

Journal

BIBLE PASSAGES



A little light-hearted fun with the "Shoe Game" at our marriage seminar in Mathis, Texas

Dear Supporters and Friends,

Carla and I often find it exciting to wonder who we will meet next that will end up changing our lives. Over the years, we have been blessed to meet many new people who ended up becoming some of our dearest friends. We have also been blessed to witness the power of God transform the lives of young people, not knowing at the time how God would use them years later to encourage us in our ministry. Travis Herbelin and Parker LaGrange are two such individuals. Travis was first introduced to the church in 1992 when he was enrolled at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. Carla and I had just begun our work in campus ministry a few years before, and we were very excited when Travis and several others college students obeyed the gospel. Travis became highly involved in the campus ministry and eventually ended up marrying Melissa (Necessary) who had also been involved in the campus ministry. After his graduation, Travis joined the military, and his family would end up faithfully attending numerous small congregations in various places across the United States where he was stationed during his 20-plus years in the military. Little did we know in 1992 that Travis (now Colonel Herbelin, Ret.) would become a full-time student at Bear Valley Bible Institute. Over this last year and a half at Bear Valley, Travis has been an excellent student, and we have enjoyed renewing our friendship. Imagine my delight at being able to hear him teach an adult Bible class this past month on the book of Philemon, and to hear that he has secured his first preaching work. His lesson was faithful to the text and engaging, and you could see how he had carefully honed his skills for teaching. I have likewise been blessed to have Melissa and their two girls, Holly and Heather, as students in some of my classes, and all three are already having a tremendous impact in the Kingdom.

Parker Lagrange from Moore, Oklahoma is another student who has likewise encouraged us in our work. Unlike Travis, we have only known Parker for two years, and first became acquainted with him when we began the new work of Bible Passages. He was brand new to the program at Bear Valley, as was I. We actually ended up sitting next to one another at orientation, and at that time, I had no way of knowing that exactly two years later he would end up becoming the youth and family minister at the Dripping Springs congregation where Carla and I worked for 17 years. I was so honored to introduce Parker and his sweet new wife Amanda to the congregation I had known since my youth. Parker came to Bear Valley right out of high school and immediately made a huge impact on us. As we watched him grow in his Bible knowledge and ministry skills, we thought he would be a great candidate to suggest to the congregation that we love so dearly. He and Amanda both are already hard at work in shaping the lives of Dripping Springs' youth. In a short visit to Dripping Springs, we were privileged to hear Parker teach an adult class and preach the Sunday morning sermon. Both were wonderful, and we were so encouraged by his faithfulness to the text and excellent instructional and preaching skills. He and Amanda, like the Herbelins, are but two of the many examples of how we can see God at work.

In January, we were privileged to be back at Bear Valley for the start of the 3rd quarter of classes. We had a record January enrollment with 12 joining the current full-time student body, bringing the enrollment to 48. This large number meant having to order new desks and chairs to accommodate our growth. Thirty-one were enrolled in my short course on the books of Philippians and Thessalonians. That meant a lot of grading, but it was so rewarding to see this large number who are training to become preachers and workers in the Kingdom. After the short course, I began teaching classes in church history and Bible geography. On Monday nights in the women's program, I am teaching the class *An Introduction to Christian Counseling*. In all three classes combined I have 69 students. It thrills our hearts to see so many of various age groups and nationalities who want to know God's word and who are committed to preparing themselves for working in the Kingdom.

Finally, the month of January brought us the joyous blessing of conducting a marriage seminar in Mathis, Texas where Justin Guess has been preaching for 12 years. Justin was one of my students at the Southwest School of Bible Studies, but has also been a long-time friend and coworker in the Kingdom for many years. He and I have worked together in numerous youth camps, and it was such an honor to see him working so diligently and effectively in a growing and prosperous work, not only in Mathis, Texas but also in Cambodia. The Mathis congregation has a legacy of great works with many wonderful families, and we were privileged to spend a few days in trying to edify the couples of all ages that were present.

In Him, *John W. Moore*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

As 2018 came to a close we were so blessed with several individuals and congregations who graced us with generous gifts. Your donations to Bible Passages has helped us in a large way to continue our work of preaching the gospel, training souls for ministry, strengthening marriages, and defending the faith. We are so humbled by your kindness and love as we continue the process of working toward meeting our budgeted needs. We give glory to God and are so thankful to you for your willingness to help us in our work. Please continue to pray for us, and if you know of others who would like to help, please pass along our contact information. We would be honored to send them our monthly reports. Praise be to God.



L-R: Students attend chapel at BVBI every school day...we've learned what to do with our windshield wipers during a snowstorm...loved spending the weekend with Butch and Corlie Weed in Mathis, TX, there for a marriage seminar... January, February and March birthday babies in our home for lunch...Carla teaching in the women's program...our Bear Valley home has lots of reminders of our kids!...a beautiful baptism late one Friday evening...Corey Sawyers and John about to say goodbye to their beards as school began...Outside our dining room window during a snow...Marriage seminar in Mathis, Texas...the classrooms at BVBI are wonderfully full!

Carla's Comments

After the crazy November / December whirlwind of showers, celebrations, holidays, cooking (and eating), visiting, and the joyful marrying-off of Micah and Courtney, I have to say it was nice to take a deep breath and prepare for our return to Bear Valley. It's hard to say goodbye to our family and the congregation in Dripping Springs - and (let's be real) **especially** our grandbabies, but it is also a true joy to return to our Colorado family and the work we love there.

This quarter I'm blessed to teach a class on "Successful Families" in the women's program. I look forward to it mostly because it helps me develop closer relationships with the women enrolled in the BV program, and I can see the beautiful hearts of those who are preparing themselves to serve. Over the years, through our work with both Southwest and Bear Valley, I've seen how many of the women enrolled in the program began their studies with fearful hearts and homesick spirits, doubting that they could effectively fulfill a role in ministry, and worried that they couldn't live up to certain expected standards. Time and again, though, I've seen their hearts open up and their minds understand that, though certainly there are challenges, to serve in ministry is a true blessing. In his prayers, John often praises and thanks the Lord for allowing us to spend our time serving through ministry. This is one of those areas where I've been able to see, personally and tangibly, that "the fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted" (Prov. 29:25). Fear doesn't come from Him: instead, when we trust Him, He lifts us over those fears. It's a joy to see fear (and the devil) losing, and the Lord winning.

January has been an enjoyable, busy, productive month. My time has been spent in preparation for the marriage retreat, the BV women's class, a ladies retreat in League City, TX, and in writing for *Christian Woman*. I continue to s l o w l y work on material about faith lessons from the land of the Bible that I hope to put into book form; would you pray for me regarding that? John spends much of his time preparing for his Church History and Bible Geography classes, always trying to make them richer and more interesting. He's especially excited that WVBS has released the first USB of more than 1,000 images of Bible sites. These are photos that Doug took in 2015 and 2016 during the BLP video filming expeditions, and he has edited them and John labeled them in a detailed fashion so that they are searchable. We think there are so many great uses for these images - online readers can find them

[here](#) (or you can visit www.wvbs.org). Also, Bible Land Passages #11 has been released, and this one might be my favorite! It is called "[The Power of Jesus in Galilee](#)". I think I would rather be in the Galilee than anywhere else in the world. To walk **where** He walked makes me even more determined to walk **as** He walked.

As I write this, we are in Dripping Springs to see our family. The Bear Valley students are in the middle of "Research Week", a week with no classes that helps them catch up on their homework, studies, and writing, and this gave us a quick opportunity to check on our family. I say "check on" but I really mean "see the babies"...although we wanted to be able to see how our parents are - and they're holding steady. We are especially grateful this month for those of you who have helped to financially support us. Attempting to raise support is humbling. Receiving support is even more humbling, because people have placed their trust in us, and we want you to know that we don't take that lightly. We are committed to upholding that trust. Thank you, and may God bless you as you continue to serve Him! *Carla*



We had an unexpected free Saturday and spent it in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains!



How we love these babies!! (When do I have to stop calling them babies?)