



# Enriching

The 2011 Annual Report of Bible in the Schools

*Enriching the next generation with the wisdom and knowledge of the Bible.*

## Gatherings Unite Local Churches, Fund 5 Teachers

Thanks to a successful series of community-based Gatherings, five Bible history teachers have been fully funded in the Hamilton County schools since 2009. In all, 16 teachers are opening the world's most influential book to more than 4,500 students in 19 schools.

But what makes these Gatherings even more special is the magnitude of cooperation they have sparked between churches and schools.

Particularly at the Brainerd Gathering on Oct. 2, never before have so many diverse churches gathered across socioeconomic and cross-cultural lines out of shared concern for the next generation.

A hopeful mood is emerging among pastors and educators that perhaps there is one "untested" answer to the discipline issues and youth



**More than 1,000 people from 15 churches gathered on Oct. 2 to give Brainerd High School students an opportunity to study the Bible.**

violence so often reported in the news.

Teachers funded through the Gatherings are Mr. Jesse Bankhead (**Signal Mountain Middle/High**), Mr. Jeff Fairbanks (**East Hamilton Middle/High**), Mr. Exavious Farley (**Howard School**), Mr. William Heard (**Tyner Academy**) and Mr. Anthony Pollard (**Brainerd High**).

### Signal Mountain Gathering, 2009

- Sponsoring Churches: 10
  - Attendance: 850+
- Commitments Made: \$395,000
  - New Donors: 204
  - Teachers Funded: 2

### East Hamilton Gathering, 2010

- Sponsoring Churches: 13
  - Attendance: 900+
- Commitments Made: \$275,000
  - New Donors: 215
  - Teachers Funded: 2

### Brainerd Gathering, 2011

- Sponsoring Churches: 15
  - Attendance: 1,000+
- Commitments Made: \$223,000
  - New Donors: 300
  - Teachers Funded: 1

## Bible Teachers Distinguish Themselves

**Mr. Anthony Pollard** is newly hired at Brainerd High School, funded through the Brainerd Gathering in October. A Bible teacher for 15 years, he is a dynamic and gifted communicator, teaching in public and private settings—most notably New Orleans' Desire Street Academy.



**Mr. William Heard** is Tyner Academy's new Bible history teacher, funded by the 2010 East Hamilton Gathering. He holds degrees in religion, philosophy and English from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Georgia State University.



**Mrs. Kim Hixson** received Loftis Middle School's Star Teacher Award, as well as the Mainstreaming Students Award for working with special-needs students. She also was nominated for a Disney Teacher Award.



**Mr. Jesse Bankhead** (Signal Mountain Middle/High School) has earned a graduate fellowship from Hebrew Union College and the Prather Greek Award from Lipscomb University.



## Students' Perspective: *How Bible History Has Helped Me*

"I was skeptical at first, but after taking it twice, and now a third time, I love it."

— **Loftis Middle School student**

"Before Bible history, I've never sat down and actually read the Bible. Now I know a lot about the Bible that I didn't know before. It has motivated me to be a better person in life."

— **Brainerd High School student**

"Bible history is the best class I have ever had. I love the stories that are so interesting and cool. ... This class made me a better person. It made me open my eyes."

— **Ooltewah Middle School student**



**Hamilton County  
Bible History  
Teachers**  
  
2011-2012  
  
(Pictured in order)

**Bill Spencer**  
*Hixson Middle School*

**Dr. Terry Stevenson**  
*Bible History Program  
Consultant*

**Bryan Osborne**  
*Hixson High School*

**Kim Hixson**  
*Loftis Middle School*

**Anthony Pollard**  
*Brainerd High School*

**Ian Shaw**  
*Soddy-Daisy Middle  
School*

**Mary Bowman**  
*Red Bank Middle School*

**Charles Witter**  
*Soddy-Daisy High  
School*

**Kandy Turnmire**  
*Lookout Valley  
Middle/High School*

**William Heard**  
*Tyner Academy*

**Jesse Bankhead**  
*Signal Mountain  
Middle/High School*

**Jeff Fairbanks**  
*East Hamilton  
Middle/High School*

**Exavious Farley**  
*Howard School of  
Academics & Technology*

**Bryan Johnson**  
*Hunter Middle School*

**David Adels**  
*Ooltewah Middle School*

**Steve Clinton**  
*East Ridge Middle School*

**John Daum**  
*Central High School*

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**A Word from the President**



**Ralph  
Mohney, Jr.**

With your generous support, this past fiscal year has been a very positive one:

- This past year you funded Bible history classes for more students (4,000) with more teachers (14) in more schools (17).
- Successful community “Gatherings” in East Hamilton and Brainerd have led to further increases this school year: 16 teachers in 19 schools reaching an estimated 4,500 students.
- Beyond funding new Bible history classes, these “Gatherings” have emerged as an important way of uniting churches in service to their communities.
- Bible history students’ knowledge of the materials covered more than doubled as measured by pre and post tests.

- Important investments have been made in the quality of instruction, which should yield even higher knowledge levels.
- Once again, we were able to meet all of our financial commitments and ended the fiscal year in the black.

• Our donor base continues to expand with the number of total donors this past year up 41% from just two years ago.

While much has been accomplished, much remains to be done. Today one-third of our Hamilton County middle and high school students have no access to Bible history classes, largely due to funding. With your support, we are committed to making the wisdom and knowledge of the Bible available to all of these students. Thank you for your partnership in this endeavor.



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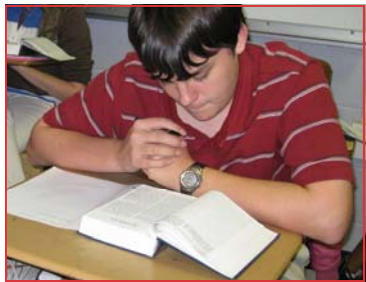
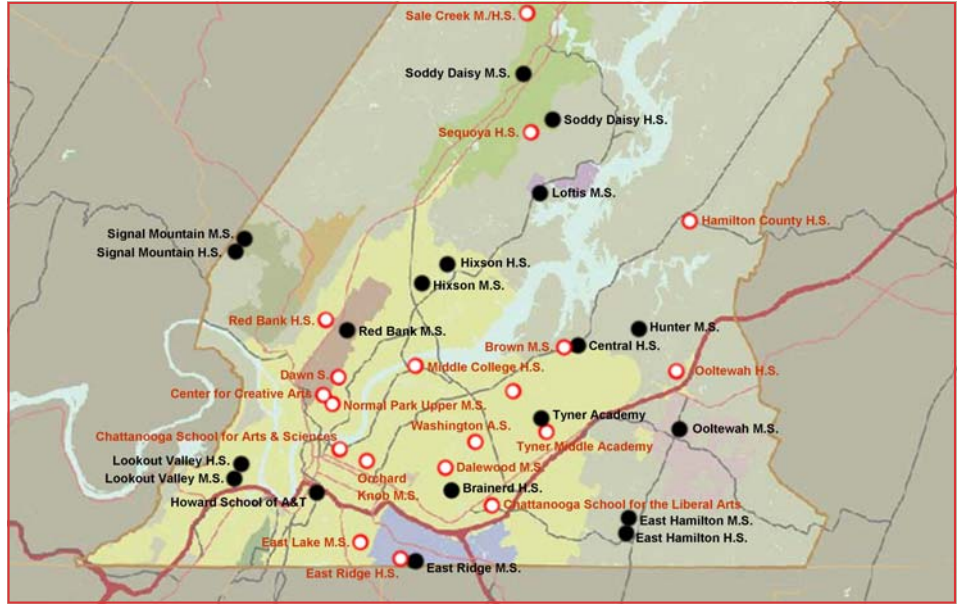
*Bible in the Schools is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization.*



## Hamilton County Public Middle & High Schools

2011-2012

- = 13,500 students in 19 schools can elect Bible history
- = 6,500 students in 19 schools have NO access to Bible history



### Principals' View: *How Bible History Helps My School*

“There’re two or three of the teachers whom I have dealt with throughout the years who are some of the best teachers I’ve ever been associated with. And those teachers had an impact on those kids, and we may not have had that teacher if it hadn’t been for Bible in the Schools.”

– **Dr. Tom McCullough**  
Principal, Signal Mountain Middle/High School

“Bible history class just reinforces everything that we’re trying to get kids to do ... to think in terms of ethics, in terms of values, in terms of how we treat one another, and the lessons that they do learn from the Bible.”

– **Ms. Sandra Barnwell**  
Principal, Hixson Middle School

### Teacher’s Perspective: *Rewarding to Serve with Purpose*

The past school year was incredible. I had approximately 180 students for Old and New Testament study; most of whom had never participated in substantial study of the Bible - many who had never even read it before. But by the end of my courses, I can confidently say that my students walked away with solid Bible background knowledge and a relevant moral compass.



**Exavious Farley,**  
Howard School

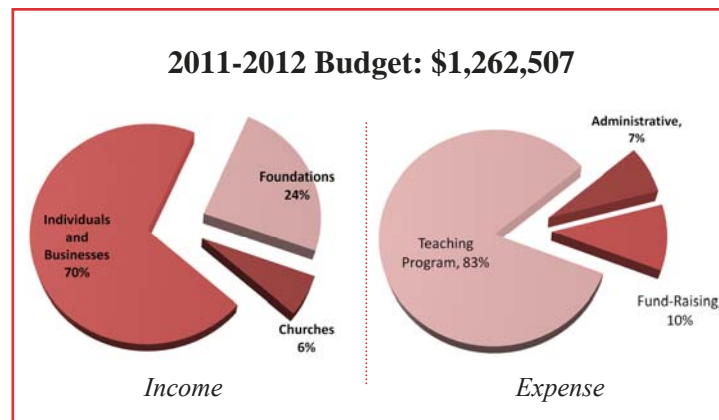
The greatest blessing of the year was the lasting relationships that I was able to make. Not a day passed, in the spring semester, without a stu-

dent from the previous term stopping by to greet me. I had one young man make sure that I knew that he had prayed for the first time in his life, while another student sought me out when she felt like she had no one else to talk to. She later came to me with a message of thanks from her mother for the help I gave.

In regard to parents, one of my favorite times was when a couple of students asked me for class work to send home to their parents because their parents wanted to learn along with their children.

I’ve invested the majority of my professional life in teens, but I’ve never felt as effective or as needed as I do at Howard School. Because of the sacrifice and gifts of the community, I’m able to walk into school every day with clear a purpose, equipped with the best textbook from which any student can learn. And the finest indicator of this past year’s effort was a guidance counselor telling me that my class was the most sought-after of all courses offered.

So I say thank you to every individual, organization, and congregation that sent us out to teach the Bible history in Hamilton County schools.



### Funded Completely with No Tax Dollars

Bible history teachers are funded entirely through private contributions from local individuals, corporations, churches and foundations. No tax dollars are used to fund this elective, for-credit opportunity to Chattanooga-Hamilton County public school students.



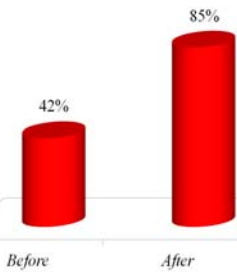
# BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS

Public School Bible Study Committee  
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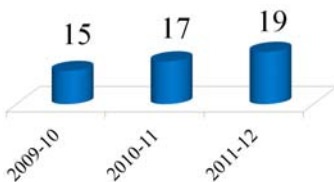
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**YOUR**  
support has  
accomplished!*

### Average Learning Scores, 2010-2011

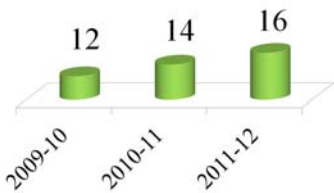


► Last year, the students' knowledge of the Bible **DOUBLED** after completing a Bible history course at school.

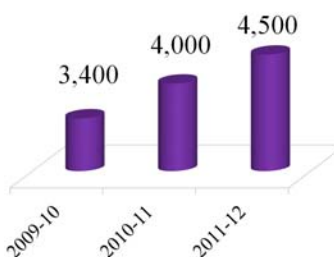
### Schools



### Teachers



### Students



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## Parents' Perspective: *How Bible History Helps My Child*

"I am very happy this class is offered. [My daughter] comes home talking about 'Bible class.' She's excited."

— **Hunter Middle School**  
Parent

"In the beginning I wasn't sure about Bible history because I didn't want others to force their personal religious views on my daughter, but this is quite the opposite. ... This is a great class. I like this class for my daughter, and she is always happy about this class."

— **Loftis Middle School**  
Parent

"I feel taking Bible history is very important to [my] child's development, and I am glad it is being offered."

— **Red Bank Middle School**  
Parent



Students can elect up to 5 different courses: Genesis, Exodus, Life of Jesus, Old Testament Survey and New Testament Survey.

"It's just as important as learning math, and it's just as important as learning science. It's a subject that's going to change their life. They may never use algebra again in their life, but I know

they'll use the things they've heard and studied [in the Bible]."

— **East Hamilton Middle/High School**  
Parent