



# BIBLE Passages *Journal*



Carla's mother, Janice Garner, came to Denver for a visit. We loved introducing her to our Bear Valley family - here, Karen, Verna, Maurya, Carolyn and Shera!

## Dear Supporters and Friends,

There are many things to report, but I want to begin by saying ministry is a team effort. That, in effect, is what the apostle Paul was describing when urging the Ephesian brethren to remember that every member of the church is essential to the building up and growth of the body (Eph. 4: 11-16). He also spoke of his brothers and sisters in Christ as coworkers in the Kingdom. Not only did he depend on them in a variety of ways, he also recognized them for their labor of love and works of faith. The relationships he forged and the trials he faced together with Christians like Barnabas, Timothy, Aquila, and Priscilla were obviously very dear to him.

In my own personal ministry there are likewise many who are dear to me, but none dearer than my wife and companion in the Kingdom. No one has meant more to me in my labors than her. Bible Passages is a partnership, but her works of faith and labor of love often go unnoticed. In every report I generally only mention the major activities that either I, Carla, and or both of us together might have completed. Rare is the time when I might have mentioned the so called behind the scenes or "little" things that have occurred, though they consistently happen each month in the day and life of this great woman of God. The following is what I am insisting be included in this month's report, though she will protest with much vigor and determination.

Carla isn't perfect, and she will be the first to tell you, but I stand amazed at all that she does day-in and day-out in our work, and all with little or no compensation. She would never want me to talk about her in a report, but I couldn't go another month without letting you know just how vital she is to the work of Bible Passages. In addition to all her regular contributions to our home and work of paying the bills, buying the groceries, cooking the meals, and maintaining the décor and warmth where we reside in either Dripping Springs or Denver, she also speaks several several times a year in

### Upcoming Schedule:

October 5: (C) Ladies Day in Brighton, CO

October 4-6: (J) Apologetics Seminar in Woodland Park, CO

October 11-13: (J&C) Marriage Seminar in Gilbert, AZ

October 25-27: (J&C) Ladies Day and Gospel Meeting in Buna, TX

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

## 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 the "[Work and Ministries](#)" tab. Thank you!



brotherhood women's programs, teaches classes at Bear Valley Bible Institute, authors an article for every issue of Christian Woman magazine, serves as the administrator and registrar for the Bible Land Passage participants, maintains the Bible Passages websites, proofs all my articles and manuscripts, and crafts our monthly newsletter. If this weren't enough, over the past month she has made hundreds of homemade pizza rolls for the students and staff and prepared several meals for visiting preachers, church members, and prospective students. She also organized, cooked, and hosted an evening of fun and food for the

Bear Valley Students and their wives. I could go on and on with others things big and small that occur around our house that are meant to further the Kingdom of God. She has been a blessing beyond compare and I am thankful for the sacrifices she makes so that the work of Bible Passages can continue.

Looking back at September, I am excited about the many ways that God has allowed us to serve in His kingdom. This past month has been challenging, but joyful! I understand the gravity of my work in helping to prepare men and women for ministry. In addition to my weekly preparations and duties for my classes, I have also been privileged to continue the Wednesday night adult class at the Bear Valley congregation. This past month God also afforded me the opportunity to speak at the Bear Valley lectures, write a manuscript for the Freed-Hardeman lectureship, and to continue work on the Shiloh documentary, scheduled to be released on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Mat Cain is has been working numerous hours on this project and he and I communicate several times each week to discuss various facets of the project. If the Lord wills, in November we will also release a DVD version with bonus materials. The internet version will be available for viewing at [www.biblelandpassages.org](http://www.biblelandpassages.org), and then eventually on Amazon Prime and VidAngel. Also during September, we were blessed by wonderful visits from Jacob and Alyssa, and then Jordan and Erin and our wonderful grandchildren, and others: We were blessed to have in our home my wonderful mother-in-law, Nathan and Katy Franson, Nathan and Mandy Liddell, several members and staff from the Bear Valley congregation, and preachers Garrett Bernethy and Billy Claybaugh. I also thoroughly enjoyed having lunch with Mark Hammitt from the Weber Road congregation and Sylionor Houpette, who preaches in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Most importantly, we want to say thank you so very much for all your support and prayers. Without you this work would not be possible. We also covet your prayers on behalf of my parents. Dad has stage-four cancer and Mother continues to recover from the loss of her leg. They continue to live in their home, and we are forever grateful for their steadfast love and support, and grateful for my sister and brother-in-law who have been there to support them every step of the way. To God be the glory in all things. In Him,

*John*

**Join us** March 14-28, 2020 as we study the Bible on site in **ROME** and in **ISRAEL!** Full details here:



[www.biblepassages.net/2020](http://www.biblepassages.net/2020)







L-R: We enjoyed an impromptu lunch with Wayne, Denny, Mandy & Nathan Liddell and Nathan and Katy Franson...Carla's latest article in Christian Woman magazine...standing room only at Bear Valley's lecture series...Bible Land Passages' documentary on Shiloh will be released next week...John ran out of space on the whiteboard!....Labor Day fun with students and staff at our house...A quick visit back home with John's parents...and Carla's mother flew back with us for a few days...Jake and Alyssa also came and we visited the mountains...Jordan and Erin and the kids came for the lectures, and afterwards camped one night near Aspen...Carla's mom enjoyed being in chapel with the students!

## Carla's Comments



Emmy has such a sweet personality!

September was full of wonderful family visits! It was a blessing to share our physical family with our Bear Valley family, and I know it's easier for them to understand why we love the church and school here in Colorado. We especially loved having "the babies" for an extended period of time. I learn so many lessons by watching them, and I understand God's love more clearly because of how I love them. The following is something I recently shared on Facebook and thought I would share here, too: "We spent part of yesterday in Rocky Mountain National Park, God's creation in all its splendor. I loved seeing it through Jackson's and Emmy's eyes! They jumped and ran (Emmy pranced) and tripped and stumbled and got tired of walking. They didn't always want to stay on the path...they wanted to struggle (by themselves) over every fallen tree and

jagged stump. They felt like they needed to climb over big rocks and take the difficult route through the trees. They fell and cried and got back up to do it all over again. Only a few times did they look up and reach for our helping hands. At one point Jordan had walked out on a fallen log and Jackson wanted to follow him. His little feet kept slipping off and he was getting frustrated, until Jordan said (trying to help him balance): 'Jackson, look at me, and you won't fall off.' Wow. I got tears in my eyes. The whole day I kept thinking - isn't this ME? I want to do everything my way. I take the hard route when the path has already been laid out for me. I stumble and fall and get tired and forget that all I have to do is reach up for His hand. And most of all, if I would just always keep my eyes focused on Him, I wouldn't fall off. These babies teach us without even trying." That was a beautiful day, spent enjoying what God created and designed—both in nature and in family.

We spent Labor Day with many of the students and staff at our home. We had hot dogs and all the toppings, and tried to make homemade ice cream, but it never froze properly, so we had homemade cream! It was delicious anyway. A couple of days later, Jake and Lys came for a visit. We don't get to spend as much time with them as we would like, and we thoroughly enjoyed having them all to ourselves. We did some hiking locally, and then on the Saturday they were here, we drove up to Vail and did more hiking and exploring there. We had hoped that the aspens would be golden by then, but they weren't. It was beautiful anyway! A few days after they left, Jordan, Erin, Jackson and Emmy came for the Bear Valley lectureship. Our little house was crowded with people, clothes, toys, and more company...and then I came down with a stomach virus (first one like that in 27 years!!!) ...and then it hit John. But the week was wonderful anyway! After lectureship, on Jordan and Erin's last full day here, we went to the national park and enjoyed seeing (and hearing) the magnificent elk. We walked around lakes and picked up pine cones and had sword fights, and the babies got a little tired and cranky toward the end, but we had a ball anyway! Blessings abound!

Speaking of blessings, a dear friend blessed us with tickets to fly back to Austin for a quick weekend. Mom had a big birthday on the 18th, so Micah and Courtney and Courtney's parents, along with Rich and Carol Nelson and Mike and Brenda Ratcliff (from long-ago McCarty days) met us for a birthday supper in San Marcos. John was able to spend a good bit of time with his parents, helping them sort through some things and just soaking up some together time. Then, Mom flew with us back to Denver so that she could see the little house we live in and meet the church members here. We had lots of company while she was here, and drove up to see the mountains. I loved having her here!

Along with the busy and happy family time, we continue the work we love... teaching classes, writing articles and manuscripts, counseling, studying, and preparing for upcoming lessons. We love and appreciate you all so much! May God bless you richly! *Carla*



It was so much fun to be able to spend lots of time with this sweet little boy!