

# Kicking Off the Fall 2023 Semester!

Hello Everyone!

I hope you all are doing well!

With the semester back in full swing, I thought I would send an update about how the last part of the summer went and how the start of the Fall, 2023 semester has been so far.

Our first summer in Boulder was a lot of fun! We had a good number of students that were in town over the summer. They continued to come to our summer small groups each week throughout the summer, and they attended other events that we held. It was a lot of fun to stay connected with all of the students throughout the summer.



One of our summer small group/worship night gatherings.



Watching the sunrise at Light. God's creation is amazing!

Toward the end of the summer, we had our annual Light conference which is a conference that we have every summer for all of the Chi Alpha missionaries in our region. This includes Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana. This year, the conference was in Montana, near Glacier National Park. It was an incredibly beautiful place to have the conference and it was quite the blessing to be able to go up there to be a part of it. The conference was a lot of fun! It was good to connect with other Chi Alpha missionaries that I haven't met before and to get to know them better. I also got to see some good friends that I worked with at CSU. It was great to catch up with them and see how their ministries are going on their campus, as well as to see how their summers have been.

After we got back from Light we had about two weeks before we needed to start getting ready for the semester. During this time Partha, one of

the first students in our Chi Alpha who has since given his life to Jesus, got baptized at our church one Sunday along with three others that go to our church. It was a great moment and was so awesome to watch and hear about all that God has done in each of their lives!



Partha getting baptized!

In the middle of August, we had our staff and leadership retreats before the semester got started. The staff retreat was an awesome time to just be all together as a staff team, which we have not had the opportunity to do in a while. We had awesome times of worship and prayer together during that time. We also got to do some good team building and review what the upcoming semester and school year would entail and what would be expected.

The week after our staff retreat was welcome week for CU. This is the week where all of the freshman come to campus and move into the dorms. At the start of the week, we held a leadership retreat with most of our student small group leaders for the year. That was a good time to share the vision of what Chi Alpha is, as well as give an overview of what the year will look like. We were able to share the expectations that we have for our student leaders as well. The leadership retreat was our first here at CU and so that was an exciting milestone to reach in our ministry. All of the students that we have on the leadership team are amazing!

Welcome week on campus was also a great time. We got to go out on campus with our student leaders and make connections with students and freshman that have moved into the dorms on campus. This is always a fun and exhausting week, but we met students that are wanting to be a part of Chi Alpha. Then, the next week was the first official week of classes.



The us at the "Be Involved" fair!

We took part in CU's "Be Involved" fair which is basically a space for all of the student organizations at CU to set up tables; it allows the CU students to check out all of the student organizations in one place. For the fair this year, we set up a table and gave out a bunch of plants to students that stopped by. This turned out to be a big hit and we had a lot of students come by for a plant. So we were able to have some good conversations and meet a lot of students that way. The pots that we put the plants in said "A Garden, Not A Factory" on them. This is because we believe that everyone's walk with God, as well as what everyone needs when being discipled or discipling, is very unique to them. It takes a lot of care, like a garden, and it is not a one size fits all solution.

This year we are also partnering with our local church, Belay, to put on a Tuesday night service for young adults and college students. We are using a building right across from campus which

has been really awesome! What a Blessing to be able to use that space each week. The first few weeks have been a lot fun, and it is a great space to bring students into. It will be awesome to see what God does through this service and how God will grow the service this year!

So that is what the end of the summer and start of the semester have looked like and what we have been doing during that time! I just want to end by saying thanks again for all of the support that you all have shown and given me over this past two and half years while I've been in ministry. It really means a lot and I couldn't have done it with out you all!



The Tuesday night service crew!

Prayer Requests
Be praying that the new students that we have gotten connected with would either continue to be involved with our community or another Christian community on campus.
I am leading a small group with one of our student leaders, Rishab, this year and I ask that you would be praying for God to lead us in how best to lead and disciple the guys in the small group; pray also that our small group would be healthy this year.
Be praying for all of our new student leaders to continue to grow in their walk with God this year as well as to continue to develop their discipleship skills. Most importantly please pray that they would learn more and more to seek God's Kingdom first this year.
Be praying that Andrew and Jen Hemperly, the final two member of our team would get their support raising done, by October so that they can join us here in Boulder.