COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry P. O. Box 750118, Fairbanks, AK 99775 (907) 474-7804

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I was sitting in the library with my shoes off praying when what I wanted to write about hit me. See, the message this Sunday at my church was about removing stress from our lives during stressful times. It was a great sermon, but that is not my point. My point is, I was actually doing something (taking my shoes off) that was talked about in the sermon. John, our pastor, mentioned this point, stating that it would add 3 years to our lives. John also noted that we should do something wild each day. So I asked Clarice if I could moon some folks on our way home from church. The answer was a calm no. But back to my point, which is, we hear a lot from sermons, newsletter articles and books, and I have found lately that I am actually applying them to my life...what a novel concept.

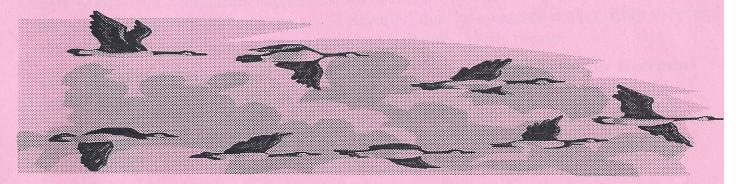
Last week at Vespers I shared that I got stressed before our fall retreat and that Amy Price asked me if I had prayed about the situation. I was a little indignant and a little miffed. I had been praying for the retreat since summer but I really had not prayed about this particular situation. I might have ignored Amy, but in Bible Study Thursday evening the question came up. Do you listen to advice from others or do you let it go in one ear and out the other? Hearing this question again in my head, I decided to go and pray about the situation at hand and was able to get myself calmed down.

This reminds me of James 1:22-24 "But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was."

My question to you today is twofold. First, are you reading about God either in the Bible or a Christian book, or hearing His message in a sermon each week? If not I would encourage you to read, go to church, come to Vespers and Bible study. Finally, as you do these things, try to take away something that you can apply or reapply to your life. We are not going to apply every point to our life but if we can take one or two good points from each message we hear we prove ourselves teachable, and that is what God wants us to be.

Vaya con Dios,

David



WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY: "Ra-Mon-Day"--Have a free Burrito 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 3:30 p. m. 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 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 @ 3p.m.



SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Fundraiser Dinner at The River's Edge Resort. Come join us for a fun evening with friends and community supporters. Meet at the office at 5:30 p.m. Saturday November 10th. We will caravan to the River's Edge for a catered dinner, slide show and singing. This a great night for dressing up, no jeans or T shirts please.

Ice Skating at the Big Dipper We will meet at the office at 3:45 Saturday December 1st for an entertaining evening of ice skating. Cost is \$5.00.