



BIBLE Passages *Journal*

Dear friends and supporters,

I know many of you are aware of the events surrounding the last month. We apologize for the tardiness of our normal report, but we know that you understand the reason behind it. For those who may not know, John suffered a sudden cardiac arrest—sudden cardiac death—during our Sunday morning Bible class on November 29. With absolutely no warning, his heart stopped. Though it was terrifying, we have so much to be thankful for: we were not alone. Friends trained in CPR came immediately to his aid. Another friend had recently checked the batteries and pads on the AED at the church building, and he was able to use it to shock John's heart. EMS came quickly and continued life-saving efforts at the church building, then again in the ambulance where his heart stopped once more, continuing in the Emergency Room at Baylor, Scott & White in Lakeway. CPR was given to John for over an hour, but no one gave up. How can I express thanks for that? All of our children came immediately. He was stabilized as much as possible, placed on a ventilator and under heavy sedation in the Intensive Care Unit. Doctors put him in a state of hypothermia to preserve brain function and to allow his body to rest. They warned me that they could not be certain of his mental or physical condition until he was brought out from under sedation. But by this time, I am certain that thousands of prayers had been lifted to God on John's behalf. I know He bent down to hear. He listened, He answered us very powerfully and very positively.

A week later, John underwent a heart catheterization to see if the cause of his cardiac arrest was heart disease (a heart attack.) But his arteries were quite clear, and the cardiologist was convinced that the reason for his cardiac arrest must have been an electrical issue. On December 9, an electrophysiologist implanted an AICD (a pacemaker/defibrillator) in his chest which detects dangerous heart rhythms and first tries to correct them, but if needed will deliver a full shock to put the heart back into a safe rhythm. While the thought of that happening is scary, we feel immense relief to know that he has a safeguard watching over his heart. We will still have more investigating to do, including a visit to a geneticist. We need to know if this is something that our sons and their children need to have checked out. The defibrillator will automatically record all activity and, via a little box that will sit next to our bed, will report the information to doctors. We've had contact from several who had similar incidents and we are comforted by their reports of a return to normal (albeit slightly

2021 GOALS AND NEEDS

We continue to seek support for the work of Bible Passages. The effects of COVID have slowly trickled down to affect and reduce our support. We trust that God will provide! If you know a congregation or individual who might be interested in supporting our work, would you please let them know about us?

If it is God's will, 2021 holds quite a number of opportunities and obligations: marriage seminars, our classes at Bear Valley, Carla's opportunities as Dean of Women, a Grief Recovery seminar, our work with WVBS on Bible Land documentaries, lectureships, gospel meetings and an Israel study tour. Our least favorite activity is asking for support, but we must. Could you help?

different) life.

This has been a very traumatic experience, yet I have had peace. I've come to know in a very deep, personal way the "peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension" (Phil 4:7) that did, indeed, guard my heart and mind. I witnessed the events that happened to the one I love most on this earth, and while I could see what was happening, I felt as though the Lord picked me up, wrapped me tightly in a blanket, held me close and only let me peek at what I could handle. Even in those first moments, I absolutely knew that if John did not live, he would be going to be in the presence of God. I wanted desperately for him to stay with me, but I had an unexplainable peace that no matter what, the Lord would continue to walk every step with me. It was indeed the valley of the shadow of death, but there was no evil to fear. It is so hard to explain. I never, ever want John to experience anything like that again, yet because of it, we have seen God at work more over the last month than ever before, and we are grateful for His mercy, love, healing, peace, and grace. Please continue praying for John and for me and for our family, including our church family. Though it was traumatic, we are confident that God can and

will use all of this for His glory, to draw us closer to Him and to bring others under the shelter of His wing.

Lord willing, we both will be able to continue teaching this coming quarter at Bear Valley in mid-January. Classes are still via Zoom, so we will remain in Dripping Springs for a while longer to enable doctor visits. I know some will worry that teaching adds stress, but please understand that teaching is John's lifeblood. It would be stressful for him if he could NOT teach. We will follow doctors orders - and there are doctors in Denver, too! We both very much want for our work to continue and there is no reason it cannot. We trust that the Lord will provide for our every need, whether it be physical, financial, emotional or logistical. We have been showered—drenched, really—with blessings in every way. Thank you for your prayers, support, cards, love and encouragement. We love you all dearly! Blessings,

John & Carla



Top: Jordan and Erin created these shirts for us. John's says "S.C.A. Survivor" and ours say "Someone I Love is an S.C.A. Survivor". Above left: In true John fashion, he befriended all of the nurses and doctors and shared as much of the gospel as he could with limited time. We grew to genuinely love all of them! Above right: to top it all off, we had a septic issue and had to rip up carpets and floors!