

THE FREEDOM BULLETIN

A Freedom Fellowships Newsletter

..... MARCH 2022

Upcoming Events

Spring Break Camping Trip

3/26-4/2

Memorial Day Cookout

5/30

Announcements

No CT:

No CT 3/26 (Spring Break)

No CT 4/2 (Spring Break)

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Contributing authors

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Ian McCullough, Elli Rozler

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IDENTITY PROJECT SPLITS! NEW GROUPS FOR A NEW AGE

Contributing authors Alex Herbers, Kyle McCallum, Ian McCullough, Elli Rozer

As many of our Identity Project workers age out of college, the time has come to graduate to the next stage of ministry.

Working in the post-college age group has its unique challenges, but it brings a new world of opportunities.

Forge and Smash 3.0 are rising to the challenge.

Continuing to work among the college-age group is the new fellowship group “Tamarack” which gathers as many young folks as are willing to continue doing evangelism on Kent State’s campus.

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FORGE

The name “Forge” serves as the conceptual focus for our new fellowship group. Forge, which is predominantly post-college, is focused on forging ahead into adulthood and maturity while being refined (as in a forge!) along the way. Forge has a focus on going out into the community to meet people—various members have joined groups and clubs, and many prayerfully go out weekly in an attempt to evangelize and make new friends. Forge meets in the clubhouse at Hunter’s Lake on Tuesdays at 8:00.

Forge has been experiencing tremendous blessings and answered prayers, which has contributed to an excitement that is immeasurable. We pray for continued success in our men’s discovery group, as well as open doors within the community. Forge was formed with members from Atlas and Nova, and is led by deacons Tommy McCartney, Logan and Jess Tiller and Ian and Adi McCullough.

SMASH

The much-anticipated 2022 update – Smash 3.0 – increases capabilities and streamlines purpose. Smash 3.0 is now a group of people in their mid-20s, with a number of young, married couples, that is focused on meeting and serving people in the community. The current deacons are Greg and Lina Morscher and Alex and Lydia Herbers. We serve the young and underprivileged through

Big Brothers Big Sisters, the elderly in a retirement/nursing home ministry called Mimeo, and just about every age group in-between. We hope to expand with discovery groups in the near future. The Lord has brought seekers to us from unusual avenues, and we look forward to more of the same with the updated group. We currently meet in the Freedom Fellowships Study Center on Tuesday nights, but we hope to meet in a home soon.

As for our fellowship itself, the purpose remains the same: discover and hone our God-given gifts “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:12) We’ve received an infusion of many men (and some ladies) from the former Nova Homechurch. It’s been amazing to see love and unity grow so quickly in this group, and it’s exciting to think how God could creatively use us as friends, servants, and lights to the world.

TAMARACK

Tamarack is a new fellowship group for college students formed from the merging of students out of Nova, Atlas and Smash. At our conception the name Tamarack was chosen because it sounds cool and is reminiscent of the epic pit stop on our way to Florida Spring Break: the Tamarack in West Virginia. Tamarack, however, is a type of tree uniquely found in Kent. It also takes on meaning for our group as Paul says in

Colossians 2:6-7, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." The goal of Tamarack is to lead people into a relationship with God and help them become firmly rooted in Jesus.

Beginning with a bang, Tamarack has been an incredibly fun experience. We are a big group with a lot of people to get to know, but with a united vision, there has already been much to celebrate. We've seen

God truly bless us getting to participate in his work and already seeing several students decide to invite Jesus into their lives. Please pray for our discovery groups. Joe Prillaman is currently leading a co-ed group on Monday nights and the women have another group on Saturday mornings. Tamarack currently meets on Kent State's campus at the CUE Tuesdays at 8:30 PM. We pray spirit-filled people are raised up and find their purpose with the Lord within Tamarack. The current deacons are Adam and Anele Esterle and Zak and Elli Rozler.



Meet Rajakatti

By *Kalie Brooks*

Met Rajakatti, Freedom Fellowships' new match for India Gospel League's (IGL) Adopt-a-Village program. Rajakatti is located in the southern state of Karnataka and has a population of about 2,560 families, which includes five nearby villages. The main religion in the village is Hinduism, with a few Muslims and Christians.

Pastor Shankar V. Savadatti currently leads a small church in Rajakatti. The sponsorship will help Pastor Savadatti expand evangelism there and in nearby villages. IGL will also help with training and equipping believers, and setting up a Life Center, a small multipurpose building that hosts church and community activities.

Health care and education are major needs in the area. Medical goals include immunizing children, providing care for mothers and children, and building a medical center for treatment of common diseases.

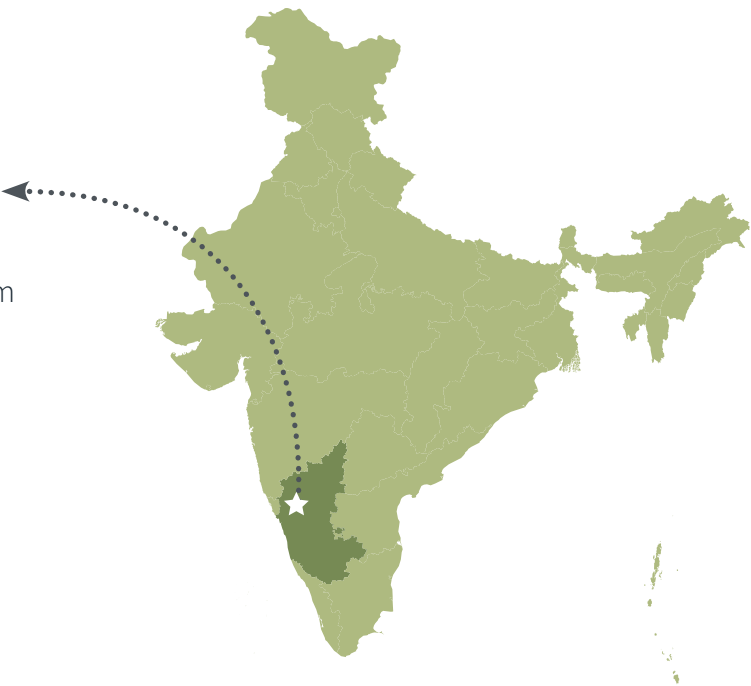
The village has access to clean water, but it needs better storage facilities. The program will also establish day care, kindergarten, and free tutoring, with the goal of achieving 100% literacy.

Adult skills training, micro loans, and literacy programs, as well as housing and infrastructure projects, are planned to improve living conditions. Local government and church leaders will be trained in administration to support self-governance in the future.

To complete the \$75,000 program in five years, Freedom Fellowships needs to raise \$1,250 in pledges per month. IGL has received pledges plus financial payment information for \$1,161 thus far. We look forward to fully funding the program in five years, or sooner if we exceed the monthly target. Please remember to pray for Pastor Savadatti and the people of Rajakatti.

Rajakatti

State Karnataka
District Belgaum



THE BOREDOM OF ECSTASY & **THE ECSTASY OF BOREDOM**

By *Alex Herbers*

“...Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.”

Philippians 4:8b, NLT

**“A man will lie for a hundred years
In a bed of reliable gears
Consuming every minute of the day
Still flickers of the past peer through grey”**

Wilderun, “Far From Where Dreams Unfurl”

THE BOREDOM OF ECSTASY

Do you find it hard to actually think these days? I do.

Do you remember the last time you were truly bored? I don’t.

In any spare moment – in the bathroom, a free evening, a lull in conversation, a “boring” part of a Bible teaching – we have an immediate feast of content to consume. So we do.

To an extent, that’s good! God designed us to have new experiences and enjoy them.

BUT, WHAT ARE YOU “EATING”?

The author of the Book of Hebrews laments:

“Concerning (Jesus) we have much to say, and it is difficult to explain, since you have become poor listeners. For though by this time you ought to

be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the actual words of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unacquainted with the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.” (Hebrews 5:11-13)

Filet mignon. Warm chocolate chip cookies. Blackened salmon. Bread fresh from the oven. Any adult can tell you those are far more satisfying than breast milk.

Infants drink milk. It’s uncomfortable for them to learn to eat solid food, but it’s necessary! There’s something wrong if an adult can only drink breast milk.

It’s easy for us to “eat” mostly “junk food” like TV shows, video games, porn, TikTok or YouTube. Like infants, it’s hard to train our minds to digest

“solid thoughts,” like thinking critically about books and scripture.

God wants to free our minds from the “boredom of ecstasy” – the mind-numbing brain fog of constant entertainment – and show us the freedom and excitement that comes from digesting “solid food.” Deep down, you crave something more. God wants to give you more.

THE ECSTASY OF BOREDOM

“But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” (Hebrews 5:14)

God will strengthen you to set your mind on the Spirit (Romans 6:8) and “think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” (Philippians 4:8b)

WHERE DO I START?

The Williams sisters didn’t start by winning Wimbledon. Elon Musk didn’t start by shooting cars into space.

Start small by forcing yourself to be bored. Take 15 minutes – 30 if you’re feeling feisty. Go on a walk and leave your phone behind. Don’t worry about what to think about; just let your mind wander (even if all you can think is “I don’t know what to think about!”) Then, go back to your routine. (The warmth of spring break in Florida is perfect for this, but Ohio works, too.)

Do it again the next day. And the day after that. You may notice that God builds a “tolerance” in your mind: thoughts become quieter, solutions to problems pop in your mind, you remember things better.

You might start to look forward to that time; you’re discovering the ecstasy of boredom!

EVENTUALLY, YOU CAN START TO BUILD WITH THE LORD.

It looks different for everyone as God teaches us to digest “solid food.”

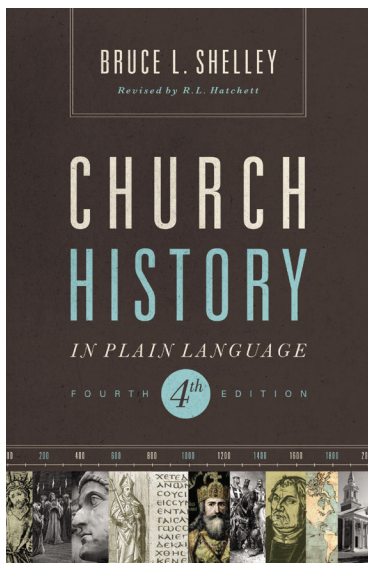
I’ve found a desire to change my habits to read and think more. I enjoy pondering God’s goodness in practical, encouraging ways. (I used to think people who said stuff like that were lying. “Who would enjoy that? What does that even mean?” But I’m starting to get it.) I’ve found joy in music that reminds me of the Lord.

From there, who knows? The Lord works in mysterious and delightful ways. What does your heart yearn for?

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” *Ephesians 2:10*

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)

Will you let God free your mind so that you might run with Him down His glorious paths?



Book of the Month:

Church History in Plain Language by Bruce L. Shelley

Review by **Kyle McCallum**

If you are looking for a well-written and easy to digest overview of church history, *Church History in Plain Language* by Bruce L. Shelley is the book for you. From the days of Jesus through the gospel expansion of the early 1900s, this book covers it all in an accessible way. Every walking Christian should have an awareness of how we got to where we are today in the church age. A solid understanding of church history will also help you better understand your own church's practices and how our modern day understanding of theology came about.

If other church history books proved to be too dry or academic for you, I recommend giving Shelley's book a try. You can find it on Amazon or read a free copy in the Study Center



Freedom Fellowships

It was for freedom that Christ set us free

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MEETING TIMES

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