



IHS CONTINUES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Brian Griffin (S.P.A.S.E. student graduate) and mother Mrs. Sandra Wilder

Brian is one of the first generation of kids from the S.P.A.S.E. Program, starting with In His Steps at seven years old. Recently an interview was conducted with Brian to see how IHS was instrumental in impacting his life. Brian explained that he was a “bad kid,” that he had a “terrible attitude” and didn’t want to listen to anybody. He also stated he didn’t really try in school until his eleventh grade year but **through the encouragement and dedication of Rev. Jasper and Carolyn**

Bacon, he decided to make a major change in his life. Brian knew that if he didn’t change, his behavior would lead him to a life of destruction.

When asked what motivated him to do better, Brian referred to two main factors. First, the many folks who were backing him and his favorite bible verse, **Philippians 4:13, which states, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”** Although Brian didn’t get a chance to walk with his graduating class, he still obtained his high school diploma from Canton High School; he refused to settle for a GED. He felt that was taking the easy way out. **Brian will be attending Holmes Community College in the fall and will be majoring in welding.**

The advice that Brain would give to the children that are currently in the S.P.A.S.E. Program is, **“In everything you do, put God first. Never give up. It is so easy to give up but it takes a real fighter to keep going. Keep a positive attitude, listen, and be obedient.”**

Mrs. Sandra Wilder, Brian’s mother stated that the Bacons were very patient with Brian and that she thanks God for them. She also stated that because of their dedication, she wants to help IHS whenever she is called on. **Mrs. Wilder has been Brian’s biggest cheerleader and motivator throughout the years. Mrs. Wilder is quoted saying, “Even when Brian didn’t graduate with his senior class, I knew God would help my son get his diploma.”**

ADDITIONAL GRADUATES

Montravious Reed, IHS S.P.A.S.E. graduate received his associate’s degree from Hinds Community College in May. He plans to attend Tougaloo College in Jackson, MS this fall.

Connell Moore, a participant in the IHS Sports Ministry, graduated from Canton High School in May. He plans to attend Lincoln Tech in Nashville, Tennessee this fall.

Pray for our graduates as they pursue their goals.

Breanna started with the IHS S.P.A.S.E. Program in the first grade. **She is also one of the first generation of kids from the S.P.A.S.E. Program.** In addition, she has participated in various other IHS ministries, including ACT Prep courses and the Get-2-College program. **When asked how IHS helped her draw closer to Christ, she explained that IHS made bible devotions fun and challenging and used activities to pull her closer to Christ.**



Breanna Horn (right) and mom Mrs. Cheryl Horn

Breanna graduated 3rd in her class from Canton High School this year. She will begin college this summer at Jackson State University. Her majors will be Physics and English. **Breanna plans to become a Mechanical Engineer or Mathematics teacher because she likes math.**

As she started to get older, she understood why IHS wanted them to learn scripture. She stated that, *“when you are going through something, you can go to scripture.”* Breanna put emphasis on how IHS made learning about Christ fun!

When asked **what advice she would give to the children that are currently in the S.P.A.S.E. Program,** she stated, *“I would tell them to really listen to what they had to say. Put God first, pray, and ask questions about what you don’t understand about the Bible. IHS will help you understand what you don’t know and motivate you to make it to where you want to be.”* Her last bit of advice, *“don’t ever give up.”*

Mrs. Cheryl Horn, Breanna’s mother, is very good friend with the Bacons and is so delighted to have had her daughter participate in the IHS ministries. Mrs. Cheryl Horn was asked from a parent’s point of view, **how IHS had helped Breanna throughout the years. She stated that IHS helped Breanna spiritually and helped to build her self-esteem. IHS has helped her to become more respectable and determined young lady, to pursue after her dreams.** IHS also gave Breanna a chance to get out and meet other people. She has met a lot of people from different ethnic backgrounds and this has helped her to become more culturally diverse.

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER: “Looks back and thank God. Look forward and trust God. He closes doors no man can open and He opens doors no man can close.”

“Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it..”
(1 Thessalonians 5:24)

FOOTBALL CAMP

IHS football camp was conducted on June 8-9, 2016. Canton High School head football coach and Athletic Director, Darryl Jones coordinated the camp this year. The youth were taught offensive and defensive techniques, but the most important lesson that they learned was about Jesus Christ. Coach Jones expressed to the boys his love for football but he also shared with them how he has an even greater love for Jesus.



Coach Darryl Jones (upper left) and Rev. Jasper Bacon (lower right) conduct Bible devotion

Coach Jones challenged the boys to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior and to develop a personal relationship with Him. He used a parable (*Matthew 20:1-16*) to get the boys to understand that it doesn't matter if a person has been saved for several years or saved for five minutes; the reward will still be the same if Jesus came back within those five minutes. It is always a pleasure to work with those who share a common interest in empowering our youth through Jesus Christ as this is our greatest mission.

The youth really enjoyed themselves. Our hope is that something we did or said impacted them in such a way that they will want to draw closer to Christ.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT STARTS

The Summer Enrichment Program began on June 6, 2016, with eager young minds and hearts willing to learn about Jesus Christ and Language Arts.



Gabrielle Holmes, Summer Enrichment Coordinator, giving instructions to students

Mrs. Gabrielle Holmes is the coordinator and lead teacher for the program. She also serves as the mentor for the Education interns, *Khrysten Glass* (*Mississippi College*) and *Jasmine Thompson* (*Alcorn State University*). Mrs. Holmes stated that the overall goal of the Language Arts session of the IHS Summer Enrichment program is to expose the students to more informational text by demonstrating the writing process.



Grace Community Church Access Mission Team instructing the students in the art of photography

During the enrichment portion of the program, students have been taught leadership skills, photography, and music lessons.

In addition, *Drake Terry*, 2016 Mississippi College graduate, led daily bible devotions and other enrichment activities for the children. The students were taught physical fitness by Sports Ministry intern, *Lamar Scott* (*Alcorn University*), this helped the children to interact with one another and work together as a team. We are looking forward to the second session of the program in July.



Khrysten Glass (IHS summer intern, left) looks on as Drake Terry (IHS intern) conducts morning devotion

PRAYER REQUESTS

"Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him According to His excellent greatness...Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." (Psalm 150:2,6)

PRAISE AND THANK GOD for the Vision and Provision for In His Steps. **PRAISE GOD** for the youth and families who have learned about and experienced the love of Jesus Christ through IHS. **PRAISE GOD** for the expansion of Christ Kingdom through IHS. **PRAISE THE LORD!**

FINANCIAL NEEDS!

Financial gifts are needed for summer budget including salary for teacher, educational interns, enrichment coordinator, sports intern, and marketing intern. A total of \$12,140 is needed. A gift of \$5,000 came in the mail today. **PRAISE GOD! A total of \$7, 140 yet needed.**

PAVILION HIGHLIGHTS

The pavilion is 90% complete, the plumbing and electrical are the only major items to be finished. The projected completion date is **July 31, 2016**. We have recently received two special donations towards the balance of the pavilion. A \$12,500 donation was given by a *Wheaton, IL based Christian Foundation* and a \$10,000 gift given by *Miskelly's Furniture, Jackson, MS*. An additional amount of \$153,910 is needed to payoff the pavilion bank loan.



UPDATE ON OPEN AIR PAVILION

\$470,780 - GOAL
\$153,910 - BALANCE



← **\$316,870 - DONATIONS**

2016 SPECIAL GIFTS

- * \$9,300 Gift - April
- * \$12,500 Gift - May
- * 10,000 Gift - June