

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry
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Face the fire with Christ

Throughout this semester I have written frequently about good books that I have read this winter. This month I would like to reflect on the excellent book that I am now reading: "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren. If you haven't read it yet I encourage you to borrow my copy and learn about your purpose in life. In the past few chapters Warren has written about maturity, and getting along with others. He stresses the fact that we are not godly by isolating ourselves and calling ourselves holy, but we are holy because we are able to work through things with our Christian brothers and sisters. In the chapter I just finished this morning Warren makes the statement, "God's ultimate goal for your life on earth is not comfort, but character development." Our character is developed as we face the fire with Christ and walk right through it. Realize that this does not mean we have to take the hardest path or search out the hottest fire. Yet instead we must seek God's way; the best trail. I know as the semester ends and the summer begins that right now many of you are going through some character building. Since you all love it when I quote country music, here are some words of wisdom from Rodney Adkins.

*If you're going through hell
Keep on going, Don't slow down
If you're scared, don't show it
You might get out
Before the devil even knows you're there*

*Yeah, If you're going through hell
Keep on moving, Face that fire
Walk right through it
You might get out
Before the devil even knows you're there*

I know that it is hard to keep going, to keep moving, to keep doing what you need to do when your world seems to be falling apart and when a million assignments are due at once. But pray for help from God, ask for help from people who love you, and trust that you are growing in Christ. May you yearn to find your purpose in life!

Hang In There,
David

Student Testimony

Carrie Hess:

When was the last time you looked at the mountains that we are privileged with here in Alaska and thanked God for the wonders He created for us? Not only is our God a loving God, but He has also provided us with so much. Sometimes in our fast-paced world, it is so easy to get caught up with today's worries and problems that we overlook everyday conveniences and miracles.

I was recently reminded of this when I hit a moose with my car. It was not until after the accident that I realized how much I really relied on the car. For instance, I could go to the store whenever I needed an errand. I was able to visit my home across town at my own leisure. After we are deprived of something we can't seem to live without, then we finally realize how grateful we are for it.

There are times in our lives when we need to be reminded of the small things that God has given us. Some things we can be grateful for are the food on our plates, the rainbow in the sky after a storm, or the friendships that we have made in UCM. Make yourself aware of what God has given you everyday; write down one new item a day in your journal or on post-it notes in random places such as your mirror or refrigerator. It is so easy to forget the good that God has bestowed upon us. Let us rejoice!

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UPCOMING UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS

Vespers: We meet Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the lounge above Lola Tilly to participate in an "Evening of Worship." Come join us for singing, prayer, a message, and time with friends! The last Vespers of the semester is May 1st. **Vespers will resume September 11, 2007.**

Bible Study: Thursdays from 1-1:50pm we meet in the lounge above Lola Tilly for a mid-week Bible Study. We will be discussing 1st and 2nd Peter throughout this semester, come read with us these great books in the New Testament. Snacks will be provided, feel free to bring your lunch. The last bible study of the semester will be May 3rd. **Bible Study will resume September 13, 2007.**

Music Ministry: If you play an instrument or like to sing, come join us in the UCM office during the week to practice songs to sing for Tuesday's Evening Worship. We meet every Monday at 3:30pm to practice for about an hour. Let David know if you are interested or have any questions. The schedule practice time can be changed next semester. Let us know what works for you.

End-of-the-Year Cookout: Friday, May 4th we will meet at the UCM office at 5:30 pm to head to the Moore's house for our annual cookout and games to celebrate spring and the end of yet another semester. Please come join us for dinner, games and memories. If you would like to meet us directly at the Moore's house we will be starting dinner at 6pm.

Summer Events: This summer we will be getting together approximately once a week to hang out, eat dinner, work for Habitat or share in other fun activities. If you are going to be in Fairbanks this summer and would like to be contacted about these events please be sure to give us a call or email us with your contact information. **These events will be around the 10th of June.** See you then!

