



SCRIPTURE MEMORY FELLOWSHIP

December 2018 Newsletter

“Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.” Hebrews 13:18

Lessons from A Christmas Carol



In Charles Dickens' classic Christmas story, Ebenezer Scrooge travels back in time and encounters his former mentor. Remembering Mr. Fezziwig's profound influence, Scrooge remarks, “He has the power to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome; a pleasure or a toil.”

Like Fezziwig, our conscience holds the power to make us happy or unhappy, to fill our days with peace or our nights with regret. Like a pair of new white shoes, a pure conscience is a beauty to behold, but too often it's subjected to scuffs and stains we don't bother removing.

Over time, the weight of a tainted conscience can almost begin to feel normal. *“I missed my quiet time again today.”* *“I really should start memorizing again.”* *“I shouldn't have skipped church yesterday.”*

Inevitably, our pursuit of purity will feature frequent shortcomings (1 John 1:8). In those moments we can rejoice in having “an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1). But as Christians, guilt need not plague us every day. After all, “we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Rom. 8:37). If the guilt of missed quiet times and neglected memory work filled yesterday and a hundred days before it, let today be the beginning of a new chapter as you rely on Christ, whose once-for-all sacrifice for sin will “cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God” (Heb. 9:14).

The battle for a clean conscience isn't easy, but it's one worth fighting. In this effort, may God bless us, every one.

Indonesia

At our fall meeting, the SMF Board formed the Indonesia Council of Scripture Memory Fellowship with Phil Walker as staff member. What a wonderful whirlwind Word-centered tour Phil has had here in the U.S.A. over the last five weeks! Thanks to all who hosted and allowed him to share. We look forward to his next visit with the whole family, Lord-willing, in 2019. Please pray for the necessary visa permissions. With wide open doors for God's Word in Indonesia, would you also pray about joining in the campaign to equip and support Bible-teaching students all over this vast country? You can visit in person, give, pray, and connect with some of Phil and Jacky's interns. Contact him at philjohn1558@yahoo.com to find out how to participate.



Phil Walker

New Features in **AudioVerse**

Learn any Bible verse in any translation with AudioVerse, our **brand new app** to help you memorize. AudioVerse includes several helpful practice features, including the *Word Blur Challenge*. Can you say your verse correctly as random words gradually disappear? If so, move on to the newly-added accuracy test and start typing your verse from memory. Other features include a global leaderboard, progress badges, and customizable verse playlists you can listen to anywhere. Use AudioVerse from any mobile browser by visiting scripturememory.com/mobile. Android users can download the Android app by searching “Bible Memory AudioVerse” in the Play Store.

Matching Gift Update—God Provided Through You

Good news! Donations in September met and exceeded the \$15,000 matching grant goal. We thank the Lord for these resources. We hope you'll use and enjoy them to hide God's Word in your hearts.



1) Reprint of Sermon on the Mount Memory Journal

Complete! These professionally-printed, laminate-cover journals are now available. Inside you'll find color pictures, a 23-week structure for memorization, application questions, memory tips, and space to write out Christ's sermon in your favorite translation. Now 20% off during our Christmas sale!



2) SwordGrip New Testament Song CD (ESV)

Complete! Why not sing God's Word in the new year? This CD features the 27 SwordGrip passages set to upbeat and memorable tunes. Also 20% off during our Christmas sale!

3) SwordGrip Old Testament (Volume 1)

In progress! With a focus on verses you'll treasure from Genesis to Psalms, SwordGrip Old Testament will feature the images, cards, and stickers so many of you have enjoyed from SwordGrip New Testament. Please pray for wisdom, swiftness, and accuracy as we bring this new volume to you in January.



Calling All Campers—Earn a Week of Fun by Memorizing Scripture!



Are you up for the challenge? Memorize the verses found in SwordGrip New Testament, recite the verses to your pastor or church leader, and come to camp for just a \$25 deposit. Camp is a week of fun with friends and teaching from God's Word. Go canoeing, ziplining, rock wall climbing, swimming, and more! Camp 2019 runs Monday-Saturday, July 1-6. Parents welcome. Check scripturememory.com/camps for a video, scholarship details, and registration (opening in January with limited space). In the meantime, start memorizing from SwordGrip New Testament! Hint: The number of verses varies by age, so be sure to check the web page above or call us.

Ministry Update

2018 has seen such amazing progress in our quest for 500,000 Scripture memorizers by 2038! That's our "BHAG" (beautiful, heavenly, audacious goal) for the next 20 years. This year, Memorize Jonah, SwordGrip New Testament, its accompanying CD, and the explosive spread of God's Word in Indonesia—all this and more has encouraged us deeply! Please pray *"that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you"* (2 Thess. 3:1). Thanks to so many of you who have invested in the planting of God's Word around the world. If you do not already do so, would you pray about joining the monthly givers who provide for this work to continue? Thanks so much, and let us know how can pray for you.

Much grace to you all,

Jim Woychuk, Dakota Lynch, and Laura Lynch

