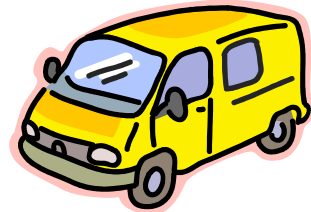




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COMMON GROUND

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Trusting In God More Than Man

Recently I was standing in line at the post office, when the topic of cold weather came up (it was 28 below this morning). One of the young ladies mentioned that Fairbanks was due for a warm front today. I chimed in that u had heard a high-pressure system was coming and was supposed to warm us up. She then stated "I know, I didn't even plug in my car!"

This is the kind of faith God wants us to have. Not just believing but fully trusting, and putting that trust into action. We as a group are reading a survey of the New Testament and it has been inspiring to read the repeated theme of faith being rewarded. God is far more reliable then the weatherman. Let us pray like the persistent window, have faith like blind Bartimaeus, let us have the fortitude of the women who merely touches Jesus and is healed. Be persistent in you school work, have the faith to be faithful in your spiritual walk, and have the fortitude to believe that just like the sunshine is coming back, so is the Son of Man.

Peace,
David

Trusting God through Trials

Jesus warned that, "in the world, you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Troubles can come in multiple shapes and forms. Illness, stress, persecution, sin, doubt, guilt, the list could go on. Many things of the world clamor for our attention or try to shoot us down and take away the joy of our salvation. It seems at times that life is nothing but trouble. Sadly, I think there's a common misconception that a Christian life means a trouble-free life, but a quick glance at the Bible proves otherwise (John 15:20, 1 Thessalonians 3:4, Hebrews 11:35-38). In fact, I think that troubles tend to

increase the more we walk with God because our values and morals begin to change and conflict with the world. These sorts of troubles can wear us down and challenge our faith, thinking that maybe we aren't saved, that God has abandoned us, or that He doesn't care. In my own life, I'm a doubter. I struggle with assurance and faith in God's love. I spent 3 years struggling with the Gospel after a false teaching nearly destroyed everything I knew about God. The scars are still there even after all that time and evil loves to rub it in my face.

We all have something that we're ashamed of. Maybe there's something you've done in the past that haunts you, a skeleton in the closet that rattles the door of your heart when you think it's gone away, or a situation where you feel helpless and you wonder if God even cares or really loves you? But God is "good to those who wait for Him, to the soul to seeks him" (Lamentations 3:25) and He is faithful to all His promises (2 Timothy 2:13). In His word, He assures us to not fear (Lamentations 3:57, Isaiah 41:10) and that He is always with us (Matthew 28:20) and will never let us go (John 10:29). We have to anchor ourselves in God's word and trust in His faithfulness. And it's an anchor that will not fail. No matter what assaults you, if you have trusted in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, He will never let you fall. Take heart. For, "I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:13-14).

I leave with a quote that has always stuck with me anytime doubt comes my way: "The devil does not assault the hope of the hypocrite, as he does the hope of the true saint." -Jonathan Edwards

-Jess Morris



UPCOMMING UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS

Tuesday Evening Worship Every Tuesday at 7PM 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.

Thursday Lunch Bunch will be meeting at the United Campus Ministry office (306 Constitution Hall) every Thursday from 1PM-1:50 PM. This semester we will continue our study of the book of John. Feel free to bring your own lunch; we will provide cookies, milk, and Ramen.

Ice Alaska! Sunday, March 9th, we will meet at the UCM office at 6PM and head over to see the ice sculptures at the Ice Park. It can get pretty cold so please bring WARM clothing and money for snacks/souvenirs if you wish. The Cost for the event is \$5.

Spring Break Trip (to Anchorage!) Every year UCM has a spring break trip, and this year we are going to Anchorage. We are staying the night at St. John's United Methodist church and will be helping out at the Anchorage Food Bank, singing at St. Johns, Skiing at Alyeska, and more. For a complete list of times, events, and items to bring, please contact the UCM office. Cost is \$225 if you are skiing and \$175 if you are not skiing.



Annual UCM Thank You Dinner! On Sunday, April 6th, UCM will be having its annual "thank you" lasagna dinner at 6:PM at University Community Presbyterian Church. We'll begin setting up at 4:pm (moving chairs, cooking food, setting up the projector, etc.) at the church. If you would like to help with set up you can either meet us at the church (located next to Beaver Sports) or a group will be walking down from the UCM office at 3:40pm.

Call for Pictures!!! if you have any pictures of UCM people, places, or events please send them to office@uaf.edu before March 26th so we can use them for our annual slideshow!

