

“Great **PEACE** have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble.”

“In this is **LOVE**, not that we loved God, but that He loved us . . .”

“These things I have spoken to you, that My **JOY** may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

“The entrance of Your words gives **LIGHT**; it gives understanding to the simple.”

“Have I not written to you excellent things . . . the **CERTAINTY** of the words of **TRUTH**,
That you may answer **WORDS OF TRUTH** to those who send to you?”

Psa. 119:165; 1 John 4:10; John 15:11; Psa. 119:130; Prov. 22:20-21

October 1, 2015

Dear Friends of Scripture Memory,

Peace. Love. Joy. Light. Certainty of Truth. Consider the greatness, the sweetness, the value of a vital connection to the Lord Jesus Christ! He is the Life-giving vine; then we can become fruit-bearing branches. He nourishes us and sends us many of His gifts through His Word. “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. **“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life”** (John 6:63)! Contrast all this with Matthew Arnold’s poem “Dover Beach.” Arnold, writing about 1851, could well have been speaking of our day when he compared the barrenness of Dover Beach at low-tide with the wasteland of a faithless world:

“The Sea of Faith

Was once, too, at the full, and round earth’s shore . . .

But now I only hear its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar, retreating . . .

For the world . . . hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,

Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;

And we are here as on a darkling plain

Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,

Where ignorant armies clash by night.”

Does that not aptly describe our world, in all its headlong rush to reject, refute, rebut, and replace God’s truth with half-truths of its own devising? When my dad launched into this ministry in 1944, the world was convulsed with the unspeakable violence of the Second World War; the need for light and truth was undeniable. But if anything, despite all our “progress,” the world’s darkness has deepened, and the need for God’s Word in human hearts everywhere has only grown more intense. The “ignorant armies” clashing by night need not stay ignorant. The darkness need not endure! The “confused alarms of struggle and flight” may be crushed under the weight of peace, peace wrought through reconciliation with God. God’s Word, entering the believing heart, brings **peace, love, joy, and light.**

“O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years . . .” (Hab. 3:2).

Would you pray with us and help us plant God’s Word in the hearts of a new generation? Treasure God’s Word yourself; help others become intentional in this discipline; help support our work with the means God has given you.

Thanks to so many of you who with your gifts and counsel have helped us bring **our Scripture Memory app** nearly to completion in the Android format. This technological tool brings all 45 of our memory books into a digital form accessible to users all over the world, complete with study notes, application questions, and translation choices. We are in need of about \$25,000 more to convert it to iPhone format and compensate those whom God has used to bring this about. Please pray with us and consider giving.

Bill and Theresa Williams in Spain have done great work translating, printing, and using Scripture Memory materials with hundreds of memorizers in Spain. On the internet see **ambiblia.com**. Bill is preparing to translate three more memory books this fall. **Phil and Jacky Walker in Indonesia**, expecting their third child in February, are participating by video in the **Omaha Scriptorium** next week. They continue to send out Scripture memory student-missionaries all over Indonesia, equipped with brand **new Scripture memory songs** that they are using to great effect. Please remember these two families in your prayers and giving as well. Please be sure to designate your gift accordingly.

Our dear friend **Janice Neel, China Spring, TX**, a former board member and mother-in-law of our current board member **Willie Gomez (Kathy)**, went to be with her Savior on September 3. We will never forget her joyful love for the Lord and His people, and how she brought gladness to our meetings. **Vi Hanson, Dallas, TX**, who came and gave a stirring joyful recitation of the entire book of 1 Timothy at Scriptorium 2006, went to her Lord's side September 6. Vi's love for Christ and His Word glowed out to all who knew her. Janice and Vi savored the sweetness of God's Word (Psa. 19:10); they were also among that long golden line of patient planters whom God used to enlist many memorizers and provide for this ministry's needs. Who will take their place?

The discipline of memorizing Scripture requires a significant measure of quiet solitude, even when using the Scripture Memory app! It is against the grain of our 21st century world to break away from the constant feed of news, sports, weather, social media and all the voices around us. But to store Scripture, we have to separate ourselves mentally, if not physically.

17th century pastor-poet George Herbert helps with these words:

*By all means, use sometimes to be alone;/ Salute thyself; see what thy soul doth wear;
Dare to look in thy chest, for 'tis thine own,/ And tumble up and down what thou find'st there:
[He] who cannot rest till he good fellows find,/ He breaks up his house, turns out of doors his mind.*

Our **SMF Board of Directors** meets here in Dallas, October 16-17. Please pray for them as they give counsel and direction to our work. A week from today, Jonathan, Mary, and I will join Duane and Kathie Pieper and others at the **Omaha Scriptorium**, October 9-10, where significant portions of Genesis, Isaiah, and Matthew will be recited from memory. If you are interested in seeing a Scriptorium in your church, call us or see the website **scriptorium.com**. A week ago I had the delight of speaking at **Berean Memorial Church, Irving, TX**, where we were warmly welcomed by **Pastor Leon and Sheila Adkins**. The people at Berean live up to their ancient namesake in that many of them are eager to search the Scriptures (Acts 17:11).

Last month's letter reported an unmet need of \$15,000. We rejoice to say that, working through you, God met that need entirely. Please pray about this month's shortfall of \$5,500, as well as other outstanding obligations. Contact us if you would like a complete financial report.

Much grace to each of you, through Christ,

Jim Woychuk