



Christian Campus Fellowship Spring 2018 Newsletter

The Burden is Light

Recently, Rodney and I went to a leadership conference that spoke so many wonderful affirmations into my life. From one of these messages came this singular quote that both convicted and encouraged me more than anything else I experienced that week. This small quote came from the pastor and author A.W. Tozer in his 1948 book "The Pursuit of God". Tozer writes, "**Religion has accepted the monstrous heresy that noise, size, activity and bluster make a man dear to God.**" When I heard that quote, it hit me right in the gut because I realized that so much of the time, I as a leader have accepted that monstrous heresy. So much of the time I am overly concerned with size; focusing on how many students are



attending our events. I am far too often concerned with activity; being worried that our calendar needs more events. I question whether our noise and bluster are enough to reach the students at FSU. I don't think God is very pleased when our focus is on these things, and too often we elevate these perceived concerns to a position of idolatry in an effort to please people. We put so much weight on ourselves to do the work that God has called us to but it is certainly not because God wants us to carry it. This is why Jesus says: "**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**" I love how

the Holy Spirit always seems to encourage me and convict me in just the right ways at just the right times!

While I know Jesus' burden is light, I also know that the responsibility we have as campus ministers is great. As we continue to look towards expanding our ministry into the campus at FAMU, I have been doing some research into the higher education system in Florida. Here are some startling facts I think are important for you to know:

- There are **currently over 900,000 students enrolled in Florida's higher education institutions.**
- The Restoration Movement that CCF at FSU is a part of, only has 4 campus ministries currently operating in the state of Florida (FSU, FGCU, UF, and USF). This means **there is one campus ministry from our churches for every 225,000 students in the state of Florida.**
- Even if you include all other major campus ministry focused organizations (about 12 in all) across all campuses, **the most generous calculations means there is about one missionary staff member for every 5,000 students in the state of Florida!**
- And just for our context, **at FSU there is one full-time campus minister for every 3,300 students.**



This is why our ministry is so vital. Add to that the fact that recent studies indicate America is becoming increasingly secular. Millennials and especially Gen Z are far more likely to identify as atheist or agnostic than previous generations. I really believe we can help to counteract this trend by increasing the reach of campus ministry right

now. **We are on the front lines of ministering to a generation of future leaders who know less and less about Jesus!** We only have a few years to minister to these students during this transformative time in their life. Our work right now is critical and without your partnership through financial support we are less equipped to oversee this work. For those of you who currently partner with us through giving I am beyond thankful for your generosity and heart for college students. For those of you who have yet to financially partner with us, I want you to know that your investment here will be a sound one. I pray that you decide to immediately partner with us and God to better equip us to impact the Kingdom of God through our ministry efforts. **The burden the world puts on people is heavy so help us to introduce these students to a Savior and Lord who takes those burdens upon Himself and makes life so, so, sweet!**

— Kane Miller, Director



The Gift of Community

To begin, I want to thank you all for your committed investment to CCF! You are not just supporting a ministry but directly impacting the lives of individual college students who are seeking to live out their faith in Christ here at FSU. My desire is to express this truth to you through sharing a short testimony about my third year here!

So many times, we can consistently sit amongst the same group of believers and fail to ask the hard questions, in fear of going even just one step deeper. In doing this, we miss the Lord's beautiful gift of community. In our failure to ask intentional questions or spur one another on, words that would bring about great growth are left unsaid and more importantly, people go unnoticed. What I saw this year was that when a group of believers are able to do community well through reliance on the grace of God, lives are transformed.

One of the most impactful experiences for me this year was the presence of CCF's new system of small groups. They were based on different people groups on campus that we desired to reach, and the group I was a part of was a women's small group. Since these groups were centered around a particular shared identity, there was an instant sense of unity.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 says, "**And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.**" This year, when I was idle in my faith, I was able to receive gentle conviction and encouragement from the other girls in my group, spurring me on towards righteousness and away from sin. When struggling in my walk, I knew that I had a group of believers praying for my growth. There was vulnerability, accountability, and authenticity. There were people to join me in my suffering and in my joy. In this, the Gospel was felt and made more real; one broken person receiving grace from other broken people—all because they too have experienced ultimate grace from God.

Kane's vision of intentional community for FSU students was tangibly displayed at CCF this year. This group has brought to light incredible weaknesses in my faith, which has also led to unbelievable growth—growth that would not have been possible without this group of girls leading, pursuing, and displaying patience towards me! I am so thankful for these girls and for the community of CCF. Without this group of people I know my faith would not be what it is today. I am so very thankful for the gift of community!

—Eve Friedel



Eve (pictured far right with some of her small group) is currently a Junior at FSU, studying Religion and Sociology. Her desire is to pursue church ministry after she graduates in 2019!

Pray for us!

This summer Rodney and Kane will embark on a huge fundraising project to raise critically needed support for the FAMU ministry plant as well as additional support staff at CCF.

Their goal is to raise \$67,500 in additional annual support!

Please be in faithful prayer for their travel and their efforts to add additional support partners to the CCF family.

They will be traveling all over the state of Florida during the dates listed below. If you would like to meet up with them at any point please reach out to Kane at kane@fsuccf.com and he will gladly schedule a meeting!

June 12-17
Jacksonville area

June 19-24
Orlando area

June 26-July 1
Tampa area

July 3-8
Miami area

July 10-15
Orlando area

Please be in prayer for them and consider meeting with them to talk about your current partnership with CCF. By the grace of God we will be fully funded by August!

Christian Campus Fellowship at Florida State University

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