

Bible Drill competitor overcomes obstacles

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AUSTIN—As the last person to compete at the Austin Bible Drill regional competition, Regan Brown was ready, just like she had practiced so many times, with her sister on one side, a close friend on the other and a wide selection of Bible knowledge in her heart.

But 30-plus people didn't gather to watch someone practice [Bible Drill](#). They came to watch someone overcome hurdles, as Regan heard the first call and began frantically flipping through the pages of her Bible.



In spite of limitations due to cerebral palsy, Regan Brown (center) competed in Bible Drill competition, with the support of Terri McGee (left), Bible Drill leader at First Baptist Church in Hallettsville, and her mother, Christine Brown. (PHOTO/John Hall/Texas Baptist Communications)

Several things set Regan apart from others in the competition. Those who know her well reference her smile that lights up a room, her ability to encourage others and her unwavering determination to do what she wants

to do—the same determination that made her one of the first physically handicapped participants in regional Bible Drill competition.

Regan, who has Grade 2 cerebral palsy, began participating in Bible Drill last fall after seeing it in the worship bulletin at [First Baptist Church in Hallettsville](#). Taking the challenge fully, she practiced with her mother, Christine, sister, Rebecca, Bible Drill leader Terri McGee and McGee's son, Trevor. She practiced in her room, in the car and during weekly practice times. The practice time even rubbed off on her mother.

"I learned so much at Bible Drill coming every week with them to practice and sitting through practice and helping Mrs. McGee when she needed it," Christine Brown said. "I absolutely cherish everything I learned from it as much or more than the girls do. I just think you should know what the Bible has to say. You should know your Scripture."

Regan quickly took to memorizing Scripture. She and her sister learned a song to help them remember the books of the Bible.

While memorizing came easily, finding a selected Scripture passage in the eight-second time limit proved challenging. Dickie Dunn, discipleship specialist with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, granted Terri McGee permission to expand the allotted time to 30 seconds for Regan. Typically, she was able to find the passage in 20 seconds, and sometimes she did it in less than the standard eight seconds.

"I knew where it was, but I needed more time to find it," she explained.

As Regan practiced drilling, her mother and her Bible Drill leader discussed the passages with her. They delved into what each section meant and how it fit into the Bible.

One night, as they focused on Matthew 7:21, Regan started asking questions. One question led to another, which led to another. Her mother

and her Bible drill leader answered Regan's questions—particularly about salvation—by going to various Bible verses for more than two hours.

"Later that night, it just happened," she said, recalling her conversion experience. "Ever since then, I've been praying a lot, reading my Bible almost every single day."

Regan dreams of becoming a special education teacher so she can give hope to young people with disabilities.

"Regan is our shining star," Terri McGee said. "When Regan comes into a room, she lights it up. She has a smile that is infectious and a heart that is hungry and this incredible passion to accomplish everything."

She's already achieved one major goal by competing in Bible Drill. After stumbling a bit initially in the regional competition, Regan found her stride. She earned a "superior" rating—and a standing ovation from those who watched her drill.

"In all my 30 plus years of being involved with Bible Drill, I have never seen anyone—with special needs or not—as excited about Bible Drill as Regan," Dunn said. "This experience has made a great difference in her life and in the lives of those who have had the privilege of knowing her."

The practice and competition were fun, Regan said. They brought her closer to God by bringing her into God's word and calling her to a relationship with him, she added.

"It doesn't matter if you're disabled or not," Regan said. "God made you just the way you are. You should do Bible Drill just because you want to, not because of the competitions or because you get awards at the end. You should do it just because God would want you to."