



# BIBLE Passages *Journal*

## Dear Supporters and Friends,

As I looked into the faces of the four Christian couples that had gathered for a devotional in the front yard of our Texas home, I was filled with hope and optimism. Though the world is being threatened by an invisible virus, and despite the daily news reports of societal ills and political unrest, I am comforted in the knowledge that Jesus is still on His throne and that another generation of Christians have emerged to follow Him. Along with our son Micah and his wife Courtney, we were blessed to spend time with these couples who happen to be current and former students. We delighted in hearing about their respective works and families and the plans they have for strengthening the church and reaching the lost. The zeal and optimism of a younger generation is infectious, and their faithful commitment to the Word is inspiring. Our time with these preachers and their wives is an important part of our work. Whether on the phone providing counsel, or as a resource for helping us in our own work, we are excited about what these and other families like them are doing to serve the Lord. While we don't always mention it, every month we are blessed with the opportunity to converse with former students and to often provide counsel and advice. It's an important part of our work and we are so very grateful to you as supporters that you give us the time to be involved in their lives.

As we mentioned in our last report, Covid-19 has created some havoc in our schedule for 2020 but we are still using this time for writing more articles (see [www.biblepassages.net/blog](http://www.biblepassages.net/blog)), ministering to my mother and others, and providing

marriage counsel for two different married couples. My work has also involved filling in for a Wednesday night Bible class session, Zoom BVBI faculty meetings, reorganizing the Bible Land Passages 2021 program and itinerary, and study and preparation for the upcoming school year. However, one of the more unique and exciting things has been to reconnect with two former students and friends, Patrick Hammack and Justin



We enjoyed having Micah and Courtney, Parker and Amanda LaGrange, Jacob and Jessica Rutledge and Kolton and Katy Ballance in our home!

### Proposed Schedule

May-July:  
(J&C) WVBS and  
other BP projects

August-October  
(J&C) BVBI

October 2-3:  
(J) Men's retreat in  
Franklin, TN

October 8-12:  
(J&C) Northern  
New England  
Lectures

October 15-18: (J)  
Meridian, Idaho  
Lectures

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

November 6-8:  
(J) Biblical Guidance  
Seminar in Katy, TX

November 14:  
(C) Ladies Day in  
Bowling Green, KY

Guess. Both are involved in great preaching works in Odem and Mathis, respectively. As their time permits, they are now helping us on the BLP documentary #13 – Caesarea: Rome’s Capitol City in Israel. Both are extremely talented and will bring a number of creative ideas to the project. Patrick is currently designing and reconstructing a digital 3-D model of first-century Caesarea. The reconstructed city will be incorporated into the video and will also be made available for use in the classroom via the Bible Land Passages website. We are prayerful that we can together bring some very effective and helpful teaching tools to Bible class teachers all over the brotherhood.

Finally, as we look forward to continuing our work, we covet your prayers not only on our behalf but also on behalf of our widowed mothers. Adjusting to life with various health conditions and now being without their husbands has been challenging. We are so honored and blessed to have been near them during these spring and summer months (an unexpected blessing due to Covid-19) but we know that soon we will be heading back to Denver for another quarter of classes. We look forward in our next report to telling you about the new group of students who, despite current challenges, are committed to preparing themselves to work in ministry by attending the Bear Valley Bible Institute in Denver.

## THANK YOU!

Please accept our most heartfelt gratitude for the many ways you have expressed your love and support during the recent passing of our beloved dad. The love and kindness of so many of our friends and brethren have shown us the many ways God is active and alive in our lives. We want to express our deepest thanks to those who have made contributions in memory of Dad. These memorial gifts will be used to further the cause of Christ.

Barbara and Nye Clark Withers (Victoria, TX)

Kenneth and Martha Parker (Chattanooga, TN)

Mary Jean Owens (Eden, TX)

Wayland and Melanie Bradshaw (Marion, TX)

Otto and Wanda Kollaus (Kingsbury, TX)

Kay Kizziar (Dripping Springs, TX)

Evelyn Alexander (Pittsboro, NC)

Edmund and Christiana Sarpong (Denver, CO)

Debra Mitchell (Dalton, GA)

Lee and Carolyn Gully (Dripping Springs, TX)

Marvin Crumley (Dripping Springs, TX)

Gary and Lisa Shake (Austin, TX)

Janice Garner (Dripping Springs, TX)

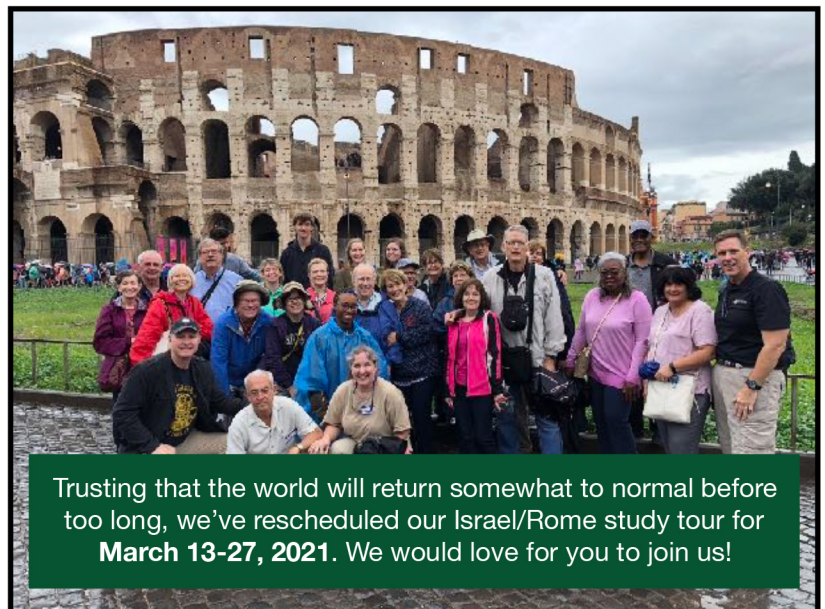
Would you **please** let others know about **Bible Passages?**

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!**

As I close, please know how much we deeply appreciate your support. We cannot say enough how much we appreciate your generosity and love. Thank you for your fellowship in the gospel of Christ. We are so blessed to be in the ministry. We look forward to the future and our commitment to train preachers, evangelize the lost, defend the faith, and edify the church. Thanks again for all you do in helping Bible Passages!

*John*

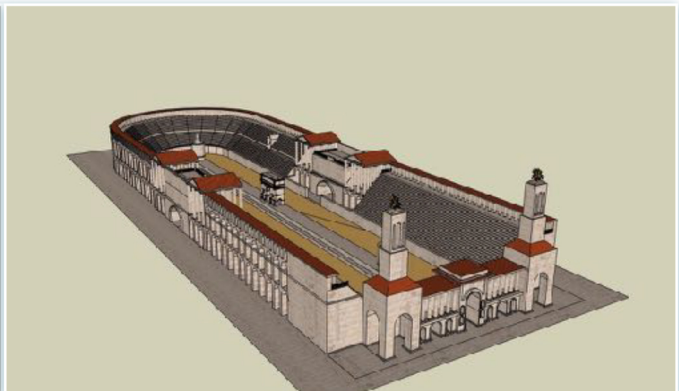


Trusting that the world will return somewhat to normal before too long, we've rescheduled our Israel/Rome study tour for **March 13-27, 2021**. We would love for you to join us!





L-R: We are so thankful to our friends Ron and Dodie Allen who, earlier this year, sent a memorial donation to Bible Passages in memory of the couple pictured here: Kenneth and Jeanette Vaughan. "The Vaughans were pillars in the church, served in numerous capacities, loved souls, and supported missionary work in Russia. They served as members of the Midway church of Christ, Utica church of Christ, and, for the last 25 years, at the North Brandon church of Christ in Mississippi." ... We had Jackson and Emmy for a weekend and they visited with their great-grandmothers...John took Norman Starling for a visit to WVBS (Branyon May at right) and to see Chuck Horner (who later passed away.)



Some of the fantastic work being done by Patrick Hammack and Justin Guess, a reconstruction of first-century Caesarea Maritima. Above left shows a recreation of Herod's palace and below it is what remains today. Upper right is a recreation of the Hippodrome and below it are today's remains.



## Carla's Comments

2020 has been a wild ride, hasn't it? I got a good laugh out of the cartoon below - I think we are all afraid to see what's behind door #7 - July! No matter what, though, we don't have to be *anxious* because for those of us who love the Lord, He will cause all things to work together for good. It may not look exactly like how we had envisioned it, but He is able to make all things new. It always gives me strength and courage to remember this: "You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world," (1 John 4:4). It truly does not matter what the world throws at us when our hope and trust is anchored in Jesus. This is how we have peace in the middle of a storm - the storm may be scary, but we know it is temporary and we know that we are in the hands of a God who knows us best, loves us best, and only wants good for us.

June was another mostly quiet month. We have enjoyed having time to write, tend to projects around our home that have been needing to be done, and care for our mothers. We have spent many evenings and most Saturdays outside, cutting down cedars and burning brush. I have been digging up stumps (the ones that John keeps bending lawnmower blades on!) It's great cardio exercise and therapeutic, too. Some of the stumps are huge, but it doesn't take much effort to dig them out because their roots aren't deep. Other smaller stumps, from the top, look like they'll be easy to remove, but their roots are twisted and set deep into the ground and take much more effort to remove...I've seen a lot of spiritual application during my deep-thinking, stump-digging therapy!

We loved getting a visit from current BVBI students Kolton and Katy Ballance in early June and have been blessed to spend some time with our kids and grandkids. We celebrated our 34th anniversary on June 14 with a dinner out at the Oasis on Lake Travis. I've also continued the scripture writing all year and have loved every moment of it - and always enjoy seeing what Mom discovers in her study too. For any of you who might want to jump in, but don't want to feel as though you're "late" - I've made a six month PDF with July through December's writing, you can find it here: <https://walkingwherejesuswalked.com/2020/01/03/writing-the-word-in-2020/>.

We genuinely appreciate each of you who prays for us, loves us, supports us and encourages us. We thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve in ministry. We love doing what we do! And we pray God's blessings on you as you continue to serve Him!

*Carla*



We celebrated our 34th anniversary on 6/14 with a sunset dinner overlooking Austin's Lake Travis

