

February Newsletter



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Greetings

Hello all, I hope you're doing well in your various lives and Christian walks. Lots have happened and begun to happen in the last month, and I'm excited to give you an update on that. As always, if there is something mentioned in the letter that isn't clear, if you have any questions at all, or if you just want to talk, I'd be happy for you to reach out.

End of Quarter Update

At the time of writing this, it is the Sunday before finals week. Usually, finals week lasts through Friday, but they've been pushed up to Wednesday, as many students/staff had plans to travel to Israel (before recent developments). Overall, it has been a very enjoyable quarter full of practical (Christian Ethics & Teaching Strategies) and textual courses (Luke, John, Ezekiel/Daniel, & Proverbs/Ecclesiastes). Each has been highly beneficial, but if I had to pick one class this quarter that has made the most impact, it would have to be Teaching Strategies, which has entirely changed my approach to studying, formatting, and teaching Bible classes. I previously mentioned some academic struggles, but I'm happy to say that with the help and encouragement of several classmates, friends, and instructors, I've addressed those struggles and worked to overcome them. As the quarter comes to a close, I look back at a couple of months packed full of opportunities to grow and improve, thanks to the grace and love of God.

Upcoming Campaign and Break

Later this week, students will make their way to various campaigns. I've been put on a team heading to North MacArthur church of Christ in Edmond, Oklahoma, to participate in various ministry and labor opportunities. I'm a big fan of these campaigns, as they give many opportunities to practice the various ministry-related things we learn about in class. Sometimes that looks like leading workshops, preaching/teaching, and outreach, but sometimes it looks like getting your hands in the dirt and just helping where there is need. As always, following campaign week, we go on break, where I hope to travel to one of my many homes (Tennessee) to see family (and maybe even relax!).

Summer and Beyond

My time at Bear Valley is quickly coming to an end. It doesn't really feel real to say that. Once I come back from break, I'll begin my last quarter of school before graduating on May 17. Suffice to say, I've spent a lot of time thinking, planning, and praying about what comes next. I've shared some of this already, but in the spirit of openness, I'll clarify where I'm at on things. I had hopes to do some traveling during the summer, but some unforeseen events have made the likelihood of that happening very low. Instead, I will likely begin looking for another summer internship opportunity (if you know of any, please let me know... again). Beginning in August, I plan to attend Freed-Hardeman University

(Henderson, TN) to pursue a degree in Missions. It is still unclear how many of my Bear Valley credits will transfer, but I am looking at 2-3 years before completion. Once my time there is over, I will, God willing, pursue mission work. Here's where things get less certain. My vision is to begin a campus ministry in Fiji, as well as to get involved with the youth and young adults. With that in mind, there is a lot I haven't planned for or thought out, not to mention, this may not be what God has planned for me. Simply put, I see too many opportunities to ignore, but it is still far enough away that there are several uncertainties. I hope you will pray for me in the years to come, that I see where God is leading me, and have the trust and humility to follow.

Closing

I really cannot thank you enough for the support you've shown me until this point. The prayers, cards of encouragement, calls, texts, and financial support have enabled and fueled me to pursue this education in Scripture and ministry. I cannot tell you how much I've grown in my own understanding of God's Word and in my ability to minister to the needs of the church and the world, and your support is what makes all of that possible. I thank God in my prayers for you, and pray He blesses you as well.

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. (Luke 9:23, 24 | ESV)