

Kicking Off Year 3 in Boulder!

Hello Everyone!

I hope your fall has gotten off to a great start and that you all are doing well!

It is hard to believe that this will be our third year here at CU. It has been a great past couple of years and the fall 2024 semester is now in full swing here in Boulder and it has been a great start to the semester!



Group photo from the picnic at the end of welcome week.

Towards the end of August, students started to return to campus and we were able to reconnect with some of our students. We had a short leadership retreat for our small group leaders to kick off welcome week here at CU. The retreat was a fun time for our leaders to bond and have fun and also to plan our welcome week. We also had some time of discussion which allowed us to also remind each other why we are doing what we are doing. After the leadership retreat, we hosted an event with a friend of ours, named Steve, who has a ministry called Trailhead Tacos. His ministry consists of going to different hiking and biking trails throughout the country and giving out tacos to people at trailheads and talking and sharing the gospel with them. At the event, we made and gave out tacos to people and students that were walking by and got to meet and have some cool conversations with students.

As welcome week came to an end, Andrew and I were walking back to my car after playing some games on campus, and we met a student who had arrived from Botswana named Tommey. He needed help finding his dorm and getting his student ID and asked if we could help him with those things. So we helped get him connected with his roommate so that he could get into his dorm. We also tried to help him get his student ID, but the place to do that was closed - so we helped him get some info about where he could get that done the next day. It was awesome to get the opportunity to help him out, and he was really grateful for the help as well. Since then, he has been an awesome part of our community, and he has really enjoyed being a part of it.

We wrapped up welcome week by having a picnic at a park in Boulder. Partha smoked a brisket and some ribs for the picnic, and they were amazing! We had about 20 people at the picnic, and it was an awesome way to end the week and get ready for the start of the school year.

Another cool thing we are doing this semester that I have enjoyed is a new outreach that we are doing this year. We are calling it Chat Board. Throughout the semester, we are going on campus with a chalkboard and asking a question for students to write their answer on the board. The goal of this is to ask questions that can lead to deeper conversations with them. So far we have asked the questions like "Why are you here?", "What's a habit that you want to quit?", and "What's your greatest fear?". This has led to some good conversations with students and some cool stories. One student wanted to break a habit of putting their little brother down. At the next Chat Board we did, this student shared that when he was home last - he really tried to be nicer to his brother and encourage him more - which was really cool to hear.



Photo of the chat board.



Duncan speaking at men's retreat.

The final thing I'll highlight from this semester so far was our Men's retreat that we had this past weekend. We had a total 14 guys there, this year, and it was a lot of fun. It is a great time to spend with the guys in the ministry. This year we had Duncan Chance, who is the director of Chi Alpha at UNC in Greeley, CO, speak at our men's retreat and hangout, and it was really good! He talked about a passage in Matthew 16 where Jesus asks His disciples "Who do you say I am?". He pointed out that each of us are asked that question by Jesus and we need to have an answer to that question.

For the evening session with Duncan, he talked about how we are made in the image of God and because of that have inherit value, that we are chosen and made by God to be in relationship with Him, and that our pasts are

redeemable and forgivable. We are never so far from God that we can't come back to Him. The talks with Duncan were good and I think the guys all got a lot out of it. We also went on a really beautiful hike in the area with the guys and played a game we called Pepper Roulette where had a bunch of peppers of varying levels of spiciness and we had to spin a wheel and eat at least half the pepper to continue to the next round. We kept going until only one guy was left. It was really fun time with the guys and it was a great weekend of building brotherhood and community among the guys.



Group photo of everyone of all the guys at men's retreat.

The start of the semester has been great so far, and I am looking forward to what the rest of the semester will bring. Thanks again for all of the support that you have shown and given me and for your continued prayers and support. It really means a lot and I couldn't do it without you all!

Prayer Requests
Erik and Kellyn are going on a Sabbatical starting on October 14th for a bit. So be praying that, that time will be restful for them and that God would speak to them in their time of rest and that they would come back from sabbatical feeling rested and rejuvenated.
Pray that the bonding that happened at men's and women's retreats this past weekend would continue, and that it will continue to grow throughout the rest of the semester.
Pray that we, as a staff, would continue to get opportunities to serve our students and student leaders so that they can continue to grow closer to God and minister well to each other and those around them.

[Contact me!](#)

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