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Monthly...One-Time...Lump Sum

Checks may be written to Bible Passages,
287 Beulah Road; Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Dear supporters and friends,

In 1968, on the rocky crag of Masada near Israel's Dead Sea, archaeologists unearthed several important artifacts dating to the Jewish revolt of the first century A.D. Among the items discovered were hundreds of seeds from palm trees that grew two thousand years ago. The seeds came from a tree known as the Judaeen Date Palm, a tree which played a significant role in the Judaeen economy until it became extinct in 11th century A.D. In 2008, a team of botanists from several countries successfully germinated these 2000-year-old seeds and began growing date palm trees, some of which have recently begun producing fruit. One of the trees which developed from these ancient seeds is named Methuselah, and it, along with its sister trees, is being grown in a southern city of Israel called Ketura, just north of the gulf of Aqaba.

It is truly remarkable to think that an ancient seed planted today can still produce the same tree and the same fruit that it produced 2,000 years ago. It is a testimony to God's law of biogenesis which says that life originates from pre-existing life, and that after its kind (Gen. 1:11-12). It also reminds us of the law of sowing and reaping. Whatever is reaped comes from the kind of seed that is sown (Gen. 1:11-12 and Gal. 6:7-8). These two laws are understood by farmers and should also be understood by the church.

If our quest as God's family is to produce the kind of Christian and the kind of spiritual kingdom that God wants, then we must plant the right kind of seed. From the parable of the farmer found in Luke 8, we learn that the seed of God's kingdom is His precious word (Luke 8:11), the Bible. To produce spiritual fruit that pleases God, the seed of God's word must be planted in the hearts and lives of His followers. God's word is essential to producing righteous fruit and the inheritance that is promised to the sanctified (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Acts 20:32). While the New Testament seed is over 2,000 years old, if it is carefully planted in the rich soil of godly lives today, it will produce what it did during the age of the apostles. Whatever fruit might have gone extinct can be reproduced when the original seed is planted today, or in any era. This is what we are seeking to do in our work at the Bear Valley Bible Institute and in our work overall with Bible Passages;



Several beautiful snows blanketed the Bear Valley campus and the little house in January!



John was in charge of organizing chapel services/speakers during the month of January.



The "Singing Youth of Denver" (aka SYD) sang at the Englewood church building in January.

planting the seed of the Kingdom into the hearts and lives of souls all over the world. Your prayers and support are helping us to plant the seed.

During the month of January, we have been working to plant seeds and nurture the plants that God is producing. Our work has involved teaching classes at Bear Valley Bible Institute in Denver, where I am teaching the books of Philippians and Thessalonians. I am also teaching a class on church history and another on biblical counseling. Our work has also included spending time with the students outside of class, as well as conducting pre-marital counseling for two of our students planning to be married this month. Other areas of work include the release of three new Bible Land Passages Connection videos, an interview on the “Be Brave” video Podcast on the topic of evangelism, along with the organization of chapel services each day at the Bible Institute. Some of our time has also been dedicated to rescheduling the Bear Valley / Bible Land Passages Bible Lands program. Due to Covid restrictions, we have moved the trip to late May. I am also pleased to let you know that I am continuing my work as a staff writer with the “Excel Still More” Bible Workshop ministry. My articles, along with those from several other staff writers, can be found at www.esmbibleworkshop.com/blog. Also, several articles of mine of a different type can be found in a compilation of articles produced by the Jenkins Institute and published in a daily devotional book call His Church (admin@thejenkinsinstitute.com). Finally, if you haven’t heard about Carla’s excellent work in her scripture writing ministry please be sure to visit www.walkingwherejesuswalked.com. Literally thousands of individuals are participating in this tremendously rich program. She has been so dedicated to this work and has been a great example of faith to so many, especially to me. She works so hard in doing so many things, not the least of which involves her serving as Dean of Women at the Institute.

Brethren, we cannot say enough about how much we appreciate all your love and support. Without you, this work would not be possible. Thank you for all your prayers, words of encouragement, and contributions to our work. We thank our God upon every remembrance of you. *John and Carla*

2022

Schedule:

January-March
Bear Valley Bible Institute
February 16-20
Great Smoky Mountain
Marriage Retreat
Gatlinburg, TN
April 10-13
Oak Grove, MO Gospel Mtg.
May 7
Ladies Day
Gilbert, AZ
May 8-12
Jasper, TX Gospel Meeting
May 14
Ladies Day
Canyon Lake, TX
May
WVBS Temple Project
May 15-30
Graduation Activities at
BVBI
May 23-June 4
Israel/Rome Studies Tour
June-July
WVBS and BLP projects
August-October
Bear Valley Bible Institute
August 17-25
Polishing the Pulpit
Oct. 31-Nov. 12
Digging Deep Israel Study
Tour
November-December
WVBS and BLP projects



To see the newest Bible Land Passages “Connections” videos, visit <http://biblelandpassages.org/videos/connections/>

To download 2022’s Scripture Writing plan, visit <https://walkingwherejesuswalked.com/2021/12/12/write-on-my-heart-every-word-scripture-writing-2022/>

Carla's Comments

Dear friends,

Isn't it interesting how we look forward to the changes in seasons? This is about the time of year when I'm SO ready for summer again. When it's cold and gets dark before 6 pm, all I want to do is put on my pajama pants and fuzzy socks and sit in front of my faux fireplace space heater. John and I just returned from a two-mile walk through our Denver neighborhood—in twelve degrees through the 8" snow we got last night. I'm still shivering and thawing out, watching snow blow off the roof, but I'm dreaming of 9 pm daylight and remembering how much I love sandals! Of course, I'm conveniently forgetting August's sweat and 100 degrees, and I know when that month rolls around again, I'll be dreaming of fuzzy socks and my favorite winter soups! I'm thankful for God's design of changing seasons.

January passed by quickly. We packed up and headed for Denver on the 5th, needing to be here for orientation two days later and for the "short course" that began the following Monday. Short course is a one-week class that meets all day on one text or topic (rather than having several classes each day, as in our regular quarter.) Students receive two credit hours. John taught "Thessalippians" (1 and 2 Thessalonians and Philippians) and Jeff Jenkins was here to teach "The Preacher and His Work". It was great to have Jeff here to encourage and mentor our students for the week.

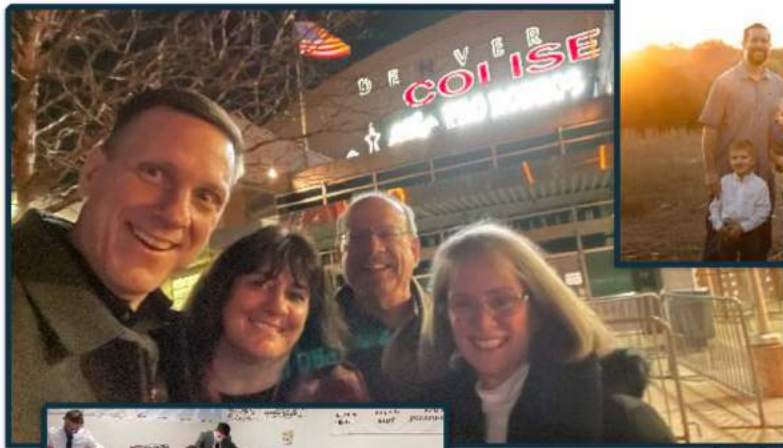
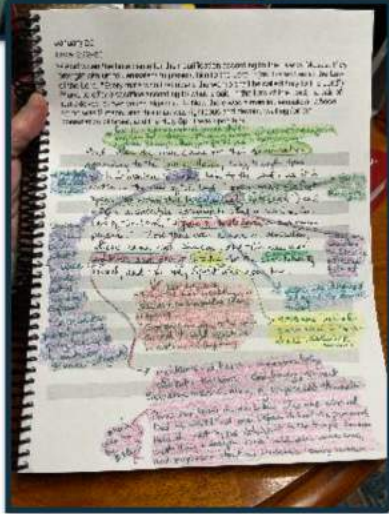
I have been busy with work that I love—working with the women at Bear Valley Bible Institute, whether full-time student women or the wives of men who are students. I also love working alongside Teri Autrey and Lynn Hite at the Institute. My work involves activities such as Bible studies with the women, helping them to plan their classwork, and sitting in classes with them - Monday night's class is the Life of Christ with Wayne Nelson, and Wednesday night's class is "Women of the Bible" taught by Teri. We do fun things like brunch, coffee, and walks (well, if the weather cooperates!) Last week we planned a faculty/student lunch because the students want to get to know their teachers. We have also been working on plans for the 2022 Bear Valley lectures, scheduled for September 15-18 - you should come!

The growth of the scripture writing plan has been fun to watch. I love that it is simply the word of God. I love that one can dive deeply into the day's scriptures, or they can simply write, depending on time and energy. I love that it's available for free and no one has to spend any money to participate. I have been so happily surprised at the number of downloads: during 2021 and 2022, there have been **19,333** downloads of the scripture writing plan in its various formats from the full year book to the two-page checklist! That is a LOT of scripture writing going on! To God be all the glory!

As always, we love and appreciate each one of you and pray God's richest blessings upon you! Love, *Carla*



(L-R): Some of our fabulous Bear Valley women and staff during a breakfast hosted by Sarah - Maddie Rall, Teri Autrey, Makayla Akin, Sarah Skelton, Lynn Hite, Liberty McClarty... a day hiking in the mountains near Bear Valley with Wes and Teri Autrey... Teri and I picked up our newest student, Naomi Racine, who has come from Panama.



January (l-r):
 Bear Valley
 faculty and staff
 luncheon...our
 last TX sunset
 for a while..."
 Write On My Heart Every Word" scripture writing 2022...
 John with his "Thessalippians" short course students...a
 night at the National Western Rodeo with Denny & Kathy
 Petrillo...our family picture for Christmas 2021...Brian
 Ketchum, Bear Valley congregation's newest staff member
 who is also taking some classes...Jeff Jenkins taught one of
 BV's short courses this spring...Courtney and Carla's mom,
 together for a family dinner before we came back to Denver.