



SCRIPTURE MEMORY — FELLOWSHIP —

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

Know Scripture.

Live Scripture.

Love Scripture.

Not Subject to Change

God's Word is perfect and unchanging. As the Psalmist writes, "the words of the LORD are pure words" that are forever "settled in heaven" (Psa. 12:6; 119:89). Even as cultural trends and modern fashions evolve daily, Scripture stands as immutable and reliable as its divine Author (Mal. 3:6; 2 Tim. 3:16). In an age when the truth of Scripture is mocked by the world and increasingly neglected by the church, we believe our mission is more important than ever!

Here are a few ways God is using SMF to spread the life-giving truth of Scripture in 2019:

- Booths and workshops at homeschool conventions in Fort Worth, Rogers, Nashville, St. Louis, Waco, Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, Houston, and Lancaster.
- SwordGrip Volume 1: Genesis to Psalms is now in the hands of 200+ memorizers around the country.
- New mission statement and core values approved at the spring board meeting. See page 3.



Moms at a Texas homeschool convention prepare for the 2019-2020 school year with SwordGrip and ABC Memory Book.

What's next? Find our summer plans on page 2 and see how you can get involved.



Scripture Memory Tip: Learn Some Gospel Verses!

Sharing the Gospel is truly a Great Commission. But for many of us, sharing our faith is a frightening concept. Talking about the weather and current events may be easier than discussing spiritual things, but God's Word is clear: "he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully" (Jer. 23:28).

Successful personal evangelism starts with reliance on Scripture. Human reasoning and personal opinions have their place, but they lack the potency of God's inspired Word. So prepare for your next opportunity to share the Gospel by memorizing 10 or more verses for evangelism. If you're not sure where to start, consider our new **Verses for Evangelism** memory verse collection. Download it for free at scripturememory.com/evangelism.

Memorizers of Centuries Past

Professor Daniel B. Wallace, director of the Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts, addressed our board of directors in March. Below are excerpts from his essay, “Medieval Manuscripts and Modern Evangelicals.” Wallace cites historical examples of Scripture memorizing among ancient church leaders. He also mentions how in more recent times, John Wesley, C. H. Dodd, and F.F. Bruce memorized most or all of the entire Greek New Testament.





Dr. Daniel B. Wallace

“A bishop at Oxyrhynchus, by the name of Aphou, required deacons to recite from memory twenty-five Psalms, two of Paul’s letters, and a portion of a Gospel. He required of applicants to the priesthood even more: they also had to memorize portions of Deuteronomy, Proverbs, and Isaiah. Pachomius, the fourth-century Church Father ... was not nearly as demanding. He required newcomers to his monastery to memorize *only* ‘20 Psalms, two Epistles of Paul, or a portion of some other part of Scripture’ ... By the late Middle Ages, the Psalms were typically memorized *in toto* by the monastic initiates.... What if evangelicals were to recover the monastic model of memorizing large sections of the Bible so that it would permeate both our mind and our *soul*?”



Phil Walker and family in Indonesia

Indonesia Report

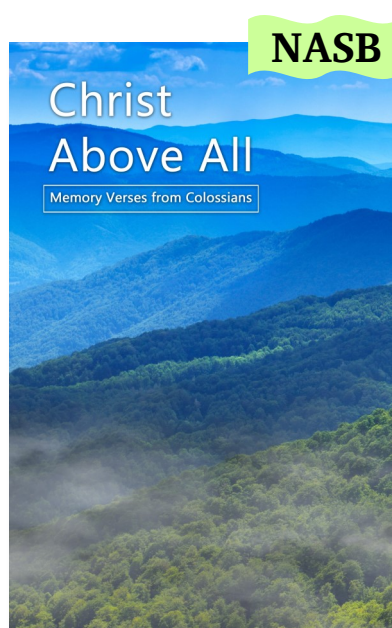
Praise God over the successful Scriptorium Scripture recital on the island of Nias in Indonesia led by Phil and Jacky Walker. 400 students collectively recited 200 chapters. The Walkers are looking forward to having six Bible School graduates whom they have mentored extensively to be joining the ministry full time in July. In June, the Walkers will be joining David Talaguit in teaching Scripture songs in Jacky’s native  Philippines. Please pray for the visa application that would enable Phil and his family to visit the  U.S.A.

Continued from page 1 Help us Make a Difference in Summer 2019

- SMF Camp is July 1-6. Please pray for the hearts of those who hear God’s Word during this week. Children and youth are memorizing for scholarships even now. Please pray for our preparations and consider sponsoring campers. SMF pays \$200 to scholarship a memorizer.
- What key verses from Proverbs to Malachi will be featured in SwordGrip Old Testament Volume 2? We want your feedback as we prepare the next flipbook in the SwordGrip series. Send us your favorite verses from Proverbs to Malachi. See the contact information on page 4.
- Our current website will lose security support next summer. We need creativity, wisdom, and funds to build a new site. What do you like on the current site? What would you change? Would you give to this important means of reaching new people daily?

Mission Statement and Core Values adopted by the board at the March 2019 meeting
**Scripture Memory Fellowship exists to cultivate systematic Scripture memorizers
to know Jesus Christ and grow in His likeness for the glory of God.**

1. **Inspire Enthusiasm** for the surpassing value of God's Word
2. **Kindle Motivation** that overcomes all objections and obstacles to memorizing Scripture
3. **Sharpen Skills** with innovative, creative, and truly helpful answers to the question: "How can I memorize?"
4. **Model Memory Work** by being the memorizer we want others to be
5. **Invest in Relationships** that encourage memorizers with accountability, recitals, and rewards
6. **Co-Labor with Sister Ministries** that share our purpose of planting God's Word

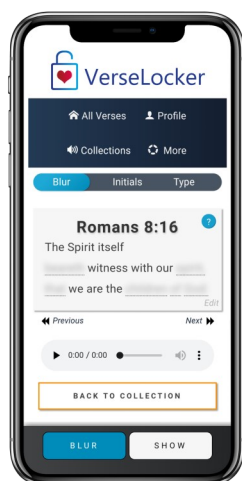


Christ Above All: Memory Verses from Colossians

We are pleased to announce the reprinting of Bible Book Series Memory Book 1, *Christ Above All*, available starting June 5! This special edition which includes 31 key verses to memorize, brief commentary, and study questions, is 5.5 x 8.5" and comes in the New American Standard translation, with other translations planned for the future. So many powerful verses to capture! *"For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (Col. 1:13)*. Also available in VerseLocker and the Scripture Memory Fellowship App!

\$7 memory book, NASB only at this time.

Ready to Order? Search "Christ Above All" at scripturememory.com or call 888.569.2560. For checks: add \$4.75 for shipping/handling on 1-2 copies or \$5.27 on 3-5 copies. To order 6+ copies or to add other items, please call for shipping/handling to avoid delays.



New Features in VerseLocker!

VerseLocker is used by hundreds of memorizers each week to hide God's Word in their hearts. This free Bible memory app is available on mobile and desktop, and it's now better than ever with several new features. One frequently requested addition was the ability to track which verses you've successfully memorized. This makes it easy to review verses you've already learned or focus exclusively on new ones. Android users can also choose to receive periodic notifications with a reminder to memorize. Try out VerseLocker's other features by visiting scripturememory.com/verselocker and tapping "Try the Demo."

Ministry Update


Have you enjoyed graduations this spring? Seeing gifted young people achieve long-term goals warms the heart. “A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul” (Prov. 13:19). We honor high school and college graduates for elevated grade point averages and amazing SAT scores. We recognize hard-won proficiency in music, drama, and the arts. We celebrate athletic victories with trophies, medals, and praise. We sense the eagerness as the young man or woman gets the diploma and champs at the bit to take on the world! “Like arrows in the hand of a warrior” they quiver with potential (Psa. 127:4). Are they ready for the adventures to come?

One vital measure of preparedness often goes unnoticed. When was the last time you heard a graduate being described like this? “He’s really mastered Jesus’ teachings! I just heard him quote Sermon on the Mount and the Upper Room Discourse,” or “She quoted a thousand verses for her final exam,” or, “She really knows God’s Word!”

It’s rare, but it happens. Two weeks ago, we attended a unique event in St. Louis, MO. A couple gathered over a hundred family and friends, rented a banquet room, and served dinner in celebration of their daughter reciting the twelve chapters of Galatians and Ephesians! She quoted with enthusiasm and expression and command of these precious words. It was a joy, and it reminded us that all too often, we nurture, cultivate, and measure all kinds of growth in young people but allow the vital spiritual discipline of treasuring God’s Word by heart to languish. “Oh, he did that when he was little,” we say, as if the need for the Sword of the Spirit firm in his grip were less now that he’s 18 and launching out into deep water.

May God give us grace and vision to cultivate and graduate young men and women “mighty in the Scriptures,” who are “thoroughly equipped for every good work,” who speak God’s Word “with all boldness” (Acts 18:24; 2 Tim. 3:17; Acts 4:29). Wouldn’t it be wonderful if a new fad caught on, to have graduates quote from memory the Sermon on the Mount, the Upper Room Discourse, or an epistle of Paul, as a part of their graduation exercises?

We have enjoyed meeting some of you and seeing your zeal for God’s Word! God’s Word is bearing fruit. Please pray for open doors for us to equip people with motivation and methods for treasuring God’s Word. Please pray for funds for new artwork for the new edition of the ABC Memory Book and for monthly supporters to cover the gap we have between regular donors and operating expenses. Thank you for your prayers, gifts, and love for the Lord and His Word.



Jim Woychuk



SCRIPTURE MEMORY
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