# COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry
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Vol. 101, No. 6 January 2003

## Praising Arizona

I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas break! We had a nice Christmas and a fantastic trip to Arizona. On our trip to Arizona we did a lot of fun stuff and enjoyed the sunshine. Some of the things we did included: going to the Phoenix Zoo, seeing the zoo lights (with our friends Tovan, Deb and Bethany Adams), going to Rawhide-a western adventure park, the Petrified Forest, the Painted Desert, and riding the Verde Canyon railroad. We had lots of fun and saw many cool sights both manmade and designed by the hand of our Creator. One of the coolest parts of the trip was our excursion to Sedona in the Red Rock Mountains of central Arizona. The beauty of the red rock is amazing-especially set off by the sunshine and the blue sky.

In Sedona we went on a Pink Jeep tour to see some Sonoran Indian ruins. This adventure began as we traveled through spectacular canyon lands with towering red-rock formations. As we bumped along the dirt road I was worried that Eryn might not make it...but she came through like a trooper. We were captivated as we arrived and stood in awe of the huge rock that lay before us. It was fascinating to experience standing among the ancient walls of these cliff dwellings. We listened as our guide offered insight into the meanings and symbolism of intriguing rock-art that was displayed within the 700-year-old ruins. Our guide was excellent and often gave us wonderful answers to questions and then said, "But, we really don't know." One of the things that he did seem to know was that survival for these people was a way of life. Our guide said that the Indians went to bed each night unsure of the sun rising the next day. These statements struck me as odd. I realize what our guide was saying that their life, where the infant mortality rate was extremely high and the average life span was less than 40 years, was extremely harsh; but I also realize that in this time of economic uncertainty and global instability that tomorrow is no more certain for us than it was for the Soronan Indians of 700 years ago. I think that it is important to thank God each day for the food we have to eat, the water we have to drink and the shelter where we live. I think that it is important to reflect on these questions: Am I prepared to meet my Maker? Is my spiritual house in order?

As we were on our way out of Sedona the next evening there was some discussion about which route to take. Should we go the long way to Holbrook Via Interstate 17 to I 40? Or should we take the shortcut through the very windy two-lane road of Oak Creek Canyon? I made the scary decision to take the drive though the canyon in the semi-darkness, much to my partners' chagrin. This adventure was a little tense for the whole family, at the end of a long day in the middle of a busy trip. About halfway through this trek I said a little prayer and asked my cohorts to do the same. I prayed that we would be safe and that our evening would work out well.

It was amazing! We wanted a place to eat and a place to buy books for our little reading monster. We decided that a Target would be preferable. Well, we found an Arby's (which in Aramaic means gift from God). Eryn didn't want Arby's, but was quite satisfied with the KFC next door. I dropped them off and they went to Target while I went to KFC got Eryn's food. Then I met them at Arby's where we had a wonderful meal and a wonderful evening.

I hope that as we enter a new semester you will take time to reflect on the order of your spiritual house. I hope that you will trust God with your life and take everything to Him in prayer. I hope that you will give thanks for your daily bread, water, shelter and the very life that Christ has given you. Pray without ceasing and know that God will always provide.

God Bless,
David

## 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 Practice** -- Come to the office at 4pm to sing, play guitar or just listen as we practice the music for Tuesday's Vespers service.

**TUESDAY :** **Vespers** -- A casual worship service, Wood Center room E&F, 7:30pm.

**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 @ 6pm.

**Each of these events starts the week of January 15th!!!**

## SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

### January

**Ice Skating at the Big Dipper!** Come join the gang as we slip, fall and crash in a fun filled afternoon of Ice Skating. We will **meet at the office at 3:45pm on Saturday, January 25.** After skating we will head over to Food Factory for dinner. **Cost: $12-15.**

### February

**Singing at Fairbanks Lutheran Church** On **Sunday, February 2nd.** We will **meet at the office at 9:45am** to practice the songs we will sing for their **11am** service. We will go to Subway for lunch following the service. Come help us make a joyful noise to the Lord.

**Gym Night will be Friday, February 7th.** Meet at the Student Recreation Center at 7 p.m. Bring a pair of extra sneakers, your student ID card, and a friend. We will play the night away: Basketball, Frisbee, Volleyball etc.

**Spring Retreat February 22nd and 23rd!!!** We **will meet at the office at 9:30am, February 22nd** for a work day at different sites around town. Then we will meet at the Comfort Inn for an evening of talks, worship and time in the pool. We will be focusing on missions and the needy world around us! Cost is $25! If you have trouble coming up with the finances for this or other UCM events please let David know.