

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry

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I woke up Monday morning fairly early, eight o'clock, we were having two young visitors, Rachel, age 4, and Richard, almost 2. I took a shower, got dressed, and then played with them for an hour. Then Clarice took the girls to preschool and took Richard to work with her. I worked around the house – doing the dishes and the laundry – till about 10:30. At this time, I decided to call the Visa company to see if I could get an extension on our payment, because I had some expenses that I had not received reimbursement for yet. When I called them, I thought that our bill was a little high, like \$2,140.01 high. On the 15th of November 2000, I wrote our visa company a check for this amount. On approximately the 3rd of December, while getting money from my bank account, I realized that this check had not cleared. So I called the visa people and made arrangements to make the payment by phone, after I had put a stop payment on the first check. To complicate matters Clarice's wallet was stolen on the 10th of December, so we got a new account. In the meantime, they received my first check and called to tell me that the bank wouldn't accept it. I then explained that the bill had been paid and the person I was speaking with said, "I see it here; we'll take care of it." At the end of December, I got the same line. At the end of January, same story. Now it is the end of February and I am really mad. The woman on the phone with me is emphatic that I owe them this \$2,140.01. When I hung up, I called Clarice. She told me that when I call her mad, but she wasn't there and I became really upset.

I then walked to the office. Lois said, "Good morning" and then she said, "We got a letter from the IRS saying we owe them 600 dollars." I fiddled with this problem for thirty or forty minutes and then said, "I have to have my quiet time," and went to the library. It was good to settle but I never did get my heart rate down to normal. Back at the office, I unraveled the IRS problem, and it was quite satisfying to figure out what I had done wrong and that we merely needed to file a piece of paper to fix it. I've been helping someone else with their credit card company and now made a call to them only to find that their computer system was down, so the payment I've been trying to make for five days now, I still can't make. I finished putting together some receipts for Lois to add up, when Eric walked in and I remembered that we were supposed to meet at two o'clock. We went to the Grill and I spent half the time telling him about my day and he spent the other half telling me about troubles they were having with their dog.

I come back to the office: Layne shares about her iritis and Cheri also talks about some struggles in her life and then we have music practice. I am back to being fairly peaceful, but I still have a lot going on in my mind. After music I call back the second credit card company and even though I had been allowed to get into the account earlier, that wasn't the case now. As the lady started to explain about protection, I hung up the phone. Again the walk between school and home didn't afford me the peace it usually does. When I got home I was still furious. Clarice wanted me to stay with Eryn, so she could go fax information to our visa company, but took Eryn with her because of my mood. I immediately picked up the phone and called my parents. My dad got the PG-13 version of my day and at the end of the conversation, which was about forty-five minutes long, he said, "I don't really think I said anything to help," but I didn't need him to say anything – just to let me vent.

I learned 4 things from this and I would hope that you would focus more on these four things than on my day and on how I acted during the day. First, *don't lose your mind, this too will pass*. I've told you this a million times and I've been told a million times. If I could only live it out, my life would be much more peaceful. Here is an example from my life which illustrates this: Eryn was crying yesterday morning under the table because one of her Polly toys was lost. I asked her to come out and she said she would for a story. So I told her a true story about herself. That one day, we had gone to the Kiddie Park, an outdoor amusement park, but it was closed due to rain. She cried and pouted so I took her to grandmother's house where she spent the evening under the table. Eryn looked at me with tears in her eyes and said, "Daddy, that's not how it happened." We did go to the Kiddie Park and it was closed, but she didn't cry. She said, "That's okay," and so I said, "Let's go somewhere else instead." We drove 50 miles South to go to Chuckie Cheese.

The second thing is that *when we share with others they will share with us as well*. An example of this is my conversation with Eric. Also Rachel once she knew that I was having a terrible day, shared with me about spending several hours that afternoon trying to recover a lab report that she had typed the day before unknowingly on a corrupted disk. Since I shared this message at Vespers, several people have shared things with me that they might otherwise have not.

Also we need some sort of family. Katie Kritchen bought me a Dr. Pepper to soothe my pain and Aimee Weaver gave me part of a Kit-Kat. Many others consoled me in the office. My father spent forty-five minutes of his time just listening to me and Clarice was very patient and didn't hold my bad attitude against me. We need each other and that means both sharing with and listening to each other.

My final point I read in Philip Yancey's book, The Jesus I Never Knew, "*There is no future in evil, only in good.*" I thought about hanging up on the lady from the second credit card company and that in the next twenty-four hours, I was going to give them a routing number and a bank account and that she had lots of other information that she could use to hurt us. That as we hurt others, we always have to watch our backs. In the same way as we do general bad things we have to watch out for the police and it is best to do what is good and to be at peace with all people.

- David Moore



WEEKLY EVENTS



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

Music Practice--Come to the office at 4 pm 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 v = 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

Our two esteemed Ultimate Frisbee teams have their last games at their tournament on Sunday. Good Luck!!! In celebration of our season, Amy and Jay Helmericks are hosting a **homemade ice cream party** at their parents home on **Friday, March 9th**. Come celebrate with us, even if you did not play on one of the frisbee teams. We will meet at **the office at 6 pm**. (The humble captain of the New & Improved team, who is writing this message, comments for her winless team that we are not necessarily celebrating wins but also the fun we have had. ☺)

To those who are leaving for Spring Break, have fun! The rest of you, how about **bowling** with us on **Monday, March 12th**. We will meet in **the office at 3 pm** and then go to Arctic Bowl and have dinner together at the Food Factory afterwards. **Don't** forget to bring money for bowling and food. Yaaaaa!

Day to Pray – On **Thursday, the 29th of March** we will be fasting and praying together. There will be a sheet in the office to sign-up for a 30 minute slot to pray in the office during the day. The Vespers Service on the 27th will have a discussion of prayer and fasting to prepare our minds and hearts. On Thursday evening we will break our fast together at David and Clarice's home with food, sharing, and worship – Meet at 5:30 pm in the office.

A **sledding party** at the home of Rachel's parents will be what's **happenin' on Saturday the 31st of March**. Bring warm clothes and a sled if you have one, 'nuff said ☺. We will meet at the UCM office at 6 pm.

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:17-21