

Nov & Dec Newsletter



Bear Valley Annual Family Retreat 2025

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Greetings

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! In a season of gladness and thanksgiving, I have much to thank you all for. While reflecting on all the ways God has greatly blessed me, two that come to mind are my being at Bear Valley and those who allow me to be here. I get to spend nearly every day learning how to better do what I love while spending that time with some of the best friends and mentors I've ever had. I hope that in writing these updates, my saying this never loses value, but I am truly thankful for you. That said, there is much to update you on, and I'm very excited to share those things with you.

Year Two, Quarter Two

Somehow, seemingly at the blink of an eye, I am now $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through school! As of December 19, I've completed six of the eight quarters Bear Valley's bachelor's degree requires. Although I struggled this quarter (as I've written about below), I truly enjoyed the classes. As always, we had a good mix of textual and practical courses. Both of the new instructors, Daniel Stearsman and Patrick Hammack, were awesome to learn under, and I have a lot of respect for them.

To be completely honest, this quarter was difficult. In terms of assignments, it was fairly light, but I allowed some of my personal struggles to interfere with my academic performance. Thankfully, I'm probably in the best place I could be to overcome difficulty, and I saw that in the way my instructors and friends lifted me up and showed me grace. I'm happy to say, thanks to support and encouragement from people at Bear Valley, combined with the countless encouraging cards many of you have sent, that I'm now doing much better. That said, I believe in the power of prayer, and ask that you will take some time to pray for me as I continue to grow and mature, fully taking advantage of this amazing opportunity that I have here at the Bear Valley Bible Institute.

Bear Valley Family Retreat

Every year, the Bear Valley congregation puts on a retreat. Just as I wrote about last year, this is a time of fellowship, bonding, encouragement, learning, and fun! Landing right in the middle of the school quarter, this was a refreshing break from work and allowed the bonds with many of my friends and church family to be strengthened, and new relationships to be formed. As a member of the church and school at Bear Valley, this is just one of the many events I get to participate in. To me, it's a reminder of how blessed we, as Christians, are to be part of God's family.

Christmas Break

I don't suppose there is much to inform you on here as far as school goes, but I do mention Christmas break as another item on my long list of things to be thankful for. This break has

allowed me to spend time with friends, see God's beautiful creation, visit with family, meet supporters, and much more. On top of all that, it gives me time to rest and reset in anticipation of the next quarter, which I am very excited for.

Future Considerations

I hesitate to write about this so early, but given that so many people have already asked, I thought it appropriate to inform you of my future plans (if nothing else, see this section as a window into where the mind of Caleb Pierce roams). I say "plans" very lightly, knowing that a dozen other opportunities could present themselves between now and then. Still, my long-term goal for some time has been mission work. As many of you know, I grew up a missionary kid, and during that time, I saw the need for mission work, all while developing a passion for it. I already have ideas of where I want to go and what I want to do, but I'll keep those to myself until I can further develop those concepts. With that in mind, I'm not confident I will be ready to take that on in the next six months, so my tentative solution is to continue my education. As of a couple of weeks ago, I was accepted to Freed-Hardeman University, and unless this door is closed, I am considering pursuing a Bible degree with an emphasis on Missions (and possibly Youth and Family Ministry). I believe this would serve to better prepare me for the mission field, as well as give me more time to mature and strengthen in the faith. BUT, all of these are merely ideas at this point, so I would greatly appreciate prayers of guidance and wisdom as I try to make godly goals and decisions.

Closing

I know I've said a lot in this letter, but what I really want you to remember is how grateful I am for you and the opportunities you've given me. I could say it a hundred times, and it would never lose its meaning, but my supporters are the ones who enable me to be at this school, learning under godly men and with godly peers. Thank you.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men. (2 Cor. 5:11a | NASB 95)