

December Newsletter

Greetings

Hello! I hope this update finds you and your families doing well as we come to the end of this holiday season. I certainly have been blessed in every aspect of life, and God continues to take care of me. I know there will come times when I am discouraged, but I'm in a good place, and that reminds me God is never far away. It is my prayer God blesses you just as He has me.

Conclusion of Second Quarter

December began with the end of the second quarter and finals. It was certainly challenging, but Bear Valley, both as a class and part of our brotherhood, has proven to take away the anxiety of last-minute cramming. During finals week, instructors are relaxed on dress code, students are usually joking and laughing with each other (between tests, of course), and the tense mood is generally lightened. All in all, it was a strong close to a challenging quarter. It has also been suggested that I share grades with my supporters. If you have expected this in the past, I apologize and will try to include them in future newsletters as I get them. So far, I have retained a 3.7 GPA.

Christmas Break

Christmas break 2024 was a blast! But I recognize that's not the purpose of this newsletter, so I'll try to keep it short. I was able to spend lots of time with most of my siblings, visit the Brighton Church, go on a snowboarding trip, and spend lots of time with friends and even some of *their* family. Of course, breaks can never last long enough, but it was a refreshing step away from the academic world, and I'm happy to be back with my BV family, diving into God's word once again.

Short Course

As I've mentioned before, every quarter begins with a week-long short course. At the time of writing this, I have just gotten home from my final class on "Denominational Doctrines." Our instructor, Wayne Burger, was a former full-time staff member at Bear Valley Bible Institute and is now doing mission work in Littleton, New Hampshire. Fortunately, Wayne is able to come back occasionally to teach a short course or two in Denver, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the exposure to some of the world's leading religions.

Support Standings

I can't ever stress this enough, but I deeply appreciate every one of you who has supported me on this journey. It amazes me to see the generosity of God's people, and it often leaves me wondering why God has blessed me so greatly. You are constantly in my prayers.

For a while now, I've easily made my budget goal. I have not had to worry about finances since the first or second month after starting school. I am currently working on raising support to purchase a vehicle, but in the meantime, I've had no trouble getting around to school, worship, etc., thanks to my amazing classmates (which I am eternally grateful for). If you know anyone interested in supporting a Bible student in some capacity, I certainly wouldn't stop you from pointing them my way! But in all honesty, God has taken me this far, and I have complete confidence He'll continue to find a way for me no matter what. Praise Him!

Closing

It takes me some time to write the closing section of a newsletter because it is hard to put gratitude into adequate words. I don't take for granted the sacrifice you make, whether an individual or congregation, to support my education at Bear Valley. My payment to you is the pledge to use the tools I receive to further the kingdom, and by extent, you are part of this ministry. On behalf of students and staff, thank you for your support of us and the kingdom. God bless!