



# BIBLE Passages

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# Journal

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

On October 30, 1991 the so-called “perfect storm” ravaged the New England and Canadian coasts. The clash of two major storm systems in the Atlantic produced 40 to 80-foot ocean waves and wind gusts of up to 90 mph. Ships and property were destroyed, and the loss of the fishing vessel with six souls aboard the Andrea Gail dominated the news on the east coast. Years later a book was written about those events, and a movie soon followed called *The Perfect Storm*. This unfathomable fury of nature had once again captured the attention of the nation and caused all of us to remember the strength of an ocean storm and just how fragile our lives can be. Some of you may have had encountered some storms in your life – financial ruin, the loss of a loved one, a relationship gone bad, the horrors of abuse, the dissolution of a family, a family crisis, church crisis, a world crisis etc. All of these concerns and events can shake us and threaten to sink our boat of faith. But unlike the Andrea Gail, which was lost at Sea, the child of God can rest in the confidence that we serve a God “who sits above the storm” and can deliver us to safety. Psalm 29 reveals this powerful message, and its beautiful words were those assigned to me for discussion at last month’s preachers’ workshop in San Marcos, Texas, called Focal Point.

As I preached from Psalm 29 concerning “The God Above the Storm”, sitting in the audience that day was Sarah Pogue, a young lady who five months earlier worked to keep me alive by performing CPR on me. It was a vivid reminder of how fragile life can be, but also how God uses various people in our lives to preserve and strengthen us through the challenges of our own personal storms. We continue to stand amazed at how God uses individuals like you to partner with us in the doing the work of the Lord. Because of God working through you, we have been allowed to devote ourselves to the ministry. Carla and I can’t even begin to tell you how thankful we are for all your prayers, love, and support.



Bear Valley Bible Institute's 2021 graduating class!

During the month of May, I was blessed to present two lessons at Focal Point, work at World Video Bible School (more below), preach a series of lessons in Wasilla, Alaska called, “Faith Lessons from the Land of the Bible,” and work with Carla in conducting a

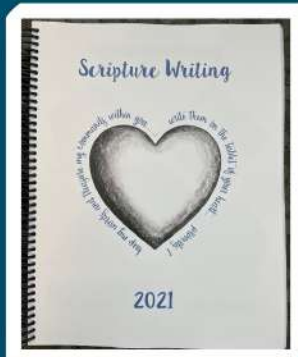
## 2021 Schedule:

June 16  
Summer Series, Lewisville TX  
June 23  
Summer Series, Georgetown TX  
June 26  
Ladies Day, Natalia, TX  
June 27-30  
Gospel Meeting, Natalia, TX  
June-July  
WVBS  
July 9-11  
Marriage Seminar  
Georgetown, TX  
July-October  
BVBI 1st Quarter  
September 16-19  
Bear Valley Lectures  
Denver CO  
October 14-17  
Linder Road Lectures  
Meridian, ID  
October 24-28  
WVSOP Lectureship  
November 5-7  
Cold Harbor Road Lectures  
Cold Harbor, VA

marriage seminar in Alaska. We were also able to attend and participate in BVBI's student graduation ceremony and activities. Also, through WVBS, we released all fifteen episodes of the Bible Land Passages documentaries on DVD. Patrick Hammack of Georgetown, Texas has joined our team and is helping us to produce 3D digital models of the various cities, artifacts, and buildings of the biblical world. These models have been added to a few of the older films, then rereleased with the latest DVD.

In addition to our weekly duties of writing, answering emails, counseling, study, and speaking engagements, we have also been working on the newest Bible Land Passages project called *Connections: Exploring Facts and Faith*. This newest series will essentially achieve the same goals of our longer documentaries, but will be shorter in duration, but will also include a larger range of topics that will pair selected portions of scripture with the numerous discoveries (i.e. facts) from the disciplines of archaeology, geography, horticulture, history, hydrology, and much, much more. We hope through this newest series to edify the viewer and defend the faith. We are excited about the release of these newest videos that we hope will be released with greater rapidity and be received on a larger scale. Please pray for this effort.

As I close, let me say that with each month's newsletter I typically end with words of thanks and gratitude. I have for this month done the same. However, please know that these are never empty words thoughtlessly added to the end of the letter. With all sincerity and deep affection we want to again say thank you. We never take for granted your support and prayers. Without you this work would not be possible. Thank you so very, very much. May God bless you richly. *John*

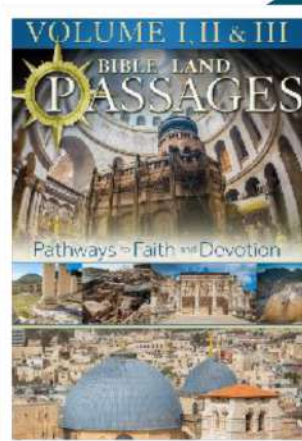


We'd love for you ladies (or men!) to finish out the year writing scripture with us - see the details at the link below! We've been writing the book of Acts throughout 2021 and I (Carla) have personally gained a deeper understanding of the early church. We simply write 3-4 verses per day, and depending on how much time I can devote to it each day, I delve into word studies or map work. I feel like I know Peter and Paul personally! It's been a good method for me to slow down and pay more attention to the details in each verse. We will finish out the year with several of the shorter letters. Come join us! <https://walkingwherejesuswalked.com/2020/12/09/lets-write-again-in-2021/>

## ISRAEL STUDIES TOUR

Our May-June Israel tour and studies program has had to be rescheduled once again because of Covid restrictions.

We hope you'll join us in March 2022! Details are here: <https://www.biblepassages.net/2021>



The complete set of Bible Land Passages documentaries is now available in one set through WVBS!



L-R: Carla and Alexis Ihle, one of the 2021 BV December graduates... Lyndsey, Heather, Sarah and Marisa at our women's BV Senior Tea...with Paul and Alice Stone in Alaska...Jon Warnes, Jeff Jenkins, John and Michael Hite at Focal Point...Clara adores her big brother!...Mat Cain is always busy with projects at World Video Bible School...Jordan speaking at Focal Point...Jake and Alyssa brought Turner to meet my mother...participants from the marriage seminar in Wasilla, Alaska.



## Carla's Comments

### Dear friends,

I picked up something fun recently from our local Goodwill: a game of sorts called "Table Topics". It's a little cube about 4" square filled with little cards, and each of the cards has a conversation starter question such as, "What's the most sensible thing you've ever heard someone say?" And another: "What song from your past evokes the most emotion?" We've had quite a bit of company lately, and when we sit down for a meal, we open up the cube of table topics. They have started the most interesting (sometimes unexpected) discussions! We often recommend conversation starters during marriage seminars, too. We love having good conversations over the dinner table, and these help prompt them. Amazon carries Table Topics, or you can google sample Table Talk conversation starters!

May was jam-packed. The first weekend we spent at Focal Point, a "preacher's workshop" that is not just for preachers. I was a little bit nervous because John preached his first lesson in front of a crowd since before his heart episode, but he did an excellent job and all was well. All of the "firsts" are a little unsettling, but we continue to trust that God will provide all that we need in every situation. The weekend after Focal Point, we went on a family fishing trip to Grady's old stomping grounds at the Barefoot camp near Bend, Texas. Jordan and our nephews Joshua and Deric had begun planning this trip at Grady's funeral a year ago, wanting to keep the family connected. It was so nice to get away and enjoy God's creation! Then, the week following that, we flew to Alaska to help in a marriage seminar and gospel meeting with the Wasilla congregation. We absolutely loved being with that wonderful church and with our dear friends, Paul and Alice Stone. They have worked with the church in both Seward and Wasilla while also holding down secular jobs, and they have been such a help to the members in both places. Then from Alaska, we flew to Denver to participate in graduation weekend. We loved being able to take part in the senior women's tea (well, John didn't take part in that!), the graduation banquet, graduation exercises and the reception that followed. Then we came home to find squirrels in the attic! Never a dull moment.



I'm thankful for Alice (Stone), my long-time friend!



This is the spot at McCarty Student Center where John and I sat in 1984 and began our story!

One of the activities during Focal Point was a dinner held at the McCarty Student Center. When my family moved to San Marcos in 1976, my Dad was the director of the Bible Chair at McCarty, so I did a lot of growing up there. I met John there in 1983, and that is where our "love story" began (as have many, many, many others!) The first time we really sat down together was on this spot (pictured left) after a workday. I brought John some water after he had mowed the lawn, we sat down to talk, and the rest—as they say—is history! McCarty has meant so much to so many. It is a home away from home for college students on the Texas State University campus. We are grateful for these sweet memories!

As always, we truly love and appreciate each of you for your friendship, love, and many different ways that you support us. We pray God's blessings upon you! Love, *Carla*