

ISSUE

15


not on: the street
magazine

A Street Level Ministries Publication • FALL 2003

**LIAR
LUNATIC**

**OR
LORD?**





THERE WAS NOTHING BEAUTIFUL OR MAJESTIC ABOUT HIS [JESUS'] APPEARANCE, NOTHING TO ATTRACT US TO HIM.

He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief.

WE TURNED OUR BACKS ON HIM WHEN HE WENT BY.

He was despised, and we did not care.

YET IT WAS OUR WEAKNESSES HE CARRIED;

it was our sorrows that weighed him down.

AND WE THOUGHT HIS TROUBLES WERE A PUNISHMENT FROM GOD FOR HIS OWN SINS!

But he was wounded and crushed for our sins.

HE WAS BEATEN THAT WE MIGHT HAVE PEACE.

He was whipped, and we were healed!


Isaiah 53:2-5 (NLT)

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WORD *on the street*
MAGAZINE

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Virtue Reality

by Rich Mullins

Virtues are funny things. They are the fruit of faith and, whenever paraded, become parodies of themselves and the worst kind of vanity imaginable. When they are not the fruit of faith they become its greatest obstacle. Virtues are most vital when invisible and most sharply imaged when they are not the focus of our attentions. They are evidence of their Source (and ours) and not the generators of it (or us).

Take, for example, wisdom. Wisdom has at its source the "fear of the Lord" - the highest regard and reverence for Him. The tendency among many of us, though, is to confuse wisdom with omniscience and to think ourselves wise in proportion to how much stuff we know. God calls us to be wise and provides us with Christ. We pressure ourselves to be all-knowing and fret over where Cain got his wife and how the earth can be as young as the scriptures claim when geologists say that it takes millions of years more than that to produce a barrel of oil. We tend to suspect that wisdom lies in the ability to answer imponderables rather than in Christ. And we sometimes end in self-contempt and even abandonment of our faith, not because our faith is false, but because we focused on a wisdom that is not a virtue but a vanity.

It is the same way with strength. God calls us to "be strong" and we mistake that for a call to omnipotence. We confuse strength to endure trials with an ability to walk unfrustrated through life. We convince ourselves that if we were strong we would never fail, never tire, never hurt, never need. We being to measure strength in terms of ease of progress, equate power with success, durability with invincibility and inevitably, when our illusions of omnipotence is shattered, we condemn ourselves for being weak.

God has called us to be lovers and we frequently think that He meant us to be saviors. So we "love" as long as we see "results." We give of ourselves as long as our investments pay off, but if the ones we love do not respond,

we tend to despair and blame ourselves and even resent those we pretend to love. Because we love someone, we want them to be free of addictions, of sin, of self - and that is as it should be. But it might be that our love for them and our desire for their well-being will not make them well. And, if that is the case, their lack of response no more negates the reality of love than their quickness to respond would confirm it.

**Love
is a
virtue
and not
a
feeling.**

Love is a virtue and not a feeling. It is fed and fired by God - not by the favorable response of the beloved. Even when it doesn't seem to make a dime's worth of difference to the ones on whom it lavished, it is still the most prized of all virtues because it is at the heart of the very character of God. By loving we participate in His Life and Essence. When we stoop to bait and buy good behavior we are no longer loving as God loves. We are manipulating and cheapening the dignity of the person whom we are called - not to save, not even to change - but to love. If real salvation is possible (and we know it is) it is because real love is there. And love is real, love that is truly a virtue and not just an act - *agape love* - gushes from God through those who know Him. It is not strung alone by those who don't.

In a world where quantitative values have obscured the reality of qualitative values - where we long to measure progress and chart growth, it is easy to give in to the temptation to judge ourselves and to try to walk by sight. But into that confused and meaningless effort God speaks with His great, still and small voice, with his Christ. He speaks through these invisible virtues with which His people shine and in the light of their lives this desperate, smug world sees not strength, wisdom, or even love, but Him who is the source of these things and the savior of humankind. Let us in whom He dwells look also to Him so we can shine more brightly.

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BRINGING Life to Dead TOUR

For the first time since the band broke up 8 years ago, the remaining members of the Grateful Dead are playing together under the name "the Dead". As thousands of people all across the country are planning on following the "dead" this summer, we are planning to come alongside them with the word of Life.

In an atmosphere where thousands of people are dedicating themselves to a counterfeit experience of worship, we want to bring the real thing. God has put a place in these kids heart that desires spiritual fulfillment, and they are trying to find that through psychedelics and music. Many them go from show to show as in some form of modern-day mystical pilgrimage believing that the answers to life's mysteries are found in the lyrics of hearing the right song at the right time. We want to show them how they can truly be spiritually fulfilled through dedicating themselves to their Creator. By hanging out with kids in the parking lot from show to show, handing out "stories" to passerby's, and occasionally cooking and serving food, we want Jesus to make His presence known through us.

Despite the fact that many people said that the Grateful Dead was over when Jerry died, the show has continued to go on; and so have we. Cathi Mooney first had the vision for tour on her heart 8 Years ago, and the Prodigal Project has had some kind of presence there ever since. We believe that God has called us to reach this people group, and we want to have the same kind of perseverance and level of commitment that missionaries have to reaching an un-reached people group.

Invading Babylon

Just as the ancient city of Babylon was invaded a few weeks ago in the physical realm, we plan on invading Babylon in the Spiritual realm. The Bible says that Babylon has led the nations astray by her magic arts. In many ways Dead tour is the epitome of Babylon: 20-30 thousand people all intoxicated by some sort of concoction intentionally letting themselves be enchanted by a band that used to be called the "warlocks" (the Grateful Dead's

first name). Before the show starts the parking lot turns into mayhem, almost like a circus without the rides. People are trying to make a buck anyway possible; some selling French bread pizza that they made with a propane oven in the back of their van, or some selling bottled water from a cooler. While some are trying to make money "legitly" to get to the next show, most are on the prowl for "custies" (customers) to sell their high-grade pot, acid, or psychedelic mushrooms to. At some shows (especially on the East Coast) it's hard to hear anyone over the constant hiss of the nitrous tanks, that people fill balloons with to inhale for a few minute high. At 5\$ a balloon and 3\$ a veggie burrito, don't let the anti-capitalist hippie image of dread-locked tour kids fool you. This is capitalism at it's finest. There are some kids who walk away from a month on tour with more money than some teachers make all year. Unlike most rock concerts, the parking lot scene is like a gigantic party, which makes it easy to approach people and share the love of God with them. Once the show starts, the crowd disappears and only the unfortunate remain who either didn't make enough for a ticket or weren't lucky enough to be given a "miracle" (a free ticket from somebody who ordered too many). The remaining kids huddle together to party

until the show ends. Once the show lets out, the multitudes come steaming out with bedazzled looks in their eyes from all the psychedelics they've done, and then the circus continues. Everyone's bustling around trying to find their friends, or trying to find the nearest veggie burrito, and the party rages until the police shut it down (sometimes with their sirens blaring). Then everyone drives to the next town and does the same thing the next day. Despite all the madness, God is faithful to lead us to people that are hungry for something more in life than non-stop partying. Traveling on tour is hard, and strenuous for us, but we believe that God loves these kids, and that makes it all worth it. We want to invade tour with His love and light. Sometimes you can find the light in the strangest of places if you look at it right; we want to shine God's true light in the midst of the darkness.

www.prodigalproject.org

LIAR, LUNATIC, OR LORD?

Throughout intellectual circles worldwide, small villages, dark coffee shops, large parties, hushed conversations, campus lecture halls, prisons, movies, music, mosques and cathedrals, there is one name that flows inevitably from their tongues. They say it in protest, in disgust, in admiration, in love and in hatred. They argue it, mock it, use it as a cuss-word, worship it, and theorize about it. It is hardly possible that one name could cause such

a stir—after all, names come and go and even the most famous of names are reduced to little after a period of time. But there is one name that will never go away—like it or not—the name of Jesus Christ.

Historian H.C. Wells was asked which person had left the most

permanent impression on history. He replied that if one judged a person's greatness by historical standards, "By this test Jesus stands first."

Josh McDowell's book, entitled "More Than a Carpenter" explores the incredible life of Jesus Christ.

McDowell set out years ago as a scientific and philosophical intellectual to prove what he thought was the

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

WHY IS HE SO IMPORTANT?

AND WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU—

LIVING IN AN AGE DRENCHED IN CYNICISM

AND A CULTURE THAT HAS LOST HOPE IN LIFE AND ESPECIALLY IN GOD

ridiculous falsity of Jesus Christ. He saw no possibility that any aspect of the life or person of Jesus was true, and he thought Christians were out of their minds.

Ironically, through years of thought, discussion, and research, he came to the exact opposite

conclusion—Jesus is the truth, and—in the words of Ernest Renan—"... the greatest religious genius that ever lived. His beauty is eternal, and his reign shall never end. Jesus is in every respect unique, and nothing can be compared with him. All history is incomprehensible without Christ."

Who is Jesus Christ, why is he so important, and what does this mean to you—living in an age drenched in cynicism, and a culture that has lost hope in life and especially in God. This excerpt from Josh McDowell's "More Than a Carpenter" explores the reality of who Jesus claimed to be, and what he did on earth. More importantly, it challenges each human being to come to a personal conclusion about him, who will you say he is?

The distinct claims of Jesus to be God

eliminate the popular ploy of skeptics who regard Jesus as just a good moral man or a prophet who said a lot of profound things. So often that conclusion is passed off as the only one acceptable to scholars, or as the obvious result of the intellectual process. The trouble is, many people nod their heads in agreement and never see

the fallacy of such reasoning.

To Jesus, who men and women believed him to be was of fundamental importance. To say what Jesus said and to claim what he claimed about himself, one couldn't conclude he was just a good moral man or a prophet. That alternative isn't open to an individual, and Jesus never intended it to be.

C.S. Lewis, who was a professor at Cambridge University and once an agnostic, understood this issue clearly. He writes: "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great

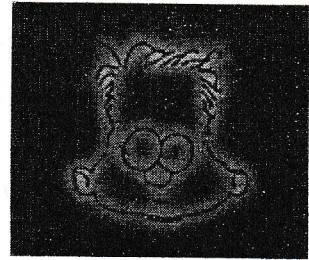
human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

In the words of Kenneth Scott Latourette, historian of Christianity at Yale University: "It is not his teachings which make Jesus so remarkable, although these would be enough to give him distinction. It is a combination of the teachings with the man himself. The two cannot be separated. It must be obvious to any thoughtful reader of the Gospel records that Jesus regarded himself and his message as inseparable. He was a great teacher, but he was more. His teachings about the kingdom of God, about human conduct, and about God were important, but they could not be divorced from him without, from his standpoint, being vitiated."

Jesus claimed to be God. He didn't leave any other option open. His claim must be either true or false, so it is something that should be given serious consideration. Jesus' question to his disciples, "But who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15) has several alternatives.

First, consider that his claim to be God was false. If it was false, then we have two and only two alternatives. He either knew it was false or he didn't know it was false. We will consider each one separately

and examine the evidence.



WAS HE A LIAR?

If, when Jesus made his claims, he knew that he was not God, then he was lying and deliberately deceiving his followers. But if he was a liar, then he was also a hypocrite because he told others to be honest, whatever the cost, while he himself taught and lived a colossal lie. More than that, he was a demon, because he told others to trust him for their eternal destiny. If he couldn't back up his claims and he knew it, then he was unspeakably evil. Last, he would also be a fool because it was his claims to being God that led to his crucifixion.*

Many will say that Jesus was a good moral teacher. Let's be realistic. How could he be a great moral teacher and knowingly mislead people at the most important point of his teaching—His own identity?

You would have to conclude logically that he was a deliberate liar. This view of Jesus, however, doesn't coincide with what we

know either of him or the results of his life and teachings. Wherever Jesus has been proclaimed, lives have been changed for the good, nations have changed for the better, thieves are made honest, alcoholics are cured, hateful individuals become channels of love, unjust persons become just.

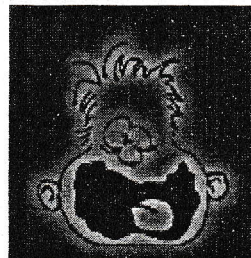
William Lecky, one of Great Britain's most noted historians and a dedicated opponent of organized Christianity, writes: "It was reserved for Christianity to present to the world an ideal character which through all the changes of eighteen centuries has inspired the hearts of men with an impassioned love; has shown itself capable of acting on all ages, nations, temperaments and conditions; has been not only the highest pattern of virtue, but the strongest incentive to its practice... The simple record of these three short years of active life has done more to regenerate and soften mankind than all the disquisitions of philosophers and all the exhortations of moralists."

* emphasis added

Historian Phillip Schaff says: "This testimony, if not true, must be downright blasphemy or madness. The former hypothesis cannot stand a moment before the moral purity and dignity of

Jesus, revealed in his every word and work, and acknowledged by universal consent. Self-deception in a matter so momentous, and with an intellect in all respects so clear and so sound, is equally out of the question. How could he be an enthusiast or a madman who never lost the even balance of his mind, who sailed serenely over all the troubles and persecutions, as the sun above the clouds, who always returned the wisest answer to tempting questions, who calmly and deliberately predicted his death on the cross, his resurrection on the third day, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the founding of his Church, the destruction of Jerusalem—predictions which have been literally fulfilled? A character so original, so complete, so uniformly consistent, so perfect, so human and yet so high above all human greatness, can be neither a fraud nor a fiction. The poet, as has been well said, would in this case be greater than the hero. It would take more than a Jesus to invent a Jesus."

Someone who lived as Jesus lived, taught as Jesus taught, and died as Jesus died could not have been a liar. What other alternatives are there?



WAS HE A LUNATIC?

If it is inconceivable for Jesus to be a liar, then couldn't he actually have thought himself to be God, but been mistaken? After all, it's possible to be both sincere and wrong. But we must remember that for someone to think himself God, especially in a fiercely monotheistic culture, and then to tell others that their eternal destiny depended on believing in him, is no slight flight of fantasy but the thoughts of a lunatic in the fullest sense. Was Jesus Christ such a person?

Someone who believes he is God sounds like someone today believing himself Napoleon. He would be deluded and self-deceived, and probably he would be locked up so he wouldn't hurt himself or anyone else. Yet in Jesus we don't observe the abnormalities and imbalance that usually go along with being deranged. His poise and composure would certainly be amazing if he were insane.

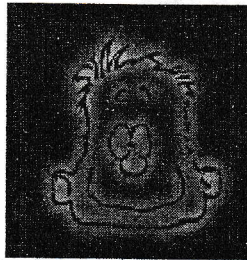
Noyes and Kolb, in a medical text, describe the schizophrenic as a person who is more autistic

than realistic. The schizophrenic desires to escape from the world of reality. Let's face it, claiming to be God would certainly be a retreat from reality.

In light of other things we know about Jesus, it's hard to imagine that he was mentally disturbed. Here is man who spoke some of the most profound sayings ever recorded. His instructions have liberated many individuals in mental bondage. Clark H. Pinnock asks: "Was he deluded about his greatness, a paranoid, an unintentional deceiver, a schizophrenic? Again, the skill and depth of his teachings support the case only for his total mental soundness. If only we were as sane as He!" A student at California University told me that his psychology professor had said in class that "all he has to do is pick up the Bible and read portions of Christ's teaching to many of his patients. That's all the counseling they need."

C.S. Lewis writes: "The historical difficulty of giving for the life, sayings and influence of Jesus any explanation that is not harder than the Christian explanation is very great. The discrepancy between the

depth and sanity...of His moral teaching and the rampant megalomania which must lie behind His theological teaching unless He is indeed God has never been satisfactorily explained. Hence the non-Christian hypotheses succeed one another with the restless fertility of bewilderment."



WAS HE LORD?

I cannot personally conclude that Jesus was a liar or a lunatic. The only other is that he was the Christ, the Son of God, as he claimed.

When I discuss this with most Jewish people, it's interesting how they respond. They usually tell me that Jesus was a moral, upright, religious leader, a good man, or some kind of prophet. I then share with them the claims Jesus made about himself and then the material in this chapter on the trilemma (liar, lunatic, Lord). When I ask if they believe Jesus was a liar, there is a sharp "no!" Then I ask, "Do you believe he was a lunatic?" The reply is "Of

course not." "Do you believe he is God?" Before I can get a breath in edgewise, there is a resounding "Absolutely not." Yet one has only so many choices.

The issue with these three alternatives is not which is possible, for it is obvious that all three are possible. But rather the question is "Which is more probable?" Who you decide Jesus Christ is must not be an idle intellectual exercise. You cannot put him on the shelf as a great moral teacher. That is not a valid option. He is either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord and God. You must make a choice. "But," as the apostle John wrote, "these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and"-more important-"that in believing you might have life in his name." (John 20:31)

The evidence is clearly in favor of Jesus as Lord. Some people, however, reject this clear evidence because of moral implications involved. They don't want to face up to the responsibility or implications of calling him Lord.

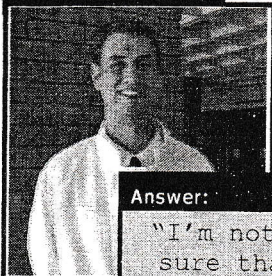
If this has sparked any small seed of interest, I would encourage you to read the Gospel of John in the Bible. It is a beautifully drawn picture of the person of Jesus Christ.

Text in italics is pages 25-34 from the book: More Than a Carpenter ©1977 by Josh McDowell. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

The question:

What was the purpose of Jesus coming to Earth?

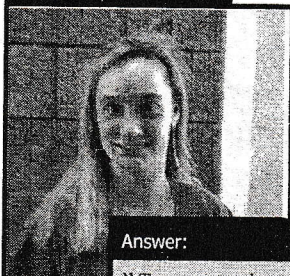
NICK



Answer:

"I'm not 100% sure that He existed."

TAMMY



Answer:

"To see how things were and to set an example for the way things should be."

MARIAN



Answer:

"To let us know of His presence. That He is there for us."

JESSICA



Answer:

"To save the lives of sinners."

The true answer:

When God created mankind, He created Adam and Eve in His image and gave them dominion over all life (Genesis 1:26). God placed them in the Garden of Eden and told them they could eat from any of the trees in the Garden except for the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:9). They were warned by God to not eat of this tree because then they would "surely die" (2:17). Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and eat of this tree and as a result, sin entered into their lives. They then realized their nakedness and tried to hide from God. This sin severed their perfect relationship with God and as they began to multiply, the world grew in its wickedness. However, God still desired to have a relationship with mankind.

God gave Adam and Eve's descendants the Law to follow, which included animal sacrifices they would have to make for the payment of their sins. Their failure to fulfill this Law completely showed there had to be some other way to restore their severed relationship with God. He spoke through the prophets in the Old Testament times about a coming Messiah who would be the one and only sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Isaiah 53:5 says, "But He was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed." Jesus Christ fulfilled all of the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah (over 300 of them) by humbly going to the cross to be crucified for our sins.

Jesus said in John 10:10, "My purpose is to give life in all its fullness" and that He would do this by laying down His life (10:11). Jesus not only died a painful death for us, but He also rose from the dead three days later. Jesus beat the power of sin and death in our lives and now we can have peace with God (Romans 5:1) and a relationship with Him. This is a free gift to us, not something we can earn by trying to follow rules and regulations. We must confess our sins, ask for God's forgiveness, and accept the sacrifice that Jesus made. We can know true life and live life to the fullest by having a new relationship with Jesus Christ. As Jesus said in Revelation 3:20, "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."

THE THINGS WE SAY



"I'm a Christian," I say.

You smile politely, look uncomfortable, stare at your shoes and reply, "Oh that's nice."

In your mind you wonder, "Why should I care? Why do these people always feel the need to share that about themselves? It's like that makes them part of some special little group, as if being 'Christian' really means anything to me anyway."

In my mind I think, "I wish I could explain to you the passion behind that simple statement. I wish you would experience what it feels like to know that God loves you more than anyone could ever love you. God wants so badly for you to acknowledge and believe that Jesus Christ suffered and died not just for the 'Christians,' but for every person, including you. And I know that believing these things will change your life. I want to tell you about how my life could never have been beautiful, joyful, or peaceful without this knowledge that God is real, personal, and truthful. Through knowing His only Son Jesus, we can have life with Him forever in Heaven. I guess I just want to be able to explain this love that is now in me, but there are no words that could ever explain it."

Instead I say, "It would be really great if you came to church sometime, there's a bible study on Wednesday night, and a concert this Friday."

You pretend to look interested and give me a quick, "OK, thanks! Well, I gotta go to class, see you later!"

And you walk away thinking sarcastically, "Yeah, just where I want to be on a Friday night, in the basement of some weird church with a bunch of 'Christians' who say things like 'Jesus loves you!' They smile oh so sincerely like they have some sort of secret, trying to show me how their God is the only true God. Um, thanks, I'll pass."

I walk away knowing that you probably won't come this time, but I'm praying for you. Whether or not you ever come, there is a true God, and He doesn't just live in a church. He knows everything about you because He created you with great love. I pray that you will feel how real He is, and know how much He is a part of your everyday life. In my mind I simply say, "Thanks, Jesus."

And as we go about our days, all these words, and all these thoughts don't amount to much, but as you lie in bed at night, there is a stirring in your soul....

STREET LEVEL
"street level campus rendezvous"

STREET LEVEL IS A UWSTOUT
CAMPUS ORGANIZATION

*"Where two
or more are
gathered
together in
My name,
I am there
in their
midst."*

MATTHEW 18:20

STREET LEVEL ON-CAMPUS BIBLE STUDY

Monday Nights
7:00pm

IN:

**The Memorial Student Center
Ballroom C**

Ten Reasons to Believe

1

Christ is Someone to Know and Trust--Christ is more than a system, tradition, or belief. He is a Person who knows our needs, feels our pain, and sympathizes with our weakness. In exchange for our trust, He offers to forgive our sins, to intercede for us, and to bring us to His Father. He cried for us, died for us, and rose from the dead to show that He was all He claimed to be. Conquering death, He showed us that He can save us from our sins, live His life through us on earth, and then bring us safely to heaven. He offers Himself as a gift to anyone who will trust Him (John 20:24-31).

2

Religion is Something To Believe And Do--Religion is believing in God, attending religious services, taking catechism, being baptized, and receiving communion. Religion is tradition, ritual, ceremony, and learning the difference between right and wrong. Religion is reading and memorizing Scripture, offering prayers, giving to the poor, and celebrating religious holy days. Religion is singing in the choir, helping the poor, and making amends for past wrongs. Religion is something that was practiced by the Pharisees, those Scripture-loving, conservative, separatistic, spiritual leaders who hated Christ enough to call for His death. They hated Him not only because He broke their traditions in order to help people (Matthew 15:1-9) but because He saw through their religion to their hearts.

3

Religion Doesn't Change Hearts--Jesus likened the religious Pharisees to a group of dishwashers who clean the outside of a cup while leaving the inside dirty. He said, "Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also?" (Luke 11:39-40). Jesus knew that a person can change his image without

changing his act (Matthew 23:1-3). He knew that religious credentials and ceremony cannot change the heart. He told one of the most religious men of His day that unless a person is "born again" by the Spirit, he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3). Yet from that day until now, many of the most religious people in the world continue to forget that while religion can give attention to outward appearance, only Christ can change the heart.

4

Religion Makes Much of Little--Jesus spoke to religionists who had a passion for detail when He said, "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue, and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone" (Luke 11:42). Jesus saw our tendency to make rules and to focus on "morally correct" behavior instead of keeping our eyes on the bigger issue of why we are trying to be so right. While the Pharisees were big on knowledge carried out to its logical conclusions, they forgot that God doesn't care how much we know until He knows how much we care. It was this greater "why" that the apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. . . . If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:1,3).

5

Religion Offers the Approval of Men Rather Than God--Jesus reserved His strongest criticism for religious people who used their spiritual reputation to get social attention and honors. To such religionists Jesus said, "Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces" (Luke 11:43). Then, speaking to His disciples, He said of the Pharisees, "All their works

in Christ Rather Than Religion

they do to be seen by men" (Matthew 23:5). Jesus saw clearly into the practice of religion, which holds the opinions and attention of man to be more important and desirable than the approval of God.

6

Religion Makes Hypocrites of Us--Jesus said, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like graves which are not seen, and the men who walk over them are not aware of them" (Luke 11:44). What looks better than

being dressed right, attending religious services, and doing things that mark us as decent, God-fearing people? Yet how many religious scholars, ministers, and faithful followers withhold honor and encouragement from their wives, attention from their children, and love from their doctrinal enemies? Jesus knew what we often forget: What looks good may have a heart of evil.

7

Religion Makes a Hard Life Harder--Because religion cannot change a heart, it tries to control people with laws and expectations that are not even kept by the religionists who interpret and apply the rules. With this "burden factor" in mind, Jesus said, "Woe to you also,

lawyers [experts in religious law]! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers" (Luke 11:46). Religion is good at describing high standards of right behavior and relationships, but poor at giving real and merciful help to those who realize they have not lived up to those expectations.

8

Religion Makes It Easy to Deceive Ourselves - It's been jokingly said, "I love humanity. It's people I can't stand." The Pharisees acted out a similar idea, but it wasn't funny. According to Jesus, the Pharisees prided themselves in

honoring and building memorials to the prophets. The irony is that when they met a real prophet they wanted to kill Him. Barclay says, "The only prophets they admired were dead prophets; when they met a living one, they tried to kill Him. They honored the dead prophets with tombs and memorials, but they dishonored the living ones with persecution and death." This is the point Jesus made in Luke 11:47-51

and in a parallel passage in Matthew 23:29-32. The Pharisees had fooled themselves. They didn't think of themselves as prophet-killers. Religionists don't see themselves as the God-rejecting people they are.

9

Religion Hides the Key of Knowledge--One of the greatest dangers of religion is that it causes us to be a danger not only to ourselves but also to others. To the very religious biblical experts of His day Jesus said, "Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered" (Luke 11:52). Religionists take away "the key of knowledge" by distracting people from the Word of God and from a "right attention of heart" by the unnecessary additions of denominationally correct traditions and expectations. Rather than leading people to God, religionists shift the focus to themselves and their own rules. Religionists are those who trust the beliefs and actions of their religion to do what only Christ can do.

10

Religion Leads Its Converts Astray--In Matthew 23:15 Jesus said, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves." Converts of religion are in double jeopardy. They bring a double enthusiasm to their new way of life, and with zeal they blindly defend their blind teachers. They put themselves in the trust of people who have exchanged a system of rules and traditions for the life, forgiveness, and relationship of an infinite Savior. Religion is important in its place (James 1:26-27), but only when it points us to the Christ who died for our sins and who now offers to live His life through those who trust Him (Galatians 2:20; Titus 3:5).

Testimony FROM JAIL

My life has been blessed. God has blessed my life with a loving family, supporting home, and opportunities to experience a fulfilling journey within this human experience. I recently turned 22 years of age and openly confessed Jesus Christ as my savior; I willfully sacrificed my physical, earthly life to God's desires. I'm in jail, yet thankful for God's love and good works. I'm witnessing each moment and creation of life that God intends me to see.

I grew up in a Christian home, attending a suburban, well-respected church. At age 12 I was forcibly enrolled in a three-year confirmation course. I was told it was going to "save" me so I would be able to reach heaven. The classes began and I was let down. I found confirmation to be quite boring. I suppose I did not help the program's success; I had way too much energy to sit still or to follow the church's guidebook to salvation. My attitude was defensive and I thoroughly searched for my own ideas. I questioned the church's confirmation program;

I argued, theorized and openly questioned my beliefs in faith. To this day I do not think the confirmation teacher ever understood my theories or misplaced notions on faith. My questions were never answered and the class always retreated to the generic guidebook for Christian confirmation.

I will admit, there were times when I was an obnoxious adolescent. You would think I

would have become a pastor with the amount of time I spent in the pastor's office. But, eventually the church system overcame my free will and I subdued to the "Christian way." I trained myself to nod my head at all the right moments and consciously chose to take a numb approach in the conforming of my faith. I am not sure if I went deaf during the "Jesus Christ" lesson, or if I merely fell asleep. Either way, I was confirmed without accepting Christ as my savior. I was spiritually delinquent, but still expected to continue the ritualistic exercise of Sunday's church attendance.

I grew older and college arrived in a blinding storm. I was driven headfirst into the daily stampede and competition of university academics and social acceptance. I became "the man" and a sinful lifestyle came with the title: drugs, sex and rock and roll took control and I began to lose God's presence as number one in my heart. Now that I'm sober, I will admit that I should not have been getting high, but at the time I was confused and spiritually lost. God was not number one in my heart, the drugs were. I became a great self-manipulator, especially

had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I would have felt conviction and known to get my butt out of that situation

My fantasy life of sin ended when I was arrested. I was confused and felt cheated. I was a good person, a success in society's eyes, so why did these bad things have to happen to me? I was lost and confused for a long time; the breakthrough came when I quit justifying my actions and looked at myself as an imperfect human being. Before my arrest, I thought I had life all figured out. It took my entire willpower to admit that most of what I had believed in the last few years was completely wrong. Drugs are bad. Drugs are destructive tools crafted by Satan. Armed with the desire to learn, I picked up the Bible and began to search for the truth, the truth of faith and salvation within this wicked world.

I found God's word in the Bible. The Bible is real and is here so everyone may find understanding, peace, and spiritual enlightenment within life. The Bible is here to guide each of us. It guides me to lay aside sinful desires such as envy, greed, immorality, and selfishness.

2 Timothy 3:16(NKJ) bluntly states that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

that men of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 1 John 5:21 says "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." I must watch myself, avoiding idols, the things that carry me away from God. I believe in God, Jesus as my savior, and faith. Faith that I'm alone for a reason, and faith that though I will fall during this life, God will accompany me through each trial.

... college arrived IN A BLINDING STORM.

talented at justifying my own selfish actions. Drugs were a focus point in my life and I justified it by telling myself that God understood my drug use and He accepted me as I was. I thought God was allowing me to learn from these drug experiences and to be enlightened from their powerful insights. Looking back, maybe I could have avoided this crash and burn jail experience if I would have

YESHUAPOLOOZA



/2003

born again



Jesus Rock Festival

Extravaganza

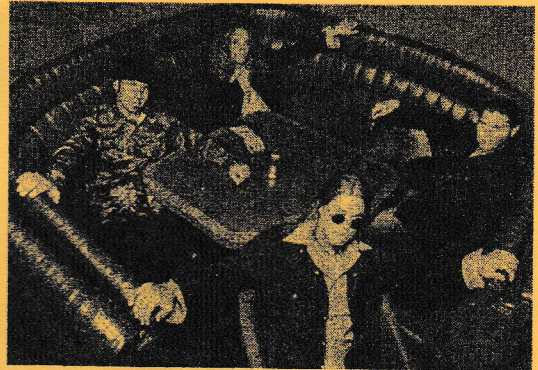
Band that entertained U.S. troops in Turkey set to headline this year's Yeshuapolooza!

September, 2003

This article is to announce the arrival of the 6th annual Yeshuapolooza. Set for September 13th in Wilson Park Menomonie, WI and running from Noon-11 pm this live outdoor **Jesus Rock Festival** is one show you won't want to miss! Admission is free and open to the public. All revenue that may be generated at the show will go directly to build a ministry in INDIA.

This year we have a special treat. Absolute Records' recording artists **Big Fat Jam** who recently were featured on KARE11's Today Show and recently wrapped up performing for American Troops in Turkey are set to headline this year's show! Artists and entertainers who have previously entertained at Incilik Air Force Base include Faith Hill, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, and George Clooney. Big Fat Jam is the first Christian rock band to be invited to perform at the base. Also in conjunction with this trip, Absolute Records is releasing the band's patriotic tribute to our nation's war on terrorism, "Red, White, & You" as a single. The band's debut album, "Welcome to Wonderland" was released in October 2002 and has received enthusiastic response from radio and the press. ChristianityToday.com included "Welcome To Wonderland" in their Top 12 Best Albums of 2002. Their debut single, "Everything", reached the Top 20 on R&R's Christian Rock chart. The band also appeared on last fall's Scream Tour.

Next in line is Chicago-based extreme rock band, **Dumpstar**. These guys are an up and coming new flavor for the Christian music scene. Recently featured musically on Judgment Day 2 and Alticity 3 and two national extreme motor-sports videos, Dumpstar is in the process of producing an official full-length album with a



"We just want to go and spread encouragement to the troops" says the band, "we want to show them how much they are appreciated".
-Big Fat Jam

helping hand from rock-giants, P.O.D. Appearing, also, with Dumpstar on the motor-sports videos are bands such as Disturbed, Saliva and DMX. They're going to be cranking it up in the number two slot at this year's Yeshuapolooza.

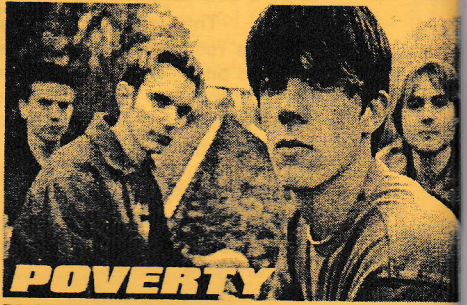
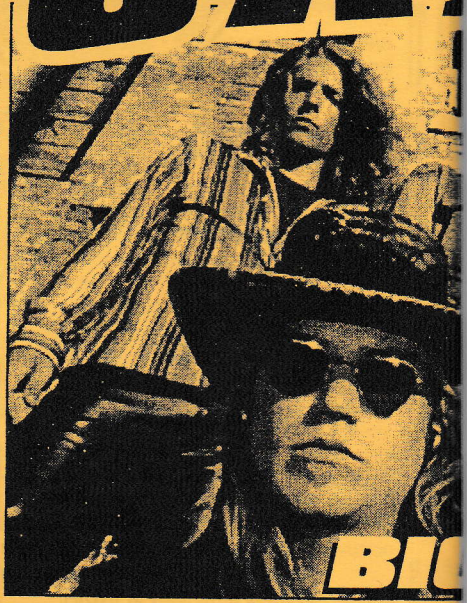
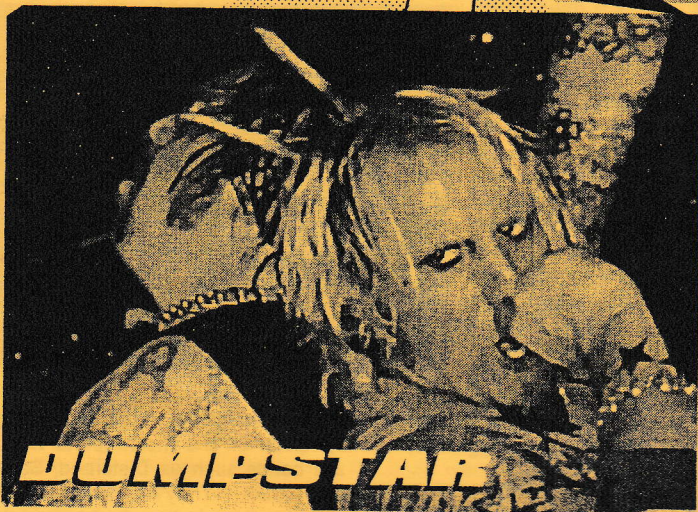
Other bands to grace the stage this year are **Headnoise** (Hardcore Punk), **Poverty** (Modern Rock), **Passing Thru** (Modern Rock), and **Madison Greene** (Earthy, Tribal, Acoustic). All of these bands have played at the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse this season and all with rave reviews from excited

concertgoers. Joining us once again is our featured speaker David Pierce (AKA THE ROCK PRIEST), leader of the punk band No Longer Music and author and founder of Steiger International. **Six years running, this is one event that's not going away!**

MAPS ARE
ON OUR
WEBSITE!

YESHUA

ROCK



SATURDAY
Sept. 13th
Noon-11pm Wilson Park
Menomonie, WI



Street Level is a UW-Stout Campus Organization

W W W . s t r e e t l e v

CONFESIONS 2003



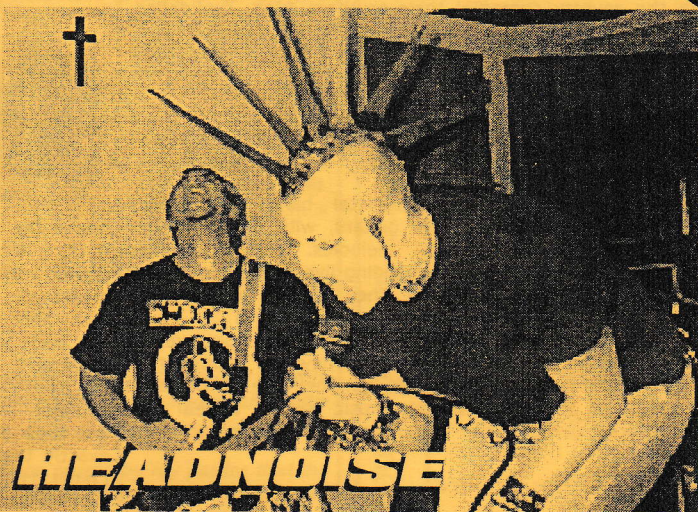
FAT JAM

born again

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."



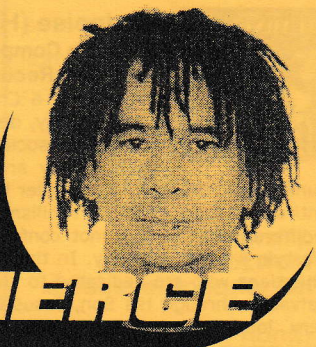
PASSING THRU



HEADNOISE



ALL OF THIS FOR **FREE!**



Guest Speaker is:
DAVID PIERCE



Yeshuapoloosa Special!

Come September it will be time again for the annual Jesus rock festival Yeshuapoloosa! Six years running, this festival only gets better! Check out the bands that will be featured this year!



Big Fat Jam (70's Groove Rock)

Album: Welcome To Wonderland

Label: Absolute Records

With a whirlwind stage show, in-your-face rock-n-roll, and a message everyone can relate to, BFJ is sure to never disappoint. Their musical styles and influences reflect the best from the

60's and 70's all mixed together to form one Big Fat Jam. "There is nothing like them!" says a fan at the Ichthys Festival in Kentucky. "They are the funkiest bunch of white boys I've ever heard...I loved the show!" explains another fan at the Inside Out Soul Festival in New Hampshire. Watch for them as they roll through the country spreadin' their southern fried, funkified, supersized rock-n-roll.

Excerpts taken from:
www.bigfatjam.com



Dumpstar (Hard Rock)

Album: Dumpstar

Label: Indie

Dumpstar is a Nu-Metal band that blends monstrously heavy guitars, with driving drums and catchy vocal melodies. With hook-filled songs, and a commanding live show, crowds are

taking notice of this hot new band. They opened for nationally signed bands such as Disciple, G.S. Megaphone, and Mindset7, Dumpstar continues to entertain audiences across the Midwest. They are a band that strives for perfection in everything they do. Their live performance draws people of all sorts, as their music has an appeal that transcends music genres. Their vision is to take their music to the nations.

Excerpts taken from:
www.dumpstar.com



Headnoise (Hardcore Punk)

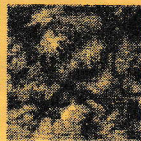
Album: No Compromise

Label: Grrr Records

Headnoise is a Chicago-based Jesus People USA music ministry, dedicated to spreading the gospel message to society's lost and forgotten youth.

Although they are a punk rock band that plays punk music, they do not consider themselves to conform to Punk's anti-social foundations of nihilism, self-gratification, apathy, and indifference. Please do not confuse mere music, appearance, or lifestyle with an ideology. In their words, "We are Bible-believing Christians who are dedicated to sharing His love and the hope of Salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. We also happen to play very loud, intense music. We are unorthodox. We are not mainstream. We do not conform. We are Headnoise. But above all else, we are Christians."

Excerpts taken from:
www.headnoise.com



Poverty (Modern Rock)

Album: Poverty

Label: Indie

Poverty is a band that has managed to wedge itself between the stereotypes of today to form it's own little nook in the modern rock world. What makes this band different from so many others you may find is their positive message of hope and love amidst the confusing world around them. The members of Poverty all share a common experience of having a real, life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. They desire to change the world's perspective of who God really is and what His music can sound like. Simply put, they sing of what they know.

Excerpts taken from:
www.povertymusic.com



Passing Thru (Hard Rock)

Album: Transporter

Label: Indie

Passing Thru takes sharp instrumental hooks, drives them into tasty melodies and delivers them to thousands of hungry fans through electrifying performances. They

bridge the gap between the fun and energy of Pop and the thrilling intensity of Metal. It's a sound that combines a driving rock beat and colorful melody with rich textures and meaningful lyrics. In their lyrics, Passing Thru recognizes that although we can experience pain and loss in life, we can also have joy, truth and love. Their music defies stereotypes because it is the product of 5 different minds, however, it has been called Mod Rock, Alternative Metal, Hard Rock, and Grunge. This may be the result of PT's versatility, creativity, and their desire to write original songs. And, they've done exactly that with their current release Transport, which is thrilling pop and rock fans alike.

Excerpts taken from:
www.passingthru.com



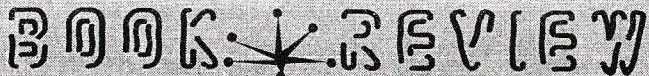
Madison Greene (Earthy/Tribal)

Album: ...Think The Dancers Mad

Label: Indie

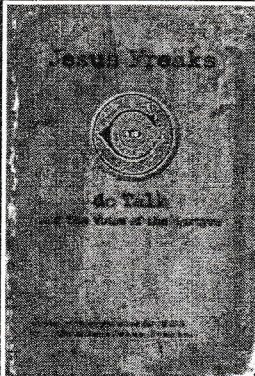
Madison Greene desires to use acoustic instruments in new and creative ways. The band members have all traveled overseas and have learned the value of being both honest and culturally relevant in the expression of their faith, their struggles, their visions and outcries. They are passionate about communicating with their audience the messages and issues which have impacted their lives, while at the same time breaking down the audience/performer barrier to create a feeling of community that goes beyond entertainment.

Excerpts taken from:
www.madisongreene.com



Jesus Freaks

By: dc Talk and Voice of the Martyrs



Graphic: www.covenantbookstore.com

What would it be like to live in a place where you could not freely express or live with your own views of the world, life, and God? What would it be like if someone forced you, sometimes by gunpoint, to conform to their statutes and laws? In America, we don't have much of a concept of this. All of us have been taught from day one that this is "the land of the free and the home of the brave." Here we are free to live as we choose. We can say whatever we believe and whatever we feel and it is legal. But what about people who live in different parts of the world who are unable to say and practice what they believe? What if you were told you had to be a certain religion or die? What if someone pointed a gun at your head and told you to renounce God or be tortured to death? Would you do it? Many people have refused to give up their beliefs and have died. Others have refused to comply and have been tortured mercilessly for long periods of time.

The book *Jesus Freaks* by dc Talk and The Voice of the Martyrs is a book filled with stories of those who refused to deny their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Filled with real life stories of many ordinary people who endured surprising amounts of torture, it is not a light book. It is, however, a book that is hard to put down. The book contains no chapters, just short stories so you can read one and put it down, or read one and then be compelled to read five or six more in one sitting. And they are not just stories from over a thousand years ago. The stories are as recent as 1999. People are still being tortured and persecuted for their faith all over the world. Here is just one of the amazing stories:

**Young Girl
Mainland China
During the Red Guard Era, 1966-1969**

A Chinese girl refused to betray the secrets of the underground church, even though she had been tortured again and again. She was asked how she could bear so much suffering.

"It was not hard," she replied. "I had been taught by my pastor that the real torture lasts very little. For one minute of torture, there are ten minutes of glancing at the enraged faces and the implements of pain. I decided to keep my eyes closed the whole time. I did not see the stick before it hit me or afterward. The suffering was much reduced.

"I relied on the promise of Jesus: 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.' I purified my heart of the fear of men, and I learned to see God. When the Communists became aware of my defense, they stuck my eyelids open with tape, but it was too late. My vision had already taken on a new aspect, and I had seen God as so many had seen Him before."

Stories like this make us wonder why people would go through such suffering. The book is not just full of stories of torture. It is also filled with the reasons these people endured what they did. It's a book that will touch your heart and encourage you to stand firm in your faith. If you are interested in purchasing this book, check out Jesus Fellowship of Believers Bookstore, located at 621 Wilson Avenue in Menomonie or call 235-9300 for more information.

1. *Jesus Freaks* by dc Talk and Voice of the Martyrs pg.247



study materials
music
commentaries
bibles

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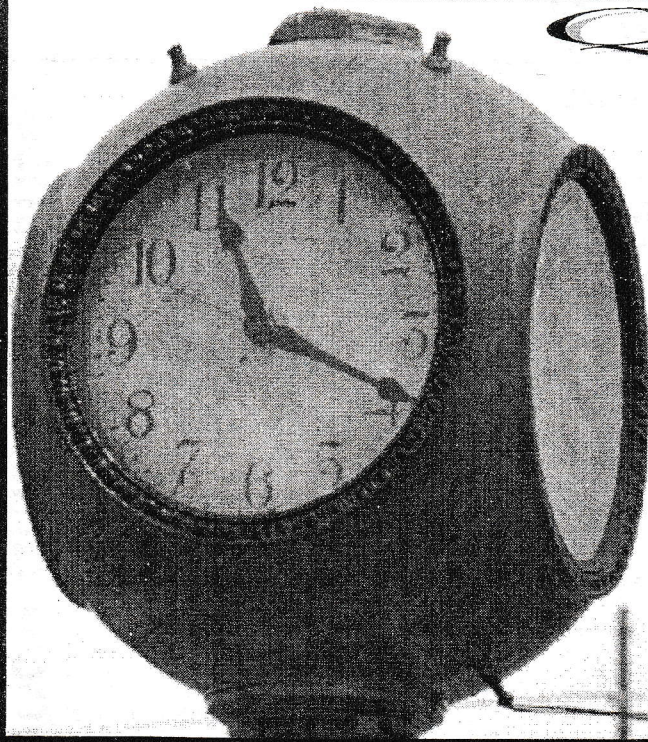
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write a letter with any
questions.

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Quiet

Something to ponder as you go about your week...



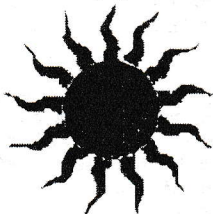
How often is your life quiet? Do you enjoy silence? Or does it bug you? Do you lay in bed at night waiting to fall asleep by thinking about the day? Or do you leave the stereo or T.V. on? When you go out with your friends, what do you do? Are you always moving, always on the go, always talking? Are you always around other people? How much time do you spend alone? Do you know what it's like to be some place where it's completely silent? Where there aren't any other noises besides your breathing and the beating of your heart? Is that a place you visit regularly? How often are you alone with your thoughts? When you're alone, what do you hear? A still, small voice? Are you scared? Don't be. It's God. He's calling your name.

Has the size of the sun changed over the years? John A. Eddy (Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and High Altitude Observatory in Boulder) and Aram A. Boomazian (a mathematician with S. Ross Co. in Boston) seem to have found evidence that the sun has been contracting about 0.1% per century, corresponding to a shrinkage rate of about 5 feet/hour.³ The data Eddy and Boomazian examined spanned a 400-year period of solar observation, so that this shrinkage of the sun, though small, is apparently continual. If the sun was larger in the past than it is now by 0.1% per century, a creationist, who may believe that the world was created

approximately six thousand years ago, has very little to worry about: the sun would have been only 6% larger at creation than it is now. However, if the rate of change of the solar radius remained constant, 100 thousand years ago the sun would have been twice the size it is now, and it is hard to imagine that any life could exist under such altered conditions. Yet 100 thousand years is a

minuscule amount of time when dealing with traditional evolutionary time scales.⁴

Furthermore, assuming (by uniformitarian-type reasoning) that the rate of shrinkage has not changed with time, then the surface of the sun would have touched the surface of the earth at a time in the past equal to approximately 20 million B.C. And, since the time scales commonly assumed for organic evolution range from 500 million years to 2,000 million years,⁵ it would appear especially amazing since all of the evolutionary development, except the last 20 million years, took place on a planet that was inside the sun!



Has the size of the sun changed over the years?

Notes:

3. Lubkin, Gloria B., *Physics Today*, V. 32, No. 17, 1979

4. Ordway, Richard J., *Earth Science and the Environment*, New

York: D. Van Nostrand, 1974, p. 130. Fig. 5-23 on this page gives a typical illustration of the commonly accepted evolutionary time scale.

5. *Scientific American*, V. 239, No. 3, 1978. All the articles in this edition list the various evolutionary time scales.

This article was excerpted from the article "Myths of our Times: Believing the Unbelievable" by Chuck Missler website - www.khouse.org



*feed Science Report

Jer 15:16 [your words were found and I ate them]

Great is the Mystery
Dave Hunt

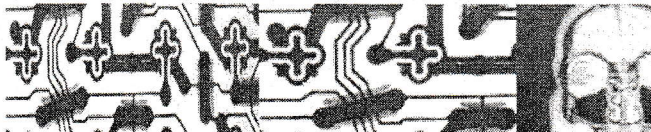
In spite of thousands of years of inquiry into the universe, and the super technology of today's computer-aided science, we still know almost nothing in comparison to all there is to know. We don't know what energy is, or what gravity or light or space are. Referring to the physical universe, British astronomer Sir James Jeans declared that "we are not yet in touch with ultimate reality."

Much less do we know what life is. Living things are made up of chemical machines. The secret of life, however, lies not in the correct combination of the chemicals of which living things are built. Science seeks to discover how life is imparted to otherwise dead matter, hoping to reverse the death process and thereby create eternal life. But that secret will never be found by examining living creatures because the life they have is not their own.

We now know what Darwin never imagined, that life is based upon information encoded on DNA (see TBC Aug '02). Indisputably, no information is originated by the medium in which it is communicated (printed page, audio or video tape, DNA, etc.).

Information can originate only from an intelligence. Clearly, the information that provides the instructions for constructing and operating the incredibly small and complex machines which make up living cells could only originate with an intelligence beyond our capacity to comprehend.

Jesus claimed to be the Source of life: "I am the resurrection, and the life" (Jn



11:25)--and He proved it by laying down His life and rising from the dead. He said, "No man taketh [my life] from me, but I lay it down of

myself...and I have power to take it again..." (Jn 10:17, 18). And so He did.

There is, however, something more vital than physical life. Unquestionably, there is a nonphysical side to man. Words and the conceptual ideas they express (including those imprinted on DNA) are not a part of the dimensional, physical universe. The idea of "justice," for example, has nothing to do with and cannot be described in terms of any of the five senses. It lies in another realm.

Thoughts are not physical. They do not originate from matter nor do they occupy space. Our brains do not think, or we would be prisoners of that few pounds of matter inside our craniums, waiting for the next orders it might give us. Man has not only physical but "intelligent" life. What could be its source?

Of Jesus, John said, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (Jn 1:4). Christ declared, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (Jn 8:12). The reference is not to physical light but to the spiritual light of truth--another abstract concept without any relationship to the physical universe.

"Truth" takes us beyond animal life; it has no meaning for animals. Their "intelligence" knows nothing of love, morals,

compassion, mercy or understanding but is confined to instinct and conditioned responses to stimuli. B.F. Skinner tried to fit man into the same mold, but our ability to form conceptual ideas and express them in speech cannot be explained in terms of stimulus/response reactions. There is an impassable chasm between man and animals.

Intelligence is nonphysical because it conceives of and uses nonphysical constructs which clearly do not originate with the material of the brain or body. This takes us beyond the physical universe into the realm of spirit. We do not know what a soul or a spirit is, or what it means that God "is a Spirit" (Jn 4:24) who "created man in his image" (Gn 1:27).

God has given us sufficient proof in what we *can* verify to cause us to trust completely whatever His Word declares concerning things we cannot fully comprehend. That is where faith enters. There is much which, although we cannot understand it, we know is true. This is the case, for example, with the fact that God is without beginning or end. It boggles our minds, but we know it must be.

While seeking to unravel the secrets of the universe, science neglects its Creator. The universe can lead man only to a dead end, since ultimate knowledge is hidden in the God who brought all into existence.

Though not idol worshipers in the primitive sense, scientists, university professors, business executives and political leaders, no matter how brilliant, who do

not know Christ fit the description in Romans 1 of those who reject the witness of the universe and worship the creation instead of the Creator. It is possible for Christians also to be caught up in this same materialistic ambition and to miss what God offers us in Himself.

Paul's earnest desire was that all believers might attain unto "the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col 2:2, 3).

Our knowledge of both the physical and spiritual is limited at best. But one day we will fully know when we are with Christ in our glorified bodies: "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (1 Cor 13:12). When in His presence we wholly know Christ as He truly is, all limitations will have vanished, even our lack of power to fully overcome sin: when we see him, "we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (1 Jn 3:2).

Knowing Christ is everything!

Secular knowledge pursued in our universities looks in the wrong direction. The treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden in Christ can never be discovered by scientific inquiry but can only be revealed by His Spirit through His Word to those who believe in Him.

The concept of one true God who exists eternally in three Persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is rejected even by some who claim to be Christians. Yet this is taught all through Scripture, in the Old Testament as well as in the New. Consider: "I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I...." Surely the speaker who has been in existence forever must be God himself. Yet He declares, "the Lord God, and his

Spirit, hath sent me" (Is 48:16). We cannot comprehend the mystery of the Trinity; yet that is no more reason to doubt it than to doubt anything else that we know is real but cannot comprehend.

If God were a single being (as Muslims believe Allah to be and most Jews believe Yahweh is), He would have had to create creatures in order to experience love, fellowship and communion. The biblical God is love in Himself, manifesting plurality in the Godhead: "The Father loveth the Son..." (Jn 5:20). God must be one; but He must comprise both singularity and plurality.

Only God could pay the infinite penalty His justice demands for sin. But that would not be just, because "God is not a man..." (Nm 23:19). The

**And God created...every living creature that moveth,
which the waters brought forth abundantly,
after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind:
and God saw that it was good.
Genesis 1:21**

incarnation is therefore essential-but impossible if God were a singular being. "The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world" (1 Jn 4:14). It was Jesus who died on the cross, not the Father nor the Holy Spirit.

Neither could a mere man, being finite, pay that infinite penalty. All through the Old Testament, Yahweh declares that He is the only Savior (Is 43:3,11; 45:15,21; 49:26; Hos 13:4, etc.). Thus Jesus had to be Yahweh but also a man. When God the Son became a man He did not and could not cease to be God. Jesus was both God and man.

How could God become a man? Again that is only possible

through the Trinity. The Father didn't become man, nor did the Holy Spirit. Even though we cannot understand this, we know it must be so. The penalty for our sins is infinite because God and His justice are infinite. Consequently, those who reject Christ's payment on their behalf will be separated from God forever.

How evil could arise in God's "good" universe (Gn 1:31) is a mystery--"the mystery of iniquity" (2 Thes 2:7). It will reach its fullness in Antichrist through whom Satan will rule the world. In Antichrist, Satan will be manifest in the flesh, as God was, and is, in Christ.

Satan must be brilliant beyond our comprehension, apparently second only to God in power and understanding. It is a mystery that Satan, having known intimately the

holy and glorious presence and power of God on His throne, could ever have dared, much less desired, to rebel. How could he have imagined that he could ever

defeat God? Surely this is a great mystery!

Satan was not raised in a "dysfunctional family" or in a ghetto, nor was he "abused as a child." None of the standard excuses for rebellious and selfish behavior accepted by today's Christian psychologists applies to Satan--or to Adam and Eve. To accept any explanation for evil that doesn't fit them is to be deceived. Certainly today's popular diagnosis of "low self-esteem" or a "poor self-image" was not Satan's problem!

Scripture says he was lifted up with pride: "O covering cherub....Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty" (Ezk 28:17). He is apparently a self-deceived ego-maniac, blinded by pride in his

own power and abilities.

Here is the mystery of iniquity: In the very presence of God, in the heart of the cherub closest to God, the ultimate evil was conceived. By one fateful choice, the most beautiful, powerful and intelligent angelic being became for all time the ultimate in evil: the arch enemy of God and man, the "great dragon... that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world" (RV 12:9; 20:2).

Paul warns that a man should not become an elder until he is mature in the faith, "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil" (1 Tim 3:6). This tells us again that pride was Satan's downfall-and is man's besetting sin as well. "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Prv 16:18).

It is also a mystery that Eve would believe the serpent's lie contradicting what her gracious Creator had said. Adam was not deceived (1 Tim 2:14). No doubt out of love for Eve and not wanting to be separated from her, he joined her in disobedience, knowing the consequences. It remains a mystery, however, that anyone would rebel against God, that anyone would choose the pleasures of the moment in exchange for eternal separation from God.

The heart of this mystery is the autonomy of intelligent created beings who clearly have something called self-will. At least some angels (Satan and those who joined his rebellion) and all men have the power of choice. In deciding upon beliefs or actions, though evidence may be weighed, ultimately reason is set aside in order to bow before the throne of self. We are our own worst enemies.

Self had its awful birth when Eve made the choice of disobedience for all of her descendents. Christ said

there is no hope except we deny self (MT 16:24). And the only way that can be done effectively is to embrace the cross of Christ as our own so that we can say with Paul, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..." (Gal 2:20).

The solution to evil through the incarnation is also a mystery: "... great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (1 Tim 3:16).

"God was manifest in the flesh." What a mystery! God could become a fetus in Mary's womb? John the Baptist as a 6-month-old fetus left in the womb of Elizabeth in recognition that Mary was pregnant with the Messiah. Amazing!

"Seen of angels." These heavenly beings must have watched in astonishment. The One whom they had known as God the Son, one with the Father, for at least 6,000 years by earth time (we know not how much earlier angels were created), was growing in the virgin Mary's womb, soon to be born a babe needing a mother's milk and care--truly man, yet at the same time truly God. Mystery of mysteries!

"Believed on in the world." The Apostle John speaks in awe of this One whom "we have heard... seen with our eyes...looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life. (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us)" (1 Jn 1:1,2). In his Gospel John says, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld

his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (Jn 1:14).

Yes, *"Believed on in the world."* Certainly John believed, as did Paul, that Jesus the Messiah of Israel was truly "God manifest in the flesh." To be a Christian one must believe that Jesus Christ is God come as a man to redeem us. What love to come from so high to stoop so low--to be rejected, hated, misunderstood, mocked, maligned, stripped, scourged and crucified by those He came to redeem!

"Received up into glory." His sacrifice accepted by the Father, He is glorified at the "Father's right hand" and interceding there for us (Rom 8:34). But even before that great meeting in His presence in the Father's house, "beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, [we] are changed into the same image...by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor 3:18).

Surely if the incarnation is the great mystery of godliness, then for us to live godly lives we must have Christ dwelling within us and living His life through us: "Christ in you, the hope of glory, whom we preach..." (Col 1:27, 28). This is the "hope of his calling" which Paul prayed that the Ephesian saints would understand. Peter explains that God "hath called us unto his eternal glory" (1 Pt 5:10). We are going to be like Christ. The glory that the disciples beheld in Christ will be manifested in us!

We are transformed by His Word, the Word of Truth upon which we feed for spiritual nourishment. The written instructions which God spoke into DNA and which are essential for physical life present a powerful picture of the "words that...are spirit, and ...life" (Jn 6:63). This is the living Word of God which when believed (1 Pt 1:23-25) creates and nourishes spiritual life. TBC

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www.thebereancall.org

a Point of Contention



Scripture clearly states in John 14:6 that one cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven but through the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Some aren't sure what this means, and others might find themselves arguing against it. This collection of words is my attempt to clarify the truth and validity of this passage and to help one understand more completely how this concept is virtually unavoidable.

First of all, we must agree that there is a God, one true God, who is the Creator of all things including ourselves, the earth on which we stand, the breath that fills our lungs, and the electricity that lights our bulbs. If this is a point of contention and we find ourselves in disagreement already, then we cannot go on.

If however, we can agree on this first simple fact, the existence of God the Creator as the only true God, then we must next understand that this God is a God of love (1 John 4:8) who is exceedingly concerned for our safety and well being. By merely suggesting this, one might feel compelled to question the existence of, and the purpose for, God's allowance of rape and murder, cavities, failed exams, car crashes, baldness, and still-born babies. How could a God of love allow something as awful as the Jewish Holocaust to have taken place? Why are some people subject to lifelong suffering, depression, oppression, mental handicaps, starvation, and domestic abuse? One might find himself easily convinced that this God of which I write is not at all a God of love and genuine care, but a God of absolute cruelty and inconsistent protection, as some people appear to be living quite luxuriously and without burden, while others are thrust into a life of constant trial and unending despair. Why wouldn't this "God of love" simply take us out of this mess? Why would this God put us here in the first place?

I have come to understand that God's perfect love could not exist in the same realm as that kind of overprotection. It is my belief that He is angered, disgusted, and deeply saddened by the things that man continues to do to one another. I am sure He desires to protect us from harm and, at times, would rather whisk us away from our torment and bring us home to heaven to be safe with Him forever. But we must understand that this is not how His love works. Unfortunately, we must endure our trials. God won't make our bones invincible to fracture just because we don't fancy the way a plaster cast restricts our range of movement. The fact that we are allowed to face trial and persecution suggests that God does indeed love us. If this is a point of contention, we cannot go on.

If however, we can agree that we all have one true God who has created us all and loves us unconditionally, I can address the purpose for these seemingly unfair trials that we inevitably face.

The reason we are put on this earth, on a personal level, and the reason that we haven't yet left, is because we have been blessed with an opportunity for the making of a most crucial decision. It is a decision that all men and women will make during their limited time on planet earth. A decision which no free-thinking individual will be excused from making. No matter how stubborn or stupid they may be, no matter how aloof or righteous they may seem, this decision cannot and will not be avoided. We will decide, we will die, and we will be judged (Hebrews 9:27).

It is a question that asks us personally if we will accept or deny what Christ has done for us in dying in our place. A question none of us are able to escape, one that is not answered with our voice or with any kind of outward ceremony or demonstration. This question is one that will be answered deep within the heart of every single man and every single woman. If we cannot agree on this, and if any of these words for you have become a point of contention, then we cannot go on.

If however, we can agree on the things mentioned above, then let me explain that we have all been given a lifetime to decide for ourselves if we will accept these ideas or not. The length of a lifetime will vary greatly from individual to individual, but God has provided ample time for all who are capable, to come to that crucial decision. If, at the end of that lifetime, we have chosen to deny this gift of salvation through Christ, we will be given no further choice but to exist with the mindset that God is a cruel God for the rest of eternity. We will be far removed from this God whom we never allowed to become a reality in our lives, and we will be forever plagued with murder, hatred, and rape; we will continue in misery and denial for the rest of our days, and we might as well pencil our own name into the obituaries while we are still alive, because we are dead already. Again, if we disagree, and this is a point of contention, then we cannot go on.

If however, we choose to accept what Christ has done, we will only need to endure and persevere through these earthly trials. To remain diligent in our work and steadfast in our faith. Resting in God's grace and continuing forward through life with a divine power within us that one cannot fathom lest they believe. We will be given a new understanding that this earth is not our home, and the assuredness that better things are yet to come. We will find that we can at once begin to live, and upon death we will see with our own eyes the magnitude of God's love.

You **MUST** believe in what Christ has done for you. Above all else, believe in this: We were all created by a God of love. Of our own volition we fell short of the glory of God, and by his grace, we were saved when his only son, Jesus Christ, was crucified so long ago. Now we must only accept and believe these facts.

For those whom this has become a point of contention... they will not go on.





Three Men

Three men went out to sea in a small rowboat to catch fish. After several hours the sky began to grow dark. The men were concerned, but they did their best to ignore it and continued fishing as if nothing was wrong. All three of the men were skilled fishermen and had weathered many storms over the years. The rain and the wind had toughened their skin, and they had long since grown stubborn to caution. The men were strong willed and proud.

The storm came upon them quickly and they drew in their nets to brace themselves against the advancing system. The rain came in torrents, and the winds blew them about. The tremendous waves knocked into the side of their boat like hammers against an anvil. It was a storm unlike any they had faced before, and it wasn't long before the small craft was turned up on its side, spilling all three of the men and their gear into the dark stirring waters. Each man struggled to keep his head above water, each individually clinging to different pieces of debris, grasping desperately for anything that might provide flotation.

After some time the storm moved on past them and the sun broke through the clouds. Their rowboat had been broken to bits by the crashing waves, and each man now had to tread water to stay alive. The three men were within earshot of one another, and the first man shouted aloud with a cheerful sense of relief, "That was a nasty one, but she passed us just the same as all the others did, ain't that right?" "Certainly did," the second man replied, "and if I weren't so good with the backstroke, I reckon I'd be dead!" The two men shared a haughty laugh, and the third man gave

a complementary chuckle.

Many years later the men were still out at sea treading water. Many more storms had come and gone since then, but they had survived each one without fail. Each of the men were beginning to grow tired but none of them would admit it. They all remained in good cheer, regardless.

One afternoon the first man shouted to the second, "I've gotten so used to this life of mine out here, I'll be damned if I couldn't keep myself above water for ever!" "Well put, friend," the second man replied with a smile, "won't be long now 'til I get my gills!" The third man didn't hear what they were saying; he was thinking of something else.

Many years later the men were still out at sea treading water. Many more storms had come and gone as always, some more severe than others, but the men had grown accustomed to them. One afternoon an old sea vessel sailed close and signaled with a horn. Only the third man heard it, for the first and the second man were too busy with their technique to pay much attention; something stirred in the third man's heart. The ship steered close and a man dressed in an immaculate white uniform threw three separate lifelines out to the men. The first man was proud, and he shouted over to the second man, "Looks as if He thinks that we need His help!" "Certainly does," the second man replied with an arrogant sneer, "doesn't He see that we are keeping afloat just fine? Tell Him to leave us alone!" The third man spoke up confidently as he reached for the line, "I've given it some thought fellows, and I feel as if it might be better to go ashore." "Ashore!" they cried in unison. "I've forgotten what

the shore looks like... and truthfully, I don't need it anymore!" the second man cried. "But you're drowning!" the third man pleaded,

"But you're drowning!"

"You've gotten far too tolerant, and you've tricked yourselves into thinking that you aren't drowning at all; the truth is that you cannot tread water forever!" The first man heard his shouts and screamed, "What good is it anyway? Can't you see how thin those lines are? I wouldn't be such a fool as to think that a cord as weak as this one could tow a man like me ashore!"

The third man knew at once that to argue any longer against their stubbornness and doubt would be to let his own life line be taken out of reach, so he grabbed hold and left the other two men. The third man was brought ashore and lived an abundant life on dry ground. The first and second man remained out to sea, endlessly treading water, fooling themselves into thinking that their lives were in fact, abundant.



The **BLIND MUNCHIES** Coffeehouse

- Fresh Coffee •
- Espresso •
- Bakery •
- Pastry •

- Free Concerts •
- Pool Table •

Open Tuesday-Sunday
Corner of 7th and Wilson
Menomonie, WI

CONCERTS:

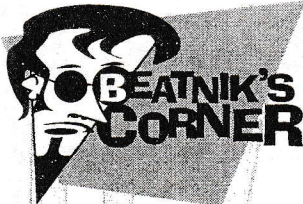
YESHUAPOLOOZA -Sept 13th
UNION -Sept 26th
MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

2 BLOCKS from
The UW-STOUT Campus

The Blind Munchies Scoop:

"The Munchies" is a groovy retro coffeehouse decked out in antiques and old couches. It is a comfortable place to come and chill out with the books, play a quick game of pool, or just listen to the cool music playing in the background. Our coffee and food items are priced as suggested donation. The coffee is the best gourmet coffee you will find in town. With flavors such as "Heart of Darkness", "Jet Fuel", "French Roast", and "Velvet Hammer", it's sure to get you going in the morning or keep you up for that late night cramming session. We also serve a full line of espresso and specialty drinks like mochas, lattes, and Italian sodas. More good news: we serve fresh bakery daily. On Sundays and Wednesdays we serve hot food like pizza, chili, soup, or sandwiches. While Stout is in session, there is also live music twice a month. The music is eclectic: everything from acoustic to punk and there's no cover ever! We are generally open from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and are located at 621 Wilson Avenue in Menomonie, one block east of Burger King. Need a place to chill? Come on down. More info?

Hotline: 715-235-9300



BEATNIK'S CORNER

**He Sets Me
Free**

From wrenching guilt and heavy burdens
He sets me free

From sleepless nights of worry
He sets me free

From empty worship of imperfect idols
He sets me free

From redundant, pre-written prayers
He sets me free

From blinded eyes and a hardened heart
He sets me free

From bitterness and jealousy of my neighbors
He sets me free

From self-consciousness and self-pity
He sets me free

From unhealthy independence and over-sensitivity
He sets me free

From high imaginations and youthful lust
He sets me free

From discontent and a longing for more
He sets me free

From apathy and a numbed heart
He sets me free

From self-righteousness and gossip
He sets me free

From the desire to be in the limelight
He sets me free

From boredom and mind-altering entertainment
He sets me free

From food binges and body obsession
He sets me free

From the weeping and gnashing of teeth in hell
He has set me free

Who is this who has set me free?
Jesus has set me free
My Lord Jesus has set me free
Forever I will be free

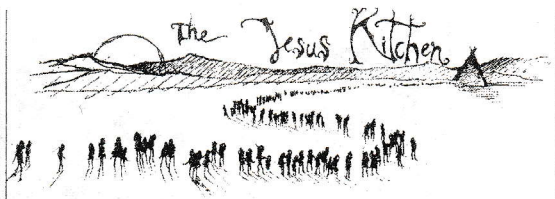
Halfway Around the World



Recently, a team from Jesus Fellowship of Menomonie traveled to the Philippines for a short-term missions trip. It was a construction trip, our first of this kind. We went to two different churches and worked on each one for approximately a week. We did a lot from building rooms, painting walls and floors, to pouring concrete and putting up sign posts. It was a time of hard work, great exhaustion, and even greater blessing. God showed us and taught us so much there.

A really cool thing I noticed was God constantly showing me His presence. Everywhere I looked, God was there. He is with us all the time, but it seemed God really wanted to point that out to me there. I think this is due to the fact that I was out of my comfort zone. I brought a journal with me and one of the first things I wrote before our first plane ride was that I wondered what I had gotten myself into. I didn't have my job to fall back on or my cozy apartment to go home to, or my bathroom with a hot shower. It really forces you to trust God when most of what you're used to is gone. I think God wanted to show me just how much I don't rely upon Him here. He showed me that out there, I had to rely upon Him for everything whereas at home, I'm supposed to rely upon Him for everything, but in reality, I don't. Instead, I rely upon my job, my paycheck, my car, my warm apartment. God wanted to show me how He is completely sufficient and I don't have to have all the amenities in the world to have a blessed life and great relationship with Him. The churches we visited were full of people who loved Jesus and were committed to serving Him, yet they didn't have flush toilets, air conditioning, or showers. I think we often subconsciously (or consciously) think we're better (or more spiritual) than people in third world countries because we do have flush toilets, college educations, and clean water to drink. We think we're more "advanced" technologically, so therefore, we're more advanced spiritually. On the contrary, the people we met and served with were some of the most committed Christians I've met. At one church, the church members showed up faithfully day after day and worked into the night. They weren't on-staff at church or getting paid a penny (or a peso) for their work. They did it because it was their church and they were committed to serving God in whatever way they could. For some, that meant pouring concrete, for others, it meant constantly washing dishes and cooking food for all of the volunteers.

It was a real blessing to see that God is the same wherever you go on earth. He fills people's hearts across the globe with the same love and joy with which He fills our hearts. It creates such a special bond to know that we'll get to see these brothers and sisters in heaven, even if we never physically see them again on earth. Going to the Philippines gave me a sense of how big God is and how small the world really is.



On June 22nd, 2003 I set out with 28 other people to the 32nd annual Rainbow Gathering. We packed up a yellow school bus with all the supplies needed to set up a Jesus Kitchen in the middle of the forest to feed hundreds of people each day for free. The Rainbow Gathering is an annual "peaceable" assembly of people in a national forest for the purpose of pursuing spiritual enlightenment and seeking ways to restore Mother Earth. The Rainbow Gathering's intention is for thousands of people from every nation, creed, gender, religion, or ethnicity to unite and share the desire for true world peace and harmony. Sounds like an alright thing, huh? The Rainbow Gathering is a place full of illusions, for their website portrays the event as a utopia of sorts, but in reality it is not. There are definitely some good things about it, such as the lack of finances and law enforcement, but the one thing that shatters the utopia image of the Rainbow Gathering is that there are people there. And what do all people everywhere possess? All people are plagued with a sinful nature. In the Bible, Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart [of man] is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Although the aim of the Rainbow Gathering is a peace-filled environment, violence still happens, children are still neglected, people still abuse drugs and alcohol, and stealing still occurs. It is not a perfect environment by any stretch of the imagination. Therefore, many people there are disillusioned about both mainstream life and Rainbow life. That is exactly where Jesus' love can reach a person and that was our mission—to share with everyone who was willing to hear, that in this sinful world, lasting peace can only be found through Jesus Christ who gives "peace that passes all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

Each day God would bring people into our kitchen who were broken-hearted and who wanted to know more about Jesus. We had the privilege of praying with them to receive Him into their lives. We also talked with many people who were hurting and searching for the truth but refused to look to Jesus. They didn't understand that Jesus loves them as He 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" (Matthew 11:28-29). We shared with them that God wants to give us rest and He provided the way through Jesus. We can know Jesus by asking Him to come into our hearts and accept the sacrifice that He made for our sins. This decision is more than another religion or a philosophy: it will transform our lives. As the Bible says, "those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

What's There to do in Menomonie?

So you're new in town, you're bored, and you want something to do?
Check out this calendar of events and recreation in the Menomonie area:

- **9/14/03** 10th Annual "All You Can Eat" Pig Roast to be held in the church parking lot at United Methodist Church (2703 Bongey Drive) Menomonie. Serving: 11:45 to 2 p.m. Cost is \$6 Adults \$3 Children ages 6 to 12, Ages 5 and younger are free. For more information call Marilynn at 715-235-0654.
- **9/17-9/18** Synergy 2003 (Business, Industry & Technology Fair) to be held on the UW-Stout campus. For more information please contact Ann Zielieke, Exhibit Coordinator, at 715-232-2698 or visit <http://www.uwstout.edu/solutions/synergy/>
- **9/19-9/21** Oktoberfest will be held at the Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds in Chippewa Falls, WI. Friday events include: Authentic German Food, Business Afternoon & Official Kick Off - 3 Stages featuring a variety of entertainment. Saturday: Family Style German Breakfast, 3 Stages featuring a variety of entertainment, and family activities for all ages. Sunday events include: Polka Celebration for all, Family Style German dinner, 3 Stages featuring a variety of entertainment, Family Activities for all ages, and Nonstop music. For more information call 715-723-0331.
- **9/20** Spaghetti Dinner, Bake Sale & Music Benefit for Brian G. McClelland sponsored by the Knapp Lions Club & Knapp Valley Riders at the Knapp Village Hall. Brian is suffering from a Flesh Eating Bacteria that caused him to lose his leg, and to have abdominal surgeries. Dinner time: 4 - 7 p.m. Please call Vickie at 715-235-8656 for prize donations or Marsha at 715-665-2543 for baked goods donations.
- **9/20** The Menomonie "Wheels For Life" Bike-A-Thon will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Red Cedar Trailhead in Menomonie. There is a \$3 Trail Pass Fee if you do not already have a trail pass. Each participant is responsible for getting their own pledges/sponsors. This event is to raise money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. For more information call Scotty at BodyWorks, 715-235-6106
- **9/23** Jack Harmon's Chicken Dinner-Featured by Dunn County Fish & Game and held at the Dunn County Club House in Wakanda Park from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Cost: \$7 Adults, \$3.50 Children under 12. For reservations call Knaack's Advertising by 5 p.m. the day PRIOR to the dinner, 715-235-7521.
- **10/4** 7th Annual Cooperative Free Pancake Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Held at Dunn Energy Cooperative Sponsored by Cenex, WESTconsin Credit Union, Menomonie Market, Foremost Farms, West Wisconsin Telcom and Dunn Energy.

UW-Stout Athletic Home Schedule:

2003-04

Saturday, August 23

Soccer Alumni Game, 1 p.m.

Friday, September 5

Soccer vs UW-Superior, 7 p.m.

Friday, September 12

Soccer vs. Marantha Baptist, 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 13

Football vs. Hardin-Simmons, 1 p.m.

Friday, September 19

Volleyball vs. UW-Whitewater, 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 20

Football at Augustana, SD, 1 p.m.

Volleyball vs. UW-Oshkosh, Noon

Tuesday, September 23

Volleyball vs. Northwestern College, 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 27

Football vs. St. Thomas, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, September 30

Soccer vs UW-Stevens Point, 7 p.m.

Friday, October 3

Volleyball vs. UW-Stevens Point, 7 p.m.

M & W Cross Country host Midwest Short/Long Course

Challenge Colfax, Wis., 3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 10

Soccer vs. University of Mary, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 14

Soccer vs. UW-Eau Claire, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 15

Volleyball vs. UW-Eau Claire, 7 p.m.

Friday, October 17

Soccer vs. UW-Platteville, 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 18

Football vs. UW-Whitewater, 1 p.m.

Friday, October 24

Soccer vs. Finlandia University, 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 25

Football vs. UW-River Falls, 1 p.m.

Monday, October 27

Soccer vs. Wisconsin Lutheran, 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 1

Soccer vs Nebraska Wesleyan, 1 p.m.

Women's Cross Country host WIAC Championships,

Colfax, Wis., 11 a.m.

Men's Cross Country host WIAC Championships,

Colfax, Wis., 12 p.m.

Hockey at Marian College, Wis., 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 4

Volleyball WIAC Quarterfinals, TBA

Friday, November 7

Volleyball WIAC Semi-Finals, TBA

Saturday, November 8

Hockey vs. Augsburg College, 7:30 p.m.

Volleyball WIAC Finals, TBA

November 5-9

Soccer WIAC Tournament, TBA

Thursday, November 13

Soccer NCAA Tournament begins

Saturday, November 15

Football vs. UW-Platteville, 1 p.m.

Women's Cross Country co-host NCAA Division III

Regionals, Colfax, Wis., 11 a.m.

Men's Cross Country co-host NCAA Division III

Regionals, Colfax, Wis., 12 p.m.

Hockey vs. St. Thomas, 7:30 p.m.

Recreation:

- **biking**

Menomonie is the starting point for a beautiful 14-mile bike ride along the **Red Cedar State Trail**. This limestone-surfaced trail runs along the Red Cedar River from Menomonie to the Chippewa River, where it connects with the **Chippewa River Trail**. Keep watch for eagles, herons and other birds as you pass sandstone bluffs, prairies, wetlands and wooded areas. There are picnic areas along the trail, and a visitor's center located along Highway 29 in Menomonie. A trail pass is required - purchase one at the visitor's center for a daily fee of \$3, or \$10 annually.

Stokke Trail heads north from Highway 29 at the Red Cedar State Trail Visitor's Center. This 8/10 mile paved trail also runs along the Red Cedar River, passing the Swiss Miss Plant, home of the sweet treat Swiss Miss Cocoa that was invented in Menomonie in 1954.

The Menomonie area also offers miles of **country roads** fit for biking. June brings the Tinman Triathlon to Menomonie, where athletes are challenged to swim Lake Menomin, run the streets of Menomonie, and bike the challenging hills of the western-Wisconsin countryside.

Equipment rentals are available at Trailhead Sports, located near the Red Cedar State Trail.

- **hiking**

The Menomonie area offers many hiking trails. Check out the 706 wooded, hilly acres at **Hoffman Hills State Recreational Area** just outside of Menomonie. The park offers 9 miles of trails of varying difficulty. Climb the 60 foot high observation tower to get an unparalleled view of the countryside surrounding Menomonie. Birds and other wildlife abound. Be sure to check out the 15 acres of prairie restoration, and hike the 1-mile wetland trail.

Experience the wildlife right in Menomonie at the **Lion's Club Game Park & Nature Trail**. This 20-30 minute self-guided walk offers a chance to learn about the plant life of western Wisconsin. You can also view bison, deer, elk and ducks in the Game Park.

- **parks**

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Brainstarter

Brainstarter

For Chapter 3 of John vs. 14-21...

Hey! It's o.k. to use your **BRAIN!**

Use your brain to ponder these thought-provoking questions from Chapter 3 verses 14-21 of the book of John!

1. What do these verses tell us about someone who believes in Jesus?
2. What do these verses tell us about the character of God?
3. What do these verses tell us about how God feels about us?
4. If the things in these verses are true, would believing in them change the way you live in anyway? How?

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