



**BIBLE MEMORY
MINISTRIES**

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IMPACTING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY

OUR STORY

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.

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. This interdenominational 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. **"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 a

curriculum that assists individuals in **retaining God's life-giving Word in their hearts, 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 to their everyday circumstances and lives**.

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.

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).



"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."
Psalm 119:105

OUR CAMP PHILOSOPHY



In-depth teaching of the Word of God. This gives a broad foundation of teaching and a chance to respond to what God is saying to each camper. 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).



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 be 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.



**Read Camper
Testimonies Below**

“Campfire has always been my favorite because it gives me a chance to pray with people. On testimony night I prayed with countless people. We didn’t always know their names or who they were but that was okay because God knew who they were and knew what they needed prayer for.”

Brianna



“Memorizing the word is usually really hard for me, and I think I have it down, but I don’t really know where it’s from. So I think really just memorizing verses was a real highlight to me this week.”

Christina



“He’s showed me to let go of all the stuff that you worry about with trying to fit in at school or with other friends, trying to do stuff that you don’t like to do and just trying to be yourself and let people love you for who you are.”

Lucas



THE POWER OF BMM

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, and post-camp assessment design based on the children’s self analysis.

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 here 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.

Out of 1230 children, this is their current camp experience:

97% agreed they make 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% 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	1230	100



“God has really been moving in my life and showing me, again, that he’s there for me. And his presence this week has just been immaculate.”
Josh



“Something that’s really helped me this week is that I don’t need to be afraid of that [Hell] because I know that I can have a relationship with God. As long as I believe and rely on him, I don’t have to be afraid because that’s not what we’re here for—to be afraid of what’s going to happen next.”
Katie



“Where I saw God the most this week was one night after Chris was talking at campfire, we went back to our cabin and we were talking to the counselors. A few kids went out and they accepted Christ into their lives.”
Asher

FUN FACTS

454

Campers
attended our
summer
camps in
2023

204

Campers
attended our
winter
camps in
2023

100+

Volunteers
serving at
summer
camp

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

78

Years of Ministry

BMM CURRICULUM

In making the “Written and Living WORD known”, Bible Memory Ministries uses various methods to help people of all ages to **memorize** and, then, **apply God's WORD** to their realm of influence. Many have thought that this ministry is a just a camping ministry or has merely a camp-first focus, when, actually, our camps serve as only one of the means to ignite the Word of God in the lives of participants.

Memorization, or repetitive learning, is so powerful, but it is not the end all. I would contend that **we learn in order to act**. Thus, our entire ministry is to incorporate various learning methods, so that, **a person can powerfully articulate and display the attributes of God they are cognitively retaining**. Which brings me to the point in this section about our curriculum. We recognize that there are many choices out there and we immediately recognize that we are not trying to convince you we are the “best.” However, without reservation, we know our curriculum, along with our camps, serves as **tools to enhance one's retention of the verses** that they are trying to master.

We are also very excited for the development of a new curriculum that will focus on **specific passages** to retain. We have seen the need, and have heard the Lord express to us, to help His people gain an improved grasp of Biblical literacy. A small example, to help, will be having participants memorize particular passages, such as The Beatitudes, Armor of God, Fruits of the Spirit, Romans 8: Life in the Spirit, Psalm 23, and so forth. We also hope to have the upcoming theme verse and/or passages being memorized before one comes to camp.

So, when a person completes the curriculum, they will receive a **camp fee discount** plus they will have a direct tie-in of their memorization work to their upcoming camp's theme. Thus, in the “off-season” from camps, the campers are being immersed in the scriptural passage/verses of what they will be learning at their upcoming summer, fall, or winter camp. This **year-round approach** is more reinforcement of God's Word into their spirit and mind. Please consider using our material to build a library that the Holy Spirit can use through you and your kids.

OUR MODEL FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

CURRICULUM

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

CAMPER

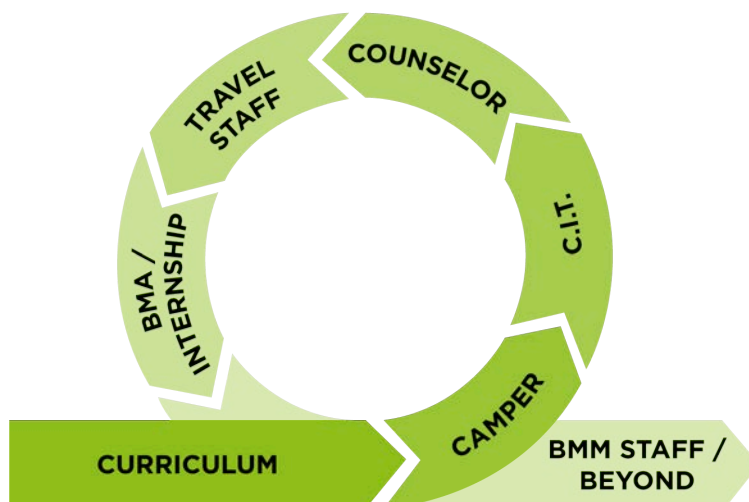
Attending camp provides a fun atmosphere for children in grades 2-12 where the camper's relationship with God and others is enhanced through worship and Biblical instruction, building upon the foundation established through the curriculum and scripture memorization prior to camp.

C.I.T. (COUNSELOR IN TRAINING)

Beginning in high school, campers have an opportunity to mentor 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.

BMA / INTERNSHIP

Post-high school and older, are interviewed to expand their college or career path through B.M.A. (Bible Memory Academy) at Bible Memory Ministries. Collaboration with a nationally known Christian University allows participants to get an associates degree while interning. Those that want to go directly into learning a trade/craft can take the second tract and be placed in an area business to shadow and gain hands-on training in this community. Whether the academic or work tract, each participant will be poured into with the Word of God.

BMM STAFF / 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.



Impacting tomorrow's leaders... today

MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH THE WRITTEN AND LIVING WORD

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 Leadership Development 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' camps provide 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.

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, and Ohio, God has placed a vision at BMM to facilitate camps across the United States, throughout the world, while providing incredible training at our new Bible Memory Academy. 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 to... KNOW THE WORD!



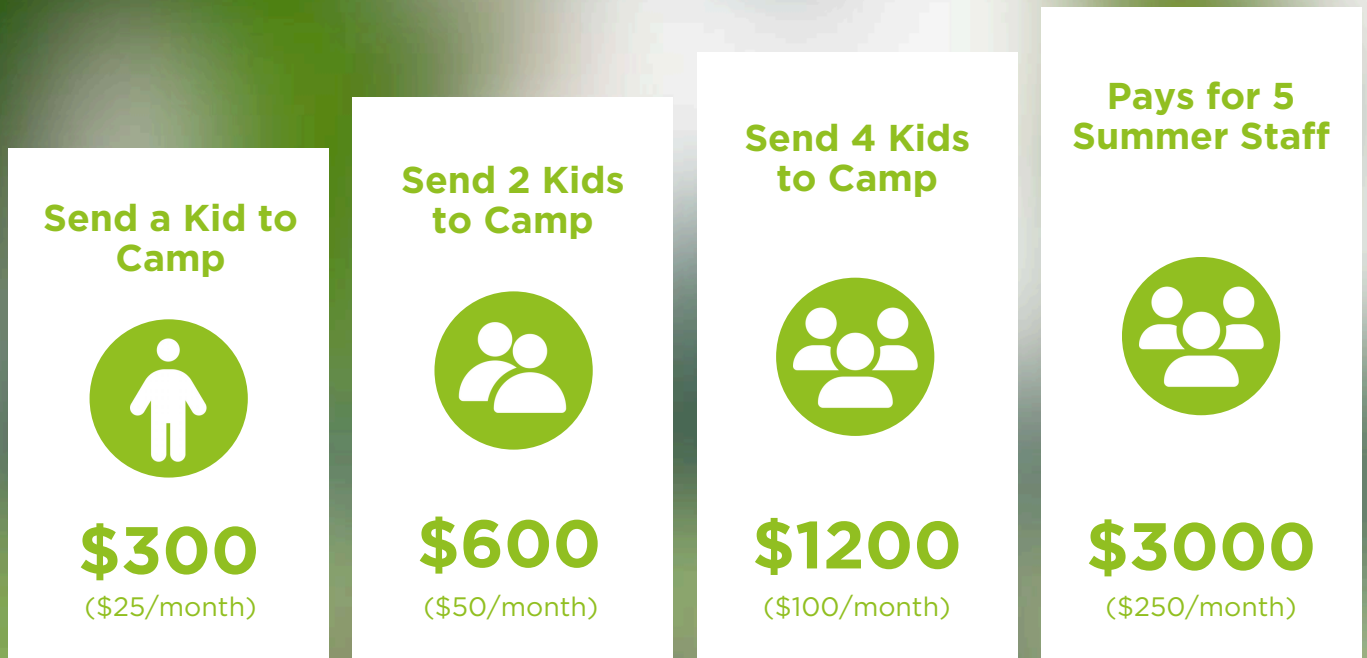
“ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ”



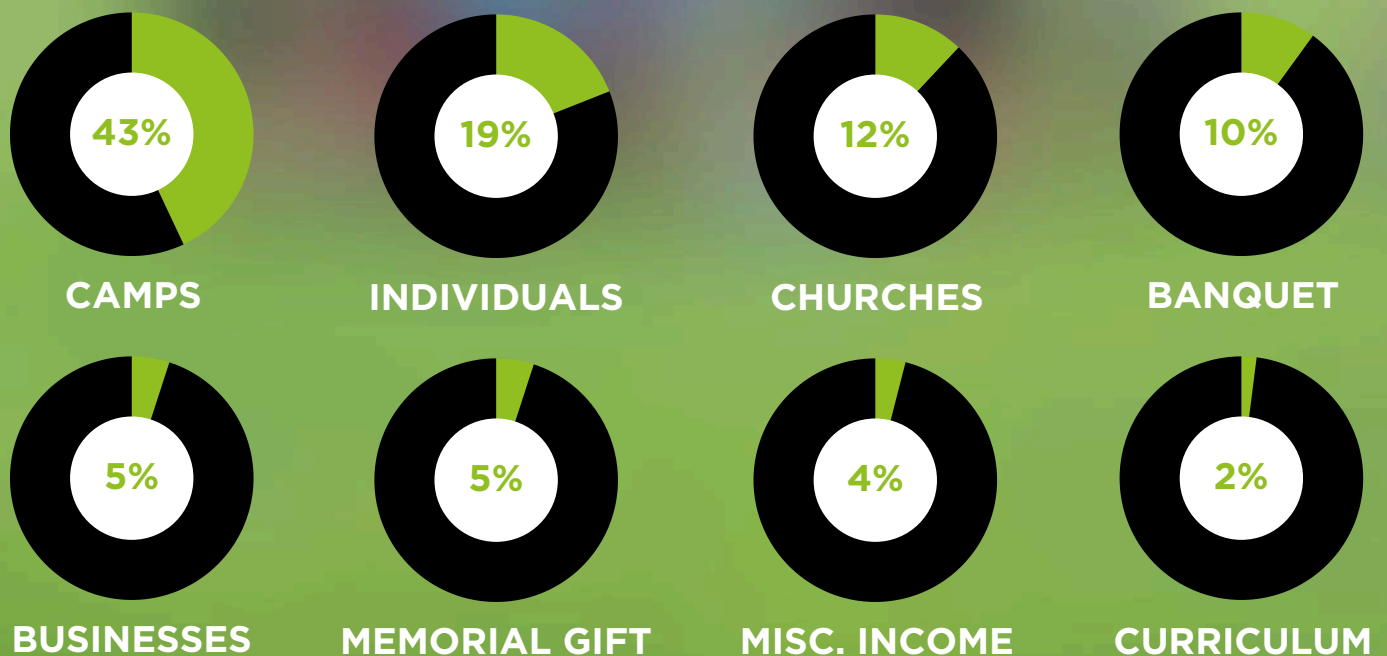
“When growing up my mom would say, “Christopher, when you memorize the Word, you are creating a library for the Holy Spirit to use when ministering.” At Bible Memory Ministries, we acknowledge that memorization is great, but without application, it is wasted knowledge. We’re passionate about impacting future leaders today with the foundation of Bible memorization so they can apply what they learn both now and in the future.”

Christopher Howell
Executive Director

WHAT DOES IT COST TO FURTHER THE KINGDOM?



OUR SOURCES OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE



LOOKING FORWARD

Although Bible Memory Ministries has been alive for the past 78 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.

In October of 2023, Bible Memory Ministries saw God open a large door for expansion. We are currently and officially starting a Capital Campaign in order to obtain this 13000 Sq-ft building to house our entire office and also start our “GAP” year program called Bible Memory Academy. Will you please consider joining us in the capacity He calls you to?



WE'RE RAISING **\$600,000**

OF OUR 2 MILLION DOLLAR GOAL

\$300,000

Of Goal Secured

\$300,000

Still Needed

August 2024

Our Move-In Goal



Help further the kingdom by helping us financially eliminate any debt of the \$600,000 building need of our \$2,000,000 capital campaign over the next 3 years! To donate, visit www.bmm.life/donate or scan the QR code on the back of the brochure.



BIBLE MEMORY MINISTRIES

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!

To donate, scan the QR code or visit www.bmm.life/donate

