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287 Beulah Road; Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Dear supporters and friends,

In the 10th Century B.C., King Solomon constructed a grand and impressive temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. It became the holiest place on earth for the followers of Yahweh, and the place Israelites from all over the country travelled several times a year, making pilgrimages to celebrate their feasts and offer their sacrifices. In the year 586 B.C, the sacred temple of the Jews was destroyed when the Babylonians conquered the city and razed it to the ground. Seventy years later a second temple was built, which over the centuries slowly developed and expanded until the year 23 B.C., when King Herod “the Great” extended the base of Mount Moriah and built a much larger and refurbished version of the temple. This expanded version of the 2nd temple lasted only until A.D. 70, when the Roman general Flavius Titus laid siege to the city, murdering many of its inhabitants and utterly dismantling and destroying the temple. Remains of that destruction are still visible today, and they remind us of the prophecy made by Jesus of the abomination of desolation that would befall this city and temple. Two thousand years later, a burning question remains; would the stones of Herod be used again? Would there be a third and final temple?

Today, under the new covenant of Christ, a physical temple is no longer needed. Christ Himself taught that true worship would NOT necessitate a specific physical location. Neither at Mount Gerizim where the Samaritans worshipped, nor on the Holy Hill of Zion would the place for true worship be limited. Instead, worship would occur “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24), and not confined by a physical location or designated holy site. Where, then, does true spiritual worship occur today? At what temple are we to gather? And does a third temple exist today? Yes, indeed.



We always enjoy spending time with BV students outside of class
- here with Ezra Carrick and the Kyle Click family

The church has become the *third* holy temple of the Lord and a dwelling place for God. Instead of the huge limestone rock foundation of the Herodian temple, followers of Jesus are “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:20). When any sinner desires to draw near to God, He will draw near to them. Just as sinners who approached his seat of mercy at the temple were purified by water and atoned by the blood of animal

sacrifice, so today we can draw near to the mercy seat of God because of the blood of Jesus, when we are cleansed in the water of baptism by the power of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38). God then takes up his abode in us (Col. 1:27; 1 Cor. 6:19-20), and collectively we become his temple (1 Corinthians 3:16) and the new spiritual priest who minister to others. Our sacrifices are our lives filled with goodness and praise (Rom. 12:1-2; Phil. 4:18).

These three temples of scripture have become the object of much of my personal study during these past two months as we prepare the scripts for our newest video series called "The Temple Project: Then and Now." In May and June, we plan to be Israel and Rome leading a group for a Bible Lands Studies program and tour, but we will also be filming and photographing sites related to the making of this video and planned book.

In addition, we have also been heavily involved in providing marriage counseling to Christian couples, preaching by appointment, conducting gospel meetings in Missouri and Texas, writing, filming at WVBS, and speaking at Focal Point in San Marcos, Texas, and preparing to lead a group of forty to the Bible Lands. Carla will have more to say in her comments about our work, but she never ceases to amaze me with all the things she continues to accomplish. She has spent numerous hours counseling Christian women, leading others in her daily scripture writing program, proofing my written material, speaking on women's programs, and much, much more. Our work is truly a team effort and what she does is indispensable.

Our dear brethren, we cannot thank you enough for your love, support, and prayers. Without you, this work would not be possible. May God bless you richly.. *John and Carla*

2022 Schedule:

May 7
Ladies Day
Gilbert, AZ
May 8-12
Jasper, TX Gospel Meeting
May 14
Ladies Day
Canyon Lake, TX
May
WVBS Temple Project
May 15-30
Graduation Activities at BVBI
May 23-June 4
Israel/Rome Studies Tour
June-July
WVBS and BLP projects
August-October
Bear Valley Bible Institute
August 17-25
Polishing the Pulpit
September 15-18
Bear Valley Lectures
October 1
Teacher Workshop Lubbock, TX
Oct. 31-Nov. 12
Digging Deep Israel Study Tour
November-December
WVBS and BLP projects

Please pray for our brethren in Ukraine and for all of the students and staff working in the Bear Valley Bible Institute International schools. To read some very encouraging news about the work of the Lord being done around the world visit our website at: <https://www.wetrainpreachers.com/>

"Just want to tell you how much our congregation has enjoyed the 'Bible Passages' videos! We have been using them for 14 weeks now on Wednesday nights as part of our Bible study. They are absolutely excellent!! This coming Wednesday night March 2, we will be watching the last one. We meet in our fellowship building and show them on a big screen tv. Everyone has really enjoyed them, and we thank you and the team for providing them for us! Keep up the good work!!"

Jerry Barlow, Minister, County Line COC Honoraville, Alabama

Carla's Comments

Dear friends,

More snow, birthdays, Ladies Bible classes, get-to-know-you-luncheons, packing up the Denver house, a road trip back to Texas, Turner's first birthday, Dr. visits, scripture writing, catching up with Mom, paperwork, paperwork, paperwork (!) for the coming Israel trip, trips to see our Houston kids, lots of study to prepare for three ladies' days and two Focal Point lessons, AND a brand new granddaughter, Alivia Kay, born on 4/29 at 4:29 p.m.! March and April were filled with good things and we are thankful (if not a little foggy-brained) to have much to keep us busy.

We are making final preparations to take a group of forty to Israel and Rome for a study program. This one has been a long time in the making, as sixteen of these individuals have been waiting to make this trip for more than two years. These patient people were supposed to travel with us during the last two weeks of March of 2020, but the pandemic hit and the world shut down, and their tour has had to be postponed several times. Lord willing, we will leave with them and twenty-four others on May 23, and return on June 4. We are grateful to our Israeli agent and friend, Lindy Lazarow, for ensuring that the money these people had invested more than two years ago carried over to the 2022 tour. We ask that you pray for this work, for the health of everyone involved, for safe and uneventful travel, and for everything about this time to be smooth. We are so excited to go back!

A lot of my time in the last few weeks has been spent in preparing several lessons for ladies' days and Focal Point, a "preachers workshop" that isn't just for preachers. Speaking is not my fortè...and I am NOT fishing for any compliments or reassurance here, ha! Just stating facts! I would much rather write than talk. One of my topics was "Preachers Wives Like Paul" and I focused on the ways women can pattern themselves after Paul (I am convinced that preachers' wives are no different than any other Christian wife, though we may have more of a platform in some ways.) In writing Acts last year and through other studies, I've grown to love Paul more and more! When he was faced with truth, he was humble and courageous enough to make a complete turnaround. That turnaround meant that he lost peers, friends, and respect among his former circle of influence. That turnaround also meant that his *new* circle was made up of people that he had

formerly persecuted, who would likely fear and resent him, at least for a little while. He loved people, and loved their souls even more. Other people's disobedience to God made him sad, not bitter or hateful. He didn't need things or friends or acclaim or comfort in order to be content. He wasn't afraid to correct or disagree with someone—he was straightforward, yet respectful. He was a master letter writer. He forgave himself some pretty terrible things and managed to look to what lay ahead, not wallowing in his past mistakes. He was a fantastic mentor to impressionable young men. He was an asset to God, not a liability. Looking at Paul's life sure makes me examine my own, and makes me realize that I have a lot of work to do.



Sweet Emmalyn Grace!

We've been able to see all of our kids and grandkids since we've been back in Texas...we love them so much! And we are so grateful to God for blessing us with a wonderful family. Sweet little baby Alivia took her time getting here, but she was certainly worth the wait - 9 pounds and 3 ounces of sweetness! My mom is doing okay, and enjoying being closer to Doug and Karen. I'm thankful for how they care for her! We love and appreciate all of you for your encouragement, support and prayers. We pray Gods' richest blessings to be upon you! Love, *Carla*

