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Common Ground

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A Study of Grace

I hope that you had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break and that you are ready for the spring semester. Clarice and I traveled to Moscow, Idaho to visit our daughter Eryn. We enjoyed snowshoeing, building a huge snowman, watching Ultimate Beast Master on Netflix and playing Mario Kart. Then it was on to Arizona to visit with my mom and Clarice's sister. We visited Sabino Canyon, The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, took a drive to Mount Lemmon, and went to the Tucson Tamale Co. 15 times. We had a great time at all these places but what I want to share about in this article is Biosphere 2. Biosphere 2 is one of the world's most unique facilities dedicated to the research and understanding of global scientific issues. The Biosphere 2 facility serves as a laboratory for controlled scientific studies, an arena for scientific discovery and discussion, and a far-reaching provider of public education. Its mission is to serve as a center for research, outreach, teaching and life-long learning about Earth, its living systems, and its place in the universe. Our tour was educational and interesting but what got my attention was a 2 year experiment where the Biosphere was enclosed for research back in the early 1990's. I am reading Phillip Yancy's book "What's So

Amazing about Grace." In the book, Yancy shares about the 4 men and 4 women who had volunteered for this two-year isolation experiment. He conveyed that within months the 8 had divided into two teams of 4, "And during the final months of the experiment these two groups refused to speak to each other." His point was that we live in a world filled with "Ungrace." God's call for us is to be gracious as God is gracious! Jesus said,

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Wow, what a heavy load to give you before school has even begun. I encourage you to show grace, kindness, and forgiveness. In the words of the apostle Paul, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

God Bless - David



UPCOMING UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS

Wednesday Evening Worship Starting January 17 we'll meet every Wednesday at 7:30PM in **Brooks Building Room 302**. We call this worship service Vespers (evening worship service). Vespers consists of singing, student testimony, a short message, and a time of quiet reflection.

Sunday Dinner and Bible Study Meet us at the United Campus Ministry office (306 Constitution Hall) every Sunday at 5:30PM starting January 21st, where we'll carpool out to the Moore's house for a dinner, bible study, and fellowship.

Volunteering @ Loving Companions: Saturday, January 27, we will be volunteering at the Loving Companions Animal Rescue cleaning kennels, cat boxes, and walking dogs. If you would like to come with us we will meet at the UCM office at 4PM and head over, we should be done working around 6:30PM. Afterward work we will go out to eat! (Dinner is on UCM) We should get back to campus by 8PM.

Volunteering @ the Food Bank: Saturday, February 17 we will be volunteering at the Fairbanks Food Bank putting together boxes for people in need. If you would like to come with us we will meet at the UCM office at 11:00AM and head over, we should be done with work around 2PM. Afterwards we will go out to eat. We should get back to campus around 3:30PM. Lunch is on US!

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