



## *Brothers and Sisters,*

Ministry is always a team effort. Thank you for your continued partnership with In His Steps. I echo the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:3-5, "...I thank my God, ...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

This was an exceptional year. God used In His Steps to reach and serve approximately 190 youth weekly as well as parents who received encouragement, counseling and training. Please pray for greater impact of IHS ministries in surrounding communities, among local athletes and incarcerated youth.

Don't forget that Jesus is the reason for all we do. May He be exalted now and forever. God's richest blessings on you and your family this Christmas Season.

*Jasper*

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...Prince of Peace." Is. 9:6*

## **THANKSGIVING**

- ◆ Praise God for the four boys who received Christ on Nov. 20th at an area youth detention center.
- ◆ Praise God for His continued faithfulness.

*"...Houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied." Deut. 6:11*

## **PRAY FOR IHS**

- ◆ Pray for greater impact of IHS ministries in surrounding neighborhoods and among the youth and parents we serve.
- ◆ Pray for IHS students, their accepting Jesus and being fully surrendered to Him.
- ◆ Pray for God's wisdom, guidance and protection for IHS board, staff and volunteers,
- ◆ Pray for greater joint ministry efforts of the body of Christ across racial and denominational lines.
- ◆ Pray for God's provision for Christin Howard's salary.

*"Focus on being a blessing and then God will bless you beyond measure."*

## **Building a Foundations for our Children**



*Jasmine Thompson, Saturday morning Reading Program Instructor, with IHS students*

In today's society, too often our youth are ill prepared to successfully face the many challenges of adolescence and adulthood. This lack of preparation many times create helpless adults with lowered expectations merely to exist.

**Yet, it is In His Steps desire to prepare our children and youth to become successful adults. One such program that helps achieve this goal is the S.P.A.S.E. Reading Program, coordinated by Jasmine Thompson.** Under her leadership, the Saturday morning reading program assist 2nd and 3rd grade students with reading fluency, comprehension, phonetics, and writing skills. Please continue to pray and support IHS efforts to lay a proper foundation.

**"O COME Let Us Adore Him CHRIST THE LORD"**

## **What Others Are Saying About IHS**

"After 8 years of being at In His Steps, they have helped me really focus on my work and how to just never give up. When I first came, I didn't really know much about God, but now I know a lot and I've seen my life change because of it.

-Ja' Kobe Walker  
*(15 Year Old) IHS S.P.A.S.E. Student*

"When I was younger I was being bullied and In His Steps helped me a lot through that, learning how to be a lady, and just helping me be the person I am today. It has been good to get closer to the Lord while learning more about who He is since coming here."

-Kayla Garner  
*(15 Year Old) IHS S.P.A.S.E. Student*

"I just want to thank In His Steps for how they've been there for me, pushing me to be great, even when I didn't see greatness in me, they saw that I could be better than what I was in the past."

-Brian Griffin  
*IHS College Graduate*

"Kingdom work is what IHS is all about! Impacting, educating, and speaking into the lives of kids at an age that they can realize their own identity in Christ is a charge that is challenging yet so rewarding."

-Jeff Taylor  
*IHS Chairman of Board*

"I have supported and encouraged the work of Jasper and Carolyn Bacon over the last 24 years. God is truly using In His Steps Ministries to make a difference in the lives of many. Anybody can talk about the problems facing our community but I know that Jasper and Carolyn are committed through In His Steps to make a difference."

-Dr. Dolphus Weary  
*R.E.A.L. Christian Foundation*

"There are so many kids here that are just so down on themselves, they don't think they can do better or they don't trust that people legitimately want to help them succeed. So when you find someone who really wants to help them in their own community like Rev. Bacon, it's amazing to have."

-Sandy Wood  
*Yazoo County Juvenile Detention Center Director*

## MEET NEW SPORTS MINISTRY DIRECTOR



Christin Howard (back row) with Canton High School Football



Christin Howard Sports Ministry Director



Christin giving instructions at summer basketball camp

*IHS seeks to use sports and recreational ministry as a means of building relationships in order to evangelize and disciple youth, leading to transformed lives. (Matt. 18-20; II Tim. 2:2)*

On July 30, 2018, In His Steps welcomed our new, full-time Sports Ministry Director, Christin Howard! We are so grateful for his commitment and work in this ministry as we have seen the Lord work through him!

Christin graduated from Mississippi College with a Bachelor's in Kinesiology, having played basketball for a Division II school for the four years he was in attendance. He first made contact with Rev. Jasper Bacon during a visit to the IHS Campus after tagging along with his roommate who was working for IHS at the time. When the position opened months later, Christin was offered a position to begin working part-time within sports ministry for IHS.

In July, IHS offered Christin a full-time position as the Sports Ministry Director. It was a decision that was clear for Christin and for IHS. *"The biggest reason I chose to stay on full-time was because of the people. When I walked through the*

*doors, Rev. and Mrs. Bacon welcomed me in and embraced me, as if to say 'What took you so long, you're home'. I've seen how the Lord wants to use me here and I am excited to be here. I feel loved."*

Christin works through sports to provide opportunities to build relationships with the youth of Canton at local schools and in the neighborhoods. *"My job is to find new ways to engage with the kids through sports. The starting point is sports, but ultimately my goal is to see these kids understand their need for a Savior and accept Christ into their lives,"* Christin explains. In his time here, he has helped lead multiple sports camps, devotionals, and events as a means of sharing the gospel.

In His Steps is proud to have Christin working alongside us. Please pray for continued wisdom, success and financial provisions for Christin in his new role as sports ministry director.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS & PROJECTIONS

1. Served over 190 youth weekly through various ministries.
2. Gospel presented to incarcerated youth in Hinds, Yazoo and Rankin County.
3. Four youth accepted Christ at area detention center on Nov. 21, 2018. Praise God!
4. Provide expanded outreach in Hispanic and two other neighboring communities,
5. Provide yearlong and summer enrichment programs for IHS youth (tutorial, computer programming and coding, reading, sports and adult readiness).
6. Basketball pavilion payoff (\$491,010) on June 2018.

## "TRUSTING GOD FOR"

- ⇒ Remaining salary for **new sports ministry director**, Christin Howard. (\$18,000 yet needed.)
- ⇒ Monthly **sponsorships** (\$25, \$50, \$100 or as the Lord leads) for IHS S.P.A.S.E. students.
- ⇒ Contributions for **general operational expenses**.
- ⇒ Contributions toward projected **construction of cabins/dormitory**.

## NEXT PHASE OF CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

Over the last 24 years, God has proven His faithfulness over and over through both the effectiveness of In His Steps ministries including the miraculous acquisition of the 15.3 acre campus, construction of the 7,800 sq. ft. multipurpose building, sports complex (baseball, football and soccer field with irrigation) and recent construction of open air basketball pavilion.

Thanks to God's provision through the generosity of IHS friends and supporters, IHS campus and facilities with over \$2,000,000 of origin cost are debt free, including the pavilion payoff of \$491,010 in June 2018.

As God continue to grow In His Steps, **the next phase of campus development an addition of cabins/dormitory. With such an addition IHS will expand its scope of ministry to extended week-end and summer camps for children and you of Canton** and surrounding communities. Pray for us as we enter into this phase of campus development.