

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

In His Steps Ministries, Inc.

Newsletter February 2019

Saying YES to Salvation

While growing up in Mississippi (south of Pickens), Jasper was fortunate to grow up in a God fearing home where church attendance was strongly enforced. Yet, "works-centered religion" was emphasized more than "grace-centered salvation." But God, graciously and sovereignly arranged for him to attend a bible study in September 1976, where Rev. Joel Hayes presented the gospel and Jasper responded to the gospel message. **Accepting Jesus as personal Savior and Lord was the foundation to everything else that has happened in Jasper's life.**

Saying YES to God's Call to start In His Steps

In His Steps was started in 1994 by Rev. Jasper and Carolyn Bacon in Canton, MS, a place where both grew up and a place where they had a heart to minister. The Lord called the Bacons to leave pastoral ministry after 8½ years and to start In His Steps Ministries. **From the very beginning IHS has been devoted to impacting youth and their families with the gospel of Jesus Christ.** Another objective of IHS is fostering Christian community development and promoting racial reconciliation within the body of Christ.

Saying YES to Preparation for Ministry

As Jasper looks back at the early years including years prior to In His Steps, it is clear that **God was working through some amazing events that would prepare him for his call to full-time work with In His Steps.**

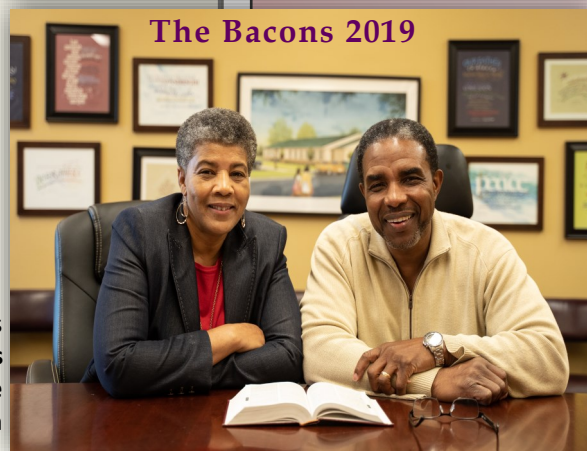
Through the counsel and advice of Rev. Joel Hayes and Dr. Ben Johnson (Former Professor, Moody Bible Institute), **God directed Jasper to Wheaton College.** The formal education and numerous mentoring opportunities at Wheaton provided him with the necessary biblical foundation for ministry and an in-depth understanding of and conviction for evangelism and discipleship. Serving in pastoral work between 1985-1994, God continued to provide direction and vision for the birth and start of In His Steps Ministries.

FIRST BOARD CHAIRMAN

Jerry Clark, "I was the first chairman of In His Steps Ministries board and former pastor of Riverwood Bible Church (First Support Church for IHS). From the beginning, I have been committed to and impressed by the vision the Lord gave Jasper and Carolyn. I've been very much encouraged by each success story of at-risk youth being reached and impacted. These have been a testament of God's faithfulness. It was God's hand on Jasper from the inception of In His Steps. It has been a delight for me and Riverwood Bible to be involved with this ministry that is impacting at-risk youth and families in the community."



The Bacon Family
Early Years



The Bacons 2019

"God gave us visionary faith to believe Him for a ministry that would reach and impact the folks of Canton." Genesis 12:1

FIRST SUPPORTERS

Janet Strobeck, "We met Jasper in Sunday School at College Church in Wheaton, IL in 1979. He and my husband (Charles Strobeck) just hit it off. After meeting Jasper, we have been so blessed by his ministry and felt called by the Lord to support and encourage him through his vision. Thank the Lord for the people who have come to know the Lord through these efforts. For over 35 years, we have prayed daily and still do for what the Lord is doing through IHS and we have seen the Lord answer so many of those prayers!"

FIRST BOOKKEEPER

Lafon Burrow, "In 1994, my husband and I heard about Jasper and Carolyn and their vision for In His Steps Ministries. It was so clear to me that Jasper had not dreamed up this ministry, God had ordained it and shaped it and this was the type of ministry I wanted to be involved with. God put it on my heart to respond to their need for a bookkeeper. For the first couple of years, I helped fulfill this need. One of the most powerful things was watching God shape, reshape and reshape and sending people to answer the calling."



Over 30 Families were impacted through the IHS 2018 Compassion Store

Leviticus 19:9-10 says, "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God."

God's plan was to have all peoples provided for, however we are often unable to see this. Yet, God has a heart for the hurting which we can see throughout scripture. In Leviticus 19:9-10, the act of allowing for others to share in the abundance of blessing one has received is providing a glimpse of the goodness of God. Moments of giving to the needy is a depiction of God's heart.

As the Lord led Carolyn to expand the In His Steps Compassionate Services, thus the Compassion Store was born with the help of local church partners. The main idea behind the Compassion Store is giving assistance to families without eroding or taking away their responsibility, dignity and self worth. Through the Compassion Store concept, parents purchase gifts at super reduced discount prices and therefore are empowered to provide for their family (Leviticus 19:9-10). In His Steps desire is to always empower the parents to fulfil their role. Pray that IHS will have a greater impact in the lives of families through its various ministries.

"We recently lost everything from a fire. We never experienced anyone who helped us like In His Steps before. My son (8 years old) was overjoyed at the gifts that he received after having attended the IHS Saturday Reading Program. Through the parent training, Rev. and Mrs. Bacon prayed for the families and encouraged them from the bible. IHS also influenced mothers and single parents in a positive and spiritual way. They play a part in supporting, encouraging and motivating so many people in tough times."

Lakeisha Blackman (Parent)

"Knowing that someone cares enough to encourage and be intentional means a lot. This Compassion Store provides a positive impact to those families who are making very little. It's moving to see the Word spread through the community. IHS is a light in a dark place for those with no access to God. It is uplifting to know that someone cares enough to help in hard times and bring hope and love through the Compassion Store."

Korea Davis (Parent)

"I heard about IHS through my life-group at Broadmoor Baptist Church and we loved how they set up the compassion store. They are not just giving handouts, but they are retaining much of the pride and dignity of those who come to IHS along with showing God's love through the store. This store gives us confidence in how IHS is run biblically and relationally while empowering the lives of families. Seeing the community come together the way it should be is amazing."

Nancy Arcemont

(Member of Broadmoor Baptist Church)

"Jasper's and Carolyn's influence is widespread and goes beyond Canton, MS and these underprivileged areas. The Compassion Store was the first time I've ever seen something like this take place and I saw how the families were blessed in receiving the gifts. You can't explain the joy that a family shows when they are down and someone offers the means to provide their family joy for Christmas. I was able to be a part of wrapping gifts the night that the parents came to get them. We love to be a part of IHS and all that they do because we know the Lord is going to be in it"

Patricia Sanders

(Member of Fellowship Bible Church)



Mississippi Community College Board



First United Methodist - Canton



Madison Heights



Fellowship Bible

Broadmoor Baptist

The beauty of partnerships! In His Steps has been blessed to have a number of partners who assist with the work of ministry. The scripture clearly states that "We are the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:4) and God's fellow workers to accomplish His will. (I Corinthians 3:9). Through working together God is being glorified among families in Canton.