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287 Beulah Road; Dripping Springs, TX 78620

## Dear supporters and friends,

Along the banks of the Tiber River in Rome sits a beautifully designed and elaborately protected public monument of the ancient world called the Augustan Altar of Peace (Latin, Ara Augustan Pacis, see photo at right). It was commissioned by the Roman Senate in 13 BC to show the gratitude of the Roman people to Emperor Augustus for his having ushered in an era of peace following a long period of civil war and threat of external invasion. Augustus himself discusses the Ara Pacis in his epigraphical memoir, *Res Gestae Divi Augusti* (“Deeds of the Divine Augustus”) that was promulgated upon his death in 14 C.E. Augustus states “When I returned to Rome from Spain and Gaul, having successfully accomplished deeds in those provinces ... the senate voted to consecrate the altar of August Peace in the Campus Martius ... on which it ordered the magistrates and priests and Vestal virgins to offer annual sacrifices.” At the time, it was also a means of propaganda to further enhance the image of Emperor Augustus and to pay homage to the Roman goddess Pax (peace) whose likeness was depicted on the altar. However, the Roman peace so proudly alleged was mostly a mirage. It had been derived through military conquest, bloodshed, and colonial oppression. It was therefore refreshing to hear of a different peace; one that was freely given and freely received.

When Jesus of Nazareth was born, the so-called Roman author of peace, Caesar Augustus (Octavian) was ruling as emperor over the Roman empire. In the year 42 B.C., his adopted father Julius Caesar was officially declared by the Senate as a god, thus making Octavian “the son of a god” and the author of “Roman Peace.” At the same time, angels announced to lowly shepherds in a field near Bethlehem the arrival of God’s Son, who became a ruler and Lord far different from the Caesars of Rome. Jesus, the King of Kings, could truly bring peace to a tumultuous world. The rulership of Jesus was non-violent, loving, and inclusive of all races and sociological standing. He loved all men and died that sinners



Bear Valley 2023 Class, Instructors, Faculty



The Augustan Altar of Peace (Ara Pacis)



Our group of 56 gathering to worship with the church in Rome in October



With Neal and Kathy Pollard

might have peace with God (Romans 5:1), peace with others (Ephesians 2:15), and peace within themselves (Philippians 4:7-9). **He** was truly the Prince of Peace and brought the world a gospel of peace (Romans 10:15). His message and plan for peace is what we at Bible Passages are privileged to proclaim. Our world needs Jesus more than ever. Thank you for joining with us in helping to share this peace.

Our work this past quarter has taken us to several places and into the lives of many people. At the Bear Valley Bible Institute, I have taught courses in Bible Geography and Archaeology, Kings and Chronicles, and several of the minor prophets. I also delivered several lessons at the Bear Valley Church of Christ, at Polishing the Pulpit Seminar and I have given several lectures. Carla and I were also privileged to conduct a marriage seminar in

Tilton, New Hampshire. We also recently organized and led a group of 56 to several biblical sites around the Mediterranean world as a part of one of our Bible Land Passages Tours. My work on the Temple Project, counseling with individuals and couples, and writing articles continues as well.

Brethren we deeply appreciate you and all your love and support! Thank you for all you do. *John*

## 2024 Schedule:

- January-March
- Bear Valley Bible Institute
- January 27
- Ladies Day
- Midtown (Victoria, TX)
- March 2-16
- BVBI Bible Lands Study Tour
- March 22-24
- Marriage Seminar,
- Burns Flat, OK
- April 18-20
- Equipped Workshop
- Bowling Green, KY
- April 21-25
- Gospel Meeting
- Ooltewah, TN
- April 27
- Ladies Day Weber Rd
- Corpus Christi, TX
- May 11-16
- Gospel Meeting
- Kimberley, ID
- May 17-19
- Graduation Exercises BVBI
- May 22-June 8
- PTP Bible Lands Study Tour
- August-October
- Bear Valley Bible Institute
- August 16-22
- Polishing the Pulpit
- September 19-22
- BVBI Lectureship
- October 17-20
- Linder Rd (ID) Lectureship
- October 25-27
- Marriage Seminar
- Brown Trail, Bedford TX
- November-December 2023
- WVBS and other TX projects

### What is Carla working on?



#### Bear Valley Bible Institute Women's Program

"The need for women to gain knowledge from Bible studies and prepare for ministry is important because of the multiple roles women have in the home, church, market place, and community. The program provides in-depth, insightful, and inspirational material designed to explore the Bible from a woman's perspective and needs; learning how to properly apply lessons to life."  
<https://www.wetrainpreachers.com/womensprogram>



#### Looking Up! With Kathy and Carla Podcast

Looking Up is a podcast for Christian women hosted by Carla Moore and Kathy Pollard. We're doing our best to bring light to your days and remind you to keep looking up (Col. 3:1-2). Listen to our podcast (Looking Up With Kathy and Carla) on your favorite platforms and join us over on IG and facebook for fun interaction (Looking Up! With Kathy and Carla).  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/looking-up-with-kathy-and-carla/id1665661634>



#### Write On My Heart Every Word - Scripture Writing 2024 Coming Soon!

"We know that the power isn't in us, but the **word** IN US is powerful. When it is treasured in our hearts, we are equipped with the power of God. Writing scripture gives us strength to endure trials, and it increases our faith to help us walk through each day, reminding us of what will come after this life." Free download available Thanksgiving weekend!  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/438407257186079>

#### Ongoing/Weekly Commitments:

- Looking Up Podcast
- Write On My Heart Every Word (Scripture Writing)
- WVBS Temple Project

## Carla's Comments

Dear friends,

Well, here I am again apologizing for our waaaay overdue report. We are genuinely apologetic that it's been so long since we've sent this formal report to our supporters and friends, although we know that informal reports are given on social media and via personal and telephone visits. We **so** appreciate your patience as we attempt to balance the things going on in our life!

John and I had committed to having some very-much-needed time at home during July. But it wasn't quiet! We loved some grandparent time with our three oldest grands: Jackson, Emmy and Clara. We kept them busy - they kept US hopping! I also loved being able to keep our youngest, Alivia, once a week. Our dear friends and co-workers, Brian and Shannon Ketchem, came for a week-long visit, during which we introduced them to the stifling Texas summer heat, worked on future Bible Passages projects, and hosted an ice-cream supper (it all melted - quickly!) I spent time with Mom, worked outside, and recorded our weekly "Looking Up" podcast with my friend, Kathy Pollard. We also made a quick trip to Corpus Christi to visit a supporting congregation.

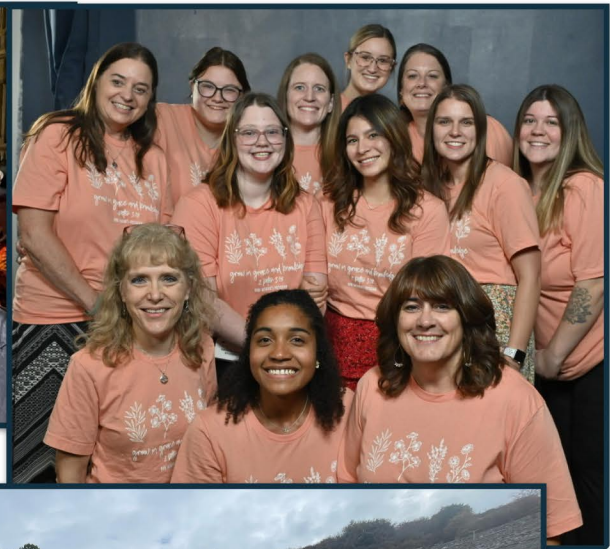
On July 28, we packed up the trailer and headed back to Colorado for the first quarter of the school year. We were able to stop on the way at Jacob and Alyssa's home to visit with them and see our sweet granddaughter, Turner. Then, almost as soon as we arrived in Denver, John suffered a torn retina and had to have eye surgery to repair it. It didn't keep him down long! Orientation was the next day, and we loved meeting the new students. It's always exciting to meet them for the first time, knowing that we are about to begin new relationships and make lifelong friends. I continue to love working with the women at Bear Valley, and the beginning of the quarter involves a lot of activities. We continued the "Ministry Moments" with the students on most Sunday nights. This was also my quarter to teach "Personal Spiritual Growth" in the women's program. August also involved a trip to Polishing the Pulpit, where John and I both gave lessons and provided quite a bit of counseling through PTP.

In September, we attended the annual Bear Valley extension retreat, which is one of the most encouraging weekends of the year. We hear from the many extension coordinators about the great works going on around the world. The following weekend I traveled to Oklahoma to be one of the speakers for the "Come Fill Your Cup" retreat. I am always so impressed and uplifted with the work done by Erynn, Kristy, Lacy and other CFYC organizers! The weekend following CFYC was the annual Bear Valley lectureship. I was blessed to be very involved with organizing the women's program in the lectureship, and we had such excellent speakers and participants. I put together a book that contained the women's manuscripts - I'd be glad to send you the PDF if you email and let me know that you want it! Then, the final weekend of September, we traveled to New Hampshire to present a marriage seminar. We stayed with our dear friends, Rob and Martha Blouin. We've known and loved the Lakes Region congregation for 25 years, and they are family to us.

On October 7, three days before our departure date for the Mediterranean Bible Land Cruise/Tour we'd been planning for months, Hamas once again attacked Israel. Our hearts are broken for all involved and our prayers are with them. It also changed our tour and the stops we'd long planned for. But John's excellent research and planning made the trip still so uplifting and enjoyable, and we especially loved sharing the trip responsibilities with Neal and Kathy Pollard. We returned to Colorado on the 29th, packed up and headed home just in time for the arrival of our sixth grandchild, Darcy James. She is precious and healthy, and we once again thank God for the blessing of family. Meanwhile, I've been very busy working on 2024's scripture writing project and it's almost finished - sneak peek the cover in this report! Thank you, thank you!!! Love, *Carla*



(L-R): I put together a special book of just women's manuscripts for BVBI lectureship... We loved having three of our grands for a few days of grandparent time!... Brian and Shannon Ketchem came for a work visit, and we shared Salt Lick barbecue with them... I love the women in the BVBI program!



Fall Quarter (l-r): John speaking to our Med. Cruise group in Rome... most of the women in the Bear Valley program... dear friends Jon and Kim Moore and Dan and Diane Winkler at BV lectureship... our group at the huge theater in Ephesus... with Eric Winckler and Mac Graham, Bear Valley graduates working in New Hampshire... the photo wall of Bear Valley graduates... Ministry Moments gathering, with interviewees Nate and Katie Miller in foreground... our neighbor and friend Kay Kizziar came with us on the Mediterranean tour... John with friends Luke Griffin and Kevin Rhodes at Polishing the Pulpit.