

The MK Connection

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The Heart of Worship

A word from the Director, Perry Bradford

Points of Interest

MK Gathering at Urbana 2003. Check the Mu Kappa website for info.

17th Annual MK Snow Camp, January 16-18, 2004. Set your calendars.

New Mu Kappa chapters are starting at Texas Tech University and Ohio State. Keep these schools in your prayers.

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I recently read a great book that I want to recommend to you, *"The Purpose Driven Life"*, by Rick Warren. This book answers many questions that people are asking today and I found it to be very helpful in my spiritual journey. If you haven't read it...it is worth your time and money!

In the 10th chapter Rick talks about the Heart of Worship and he says this, *"The heart of worship is surrender. Surrender is an unpopular word, disliked almost as much as the word submission. It implies losing, and no one wants to be a loser. Surrender evokes the unpleasant images of admitting defeat in battle, forfeiting a game, or yielding to a stronger opponent."* WOW...how true this is! No one likes to surrender.

This past Father's Day was a day of surrendering for me. My dad was going in for some surgery to clear out some blocked arteries in his legs. Dad had been living with the effects of diabetes and it had caught up with him. The surgery was pretty routine...it was to be done on a Thursday morning and he was to be out of the hospital either that afternoon or Friday morning. We were headed down from WI to KY on that Friday, 2 days before Father's Day. See I was coming down to celebrate Father's Day with dad and the rest of my family. I was planning to do some construction work on their porch, replace the railings and such. Well, we got a phone call on Thursday evening saying that there were complications with the surgery and dad was being moved to another hospital for more extensive surgery that night. We

prayed, slept and took off on Friday morning. When we arrived in KY...things had gotten worse. Dad was not doing well and by Saturday morning...the doctors told us that he was not going to make it. Talk about some unexpected events. We cried and asked the question why? I did my best to support my mom and sisters...but deep inside I was hurting as well. Dad rested well on Saturday night but on Sunday morning things got critical. We were losing him! As my mom and I left the ICU ward that Sunday morning...we held each other, cried and

had to give dad back to the Lord for safe keeping. In other words we had to "surrender"! That was a hard time, surrender is never easy, but necessary. A few hours later as the whole family stood around dad's hospital bed...we watched and prayed him into the arms of the Lord. A special time it was!

I share this with you for one reason...surrendering to God is the heart of worship. It is the natural response to God's amazing love and mercy. We give ourselves to him, not out of fear or duty, but in love, "because he first loved us." I think our act of surrender that morning was an act of worship to God. He was calling one of His children home. Emotionally, we needed to let go and surrender. In doing so, we have found that those moments are precious to all of us. In our surrender of dad to the Lord...we drew near to God.

What do you need to surrender today? Whatever it is...give it up to God...surrender to Him. Offering yourself to God is what worship is all about.

*"Give yourself to
God, surrender
your whole being
to him to be used
for righteous
purposes..."*

The Secret of Friendship

Action Point

Within the next 7 days, decide on one person you would enjoy having as a friend. Go out of your way to do three things for that person as a gesture of friendship!

There isn't a person alive who doesn't want friends. In fact God created us to be relational people. But friendship is one of those things some people don't know how to create. They just don't seem to know how to make friends.

There are many ways to make friends. Some people try to "buy" them by paying for everything at the restaurant of movies. Most likely this is not your problem as an MK!!! Others make friends through intimidation...by bullying weaker people into some kind of artificial relationship. Others act weak and rely on the pity of others. But of all the ways to get someone to be your friend, the best way is to be a good friend yourself.

What is a good friend? A good friend appreciates your company, likes to talk to you, listen to your advice, keeps confidences, protects your reputation, cares when you're depressed, gives you gifts, speaks well of you to other people, and much more.

You should make a list of all the things you feel are important in a good friendship. What are all the things you would like a good friend to be to you? Those are the very things you should do

for the people you want to be your friends.

Once you make your list, consider which people you would like as friends. Begin doing the things on your list for the people you have in mind, and see if new friendships don't develop.

When it comes to friendships, adults have the same insecurities that children and teenagers have. After you're married, the question changes from, "Will I have a date for the party?" to "Will I ever be invited to the party?" What insecurities do you have? You have just started another year of college, for some of you...this is your freshman year. You are looking for good quality friendships...it is said that college friendships last a lifetime. I can sure say that about many of my college friends. I'm still close friends to many of them. If you want to make friends...you have to be a good friend first. Many college students wait for other people to be friendly first before they allow themselves to be friendly in return. They respond to other people's friendship rather than initiating friendships on their own. It is far better to be a friend first, and then look for friendships in return.

"A Principle to Live By"

Key Questions about Friendship:

- ◆ Who are the 5 people you would most like to be friends with at this point in your life? Why?
- ◆ How can you go out of your way to be friendly toward these people? How would you want them to go out of their way to be friendly to you if your situations were reversed?
- ◆ Is there anything you're doing that may give people the impression you're unfriendly? (For example, sometimes a shy person can be accused of acting "stuck up".)