

# Sept & Oct Newsletter



*Caleb, Jacob, Dustin, and Cadi (BV Campaign to Warrensburg, MO)*

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## Greetings

Hello friends and family! I hope you all are doing very well, as we (somehow) are once again coming up on the holiday season. First, I greatly apologize for being so late in getting this update out. Second, the past couple of months have been eventful, exciting, and full of blessings, and I'm very excited to share some of those happenings with you.

## End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

The first quarter of my second year here at Bear Valley has been an absolute powerhouse of classes. I may have mentioned this already, but Romans and the Epistles of John tied for my favorite classes this quarter. That's certainly not to say anything negative about the other four classes, because they were excellent as well. But these two proved to be packed with great spiritual encouragement, wisdom, and comfort. They were very emotional, and at times, ended up with a few misty eyes by the end of class. That said, this past quarter proved to be challenging academically. Bear Valley has moved from five courses at a time to six, and while they are working very hard to level out the workload, some slight growing pains could be felt. However, when it was all said and done, classes, assignments, and exams were certainly manageable, and the Bear Valley class of '26 finished strong.

## BV Campaign

Immediately following the end of quarter one (and I do mean immediately), each Bear Valley student participated in a campaign to various churches and their communities across the States. In total, there were seven campaigns, and I was privileged to lead Jacob (classmate), Dustin, and Dustin's wife, Cadi (underclassmen), on a campaign to Warrensburg, MO. Jacob and I finished our finals on a Thursday, and the next morning, we made our trip (separately) to Warrensburg with Dustin and Cadi following the next day. Between Friday night and the following Wednesday, the four of us got to participate in evangelistic efforts, visitations to members of the local church, teaching, preaching, and fellowshiping with the brethren. Though we would have liked to do more with the community, and would have if some opportunities had not fallen through, we still got to encourage the church as well as ourselves, and get a view into the everyday life of a ministry (thanks to the preacher, Daryl).

## Break Week

Given that Warrensburg was only three hours from Foristell (where I did my summer internship), and that Foristell was on the way to Tennessee (where my parents are), I got to hit both of those stops after the campaign. It was very relaxing and encouraging to see friends, mentors, church family, and of course, my family. There was much to enjoy about the trip, but one of the highlights was getting to steal my little brother (with permission) and take him back to Colorado with me to stay for a couple of weeks.

## Short Course

Breaks are great, yet despite how challenging school can be at times, I always look forward to returning home to my Bear Valley family. This quarter opened with a short course on Homiletics III. Brother Mike Vestal added some great material to his previous homiletics class, and all male students got to preach a sermon they had prepared as an assignment from Hom. II. It's always encouraging to see Mike, and I know every student and staff member is blessed and thankful for him, for his love of God and the church, and for the Westside church, which gives him the time off from preaching to be here. The course was nothing short of beneficial, encouraging, and truly joyful to be a part of.

## Beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

There are no classes that are thrown into the BV curriculum that aren't seen as vitally important for faith, knowledge of Scripture, and ministry. So, if I say the Q2 class line up is looking great, trust me: it's looking great. The MWF class line-up is Church Growth, Galatians/Ephesians/Colossians/Philemon, and Minor Prophets. TTh classes are 2 Corinthians, Isaiah, and Apologetics I. We have a combined total of six weeks of in-class instruction (plus a week for research). I'm very excited to get further into each one of these, and I know this quarter will fly by like all the others. I'll mention one more thing here: this quarter introduces two new instructors, Daniel Stearsman and Patrick Hammock. Both have been a blessing to the school and enjoyable to be in class with, and I look forward to learning and growing under them.

## Closing

I've especially been thankful recently for all of my supporters, and by supporters, I mean those who have prayed for me, called, texted, and sent letters, in addition to those who financially support me. I've just about received more letters over the past couple of months than I know what to do with, and each one lights up my day. I'm very thankful for all of my supporters, and it overwhelms me with gratitude to know so many people are thinking about and praying for me, and more so, that those people are so dedicated to getting the gospel out there. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

**7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:7, 8, 11 | NASB 95)**