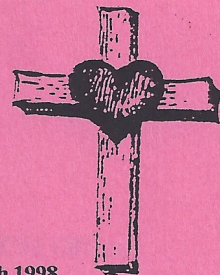


COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry

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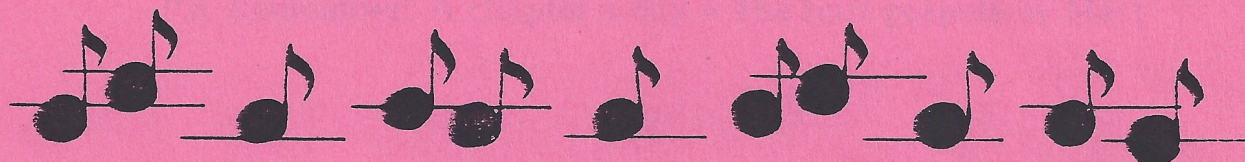
FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Travelin' Man

Once upon a time I made my living as a singer/songwriter, traveling around while playing my guitar from place to place. I would share and sing for many youth, college, and adult church groups. During that time I was often called upon to lead music for people who I had never sung with before. I enjoyed playing and singing by myself, but since I have trouble singing and clapping at the same time, you might guess that I have a bit of a "rhythm problem." Needless to say, it has been the source of more than a few frustrating and humbling times.

I remember leading Vespers music one week at the University of Oklahoma when I came to a realization. Maybe these people didn't sing the songs exactly the way I did, or maybe they couldn't follow the schizophrenic rhythm pattern I would get them started on, but these people *knew* the songs. In fact, it was simply a matter of pride that I was trying to get the people to sing them my way, the "right way." When I was able to say, "O.K. God, my ears are open. I want to listen to my brothers and sisters in Christ and grow and learn from them", I was able to be a better song leader. I also noticed that as I listened to others they were more open to listening to me and the things that I had to say. It dawned on me that we *all* have gifts and that we are to use them together in *harmony* for the glory of God.

On another note, (no pun intended), I also had a few painful encounters during that time. One lesson that I was taught revealed that if you are following the crowd, then you had better be sure that they know the path. If not, you may end up in a mess. At Vespers, I was sure the students knew the songs and they were not going to lead me astray. But what other people or things was I guiding my *life* with? And what about you? Are the people that surround you leading to the Lord or are they leading you to distraction? Or destruction? In my time here at UAF, I hope that I may in some way help you in your Christian walk. I also hope that you have made and will continue to seek Christian friends who will be with you down every path you take. After all, that's the only way to travel.



WEEKLY EVENTS

***MONDAY:** "RAMEN DAY"-Have a free ramen lunch with friends at the UCM Office!

Drop in anytime between 12 P.M.-1:30 P.M.

MUSIC-Practice and jam session, UCM Office @ 4:00 P.M.

***TUESDAY:** VESPERS-Casual worship service, Lola Tilly Commons Lounge
@ 7:30 P.M.

***THURSDAY:** LUNCH BUNCH-Bible study and snack time, 307 Gruening @ 1 P.M.
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, Student Apartment Complex (SAC) #505 @ 7:30 P.M.

***SUNDAY:** LEADERSHIP-Open to anyone interested in planning UCM activities
307 Gruening @ 7:30 P.M. Let's make this the best semester ever!

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Praise Night at Vespers will be on Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in the Lola Tilly Commons Lounge. We will spend the evening singing the most loved songs to the Most High!

Day to Pray will be Thursday, March 5th in the UCM office from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Please sign up or drop in to fill one (or more) 30 minute slot(s). Our goal is to have two people constantly praying for 12 hours - and we can do it! "Whenever two or more people are gathered in His name...."

Contra Dancing! We will meet at the UCM office at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 7th and then head to the Alaskaland Dance Hall. Wear comfy clothes and shoes for an evening of laid-back fun. Cost is \$2.00 for students but FREE for first-timers. Bonus question: What is Contra Dancing? A mix between line and square dancing!

Spring Break Mission Trip will be Friday, March 13th-Tuesday March 17th. This year's trip will be to Anchorage! The focus of the mission trip will be on working with the Covenant House. The time to leave from the UCM office is TBA and the cost will be \$40. If you're looking for a relaxing and fulfilling way to spend some of your Spring Break (away from Fairbanks), then this is the way to do it! Contact the UCM office at 474-7804 for more information.

Ice Skating at the Big Dipper on Saturday, March 28th. Meet at the UCM office at 4 p.m. The cost is \$5.00.

P.S. Remember: A chapter a day = The four gospels by May!