

I've heard it said that when someone has cancer, they find out who are their true friends. Regrettably, I think this may also be true for anyone going through a difficult time. It's easy to take a meal over and celebrate with a family that just had a new baby. Or spend a few minutes visiting someone in the hospital. But when someone is going through a really hard situation, why does it seem like that's when we find our true friends?

There's a man who just turned eighty-six this month. Because of his age, most of his family and friends have already passed away. His health has deteriorated slowly over the last few years, but recently weight loss and difficulty breathing have rapidly diminished his health. He is still living in his home while family members take meals, help him with his medication, and spend the night in order to keep him safely in his own surroundings. His community has been generous to love him during his last remaining days. Last night, the man – my grandpa – died. Several family members were with him, in his home, while he took his final breaths. This is a beautiful picture of community. They put their own comforts aside and loved this man deeply, even when it was hard.

There's a man whose wife was diagnosed with breast cancer – again. They had two young kids. This man's community prayed with them, helped take care of the kids, did laundry, and took meals. And when the woman died, his community grieved with him. A year after her death, his closest friends organized a small get-together to remember her. They prayed together, hugged, had snacks and played basketball. They've continued to love on his children and celebrate their accomplishments. His community stuck with him, even when it got difficult.

There's a man who had thousands of followers. They listened to His teaching, ate His fish and bread, and watched Him perform miracles. But then, in a strange twist of events, His community was reduced to his mother and a few followers. Some of those even deserted Him at the last moment. This man, of course, is Jesus. As He hung dying on a cross, only a few remained. After He died, only a few took His body and wrapped it for burial. When it got tough, most abandoned him.

Jesus said we are to love God and love others. He didn't say to do that only when it's easy. And His example shows loving people, especially when it was hard. He loves the prostitute and the destitute. He loves the poor and the poor in spirit. He loves you and He loves me. And He calls us to do the same. That love is shown as we bless each other in community – even when it's hard.

1Mosaic is giving us a chance to meet others and get to know each other better. Make sure you contact Scott and Jen VanEtten at [vanettenfamily@hotmail.com](mailto:vanettenfamily@hotmail.com) if you want more information on joining an M^group.

### Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) When we are in community with others, we all have the same calling – love God first and others second. How do I live this out within my community?

Why have I let others down when they needed love and comfort? Why did I take the easy way out when someone needed help?

Who can I identify that’s going through a hard time? In what ways would God want me to bless them?

Spend some time thanking God for people that He has placed in your life that have truly blessed you when you were hurting.

**Additional Verses:** Acts 20, Acts 2, Mark 3, John 15:13, Proverbs 27:17

**This month’s memory verse:** “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

### REMINDERS: April is “Faith & Finances” month @ 1MOSAIC

**4.3 – The Gathering at SHU at 6pm!** *In God we trust? Faith & Finances.* This week Dan will launch us into a two part series asking the age old question...do we have faith in God when dealing with our finances?

**4.10 – The Gathering at SHU at 6pm!** *In God we trust? Faith & Finances.* This week we welcome a great friend of 1MOSAIC and close mentor to Dan, Kevin Crawford from Brookside church in BG! Kevin will be unpacking part two of our finance series that will be both challenging and empowering. You will not want to miss him, plus all the 3rd:culture info!

**4.17 – 3rd:culture Night!** We will be serving both at the Salvation Army & continuing with our Habitat House! Listen on Sunday nights & watch the web for all the final details. Child care will be provided @ SHU.

**4.24 – EASTER SUNDAY at SHU at 6pm!** *RESURRECTION LIVING!* When Jesus died on the cross He paid the price for our sins, that we might be set free. When Jesus defeated death and the tomb was empty, He opened the door for a new way of living! Join us Easter Sunday as Dan unfolds the power and beauty of ‘Resurrection Living’. This will begin a four week journey looking at our ‘state of living’. Invite your neighbors!

