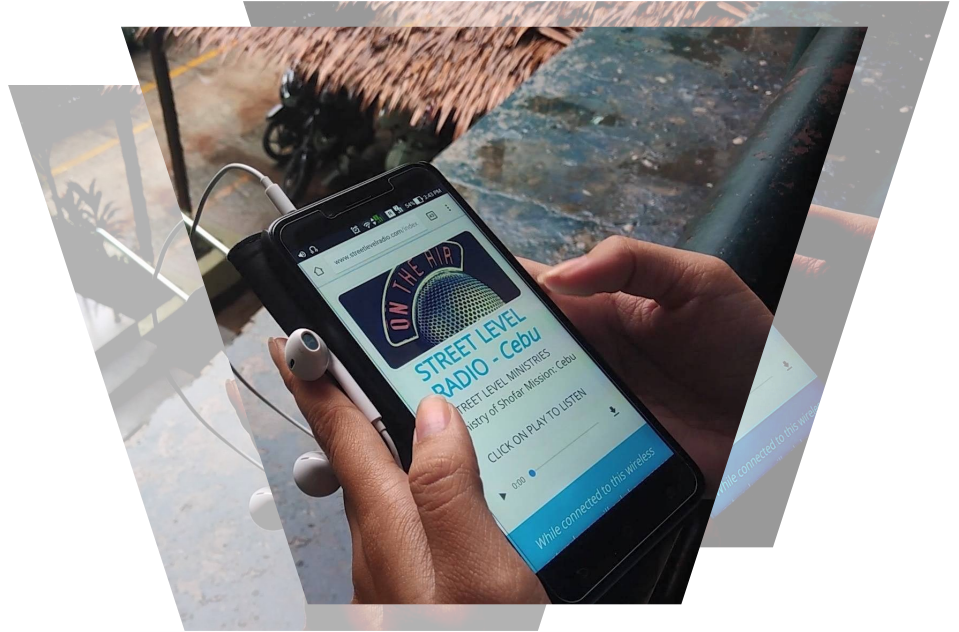


QUARTERLY MUSIC BEAT

AN UPDATE FROM OUR FRIENDS AT STREET LEVEL RADIO - PHILIPPINES

FROM YOUR DJ FRIENDS AT STREET LEVEL WI-FI RADIO

The 'ber months are in full swing, the malls are busier than ever, and your calendar is probably packed with holiday parties and family gatherings. Yup, Christmas is just around the corner. However, I'm gonna ask you to press pause on your holiday playlist and check out a few of our favorite musicians as of late.



FOR KING & COUNTRY

This Christian pop rock duo, composed of Australian brothers Joel and Luke Smallbone, recently released their third album, *Burn the Ships*. The much-anticipated album explores the themes of new beginnings, forgiveness, hope, and love. One of the debut singles, "Joy," features a 100-person choir and a variety of rhythms and electronic sounds. The brothers, when describing their musical philosophy, said, "The power of music can impact our mood, emotions, our day. But when you merge the strength of music with the heart, hope and passion of the Gospel, it has the ultimate power not only to change someone's day, but to impact them for eternity. This is why we write music and sing songs – we hope that people will be moved, encouraged, and stirred to live a life for Someone greater than themselves."¹

ELEVATION WORSHIP

Another highly-anticipated album release comes from the band that brought you "Do it Again" and "O Come to the Altar": Elevation Worship. Their new album, *Hallelujah Here Below*, was released on September 28, 2018. The album is comprised of honest lyrics of brokenness combined with bold statements of faith. One member of the band described it like this: "This album is all about how God doesn't ask for perfect praise – He wants praise that only we can give Him: broken and imperfect."²

SEK HAO

Originally hailing from Malaysia, this up-and-coming singer-songwriter is one you don't want to ignore. Heavily influenced by Switchfoot when he was in his teens, Sek Hao discovered within himself a desire to use music as a means of mission for God. Taking a leap of faith, he majored in vocals at a local university, completed the four-year program, and was signed by Jumuro Music. When reflecting on his journey, he said, "Our dreams are very much His [God's]. He cares about our dreams."³ He recently released his debut EP, *Be*, which features a variety of indie electronic rock compositions. He said he "loves the element of surprise in music," so listeners can expect to experience the unexpected!

We hope you now feel equipped to impress your friends and family with your musical suggestions at all your holiday gatherings this year! Don't forget to tune in to streetlevelradio.com, where you can listen to all three of the artists we mentioned above and more.



TUNE INTO 101.7 FM IN MENOMONIE
BURNING DOG RADIO

¹crossrhythms.co.uk/articles/music/For_King_Country_From_Rebecca_St_James_sidemen_to_CCM_success_/48617/p1/

²ccmmagazine.com/features/featured-story-elevation-worship-to-release-new-album/

³ccmmagazine.com/features/new-artist-spotlight-sek-hao/



Jackie Hill Perry describes her dramatic journey in her new book, *Gay Girl, Good God*. She felt burdened to share her story with three different audiences. First, her book is for those who are churchgoing heterosexuals seeking to understand what same-sex attracted individuals go through. Also, her book is for churchgoing, same-sex attracted people so they know they are not alone. Finally, this book is for people who do not believe in God at all. Perry's memoir addresses the sinfulness of the human heart, and she wants everyone to ask themselves, believer or not, if they know the reason they were made and whether or not they are living in light of that.

At the age of four or five, Jackie Hill Perry remembers being same-sex attracted. But, she felt confused and didn't know what to do with it. She suppressed her desire growing up, but when she reached her

“ANYTHING WE DESIRE MORE THAN GOD WILL ONLY LEAD TO DISSATISFACTION.”

teenage years, she decided to begin having relationships with other women. At the same time, she started smoking marijuana and watching pornography.

After high school, Perry's life took a dramatic turn towards God. She had very little church experience as a kid, but it was enough to teach her that God was real. At 19, God confronted her on her lifestyle and her rebellion. She quickly realized she was not in good standing with God and that she desperately wanted to be.

Throughout the book, Perry takes a very honest approach to her relationship with God. After becoming a Christian, her desires for women didn't disappear instantly. It is a battle she fights because she loves God more than she loves herself and when there is conflict, she lets Him win. Perry's book is a good lesson for all of us because we all struggle with sin. We are often guilty of lying, trying to be perfect, gossiping, getting drunk, and countless other sins. Anything we desire more than God will only lead to dissatisfaction. Perry points to Jesus as our Savior and our Helper in fighting these battles.

Jackie Hill Perry is a writer, speaker, artist, wife, and mother. At the end of the day, the

goal for her book is, “To just be a means by which people could learn to love others well.” Couldn't we all use a lesson in that?

You can purchase Perry's book on Amazon, read her articles at DesiringGod.org, or listen to her albums on Spotify.



¹“Bio.” www.jackiehillperry.com/
²YouTube: Jackie Hill Perry Channel

HELLO, MY NAME IS

BUSY

(are we really as busy as we think we are?)

You may have heard the story of a woman from another country who came to the United States and began to introduce herself as "Busy." It was the first thing she would hear any American say, therefore she concluded it was a part of our traditional greeting. So, she told everyone she met that that's who she was. Unfortunately, you could probably come to the same conclusion on nearly every college campus across the nation. But are we really that busy? What is making us so busy?

PERCENTAGE OF TIME SPENT PER DAY

BY AN AVERAGE FULL-TIME COLLEGE STUDENT



18.3%
Recreation & Socializing



11.6%
Education & Homework



<0.5%
Religious & Spiritual

HOW AVERAGE FULL-TIME COLLEGE STUDENTS SPEND THEIR DAYS

TIME SPENT PER DAY ON ACTIVITY IN HOURS



AVERAGE DAILY TIME SPENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA IN MINUTES



40
YouTube



35
Facebook



25
Snapchat



15
Instagram



1
Twitter

TIME SPENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA IN A LIFETIME 5 YEARS & 4 MONTHS

WHAT YOU COULD DO IN 5 YEARS & 4 MONTHS

Walk the Great Wall of China
3.5 times

Climb Mt. Everest
32 times

Read the entire Bible
657 times

"Busyness is moral laziness [because it is often a statement of our self-importance and our excuse to be inattentive to people]. . . God has given us just enough time to do what we need to do moment by moment to respond to him. And his grace is there; it is eternally present. Every moment is a sacrament where time touches eternity and there is exactly enough time to do what God has called us to do." - Prof. Bruce Hindmarsh

SOURCES

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BASIC Conversation

STARTER KIT

7 KEYS TO STEP UP YOUR HUMAN INTERACTION GAME

STEP
1

Once you realize that you haven't had a face-to-face conversation with someone you don't know in some time, thoroughly analyze why this is the case. "Do I look funny? Do I stare a hole into someone's soul when I try to engage them? Is it the stale mustard on my shirt, the unshaven oil-free beard, or the way I stare at the ground when someone approaches me? What could it be?"

STEP
2

Relax and consider the fact that everyone has butterflies and a sour stomach about engaging in meaningful deep conversation with someone they have never met or someone they're intimidated by. Well, mostly everyone, other than those trying to sell you chocolate that will make you skinny or a half-eaten burrito.

STEP
3

Choose your prey. Just kidding, that's the exact wrong way to go about it. There's a reason once you leave town there are a number of driveways with signs that say *Beware of Dog*, *No Solicitors*, *We know who we are voting for*, *We don't need a vacuum*, or *We don't buy insurance*. No. Turn around. Conversation is best done in a public setting.

STEP
4

Position yourself to have a face-to-face conversation. Look up, look around, and live. Don't stare at your feet or phone and get smoked by a bus. No one ever enjoyed eating pavement. Find one or two people and identify the correct timing to step over. Don't walk at a snail's pace; walk up confidently, but expect to feel weird. Weird is okay. By this point, it's essential that you realize the "success" of the conversation is not just based on how it goes, but instead, count gains in strides. Do not buy them lavish gifts and try to flatter them. You cannot buy good conversation.

STEP
5

Think of a good ice breaker, not too deep but not too common, and don't play dumb. Be clever but not too punny. There's a healthy balance here. Also, do not google "ice breakers." You may end up asking someone, "If you were stranded on a desert island, who would you take with you?" Depending on the situation, they may think you are trying to kidnap them. Stay away from sending threatening vibes. Try, "Mind if I join you?" Right then and there you will likely have a starting point for a follow-up comment. It may go well, mediocre, or terrible, but you will walk away knowing you tried and will be ready to move on to try that again with someone else (preferably someone who was not waiting in line at the gas station; that was awkward).

STEP
6

After the ice breaking fest, move on to deeper questions like, "Where are you from?" or "Out of all the places in the world to be what brings you here?" Make compliments like, "I like your shoes and/or hair," or whatever's not really crazy to talk about. It's not a date, but it could be a lasting friendship.

STEP
7

Once you're in a real life conversation, give and take. Don't talk the whole time and understand silence is okay sometimes (unless the person stopped breathing, then call 911). Realize conversation is not a step-by-step program. Be okay with screwing up and don't yell if they make you angry.

THE SUCCESS STORY

WHY SUCCESS ISN'T ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE



our
GREATEST
FEAR
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SUCCEEDING
at something
that DOESN'T Really
MATTER
-D.L. Moody

Today, archaeologists piece together history based on what is left behind, which might only be just a few terracotta shards and a tooth. Cold case detectives try to solve decades-old mysteries by linking together fragments of information and attempting to locate witnesses who might still be alive. Historians debate the accuracy of accounts by comparing physical records in an attempt to find out what actually took place. The goal with all of these professions is to find the truth, but in all these situations there are missing links and major gaps in knowledge to overcome. There is always going to be guesswork involved because the passing of time inevitably leaves behind only hazy, fuzzy remnants, *if anything remains behind at all*. It seems that, one way or another, time refines what is truly enduring.

Some time ago, I worked at a second-hand store. It always broke my heart when we got in a donation of what was clearly on behalf of someone who had died. There were photos, journals, award ribbons, and a thousand other sentimental objects all mashed together in boxes, and it was my job to either trash it, recycle it, or put a few of

these “treasures” out on the sales floor to be sold for merely a couple of dollars. Such was the culmination of their lives.

Certainly, most of us want to make an impact on the world we live in because we want our lives to matter. We want to be successful and live our lives well. A few months ago I was able to hear Stanford Graduate School of Business Professor Jennifer Aaker speak. In her presentation, she said it well: “*People want to be valued members of a winning team on an inspired mission.*” Sounds accurate! Yet it sounds near impossible at times, too. For the problem lies in the fact that we’re just not “big picture people,” and by “big,” I mean “forever minded.” We may be goal-oriented and have a five-year plan in place, and have daydreams about growing old with someone, but *forever*? The reality is, humanity generally pursues things that don’t last beyond our lifetimes, or, at best, even the lifetimes of those who knew us.

It is imperative to understand that indeed you **do** matter, but not in the way you think. For the amount of possessions and achievements you accumulate on this earth fail to ultimately impact because they are all so very temporary. The number of diplomas, awards and accolades you gather will be forgotten, and even if you **do** manage to achieve fame and fortune, you at best just eventually become a Wikipedia entry. That job you do so well at and gain promotion after promotion will certainly give you money and comfort for a while, but the moment you’re gone they will simply find someone else to fill your desk. Your name will come off the door and be replaced by “Bob-from-sales” next door. We live our lives this way because we are driven by an intense “fear of missing out,” or at least not being included, which is why we fill our lives with the trappings of “success,” (i.e. diplomas, money, social reputation, et cetera), blindly forgetting that none of it will last. It may be hard to hear, but the truth is, *time will erase you*. The problem is always the “end game.”

Think about it. When you reflect on your past, what sticks out to you? I remember faces and places. I remember experiences I had. What I don’t remember, or simply don’t care about any longer, is how well I did on that test, how high a wage I received at that job, or the level of

**“IT MAY BE HARD TO HEAR,
BUT THE TRUTH IS, *TIME
WILL ERASE YOU.*”**

applause I had at my piano recital. Then if you ask me what I remember about a friend or a relative, the amount of memory dwindles exponentially. I remember the time we went to the amusement park together and shared a treat, but that’s about it. Is a “successful life” the accumulation of tangible indicators like money, awards, athletic prowess and social reputation, or is there something more? What should be our goal? Is the answer to be remembered by as many people as possible as having done something noteworthy?

No doubt you have heard of this guy Jesus. You know, from the Bible? How is it that this homeless man from Nazareth, who died over 2,000 years ago with only a scattered, poor, and rag tag band of followers, is not only **seriously** remembered today but He literally changed the course of history and is even yet today revered and worshipped? How did that happen? What did He do that was so remarkable? How was He so successful? How did He so “move the world?” So much memory and knowledge is lost to the vastness of time, yet not this man Jesus.

Stanford professor Chip Heath recorded that people tend to recall stories after listening to a speech 63% of the time versus hearing statistics, which were remembered only 5% of the time. It seems that stories make a bigger impact than mere accolades and data. We are definitely “story people,” and there is a reason for that. The fact is, we live in a giant “world purpose narrative,” and we are either on one side of the story with Jesus, or the other without Him, but we’re never excluded from it. So often we fail to realize that Jesus is our “missing piece”...the “one whom we are looking for.” It’s not “what” we are missing, but *who* we are missing! We seek to imitate the value, the purpose and the drive that Christ offers with a hope in and for a life of worldly success. But it all ultimately rings hollow and we are left “holding the bag.”

The struggle that so many of us have who *do* believe, is that we tend to think that joining Jesus will produce a version of success that will look a lot like the world’s version of success, or at least our own understanding of it. But as a **follower** of Christ, it’s *His* story we’re in now, not our own! However, we must also resist the temptation to swing wildly to the other side and embrace a thinking that says that by being a believer in Christ my life will therefore look *nothing* like what I planned. That my dreams and goals are therein erased! Such is rarely the case yet it will certainly look *different*. Specifically, it won’t be recorded in statistics (the number of gold stars I earned or the stuff I own), but rather it will be marked by the number of stories and even “micro stories” I was a part of and how they played out in the paradigm of God’s will. One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the story of a woman whom Jesus inexplicably praised while others declared her action a waste:

“HOW FOOLISH WE CAN BE IN OUR ATTEMPT TO CLING WHITE-KNUCKLED TO THAT WHICH DOES NOT ENDURE.”

“And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, ‘Why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor.’ But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, ‘Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.’” (Matthew 26:6-13, NKJV)

This woman, merely a footnote in **secular** history, possessed something that the world held as valuable. She could have used its worth for her own benefit, or like the disciples suggested, sold it and given the profits to a social cause. Either way she would be a worldly “winner.” For personal wealth, pleasure, and contributing towards charity, are indicators of success in our social culture and values. However, according to Jesus’ definition of success, giving up something of such value to invest in Him was what actually made her profoundly “successful.” For true success is the sheer blissful union of your life with the life and narrative of the One who set this whole earth in motion and set you and I on it. That woman wasn’t thinking about the loss of the perfume, or the men in the room shaking their heads in disgust at her. She was thinking of Jesus and how much He meant to her. She wanted to show Him her love and she did it in a big way. So big it seems that we’re still talking about her and this act even yet today.

In this age we live in the shadow of Jesus’ life. We don’t know every detail of His walk through this world, yet we do have many of His recorded words and in such something intensely profound:

“If you love Me, keep My commandments,’ Jesus said, ‘I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.’” (John 14:15-17, NKJV)

Jesus does not expect you to somehow find this spiritual road of success on your own or achieve a sudden and profound 180-degree directional life change independently. For He gives to us of Himself in the form of the Holy Spirit to help us walk the walk He is leading us towards. Rejecting the world’s version of success for His version is not something that we suddenly and inexplicably wake up and decide to do one day. Rather it is His prompting in you and your daily desire to actually follow Him. And the fact is, that honestly takes a lifetime to unfold. Or just maybe, in order to see that unfold, *He gives you a lifetime...*

The missionary legend Jim Elliot lost his life on the mission field in Ecuador in 1956 at the age of 28. He left behind a journal entry that profoundly and prophetically recorded these words: *“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”* After his “untimely” death, his wife, Elizabeth Elliot, went to the very same people in Ecuador who had murdered her husband to bring to them the truth and love of Jesus. Many of them eventually believed and repented and turned their lives to God, forsaking the traditions that had led them through a personal and corporate history of endless sin. Jim Elliot died, but not as a forgotten failure. For according to Jesus, he had achieved true and profound success in life because although he lost his physical life, he had gained all by giving all - his life and even his death - thereby gaining real and meaningful life with Jesus. And ironically, to top it all off, his legacy lives on to this very day!

Jesus once said that *“...unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain”* (John 12:24, NKJV). After all, what is the purpose of a plant growing a seed? It is of course to produce new life after the original plant is dead and gone. Jesus’ definition of success does not naturally look like success to us because it involves death. We therefore reject His plan in lieu of our own because death is something we are naturally compelled to avoid at all costs. If our goal and purpose in this life is to have a nice family, career and house - if that is our definition of success - what happens then when those things are gone? Further, what happens then when we die, and WE are gone? How foolish we can be in our attempts to cling white-knuckled to that which does not endure. To try to hold on to, as Jim Elliot said, *“that which we cannot keep.”* Jesus is a Master storyteller, and the Master story-writer. He’s got a part for you to play. In embracing that role we come to know and understand what real success is. A legacy and inheritance *“that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading...[one that is] kept in heaven for you...”* (1 Peter 1:4) A “success” that lasts forever.

“Our greatest fear should not be of failure, but of succeeding at something that doesn’t really matter.” - D.L. Moody

EMERGENCY BLIZZARD PROCEDURES

HOW TO SURVIVE A YEAR'S WORTH OF BLIZZARDS

Winter.

We have a love/hate relationship with you. We love it when you provide big fluffy snow for Christmas day. Winter wonderlands are amazing! But when you turn into the angsty teenager with mood swings, from blizzard after freezing cold to blizzard...not so much. Here are some standard and basic blizzard procedures you should follow to survive this winter season.

Weather Conditions



Accept the inevitable. The weatherman says it's going to snow. Facebook says it's going to snow. Your floormates say it's going to snow. Your professors say it's going to snow. Even Betty and Earl across the street say snow is coming! Embrace the fact that it will happen. It's only a matter of when.

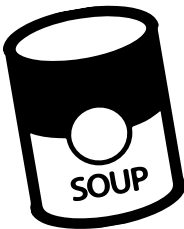
Walking in a Winter Wonderland

Prepare your favorite mode of transportation. You know how your tank of a car handled last year, but now is the time to wipe all the cobwebs from your emergency snow car set. You should finally remove that beach towel, camping chair, and any trace of summer from your trunk. Make sure your snow blanket smells good! Driving not your thing in blizzard conditions? Pull that sled out of your closet! Replace the laces on your skates! Double check that your boots still fit in those snow shoes. Remember to be prepared to go anywhere.

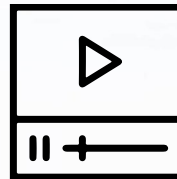


Waistline Security

Last minute Walmart/Target runs are a true sign that you're bracing for that impending storm. Brace yourself because everyone and their mother has thought of the same thing. Stock up on food. Make sure to pick up the essentials (in order of importance): coffee, soup, chili, and more soup. Anything that will stick to your ribs for the next 1-3 days and help you stay warm all the while gaining 5-10 pounds is totally worth it! While you're at it, go get that blanket that's on sale, pick out that movie you have always wanted to see, and grab a few extra snacks. You don't know how long this blizzard will last!



Watching Entertainment



Plan out your entertainment. Pull out *The Day After Tomorrow* from your movie collection.

Watch *White Christmas* for the first time this season, or

maybe marathon *The Ice Age*. You could watch that Netflix show you've been eyeing up with some popcorn and steaming hot chocolate. Challenge your roommates and other friends waiting out the storm to a game of Risk, Settlers of Catan, or even Carcassonne.

Woke Up Like This



Make sure your phone is charged and at the ready. Mom, friends, Aunt Martha, and everyone else will want to know either by phone or through Facebook/Twitter/Instagram/Snapchat how you're doing. Memorize the following script you will tell everyone: "Yes, I have enough food. Yes, I'm staying warm. No, I don't have to go to work. Yes, the roads are bad."

Oh, blizzards. You are terrifyingly awesome! We are in awe of what you leave behind. May these basic blizzard procedures carry you through the entire winter season and then some. Also, remember to stay safe, and check in with those you care about. Until summer arrives again, good luck to you all!

Can We Really Trust the Bible?

What we can know for sure about the most read book in the world



I remember trying to read the Bible on my own a couple times as a kid. Growing up in church, reading “the good book” just seemed like it was something we were supposed to do. I usually started in Genesis and by chapter four (when the first baby ever born grows up to kill his own brother) I decided this book was just too weird to be spending any more time in. If you’ve ever tried to read the Bible and you’re not quite sure what to think about it, this article is for you. I wanted to just touch on what we can know for sure about the Bible, which happens to be the most read book in the entire world.¹

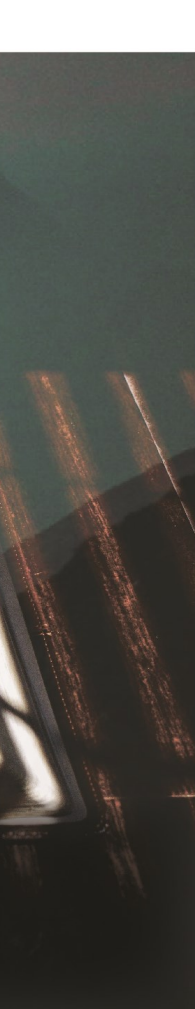
The Bible claims to be divinely inspired. 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” This means that the Bible is claiming to be a book written by humans who were inspired by God Himself. The Bible holds God’s thoughts, His commands, and His desires for the lives of the people He created: us. If you’re a person desiring to know God, I would encourage you to read His word and discover for yourself how it has the power to speak to you personally (Hebrews 4:12). Alternatively, if you’re a person who believes the Bible is an archaic text with little connection to or involvement in our lives in 2018, I

challenge you to read on. While no words written here can convince a human heart to believe in the God of the Bible, I hope the words below at least pique your interest and motivate you to do more digging.

We can trust the Bible by the impressive unity of its historical records, archaeological finds, and accurate accounts of prophecy.

When I was doing my research, I learned that the Bible was written by around 40 different authors in three languages, and on three continents, all spanning a period of approximately 2,000 years.²

“IF YOU’VE EVER TRIED TO READ THE BIBLE AND YOU’RE NOT QUITE SURE WHAT TO THINK ABOUT IT, THIS ARTICLE IS FOR YOU.”



“THE MORE TIME YOU SPEND IN THE WORD OF GOD, THE MORE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, AND I DARE SAY THE MORE YOU WILL *LOVE*, HIS TRUE CHARACTER.”

Despite all of this, its message remains the same: the people God created rebelled against their Maker, yet God extends His grace towards them in the person of Jesus. The Bible contains numerous accounts of fulfilled prophecy, such as Isaiah’s prediction of Cyrus becoming the king of Persia roughly 200 years before his birth. Or how about the prophet Micah foretelling Christ’s birth in the town of Bethlehem, which is quite the distance from Nazareth where Jesus’s parents lived (two hours by car, if you’re wondering).³ Because the Bible includes accurate prophecies like this, it points to there being a God outside of time who gave the writers insight into future events. All this despite the fact that the many locations and differences in personality of the authors didn’t change the meaning of the corporate text in its entirety. These accounts give proof that the Bible is reliable.

We can trust the Bible because it has not changed substantially over time, as many people think it has.

Have you studied how well-preserved the Bible is compared to other ancient literature? In 1890, Andrew Archibald Macdonald, a merchant and politician from Prince Edward Island, was quoted saying the following: “None of the original manuscripts of the Bible have been preserved. Shall we therefore reject this book? As well might we throw away the works of Homer, who flourished from eight to nine hundred years before Christ, but of whose writings we have no complete copy older than the thirteenth century, and no fragments even older than the sixth century—fifteen centuries after the blind poet died.”⁴ In 1947, when the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, we learned just how similar the Bible we can read today matches the text from Jesus’ time and even before then.⁵

We can trust the Bible because of the way it

describes the human condition.

The Bible isn’t afraid to admit the good, the bad, and the ugly. The Bible includes account after account of humans turning away from God or lacking in their obedience to Him. It tells story after story of men and women who didn’t keep the promises they made to God. In the Bible, Peter is described as one of Jesus’s closest friends, yet three times he denied he knew and followed Jesus.⁶ Jeremiah 17:9 says, “the human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?” We see that’s true in our tendency as humans to be jealous, easily irritated, to lie, to slander, to fight, to murder... If the Bible were written by a human writer seeking to impersonate God, why would they talk about human faults to the extent the Bible does? Wouldn’t they want to focus on all the good things humans do?

My own relationship with God became real when I began noticing I wasn’t the good person I thought I was. I slowly became willing to look in the mirror and I saw more faults than I knew what to do with. God promises us in Jeremiah 29:13, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” I started reading the Bible and found it incredible in how deeply it spoke to my inner life. If your heart desires to know who God is in even one small way, open a Bible and have faith that God will show up. For Christians, it’s a joy to study the Bible and be in the presence of God, but this doesn’t usually happen overnight. Just like building a friendship, the more time you spend in the word of God, the more you will understand, and I dare say the more you will *love*, His true character.

¹ businessinsider.com/the-top-10-most-read-books-in-the-world-infographic-2012-12

² answersingenesis.org/the-word-of-god/3-unity-of-the-bible/

³ answersingenesis.org/is-the-bible-true/4-fulfilled-prophecy/; Isaiah 44:28; Micah 5:2

⁴ christiancourier.com/articles/1441-new-testament-compared-to-classical-literature-the

⁵ answersingenesis.org/the-word-of-god/the-preservation-of-the-bible/

⁶ Matthew 26:70-74

COUCH WOES

HOW TO ESCAPE THE EMBRACE OF THAT COZY RETREAT



OH couch, you know how to treat me! You're always there for me. When I'm tired, when I'm depressed, when I need my "me" time, you're there. When I sink into you and scroll to Netflix, I'm home. You make me forget about the world like no one else can. If I were to peel off the cushions and investigate, I would find layers of our past good times together: popcorn, candy, coins, and oh, that's where that book went! Sometimes I put your 14 pillows back in order and fold up that blanket, but most of the time I just leave you in your natural state: pillows everywhere, blanket tangled on top, and a snack and beverage safely stashed nearby. You're the worst to try and leave. You make me feel so guilty when I finally manage to extract myself from your embrace. Sometimes I don't think about you at all, but most of the time when I'm at school or work, I'm daydreaming about you. I just want you back, always and forever. You know how to lure me in!

Ok, ok, perhaps all that is a bit ridiculous. But you know the feeling... With winter here and the humdrum of life taking its toll, the allure of a quiet night on the couch with Netflix at the ready feels like the best decision you've made all day. Stress just melts away when you turn on your favorite show and sink into the couch. But I bet you know the flip side too, right? It's now 1:30 a.m. and you're supposed to somehow now finish that essay for a 10 a.m. English class, followed by two more classes and a 5-hour shift at work. Now the guilt really begins and you're really hating your 9 p.m. decision-making self. Maybe this happens to you from time to time. Maybe this happens a little more often than you care to admit. Maybe this is your life, literally and metaphorically.

I want to propose that this familiar scenario isn't merely about laziness. It's about examining your motivation for the decisions you make, especially when it's at the expense of what is more worthwhile in the long term. Because it's been ingrained in you since you were a child, you know that doing well in school is likely the ticket to a stable, decent life. You know that getting a good night's sleep is just smart, health-wise and mood-wise. You know that ultimately not spending so much time in the "down" position means more life experiences and better relationships. With all that said, keep in mind that this is not an article saying a Friday night couch time session with Netflix is bad. It's only negative when it's literally or metaphorically become your default position in life.

Teddy Roosevelt once said, "Get action! Do things; be sane. Don't fritter away your time! Create, act, take a place wherever you are and be somebody; get action." Sounds great, and smart to say, right? But...oh, that couch and its appeal after a long day! Let's take a step back and talk about what might be driving you right now

**"YOU WERE CREATED BY SOMEONE
FAR GREATER THAN YOU AND WHO IS
FAR MORE SATISFYING AND
COMFORTING THAN A LIFE OF
EVENINGS SPENT ON THE COUCH."**

“ONLY ONE LIFE, TWILL SOON BE PAST, ONLY WHAT’S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST.”

- C.T. STUDD

in life itself. Can you relate to my story? Taking it easy and ignoring responsibilities, for as long as possible, was a skill I mastered because I could balance it with hard work when I absolutely had to. I wanted people to like me, so I made the logical decisions I needed to in order to get that approval. I didn't want too much difficulty, so I didn't rock the boat or take many risks. Instead, I played it safe and stuck to the middle of the road. I just wanted to be happy, so I did whatever was necessary to ensure that I was, no matter the cost and often at the expense of other people. If you boil these motivations down, they start sounding pretty shallow. Lots of “I, me, mine, and self.” My life was one giant “couch,” and I relied on comfort, security, and taking as few chances as possible to pursue the easiest life I could manage.

But, maybe you're the rare type of person who actually focuses all of your time and energy on other people and their needs. That's probably exhausting though, just saying, and you may occasionally experience “burn out” and visit the proverbial couch when no one's looking. So, whether or not you always default to the “couch,” cycle into it when life gets frustrating, or you fall somewhere in the middle, we all lose steam. We get distracted, make wrong decisions, get overly emotional, fail, and mess up because we're human. All of that comes naturally to us. We're not going to be able to live perfectly or have pure motives and goals all the time. On our own, we all fall short.

Here's the deal. This life is often exhausting, and love is the only answer. Not love for stuff or self or noble causes, but love for Him who created you. God's calling you to love Him and treasure Him above all else because He loved you first. By getting to know Jesus and the Bible, you will learn that you are not your own and He created you for something far more satisfying than a life of evenings spent on the couch, or whatever your particular escape is. Furthermore, you will discover that you do not own anything, and everything in this life is a gift (even the air you breathe right now).

You will still get distracted with entertainment, what other people think and chasing comfort. However, God's love will surprise you because you'll start to be motivated to get up

off the couch and go live life with Him and for Him. Being self-absorbed will start to lose its appeal! It will definitely involve loving other people, but doing so from His power and not your own limited reserves. Being kind to them and helping them will have a safety net built in when you don't do it perfectly.

This life we have is a lot shorter than we think, and we're going to wake up one day and realize most of it has already passed us by. So, what do you want to leave behind when you're gone? What do you want to be remembered for? As C.T. Studd said, “Only one life, twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last.” The couch can wait.





fun in the winterland of **MENOMONIE** HOW TO MAKE THE HARSH WINTER NOT BORING

Now that you've been in this new town for a few months, winter is right around the corner. Winters in Wisconsin can be bitterly cold and harsh, but it's high time you embrace the cold and make it fun! Let's start with things to do right here in Menomonie.

Want to try some cross-country skiing? There are beautiful trails within walking distance from campus. If you don't have skis, no worries, you can rent a complete cross-country ski package from Stout Adventures for just \$7 a day. Once you have your skis and warm winter clothing, head on over to the Red Cedar State Trail and go to the trailhead building to purchase a trail pass for \$5 a day or \$25 annually. The nature views will not disappoint. Now, if you're looking for something you can do for free and still be outdoors, drive on over and visit the Devil's



Punchbowl. This famous landmark can be found about four miles south of Menomonie on 410th Street and features a unique dripping water wall with plenty of opportunities for birdwatching, hiking, and a quick, brisk nature walk. When temperatures dip low enough, the water will freeze into beautiful, frozen formations.

Looking to cheer on a local hockey team? Head on over to the Fanetti Sports Complex, which offers a bunch of winter related activities and is located at the Dunn County Rec Park at the end of Main Street in Menomonie. The UW-Stout Blue Devils play their home hockey games there and they've been known to draw over a thousand students to cheer them on! The local Menomonie High School team, the Mustangs, also play their home hockey games there. Elsewhere on the premises, there's a huge hill perfect for





sledding. Just pick up a sled and warm clothes and let the fun times begin. After winter has been around awhile at the Rec Park, you'll find an outdoor ice rink perfect for skating outside or playing broomball. For broomball, you'll want an old-style stiff broom, a ball, and plenty of friends to play with.

Are you feeling adventurous and up for a little road trip? Then the Badlands Sno-Park will not disappoint you. Get your friends together and go check it out in Hudson, about a 50-minute ride west of Menomonie. Don't let the price of \$17 for an all-day ticket scare you away. It's well worth the money once you get there. The Badlands Sno-Park will give you the thrill of a lifetime in the snow tubing world. They have small hills so you can learn what you're doing and mentally prepare yourself for the adrenaline rush of flying down a hill on a tube when it's 10 degrees out. You'll also find hills that will make your face look like a dog hanging their head out the window on a hot summer day. Don't worry about having to walk back up the hill because there is a convenient tow rope that you can grab hold of to tow you right back up the hill. With that in mind, it's very important to have a good pair of gloves so you don't irritate your hands too much on the tow rope.

If you're looking for something that's inside, there's a famous theater right in the heart of downtown Menomonie. The world-famous Mabel Tainter Theater puts on a few shows a month, ranging from concerts to romantic plays to comedy shows. For



more information on show times and other information visit www.mabeltainter.org/.

So, whether its cross-country skiing, watching a comedy show with friends, or cruising down a hill on an inner tube, don't let this winter keep you inside a minute longer!

the real Christian?

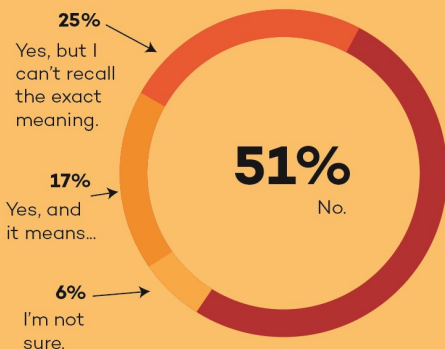


THROUGHOUT THE 20TH CENTURY,

4,300 PEOPLE

WERE **LEAVING** THE CHURCH EVERY DAY IN **EUROPE** AND **NORTH AMERICA**.

CHURCHGOERS WHO HAVE HEARD OF THE GREAT COMMISSION



BELIEVE IN THE GOD OF THE BIBLE

56%

BELIEVE GOD DETERMINES WHAT HAPPENS

48%

BELIEVE IN THE SUPERNATURAL BUT NOT THE GOD OF THE BIBLE

33%



27 ONLY
IN **100**
PEOPLE OWN
A FULL BIBLE
[THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE EVEN READING IT]

86%
OF BUDDHISTS,
HINDUS AND MUSLIMS

.....DON'T KNOW A.....
CHRISTIAN
.....PERSONALLY.....



SOURCES: globalchristianity.org and relevantmagazine.com

POEM

UNTITLED

Weak at the knees I am beggin ya
 please I am not just mean you see I
 was born into this family not by choice
 not by decision trust me it is more
 painful than an incision and the only
 drug I have is my own pain sometimes
 I walk in the rain because no one can
 understand what it is to live in no
 man's land where those around you
 wage war and you have nothing to
 hope for and your friends are a million
 miles away and you only got today
 maybe you'll die and there you lay, is
 that all that will become of me, all that
 will come from me, to change the
 world, in and down and out in a whirl I
 think someone is screaming and I
 think it is me into the wind, how can
 you all pretend that it is just me, I
 don't know how to leave, I don't know
 how to stay, too weak to run, too
 strong to kneel and pray and the skies
 are looking gray and though the stars
 are falling sleep is calling and I will find
 myself trapped in another long day
 inside of a short week canned and
 pickled inside of a life that just may be
 short and fickle.

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Locally roasted coffee

on the first saturday of every month

The Blind Munchies Presents:



Classic Cartoon Breakfast!

during our \$2 student breakfast 9am-12pm

theblindmunchies.com
621 Wilson Ave, Menomonie

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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



FALL QUESTIONS

Fall/early Winter is a beautiful time. Leaves is changing colors, flurries flyin, no mosquito's. Fresh air is clean and tickles your innards. There's just a few questions I have year after year that need answerin. Is it Kara-Mell or Car-Mole? My whole life I've been putting Car-Mole on Sunday's and latte's. Also is there a cold sensitive spot on a womans leg about 8 inches above the ankle? I see a lot of fur ringed boots and was unaware if that spot gets colder faster. Do guys wear scarves because they don't have enough chest and neck hair? Is there anything that can't be infused with pumpkin spice? Does anyone actually eat cranberries out of a can? Does anyone else get hungry for squirrel when they walk through campus? Has anyone else actually stuck their tongue on a cold window? What do you do at an open mic? Literally get up and say whatever you want? I'd like that. Is it okay that I like candles so much? Is it illegal to carry someone onto a frozen lake when they refuse to go but you feel like it is your duty to show them it's not so scary? These are a just a few unanswered questions that rake my brain. Feel free to let me know if you got some answers. Happy fall!

STREET LEVEL MINISTRIES

LIFE IS MEANT
FOR GOOD
FRIENDS
— a n d —
G R E A T
ADVENTURE



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



JOIN THE ADVENTURE

