

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry
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Live Below Your Means

By David Moore

Last month I wrote about John Wooden's Book "My Personal Best." In it one of the lessons from Wooden to live by is to enjoy and learn from good books, especially "The Good Book." The book I am currently learning from is the "Millionaire Next Door." This week I started reading chapter two titled "Frugal, Frugal, Frugal."

The book states that most millionaires are not folks who live the lifestyle of the rich and famous. They are modest people who work hard and live well below their means. I heard on the news this morning that the U.S. savings rate is now the lowest since 1933, the extremely hard times of the great depression. This book states that as families become wealthy they teach their children to become consumers. Thus it seems to me that we have become a nation built on consumption. We spend all that we have and then when we have emergencies we are "forced" to put it on plastic which leads to a whole new set of problems.

My brother is a lawyer in Oklahoma. I will never forget speaking with one of his clients years ago. He was a doctor who made plenty of money but according to him his wife had spent it all, with his help I am sure. From this experience his passionate advice to me (as a kid of 29 who looked 18) was, "David live below your means!!!"

In a society where we all want to keep up with the "Joneses" to have the latest CD, the fastest technology, and the coolest car, remember that your worth is not what you own but who you are and whose you are. I realize many of you don't have much in the way of means but I also realize that habits once started are hard to break. I think that it is critical to take each amount of money that you earn and give a tenth to God. Giving thanks and realizing that everything good comes from God. And with the other 90% do the best you can to live below your means.

Grace,
David

UCM Event Update

Spring Retreat:

Friday, February 2nd we met together at the UCM office to begin our spring retreat and to focus for the weekend on God's blessings. As in the past we stayed in town but "got away" at the same time. We enjoyed the comforts of Marriott's rooms and pool Friday evening. Saturday morning we woke-up ready to work as we headed to the Habitat for Humanity House downtown. There we installed insulation, vapor barrier, and sheet rock. We all had a wonderful time and each left remembering how blessed we were by the weekend but also every day because no matter where we are we are God's children.

Student Testimony

By Josh Brewer

My life lately has been a whirlwind. I am in the process of taking more credits than I could normally handle, getting ready to graduate, applying for graduate school, and getting ready to get married this summer.

There are so many things mixed into each one of those that causes stress and joy. The temptation in the midst of it all would be to succumb to busyness. That sounds weird I know, I am busy so what am I thinking.

Busyness for me is when I feel I am surrounded. I focus on everything at once. The worst part is when I take on everything myself and in the process I lose my focus on Jesus. I think of it this way, the way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time. People will come along and say I have way too much on my plate this semester and I will readily agree with them, but having a ton to do is not a problem. The problem comes when I let work come between me and Jesus.

So I have found that the solution for me is to not just live each day passionately but keep God at the forefront in my mind. I have given control of my life to Him, and even though I am busy this semester, I will not let busyness ever separate me from God.

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UPCOMING UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS

Vespers: We meet Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the lounge above Lola Tilly to participate in an "Evening of Worship." Come join us for singing, prayer, a message, and time with friends!

Bible Study: Thursdays from 1-1:50pm we meet in the lounge above Lola Tilly for a mid-week Bible Study. We will be discussing 1st and 2nd Peter throughout this semester, come read with us these great books in the New Testament. Snacks will be provided, feel free to bring your lunch.

Music Ministry: If you play an instrument or like to sing, come join us in the UCM office during the week to practice songs to sing for Tuesday's Evening Worship. We meet every Monday at 3:30pm to practice for about an hour. Let David know if you are interested or have any questions.

Movie Night: Thursday, February 15th at 7pm we will be heading to David Moore's house for a movie night. We will have a large projector and watch a few movies, eat snacks and relax. Feel free to bring a friend and a snack. Contact Emma Flores if you have any questions.

Fasting and Day of Prayer, Ending with Dinner: Thursday, February 22nd we will have a day of prayer and fasting. There is a sign up list for each student to sign up for a ½ hour of time to pray as we cover a day from 8am to 5pm with prayer. We will fast as well to help keep us focused on the Lord. We will break the fast together at 6pm with dinner at Cutler Apt# 104.

