



## Christmas 2023



We thank the Lord for open doors in the schools again now that COVID has largely ended. We have 6 public schools open to us in Greene and Cocke County. These **special holiday programs** include Thanksgiving, Christmas, patriotic programs [Involving constitution day, flag day, etc.] in February, and of course Easter programs. In these programs we cover the history of these special days. Faith in God and the Gospel are woven into each of these programs along with Scripture. Our total number of schools reached is lower than in recent years due to small schools being closed and some have consolidated or changed into middle schools, but many of the students are still being reached.

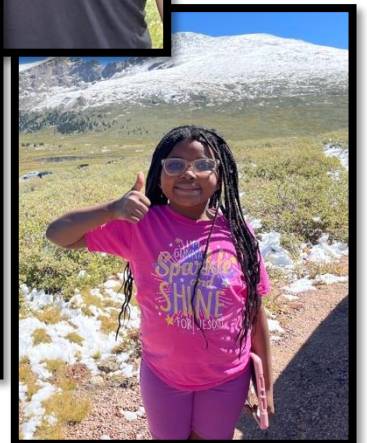
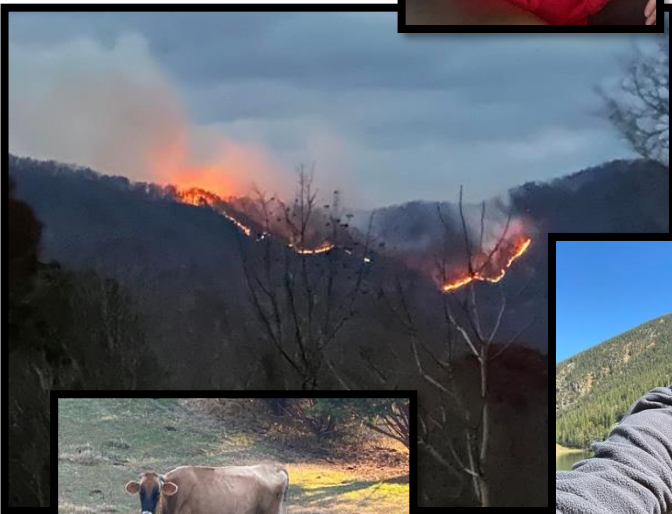
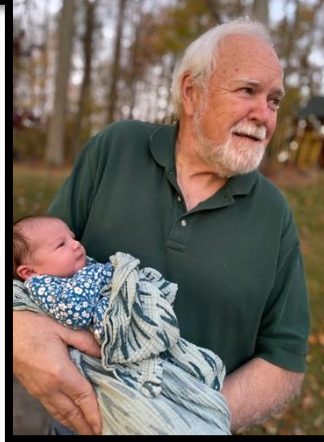
**New school outreaches have opened up this fall in the form of release time classes.** These are Bible classes that are taught off of school campuses during non-instructional times in the school day. **Don has been asked to teach these in two counties.** In Greene County, Children Bible Ministries buses students off the school campus to a nearby church where Don and volunteers are waiting. Don teaches **3 classes each month for Nolachuckey School.** The **Gospel can be freely given, and the students are challenged to trust Christ.** Homework, in the form of review puzzles are given out, and if students complete these, they receive a free trip to Bible Camp (or at least a discount depending on how many weeks they complete their puzzles.) In Cocke County Don has been asked to teach **two weekly classes to 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Grassy Fork Elementary School.** These classes are in conjunction with LifeWise and the Gospel Project. Several volunteers are also there to help out by escorting students from the school to a community center next door. Don also teaches a monthly before school program there to the many of the younger students. All students are required to have parental permission forms signed in order to attend any of these classes.



The summer ministries included our 35<sup>th</sup> year at Smoky Mountain Day Camp in June. Liberty Church is taking over responsibility in directing the camp and is planning to continue the camp in the years ahead. We will continue to work with them. We are thankful for their dedication. We also had four VBS ministries in three counties. This summer we focused on teaching part of the life of the Apostle Paul, the Armor of God, and the life of Amy Carmichael, missionary to India. Then as we entered the fall, we once again began our ministry to the migrant farm workers at the tomato farm camps. We had special help this year through Bible and literature donations in Spanish as well as three Spanish speaking men who spoke to the men and interpreted for me as needed. We are thankful for these men as well as a local farm that allows us to enter two labor camps with these outreaches.

**December Calendar of special events is below so you can pray for us more effectively.**

December 2	Present a Christmas program at the St. James Volunteer Fire Department Christmas dinner
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Sunday School and Worship Service at RidgeCrest Bible Church
5	Before school Christmas program at Grassy Fork Elementary School
6	Release Time Bible Classes for Grassy Fork School
7	Release Time Bible Classes for Nolachuckey School
12	Doak Elementary School Christmas program
14	Christmas program at Nolachuckey Elementary School in A.M. Christmas program at Camp Creek Elementary School in P.M
January Every Wed .	Release time classes at Grassy Fork Elementary School 1:00-3:00
18	Release time classes at Nolachuckey Elementary School 8:45-11:15
<b>Don &amp; Carol Adams. 327 Pony Trail Greeneville, Tn 37743. Home:423-639-0319, cell: 423-620-1421 Be One Together. PO Box 112, Hiram, GA 30141. 770-489-6834</b>	



## Family News

The Lord has blessed our family as we passed through 2023, and He has been faithful to us, but it has not been without some challenges. For the past couple of years Carol has had an increasing amount of pain in her right hand and a large knot came up at the base of her thumb. The **orthopedic hand specialist recommended surgery** to remove a bone in a worn-out joint, repair carpal tunnel, and shave off some arthritis in the area. She had surgery in May but was not able to do much with the hand for about 3 months. This limited what she could do at VBS and camp, but **she is now doing very well but still recovering strength slowly**. The Lord enabled her to recover well and we really appreciate the many prayers! Then in September she became **dehydrated and blood pressure fell really low**. We thought she was having a stroke so she ended up spending the night in ER. They couldn't find a reason for it, but it's not happened again. We are thankful for that but she's drinking a lot more water.

We thank the Lord that **Don has had good health this past year** and recently received a very encouraging report from his cardiologist. A recent echocardiogram shows that Don's heart has gotten stronger since his 5 bypasses three years ago. His doctor said that the top number for a healthy strong heart is 65%. After his surgery, Don's heart was working at 34-40%, but it is now up to 55% which is **in the low normal range!** His joint surgeries are all doing well also. God is so good!

In other family news, Karen and John's family were able to stay in Maryland instead of moving to California. The Air Force decided that it would be too much of a medical hardship for Khylei for them to move because it would be months before she could get the help she needs. What a blessing! The decision came after their belongings had already been sent to California, so that gave them a great opportunity to repaint the inside of their house! **So nice they are close enough to come home for Thanksgiving and Christmas!**

On **November 2** we were blessed with an addition to the family. **Lillie Jane Adams was born to Nick and Allie**. She is healthy and strong and mother and baby are both doing well. Big brother Wesley and sister Adeline spent 5 days with us while Mom and Dad were adjusting to this precious little girl. Adeline continues to have 3 types of therapy every week for her "floppy baby syndrome". She has improved so much! She can walk very well, run some, and is beginning to talk now. She still has a long way to go and we know Nick and Allie would appreciate your prayers for her.



The day after we took the kids home, a **forest fire broke out on the mountain behind our house** because it was extremely dry. Over 500 acres burned, and it came within ¼ mile from our house. If the wind had blown the way it usually does our home would have been in great danger, but God was merciful and kept the wind from blowing when fronts came through! The **fire burned for 10 days but God protected us** and our neighbors. What a Mighty God we serve!

Kristi, Adrian, and their girls are doing well. **Hard to believe Emily is in high school and Lauren is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade!** They stay extremely busy with home school and we were blessed for them to visit with us during their fall break. Kristi's family lives only a few minutes away from Nicks. This has given them a lot of chances to babysit!

As we said, God has been so good to us this year. We are so thankful for new ways to serve that have opened up recently and for YOUR part in our ministry! Thank you also very much for your faithful prayers and gifts! We pray God blesses each of you in 2024 and that you have a Blessed Christmas!

Love in Christ,  
Don and Carol Adams