

TRACING HIS STEPS

AN UPDATE FROM IN HIS STEPS MINISTRIES



Local educator, Christi Collins, leads students in math enrichment activities



Anniyah Jones, Juantarious Green, and McKenzie Calendar enjoy snack time

Students Thrive in the Summer Enrichment Program

Local students have returned to In His Steps for the Summer Enrichment Program. The program developed by Mrs. Carolyn Bacon and Mrs. Gabrielle Holmes, exists to solidify skills students worked on in the previous academic year while introducing them to some of the skills they will need in the coming year. **The aim is to support area students by providing learning opportunities they would otherwise be unable to access.** The Summer Enrichment Program consists of two sessions, one in June, focused on language arts, and another in July, that will focus on math.

The first session of Summer Enrichment has been a success, with 35 students enrolled and around 30 attending each day. Each weekday, students arrived at 8:00 a.m. The morning began with a devotion led by one of the teachers, interns, or volunteers. The students were given the chance to ask questions and to pray, which centered them around the Gospel.

Ministering with Grace Community Church

Grace Community Church from Indiana has been sending mission groups to In His Steps for over 15 years. The long-standing partnership give church members the opportunity to use their unique gifts in ways that benefit IHS and the Canton Community. Throughout the week, members of the team lead Vacation Bible School at a local park and daycare, worked in the garden at IHS, and taught summer enrichment students to build and play cajons. About 45 children attended the VBS activities each day, and even more were impacted through group's other services.

"We are just so grateful to be here," said Dave Quigley, the group's leader. He recognized that the students on his team were benefiting as well. **The topic of racial reconciliation was discussed and taught through devotions and discussions, and the students had the chance to live out those principles by serving people who were different from them.**

Overall, the week was a picture of the power that exists when the body of Christ works as one. "We want this to be about the body of Christ coming together, regardless of our differences," said Rev. Bacon. | |

The next couple of hours focused in on academics. Mrs. Holmes directs the program, with Khyrsten Glass and Jasmine Thompson teaching as well. After morning lessons, the students participated in enrichment activities, which were led by volunteers from the community. So far this summer, students have made slime, crafted marshmallow launchers, created self-portraits with scrapbook paper, and more.

The program has been impactful to the children who participate by doing just what the name suggests: enriching their lives. "We just try to, as best as possible, help the kids where they are," says Mrs. Bacon. The students thrive in an academic environment that is safe and supportive, and they come back summer after summer to continue growing. | |



Students from Grace Community serving children at Rogers Park

Fun at Football Camp

On June 6-8, In His Steps' football camp gave a group of middle schoolers the chance to learn about the fundamentals of football and the fundamentals of faith in Christ. Each day began with drills and games led by coaches from the Canton School District. After a time of activity and competition, the students took a break to hear a devotion. **Throughout the week, student heard about God's love and learned the importance of hard work and teamwork.** Jermaine Bryant, who is on the coaching staff at Canton High School, said the camp "is not so much about football as it is about growing the person."

Though spiritual growth was the number one priority, the participants were also able to enhance their football skills. The Canton School District coaches that led the camp brought knowledge and passion with them so the students were able to receive quality training. Students were also able to get to know men who may become coaches, role models, and mentors in their lives. Camp ended on Thursday, June 8 with a scrimmage championship so the students could use the skills they gained throughout the week.

Programs like football camp create an environment in which students can grow physically, mentally, and spiritually. The coaches have seen more and more involvement throughout the years, and students continue to learn and grow. As Coach Bryant said, "If we all can take time to inspire a kid to know about God, we will start a small pattern to make this world a better place to live in." ||



Football camp participants celebrate after a scrimmage tournament on the last day of camp



A few football camp participants spend time with teammates they learned with throughout camp



(from left) Montravious Reed, Brian Griffin, Rev. Jasper and Mrs. Carolyn Bacon, Maya Nicholson, and Breanna Horn enjoy breakfast

IHS Student at French Camp

Many of you have been praying for Makayla, an IHS student who has had many struggles recently. By the grace of God, she has been given the opportunity to spend the summer at French Camp. This provides her with a new environment that allows her to have a fresh start.

Funds have been provided to pay not only for her summer program, but also to allow her to begin attending the French Camp Academy boarding school. Her tuition is covered through December 2017. In His Steps has communicated with French Camp Academy, and they report that Makayla is doing well.

Please continue to pray for provision to cover school tuition and other needs. Most importantly, pray for Makayla's well-being and her spiritual growth. ||

IHS College Students Visit

Students from the first wave of S.P.A.S.E. Program visited recently while on summer break. These students have gone on to Jackson State University, the University of Southern Mississippi, Tougaloo College, and Holmes Community College. **In His Steps began ministering to these students when they were in second grade, and over ten years later remains a vital influence in their lives.** "We see the need to continue ministering to them through college," Rev. Bacon says. The Bacons keep up with the students by phone and make visits to their schools. It's a priority for IHS to remain part of their lives and be invested in how they are doing spiritually and academically. ||

SPECIAL FINANCIAL NEEDS

The ongoing challenge we face as a ministry is the need to maintain a high quality of ministry to youth and families in Canton. This means there are constant increases in the operational, staffing and capital needs.

Our expenses are increasing as the ministry grow, and we are in need of financial support to cover the following expenses. Some of IHS needs are listed below. **We praise God for His ongoing provisions for IHS and trust Him for current and immediate needs.**

- **Additional \$12,716 operational money needed through December 2017.**
- **Nine S.P.A.S.E. students need sponsors at:**
 - \$1,385 – Full Year □ \$695 – Half Year
 - \$348 – Quarter Year □ \$116 –Monthly
- **Balance needed for Soccer Camp is \$400.**

IN HIS STEPS MINISTRIES, INC.

P. O. BOX 827, CANTON, MS 39046 | 601.859.5708 | WWW.INHISSTEPS.ORG