

SPRING 2023

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## FROM THE GAP YEAR DIRECTOR

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

I remember growing up in Elementary school, my family would get newsletters once a quarter about what was happening at the school, what important dates needed to be put on the calendar, etc. I remember that my mom would always be surprised that whoever wrote the newsletter always began the front page text with the phrase, "it's hard to believe that (insert upcoming season/holiday/event) is almost here!" She always said, surely they could use another lede one of these years...

Unfortunately for my mom, I must confess that for me, it's hard to believe that the end of TAP's 2022-2023 year is next month! It feels like just yesterday that we started the year, and yet here we are, a mere seven weeks away from completing year two of the gap year program.

As I ponder this year, it's no wonder that it flew by. Our fall classes were a hit, and most recently, our spring slate of Quake and Mount Carmel Ministries events was a memorable, grinding, Holy Spirit

inspired stretch of ministry that saw each of our students grow in both new and continuing ways. In particular with Quakes, I encourage you to read the article (included in this newsletter) written by Amanda Clark, one of the Event Directors for Quake. By and large, the 2023 event season for TAP was a great success for our ministry, as well as for supporting Quake in their ministry.

We still have a few thousand miles to travel and a plenty of students to hang out/share the Gospel with, but for both myself and you reading this, would like to take a moment and appreciate all that God has orchestrated this year and celebrate the Holy Spirit moving in and through our midst in this particular ministry.

Thank you for your support of The Awaken Project and God bless!



*Steven Wagner,*  
Gap Year Director

# GAP YEAR STUDENT REFLECTIONS

BY JOE GRIFFIN

Wow! I honestly can't believe it's already been six months since I've been part of the Awaken Project. Since starting the program in September, I can say that I've traveled, experienced, and learned a lot more about God, the Bible, and my faith than I would have if I had stayed in Florida. Moving to Minnesota from Florida was a huge adjustment and came with its own set of challenges that have pushed me to try new things and take things at a slower pace, which I was not used to. Working at Chick-fil-A, we are trained to keep up with a fast-paced environment and to make sure we always keep moving or doing something, which is something I had adapted to my everyday life as well. I had always pressured myself to finish college in a certain amount of time and try to get everything done as fast as possible so I could move on to the next thing. However, during my time in the Awaken Project, I have learned that, believe it or not, that isn't a healthy way to live and it's completely okay to take time for yourself, to not rush into anything, and just be still.

I can truly say with only two months left in the Awaken Project, I have not had such a unique experience as this one and I certainly don't regret the choice that I have made to be a part of this incredible program. Between living on a lakefront, the Bible classes in the fall, and the traveling and Quake events in the spring, I think that this program has a lot to offer to anyone who chooses to join and give you a new perspective on your life and your faith. I've undoubtedly built amazing connections with so many people throughout the past few months and feel blessed to be part of this ministry. Also, regarding Quake events, getting to develop new production skills, spending time with students, and just having fun with everyone involved is simply my favorite part. I'm just hoping to finish out this year strong and can't wait to see who'll be coming up here next year. :)

## TAP AT QUAKE: QUAKE STAFF TESTIMONIAL

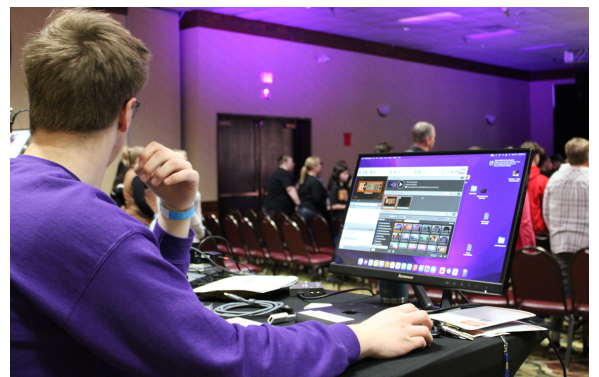
BY AMANDA CLARK

Two years running, The Awaken Project has been a valuable addition to Quake. Quake is a hotel-based weekend conference for Christian youth groups. The Awaken Project has added vibrant energy as these young adults serve as technical support, program leaders, and role-models.

The Awaken Project does a lot of behind-the-scenes jobs that keep Quake flowing smoothly. Because this same set of young adults serve at so many Quake events around the country, they become skilled at technical tasks including setup and tear down of the entire concert venue—including audio, lighting, and media. One of them is often the lighting engineer for large-group worship. The Awaken Project leads a food packaging service project, workshops as needed, and orientation for up to 500 youth.

What sets Quake apart from other youth conferences is the intentionality of the staff to authentically invest in youth, making space for the Holy Spirit to move. The Awaken Project's biggest asset is their willingness to join youth groups for devotions, meals, and hanging out with groups between scheduled programming. Quake is extremely thankful for The Awaken Project's partnership.





Shown: TAP serving at Quake, Alexandria's Car Care Program, Mount Carmel's Young Adult Retreat & Family Camp Recharge; along with a fun trip to Florida!





## APPLY TODAY

We are so thankful to God for the blessing that this year has been. 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 [www.theawakenprojectmn.com](http://www.theawakenprojectmn.com) and apply today!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- For new students to be interested and enrolled in the upcoming gap year cohort.
- TAP to be financially supported according to the needs of the ministry.
- The staff and volunteers of TAP, may their service be seen through a gospel lens and that they may daily take refuge in the cross of Christ.
- Steadfast joy to be ever present amongst the community of TAP people.
- That this years' cohort would continue to experience blessings as the year carries on, and that the memories made would remain with them for years to come.

## DONATION REQUEST

Awaken Project Community - We have been blessed richly by our current TAP vehicle—a Dodge Grand Caravan generously donated by the Spahr Family. However, as we look at cultivating the program and recruiting more students, we are looking for another vehicle to help transport the team around the United States sharing the gospel and making memories. If you are someone or know someone who may have a used mini van that they would be willing to donate to the organization, please prayerfully consider this and contact Steven for additional questions.

## MONTHLY GIVING

Every financial donation that has come through has been used for gas and transportation needs, day-to-day operations, and many other outlets that have allowed this ministry to continue. We have been so richly blessed by your financial support, but ask that you or the those around you consider giving to TAP monthly. Having consistent periodic income is crucial to the operational flow of the organization. If you would like to serve in this way, please visit [www.theawakenprojectmn.com/give](http://www.theawakenprojectmn.com/give).

2023-2024 Student:  
**REAGAN MARTIN**  
Ashland, OH



"I stumbled upon The Awaken Project in a blind search...and God led me to everything I long for—education, peace, adventure and fellowship. I'm so thrilled to further my knowledge of the Bible, knowledge of myself and a deeper relationship with God."

**REAGAN**

**BE AWAKENED. BE DISCIPLES. BE JESUS.**