

Kevin Rapp

SIBI NEWS LETTER



SUMMER 2026

This summer has given me a chance to step outside the classroom and put into practice so much of what I have spent the past year learning at Sunset. From a men's retreat in the mountains of New Mexico, to serving at camp, to preaching for congregations across Texas and even Colorado, I have been blessed with opportunities to teach, serve, build relationships, and continue growing in ministry.

One of the things I have appreciated most is realizing how much my classes at Sunset have prepared me for these opportunities. Homiletics and preaching labs have helped me become more intentional in preparing and delivering sermons. Christian Counseling has reminded me to listen before I speak, and classes like Romans, Bible History, and Scheme of Redemption have given me a much stronger biblical foundation to draw from.

There were plenty of assignments during the school year that simply felt like work that needed to be finished. This summer helped me see the purpose behind much of it. I found myself using things my instructors had taught me—sometimes without even realizing it until afterward.

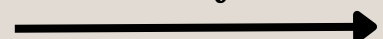
Starting the Summer with Z

One of my first opportunities of the summer was attending **Z**, a transformative men's retreat weekend in the mountains of Alto, New Mexico. After a busy year at Sunset, it was a great opportunity to get away from the normal routine, spend time with other Christian men, and refocus spiritually.

It reminded me that ministry isn't just about how much we know or how busy we can stay. Sometimes we need to slow down and allow God to continue working on us too.



*But wait there's
more*



Summer Preaching opportunities

One of the greatest blessings this summer has been the opportunity to travel and preach for several different congregations, including **Muleshoe, Lockney, Silverton, and Walsenburg, Colorado.**

Every congregation has been different, and that has been part of what I've enjoyed most. Each opportunity has challenged me to think beyond simply preparing a sermon and instead think about the people sitting in front of me—what does this text say, what do these people need from it, and how can I communicate it faithfully and clearly?

Ninth & Columbia Church of Christ

One opportunity early in the summer especially stands out. I had the honor of preaching at **Ninth and Columbia Church of Christ.** It is one of the more established congregations I have had the opportunity to work with, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there.

What stood out to me most was how involved their young people were in the worship service. They weren't simply sitting in the pews; they were being given opportunities to participate and serve. It was encouraging to see a congregation intentionally preparing the next generation to be involved in the church.

I left grateful for the congregation, encouraged by what I saw, and thankful that they trusted me with the opportunity to preach God's Word.

Serving at Camp Following

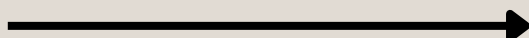
Camp was another important part of my summer. Camp ministry looks very different from standing behind a pulpit on Sunday morning, and that's part of what makes it so valuable.

It gave me opportunities to encourage young people, answer questions, build relationships, and simply be present. Sometimes ministry is a prepared sermon or Bible lesson. Other times it's sitting down with someone, listening to what's going on in their life, and helping them work through it from a Christian perspective.

Those experiences were another reminder that the training I'm receiving at Sunset isn't intended to stay in the classroom.



*But wait there's
more*



THE FINISH LINE IS IN SIGHT

Only Two Terms Remaining!

It is hard for me to believe, but I now have only two terms remaining before graduation in December! My plan is to complete First Term on campus. That term will conclude after a short course during the first week of October. For my final term, I plan to transition to online studies under Mike Wilson's direction. This will allow me to finish my remaining coursework before December and, Lord willing, spend December serving in Uganda.

Returning to a Place Near to My Heart

Uganda has become very near to my heart. I have been blessed to serve there on short-term mission trips for the past four summers, and each trip has deepened the relationships I have with the people and the work there.

If our current plans come together, I will have the opportunity to return in December and spend a longer period serving before returning home for graduation.

We are still in the planning stages. Plane tickets have been purchased and are refundable, but there is still more planning to do and additional funding that needs to be raised.

Please pray for wisdom as these plans develop, for the remaining financial needs to be met, and that God will open or close doors according to His will.

PLEASE REACH OUT WITH ANY QUESTIONS

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TO GIVE PLEASE VISIT

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A Special Prayer Request

Please keep four of my closest friends and fellow Sunset students in your prayers: **Fernando, Colby, Melissa, and Nico**. They graduated from Sunset this past May and are all international students. They had expected to spend the summer working here in the United States and then return to Sunset to participate in a graduate studies course being offered by the school. Unfortunately, because of some miscommunication, they were unable to attend the graduate course and had to unexpectedly return to their home countries.

Fernando returned to Guatemala, Colby, Melissa, and Nico returned to South Africa.

These weren't transitions they had been expecting to make so suddenly. After investing so much time at Sunset, building relationships here, and making plans for what they thought would come next, they have had to adjust those plans very quickly. Please pray for them as they navigate this unexpected transition—for peace, direction, encouragement, and new opportunities to use the training they received at Sunset. They have become dear friends, and I know your prayers for them would mean a great deal.



Once again, thank you all for your continued **support, prayers, and encouragement**. As graduation gets closer, I am reminded more and more that I haven't made this journey alone.

With only two terms remaining, I can finally see the finish line—but graduation isn't really the finish line. The goal has never simply been to complete classes or earn a diploma. The goal is to become better equipped to serve God and His people wherever He gives me the opportunity.

Thank you for being part of that journey.

KEVIN RAPP