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IN A BUSY

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A special edition is also distributed in parts of **South Asia**



WELCOME TO WOTS

Somehow you have stumbled upon a copy of *Word on the Street (WOTS) Magazine*. Maybe it was an accident, maybe you are just bored, but maybe it's because you want to know if it contains something worthwhile. We hope it does.

We exist as an outreach of Street Level Ministries, a college Christian ministry with groups in various cities. Check out how you can become a part of it by visiting streetlevelministries.com. This magazine is written, laid out, and printed by young adults

in cities around the Midwest as well as in the Philippines and parts of South Asia. What brings us together is our love for Jesus. Our desire is to write about topics focusing on God, life, and college. We hope this magazine is helpful, challenging, and thought-provoking as it encourages you to pursue a strong relationship with God.

WOTS has been published since 1999. All credit goes to God. We're not sure how else to explain it!



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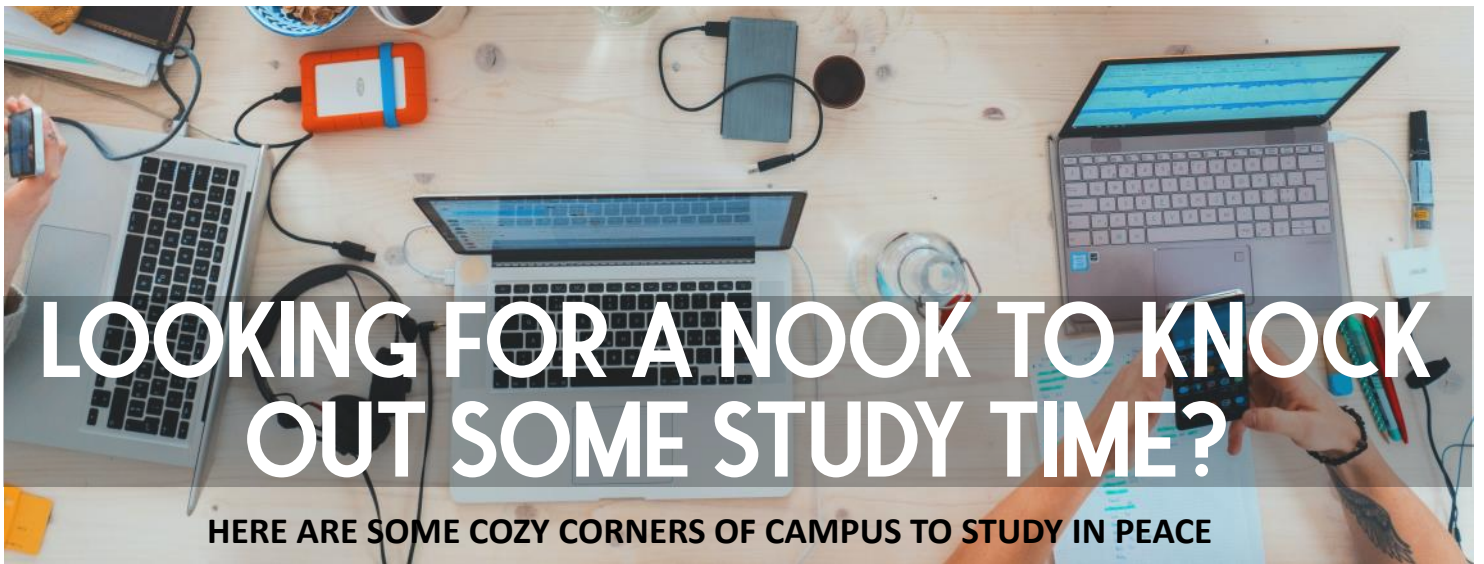
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LOOKING FOR A NOOK TO KNOCK OUT SOME STUDY TIME?

HERE ARE SOME COZY CORNERS OF CAMPUS TO STUDY IN PEACE

There are many spaces on campus designated to provide the optimal environment to help you focus on work. Sometimes it takes a little exploring to see what you like best, but hopefully, this article can help you find a few new favorite spots.

THE PORCH

Located on the second floor of the UW-Stout Library and open during decent temperatures, it's the perfect place to get away on a lovely sunny day. This porch provides enough space to spread out supplies or study with friends. There is also netting around the porch to protect you from bugs and other flying objects like squirrels. Just make sure to go to the front desk to ask if the porch door is unlocked since they keep it closed during the colder months.

FOURTH FLOOR PROJECT TABLES

If you're looking for a place to get some significant work done, the fourth floor of the UW-Stout Library has work tables in the back that are great for art projects and other hands-on assignments. There is plenty of room to spread out supplies, and since it's tucked away in the back, you'll be left alone.

THE SENSORY ROOM

In room 218 on the second floor of the library, you will find cushioned egg-shaped chairs, concave walls that muffle sound, fidget toys on a table for anyone to use, and another table with stress balls that are free to take home. It's an ideal combination to both settle the mind and focus on your schoolwork.

HARVEY HALL

On the fourth floor near the philosophy rooms, there is a secluded corner away from the hustle and bustle of others getting to classes. Additionally, if you like the rustic view of the red brick building next door and an expanse of natural Wisconsin scenery as the backdrop, this is an ideal space for camping out.

JARVIS HALL

If you're looking for another study spot with a view, Jarvis is it for you. On the second and third floor are lounges with cozy places that overlook the street or woods to help motivate your mind while you work.

OUTSIDE!

When warmer weather is on the up and up, you'll find people hanging around the grassy area right in front of the Applied Arts center in hammocks. There are plenty of good trees to hang hammocks on if you have one, which can be ideal for studying or relaxing while getting that much-welcomed sun and fresh air.

Lastly, if you're looking to take a break from the campus scene but don't want to go too far, then **The Blind Munchies Coffeehouse** is the place for you. You can walk to this café in less than 10 minutes from your dorm and find a cozy corner amidst the vintage décor, free wi-fi, friendly volunteers, quality coffee, and fresh bakery served daily.

Plus, as a non-profit organization, proceeds go to well-digging projects that help provide communities with clean drinking water in rural parts of Southeast Asia. Stop in any time Tuesday-Thursday 9 am-8 pm, Friday-Saturday 9 am-4 pm, and Sundays 1 pm-8 pm (closed Monday).

So now that you know about all these pleasing options, what are you waiting for? Live your best study life and get that degree, baby!



Redeem this coupon for a **FREE DRINK** at the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse.



Want to learn how to sing like a sailor?

CLIMB ABOARD THE NEW SHANTY DEVIL ORG!



Word on the Street (WOTS) had the pleasure of interviewing Trisha Haugen, a member of the Shanty Devils and a second-year junior majoring in technology education. She is also in the Organization Affairs Committee Student Government, which is how she first heard about the group when they made their case to become an official organization.

Sea shanties are part of a traditional folk music genre that sailors on large sea merchant ships commonly sang to help pass the time while doing rhythmic labor. National interest in sea shanties sparked when a sea shanty titled "Wollerman" went viral on TikTok during the start of the pandemic in 2020. Since then, more and more organizations like the Shanty Devils have been popping up around the country.

Trisha's was ecstatic when asked about her interest in the genre: "When I was in high school, a friend from camp played some on a car ride, and I had never heard that type of music before. I was like, 'This is groundbreaking!' It has just this swash-buckly, sea shanty-ness! After that, I had a group of friends where we printed out a bunch of sea shanties and sang them together while paddling. When we went on a Boundary Waters trip together, we sang along to sea shanties to keep rhythm. So, when I heard about the Shanty Devils forming, I was like yeah, if I have time, I want to see what they're doing."

The founder of the org, Greg Evans, wants the Shanty Devils to be a fun and relaxed environment to learn and practice singing sailor songs and show appreciation to the fading art of old tunes. Its goal is to bring awareness to the public about the origin and culture behind the genre itself.

Now that this group has been made official, we asked Trisha if any performances are expected for the future. She explained that anything is possible, but the key to that would be finding enough committed members willing to practice for a performance. There were initially six members during the founding process, but word has gotten around, so it's likely to continue growing due to its recent popularity.

When asked what her favorite sea shanty is, Trisha pondered, "There are a lot of good ones, like 'Here's a Health to the Company' that is more so a ballad, and then there's 'South Australia' which is upbeat, and 'Roll the Ole Chariot Along.' Those are a few of my favorites."

If you are interested in the org and think the ears of Menomonie should be blessed with such lovely tunes, joining is incredibly easy! They meet in select rooms of the MSC every other Saturday, and all you have to do is go to the Connect app, search Shanty Devils, click join, and boom: you're in!

QUARTERLY MUSIC BEAT

A TESTIMONY FROM OUR FRIENDS AT
BURNING DOG RADIO

Hey! My name is Rachel, and I'm breaking the fourth wall of the radio to tell you, "Thank you," from all of us at Burning Dog Radio for listening to our station. We love curating our music for your enjoyment and encouragement. I'm one of the DJs, and I'm going to share my story of how Jesus redeemed my life of depression, a broken family, loneliness, and a whole lot more.

I was 10 when my parents separated and then divorced. This was when I started to wrestle with meaning, purpose, and love, all lightweights for a young kid. I went back and forth between households, which was fine, except when I had to play telephone for my parents. I took the anger they had for each other on myself. This made me feel like I was the reason for their unhappiness and their divorce. I felt like a burden. I was embarrassed to tell anyone because none of my close friends had divorced parents, and I wanted to protect my reputation.

My mental state declined as I believed the lie that I was unwanted, unloved, and a mistake in this world. By the time I was in high school, I didn't believe there was a plan for my life. I was the girl in class making people laugh, and I was also on most teachers' good side. But I still didn't let people know what was happening at home or inside. There were a few moments in the middle of high school where I was thinking about ending my life, believing that no one would miss me and would be better off without me. They were all prideful thoughts, really, but thankfully something always pulled me out of it at the right time. I now know it was God intervening, but in between those saving moments, I still felt so alone and unseen and not cared about.

I searched the internet for pleasure, entertainment, and friends. The friendships I did have in real life were shallow, and I still never shared my hurting heart with these friends. I drank and smoked things I shouldn't have, and I looked at things that I shouldn't have on the internet. They were all temporary fixes for a problem only Jesus could fix. I was about to graduate from high school when a friend invited me to her youth group. After sporadically going to church



my whole life, it was at these gatherings I finally heard that it was my sin that kept me from being close to God. He wanted me and had made a way possible for me to be close to Him by sending His Son Jesus to die on the cross for me two thousand years ago. After I surrendered my life, everything changed. I had been empty, looking inside myself for purpose, but all I found was garbage and evil thoughts. Now I was full of Jesus' Spirit. He was making His home in me, telling me about how I wasn't a mistake. He had a plan for me.

After I gave my life to Jesus, I had no idea what I was doing, but I had hope and excitement for my future, which I never had before! I went to college, and I found a Christian community called Street Level. I also sought out a church and started attending Believers City Church, getting involved in Burning Dog Radio as a DJ. It's been a large part of how I have become a stronger Christian, by learning from others and being a servant.

Fast forward almost 10 years, and the way I think, speak, and act is radically different. God has blessed me more than I could ever have imagined with opportunities to serve Him and friends that are more like family. He's also taken a lot away and let painful things happen to me. But at the end of the day, Jesus is enough and always knows what's best for me, and I can trust Him. I am nowhere near finished, and I am still such a screwup, but Jesus said He'll use me anyway. Thank God for that.



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I've had countless nights where I said I would go to bed on time, but the glow of my cell still illuminated my face as I watched just one more TikTok. Of course, there is always time for one more. I'm not alone in the habit of binging short videos of people dancing to catchy music. TikTok has accumulated over two billion downloads. There are millions of users on TikTok whose sole enjoyment of the app is watching silly videos, catching up on what's new, and maybe jumping in on the popular trends with their own twist. People use this popular social platform for many different reasons, some positive and some negative. But overall, there's a sense of familiarity and comfort in staying behind a screen, safe and protected from the awkwardness and messiness of life while watching the awkwardness and messiness of other people's lives.

MY REFLEXES BETRAY ME

Sometimes I open my phone and find myself using TikTok within seconds. How did I get here? Maybe I was checking my messages initially, but I quickly forgot my

original purpose and found myself scrolling videos instead. Over 90% of TikTok users are on it for an average of over one hour daily!¹ I didn't notice how strong the pull was until I tried to delete the app. Afterward, I would open my phone and feel lost because I couldn't find it, and eventually, I would cave and redownload to post one more video.

Have you ever created a TikTok only to delete it immediately because it didn't represent you in a way that would be accepted by or interesting to TikTok users? What about when you created a video that didn't get many views? Did you delete it because it wasn't popular? There is a distinct way that we want to be viewed by others. We want to be accepted and for people to congratulate and like us. It's normal to want others to like you, even strangers, and using TikTok is a great way to get immediate attention for our performance. It's easy to create a persona on TikTok to reflect who we want to be.

I'M NOT A DRONE

I wouldn't say I liked the version of myself I created on TikTok. It's not me at all. What I really wanted was community,

validation, and connection, but TikTok couldn't give that to me. I used to think that if I became a Christian, I would become a mindless drone. I thought I wouldn't be unique or exciting anymore or that God would take away my personality and individuality. It wasn't until I became a Christian that I realized it was the opposite. Before I started following Jesus, I was just like everyone else and strived to be popular. However, when I became a Christian, I realized that God made me more of myself than I ever could.

I don't expect you to stop using TikTok. Sure, it can be a time swamp, but that's not the only problem. The real issue comes when I try to use TikTok to feel better about myself, try to get others to like me more because I use it, or forget that my relationship with Jesus is the only thing that should define who I am. Looking to who Jesus says I should be is the only way to truly understand who I am supposed to be. Looking at my use of TikTok through the Bible's lens helps me remember who I should imitate. So, I still watch TikTok with my free time between classes, only now it looks a bit different. I'm just fine without it when I have to get to class or head to bed.

¹wallaroomedia.com/blog/social-media/tiktok-statistics/

10 THINGS YOU THOUGHT WERE IN THE BIBLE: BUT AREN'T

The Bible is a big book. Believe it or not, it's a collection of 66 books compiled together. It has over 40 authors and it was written over 1,500 years.¹ Chances are, you've heard a thing or two about the Bible, and chances are, you probably have a few things wrong about the Bible, too. Here are ten common misconceptions about the Bible and what it actually says.

1 Money is the Root of All Evil: This phrase isn't found in the Bible. 1 Timothy 6:10 says, "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows" (NLT). Money itself isn't evil, but the selfish pursuit and love of what it gives is the real problem.

3 The Bible Condones Slavery: Slavery is a terrible thing that's existed since history was recorded, and the Bible recognizes this sad fact. God made all humans in His image (Genesis 1:26), and we're called to respect everyone (1 Peter 2:17 NLT), and even to treat others as better than ourselves (Philippians 2:3). The Bible never forces anyone to take slaves but offers help and advice to those who find themselves in chains, as a byproduct of living in this sinful, fallen world. "He is no longer like a slave to you. He is more than a slave, for he is a beloved brother" (Philemon 1:16).

2 Women Are Inferior to Men: You'll likely hear that the Bible is sexist in today's woke culture. Not true. Jesus leveled the playing field in an age where, unfortunately, women were treated as property and less than dogs. The Apostle Paul sets the record straight in Galatians 3:28, saying, "There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female". Jesus elevated women in a culture that hated women, showing the world that equality is right. Women and men are both made in the image of God.

4 God Works All Things Together for Good: True, but also false. This snippet from Romans 8:28 is the quintessential coffee cup verse. However, the second half of the verse states, "...for those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." It's easy to feel warm and fuzzy with the first half of this verse, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God," but how many people truly love God and are following Him for His purposes? Life won't just magically work out for good for those who are doing their own thing.

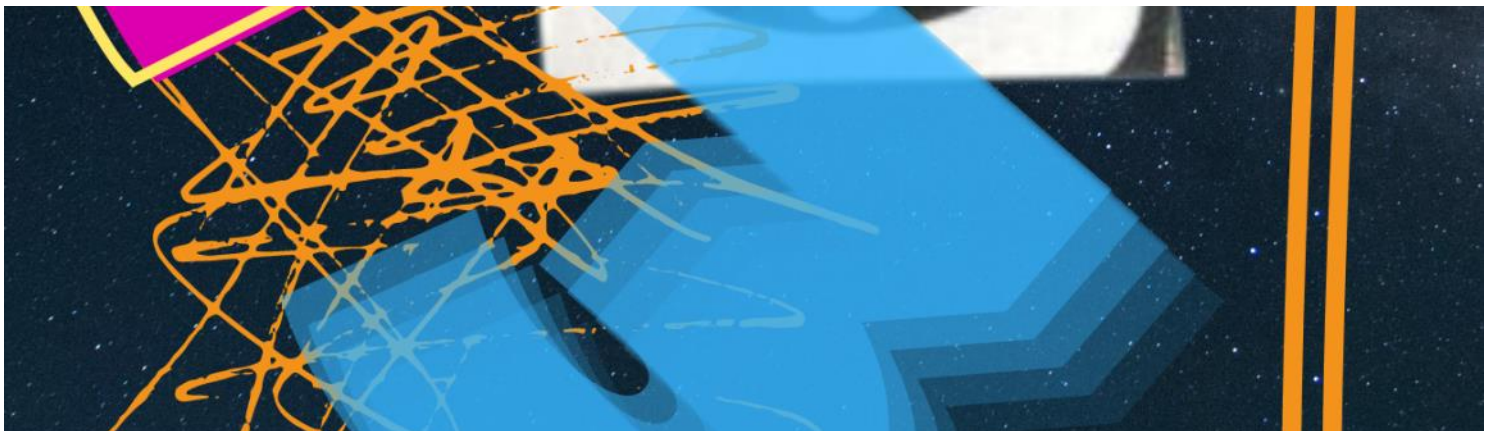
BEING BIBLE LITERATE IS CRUCIAL FOR YOUR SURVIVAL AS A CHRISTIAN; DON'T NEGLECT IT.

5 God Just Wants You to be Happy: God wants you to be holy; it doesn't say happy. 1 Peter 1:16 says, "You must be holy because I am holy." Holiness is more important than chasing after and having what you think will bring you happiness. Did Jesus look happy while on the cross? You'd be sweating blood too if you knew you were slated to endure what was on record as one of the most "brutal and shameful modes of death"². Happiness is an emotion, and those feelings are fleeting. Joy is found in doing God's will, even unto death.



¹Who wrote the Bible? Bibleinfo.com. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.bibleinfo.com/en/questions/who-wrote-the-bible>

²L Cilliers; R. F. P. C. (2003, December). The history and pathology of Crucifixion. South African medical journal = Suid-Afrikaanse tydskrif vir geneeskunde. Retrieved from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/14750495/>.



VI Judge Not: “Christians are judgmental, and that’s hypocritical.” The truth is that Christians are called to judge other Christians, not the rest of the world. Paul addresses this in his letter to the Corinthian church: “It isn’t my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, “You must remove the evil person from among you” (1 Corinthians 5:12-13). Christians are not to hold unbelievers to the standard of a believer. Instead, they are to judge those within the church to protect against people who seek to devour, bring harm, and divide.

9 You Must Give God 10% of Your Income: This idea came from the Mosaic Law in the Old Testament, but nowhere in the New Testament is it decreed to us today. Besides, everything already belongs to God! All your money, all the world’s resources, everything! Jesus wants us to give generously. 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, “You must decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

7 Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin: God loves everyone; this is true. However, He loves you as His child (John 1:12, Galatians 3:26), or He loves you as an enemy (Matthew 5:44). God hates every sin, however, make no mistake. Psalm 5:4-5 says, “You take no pleasure in wickedness, you cannot tolerate the sins of the wicked...for You hate all who do evil.” God’s will is that none should perish, and He is patiently waiting for repentance (2 Peter 3:9). However, He is a God of justice (Isaiah 61:8) and He will never tolerate insistent sin.

10 Cleanliness is Next to Godliness: This phrase isn’t even in the Bible. It was coined in the 1600s and indicates that those who are pure and clean people, both morally and hygienically, are close to God.³ However, we can’t even dream of cleaning up our lives enough before God would accept us! Jesus says, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor - sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners” (Mark 2:17). Jesus has paved the way for us to cry out to God as we are, in whatever state we’re in, poor hygiene and all.

8 God Will Not Give You More Than You Can Handle: You don’t know what you can handle, but God does. God wants to break you and refine you as gold. 1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us that “He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand,” but we get it twisted as our hearts are “deceitfully wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9). We’re convinced we know when we’ve had enough and want to throw in the towel. We need to endure regardless of what God allows in our lives.

“JESUS HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR US TO CRY OUT TO GOD AS WE ARE, IN WHATEVER STATE WE’RE IN, POOR HYGIENE AND ALL.”

Feel more biblically literate? Good, however, this list is just the tip of the iceberg for misconceptions about the Bible. There are plenty of other biblical ideas floating around the world that have been twisted into a lie. Please don't believe them. Read the scriptures for yourself, study them, find a Bible-teaching church, and learn under the pastor. Knowing biblical truth will release you from a tainted worldview.

³ Martin, G. (n.d.). 'cleanliness is next to godliness' - the meaning and origin of this phrase. Phrasefinder. Retrieved from <https://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/cleanliness-is-next-to-godliness.html>. All Bible references in this article are taken from the New Living Translation (NLT).

HOW YOU DATE MATTERS

3 STEPS TO REWIRE YOUR HEART



D

ating well takes courage. If you're currently dating, or have dated someone in the past, then you likely know from experience that getting to know someone beyond the friend level is both exhilarating and bewildering. Opening yourself up to someone can be dangerous. If it goes well, then the relationship can zoom ahead, but if it doesn't, suddenly you're left with a bruised heart or reeling from the knowledge that you've injured someone else's. The dividing line between these two outcomes is messy. However, don't believe the myth that dating is just a game of volleys until you find the right person, the one. Instead, resolve to date in a way that brings clarity and exposes any excuses you might be hanging onto. To do this, you need Jesus.

MAKE JESUS YOUR #1

If you have ever been in an unhealthy relationship, the kind that promoted isolation and sin, then you know how quickly it can turn ugly. Getting to know someone is a great thing. We're hardwired for connection, so figuring out who we might be spending the rest of our lives with is only natural. However, when it goes wrong, the convention of dating itself isn't to be blamed. Instead, you must examine your own heart. This is not a fluffy proposition meant to throw you off the scent of practical steps for dating well. What's honestly in your heart is the number one indicator displaying whether you're dating to pursue self or dating to pursue Jesus.

It's depressing how easy it is to convince ourselves that Jesus is a buzzkill when it comes to romance. If that's your heart, though, resolve to pull up. Before you give your heart to someone else, start by giving it to Jesus and then keeping it there. This act – devoting yourself to Jesus before



someone else – is impossible without the Holy Spirit.¹ All the pressure you may be placing on your date to be perfect, always lovable, and 100% committed to you evaporates in the heat of the love that Jesus gives. And unless you're consumed by Him and living life for Him, your next date will always fail you because they can't meet the expectations and longings you have. Only Jesus can live up to the hype.

But before you go disparaging yourself for having put Jesus on the sidelines during your dating adventures, remember that failure doesn't disqualify you. It is

actually your ticket for restoration if you let Him do the fixing. His love alone can heal the parts of you that you've maybe been reluctant to acknowledge need changing. If He can keep track of every bird alive on this planet, He can undoubtedly rearrange your perspective on dating, but your participation is required.²

Another critical principle to hang on to is only to date someone who is also pursuing Jesus. "Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14). Even if you really like someone right now who doesn't share your beliefs, you are simply setting yourself up for heartbreak later if you ignore this warning because relationships only thrive when they're growing in the same direction.

FLY AMBIGUITY AND PREMATURE INTIMACY

There are generally two wildly different approaches to dating. The first is that it's all about the fun and experiences gained along the way, and the second is that marriage must be the definite end goal for it to be Jesus-approved. Both of these are misguided. Dating carefree can be a distraction from your relationship with Jesus. And if you go into a relationship assuming you will marry the person, you miss the chance to get to know them and see if their walk with Jesus aligns with yours. Instead, as you go down the road of getting to know someone, pray for increasing clarity on where it's all headed. God's timing is impeccable, and if you're listening to His voice for the next steps instead of your impulsiveness, He will guide you there. Believe it or not, if you're meant to marry someone, God will lead you to the person He has handpicked for you.³

In tandem with this pursuit of clarity, however, must be your determination to avoid any kind of intimacy that would prevent your grandmother from being in the same room as you. Jesus isn't invested in killing your fun. He's invested in your best interests, really. "Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body" (1 Corinthians 6:18). However, if you've already found out the pain of this reality, you can start over: "...Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

ASK FOR HELP

Dating well can't be done in a vacuum. In addition to your hardcore pursuit of God's direction, your involvement in a local church has an important role too. Just like nearly anything, we learn best by hearing and watching what others have done before us, and it takes a lot of time and effort. "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to

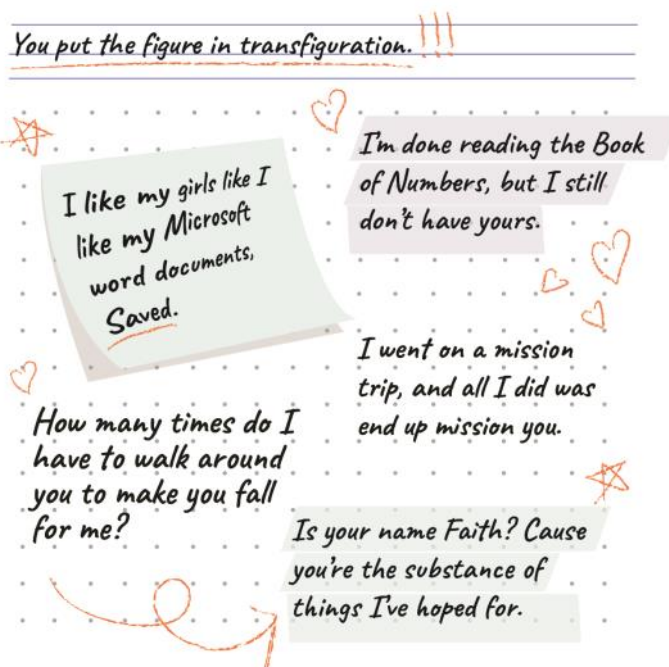
advice" (Proverbs 12:15). If you believe that you have everything under control and you know how dating should be done, you're pretty much robbing yourself of what could be a beautiful thing. A successfully married Christian couple has a wealth of experiences and advice that will only benefit you if you take the time to ask and observe.

None of this is easy, and it certainly won't gain you any points with the rest of the world, but if you're serious about living out your faith in Jesus, then how you date is included in that. Instead of rushing off to catch a thrill and experience the buzz of new love, dating God's way will let you reap a deep, long-lasting, joyous reward when the time is right. It's all up to you.



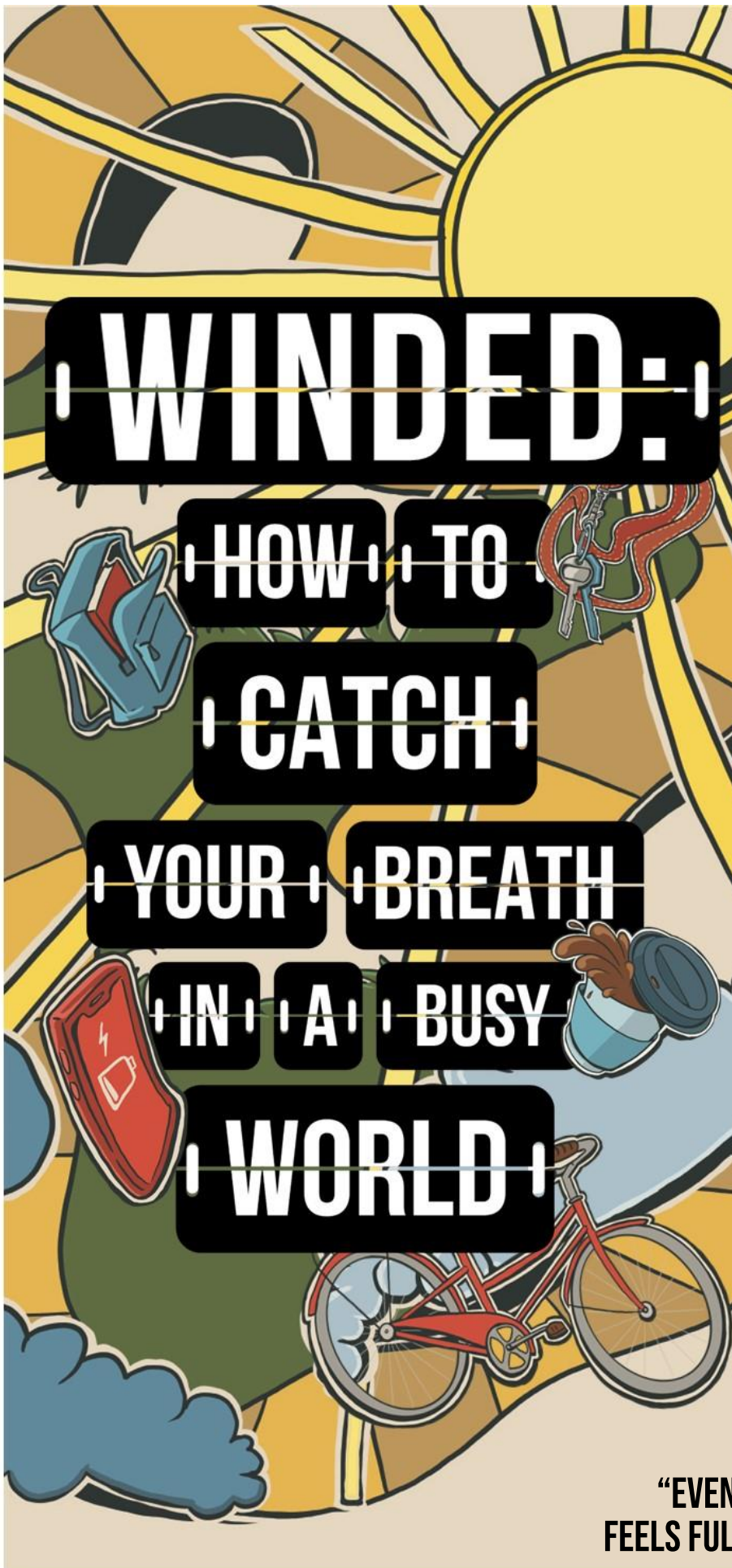
Biblical Pick Up Lines

The cure for your singleness can be found in the use of these sure-fire pickup lines. Break the ice without breaking your future date's heart. Not only will you get a laugh but a date, for sure.



Warning: The use of these may result in a chronic onset of eye-rolling. These are intended to be for comic value and shouldn't be applied to real-life situations.

¹ John 14:15-17 ² Matthew 10:29 ³ Matthew 6:33
All Bible references in this article are taken from the New Living Translation (NLT).



Imagine life is like jogging on a treadmill. A leisurely pace releases energizing endorphins, and our muscles move to the rhythm set by the playlist pumping through our ears. Life is good. We've got this. Glancing down at the dashboard, however, we notice a problem—a big problem. The incline and speed buttons are jammed into acceleration. We suddenly find that life is getting busier and more complicated. We're no longer jogging but running at full speed. Our responsibilities, and therefore anxieties, exponentially increase, and we are left huffing and puffing for air.

Even though we are in motion and life feels full of activity, the trouble is we're not actually going anywhere. We are running in place, going nowhere, getting soaked from heavy perspiration. Looking around, everyone else is on their own treadmills, which makes the frantic, "I'm-so-busy" pace seem normal. But, we simply can't exert ourselves like this forever. If something doesn't change, we'll burn out and risk serious injury.

STUCK AT TURBO SPEED

Sometimes life feels like it schedules itself. Going from classes to studying to work to being with friends to enjoying hobbies makes our days blur into months. We try to console ourselves that this season of feeling overwhelmed is just temporary and that it'll be worth it when we finally get what we work so hard for. That, my friend, is false hope. What makes us busy may change, but the busyness itself does not.

If our daily calendars aren't that full, we're not off the hook either because busyness also afflicts our mental energy. For example, it's not hard to see that using social media, texting, and browsing the web keep our minds busy all hours of the day and night. Research suggests that "We tap, swipe, and click on our phones 2,617 times per day."² And the other half of the time our internal monologue is ruling our mind, lost in our to-do list, concocting imaginary conversations, or stressing about relationships. We're here on the outside, but we're a million miles away on the inside.

Alarm bells go off when we live maxed out. We hear them at first, but then gradually we learn to live with them like they are familiar friends. Some common signals include not eating

"EVEN THOUGH WE ARE IN MOTION AND LIFE FEELS FULL OF ACTIVITY, THE TROUBLE IS WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY GOING ANYWHERE."

enough, overeating, sacrificing sleep, changes in mood, and a loss of personal joy and thankfulness. We compensate for it all by consuming lots of coffee and energy drinks and trying even harder. Pretty soon, we get stuck running at high speed without gaining any ground.

REST FOR THE WEARY

Everyone wants true rest, but not everyone knows where to look. Unfortunately, we often look in the wrong places, and the things we take hold of—prescriptions, entertainment, substances— are numbing instead of refreshing. Jesus sees our frantic condition. Instead of saying, "Run faster, the pressure's on you," He offers the most incredible invitation: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28, NKJV). In Christ, we're free to admit our limitations, our failings, our daily disappointments, and our striving. We can finally exhale.

The rest Jesus offers means using our time intentionally and responsibly. Even Jesus, being perfect, had to think critically when it came to His relationships, His work, and His rest. The same is true for us. Universities, jobs, families, and our own selves have a million agendas for us to follow, and we can't possibly please them all. In extreme contrast, Christ's example demonstrated a life driven by going where His Father led and doing what His Father asked at every moment and in every situation.

A measure of rest we can attain in this life comes from meditating on and hoping in the life to come. We can breathe easier when we remember that this life isn't all there is. Eternity is real, and Jesus' desire is that we would spend it with Him. For instance, the book of Colossians implores us, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory" (2:3-4, NKJV). Our circumstances may not change, but facing them with a different perspective can make all the difference. Whatever busyness, whatever chaos, whatever anxiety, whatever exhaustion we're facing now is only light and momentary compared to what Jesus has planned if we choose to trust Him.

A NEW WAY TO WALK

At this point, our gut reaction to fix our busyness might be to kneejerk in the opposite direction. Don't. The answer is not to become lazy by quitting everything that makes us busy. Instead, take an inventory of daily activity and look for common sense adjustments. Can we accomplish a task in half the amount of time we set aside and use the remaining time to pray, meditate, or go for a walk? Also, address what is important versus what is urgent. In the age of constant notifications, everything seems urgent, but it's really not.

“WALKING WITH GOD MEANS WE DON'T RUN AHEAD DOING OUR OWN THING, AND WE ALSO DON'T SIT DOWN TOO SCARED TO MOVE ON.”

Furthermore, when we run at 100 miles an hour, it gives very little time and space for God to provide any input on the direction our life is going. He's trying to speak to us, but our personal world is so loud we can't hear. Sometimes when we sit down to read the Bible, our thoughts invade like a raging flood, causing a major distraction. Fight the urge to want to give up and keep reading. Let God's Word clarify what we do and why. A lot of burnout comes from imposing a certain level of performance and tasks on ourselves that God never called us to in the first place.

Knowing God's voice comes through practice. We know a thought, an idea, or a direction to go in is from God if it is supported by Scripture. We also know this if trusted Christians give affirming counsel, circumstances line up, and the Holy Spirit working through our conscience gives peace. God doesn't want us to be stuck in one place but instead wants us to grow and mature as we walk the path He has set out for us. Doing so is messy, but so is every other relationship. Walking with God means we don't run ahead doing our own thing, and we also don't sit down too scared to move on. Jesus died and was resurrected to life again so that we may know Him and we would be known by Him. That's what this whole Christian thing is about.

When life gets us out of breath, it's not always a bad thing. Just like a jog in the brisk morning air, burning lungs is a sign we're alive. However, the critical factor is knowing what we're exhausting ourselves for. American author and pastor Kevin DeYoung in his book, *Crazy Busy*, summarizes, "The busyness that's bad is not the busyness of work, but the busyness that works hard at the wrong things. It's being busy trying to please people, busy trying to control others, busy trying to do things we haven't been called to do." If this is us, if we're out of breath from the wrong things, Jesus is offering us His rest. He is inviting us to catch our breath, get back up on our feet, and follow Him where He's going. May we all leave our treadmills behind.

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:29-30, NKJV).



¹DeYoung, Kevin. (2013). *Crazy busy: A (mercifully) short book about a (really) big problem*. Crossway. Pg. 16.
²Brandon, J. (Nov. 19, 2019). These updated stats about how often you use your phone will humble you. Inc.com

³1I Corinthians 4:17



WHERE IS MY MIND?

WHY CHRISTIANS NEED MEDITATION

Empty your mind...Well, I'm going to be here awhile. I suggest you don't stick around because there's going to be some nasty stuff that I will be drudging up out of the depths of my mind if I'm going to empty it.

Mainstream meditation is all about sitting still, attempting to empty your mind, and focusing on yourself to better yourself. It has become a widespread trend in our culture. Everywhere from kindergarten classrooms to universities, workplaces, and app stores offer a plethora of ideas on what meditation is and how it should be done. The popular thought isn't wrong. You can, in fact, dramatically change your life through meditation, but it must be meditation on the right thing.

WHAT IS MEDITATION?

Biblical meditation focuses your mind on God, His attributes and character, and His Word. It means to think deeply about the truths of scripture and soak in every word so that your life becomes saturated by it. Instead of emptying your mind of everything, or focusing on how you feel, meditation for the Christian is to fill your mind with God and focus on Him. That might sound a bit out there, or like it is only necessary for the spiritually elite, but it is a vital part of life for every Christian.

Before you start thinking that this is just another thing to add to a spiritual checklist and start coming up with excuses for why you don't have time for it, here are some things to ponder: do you find it burdensome to think about, obsess over, and fill your mind with other things? How about the things you desire, love, or fear? If you genuinely love God, you'll naturally want to think about Him and think deeply about what He says to

you. Just like re-reading that DM your crush sent you for the twentieth time (Come on, I know you've done it).

MEDITATION MOVES US

When I let my mind run wild, I eventually become anxious, fearful, or depressed. My mind naturally runs to selfish, impure, or false things, which leads me not to trust God. I am far less likely to do what He says when I don't trust Him. God tells us instead to meditate on whatever is true, noble, just, pure, lovely, good, virtuous, and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8). When I focus on these things, I think less about myself and more about God. I begin to trust Him more, which leads me to live my life in obedience to His directions. This is not God's way of boosting His ego by getting everyone to focus on Him. (He never gets an ego boost from what we think of Him anyway.) Nor is this some superficial "just think positive" scheme. Biblical meditation is not the end goal. Instead, it is to be a springboard for living out our faith in a radical way.

In the Old Testament, God called Joshua into leading His people, the Israelites, and told him about all the lands he would conquer. It was an epic start to the rest of Joshua's life of following God. Joshua goes on to fight giants and have great military victories. He is faithful to God in significant ways. How? God commands him in Joshua 1:8, "The law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success...for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." By keeping God's words to him always in his thoughts, he was able to apply them in his daily life, proving his faith in God in these epic ways. God desires the same for your life.

WHERE TO BEGIN

Biblical meditation will take some discipline, but it is also a delight. It takes discipline because meditation is rewiring your brain to bring it more and more in line with how God thinks. Not in an esoteric “become one with a higher power” sense, but by gaining a real, practical understanding of how God thinks and feels about a situation. This is done by a careful, prayerful, and intentional study of what God says in the Bible. Here are just a few tips to get you started:

PRAY

You need God’s help in everything, and definitely in this. There is a battle raging continuously in your mind for what or who gets your attention. Go to the battle armed.

SET ASIDE TIME

Try to be consistent in having some uninterrupted time, quiet and alone with God each day, but don’t box yourself in to meditate only then. The Bible says to meditate day and night, which means this should be done all hours of the day.

PAUSE

When you’re reading something in the Bible, stop and think about it in different ways. Take time to think about each word. Ask yourself questions about it, and let your mind ponder for a while.

REMEMBER

Don’t just leave your thoughts of God like a bookmark shoved in your Bible when it closes. Think back to the truths you read about throughout the day and listen for how God is speaking to you through it in your daily life.

SING

Be on the lookout for good songs that center on Scripture or quote the Bible directly. Singing is a great way to remember verses so you can think about them throughout the day.

...

“Let my mind be made new. Let my heart be set on You. Let my words flow from You, God. Let my life be found in You” - Aaron Strumpel, *A Mighty Refuge (Guard My Heart)*

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**IF YOU GENUINELY
LOVE GOD, YOU’LL
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THINK ABOUT HIM
AND THINK DEEPLY
ABOUT WHAT HE
SAYS TO YOU.**



As A Matter of Fact:

WHAT IS ?

Faith is a word our culture throws around pretty often. It's cheery, open-ended, and looks nice in cursive hanging on a wall. You might hear someone say, "just have faith," and what they're saying is that you should trust things are going to work out. According to Google, the term means having "complete trust or confidence in someone or something." Using this definition, we could list a few things we put our faith in, like romantic relationships, the next vote for a political office, or a college degree. In this article, we're looking at what the Bible says about faith.

The Bible says that we are justified ("made righteous") with God by faith in Jesus' death and resurrection.

This is what it means to be born again: recognizing our separation from God because of our sin, we accept the salvation offered to us through Christ (Romans 3:23-24). We now have His power to turn away from our sin and have faith that Jesus physically came to Earth, lived a perfect life, was put to death, and rose again. Christians don't have faith in their abilities or count on their strength to get them through life. We recognize that without Jesus, we're lost, and we have nothing. By our faith in Jesus, we get to know our Creator, live to serve Him and others, and have confident hope that we will spend eternity with Him.

When life gets hard, we walk by faith.

Some people say Christianity is a crutch, and they're absolutely right! Life is hard, and if it's not hard for you right now, give it time. Walking by faith means believing God when He says He will never leave you (Deuteronomy 31:6) and recognizing that God is in control (1 Chronicles 29:11). When we face difficulties in life, we run to God and find comfort in Him (Matthew 11:28-29) and remember that Jesus said He's preparing a place for us in Heaven. He's going to take us there one day to be with Him (John 14:3). We trust God when He says that our suffering is producing something in us, meaning that our suffering isn't meaningless (Romans 5:3-5). And so, as 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, "We walk by faith, not by sight" (ESV).

Faith without good deeds is dead.

James 2:19-20 points out the lunacy of belief not leading to action: "You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?" Having faith in what Jesus has done and believing Him when He says He's coming back moves the Christian to do something. If someone told you that the roof of the room you're sitting in was about to cave in at any moment,

you'd prove you believe them by scrambling out the door. Your belief will move you to action. Christian faith is the same way. There are plenty of things God has for His people to do once they're born again, like getting involved in a local church (Hebrews 10:25) and telling other people about what Jesus has done for us (Matthew 28:16-20). When you have faith in Jesus, you'll see

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HAVING FAITH IN WHAT JESUS HAS DONE AND BELIEVING HIM WHEN HE SAYS HE'S COMING BACK MOVES THE CHRISTIAN TO DO SOMETHING.

the needs of others, and you'll want to do something about them. These good deeds do not save us, Jesus does, but they work together with our faith, giving evidence of the change that has happened in our hearts.

Faith isn't just a catchphrase for the Christian. It keeps us going, despite circumstances, because we have work to do. Psalm 23:4 says, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (ESV). This is what it means to have faith.



THE BLIND MUNCHIES

621 WILSON AVE, MENOMONIE



COFFEE TALKS

- 1) God: Is He out There?
- 2) War: Why Did Life Just Get Harder?
- 3) Voices: Who am I Listening to?
- 4) Bible: Can We Trust It?
- 5) Believe: What Should I Know?
- 6) Character: How Do I Change?
- 7) Training: How Do I Grow As A Christian?
- 8) Church: Do I Have To Go?
- 9) Relationships: How do I Make Things Right?
- 10) Service: How do I Give Back?



Saturday morning breakfast gatherings
2nd semester stout-all are welcome!



Left: The aftermath of Odette at the Inayawan Church of the Nazarene; Top Right: Broken power lines cut off road access and leave thousands without electricity in Cebu City; Bottom Right: People wait for hours in line for fuel, drinking water, groceries, and money from banks and ATMs

The Philippines Rebuilds After Super Typhoon Odette Devastates

CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES –

In a nation that is well-known for having the longest and strictest lockdowns worldwide in response to COVID-19, the Filipino people were looking forward to a very merry Christmas in 2021. However, holiday plans quickly changed for those living in the regions of Visayas and Mindanao. On December 16, 2021, Typhoon Odette made her indelible mark on the islands and the people who live there. The intensity of the storm caught many people by surprise as it intensified overnight before landfall and the region is still struggling to recover. With a death toll of at least 410 and thousands without electricity and running water a month later, *Word on the Street* hit the ground to collect the stories of some young Filipinos' experiences.

WHAT WERE THE DAYS LEADING UP TO THE STORM LIKE FOR YOU?

Fredmil (Camp 8, Toledo City, Cebu): I guess a lot of people didn't expect the impact that Typhoon Odette brought. We prepared some things, like securing those things that would fly around, but we just went back to

our rooms and tried to sleep. My nanay is afraid of thunderstorms, so I slept beside her. Around 9pm, that's when it got stronger. We really didn't prepare very well.

Darlene (Bantayan Island, Cebu): I was anxious when I heard about the storm getting stronger. It brought back so much trauma from Super Typhoon Yolanda (2013).

Neilroy (Cebu City, Cebu): When I heard about the typhoon, I checked social media and found out that Cebu City was only at Signal No. 1 on December 15. I thought it was going to be another typical storm that would pass through and be no big deal at all. At work in the University of the Visayas, we received a memo for all employees about the suspension of work on December 16. At home, we didn't prepare for the storm since all of us were busy preparing for our upcoming Christmas parties.

Youth from Inayawan Church of the Nazarene (ICON) (Inayawan, Cebu City): Those days were ordinary and we had everything we needed. We could still get tap and drinking water, consume an average amount of electricity, and sleep soundly.

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE STORM HIT?

F: I was in our house trying to feed and cuddle our dogs because they were terrified. One of our dogs got a bit traumatized by the storm and roof materials flying around. I was in my room with my family.

D: Thank God, our barangay officials took the initiative to secure us all in evacuation centers. My family and I stayed at the nearest school.

N: In the afternoon, I was already at home with my mother. We didn't think about buying emergency supplies (water, canned goods, solar/rechargeable lights, power banks, etc). My father came home and told us that the alert level rose to Signal No. 4. The wind quickly got stronger and started to blow out our roof. The ceiling in our second story fell down and rain came inside our house, which made us all wet and cold. We quickly went to the first story and spent the long night listening to the chaotic turbulent strength of Odette.

ICON: When the storm hit, I was inside my room. I decided to go down and talk with the

others about how strong the wind was. My mom asked me to buy some stuff from the convenience store to support our daily needs for a few days. We expected it to be like a week, but it became a month. Then the branches started breaking and landing on roofs. The leaves and mangos fell like rain drops, so we gathered in a place where we thought we would be safe. We worshipped our God in the midst of the storm and asked for His protection. Every time the wind got louder, so did our voices. God heard our prayers and cries. A few minutes after we worshipped our living God, the wind hushed. Though there was so much damage, we still believe that God has His purpose and time for this.

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED A STORM LIKE SUPER TYPHOON ODETTE?

F: No. We had strong storms like Yolanda, but it was only blackout for one week. So we expected that the electricity would be back in one week, but a month later, it still hasn't come back.

D: We expected the worst from Odette, but it had nothing against the impacts that Super Typhoon Yolanda (2013) and Ruby



The famous Christmas tree at Fuente Osmeña toppled from Super Typhoon Odette's 195km/h winds

(2014) left on our island. Yolanda was the strongest typhoon that hit the country and the eye of the storm went right through our tiny island, Bantayan. Our house was completely wrecked. There was no electricity for more than three months, no

safe water to drink, and no network signal. We lived in an almost ground-zero environment. But surviving Yolanda was a testament that whatever storm comes to our lives, we no longer fear because we've overcome what's probably the most life-threatening experience we ever had.

N: Never have I imagined in my entire life that I would experience a storm like Odette. Yolanda was very strong, but it didn't directly hit Cebu City. We were affected, but not severely. Unlike now, we've lost water and power supply for more than a month and still have to deal with the damages in the house.

ICON: I have never experienced a storm like this before. However, it is not the first time we've seen damages caused by a single storm. I think that's why we did not consider it an important matter that could throw affliction to us. We did not foresee it would be as detrimental as it was. This storm collected stories that we must tell to others that serve as enlightenment that we should be prepared and mindful every day in any circumstances.

ODETTE HIT AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER. HOW DID THAT AFFECT YOUR COURSEWORK?

F: Around December, I was still tutoring a Grade 8 student who studies in La Salle in Lutopan. When the typhoon hit, all of our

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THE CEILING IN OUR SECOND STORY FELL DOWN AND RAIN CAME INSIDE OUR HOUSE, WHICH MADE US ALL WET AND COLD. WE QUICKLY WENT TO THE FIRST STORY AND SPENT THE LONG NIGHT LISTENING TO THE CHAOTIC TURBULENT STRENGTH OF ODETTE.

classes got shut down. We didn't finish our research or all of the assessments. After the storm, I decided to resign from tutoring since I'm still trying to recuperate from what I experienced during the typhoon. Thankfully, my professors extended our deadlines until the end of January.

D: Our generation experienced so many delays that we feel so old now. From K-12 to COVID to typhoons, it's like we had the

longest education. I rely so much on my scholarship, and for the semester to halt because of Odette, I would expect much longer days of an online class.

ICON: It was the start of second semester for me and the final exam for my first subject this second semester. The day of the storm was my "no school and school works" day. I was very chill and told myself I'd do the assigned tasks the next day. Unfortunately, I was unable to submit the activities and take the exam after the typhoon hit. Until now, I don't have the resources to finish everything. Good thing the professors are focusing on our status and situation right now, rather than demanding to complete the tasks given.

HOW HAS THE STORM AND ITS AFTERMATH AFFECTED YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

F: My nanay was the strongest in her faith in God. My tatay is so doubtful. He even told us, "Maybe God thought I would be praying to him after this. No." Nanay was so quiet when he said that. I always believe everything happens for a reason. For example, COVID came, then another blessing and unexpected opportunities because of it. I believe there are lessons to be learned from this typhoon. I have faith and trust in the process. Even though it's a slow process, it's still a process. Slow is better than nothing.

D: A year after Yolanda, I decided to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. I didn't depend on my trust in people anymore. With Odette, it was another eye-opener. It hit me in the heart to understand that Jesus is returning soon, and we should repent because sometimes storms are messages from heaven that are calling us out from our wrongdoings.

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N: Before our roof flew off and ceilings fell down, I was in my room in the second floor, praying loud. I shouted the name of Jesus Christ to protect us and our house from the storm. As I stood on a ladder to hold our ceiling up with my two hands, I prayed to God for protection until it all fell down. It was a very strange moment for me when it happened, because I wasn't scared of anything that could happen to me in that moment – even death. I found strength as I prayed, "If these things are part of your plans, Lord, thy will be done. I entrust you with my life, for I am Yours."

ICON: These days I have been receiving revelations how God is showing Himself with the divine interventions that have been bestowed by His grace. The happenings were surreal until I read the life of King David. King David enjoyed his life with the help of God's protection, guidance, wisdom, mercy and great love. He was abandoned many times even by his own relatives and was persecuted by the unending battles in his lifetime. However, by God's grace, he did not surrender to pursue the adversities that came his way. He is righteous and blameless in God's sight—aspects that I want to live with. Amidst the emergence of unfortunate circumstances, God gave me a sensitive heart to read His Word and it comforts me for the rest of the days. It makes my relationship with Him more intimate and I have been reminded that I am His child who is dependent on Him.

WHAT ARE THE GREATEST NEEDS IN THE PHILIPPINES NOW?

F: We really need the presence of the government. We didn't feel their care for the people. After Odette, we didn't receive canned goods from the government. The mayor didn't even come to visit our barangays. I don't think the leaders care about the health and safety of their people. There's a lack of leadership and care in both the private and public sectors.

D: People in the Philippines need a unified leadership that supports each other. I think we have to get serious about who we should vote for. I hope more leaders would prioritize the scientific revolution in the country. We also need leaders who are wise enough to collaborate with other nations regarding climate change because our country suffers from almost 20 storms every year, and they're getting worse. If other nations would take the severity of

these consequences, it would be better. But overall, the nation needs to repent. For centuries, we failed God with our selfish actions and our sins, and it's time to ask for God's forgiveness.

N: In Visayas and Mindanao, we need help to reenergize and rebuild. On the national level, I think the Philippines needs sustainable energy sources like solar panel systems per household, or if not, underground electric wiring systems for more typhoon-proof electric wirings. We also need leaders, both national and local, who quickly respond in times of calamities. That is truly when the community needs them to assist, mobilize aid, and distribute supplies when there are shortages. They should lead and spearhead action plans to

Damage at the University of the Visayas in Cebu City included a missing "G" on one of the buildings



maintain order in communities to prevent people from taking advantage of others and financially exploiting them. For example, after Odette, some people doubled or tripled the prices of drinking and tap waters, charged for using generators to recharge devices, and hoarded basic necessities.

ICON: The greatest needs for the Philippines right now, especially in affected areas, is food, proper shelter, electricity, and government's right and just ruling. After Odette, some businesses shut down, most families need funds, and people who have the power to help focused their eyes on money and politics. The people are hoping to go back and live their normal lives as soon as possible.

HOW CAN OUR READERS BE PRAYING FOR THE FILIPINO PEOPLE?

F: Filipinos are strong. A lot of people still smile. You can see their smiles even though they don't have a roof or house anymore. They laugh, but deep inside, they're longing for something and crying. I think they're

trying to hide their emotions. Maybe a lot of Christians can pray that we will stay strong and hold on despite the pandemic and typhoon. Pray that no one will backslide or turn their backs on God. This is a time we really need God and His presence. We can't feel His presence if we just block out His power and do not believe in Him. We need to have faith in Him so He can come to us and help us.

D: Pray to God that He would send more messengers to proclaim His gospel in this nation. Pray for our leaders to not antagonize our Christian faith and encourage reconnecting to churches in whatever means. I pray for God to pour out His mercy to us and help us appoint righteous leaders in the upcoming election.

N: Pray for strength and the will to carry on until all becomes well, recovered, and we achieve full restoration.

ICON: Pray for Filipinos to be unified—from the leaders that manage the circumstances and seek solutions, to the constituents that will work together—that they will not condemn and

drag down someone's dignity. Pray for provisions and resources that are lacking due to the effects of Odette. Pray for the souls that will realize that we will move forward to the future God has prepared for us. With this, it is necessary for us to ask for God's guidance and wisdom to continue with humility. We hoping that no one will boast or take it as an opportunity to deceive others, for many are deceived because of greediness for their own sake.

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Although Super Typhoon Odette was not as catastrophic as other storms that have ravaged the nation, the lives of the Filipinos have been greatly disrupted from the storm. The nation was just starting to see a light at the end of the very dark COVID tunnel when the storm hit, causing that small flame to dim...but only for a moment. If there is one characteristic that defines the Cebuano people, it is that of resiliency. In most cases, people have practiced a bayanihan spirit (unity and helping others to achieve a goal) and continued to proclaim #BangonCebu (meaning, "Get up Cebu").

The Best Menomonie Spots for Anything, According to an 11-Year Transplant



LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION ON WHERE TO SEE THE LOCAL SIGHTS OR JUST TO GET A BETTER BITE TO EAT?

CHECK OUT THESE TOP-NOTCH LOCATIONS.

After transferring to UW-Stout, I've lived in Menomonie for 11 years, and I'm still here. I'll never be a true townie, according to the hairdresser who shared that you have to be born here like she was to qualify for that title. But since Menomonie is a lot more than meets the eye, more than just a rest stop off of I-94 between Minneapolis and Madison, I'm content bearing the title of transplant. Whether you've been here for a few weeks, a few years, or maybe you're one of those lucky few townies, here's a crash course on Menomonie must-do's.

Outdoor/Adventure:

Sledding | Check out the Dunn County Fairgrounds (620 17th St SE) for a hill free of obstacles under the Menomonie water tower. It's the best spot in town for snowboarding too. Everything else is downhill from there.

Natural Wonder | Devil's Punchbowl (410th St) features some awe-inspiring ice walls during the winter or a pleasant waterfall in the spring. Be ready to descend and ascend some snow-covered stairs in the winter. If you find yourself visiting in the spring, be sure to wear shoes you don't mind getting muddy.

To Catch a Sunrise | Hang out in the parking lot or at a picnic table in Lakeside Park (Wolske Bay Rd). Witness the slow rise of the sun providing a great view of the lake. It is just down the road from the Menomonie Public Library.

To Catch a Sunset | Grab some custard from Culver's and head down the hill to Point Comfort Park (803 21st St NE North). Sit out on the dock or pull up a picnic table and watch the sun disappear behind the silhouette of Menomonie.

Fishing | Park on the land bridge (Shorewood Dr) connecting Evergreen Cemetery to the mainland (City of Menomonie). Cast into the bayside to hook a crappie or two. By the way, this historical cemetery was founded in 1873 and is the largest in Dunn County. It's open seasonally to visitors.

Next, drive or walk to the south end of Riverside Park (County Rd P). Set up on the beach and drop a line near the confluence of Gilbert Creek and the Red Cedar River.

Continued on next page...



Walking | Stokke Trail is a good bet if you are up for a short walk. Start at the Red Cedar Trailhead (910 Hudson Rd) and walk towards the dam or vice versa to maximize your view of the Red Cedar River and other woodland scenery.

Biking | Hop onto the Lake Menomin Loop for a relaxing, scenic cruise. This paved trail is 8.3 miles from start to finish, but you'll hardly notice the miles as you take in all the sights. Start and end at the trailhead in Wakanda Park (909 Pine Ave).

Swimming | The Dunnville Bottoms is a hidden gem on the Red Cedar River. It is about 15 miles down the Red Cedar Trail if you feel up to biking, or you can consult Google for driving directions. The best address to use is 524th Street/Dunnville Road to get you close, and then you can keep going until you hit the dead end. From there, it's a short walk down a path.

Slurps & Bites

Coffee | The Blind Munchies Coffeehouse (621 Wilson Ave) will get you going when the going gets tough. It is conveniently located near campus with a laid-back feel and serve delicious espresso drinks.

Donuts | Donut Sam's (521 2nd St E Suite B) is a great place to get a high-calorie kickstart to the day. They offer some inexpensive donuts with an attitude and a fun atmosphere. Show up early for the best selection.

Pizza | Lucette Brewing Company (910 Hudson Rd) offers an industrious atmosphere that pairs nicely with its woodfired pizza oven. Their unique za's are topped with locally sourced ingredients to bring your pizza experience closer to home. Order ahead and get it to go or dine in and enjoy it tableside.

Fish Fry | You don't have to be a successful fisherperson to enjoy the flounder. The Great Escape Bar & Grill (2909 Bonge Dr) serves up some great fried or baked cod or walleye. Plus, you can get a salad bar included.

Impress Them

Best Place to Take Your Mom | At Town and Country Antiques (244 Main St E), get lost in nostalgia and find unusual items. If you finish early, walk down the road to C & J's Candy and Ice Cream Shop for everything from basic chocolate to wild treats from around the world.

Best Place to Take Your Dad | What father would turn down a nice steak or some thick-cut bacon? At Cut Rite Meat Shoppe (872 N Broadway St), the smokehouse smell will inundate your senses as you walk through the door. They have self-serve to-go meat snack options, but the helpful person behind the counter will "meat" your expectations if you have something more hearty in mind.

To Learn History | At Rassbach Museum (1820 John Russell Rd) in Wakanda Park, take a step back in time to see history about bank robberies, living conditions, and once-thriving industries in the likes of bricks and logging in Menomonie.

Best Classic Midwestern Date Spot | Go bowling at Broadway Bowl (1501 N Broadway St). Get things rolling by ordering food like fries and a burger. It's a great spot to do a double date. They have weekly specials, but cosmic bowling on Friday nights pretty much encapsulates that whole midwestern charm experience.

PIZZA FROM LUCETTE



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Snacks . Fun

1 - 2 P.M.
Every-other
Sunday
Beginning
Feb 6, 2022

at the Blind Munchies
Coffeehouse
621 Wilson Ave

streetlevelministries.com
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MENOMONIE'S BEST-KEPT SECRET



The Blind Munchies Coffeehouse
621 Wilson Ave.

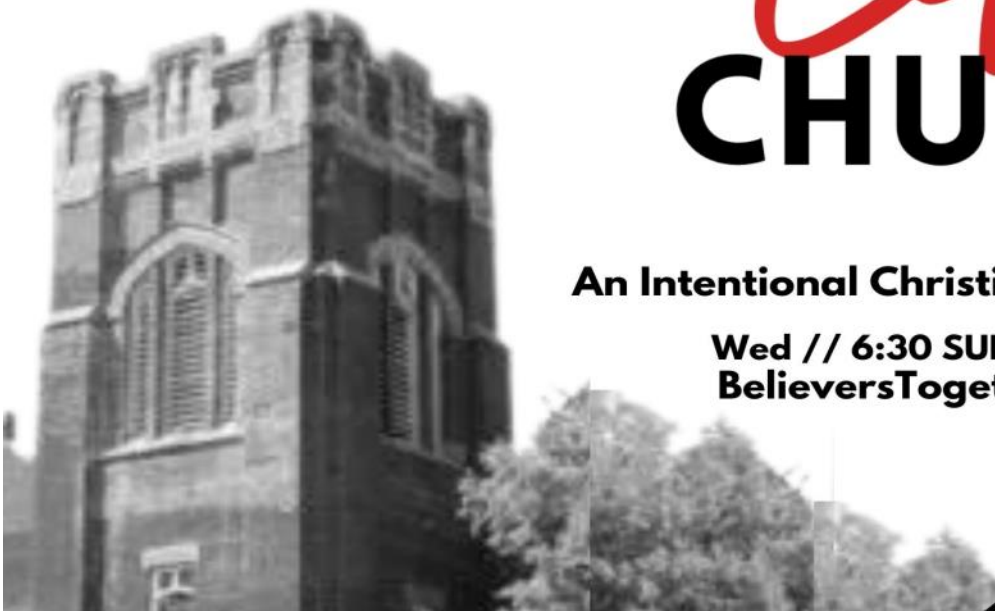
Your local non-profit coffeehouse

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An Intentional Christian Community

Wed // 6:30 SUN // 10:30
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IN COLLEGE.**

***ESCAPE THE
ORDINARY***

**STREET
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Ministries

an official uw-stout organization
streetlevelministries.com

Mondays //
Badger Room // 5pm
Free Dinner & Bible Discussion // 6pm
@ the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse