

*“And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning “made them male and female,” and said, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife . . .”’”* Matthew 19:4-5

July 3, 2015

Dear Friends,

The celebration of Independence Day this year stirs a mixture of the usual thankfulness for the blessings of freedom with a strong measure of grief over recent judicial events. **The truth of God’s word** regarding marriage and what makes for human flourishing has been assailed as never before in this nation’s blessed history. Many have cast God’s word behind them and believe that human desire needs no divine government or ordering.

But we have come to trust in Jesus Christ, who said, *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words will by no means pass away;”* and, *“Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled”* (Matt. 24:35; Matt 5:18). Jesus’ words and the unified testimony of Scripture about marriage and much else have endured many attacks for many centuries, and yet remain true, dependable, and precious to those who have God’s Spirit. So of God’s word, we join in saying, *“Forever O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven;”* **and**, *“The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever”* (Psa. 119:89, 160).

And seemingly once again, the words of Psalm 2 resonate:

*“Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed . . . Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion . . .”* (Psa 2:1-2, 6).

**Nancy Writebol, a missionary with SIM in Liberia** contracted the **Ebola** virus in the midst of ministering to people amidst this deadly plague. While recovering at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, she could not see, read, or even hold her husband’s hand. Crying out to God and wondering whether she would survive, Nancy testifies that she was upheld by **God’s word, memorized and ready in her heart**. Words such as *“Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not fear, for You are with me”* (Psa 23:4). She recently challenged the student body at Dallas Seminary to memorize Scripture. Often, we need God’s word the most when we have access to it the least.

Here in the ministry of Scripture Memory Fellowship, we thank the Lord for some wonderful ministry events in June:

- ❖ **Our week of camp at Ringgold, LA** was attended by over 170 people, with many young people and adults excelling in their memory work and best of all, some coming to faith in Christ and new growth in grace (2 Tim. 3:15; John 17:17; 2 Pet. 3:18). There was much iron sharpening iron as campers from 8 states made the most of a beautiful place and a blessed week. Plans for next year's camp at Ringgold are underway, as well as considerations for camp in the southeast and northeast.
- ❖ The work on our **forthcoming phone app** has gotten off the ground with a substantial amount of the computer programming done and several of our memory books on the way to availability in this electronic form. We are planning to offer this technological tool with most of our memory books and rewards available by September 1.
- ❖ **The Ohio Scriptorium and Bible Festival in Akron** was a splendid time of fellowship and hearing God's recited, as about 40 people recited the 50 chapters of John, Revelation, and 1, 2, 3 John. Tim and Darlene Alexander and their family did a wonderful job organizing and hosting the event along with other families from their church, Sovereign Grace Community Church.

There are only 7 days left to sign up for chapters in the **Omaha Scriptorium**, a recital of Matthew's gospel and key Messianic Scripture from Genesis, Deuteronomy, Ruth, Isaiah, and elsewhere. Please call us at 888-569-2560 or visit [www.scriptoriums.com](http://www.scriptoriums.com) on the internet to register.

If you are interested in hosting a **Scriptorium in your church**, we have good help available for you, including a customized website for your event and help with organization. We are looking for a church in the Dallas area to host this Scripture reciting event in the coming year.

**Please continue to pray for this ministry.** We especially need wisdom and grace for how best to encourage churches to make Scripture memorizing a normal part of the discipleship process they practice with all believers. For some, the idea that disciples ought to know the words of their Master has become optional or even quaint. But we want to help churches everywhere carry out the mandate of Christ, who said, "*teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you . . .*" (Matt. 28:20). That word observe means "to guard," to not let them (i.e. Christ's words) get away!

Much grace to each of you,

*Jim Woychuk*