# SCRIPTURE MEMORY - FELLOW SHIP

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11

Know Scripture.

Live Scripture.

Love Scripture.

### **Having Heart Trouble?**

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me." (John 14:1)

John Bunyan's little book, *Heart's Ease for Heart Trouble*, begins with a chapter entitled "The Sovereign Cure for Heart Trouble." There, Bunyan leads the reader to think deeply about Jesus' words in John 14:1, "Let not your heart be troubled...." Jesus wanted His disciples' hearts—our hearts—to be without care, to be untroubled (Matt. 6:34). But too often, the cares of this world weigh down our hearts. Even when we've captured Scripture in memory, we experience fainting fits and turbulence as our anxiety level rises, along with our blood pressure.

At those moments, it's time to take our own medicine. When my dad began to experience heart disease later in life, one doctor gave him a little vial of nitroglycerin tablets to take when he felt chest pains. Nitroglycerin, used in liquid form in explosives, has long been known to prevent chest pain and cardiac arrest when placed under the tongue. So Dad kept these tiny tablets in his pocket everywhere he went and used them as directed for years. But he had to take them out of his pocket and put them under his tongue for them to work!

In the same way, memorizing Scripture is a fantastic discipline for everyone, but many times we need Jesus and His people to remind us to "take the medicine." When fear or anxiety strike next, what biblical "pill" will you place under your tongue? What "key" of promise will you use to escape Doubting Castle and Giant Despair? Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."

— Jim Woychuk, Board President



Story

# Memorize the Christmas Story!

Christmastime is about more than hot cocoa and festive music; it's a time to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Make this December different by memorizing the Christmas Story from Luke 2:1-14 as a family. As you take time each day to commit these familiar verses to memory, you'll enjoy the blessing of a Christ-centered Christmas. Get started by downloading the free Christmas story PDF at scripturememory.com/ChristmasStory.

# **Memorizer Testimony**

"Scripture Memory Fellowship has been a part of our family for over 20 years. We were introduced to the *ABC Memory Book* when our first child was about two years old. I would sit her in her highchair and go through the verses with her every day. Guess what? I learned all 27 verses myself! Subsequently, with each of our eight children, I implemented this same memory routine, and they all learned the verses. To this day, we can all quote most of the *ABC Memory Book*.

"Presently, I have been impacted by *SwordGrip*. I have seen the Lord use these verses to pull me out of dark times, encourage others, or put a song in my heart. I think it is great to have a couple of verses from each book of the Bible as a connection to some of the main concepts. *SwordGrip* has shown me in a fresh way the continuity of God's message throughout the entire Bible.

"I have given *SwordGrip* as a gift to many people. I offer it as a resource for meditation and memory work and encourage the recipient to enjoy this little book, and let the Lord use it in their lives. People seem to enjoy receiving this gift because it is beautiful, excellent, and manageable.

"Thank you, Scripture Memory Fellowship, for providing great resources to help us hide God's Word in our hearts and in our memories!"

— Jane J. from Brenham, TX

# Scripture Memory in Indonesia

It is so exciting to partner with SMF and dozens of Bible-memorizing young people in spreading a love for God's Word throughout Indonesia—the most populous Muslim country in the world. We have personally seen 12 Indonesians quote 1,000 verses each, and we expect this number to grow exponentially in years to come.

This year will long be remembered as the Scriptorium debut in Indonesia. Interestingly, my first encounter with SMF was at the first-ever Scriptorium in Hannibal, MO, where the entire New Testament was recited from memory. Last February, we tried to duplicate that on the



Some of the 90 + sophomores at the SETIA Bible School in Nias who each won a t-shirt for quoting the 41 "Golden Verses" before being sent out for six months of ministry throughout Nias.

island of Nias and "failed," only quoting 200 of the 260 chapters. However, that start led to 23 smaller Scriptoriums on the island of Nias, nine Scriptoriums on the island of Sulawesi, and our debut at our Jakarta campus. At the Jakarta Scriptorium, Matthew 1-7, Luke 23-24, Ephesians, and 2 Timothy were all recited from memory! Next semester, the Jakarta campus is planning to quote John and Romans as a school, with several classes planning to run smaller Scriptoriums. We currently have five Bible schools, six high schools, and six junior high schools committed to running at least one Scriptorium each semester!

Thank you for your prayers and support of God's Word being memorized in Indonesia.

— Phil Walker, Indonesia Representative

# Stuff Stockings with Scripture!



20% off SwordGrip flipbooks when you buy three or more!

#### SwordGrip Flipbooks (KJV, NKJV, ESV)

Memorize key verses from each Bible book with theme pictures, verse cards, Grip-It-Tighter questions, and progress stickers. Spiral-bound with thick, cardstock pages. Every flipbook comes with verse cards and a key ring. The optional Scripture Song CD puts all the ESV New Testament verses to fun, memorable tunes.

SwordGrip New Testament — \$15 each SwordGrip Old Testament Vol. 1 (Genesis to Psalms) — \$15 each Optional NT Scripture Song CD (ESV only): \$10 each



#### ABC Memory Book (a beloved favorite!)

Learn a verse for each letter of the alphabet A-Y, and read about Zacchaeus for Z. Watercolor illustrations. The optional CD includes songs for all the NKJV verses.

*KJV* Verses.

KJV or NKJV book: \$12 each NKJV CD: \$12 each NKJV book with CD: \$20 bundle



#### Peace Memory Book

Who doesn't need the peace of God for 2020? With 32 verses, commentary, and study questions, this pocket-size memory book is a resource to come back to again and again. *KJV or NKJV or ESV book: \$6 each* 

NKJV CD: \$12 each NKJV book with CD: \$16 bundle



#### Journal of Mercies

Take a moment each day to savor God's grace and record His mercies on the line provided. Enjoy the poetry, nature photography, and Bible-reading calendar.

1-4 copies: \$5 each 5-9 copies: \$4 each 10+ copies: \$3.50 each

**Ready to Order?** Order online at scripturememory.com, or call 888.569.2560. Shipping and handling will be charged by weight for the items you select. Checks are accepted, but please call first for shipping/handling to avoid delays.

# Have You Tried Our Free Mobile Apps?



We're excited to announce that you can now shuffle your memory verses in VerseLocker! Just tap *Practice* next to one of your verses and look for the "Turn on Shuffle" button in the lower-left corner. After trying VerseLocker, open your device's app store and download the Scripture Memory Fellowship App as well. The SMF App offers dozens of free memory courses along with commentary, study questions, and rewards. Get started at **scripturememory.com/MobileApps**.

# Ministry Update: What's Ahead and Behind

Along with pumpkin pie and twinkling lights, the holiday season brings with it countless memories of yesteryear. We recall favorite family traditions, stories from our childhood, and how much we love grandma's cherry pie. These memories are much more than chapters of our past; in a real sense, they are part of our very being. In the words of Erik Pevernagie, "We are what we remember. If we lose our memory, we lose our identity .... "

If our identity hinges on what we remember, then it's easy to see why the Psalmist was so determined to remember Scripture: "I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word" (Psa. 119:16). As Christians, to forget God's Word is to forget who we are in Christ. Scripture memorization may be difficult, but it's an indispensable part of knowing and embracing our new identity as believers (John 15:7; 2 Cor. 5:17).

At Scripture Memory Fellowship, our goal is to see Scripture memorization once again treated as a normal part of the Christian life. As we prepare for another year of ministry, please join us in praising God for these important milestones from 2019:

- SwordGrip Old Testament Vol. 1 was launched successfully.
- Nearly 100 Scripture memorizers gathered in Ringgold, LA, for our annual Scripture Memory Camp.
- Users of VerseLocker, one of SMF's free mobile apps, added more than 300,000 memory verses.
- Our staff promoted Scripture memorization at conferences and conventions in eight states.
- Hundreds of families registered to participate in our first-ever Thanksgiving Memory Challenge.

Looking ahead, the New Year will begin with the publication of SwordGrip Old Testament Volume 2. This final installment in the SwordGrip series will feature 81 key memory verses from Proverbs through Malachi. We're also in the early stages of rebuilding our website, scripturememory.com, with plans to unveil the new site this spring. Although our current website has served us well for five years, it's powered by software that will soon be obsolete and insecure.

In all these things, we remember that "unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psa. 127:1). Please continue to remember us in prayer, "that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever" (1 Pet. 4:11). We also invite you to consider making a year-end gift of support to help fuel SMF's ongoing ministry. Enclosed is a small token of our thanks for your friendship and support. Throughout the Christmas season and New Year, may you cherish God's Word as a daily lamp to your feet and light to your path (Psa. 119:105).

Jahon Jone

Dakota Lyn



Scripture Memory Fellowship exists to cultivate systematic Scripture memorizers who know Jesus Christ and grow in His likeness for the glory of God.