

**“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro
and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men,
in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,
but, speaking the truth in love,
may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.”
Eph. 4:14-15**

November 1, 2015

Dear Friends,

Swirling winds of change and opinion buffet us all these days. A thick fog of doubt easily descends on heart and mind. Mainstream media and pop culture impose a new orthodoxy that inclines the world away from God. How can a young person refuse the pressure to conform to this world? Speaking of England's atmosphere in the days of Cromwell and the English Revolution, Christopher Hill writes, *“The independence of thought... rooted in a century of Bible-reading could not be easily crushed.... The study of the Bible was continually training consciences who would stand out against any attempt to regiment them or dictate to them.”* In other words, filling our hearts with God's Word bestows intellectual independence and moral ballast that anchor us to God's love, truth, and justice! Some men are comets that blaze across the sky and then disappear; others, however, are fixed stars whose light comes from One who does not change, the True Light, **“the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning”** (John 1:9; James 1:17).

In times of such desperate need for God's Word in head and heart, will you act as a Scripture Memory ambassador in your church? Here's a simple way to start: get permission to place our updated bulletin insert, “Why Memorize Scripture” (enclosed) in your church's Sunday bulletin. We would be glad to print up any quantity for your church or send you a master to copy. You may also download the file for free on our website.

The Omaha Scriptorium was a wonderful celebration of Scripture! Special thanks to Duane and Kathie Pieper, Pastor Steve and Terri Johnson and the whole congregation at Maranatha Fellowship in Bellevue, Nebraska for hosting us in such a warm and welcoming way. Sister Velma Sanders stirred us all with her delivery of Isaiah 55 and told us about the Bread of Life Speech Choir, which she directs. This 45-voice choir expressively recites whole chapters in unison; we hope to schedule a date for memorizers to hear them!

Phil and Jacky Walker in Jakarta, Indonesia, are looking forward to the arrival of baby #3 in February. They continue to see great response in Kalimantan to student outreach utilizing Scripture memory songs. Another great open door for introducing Scripture memory is in orphanages around the country. Phil plans to travel in November to assist his student “Hazi,” who is beginning an orphanage ministry in West Kalimantan.

Our Scripture Memory app, the new technological tool digitizing all 45 memory books with study questions and learning tools, is now in the hands of about 40 testers. Among these, Sherrie from Georgia, wrote,

I love having the app on my phone since I always have my phone with me. Even with just a few minutes I can review my verses. Another thing I like is the study notes and being able to change the version in order to understand the verse a little better. Thank you for letting me be part of your trial.

Sherrie also noted that though computers are not her forte', she found the app easy to download and install. We trust that she speaks for many others to come. We are now turning our attention to putting the app in iPhone format. Would you ask the Lord to help us in this? We lack about \$20,000 to expand this tool for this other half of smartphone users.

SMF staff member Laura Raborn writes, So many verses, so little time? Although nothing substitutes for dedicated concentration (especially with new memory work), you can mine out mental pockets from your daily routine and redeem them for review. For example, tape a verse card to your mirror for study while you brush your teeth. Pick an intersection or road sign on your commute to trigger out-loud recitation of a specific passage. Expend seconds to grab your memory book in order to gain meditation time as you wash dishes or fold towels. Tidbits of time regularly redeemed add up to a life infused with the Word (Eph. 5:16).

Our board of directors met here in Garland, TX October 16-17. Pastor Drake Torp-Pedersen of Terrell Bible Church addressed the board, and a full presentation of the app was given. We thank God for this diverse group of faithful and steadfast brothers and sisters who encourage us and strengthen our hands in God, as Jonathan did for David (1 Sam. 23:16).

SMF staff member Dakota Lynch writes, The beauty of Scripture is that each chapter and verse is God-breathed for the purpose of our personal edification and preparedness "for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:17). The ultimate purpose of Scripture memory is that we become "doers of the word, and not hearers only" (Jas. 1:22). With each verse you memorize, ask yourself what practical obedience to that passage would look like. How should its truth change your life? The greatest joy belongs to the Christian who delights in obedience to God's Word, and as James continued in verse 25, "this one will be blessed in what he does."

In addition to the coming expenses of the app fund, our unpaid bills stand at \$3800. God has seen fit to carry this ministry forward for many years using so many of you, for whom we give God thanks!

Much grace be with each one of you,

Jim Woychuk