



Your Support is greatly needed!

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

Dear supporters and friends,

Located near the northwestern shore of the Dead Sea, the Wadi Qumran is the celebrated site of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Essene community of the Jews. Discovered between 1947 and 1956, the Dead Sea Scrolls are arguably the most important discovery of the 20th century. Nearly 1,000 manuscripts of the biblical text (and others) were represented in the thousands of fragments and scrolls written on parchment and papyrus and hidden in hard-to-reach caves. The scrolls include parts of every book of the Hebrew Bible (except Esther), along with many other ancient writings. Cave 4 was particularly rich in material yielding 15,000 fragments from at least six hundred composite texts. Cave 1 contained a full manuscript of the book of Isaiah and is one of the largest and best preserved of the entire Dead Sea Scroll collection. It dates to approximately 100 BC and prior to its discovery the oldest known complete Hebrew manuscript of the Old Testament had been the Aleppo Codex written in the 10th Century AD. The Dead Sea Scrolls were a monumental discovery which reveal the faithful preservation and transmission of God's word. Critics were silenced as the scrolls contained no serious challenges to the narratives and doctrines of scripture. We can trust that the bible we are reading today is what was read by our forefathers in the faith. "The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8).

The preservation of God's word is indeed what we are privileged to proclaim and write about, along with information regarding its historical and geographical context. Your support of Bible Passages has allowed us to defend the faith and strengthen others in their walk with Christ. Over the past two months we have been working hard to share God's word and minister to the needs of others in the following areas:

1. In Branson at the Polishing the Pulpit week-long conference Carla and I presented several lectures and we conducted 6 private counseling sessions. A few of my lesson topics included whether or not it was right for a Christian to support Israel. All PTP lessons can be heard on-line at PTP 365.
2. In Branson we also met with our new formed Advisory Board to discuss the future and to likewise provide another layer of accountability, in addition to the elders where we serve.
3. In August I taught a week long accredited course on Bible Geography and Archaeology at Bear Valley Bible Institute. We also took part in the student orientation process and spoke to students about the importance of purity and the resources we have available to help.



John teaching Bible Geography to the new BVBI students

4. In the PTP Sevierville location, we both had speaking assignments and Carla and I counseled in six different sessions. We also set up a display to promote the free resources we offer and to let others know about the Bible lands programs.
5. In preparation for the Daily Devotional Book series published by the Jenkins Institute I wrote five articles for their use.
6. On July 24th, we released the first of our weekly Image Insights articles. Please see our Bible Passages Facebook page for each article and Bible land photograph.
7. I am now involved in teaching a Sunday morning Bible class in Dripping Springs on the book of Jeremiah, and two Wednesday night classes on Bible Geography and Archaeology at the University congregation in San Marcos.
8. In the past several weeks I have also been preparing for the filming of several new Connection videos with World Video Bible School, along with a new Bible Passages podcast, co-hosted by Brian Ketchem, which will air later this fall.
9. Finally, we have also been busy coordinating and preparing for the next Bible Land Studies program and tours to occur in the spring and fall of 2025.

Once again, thank you for all your love and support. Your participation in this work has been a blessing and joy beyond compare. God bless each one of you, and please keep us in your prayers.

John

We think you'll like these podcasts...



Coming soon - John and Brian Ketchem will host the Bible Passages Podcast, designed to build faith and give attention to biblical truths found in the geography and archaeology of the Bible Lands.

Available now - Looking Up! With Kathy and Carla - a weekly podcast for Christian women. Wherever you get your podcasts!



Remainder of 2024 Schedule:

September-November
Bible Geo / Archaeology
class in San Marcos, TX

September 19-22

BVBI Lectureship

October 17-20

Linder Rd (ID) Lectureship

October 25-27

Marriage Seminar

Brown Trail, Bedford TX

November-December 2023

WVBS and other TX
projects

Ongoing / Weekly
Commitments:

*Looking Up Podcast

*Write On My Heart Every
Word (Scripture Writing)

*WVBS Temple Book

*Image Insights

*Connections Videos

Carla's Comments

Dear friends,

This year in the “Write On My Heart Every Word” scripture writing program, we’ve been writing through the book of Genesis. Normally we write through several different books from the Old or New Testament, so it has been different staying in one OT book for the entire year. I admit...I’ll be ready to go back to a New Testament book next year, but staying in Genesis has shown me a lot of valuable things. God’s character truly is slow to anger and patient. None of His people have ever been perfect...all of the Old Testament patriarchs had some (what we would consider) pretty substantial character flaws and made some really questionable decisions. Yet God still used them and still claimed them as His own. That is comforting to me, to know that despite my own character flaws and questionable decisions, God uses me and wants me. I’ve also seen that while God’s timing seems slow to me, and despite how humans seem to get in His way, God’s plan has continued to unfold over the centuries and His timing has always been perfect. I love the humanity and reality in scripture as well. In the last couple of weeks we wrote through the account of Jacob and Esau’s reconciliation. I loved the scene where Esau “ran to meet him and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.” What an encouragement to see how old hurts and wounds can be forgiven. I’m looking forward to starting soon on creating next year’s scripture writing book. I hope you’ll join us!



John, Doug, Karen and I helped get Mom all moved into nearby Hill Country Care. I'm excited to have her closer to me!

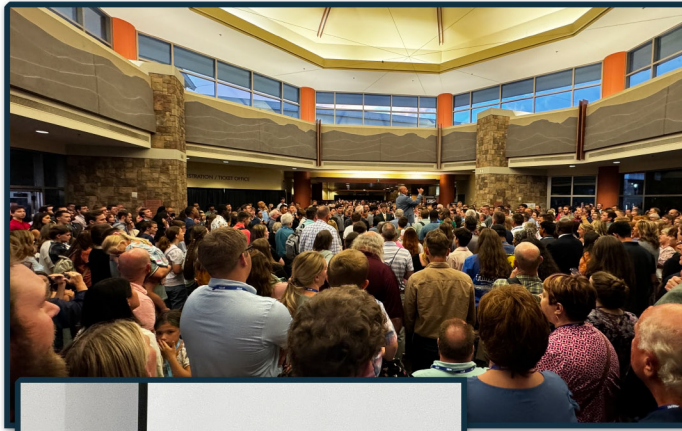
In the last two months I’ve had my cup filled with two different sessions of Polishing the Pulpit (I love PTP!!) I’ve also had my brain stretched and my schedule filled with different things (all—well, mostly all good.) I’ve had some time to sit on the deck and enjoy a little quiet time. We’ve had some sweet grandchild and adult child time. We’ve packed and unpacked, organized, re-organized, and pretty much given up on completely organizing all of Mom’s years of photographs and mementos (I think I’ve looked at a million old photos - fun!) I’ve loved being online with Kathy recording new podcast episodes. I stretched a little more out of my comfort zone and sat as a guest on the Sisters Podcast with two precious young women. We’ve

worked on Bible Passages projects and worked to better organize our organization. (There seems to be a theme of organization for these past few months!) We’ve celebrated Jackson’s 8th birthday (and Jordan’s 35th! Mind blown!) We’ve met a whole crew of new Bear Valley students and John spent a week teaching them about Bible geography. We saw the amazing production of “Esther” in Branson - it was so good! Thanks, Lance and Robin Riddick, for taking us! And John began teaching a special class on Bible Geography/Archaeology for the University congregation in nearby San Marcos. John really enjoys Bible Geography... has anyone picked up on that by now? Ha! I think it’s one of the things God put him on this earth to do. He has a gift for communicating something that might be boring to most and making it interesting!



Filming an episode of the Sisters Podcast with Bree Neighbors and Lois Webster

Our kids and grands are all doing well. A little girl (to Micah and Courtney) and a little boy (to Jake and Alyssa) Lord willing, will arrive in November and we couldn’t be more thankful and excited! My mom is doing ok. And as always, we are so grateful for your prayers and love and support. Thank you for helping us in our work! Love, *Carla*



(L-R) the "Atrium Singing" at PTP is beautiful!... John and Doug hung a lot of Mom's many pictures...



Jordan and Erin worked with the young singles group at the Sevierville PTP...our May/June BP and PTP group had a mini reunion...New and returning students and faculty at BVBI...John and our friend Polly Estep at our booth at PTP...SRO at John's PTP lecture on "Should the Christian support the modern state of Israel?"...Mom and Karen enjoying an afternoon on Hill Country Care's patio...Qumran, mentioned in John's portion of the report.

