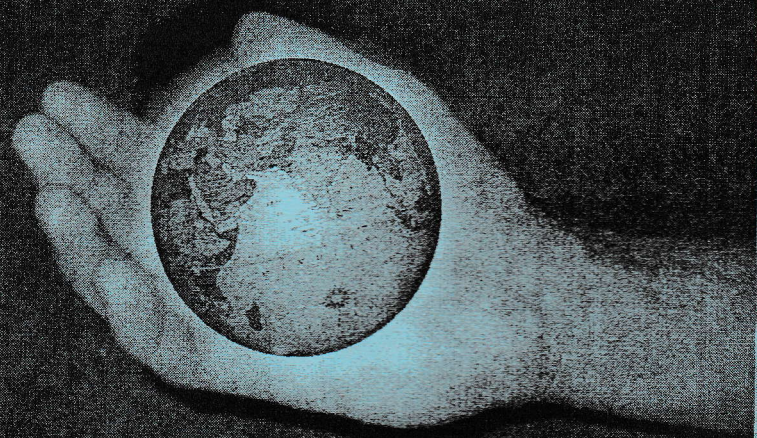


WOC on the street
m a g a z i n e

Issue 9



h u m a n i t y

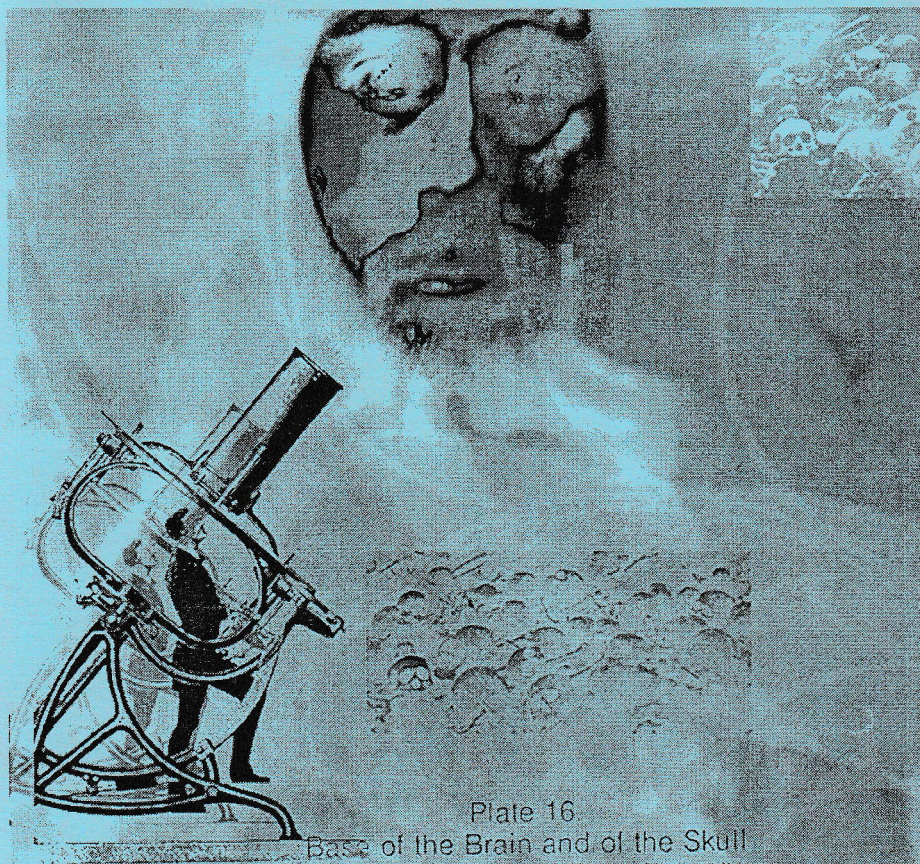
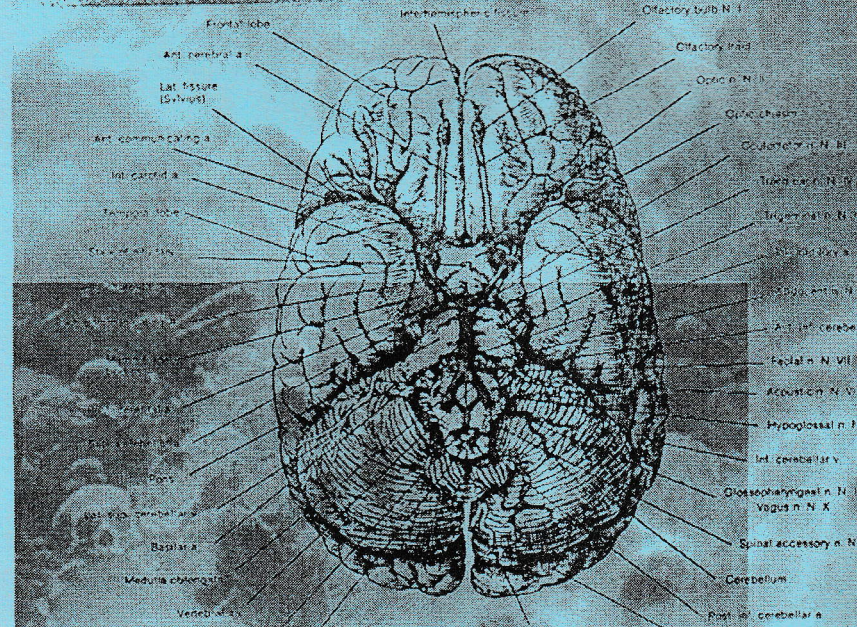


Plate 16
Base of the Brain and of the Skull



There is a way
which seemeth
right unto a
man, but the
end thereof
are the ways
of death.

Proverbs 14:12

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10 Amazing Faith in Afghanistan

What it cost two Christian aid workers from America to share God's love in Afghanistan

20 Tape Review- ^{NEW} a bible teaching extra

The Bible lays out before us some vital attributes that all born-again believers must possess in order to stand strong in our faith in Jesus Christ in the present time. This is part 1 of the 6 part tape series on spiritual warfare by John Duncan.

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Word *on the street*
magazine

is a quarterly publication of Street Level Ministries a UW-Stout student organization. Want to know more? Check out our website—

www.streetlevel.uwstout.edu

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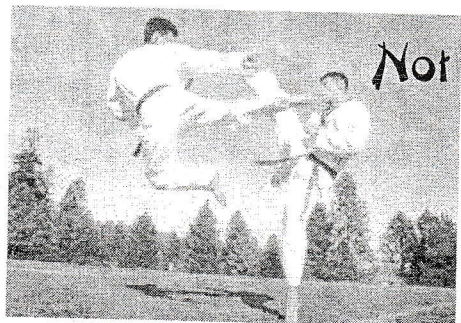
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Not Against Flesh and Blood

While it might be a foolish assumption that it is God's will that men should go to war, it is safe to say that it is no

surprise to God that we go to war. Jesus spoke of the end of the world, "Don't let any man deceive you. For many will come in my name, saying, I am the Messiah: and will lead many astray."

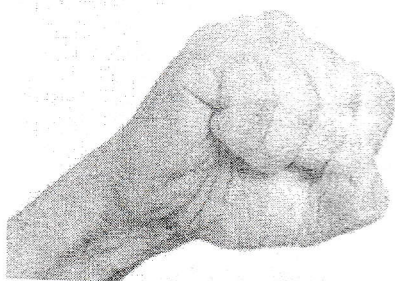
**God's original plan
for this world
didn't include the
shedding of blood,
but because of
original sin
we live in a
fallen world.**

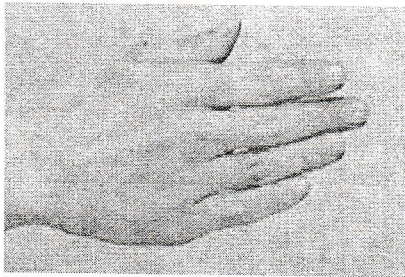
And wars will break out near and far, but don't panic. Yes, these things must come, but the end won't follow immediately. The nations and kingdoms will proclaim war against each other, and there will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this will be only the beginning of the horrors to come." (Matthew 24:4-7 italics added for emphasis)

Jesus addressed this subject in the Sermon on

the Mount. "You have heard that the Law of Moses says, do not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment. But I say if you are angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!" (Matthew 5:21-22) He reinterprets the law to say that even if you are angry with someone, it's just as bad as if you murdered that person. So it is easy to say that if the standards are that strict then we all fall short. In the same chapter he also says, "You have heard that the Law of Moses says, 'If an eye is injured, injure the eye of the person who did it. If a tooth gets knocked out, knock out the tooth of the person who did it.' But I say, don't resist an evil person! If you are slapped on the right cheek, turn the other, too. If you are ordered to court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow. You have heard that the Law of Moses says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in Heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the

Since the World Trade Center tragedy people have been healing from the catastrophic loss of life. Now that the tension in the Middle East conflict has intensified, everyone is wondering what the future holds. Will the conflict over Jerusalem lead to another world war? Why do people want to kill each other anyway? Warfare is widely depicted in the Old Testament. God's original plan for this world didn't include the shedding of blood, but because of original sin we live in a fallen world. This world includes warfare, as horrible as that might be. Since the Old Testament times countries have gone to war with each other.





good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust, too. If you love only those who love you, what good is that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect."

Jesus Christ came to usher in a spiritual kingdom and he looks for soldiers to be enlisted. Not to invade a country or find justice against a foe, but to save souls. This is what is called spiritual warfare. The apostle Paul wrote of our foes, "For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty princes of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms."

(Ephesians 6:12)

Our weapons in this battle are not bombs and bullets. "We are human, but we don't wage war with human plans and methods. We use God's mighty weapons not mere worldly weapons to knock

down the Devil's strongholds. With these weapons we break down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God." (2 Corinthians 10:3-5) The soldiers involved in this spiritual warfare are referred to as disciples.

Jesus described the conditions of being a disciple: "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me.

**"For we are
not fighting
against people
made of
flesh and blood,
but against
the evil rulers
and authorities
of the unseen world,
against those mighty
princes of darkness
who rule this world,
and against wicked
spirits in the
heavenly realms."**

If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life. But don't begin until you count the cost. What king would ever dream of going to war without first sitting down with his counselors and discussing whether his army of ten thousand is strong enough to defeat the army of twenty soldiers who are marching against him? If

he is not able then he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace. So no one can become my disciple without giving up everything for me." (Luke 14:31)

While the events of September 11th are atrocious, there is another disaster that no one wants to admit is there. If you close your eyes and put your hand over your heart, you can feel it. Every time your heart beats another person has just entered into an eternal darkness. Even these terrorists have an eternal soul that be sent to hell. You might think that is what they deserve, right? But, the truth is that we all are sinners and we all deserve judgment. Jesus taught us to be careful in judging others, that the same standards are not used in judging yourself. Sin not only involves the action but the motive behind it. Even our thoughts are included. Jesus came that we all might be purged of the sin that hurt him so badly. He wants it to be possible for people of all nations to have a personal relationship with him. ✱

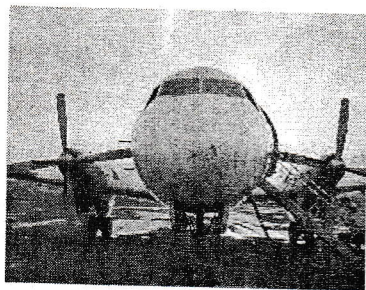




Everyone's a Missionary

Would you give up everything that was familiar to you, all of the comforts of your American-dream life, and even give up your own citizenship to answer the call of God? Would you follow Jesus and his plan for your life no matter the cost? Michael Vrooman and his wife Denise were faithful to the Lord here in the United States, opening their home up to people in need and serving wherever they could in their own church. They were being obedient with the opportunities God was giving them to share His love with a lost and dying world. As they were living for Jesus Christ, God called the couple to go and share that same love with the people of the Philippines. Michael really felt God was leading him to go over there and minister, but he knew that Denise was not interested in living in a third world country. He waited and prayed and didn't say a word to his wife about it. Then, one day Denise came up to Michael and told him that she really felt they should go to the Philippines. They gave up all they had in the United States in order to answer God's call on their lives to share the love of Jesus Christ. It meant leaving their friends, relatives, and possessions and moving to a place where they didn't know anyone and would live in extreme conditions. There were many tears, but the Vroomans knew that being obedient to the Lord was the most important thing.

The couple bought one-way tickets and made their habitation in the city dump of Olongapo, Philippines. Extreme conditions? For sure. But necessary in order to reach out to those



who needed Jesus so desperately to save them and give them abundant life. It was dangerous for white people to move into the dump and live among the natives. There was a risk to their very lives. Disease and death was all around them, but,

by God's grace, they were able to live among the garbage, and beyond living, were totally content and loved the people very much. The Vroomans were obedient to the Lord and the peo-

ple saw the love of Jesus flow out of their lives. Michael had gone over there thinking that he would reach out to the multitude of children in the dump. To his surprise, the adults were desirous of all that God had for them too, and many received Jesus into their hearts. Michael didn't desire to be a pastor, so he directed the adults to various churches in the area. The members of those churches were not overly-thrilled to have the people of the dump come to their churches, and told Michael not to send them anymore. It was then that Michael became a pastor. There was a need to share the Bible and disciple these people whom no one else wanted to help. Michael had his first church service on a tarp spread out on the heaps of refuse. That was the beginning of Calvary Chapel-Olongapo.



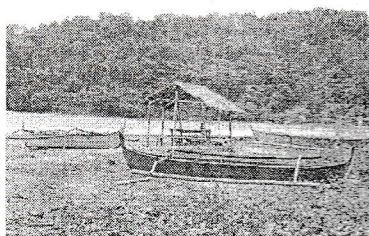
The Vroomans were obedient to the Lord and the people saw the love of Jesus flow out of their lives.

Michael Vrooman does not accept the formal title of "missionary," and would tell you that he is a pastor who ministers in the Philippines and is a citizen of heaven. In America, people are often called "missionaries" if they leave their homes and help the needy in other countries. They are given this title like it is a specific job or office. They come back to the States for a year, traveling around to various churches sharing what they have done, and raising support for continued work. Michael reminds us that the word "missionary" is not even mentioned once in the Bible. It is not a specific place in the body such as apostle, evangelist, teacher, prophet, or pastor. Contrary to what we have all heard, a missionary is more accurately defined as one who walks in faith. With this in

mind, when a person receives Jesus Christ into his/her heart, he becomes a missionary walking in faith toward heaven where he will be physically present with the Lord.

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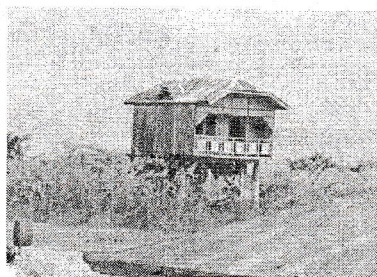
To give us a clearer understanding of the real meaning of the word missionary, Pastor Vrooman gives an example from Hebrews 11:8-16. In these verses, we are told that it was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going, and even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in a tent. Abraham's son Isaac and grandson Jacob, to whom God gave the same promise, followed in Abraham's footsteps by also walking in faith. The Bible says that Abraham did this because he was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.



from this one man, Abraham, who was too old to have any children—a nation with so many people that, like the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore, there is no way to count them. These people all agreed that they were no more than foreigners and nomads here on earth. And obviously, people who talk like that are looking forward to a country they can call their own. If they had meant the country they came from, they would have found a way to go back. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland.

Oftentimes, when we hear the words “mission field” we think

of third-world countries like India and the Philippines. Pastor Vrooman teaches that the “mission field” is not limited to just the third-world countries. Turning to the Bible in Matthew 13:38, we read that, “the field



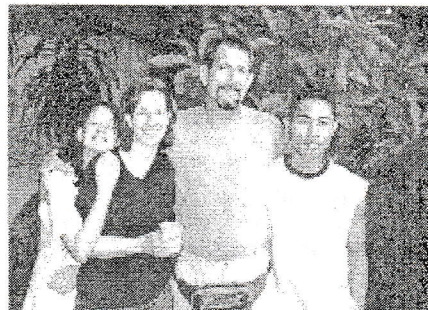
is the world...” Therefore, we can draw the conclusion that wherever a person is living in the world, that is his mission field. The mission field for Michael and his family happens to be Olongapo, Philippines, but the mission field for you and me is the city we live in, the jobs, schools, and places God specifically calls us to go. We are to walk in faith in these places, trusting Jesus where He has put us in the present, and looking forward to our eternal home in heaven with Him.

A lot of times we dream of moving to far-off places and promise God that if He will only take us there, then we will walk in faith and

serve him “the field is the world...”

Let us all learn from Michael and Denise Vrooman's example along with Abraham and the other men and women of the Bible who walked in faith and obeyed God. Let's all hold onto the promises of God and serve Him whether we work at McDonald's, are the CEO of a corporation, or pastor a church in Uzbekistan. Let's not step outside of God's will, but joyfully obey Him no matter what the cost might be. As Michael Vrooman exhorts, “Let's follow in the footsteps of the Ultimate Missionary, Jesus Christ,” who “did not demand and cling to his rights as God even though He was God. He left heaven, made himself nothing, took the humble position of slave, and appeared in human form. In human form He obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross. Then, God raised Jesus up to the heights of heaven and gave Him a name that is above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”

(Philippians 2:6-11) ✠



Endless Failure

I awoke with the twittering birds in the predawn darkness. It took me a few seconds to figure out where I was. Sitting in my car.....that much was certain. Parked sideways in the gravel lot behind my apartment building. But when? And how? From where?

The driver's door was hanging wide open. One blue-jeaned leg was draped out the car door, toes pointed north. My blouse was half undone and covered with a horrid smelling sticky substance. Remnants of red lipstick were smeared all over my face. Or was that shame???? Nah. I didn't have any shame left.

I ran a hand through my hair out of habit, then swore at my disheveled image in the rearview mirror. Disgusting woman. What day was it anyway? My throbbing head fell back against the headrest. Saturday. The day after Friday, the day after I'd acted like a complete idiot in front of all the people I work with. If any of this got back to my boss, I could kiss this job goodbye.

I groaned and squinted at my watch. Five something. The early morning chill seeped through my jeans, making me shiver. My bladder was screaming for attention, but I ignored it, trying to get my bearings, sort things out, fill in the blank spaces. Twelve hours ago I'd come

stomping into my living room after work spitting mad, embarrassed over my anger and angry over my embarrassment. Without even shrugging off my jacket, I'd rolled a thimbleful of grass into a tight little joint and dragged hard on it as if it were a cigarette, nearly choking.

Suddenly the blare of a car horn cut through the silent morning darkness and interrupted my thoughts, making me jump with a hangover

shudder. I sank back in my seat, feeling my heartbeat slowly return to normal. Easy does it kid.

After I'd gotten high last night, then what???? In disjointed pieces more memories shifted into place. I'd fallen asleep on the couch, only to wake up bleary eyed and stupid around eight. After a hot shower and a cold beer, I'd headed for the bar and ran into.....Oh what was his name?

Whatever, still semiwasted in my car, I mustered a smile at the memory of him looking fine in his painted on jeans. Not the man I'd been looking for, but I had decided on the spot that he would do nicely.

We'd downed a few pitchers, danced a little, gotten high in the parking lot. And then.....Nothing. Did we go to his place? Another bar? Why couldn't I remember? Where did those hours go?

I banged the palm of my hand on the steering wheel in frustration, avoiding a second glance in the rearview mirror. Whatever had happened last night, I'd made a spectacle of myself, that was pretty obvious.

C'mon now. Time to go inside. Grabbing my purse, I swung the other leg out of the car and stumbled to the apartment, fumbling for the keys. My hands were shaking so badly it was all I could do to get inside before my heaving stomach sent me in search of the trash can, pronto.

Sprawled on the kitchen floor minutes later, every inch of my body in pain, I fought against the sobs that pressed against my chest. I'd had bad nights before, but not this bad. Not whole hours lost in the

It was pitch black in that hole,
but I'd been down there in the darkness
so long that it felt like home.

blackness, not driving a car blind drunk, risking my own life and others. How could any of my friends have let me drive home? How could they have stopped me really? What happened?

I forced my self to stand up, clutching the edge of the faded Formica counter to keep from falling to my knees. Enough! Thirty-two years was enough, wasn't it? If a chick couldn't get it together after all that time, she oughta hang it up, right?

What did I have to live for anyway?

Right!!!!

I made my way down the hall, toward a shower and a bed, hoping to wash away my pain and sleep away the shadowy memories, yet knowing it wouldn't help. What did I have to live for anyway? No real friends, probably no job come Monday morning, no decent man in my life, no future whatsoever. Nothing but to get to work, make the money, get home, get drunk, get lucky.

Bag it, girl!

Depositing my clothes in an untidy heap on the linoleum floor, I fell into the shower. Scalding hot water slapped me across the face. Numb with pain, I simply stood there and took it. Pills would be the easier way. No pain, no hassle, just sleep. Endless sleep

I turned my back on the water as a flood of unwelcome tears streamed down my cheeks. The pulsating water lashed against my shoulders like a razor strap, a much-deserved punishment. Death couldn't come soon enough for me.

I had a problem, but it's not the one you might think of first. My problem was not drinking, drugs, or even promiscuity. That's the outside stuff, the part that most folks would agree made me "A Bad Girl". But here's the deal, You can straighten up the external act and still be dying inside. People applaud because you're clean, but inside you feel dirtier than ever.

My problem was not low self-esteem, unresolved anger, or feelings of abandonment. Those things may fuel my "badder-than-I-want-to-be" lifestyle, but they aren't at the heart of it. When you get such

psychological issues worked out, people mistakenly think you're "cured", an emotionally healthy woman ready to face the world.

But I know better. I know that identifying, even discussing at length, those prickly to the core issues doesn't make them go away, no matter how many books I read or sermons I hear. My problem was simply this: I was in a pit and I couldn't climb out.

I found out rather quickly that those who had never been in such a pit had very little patience with people like me. They would lean over my abyss and shake their finger at me. *"Don't you know that's a pit?"*

"What kind of a fool gets herself into such trouble?"
"You've shamed your whole family."
"Don't you know that?"

Listen to me, Please. This kind of help never helped me. I was already covered with shame and self-loathing. I didn't need any more added on top. Judgment isn't a lifeline; it's a death sentence.

Good people—parents, spouses, friends, well

meaning folks, Christians—ventured near the edge of my pit, not to judge, but to encourage. They would call down to me, "Just climb out, Honey. You can do it! We're all waiting for you. Come on, take that first step."

This never helped me either. It was too dark down there to even see a toehold or feel a rope bouncing off you're their shoulder or hear a ladder being lowered rung by rung. It's especially tough when you've been crying for a good long while.

Besides, I already knew that I couldn't do it. I'd tried again and again to climb out of that pit of despair, each time only to slip deeper and deeper into the muck. It was pitch black in that hole, but I'd been down there in the darkness so long that it felt like home.

Continued on page 22...
(see failure)

THE GATHERING

street level campus rendezvous

NEW Get a Life!

Street Level meets at 6:00pm
in the Northwoods Room
on Monday Nights

The Gathering (our bible study)
meets at 7:00pm
in the Northwoods Room
on Monday nights

→ **There's Killer Worship, Bible Study, Love, Fellowship, Coffee, Punk Rock, Coffeehouse, Jesus, Heaven, Purpose**
any reason why you shouldn't join us?

LET'S SEE



What's The Good Word?

our student poll • what do they think?

What is your response to:

"Jesus said; I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No man comes to the Father but through Me.?"



Julie- "At this time in history, I think it is important to find faith and believe in these things."



Jamie- "With the events that happened, and you can't even trust your own neighbors, it is good to trust in a higher power."



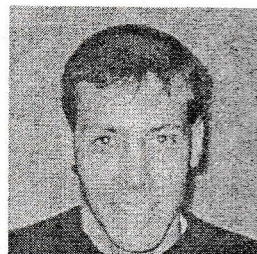
Bonnie- "Everyone has an idea of what spirituality is, whatever their religion may be. Their spirituality helps them determine what their purpose in life is."

The truth is that Jesus not only said He was the only way, but He is the only way. The Bible gives us a clear indication that Jesus was the only Son of God and that He is the sacrifice for our sins. There had to be blood shed for our sins because we live in a fallen world. The Bible describes our hearts as "desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9) and also says, "all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard." (Romans 3:23) But now we can be saved if we "believe that Christ shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us." (Romans 3:25)

The popular belief today is that all religions lead to God and if a person is "good" or "moral" then there has to be a "better place" to go to when you die. But the Bible is clear in its point that our "good works" alone will not get us to heaven. (Galatians 5:4 "For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace.") Another popular teaching is that Jesus was a good man and teacher, but not the Son of God. Well, you see Jesus cannot just be a "good man" because He said that He was "the only Way." (John 14:6) If you can't believe Him when He says that, then how can you believe any of His other teachings?

Jesus also fulfilled over 300 prophecies concerning the coming Messiah from the Old Testament, which was written about 1000 years prior to His birth. For example, Isaiah 53:7 says, "He was oppressed and treated harshly yet He never said a word." This was fulfilled in Matthew 27:12 which says, "Jesus remained silent." Isaiah 50:6 says, "I give my back to those who beat me and my cheeks to those who pull my beard. I do not hide from shame, for they mock me and spit in my face." This was fulfilled in Matthew 27:30, "And they spat on him and grabbed the stick and beat him on the head with it."

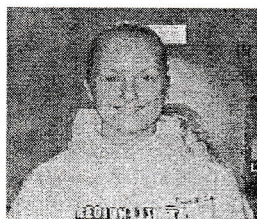
Jesus, who was sinless (2 Corinthians 5:21), not only died a horrible death, but he rose from the dead and beat the power of death. (Luke 24:6-7, Romans 8:2) So now it does not matter who you are or what you have done because "we are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins." (Romans 3:22) Everyone can accept the free gift that God is offering. He is not only with us in the life to come, but we can have a personal relationship with God now because of what Jesus did for us. "Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends." (Revelation 3:20)



Matt- "No, I don't think so. I can't imagine there not being another way."



Josh- "I disagree. If you find true peace within yourself and forgive yourself, there has to be a better place for all."



Jennie- "From a recent experience, I saw how it brings a lot of people together."

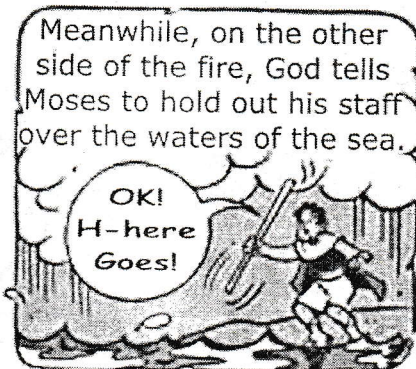
¿SAY WHAT?

Nothing can separate you from the Love of God????????

"Since God did not even spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won't God who gave us Christ, also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for His own? Will God? No! He is the one who has given us right standing with Himself. Who then will condemn us? Will Christ Jesus? No, for He is the one who died for us and was raised to life for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor to God, pleading for us. Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean that He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death? No despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from the love of Christ. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries for tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away. Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:32-35, 37-39)

When you're hurt
When you're angry
When you're tired
When you're hateful
When you're selfish
When you're far away
When you're scared
When you're alone
When you're afraid
When you're envious
When you're vengeful
When you're sad
When you're mourning
When you're confused
When you're doubtful
When you're empty
When you've given up

God still loves you and He is there.



Amazing Faith in Afghanistan

On November 15th 2001, Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer, two of the eight Christian aid workers in Afghanistan were freed from their cells after being confined in harsh Taliban prisons for more than three months. The two women are now back in the United States, speaking of faith, love and returning to Afghanistan.

After being arrested on August 3rd and interrogated for 22 hours, the Christian Aid workers were told that they were going to have to go on trial. The charge: the preaching of Christianity in an Islamic country which can be punishable by death in Taliban courts. A simple child's religious book that can be bought all over the United States is now being used as evidence against them.

Now that they are back in the United States, one of the questions people are asking is; "Since Afghanistan is a strict Islamic state and any other religion is forbidden and even punishable by death, then why would Heather and Dayna go and endanger the women and children of Afghanistan by sharing the Gospel with them?" The answer is love, God's love. They have a great love for the people of Afghanistan and want to share a loving God and the way to eternal life with these people.

Jehovah God is the God of Christianity and the

God of the Bible. Christianity offers abundant life here on earth and eternal life in heaven with God. Christians know that Jesus is the Way the Truth and the Life. Christians don't gain anything from sharing the Gospel. Most of the time they are spat upon, beaten up, and even imprisoned. We share our faith because of love. We are so amazed with the love of our God that we just want to share it with everyone: our next door neighbor, our family, and even those across the world in Afghanistan. Becoming a Christian in Afghanistan may be risky and may even cost you your life, but it's better than spending eternity away from God where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.



The last three months in Afghanistan were the "greatest terror" and the "greatest privilege" in her life said Mercer (right)

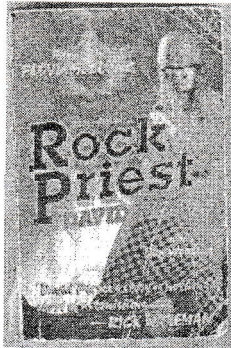
"If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it, but if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Gospel, you will find true life. And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your soul in the process? Is anything worth more than your soul?" (Mark 8:35-36)

Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer hold no vengeance or anger towards their Taliban captors. They hold a great love for the Afghan people with high hopes of returning.

Sources :
www.cnn.com
 Dateline with Katie Couric
 The Today Show with Katie Couric

Red Sea: The waters part and God's people, the Israelites, cross from a land of bondage to a land of freedom.





Rock Priest

Author: David Pierce with Dan Wooding

Publisher: Kingsway Publications LTD.

Drinking. Drugs. Violence. Satanism. Bar fights. Riots. To a lot of people, this sounds like a normal weekend or something they like to do for fun every

once in a while. There are also a few that will go to the very depths of this scene--not to partake in it--but to share a message. David Pierce is one of these few. His yearning to share the love and life-giving message of Jesus to drunks, junkies, Satanists, and criminals has taken him to some of the darkest places on Earth. The book, *Rock Priest*, written by Pierce himself, is somewhat of an autobiography of these hazardous journeys and the mighty power of the living God.

This book chronicles the travels of Pierce and No Longer Music, the Christian punk band he formed in the mid-80s. Pierce was living in Amsterdam, working closely with the Christian group Youth With A Mission, which later formed a ministry called Steiger International. One day at a rock concert in Amsterdam, Pierce told the Lord he would love to have a band because he saw what kind of influence the band had on the audience. Pierce gathered some people from his ministry team who played drums, electric guitar, and bass guitar and they began practicing. Someone who heard them playing said, "That sound is no longer music," so they decided that

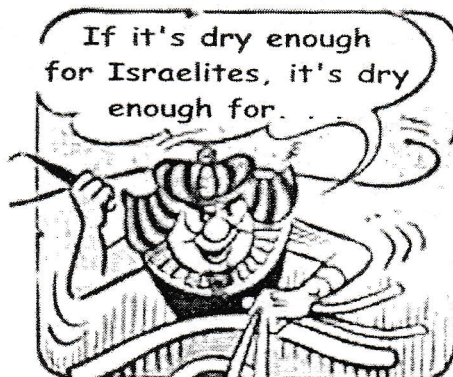
would be the name of their band. Later, someone else listening said their music sounded "just like a factory," so they named their first demo tape "Sounds Like A Factory."

Over time, the Lord gave them many opportunities to play all over the world in some of the most anti-Christian places that existed. They always used a projector to display the lyrics of their songs for everyone to see. They were spat upon, mocked, and their lives were threatened too many times to count, but that didn't ever stop them.

Pierce speaks of the many people that were saved through this ministry and the friendships they formed. The best thing about the book is its honesty. Pierce shares his bad thoughts and hard times and never once takes credit for the things the Lord has done in him and through him. The whole book is a testament to the mighty power of God.

All God wants is a willing heart. Pierce is a normal man with strengths and weaknesses like everyone else. But he was willing. He enlisted to be a soldier in the army of the Lord, and the Lord has greatly blessed him. God's not looking for intelligence or charisma. He's looking for the heart that says, "I will do anything for you Lord." Do you feel a tugging on your heart? Is God asking you?

For more information on Steiger International or to order this book, go to www.steiger.org where you can download the book in its most updated version, *Invitation to the Lion's Den*. It has a few more chapters of updates and what has happened since the book was first written.



Delhi House † Sewa Ashram

REHABILITATION FOR THE DESTITUTE HIV-TB
CLINIC HOME FOR DIFFERENT ABLED CHILDREN
COMMUNITY OF THE POOR

A PROJECT OF DELHI HOUSE

DELHI HOUSE NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2001

When I walked this morning from the Rehab to the Sewa Ashram, which way takes me through hazy slums towards green farmland, I was pondering about my "family"; my kids in the kids-home and the junkies, the sick and the boys at the Ashram. I felt so happy when I recalled the obvious growth I see in them, this inner-change. Some of them were like caterpillars, wondrous colored butterflies emerging from it. The most beautiful of their character appears. Talents never tapped into, not being aware of their existence, come to fruition in our community. Children left traumatized and psychotic by abuse and illness, recover their senses and amaze me with their creativity and inner-peace, such beauty.

By entering the Rescue Center you think you have entered into a horror-cabinet. On several beds sit and lay shadows of stick-like people, covered by gray blankets, bandaged stumps sticking out. By redressing the bandage I see the most

away, clean to the bone. You actually see those two huge bones sticking out like he is part alive, part skeleton. His feet were also exposed to flies and maggots and a big meal had been going on there too. Another guy's lip was hanging halfway down, the wound cavernous and infested, he was spitting out maggots. Tony cleaned the wound and just cut away the useless part of the lip. And then another guy who had the whole skin on his skull eaten away by maggots. This Tony saw when he shaved off the matted hair from the head of this mentally retarded kid. I will not describe what he found underneath it. It was gruesome. The boy died in the night.

We are compelled to serve the way we do, to love like this you need to die. If you abide in love you will abide in God and not wander anymore in darkness. It may be a narrow road, but Jesus, the light of the world, goes before.

wondrous wounds and injuries. One junkie really sets a new record. His right hand was missing, not only that, also the flesh that is supposed to cover half of his arm was missing. Maggots did eat it

I would like to thank each one of you for the support and prayers that we always knew to be on our side. Your love is received here in gratitude. December 5th the Delhi House has it's 5 year anniversary. Thank you for being part of this work since all these years.

-TON SNELLAERT
(tonbaba@delhihouse.org)



The Blind Munchies is a non-profit, non-cheese-ball, cool Jesus hangout. Decked out in antiques and old furniture, we believe you'll find the atmosphere groovy. It is a smoking establishment with pool table, live rock concerts, and bible studies.

Drop by and visit us, if you dare!

Spring Concert Schedule:

Jan 25th	St. Andrew's Descent - <i>Alt</i>
Feb 8th	Angry Atom - <i>Punk</i>
Mar 1st	Mitch McVicker - <i>Acoustic</i>
Apr 5th	Big Fat Jam - <i>Groove-Rock</i>
May 3rd	Beki Hemingway - <i>Alt/Pop</i>

Bible Study Schedule:

Wed 10:30am:	Women's Bible Study
Wed 7:00pm:	The Underground Study
Thurs 7:00pm:	Most Excellent Way - a meeting for addicts

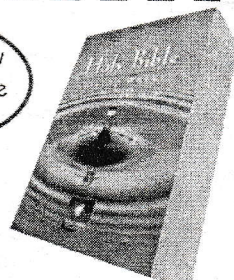
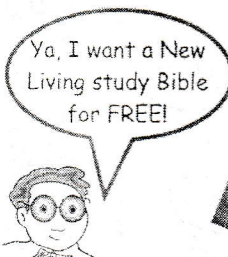
We're on the web at:
www.streetlevel.uwstout.edu
Check us out...or are you a chicken?

Which side are YOU on? ...get the WORD!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____



Mail To:
Street Level Ministries
621 Wilson Avenue
Menomonee, WI 54751

The Lord of the Rings



By J.R.R. Tolkien

(2001)

PG-13

Director: Peter Jackson

165 minutes

★★★★★

Content

Bursting into the eyes of the public this New Year is one movie that may, at first glance, seem to be yet another attempt to present a failed rendition of a best selling book. First, I must say that in looking over the entire three-hour presentation, the production of this film was impeccable. The digital environment created in the film fit hand-in-hand with the true stage and scenery. The camera-work was intelligent. The scenery was breath taking. The cast was well chosen. The sound, visuals, emotions, costumes and makeup were all quite convincing. The movie was elegantly done without ever breaching the more common level of "cheeseballness" many films contain and operate in today. There were no tasteless heavy-metal bands in the soundtrack, no added nude scenes or vulgar language to get ratings. The romantic aspect, while rather small, was completely tasteful (an aspect which is ALWAYS overdone in movies today). I was pleasantly surprised to see that a movie could be produced in our time without all the needless peepshows and verbal vomit while still keeping the attention of the general public. This movie is the first of a trilogy entitled "The Fellowship of the Ring."

The Story

In a land very similar to the earth we know, in a different time, dwelt several races of living creatures. Amongst the populace were humans, elves, dwarves and hobbits. On the other side, in the underworld of evil, lived powerful overlords, demons and an army of evil known as the Orcs, a hybrid race of slaves. The story is a basic platform of good verses evil but with much greater intensity. Not only were there the timely battles between these two opposing sides, but a sense of struggle within oneself to do what they know to be right. It is a struggle for power and strength that, when in the hands of any self-seeking fool, would turn to the destruction of all that exists. Early on we are introduced to the main character of the story, Frodo. He is a humble young "Hobbit" faced with a personal life challenge. Due to the "powers that be," call it fate or destiny, he is faced with the task of doing either that which benefits him alone or doing what would be for the benefit of all that is good. It is Frodo's life-duty to destroy the source of evil power containing the spirit of one Lord Sauron, the all-evil ruler of the dark world. Lord Sauron continues his works of evil through a small consuming ring of power. All who wear the ring become the embodiment of evil. The difficulty with this ring is that there is an intense draw to its power and all but young Frodo have a struggle within themselves over it. He is very afraid and wishes that this responsibility

was gone from his hands, but as Gandalf the wizard assured young Frodo, "But that is not for you to decide. The only thing you can do is choose what to do with the task you have been given." As the story progresses along, Frodo's confidence grows into what is to be the right decision. He must be the one to cast the ring into the fiery pit of mount Doom, the place where the ring was birthed. This one act would destroy Lord Sauron forever and save Middle Earth from death and destruction.

The Message

Jesus was given a similar task in his lifetime. He came to this earth a young humble servant. His beginnings were meek and mild, being born in a stable to a poor couple. Like Frodo, Jesus was given a task in life that was given Him by "The Power That Is." (God) He readily accepted it. Jesus could have blown His entire life on things relating to self-wants. He simply refused to do so. He chose the will and plan of God over any personal wants. Jesus' wants became God's. They were one. God's purpose was for Jesus to share the all-encompassing love of the true and living God with the human race. He was birthed by God to put an end once and for all to the evil that resides in the heart of every man and in the person of Satan. Man's greed and selfishness will one day destroy all we see. God has provided a new dwelling place not made with the hands of men, heaven. Through Jesus we are given opportunity to live there with Him. Jesus could have taken life for Himself. He could have refused to die for the sin of mankind. I thank Him and now understand the depth of the love God has for me because of the death of Jesus the Christ (chosen of God). In the movie, I watched with hopeful anticipation for the victory of good over evil. This, in our hearts, is something we all want. Sadly, in our world, many choose selfish gain rather than selflessness. It is because our hearts are wicked. We all must stop and take a look in our hearts. Would we even help a stranger in need, not to mention the entire earth? Jesus, the Son of the True and Living God loves you with a love that is eternal. Literally, six billion years from now we will all be conscious. The soul of man never dies. Where will you be? My prayer is that you find the truth. Jesus is truth. Like Frodo, He has a similar life-task for you and the ramifications are eternal. Peace.



For more articles about the movie, special effects, and Tolkien and Christianity, check out these sites:

www.passageway.org/default.asp?page=popculture/lotr.asp

www.passageway.org/link.asp?popculture/faithinfiction.asp

www.passageway.org/link.asp?popculture/digitalwizardry.asp

*feed SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE

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



Often, Christians are asked why they believe that their "Holy Book" is the right one...what gives them the right to state that the Bible is the only true Holy Book? Why, with all the different religions and "holy" writings out there, can a Christian claim to have the Word of God when a Muslim also claims to have the Word of God?

At first look, all of the world's religions and Holy Books seem to be legitimate. Religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity have many followers and for thousands of years in many cases. All of these religions claim to have the truth. Many people say that they all have a little truth, and that one can follow all religions at the same time.

There may be certain "truths" in every religion that are common... things like "don't kill," and "don't steal," and various versions of "do unto others as you would have them do unto you," but there is a vast difference in teachings between the world's religions.

So how does one find out what a certain religion teaches? Well, hopefully by looking at their Holy Book and then comparing it with others. When you compare the various religions you will see many major differences. The ultimate fulfillment in these religions may range anywhere from eternal sexual intercourse with 70 women (Islam-death by martyrdom), to becoming a god (Mormonism), to



coming back as a different creature in a future life (Hinduism), to eternal life in a perfected world with no pain (Biblical Christianity).

Interestingly, the Bible does not leave the

opportunity for other religions to be true. The Jews of the Old Testament were clearly instructed to have nothing to do with the other religions of their time. The New Testament, with the coming of the Jewish Messiah, left only one way of truth as we read the words of Jesus: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life...no one comes to the Father except through me." Both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible consider no other gods or religions as the correct way and in fact they clearly define that all other religions are false. Jesus

understood this would be hard to swallow stating, "strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:14, KJV)

What gives the Bible the right to be the only truth, spiritually speaking? Well, if it is the truth there must be logical ways to come to this conclusion...not just

because Christians say it's the truth. What makes the Bible stand out in the crowd of other Holy Books? Well, first, its words claim to be "God breathed;" that is, the words in the Bible are exactly what God wanted

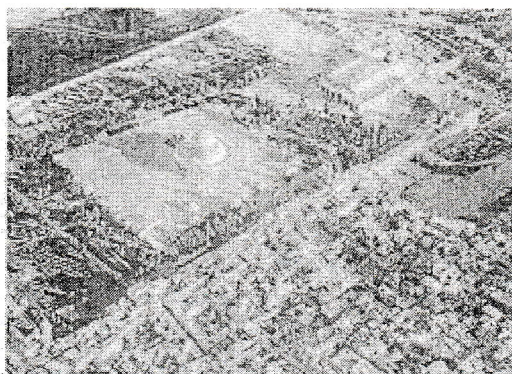
to communicate to mankind and he used human instruments to get it into our hands. How would one be able to verify that the Bible is truly from God Himself and not just the words of man?

First of all, if the words were truly from God, I would imagine you would find no grammatical errors. The copies we have of pages from the Bible have no grammatical errors unlike the Muslim Koran, which has many grammatical errors.

Secondly, you could expect to hear about future events before they happen. The Bible is full of this type of information...it is known as prophecy. Over 300 very detailed prophecies were fulfilled in the first coming of Christ. Many more have occurred since then such as the return of the Jews to their homeland, Israel, in 1948. (Ezekiel 37) Bible prophecy has never failed. All of the other Holy Books have failed to be 100% prophetic.

Thirdly, a book written by God should be accurate in historical and scientific statements. As far as the historical aspect, every time a spade hits the ground in the Middle East, some new-found

archeological evidence verifies what the Bible has declared thousands of years ago. The Smithsonian Institute has found not one shred of archeological evidence to back up the Book of Mormon yet thousands of people continue to follow the teachings of Joseph Smith. Regarding Science, the Bible talked about the earth being a sphere (Isaiah 40:22), that it is suspended

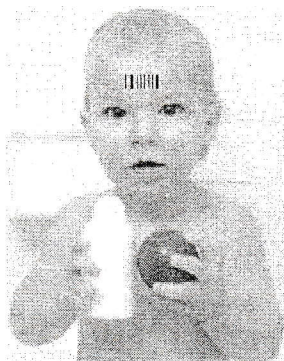


in space (Job 26:7), the Earth's hydrologic cycle (Job 36:27-28, Amos 9:10 and Ecclesiastes 1:6-7), and the forces of the Pleiades and Orion (Job 38:31).

It has been illustrated that the Bible is accurate in all areas that we can test from a scientific aspect. If the Bible is grammatically without error, has a prophetic spirit, is historically and scientifically sound, we must conclude that it is authentic and it has the right to be

called *the* truth. We should probably, then, pay attention to its spiritual message which is the most important thing about the Bible. The Bible deals with the topic of sin and a loving God. Sin is not a very popular topic in our modern society but it is a realistic one. Every day, humans carry out evil deeds and affect others in this world. The Bible deals with the problem of sin. We are all guilty of sin and know it. In order to clean up this mess, God the Father decided to send His own child into this world to die in our place that we may have our sins removed. Only with our sins being removed can we ever have access to God and live forever with Him. The most

important thing about the Bible is not history, rather it is HIS-story! His message for you today is, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." You can have peace on this earth knowing that He loves you no matter what and that you can be with Him forever.



In the news...

UNIVERSAL REGISTRATION PROPOSAL

After the Sept. 11 attacks, several House and Senate lawmakers again began to consider instituting a national identification card, or adding a biometric identifier such as a fingerprint to all Social Security cards. Larry Ellison, the founder and CEO of Oracle Corporation quickly proposed a national ID card to help fight terrorism. Ellison, in a Wall Street journal op-ed piece, contended that "a national database combined with biometrics, thumb prints, hand prints, iris scans or other new technology could detect false identities." Ellison has also indicated that his company could develop the software necessary to do this, but the Bush administration has stated that it will not support a national ID system to combat terrorism.

However, this last week Pascal Smet, the head of Belgium's independent asylum review board, brought the discussion to a new level when he proposed a universal identification system at a United Nations meeting Thursday. Under the terms of his proposal, every person in the world would be fingerprinted and registered as a means of immigration control. Smet said that the European Union had already been considering a registration of all its citizens, using biometric identifiers such as retinal scans or fingerprints.

"It's a basic rule of management that if you want to manage something, you measure it," he said. "It's the same with human beings and migrations. But instead of measuring it, you have to register them."

Australian Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock communicated that he thought a "universal identification system would be taking it too far."

Already, though, "smart" cards and the use of biometrics are gaining in popularity. According to industry analyst, "Frost and Sullivan," there are about three billion cards worldwide. Drexler Technology of Mountain View, California, located in the Silicon Valley,

is currently providing 10 million permanent Mexican residents and border commuters in the United States and Italy with smart cards. The Italian government wants all of its 57 million citizens to carry the new national ID cards within five years.

The Pentagon also recently began arming four million troops and civilian employees with smart ID cards that will allow them to purchase food, gain access to secure facilities, open locked doors, get cash and check out weapons and other military hardware and supplies. These cards are about the size of a credit card and will replace the standard green ID cards now used by defense employees. The card includes a bar code that is similar to the scan codes found on grocery products, magnet stripe to store personal information and a circuit chip. This card would also allow the holders to access secure Defense Web sites, log into their computers and digitally encrypt and sign their emails. The smart cards cost the government about \$8 each.

The stated intention for the registration and databasing of citizens is always to fight some sort of crime - be it fraud, illegal immigration, handgun violence, drug trade, airplane hijacking.

However, this method gives us cause for concern. Registering law-abiding citizens does little to fight crime, but does increasingly restrict the civil liberties of those citizens who are already obeying the law. Those who can falsify information, forge, program, and scan will be able to get around the restrictions imposed by the cards. In the effort to fight crime, or in the name of convenience, citizens are made vulnerable to those who have access to those databases - whether innocent clerks, mischievous hackers, or potential governmental tyrants.

The Bible speaks of the mark of the beast, which will be required apparel for all people, rich, poor, young, and old, and without which nobody will be able to buy or sell. The proposals for a worldwide ID card may not be the "mark" in themselves, but they are certainly laying the groundwork for universal acceptance of identifying every person.

[Thanks to Bob Hampton for his contributions to this article]

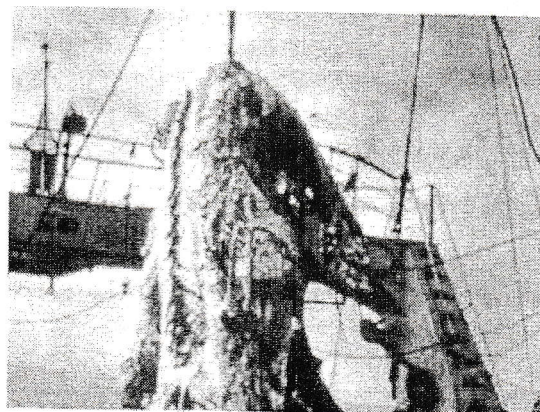
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- <http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/story/1241717p-13120214c.html>

Source: K-House eNews for December 18, 2001

Creation vs. Evolution

Does the observable scientific evidence point to evolution or creation?



***Debate with
Dr. Kent Hovind***

Monday, April 22nd, 7:00 pm
Great Hall,
Memorial Student Center
University of Wisconsin-Stout

- Come find out -

Coffee, Conversation, and Christ Offering Pastries — in Jesus' Name

On Saturday mornings, teams of volunteers from Bethany College of Missions offer doughnuts and coffee in the most ethnically diverse and crime-ridden neighborhood of Minneapolis, MN. Upon seeking ways to befriend the neighborhood team members found that Lund's Grocery Store and Bakery was willing to donate baked goods. The Phillips neighborhood is comprised of people from Somalia, the Sudan, Tibet, Ethiopia, Mexico, Ecuador, Vietnam, Laos, and many other countries. Teaching English as a second language is a great door-opener for building relationships and sharing faith in Christ. But doughnuts and coffee tear down the walls of a divided neighborhood.

Students take some of the baked goods to the Urban Jungle (B.U.D.'s storefront located on Lake Street and Park Avenue). Others fan out along Lake Street taking coffee and pastries to local businesses. At first residents were skeptical — but smiling faces, hot coffee, and people ready to talk broke down walls.

Every Saturday is different, and each has an answered prayer. For example: The face of a Jamaican brightened when he was recognized and remembered. A felon with ten convictions, and few prospects for a steady job, he had a hard time believing some college students would remember him and invite him for coffee.

www.bethanyfellowship.org/pages/contact.html

Not So Serene Scene

David Pierce and his band *No Longer Music* of Steiger International performed at Legnica, Poland and the scene was not so serene. The crazy drunks kept trying to break through the barricades in front of the stage. Big security guards fought to hold them back. It was their final evangelistic concert in Legnica, Poland and more than a thousand people were at the concert. "If you want to know more about Jesus follow us behind the bus," Pierce shouted. A large crowd of people followed them in the dark behind the bus. Over the obscene screams of lots of mocking people, David invited those who were ready to kneel with him and give their lives to Jesus. A circle of about 40 people knelt with him surrounded by a crowd of onlookers and mockers. People spat on and kicked Jonathan (their guitarist) who was on the outside of the circle while they prayed.

This was real spiritual warfare! (Jonathan threw a perfectly good shirt away after that just because it was spat on) After David Pierce finished praying with those who responded he was approached by a young man named Bartek. He wore a shirt with a satanic band on it.

"I believe in both God and Satan," he said. He asked David lots of good questions and David tried to give him honest answers. It was obvious that he was more into Satan than God; but it seemed like he felt trapped and wanted to be free. Pierce asked him if he could pray for him but he said he wasn't ready. David gave him a Bible and they shook hands before he left. God was definitely moving in his life.

They had many good conversations that night and gave away an entire box of Bibles.

www.steiger.org

Front-Line Missionary-A Word from Jews for Jesus

Jews for Jesus missionaries are the heartbeat of our ministry. They are the people who minister face to face with Jewish seekers. Though we have no "job description," our missionaries do whatever it takes to make the Messiahship of Jesus an unavoidable issue to our Jewish people worldwide. Our missionaries are all evangelists. We hand out broadsides (tracts) and make contact in many different ways with Jewish people. Some will tell us, "You should be ashamed of yourselves!" Some will ask us, "Does your mother know you're doing this?" But more and more, we are hearing, "Jews for Jesus!?" I want to know more about what you believe. You can be part of what God is doing among our Jewish people.

We spend the bulk of our time in one-to-one meetings with Jewish seekers and newer Jewish believers who need encouragement in their walk with God. Each missionary is also part of a branch, a ministering family. Each one has a part in branch activities from High Holiday services to weekly Bible studies, as well as a role in our banquets and Ingatherings. We value creativity in our staff and encourage our missionaries to use whatever talents they have in music, drama, or writing in proclaiming the gospel. We like to view our missionaries as being servants --they serve the Lord and serve one another doing whatever it takes to make Christ known among our people. At the bottom line, being a missionary means stepping out in courageous faith and taking risks for God.

<http://www.jfjonline.org/work/frontlinemiss.html>

Called to the Punks

For several years, God has been stirring Ben and Lisa Clark's passion for the alienated and lost young people of their generation, many of whom want nothing to do with God because of their contact with empty religion and nominal Christians. Ben and Lisa of Bethany Urban Development are missionaries to counter-culture young people of South Minneapolis.

Their prayerfully constructed vision statement reads: "God has a plan for this generation that Satan is trying desperately to stop. One third was aborted; another third grew up in broken homes. They're disillusioned with the religion and values of the general culture. Our vision is to embrace this beaten-down, hurting, alienated counter-culture generation with the true Gospel of God's love, to introduce them to the real Jesus they have never been shown, and see the Holy Spirit set them on fire. These people are not concerned with the American status quo; they're radicals already, and once they get a hold of God and He gets a hold of them, they will be totally sold out for Christ - the warriors they were created to be."

Ben and Lisa show these radical punks the revolutionary side of Jesus, whose followers "turned the world upside down." They emphasize, "We're not here to just clean them up and tame their dissatisfaction with social evils. We want to see punks saved and mobilized to take Jesus' message to their own neighborhoods and to the ends of the earth, to give them an opportunity to do something about the injustice they're so impassioned about. They don't look like your stereotypical missionaries, but God will do great things in and through their lives."

Ben and Lisa are part of a punk Bible study with discussion and prayer about social and spiritual issues, which are inseparable. Hands-on discipleship will include missions opportunities for punks to serve God and their neighbors in poor and exploited nations. Webster's dictionary (and society in general) defines "punk" as "young, insignificant, inexperienced, inferior," but God loves to use the "foolish" things of the world to confound the "wise."

www.bethanyfellowship.org/pages/contact.html



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Awesome new music on the scene today!

WHERE TO BUY IT!

Music Force
www.musicforce.com

777 Music
www.777music.com

Christian Music Exchange
www.members.aol.com/cmz

IndependentBands.com
www.independentbands.com

IN DRIVING RANGE

Calvary Chapel Bookstore
621 Wilson Avenue
Menomonie, WI
1.715.235.9300

Chippewa's Christian Book
307 N. Bridge Street
Chippewa, WI
1.715.738.9953

Cornerstone Christian Gifts
324 Main Street
Stillwater, WI
1.651.439.4062

The Dreamcoat Café
215 S. Main Street
Stillwater, MN
1.651.430.0651

Christian Bookstore
206 Bush Street
Red Wing, MN
1.651.388.7801

(Five Iron Frenzy: Electric Boogaloo)

It's not ska, it's not punk, it's not rock... it's all three. From start to finish this album puts together an incredible mixture of ska, punk, and rock that's, well... 'Electric Boogaloo'.



(Toby Mac: Momentum)

"I felt a desire to get back to a hip-hop base, call and response, crowd and artist interaction, the community feeling that hip-hop engenders. There are R&B songs like 'Wondering Why' and 'Somebody's Watching'. There's a couple of hip-hop, 'chanty' kind of songs and some funk-based songs like 'J Train' as well as some laid back, acoustic rap like 'Do You Know'."

-Toby Mac

(Jennifer Knapp: The Way I Am)

Not quite folk, but not rock, either, Jennifer Knapp expands her rock-folk-bluesy style and organic song construction to come out with an album of substance and style.



coming in concert ...

Jan. 25th



St. Andrew's
Descent

Eclectic rock

Feb. 8th



Angry Atom

punk

March 1st



Mitch
McVicker

Skillful

May 3rd



Beki
Hemingway

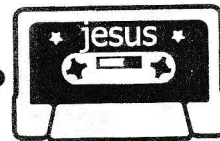
alterna-pop

Concerts start at 7pm at the Blind Munchies Coffeehouse 621 Wilson Avenue Menomonie
No Cover Ever!

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tape review

a bible teaching extra



His mother was an alcoholic. There was no safe place for him to go—inside his home was turbulence and outside was dangerous too. He was kicked, beaten up, insulted, thrown in a urinal, and urinated on. He turned to drugs, dropped acid, became a burn-out. He picked up broken glass on the street thinking it was diamonds and put it in his pocket. When he came down off the drugs, he realized the glass fragments were not diamonds, but because they were from a car accident, he thought they had some kind of value. He quit doing drugs because he couldn't even make himself a bologna sandwich; three months later he still couldn't put two pieces of bread and some meat together. The U.S. navy deemed him a schizophrenic after he thought the ship he was on was breathing. This was the life of Pastor John Duncan until Jesus Christ came into his heart and gave him new life.

**God wants us
to be well-equipped
for the battle,
fighting the good
fight until the end,
and not falling
as casualties
along the way.**

In the upcoming issues of Word on the Street, we will be taking a look at a series of tape messages on spiritual warfare by Pastor John Duncan of Calvary Chapel Lake Elsinore, California. John Duncan explains with clarity and simplicity what the Bible has to say about Christians standing strong in the midst of the battle they are called into as followers of Jesus Christ. The following article is a paraphrase of tape #1 with additional comments and Bible references.

The Bible lays out before us some vital attributes that all born-again believers must possess in order to stand strong in our faith in Jesus Christ in the present time. Satan is real and desires the worst for

each and every one of us. Satan tries to distract unbelievers with all the enticing things of this world to keep them from having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and even tries his best to keep believers from doing anything to further God's kingdom. The Bible presents us with real life examples to aid in our understanding of what we are to do in the midst of war between the light and darkness. God wants us to be well-equipped for the battle, fighting the good fight until the end, and not falling as casualties along the way.



The Bible compares us to **farmers**. Farmers have to be very patient as they plant, water, and then wait for the harvest. They must be faithful and follow through to the very end, or there will be no crop to speak of. As Christians, we need to have the same devotion. We are to be faithful with the tasks that God has given us, carrying them out and pressing onward toward their completion. We are not called to start something only to give up and walk away when things get rough, storms arise, or the hail hits us on the head. I Corinthians 15:58 says, "So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and steady, always enthusiastic about the Lord's work, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless."



We are also compared to **builders**. Builders must take time to carefully plan, examine their resources, and add up the costs of completing a project prior to starting. Jesus tells us that we are to count the cost of being a disciple of His before we begin to follow Him. Jesus says in Luke 14:28-30, "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first getting estimates and then checking to see if there is enough money to pay the bills? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of funds. And then how everyone would laugh at you! They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and ran out of money before it was finished!'"



The Bible encourages us to be like **athletes**. Athletes work out every day to keep their bodies in shape for the big race or game in which they will be participating. If they start to slack by eating a bunch of junk food or by being a couch potato in front of the TV, they will become physically unfit for the game. Just as athletes work out and eat right, we Christians are to keep spiritually in shape by reading the Bible,

staying in communication with God (prayer), and fellowshiping with other believers. If we start to slack in these vital areas of our lives, we will be unable to fight against the enemy. I Corinthians 9:24-26 says, "Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win. All athletes practice strict self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step."



We are to be like **pottery**. The potter is an artist and is allowed to make whatever he wishes with the lump of clay placed in front of him. He has the choice to make the clay into a pot for cooking or into a receptacle for garbage. The clay's purpose is to remain moist and moldable, ready for whatever the potter desires to make. God is our Potter. As believers, we are to yield to God's will for our lives. He knows what is best for each of us, and how we can best be used in His plan for all of creation. Isaiah 45:9 says, "Woe to the man who fights with his Creator. Does the pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with him who forms it saying, 'Stop, you're doing it wrong!' or the pot exclaim, 'How clumsy can you be!'"



The Bible likens us to **sheep**. Sheep know the voice of their shepherd; when he calls to them, they come to him. The shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them. After the shepherd has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow because they recognize his voice. We are called to be like sheep that heed the voice of our Good Shepherd Jesus Christ when He speaks to us. We need to listen to Jesus because He knows what is best for His flock. He knows every single detail of our lives including the amount of "wool on our backs." Jesus says in John 10:11, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will leave the sheep because they aren't his and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. The hired hand runs away because he is merely hired and has no real concern for the sheep...I know my own sheep, and they know me."



We are called to be a **bride**. When a bride marries a groom, she is declaring that she will be faithful and devoted to her one husband as long as they live on this earth. The bride makes a vow to love the groom in good times and in bad, in sickness and in good health. God desires that we love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). We are called to be wholly devoted to Jesus, putting Him first in our lives above all other things. We are to

stand faithful to Him when things are going great and when the trials and temptations are as thick as tar.



The Bible compares us to the **human body**. The human body is composed of arms, legs, fingers, toes, etc., that all get their signal to work and move from the brain. Each part of the body is directly connected to the brain in order for the body to function properly as a whole. As born-again Christians, we are part of the Body of Christ. God has made each one of us a specific part of the Body of Christ with Jesus as the Head. We need to be in constant communication with Jesus because He is in control. He knows all of the details of the past, present, and future, and in Him alone do we live, move, and exist (Acts 17:28).



Finally, the Bible exhorts us as Christians to be good **soldiers**. Soldiers are servants who obey those in command and put themselves at risk of death each day in order to fight for their country. They go through intense training to learn the skills they need in order to fight the enemy. They give up the comforts of their home life to serve wholeheartedly in the war. When we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we are called into the intense battle between the powers of light and the powers of darkness. As people who are sold out for Jesus Christ, we are going to suffer and maybe even die because of our faith. In 2 Timothy 2:3-4 the apostle Paul encourages us to, "Endure suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. And as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in the affairs of this life, for then you cannot satisfy the One who has enlisted you in His army. As soldiers in the army of God, we need to equip ourselves for the battle through reading the Bible. We need to stay in communication with our commander Jesus Christ and receive our direction from Him. We Christians need to remain alert and ready for whatever may come our way-- trial, temptation, or opportunity to share the love of Jesus with the people we encounter."

Check out the next issue of Word on the Street for a further study of spiritual warfare. The tape series will cover 11 principles of war that must be complied with in order to win the battle. Pastor John Duncan teaches that if we apply these principles to spiritual warfare the victory will be ours against the enemy. On tape #2 of the series, John Duncan explores the first two principles—objective and offensive.

Copies of the Spiritual Warfare tape series by Pastor John Duncan can be purchased at Calvary Chapel Bookstore-621 Wilson Avenue Menomonie, Wisconsin or call 715-235-4977 to order. ✨

failure...

(continued from page 7...)

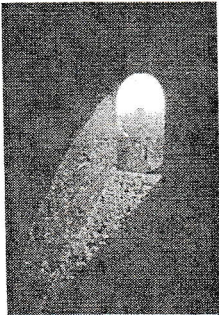
Some believers even gathered in a circle around the top of my pit. They had prayed that I would wake up and climb out—"Dear Lord, Let this woman see her sins clearly. Tell her that we love her"—Before heading to Perkin's for brunch, convinced they'd done all they could for this poor, misguided woman.

Was I beyond reach, beyond hope?

Let me finish the rest of the story.

I fell into bed, sinking into the mattress, a damp towel still wrapped around my body, my arms limp and outstretched, my cheeks raw with shame. I would buy those pills when I woke up, but for the moment I was in no shape to drive. Instead I would sleep. Just a little sleep now and then a forever sleep later. The sleep of the dead.

Little did I know that while I was planning my own unhappy ending, far above me someone was circling my pit, waiting for the opportune moment. Waiting until I hit bottom. Waiting until I looked up. That time finally came when I realized where I was—buried deep in a pit—and how much I hated being there. On that wonderful day, when nothing could be heard but my weeping in that grim desolate place, a Man lowered Himself over the side. He



eased down the walls of the pit (not in a hurry, like you might think but not stalling either) giving me time to see Him coming, to watch His descent and reflect on who He was.

Finally He stood before me and breathed one word into the darkness. My name. He knows my name. Stunned, I merely nodded, squinting, so to speak, to see Him better. His eyes were kind. "I came for you."

I stared at this familiar stranger but said nothing. He brushed a smudge of dirt from my face. "You think I came only for those people up there, don't you?"

"Yes," I managed to choke, hating the very sound of my own voice.

"I did come for them, but I also came for you."

All at once we were out of the pit and on solid ground.

"No." I shook my head, certain on this one. "I'm not good enough."

"That's true, you're not. Neither are they, but I am." He held His arms out as if to cradle me. "Are you ready?"

I shrunk back. "Ready for what?"

"For Me." He regarded me without judgment or disgust. "I am here to carry you out of your pit."

Sickening pride set in and I replied, "What makes you think I want out?" He looked around at my life and saw, really saw everything about me and said, "Nobody really wants to live in a place like this. People convince themselves that they do, but they don't."

"I dunno..." I looked upward, aware for the first time that light was seeping in from above. "What if I don't

like it....up there?"

"You will," He assured me with a gentle smile. "I promise." A spark of defiance crept into my voice.

"What's so good about it up there?"

"That's where I live." He touched my hand. "Come with me, I love you." He loved me???? Boy, that was a new one. Not guilt or shame or coulda, woulda, shoulda stuff. Love. Hard to say no to that one.

I exhaled, preparing for the long haul. "Tell me what I have to do."

He gathered me into His arms like a baby. "What you have to do is simply this: Believe in me.

Trust that I can carry you without letting you go."

I swallowed hard. "Are you strong enough?"

"I am." He started moving upward without so much as a grunt.

"Are you brave enough?"

"I am." We were halfway to the top. My quivering voice was barely above whisper. "Do you love me enough?"

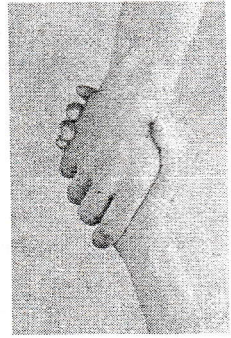
"I do." He looked straight into my eyes when He said it, and despite the knot in my stomach, I believed Him.

The truth was undeniable. He loved me. He loves me!!

All at once we were out of the pit and on solid ground. I blinked at the brightness of life. Or was it His face, shining like that?

He slid me to my feet, "Welcome home."

"Thank you." I managed with great humility. And then I cried with my whole heart....



He forgives all my sins
and heals all my diseases:
He redeems my life from the pit
And crowns me with love and com-
passion. (Psalms 103:3-4)

Sometimes I still cry. I'm crying
now. Weeping, in fact, with joy and
gratitude. You've guessed by this
point, I imagine, that this story is my
own. I know what you're thinking.
How did you ever end up in the
pit? Were you tossed in against
your will? Did you crawl in on pur-
pose? Or
did you
wake up
there one
morning,
dazed and
confused?

Yes, yes,
and yes. Don't waste your energy on
questions like this. It doesn't matter
how we get down in the pit. It only
matters that we get out of it. Not all
pits are dark either. Some are neon
bright, filled with the spoils of mate-
rialism or the trophies of worldly
success.

The ten years that I spent in the pit
are the hardest earned credentials
for what God will do with my life
now to bring Himself glory. Leading
other women that live in pits of one

design or another to the only Man
that will never drop them. Their all
too obvious sins, public sins, mur-
der, nasty sins, sorcery, adultery,
deceit, are not too big of a job for
Jesus Christ to handle. God has the
unstoppable power to accomplish
His perfect will, no matter how
much we mess up. You see, God
doesn't work around our sin, He
works through our sin. I can hear
you now: "You mean God is waiting
for us to sin so He can show His
mighty power despite our foolish

lives only if we accept the truth that
we are not and never were in charge.

2) God will extend His grace to
us the minute that we admit that we
are utterly lost without it.

I did not start out in that pit. It was a
slow gradual decline to the bottom.
But it was a deep dark pit!!! Jesus,
praise God, carried me out of that
pit. Delivered me. Sent the devil
packing. For all that He did in me is
reason enough for anyone stuck in
the pit to repent.

If you have never
been in a dark pit,
thank God with
all your heart. I
rejoice with you. I
will, however of-
fer this gentle re-
minder: If you

think you are standing firm and
strong, be careful that you don't fall.
It's a long way down.

Those of you that have been deliv-
ered from such a pit, you know my
joy. Please, let's not ever forget
those who are desperately waiting to
hear our Good News. And if you
are still down in that pit of shame,
beloved, remember that Jesus came
to earth for you too. His arms are
open, ready, and waiting to carry
you home. ✠

Their all too obvious sins, public sins, murder,
nasty sins, sorcery, adultery, deceit,
are not too big of a job for
Jesus Christ to handle

interference?"

Oh no. God doesn't have to wait for
us to sin in order to act. We're al-
ready sinning. No waiting involved.
God is not sitting around wringing
His Holy hands saying, "Now look
what you've done. How am I gonna
manage this mess?" God is God. He
is OMNI-EVERYTHING!!!

There are two truths that I need to
grasp.

1) God will be sovereign in our

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cool music
you've never
heard before



JESUS FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE TEACHING
SUN 10:30AM + 1PM WED

always:
tuesday 7:30pm
thursday 9:00pm
friday 4:30pm
sunday morning and wednesday nights

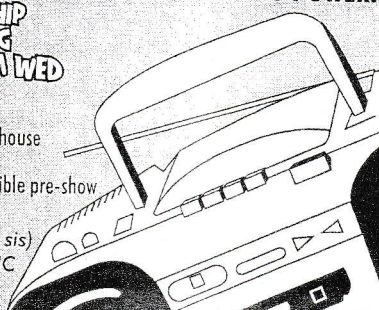
24/7 Juke - a cool mix all day
Road Rash - extreme rock
Radio Catacombs - techno/rap/house
Rural Fusion - everything trippy
Modern Praise - underground bible pre-show

HOME OF THE BIBLE
LUNCH AT NOON
WEEKDAYS

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DRIVIN' STRAIGHT AT-CHA
WITH LESS THAN 1 WATT OF POWER!**





Corner

Beatnik's

Meetin' Grounds

There I knelt, trapped in the darkness.
Empty and alone.
I could see nothing at all.
The pain. That deep, sharp pain
was the source of the river that flowed
down my wretched face.
It was slow... constant.
A stream with no end.
My cold damaged body
was filled with shame.
I was used, dirty and naked.
Worthy only of being lit by fiery flames
as they would consume my entire, filthy being.
I was hopeless.
In that darkness was where we met.
The love of my life.
In His presence, the darkness vanished.
And my eyes... they could see.
I was released from the trap.
He took my shame in exchange for peace.
He took my deep, sharp pain away,
and filled that abyss with utter joy!
He washed me.
So delicately.
And His loving hands clothed my nakedness in white.
His gentle arms were warm,
As He held me so close.
His love for me...
I'd never experienced.
I'd never heard of.
I'd never dreamed of.
I am so safe.
I am so secure.
He is my Lord, and my God.
He is my everything.
His love for me is endless.
His love for me will never fail.
I will follow Him, wherever He may lead,
because by His side forever, He's made a place for me.

Yeah, but what do these words *really* mean?

"But He was ¹wounded for our transgressions, He was ²bruised for our ³iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His ⁴stripes we are healed."
Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV)

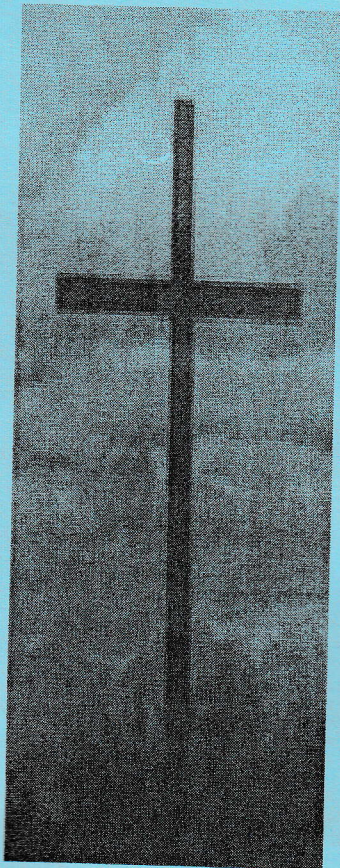
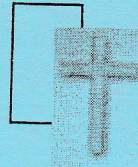
JESUS



JARGON

\jār - gān\ n: the special vocabulary of a particular group or activity

JESUS



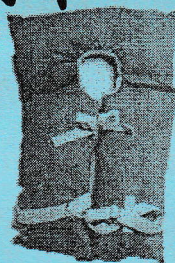
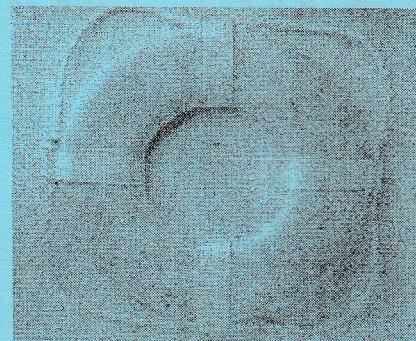
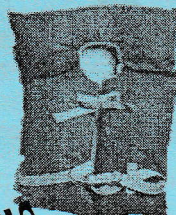
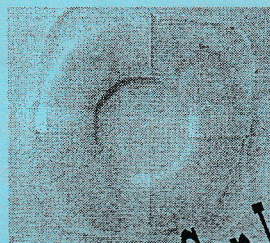
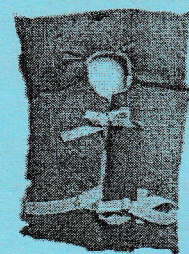
1) wounded \ 'wünd - ed\ n (Hebrew châlal (khaw - la)): pierced through ("But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear...", John 19:34); an injury involving cutting or breaking of bodily tissue (as by violence, accident, or surgery)

2) bruised \ brüzd\ vb (Hebrew dâkâ (daw-kaw')): to crumble; beat to pieces, break (in pieces), bruise, contrite, crush, destroy, humble, oppress, smite

3) iniquities \ in - 'ik - wet - ës\ n (Hebrew 'âvôn (aw - voné) : perversity, i.e., evil: - fault, iniquity, mischief, (punishment of) sin

4) stripes \ 'strips\ vb (Hebrew chăbûrâh (khab - oo - raw')): bound (with stripes), i.e. a weal (or black and blue mark itself) : - blueness, bruise, hurt, stripe, wound

Street Level Ministries
621 Wilson Ave.
Menomonie, WI 54751



God did not send His Son Jesus into the world
to condemn it,
but to save it.

John 3:17