

MAY 2025

Kevin Rapp

SIBI NEWS LETTER



Dear Family

As my 4th term at SIBI comes to a close, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your constant prayers, encouragement, and support. It's been a spiritually enriching and academically challenging journey, I am deeply grateful for how God has continued to work through you and in me.

This term, I have had the opportunity to dive deep into several very impactful courses that have strengthened my understanding of Scripture and how to lead in ministry



New Testament Church:

I learned how the New Testament church is not just a historical reality but part of God's eternal plan, revealed through prophecy and fulfilled in Christ. I gained a clearer understanding of the Biblical identity of the church, the pattern of teaching that leads to salvation, and the importance of practicing "pre-denominational" Christianity. What I valued most was being equipped to address modern issues—like the role of women and music in the church—with both biblical truth and a spirit of unity. The teaching outlines and book reports helped prepare me to educate and lead a congregation while maintaining peace and faithfulness to God's Word.

1 Corinthians:

We examined the historical and cultural background of Corinth and the challenges faced by the early church. I learned how Paul addressed division, immorality, and other issues with a Christ-centered approach, emphasizing unity, love, and the value of the body of Christ. What I valued most was developing the habit of turning to Scripture when facing difficult questions, seeing how love, above all, should guide our actions in the church. The study of chapter 7 on marriage, divorce, and remarriage especially helped me think critically and Biblically about complex topics I will likely face in ministry.





Conflict Resolution:

This short course was incredibly practical and insightful. One of the most valuable things I learned was how deeply emotional and relational systems impact the health and growth of a congregation. I came to understand that conflict within the church doesn't just affect the people involved—it often hurts the most vulnerable among us. I learned that emotions, especially anxiety, are contagious and can create repeated patterns of dysfunction unless addressed with maturity and spiritual awareness. Tools like emotional validation, self-differentiation, and understanding system theory really helped me see how to manage tension in a healthier way. I also realized how important it is to avoid people-pleasing, to recognize red flags in church behavior, and to handle antagonism with calm professionalism. What I appreciated most was how these lessons were tied to biblical principles and real-life ministry challenges, preparing me to lead more effectively, compassionately, and truthfully.

1st & 2nd Thessalonians / Philippians:

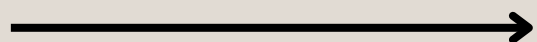
In this course, I gained a deeper understanding of the epistles of 1 and 2 Thessalonians and Philippians by studying them exegetically, theologically, and homiletically within their original first-century context and how they apply to today's church. I learned the core messages of these letters and was especially impacted by their emphasis on devotion to King Jesus, the hope of His return, and the call to live faithfully and serve effectively in the present. I valued learning from Paul's ministry methods, developing sermon materials, and strengthening my ability to teach and preach sound doctrine. Most of all, I appreciated how the course challenged me both intellectually and spiritually to live with a longing for the Lord while actively engaging in the life and mission of the church.

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EVANGELISM 2:

IN THIS COURSE, I LEARNED HOW TO LEAD AND SERVE IN CONGREGATIONAL EVANGELISM BY DEVELOPING PRACTICAL SKILLS LIKE BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, INITIATING AND CONDUCTING BIBLE STUDIES, AND HELPING NEW BELIEVERS BECOME ACTIVE IN THE CHURCH. I GAINED TOOLS AND STRATEGIES TO LEAD A CHURCH TOWARD GENUINE GROWTH WITHOUT RELYING ON COMPLEX PROGRAMS, FOCUSING INSTEAD ON BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES AND THE 12 ESSENTIALS OF CHURCH GROWTH. WHAT I VALUED MOST WAS THE HANDS-ON, ACTION-DRIVEN APPROACH THAT ENCOURAGED ME TO APPLY WHAT I LEARNED EACH WEEK, OBSERVE HOW GOD WORKS THROUGH THOSE EFFORTS, AND REALIZE THAT EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM IS ROOTED IN BEING AUTHENTIC, PRAYERFUL, AND FOCUSED ON REACHING THE LOST TOGETHER AS A CHURCH FAMILY.



This term wasn't all study, we also shared some wonderful fellowship moments together as a class. We enjoyed group singing at the Owens' home, breakfast with one of our instructors, Kevin Haynes, and his amazing wife Becca, we concluded our term by having a BBQ, which we affectionately call a "Glawe Out" thanks to our amazing instructor Mat Glawe. These moments helped build community and brought joy in the midst of a busy schedule.



Plans For the Summer

This summer, I am thrilled to return to East Africa, primarily Mbarara, Uganda, as part of my internship requirement.

This opportunity is more than just a box checked for graduation. It's a return to a place that deeply shaped my heart for ministry. I'll be working alongside local church leaders, continuing the mission of teaching, equipping, and encouraging believers in their walk with Christ.

What excites me most?

- Reconnecting with the people and churches I've come to love
- Sharing the gospel in vibrant, passionate communities
- Watching God move in places where spiritual hunger overflows

This isn't just a trip, it is a calling. I am honored to pursue it with your continued prayers and support. As always, I am humbled by your love and support. Your partnership in the gospel means more than words can express.



ONCE AGAIN, I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, PRAYERS, AND ENCOURAGEMENT. I COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU, AND I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR THE ROLE YOU PLAY IN MY LIFE AND EDUCATION. AS I CONTINUE THIS JOURNEY, I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HOW GOD WILL USE THESE LESSONS AND EXPERIENCES TO EQUIP ME FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE.

JOYFULLY HIS,

KEVIN RAPP

PLEASE REACH OUT WITH ANY QUESTIONS

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OPTIONS TO GIVE



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