

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry

306 Constitution Hall
P.O. Box 750118, Fairbanks, AK 99775
(907) 474-7804

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Jan. 1997

From the Director:

Welcome Back!! We had a wonderful Christmas break and hope yours was the same. We had many good things happen. We built a wall in our house to create a new bedroom, with the help of Travis Kulp and Carl Lunderstadt. We received a check from the people we bought our furniture from, telling us that we had paid too much and they wanted to give some of the money back to us. Eryn is running around and talking and truly the joy of our lives.

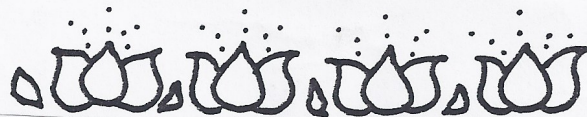
Along with the many wonderful things that happened, we also had our share of struggles. The day after Christmas, we discovered a sewage line break in our crawl space. With visions of a bill being in the thousands of dollars, there were some worrisome nights. Then, with the cold spell, we had to wait and wait for the temperature to rise so that a back hoe could come. Another piece of bad news came while checking our credit card records to see if the charges for the plumbing had come through. The lady began to read off nine different charges made that day, ranging from \$34 to \$519. After realizing these charges were not ours, Clarice looked through the diaper bag to discover that her wallet and checkbook were missing. Though tempers flared at times during both of these events, for the most part we worked together and it seems to have made our relationship stronger.

One of the things I found truly interesting, was that everyone we told about the sewer problem had a similar story of their own. "Oh, we had a line that broke one year and had to be dug up and fixed." "Oh, we had a problem where the sewage backed up in our basement." "Oh, we had a rental property where we had to get a back hoe in to fix the problem." The same thing happened with the wallet/checkbook incident. Many of the people we talked to said that very same thing happened to them, and they advised us to call the police, cancel our credit cards, and/or close our bank account. I have known very few people who have had their wallet and checkbook stolen. I know even fewer who have shared with me about their sewage problems. But as we begin to reveal the struggles in our lives, others also share the struggles in their lives. So often we want to appear to be all "together" and to never admit the problems we are facing. But if we will only open up, others will share their experiences with us and comfort us and guide us through the problems.

Once again, I hope you had a fantastic break, and I hope you will come and be a part of UCM this semester as we share life's struggles and joys, and together grow in Christ Jesus. Please feel free to stop by the office anytime to chat, study, or snack.

In Christ,

David



Believe me, every man has his secret sorrows, which the world knows not; and oftentimes we call a man cold, when he is only sad.

-- H.W. Longfellow --

WEEKLY EVENTS: (beginning Mon., Jan. 20)

Monday: Music, UCM Office, 4 P.M.

Tuesday: Vespers, Lola Tilly Lounge, 7:30 P.M.

Wednesday: Women's Bible Study, 505 SAC, 7 P.M.

Thursday: Lunch Bunch, Lola Tilly Lounge, 1 P.M.

Sunday: Leadership, 307 Gruening, 4 P.M.
(8:30 P.M. on Jan. 26th only)

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENT:

Sunday, January 26, 1997

IT'S A PARTY!!

David and Clarice will be hosting The UCM Bunch for an afternoon of fun, food, and especially

FOOTBALL!!

Meet at the UCM Office

(306 Constitution Hall) at 1:30 P.M. for a ride.

Bring snacks if you wish.

