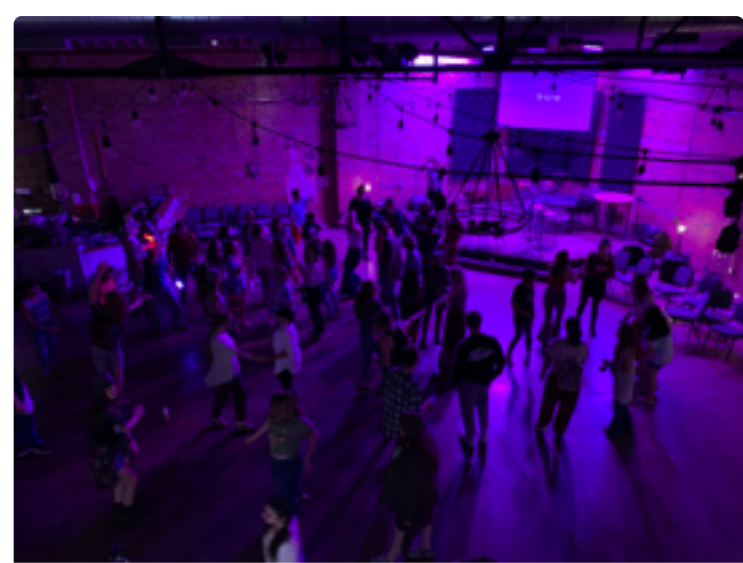


# The Semester Kicks Off!

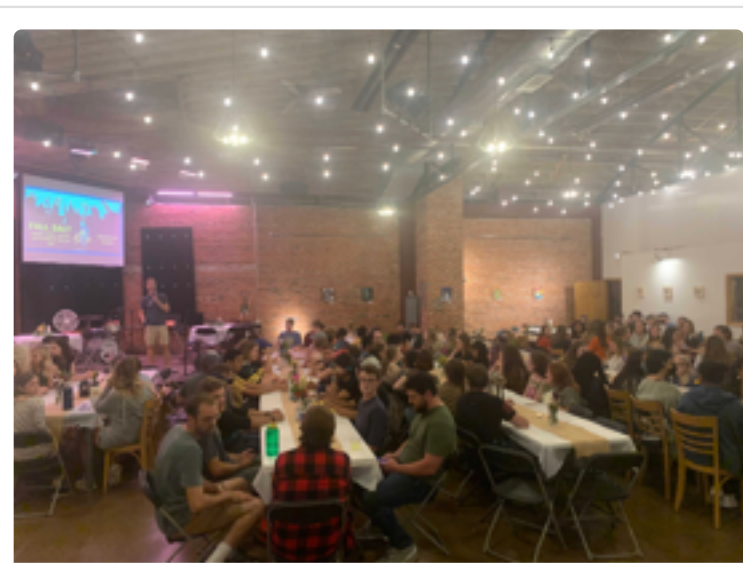
A lot has happened since I officially started my time at CSU XA and I have had a very busy past couple of months. I am sorry that I am getting this first update out so late to you all, but here is the first of many updates to come as I go through this next season of my life.



Over view of the dance party!

A couple of weeks before the start of the semester, everyone on staff met up and we had some staff training for those new on staff this year. We went through what a normal week during the semester would look like for us as well as some team building activities to get ready for the semester to start. Then we jumped into welcome week, which is a week's worth of activities that the university puts on to welcome new students to the university and existing students back each fall semester. During this time there are a lot of students on campus and it is a great time to meet new students who are looking for community. During this week, we go out on campus and serve students in whatever way we can do different activities and outreach to meet students. This year, I met a lot of students and even met a guy from my hometown. I had a couple of guys that I met join my small group, which has been really good so far this semester. I have 3 or 4 guys that I am getting the opportunity to disciple this semester. I also have a few others that I am trying to stay in touch with bring into my life in whatever way I can at the moment. After welcome week, the semester starts back up for students and classes get into full swing for them. So we like to host a few events that are fun for students to attend at the start of the semester. One of which was a Hippie vs Hipster themed dance party which was actually a lot of fun! The outfits people came up with were pretty funny.

Then over Labor Day weekend some us went up into the mountains of Colorado to camping and just chill and hangout for the weekend. it was a good bonding time for students and small group leaders and a lot of fun and good conversations were had.

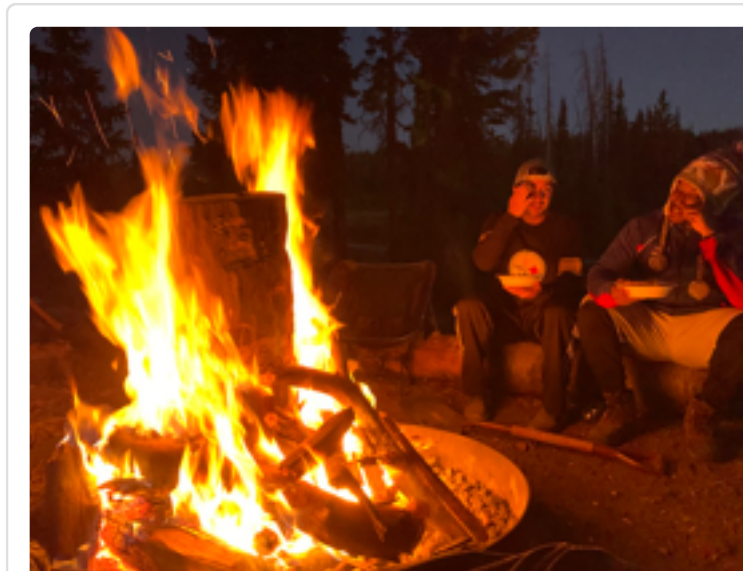


Agapē Feast!

Every Fall semester - one week instead of our weekly large group gathering for the ministry we host something called Agapē Feast for everyone in the ministry to come to and have a meal together. Agapē is one of the greek words for love and is used in the Bible to describe specifically the love God has for us. This year we had around 180 students and staff there and each small group either made a side or a dessert. The staff all cooked the main courses for everyone. To end the night we took some time for people in the ministry to honor someone if they wanted to and took communion together. It was really fun night and quite an awesome thing to see come together. Then in the last weekend of September we had our annual fall retreat called Fall SALT in Garden City, UT, which is next to beautiful Bear Lake. This is an awesome weekend spent with people from our Chi Alpha and all the other Chi Alphas in CO. This is a really amazing event and gives students an opportunity to interact with and meet other students that are apart of Chi Alpha outside of ours and gives them an idea of what other Chi Alphas are like. During this weekend, we also have times of worship and a guest speaker comes and preaches on a topic or series of topics through out the weekend. The students are given some reflection time as well, and have a game that each small group gets to compete in and try to win. Then to end the weekend, we have baptisms, which is always a really special thing to watch and partake in.



Here is the CSU XA staff team for this year!



Labor day camping trip. Sitting around the fire.



The guys staff team packing up the trailer to go to Fall SALT.



Nathan Cole was the guest speaker for this year's Fall SALT. Nathan is on the national Chi Alpha team and preached on what real love is and looks like. If you want listen to the talks he gave you can find them [here](#).



Me and one of my guys from last year, Connor, worshipping. He graduated last year and it was awesome to see him again!



Ryan praying over one of the meals we all had together.

Lastly, an update on the Campus Missionary In Training (CMIT)

program I have been doing as well this year. It has been really awesome! I have had a good amount of time this semester spent on this, between taking theology class, which has made for some really great conversations between all the other CMIT's, and practical ministry classes a couple times a week. We also have had some readings that we need to do throughout the year and those have been really good to read. One book in particular that has stood out to me the most and that I highly recommend reading is **Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus** by Nabeel Qureshi. In the book, Qureshi outlines his journey from being a devout Muslim to submitting his life to and following Jesus. It is an incredible story that is well written and does a great job of outlining the similarities and differences between Islam and Christianity and why he ultimately was led to Jesus.

So this is what the ministry and I have been up to over the past month or so. Thanks a ton for all your support as I continue in this next season of my life! It has been and will continue to be an amazing journey! Below are some prayer requests and as always feel free to send me any prayer requests that you have.



My fellow CMIT's for this year. This was taken during the dance party. From left to right: Joel, Zacc, me, Adam, Elizabeth and Jen (not pictured).

## Prayer Requests

One of my guys expressed at the last small group that he has been feeling overwhelmed. This is part because he is currently involved in several campus ministries and he know he needs to pick one and stick with it. So if you could be praying that God would lead him to the right campus ministry where he can grow in his faith as well as that he would have peace about that decision and around school and the other things in his life.

One of my small group guys from last year has been really busy this semester and I have not seen him hardly at all this semester. So be praying that we would be able to find time to hangout soon.

Pray that I can continue to lead the guys I am discipling well and that they will continue to desire to seek God and hangaround.

I have been much busier than I expected in my new position and recently I noticed that I have had a hard time finding time to spend with God and so also be praying that I will find and fight for my time with God.

## Contact me!

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