

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry
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Better than Perfect!!!

When asked what Eryn, my daughter thought about our recent trip to Southern California she said, "It wasn't good, it wasn't great, it was better than perfect" We did enjoy the spectacular Disneyland Christmas Parade, the fascinating animals at the San Diego Zoo, and the hilarious shows at Seaworld Not to mention enjoying the cool Legos at Legoland and the wonderful Mexican and seafood

I have been praying for peace in my life for about a month A prayer that when things go awry that I would realize that God is with me and that there is peace in His presence He has been faithful so far to carry me through many trying events in my life I have also thought a great deal about how this peace is related to my trust in God Basically when I am not at peace about an event I am saying to God, I don't trust in you to provide for me What made our trip "Better than perfect" for me was the fact that when we had a problem, we as a family worked through it Don't get me wrong the trip was not filled with major problems but just everyday life dealing us our fair share of snags

Our first little problem, which was no problem at all, was that one of our bags got lost After a bit of impatience and a little bit of chagrin, we realized the bag was not coming and we went to talk to the baggage claims person Our new attitude was, cool it will be on the next flight and instead of us having to drag it downstairs and across the parking lot to the rental car, they would deliver it to our hotel They did this while we took our afternoon nap and it worked out, "Better then perfect"

On Friday of our trip we got on Splash Mountain, after getting halfway through the ride the ride stopped and the lights were turned on so that we could exit It was a neat experience to see the insides of the ride and to be exited outside the park When we came back to Disneyland on Tuesday the ride was shut down and would be for the next couple of months We were very disappointed This along with other struggles and being very tired made for a little bit of a rough morning But we bounced back in less than an hour and had a great day Our tickets to Disneyland also got us into California Adventure so we went over there to ride their water ride I don't know if Splash Mountain had been opened if we would have gone over to California Adventure It is often amazing that when doors shut in our lives that others just as good or "Better than perfect" open for us to walk through

Our final little mishap happened on the wildest ride of all in Southern California The Highway! The whole trip I was extremely proud of how well Clarice and I navigated the highways and byways, but it was a wild ride Less than five miles from returning the rental car a semi passed us and kicked up a rock and put about a six inch crack in our windshield I did not realize it had happened but Clarice showed me the crack when we got to the Enterprise office We had already spent more then we budgeted and we didn't need to spend an extra \$250 (our deductible) on nothing I showed some irritation but realized that it was not the end of the world I enjoyed the little bit of time I had left with my family and put them on a plane to go see Clarice's family in New Mexico

When I returned to Fairbanks I got a call from Enterprise asking if I was going to file a claim with State Farm I, in turn asked what the windshield had cost The agent did not know and said she would call me back next week I was going to put the whole thing on hold until this week because if the cost of the windshield was less than my deductible I would not file a claim But I had a change of heart and when I called State Farm they informed me that I have a rental coverage and that waives the deductible up to \$400 As far as I can understand I will owe either very little or nothing "Better than Perfect!"

"Be still and know that He is God" Realize that as doors shut others will open and that when we seem to have no protection, God will protect us Trust in God this semester and let this semester be "Better than Perfect"

God Bless


David

WEEKLY EVENTS

(All events will start the week of January 20th.)

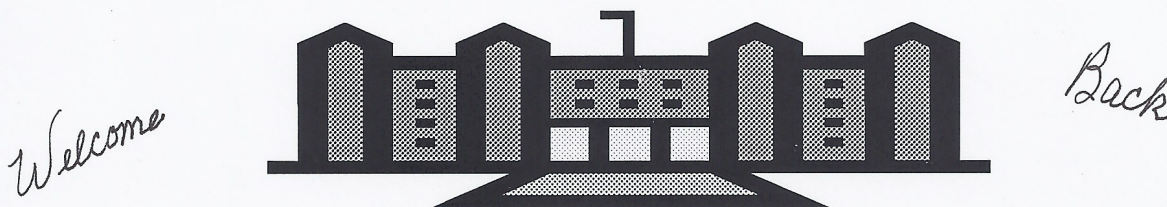
MONDAY: "Ra-Mon-Day"--Have a free Burrito lunch with friends in the UCM office (306 Constitution Hall). Drop in anytime between 11:30 and 1:30 p.m.

MONDAY Music Practice--Come to the office at 3:30 p. m. to sing, play guitar or just listen as we practice the music for Tuesday's Vespers service.

TUESDAY Vespers-- A casual worship service, Upper Lola Tilly Commons, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY: Dinner & Bible Study--At 5:30 pm we meet at the office and go to the home of David Moore for a great home cooked meal and a casual bible study.

SUNDAY: Leadership--Open to anyone interested in planning UCM activities and willing to make a commitment to leadership. UCM office @ 3p.m.



SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Contra Dancing, We will meet at the office at 7:45 p.m. on Saturday January 19th and go to Alaskaland for an evening of fun and dancing.

Come Join us Sing at University Park Bible Church on Sunday January 27th.

Meet at the UCM office at 9:45a.m. and we will practice our songs. The more voices we have, the more fun it will be. After the service we will go out for a free meal.

Super Bowl Party: On February 3rd we will meet at the office at 1:30p.m. and go to Gaelen's apartment to watch the Super Bowl Game. Bring a snack to share and warm clothes/shoes for our own game of touch football at half time.

Spring Retreat will be February 23rd & 24th. We will meet at the office at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday February 23rd and head out to Circle Hot Springs. During this event we will have several times of worship, as well as soaking in the pool. We will return to campus late Sunday afternoon. Cost is \$25.00, if you have a problem with money, please talk to David.