



Kris Freeberg <kris@makinendsmeet.com>

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1 message

Kris Freeberg <kris@makinendsmeet.com>
To: kris@makinendsmeet.com

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Hi Kris,

How are you? I hope this message finds you peaceful, healthy, safe, and happy.

So far this year, I've been a busy bee. As of May 26, I've worked 1,069 hours. At this rate, if I work all year like this, I'll clock 2,654. A normal full time schedule (fifty forty hour weeks) is 2,000.

Why so busy? Well, I've been scrambling to devise a solution to the problem of the pandemic lock-down. When the government is falling into debt funding unemployment benefits, the CARES Act, etc. and so many are confined to their homes, how can we keep our economy going?

The government will need to collect a lot of taxes later to afford the largesse it's dispensing now. How are we going to build an economy robust enough to pay those taxes, collectively get the country back on its feet, and shift our attention to the business of [paying down the national debt](#)?

How can teams collaborate, coordinate, and deliver **massive** value without being together in the same space? How do we adapt to this "new normal" of immuring ourselves in solitude and still work effectively together to get things done, keep the economy moving, sustain our incomes, pay our bills, pay our taxes, and continue to progress toward our long term personal financial goals?

Might there be a way to give businesses better visibility into their workers' progress than they had when everybody was sharing the same space? Might there be a way to arrange better, closer cooperation and coordination than was the case when people worked together in adjacent cubicles? Something better than back-and-forth emails, Slack, Zoom meetings, or even Asana?

I believe there is. That is what I have been working on creating.

To give you a general idea of what I've been up to, [here is a 36 minute video](#) and accompanying [three page script](#) demonstrating four distinct advantages of the applications I've been developing.

(Significant advantages not mentioned in the video also include seamless QuickBooks Online integration, and the ability to clone records for large projects. For example, say building a new house involves 500 tasks, grouped and sequenced by phase. Doing the right thing in the right order is very important. Cloning projects means copying all of these phases and tasks, including their dependencies, with the click of a single button. It's pretty awesome.)

I also managed to squeeze in [an update of the top performing mutual funds that I've been tracking since 1996](#). That's twenty-five years! For my family and me, this database has been hugely helpful. I share the findings freely, with my best wishes for the prosperity, health, and happiness of you and yours, as well; because in an indirect way, I think of you as my family. In the final analysis, we're all somehow related.

I hope you'll have a look at it. If you do, I think you'll be amazed by the returns. Even in the midst of a crisis, positive opportunities exist. You just need to keep your eyes peeled for them, and don't let the daily news get you down.

Speaking of good news, in January I attended an epic swing dance festival near Balboa Island in California, birthplace of the swing dance by the same name. Two thousand of us learned Balboa, and packed the dance floor with live dance and music. I feel so privileged to have participated in that just before present circumstances made events like it impossible. Everything was perfect.

It was hosted by a gentleman named Peter Flahiff, for whom I feel the greatest respect and esteem. Think of a combination of Fred Astaire, Mister Rogers, and Jimmy Stewart, and you'll begin to approximate what a gem of a man this fellow is.

Since the pandemic, he has not been able to do his normal Dance Thing, so guess what? Did he sit around and sulk?

No . . . he pivoted. He launched a podcast called [The Daily Good](#) which I encourage you to check out and support. Like a bee, he gathers all that is good from around the world, then spreads it.

Each episode is only fifteen minutes or so, but jam packed with goodness that will send you in a positive direction for the rest of the day, at least. He's a gentleman, a scholar, and a Renaissance Man; a rare breed, indeed . . . I just can't say enough good things about him. I also have the privilege of calling him my dance teacher, and my friend.

On a final personal note, spiritually . . . those who are used to participating in houses of worship, can't. They become passive spectators of live stream services of somebody in a large empty room. I've seen virtual choirs try to form on Zoom.

It's not the same.

For quite some time, I have become well acquainted with the dilemma of having nowhere to go on Sunday. I don't recommend it; but if you find yourself in that position, as so many of us do now, I have learned to theologize in nature and in the recesses of my own heart. I look around at everything and see how God is in the goodness, beauty, truth, life, and most importantly, love business. Even when things are terrible, the pain and misery make God's nature obvious.

Without God's goodness for contrast, we wouldn't be able to feel, to notice badness. It would all be grey and numb to us, with no distinctions or clarity. Badness feels so bad because God is so good; and He is so hard-wired within each and every one of us as to make badness so obvious and objectionable whenever we experience it.

So even when I feel surrounded by discouragement and hostility, I feel the feelings that are my reaction, and use them to guide me Godward; toward my, and your, true nature. Like it says in 1 Thessalonians 5, Philipians 4, and elsewhere: rejoice in everything, and always be thankful.

I am thankful for you. Thanks for reading.

For your success,

Kris Freeberg, Economist
[Making End\\$ Meet](#)
(360) 224-4322

