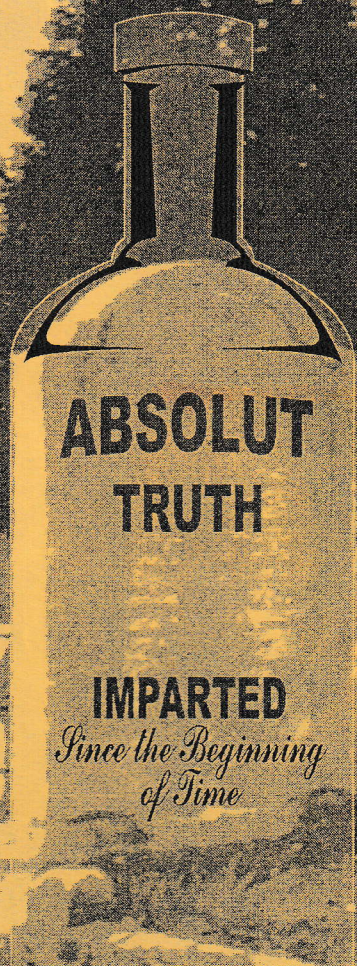


WORLD on the street
MAGAZINE

ISSUE 11



NEW RADICAL RESEARCH INDICATES: 10 out of 10 People Die!
-Question still lingers, *"What happens then?"*

THEN JESUS SAID,
"COME TO ME, ALL OF
YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND
CARRY HEAVY BURDENS,
AND I WILL GIVE YOU
REST. TAKE MY YOKE
UPON YOU. LET ME
TEACH YOU, BECAUSE I
AM HUMBLE AND
GENTLE, AND YOU
WILL FIND REST FOR
YOUR SOULS.
FOR MY YOKE
FITS PERFECTLY
AND THE
BURDEN I GIVE
YOU IS LIGHT."

MATTHEW 11:28-30



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WORD *on the street*
magazine

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www.streetlevel.uwstout.edu

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TRUE LIFE...NOT ALWAYS LIKE THE MOVIES

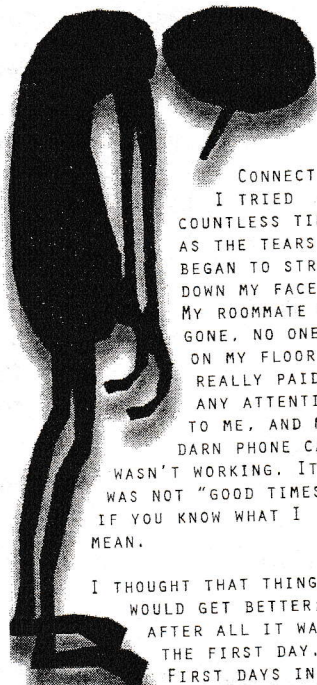
THE FIRST WEEK

I CAME TO COLLEGE LEAVING A LARGE GROUP OF FRIENDS AND A BOYFRIEND BEHIND. MAKING FRIENDS IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS NEVER AN ISSUE FOR ME. I MADE THE BIG STEP OF INDEPENDENCE, MOVING FOUR HOURS AWAY FROM EVERYTHING THAT WAS FAMILIAR TO ME. IT WAS SO WEIRD BECAUSE I HAD NEVER FELT SO TOTALLY ALONE IN ALL MY LIFE. IT WAS AS IF I HAD MOVED TO A FOREIGN LAND. I WAS NOT ONE TO GET HOMESICK, AS I LOVED THE ADVENTURE OF UNKNOWN TERRITORY. THIS WAS CRAZY, THOUGH. THE GIRLS ON MY DORM FLOOR WOULDN'T EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE MY PRESENCE. I LOOKED AT MY CLOTHES AND WONDERED WHAT THE DEAL WAS. WAS I A BIG FAUX PAS OR WHAT? DID I HAVE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?

THERE WAS ONE TINY BIT OF SUNSHINE THAT FIRST DAY OF COLLEGE WHEN I MET ANOTHER FRESHMAN GIRL WHO HAD ALSO LEFT HER WHOLE LIFE BEHIND, INCLUDING HER BOYFRIEND. IT WAS COOL TO AT LEAST HAVE SOMEONE WHO COULD HAVE A PITY PARTY WITH ME. WE HAD A DANCE THAT NIGHT AS PART OF THE ORIENTATION FESTIVITIES. MY NEW ACQUAINTANCE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN GOING, SO I TOOK A BIG LEAP AND WENT WITH THE GIRLS FROM MY FLOOR, HOPING TO HAVE AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT OF FUN. I WAS PRETTY MUCH DITCHED AT THE DANCE AND ENDED UP WALKING HOME ALONE HOPING I'D BE SAFE ON THE PATH IF I STAYED BEHIND THE TWO GUYS IN FRONT OF ME. I MADE IT BACK TO

MY ROOM UNHARMED, AND IT WAS THERE THAT I REALIZED HOW COMPLETELY ALONE I REALLY WAS.

WE HAD BEEN GIVEN A LONG DISTANCE CALLING PLAN AND ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS CALL MY BOYFRIEND, MY MOTHER, JUST SOMEBODY WHO I KNEW LOVED ME EVEN IF I HAD A BOOGER ON MY FACE. I PUNCHED IN THE PHONE CODE, AND IT WOULD NOT



CONNECT.
I TRIED COUNTLESS TIMES AS THE TEARS BEGAN TO STREAM DOWN MY FACE. MY ROOMMATE WAS GONE, NO ONE ON MY FLOOR REALLY PAID ANY ATTENTION TO ME, AND MY DARN PHONE CARD WASN'T WORKING. IT WAS NOT "GOOD TIMES," IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

I THOUGHT THAT THINGS WOULD GET BETTER; AFTER ALL IT WAS THE FIRST DAY. FIRST DAYS IN A NEW PLACE ARE ALWAYS A CHALLENGE. I WAS SO USED TO GOING OUT WITH FRIENDS AND BEING CRAZY OR SPENDING TIME WITH A BOYFRIEND THAT I WAS SORELY DISAPPOINTED IN MY PRESENT CONDITION. I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE IN COLLEGE.

YOU SEE IT IN THE MOVIES AND HEAR THE GREAT STORIES FROM OLDER BROTHERS AND SISTERS. WHY WAS IT NOT COMING TRUE IN MY LIFE?

MY SORORITY DAYS

I CONTINUED THE SEARCH FOR SOMETHING THAT RESEMBLED THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE. I ALL BUT CHEATED ON MY BOYFRIEND, WHO WAS BACK HOME AT THE TIME, WHEN A GUY UPSTAIRS SHOWED ME A LITTLE ATTENTION. I RECEIVED A FLIER IN THE MAIL SAYING THAT RUSH WEEK WAS APPROACHING TO BE IN A SORORITY. THE BROCHURE SPOKE OF GOOD TIMES WITH THE GIRLS AND I THOUGHT, "THIS IS IT! I WILL GO AND GET MY BIG GROUP OF FRIENDS IN A SORORITY." I SURPRISED MYSELF BECAUSE IT WAS SOMETHING I ALWAYS SAID I'D NEVER JOIN, BUT I WAS DESPERATE AND NEEDED SOME SORT OF CONTENTMENT IN MY LIFE. I WENT TO THE RUSH FESTIVITIES AND THE GIRLS IN ONE SORORITY SEEMED LIKE THEY WERE MY TYPE OF GIRLS. I MEAN THEY ASKED ME IF I LIKED TO DANCE, AND THAT WAS ONE OF MY ULTIMATE FAVORITE THINGS TO DO IN HIGH SCHOOL. THERE WAS YET A GLIMMER OF HOPE.

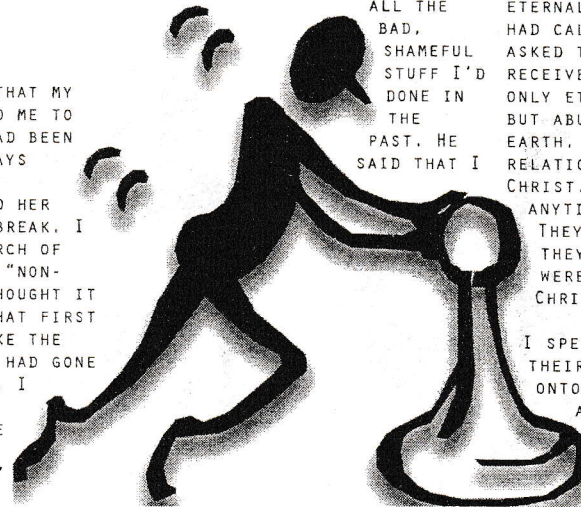
WHAT LITTLE BIT OF HOPE I HAD IN FINDING FRIENDS SOON DIED. THE SORORITY WAS NOT ALL IT PROMISED TO BE. THERE WAS DIVISION AMONGST THE MEMBERS WHILE DRINKING AND BEING SKANKY WAS THE MAIN FOCUS. THIS WAS NOT WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR. THE DAYS PASSED ON...ALL I REALLY DID WAS GO TO CLASS, GO TO MY WORK-STUDY JOB, WORK OUT, AND HANG OUT AT PERKINS WITH MY ONE FRIEND TALKING ABOUT HOW MUCH WE MISSED OUR BOYFRIENDS. I OPENLY ADMIT I WAS PATHETIC. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE MY

BOYFRIEND BACK HOME MOVED ON AND FOUND A NEW GIRL. I WAS PRETTY MUCH LEFT WITH NOTHING EXCEPT THE HOPE THAT MAYBE SOMEDAY WE'D GET BACK TOGETHER AND GET MARRIED AND THE COMPANY OF MY ONE FRIEND (IF YOU COULD CALL HER THAT AS WE BOTH AGREE WE KIND OF USED EACH OTHER). I SPENT NIGHTS CRYING AND POUNDING MY FISTS ON THE DORM ROOM CEILING ABOVE MY LOFT WHEN MY EX-BOYFRIEND COULDN'T BE REACHED ON THE PHONE. WHAT THE HELL WAS I GOING TO DO? WHAT DID I REALLY HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO? IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THIS WAY.

A NEW DOOR

IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT MY ONLY "FRIEND" INVITED ME TO GO TO A CHURCH SHE HAD BEEN ATTENDING. I WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A NEW EXPERIENCE, SO I TOLD HER I'D GO AFTER WINTER BREAK. I WENT TO THIS NEW CHURCH OF HERS THAT SHE CALLED "NON-DENOMINATIONAL." I THOUGHT IT WAS A LITTLE WEIRD THAT FIRST SUNDAY. IT WASN'T LIKE THE TRADITIONAL CHURCH I HAD GONE TO FOR OVER 18 YEARS. I WAS SKEPTICAL, BUT I VERY MUCH ENJOYED THE MUSIC THEY CALLED "PRAISE AND WORSHIP." MY FRIEND INVITED ME TO GO SNOW-TUBING A FEW WEEKS LATER WITH HER CHURCH FRIENDS. I WENT ALONG AND WHILE WE WERE HANGING OUT, I OVERHEARD SOME PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT "BEING SAVED." I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANT, BUT I STORED IT AWAY IN MY MIND. ABOUT A WEEK LATER, I ASKED MY FRIEND WHAT "SAVED" MEANT IN THE CAR ON THE WAY HOME FROM A SHOPPING EXCURSION. SHE ASKED ME IF I BELIEVED IN JESUS CHRIST AND THE FACT THAT HE DIED ON THE CROSS FOR MY SINS. I WAS TAUGHT THAT IN THE CHURCH THAT I GREW UP IN, SO I ASKED HER IF I WAS SAVED SINCE I KNEW THAT. SHE WASN'T SURE ABOUT THE QUESTIONS I HAD BECAUSE ALL OF IT WAS RELATIVELY NEW

TO HER, TOO. SHE DIRECTED ME TO SOME OF THE PEOPLE AT HER CHURCH WHO COULD BETTER ANSWER MY QUESTIONS AT THE TIME. ONE OF THEM ASKED ME IF I KNEW I WAS GOING TO HEAVEN AFTER I DIED. I TOLD HER, "I THINK SO," BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW THAT A PERSON COULD TRULY KNOW FOR SURE THAT THEY WERE INDEED GOING TO HEAVEN. I MEAN, I ASSUMED I WAS BECAUSE I CONSIDERED MYSELF A GOOD, NICE PERSON, BUT I THOUGHT I'D JINX MYSELF IF I SAID, "YES, I'M GOING TO HEAVEN." ANOTHER GUY AT THE CHURCH INFORMED ME THAT JESUS WANTED TO FORGIVE ME FOR



ALL THE BAD, SHAMEFUL STUFF I'D DONE IN THE PAST. HE SAID THAT I

DIDN'T HAVE TO KEEP ON ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS OVER AND OVER AGAIN FOR THE SAME THINGS, BUT THAT I COULD ASK JESUS TO FORGIVE ME ONCE, AND I COULD START ALL OVER. THIS WAS A HUGE RELIEF TO ME AS I WAS BURDENED WITH A GUILTY CONSCIENCE TO THE POINT OF TORMENT IN MY VERY SOUL. I LISTENED TO THESE THINGS THEY WERE SHARING WITH ME AND THEN THEY PRAYED WITH ME.

A YEAR OF OBSERVANCE

I SPENT THE REST OF THE YEAR WATCHING AND LEARNING FROM MY FRIEND AND THE PEOPLE AT THE CHURCH. THEY WERE LOVING AND SEEMED TO REALLY ENJOY LIFE.

THEY HAD ASKED JESUS TO COME INTO THEIR HEARTS, THEY RECEIVED FORGIVENESS FOR THEIR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE SINS, AND TURNED FROM THEIR OLD LIFESTYLES OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY, IDOLATRY, PARTICIPATION IN DEMONIC ACTIVITIES, DRUG ABUSE, AND DRUNKENNESS. THEY HAD FOUND SOMETHING ELSE THAT WAS FAR BETTER THAN ANY OF THESE THINGS IN WHICH THEY USED TO INDULGE. THEY RECEIVED THE PROMISE OF GOD THAT IF THEY TURNED TO HIM AWAY FROM SIN, THEY WOULD BE "SAVED" AND RECEIVE HIS FREE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE IN HEAVEN. THEY HAD CALLED OUT TO GOD AND ASKED TO BE FORGIVEN. THEY HAD RECEIVED GOD'S PROMISE OF NOT ONLY ETERNAL LIFE IN HEAVEN, BUT ABUNDANT LIFE ON THIS EARTH. THEY HAD A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST. THEY COULD TALK TO HIM ANYTIME, AND HE LOVED THEM. THEY HAD BEGUN A NEW LIFE-- THEY WERE BORN-AGAIN, THEY WERE CHRIST-LIKE, THEY WERE CHRISTIANS.

I SPENT THAT YEAR OBSERVING THEIR JOY, BUT STILL HOLDING ONTO MY PAST, MY BOYFRIEND, AND FIGHTING AGAINST GOD. I SET UP SOME RULES FOR MY OWN LIFE INCLUDING NOT LISTENING TO CERTAIN TYPES OF MUSIC AND NOT WATCHING TELEVISION. I THOUGHT I WAS DOING ALL RIGHT, BUT I STILL FELT I WAS MISSING SOMETHING. I FELT BORED AND BURDENED WITH THE WHOLE CHURCH/JESUS THING. IT WAS WORKING POWERFULLY FOR THESE OTHER PEOPLE; THEY HAD BEEN PULLED OUT OF THE PIT AND WERE BRAND NEW. I JUST KEPT THINKING HOW MUCH I MISSED MY BOYFRIEND, SO I MOVED ON TO PURSUING A CHRISTIAN GUY AT THE CHURCH TO FILL THE HOLE.

THE KEY DECISION

SCHOOL GOT CRAZIER AND CRAZIER THAT FALL SEMESTER OF MY SOPHOMORE YEAR. I HAD NO TIME

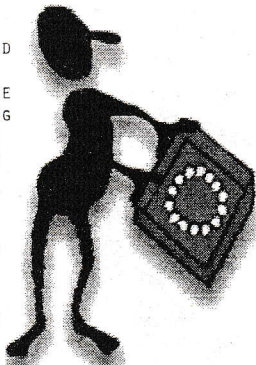
AT ALL—I WAS LUCKY IF I HAD SIX HOURS TO SLEEP AT NIGHT WITH EVERY OTHER MINUTE OF THE DAY SCHEDULED WITH CLASS, MY JOB, SCHOOLWORK, OR CHURCH. I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE FACT THAT I WAS IN A BAD PLACE. THERE CAME A POINT, HOWEVER, THAT MY FRIEND, WHO WAS NOW MY ROOMMATE, GOT ENGAGED TO A GUY AT THE CHURCH AND DECIDED THAT SHE NEEDED TO MOVE TO THE TOWN WHERE BOTH HE AND THE CHURCH WERE LOCATED. THIS POSED A CROSSROADS QUESTION IN MY OWN LIFE ABOUT WHETHER I SHOULD QUIT SCHOOL AND MOVE OR STAY IN THE BAD PLACE I WAS IN AT THE TIME. I AGONIZED ABOUT THE DECISION, BUT I FELT LIKE I NEEDED TO LEAVE MY PRESENT CONDITIONS. I WANTED TO HAVE THAT LIFE THAT I WAS OBSERVING IN THESE OTHER PEOPLE. I HAD A LITTLE BOOK NEXT TO MY BED THAT HAD DIFFERENT BIBLE VERSES FOR EACH DAY OF THE YEAR. I REMEMBERED READING ONE THAT SAID, "BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS, DO NOT BE AFRAID, NEITHER BE DISMAYED: FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO." I CLUNG TO THIS VERSE AND MADE THE BIG LEAP OF FAITH TO ONCE AGAIN MOVE FROM WHAT WAS FAMILIAR TO ME TO A NEW PLACE. THE ONE PERK THIS TIME WAS THAT I WAS MOVING TO THE TOWN WHERE THE CHURCH WAS AND WHERE THE PEOPLE WERE WHO HAD WHAT I WANTED.

MY FRIEND AND I DECIDED IT WAS BEST FOR US TO QUIT SCHOOL AT THAT TIME. THIS WAS A VERY HARD DECISION FOR ME BECAUSE I WAS CONVINCED THAT I HAD TO HAVE A DEGREE AND WOULD FAIL IN THE WORLD WITHOUT IT. I WAS ONE OF THE VALEDICTORIANS IN MY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS, AND NOW WHAT WOULD PEOPLE THINK IF I DIDN'T FINISH COLLEGE? WE ENDED UP MOVING OUR STUFF TO OUR NEW APARTMENT RIGHT BEFORE WINTER BREAK, AND THEN I WENT BACK HOME FOR A FEW WEEKS. I SPENT THE COUPLE OF WEEKS SCARED THAT I HAD MADE THE WRONG DECISION AND DEPRESSION SET IN. ALL I

KNEW WAS THAT SOMETHING HAD TO CHANGE FROM WHAT HAD BEEN COMMON TO ME MY WHOLE LIFE. I WAS SICK OF MISSING MY OLD BOYFRIEND AND THE PAIN THAT WENT ALONG WITH IT. I WANTED TO BE JOYFUL LIKE THE PEOPLE I SAW AT THE CHURCH.

MADE BRAND NEW

IT WAS NEW YEARS EVE, AND I HAD JUST ARRIVED IN THE PLACE THAT WOULD BE MY NEW HOME. THE CHURCH HAD A LITTLE PARTY TO BRING IN THE NEW YEAR. WE HAD A TECHNO DANCE AND THEN DID SOME PRAISE AND WORSHIP MUSIC TOWARDS MIDNIGHT. AT THIS TIME, WE WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRAY WITH PEOPLE FOR ISSUES AND



NEEDS IN OUR LIVES. I MADE A DECISION THAT NIGHT. I WANTED WHAT THESE PEOPLE HAD AND I WAS NOT GOING BACK. I ASKED THE PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR ME. I DIDN'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORDS TO EXPRESS MYSELF OTHER THAN I WAS SICK OF THE WAY THINGS WERE IN MY LIFE. THEY PRAYED WITH ME AND THIS TIME I WAS REALLY CHANGED. IN MY HEART, I CALLED OUT TO GOD TO COME AND SAVE ME FROM MY SELF-DESTRUCTING WAYS; GOD HEARD MY DESPERATION AND LET ME START OVER FROM SCRATCH. HE IMMEDIATELY HEALED THE HURT THAT WAS LINGERING IN MY HEART FROM MY EX-BOYFRIEND. I FELT JESUS' OVERWHELMING LOVE IN MY HEART AND THE BIBLE ACTUALLY MADE SENSE TO ME. THE PROMISES THAT WERE WRITTEN IN IT WERE TRUE. GOD IS CLOSE TO THE

BROKEN-HEARTED AND SAVES THOSE WHOSE SPIRITS ARE CRUSHED. JESUS CAME INSIDE MY HEART AND I WAS ABLE TO TALK TO HIM ONE-ON-ONE JUST LIKE A BEST FRIEND. I HAD RECEIVED WHAT ALL THESE OTHER PEOPLE AT CHURCH HAD, I KNEW IN MY HEART THAT I WAS GOING TO HEAVEN AND WANTED TO TELL THE WORLD THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE ANSWER. HE IS THE ONE WHO CAN RESCUE US OUT OF THE PIT.

IT'S BEEN THREE AND A HALF YEARS SINCE I ASKED JESUS TO COME INTO MY HEART AND "SAVE" ME. I CAN HONESTLY TELL YOU THAT I FEEL LIKE THE LUCKIEST GIRL IN THE WHOLE WORLD. THERE IS A PROMISE IN THE BIBLE THAT SPEAKS OF PEOPLE WHO GIVE UP WIFE, CHILD, HUSBAND, SISTER, BROTHER, OR POSSESSIONS TO FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST WILL RECEIVE A HUNDREDFOLD BLESSING IN THIS LIFE AND IN HEAVEN. I CAN

HONESTLY SAY THAT THIS IS 100% TRUE. I GAVE UP MY OLD LIFESTYLE OF THE FLEETING PLEASURES OF THIS EARTH TO RECEIVE SOMETHING THAT WILL NEVER ROT OR FADE AWAY. GOD HAS BLOWN MY SOCKS OFF WITH ALLOWING ME TO DO THINGS I NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE. THINGS THAT I HAD DREAMED OF AS A KID. GOD IS NOW LETTING ME DO FOR HIM. I AM NOT SAYING THAT I NEVER HAVE PROBLEMS AND I NEVER GET SAD OR LONELY, BUT NOW WHEN I FEEL THAT WAY, I KNOW THAT EVERYTHING IS GOING TO TURN OUT OKAY. THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE CALLS ME HIS FRIEND AND PROMISES TO NEVER LEAVE ME NOR FORSAKE ME. HE SAYS THAT HE KNOWS THE PLANS HE HAS FOR ME, PLANS FOR GOOD AND NOT FOR EVIL, PLANS TO GIVE ME A FUTURE AND A HOPE. HE SAYS THAT HE WORKS ALL THINGS TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM AND ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. THIS SAME GIFT THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME FREELY IS AVAILABLE TO YOU—FREE FOR THE ASKING. THERE IS A WAY OUT. YOUR LIFE DOESN'T HAVE TO HAVE A BAD ENDING. ④

||| SAY WHAT? |||

A look into the life of...

David Pierce

Dear Friends,

I felt an enormous pressure on me that made it impossible for me to eat. One member of our band was warned by some punks he met on the street. **"Don't go to Madame Satan, they will kill you there,"** they said.

Madame Satan is located in an area like Harlem in New York City. Except in Sao Paulo, Brazil there are **50 murders every weekend** and the police wear bullet-proof vests. Madame Satan is the most famous Goth club in Sao Paulo, an enormous city of 18 million people.

My ears hurt and I cried in the shower because I was feeling so much emotion. As I prepared myself to go to Madame Satan I kept hearing crazy scenarios in my head. "Was I testing God by going back to this club?" "Was I putting my band at risk?"

It has been my experience that it is more difficult the second time you back into a heavy club.

The last time we were at Madame

Satan it was so intense that Sandro (the Brazilian pastor we work with) feared we would die. Some people who organized the concert even refused to enter the club they were so afraid. How could it be more heavy? I tried not to think about it. I felt like Satan was blasting my mind and emotions with insecurity and fear. We had made our decision and we weren't going to back down now.

When I entered the club it was packed with typical Goths. The cellar where we would play was totally dark except for the one slow flashing strobe light. Last year

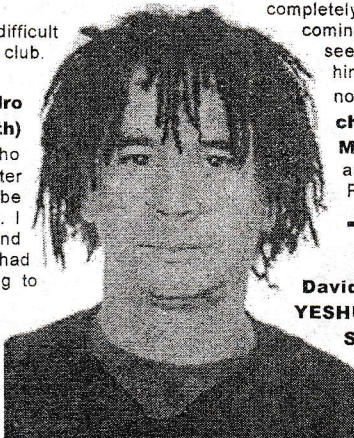
the spiritual darkness was so heavy in the club you could taste it but this year I could feel God's presence all around me and so could everyone else.

When we started to play we felt a total authority and the audience was captivated. In our concert we show how a girl is abused and I (representing Jesus) carry her to the front of the stage. **When I picked her up I felt the weight of God's broken heart and I started to weep as I held the girl.** The power of God was everywhere. It was so intense. So strong. Some people began to cry in the club.

Later in the concert when I came out of a coffin to show how Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit filled the place. It was almost liquid it was so tangible. No one could deny it. There was no resistance and no mocking, a total break through! "My friends have to see this." Some of them said out loud. Several said that they felt a different spirit there. One they never felt before. Sandro asked them what kind of spirit they felt. They said it was "Love."

People rushed us for Bibles and we quickly ran out.

Throughout the club people were crying and hugging. The owner of the club asked if he could speak with me. Last year he was very aggressive and hostile but he was completely humble this year. "Thank you so much for coming." He said as he held my hand. I could see the look in his eyes that God was touching him deeply. "Can I pray for you?" I asked He nodded his head. **So I put my hand on his chest and prayed for him. The owner of Madame Satan!!!!** The most influential and notorious underground Goth club in Sao Paulo. This is unbelievably amazing.



David will be speaking at
YESHUAPOLOOZA 2002 Wilson Park
Saturday Sept. 14th Noon-10 p.m.

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UNDERGROUND CHRISTIAN ROCK!!

- rap/dance/house
- metal/hardcore
- punk rock/ska
- underground mix
- 2•4•7Juke
- Sunday Morning:modern praise

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 THAN
 GOD!**

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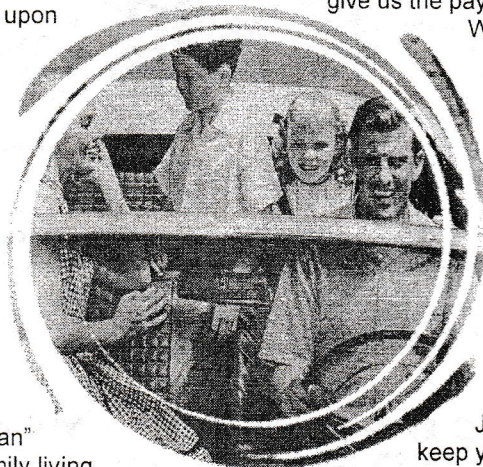


Picture yourself coming home to an early 20th Century Victorian house. You live just outside of town and have a few acres of oak woodland surrounding your simple home, protecting your family from the insomniatic buzz of city life. Work is tough at the office and the hours pile up, but it's a small price to pay for a comfortable, secure home. Pulling into your driveway, you look upon your kids as they are busily building a tree fort and then you fix your eyes toward your loving spouse. You are greeted with a smile and quickly return the gesture. This weekend is going to be great. You plan to take the boat out on the lake, kick back, and enjoy life. Ah, certainly *this* is the American Dream. I mean, *this is* the age where a good, hard-working, "Christian" lifestyle and comfortable family living meet in tranquility... right? Wasn't this God's intention for us all along?

I mean, if there weren't any "bennies" to this whole Christian gig, what would be the point? We already have to give up over an hour on Sundays to maintain our membership at the local chapel.

We are required to pray before meals, give our money to organizations like "The United Way," and flash a plastic smile toward everyone that stumbles onto our path. Is it really too much to ask for a caring spouse, a couple of kids, and a quaint little home in the country?

But what if doing all these things for God didn't give us the payback we were looking for?



What if our life actually became more difficult as we invested more and more time in this whole church thing? Would we still be interested? We have to ask ourselves that question because we don't read much about a comfortable Christian life in the early writings about Jesus. Instead, we read the opposite.

Jesus said, "If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me (Jesus), you will find true life_(Matt. 16:25)." Later, we read "everyone who wants to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution_(2 Tim. 3:12)." Yikes, that doesn't really groove with the whole white-picket fence, three-car garage kind of family living of today. Certain writings regarding

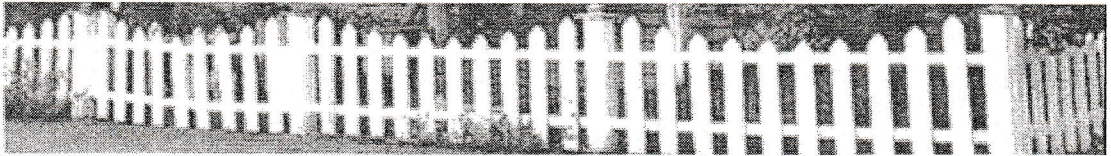
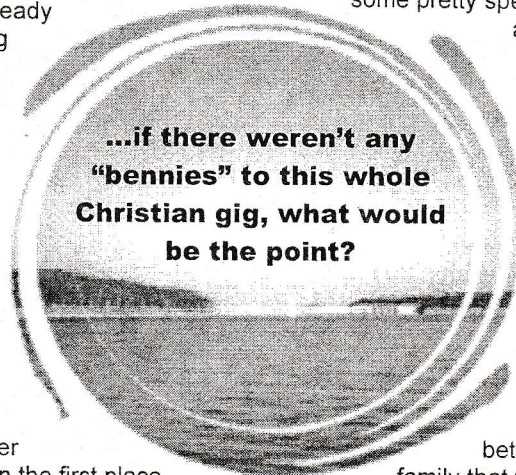
marriage tell us "the person that marries does well, and the person who doesn't marry does even better" (1 Cor. 7:38) and that "the time that remains is short, so husbands should not let marriage be their major concern" (1 Cor. 7:29). So the first verse hits the singles and the second verse hits the people that are already married. Now is this saying that marriage is bad? Not at all. The point is, married or not, Jesus is to be our primary concern.

Why would anybody dedicate themselves to a life where they give up the things they want to do and then not get the "loot" in return? To answer that question we must first ask ourselves if we are ever really satisfied by this life in the first place. The whole "Leave it to Beaver" family portrait seems nice and all, but is our longing for that a good thing? Or would that desire just be another drug, like alcohol or sex, that never completely satisfies us? When we stop to think about it, it seems like nothing we chase after gives us

lasting contentment. Usually we end up either wanting more of what we have or wanting something else entirely.

Right about now you may be thinking "what does Jesus have to do with all of this?" Jesus says some pretty specific stuff about this world and our contentment. He claims that He can give us a peace that goes beyond that of a relaxing weekend on the lake (Phil. 4:7)... and that His love is broader and deeper than any spouse or family can give (Eph. 3:14-21). He then goes on to say that when we die, He will take those who trust in Him to a perfect home (John 14:2-3), far better than any home or family that we could dream of here.

Certainly these promises are bold and seem illogical, but could they be true? Only one person has the authority to answer that question. This person is Jesus and He can be found in the Bible. He already knows you and He is waiting and eager to be known by you.



References:

1. Real-Audio study on "Family Dragons" from Mike Fabarez. (http://www.pacificcoastchurch.org/_old/TapeMinistry.htm)
2. All verses above are taken from the New Living Translation.



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WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD?

[ā stūdeñt pōll]

Do you think that truth is absolute?



Mike



Emily



Josh



Ben



Leslie



Aaron

The Absolute Truth

What is absolute truth?
Truth defined in the
Webster's Dictionary
is:

"facts corresponding with actual events or happenings; sincerity or honesty." So, truth is something that must be backed up with facts. Many people today try to find comfort in accepting everyone's views as "truths" for them.

However, what if one's truth is to harm another? Would it still be true? Or what if two "truths" contradict one another?

Many people also say that all religions lead to the same God. This cannot be true, though, because they contradict one another. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Jesus not only said this but He also proved it.

The birth of Jesus shook up the world never again to be the same. It scared the reigning monarch resulting in them killing all the boys two years and younger (Matthew 2:1-18), at the age of twelve He confounded the rabbis and scholars by his understanding (Luke 2:49), taught with authority like no other (Matthew 7:29), performed miraculous miracles, rose from the dead (Matthew 28:6), and said He was God (John 10:30). Yet he felt compassion for the people and did not cling to his rights as God. Instead, He humbled Himself and came in the position of a slave and gave His life for us as the sacrifice for our sins (Philippians 2:6). Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that He gave us only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

It comes down to this: do you want to know the absolute truth that God loves you? The facts are there that back up the accuracy of the Bible and the life of Jesus. God in his loving kindness came here to show Himself to us so that if we believe in Him we will have everlasting life and a relationship with Him. But, we have a choice. "Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends" (Revelation 3:20).

Truth is absolute only if you make it absolute. People can choose what they make true or not. If truth is absolute, then what actually is true? Truth can only be absolute if you make it absolute.

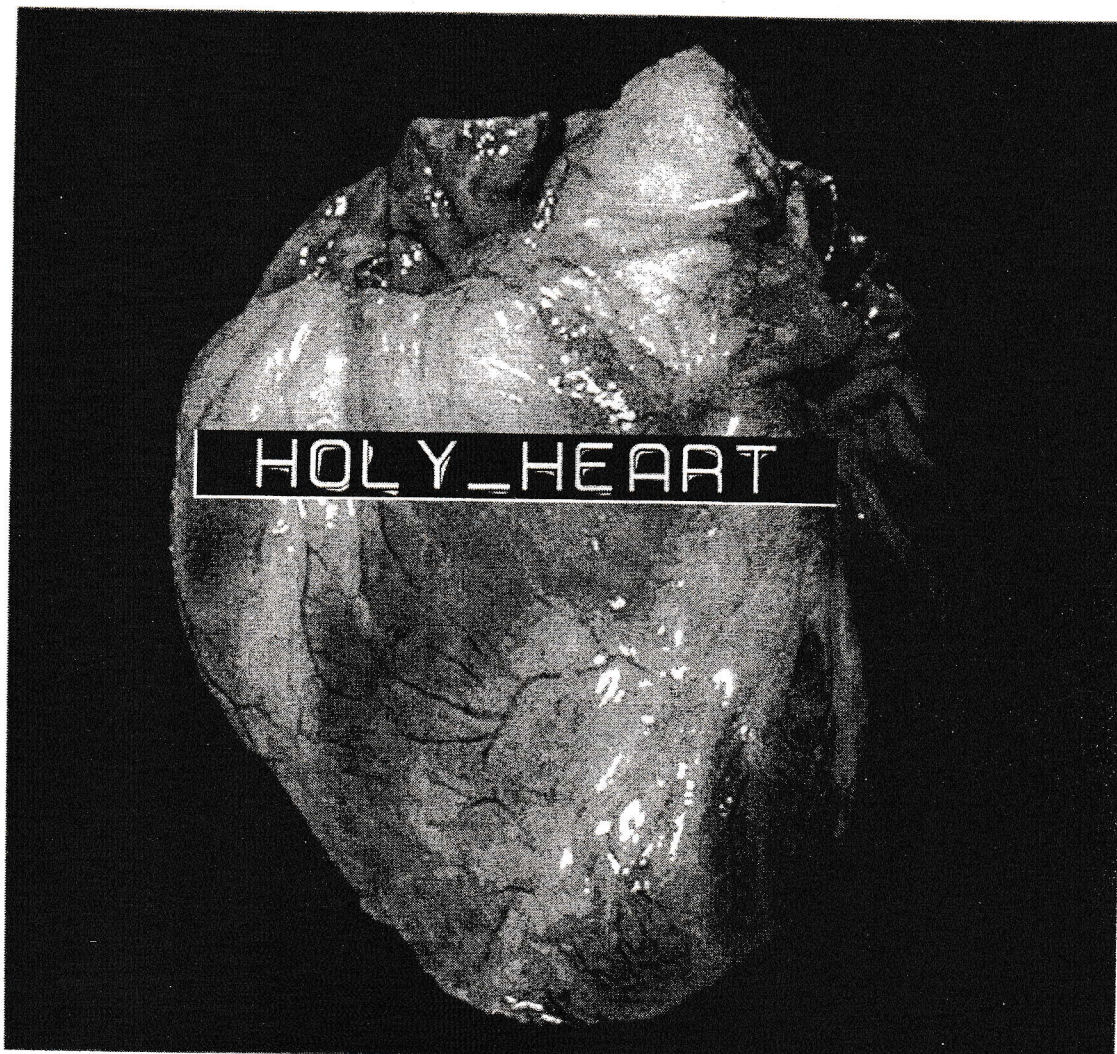
Truth is relative to who you are. There is no absolute truth.

Yes I do. There is a Truth in all human beings. No matter what we choose to call it. It is the same. The Truth has many names: Jesus, Buddha, Lord of Love, Sri Krishna, God, Jai, your true nature. They are all one source!

I don't believe there can be such a thing as absolute truth. Everything in this universe is relative. Time is relative, distance is relative. Truth varies with each observer and since reality itself is relative, we each create our own truth.

I am under the impression and/or understanding that the truth is quite simple and simple is how every thing began, so I believe that so far it seems to be absolute. I feel this applies to everyone/anyone's version of "the truth".

I think there is an absolute truth, but it's so complicated and vast that we cannot possibly understand it. It is like a hippo. Prophas touch it with one hand, so they can't possibly agree on what it is because one person is touching the face, another is touching the side, another is the belly, and another the feet even if they all describe what they feel accurately, they cannot possibly agree.



My heart was punctured at a young age.

This gaping hole caused me great distress and I knew I had to fill it with something. One day when it was feeling particularly empty, I reached down my throat and ripped my way through my chest cavity to the place where my heart lay. I brought my arm slowly back up and laid my heart on the table in front of me.

I frantically looked around for something to fill the hole. In a dark corner of the room there was a dresser with six drawers. I opened the first drawer and it contained a single ounce of marijuana. I grabbed it impatiently, ran to my exposed heart, and filled the black hole with as much of the substance as I could. I woke up the next day wondering if the drug had worked. While I did feel momentary relief, when I checked out the hole, not only was it not filled, but it had grown bigger.

Very frustrated, I went back to the six drawers and pulled open the second drawer. It revealed a small razor-sharp knife. Instinctively, I put it to my arm and made numerous small, deep incisions. I felt great comfort in seeing the clean, bluish-white wound quickly fill with blood and spill down my arm. I went to my heart and let the stream of blood from my wounds fall into the hole until it overflowed. I began to feel calm and satisfied, sure that this was the trick. The day passed and when I checked my heart, the hole had again gotten bigger. I turned to the chest of drawers again to find what it was that would fill my heart and stop the increasing pain the hole was causing. I faithfully returned to the drawers and ripped open the third one. It contained what appeared to be a valentine card of a couple holding hands; the back of the card said "True Love." I immediately went on a search for the perfect love of my life. He was pretty easy to find and he really seemed to make me happy. He nurtured my heart and paid much attention to it. He took it with him wherever he went, and tried with all his might to fill the emptiness. Though he almost made me feel whole, my heart was yearning for something more and I wouldn't stop searching until I found it. I was beginning to

**I BECAME NUMB
TO ALL
EMOTION AND
LOST ALL
CONCEPT OF
WHAT WAS
RIGHT AND
WRONG**

question the reliability of these drawers' supposed answers, but I didn't know where else to look so I desperately returned to the dresser. I peered into the fourth drawer and, behold, it contained a pornographic magazine. It suddenly seemed obvious to give up on the love aspect of relationships for surely the sexual binding of the flesh would heal me more efficiently. Therefore, whomever I had the most remote interest in would become another person I gave myself to. The magic of this technique quickly wore off and, as all of the others, it

failed to fill the ever-deepening hole. I decided to give up on searching any new drawers for a while, and as life went on I began mixing all the drawers' answers together until the hole began to consume the majority of my lifeless heart. I became numb to all emotion and lost all concept of what was

right and wrong. I often got the sneaking suspicion that death was the only solution to my unfulfilled heart.

I was reaching my end, so I decided to search the fifth drawer to see if it would offer any better solutions. Not knowing what to expect, I opened the drawer and it contained a small statue of the Virgin Mary. I thought it seemed out there, but maybe religion was the answer. I decided to go to the Catholic church my parents used to take me to. As I listened to the sermon, every word that came out of the priest's mouth made me feel worse and worse. It was cultic and condemning. By the time I left, I knew that because of how I looked and all the horrible things I'd done, no God (if there was a God) would ever accept me. I was doomed for hell, and completely lost all hope. I'd tried numerous drugs, self-abuse, love, sex, and religion; there was nothing else for me to try.

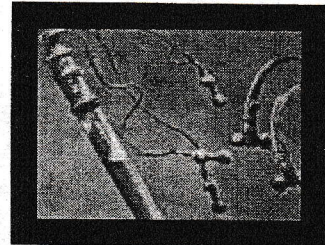
I sat at the table, what was left of my decaying heart sat in front of me. There was only one drawer left in the dresser and I knew what was in the sixth drawer. I crawled to it and slowly slid it open and, as I suspected, there lay a shiny silver gun with one bullet rolling beside it. I put the bullet in and laid the gun on the table next to my heart. At that moment I knew I had only two options—either find the perfect redeeming answer that would cure my ailing heart, or blow my brains across the white wall behind me. I sat down in front of the dresser, gun in hand, tears rolling down my emotionless face. I shut my eyes and screamed, "God, if you exist, I want you to hear this: I cannot live this life anymore! I've searched every aspect of this world and it is completely empty and meaningless. I've been beaten and broken over and over again. There is no one to trust, and love in this world is just an illusion. I cannot be in this plastic existence any longer. God, if you can give me a way out, if you can show me a way to live in this dead world in conjunction with all the zombies that consume it- I will do anything. But if I don't receive an answer now I am going to shoot myself in the head and end this torment!" I opened my eyes and, as I stared across the room, I saw a door at the opposite end that I had apparently never noticed before. I don't know how I missed it, seeing that there was a huge, bright flashing arrow pointing to the door. I slowly got up and moved toward the door, my heart in my hands, not comprehending how I had missed such an obvious sign. As I

I'd like to introduce you to Jesus Christ. He loved me and filled me beyond anything this world could ever conceive. He took my death upon himself and gave his perfect life for me. He is the way, the truth, and the life. He rose from the dead after three days and conquered death so this world could have life. This is my absolute truth and my absolute reality. This is how I and many others conquered this apathetic world, devoid of real



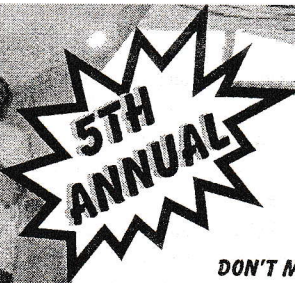
opened the door a tremendous flash of light and serenity enveloped my body and knocked me to my knees. I saw a man beaten and bloody. I saw a strange whip with glass and metal tied to the end, shredding His flesh and exposing the spinal column on His back, and the entrails of the sides of His stomach. Huge thorns were beaten into His skull. A bag was put over His head so He couldn't retract from people beating Him in the face.

As I gazed at His limp, lifeless body I saw true empathy. We made eye contact and he told me that I had a God-sized hole in my heart, and if I would accept his sacrifice for me he would take



all the pain and emptiness in my life and receive it upon Himself and the cross he was nailed to. With every drop of blood that fell from his body, one piece of garbage fell from the hole in my heart to the foot of the cross before me. More and more, it became apparent that he was dying for me, and the more He died, the more I lived and healed. First fell the drugs, then the obsession with destroying my flesh, then the love that I thought would save me, next the sexual destruction, then the religion that said I had to work my way to heaven, and last, the hopelessness of living death. Soon my heart was completely cleansed and the hole was no more.

emotion or joy. We chose life over death and meaningless existence. This is my story. Take it how you want. There is a possibility that I am crazy. There is also a possibility that the things I'm saying are true and obviously visible to anyone willing to open their eyes and notice the bright flashing arrow pointing to real life. Everyone has the choice to make. It is a simple yes or no. Take the chance. You have nothing to lose.



5TH ANNUAL YESHUAPOOOZA 2002 JESUS ROCK FEST

**A LIVE CONCERT EXTRAVAGANZA!
DON'T MISS SEVEN NATIONAL AND LOCAL BANDS!**

Open and free to the public, **YESHUAPOOOZA 2002** will be held on Saturday, September 14th at Wilson Park in Menomonie, Wisconsin. Five years running, Yeshuapooza has rocked the Menomonie area for Jesus Christ pulling crowds of over 400. Street Level, a UW-Stout campus Organization, reaches out to Dunn County with a 6-band free rock fest complete with concessions, guest speakers and more. You need to check this out. The main stage action starts at noon and runs until 10 pm. The Blind Munchies Coffeehouse will be on-site, serving up lots of excellent dark roast coffee, iced lattes, and other assorted espresso drinks. Bands include:

UNIFIED FRONT

Headlining the festival this year, Unified Front is made up of five Kansas City rockers, who use a unique style of alternative rock and intense lyrics to spread the word of Jesus Christ. The band ministers to the youth of today and cares not only for their fans, but for the spiritual life of their fans as well.

ALL ACCESS

All Access combines influences from rock pioneers such as the Beatles and fuses them with modern rock acts like that of Foo Fighters to deliver a sound with high energy and attitude. Songwriter Doug Lucas writes about situations he hopes people can relate to.

CR33

Convicted Resistance 33 is a four piece hip-hop hardcore group from Illinois whose influences include bands such as Blindside, Project 86, and P.O.D.

Don't miss the rest of the bands:

SUPER HERO (Eclectic Rock), **THE EVALUATION** (Demo), **RHYM2 SUHREAL** (Hip-Hop), and up and coming local artists, **RED CLAY** (Jazz-O-Funkadelic).

Traveling all the way from New Zealand, don't miss featured speaker, **DAVID PIERCE**. David Pierce is founder of Steiger International, a ministry to reach the global youth culture and the punk band *No Longer Music*. Pierce says of the band: "No Longer Music has been a very effective tool and has allowed us to bring Jesus where conventional missionary teams cannot go such as closed Islamic countries, terrorist clubs, squatter villages, anarchy festivals, brothels, junkie joints, punk music festivals and new age gatherings." Pierce is also the author of books *Rock Priest* and *Dancing with Skinheads*.

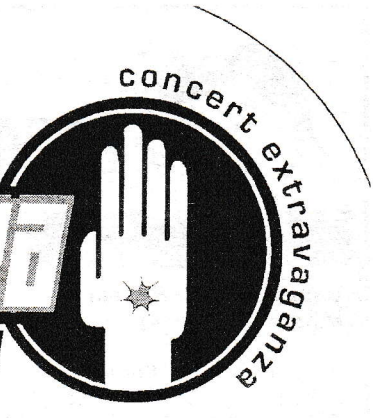
If you would like further information, please call (715) 235-9300, e-mail: streetlevel@charter.net, or go to the festival's website: www.streetlevel.uwstout.edu.

★ festival is broadcast live on:
OneWayRadio 101.1 FM

Street Level is an official UW-Stout campus organization

Yeshuapoloza

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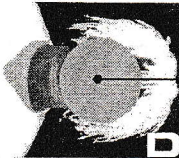


PURE ROCK
Unified Front

NO COVER!



provided by: **The Blind Munchies Coffeehouse**
 concessions



Guest Speaker:

with:

DAVID PIERCE

founder of Steiger Ministries

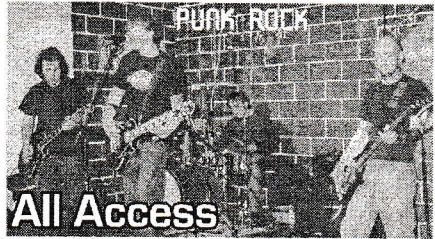
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 14
WILSON PARK
MENOMONIE, WI
NOON - 10pm

presented by:



call for more info: 715-235-9300

www.streetlevel.uwstout.edu



All Access



CR33

Super Hero
 ECLECTIC

The Evaluation
 UNDERGROUND PUNK

Rhymz Suhreal
 RAP

Red Clay
 JAZZ-U-FUNKDELIC



music station



Unified Front – *Perfect* – (Alternative Rock)

Made up of five Kansas City rockers: JT Brown (vocals), Todd Davidson (drums), Adam O'Kane (guitar), Eric Owen (bass), and Chris Jackson (guitar) Unified Front's mission is to spread the word of Jesus Christ using a unique style and intense lyrics.

www.unifiedfrontmusic.com



All Access – *The Composites of Rock and Roll* – (Rock)

All Access combines influences from Rock pioneers such as the Beatles, then fuses them with modern Rock acts like that of Foo Fighters to deliver a sound with high energy and attitude. Songwriter Doug Lucas writes about situations he hopes people can relate to.

www.allaccesstheband.com



Convicted Resistance 33 – *The Backlash Uprising* – (Hip-Hop Hardcore)

Convicted Resistance is a four piece hip-hop hardcore group from Illinois, USA. Influences include Blindside, Project 86, and P.O.D.. CR 33 has played shows throughout the Midwest and the Resistance (those who support them) has grown steadily.

www.CR33.com



Super Hero – *Demo* – (Eclectic Rock)

Made up of the usual rock band basics (guitar, bass, and drums), Super Hero adds a surprising twist by including a violin. In concert they present a spacey and bizarre moment of audio and visual intrigue. To see what we mean, you'll just have to come see them live at this year's Yeshuapoloosa! (details below)



The Evaluation – *Demo* – (Punk)

Old-school punkers The Evaluation are in the process of recording a full length album to be titled "*We Built the Gun That Causes This Unending Fear.*" Song titles are to include "All We Speak Is English and Baseball", and "Grabbed and Pulled and Hurt My Neck In 1988".

www.theevaluation.net



Rhymz Suhreal – *Rhymz Suhreal* – (Hip Hop)

Rhymz Suhreal is committed to bringing the message of hope, love, and the peace found in the blood of God's risen Son, Jesus Christ to people of all walks of life by using a unique blend of Hip-Hop traditions, old-school and new, R&B, as well as other musical influences.

www.rhymzsuhreal.com



Red Clay – *Red Clay* – (Jazz–O– Funkadelic)

Blending just the right mixture of jazzy rhythm and 'funkadelic' beats, Red Clay's music provides a beautiful backdrop for the band's powerful vocals. Red Clay doesn't want their music to be merely entertainment for Christians, they want their music to aid in reaching a lost world.

www.redclaymusic.com

19th 55th
Yeshuapoloosa
2002

concert extravaganza

guest speaker:
DAVID PIERCE

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 14
WILSON PARK
MENOMONIE, WI
NOON - 10pm**

BOOKS: REVIEWS

MINORITY REPORT



FOR THE LOVE OF MIKE

LOOKING FOR A GREAT STORY THAT KEEPS YOU ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT? FOR THE LOVE OF MIKE BY SHERWOOD ELIOT WIRT IS ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS I'VE EVER READ. THERE'S EVERY ELEMENT TO THE PERFECT STORY: LOSS, DANGER, A

SEARCH FOR MEANING, A HERO, VICTORY, AND, BEST OF ALL, LOVE. THE NOVEL IS THE TRUE STORY OF A MAN NAMED MICHAEL MACINTOSH. THE NOVEL TRACES MIKE'S LIFE FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE PRESENT DAY.

THE STORY OPENS WITH MIKE HALLUCINATING ON LSD, CHANTING THE WORD "RAM" OVER AND OVER AGAIN, WAITING FOR A FLYING SAUCER TO APPEAR. LATER IN THE

CHAPTER, HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE BACK OF HIS HEAD HAS BEEN SHOT OFF AND WANDERS AROUND TELLING PEOPLE THIS UNTIL HE ENDS UP IN A MENTAL INSTITUTION. BY THE END OF THE BOOK, THOUGH, MIKE IS A PASTOR WHOSE CHURCH HAS SPROUTED OVER 20 CHURCHES IN THE UNITED STATES AND A DOZEN AROUND THE WORLD.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN? NO, THE ANSWER IS NOT THAT HE "GOT RELIGION." AND HE DIDN'T "MAKE HIMSELF A BETTER MAN." MIKE'S ANSWER TO A TRANSFORMED LIFE WAS NOT FOUND THROUGH A PSYCHOLOGIST, A PRESCRIPTION OR AGONIZING EFFORT ON HIS PART, BUT THROUGH ONE MAN. YOU'LL HAVE TO READ THE BOOK TO FIND OUT THE FULL STORY, AND I CAN PROMISE YOU THAT YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED. YOU WILL BE AMAZED, ENCOURAGED, TOUCHED, AND INSPIRED.

THE BEST THING ABOUT THIS BOOK IS ITS REALITY. YOU GET TO STEP INTO SOMEONE'S LIFE AND SHARE THE BAD TIMES AS WELL AS THE GOOD TIMES AND SEE ONE MAN'S LIFE TRANSFORMED. THIS IS NOT THE STORY OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN, BUT AN ORDINARY MAN LIVING AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE, ONE THAT IS NOT BEYOND THE REACH OF ANY OF US.

TO FIND OUT ABOUT THIS MAN WHO HAD THE POWER TO TRANSFORM MIKE'S LIFE AND GET THE FULL STORY, HEAD TO THE CALVARY CHAPEL BOOKSTORE, LOCATED AT 621 WILSON AVENUE IN MENOMONIE, WI OR CALL 715-235-9300.

OR

TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MIKE MACINTOSH AND HIS MINISTRIES TODAY, CONTACT: HORIZON INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES P.O. Box 178975 SAN DIEGO, CA 92177-8975 619-277-4991 EXT. 279

MOVIE REVIEW: MINORITY REPORT

Director: Steven Spielberg

PG-13

(Violence, Brief Language, and Some Sexuality and Drug Content)

144 minutes



Story

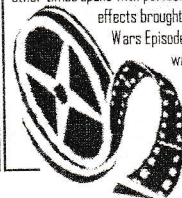
Steven Spielberg's movie *Minority Report* is about a futuristic police agency that stops murders before they happen! The agency works through three people who have visions of future murder scenes. These three are called "pre-cogs" and are sedated and hooked up to a machine that reads their minds. This allows the police to reach potential murderers before they commit any crime. The cogs have never been wrong or have they? How would anyone know? Now everyone is faced with the question: "Do we really have free choice or is everything we do already predestined?" Will we murder or rape? Will we make the right choices? The system has been running for over six years without one murder. But when John Anderton, played by Tom Cruise, the head of this pre-crime unit, is named as the murderer of a crime he has yet to commit, he finds himself searching for the answer.

Message

Free choice vs. predestination: that is the question. Are our lives a chapter out of a "Choose Your Own Adventure" book or is everything fated and preplanned? As a believer in the God of the Bible I believe there is a bit of both. You see, I do believe there is absolute truth. As the angel Seth stated in the movie *City of Angels*, "Some things are true whether you believe them or not." Just because you choose to believe that something will happen to you doesn't mean it will. I could choose to believe that I am going to win the lottery, but that doesn't mean I will. I could even become active in my belief and buy a whole bunch of lottery tickets, but that still doesn't guarantee I'm going to win. It all has to do with what is backing your choice. Is their any information, data, or facts backing your choices? The outcome of our choices really lies in what facts the choice was based on. As I mentioned above, the God of the Bible has planned out some of the specifics of our lives. For example, He made the heavens, the solar systems, and the planets. He chose which planet you were to be born on and even which parents you would have. I don't remember having a choice to be born or not, or what parents I'd have. Do you? We do, however, have free will to choose most everything else to some degree here on earth. What we eat, where we sleep, our friendships, our mistakes, and our favorite color. The one thing I want to mention is what happens when we die, when we leave this earth and these bodies of flesh and bone. Since I believe the God of the Bible made the heavens and the earth, I believe the Bible when it says there is a heaven and a hell. God desires all of us to be with Him, "...that all should have eternal life..." (John 3:16b), but if we don't want to go to heaven and be with God, hell is the only other place left to go. God made the decision that there would be two places, but we get to make the choice where we want to go. I know that some of you don't believe in the God of the Bible. I just want to urge you to take a look at the facts, information, and data backing your choices, especially the choice you have to make concerning what happens to you when you die. Find truth... absolute truth.

Content

The movie itself was high quality because it was well written and produced. The storyline really captured my attention. It was suspenseful, intriguing and came to a satisfying conclusion, like an old mystery. The story was enhanced by powerful acting on every level. From the lead character to the extras, each performance was very convincing. Samantha Morton, who played the "pre-cog" named Agatha, stood out from the rest as intense and able to portray a wide range of emotions. She looked utterly terrified during murder visions, but other times spoke with perfect serenity. It was a gripping act. The camera style and visual effects brought the whole movie to life, with both a Matrix-esque and Star Wars Episode II futuristic setting. The filming style of one factory fight scene was especially edgy. Since the main theme of the movie was murder, violence was hard to avoid. Overall, I thought the movie was worth my six bucks, the plot was relatively original and I loved not being able to guess every move it made. I give the movie 3 1/2 out of 5 stars.





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Creation Science...

Do you ever wonder how it is that you came to exist? Were you taught in school that you evolved from apes or that this world that we live in exists from a "Big Bang" millions of years ago? Schools are teaching these "theories" as facts when actually these theories are not. Dr. Kent Hovind is a creation science evangelist/speaker. On his tape, "Science and the Bible" (part one), he exposes the lies that science textbooks are teaching and proves that the Bible is also scientifically accurate. Do you want to know the truth on your existence and get the lies out of the textbooks? Take a stand and know what you believe.

Spiritual Warfare....

Did you know that there is a spiritual battle going on? Have you studied the Bible to know what the wiles of the enemy are, so that you recognize when he is attacking? Are you sitting on a mountain too fearful to move? You need to be faster than the enemy. If you are immobilized you will be defeated. Be mobile, go outside, and attain the victory. Did you know the spiritual armor Ephesians 6 talks about is offensive not defensive and puts you in a position to attack the enemy and receive the victory? Check out tape #3 and the rest of the six tapes in the Spiritual Warfare series by Pastor John Duncan of Calvary Chapel-Lake Elsinore. Tape #3 focuses specifically on the topics of concentration, mobility, and security in the spiritual battle.

Pleasing God...

Have you ever asked yourself "What can I possibly do to please a perfect God?" The "Pleasing God" series by Kay Smith is a profound learning series for women that answers that very question. With each new tape Kay uses entertaining stories and real life experiences to shed new light on the principles that most women have heard before, but, heretofore, have been reduced to clichés. The further you dive into the series the more clearly you see that living in a manner pleasing to God will be the most fulfilling way of living imaginable. There are 12 tapes in the series, titles include: *Love Not the World, Walk In Love, Walk With God, A Call To Prayer, and Remembering Jesus.*

Slaying the Family Dragons #6 (singleness)...

Is singleness simply an adolescent stage that eventually results in marriage? The "Focus on the Family" mentality of Christianity today might imply this to be true. But is being married to a loving spouse, living in a house with a white picket fence and three-car garage, and sharing Yuletides at Christmas the graduating merit for every person's life? Or are there a few that are called to something far different? Find out what Mike Fabarez has to say about how the early church viewed marriage and why this is important to your life today.

Tape Title:
Slaying the Family Dragons #6 (singleness) by Mike Fabarez
Real Audio Link:

<http://www.pacificcoastchurch.org/new/tapes/tapelst.shtml>

Holy Bible

Living Water
for those
who thirst.

AND THE WORD BECAME HUMAN AND
LIVED HERE ON EARTH AMONG US.



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free Bible.

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get info about
Street Level.

In the beginning the Word
already existed. He was with
God, and he was God. He
was in the beginning with
God. He created everything
there is. Nothing exists that
he didn't make. Life itself
was in him, and this life
gives light to everyone.
The light shines through
the darkness, and the
darkness can never
extinguish it.

John 1:1-5 NLV

He was full of
unfailing love
and faithfulness.



A Brief History of Design

By Russell Grigg

First published in: *Creation Ex Nihilo* 22(2):50-53 March-May 2000

For over two millennia, people have argued that the 'design' in nature points to a Designer.¹ In 44 BC, the Roman writer, orator, and statesman, Cicero (106-43 BC), used this concept in his book *De Natura Deorum* (*On the Nature of the Gods*)² to challenge the evolutionary ideas of the philosophers of his day.

Greek evolutionism, the gods, and fear of death

The two main schools of philosophy then were Epicureanism³ and Stoicism.⁴ The Epicureans sought happiness through bodily pleasures and freedom from pain and anxiety. The two chief causes of anxiety were fear of the gods and fear of death, so Epicurus sought to nullify both of these by teaching an evolutionary atomic theory.⁵ He denied that there was any purpose in nature because everything was composed of particles (*atoma*: atoms), all falling downwards. He said that these sometimes spontaneously 'swerved' to coalesce and form bodies—non-living, living, human, and divine.⁶ The gods were made of finer atoms than humankind. They did not create the world or have any control over it, so they were not concerned with human affairs, and there was therefore no need for man to fear them. At death, the soul disintegrated and became non-existent, so there was no need to fear death or the prospect of judgment after death. Cicero used the Stoic character in his book to refute these ideas with arguments from design, aimed to show that the universe is governed by an intelligent designer. He argued that a conscious purpose was needed to express art (e.g. to make a



picture or a statue) and so, because nature was more perfect than art, nature showed purposed also. Cicero continued his challenge to the evolutionism of Epicurus by marveling that anyone could persuade himself that chance collisions of particles could form anything as beautiful as the world. He said that this was on par with believing that if the letters of the alphabet were thrown on the ground often enough they would spell out the *Annals* of Ennius.^{7,8} He asked: if chance collisions of particles could make a world, then why cannot they build much less difficult objects, like a colonnade, a temple, a house, or a city?⁹

More Recent users of the design argument

In the 18th century, the most notable user of the design argument was William Paley (1743-1805). In his book, *Natural Theology*, he put the case of someone finding a watch while walking in a barren countryside. From the functions which the various parts of the watch fulfill (e.g. spring, gear-wheels, pointer), the only logical conclusion was that it had a maker who 'comprehended its construction and designed its use'.¹⁰

Paley also discussed evidence of design in the eye—that as an instrument for vision it showed intelligent design in the same way that telescopes, microscopes and spectacles do. He went on to discuss complex design in many other human and animal organs, all pointing to the conclusion that the existence of complex life implies an intelligent Creator.

David Hume, the 18th century Scottish sceptical philosopher, tried to counter the watch argument by pointing out that watches are not living things which reproduce. However, Paley wrote 30 years after Hume, and Paley's arguments are proof against most of Hume's objections. For example, a modern philosopher has countered Hume: 'Paley's argument about organisms stands on its own, regardless of design rather whether watches and organisms happen to be similar. The point of talking about

watches is to help the reader see that the argument about organisms is compelling.'¹¹

Charles Darwin and Paley

Charles Darwin was required to read Paley during his theological studies at Cambridge (1828-31). He later said, 'I do not think that I hardly ever admired a book more than Paley's "Natural Theology." I could almost formerly have said it by heart.'¹² However, he then spent the rest of his life developing and promoting a theory to explain how 'design' in nature could occur without God.¹³ Darwin proposed that small, useful changes could occur by chance, and enable their possessors to survive and pass on these changes—*natural selection*. Natural selection would work on even the tiniest improvements and, over vast ages, would supposedly accumulate enough small changes to produce all the 'design' we see in the living world.



Modern science vs Darwin

Evolutionists, including the stridently atheistic Oxford Professor Richard Dawkins, still use Darwin's theory to oppose the design argument. But now, they believe that natural selection acts on genetic copying mistakes (*mutations*), some of which are supposed to increase the *genetic information* content. But Dawkins' arguments have been severely critiqued on scientific grounds.^{14,15,16,17}

Dawkins' neo-Darwinism has several flaws: 1) Natural selection requires self-reproducing entities. Producing even the simplest self-reproducing organism by a chance combination of chemicals is even more incredible than producing the *Annals* of Ennius by dropping letters on the ground. Living things require long molecules with precise arrangements of smaller 'building blocks'. Not only will the 'building blocks' not combine in the right order, but they are unlikely, by natural means, to build up large molecules at all! Rather, large molecules tend to break down into smaller ones.¹⁸ Also, the 'building blocks' are unstable.^{19,2} There is complex biological machinery of which Darwin was simply ignorant. Biochemist Dr Michael Behe lists a

number of examples: real motors, transport systems, the blood clotting cascade, the complex visual machinery. He argues that they require many parts or they would not function at all, so they could not have been built in small steps by natural selection.²⁰ 3) Biophysicist/information theorist Dr. Lee Spetner points out that mutations never add information, but only reduce it—this includes even the rare helpful mutations. And he points out that natural selection is insufficient to accumulate slight advantages, as it would be too weak to overcome the effects of chance, which would tend to eliminate these mutants.²¹

The Bible and the 'design argument'

The Apostle Paul used the design argument in Romans 1:20 (i.e. evidences of design in nature). And he says that because of this, the ungodly are 'without excuse'. But Paul continues that the people willingly reject this clear evidence. This evidence of design in nature is enough to condemn men, but it is not enough to save them. The Bible makes it clear that the preaching of the Gospel is also needed to show how we are to come into a right relationship with the Creator (see next section).²² Cicero lived in the century before Christ and probably had never heard of the Gospel of Genesis; he used design in support of the Greek pantheon of gods and goddesses of the Stoics. Today, 'New Agers' may attribute design to Mother Nature of Gaia (the Greek goddess of the earth).

Creation Evangelism

When Christians use design and other arguments from science, they are properly engaging in pre-evangelism, i.e. they are seeking to expose the fallacy of the evolutionary presuppositions that blind the eyes of people today to the truth of the Word of God. This is shown by the Apostle Paul's experience in Athens. Paul 'preached Jesus and the resurrection' (Acts 17:18), which challenged both the Epicurean and the Stoic philosophers of his day—i.e. both Cicero's opponents and his fellow believers. Paul challenged their faulty ideas by pointing them to the one true God who had created everything. But

Paul didn't stop with creation.²³ He urged them to repent, and he said they could know there would be a Day of Judgment because God had appointed the Judge and given assurance of this by raising Him from the dead (Acts 17:18-31).

The only way to be saved is to believe in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12), the Creator/Redeemer, who died and rose again to pay the penalty for mankind's sin. We should follow the way Paul presented the Gospel in 1Cor. 15—N.B. verses 1-4, 21-22, 26, 45, which make sense only with literal Genesis—a literal Creation, Fall, death penalty for sin, etc. John the Evangelist wrote his Gospel 'so that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that, believing, you might have life in His name' (John 20:31). But he began his Gospel by declaring that Jesus is the Creator (John 1:1-3), the Second Person of the Trinity, who took on human nature (John 1:14). Thus evangelism must present Christ as Creator or it is deficient—if Christ is not God, then He cannot be our Savior (Isaiah 43:11).

Conclusion

Without the message of design and the creator, 'gospel preaching' lacks foundation. Without Christ, the design argument cannot save. We must present a full Gospel, starting with creation by the Triune God, and combine it with the message of Christ's death for sin and His Resurrection.



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This article appeared on the Answers In Genesis website: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/faq/design.asp>

References and notes

1. Philosophers often call this the *teleological argument*.
2. A fictitious dialogue involving an Epicurean, a Stoic, and a speaker from the Academy (the philosophical school founded by Plato).
3. Based on the teachings of Epicurus (341-270 BC).
4. Based on the teachings of Zeno of Citium (335-263 BC). The Stoics were pantheists. For them, happiness lay in emulating the calm and order of the universe by enduring hardship and adversity with fortitude and a tranquil mind. The name derives from the porch (Greek: stoa) where Zeno taught.
5. Derived from Democritus (460-361 BC). These philosophies were of Greek origin.
6. Cicero, *De Natura Deorum*, Book 2, sections 87-88.
7. Ref. 6, Book 2, section 93.
8. Compare Grigg, R., *Could monkeys type the 23rd Psalm?* *Creation* 13(1):30-34, 1990; updated in *Apologetics* 3 (2):59-64, 1994. 9. Ref. 6, Book 2, section 94.
10. Paley, W., *Natural Theology*, first published 1802, republished by Bill Cooper as *Paley's Watchmaker*, New Wine Press, Chichester, England, pp. 29-31, 1995.
11. Sober, E., *Philosophy of Biology*, Westview Press, Boulder, CO, USA, p. 34, 1993, cited in Behe, Ref. 20.
12. C. Darwin to John Lubbock, Nov. 15,

THE GATHERING

ON-CAMPUS BIBLE STUDY

- WORSHIP
- OUTREACH
- EVENTS

**GET REAL
PURPOSE...
THE TRUTH
...A REASON
TO LIVE!**

**Monday Nights
7:00pm
Northwoods
Room**

**UW-Stout
Student Center**

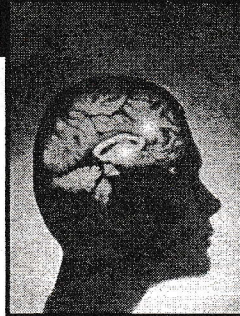
street level campus rendezvous



In The NEWS

XXX Church

On January 9, 2002, self-proclaimed "slacker pastors" Craig Gross and Mike Foster entered the Adult Video News Convention with a mission: to launch their new web site and to proclaim "there's something even better than [porn] out there, and that's a relationship with Jesus Christ and the hope of heaven." With their wives and Rex the Rabbit (a local church mascot) as armor bearers, they quietly assembled their meager booth—a borrowed leather couch and a chincy sign—and prepared for the unknown. As the show got underway, it appeared as if they were in for three long, uneventful days—that is, until a reporter from the L.A. Times sauntered by; the rest is quickly becoming history. Billing themselves as the #1 Christian Porn Site, xxxchurch.com is designed to grab the attention of men searching for porn and move them in the direction of finding help. While the concept



isn't new, the overnight media interest—especially on the part

of the porn industry (Adult Video News, Playboy, et al.)—has garnered their site more than 11 million hits since their launching it. Admittedly, Craig and Mike just want to help people. Not knowing what to expect or where their journey will lead them, they are convinced, however, that it's time Christians get their heads out of the sand. Eager to do their part, they've shunned starchy religion and embraced the opportunity to reach out to the porn industry on their own level—a pursuit worthy of our attention and prayers.

*This is an excerpt from an article that first appeared in the Summer 2002 issue of Unchained! Magazine, P.O. Box 150, Dry Ridge, KY 41035
For more information: www.purelifeministries.org*

Right and Wrong?

Three-quarters of all college seniors report being taught that right and wrong depend "on differences in individual values and cultural diversity." Only about a quarter reported their professors as adhering to the traditional view that "there are clear and uniform standards of right and wrong by which every one should be judged."

The poll was conducted for the National Association of Scholars by Zogby International during the period from April 9 to 16, 2002.

Want to Feed the Hungry?

Ever wondered what you can do to help with world hunger? You don't have to go very far to be able to make a difference. The Minneapolis base of Steiger International, a worldwide youth mission organization, has a ministry which involves packaging food to be distributed around the world. According to Feeding Children International/Minneapolis' website, the product is "a highly nutritious meal of rice, soy, vegetables, vitamins

and minerals in a delicious flavor that is easily cooked and consumed in economically disadvantaged areas." Once the food is packaged, 80% of it is shipped to relief and mission organizations in areas of the world with severe hunger and starvation. 10% of the

food is set aside for emergency use (natural disasters, war, and famine) and 10% is used to feed people in Minneapolis. Three hour blocks of time are available for volunteers (church, community, college, and school groups, as well as individuals) to come and package food. Volunteers are quickly trained in various positions of pouring ingredients, weighing, sealing, and boxing. In a fun environment, volunteers interact with each other while doing something practical to make a difference in our world.

For more information about this ministry or to volunteer, contact Steiger Minneapolis PO Box 32131, Fridley, MN 55432 or visit their table at Yeshuapoolooza 2002 (see ad pg.13)

4 out of 5 Americans say there's no such thing as absolute moral truth.*



16% of U.S. report that whatever works in their life is the only truth that they know.*

Far Reaching Ministries

Far Reaching Ministries has sent out a team of missionaries to Uganda who work with the Sudanese people in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. The Lord began to move upon their hearts to live among the Sudanese Refugees when I visited their church, Calvary Chapel Saving Grace, in August of 1998. Their desire is to minister love and hope to orphans who have lost their parents through war, famine, and sickness. The vision of the Saving Grace team is to take orphaned children from Sudan who have been left destitute and provide them with godly homes among their own people. Over the past nine months of living within the Sudanese culture, the team has observed that discipleship in Biblical marriage and parenting is greatly needed. A Bible Training Center has been constructed where seminars and conferences are being held. Discipleship of adults is the first step toward fulfilling this vision. Children will be placed in existing Sudanese families as the Lord calls parents into this long-term ministry.

Their current focus is ministry to children within the Settlement. In Uganda, the School System includes in its curriculum a Christian Religious Education Class for all elementary and high schools. This has created a tremendous door for the team to share God's Word and love within the schools. Members from the team are involved with the local Sunday Schools, teaching the children and training the teachers.

In March, we received a message from the Chaplain's base in Sudan that an eight-year-old orphan boy named Joseph Jeda had been seriously burned and was in our care. He had hidden himself in a tall grassy field when soldiers attacked his village. They set the field on fire and Jeda was unable to escape the flames. Local people found him in the field with third degree burns covering his stomach, neck and arms. He was taken to the nearest town to be transported further south. A missionary from FRM was told of the boy's condition while he was traveling in the area. He decided to take the child to the hospital near the base camp for treatment. Jeda is the first orphan who has been located in Kiryandongo where a godly widow from the local Africa Inland Church is caring for him. His wounds have been healing rapidly, and we are praying no permanent scarring will occur. During his first week, he had a very difficult time adapting to his new circumstances. When planes flew overhead, he began crying out of fear because he thought they were coming to drop bombs. He has now begun school, and has made many new friends. The stable love and support he is receiving from church members is helping to heal the nightmares of his past.

The team ministers to adults in the community through one-on-one discipleship, teaching in local churches and holding training seminars. A Bible College and English classes are also envisioned to provide another means of extending God's Word into the Settlement. Proper medical care and health education are needed among the refugees. We desire to open a small clinic as the Lord raises up medical missionaries to help meet these needs.

The Africa Inland Church is co-laboring with our missionaries to provide the necessary cultural advice and to help mobilize the Sudanese community. The Lord is opening great opportunities for ministry and in the future more help will be needed.

—a Far Reaching Ministries' servant
www.FarReachingMinistries.org

Delhi House ♦ Sewa Ashram

Rehabilitation for the Destitute
HIV-TB Clinic, Home for
Different Abled Children,
Community of the Poor

A PROJECT OF
DELHI HOUSE

Vinod's • Story



I grew up in a village in Bihar together with my little sister, my brother,

and an older stepbrother. My parents had to work very hard in the fields. They gave us love and security; but one day they became very sick. I was crying and worrying, wanting them to get well again. I felt so much sadness, seeing how they got skinnier every day.

First my father died, then twenty-four hours later, my mother. My stepbrother took me out of school in second grade; I had to work in a tea stall to earn money. I didn't receive any love from my stepbrother and his wife. These were lonely, sad days for me, I missed my parents. I never felt any joy that time.

One evening, after my stepbrother had beat me again, I just left my village. It was an impulse that I hopped on a train to Delhi without a ticket, without any money. I was hungry for two days. I couldn't work because my body was too weak. Somebody told me that I could get food at the Hanuman temple. I went there and after seven days every part of my body was infected, I couldn't open my mouth, my eyes were red, I surely would have died if Baba hadn't found me sitting at the temple.

He asked me if I wanted to come to his house. I said, "Yes". I stayed at Delhi House and within 3 months I was healthy again. I never thought that I would be able to go back to school because I missed so many years. But, now I understand that it is a miracle of Jesus that I'm studying and everything is going well. I learned English in one year, could skip two grades, and I'm in a higher standard school now.

I know that because of Jesus I have a better life now. His love will be with me forever; He gives me what I need. I want to go to college and in the future I also

want to serve the poor and sick with the gifts God gave me.

Rajesh's • Story

I am 24 years old. I come from a good family. My

father is a driver with the government. I went to school up to grade ten; but in 8th grade I started to take drugs like hash and then smack. I got a job with a large company working in the storage area. I was getting good money but just would spend it all on drugs. I got involved in crime that led me one day to kill somebody. So, I ran to the city of Delhi to escape punishment. As soon as I got to Delhi, I met a guy who was taking some smack. I got him to hook me up, and for the next month I stayed completely wasted out of my head.

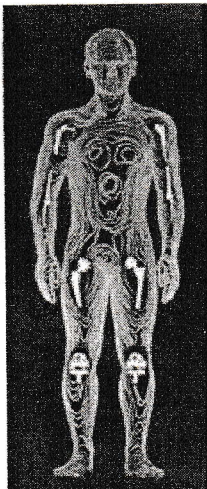
One day, in a drug induced stupor, I wandered onto the highway and a truck hit me head on. It tore my chest open, and I flew backwards onto cement and gravel. My whole back was full of stones. A guy came to help me but ended up just taking all my money and he left.

The police arrived and took me to the hospital where they pulled all the stones out of my back and gave me a bed. I had to get drugs so I ran away. Back on the street I only cared about getting drugs so became very dirty and all my wounds got infected.

That is when I met Baba. He took me back to the hospital where I got my wounds cleaned. Because I had run away already they would not admit me. So, a friend helped me to go to Baba's place. I don't know how I have been so changed. Since coming here, I have not had any desire for drugs on which for ten years I did depend. My wounds are almost all healed. I have a peace in me that I never had before.

For more info about Delhi House and Steiger International check out: www.steiger.org





What is the Gospel Anyway?

The Nonnegotiable Gospel

By Dave Hunt

"Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel... for IT is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes (IT). Mark 15:15; Romans 1:16

What is the gospel and from what does it save us?

We must begin in the Garden. Persuaded by Satan that God had lied to her, and seduced by the appealing promise of godhood,

Then He would rise from the dead to live in those who would believe in and receive Him as their Lord and Savior, giving them forgiveness of sins and eternal life as a *free gift of His grace.*

Centuries before his incarnation, God inspired the Old Testament prophets to declare His eternal and unchangeable plan of salvation. Definitive criteria were provided by which the coming Savior would be identified. Jesus and His apostles did not invent a "new religion." Christianity fulfills scores of specific prophecies and is thus provable from scripture!

fact abundantly clear. To reject or add or to take from or otherwise pervert or embrace a substitute for "the gospel of God" is to perpetuate the rebellion begun by Adam and Eve and to leave one eternally separated from God under His wrath. No wonder Paul wrote, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade man..." (2Cor 5:11) So we must persuade through the gospel!

The "gospel of your salvation" (Eph 1:3) "where in you stand; by which you are saved" (1 Cor 15:1-2) is simple and precise, leaving no room for misunderstanding or negotiation: "that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures: that he was buried, and rose again the third day..." (vv 3-4). This "everlasting gospel" (Rv 14:6) was promised "before the world began" (2 Tim 1:9; Ti 1:2) and cannot be changed with time or culture. There is no other hope for mankind, no other way to be forgiven and brought back to God except through this "strait gate and narrow way." (Mt 7:13) Any broader road leads to destruction. (v 13)

The one true "gospel of God's grace," which God offers as our only salvation has three basic elements: 1) **Who Christ is—fully God and perfect, sinless man in one person (where if He were less He could not be our Savior);** 2) **who we are—hopeless sinners already condemned to eternal death (or we wouldn't need to be saved);** 3) **what Christ's death accomplished—the payment of the full penalty for our sins (any attempt by us to pay in any way rejects the Cross).**

Then He would rise from the dead to live in those who would believe in and receive Him as their Lord and Savior, giving them forgiveness of sins and eternal life as a free gift of His grace.

Eve rebelled against her Creator. Not wanting to be separated from his wife, whom he loved more than God, Adam who was not deceived (1Tim 2:14), deliberately joined in her disobedience. Thus "by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men (and women), for that all have sinned" (Rom 5:12). **Death not only ends this short earthly life, but it separates the sinner from God forever.**

In His infinite foreknowledge, wisdom, and love, God already planned what He would do to reunite mankind with Himself. Without ceasing to be God (an impossibility), He would become a man through virgin birth: **Only God could be the Savior** (Is 43:11; 45:21; Ti 1:3-4, etc). He would die for our sins to pay the penalty demanded by His justice: "Tis mystery all, the immortal dies!" (Charles Wesley).

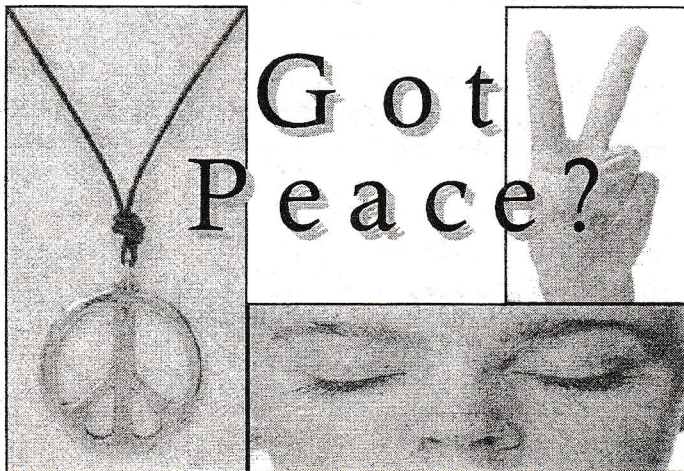
So it was not a new gospel which Paul preached, but "the gospel of God," (which He had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures) concerning his Son Jesus Christ..." (Rom 1:1-3). Thus the Bereans could check Paul's message against the Old Testament (Acts 17:11); and he could use the Hebrew prophets, which read in the synagogue each Sabbath, to show that Jesus was the promised Messiah (vv2-3). Not Buddha, not Muhammad, not any one else—only Jesus Christ has the required credentials! The fulfillment of scores of specific prophecies in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth is absolute proof that He is the true and only Savior.

In Hebrews 2:3 the vital question is asked, "how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" There is no escape. The Bible makes that solemn

Christ has commanded us to "preach the gospel (good news!) to every creature (person) (Mk 16:15). What response is required? Both the desperate question and uncomplicated answer are given to us: "What must I do to be saved? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou will be saved" (Acts 16:30-31). Neither religion, ritual, nor good works will avail—simply believe. "For by grace we are saved through faith" (Eph 2:8)—whosoever believes in Him will not die, but has eternal life (Jn 3:16).

It is the gospel alone that saves those who believe it. Nothing else will save (you).

www.thebereancall.com reprinted April 1993



Got Peace? Most people don't. Most say that they try to make peace or be peaceful, but they don't really have peace for themselves. They find themselves anxious, worried, nervous, scared, or generally just always trying to find the right thing, person, or place to satisfy them.

What if there was a peace available to you that you didn't have to search for or seek after? What if there was a peace that would come right to you? A peace that would never run out. I'm not talking about the wimpy peace that is just the absence of problems, wars, troubles, trials, and anxieties. I'm talking about real peace that comes to you in the middle of trials, anxiety, and wars, bringing calm during your deepest anxieties. Whether you are poor and alone in a desert or on a tropical vacation with your friends, the peace remains.

Philippians 4:6-7 "Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all that he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

This type of peace doesn't come through knowledge or through understanding. It is commonly thought that if you can just

understand what is going on or where the other person is coming from then there won't be quarrels and strife. Maybe.

But what about the times when it doesn't make sense and you can't understand why you are so full of nervousness and worry? When you don't know where the other person is coming from, and everything seems so out of control? When you just can't take it anymore, and you just want peace?

There is a peace that will blow your mind. A peace that is so supernatural that it is beyond your understanding it and how it works. A peace that will rule over everything in your heart. It is the peace of God.

Isaiah 26:3 "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, whose thoughts are fixed on You!"

Only God can give supernatural peace because He is a supernatural God. His peace is not of this world, because He is not of this world. He knows that in this world you will have trials, wars, anxieties, and storms. That's why He gives peace that overcomes these things.

John 16:33 "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."



Beatnik's Corner

A KNOCK AT THE DOOR



There is a girl, who is me,
But not the girl I long to be.
Within the constructs of the
perception I created,
Only am I free.

It's Jesus I seek as He
knocks at the door.

I don't let Him in, I tell Him,
"Sorry, I'm looking for more":
Buddha, Allah, Sun, Moon, Stars.
Where do I look to find refuge from this
world so very large?

He knocks gently,
And patiently waiting on the doorstep.

"Child, I am here,
Look - a flower,
a mother,
a smile,
a sunset."

Jesus send your spirit,
I want to overflow,
You gave me life,
You raised me,

With your love I yearn to glow.
Sweet Savior forgive me,
For trying to do it on my own.

I am here Lord,
I am yours,

Through you I gain much more.
I'm sorry I kept you waiting Jesus,
Knocking at my door.

God's peace is so incredible! He loves you and knows this world can be unbearable. He sent his Son Jesus to earth to die so that you could have eternal life in heaven and abundant life here on earth experiencing His love, joy and peace. You can ask Him today for that peace.

John 14:27 "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid."

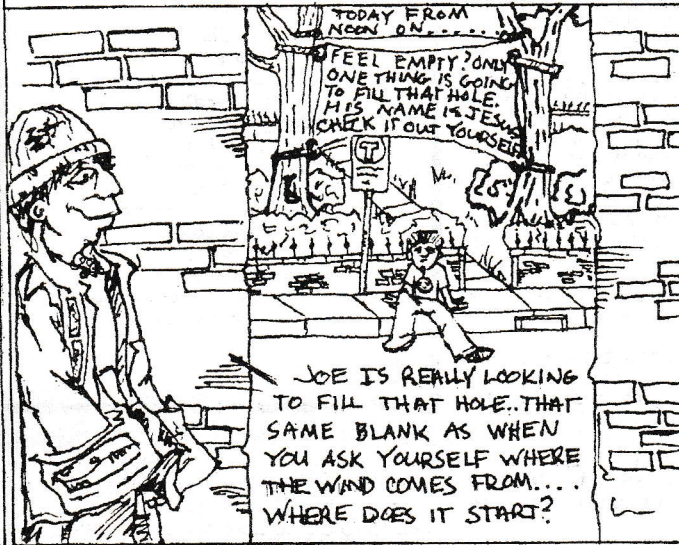
*All Bible verses are from the New Living Translation

The Life of Joe Missinit...

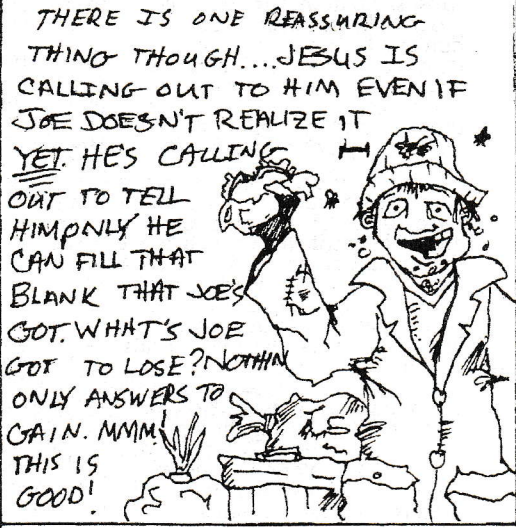
ONCE AGAIN, JOE SITS, PERPLEXED, WONDERING WHAT EVERYTHING IS FOR.



HOMWORK ALL WEEK; WORK, SLEEP, PARTYING.... OH! YES, THEN BACK TO THE BEGINNING.. (SIGH)
ALL THAT FOR AN EXPECTED AWESOME WEEKEND, AGAIN
AGAIN TURNS TO DISAPPOINTMENT IS THIS ALL THAT IT'S FOR? SEEMS DRY...



JOE IS REALLY LOOKING TO FILL THAT HOLE.. THAT SAME BLANK AS WHEN YOU ASK YOURSELF WHERE THE WIND COMES FROM... WHERE DOES IT START?

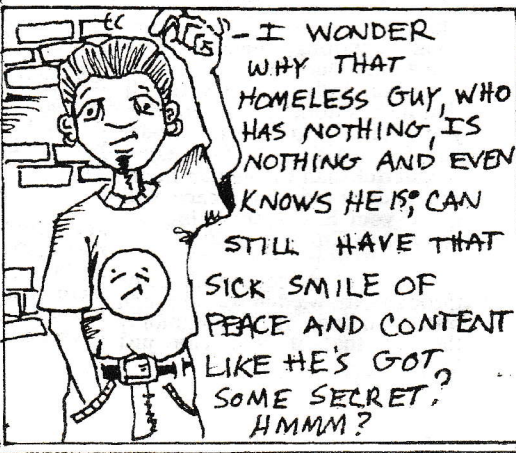


THERE IS ONE REASSURING THING THOUGH... JESUS IS CALLING OUT TO HIM EVEN IF JOE DOESN'T REALIZE IT YET. HE'S CALLING OUT TO TELL HIM ONLY HE CAN FILL THAT BLANK THAT JOE'S GOT. WHAT'S JOE GOT TO LOSE? NOTHING ONLY ANSWERS TO GAIN. MMM! THIS IS GOOD!



- CAN YOU SPARE SOME CHANGE FOR THE NEEDY?
= THANKS

YEAH, YEAH. NOW GET LOST!



- I WONDER WHY THAT HOMELESS GUY, WHO HAS NOTHING, IS NOTHING AND EVEN KNOWS HE IS, CAN STILL HAVE THAT SICK SMILE OF PEACE AND CONTENT LIKE HE'S GOT, SOME SECRET, HMMM?

JARGON:

View the definition of truth then check out what the Bible has to say about it.

Truth \`trʊθ\ n Greek: aletheia (al-ay'-thi-a)

1.

- a. (1): the state of being the case: **FACT**
(2): the body of real things: **ACTUALITY**
(3): a transcendent fundamental or spiritual reality
- b. a judgment, proposition, or idea that is true
- c. the body of true statements and propositions

2.

- a. the property (as of a statement) of being in accord with fact or reality
- b. sincerity in action, character, and utterance
- c. fidelity, constancy

3.

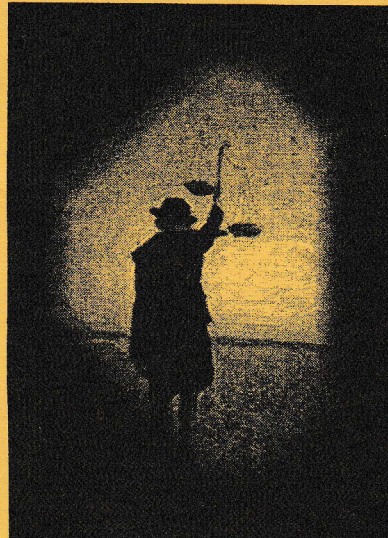
- a. what is true under consideration
- b. what is true in things appertaining to God and the duties of man, moral and religious truth
- c. in the greatest latitude
- d. the true notions of God which are open to supernatural reason without his intervention.

"Jesus said unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

"Sanctify¹ them by Your truth. Your word is truth." John 17:17
(¹Sanctify means "set apart")
(Issue #8)

Check out what the Bible has to say about truth!

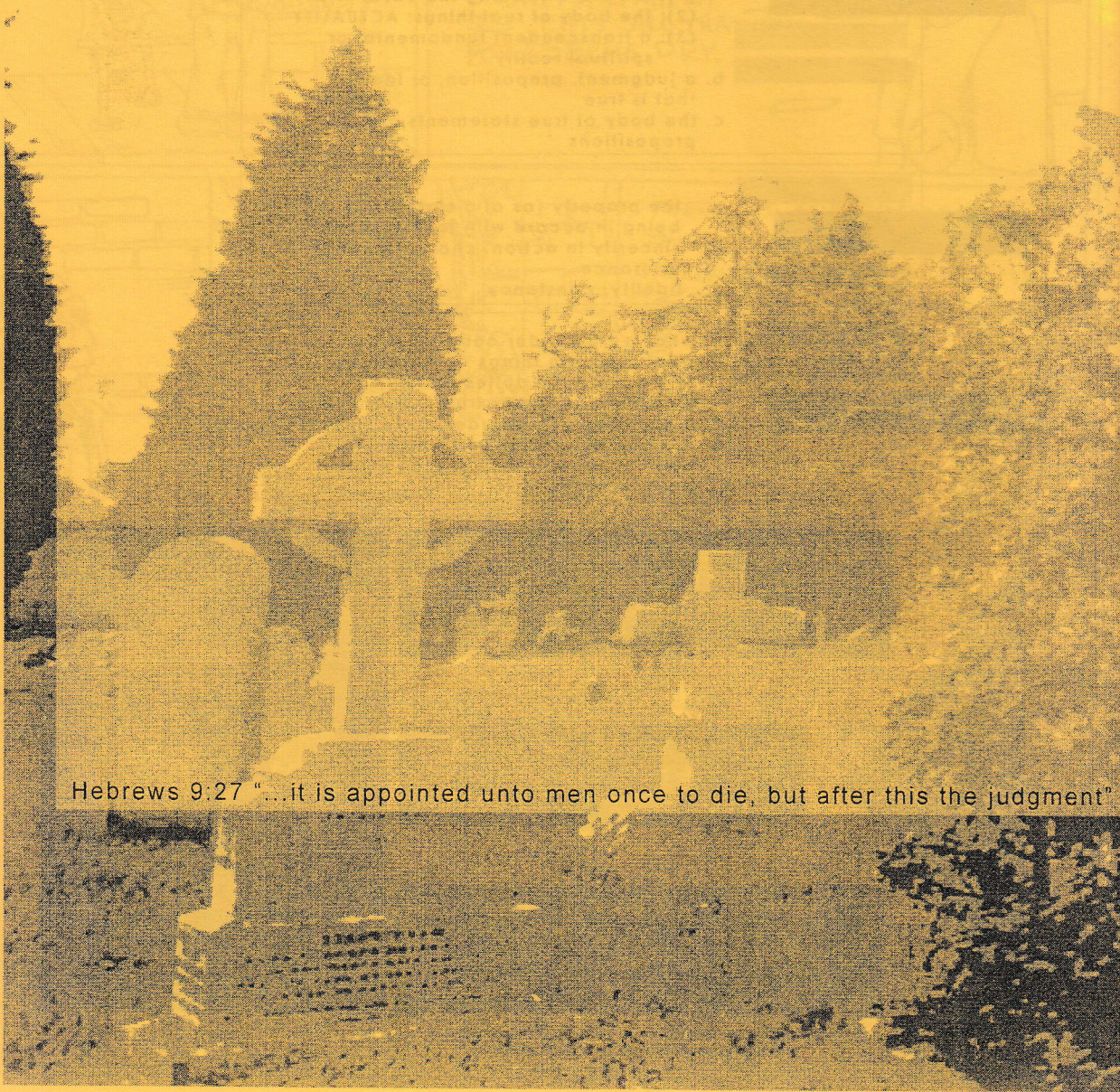


* all definitions are from Online Bible Greek Lexicon | www.onlinebible.com
* all Bible verses are from the New Living translation

Street Level

MINISTRIES

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Hebrews 9:27 "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"