COMMON GROUND

Vol. 03, No.10 December 2003

This was forwarded to me from my brother. I read it last night at Vespers and had a couple people ask if I could send it on to them. I thought that you all might enjoy reading it.

I ASKED GOD

I asked God to take away my pride.
God said "No".
It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.
God said "No".
Her spirit was whole, her body was only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience.
God said "No".
Patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is earned.

I asked God to spare me pain.
God said "No".
Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to Me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow.
God said "No".
You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God to give me happiness.
God said "No".
I give you blessings, happiness is up to you.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life.
God said "No".
I will give you life that you may enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as he loves me.
God said… Ahhhh, finally you have the idea!

I spoke last night at Vespers about being grateful for the gifts that God has given us. As I write this I am reminded of Handel's Messiah which says "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given…" I am also reminded of John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son…" I hope that during these weeks of final projects, and final exams and the hustle and bustle of the holiday season that you will take time each day to reflects on the Prince of Peace who was born in a manger some 2000 years ago. God worked in wonderful and miraculous ways back then and wants to do the same in your life today and everyday!!!

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY: "Lunch Bunch" --Have a free lunch with friends in the UCM office (306 Constitution Hall) Drop in anytime between 11:30 and 1:30pm.

MONDAY: Music Ministry -- Come to the office at 4:30pm to sing, play guitar or just listen as we practice the music for Tuesday's Vespers service.

TUESDAY: Vespers -- Come join us for an informal worship service held upstairs in the **Wood Center Room E & F** every **Tuesday night at 7:30 PM.** It's a great opportunity in the middle of your busy week to "take time out" for God!

THURSDAY: Dinner and Bible Study--is what's happening on Thursday evenings this Fall. **Meet at the UCM office at 5:30PM** and we will head over to the Moore's for a fine home cooked meal. This semester we will be studying the book of Acts.

SUNDAY: Leadership will meet **Sunday at 6 PM.** We will be reading A Love Worth Giving, by Max Lucado. We are looking for a few good leaders…so come with your fresh outlook and ideas.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Finals Care Package Prep. will take place on **Sunday, December 7th at 6 pm**. Please meet at the office to help assemble our care packages and enjoy a pizza snack. These care packages have been purchased by parents of UAF students for UAF students. Your help will be greatly appreciated and, as always, each others company makes the work enjoyable.

Christmas Party! We will meet at the **office at 6 pm on Friday, December 12th** for a great evening of singing, fun, and fellowship. After visiting and caroling at the Pioneer Home, we will gather for a white elephant gift exchange and good food at Collin Lichtenburger's parents home. Please bring a wrapped, inexpensive gag gift to the exchange and be creative!

Big Brothers/Big Sisters!!! Also this Christmas, we are sponsoring a family from Big Brothers/Big Sisters. We have the opportunity of giving them food as well as gifts. If you would like to buy a gift for our family, or help with the shopping, please come talk to David. Thanks.

United Campus Ministry
P. O. Box 750118
Fairbanks, AK 99775
(907) 474-7804