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# BIBLE Passages

# Journal

## Dear Supporters and Friends,

I think we are gradually adapting to the work of being an itinerate preaching family. However, moving every three months definitely has its challenges! We don't much enjoy the logistics of packing and unpacking, but the most difficult thing is having to say goodbye to loved ones. We definitely have two homes with two sets of families, and we miss them when we are away, but in return we are able to see and experience so many, many wonderful blessings. To see God at work in the lives of others, and to develop eternal relationships along the way has edified and strengthened us beyond measure.

Among the many places where we have seen God at work has been at the Bear Valley Bible Institute.



Aerial photograph of Shiloh excavations from the Jerusalem Post. See our video at <http://biblelandpassages.org/passages/go-now-to-shiloh/>

### Upcoming Schedule:

November 8-10: (J&C) Marriage Seminar  
in Wahiawa, HI

November 10-13: (J&C) Schertz, TX  
Lectures

November 17-21: (J) Gospel Meeting in  
Kirbyville, TX

November/December:  
Research and Writing

January - March, 2020:  
BVBI 3rd Quarter Teaching

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

The start of October saw the end of the first quarter of classes and a sigh of relief from the students as they completed all of their assignments and then sat for final examinations. That naturally brought a whole lot of work for me because of the numerous notebooks, papers, and exams to grade. But, after days of grading and calculating their final grades I was pleased overall to see all that they had learned, and encouraged by their development and growth. We are blessed to have so many conscientious students who are preparing themselves to work in the Lord's vineyard. As many of them might tell you, the workload and exams are helping to prepare for the pressures of a local work. I often find that satisfying, knowing that I'm helping them in a sort of trial by fire, but on the other hand it's a little depressing when I see the stacks of materials waiting to be examined and evaluated (see photo on the next page).

In our work we often pray, as commanded by Jesus, that the Lord will send forth reapers into His harvest. We are excited that, at the end of the year, four more teams will be entering the workforce (two teams pictured, next page.) Matt Jones and wife Heather, and Nathan Miller and wife Katie will be working together in a difficult mission field in Huron, South Dakota. Cole Tuck and his wife Julia will be moving to

Mount Pleasant, TX, where they will work in youth ministry for the North Ridge congregation. Russell Bowers and wife Sarah will be working part-time with small congregations while he continues his graduate work in Bible. It has been my privilege to see each of these students mature in their faith and to acquire a good Bible education as they worked their way through our two year program. Each of them have unique strengths that set them apart from their peers, but all are united in the common goal of glorifying Christ and bringing souls to the Lord. They have taken a variety of courses which have included textual studies, Greek, Exegesis, Ministry Technology, and so many others. They have also gained much practical experience in preaching and personal evangelism, as all students are required to participate in no less than three campaign efforts during their tenure at Bear Valley. I was blessed to instruct them in several textual courses, Church History, Restoration History, Bible Geography, and Biblical Counseling. Please pray for these families in their new work.



Nate and Katie Miller and Cole and Julia Tuck

The month of October also brought us other additional ways to serve. In October, I spent time writing several articles for a devotional book soon-to-be published by the Jenkins Institute. Our work also took me to Woodland Park, Colorado where I conducted a seminar on "Archaeology and the Bible" and where I was blessed to stay with Sharon and Randy Boyer. We also travelled to Mesa, Arizona where Carla and I conducted a marriage seminar, and were privileged to work with Sean Hochdorf. Soon afterwards, we travelled back to Texas but stopped along the way to deliver a short lesson at the Elk City congregation in Oklahoma, and where I met with the elders to share information about the work of Bible Passages. We were thrilled to stay with Brad and Glynda Whinery who participated in the May "Digging Deep" Bible Land Passages trip to Israel. Upon our return to Texas, I conducted another seminar called "The Land and the Book" in Buna, Texas. We were so blessed to see Don and Janie Prather, who helped to mentor me during my adolescent years in the church. Oh, how I wish I could tell you more about each of these good families and congregations where we worked! We are in the "people business" and there is nothing to compare with the rewards and blessings that have developed from each of these good congregations.

Being back in Texas for the last part of October has enabled us to not only work some at World Video Bible School, but also to assist with helping our parents. Carla's mother is a widow and lives alone. My mother's leg was recently amputated and my dad has stage four cancer. It hurts to see them in this condition but I have absolutely loved being able to spend the extra time with them as they continue to press on toward the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Thank you for allowing us to help them and others in moving toward that goal. We are so appreciative and thankful for your support. To God be the glory in all things. In Him, *John*

Congregations will soon be working on **budgets** for 2020 - would you **please** let them know about **Bible Passages**?

In the three years we have been working through Bible Passages, we have not met our budget, but through some of you, God has provided for our needs. But if He allows, there is more that we need to do if we are financially able. It is humbling to ask, but could you, someone you know, or your congregation possibly help to support the work of Bible Passages? If you'd like to know more about what we do, go to our website, and click





L-R: In Buna, TX with old friends Don and Janie Prather...Denver has already received several snows...we took a day trip into the mountains while the aspens were brilliant with color...In Katy - seeing where Jordan works, and we loved celebrating Emmy's birthday with our family...Meetings with Mat Cain, Branyon May and Rudy Cain at WVBS....an example of a map from John's Bible Geography class...piles of grading!...back to Texas in mid-October...more meetings - planning the upcoming Israel/Athens/Rome study program with Donnie Bates and Denny Petrillo...in Phoenix, AZ with Sean Hochdorf.....the wonderful Woodland Park, CO congregation meets here!



## Carla's Comments



A blessing to grow to know and love more and more of God's people! (My friend Shera Wilcox)

Hey, it's good to be back home again! Sometimes, this old (home) feels like a long lost friend! Sorry, John Denver, for borrowing your lyrics, but they are fitting every time we pull back into our Dripping Springs driveway. It's good to be back in our Texas home and have more time to spend with family and be blessed to do the words found in Exodus 10:12: "Honor your father and mother..." While our schedule is usually pretty demanding, John and I genuinely feel blessed to be involved in ministry. And, especially while we are home, it seems that God gives us the special blessing to be able to, in a way, minister to our own parents, as well as to our siblings who have so wonderfully cared for them day in and day out.

Though not burdensome, to honor our parents in the biblical sense will not be a thoughtless, easy activity. The Hebrew meaning of the word carries so much more weight than our current usage. Along with the meaning of "honor" as we know it, the word means "heavy, weighty". Lexham's Theological Wordbook says this: "The technical term for Yahweh's 'glory' (כְּבוֹד, *kābôd*, "above") is derived from this root." It is a serious, weighty charge. We tend to take our parents' abilities and health for granted, and the change in life for aging parents carries with it so many emotions. We were so accustomed to Grady being able to take care of anything and everything, as we were with Dad. But age and illness cause a sort of role reversal that isn't comfortable on either side. Fathers have to allow sons the blessing of serving them. Sons have to learn how to respectfully lead the one who has led them and taught them since they were born. Daughters have the privilege to "rise up and bless" their mothers by caring for their needs. Honoring our parents is something we want to take seriously, knowing that we honor the Lord while we serve them. Please pray for us as we continue learning how to truly honor my far-above-rubies mother, my precious mother-in-law, Janice, and my dear, wise, and honorable father-in-law, Grady. He is so sick right now with cancer and we ask for your earnest prayers.

"On the Road Again", to use lyrics from another song, was the theme for October. While John was up in the mountains of Colorado (Woodland Park) for a meeting, I was privileged to speak at a ladies day in Brighton, north of Denver, on one of my favorite topics: Joy! The following weekend, we flew to Phoenix for a marriage seminar and stayed with *new* life-long friends Glenn and Becky Mabley. That's one of my favorite thing about travel: making friends that will last into eternity! I love God's family! When we returned from Arizona, we packed up and drove to Texas, stopping in Oklahoma to stay with other life-long (*semi-new*) friends, Brad and Glenda Whinery - did I mention that I love the family of God? Jake and Lys joined us right after we got home, and we drove with them and Mom down to Katy to celebrate precious Emmy's second birthday! And I'll never forget the running hug we got from Jackson, and his "I MISSED YOU SO MUCH!" We wrapped up October in Buna, TX with (*longtime*) friends, Don and Janie Prather, with a ladies day and a seminar on Bible Geography/Archaeology, and on the way home loved being able to stop in Katy to hear Jordan preach. We are so grateful to all of you who enable us to spend our days in ministry - to others, and to our family. God is so good to us through you, and we pray His blessings to be upon YOU. Thank you. *Carla*



We arrived back in Texas just in time to drive a little further south to celebrate Emmy's 2nd birthday!