

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry
P. O. Box 750118, Fairbanks, AK 99775

Volume #7

April/May 2003

We have had a wonderful year at United Campus Ministry. It has been striking to watch each of you grow this year. I smile, and laugh a little to think about where some of you older folks were 3 or 4 years ago. Growth is often a slow and painful process both in our personal lives as well as in our spiritual lives. But I believe the important thing is that we are moving forward even if it is two steps forward and one step back. I have faith that over the summer you will continue to grow and to seek out the will of God. I hope that you will have quiet time each day reading the Bible and/or a good Christian book as well as spending time each day in prayer. I trust that as you get outdoors and enjoy nature you will reflect on the Awesome Power of God who created our universe. I hope that you will find fellowship with a strong body of believers who will encourage you in your faith journey. I desire that you work as to the Lord and play with the same enthusiasm. Enjoy your families and take time with your friends and let the grace of the living Christ bring life and love to all your relationships. Pray for each other and know that I am praying for you, confident that God has the very best in store for you.

God Speed,

David

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 26th: Game Day at the Pioneer Home. We need 5 volunteers including 1 or 2 drivers. Meet at the office at 1:30 and the games will begin at 2.

Saturday, April 26th: Finals Care Package Preparation! On Saturday April 26th @ 5:00 p.m. meet at the office to help assemble finals care packages and enjoy some pizza. These care packages have been purchased by parents of UAF students for UAF students. Your help will be greatly appreciated!!!

Thursday, April 24: Dinner and Bible study! This will be our last Dinner and Bible study for the semester.

Friday, May 2nd: Cookout, Cranium and other crazy fun! We will meet at the office at 5:30 and go to David and Clarice's for food, fellowship and foolishness!

Surrender!

What does this mean? I have two books, not including the Bible, that talk about this and they tell me it is all based on trust. I have trust in those around me. I trust that my email will send the note to my mother. I trust that the stove will heat up the water. I trust that the shuttle bus driver will bring me and my bike up the hill. I trust some people to let me down.

Yes, I trust that some people that I deal with will not follow through, they will cancel plans at the last minute, and they will not act in the way that I understand to be correct. However, this may not be the exact trust that surrendering talks about.

Charles Swindoll, in his book Intimacy with the Almighty, quotes Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." When I read this verse I think, ok, until I read "and lean not on your own understanding." That phrase send up flags of all shapes, sizes, and colors screaming "YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE YOU CAN COUNT ON!" However, these flags of mine are completely wrong. By depending only on myself I deny God's reign in my life. I file Him away under "not necessary for daily operations," which isn't what I am supposed to do! Firstly, God isn't and shouldn't be filed into a nice little category between "favorite cleaning supplies" and "horrible things never to do again," and if He was able to be put in a file it might have these titles: "need to be applied to life", "need to be taken out of file folder", or perhaps "Almighty, Sovereign Lord of all Creation".

So how do we, God and I, deal with this? We kind of have a pattern down and it goes like this.

- (1) Something happens that rocks my little boat in which I am living.
- (2) I hold on to what happens with every last ounce of strength and muscle in my body.
- (3) God tells me to give it up what should have been his in the first places. He does this in varying degrees of loudness until I finally give it up.

While this isn't the best way to handle things, it is working, and I am getting better and letting go and trusting God. For example, the Greenland research that I applied to was something that I gave to God very early. God help me realize that if He wants it to happen, He will make it happen. After only 2 day and 7 extra strength Tums I gave it to Him, I surrenders the trip and will follow his lead on where He wants me.

Jumping back a little to Swindoll, Swindoll has four disciplines that he outlines to encourage intimacy with God. They are: **simplicity**, **silence**, **solitude**, and **surrender**. I have found the book to be very helpful in my Christian walk and if you are interested in reading it, there will be a copy in the UCM office soon. I am unfortunately not talented enough to expand on all of the book, so I hope you will read it and take it to heart.

In His Service,

Layne Sarvela

