

ISSUE 12


NO FEAR!


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|  is a quarterly publication of Street Level Ministries, a UW-Stout student organization. Want to know more? Check out |
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Amissionary journey to the beautiful, yet destitute country of India. India is a heavily populated third world country with the majority of the people being Hindu. Only $2-3 \%$ of the population is Christian (people who follow Jesus Christ). To the westerner, India is a shock to all the senses: the sights, the sounds, the smells, and the food are like nothing we have ever experienced in Midwest America.

One noticeable difference the westerner will observe when setting foot in India is the multi-colored, ornate idols and temples that line the streets, popping up between restaurants and local clothing shops. The idols often appear as animals such as elephants, or monkey heads with "buff" human bodies, or a six-armed, brightly painted woman. The idols also appear on the dashboards of taxis, buses, and three-wheeled motorbikes. They come in plastic, brass, wood, and many even light up. We observed people spending hours working on elaborate, temporary temple shrines to house their idols for their Hindu festivals. These people put forth so much time and effort to worship gods they have made with their own two hands. There was a darkness, emptiness, and sadness felt by those of us from Street Level who visited this land of idol worshippers. As I observed these man-made objects, a few Bible verses popped into my head from the book of Isaiah. The Lord says in Isaiah 44:9-11, "How foolish are those who manufacture idols to be their gods. These highly valued objects are really worthless. They themselves are witnesses that this is so, for their idols neither see nor know. No wonder those who worship them are put to shame. Who but a fool would make his own god-an idol that cannot help him one bit! All who worship idols will stand before the Lord in shame, along with all these craftsmen-mere humans-who claim they can make a god. Together they will stand in terror and shame." Later, the Lord says in Isaiah 44:19-20, "The person who made the idol never stops to reflect, 'Why, it's just a block of wood! I burned half of it for heat and used it to bake my bread and roast my meat. How can the rest of it be a god? Should I bow down to worship a chunk of wood? ${ }^{\prime}$ The poor, deluded fool feeds on ashes. He is trusting something that can give him no help at all. Yet he cannot bring himself to ask, 'Is this thing, this idol that I'm holding in my hand, a lie?"' To my eyes it seemed so heart breaking and foolish-why would these people devote their lives to these idois made by their own hands? Did they not realize that these wooden idols would not be able to save, fulfill, or rescue them?

Upon further reflection, the Lord reminded me that although these animal gods looked so foolish and weird to me, idol worship in America is just as prevalent, just as dark and empty, and just as disgusting and heart breaking. The difference is that we have other forms of man-made gods that we exert all of our passion, time, and energy on to fulfill us. Some examples of idols in America are: SUVs, cable television, and lazyboys, housed in our luxurious homes which required many hours of construction with wood, plastic, and metal. We Americans are just as lost and spiritually destitute as those millions of people in India who are worshipping a god made of wood or metal.

In every human being, whether from America or India or some other country, there is a need to worship. If left to ourselves, we worship things made by our own hands that can neither help us nor fill the void in our hearts. The Bible says in Jeremiah 10:1516, "Idols are worthless; they are lies! The time is coming when they will all be destroyed. But the God
of Israel is no idol! He is the Creator of everything that exists..." The Hindus live in fear that their idols will send sudden destruction upon them, and we Americans live in fear that someone will steal our idol or our idol will pack his bags and find someone else. I sit here today as an ex-idol worshipper, now a believer, follower, and worshipper of Jesus Christ with the desire to tell Americans, Indians, and people of all nations, that there is only one True God. We are sinners separated from God because of the choices we have made to make other things the center of our attention rather than the Almighty, everlasting, God. God loves us and longs to have a strong, personal relationship with us. He is not an angry god in the sky waiting to destroy us; He has great things planned for our lives on this earth followed by eternity in heaven (a place free from pain and $\sin$ ). We can continue to seek our fulfilment in the wood, metal, and plastic of this world or we can wake up today out of our slumber and call out to the only God who can save us and

fulfill us. The True God proved to us how much he loved us when he sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die an excruciatingly painful death on the cross as payment for our sins and creating the way for us to have a personal relationship with the True God once again. Do our manmade idols have the capability of offering us eternal peace and comfort? They don't, do they? Whether we live in America, India, or Tanzania, let us devote our time, energy, and all to the only one who can satisfy our empty hearts-Jesus Christ. He is waiting for us. Ask Him to make Himself real to you and He will.

## Reference:

All Bible verses taken from the Holy BibleNew Living Translation. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Wheaton, Illinois 1996.
of this camp I was very angry to be by myself, woods, I was so I went off into the other three friends passed out. I opened my car door, my head was spinning, and I felt like I was going to vomit. It had been another night
out and a morning feeling sick. Why did

* I continuously do this to myself? 1 crawled out of the car and tried to force myself to throw up. I was so disgusted with myself, and I had a lot of - questions running through my head. How did I end - up here? What had I - done last night? Where - was I? I wanted to go to church that morning, I was sick of the life I had been
living. I knew there had to be more than this - religious picture the s world portrays Jesus to be. I
- needed God to be ${ }^{*}$ real; not some sort of genie I pulled out when I needed something. I wanted to feel God's peace and have a - relationship with Him.

When I was 14 years old, I attended a Bible camp. 1 - was mad at the people there all week and didn't know why.

- They were different. They had something I
- didn't Deep down I did not want to know what - the difference was because I knew it would
mean my life would have to change (if only I knew it would be for the better). The last night
 questioning God, life, $\longrightarrow$ and retigion. I felt so much darkness surrounding me and I was terrified. What was happening? I 3.2 became hysterical from the fear and I ran into the building wanting to be set free. I felt they did not understand, and I wasn't comfortable anywhere. I finally agreed to pray with one of the pastors and I cried out to Jesus to save me. As soom as I cried out, the enormous weight of darkness lifted. From that point forward 1 knew God and Satan were real, not just some characters in a story - that people tell 2 at "church."
I returned home and, for the next five years, I was caught right back up into the same life I had led before. I was mystified by witchcraft, drugs, sex, and materialism. I tried to pretend Ifit into this life, but I never felt at peace. It was as if I had this voice in my head saying, "Don't do this. If will hurt you." But I continuously pushed it out and tried to make myself think that what 1 was doing was okay. But doing this did not take away the fears I had at night. I would cry out to God after coming off of LSD with horrible
stomach pains, when my heart was racing from taking too many lines of speed, or when I was worried about being pregnant or having, an STD. I would vow to stay sober and abstinent if God would just get me through the situation, but then I would fall right back into it again. I had no strength and I was weighted down with fear:

I fell into the lie the world tells us about these things bringing us satisfaction. Drugs and sexual immorality ruin people's lives, I have seen it. I lost a close friend to this type of lifestyle. She was told by this world that drugs would bring her happiness, take away her fears, and hide her past. She was told these men and women loved her, but it killed her!

Please hear me out: this world is filled with lies and fears. This world tells you to drink. away your problems, take drugs to make you happy and that sexuat immorality will bring you satisfaction. It is a lie. Let me ask you: are you afraid to walk out to your car at might? Do you know if you will wake up in the morning? Does he/she really love you?

There is a way out. God is not dead. He is real and He loves you. He has provided a way out for anyone who will ask. God came in the form of a man (Jesus), as a servant, and gave his life up for you. It does not matter who you. are or what you have done. God is full of love and compassion for you. Jesus said He is the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father but through him (John 14:6). He wants to help you and have a friendsthip with you. "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).

Abortion Protesters on Campus

Throughout the UW-Stout campus on October $9^{\text {m }}$, the tension in the air was so thick you could almost cut it ${ }^{\prime}$, Abortion protesters from "Missionaries to the Pre-born" lined the walk from the dorms to Bowman Hall holding enormous signs containing images of babies that had been aborted during all stages of pregnancy. One protestor wearing a shirt that said "Jesus Saves" yelled across campus, "Keep your legs closed ladies."

As these demonstrators pursued heated, angry discussions with students, I noticed one girl crying. These were her words to a friend: "Well, if they say that God hates me, then I hate God." | assumed that she'd had an abortion.

These "missionaries" missed the mark, for as they got caught up in this issue, albeit a valid one, they seemed to overlook the incredible message of John $3: 16-17$ which says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it but to save it." Christ came among us and died a brutal death so all of our sins could be washed completely away. There is no sin so great that his love

These were her words to a friend: "Well, if they say that God hates me, then I hate God." will not cover it. We are so blessed to have a God that offers compassion in place of condemnation. For any student that was disgusted, turned off, or condemned by these protestors I offer one of the most amazing examples of the depth of Jesus' love in chapter 8 in the book of John. Some teachers of religious law brought a woman before Jesus that they had caught in the act of adultery (a sin punishable by death at that time). As a huge crowd watched, these teachers explained how the law said they should stone her to death, so they tried to trick Jesus by asking him what he thought should be done about it. He stooped down to draw in the sand with his finger as everyone waited for his response. Finally, he replied, "All right, stone her, but let those who have never sinned throw the first stone." Then he stooped down again and drew in the sand. One by one, all of the accusers left until only Jesus and the woman were left. Then Jesus stood up and said, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No L.ord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Our sins hurt Christ because he wants so badly to relieve us of them. We should come to him with true repentance in our hearts, and he is willing to offer love and forgiveness for any $\sin$. His love is our model.

# -wesay mita? 

$\alpha$common view I often hear about the Christianity of the Bible is that it is negative towards women. Many people think the verse about a woman submitting to her husband is an outrage. I have even heard people use it as a reason not to believe in the God of the Bible and turn down a free ticket to heaven.

I have to admit that I was one of those people. When I first started really learning about the Bible and what it said concerning my life I was particularly worried about the concept of submission. I had a lot of questions and wondered why a loving God wanted me to be second to a man. Was 1 of lesser importance in God's eyes?

In my search for truth in the Bible, I found three very important things. First, I learned that the verse says that we as Christian woman need to submit not to all men but just to our husbands. Second, I learned what the word submission really means. It is more of a military term intended to keep order. It never really works to have two bosses. Such as general or major. li's not that I as a woman have a lesser value than a man, but that there needs to be an order, someone needs to have the final say. The Bible says we as women are very important in God's eyes and He loves us all equally. And you don't have to worry. If you still don't like the idea of your husband having the final say, you can either pick a really good husband or just not get married.

The third thing I learned is what | really wanted to share with you. As | read the Bible, I realized that women's lives were a whole lot different in the days of the Bible and in different countries. In America, we are extremely blessed and free as women. In the days of the Bible, women were considered of a lower class than men. A man of a higher class would say he was thankful that he was not born into a lower class of man, or as a woman, or as a dog. They actually put women on the same level as a dog. They were treated as property, not as equals. When Jesus came along, He declared that women were to be equal, that they had a place in the church, that they could teach from the scriptures and be deaconesses. It was an incredible gift of freedom.

I recently took a trip to India. What I found was shocking. Here are a few excerpts from Send!, Gospel For Asia's recent newsletter on women in India:

If your mother (or close relative) does choose to kill you, she may do so by forcing poison or a chemical fertilizer down your throat. She may smother you, or perhaps simply let you starve to death. But cruelty isn't her motive. She may actually believe that this is the wiser, more compassionate choice rather

than raise you and condemn you to a life as a woman. Or perhaps she believes, as many do, that sacrificing a daughter will guarantee her a son.

If somehow you make it past babyhood, you will still face the challenge of simply getting adequate nutrition. You will be fed less than your brothers, at each meal you will probably have to wait to eat, along with your mother and sisters, until the males are through.....In Nepal and Bangladesh, one out of every four girls dies before the age of five; and 25 percent of the girls born in India every year die by age 15 .

By age 10 or 11 , you may be putting in an eight hour work day. You may be forced to work in a factory, just like 7.5 million other girls in India.

As you grow towards womanhood, there is another threat awaiting you: prostitution. If your family is poor, they may be deceived by promises of a good paying job or marriage proposal for you. They may unknowingly hand you over to a life of shame ......you may be kidnapped and sold, never to see your family again... Once your marriage is arranged... you will find yourself married off on rather short notice to a man you have probably never met.

Today they must pay the groom's family a sizeable sum of money, plus jewels land and other assets.

If your family paid an insufficient dowry to satisfy the greed of your husband's family, or if you do not meet their expectations of a model wife and they want their son to marry better, it could mean great suffering on your part... even death. You are especially at risk during your first seven years of your married life. With dowry deaths increasing every year in India-one every 88 minutes your chances are growing slimmer by the hour.

If you do become a victim of dowry-related violence, most likely your husband's family will burn you to death and then proclaim it was a "kitchen accident." ....for every reported case, 299 go unreported

Through all of this I discovered how Jesus really did set us free in more then just physical ways. He has freed my heart from the bondage of anxiety, fear, anger, lust, and many other devices. His love has set all of us free. Even the women in India under their harsh circumstances rejoice with the peace and hope Jesus has put in their hearts.

You can find this information and more at Gospel For Asia's web site: www.gfa.org


No Longer Music Newz

We were plaving after a famous Polish punk band named Aımia (Armia is kind of like the Ramones of Poland). The day of the concert it had rained all day but when we started to play it stopped raining. There were about 800 people in the audience, many of them were drunk and aggressive. While I was in the coffin (during our concerts we show how Jesus rose from the dead so that was why I was in the coffin, in case you were wondering) a couple of guys in the front of the stage started to mock us. So the security guards grabbed them and started beating on them. It was a crazy atmosphere to say the least.

After we showed how Jesus rose from the dead I invited those who were ready to come forward to give their life to Jesus. More than 120 people responded including Radic the crazy punk I had talked with the day belore. After the $120{ }^{\circ}$ crowd prayed to receive Jesus into their hearts I told them to raise their hands if they needed to feel God's power in their life. I went to Radic who had his hand raised. He fell into my arms and we both wept as I prayed for him. I could feel God's compassion and broken heart for this young maz.

We gave out more than 100 Bibles that night and our band spent the next few hours praying for lots of people in the crowd. The presence of God was very strong. Radic said thank you over and over again as he left because he was so deeply touched by God that night.

This is just one example of what God did on our tour this summer in Poland. 495 young people prayed to receive Jesus into their lives during our evangelistic tour.
-David Pierce • www.steiger.org
traditional Thanksgiving buffet dinner at noon served by the truck stop restaurant. And then they'll cozy up in the 48-foot trailer-humed-chapel and hold two scrices-one early afternoon and one late evening-geared just for the holiday.

Excerpt taken from article by Jennifer Landis (wาw.transporfforchrist.org)


The first law of thermodynamics states that energy, the stuff of which the universe is made, can neither be created nor destroyed. Two conclusions follow: (1) the total energy in the universe remains constant; and (2) energy must be self-existent and eternal, exactly what the Bible says about God. Is science promoting energy as "God"?

The second law of thermodynamics states that while total energy remains constant, usable energy and order continually decrease as entropy increases. Common sense tells us that all fires eventually burn out. Neither our sun nor the other stars could have been burning forever. There must have been a time when neither stars nor the energy of which they consist existed. Clearly, the universe had a beginning, as the Bible declares: "In the beginning..." 1 .

The conflict between these two laws poses a serious problem for science. Energy could not have been here forever as the first law implies, or, according to the second, ages ago it would have reached the state of maximum entropy, but it hasn't. The contradiction can be resolved in only one way: since energy could not have been created by any means known to science, yet has not always existed, it must have been created by God.

Matter, life and intelligence could not arise spontaneously from nothing. Therefore, all that now exists was created either by a self-existent eternal energy, or by a self-existent
eternal Person. The first choice is also clear: "...things that are seen eliminated by the second law of were not made of things which do thermodynamics, because energy itself and all things it produces deteriorate. Furthermore, whereas energy is physical, there is a demonstrable nonphysical dimension to human existence. Nor could

energy, being impersonal, create personal beings such as man.

We are driven to the conclusion that some One always existed, an infinite Person without beginning or end, who is capable of creating out of nothing the entire universe and all the creatures in it, including man. Our finite minds cannot conceive of God always having existed. Yet we know He must exist eternally or nothing would exist.

Science says the universe began with a "Big Bang." But what was the source of that energy? It could not have
existed forever or (according to the second (aw) it would have reached maximum entropy before it "banged." Obviously the energy from which the universe is made came into existence simultaneously with the universe a finite number of years ago. It could not have arisen out of nothing by any natural process and thus its origin had to be supernatural. Accurately, the Bible says, "God said, Let there be..."2; "...the worlds were framed by the word of God..."3. That God made the uni-verse out of nothing is also clear: "...things that are seen
were not made of things which do appear" ${ }_{4}$. It has taken science thousands of years to catch up with the Bible.

Did God create the universe in a sudden burst of energy? We don't know. We do know that a "Big Bang" could never produce the digitally organized database imprinted on the single cell (the size of the period at the end of this sentence) with which each human life begins. This immense store of self-replicating information (with enzymes that check for copy errors and correct them) directs the construction, operation and differentiation of tens of trillions of cells as different as those in the heart and hair, an incredible feat which science can't even begin to unravel.

The written instructions are encoded so that only the proper protein (of which there are tens of thousands of types) can decipher it. Darwin knew nothing of DNA or the structure and operation of the cell, today's knowledge of which has relegated his theory of evolution to the trash heap of absurdities, where it belonged from the beginning. if the simplest cell were broken into its chemical components, the odds that they would ever come back together in the right way is 1 chance in 1 followed by $100,000,000,000$ zeros and the human body has trillions of cells.

With a retina, which solves in a fraction of a second complex equations that would occupy a supercomputer for 100 years, the
human eye's 100 million is not subject to entropy and must become a Man through a virgin birth, light-sensitive cells send information continue to exist forever. As Paul to be rejected, misunderstood, through a million fibers of the optic declared, "for the things which are hated, falsely accused, mocked, nerve to the brain. We can't produce seen are temporal; but the things scourged and nailed to a cross, and as optical instruments that come even which are not seen are eternal"s. The He hung there to take upon himself close to the human eye. A newly fact that death does not end human the sins of the world, suffering the discovered starfish has more than existence carries awesome eternal penalty for all mankind demanded by 1,000 eyes, each with a lens at least consequences. God is perfectly holy his perfect justice.
ten times better than anything and by his very nature must punish
science has yet been able to sin by banishing the sinner from his This love story involves One who is construct and all evolved presence. independently yet simultaneously by chance? Please!

Sin is difind Adam 10. Since Adam, no one who glory G". glory of God" ${ }_{6}$. When Adam and Eve intended, until Christ was born in The human brain, with its 100 billion sinned, they immediately "knew that Bethlehem of the virgin Mary. He is nerve cells linked by 240,000 miles of they were naked..."7. It wasn't that the progenitor of a new race and thus nerve fibers and 100 trillion they suddenly realized they had never He is the second Adam. But because connections, storage capacity 1,000 worn clothes; they had been stripped there will never be another, He is times that of a Cray-2 supercomputer of the spiritual glory that clothed called "the last Adam."
and operating at a thousand trillion them upon their creation in God's computations per second, is even image. more incredible than the eye, whose optical impulses it translates into In spite of man's sin, God loves him with "Cherubims, and a flaming three-dimensional images to which it and is "not willing that any should sword"11. Mankind fled that sword in directs numerous parts of the body to perish, but that all should come to complaint against the harshness of react instantly. And all this was repentance" ${ }_{8}$. In infinite love, He the "death penalty" decreed by God produced by a "Big Bang" plus chance, would "have all men to be saved, and upon sinners. In love, the second eons of time and survival of the to come unto the knowledge of the man, the last Adam, Jesus Christ our fittest? But until they worked, the truth"\%. He desires for all mankind a Savior and Lord, took that sword of

## We are driven to the conclusion that some One alway ex erea

eye and brain could not aid in full and eternal restoration to the God's judgment in His own heart for survival, thus the "evolution" it glory in which Adam was created and us. Thus He became "the way, the supposedly took to create this in a new universe where $\sin$ can never truth, and the life" which alone leads incredible optical/intelligence system enter.
produced millions of intermediate stages in the right succession by pure But how can that be done? chance without any "survival of the fittest!" Yet in spite of all the evidence to the contrary, evolution continues to be promoted as fact by the media and taught in fact mandated in our schools!

Instead of a spontaneous "Big Bang" of previously nonexistent energy that suddenly created itself, the Bible introduces us to the Creator, a personal God who always existed and was able to make the universe out of nothing by speaking the word. Science and reason demand the very God the Bible presents.

But the spiritual part of man which thinks and makes choices, man's soul and spirit, invisible to physical eyes,

Sinful man must be reconciled to a holy God and brought back into an intimate relationship so that the very life of God becomes once again the life of man or man's doom is eternal. The first three chapters of the Bible tell of man's creation in God's image and of the defacing, deforming, and defiling of that image through man's $\sin$ and separation from God. The rest of the Bible is all about the reconciliation of man to God.

This reconciliation comes about through what the Bible calls "redemption" and "atonement." It is a thrilling love story of God's willingness to leave His glory to

## References:

1) This article is an excerpt from the August 2002 issue of "The Berean Call" by Dave Hunt. (www.thebereancall. org/newsletters/aug02. htm )
2) Subscripts reference the following Bible passages. (1-Gen 1:1; 2-Gen 1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24,26; 3-Heb 11:3a; 4-Heb 11:3b; 5-2Cor 4:18; 6Rom 3:23; 7-Gen 3:7a; 82Pt 3:9; 9-1Tm 2:4; $10-$ 1Cor 15:45,46,47; 11 Gen $3: 24 ; 12 \cdot \operatorname{Jn} 4: 16)$

## WHAT'S THE Good WORD?

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Heather
"I don't really know how to respond. I don't feel that he dislikes people, he forgives."

## "Is Jesus a God of Anger or Love?"

Jesus is definitely the God of love. The Bible says that God is love. He looks upon us, His creation, with compassion and love not anger. God is not angry with you. In fact His love is unconditional; it does not waver according to our deeds or heart towards Him. It is in His very nature.... (Psalm 103 \& 145)

- Full of Compassion
- Gracious...getting what you don't deserve
- Merciful...not getting what you deserve
- Abounding in faithfulness
- Slow to anger
- Loving
- Forgiving

His loving nature is like this: Let's say that God let you borrow his car. Now you get into a big wreck and total the car. You go to God and tell him what you did, fully expecting the worst, that hell kill you. Now He loves you so much that He not only says that it's okay, but He gives you the keys to a brand new car, his house, and a nice big dinner at your favorite restaurant. He is the perfect father and friend. He would do anything for you, and He did. He saw that we needed a savior because we have fallen from what He had originally created us to be. Out of His love for us, He came in human form, as a servant born in a barn, and gave up His life that we may live abundantly here on earth and eternally in heaven with Him. All you have to do is acknowledge you are not perfect and need Jesus, and then ask Him to save you. "For God so loved the world (you) that He gave His only begotten Son (Jesus) that who so ever (you) believes in Him (Jesus dying for your sin) will have eternal life (in heaven with Him forever)" John 3:16

## Don't let the truth slip through your fingers.



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## The $25^{\text {th }}$ Hour

Can you change your whole life in just one day? For young Monty, it is his only way out. Don't miss this outstanding new Spike Lee movie. Montgomery Brogen, played by Edward Norton, is suddenly served with a seven year jail sentence for drug dealing. Between knowing that this would ruin his life and not knowing who ratted him out, he is forced to reevaluate himself and what he has done with his life. Even though his friends are unraveling around him he has a father who loves him so intensely he would give anything to save him. He is left on his last day of freedom wandering the streets of New York wondering if one day can really change your whole life.

## One wrong choice. chance One 1 ast $n$ ght. one last chand And 24 hours to decide.

Life isn't what it seems. It's very fragile. One day everything is perfect or at least comfortable and in just a matter of moments it will turn you upside down. So if you've noticed your world isn't what it seems and your friends aren't really there and the people around you are fading farther away, there is hope. Like Monty, you have a Father (God) who deeply loves his son (you). He would do anything for you, to save you not only from yourself, but from eternity in darkness. He loves you so much that He died for you so you could have eternal life with Him. He has even prepared a place for you in heaven. So no matter what you are going through, you have hope. He (The God of the Bible) is your hope for a future and a loving father that will see you through.

Source:
http://touchstonepictures.go.com/25thhour/

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Finding God

"Finding God." The "search for meaning." What kinds of images do these phrases conjure up in your mind? Deep, year long journeys into the jungle, reading thousands of books on "spirituality"? Being a "good" person? A profound knowledge about all religions? If you think of things like these, you might want to check out the book appropriately titled Finding God by Mike Macintosh.
Finding God isn't a deep book, full of hard to grasp spiritual "truths." It isn't even a long book. With a length of only 95 pages, some people would scoff at it and say it's an impossibility to ever encapsulate how to find God with such a small amount of words. But, much to their surprise, it's very possible. The book isn't what you would expect from its title. Make no mistake, though. It's not a disappointment and it does tell you how to find God. The book is practical and is comprised of short chapters dealing with different topics. The book focuses on finding God in every situation personally and, as the cover explains, "how you can deal with the problems and challenges you face in your daily life." The chapters cover everything from heroes, wars, and communication to safe sex, money, and hope.

## M11 R11 In TIIII N1R

Contrary to popular belief, finding God is not some nebulous concept or search that takes a lifetime or is only possible for the highly enlightened. MacIntosh explains in the book "...if you want to receive God's love and hope... Simply humble your heart now and ask God to give you hope for your life. Next, ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Invite Jesus Christ to come into your heart and take control of your life today. It's that simple." He also explains that finding God and being a Christian isn't what so many people think it is. He says, "Nobody wants to commit cultural suicide. And somehow the story got around that in order to be a Christian you have to wear your hair a certain style, take off your cowboy boots and wear a Penny's sta-pressed suit with a dress tie and patent-leather wingtips. But that's not true. You can be yourself, the unique person God created you to be. There is hope in His freedom of love."

If you're even just a little curious about God or finding purpose for you life, I encourage you to read this book. You don't have to read it cover-to cover. You can read a chapter here and there, whatever applies to you life at the moment. I guarantee you won't be disappointed.

To purchase this book or other books by Mike MacIntosh, visit the Calvar Chapel bookstore, located at 621 Wilson Ave. in Menomonie, Wisconsi or call 715-235-9300.

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San Diego, CA 92117



Hailing from Mandevile, Louisiana, 12 Stones offers up a powerful and aggressive debut album. 12Stones.com says, "The album is undeniably well-rounded and filled with hard rocking melodic tunes that could very well become future classics." New tour dates are to be announced shortly, so check out their website! www. 12 stones.com


Calibretto 13
Adventures in Tokyo acoustic punk
Tooth and Nail


The easiest way to describe Shanta Klare would be "diverse," although that term hardly does justice to the musical talent in the group. With over 25 different instruments to choose from to create their Celtic/acoustic/tribal sound, it would be impressive enough for each band member to play a few. Seeing them in concert will quickly affirm their aforementioned talent as with each new song, they rotate instruments until each band member has played just about all of the instruments! I highly recommend visiting their website to find out where they play next. www.shantaklare.com


## (anaio cell

 2. Timothy I-2 by Pastor Chuck Smith:Did you know that God has a special purpose for your life? Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ and is saved by Him has a special mission in life. Have you allowed fear to stop you from using the gifts God has given you? In his letter to Tinothy, the apostle Panl writes to his "son in the faith," encouraging him to not allow fear to overpower him, but to take hold of the special mission God had for his life. He writes to Timothy as a father would to his son, sharing special instructions with Timothy on how to live a soldout life for Jesus Christ. Faul reminds Timothy that, "God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." Check out the tape to see how you can be ready for the Master to use you for every good work:

To Order one of these Tapes:
On the provided lines below, write the title of the tape you would like and then your address. Seal in on envelope with a check for $\$ 2.25$ per tape. We will mail it to you. $\square$

"The Bread of Everlasting Life"
John 6:2:2-71
by Damian Kyle
In the same way our body does, our entire soul and being deeply crave the proper nourishment. The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life. He is what mankind desperately needs. Jesus didn't call Himself "caviar" of "chocolate." He said "Breadi" A staple, Jesus isn't optional. He isn't a nice luxury, He's the necessity. Is your diet lackingt Check this tape out for a good feeding of God's Word.


#### Abstract

"What will happen to Israel?" David Hocking Have you ever wondered why lsrael is in the news so much? How does this pertain to prophecy in the Bible? Why did God choose lsrael as the central focal point? If you are curious, then Irecommend checking out this tape. David Hocking and his wife are both of Jewish descent and have come to know Jesus. He shares a lot of information pertaining to Israel and the prophecies in the Bible about the end times. 1 challenge you to check it out.


# Wh <br> Excerpts from the teaching that David Pierce of Steiger International gave while visiting Calvary Chapel of Menomonie. 

The pleasure gospel is not motivated by truth. It's ungrateful. You see, because it's all based on my rights. It's not, "God, how can I please you?" it's, "God, how can you please me?" It's "l'M" in the center. This is the pleasure gospel. I'm in the center. I have decided to follow Jesus. It has absolutely nothing to do with the way

2 Timothy 3: "You must understand this. In the last days there will be violent periods of time. People will be selfish and love money. They will brag, be arrogant and use abusive language. They will curse their parents, show no gratitude, have no respect for what is holy, and lack normal affection for their family. They will refuse to make peace with anyone. They will be slanderers, lack self control be brutal, and have no love for what is good. They will be traders. They will appear to have a godly life, but they will not let its power change them. Stay away from such people." Paul is saying to Timothy that in the last days there will be people who will appear to be living a godly life. They will appear to be followers of Jesus. But they will not let its power change them because they will be lovers of pleasure more than they are lovers of God. Paul is saying, "Be careful, Timothy. That you're not seduced by the pleasure gospel." You know my drummer told me about this chip that you could get put in your head. Some people have volunteered to do that here in the States, where they had this electrode put into their brain, and they have some kind of plug in their arm, and they could plug it in, and then when they close their eyes, they see videos. You know, like the ultimate virtual reality. And it's like, there's always a new thing out there to try to give us a new form of pleasure. And I'm not against pleasure. You know, I enjoy life! One of the things I like to do when I have a chance is I go with my wife somewhere to some island, and I like to chase her around on the island! You know, I'm into pleasure! But, I need to be carefui. I need to be careful that I'm not seduced by the pleasure gospel. You see, what can happen is that we can start to be seduced. We can start to be wimpified by this pleasure gospel. This gospel doesn't believe in self-control, responsibility, commitment, loyalty. You know, I was thinking once about, the whole thing of purity. How God wants us to be pure in the way we live and I'm talking about holiness being in our relationships, and I remember I was speaking to a group kind of like this, and I said, "If you're struggling with lust, you need to repent. You need to make things right with God." Alright. So a bunch of people came forward. And they're praying, and this one guy that looked like he was about in his twenties somewhere, is at the front of the church, and he's praying out loud, and he goes, "Jesus, please help me with my addiction to lust." Addiction. You see, in the pleasure gospel, nobody sins. We're all addicted. There's no sin, we're all victims. You see there's no sin in the pleasure gospel. Only addiction. I'm a victim.
The pleasure gospel doesn't believe in sacrifice. It's kind of like this: if there's hard work, I bail, because sacrifice is not pleasurable. The pleasure gospel does not accept absolute truth

that I feel. You see, the pleasure gospel doesn't understand this, because the pleasure gospel has no revolutionary spirit. Some of the most incredible times in my life have also been in the difficult times. Like when we were going into the Soviet Union in Russia when it was still Communist. We're driving from Amsterdam to Moscow and we'd been driving day and night trying to get there, trying to find fuel. Couldn't. Instant coffee and bottles of mineral water to try to stay awake. It was hard. But it was the best. This is not "McJesus." If you want to follow Jesus it's gonna cost something. And the pleasure gospel is not going to give you the kind of Jesus you're looking for. You know, you've probably heard about this experiment that they did with this rat. Where they put this electrode in its brain so that every time it pushed this button it would feel pleasure. It's a well-known experiment. They put this thing in the brain of a rat and they put it in a cage with food and water, and the pleasure button, to see what the rat would do. The rat goes over. Pushes the pleasure button. Pushes the pleasure button. Pushes the pleasure button. And it's like God's 5. going, "David, Do you have any idea what I want to do in your life?" Pushing the pleasure button. "If you'd just seek me, if you would just take the time to get to know me and cry out to me, to seek me with your whole heart." Pushing the pleasure button. "You know those things you've been struggling with, I want to break them in your life, I want set you free." Pushing the pleasure button. Pushing the pleasure button. And that rat pushed that pleasure button until he starved himself to death. You see, I was not created to be a hetaeristic lover of pleasure. I was created for battle. I'm not against pleasure, I'm not against having fun. My life is rich. I have a great life. My life is... I feel, like I said earlier, I said I feel guilty how blessed I am. But I was not created just to live a selfish life. I need to be in the battle and so do you. But if you're not careful, you're going to be seduced. Because Paul said in the last days there are going to be people who are going to love pleasure more than they love God. They're going to have this form of godliness, but they're going to deny its power. Have nothing to do with them. I'm telling you. I want the real Jesus. I don't want the fake Jesus. I want the real Jesus. And it's not a sacrifice, either. You know, what l'm talking about here is not a sacrifice. Don't be seduced. And I think some of us here this morning maybe are feeling like a rat, ya know. Feel like that rat. You're in the cage. Like you're pushing that pleasure button all the time. Escape the rat cage this morning. Don't do it any more. Cry out to God. You know, you need to respond to Jesus. And I'm going to ask you to respond.

## street level special assignment: Ind


treet Level has just returned
from an eyeopening and heart changing mission trip to India to broaden our scope of God's awesome power and love all over the world. Although the country of India is full of idols. temples
mosques, false worship. shrines, blood-curding music, and spiritual darkness, there are glowing lighthouses in each city which prove that God's light will continue to outshine the darkest corner on earth We were able to visit several of these
"lighthouses," better known as churches
filled with believers in Jesus Christ that are part of a worldwide ministry called "Source of Light" or in India "Amar Jyoti.

Our first stop: Delhi We met up with Pastor Sanjeev Sahu of Source of Light Delhi. We were able to spend a whole Sunday with him and the church there. It was a special Sunday for them as God had just blessed them with a new open air room to hold their church services right above Sanjeev's home

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The believers had recently outgrown the modest room on the first floor of Sanjeev's home with people traveling from miles away to hear the Word of God and know the love of Jesus. Some were unable to come every Sunday due to the expense of
transportation necessary to reach the church. I am sure they wanted to attend more often, but the poverty in India is very great. In America, we have vehicles and money to operate them, yet we decide to sit home and watch football rather than going to church. What's up with that?
Delhi is also home to one of the largest prisons in India with over 30.000 inmates. We could only imagine from afar what the conditions must be like in a place with that many inmates. Source of Light has answered the call of God to penetrate the darkness, shine the light, and set the

captives free by teaching Bible studies and setting up mail correspondence studies within the prison walls The inmates receive Jesus into their hearts and then share His life changing love with the other inmates, thus spreading the light of God within the barred windows and high fences

Next stop: Calcutta
We traveled to calcutta from Delhi by an overnight train. Pastor Karoonacar (aka Pastor Mercy) of Source of Light-Calcutta met us at the train station. On the way to our hotel from the train station poverty and destitution lost and lonely people just trying to survive flashed by our taxi


De1hi, Calcutta, Cuttack, Jeypore...

windows. We drove over an enormous toll bridge and were introduced to the part of Calcutta that resembled downtown Minneapolis with the skyscrapers appearing in the distance. It was such a contrast from before the bridge where there was nothing but shacks and pieced together buildings
Pastor Mercy gave us the opportunity to meet with the Christians in the area where we listened to numerous stories of how God had miraculous ly changed the lives of the people Many had been Hindu idol worshippers who learned the truth of Jesus and turned to the Giver of Life to fill the hole in their hearts. One girl that stands out in my mind was recently touched in a miraculous way. She had suffered with Tuberculosis and was very $i 111$. One day she was a little late coming to church. Upon her arrival. the rest of the people found out that she was late because she had run to church. Yes, a girl who was too sick to even wa7k. had run to church. God had miraculous ly healed her body.

## Third Stop: Cuttack

Our journey by train from Calcutta landed us in the peaceful town of cuttack Our visit in this town was brief, but it was so good to see what God was doing there. We met up with our
new friend Sam from Source of Light-Cuttack who shared warm hospitality with us. He and others from source of Light Cuttack showed us around the headquarters there. They keep their printing press busy running as they print Bible
correspondence studies.

magazines and other
information about Jesus
Christ. They distribute the material to thousands of people who need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ for the first time, and to those who have already given their lives over to God. We met up with about 30 men who had answered the call of God upon their
lives to share the love of Jesus with the people of India. These men were field workers in various places in the area who were diligently working and
bringing people to Jesus We were also given the special privilege of meeting with about 30 boys and girls in a small room at the Source of Light orphanage school in town. The children put flower leis around our necks and sang to the Lord at the top of their lungs. Each one stood up on their own and recited a Bible verse that they had memorized. We were touched by their dedication to jesus at such a young age and the awesome opportunity God had given them to know and learn of Him.

## Next Stop: Jeypore

Our train journey from cuttack took us to the small city of Jeypore. We could tell that it wasn't an everyday occurrence to see white people by all of the looks we received from the residents. There had been elections that week and there were some squabbles going on between the two parties. Because of the elections we had to use side roads off of the main drag of the city, and one day. one of the political parties had even built a fire in the road. In the midst of the political hoopla in town. we were blessed to go to a dynamic. humble, love-filled Source of Light Church. We met up with Pastor Dan and the believers there who blew us away with their worship of

## street level special assignment: India (continued)


our Lord The church was packed with men women, and children of all ages who were very dedicated to following Jesus Christ. It wouldn't do justice with words to describe what we experienced while we were there, but we definitely saw the love of Jesus in the hearts and lives of these people. With just a few congas and a drum set they made beautiful music as they sung with all they had to the Lord. One young mother of three in the group came up and sang a song to the Lord that brought tears to our eyes when we heard that she had recently lost her husband yet was still worshipping the Lord and trusting Him no matter what happened

Last Stop: Mountain Tribal Villages

Pastor Dan from Jeypore took us on a driving adventure through the mountains to two remote villages of tribal people Before we arrived we were told that these people live very simple lives and have been pretty much ignored by the rest of the population of India. If you asked them what an ocean is or what the metal winged thing flying in the sky was, they would have no clue whatsoever. The
people met us with curious eyes and welcomed us with beautiful flower leis they had made. Because they were in such a remote place, they had a language of their own different from Oriya Bengale and Hindi which most of the others spoke in that area of the country. Because of this. when we shared with

them from the Bible, we had to first translate from
English to oriya and then to their tribal language. There weren t even Bibles
available to these people in their own native language Therefore our pastor taught someone else translated. and then another person
translated that translation It was quite an experience
to behold. but God's Word was shared nonetheless. At the second tribal village, after a 10 minute hike on wet, muddy trails, we gathered together in a hut like building. lit only by outside light pouring through the doorway and a few windows. It was as if we were at the ends of the earth yet even there was a lighthouse of God. We spent only a small amount of time with the people defore we had to make our journey out of the mountains before dark, but we were touched to hear that God had raised up a pastor amongst them who was only 18 years 07d. He had been an orphan and God gave him new life and a place in the family of God. He was in this small village sharing the love of God and teaching the tribal villagers. His eyes beamed with the love of Jesus and we could see how thankfu? He was that God had entrusted him with such an awesome task

Every nook and cranny of the earth needs to hear about jesus. It was 50 good to see that even in the darkest corner and at the end of the earth, people are coming to know jesus and follow Him with every fiber of their being.

For more info about Source of Light Ministries check out their website
www. sourcelight.org/main.htm

## street level special assignment: India

## Tournal

Growing up in America I have been extremely blessed, I have always had nice clothes, food to eat, and a family that cared for me. I often heard about the poverty in the world and the many people who had never heard about Jesus. I would feel bad for a few minutes, but then get cought right back op into my own life, not redizing what is really going on in this world until I went to India.

It wos uncomfortable to walk through the slums in Delhi, to see the homeless children and people, their open wounds infested with flies, the look on their faces. I saw an enormous dmount of physical suffering. I warted to do something for these people. but I felt like there was so much need. What could I do?

My spirit was especially grieved to see the spiritud suffering; 4. many of the people ore very dedicated to worshipping their gods -4 and idols. They have festivals and offer sacrifices in hope of - forgiveness for their sins. But many of them do not know dbout 2. the tiving God who came to earth in the form of a man and gave op - His life for them. Jesus died for them and I warted to tell them about the love Jesus has for them, that He is real and living, and will give them hope, but I could not speak their language. It seemed impossible and overwhelming, but as Jesus said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is - possible" (nathew 19:26).

God is doing the impossible and working many miracles. I had the privilege to meet many wonderful people in India who have come to know Jesus. They shared with us how God had healed them ond given them hope. In most areas, Christians are looked down upor and often persecuted, bot their faith still stands'strong and Whey will not bow dowt to the idols around them. They truly showed - us the love of Christ. I will never forget the look in their eyes. because I saw Jesus.


## HOPE

For most of my life, I only knew the word hope to mean one thing, a $50 / 50$ chance. It was used when I had an important soccer game, and I hoped it wouldn't rain or when I was job hunting and hoped I would get the one I really wanted. Looking back, I didn't have anything backing up my hope, much less anything to put my hope in. It was a big guessing game. Later on in life I started learning about the God of the Bible and I heard people talking about hope in a completely new and different way. They talked as if hope was something solid, something they could posses. At funerals and tragic events, they seemed so calm and full of peace. They didn't fear death or get anxious and worry themselves sick because of this hope. It was very intriguing to me.

The more I read my Bible, the more I found out about this hope. The True and Living God of the Bible is hope. He created the whole world and everything in it. He is allpowerful, all knowing, and He is everywhere at once. He loves us with a perfect love. He knows our every move. He came to earth to die in our place because we all have done things wrong and need to be clean to go to heaven and be in His presence. He is our father and is preparing a place in heaven for each one of us that knows Him. He is for us and not against us. He teaches, blesses, and looks out for all of His children. He is my hope. I have nothing to fear. It is no longer a $50 / 50$ chance--I can know for sure. It is more about anticipating

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Chost.


1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear: because fear has torment.
He that fears is not made perfect in love.

##  

Luke 1:74 That he would grant into us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear,


Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; the things that are to come and looking forward in full assurance. I no longer have to hope it doesn't rain because I know He is in control and has a purpose and a plan for why it did or did not rain. More importantly, I no longer have to fear death or any other circumstance because I have this hope. I know I am going to heaven because I have accepted Him dying for me. I know He has a piace for me. Since He can raise people from the dead and move mountains, I can be assured that my life isn't hard for Him to handle. He has got me in His hands. I know that heaven is better than earth, so I look forward to the day I get to go be with Him. Having this hope is the only way to truly live with no fear!


Check out these verses from the Bible that include the word "fear", then discover what they mean
The fear' of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all they that do His commandments. His praise endures forever

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## Luing version

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## definitions

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## Online Bible

${ }^{3}$ deilia diflee'ah 1) timidity, fearfulness, cowardice

There is no fear ${ }^{2}$ in love; but perfect love casts out fear ${ }^{2}$ because fear has torment. He that fears ${ }^{2}$ is not made perfect in love.
(1 John 4:18)
2phobeo fob-eh'-o 1) to put to flight by terrifying 1a) to put to flight, to flee 1b1) to be struck with fear, to be seized with alarm 1b1a) of those startled by strange sights or occurrences 1b1b) of those struck with amazement 1b2) to fear, be afraid of one 1b3) to fear (i.e. hesitate) to do something (for fear of harm) 1c) to reverence, venerate, to treat with deference or reverential obedience

## STIFEF LEVEL

621 WILSON AVE, MENOMONIE, WI 547751
"And do not fear those who kill
the body but cannot kill the soul

But rather reverence Him who is able
to destroy both soul and body in hell."
M A T T H E W 1 T 0 : 2

