



COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry
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Vol. 09, No. 5

November 2011

One More Round

At the beginning of this semester I was baptized. I know there is some controversy within different churches about when to be baptized and other things, but I felt I needed to reaffirm my faith. I had realized that even though I was not being “bad” I was not trusting God’s plan. Among other things I was struggling with bitterness. No matter how much I wanted to let go of the pain, I just kept holding on. When I finally mostly let go this summer that is when I realized I needed to reaffirm my faith.

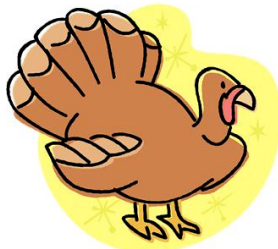
For several months I was doing well. I had joy unspeakable and even when school started to get a little crazy I had peace only by God’s grace. Then all of a sudden-I was probably headed for disaster and I didn’t see it-I was hurt very deeply and this pain that I had closed my eyes to came flooding back. After forgiveness came and I remembered that God has a plan for me, I was okay although not one hundred percent, but still above average.

About a week later the pain came flooding back in an even greater rush. I had not felt that bitter, frustrated, tired, and weary since before I was baptized. Of course, it was not as bad as the initial pain and I knew that I had to give it to God because there was nothing I could do, but it still hurt a lot.

After continuing to follow God’s word to the best of my ability and trying to trust that God is constant no matter how I feel, I slowly began to realize that God was still good and there was still good to be done. Christ’s blood saved me and is my hope. My hope does not depend on my circumstances, and God made my heart new so he has power over the way I feel.

Now I have returned to God’s promise of hope and a future. I am sure my struggles are not over, but that just means I am going to get stronger. I will keep fighting the good fight until that final ring of the bell when I hope God says “well done my good and faithful servant.”

Margaret



Let us Pray!

On Sunday morning I help teach the high school Sunday school class at our church. This past Sunday we went around and shared why we believe in God. I was struck by the number of testimonies that I had prayed about or that others had prayed for. God hear our cries and wants to give us the desires of our heart. This does not mean that every prayer is answer “Yes!” Sometime God says, “No.” and sometimes God says, “Wait.” Our job is to pray and trust that God is God and that He has the very best in store for us.

Pray the serenity Prayer:

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

Or pray the prayer of Jesus:

Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The beginning of revival and renewal starts with prayer. It is a statement of faith saying, “You are God and I need your help.” There are several prayer groups meeting on campus. One group meets on Tuesday afternoon @ 1:30pm out by the circle of flags by the Bonnell building. Another group meets Wednesday at that same location @ 2:30pm. (Both of these groups may move into the Great Hall soon. I will try to keep you posted.) A third group meets in the Great Hall @ 1:05pm on Thursday. Whether you join with these folks or you are taking time on your own; take some time to pray! You will be glad that you did!

Peace,

David

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UPCOMING UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS

Tuesday Evening Worship is at 7:30 pm in the Lounge above Lola Tilly Commons. We call this worship service Vespers (meaning an evening worship service). The service consists of singing, testimony, a short message, and a time of quiet reflection. This is a great mid-week pick-me-up.

Thursday Evening Dinners! Every Thursday we will meet at the United Campus Ministry office and head over to the Moore's for dinner. Afterwards we will either have Bible Study, go to a UAF sporting event, or do a service project. For Bible Study this semester we will be doing a study of the lessons we can learn from the Parables of Jesus.

Game Night: Friday, November 11th, we will have a game night at the Moore's House. We will meet at the office at 7:00pm and the festivities will begin at the Moore House around 7:15pm. Bring your favorite games, a snack, and your friends, for this night of fun.

Thanksgiving Dinner: Thursday, November 24th is Thanksgiving which is time to see family, but if you cannot go to your blood relatives come join the UCM family. We will come together on Thanksgiving Eve to make the food, and then on Thanksgiving we will eat enough to be Kings and Queens.

