

Bible Memory Ministries

Providing a spark in the dark of life.



... a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105



The Path

The Beginning

January 1, 1946, founders Harvey and Prudence Birky left by car, towing a house trailer, for Sarasota, Florida, where they began Bible Memory work with children in the Pinecraft, Sarasota, Bradenton and Tampa areas. In the fall of 1947 they took an assignment with Children's Bible Mission of Lakeland, Florida, to go to Birmingham, Alabama, to begin a new work with Bible Memory in the public schools. In a few years they were contacting 10,000 children each month in the public schools, with several hundred coming to Bible Memory camps.

The Growth

From this small beginning the work began to grow and increase year after year. As the work continued and spread into other areas and states, a new corporation, not under the Conference, was formed under the name of Bible Memory Program, Inc., which at present has a Board of Directors of nine members. The Program is still supported by the gifts of interested churches and individuals. Various campsites are rented for camps currently held in multiple states each year. Bible Memory is in the process of taking our curriculum and programming to other countries around the world.

The Vision

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." – Psalm 119:105. This founding verse conveys the need to have God's incredible guidance in a world that at times can be dark and can cause one to stumble. That is why the ministry continues to create curriculum that assist individuals in retaining God's life-giving Word in their heart, mind and spirit. Retention is wonderful, but we realize that if it is not applied to one's life it really becomes just "stored" knowledge. We passionately desire to help participants to be able to apply these life giving truths into their everyday circumstances and lives.

The Camps

Provide the unique opportunity for in-depth teaching of the Word of God that gives a broad foundation of teaching and yet a chance to respond to what God is saying to each camper. In teaching Biblical truths, we recognize that we want to keep the main thing, Jesus, the main thing. So we see that all the scripture work that children and youth do prior to camp, immeasurably enhances a camper's ability to grow into a deeper relationship with Jesus while at camp; away from the distractions of life.

The Generations

Countless lives have been encouraged, strengthened and changed through the humble beginnings of Harvey and Prudence Birky's presentation of God's Word. Although great things continue to develop in this ministry, we realize that not everyone who has come through our program/camps has had a "success" story, yet we passionately try to share God's Word in creative ways, striving to give every camper an opportunity to seek Christ in a lifelong relationship. We ask you to pray for us to boldly make the written and living WORD known to all. We ask that God will help us to show His love to a thousand generations (Exodus 20:6).



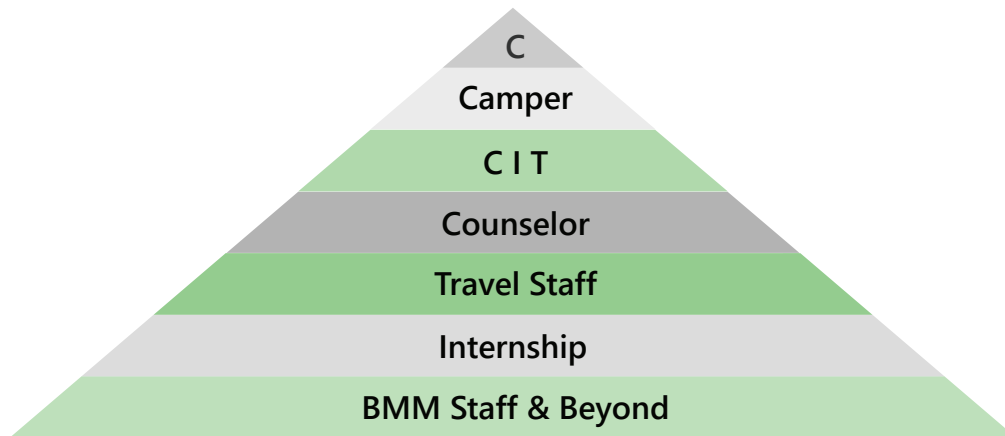
Bible Memory Camp's Philosophy

The following philosophy is used to establish a program that meets the objectives of the Bible Memory camp.

- In-depth teaching of the Word of God. This gives a broad foundation of teaching and yet a chance to respond to what God is saying to each camper. To teach Biblical Truths, recognizing that there are certain doctrines that are not always agreed upon. It is our desire to teach the truth of God's WORD while not endorsing certain teaching(s)/doctrine(s) that divide us as believers. (Romans 12:18, 2 Tim 3:16) We want to keep the main thing the main thing. To bring children and youth into a loving and powerful relationship with Jesus. (Psalm 119:18, Matthew 5:17 & Romans 13:10)
- Actual experience in meditating on the Word of God, in praying and in sharing of testimonies, both formally and informally. This helps the camper develop his/her own relationship to God.
- Music is a marvelous tool of teaching. Each song should teach by its words and be enhanced by its music. Songs that have little teaching value should be avoided.
- Modest dress helps our co-ed camps to eliminate distractions which hinder learning. It also teaches campers to be responsible for themselves and aware of how they influence others.
- The best philosophy will produce a program only as good as the staff running the program. Each staff person should have a personal relationship with Jesus, be purely motivated, efficiently trained and adequately skilled.
- Full and exciting schedules cure the ailments of homesickness and produce happy campers.
- Constant evaluation and changes are needed to assure a high quality camping and memorization ministry.
- The physical needs of the campers must be met. All aspects of the program must pass the test of safety and physical needs of each person.



Bible Memory Ministries' Model for Leadership Development



Impacting Tomorrow's Leaders...Today.

Curriculum - Beginning with Bible lessons and scripture memorization for children in Kindergarten thru 12th grade, each year is designed to enrich the child's faith through application of Biblical principles.

Camper - Attending camp provides a fun atmosphere for children in grades 2-12 where the camper's relationship with God and others is enhanced through worship and Biblical instruction, building upon the foundation established through the curriculum and scripture memorization prior to camp.

C I T - Beginning in high school, campers have an opportunity to partner with a seasoned counselor to receive hands on training and assist in counseling at elementary and jr. high camps.

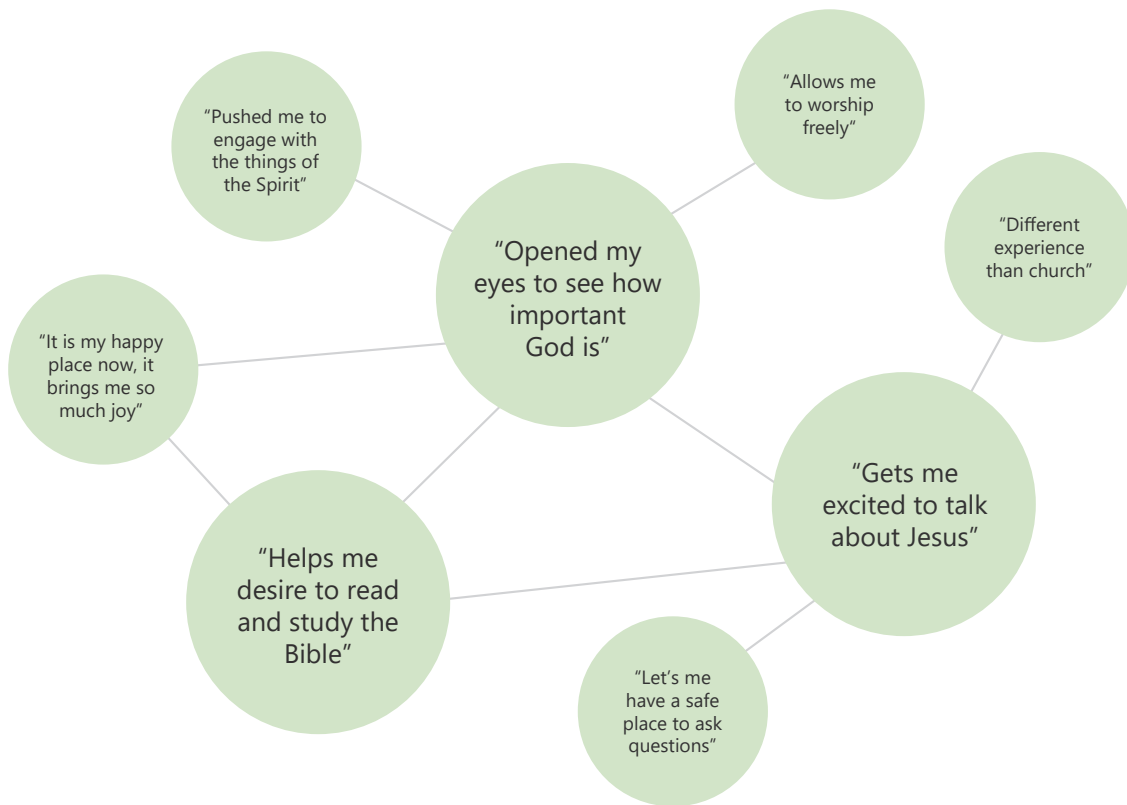
Counselor - In addition to post high school age volunteers, juniors and seniors who have completed their CIT training qualify to volunteer as camp counselors.

Travel Staff - Young adults, age 20 years and older, are eligible to serve on our travel staff team where they will be conducting 8 weeks of summer camps in various regions in the US.

Internship - Adults, age 21 years and older, are welcome to intern for a year at Bible Memory Ministries, raising ½ of their support and serving in various capacities within the ministry and community.

BMM Staff and Beyond – Our goal is to train and equip young people for success, by applying what they learned, while serving others and advancing the gospel, whether it is as full-time staff with Bible Memory Ministries or in other professions within the United States and abroad.

Bible Memory Ministries' Impact on Spiritual Development



At our 2022 Leadership Training Retreat, we received the above responses from participants when asked how our Bible and Music time has changed them.

Fun Facts About Bible Memory Ministries

76	Years of Ministry
560	Campers attended our summer camps in 2021
214	Campers attended our winter camps in 2021
100+	Volunteers serving at summer camps
2	Full time staff at Bible Memory with the recent addition of 2 part-time staff
9	Executive Board Members provide insight and policy under God's leading

Our camping program is completely mobile. In order to keep costs down, we do not own camp facilities but rent them across the United States in a major effort to do as Jesus said, "GO."

The Power of Bible Memory Ministries

The Effect of Christian Camps on Children's Hope and Well-Being

In 2018, Bible Memory Ministries participated in a survey conducted by the University of Oklahoma's Hope Research Center to assess Christian camps effect on youth. More specifically, the purpose of this study was to examine the Christian camps impact on children's hope and overall well-being. This study utilized a pre-camp, post-camp assessment design based on the children's self analysis.

Participants: 1230 Children

Current Camp Experience:

- 97% agreed they made good friends at camp.
- 97% agreed they felt like part of a group at camp.
- 96.4% agreed they learned more about their faith at camp
- 96.7% also agreed they wanted to learn more about their faith as a result of camp.

Table 1 - Participation by Camp

Camp Name	Count	% of Total
Alpine	123	10
Bethany Birches	95	7.7
Bible Memory Ministries	537	43.7
Camp Table Rock	121	9.8
Carolina Creek	113	9.2
Dear Creek	15	1.2
Eagle Village	33	2.7
Indian Creek	41	3.3
Sentinel	72	5.9
Streamside	80	6.5
Total	1230	100

Conclusion:

The results of this report continue to provide support for the positive impact the participating Christian camps are having on the boys and girls attending those camps, not just in terms of hope and well-being, but also in social connectedness and interest in their Faith.

As presented below in **Table 1**, Bible Memory Ministries was pleased to see the overwhelming majority of responses of children participating in this survey from our camps. How encouraging to see the positive influence Bible Memory camp has had on kid's lives as well as their faith. What an amazing return on investment Bible Memory Ministries has had on the hearts and lives of youth.



Recent History

Bible Memory was a charter member of Mennonite Camping Association, yet we left to join Christian Camp and Conference Association (CCCA) in 1974 to become an interdenominational ministry.

In 1993, we purchased our first building at 109 W. Madison St, Goshen, IN. In 2002, we moved to our present office at 1014 N. Greene Road, Goshen, IN.

The Bible Memory Program has been used by approximately 135 churches with a number of home groups in Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Virginia, Pennsylvania and the Virgin Islands.



“Bible Memory has brought me out of my comfort zone and made me a better leader.”

– Quote from our 2022 Leadership Training Retreat





Making a Difference with ...

In a lost and broken world, there is a sea of young people searching for answers. They have deep questions about life and wrestle with difficult issues like depression, anxiety, bullying, temptation, and purity. The good news is we have the answer in the living Word, Jesus.

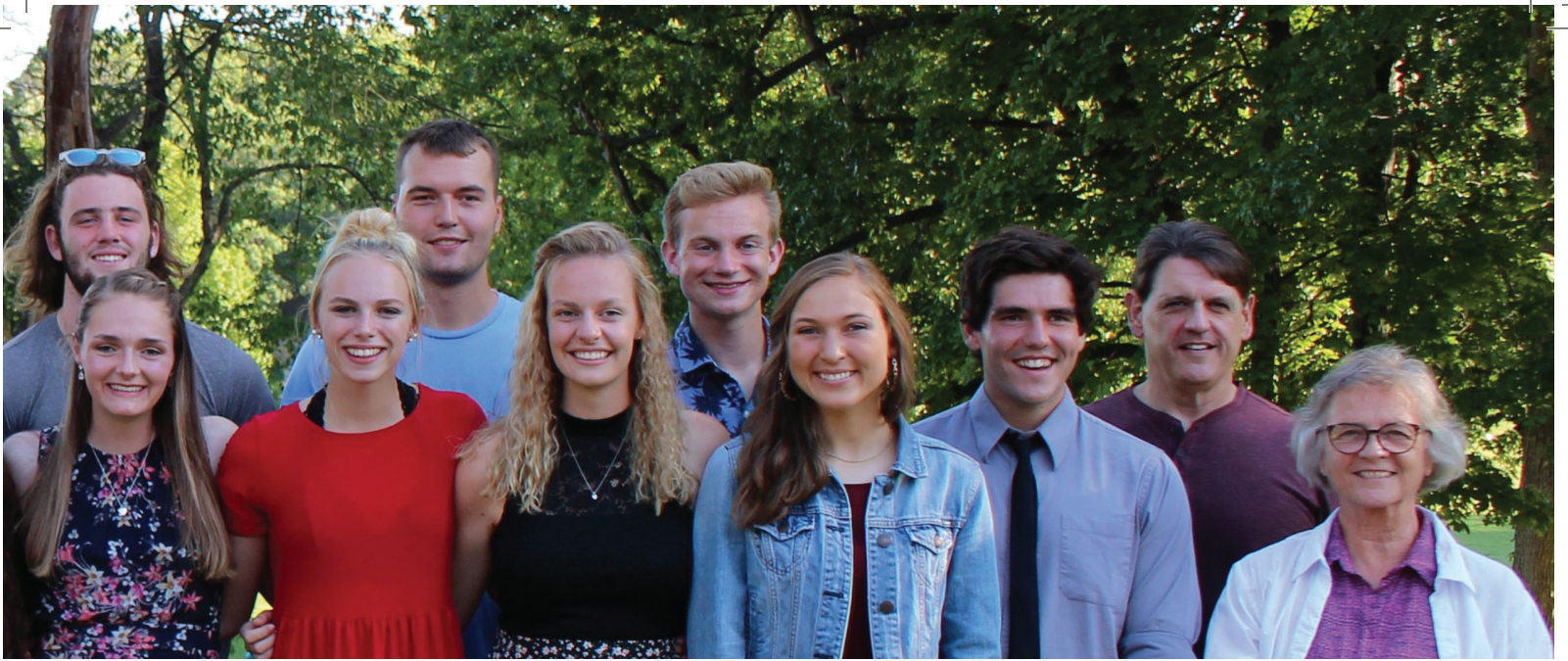
We here at Bible Memory Ministries seek to empower the next generation to know the Word, in Jesus. Bible Memory Ministries is a dynamic ministry that has a 2-fold strategy to teach and equip the next generation of youth. By partnering with believers, Bible Memory's curriculum encourages young people to know the living Word, Jesus, through the application of memorized scripture.

Building on this foundation, Bible Memory Ministries provides an atmosphere where kids can grow in their faith in a fun, camp setting. The kids come to Bible Memory Camp hungry to grow in their relationship with God and encounter Jesus in a deep abiding way.



"Bible memorization is great, but without application, it is wasted knowledge. We desire to inspire people of all ages to realize through God's WORD that, not only are they significant but to see others in that same realization and respond like Christ."

– Christopher Howell, Executive Director.



... the Written and Living WORD

This powerful combination of curriculum and camp experience establishes a solid foundation of faith in an ever changing world. It has also served as a launching pad for many to become full-time ministers and missionaries, no matter their career path.

Although Bible Memory Ministries currently conducts camps in Indiana, Oklahoma, Iowa, Kansas and Ohio, God has placed a vision at BMM to facilitate camps across the United States, and throughout the world. We are asking you to partner with us to see this God-given mission accomplished.

Thank you for helping Bible Memory Ministries be the hands and feet of Jesus to a world that needs hope. It needs love. It needs you.

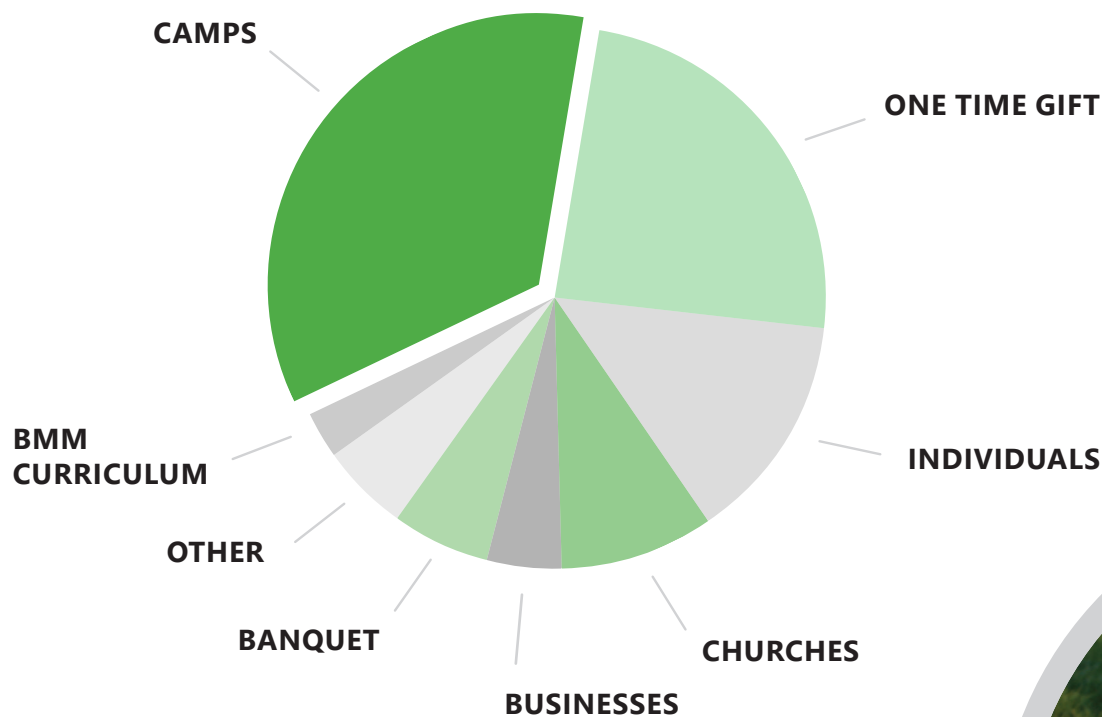
— KNOW THE **WORD**



Benefits of Bible Memory Curriculum

We have two curriculum directions: Monthly and Weekly. Monthly is a great entry point for churches, homeschools or individuals. Weekly is a more concentrated focus on the scriptures. The weekly teacher manuals provide great insight for age appropriate instruction. The curriculum is geared to help a person to retain the truth of the passage studied without pointing that person into a particular theological stance. We let the WORD do the changing and guiding by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. To help get kids to try our camps and find the presence of God is there in powerful ways, we give discounts for those who do both the memorization and curriculum disciplines. The more a camper retains, the cheaper their summer camp can become.

2022 Sources of Revenue





Future Expansion Anticipated

Although Bible Memory Ministries has been alive for the past 75 years, unfortunately we have been the proverbial “Best Kept Secret” for quite some time. That is now changing. Compelled by the motivation of Esther 4:14, God has placed on our hearts to step out in faith for a large expansion. As we pray and listen, we have heard God lead us to look NOT on merely a new camp in one state, but to think camps throughout the nation and even of recent, we are now seeing international possibilities. As we seek to obey the vision that God gave to us “Making the written and living WORD known,” God is opening to us things that only He can. Will you please consider joining us in the capacity He calls you to?



In February 2022, Bible Memory Ministries began a pilot program in collaboration with the Jail Ministry of Elkhart County to encourage inmates to memorize scripture and complete Bible lessons, along with their kids, in an effort to allow the children of inmates an opportunity to experience a fun week of Bible Memory camp.





*“It was the bestest
week of my life.”*

– Camper from 2021 Oklahoma Camp.

Partner With Us

To learn more about Bible Memory Ministries, check out our website at: www.bmm.life. You may also contact the Executive Director at **574-533-5388** or email questions to office@bmm.life. Prayerfully consider how you can contribute to this exciting ministry. Together, we can make a difference for Jesus!

