

# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

In His Steps Ministries, Inc.

Newsletter MARCH 2019

## “BLESSINGS OFTEN COME DRESSED UP AS DETOURS AND ROADBLOCKS”

**DIVINE DETOURS:** Those sudden changes in direction or plans that God allows and we do not initiate.

**DIVINE DETOURS:** Those times when God messes up our plans so His will can be done.

### “GOD’S DETOUR IS WHY IN HIS STEPS EXIST”

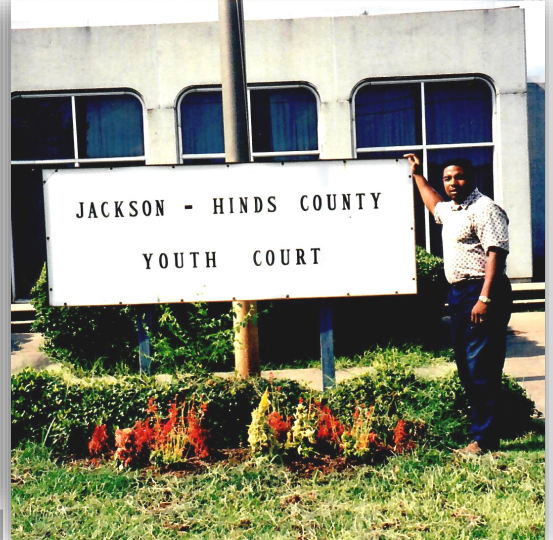
In 1994 God’s sovereign plan was brought to the forefront after Jasper Bacon had served 8½ years with a local church, **God redirected he and his wife, Carolyn, to a new area of ministry.** But during his service at the church, Rev. Bacon had the opportunity to minister to incarcerated men at the Madison County Jail. Although the Bacons didn’t know it yet, God was using this ministry opportunity to plant seeds that would grow into something beyond their imagination.

At the time of the divine transition from pastoral work in 1994. God called them to a new venture that did not even exist yet. **This calling from God would test and prove the Bacons willingness to follow God’s leadership and trust Him more fully.** God was calling the Bacons to leave a secure position with the church and step out on faith and follow Him into an unknown ministry. **Rev. Bacon states, “In retrospect I now know that this redirecting was God’s way of putting us on the path He had for us.”**

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways.”*  
Isaiah 55:8-9



Rev. Bacon’s serving at Youth detention center, 1994



IHS First Outreach, 1994

### Reflections on In His Steps History

This humble beginning of In His Steps took place in 1994 in the Bacons’ cramped bedroom. After the first year, God made provisions to move the ministry to the downtown Canton area in the Old Sulm’s Building, where it would continue to grow for about 10 years. **When thinking of the history, the Bacons stress the fact that they learned to trust God and watched Him develop it.** The Bacons have always asked, “What is God’s will?” The question has never been, “What do we want to do?” They have always sought to join God in what He wants to do and known that He will continue to provide.

*“Life is full of detours. Instead of expecting your journey to go in a straight path, why not trust that God has a reason for the detour.”*

### “It Is Not Over”

The vision for In His Steps has not been completed. We thank God for 25 most productive years. As the Psalmist states, *“not unto us but unto your name be the glory.”* (Psalm 115:1) As we look back at past victory and provisions, we are inspired to trust and follow God in the future.

Rev. Bacon

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- ◆ Pray for In His Steps as we trust Him for greater impact of ministry among at risk children, youth and their family.
- ◆ Pray that God will use IHS to advance His Kingdom among youth and parents.
- ◆ Pray that many will be saved and this community will be changed for Christ and His Kingdom.

*“Faith is daring the soul to go beyond what the eyes can see.”*  
William Newton Clark

## TESTIMONIES

**Jan Norwood**  
1996 One-on-One  
Ministry with Moms

“As Jasper worked with young men, he felt led to reach the mothers once the boys left from the detention centers. Some of the ladies from my church and I would be given numbers and names of some of these mothers so that we could call and check on them. We just wanted to know how we could pray for them and encourage them.”

**Andre” Warner**  
1996 IHS Mentor

“It was a really sweet time of ministry to work with these boys who often did not have a role model or a father figure and help give that to them.”

**Roy Jones**  
1996 IHS Mentor

“I was involved with mentoring a young man in Brandon, MS who I called often and took to church every weekend. My passion for this ministry was just knowing that I wanted to make a difference in these young men’s lives.”



1994 Ministry to recently released incarcerated youth through recreational activities



**Intervention Ministry. From day one, IHS was not just going into the jails, but it was also the opportunity to follow-up with kids once they left the detention centers. We were able to recruit mentors who, on a regular basis, were able to meet with the boys, have bible studies with them, check on them, and provide recreational activities once a month. It grew into more than just going into the jails, but also we were able to provide a one-on-one ministry to mothers.**



1996 Ministry to families of recently released incarcerated youth



**Wade Woods**

1996 Yazoo County Detention Center Administrator

“Rev. Bacon has a unique talent of not only being able to bring the Word of the Lord to these children but is able to convey a genuine concern for “each” child and has what I call “the street smarts” to really communicate with these children in a way that most ministers could not. Unlike many of the speakers that we have had over the years, the children truly look forward to seeing Rev Bacon. I could go on and on about how great our experience has been with Rev. Bacon but to sum it up: I along with the children we have housed over the years have truly been blessed to have known this good man, that I am proud to call my friend.”

in some cases turn around hardcore situations. He has tried to show a better way and a different way for these boys even after they’ve made mistakes. He is motivated to try and help those who haven’t helped themselves. There is a quiet confidence in working within the calling that the Lord has for you, and I believe Rev. Bacon is doing just that to truly try and change and impact lives.”

## TESTIMONIES

**Velma Warner**  
1996 IHS One-on-One  
Ministry with Moms

“It was a really great experience of getting involved in the ministry particularly working alongside moms whose child might be incarcerated or had challenging moments. **Being able to come alongside them and to love on them, encourage, them, or just share my faith with them was great.**

I got to know some women who I might not have otherwise been able to get to know.

**Carol Agre**  
1996 IHS One-on-One  
Ministry with Moms

“We often take these small moments for granted to help out those who have less than we do. We think it has to be something big, but its so often the little things”

**Judge Agins**  
1996 Madison County  
Youth Court Judge

“Rev. Bacon basically has given his life and career for over 25 years to try and help