

Higher Ground^{May}

Triad Health Project

“Are you in need?” she wrote. This is part of a beautiful email I received last week from a beautiful woman who frequently follows a beautiful impulse in her heart to drop off dollar bills at Higher Ground. The dollar bills are used for bus passes or medical copays, food, hope, etc. Without thinking about it much I responded, “Need is where we live!” and then I thought how awful that sounded. Stop being so needy! they tell us. You should be more self-reliant! they say. “Pull yourself up by your own bootstraps, why don’t you!?” I think of all the times someone has asked me plainly, “Do you need anything, Mark?” and I respond so boldly, “No, I’m good.”

I’m lying.

I need water, food, shelter, clothes, oxygen, shoes, a sense of purpose, love, hope, soap, a working heart, at least one lung, a haircut (Anne says), and only about ten thousand other things. I am nothing at all if not needy. The fact is, I am composed of almost nothing else. And then I look around our little house here, all the people, all the photographs, and realize we all came here for one pure reason: Need. If it weren’t for need, look who I never would have met. And hello, among those I never would have met is one God of Creation.

Funny thing, I have to meet this “God” over and over again. I lose track of Her every time somebody asks me if I need anything and I holler back, “No. I’m good.”

So I pressed “send.” Need is where we live.

Thank God.



REACH — Recovering Addicts Coping with HIV — meets every Friday at 12:15.
For info call 274-5637.

GROUNDED AFTER HOURS, a support group for working/professional HIV+ men and women, meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month. 6:30-7:30 pm.

TUESDAY TOPICS, a support group for men and women living with HIV & AIDS meets Tuesdays from 11:30-12:00.

LIVING WITH A PLUS SIGN, a support group for HIV+ men, meets on Thursdays after lunch.
Call Kevin Varner for details at 275-1654.

A SUPPORT GROUP FOR HIV+ WOMEN meets alternately at the RCID and Higher Ground at 2:00 every Wednesday. Call Adrienne Mages at her number in Greensboro (275-1654 ext 102) or High Point (884-4116 ext 15) for further information.