

**We could use your help!**  
All contributions are tax-deductible.  
**Monthly...One-Time...Lump Sum**  
Checks may be written to Bible Passages,  
287 Beulah Road; Dripping Springs, TX 78620

## Snapshots of May and June



### **Bear Valley Alumnus Hard At Work:**

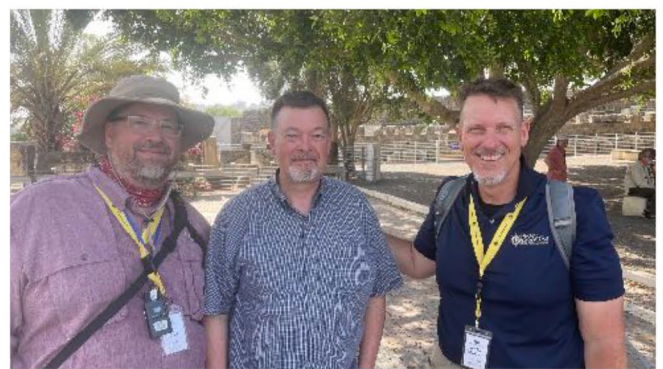
One of the many blessings we receive in ministry is to hear about the hard work and various success stories of our former students. One of those students is Chris Carter (in the black shirt, center), who is now working full-time in the Lake Butler Church of Christ Prison Ministry in Florida. Chris has a fascinating story of his own, and we were privileged to become close to Chris while he was in school. He is now involved in a very exciting and profitable work both in the prison

ministry and in the community of Lake Butler. Reports about baptisms and the stories of changed lives has been phenomenal. This photo captures only a handful of men that their ministry impacts each day through counseling, encouragement, and teaching Bible. A part of their program also includes the use of materials from WVBS.

**A Viewer in France:** On our most recent filming trip and Bible Lands program to Israel, a man named Mark Nelsen (pictured right) recognized the Bible Land Passages logo being worn by colleague Mat Cain. Mark is a Baptist American missionary in France who happened to be participating in an archaeology dig in Israel. He is an incredibly nice and encouraging man, and we have continued to correspond. Here is a part of the first email he sent to us after our meeting in Capernaum: "As I was driving back to my place I called my wife. I said, 'You'll never guess who I met. You remember the video about Khirbet Qeiyafa and how much it encouraged us to love [our son-in-law] based on the OT principle of loving/ caring for foreigners?' And John, that's all I could get out

and we both started bawling...My brother, you will never know how deep and important of an impact that video has had in our lives...Thank you again for your wonderful ministry. May God richly bless you, your wife and your entire team."

**Marriage Enrichment and Counseling:** From month to month, we can never anticipate some of the ways we are called to serve. While we are not licensed professional counselors, we do on occasions find ourselves providing a lot of marriage counseling. We don't always have the flexibility in our schedule, nor sometimes the expertise to provide the right type of counsel, but there are many times when God places in our paths opportunities to serve in this capacity. This summer has been one of those times as we spent numerous hours working with two different Christian couples. While I cannot go into any of the details in this newsletter, please know that we have seen God at work in helping struggling marriages and your support of our work as allowed us to provide this counsel, along with the ability to provide counseling resources and materials to these couples free of charge. Please pray for us, and especially these hurting families we are seeking to help.



**Temple Project - Filming Expedition in Israel and Rome:** During April and May we were blessed to take yet another step in working toward the completion of the “Temple Project”. After writing the scripts for the five-part mini-series about the sacred temples of the Jews, we developed a plan to capture video footage of important sites and places in Israel and Rome relating to this project. The church in Dripping Springs was so kind to support Mat Cain, our videographer and good friend, enabling him to accompany us with our group of 42 on this Bible Lands Studies program. While we were guiding, Mat and his son Kasey were spending time filming. At various times I would break away from the group to record segments. Carla, Roy Greenway, and Brian Ketchem were also critical in assisting with this effort in several ways, one of which was in capturing numerous 360 video segments for congregations and individuals to use in virtual reality tours of the Bible lands. We are not sure of the release date, since much will depend on World Video Bible School’s workload and ours.

**Gospel Meetings – What Goes Around, Comes Around:** Whenever my dad would witness something in my relationship with my boys that he had experienced with me he would often say, “what goes around comes around.” In other words, as the recipient of a blessing (or sometimes a consequence) you are often blessed to pass it along to others. In our last report we mentioned the blessing of preaching for a gospel meeting in Oak Grove Missouri where Jack McNeil labors as the gospel preacher (I was blessed to baptize Jack many years ago, and also performed the wedding ceremony for he and his wife Kathy.) A month later I was



blessed to preach another series of lessons in Jasper, Texas but this time it was at a congregation whose preacher baptized me back in 1981, and who performed the wedding ceremony for Carla and me. What goes around, comes around.. and that is true with the blessings from God. Many years ago, Don and Janie Prather invested their time and efforts to mentor me as I was growing up, and then served as counselors as Carla and I prepared for marriage. I was blessed by getting to spend a week with Jack and Kathy and to see the fruits of their good labor, and I pray Don and Janie were able to see that in us. Carla and I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Prathers for all that they have done to help us over the years, especially when we were young. Their investment in us at such a young age reminds us that the time we take with young couples and individuals we encounter today can bear fruit for the Lord both now and the future.

Finally, with the close of this newsletter we say thank you for all your love and support. Above all, we praise God for allowing us to be in the ministry and for how He is working through you to provide the support and encouragement we need to continue our work. There is still much to do, and many things that are done on a weekly basis that we aren’t able to fit into our newsletters. Writing assignments for lectureships, preaching and teaching by appointment, correspondence with brethren and supporters, study and preparation time for our various projects and classes demand a lot of our time, but we love that we are able to do it. We are so blessed to be in the ministry, and so, so blessed that individuals and congregations like you make it possible for us to do so. Thank you so very, very much. We thank our God upon every remembrance of you and praising for all your love and support. *John and Carla*

## 2022 Schedule:

August-October

Bear Valley Bible Institute

August 10

Summer Series Brighton, CO

August 17-25

Polishing the Pulpit

September 15-18

Bear Valley Lectures

October 1

Teacher Workshop

Lubbock TX

Oct. 31-Nov. 12

Digging Deep Israel Study Tour

November-December

WVBS and BLP projects

## Upcoming Bible Land Study Tours - Join Us!

**Oct. 31-Nov. 12, 2022**

Digging Deep in Rome and Israel  
- with Glenn and Cindy Colley  
[https://www.biblepassages.net/  
2022-tours](https://www.biblepassages.net/2022-tours)

**Mar. 25-Apr. 6, 2023**

Exploring Israel  
[https://www.biblepassages.net/  
future-tours](https://www.biblepassages.net/future-tours)

**October 2023**

Coming Soon! Information about  
a Mediterranean Cruise  
[https://www.biblepassages.net/  
medcruise](https://www.biblepassages.net/medcruise)

## Carla's Comments

Dear friends,

When I was in my twenties and early thirties, I had an older friend (who seemed to me quite “old” then, but I think I have now reached the age she was then...gasp!) who would often tell me that she was busier in those days than she ever was when her children were young. I remember being a little doubtful at the time (and truthfully, a little offended) since I was constantly chasing after our boys, running them around to church events, school, sports practices, friends' houses, and trying to keep enough milk in the house to satisfy them. I needed a conveyer belt between the grocery store and our house! I sometimes felt like I was barely keeping my head above water. Now, I think she was right, though it's certainly a different *kind* of busy—I sometimes still feel as though I'm barely keeping my head above water.

In May and June, I snuggled our new granddaughter Alivia as often as I could. I prepared and presented two lessons at Focal Point (but enjoyed much more sitting and listening to others present their lessons). I traveled to Phoenix, Arizona to present lessons for a ladies day at the Sun Valley congregation (and this was the first time to be away from John since his heart incident.) The next week we attended Jackson's graduation from Pre-K. Then I presented two more lessons at a ladies day in Canyon Lake, TX. I spent a LOT of time proofreading manuscripts for BVBI's lectureship book. On May 16, we flew to Denver for a week of graduation activities (final chapel, graduation banquet, ladies' tea, etc...and it SNOWED.) About 24 hours before we were due to leave Denver for Tel Aviv, Delta canceled our flight...but they re-booked us on Lufthansa, and we made it to Tel Aviv in time to prepare for our group's arrival the next morning. It was so, so good to be back in Israel and to travel through it with a group of absolutely wonderful Christians, some of whom had been waiting for this trip for more than two years. This trip was a bit different from past years in that we also visited Rome with the group, and then stayed a few extra days there after most of the group had gone home. John has a never-ending list of biblically relevant sites he loves to investigate and document! We arrived home on June 8 (after another dicey flight schedule change due to a planned pilot strike in European airports) and that weekend made a quick trip to Katy to see Jackson, Emmy and Clara (and their parents!) We loved getting to love on Turner (and her parents!) I've also been spending time with Mom every week while we are home...she doesn't have a car anymore and though she loves her little home close to Doug and Karen, she gets “cabin fever”, so we get her out



Mommom meets Alivia



A few of the amazing women we traveled with, l-r - Rachel, Noma, Ruth, Martha, Janice, Christa, Kathy, Sheree, Vera and me at the Western Wall

and about. Also, part of the home renovations we were forced to make over the last year included rebuilding our back deck, and we have been trying to use it for good things...we've used it for some marriage counseling and hosted quite a few gatherings! We do stay busy, and we love being busy, and we absolutely feel blessed to be able to be in ministry full time.

We also know it's possible to be busy, yet unproductive, so we pray to be useful in God's kingdom. We are thankful for your love, for your prayers and for the many ways you support us!  
Love, *Carla*



May/June (l-r): Our wonderful group with Jerusalem in the background ... presenting the Bear Valley Class of 2022 graduates...Jackson graduated from Pre-K!...Denny Williamson, who helped to save John's life by performing CPR...with Brian, Carol, and Grace Vohs on our Israel/Rome tour; they are old friends...9 miles in Israel and Rome wasn't unusual...Mat Cain and John filming for the Temple Project...Our packed bus filled with fantastic friends ready to tour Israel!...our BV graduating women...I had to take this photo of the last chapel prayer of 2021/22 with our graduating seniors in the middle... a ladies day at Canyon Lake on May 14