



# BIBLE Passages

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# Journal

## Dear friends and supporters,

What a joy and blessing to be back in front of the computer giving a report on the work of Bible Passages. Most of December I was in a fog. I had a hard time concentrating and my body was slowly recuperating from the trauma of my cardiac event and hospital stay. My body was also having to slowly adjust to my new blood pressure medications while the doctors were slowly finding the dosage that worked best for me. Having never been on any type of medication, we have had to learn to adjust to the routine of pill-counting, pharmacy visits, etc. After several sessions of cardiac rehab during the month of January, I am feeling much, much better. Each week I have experienced marked improvements and I am almost back to feeling 100%. I still have work to do in building up my stamina, but overall, I am much improved, and God continues to bless us beyond measure. One of my biggest blessings is that I've been able to resume my work in the ministry. In the meantime, we humbly ask your forgiveness and patience as we catch up with our correspondence, thank you notes, acknowledgements and projects that have been on the back burner during this process of recovery. We are also still sorting out matters pertaining to mom and dad's death, along with repairs on our house. Wow! It all came at once, but God continues to sustain us and provide for us in ways too numerous to tell.

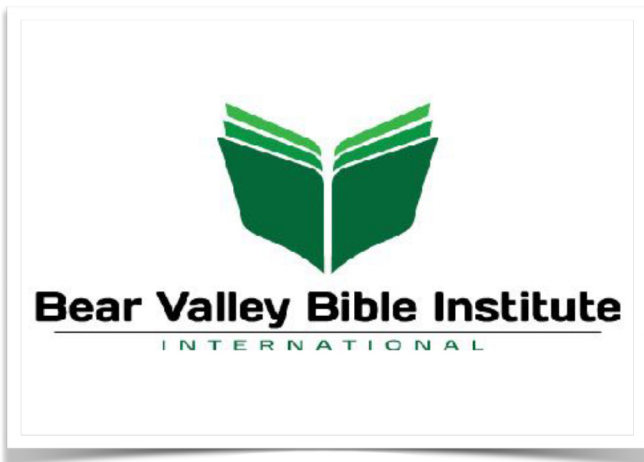
In looking back over January, we are excited to report that Bear Valley Bible Institute has been blessed with 31 students enrolled in the day-time classes. We have a variety of ages represented in the student body and students who hail from various places in the country. Currently, I am teaching two courses. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday I teach Church History, and then on Tuesdays/Thursdays I teach Biblical Counseling. Classes are still being taught via Zoom which has allowed us to stay in Dripping Springs during my recovery process. Midway through February, we will be returning to Denver where we can be

closer to the students and faculty, and where Carla can be in a better position to continue her work with the Bear Valley women.

The month of January has also given us the opportunity to talk with others about our faith building journey through my cardiac event, including an interview on a podcast conducted by Chris McCurley, called the "Dear

### 2021 Schedule:

- Jan-Mar:
- BVBI 3rd quarter
- Jan-Feb
- WVBS
- May 14-19
- Marriage Sem./Gospel Mtg.
- Wasila, AK
- May 21
- BVBI Graduation
- May 29-June 12
- Israel Study Program
- June 26
- Ladies Day, Natalia, TX
- June 27-30
- Gospel Meeting, Natalia, TX
- June-July
- WVBS
- July-October
- BVBI 1st Quarter
- August 18-26
- PTP, Sevierville, TN
- September 16-19
- Bear Valley Lectures
- Denver CO
- October 14-17
- Linder Road Lectures
- Meridian, ID
- October 24-28
- WVSOP Lectureship
- November 5-7
- Cold Harbor Road Lectures
- Cold Harbor, VA



Third quarter classes have begun at BVBI!

Church” Podcast. During January we were also able to resume our work on the Bible Land Passages documentary called “Bethlehem and the Herodium: Of Kings and Tyrants”. The process of producing one 30-minute video requires a lot of work, but in the end, we are excited about the results and the feedback we continue to receive from viewers. We are also excited about the numerous platforms where it is currently hosted (i.e. Amazon Prime, VidAngel, Faith Life TV, and others). We are nearing the completion of the 14<sup>th</sup> documentary, and hopefully we will see its release in early March. Following its release, we will begin working on a new series, and working to produce new resources associated with the Bible Lands that we believe you will find exciting and extremely edifying.

Finally, dear brethren, we simply cannot say enough about how thankful we are to our God for how he has worked through each of you. God has blessed us at every turn through these past few months. We have come to love Him even more and feel so blessed that we can continue in the ministry. Thank you for all your love, support, and prayers through these past few months. Thank you for what you are doing even now. We thank God for you always.

*John*

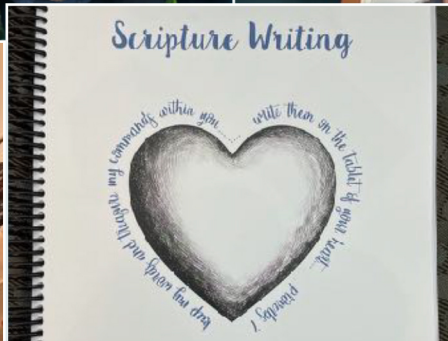
We humbly ask that you please consider **Bible Passages** in your contributions and/or 2021 church budgets. If you'd like to know more about what we do, go to our website, and click the “Work and Ministries” tab. **Thank you!**

Visit [www.biblepassages.net](http://www.biblepassages.net) for many great resources under each tab. Access our monthly reports, articles, see information about upcoming study tours and more!

Trusting that the world will return somewhat to normal before too long, we've rescheduled our Israel/Rome study tour (again) for **May 29-June 12, 2021**. We would love for you to join us!

Visit Beersheba, the Dead Sea, Masada, Qumran, Jericho, Jerusalem, the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, the Via Dolorosa, Hezekiah's Tunnel, the Mount of Olives, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Caesarea Philippi, Mount Carmel, Caesarea, Rome, the catacombs, the Colosseum, Vatican City and much more!

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L-R: Baby shower for the blessing of Turner Elizabeth, Lord willing arriving in late March...This is my quarter to teach "Successful Relationships" for the women's program at BVBI, so I'm teaching on Zoom from home...This year's Scripture Writing book - there are hundreds of women taking part!...John's doctor visits have all given us excellent reports...A quick visit to Houston for Clara's baby shower and a walk with dinosaur fan Jackson...and while there, we got to hear Jordan preach!...John has been busy at WVBS filming voiceovers and reflections for the upcoming BLP video on Bethlehem...King Herod (Michael Fehmer) looking ominously threatening...I enjoy writing a column called "Bible Landmarks" in Gospel Advocate's "Christian Woman" magazine.



## Carla's Comments

Dear friends,

It seems that “the hurrier we go, the behinder we get”! We apologize for being so late with our report...we can't seem to quite catch up on all of the responsibilities and projects and work that continued to pile up. We are so thankful for your patience and grace especially in this regard.

I've been looking back at pictures from the last ten weeks. Everything in my mind seems to be categorized as “before” and “after” John's cardiac arrest. The photos overwhelm me a little bit, because they take me back to those moments, those feelings, and those emotions. I have photos that I haven't shared yet with John, of him on the ventilator, sedated and paralyzed. I have videos of family Bible time that went on in our home, when I would arrive home from the hospital; of songs and prayers for “Pa” and tough questions from Jackson and Emmy about why he was sick. Other photos of the house, while John was still in the hospital, when the toilet in the guest bathroom backed up and managed to ruin the floors in almost every room...leading to more photos of ruined, cut out carpet piled up in our front yard. I have screenshots of precious messages sent to us from friends all over the world. Photos of the fantastic remodel job our kids worked on together while they waited for news of John. Photos of John's suit, cut to shreds by the paramedics scissors. Photos of wonderful nurses. Photos of John, pale and weak but recovering. Photos of uncannily apropos scripture writing pages, like December 1, 2 Corinthians 4:7-10: “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.”

Each of those photos brings back the feelings of the day, and make me hurt. But, truly, they also fill me with gratitude. Compared to so many others, John's ordeal was short-lived, but terribly traumatic. In hindsight,

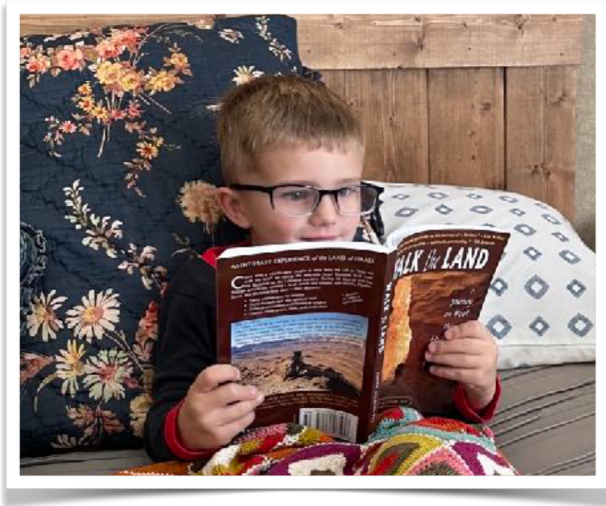
though, I can so easily see that each day the Lord provided exactly what I personally needed. He gave me the peace He promised. He provided healing for John. He provided overwhelming blessings through so many of you. He gave me a deeper understanding of what it means to trust in Him, and the hope that anchors us as Christians. And this is something I continue to meditate on: in some ways I placed too much confidence and trust in my husband. God showed me that more of my confidence and trust needs to belong to Him.

We are healing, learning and growing! We continue to ask for your prayers, for John and me and our families, and my mother. We are so blessed. We love and appreciate you all so much.

Love, *Carla*



I pray I will never again take for granted the simple blessing of enjoying a sunset with him.



This might be one of my favorite pictures ever, of Jackson wearing John's glasses and enjoying some light reading.