

BRIAN AND SHANNON NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023

And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo. (Acts 21:1-3)

CAMPAIGN

October is the time for campaigns at Bear Valley. Shannon and I have been looking forward to our trip to the Mediterranean for quite some time and as a continuation of my work with Bible Passages, this trip counted towards my campaign. My role with John and Carla was to assist them in any ways that I could. For this trip that meant coordinating with our group coordinator on board the cruise ship and providing technical assistance with our communication app. Shannon and I had a great time and more importantly were glad to be helpful to all of the people coming to follow in Paul's footsteps.



Panoramic Shot of Ephesus from the Amphitheater

MINISTRY UPDATES

Bible Passages

Since the majority of October was spent working on the Bible Passages cruise, I figured this month would be a good time to talk about Bible Passages. Bible Passages is the name for the ministry started by John and Carla. They do many things, but, above all, their mission is to "Guide people to Jesus." They accomplish this goal through Bible Land documentaries, marriage workshops, counseling assistance, Bible Land tours, and their association with Bear Valley (just to name a few!). Their Bible Land documentaries,



Part of our group and Mars Hill

represented under the title “Bible Land Passages” are in partnership with World Video Bible School and can be found on YouTube and their website.

I began working with Bible Passages earlier this year. With my background in Geography, I jumped at the opportunity to work with John and Carla. Primarily, I have been working on their website. I have also been trying to create content for their social media channels to help

more people know about the land of the Bible and all the work that John and Carla do. Although Shannon does not have a formal role, she and I are so happy to be associated with this work and we hope to continue to help John and Carla make their tours better and continue to produce great content for the kingdom.

Preaching Out

Our relationship with Columbine continues to grow. We continued our Galatians study on the first two Sundays of October, and we are excited to be back there on the first Sunday in November.

PERSONAL NOTES

Although we certainly worked hard, the trip to the Mediterranean could not have been more fun. We especially enjoyed the 52 other participants and came away with some great friendships.

Here are some highlights from the trip. Our trip started in Zurich as an extra mini-vacation (plus cheper airfare). After Zurich, we spend 3 days in Rome. The more I study Rome, the more I think that a proper understanding of the New Testament church must be rooted in a firm understanding of Roman culture. From



Worship with the church in Zurich, Switzerland

Rome, we went in reverse through many of the stops that Paul made during his ministry. We also stopped in Pompeii and although it does not have a direct biblical connection, it does help explain some of the culture that Paul and others were trying to combat. From there we sailed to Ephesus, Athens, Crete, Rhodes, and Cyprus; all places with direct biblical connections. It would be hard for me to explain the value of all of these places in this short space but suffice it to say we left for home encouraged and better educated about God's word.

The next task for me will be to prepare for another quarter and to compile and begin to produce all of the content from our trip. Thank you so much for your support and be on the lookout for more content from Bible Passages in the near future!



Shannon, Shannon's mother Sally, and Me in Zurich