

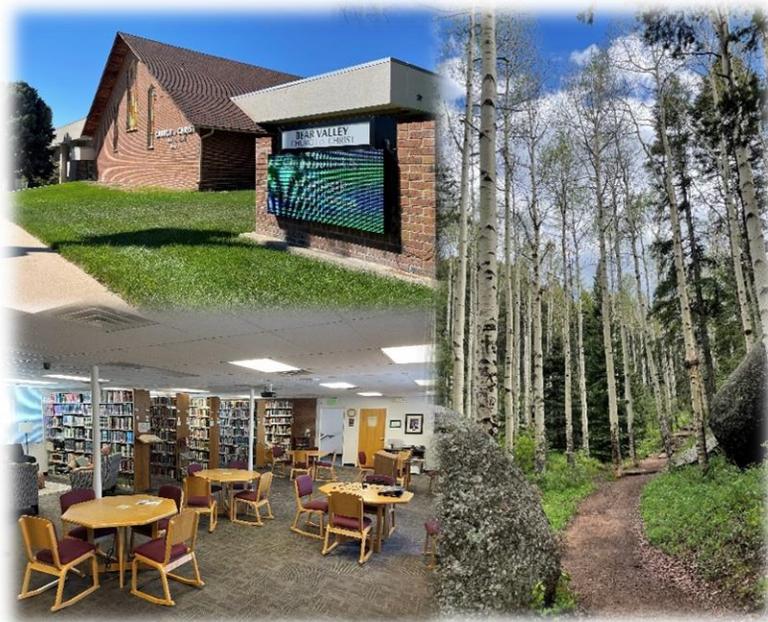
# Bear Valley



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Bible Institute

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Pictured above: The street view of the Bear Valley church of Christ (top left); The inside view of the school library (bottom left); and a view of a group of Aspen trees found during a hiking adventure in the local area (far right).

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## The scoop of the month

### August Update

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### Quarter 1 Classes

----- S. JAEGER

The first quarter of classes meets from August 1 to October 7. The first week was a short course class covering research strategies in preparation for the writing assignments that take place throughout the program. Now in the full course load of the first quarter, my fellow students and I have five classes: Acts I, Bible Geography and Archeology, Personal Evangelism, The Gospel of Matthew, and English Composition.

In Acts I, we are working to cover the first twelve chapters of the book, focusing on learning the context that makes this one of the pivotal parts of God's story. Wayne Burger is our teacher, and it is a fast-

----- STEVEN JAEGER

Greetings from Denver, Colorado! The end of August marks the close of the first month of school and I have a lot of good things to share. First and foremost, praise and glory be to God for allowing me to be here to study His word and learn about ministry. Second, thank you for helping to make this possible. Without your heart being open to God and willing to serve Him by supporting me spiritually and financially I would not be where I am today. I am grateful and excited for the opportunities here at Bear Valley and what that means for the future.

The first couple of weeks were a bit more challenging than I expected. I became sick the day of orientation with what the doctor later told me was a physical reaction to my new environment. Thankfully, the medical help I needed was available and I have since made a full recovery. I don't know that I have ever used so many tissue boxes in my life \*insert laughing track "side A" here\*. But now I am more aware of my surroundings and prepared for what's to come with even more tissues \*insert laughing track "side B" here\* and a humidifier for the apartment I'm living in during my time at Bear Valley.

This year I have two roommates. Justus Bobo, a returning second-year student from Arkansas, and Leif Berkey, a fellow freshman student from Oklahoma. These two young men have been a delight to meet and get to know so far during our time together – both have shown the humility before the Lord they hold in their hearts, and it has been encouraging and edifying to experience.

This last week of August is used for what is called "Research Week." It is a time for students to rest from the business of classes so that we can prepare for upcoming exams. The first week of October hosts the final exams of this first quarter of classes. Afterward, the students will go on campaigns to work with church congregations in predetermined areas throughout the country. Once the campaign work is completed we will have a few days of rest before the next quarter of classes begins. The first few weeks here have gone by fast but not without getting a taste of the many good things that are to come. My time here at this school is a blessing and I am very excited to be here because of God and the opportunity to have you in my life along the way.

paced class full of excitement and textual material. In Bible Geography, John Moore is teaching us how impactful the practical knowledge of the land is in understanding the stories of God's people. The new perspectives geography provides help us to feel immersed in the Bible stories in a more relatable manner which brings the context to life in amazing ways. Personal Evangelism is becoming one of my favorite classes to participate in, in no small part because of the newest addition to the school staff. Wayne Jones has a healthy understanding of what evangelism is all about and the Lord is working through him in several ways.

Our Tuesday and Thursday classes cover the Gospel of Matthew and English Composition. The Gospel of Matthew is taught by our School President Denny Petrillo. Denny's extensive knowledge, upbeat personality, and humble attitude are helping us to see and grasp the principles of Jesus' life in many important ways. Donnie Bates has been a delight to learn from in English Composition. Learning how versatile and impactful the art of effective writing is for the sake of the Lord's Kingdom has been a wonderful experience I am thankful for.