



Enriching

The 2013 Annual Report of Bible in the Schools

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

1 OUR IMPACT

This year, over 3,400 students will spend more than 250,000 hours studying the Bible

► [My teacher] first off established the excitement of his class, the person he was; he made it clear that he wasn't just some boring teacher who was going to throw the book at you. And after he established that view with the students,

he was then able to present the Bible, and people wanted to listen.

... I wanted to hear what he had to say!

— Nic, East Hamilton High School student



► I've seen a lot of change in myself. I see myself now more focused on my books, and I know that there is something that I need to do—graduate, get out of high school, go to college and succeed in life. I feel like this class really helped me with that, because there were some changes that I needed to make to myself as well as how I treat others around me.

This class was really a stepping stone to helping me mature as a young woman

and really map out what it is that I want to do with my life and how I want to conduct myself throughout it.

— Da Ja, Brainerd High School student

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Teachers' Perspective: *How Bible History Impacts My Students*

► I've had numerous parents tell me that their children (especially 6th graders) come home and tell them the Bible story they were studying in class. In many cases, this has ***prompted the family to begin attending church***, some for the first time.

— Miss Mary Bowman, Red Bank Middle School



► I definitely ***see kids making better decisions because of the class***, because of getting into the Bible, reading it. It causes them to think. I think more than anything else, it really makes them stop, assess the situation a little bit differently, and to hopefully make a better decision.

— Mr. Bryan Osborne, Hixson High School





Hamilton County
Bible History Teachers
2013-2014

(Pictured left to right)

Mr. Bryan Osborne
Hixson High School

Mr. Bryan Johnson
Hunter Middle School

Mr. John Daum
Central High School

Mr. John Culp
The Howard School

Mrs. Kim Hixson
Loftis Middle School

Mr. Jeff Fairbanks
East Hamilton Middle/High School

Miss Mary Bowman
Red Bank Middle School

Mr. Jesse Bankhead
Signal Mountain Middle/High School

Mr. Jason Hamrick
Ooltewah High School

Dr. Terry Stevenson
Bible History Program Consultant

Mr. Anthony Pollard
Brainerd High School

Mr. Charles Witter
Hixson Middle School

Mr. Steve Clinton
East Ridge Middle School

Mr. David Adels
Ooltewah Middle School

Mr. Tyler Roberson
Soddy-Daisy Middle School

Mr. Nathan Cates
Tyner Academy

2 A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

2013: A year of blessings and challenges for Bible history

► I don't always fully understand what my pastor is talking about, but this class has truly made me understand the Bible.

– Bible History Student

I want to express my deep appreciation to you our supporters for another successful year of bringing the wisdom and knowledge of the Bible to Hamilton County public school students.

The year 2013 has been filled with many blessings:

► This fall, 15 teachers continued classes for an estimated 3,400 students in 17 different middle and high schools. Based on past studies, approximately half of the new students will have had little or no previous exposure to the Bible. Absent these classes, many never would.

► The objectively measurable outcomes from these classes are compelling: On average, students' knowledge of the portions of the Bible studied roughly doubled.

► Testimonials from students, teachers, parents, and administrators confirm that this learning goes beyond just facts and stories – it is impacting lives, attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs. Truly, the Word does not return void.

► Church-based community “Gatherings” continued to attract large numbers of new

donors in support of local schools, thereby expanding the donor base.

However, the year has also brought challenges.

► While Gatherings have produced significant growth in new donors, funding from Gatherings has largely been directed to new teachers in new schools.

► At the same time, funding for previously existing teachers has fallen off faster than anticipated.

► The result has been an inability to continue funding for all of the new Gathering sponsored schools and for all of the pre-Gathering schools.

► Consequently, it was necessary to suspend the classes of two teachers this fall.

This annual report comments more fully on the causes for the falloff in funding for previously existing teachers and the steps that are being taken to restore the reductions. With your help, we will once again reach more students with more teachers in more schools.



Ralph Mohney, Jr.

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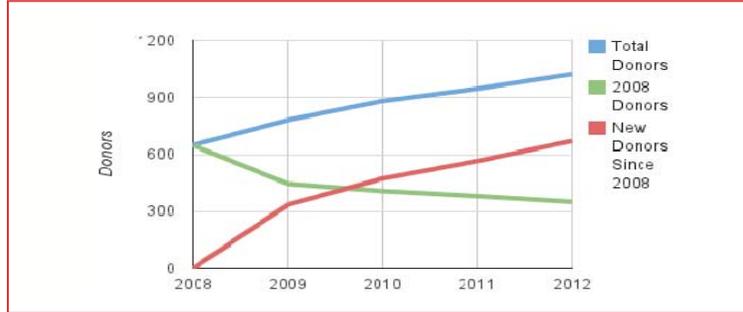
3 OUR CHALLENGE Staying ahead of demographic shifts and scheduling hurdles

Our Donor Base Is Shifting, Diversifying

Over the past four years, Bible in the Schools has made a concerted effort to rapidly expand and diversify its donor base in an attempt to reach more students with the wisdom and knowledge of the Bible.

The 2008 donor base was relatively small and insufficient to permit expansion to additional schools. Therefore, our plan was for that donor base to continue to support the 12 then current teachers and to rely on church-based community “Gatherings” to fund expansion into new schools.

As reflected on page 5, Gatherings have been successful in attracting new donors in support primarily of new



teachers. The vast majority of the new donors since 2008 (shown in the chart above) have resulted from Gatherings. These events were instrumental in growing the total number of teachers from 12 to 17 over the three-year period.

However, as indicated in the graph above, attrition in the 2008 donor base has occurred faster

than anticipated, due in part to the economic downturn in 2009. That reduced donor base is no longer able to provide full funding for the initial group of 12 teachers. Consequently, it was necessary to reduce 2 teachers this fall, offsetting some of the expansion made possible through Gatherings.

► I have had several students tell me, “I’m an atheist, and I don’t know why I’m in this class because I don’t know much about the Bible.” But over the course of the semester, that attitude begins to soften and change. My goal is for every kid to have a positive experience reading the Bible, so that down the road they don’t have an angry, bitter attitude.

– Mr. John Daum
Central High School teacher

5 in 10 Students Have Almost No Bible Exposure Prior to Bible History

Noted pollster George Barna states that America’s youth are increasingly unfamiliar with the Bible’s basic teachings.

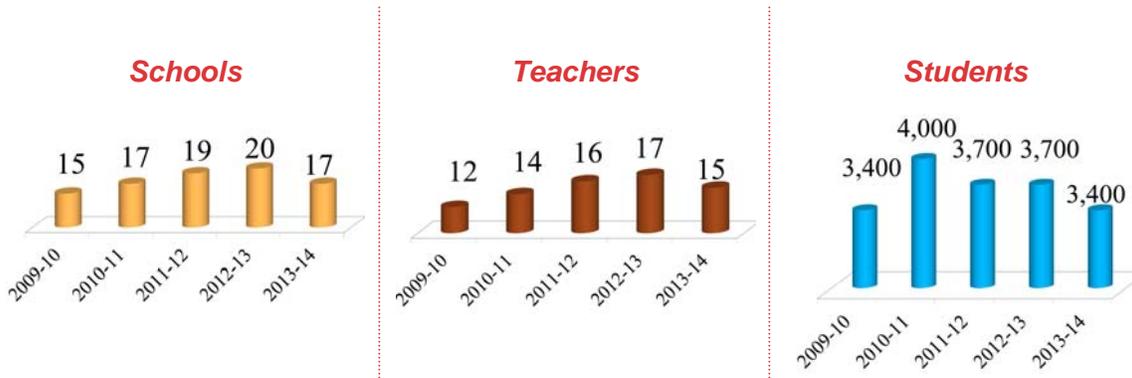
- 5 in 10 students have had little or no exposure to the wisdom and knowledge of the Bible.
- “God helps those who help themselves” is

the most widely believed Bible verse among churchgoing teens, though it appears nowhere in the Bible and conflicts with its message.

- 8 in 10 people cannot say who preached the Sermon on the Mount.
- Many may be saying to themselves, “These

statistics can’t possibly be real, not in Hamilton County.” But statistics like these are real in our nation and in our community.

For many Hamilton County students, Bible history class is the only instruction they receive in the world’s most influential book.



Class Scheduling Is Affecting Enrollment

The decline in the number of students enrolled in Bible history beginning in 2011-2012 reflects a shift from 4½-week class terms to 9-week class terms for a number of middle schools.

Where this occurred, the number of students enrolled was reduced by roughly half, while the hours of study actually doubled.

Hamilton County Public Middle & High Schools

2013-2014

- = 12,834 students in 17 schools can elect Bible history
- = 8,181 students in 20 schools have NO access to Bible history

Based on 20th Day Enrollment Report, Hamilton County Department of Education, Sept. 5, 2013



► Sometimes I get frustrated with the journal questions you [my teacher] come up with only because I know that in order to answer them I'll have to look deep within myself.

– Bible History Student

4 OUR GOAL

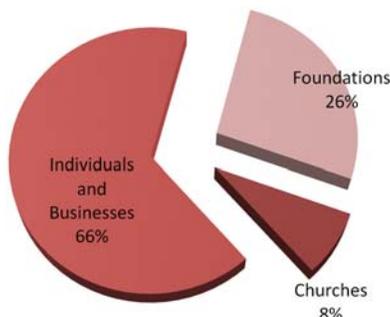
Ensuring every student has access to Bible history classes, as a gift to the community



Completely Funded with No Tax Dollars

Presenting Hamilton County Superintendent Rick Smith (right) a check for \$967,933.93 to cover the full cost of Bible history teaching expenses for 2012-2013 are (from left) Bible in the Schools Chairman Steve Frost and President Ralph Mohney, Jr.

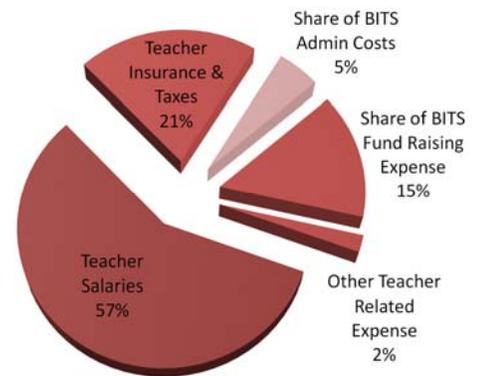
2013-2014 Budgeted Income: \$1,153,132



How Much Does a Bible Teacher Cost?

On average, the cost to fund a Bible teacher in the Hamilton County schools over the last several years has been about \$75,000.

The majority of that cost goes to the teacher's salary, insurance, taxes and other teacher-related expense (totaling \$60,750). There are other expenses as well, including a share of the administrative costs and fund-raising expense associated with Bible in the Schools.



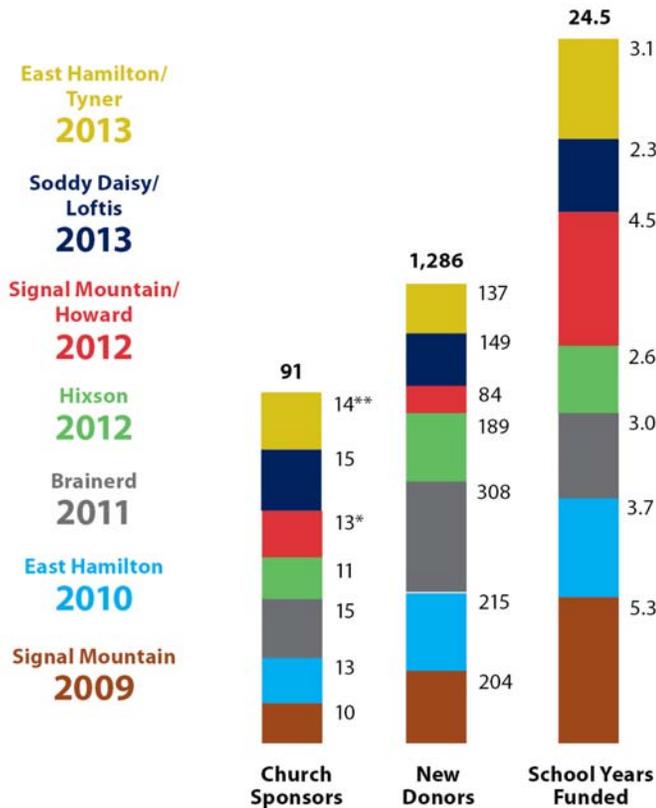
► I received a note from a student who never spoke in class, never raised his hand, and appeared to get nothing out of Bible history. He was in a very bad relationship, doing drugs. But he told me that the things we discussed in class made him rethink his choices. He broke off the bad relationship, turned away from the drugs, and began having a more positive outlook on life.

– Mr. Bryan Johnson
Hunter Middle School teacher

5 OUR PLAN Helping communities to fund a quality program in their own schools

Community Gatherings

How communities are helping to fund Bible history teachers in their own schools



Over the past few years, Bible in the Schools has worked with churches across Hamilton County in organizing community-wide fund-raisers combined with services of prayer. These Gathering events were initially designed as a means of attracting new donors to provide new funding for new teachers. As reflected in these graphs, the events have been highly successful in this regard.

However, over the past 12 months, the Gathering model has been expanded to provide funding for existing (versus

just new) teachers in an effort to mitigate the effects of attrition in the 2008 donor base shown on page 3. Successful Gatherings were held in Hixson in the fall of 2012 and in Soddy Daisy in the fall of 2013.

Our plan is to continue to utilize Gatherings to fund both new and existing teachers and to intensify our efforts to attract general support donors beyond Gatherings. Through these efforts, and with your help, we hope to once again reach more students with more teachers in more schools.

* including 9 church sponsors from 2009
 ** including 11 church sponsors from 2010

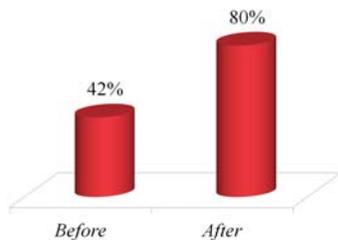
Knowledge Doubles: Investing in a Quality Curriculum

Just as any other academic subject would require calculated steps to improve and maintain the quality of teaching, the same is true for Bible history.

Through your investment, Bible in the Schools reimburses the Hamilton County Department of Education for the cost of a Bible history program consultant to help our 15 Bible history teachers develop new strategies and learn best practices for teaching.

Dr. Terry Stevenson, a local

Average Learning Scores, 2011-2013



educator for 30 years, has led an effort to develop interactive teaching guidelines for each of the five courses (Genesis,

Exodus, Life of Jesus, Old Testament Survey and New Testament Survey). Guidelines for three courses are complete, with a fourth underway.

Your investment in quality is bearing fruit. Through standardized tests administered to each student *before and after* taking a Bible history course, average learning scores show that students' knowledge of the portions of the Bible studied has nearly doubled.

► I just wanted you to know you saved my life. Last semester I was planning on killing myself. But throughout the semester the things we were reading and journaling about, the things we discussed in class made me realize that would have been a terrible choice. I now realize I am here for a reason, and wanted to let you know I'm OK and wanted to say thanks.

– Bible History Student



What Kind of World Needs Bible History?

With lewd music, police raids, and online bullying affecting even the “safest” schools in Hamilton County, the need is greater than you think.

Watch a compelling 9-minute video at BibleintheSchools.com/video or scan the QR code with your smart phone.



BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS

Public School Bible Study Committee
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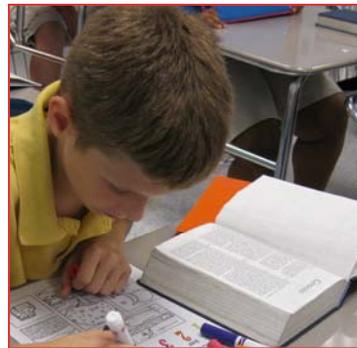
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

▶ As you probably know, my last couple months have been a living hell. During this time period I felt like there was no hope and I didn't have any courage in me ... You may not know this but God as my witness you gave me hope and most of all you gave me courage and I really want to thank you. You can ask my parents, every day I come home talking about what you have said and what you have done to help me see the world as a better place and for this I thank you.

– Bible History Student

Key Facts about Bible Teaching

- ▶ Bible history classes are funded totally by voluntary contributions: no tax dollars.
- ▶ Classes are electives (voluntary) and for credit.
- ▶ The curriculum meets all legal requirements.
- ▶ Bible is studied from an historical vs. religious or denominational standpoint.
- ▶ Teachers are employees of Hamilton County Department of Education (HCDE).
- ▶ Bible in the Schools reimburses HCDE for teacher salaries and benefits.
- ▶ The approximate cost to fully fund a Bible history teacher is \$75,000 per year.
- ▶ This year, an estimated 3,400



Bible history teaching has been a gift to Hamilton County for more than 91 years.

students will elect Bible history courses.

- ▶ Classes are currently offered in 9 middle schools and 8 high schools:
 - Middle Schools: Genesis, Exodus, and the Life of Jesus (using Luke).
 - High Schools: Old Testament Survey and New Testament Survey.

Is It Legal?

YES!

The federal courts have affirmed that teaching the Bible is constitutionally protected.

- ▶ Teachers must be employed and supervised by the county Department of Education.
- ▶ Teachers must be certified and have a minimum of 12 semester hours of Bible courses as part of their college education.
- ▶ Bible courses are elective, and credit is given for their study.
- ▶ No religious proselytizing, sectarianism or denominational recruitment is permitted.
- ▶ The curriculum is court approved.