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Monthly...One-Time...Lump Sum

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287 Beulah Road; Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Dear supporters and friends,

As the disciples of Jesus set sail across the beautiful lake in Galilee, the sun was beginning to set over the hills to the west, and the waters were no doubt calm and picturesque. Seemingly out of nowhere, the winds funneled down from Mount Hermon and erupted onto the small lake, creating a terrifying experience for the disciples of Jesus. Imagine how they must have felt: struggling to maneuver through the crashing waves, petrified as they watched their boat fill with water and felt themselves beginning to sink into the darkness of the storm. In their desperation, they questioned the Lord's care and concern for them, asking "Master, do you not care that we are perishing?" (Mark 4:35-41). Their remarks were probably similar to ones that maybe you and I have uttered during the times of our own personal storms of illness, emotional distress, or fear.

However, it was in the midst of the storm that the disciples came to realize like never before the awesome power of Jesus. At that moment, they began to see Jesus as more than a great physician. His sermon from the same boat just hours earlier (Mark 4:1-9) had taught them about the importance of having a receptive heart, but now His words taught them about the authority and power of the One who made heaven and earth. "Peace. Be still" were the words He used to command the waves and calm the storm. Fear, then, of a different sort began to envelop them as they watched the waves cease their torrent. "Even the winds and the seas obeyed Him," they said. Because of an unexpected storm, they came to realize more fully the mighty power of Jesus and the fact that He was a man like no other.

Today we, too, can struggle with fear and doubt. Like the waves of a fierce tempest, the cruel realities of death, illness, relationship problems, financial ruin, and social and political upheaval can threaten to sink our own personal boat of faith, resulting in discouragement and despair. In the midst of these terrifying storms, we, like the apostles, often ask of the Lord: "Do you not care that we are perishing?" Truly, the inner turmoil of a faithless heart and the nagging worry of a crushed spirit can—in the face a terrible storm—cause our confidence to weaken. However, it is at those times that all of us must

remember the powerful words of Jesus: "Why are you so fearful?...Peace, be still."

Knowing and remembering the all-powerful words of Christ can not only help us in navigating the storms of life, they also help us in changing lives and ultimately changing the world. God's word is incredibly powerful, and the gospel message is His means of convicting hearts and saving souls (Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16). The proclamation of the gospel and the training of men to take up this task is critical. If we want to glorify God and save souls, then the work of Bear Valley Bible Institute, and other schools like it, is essential.



John attended a local preachers' luncheon along with fellow BVBID instructor Wayne Burger (third from left).

The biblical command to find and train faithful men and women “who can teach others also” is a tremendously important part of our work. Each year we are blessed to spend 6 months in Denver helping to fulfill this task. Because of you, we have the opportunity to teach, mentor, and encourage preachers, teachers, and their families to give their lives to ministry. It is truly rewarding and uplifting to see the students at BVBII give two years of their lives to prepare themselves to do the work of the church, and it is even more exciting to see God’s powerful word at work in them with the passing of each quarter. What they are now learning will be shared with a broken world being tossed to and fro by the torrents of sin and suffering—a message that can calm the storms of life just as Jesus calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee.

The month of February always seems to go by so quickly, especially as we make our mad dash to the finish line of the third quarter of classes. At this very moment, students are beginning to take their finals and, as a part of the curriculum, will soon be involved in numerous campaign efforts to spread the gospel and to encourage churches. As mentioned in last month’s report, I am teaching a class on church history and another on biblical counseling. Our work has also included spending time with the students outside of class, preparing for lectures, grading papers and exams. Other areas of work have included publishing articles in Bear Valley’s “Daily Bread” and hosting students and other members of the congregation in our home. One of the major parts of this month’s work was to include nine lessons I was to deliver at the Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat. I had spent a lot of time in preparation for those lessons, but unfortunately I was unable to present them due to shocks I received from my internal defibrillator when we were boarding the plane in St. Louis en route to Tennessee. We ended up spending two days in the hospital in order to be monitored while receiving a new medicine that will hopefully prevent more arrhythmias. I am feeling very well and have resumed all of my duties.

Brethren, we cannot say enough about how much we appreciate all your love and support. Without you, this work would not be possible. Thank you for all your prayers, words of encouragement, and contributions to our work. We thank our God upon every remembrance of you... *John and Carla*

2022

Schedule:

January-March
 Bear Valley Bible Institute
February 16-20
 Great Smoky Mountain
 Marriage Retreat
 Gatlinburg, TN
April 10-13
 Oak Grove, MO Gospel Mtg.
April 23
Ladies Day Carriage Oaks
 LA
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
 BVBII
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
Oct. 31-Nov. 12
 Digging Deep Israel Study
 Tour
November-December
 WVBS and BLP projects

Meet the Clicks!

Kyle and Lyndsey Click are students at the Bear Valley Bible Institute and will graduate in December of this year. Kyle is from Bayfield, CO, and he and Lyndsey have been Christians since 2015. Since their conversion, Kyle says they have been “passionate about learning more about God through His word and teaching others the life-saving gospel that brought us out of a life of sin.” Kyle and Lyndsey have two children, Beau (4) and Jane (2). Lyndsey is a full time mom, but she also takes classes in the women’s program at the Institute. While in school, Kyle serves as an intern at the Conifer church of Christ where Wayne Burger is the minister. Soon they will be traveling to Homer, Alaska, for a second interview regarding a possible position with the Homer Church of Christ.

Carla's Comments

Dear friends,

In Mark 6, there is an account of a time when Jesus sent His disciples to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, while He went up onto a mountain to pray. While the disciples tried to make their way across this relatively small lake, the winds kicked up and the waves started tossing their boat around, and they were struggling. The Bible says that they were “straining at the oars” (6:48, NASB) and “making headway painfully” (ESV) because the winds kept them from making progress. They must have been afraid—it was dark, they were alone and losing strength. They were in distress, fearful of drowning! But—Jesus could see them. Did they know? Though He was far away, His eye was on them, because He cared about them. He knew they were afraid and having difficulty. He wasn't indifferent to what they were enduring. Later, He went to them, walking on the water and calming the winds, telling them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”

I can relate to their fear. For the most part, my life has been blessedly uneventful until relatively recently, but over the last year and a half, the winds have kicked up and the waves are tossing our boat. I've felt fear, the nights can be long and dark, and I can't see what might be in front of us. I confess that there have been times—briefly—when I've forgotten that our God still sees us. I have had to remind myself that His eye is on John and me...He knows my fears and **He is not at all indifferent** to what is happening! When I remember and focus on that truth, it calms and comforts me, even while we are still clinging to the tossing boat. And there's something else that occurred to me, too: the disciples were afraid of drowning in the water, but that water that they feared was the avenue by which Jesus came to them. I am afraid of what has happened with John's heart. I am afraid of what may happen in the future. But, already, I can see how my fears and the promised, resulting peace I have been given are the avenues by which my faith and trust have grown, and through which my Lord has drawn closer to me. He is still saying: “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”



A quick visit to Katy for Clara's birthday! I love these little girls so much!!

February zipped by with lots of classes, gatherings, travel, snow, and sunshine! This past week has been glorious, with temperatures in the 70's! But more snow is predicted this weekend. I sat in on two of the women's classes (mentioned in January's report) and they both concluded this week. We traveled to Houston for Clara's birthday and to Dripping Springs for a shower for Courtney, and we tried to go to Pigeon Forge for John to speak at the Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat...but, as you read on John's page, that didn't quite go as planned! Yet - God was not taken by surprise by any event. We have been blessed over and over, and that weekend, instead of Pigeon Forge, we spent a night in the hospital and a night with some of our favorite people, Neal and Kathy Pollard, in Kentucky. That refreshed our hearts!

Planning for the May/June Israel tour has really ramped up since Israel and Italy both rescinded their vaccine requirements. We have spent a lot of time working to communicate with those who plan to travel with us, rearranging schedules, and making all kinds of arrangements. Please pray for everyone's safety, and for a smooth trip. Many of those going are the ones who had to be postponed from March 2020...it's been a long time coming! We are so grateful for your love, concern, and prayers. We fully realize that the prayers of so many righteous individuals are powerful!

Love, *Carla*



January (l-r): We got plenty of snow in February!... Jackson finished his first season in basketball...A night in the hospital -God continues to care for us...On a visit to Katy, we got to sit in on Jordan's class...John's church history class came over to watch "Luther"...John with Cory Waddell, role-modeling a counseling situation...one of our female students, Naomi Racine, teaching Ladies Bible Class...soon to graduate Dylan Proctor speaking in chapel...A baby shower honoring Courtney...Carla with Teri Autrey and Lynn Hite, friends and coworkers.