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All contributions are tax-deductible.

Monthly...One-time Gift...Lump Sum

Checks can be written either to Bible Passages or to the Dripping Springs church of Christ and sent to: 287 Beulah Road; Dripping Springs, TX 78620

2019 Snapshots



January



February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December

January: Back in the classroom at Bear Valley Bible Institute!...February: Carla spoke at a retreat in League City, TX...March: time to leave dear friends, pack up and head to Texas...April: we loved being with the Bernethy family during a meeting in Hydro, OK!...May: a wonderful study tour with the Digging Deep group in Israel...June: John and Mat Cain filmed and participated in a dig at Shiloh...July: more time studying in Israel...August: loved a quick visit with Pooh and Jodie Duke at Gospel Advocate headquarters!...September: Labor Day fun at BVBI...October: There's always something to grade...November: Dru and Kristin Arbuckle and their precious girls labor in Wahiawa, HI...December: back in our TX home, Carla hosted Dripping Springs' annual Cookie Exchange!

Dear Supporters and Friends,

Because of the Thanksgiving holidays, many find themselves a bit more appreciative than usual for their blessings, and we are no exception to that rule. However, we want you to know that throughout the year we are thankful for your love and support. Without God and His working in your life to bless us, our work would not be possible. Thank you so much for all your love, prayers, and contributions to Bible Passages. We continue to stay committed to training workers for the Kingdom, preaching the Word, strengthening marriages, and defending the faith. Your support has enabled us to continue serving in the Kingdom.



As I look back over the month of November, I feel so blessed to have worked alongside so many dedicated Christians. Early in the month we travelled to Hawaii to conduct a weekend marriage seminar, and to spend time with the Andrew and Kristin Arbuckle. Dru was one of my students at Bear Valley and it was so encouraging to see him laboring in the Kingdom. Just a few weeks prior to our arrival, he had baptized two individuals into Christ, and it was thrilling to see him conducting classes on Sunday afternoon to further enrich and refine their faith. He and Kristin face many challenges as they work with both the Wahiawa and Kapolei congregations, and yet they continue to persevere with a zeal and love for the Lord that is inspiring. Our marriage seminar was held at both the Honolulu and Wahiawa church buildings. We stayed in an apartment duplex owned by the Honolulu congregation as well as with the Arbuckles. We were gone for a total of five days, and the day following our return to Texas, Carla and I travelled to Schertz, TX, where we spoke at their lectureship. We had both previously written manuscripts for their book, so we presented on this assigned material.

Two days after the lectureship, I drove to the southeast Texas town of Kirbyville, where I conducted a four day gospel meeting and spoke at the Ladies Bible Study class on Tuesday. It was such an honor to return to this congregation where I had spoken many years before. David and Jessica Lillard are now laboring here, and are doing a fine job in both rearing their children and nurturing the church. They are also teaching at a charter school in nearby Jasper, and have become well-known in both the Kirbyville and Jasper communities. David was in my classes at the Southwest School of Bible Studies, and I enjoyed very much the opportunity to renew our friendship and to learn from his experience in education and counseling. I'm very impressed with this good family, and it brings us great joy to know that those who we may have had a small part in training are continuing the work in the Kingdom.

The month of November also gave us opportunities to spend a weekend in pre-marital counseling in our home with a couple who will begin working soon with a congregation in northeast Texas. Adam Warnes and Gabby Killian will be married in January. Adam is one of my former students at Bear Valley. Also during November, I conducted a funeral service for Richard Wright, the father of one of my life-long friends. I spent some needed time at World Video Bible School working on the Bible Lands Passages projects. Also, God has blessed me with a wonderful parents, and I was grateful to assist in various ways with some of their needs, and to just enjoy some quality time together.

Once again, thank you so much for your support of Bible Passages. Please pray for us.

In Him, *John*

We would love to visit with you about our work, either over the telephone or in person. Please contact John if you have questions or would like to know more information!

We are so grateful for your prayerful consideration.

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L-R: So blessed to have all of our kids here for Thanksgiving!...Grady continues to have immunotherapy treatments...Two of our granddogs, Molly and Annie, were VERY interested in Thanksgiving prep... church building in Wahiawa, Hawaii... David Lillard, minister in Kirbyville, TX, with members.... sweet Eva and Alana Arbuckle...the two women on the left were members in Wahiawa when Grady was stationed there... longtime friends Tim and Jennifer O'Banon (and Matthew) in Schertz, TX...Adam and Gabby (soon to be) Warnes came for premarital enrichment weekend.....I've never taught a class barefoot before!... the Esene and Arbuckle children greeted us with the best ALOHA sign I've ever seen!



With my Mom and sister-in-law, Karen, at the 5th annual "Singing in the Hill Country!"

Carla's Comments

We are nearing the end of our third year of ministry with Bible Passages. At the beginning, part of me was afraid to leave my home (not to mention to leave our brand new grandson, our just-out-of-the-nest "baby" son, my newly widowed mother and my comfort zone!) All of that looks terrible when I write it down! But I was confident that it was the right decision, and

I knew that I could trust God to calm my fears and work things out for His glory. Five years ago, the scaredy-cat, homebody, introvert me would have laughed at you if you'd told me the places I'd soon be going. One morning last year in Malaysia, I was in a hotel getting ready for a ladies event. John had already left with someone else, and I was waiting for someone I'd never met to pick me up and take me somewhere I'd never been to speak to ladies I didn't know. I remember staring at myself in the mirror and laughing, thinking "How in the world did you get here??" And then I thought, "This must be where God wants you to be today." Sure enough, it was one of the best days, among some of God's most precious people, in a fantastic place on the other side of the world. My point: none of this life is about *me* or *my* fears or *my* abilities (or inabilities!) It's not about being comfortable or having all the things (though we have always had all that we needed!) This life is about Him - trusting Him, believing Him, reflecting Him and showing Him to the world. I haven't always lived this. I'm still trying to live this. But I'm learning that when I trust Him to lead me—wherever that is—my fears are calmed. He provides whatever I need, and usually it's not what I **thought** I needed. I know that no matter what happens, He is there and I will be *better than okay*. I've learned that His people are all over this world and knowing them is a tremendous blessing that I can't even find words to describe. I don't want to sound preachy, but I hope that this encourages others to submit to His plan and trust Him. Thank you for all that you do to help me, and us, and Bible Passages. We pray for this work, for it to somehow affect souls and show them the goodness of God. God is so good to us through you, and we pray His blessings to be upon YOU.

Thank you! Carla

Excited About Upcoming 2020 Events:

November/December:
Research and Writing/WVBS

January - March, 2020:
BVBI 3rd Quarter Teaching

February 3-6: (J) Freed-Hardeman
Lectureship

March 1-14: (J&C) BLP/Bear Valley
Study Tour in Greece and Israel

March 14-27: (J&C) BLP Study Tour in
Israel and Rome

April: Research and Writing

May 1-3: (J) Middle Tennessee Men's
Leadership Retreat

May 15-17: BVBI Graduation Weekend

May 19-June 11: (J&C) Brandon church
of Christ in Brandon, UK

June (tentative dates): (J&C) Marriage
Seminar/Gospel meeting in Wasilla, AK

June-July: WVBS/Research and Writing

August - October: BVBI

August 16-22: Polishing the Pulpit

October 8-11: (J&C) New England
Lectures in Tilton, NH

October 15-18: (J) Linder Road Lectures
in Meridian, OH

October 23-25: (J&C) Marriage Seminar
in Lebanon, MO

Nov/Dec: Research/Writing and WVBS

