



*To the friends, family, and supporters of The Awaken Project,*

With great joy, I am thoroughly excited for you all to read about what has been happening with TAP in the recent months! On September 12th, 2022, we began year TWO of the gap year program. We have three excellent young men as students this year; Jacob Bryngelson (Rosemount, MN), Joe Griffin (Sorrento, FL), and Trevor Wersal (Hutchinson, MN). We've increased the total number of classes this fall to nine, compared to last year's five. So far, we have had classes taught by Kendra Diehl, Dave Wollan and Steve Olcott, Ben Sides, and the week that you are reading this newsletter, we are likely in the middle of our week with Paul Gossman.

For the first time in a long time, there has been a consistent and vibrant communal energy on campus at Mount Carmel. We saw plenty of glimpses of this community last year, but I think that it is evident that this year's group has gone above and beyond in their ownership of being in the program and making themselves at home amongst all of the other residential community members at Mount Carmel.

There are still plenty of classes to come join this fall! Anyone is invited to join us for our morning sessions and there is no charge for attending! This fall is shaping up to be beautiful here in central Minnesota. Renting a cabin at Mount Carmel and sitting in on some TAP classes is a great way to be filled by God's Word in a marvelous sanctuary of God's creation.

We thank you all for your prayers and support for this program. There are still plenty of seeds being sown and lots of work that needs to be done to tend to those seeds, but we are beginning to see some real fruit from the last almost five years of prayer and planning to get to this point. We thank YOU for supporting a safe and welcoming environment for young adults to engage with God's Word so that faith is created in them and they are truly awakened to the Kingdom of God that our Father in heaven has welcomed us into.

Jesus' peace be with you all,

*Steven Wagner,*  
Gap Year Director

# † Gap Year Student Reflections

Following the initiation week, a cascade of wisdom and truly awe-inspiring, thought provoking, and worthwhile knowledge simply overwhelmed me in our first week with Kendra Diehl. She created explosion after explosion in my mind as she led us through the book of Colossians in a deep, intentional way I couldn't have even imagined possible prior to actually doing it. This wonderful trend continued the entire week, as Kendra continued to share her vast expertise of theology and the book of Colossians both during the class sessions, and outside whenever we had any questions, because we had a lot. Our minds were blown time after time, session after session, fact after fact, creating a lasting intrigue, and wanting for more. That week could not have been long enough for me to learn all Kendra could have taught me, she was truly a scholar and expert, who not only proved to be an extremely skilled teacher, but also a caring mentor who sought to foster interest and develop understanding. If our minds are being blown again and again from delving into the 4 page book of Colossians, you might not be surprised to hear that it happened again, and again into the second week with Dave Wollan and Steve Olcott, in which we focused on the Gospels.

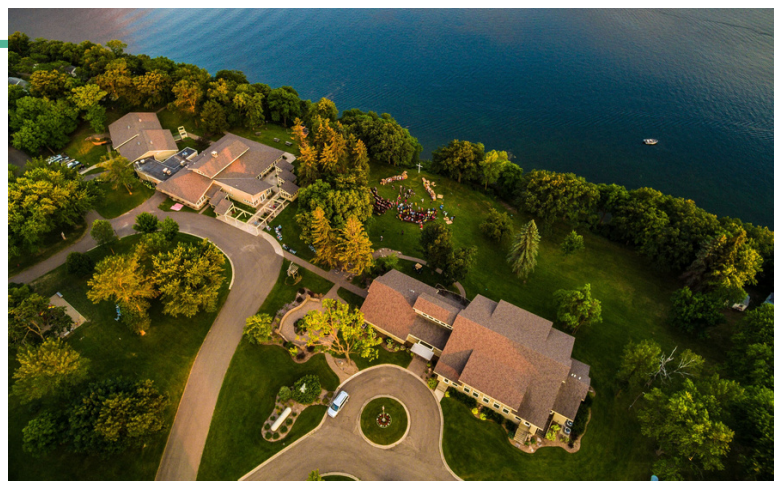
I can confidently say without a doubt, now being in my third week of participating in The Awaken Project, that I have never had so much fun, I have never learned so much, I have never had my mind blown, my entire understanding of history, theology, and myself blown up in my face ever before. All in the best way. In the short, but truly fantastic time I have spent here so far, I cannot compare the amount of personal growth I have experienced to any other time in my life. Even past mission trips, school events, and traveling falls short compared to these past weeks with Joe, Jacob, Steven, and an incredible sensation I can only describe as the nearness of the Lord in a way I had never experienced before.

~ TREVOR WERSAL, to read the whole blog, visit our website!



## Be Our Guest *this Fall*

We invite you to stay onsite at Mount Carmel Ministries during any of our fall teaching weeks! Come enjoy Bible study, fellowship, and recreation on Lake Carlos by renting one of the wonderful cabins, lodge rooms, or RV sites that Mount Carmel offers. To learn more about where you will stay and pricing, please visit [www.MountCarmelMinistries.com](http://www.MountCarmelMinistries.com)! To view class schedules, please visit The Awaken Project's website! We look forward to seeing you at Mount Carmel this fall!



## Year-End *Giving*

As a nonprofit organization, we depend on the charitable giving of many faithful supporters to see the vision of this ministry come alive. As a relatively new organization, we are working towards creating a base amount that guarantees our ability to operate without having to worry constantly about how much money we have in the bank. It is our goal that by the end of the year, we will have enough money in our general fund that we will be able to pay for one year's worth of operating expenses by the beginning of 2023. If we see a total of \$15,000 in donations given by the end of this year, we will ensure that fiscal year 2023 will be a crucial foundation for future years of TAP to be financially viable and successful. Even between this past year and this current year of the gap year program, the jump made in program cohesion, effectiveness, and possibility has been exceptional. Supporting TAP now lays the groundwork for fruitful and faithful ministry for years to come. We believe that The Awaken Project can be described today as a healthy, grounded, and growing ministry. We also hope that these words can describe this ministry for as long as it exists.

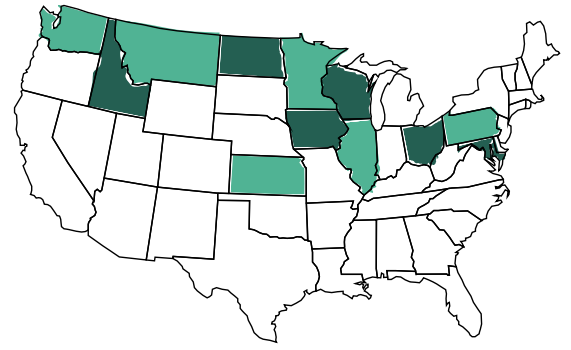
We kindly ask that you consider making a gift to The Awaken Project as part of your year end giving this year. On TAP's website, there is a "donate" button that will take you to our online giving platform where you can make a donation via credit card. If you prefer to donate via check, you can mail TAP a check at the address below:

*The Awaken Project*  
*800 Mount Carmel Drive NE*  
*Alexandria, Minnesota, 56308*

We thank you sincerely and wholeheartedly for all of your support for TAP, from prayers offered, to financial gifts, to friendship with our students, to wearing a TAP t-shirt out in public. We hope that this is a ministry that you are proud to support and look forward to sharing throughout the rest of this year how God continues to transform our students into richer bearers of His image.

## Where are we going!

This spring, The Awaken Project will be traveling throughout the United States doing ministry with Quake Events, learning about the Word, and making memories. We are excited for moments of joy ahead!

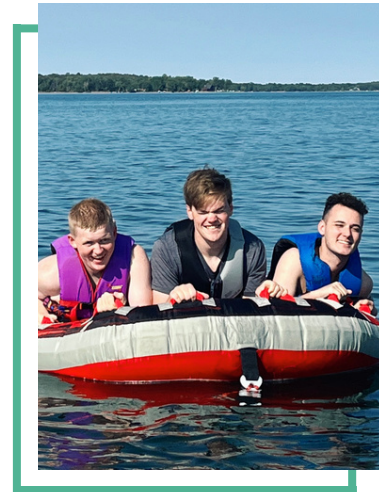


## 2023-2024 Gap Year

We are thankful to God for the blessing that this year has been so far! We would love for more young adults to experience the joy, fellowship, and growth that comes with doing The Awaken Project. If you know a young adult who may be interested in learning more about how they can be a part of next year's 2023-2024 cohort, visit our website at [www.TheAwakenProjectMN.com](http://www.TheAwakenProjectMN.com) or email Steven at [Steven@TheAwakenProjectMN.com](mailto:Steven@TheAwakenProjectMN.com).

## Prayer Requests

- For the 2022-2023 students, that they may grow in their love and knowledge of the Lord as they engage in godly, joyful community.
- For the teachers who have taught and will teach this fall, that their teachings would have a lasting impact on the students and that they would be blessed for their Kingdom work.
- For TAP to be financially supported according to the needs of the ministry.
- For TAP Podcast to grow and engage in fruitful conversations across all interviews.
- For the staff and volunteers of TAP, may their service be blessed and may they take refuge in the cross of Christ.



## Pray for our students by name!



BE AWAKENED. BE DISCIPLES. BE JESUS.