



**Pictured Above:** A mix of both first and second year students together in Cheyenne, Wyoming. We stayed and worked with the local Cheyenne CoC congregation for 5 days (:

## Bear Valley Fall Campaign '23!

----- STEVEN JAEGER

Another month come and gone. Q1 of year two is finished and the snowy weather – very cold weather, too cold some might say – is just beginning to visit as the Fall colors showcase their final display of God’s artistic prowess before this calendar year comes to an end. This Fall I had the opportunity to attend the annual BV Campaign trip in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Campaign trips are a regular part of the school program, and they are a great way to get some introductory experiences into what full-time ministry work is all about. And this year was quite special. Hosted by the local congregation in Cheyenne, I, along with 9 others (a mix of first- and second-year students) were able to work alongside...

...and learn from Chris Krotz, the full-time minister for the Cheyenne church of Christ. Chris is a seasoned graduate of Bear Valley and recently finished his master’s degree in counseling. As I’m sure you can imagine that combination of educational and practical experience does and will continue to prove beneficial for everyone that God, through Christ, uses Chris to love and serve. For myself it was especially worthwhile because those set of ministry skills are exactly what I desire to learn and combine for similar purposes. Being able to sit at the feet of someone who is doing the things you desire to learn about and one day be a part of can be a tremendous encouragement and opportunity to grow. And that is exactly what I got a taste of during the campaign trip to Cheyenne. For example, while the campaign...



## November '23 Campaign Report

----- S. JAEGER

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...trip ran from Friday-Wednesday, on Monday Chris hosted a special class for the students. During this "class time" we learned a bit from his personal experiences, and, perhaps more importantly, he practiced with us one of the most impactful strategies (so-to-say) that can help ensure the success of our ministry work for God and with Him.

I don't recall a particular title or label used for this exercise, but essentially all it comes down to is creating a space for God to fill relative the efforts He wants us to make concerning two things: 1) introducing God to people in an encouraging way that meets them where they are, and, 2) making sure that we, as disciples of Christ, lessen the hindrances of said introduction as much as possible so that the personal, relational connection can be one that lasts a lifetime. I'm certain there are several ways to describe those two points differently, but I phrased them as such for a few reasons. One of which directly ties back to some things I wrote about in my previous newsletter. And I have no doubt in my mind...

...that these two points are something you've thought of before or even talked about with other Christians. Perhaps even those in positions of leadership at your local congregation. These two points are often discussed in the classrooms here at BV as well.

I truly believe that the more we facilitate such conversations, prayerfully, with God's Word open in hand, in environments that are not seeking to uphold any man-made tradition above or in place of God's ways (kind of like the Pharisees are known for – and, unfortunately, to an extent, so too are the churches of Christ), then we are more free in Christ to experience His power that is made perfect in our weaknesses. And one of the best results of spiritual fruit to be tasted is successfully doing the work of bringing into fellowship with God the souls of those who are yet to be where He wants them to be – with Him in Christ – but also KEEPING in fellowship with Him everyone that has said yes to His love. Baptism, while necessary, is only the beginning of the eternal life for ALL in Christ. Let's finish strong together! (: