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Dear supporters and friends,

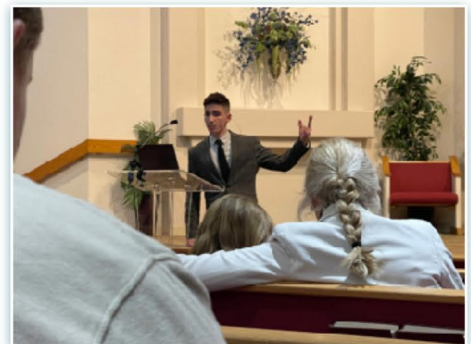
I'm always wondering—where will they go? And, in what area of ministry will they concentrate? In the months of January and February, our time at Bear Valley Bible Institute remains somewhat the same from year to year. I teach a church history class and a biblical counseling class that each meet for 6 hours every week. On Monday nights, I teach a two-hour class in the women's program, and on Sunday mornings I've been teaching a class at the Bear Valley congregation on the book of Chronicles. While this course load remains the same during the first two months each year, the students always change, and I always wonder, who will be our next missionaries? Who will begin their work in youth ministry? Who will fill the pulpit in some remote or distant place? And, as this third quarter comes to a close, I'm wondering, who will be the next Tony and Heid Orellana?

Tony and Heidi came to Bear Valley a little over two years ago not knowing one another and arrived with only a simple faith and earnest desire to learn and serve. In the process, they met one another, married, completed their two-year program of study at Bear Valley and then decided to spend their lives serving the Lord in the Czech Republic. They have recently moved to Olomouc and are beginning their work there. What a blessing to see such a fine Christian couple who are launching out into the deep, armed with a fervor and commitment to spread the good news of Jesus! Your support of Bible Passages has helped us to contribute to their ministry preparation, and it has allowed us to help them prepare for marriage.

With over twenty full-time students currently enrolled at the Bear Valley Bible Institute in Denver, and with several of them graduating in May, we are excited about the future, especially given the preacher shortage the church is now experiencing. Carla and I were recently interviewed by Bobby



An informal singing night in "our" home with the Bear Valley students



Remy Bullis, who will graduate in May, presented his senior sermon on a Sunday evening.



We've continued having "Ministry Moments" - this time interviewing Wayne and Tami Roberts.



From the Christian Chronicle interview

Ross of the Christian Chronicle regarding that very topic. If you are interested in reading the article, you can visit www.ChristianChronicle.org and see the January 23, 2023 issue. Our work this month has also included conducting a marriage seminar for the University church of Christ in San Marcos, Texas, and participating in speaking at the Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat in Tennessee. I had twelve speaking assignments over a period of five days, whew! The attendance at these retreats was extremely encouraging. We were so blessed to see so many couples who were wanting to strengthen their marriages. If you are interested in receiving

a copy of the materials we distribute at these seminars you can download a free copy at www.biblepassages.net under the “Inspirations” tab.

Finally, in the past two months there have been many other endeavors to keep us busy. While Carla is very modest about her work, the amount of good she is doing in the scripture writing ministry and with Kathy Pollard in the Looking Up podcast has been immeasurable. I regularly hear of souls who are being uplifted by her work. Please be sure to visit our website and her personal Facebook page to find out more about these endeavors. Also, we have been busy hosting the students at our weekly “Ministry Moments” dinners and discussions, counseling a couple preparing for marriage, meeting with students, editing and proofing elements of the newest BLP Connections videos, and writing Bible articles (see the Jenkins Institute Daily Devotional books, and our own Faith Passages articles for the newest research related to archaeology and the Bible.) Brethren, we are simply overwhelmed by your kindness, support, love and prayers. We praise God for allowing us to be in the ministry, and for your partnership in this important work. Thank you so very, very much. *John*

2023

Schedule:

February 3-5
(J&C) Marriage Retreat
San Marcos, TX
February 15-19
(J) Great Smoky Mountain
Marriage Retreat
Gatlinburg, TN
March - July
WVBS and other TX
projects
March 25-April 6
(J&C) Israel Study Tour
April 20-23
(J&C) Equipped Conference
Bowling Green, KY
May 6-11
(J&C) Focal Point
San Marcos, TX
May 12-14
(J&C) Men's & Ladies
Weekend
Richmond, KY
August-October 2023
Bear Valley Bible Institute
August 16-24, 2023
(J&C) Polishing the Pulpit
September 7-9, 2023
(C) CFYC retreat
Madill, OK
September 22-24
(J&C) Marriage Seminar
Tilton, NH
October 12-27, 2023
(J&C) Discovering the Bible
by Sea - Mediterranean
Cruise/Study Tour
November-December 2023
WVBS and other TX
projects



(Above) Recent Bear Valley Bible Institute Graduates Tony and Heidi Orellana, who met and married while at BVBI, are now working as missionaries in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

(Right) Originally from Colby Kansas, after high school Sean moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas for work where he and Maddie met. They've been married for 3 years and Everett was born this past November. They are planning to go into full time ministry upon graduation and currently are looking for a position to fill.



Carla's Comments

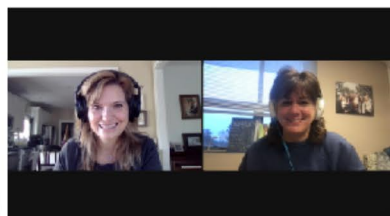
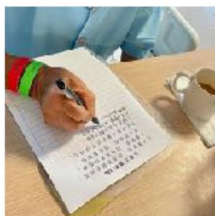
Dear friends,

Happy 2023! And here we find ourselves two months in already. Dividing our time between Texas and Colorado seems to segment our lives in a way that makes time fly even faster. We do our best to make our days count for something. We've been in Denver since January 4, a few days before the new quarter began. John taught a short course the week before the regular quarter began, and this is his quarter to teach the women (and there are men who join in as well) in a counseling class on Monday evenings. This is also one of my quarters to teach the Bear Valley student women on Wednesday nights. I've tried to refresh a previous class on marriage and family, and have called this one "Building Successful Relationships". I have wanted it to be very practical, including topics such as in-law relationships, grandmothering, church relationships and marriage/family. I love the Bear Valley women - students and faculty - and always enjoy being with them. We have some wonderful women who I'm confident will go on to help others learn and grow more in their relationships with each other and with God.

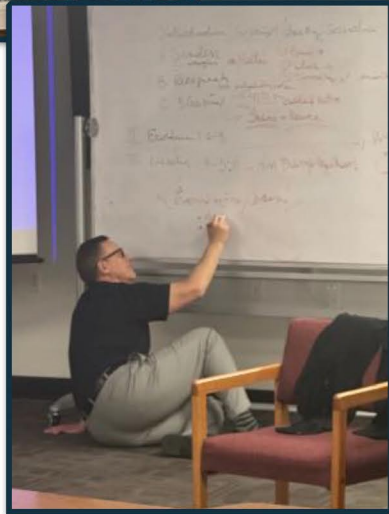
Scripture Writing has sort of exploded (in a good way!) this year, with almost 5000 in our facebook group and people all over the world participating. It makes me so happy to see so many benefiting from the simple, yet spiritually rich practice of writing the word. I especially love that it's just God's word being copied. I know women are growing and learning. Along with scripture writing, something else I've been busy with is a podcast with Kathy Pollard, called "Looking Up!" I've never been much of a podcast listener, so I was pretty intimidated when she brought it up last year. Her idea was for us to have unscripted chats about different topics that would interest Christian women...which seemed exactly like our usual chats, but with a microphone! We finally were able to make it happen in early January. And it has been so much fun! We tackle some serious topics, but some are just for fun. Kathy does all of the technical stuff (recording, uploading, etc.) and my job is to take care of the social/advertising aspect of it (but I've already messed up on a poster in a big way...I'll save that story for another day, ha!) If you'd like to listen, we are on Anchor, Spotify, Apple and other podcast platforms. Just search for "Looking Up with Kathy and Carla".

An ice storm in Texas in February was pretty devastating to the oaks on our property. But we are so, so thankful that there wasn't any damage to the house. We were able to stop by and check it out while on our way to speak at a marriage retreat nearby. The electricity was off for several days so I had to throw out some staples and (formerly) frozen food from the refrigerator, but we are so blessed that nothing more was damaged. Alyssa's parents, Greg and Tina Beam, were so kind to spend several days at our house with chain saws, and Roland also made the damage more manageable for us to work on when we get home next week.

We've been preparing for an upcoming Israel study tour and are excited about the new relationships that inevitably come along with traveling together. But the planning and paperwork are time-consuming! We plan to pack up and head back to TX around March 8. I am always so torn when we leave either of our earthly homes - we love the people in both locations so much, and love our work. As always, we dearly love and appreciate each one of you, and pray God's richest blessings upon you! Love, *Carla*



(L-R): A friend from Singapore sent me this photo of how they are continuing to utilize writing scripture - here with an elderly man in the hospital (in Mandarin Chinese)...Kathy Pollard and I have begun a new podcast for women, called "Looking Up!"...We got to have lunch with Mom and Karen on our way to the TX marriage retreat...we sure are missing our little Turner and can't wait to see her (and her parents) soon!



January (l-r): John speaking at the Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat in Gatlinburg, TN... Jackson and Emmy are on the same team in youth basketball... John has some unorthodox teaching methods!...back in TX for a marriage retreat with the University young couples from San Marcos...major damage to our trees (but not to our home) from the ice storm...we got to see Livi, Micah and Courtney during our quick TX visit...Wayne Burger and his wife ("Weezie") are beloved members of the BV faculty but are moving to New Hampshire to serve the Lord there...a fun visit from friends Lance and Robin Riddick...snow necessitated a zoom class one Wednesday evening.