

**“And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself,
by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven,
having made peace through the blood of His cross.
And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works,
yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death,
to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.”**

Colossians 1:20-22

September 1, 2015

Dear Family and Friends of Scripture Memory,

God’s work through Jesus Christ reaches all things in heaven and earth! The Great Reconciliation effected through Jesus’ shed blood heals the nations, reconciles the rebels, and restores freedom to the universe. **“The creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Rom. 8:23)**. Perhaps best of all, amazingly, He promises to present believers “holy, blameless and above reproach in His sight.” Such a message of power and grace deserves to be engraved on many hearts; Lord, help us help Your people to that end.

We thank the Lord for so many of you who are treasuring God’s word in your hearts and encouraging others to do so. You should have received our fall *Memorizer* newsletter by now. **Do you have a plan** for what portions of God’s word you’ll memorize this season? Are you part of a local Scripture memory fellowship? What about coming and reciting at a Scriptorium or hosting one in your church? Do you have a schedule for when you’ll recite? Unless we have a plan and some accountability, Scripture memorization rarely happens. It’s too difficult otherwise! If we fail to plan, we plan to . . . (can you fill in the blank?). Let us know what memory books you need; if you use an **Android phone or device**, the app will be available September 15. Some have asked if we planned to keep the memory books in print along with the SMF app. The answer is ABSOLUTELY YES! The SMF app can be used with or without our paper-and-ink books, which we will keep in print as often the Lord allows.

One ministry that gives great help in fulfilling a Scripture memorizing goal is the **Scriptorium**, a recital for the public and dramatic quoting of whole Bible chapters and books. The Omaha Scriptorium is coming up October 9-10, with events in **Kansas City, MO and Akron, Ohio** scheduled for February and June, 2016. Chapters are available for all three events if you’d like to memorize and recite. See the website **scriptoriums.com** for more details.

There was a time in American childhood when a fairly deep and wide knowledge of God’s word was something most children acquired early on. In Twain’s classic depiction of American boyhood, Tom Sawyer has to memorize 5 verses for his weekly assignment in order to win great rewards such as a Bible or even (gasp!) a “Barlow” knife! Twain could spin such a yarn because Americans of all walks of life knew well the weekly routine of memorizing and reciting portions of God’s word. It was the

"normal Christian life," or the normal American Christian life even. **But this is no longer the case.** In the July 25 issue of *World Magazine*, Editor Joel Belz refers to the "dying art of Bible memorization." Praise God for the wonderful, time-tested work of the **Navigators** and **Awana**, the exciting new outreach of the **National Bible Bee (biblebee.org)**, and excellent technical tools such as **ScriptureTyper.com** and **Memverse.com**. These efforts are desperately needed and joyfully welcome. **But we need you as well.** Whom could you enlist in a structured plan of Scripture memorization this fall? Maybe it's your children, but maybe it's just one other adult. This is a house-to-house, street-to-street campaign. And it starts with you.

We thank the Lord for opportunities to encourage Scripture memorizing in various churches this fall, we will visit:

Sept. 13, Ft. Adams Baptist Church, Woodville, MS

Sept. 27, Berean Memorial Church, Irving, TX

Nov. 22, First Baptist Church, Kirtland, NM

If there is an opening for us to present Scripture memorizing at your church, please contact us.

Thanks to so many of you who have helped fund this ministry; you have been the channel of God's goodness. **Please pray for us. Also, please consider giving to the needs of this work.** It would be a great help to see more folks give a monthly gift. As often happens, the summer months have seen a decline in giving, resulting in a \$15,000 shortfall. (A full financial statement is available upon request.) Please do pray for the ability to stay current on payroll along with taking advantage of the open doors before us. Investing in the ministry of planting of God's word pays dividends for generations.

Betty in Woodstock, GA recently called to encourage us. As she reflected on a lifetime of loving and enjoying God's word, she said, **"Memorizing the word of God stabilized me and my family. I wouldn't take anything for the memory work I did . . ."**

Virginia in San Francisco wrote, "There are SO many times in my life these days when Scripture comes right out of my mouth even if I don't remember the 'location.' That is easily found on the computer in seconds. **But what cannot be found on the computer in seconds is my heart where God's Word is safely stored.** That alone is a beauty of Bible memorization. 'Thy Word have I hid in my heart.'"

Much grace to each one of you,

Jim Woychuk