



Meet Our Team

Introducing:
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A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO MAGNIFYING THE
“For You have magnified Your Word above all Your Name.”

WORD OF GOD
Psalm 138:2

BLUE LETTER BIBLE MAGNIFYING GOD’S WORD

FALL | 2021

Mining for the Treasure of God’s Word

“Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know” — Jeremiah 33:3 NASB

Although written thousands of years ago, Jeremiah 33:3 still rings true today. The same promise—that if we call to God, He will answer us—can be embraced by all believers. Where can we find the great and mighty things which we do not know? They are found in the Word of God! Would any believer not search for a treasure like that?

For the last 10 years, Mary and Stephanie have been doing just this—mining for the treasure of God’s Word together. After leading ladies’ Bible studies at their home church in Colorado Springs, they discovered that not only did they share the same great love for God’s Word, but they both found Blue Letter Bible (BLB) to be the most useful tool for their own study time. This common love formed a solid foundation for their ministry together.

They had already made it a habit to begin each of their new ladies’ Bible studies by teaching the basics of BLB’s study resources. But then they took it a step further, suggesting to the women’s ministry leadership that they offer

a workshop to help even more people understand this wonderful Bible study tool as well.

Who could have known that it would become a yearly workshop?

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Mining for the Treasure of God's Word

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The first year it was offered, the workshop was hosted by their church's women's ministry, but was opened to the whole church. The response was overwhelming. Mary and Stephanie are now offering the workshop

to the entire church body for the sixth consecutive year, and it has become part of an annual launch to the new year for their church's School of Ministry. The School of Ministry is an eight-month-long equipping program their church offers. It consists of twice-a-week classes in Old and New Testament Survey and Biblical Theology. In addition, students take a "week in Greek" course with Justin Alfred and participate in a "Study the Bible" workshop that introduces them to BLB and the Inductive Bible Study method.

In addition to personally using BLB and teaching others how to navigate this useful tool, they also travel together overseas to lead ladies in studying God's Word. Whenever they meet anyone who desires to dig deeper into God's Word, the first tool Mary and Stephanie recommend is BLB.

One recent workshop attendant said it best...


"BLB awakened a desire to dive deeper into studying the Word."

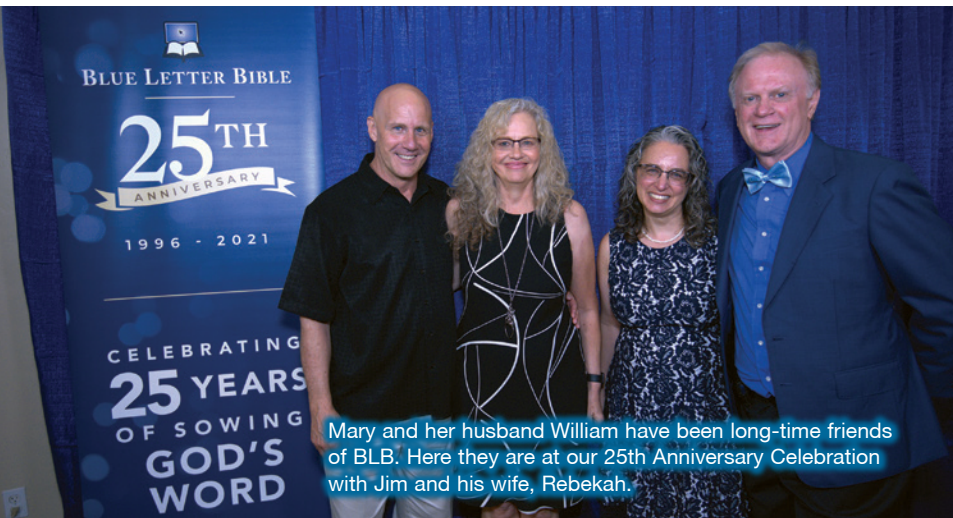
This desire could not be closer to Mary and Stephanie's heart. And, their prayer is that God would use BLB in such a way for many years to come. 



Simplified Hebrew

I would like to share a resource for those who have a desire to gain a deeper understanding of any given word in the Old Testament. I recently had the privilege of taking a class offered through Blue Letter Bible in simplified Hebrew. Our professor, Justin Alfred, (Adjunct Professor, Azusa Pacific University's Graduate School of Theology), has graciously provided his lesson plan to Blue Letter Bible. The grammar book is available as a free download on the BLB website. When you scroll over the word "STUDY" under "BIBLE REFERENCES" select "Hebrew/Greek Grammars;" the 59-page PDF file will automatically download when you select "Hebrew Grammar." This is a helpful tool for anyone who wants to learn a little more about Old Testament Hebrew.

In addition, did you know that BLB recently added scads of Hebrew content? Now available on BLB is the well-respected Hebrew and English lexicon, Brown-Driver-Briggs (BDB). Compiled by three distinguished scholars of the same name, Brown-Driver-Briggs offers in-depth insights into the usage of Hebrew words in the Old Testament. A helpful guide about the BDB, as well as the Hebrew Grammar book mentioned above, can both be found at: BLB.org/NewsletterLinks 



Mary and her husband William have been long-time friends of BLB. Here they are at our 25th Anniversary Celebration with Jim and his wife, Rebekah.

New Content / Announcements



Andrew Murray's *The True Vine* 31-Day Devotional

“I have felt drawn to try to write what young Christians might easily apprehend, as a help to them to take up that position in which the Christian life must be a success.” This is a quote from *The True Vine*, a 31-day devotional from Andrew Murray. In it, the author takes a close look at

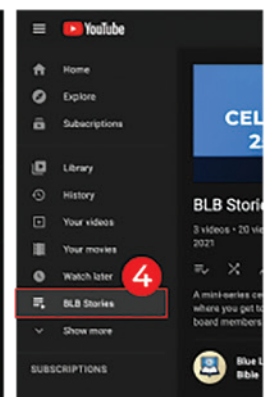
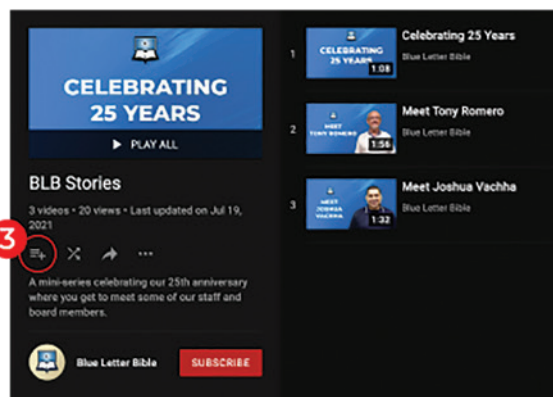
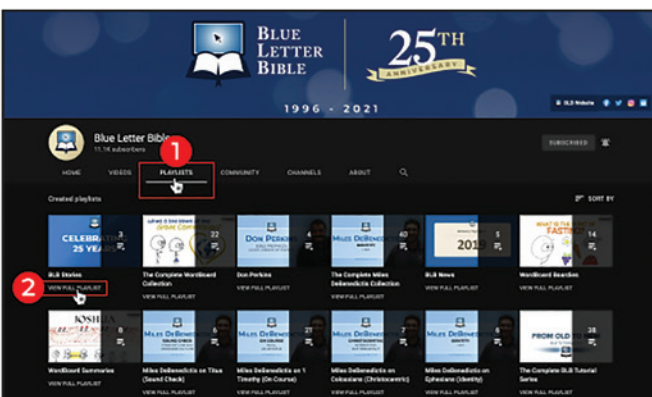
Christ’s word picture of the vine in John 15, examining how young Christians should apply its truths to their lives. To start reading *The True Vine*, you can find the link for Murray’s author page at: BLB.org/NewsletterLinks



New Video Stories: Meet Our Team

In celebration of Blue Letter Bible’s 25th anniversary, we have begun to release a new series of videos on our YouTube channel introducing some of our team. To understand exactly what this series entails, you can watch the introduction from our CEO and co-founder, Jim Milligan.

Every month, we release a new one- to two-minute video that introduces the employee or director, their role, and other interesting aspects of why they love working for the ministry. To learn about our team, and to easily access new videos when they are uploaded, you can go to the “BLB Stories” YouTube playlist and save it to watch later. Here is a quick checklist on how to do so with a graphic walkthrough:



1. Select the “Playlists” tab on the Blue Letter Bible YouTube channel.

2. Select “View Full Playlist” under the Stories playlist.

3. Select the far-left icon under the playlist information to pin it.

4. Go to your YouTube sidebar to find the pinned playlist.

If you want to learn more about the ministry as a whole and our 25-year journey, as well as find a direct link to the playlist, you can find them both at: BLB.org/NewsletterLinks



GOD'S WORD IS **ALIVE** & **ACTIVE**



Start Small and Trust God

Mary and Stephanie's story reminds me of the gospel and how it has spread. Christ's last command to His apostles is documented in Matthew 28:19-20—what we often refer to as the *Great Commission*. He ordered them to spread the gospel to all corners of the world and baptize those who believed “in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” And the apostles did just that. But it was not done in an accepting world. Instead, the church has consistently faced extreme persecution throughout history. As with anything that is of God, however, His purposes prevail, and the Church has grown mightily over the last two millennia. Wherever God is at work, great results will come, even from a barely noticeable beginning. And through it all, God is magnified!

This is the way the Lord tends to work. He is most glorified when something small in human terms grows and grows, because then it is clear that only He could have done it. Mary and Stephanie began a ministry of introducing others to Blue Letter Bible that involved a

few women. Then it expanded to the whole church. *Then* it became a part of the training in a school. *Then* it even went overseas. What a lesson in God's ability to use people like us in helping others to know and worship Him! Where can *you* “start small?”

In just the last three years, we have seen the number of unique users coming to the BLB website almost doubled to more than 20 million worldwide. Users like Mary, Stephanie, and you are to be given credit for this incredible growth. So often, our growth is dependent on users who are willing to share BLB with others. We thank you for making others aware of BLB and ask you to continue to do so. The importance of sharing God's Word, and the study tools to better know His Word and His will for our lives, cannot be overstated in these challenging times we find ourselves in today.

Until the whole world hears,

Jim Milligan
C.E.O. and Co-Founder

User Testimony

Thank you so much for making Blue Letter Bible available--it is such a beautiful resource to study God's Word. I especially love that I can read the original Greek for myself (I have not studied Hebrew yet), and the commentaries and cross references are just wonderful, too. As a former bookseller who had imagined a perfect hard-copy Bible that I wanted, BLB blows what I thought I wanted out of the water. You have fully exceeded my expectations for Bible study. — *Jamie in Williston, ND*

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