

April Newsletter



My first week of classes at Bear Valley.

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Greetings

Wow, this is it! Graduation is right around the corner, and a lot is happening during and beyond that. As usual, I am very excited to update you on how things are going here at the Bear Valley Bible Institute. I pray things are going well in your individual walks of life, and I hope you enjoy the read.

End of Year & Graduation

I almost don't believe it's been two years. On Friday, May 15, I will take my last final and have completed Bear Valley's required coursework. Here are some of the events surrounding the end of the school year:

- Exit Interviews (May 4-13) – Students are given a chance to offer feedback on their BV experience.
- Senior Picnic (May 8) – The Bear Valley School and congregation join to spend a little bit more time together before seniors depart. Seniors also conduct a devo.
- Finals (May 13-15) – You know, tests.
- Graduation Banquette (May 15) – Fellowship, shared memories, student and staff speeches, celebration of accomplishments, and more.
- Women's Tea Party (May 16) – Women staff and students, and women from the congregation, share fellowship and encouragement with the graduating ladies.
- Graduation (May 17)

Summer Calendar

Just to give you a clear idea of what my plans moving forward are, here are a couple of highlights for the foreseeable future (Note: some dates are tentative). If you are interested in keeping in touch moving forward, I would absolutely love that; just give me a call, text, or email!

- May 17 – Graduation
- May 27-June 8 – Czech Republic Mission Trip
- June 14-July 26 – Preach out at area congregations in CO
- July 27 – Drive to TN
- August – Begin classes at Freed-Hardeman University

Support Update

I want to ask that, if possible, you continue to support me financially through the month of June. Graduation is at the end of May, but I will spend the following weeks and summer doing a lot of traveling and preparing for the next chapter of my life. If it is not in your budget to support me past May, please do not feel obligated.

I also ask that you continue to support another student. I cannot exaggerate how great and life-changing this whole Bear Valley experience has been, and the wonderful works that are born out of students at this institute. Several incoming students will get to have those experiences and grow the kingdom, but they are also in financial need. In this email, I've included the support packages for a few of the incoming students that I know personally. If you are interested and able, please consider supporting one or more of them!

Mission Trip Update

Since the last newsletter, I've made some progress on the mission trip to the Czech Republic. A total of seven people will be going: Denny Petrillo, two married graduates of Bear Valley Bible Institute, a current BV student and his wife, and two additional students (myself included). Yesterday, we met to go over the details of the trip and pray for it as well. We are all very excited for the opportunity and hope you will join us in praying for a successful trip.

As far as finances, I've already been able to purchase tickets. I still need ~\$2,100 to cover hotels and daily expenses. If you're able to help financially, I would greatly appreciate it, but prayers are just as effective! (There is more information at the bottom of this letter.)



Thank You.

I just don't know how to write this part. My two years at Bear Valley have been some of the best years of my life. I've been surrounded by an incredible, loving family, I've had amazing peers and mentors, I've grown in so many ways, and the list of blessings I've been given is nearly endless. I often marvel at how fortunate I am to have had this experience, and I know that none of it would be possible without you. You have supported me in finances, prayers, encouragement, calls, texts, cards, emails, and more. I hope you know I am truly, truly grateful for you, for your support, and for your godly desires to invest in the work of the church. Please pray for me to put your investment to good use in the kingdom! From the bottom of my heart, thank you. God bless!

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: **PREACH THE WORD**; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:1, 2 | ESV)

Mission Trip to Olomouc, Czech Republic

About The Work

For the past two years, Tony and Heidi Orellana (Bear Valley graduates) have served as missionaries to Olomouc, Czech Republic, where they have planted the Lord's church and continue to spread the gospel in a largely Catholic or atheist country. The Orellanas have a long-term goal of establishing a strong congregation and eventually an English-speaking preaching school to more effectively spread the gospel across Europe.

About This Trip

As it stands, there will be seven of us on this trip, which will focus on three main efforts. First is a seminar taught by Denny Petrillo on "How We Got the Bible." This is timed alongside the "Night of Churches," which is a local tradition in which many people explore different religions and "churches." Second, we will be involved in evangelism and outreach as we promote the seminar, interact with locals, and build connections in the community. Third, the trip includes encouraging and strengthening the local church, along with a visit to Prague to worship and support other believers. I've already been asked to present three 10-minute devos throughout our stay at Olomouc. Overall, the goal is to assist the missionaries in spreading God's word, building relationships, and creating opportunities for future growth in the region.

About Finances – Here is a rough breakdown of my expenses for the trip.

- \$1,124 – Airfare
- \$1,309 – Hotels
- \$650 – Daily Expenses
- \$200 – Emergency Expenses

How You Can Help

First is prayerfully. Pray for smooth planning and travel, for safety, and, most of all, for receptive souls. Second is financially. Of the total ~\$3,300 goal, I still need \$2,160 (as of May 8). If this is a work you are interested in supporting, please let me know through one of the following contacts:

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