

BRIAN AND SHANNON NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. (2 Thessalonians 1:2-3)

Another year is in the books. 2023 was a wild year for the Ketchems to say the least. It brought a lot of change to our lives and although that can be stressful we are always grateful to our great God who sustains us. As we write the last newsletter of the year, I cannot help but reflect on all the ways that God has blessed us. At the top of that list, has to be the relationship we have gotten to experience with all of you all, the people who support us. We are constantly thankful for your partnership and faith, and we could not do what we are doing without you. We want to thank you for your support in 2023 and are looking forward to a great 2024

MINISTRY UPDATES

If November did not bring many major changes to our ministry, December was ready to make up for it. The biggest changes are with Bible Passages. As you are probably aware, the war in Israel continues to keep trips to that area difficult. Because of that, both of the Bible Passages trips in 2024 have had an itinerary change. In March, Bible Passages will be traveling to the Seven Churches of Asia. In May, the itinerary has been updated to a Greece/Rome trip. As with all of our work with Bible Passages, I am sure that these trips will be faith building and God will be glorified. If you are interested in going on either of these trips there are still a few spots available. You can find more information at <https://www.biblepassages.net/> or you can send me an email and I will help you.



Byron and his family with many members at Columbine

In addition to Bible Passages, December is a time for finals at Bear Valley Bible Institute. I am happy to report another successful academic quarter! I finished five classes: Divided Kingdom (Judah alone), Acts, Homiletics, 2 Corinthians, and Exegesis. I am looking forward to a new 5 in January!

Shannon and I continue our work at Columbine. I preach and teach bible class there two weeks of every month. The congregation is filled with wonderful people and they are so nice to Shannon and Me. Early in the month, we had an extra surprise because Byron Benitez and his family were visiting to provide a report on the work in Guatemala. We love hearing about their work and seeing their family. We also continue to work with Bear Valley in any way that we can. I was blessed to be able to teach the teen class on one Sunday morning in December.

PERSONAL NOTES



The guys hanging out on New Years Eve

While Christmas was uneventful for us, as Shannon had to work and we decided not to travel, instead our dear friends from Tennessee came visit. We were elated to have them come out to Colorado, along with their three kids. Our house felt full, and both our dogs and the kids enjoyed having playmates! As they hadn't had much snow yet in Tennessee, the kids were excited to see how much snow we got while here. They enjoyed playing in it, throwing snowballs, sledding, and tubing.

Bear Valley had a fellowship meal while the Quesinberrys were here so we got to introduce them to our church family. The kids even helped make a dessert to share with everyone. We attended a members New Years Eve party and enjoyed more fellowship and games. Overall, we had a fun packed two weeks filled with ice skating, baking, cards games, hot chocolate, movies, playing at the park, and much laughter. It's truly amazing to think



Oakley made some new friends

about the people God places in your life. We are so thankful for our friendships and time we are allowed to spend with good friends.



The Quesinberry Kids