

# A Fun and Eventful Past Few Months!

Hello Everyone!

I am sorry this update is coming late. The start of the year and semester was a little crazy (more on that below), but I hope you all had a great Christmas, New Years, and start to 2022!



My leadership cohort for the year at the christmas party. From left to right: Sammy, Reuel, Me, and Justin.

The end of last semester was really good. At the end of each fall semester we have each small group make a short video, about anything really, and we show each one at our Christmas party. It is a really fun event where everyone dresses up in nice clothes and we watch the videos and really just spend some good time together as a community. Also at the end of the fall semester the staff from each Chi Alpha in Colorado and Wyoming do a retreat, which was a lot of fun! It was a nice break at the end of the semester to relax a little bit and get to know more of the Chi Alpha staff that we otherwise never really get to meet or spend time with. However, the most awesome part of last semester was the guy in my small group that I mentioned in my last newsletter and asked for prayers. He responded really positively to me and my other friend confronting him about the issue in his life and expressed a desire to change as well, which was awesome! He even has started to go to church and read his Bible on his own. Praise God! So, thank you for the prayers!

Then after Christmas and New Years, the staff came back together in early January to start to get plans for the upcoming fall semester going as well as finalize details for the missions trips that the other interns and I led. That first week back was incredibly busy with missions trips planning and various classes. Then, the next week we went on the missions trips.

The mission trip I led was to Denver to serve a church called the Hills Church, which I was a part of when they were first getting started. The church and the Pastor (Matthew Collver) and his family hold a special place in my heart. The other focus of the trip was to show the students that went with me what doing and using marketplace as missions looks like. We were able to see how some people are living that out. Anyway the first day of the trip we had lunch with a friend named Dan Gibson. Dan is going to be pioneering a Chi Alpha at Denver University (DU) in Denver. So we met with him and he shared his vision for DU and how this opportunity came about for him and his family. We then went and prayer walked the campus and prayed for the ministry that Dan and his team will be starting there in the fall of this year.



The staff of every Chi Alpha in Colorado and Wyoming.



Having dinner with Zac and Lisa Wilkinson.

We then met with Matthew and went over where we would be staying for the week as well as what to expect from the week. Next we had dinner with Zac and Lisa Wilkinson. Zac and Lisa are currently support raising for their new roles at national Chi Alpha as "Marketplace as Missions" specialists. Their goal is to equip students that are graduating with resources that will help them to continue to have a desire to make disciples after college, as well as resources to help them see how that can practically be done after college.

The next day we went and helped out at a cool ministry called the Sox Place. It is run by a guy named Doyle who has an incredible story of how he started this ministry and just the ways that God has provided and remained faithful throughout all of it. Sox Place is a t-shirt printing company as well as a place for the homeless

youth in the neighborhood to gather and get clothes, food, and a warm place to stay for the day. It is clear that Doyle truly cares about them and desires to build relationships with them and lead them to closer to Jesus through those relationships. It was really cool to get the opportunity to serve him and his ministry. We then went back to where we were staying and worked on putting together a bunch of gift bags that we were going to distribute around the Park Hills neighborhood later in the week. That night we got to hear from Matthew about calling and discerning what that is for your life, and it was really good night. I think everyone got a lot out of it.



Making gift bags for the Hills Church.



The team outside the elementary school we served at.

The next morning we went and served at one of the elementary schools in the neighborhood that, as Matthew described it, is kind of forgotten by the school district it is in. For the first part of the day, half of the team helped out the facilities manager with cleaning the school and it was awesome to hear how much she cared for the students and fought for them to get things like AC in the school. The other half went into class rooms and helped out the teachers with whatever they needed. Then for the second half of the day we swapped. It was a really fun day and definitely one of my favorite days of the trip. We later got something from the administrators at the school expressing their gratitude for helping them out that day. Then that night we went and had dinner with a family called the Stones, who I went to CSU with. They are good friends of mine as well as others that were on the trip. The Stones, along with about 12 other people, are all part of a group that they started call Acts 2gether. The idea of this was to go as a group after college to a

neighborhood and live out life and marketplace as missions in their daily live. So it was cool to hear from them on how the idea came about and got started. They shared how what they are doing has evolved over time as they figure out and navigate what has worked and hasn't worked in ministering to their neighbors and co-workers. On the final day of the trip, we took the morning to distribute the gift bags we had made earlier in the week to various houses in the neighborhood as well as prayer walked the neighborhood while doing so. Then to close out the trip we had dinner and a time of worship and prayer with the Collvers. Overall this was a really awesome trip and my team was amazing to lead, and I think everyone got a lot out of the experience.

After the mission trips we had our leadership retreat before the semester started, to just get all of the small group leaders in the ministry back together and ready for the semester to start back up. The start of the semester was a bit hectic though. The first week was pretty decent with some fun activities, but some of the staff got covid and had to quarantine. We had to cancel our first larger group gathering of the semester, due to an ice storm that came through Fort Collins that day. However, we still were able to host a fun board game night that week and a roller skating party as well. Then the next week, the other part of staff, including myself, got covid and had to quarantine. We all fortunately recovered fully and had pretty mild symptoms, but it definitely made the start of the semester a little slower than normal. Everyone is better now and things are starting off well. I had my first small group of the semester last week and it was really good! It has just been good to see and hangout with all of the students and staff after a long break and crazy start to the semester.



From left to right: Reuel, Ibu, and myself at the roller skate night.

Thanks again for all your support. It really means a lot and it has been an amazing year so far, and I couldn't do it without you all!

Prayer Requests
I ask that you continue to pray for the guy that my friend and I have been helping. That he would continue to be convicted about the sin in his life and that he would continue to seek God more and more.
That the staff and students in the ministry and at CSU would continue to be healthy and safe from Covid.
One of the guys I have been discipling this year is graduating in May. So, be praying that his last semester goes well and also that he can develop more of a desire to make disciples as he graduates and goes into the marketplace.
We have our annual men's retreat this weekend so pray that that would be a good time and that God would speak and move during it.

**Contact me!**

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