

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

In His Steps Ministries, Inc.

Newsletter December 2019



Jasper and Carolyn Bacon
MERRY CHRISTMAS

PERSONAL NOTE

Brothers and Sisters,

The past 25 years have been nothing less than miraculous. Carolyn and I have witnessed blessings beyond our imagination. The only explanation is "God Did It". He unfolded His plan over the last 25 years. Part of that plan was friends like you who have prayed, served and given. Because of your ongoing support, we have seen thousands of youth and adults impacted through IHS outreach ministries. Many have received the gospel and are walking in their God-given purpose.

At the same time, we are thankful for all the trials and obstacles that God has used to strengthen us and to fulfill His plan and purposes (James 1:2-4; Romans 8:28). Thank God that He sustained us and helped us remain faithful to His calling over the years.

Rejoice with us for what God has accomplished. Yet, it's not over. There are still many to be reached with the gospel. God is positioning IHS for

greater service for Him. He has assured us that "He will be with us and will provide for His work." We ask you to renew your commitment to God's work at IHS. More importantly, pray for the development and payoff of the recently acquired IHS Christian Campground and Training Center; pray for the growth of existing IHS ministries; pray for God's financial provisions for three new staff members and payoff of projected camp site.

As we look back, we are grateful for God allowing us to have a small part in this ministry. As we look forward, we trust that His will be fulfilled in the next phase of IHS.

God's richest blessings on you this Christmas Season and thank you for being faithful partners.

Jasper and Carolyn

THE BACONS' MOTIVATION THROUGH THE YEARS

- ⇒ **For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJ)**
- ⇒ **Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Philippians 3:12 (NIV)**
- ⇒ **Motivation drives toward success; Jesus is that motivation.**
- ⇒ **God never said the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worth it.**
- ⇒ **Journey is not merely a journey for the feet, but it a journey for the heart. (Anonymous)**
- ⇒ **His Lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' (Matthew 25:21)**

VALUABLE LESSONS GOD HAS TAUGHT THE BACONS

- ◆ **"God's past faithfulness assures us of His future faithfulness."** Scriptures shows us time and time again that God's promises are not only good, but they are kept and fulfilled by Him every time. Hebrews 13:8 tells us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.
- ◆ **"God's timing is best."** The last 25 years of ministry has been a lesson in learning not to be anxious when things don't happen when and how we want them to. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, "He has made everything beautiful in it's time."
- ◆ **"When God calls He doesn't give all the details up front."** In Genesis 12, we see the Lord telling Abraham, "Leave your country, your kindred, and your Father's household and go to a land I will show you." Much like Abraham had to walk in faith without all the details, the Bacons have learned the necessity of trusting God and listening daily for the details.
- ◆ **"God does extraordinary things through ordinary people."** Corinthians 1:26-29 and Acts 4:13 tells us that God uses individuals who are less likely to take credit for His work, that is those who are ordinary yet who make themselves available to Him who is able to do the impossible. The Bacons have learned God is not looking for those with great ability but those with greater availability.

THE BACONS RESPOND TO GOD

"O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore. Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth." Ps. 105:1-5



IN HIS STEPS
25th Year
CELEBRATION DINNER

On Thursday, December 5th, In His Steps held the annual Vision Dinner to celebrate the past 25 years of ministry and look to our next steps as the Lord continues to grow IHS! Several out of state and local supporters came, with over 275 guests to celebrate this momentous occasion. At the dinner several people spoke such as Dr. Dolphus Weary, founder of the R.E.A.L. Christian Foundation from Richland, MS, and Mr. Michael Engelbrecht, an In His Steps board member from Irvine, CA.

We commemorated the past 25 years with a video of In His Steps' history, and we looked to the future with a viewing of the new property acquired for In His Steps' Christian Camp and Training Center and a recital performed by our newest

S.P.A.S.E. students. The night also honored the Charles Strobeck family and Reverend Jerry Clark, a retiring board member after 24 years of service. At the end of the night Reverend and Mrs. Bacon concluded with Hebrews 13:8, *"Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever,"* and one thing was evident above all else: **God did it.** The Bacons shared their heartfelt conviction that God is unchanging, and He will continue to show faithfulness as we seek His will. Many people came with a heart to support In His Steps. **An IHS friend pledged \$100,000 as a matching gift that night toward the payoff of the new IHS Campground and construction of 3 new cabins.** We look forward to how God will use that to raise the funds necessary for the ministry!

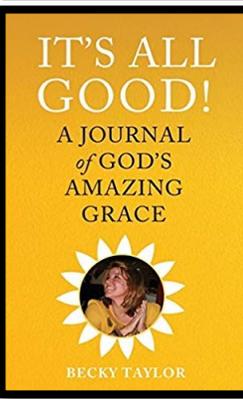
PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for His faithfulness over the last 25 years.
- Pray for the **GROWTH** of existing IHS ministries.
- Pray for the **DEVELOPMENT** of IHS Christian Campground and Training Center.
- Pray for God's financial

- PROVISIONS** for three new staff members, camp site development, operational expenses and sponsorship of S.P.A.S.E. students.
- Pray for God's **SUSTAINING** grace and His continued guidance, wisdom and protection of IHS board, staff, students and volunteers.

GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, December 3rd was Giving Tuesday, a global event that encourages people to give back to local, national, and global nonprofits at the start of the holiday season. This year was the first year In His Steps participated in Giving Tuesday, and the goal amount this year was \$1,385, the full-year sponsorship amount for one of our children in the SPASE program. Through the giving campaign, In His Steps was able to raise a total of \$1,265 in one day! Some of the people who gave were longtime supporters of In His Steps, but several were first time givers as well. We look forward to next year and how God will use this campaign to bring more people to know and support In His Steps!



Becky Taylor, Gone But Still Giving

A long time supporter and friend of In His Steps, Becky Taylor passed away in 2015 at the age of 50 after a 5 year battle with brain cancer. Jeff Taylor, her husband said, "Becky had a special place in her heart for kids who

grew up in fatherless homes because her father was seldom around or engaged in their activities during her childhood. She knew what it was like to want to find Hope when circumstances made it hard to do so. Becky believed in the mission of IHS and instilled it into her own life and her kids." The Lord worked in amazing ways through Becky, which is evident through her journal published after her death "It's All Good!" **The proceeds of this book will be graciously given by the Taylor family to In His Steps, and can be purchased on Amazon.com.** This book proves to be a blessing to all who read it, as Becky Taylor reveals her own struggles with cancer and daily life and how God provided joy through it all!

"By Faith God Continues to Provide"

TOTAL GIVEN TOWARD IHS CHRISTIAN CAMPGROUND PAYOFF AND 3 CABINS:

Property Payoff:	\$335,000
3 Cabins:	\$168,000
Donations to Date	<u>-\$10,715</u>
	\$492,285
Pledge/Matching Gift	<u>-\$100,000</u>
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED	\$392,285